

# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis Report

*April-June 2019*



**infoSEGURA**

# Second Quarter 2019

## Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

© 2019

*Belize Crime Observatory*

*Ministry of National Security*

*Published with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)  
through the InfoSegura Project, jointly implemented in Belize by the Ministry of National Security  
with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).*

## Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	- 2 -
MAJOR CRIMES .....	- 3 -
SHOOTINGS .....	- 4 -
MURDERS .....	- 5 -
INCIDENTS IN BELIZE CITY AREA .....	- 7 -
GANG-RELATED VIOLENCE .....	- 8 -
SEXUAL VIOLENCE .....	- 10 -
PROPERTY CRIMES .....	- 11 -
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE .....	- 12 -
INCARCERATION .....	- 14 -
AUTOPSIES ON VIOLENT DEATHS .....	- 19 -
HOMICIDES .....	- 21 -
ROAD TRAFFIC FATALITIES .....	- 23 -
SUICIDE .....	- 25 -
CONCLUSION .....	- 26 -
GLOSSARY .....	- 27 -

# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The second quarter of 2019 (“Q2” or April to June) recorded a 20% decrease in major crime incidents reported by the Belize Police Department. The largest percentage decline was reported in the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts (46% and 64%, respectively), and the only increase was recorded in the Corozal District (at 4%).

An upsurge in gang-related activity resulted in an erosion of the gains made during the first quarter (January to March 2019), when gang-related incidents fell by roughly 40%. During the second quarter, they were up by 6%, largely due to a notable spike in May of shootings, robberies and murders. June saw a notable spike in murders due to the quintuple homicides at Swallow Caye, for which the bodies of the victims were recovered by Belize City police.

Whereas incidents of murder and property crimes (robbery, burglary and theft) were nationally lower than the same period in 2018, sexual violence (rape and unlawful sexual intercourse) cases were both higher.

The number of domestic violence cases reported for the quarter remained virtually unchanged since the same time last year. However, there was an increase of 12% over the first quarter of 2019. Our analysis showed a notable increase in arrests for domestic violence, concomitant with a shift in policy by the Police Department to pursue cases even when complainants are reluctant to proceed with court action. The arrest rate increased from 8% to 29%, while the number of cases lodged merely for “future reference”—which usually constitute the vast majority of cases—fell by 20%.

There was a decrease in the number of persons incarcerated at the Belize Central Prison (the country’s only correctional facility) by 8.72%. The mid-year prison population was down from 1,238 in June 2018 to 1,130 this June. The largest declines were recorded for firearm/ammunition offences, murder, robbery and/or attempted robbery, burglary and/or attempted burglary, illegal entry, unlawful sexual intercourse, and drug trafficking. No new murder convictions were recorded.

Violent deaths under the purview of the Police Department (homicides, fatal road traffic accidents, and suicides) constituted nearly half of the cases for which autopsies were conducted by the National Forensic Science Service. Homicides accounted for over half of those violent deaths. There were as many autopsies on victims of homicides as there were on persons who had died of natural causes. Almost half the autopsies done during the quarter fell within those two categories. Deaths due to road traffic accidents were third most frequent among those subject to forensic examinations.



**ROBBERY  
DECLINED**

▼ 29%



**ARREST  
RATE FOR  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
CASES  
INCREASED  
FROM 8% to**

29%

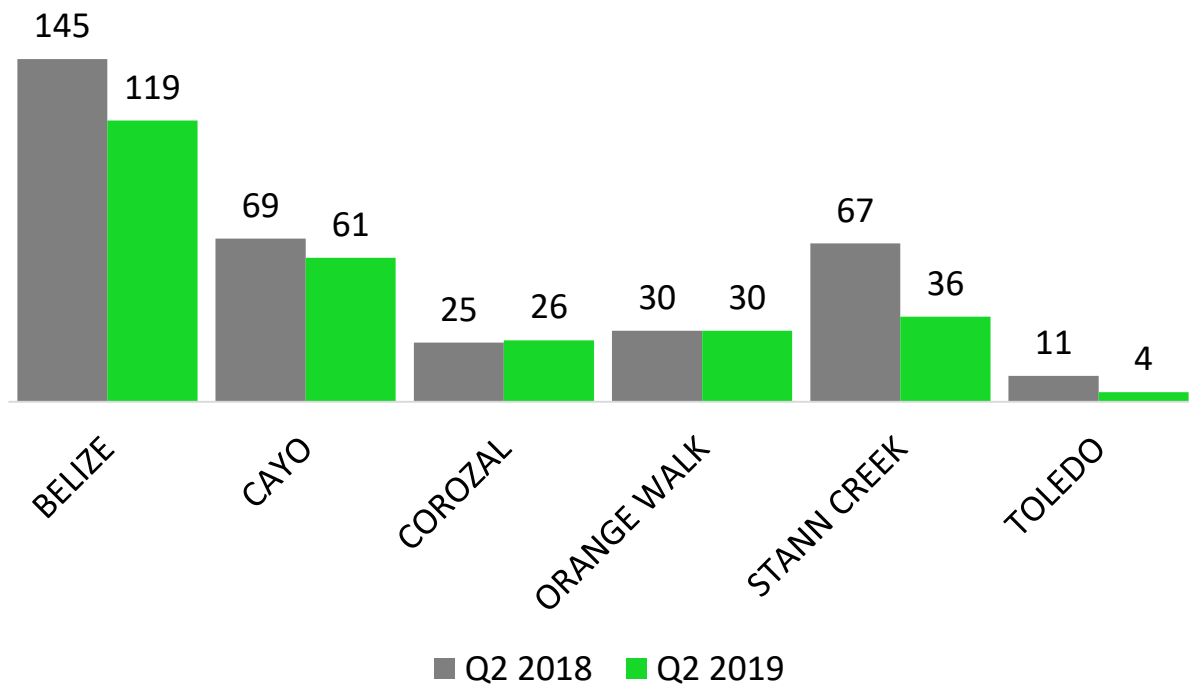
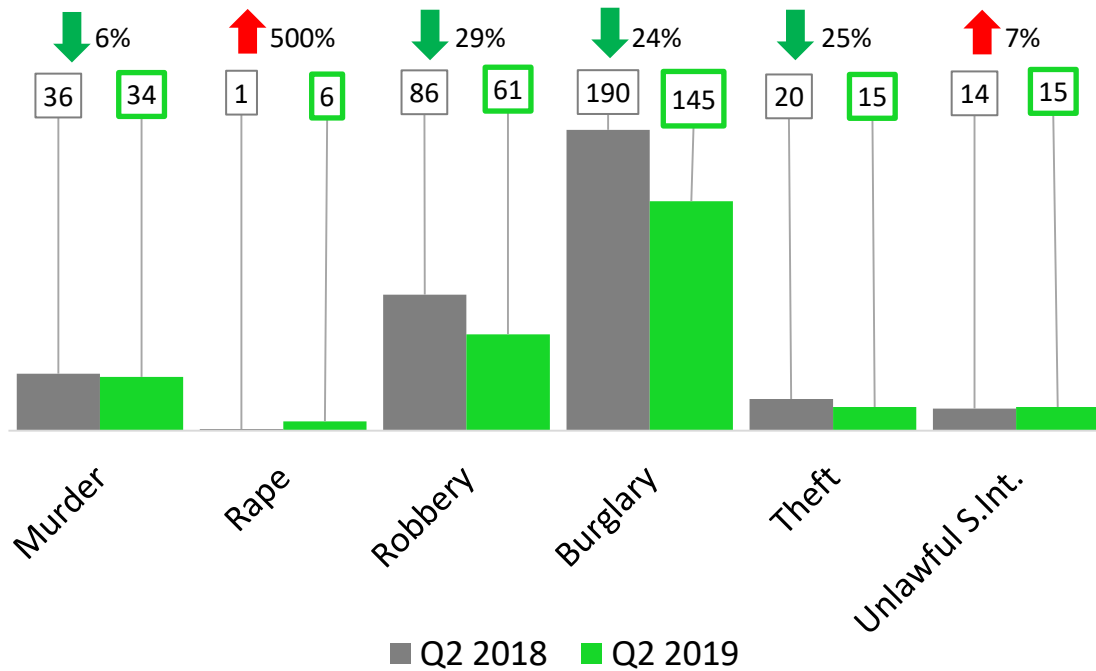


**NO MURDER  
CONVICTIONS  
WERE  
RECORDED  
FOR THE  
QUARTER**

# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

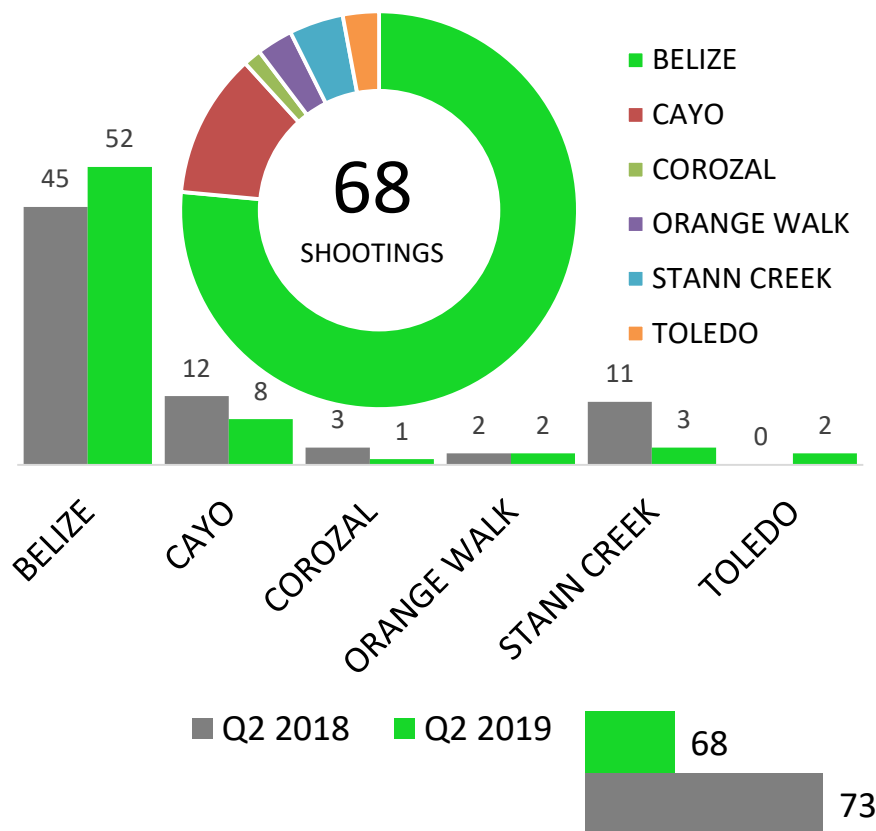
## MAJOR CRIMES



# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## SHOOTINGS



**decreased**

**7%**

The Belize District, the district that recorded the largest increase in shooting incidents during the second quarter of 2019, accounted for more than 7 in 10 shooting incidents, up from about 6 in 10 the same time last year.

