



MONTHLY MAJOR CRIMES ANALYSIS **SEPTEMBER 2019**



Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1st – 30th September 2019



SUMMARY

For the month of September 2019, **124** major crimes were reported by the Belize Police Department. This represents an increase of **10.5%** over the same month last year, when **111** incidents were reported. Total major crime incidents since the year began have declined by roughly **9%** when compared with the same period in 2018 (down from **1,040** to **951**). Major Crime counts recorded an upward trend over the second quarter of 2019, but subsequently recorded a general decline over the third quarter.

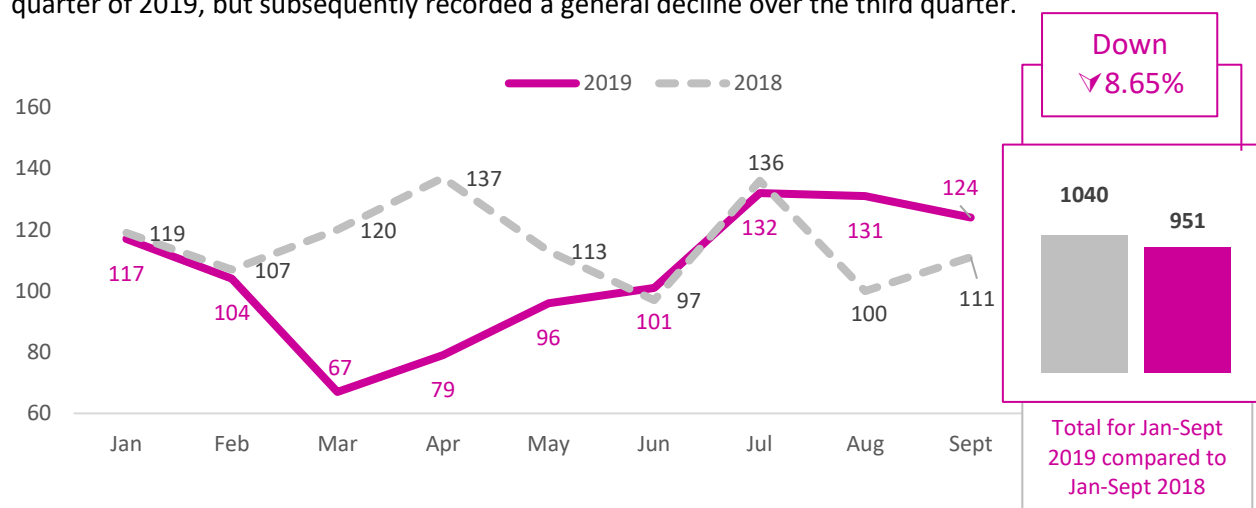


Chart A: Trend in Major Crime Incidents for January to September 2019, compared with the same period in 2018.

The Belize District (which accounts for 30% of the national population, based on mid-year 2019 estimates by the Statistical Institute of Belize) accounted for roughly 4 in 10 (or 40%) of the major crimes recorded during the month of September 2019, and, likewise, for the period January to September 2019.

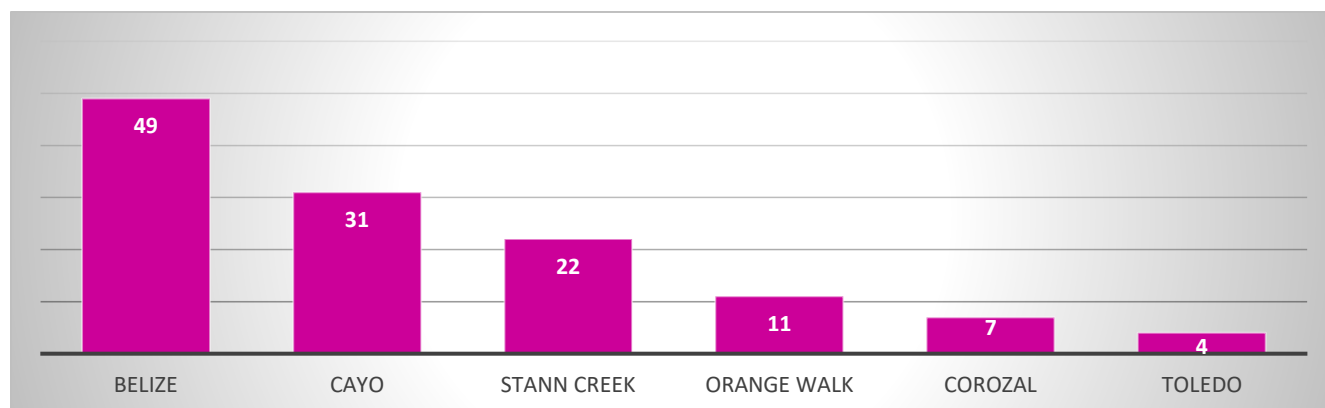


Chart B: Number of Major Crimes by District for September 2019.

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

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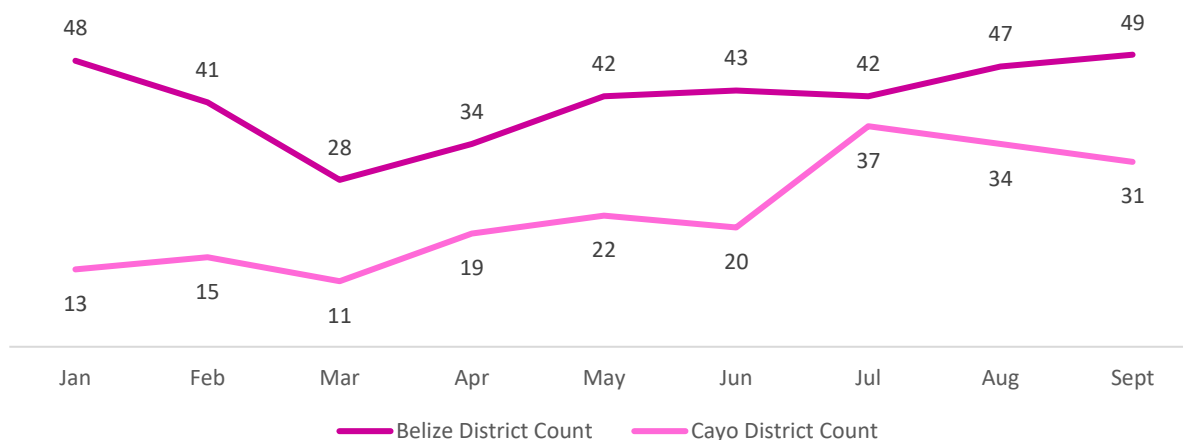


Chart C: Major Crime Trends for the Belize and Cayo Districts (January to September 2019)

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

Major crime reports continued to decline in the Cayo District (the second largest district) during September 2019, while total major crimes reported in the Belize District, the largest district, continued to inch upward, sustaining a general upward trend that began in March 2019.

