MONTHLY MAJOR CRIMES ANALYSIS
OCTOBER 2019
Crime Analysis Report
PERIOD: 1st – 30th October 2019

SUMMARY

For the month of October 2019, 115 major crimes were reported by the Belize Police Department. This represents a decrease of 0.86% over the same month last year, when 116 incidents were reported but a decrease of 6.45% when compared to the previous month, for which 124 major crime incidents were recorded by police. Total major crime incidents for the period January to October 2019 have declined by roughly 8% when compared with the same period in 2018 (down from 1,156 to 1,066). The count of Major Crimes recorded an upward trend over the second quarter of 2019, but subsequently recorded a general decline over the third quarter.

The Belize District (which accounts for about 30% of the national population, based on mid-year 2019 estimates by the Statistical Institute of Belize) accounted for roughly 3 in 10 (or 33%) of the major crimes recorded during the month of October 2019, but the district accounted for about 4 in 10 (or 39%) of major crimes for the period January to October 2019.
Major Crime reports continued to decline in the Cayo District (the second largest district) during October 2019, while total major crimes reported in the Belize District, the largest district, saw the most notable decline since the general upward trend began in that district in March 2019.

The number of reports of murder recorded in October 2019 were up by 20% when compared with the same month last year. Reports of major theft (of items valued BZ$5,000 and above) increased 63%, while, burglary reports were down by 17%. Reports of sexual violence doubled: rape increased from 1 to 4, while reports of unlawful sexual intercourse increased from 5 to 9.

Chart C: Major Crime Trends for the Belize and Cayo Districts (January to October 2019)
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

Chart D: Major Crime Reports by Category for October 2019 compared with October 2018.
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)
Click either the text in the box above or the images to access the dashboards. View the Summary and Details Dashboards by accessing the respective Tabs at the top left of the browser window. The first dashboard allows you to select one or multiple locations from the header to view data specific to the location(s). More information by location is provided on the Details Tab. At the bottom of the second dashboard, you can choose to select tabs to view data by crime type.
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Chart E: Total Major Crimes recorded by Police Formation/Precinct for Jan-Oct 2019 compared with Jan-Oct 2018
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

Note: The classification of a formation or precinct is not strictly geographic. For example, the Belmopan formation includes a few surrounding villages, such as Roaring Creek and Armenia. (See Glossary at the end of this report for more details.)
MURDER

Twelve murders were recorded in Belize during October 2019, an increase of 20% from October 2018, when 10 murders were recorded.

For the period January to October 2019, 109 murders were recorded, down from 126 for the same period last year. This represents a decline of 17 (or 13.49%).

3 murders were recorded in the Orange Walk District and 5 in the Belize District.

Chart F: Total Murders recorded by Police Formation/Precinct for October 2019.
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)
109 murders
January to October 2019

13.49%

8 of the 17 policing areas recorded a decline in murders

7 recorded an increase.

Benque and Caye Caulker recorded their first murders for 2019 during the month of October.

2 recorded no change, including Placencia, for which no incidents were reported for both the period under review and the reference period in 2018.

3 of 6 districts (Belize, Cayo and Orange Walk) have recorded an overall decrease in murders for the first 10 months of 2019.

Whereas incidents of murder fell nationally by about 13.49%, in the Belize District area, they have declined by 25.58%. In Belize City, the decline amounted to 31.67%, down from 60 to 41 incidents.

At the district level, Cayo and Toledo reported an increase in incidents of murder for the 10 months under review. Stann Creek reported no change.

Chart G: Total Murders recorded by Police Formation/Precinct for Jan-Oct 2019, compared to Jan-Oct 2018.
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)
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**SHOOTINGS**

![Chart H: Total Shootings recorded by Police Formation/Precinct for Jan-Oct 2019, compared to Jan-Oct 2018.](chart)

- 7 of the 17 policing areas recorded a decline in shootings  
- 7 policing areas recorded an increase  
- 3 policing areas recorded no change  

222 shootings  
January to October 2019  

241 recorded for Jan-Oct 2018  

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

There were 90 property crimes recorded during October 2019, down 10% from 100 in October 2018. For the first ten months of the year, 871 property crimes were recorded in the major crimes category, excluding theft of items valued at below BZ$5,000. This represents an overall decline of 10.02%, from 968 incidents recorded during the same period in 2018.