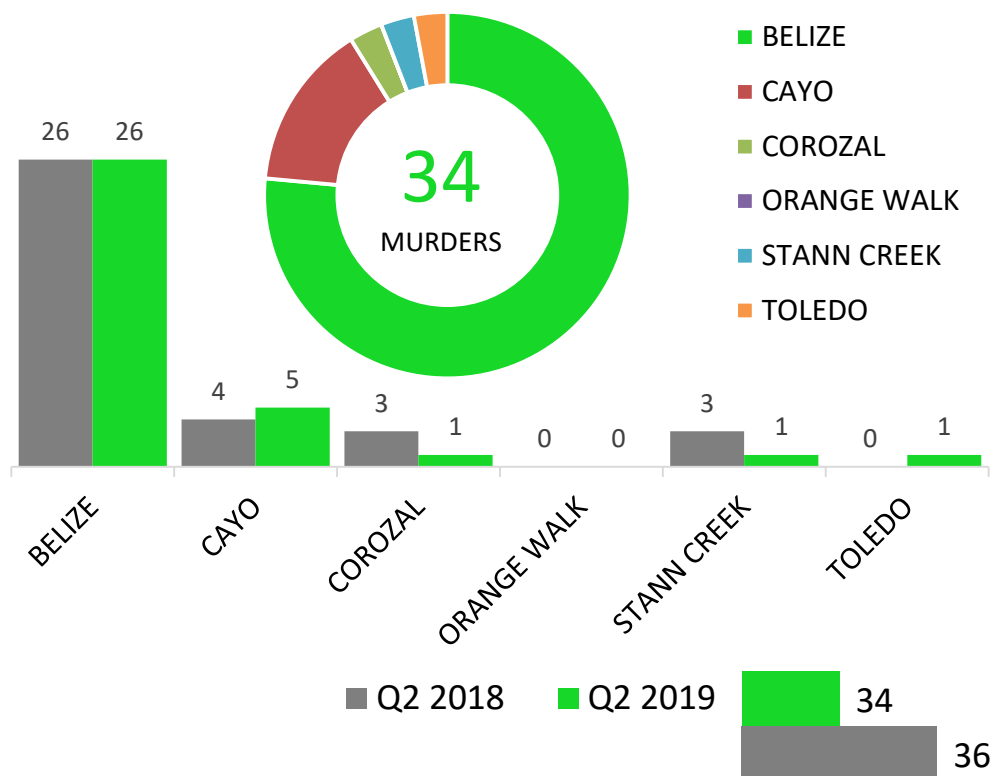
The greatest decline – amounting to more than 70% – was reported in the Stann Creek District.

DISTRICT	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Percent Change
BELIZE	45	52	15.56
CAYO	12	8	-33.33
COROZAL	3	1	-66.67
ORANGE WALK	2	2	0.00
STANN CREEK	11	3	-72.73
TOLEDO	0	2	-
TOTAL	73	68	-6.85

# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## MURDERS



The Belize District accounted for more than 7 in 10 murder cases during the second quarter of 2019, which represented virtually no change when compared with the same time last year.

Cayo and Toledo both recorded one incident more than the same quarter in 2018.

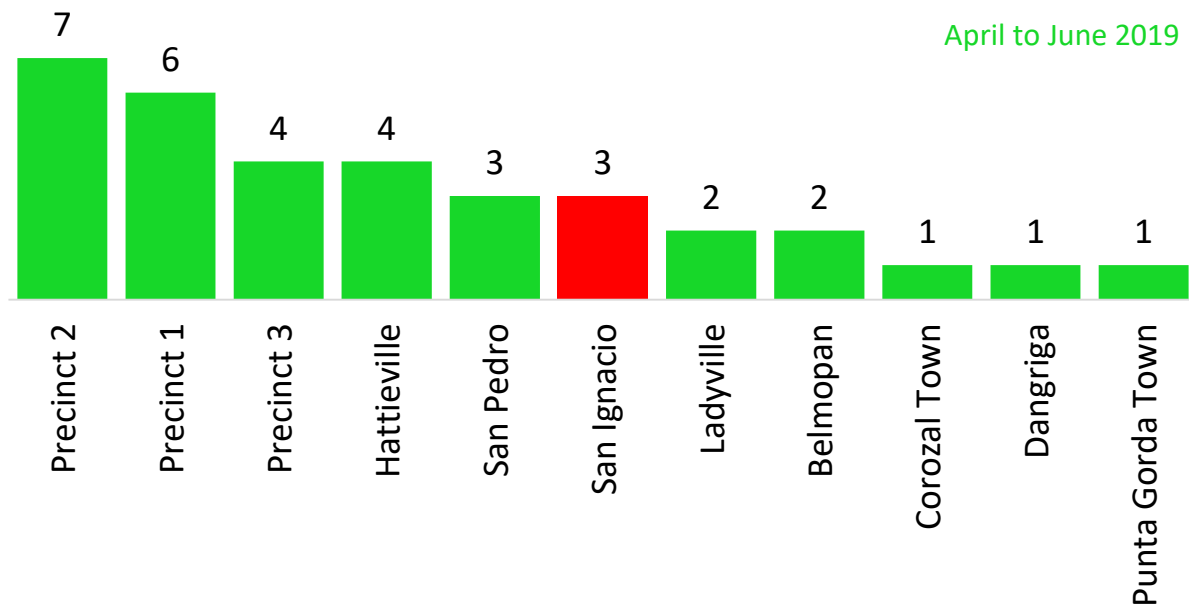
Corozal and Stann Creek both reported the largest percentage declines.

DISTRICT	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Percent Change
BELIZE	26	26	0.00
CAYO	4	5	25.00
COROZAL	3	1	-66.67
ORANGE WALK	0	0	0
STANN CREEK	3	1	-66.67
TOLEDO	0	1	-
TOTAL	36	34	-5.56

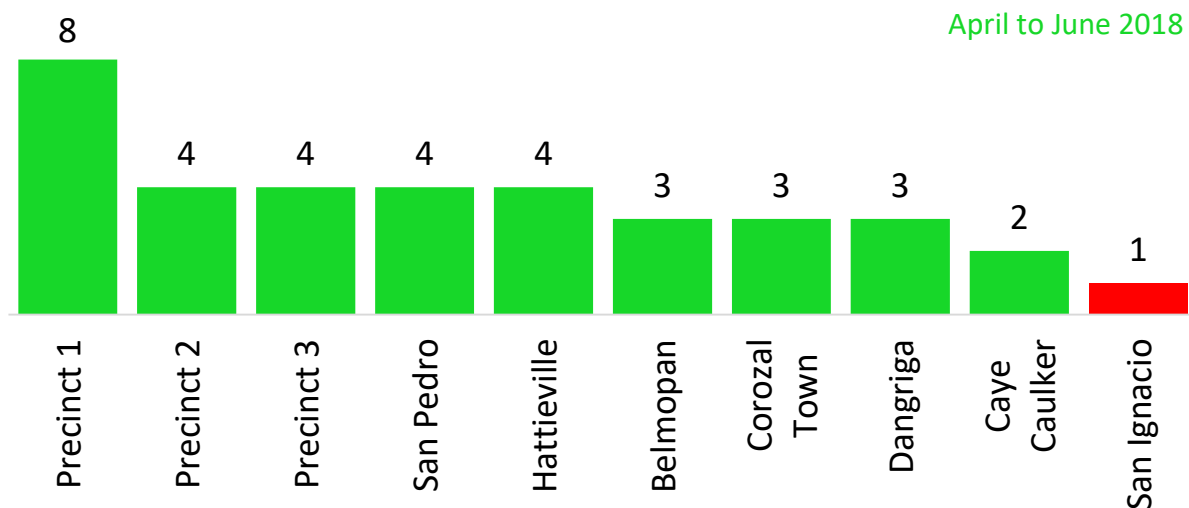
# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Precincts 1, 2 and 3 in Belize City, as well as Hattieville and San Pedro (all in the Belize District), rank among the top locations where murders were recorded during the second quarters of both 2019 and 2018. During the second quarter of 2019, half or 1 in every 2 murders happened in Belize City; Precinct 4 was the only zone in Belize City to report no murders during the period.



During second quarter 2019, San Ignacio rose in rank from 5<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, with the murder count for the quarter having increased from 1 to 3.

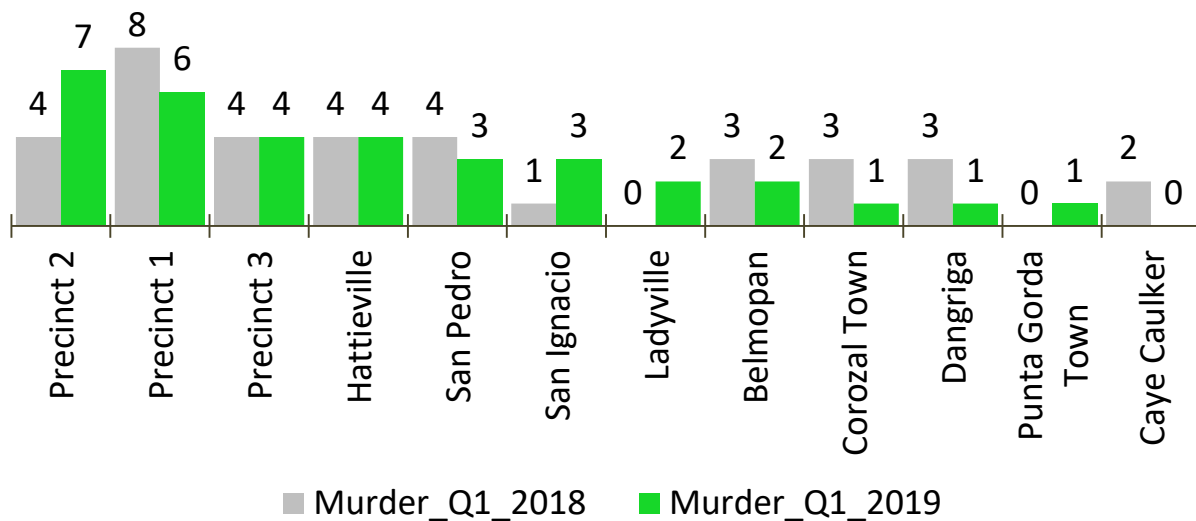




# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

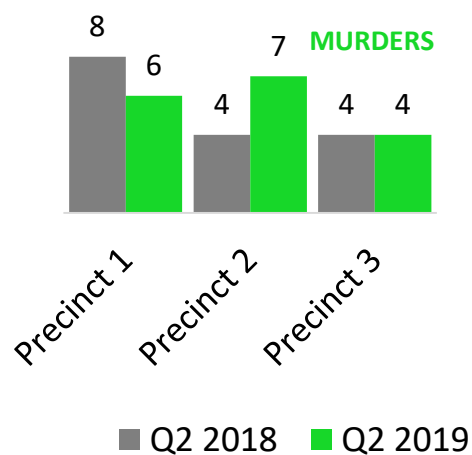
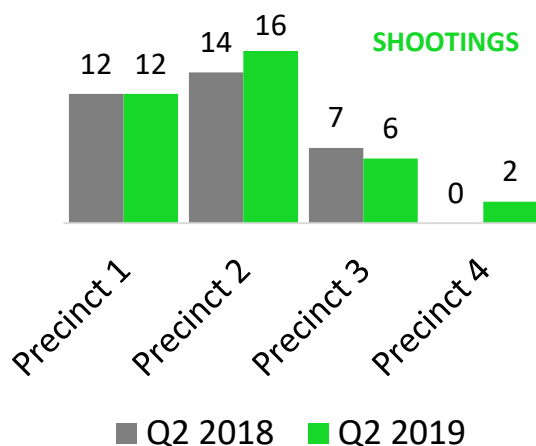
PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Five locations reported no murders during the second quarter of 2018 and the second quarter of 2019. They were: Precinct 4 in Belize City, Benque Viejo del Carmen, Orange Walk, Placencia, and Independence (or the Intermediate Southern Formation).