The number of reports of murder recorded in September 2019 were up by 38% when compared with the same month last year. Reports of major theft (of items valued BZ\$5,000 and above) declined 30%, while, burglary reports were up by 14%. Reports of rape fell to zero, and unlawful sexual intercourse by 33%.

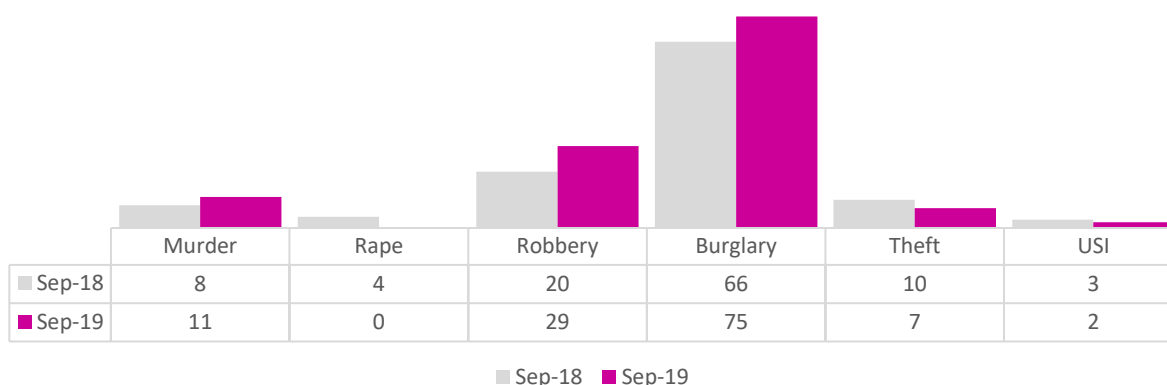


Chart D: Major Crime Reports by Category for September 2019 compared with September 2018.

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

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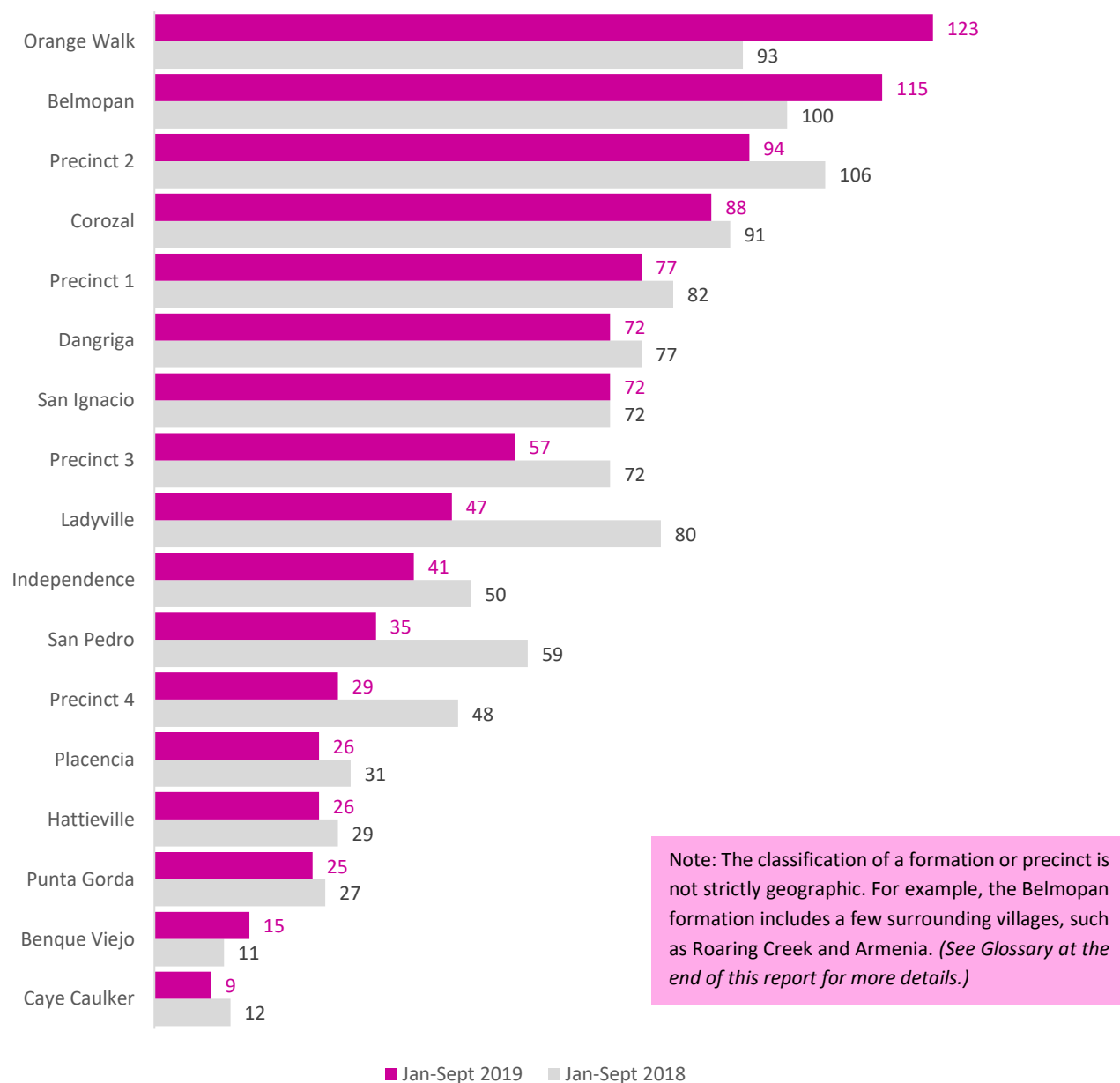


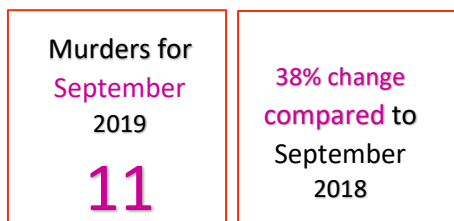
Chart E: Total Major Crimes recorded by Police Formation/Precinct for Jan-Sept 2019 compared with Jan- Sept 2018
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

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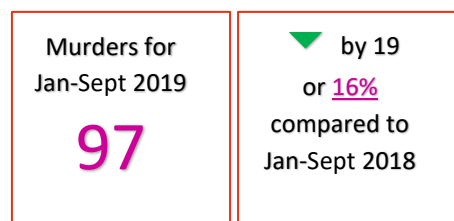
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MURDER



Eleven murders were recorded in Belize during September 2019, an increase of 38% from September 2018, when 8 murders were recorded.