Orange Walk continues to stand out as the district recording the most significant increase in property crimes, from 92 for January to October 2018 to 123 for January to October 2019. This amounted to a 34% increase, mostly attributable to robberies and burglaries. Conversely, the Belize District recorded a 26% decline in property crime reports.

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

Chart I: Property Crimes by Type for October 2019
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

Chart J: Number of Property Crimes by District for Jan-Oct 2019 compared to the period Jan-Oct 2018.
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)
SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Unlawful Sexual Intercourse:
- 9 reports for October 2019.
- 61 cases for January to October 2019.

Rape cases: 4 October 2019
Jan-Oct 2019: 25 total

Sexual violence (rape and unlawful sexual intercourse) were the only types of major crimes that recorded an overall increase for the first 10 months of 2019. Reports of rape were up from 17 to 25 (or 47.06%), while reports of unlawful sexual intercourse were up from 45 to 61 (or 35.56%). Furthermore, sexual violence reports doubled during October 2019, when compared with October 2018, increasing from 6 to 13 reports.

86
Sexual violence reports
January to October 2019
38.71%

Chart K: Total Cases of Sexual Violence (Rape and Unlawful Sexual Intercourse) recorded for Jan-Oct 2019, compared to Jan-Oct 2018.

(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)
Gang-Related Major Crimes

During October 2019, at least 10 gang-related major crime incidents were reported in Belize City, as well as 13 shooting incidents. (See disaggregation of gang-related major crime incidents below.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MURDER</th>
<th>ROBBERY</th>
<th>BURGLARY</th>
<th>THEFT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compared with October 2018, there was a notable increase in gang-related shootings (up from 3 to 13). There was also a reported increase in gang-related robberies (up from 2 to 5) and incidents of theft (up from 2 to 3). Meanwhile, gang-related murders recorded a decline (down from 3 to 1), and burglaries similarly declined (from 3 to 1).

(Data sources: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center and Gang Suppression Unit)
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MAP 1: Percent Change in Major Crimes by District, January to October 2019

LEGEND
- ≤-13
- ≤-2
- ≤9
- ≤21
- ≤32
Map 2: Number of Murders Recorded by District, January to October 2019
Map 3: Percentage of Property Crimes by District, January to October 2019
Manner of Death

During October 2019, the National Forensic Science Service examined 47 deaths (41 males and 6 females). About half (23 of 47) were violent deaths classified as homicides (14), suicides (4), and road traffic accident (RTA) fatalities (5). The only female victim died from suicide. For the period January to October 2019, the department performed autopsies on 117 homicide victims, 22 suicide victims and 70 victims of fatal road traffic accidents – a total of 209 victims.

Chart L: Number of homicides by District for which autopsies were done during October 2019. Note that all victims were males.

(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)

Chart M: Number of autopsies for victims of homicides, suicides or RTAs, disaggregated by sex and age for October 2019

(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)
The National Forensic Science Service (Scenes of Crime Unit) processed 286 scenes during October 2019. The most prevalent incident type was burglary, for which 90 scenes were processed. A total of 67 road traffic accident scenes and 15 homicide scenes were also processed.

Chart N: Scenes processed for October 2019 by the National Forensic Science Service by Category (suspected at the time of processing the scene).

(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)
Imprisonment

During the month of October 2019, 76 people (10 females and 66 males) were listed as newly convicted inmates at the Belize Central Prison, a decrease of 11% from October 2018, when 85 were recorded. During October 2019, 20 inmates were convicted of illegal entry, while in October 2018, 30 of the convictions were for illegal entry. During October 2019, there were 90 people remanded to prison – a decrease of 9% when compared with October 2018 (when 92 were remanded). Males ages 18 to 25 were the most frequently incarcerated.

Chart O: Number of persons remanded and convicted during October 2019, according to sex and age.
(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

Chart P: Number of inmates convicted by category during October 2019 compared to October 2018.
(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)
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Chart Q: Number of people convicted and remanded, disaggregated by sex, January to October 2019.
(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

Chart R: Number of inmates incarcerated by ethnicity during October 2019.
(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

Chart S: Number of foreigners convicted and remanded during October 2019 by country of origin.
(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.

Note: We’ve realigned the first section of this report to focus more closely on major crimes and to provide more year-to-date analysis in addition to analysis for the month under review.
“Supporting Improvements in Citizen Security by Informing, Interpreting, and Influencing the Understanding of Crime.”

Belize Crime Observatory
Ministry of National Security (Home Affairs)

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 October 2019. Any future revisions will be noted in subsequent reports.