## INCIDENTS IN BELIZE CITY AREA

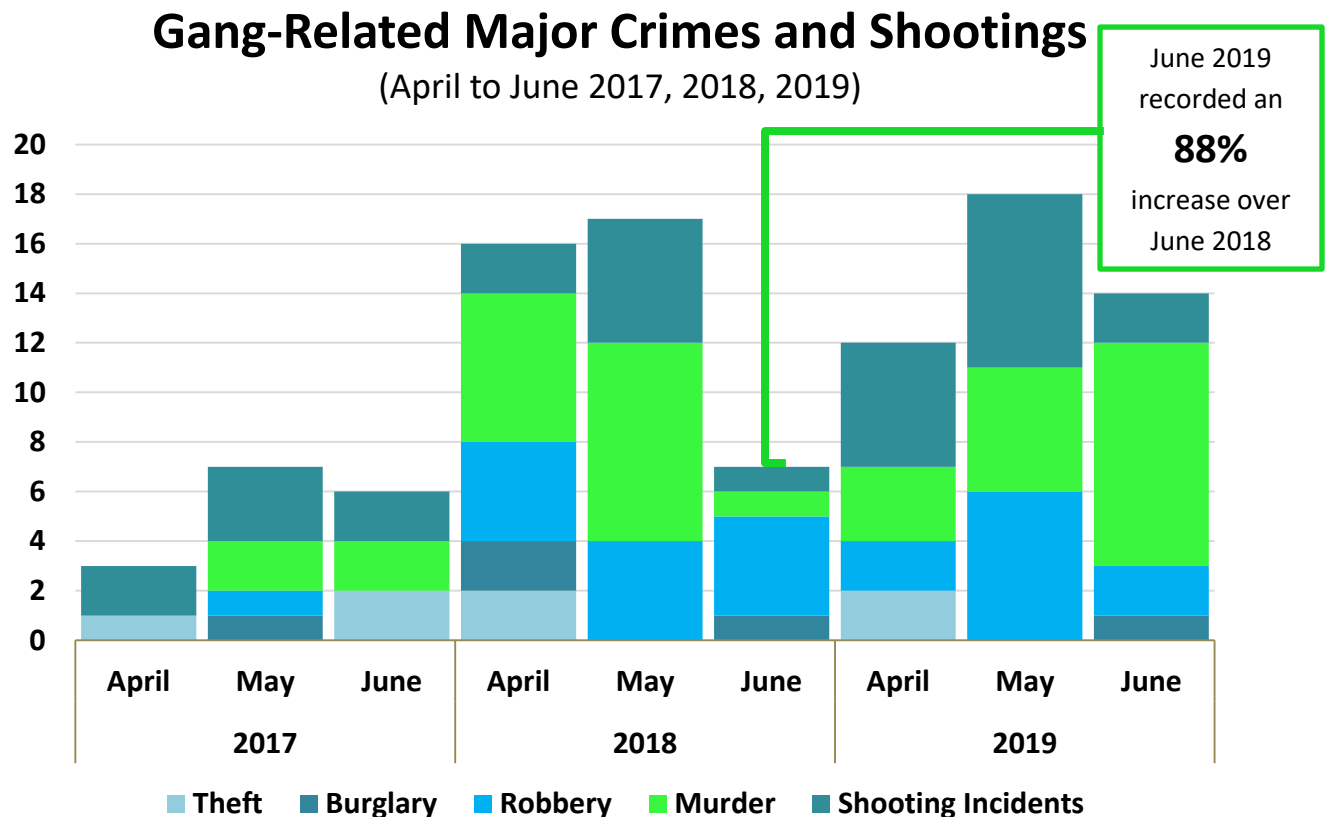
Precinct 2 recorded the most substantial change in incidents of both murders and shootings for the quarter.



# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

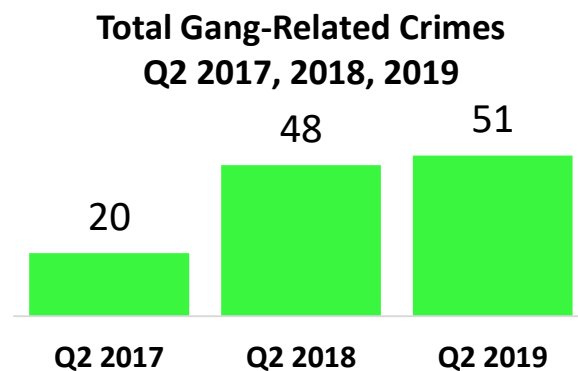
PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## GANG-RELATED VIOLENCE



Period	Count	% Change	Absolute Change
Q2 2017	20		
Q2 2018	48	140%	28
Q2 2019	51	6%	3

Gang-related crimes (which totalled 94 for January to June 2019) were down by about 20% for the first half of year, when compared to the same time last year, which registered 118 gang-related crimes. Although there was a substantial year-on-year decline of 27% during first quarter 2019, this gain was not sustained, as there was a marginal increase of 6% during second quarter 2019.



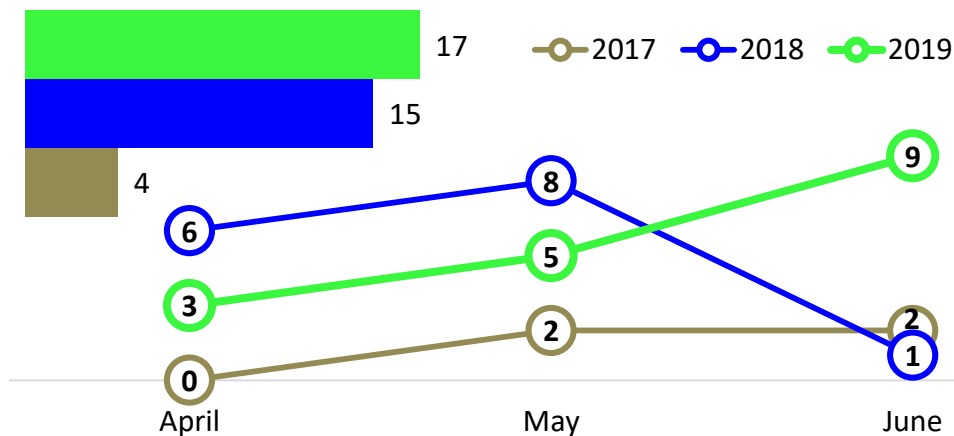
Gang-related crimes increased marginally by about **6%** during the second quarter of 2019.

# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

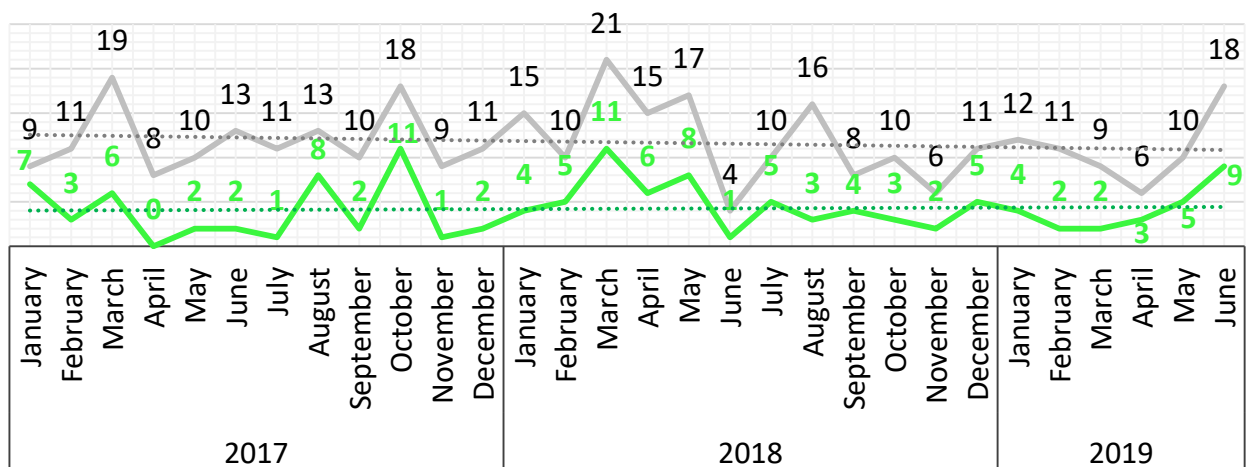
PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## TREND IN GANG-RELATED MURDERS

APRIL TO JUNE 2017, 2018, 2019



There was an upward trend in gang-related murders during the second quarter of 2019. Gang-related murders are projected to increase marginally through the end of the year, while murders, nationally, are forecast to decline only slightly when compared with 2018, if the current trends persist.

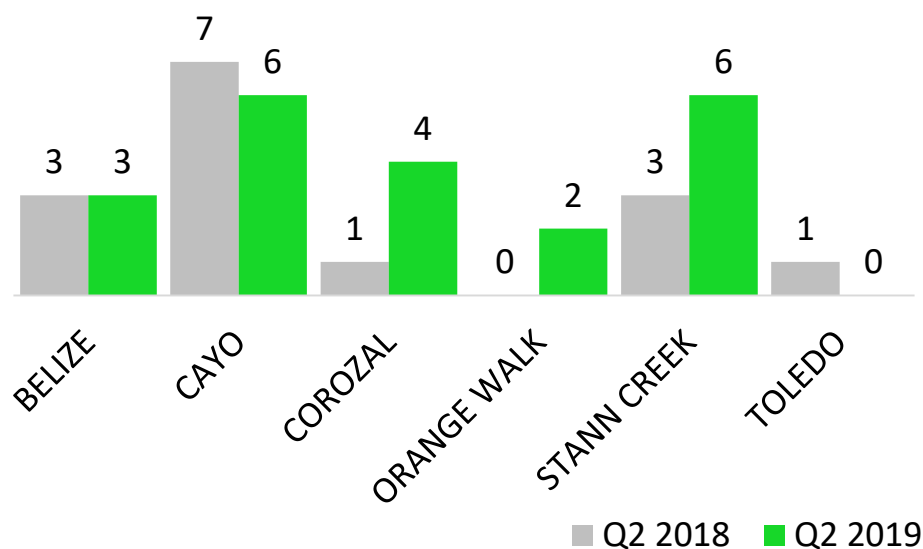


The above graph shows the trajectory of gang-related murders since January 2017, against the backdrop of all murders recorded nationally. Gang-related murders have been on an upward trajectory since February-March 2019. This is in contrast to the fluctuation seen during the first half of 2018. The second quarter of 2019 saw two more gang-related murders than the same period in 2018 (17 versus 15).

# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE<sup>1</sup>



RAPE



+500%

USI



+7%

Sexual violence reports up

▲ 40%

The Cayo and Stann Creek Districts each accounted for 3 in 10 (or roughly 30%) sexual violence cases during the second quarter of 2019. This represented a decline for Cayo, from 47% same time last year; and an increase for Stann Creek, from 20%.

DISTRICT	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Absolute Change	Percent Change
BELIZE	3	3	0	0.00
CAYO	7	6	-1	-14.29
COROZAL	1	4	3	300.00
ORANGE WALK	0	2	2	
STANN CREEK	3	6	3	100.00
TOLEDO	1	0	-1	0.00
TOTAL	15	21	6	40.00

Corozal recorded an increase from 1 case for second quarter 2018 to 4 cases for second quarter 2019.

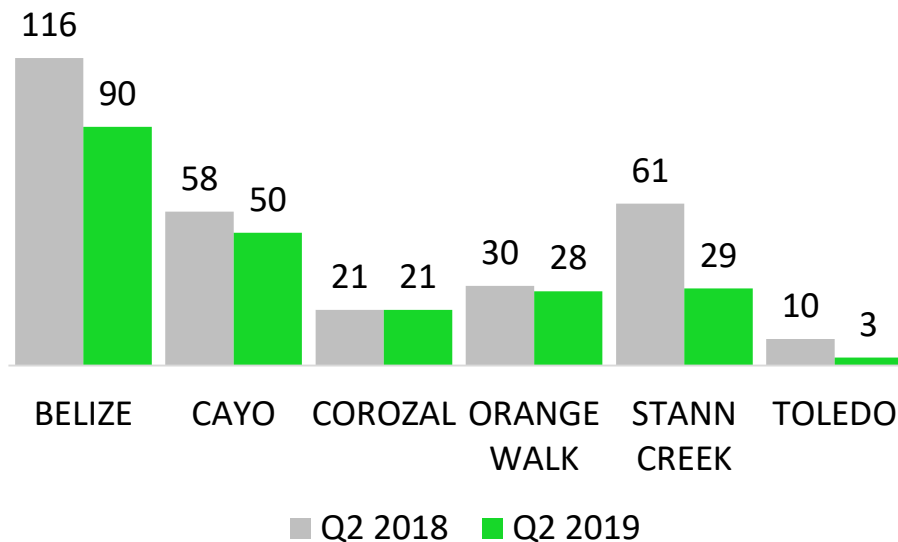
Nationally, the amount of incidents increased from 15 to 21.

<sup>1</sup> Sexual violence cases include rape and unlawful sexual intercourse.

# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## PROPERTY CRIMES



Property crime reports were down by **25%**

The Southern Districts recorded the largest percent change in property crimes. The most substantial decline was seen in the Toledo District, where reports fell by 70%. The second largest decline was reported in Stann Creek.



DISTRICT	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Absolute Change	Percent Change
BELIZE	116	90	-26	-22.41
CAYO	58	50	-8	-13.79
COROZAL	21	21	0	0.00
ORANGE WALK	30	28	-2	-6.67
STANN CREEK	61	29	-32	-52.46
TOLEDO	10	3	-7	-70.00
TOTAL	296	221	-75	-25.34

Property crimes decreased in all districts, except for Corozal, where there was no change reported.

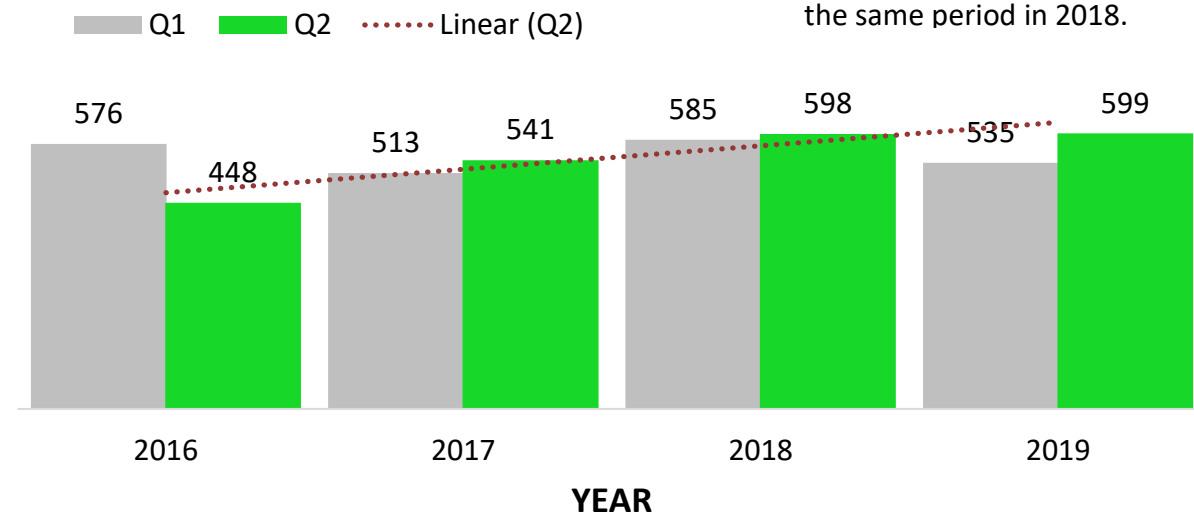
The Belize District accounted for about 4 in every 10 property crimes reported.

# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

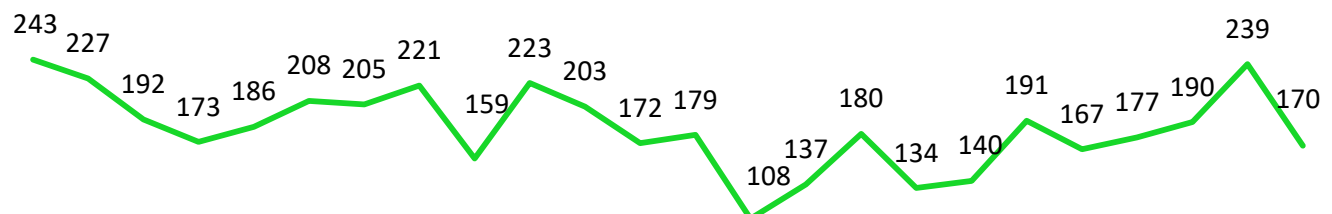
## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Number of Domestic Violence Incident Reports by Year and Quarter, 2016 - 2019



Domestic violence reports were up by 12% in second quarter when compared with the previous quarter but remained virtually unchanged in relation to the same period in 2018.

There was a general upward trend in reports for the year to date, but after a peak in May 2019 of 239 reports, June saw a substantial decline of almost 30%.

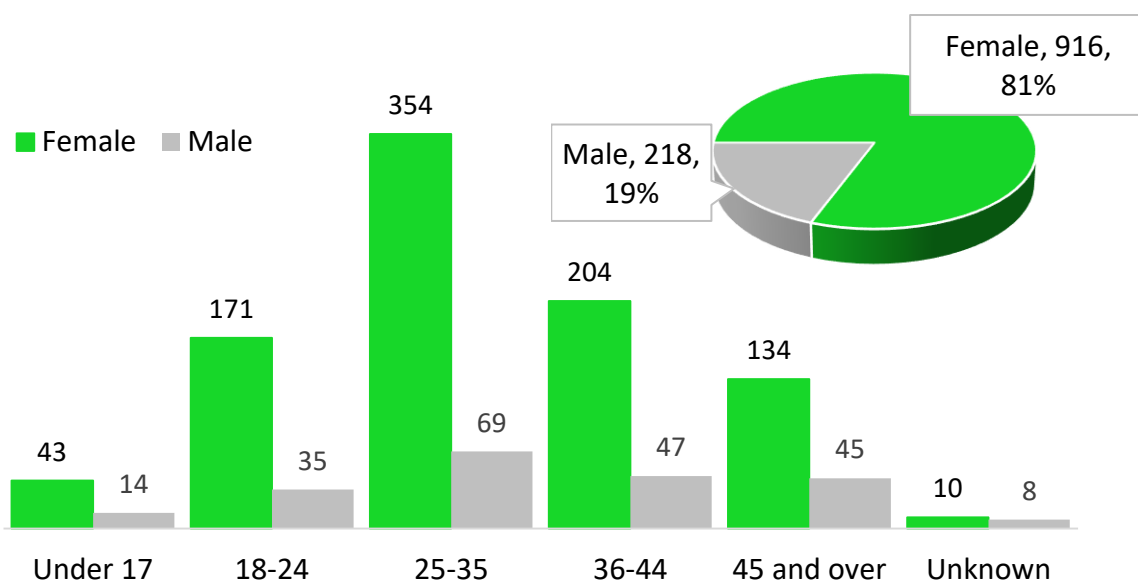


July	January	January
August	February	February
September	March	March
October	April	April
November	May	May
December	June	June
	July	
	August	
	September	
	October	
	November	
	December	
2017	2018	2019

# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Domestic violence reports were down by 4%, from 1,183 for the first half of 2018 to 1,134 for the first half of 2019, a decline of 49 cases. Notably, there was a substantial increase in the arrest rate from 8% to 29%, or from 97 arrests for January to June 2018 to 333 for the first half of 2019. At the same time, the number of reports designated as “future reference,” for which no police action was pursued, dropped by 20%, from 792 to 614 for the half-year period. This was related to a shift in policy by the Belize Police Department to more actively pursue cases, although complainants may be reluctant to pursue charges. Eight in every 10 victims were females, most frequently women ages 25 to 35 in common-law unions. Overall, victims in this age group reported twice as many incidents as those in the 18 to 24 age group.



Almost half of the cases were reported in the Belize District, while Toledo reported the least (about 5%).