For the period January to September 2019, 97 murders were recorded, down from 116 for the same period last year. This represents a decline of 19 (or 16%).

**4 murders were recorded in the
Belmopan policing zone**

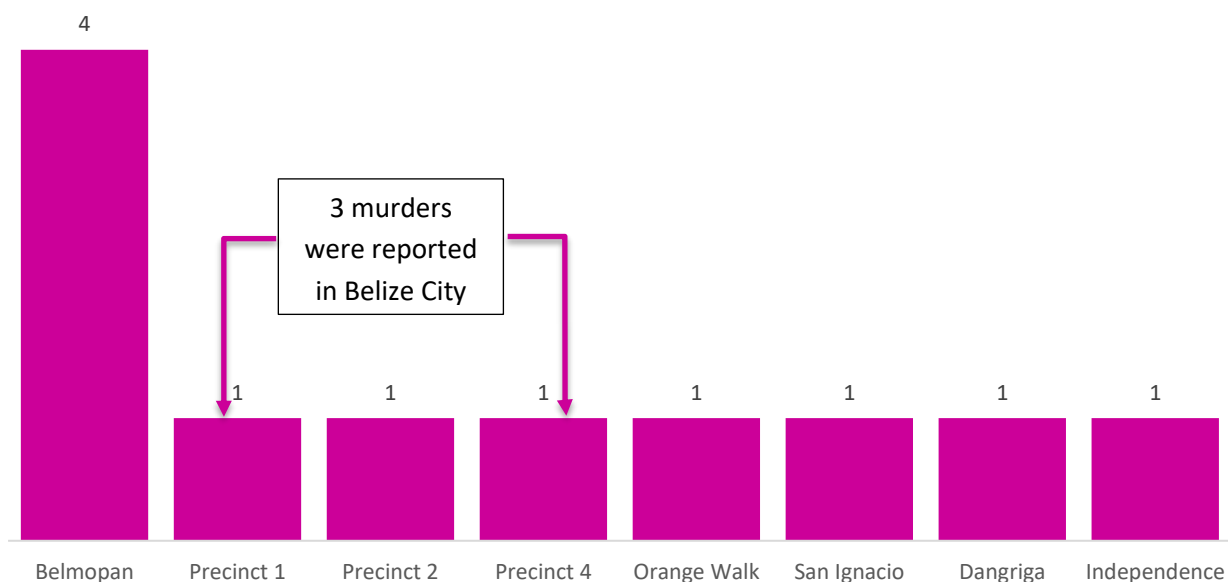


Chart F: Total Murders recorded by Police Formation/Precinct for September 2019.

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

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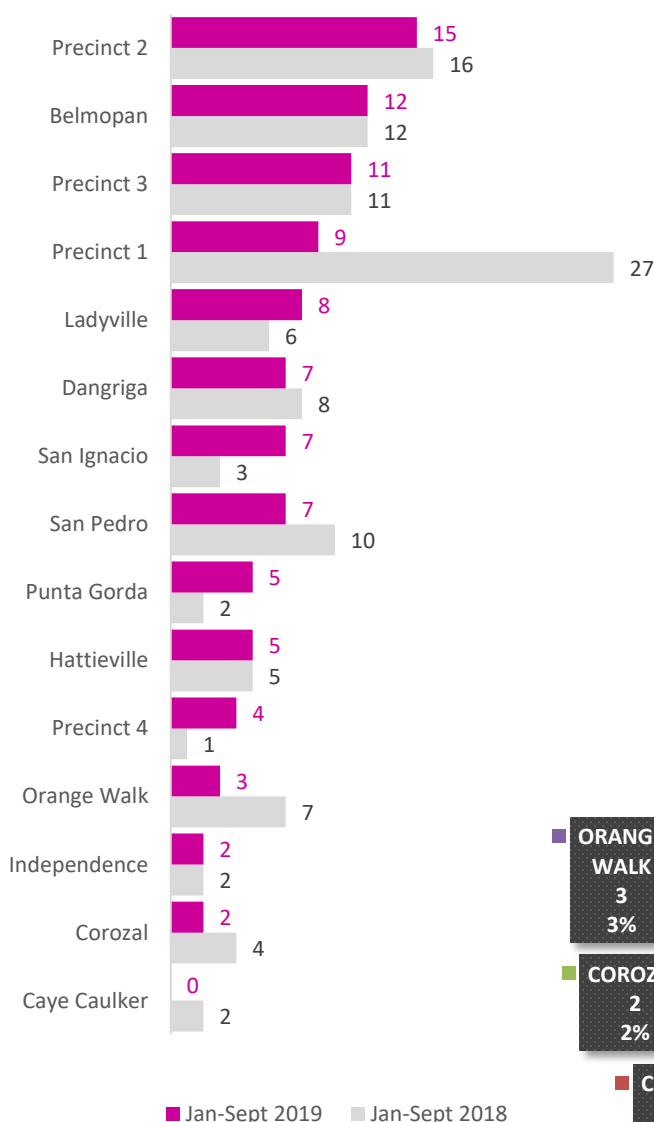
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97 murders

January to September
2019

16%



▼ 7 of the 17 policing areas recorded a decline in murders

▲ 4 recorded an increase.

■ 6 recorded no change, including two locations (Placencia and Benque Viejo del Carmen) for which no incidents were reported for both the period under review and the reference period in 2018.

▼ 4 of 6 districts have recorded an overall decrease in murders for the first 9 months of 2019.

▼ Whereas incidents of murder fell nationally by about 16%, in the Belize District area, they have declined by 24%. In Belize City, the decline amounted to 9%, from 55 to 39 incidents.

▲ At the district level, Cayo and Toledo reported an increase in incidents of murder for the 9 months under review.

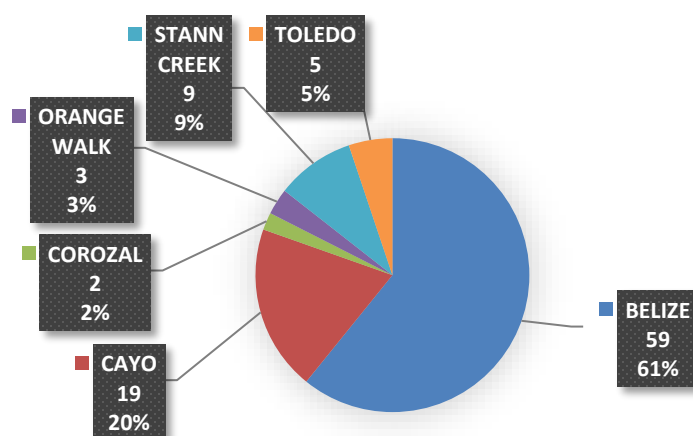


Chart G: Total Murders recorded by Police Formation/Precinct for Jan-Sept 2019, compared to Jan-Sept 2018.