District	Total Jan-Jun 2019	Percentage of Total
Belize	534	47.09%
Cayo	195	17.20%
Corozal	190	16.75%
Orange Walk	81	7.14%
Stann Creek	76	6.70%
Toledo	58	5.11%

# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

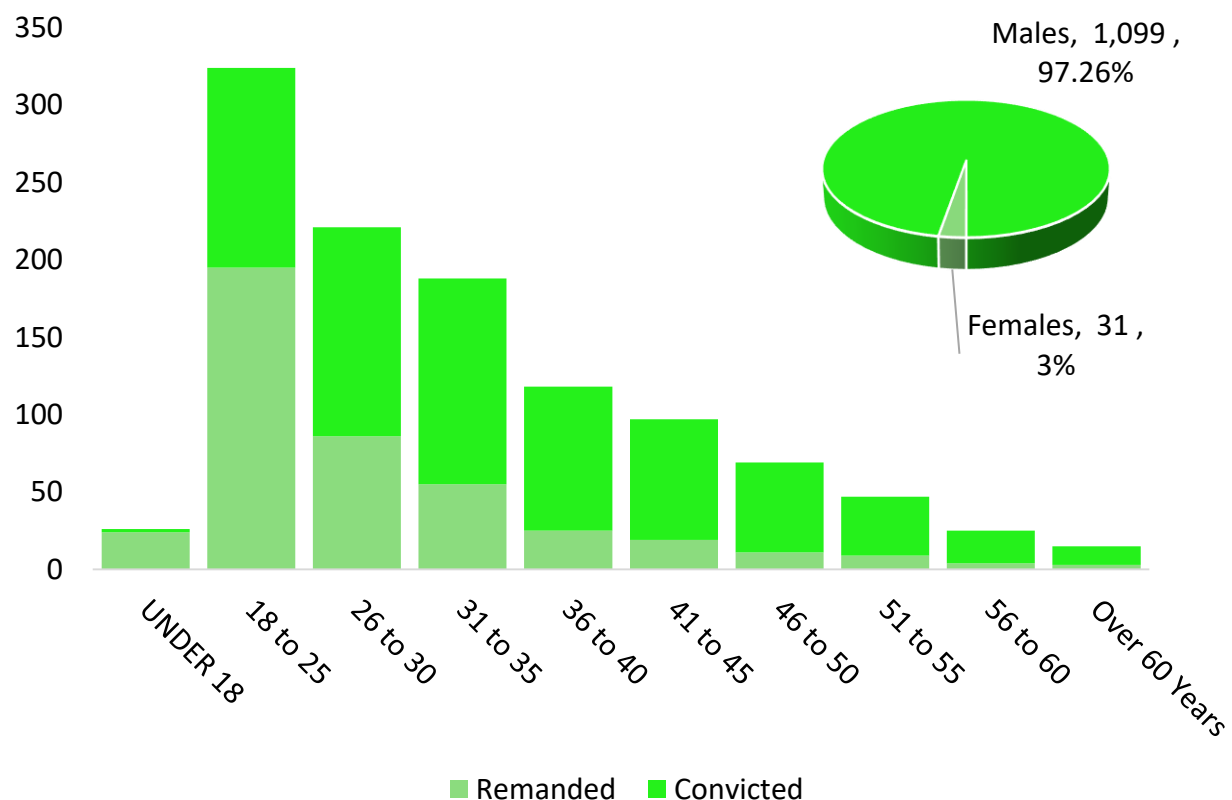
PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## INCARCERATION

As of 30 June 2019, there were 1,130 inmates incarcerated at the Belize Central Prison, virtually all (97%) of them being males. This represented a decline of 8.72% when compared with 30 June 2018, when 1,238 inmates were incarcerated. The mid-year 2019 prison population was comprised of 699 convicted persons (675 males and 24 females) and 431 remanded persons (424 males and 7 females). About 1 in every 4 inmates were either remanded for or convicted of murder.

Males ages 18-25 constituted the largest percentage of inmates (roughly 3 in 10 or 29%), predominantly Creoles or Afro-descendants. The tendency to be incarcerated declined with age. Four in every 10 people incarcerated (or 43%) were from the Belize District.

During the second quarter of 2019, 521 people were newly remanded and convicted, the highest percentage of them being for illegal entry. Four in every 10 (42%) convicted inmates went to prison for illegal entry.



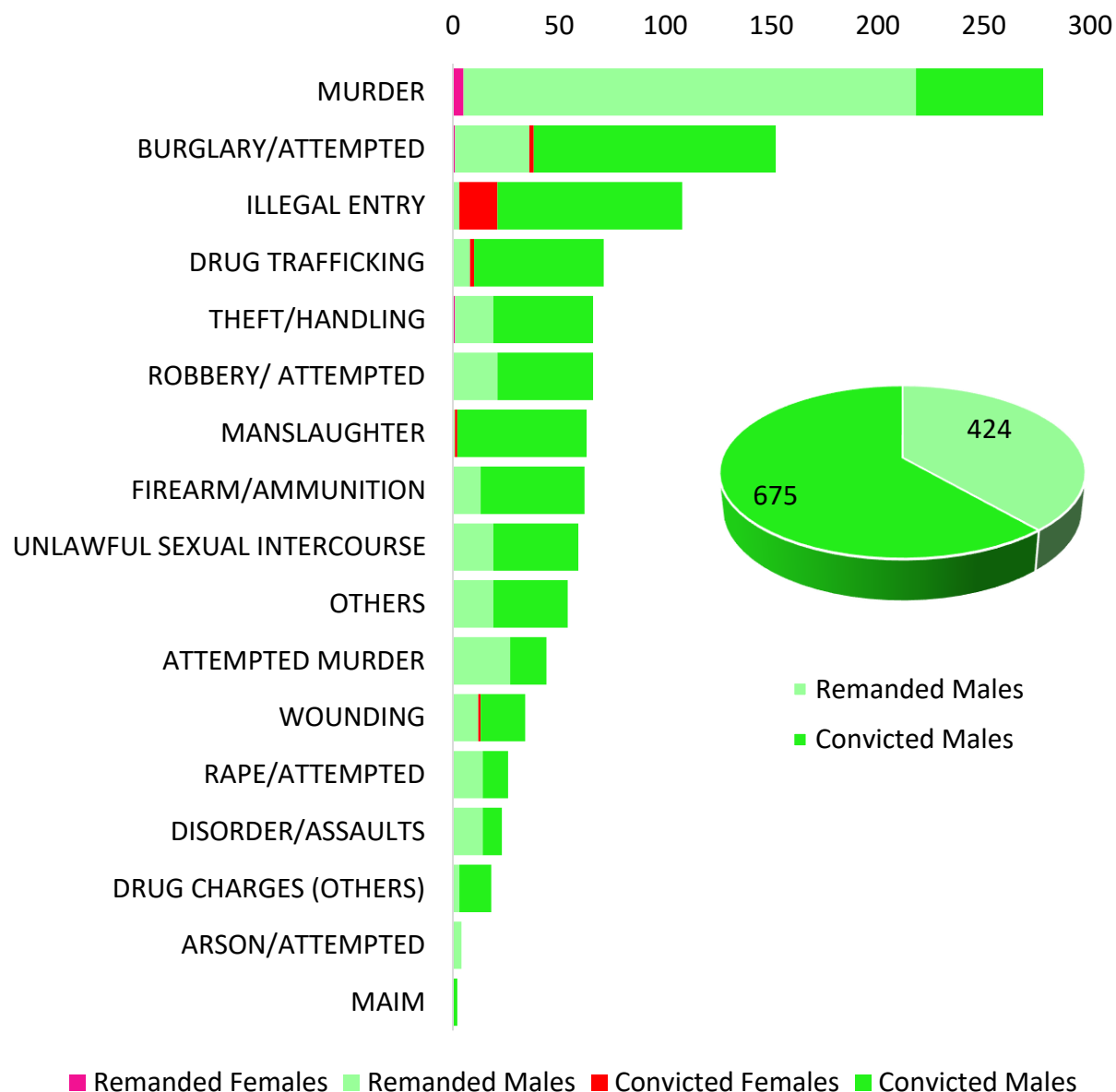
Totals as of 30 June 2019



# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Below is a breakdown of the mid-year prison population by status, sex and offence for which the inmate had been either remanded or convicted. Convicted males made up 60% of the population, while remanded males made up 38%. Murder was the number one offence for which inmates had been incarcerated; however, the number of inmates remanded for murder was more than triple the number of inmates convicted for murder.

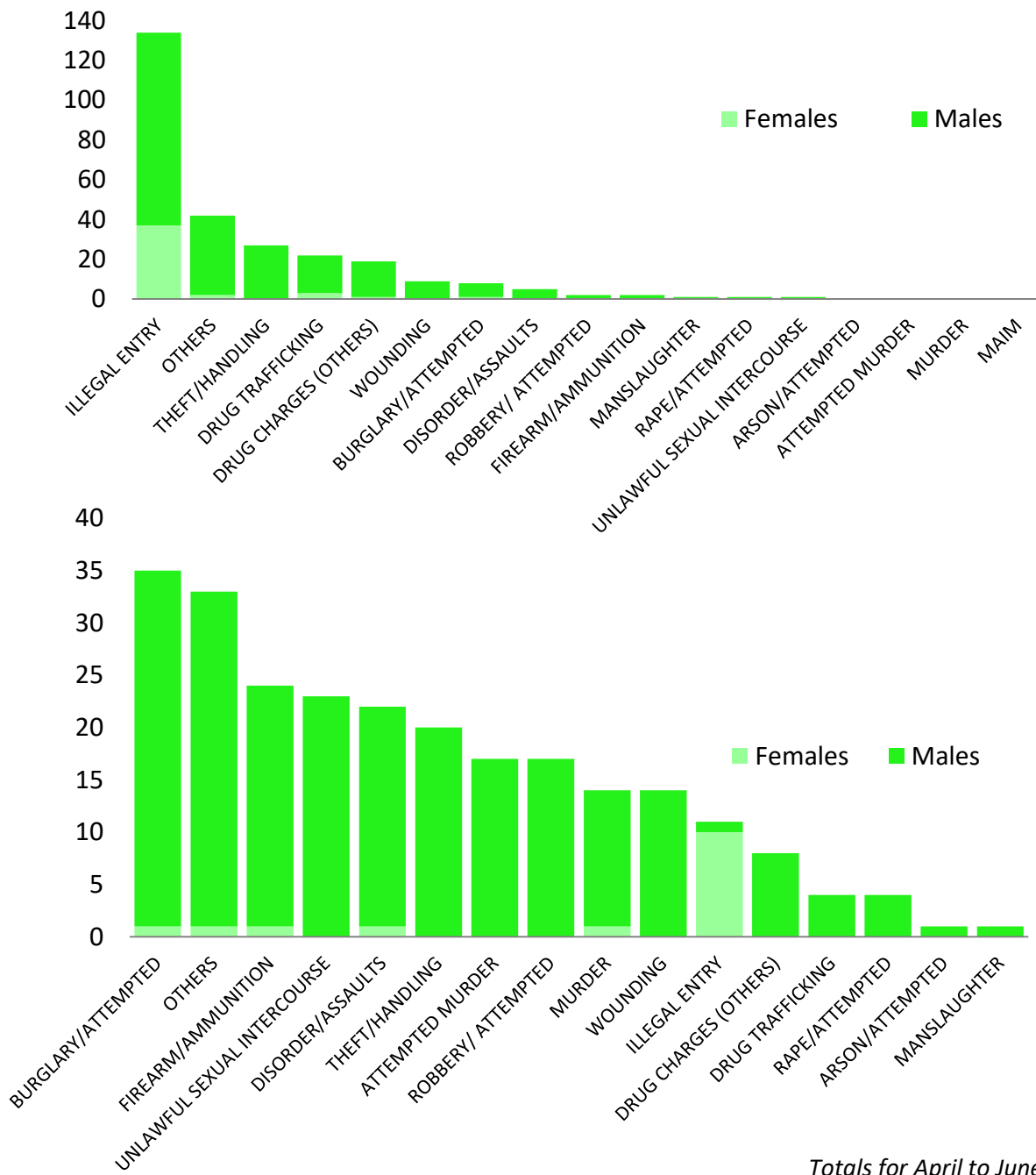


Totals as of 30 June 2019

# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

During the period April to June 2019, 521 people were newly incarcerated: 273 convicted and 248 remanded. The number one offence for which people were remanded was illegal entry. Burglary and/or attempted burglar was the number one crime for which inmates faced conviction. There were no convictions for murder but 13 people were remanded on that charge during the period.

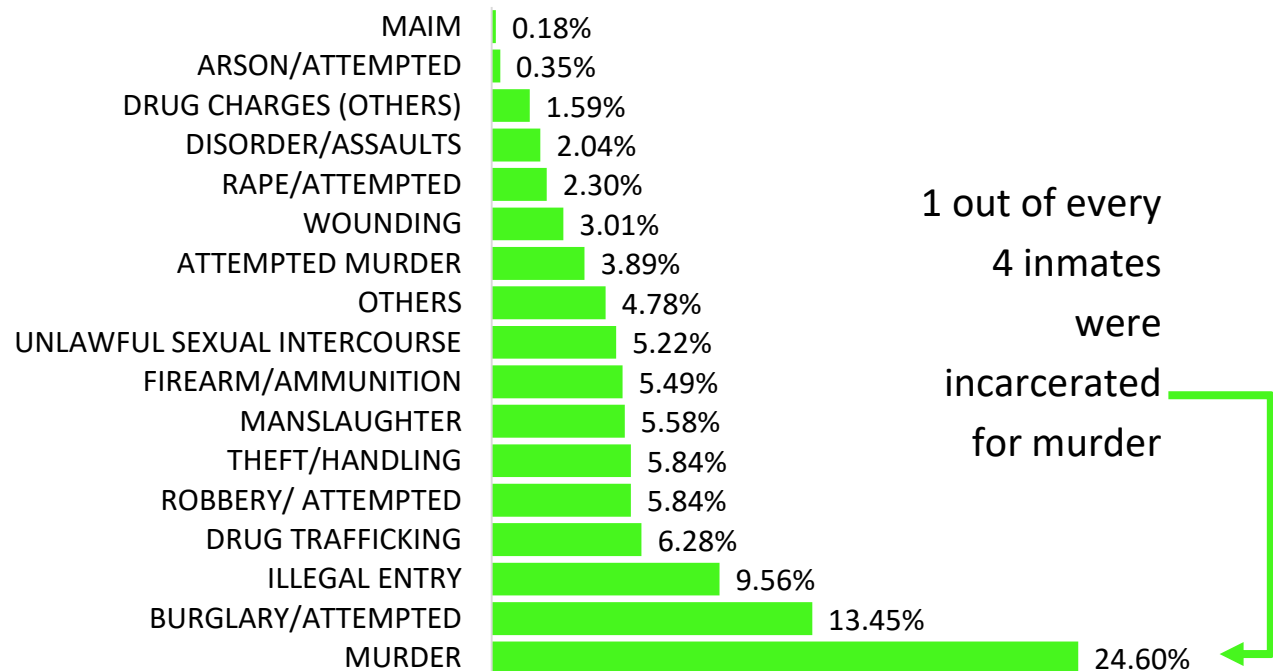
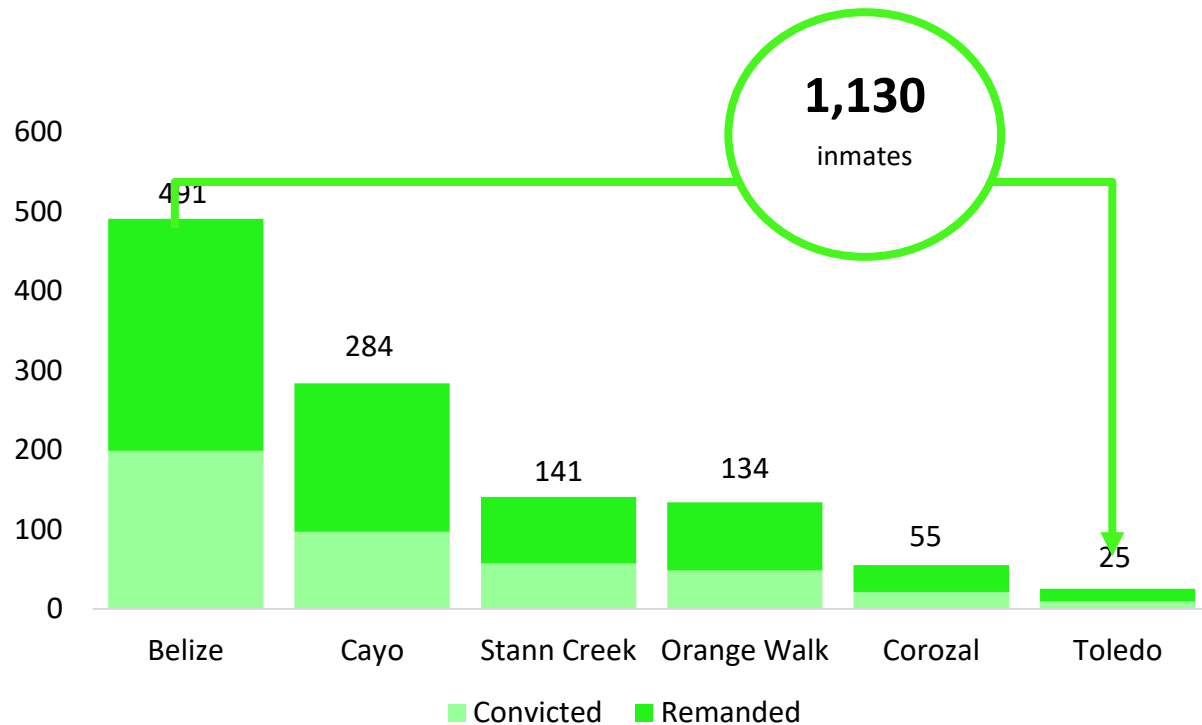


Totals for April to June 2019

# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

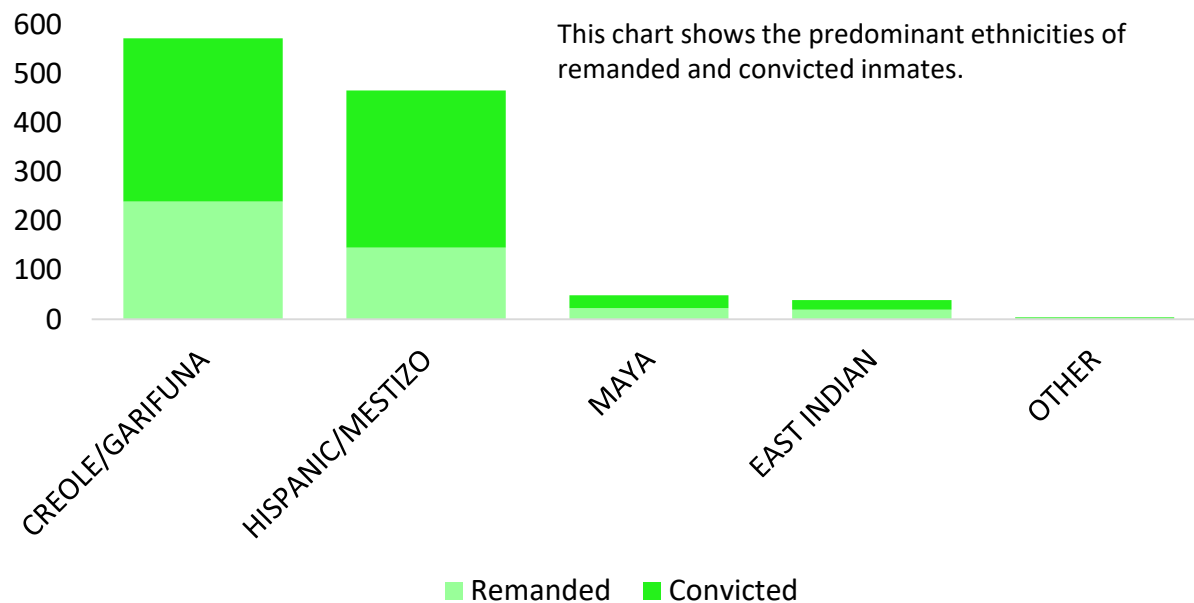
About 4 out of every 10 inmates came from the Belize District, and about 1 in 4 came from the Cayo District.



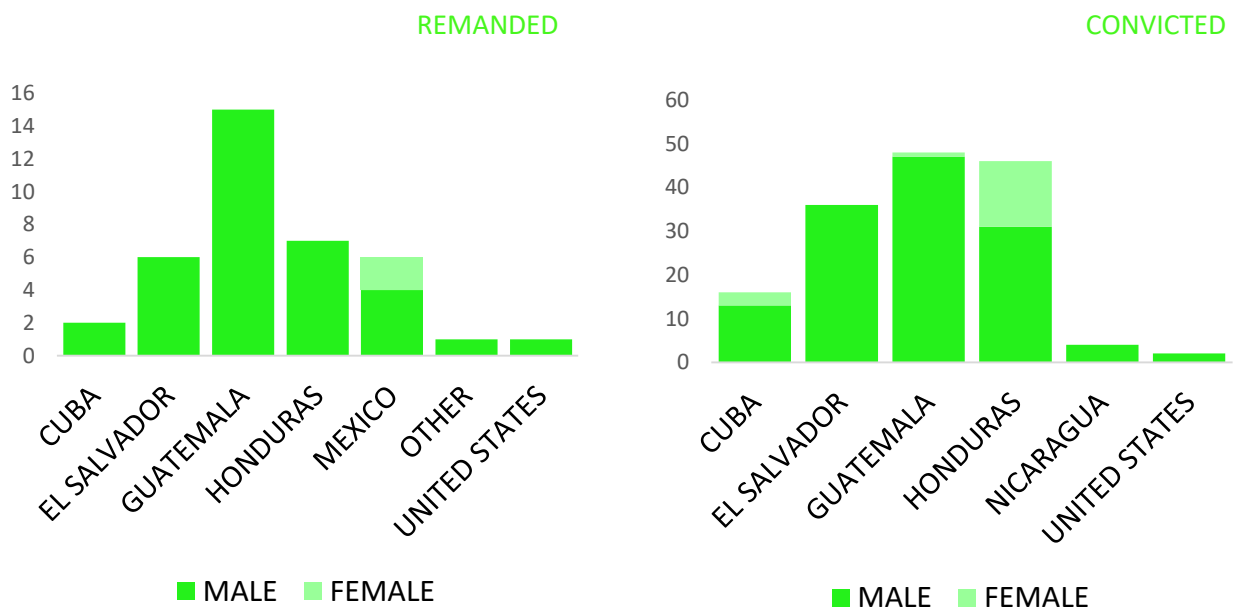
Totals as of 30 June 2019

# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019



Foreign nationals comprised 17% of the total prison population. Below is the breakdown of the nationalities of remanded and convicted inmates.