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

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SHOOTINGS

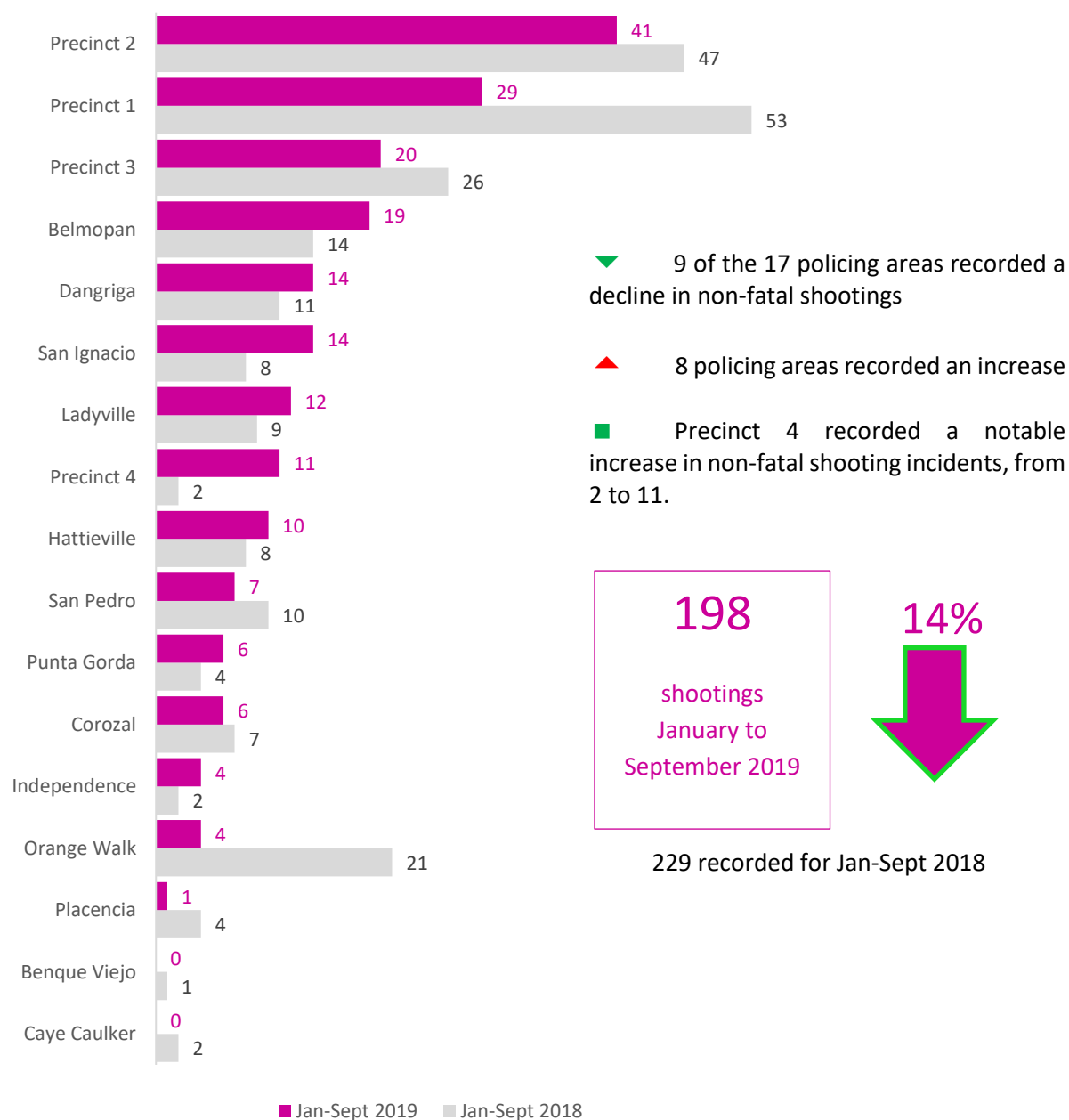


Chart H: Total Shootings recorded by Police Formation/Precinct for Jan- Sept 2019, compared to Jan- Sept 2018.
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

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PROPERTY CRIMES

There were **111** property crimes recorded during September 2019, up nearly 16%, from 96 in September 2018. For the first nine months of the year, **781** 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%**, from **868** 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 **80** for January to September 2018 to **109** for January to September 2019. This amounted to a **36%** increase, mostly attributable to robberies and burglaries. Conversely, the **Belize District** recorded a **25%** decline in property crime reports.

About **8 out of every 10** major crimes reported are property crimes.

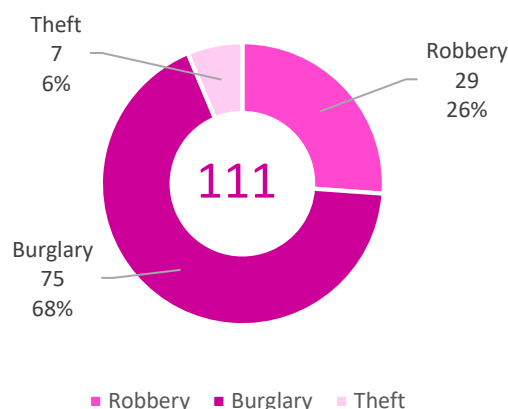


Chart I: Property Crimes by Type for September 2019.
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