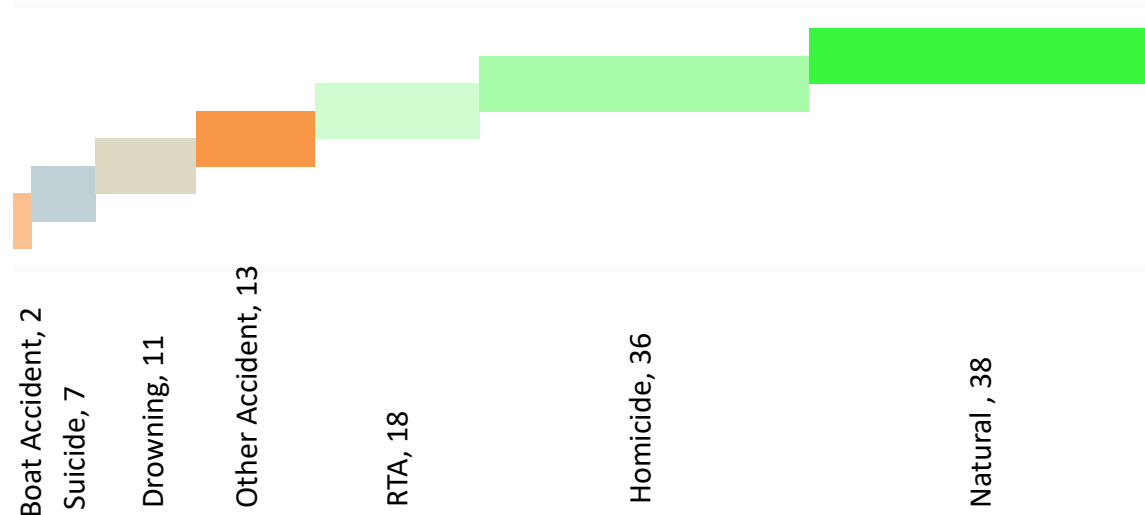
Totals as of 30 June 2019

# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

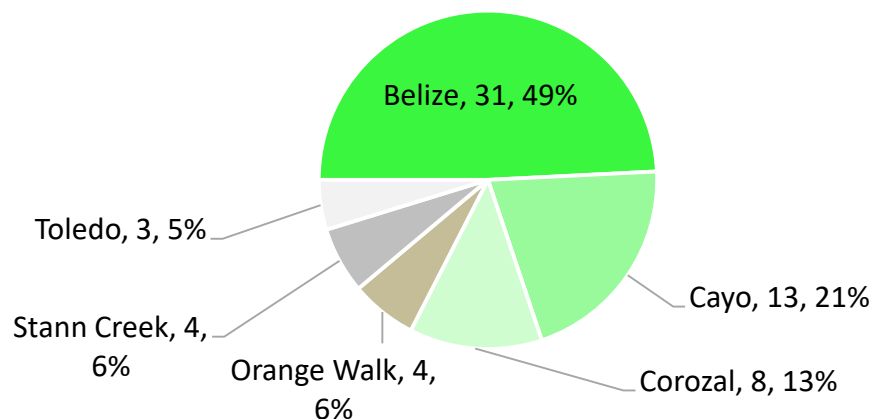
PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## AUTOPSIES ON VIOLENT DEATHS

Of the 128 autopsies conducted by the National Forensic Science Service during the second quarter of 2019, 63 were for violent deaths<sup>2</sup> that also fall under the purview of the Belize Police Department: 36 homicides, 18 road traffic accident (RTA) fatalities, 2 deaths from a boat explosion, and 7 suicides.



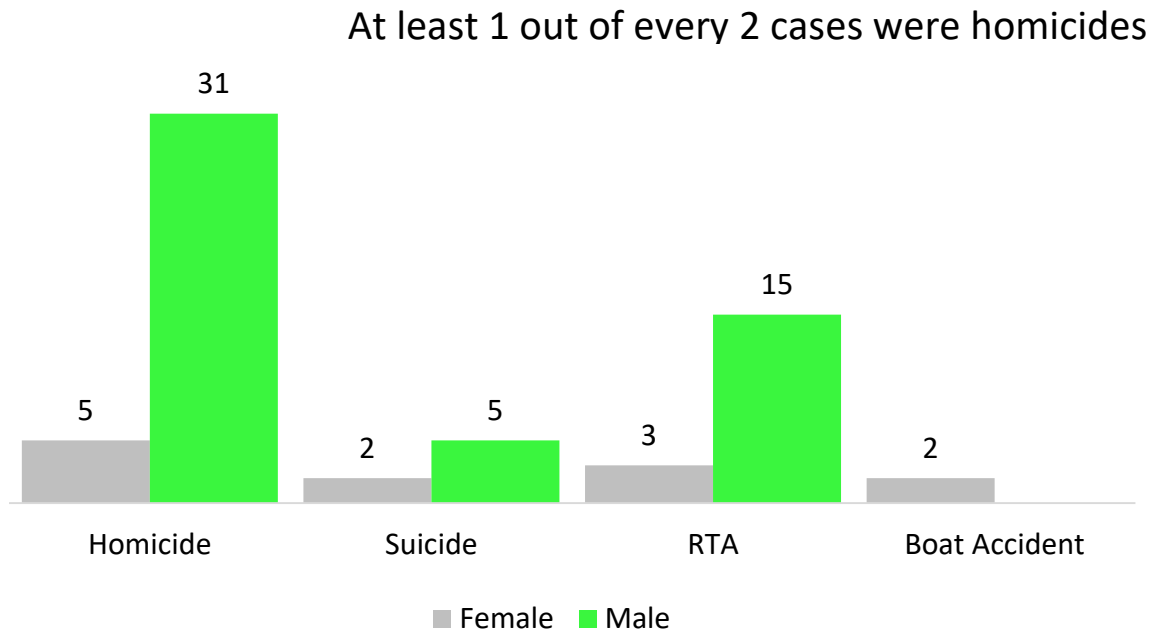
About 1 out of every 2 cases arose in the Belize District. The Southern Districts of Stann Creek and Toledo accounted for about 1 in every 10, while the Northern Districts of Corozal and Orange Walk accounted for 2 in every 10.



<sup>2</sup> A violent death is defined as death that is not natural or death caused by accident or the actions of another person. In this context, the violent deaths included in this report constitute incidents of the nature that would ordinarily be documented and/or investigated by police.

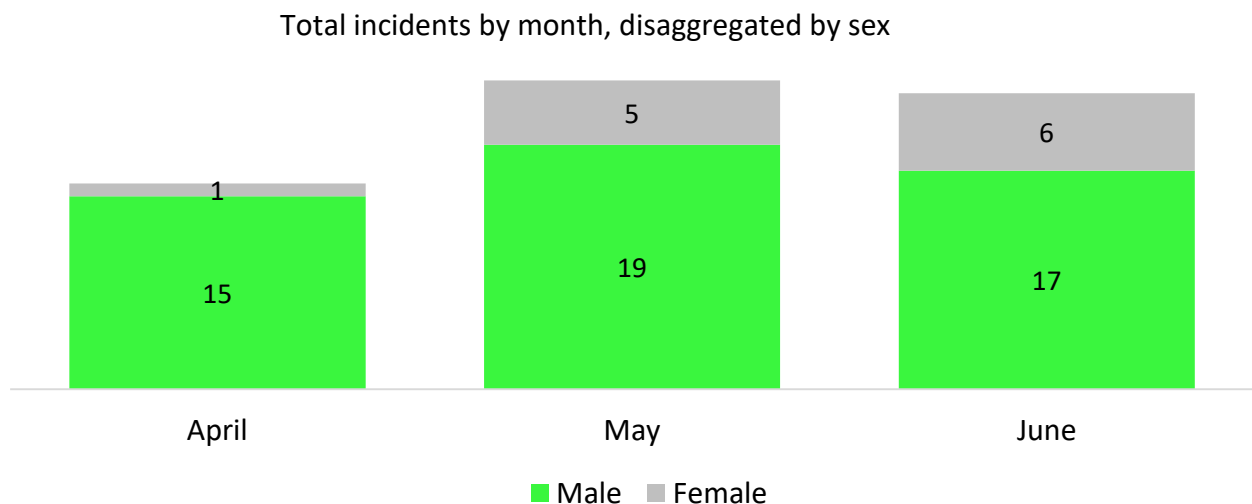
# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019



Consistent with what was observed during the first quarter, males accounted for:

- 9 in every 10 homicides
- 8 in every 10 RTA fatalities
- 7 in every 10 suicides