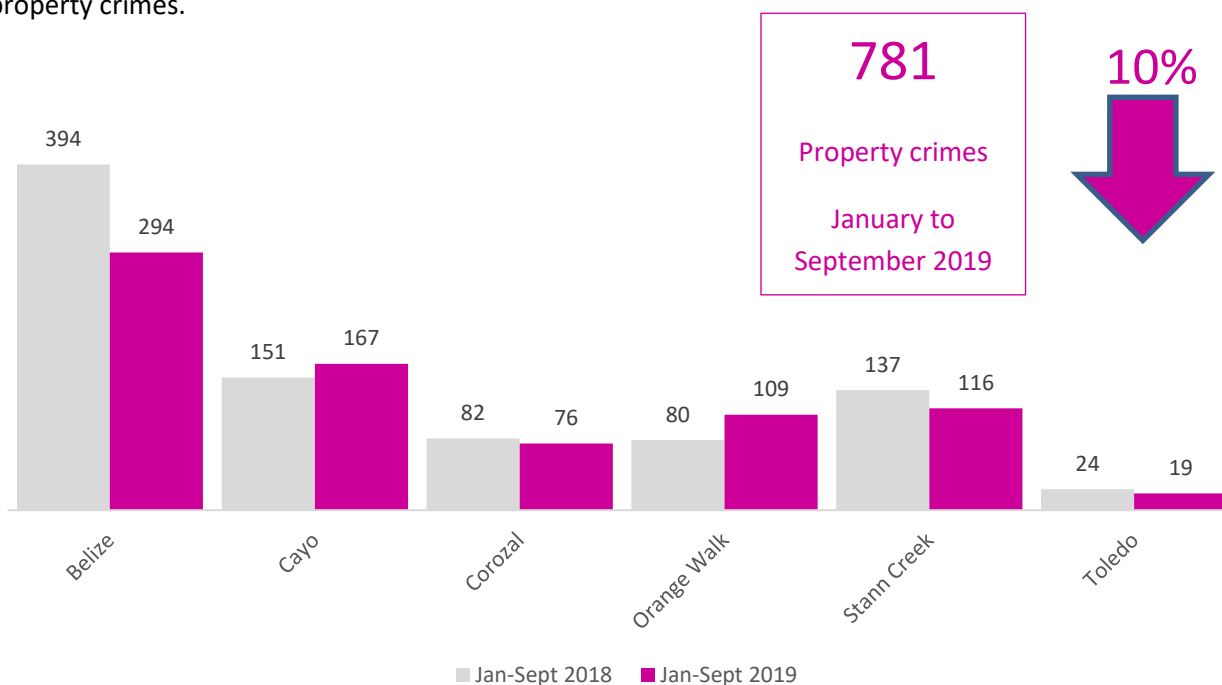


Chart J: Number of Property Crimes by District for Jan-Sept 2019 compared to the period Jan-Sept 2018.
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

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SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Unlawful Sexual Intercourse: 2 reports for September 2019. 52 cases for January to September 2019.



2

73

Sexual violence
reports
January to
September 2019

30%



Rape cases:

0

September
2019

Jan-Sept 2019:
21 total

Punta Gorda

Sexual violence (rape and unlawful sexual intercourse) were the only types of major crimes that recorded an overall increase for the first 9 months of 2019. Reports of rape were up from 16 to 21 (or 31%), while reports of unlawful sexual intercourse were up from 40 to 52 (or 30%). However, there was a notable decline in sexual violence reports during September 2019.

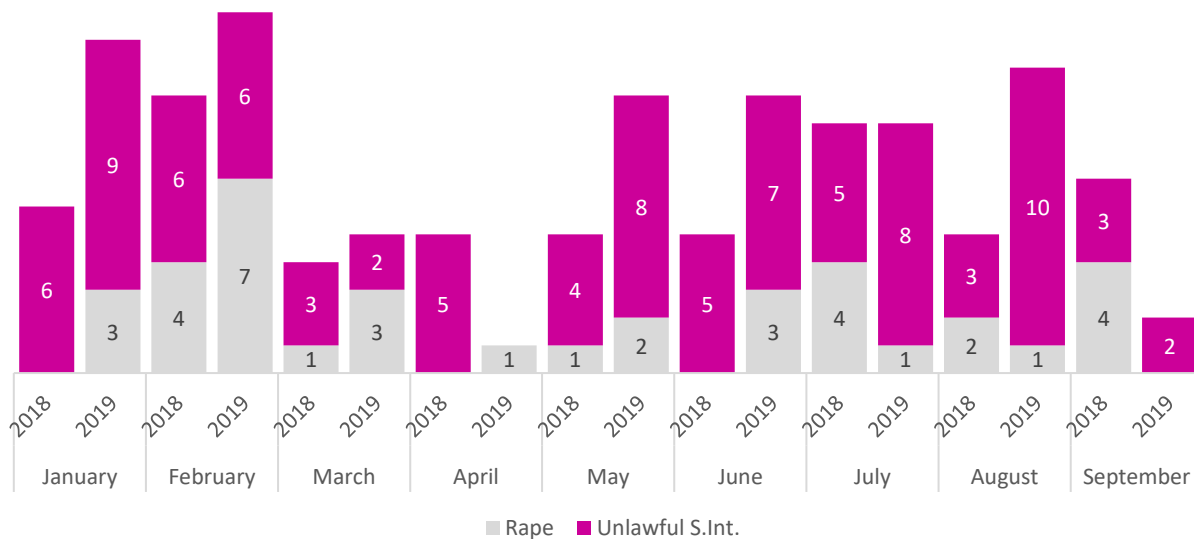


Chart K: Total Cases of Sexual Violence (Rape and Unlawful Sexual Intercourse) recorded for Jan-Sept 2018, compared to Jan- Sept 2019.

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

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Gang-Related Major Crimes

During September 2019, at least 9 gang-related major crime incidents were reported in Belize City, as well as 5 shooting incidents. (See disaggregation of gang-related major crime incidents below.)



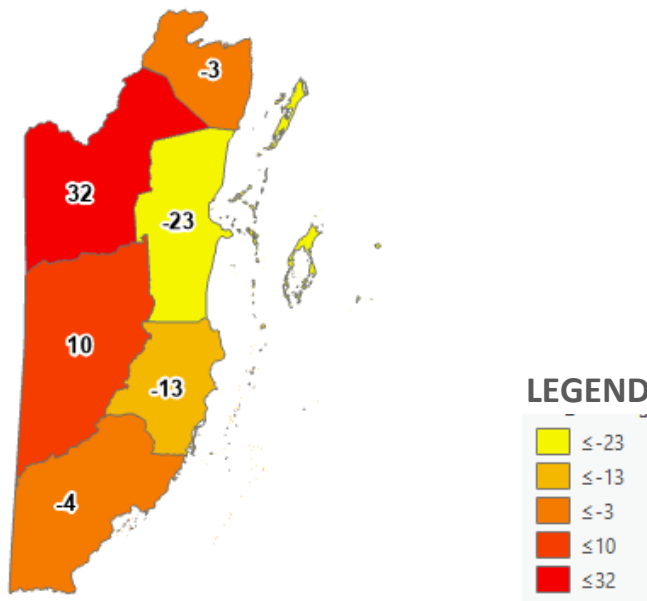
Compared with September 2018, there was a notable decrease in gang-related murders, while the number of suspected gang-related shootings recorded no change.

(Data sources: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center and Gang Suppression Unit)

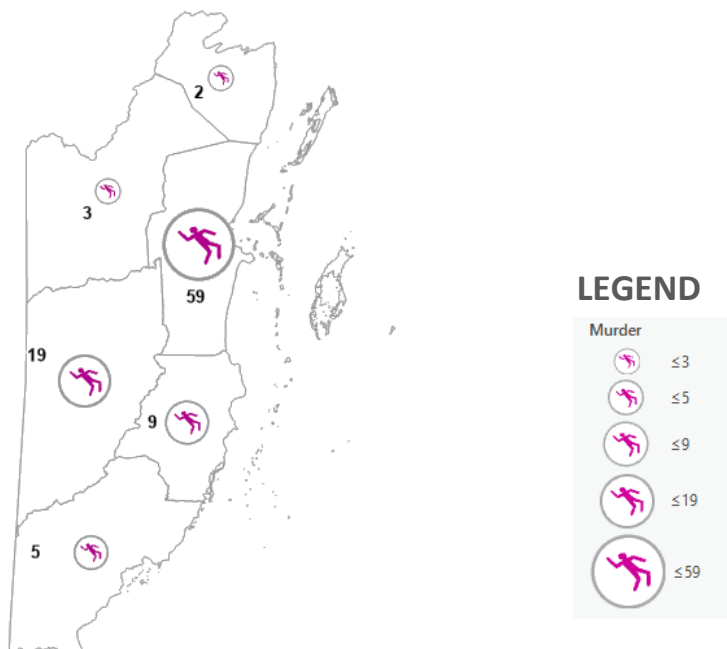
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MAP 1: Percent Change in Major Crimes by District, January to September 2019



Map 2: Number of Murders Recorded by District, January to September 2019



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Manner of Death

During September 2019, the National Forensic Science Service examined 41 deaths (35 males and 6 females). Just over half (22 of 41) were violent deaths classified as homicides (12), suicides (2), and road traffic accident (RTA) fatalities (8).

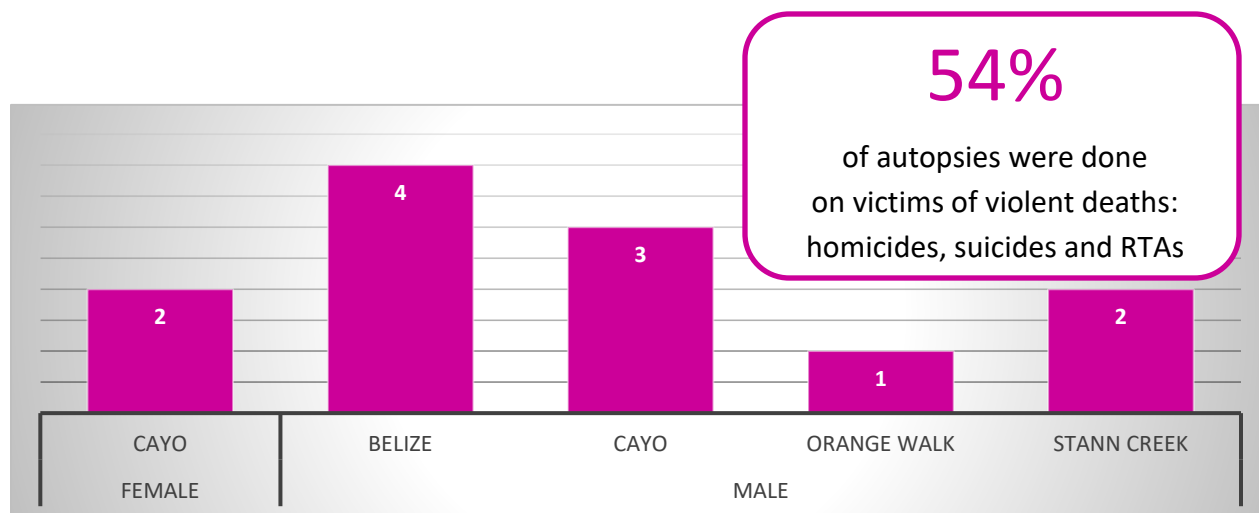


Chart L: Number of homicides by District for which autopsies were done for September 2019, disaggregated by sex.
(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)

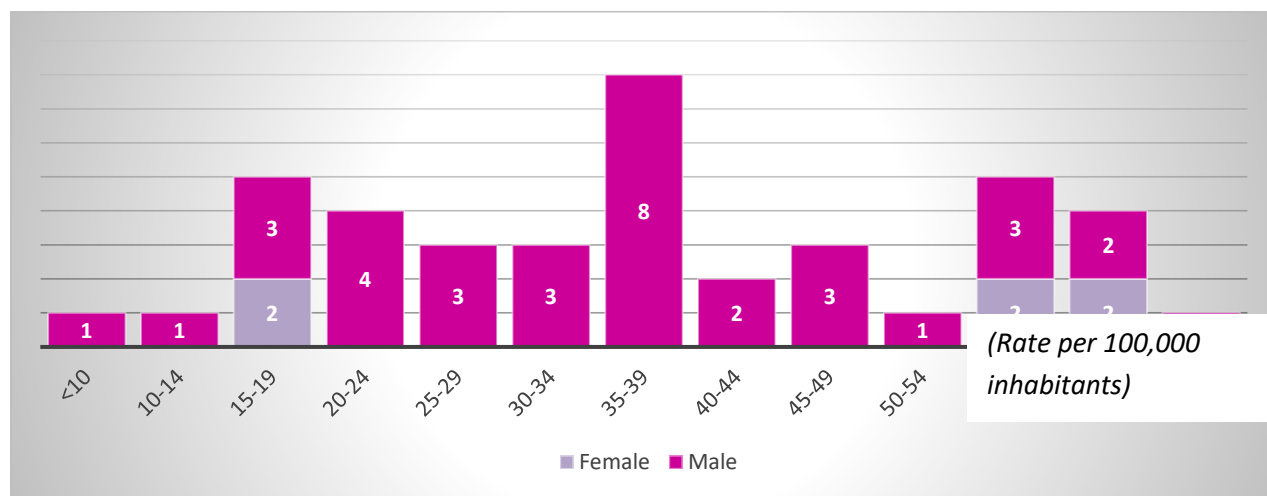


Chart M: Number of autopsies for victims of homicides, suicides or RTAs, disaggregated by sex and age for September 2019

(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)

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The National Forensic Science Service (Scenes of Crime Unit) processed 303 scenes during September 2019. The most prevalent incident type was burglary, for which 95 scenes were processed. A total of 61 road traffic accident scenes and 14 homicide scenes were also processed.

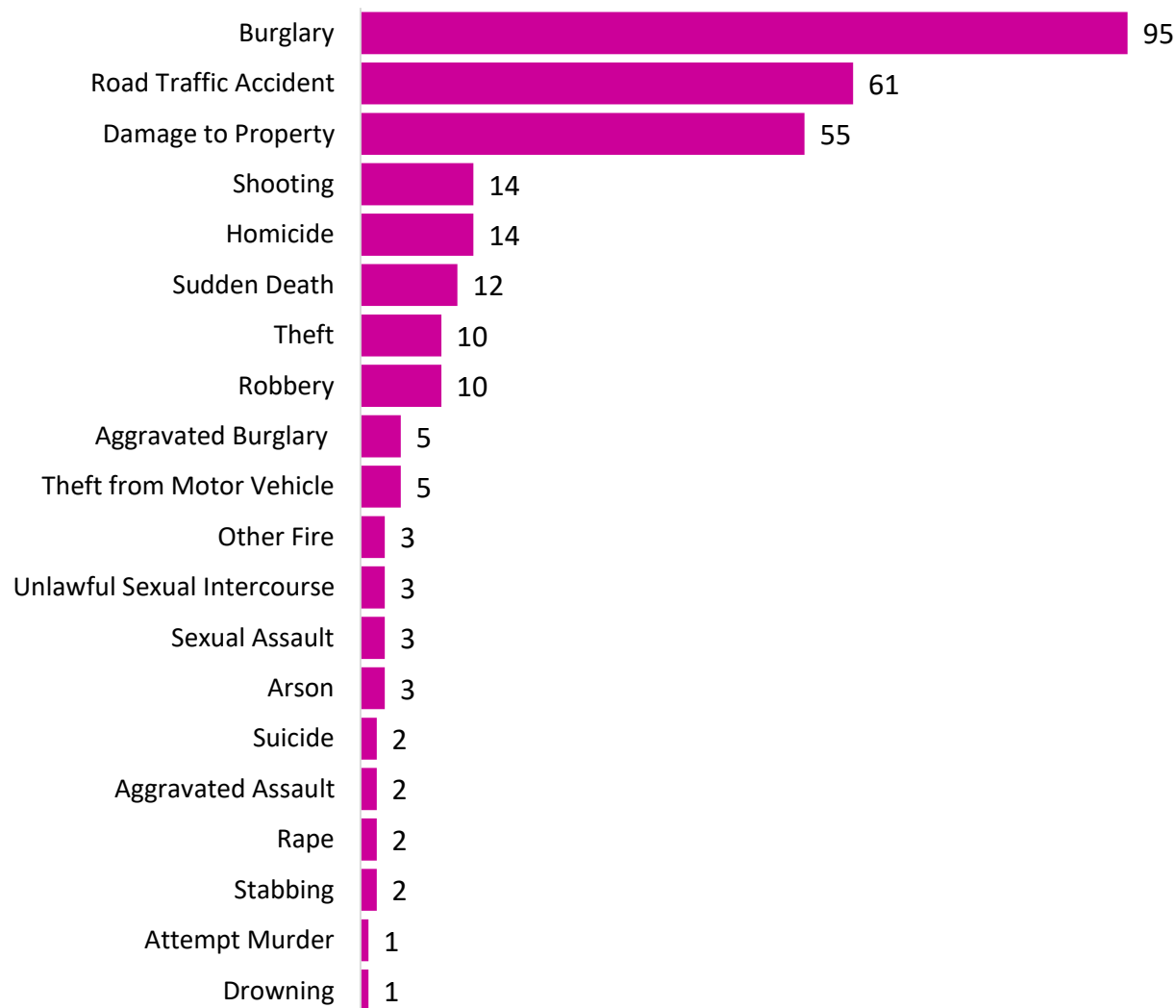


Chart N: Scenes processed for September 2019 by the National Forensic Science Service by Category (suspected at the time of processing the scene).

(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)

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Imprisonment

During the month of **September 2019**, 62 people (9 females and 53 males) were listed as newly convicted inmates at the Belize Central Prison, a decrease by 33%, from 93 recorded for **September 2018**. During **September 2019**, 17 inmates were convicted of illegal entry, while in **September 2018**, 50 of the convictions were for illegal entry. During **September 2019**, there were 95 people remanded to prison – an increase of 6% when compared with **September 2018** (when 90 were remanded). Males ages 18 to 25 were the most frequently incarcerated.

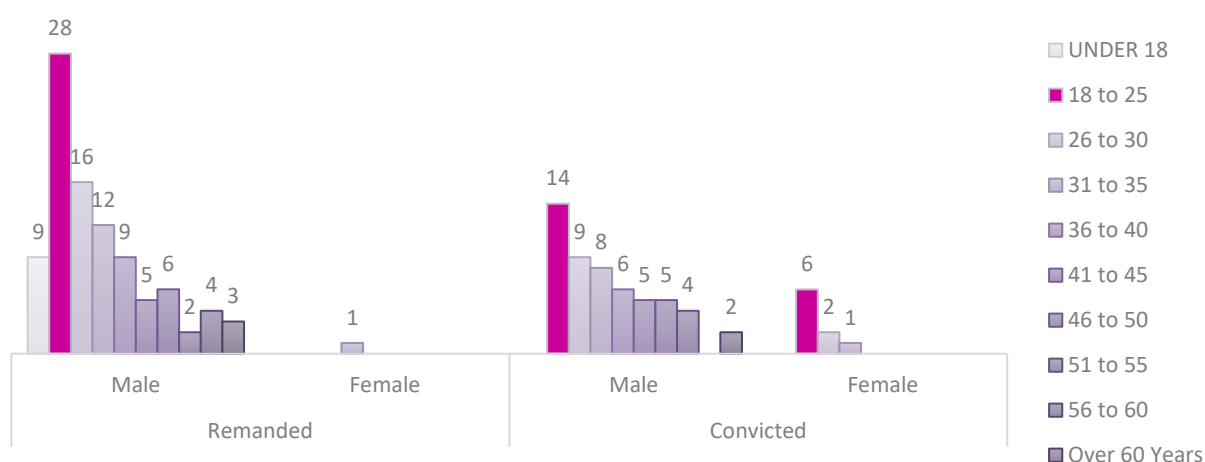


Chart O: Number of persons remanded and convicted during September 2019, according to sex and age.
(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

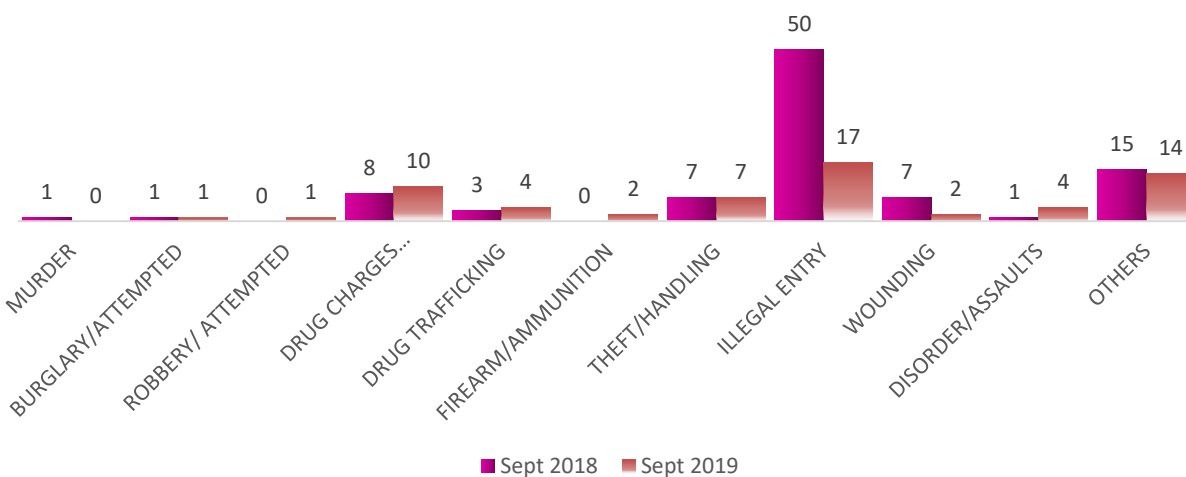


Chart P: Number of persons convicted by offence during September 2019, compared to September 2018.
(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

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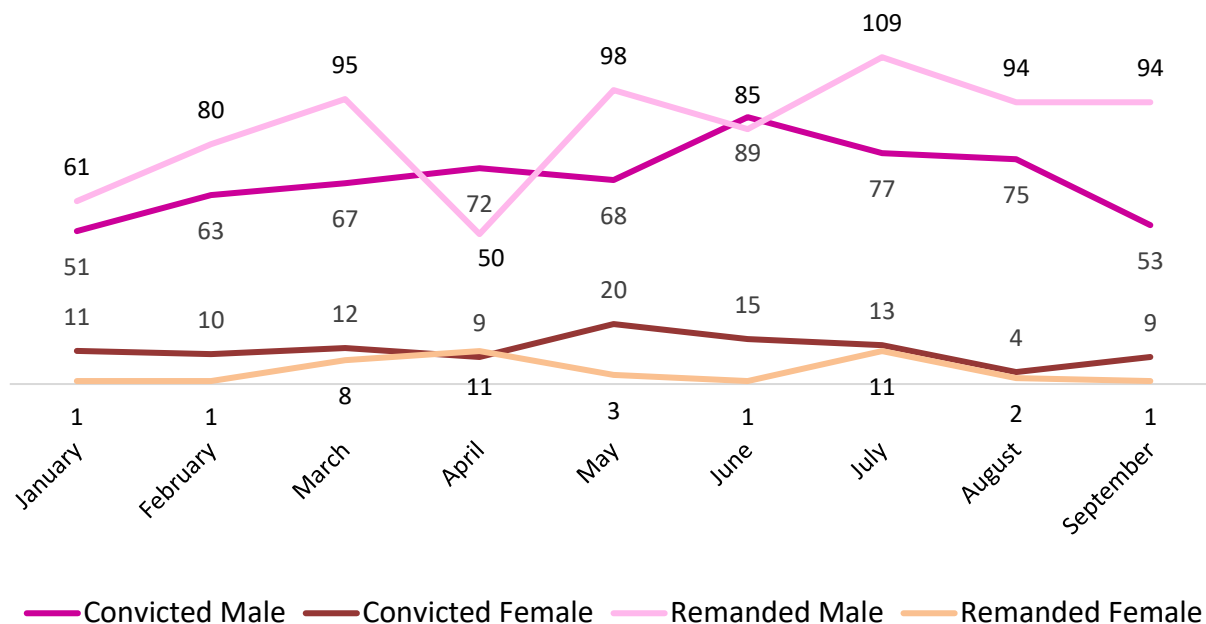


Chart Q: Number of People Convicted and Remanded, disaggregated by sex, January to September 2019.
(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

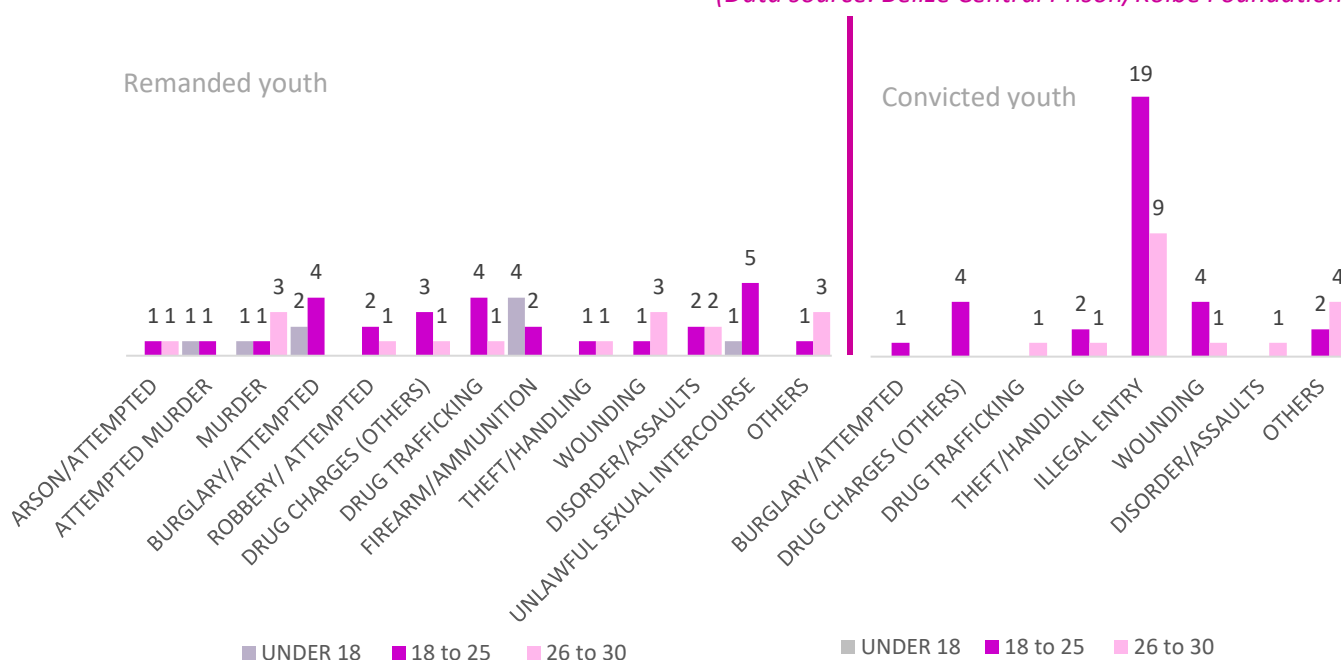


Chart R: Number of Remanded and Convicted inmates **ages 30 and under**, disaggregated by offence, for September 2019.
(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

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.*

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BCO's Open Data Site: <http://hub-belizeco.opendata.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)



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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 September 2019. Any future revisions will be noted in subsequent*