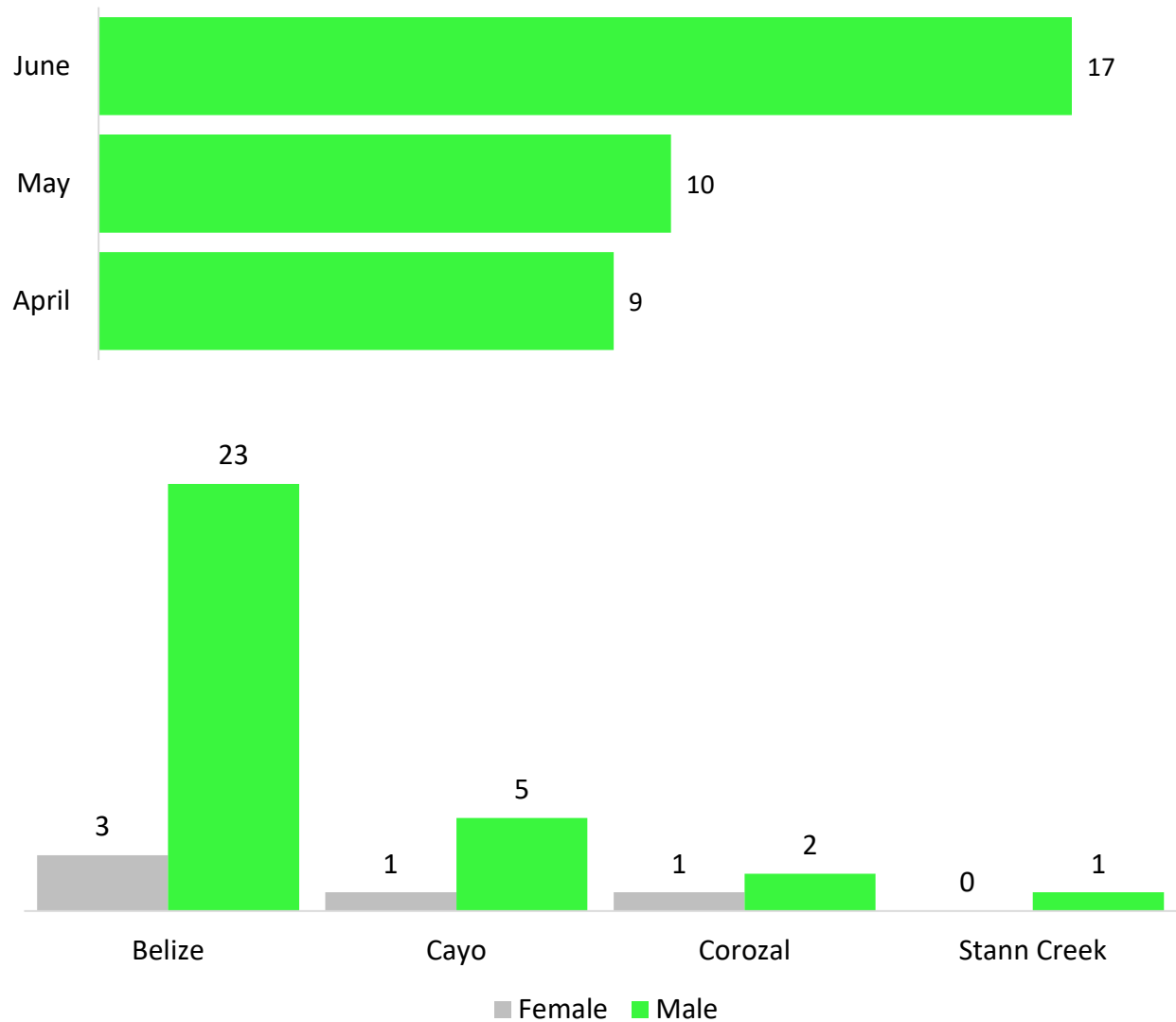
# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

---

## HOMICIDES

The number of homicide spiked in June. The largest percentage of the cases arose from the Belize District.

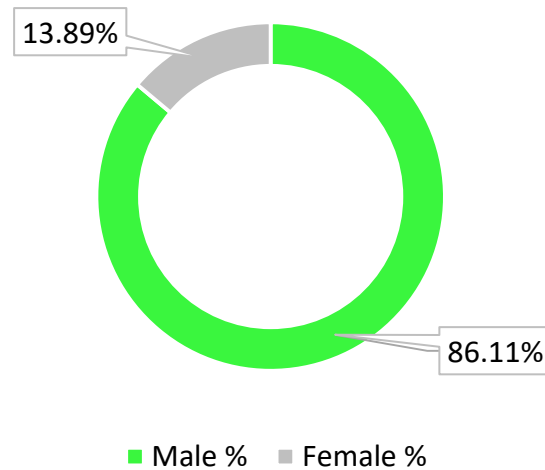


# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

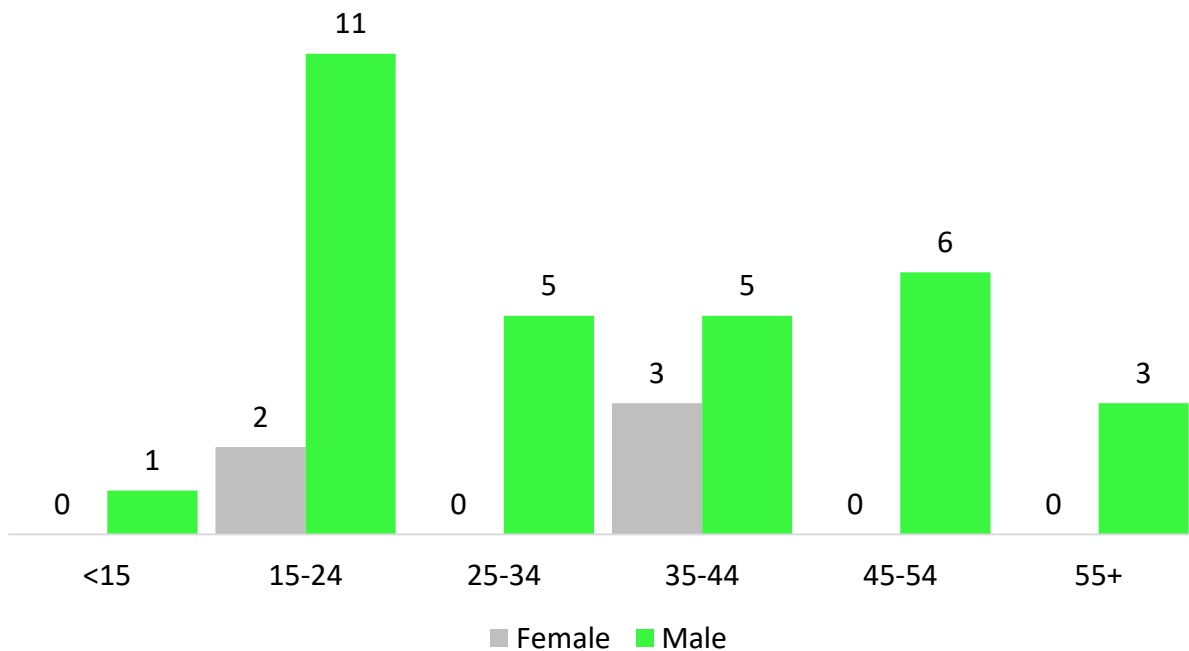
PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

---

The vast majority of victims – nearly 9 out of every 10 – were males.



About 3 in every 10 homicide victims were males, ages 15-24.





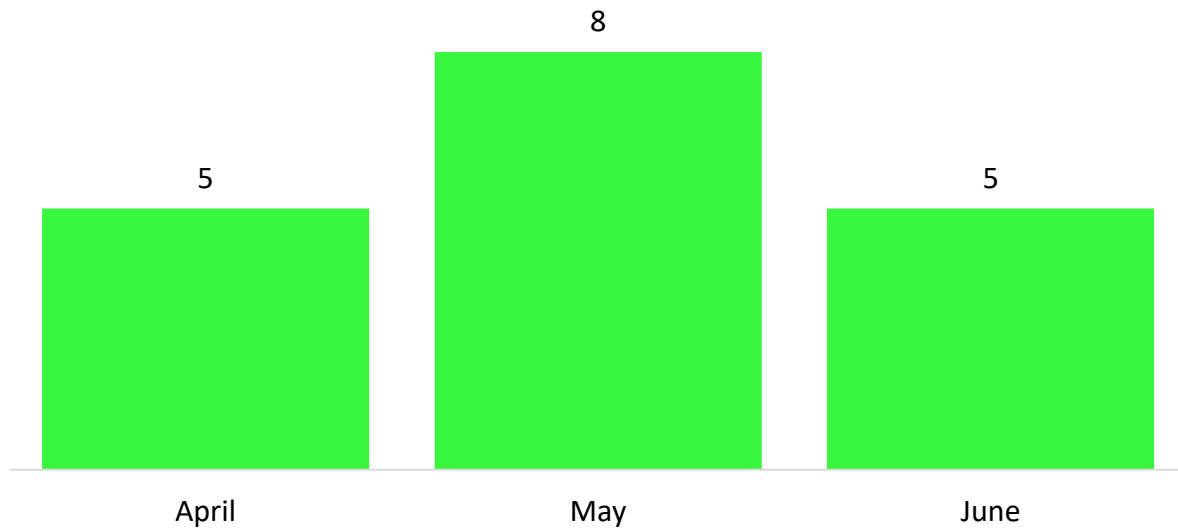
# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

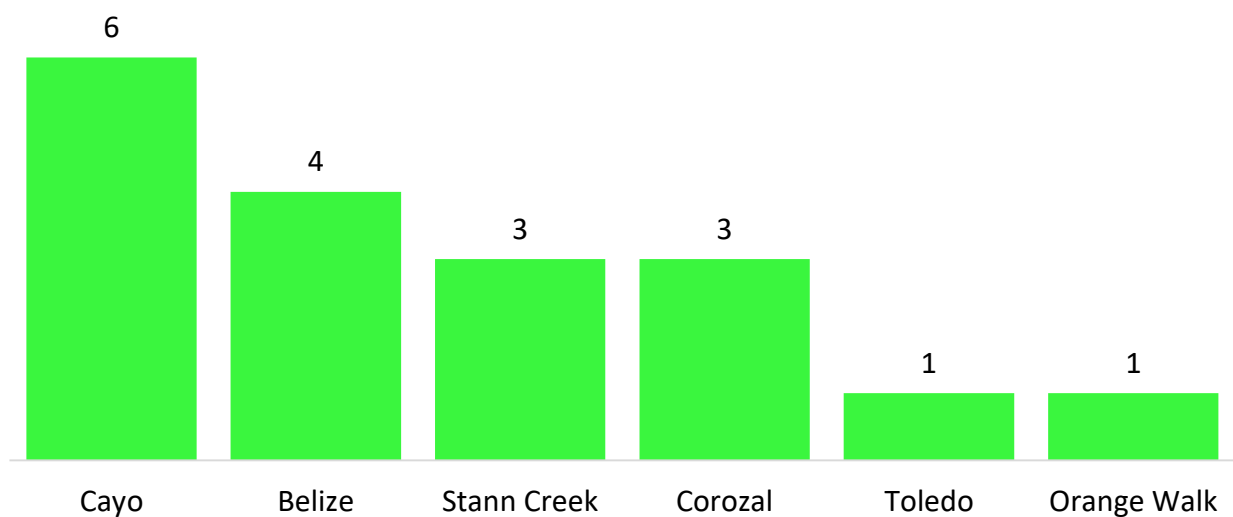
---

## ROAD TRAFFIC FATALITIES

The month of May saw a spike in RTA fatalities; in fact, more than 40% of the fatal RTA's recorded for the period occurred in May.



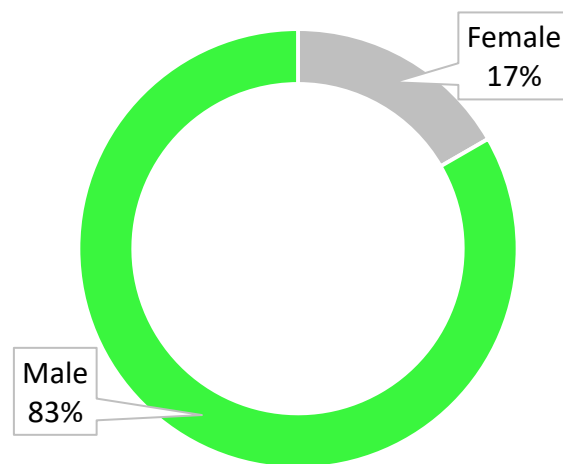
A third of the incidents happened in the Cayo District.



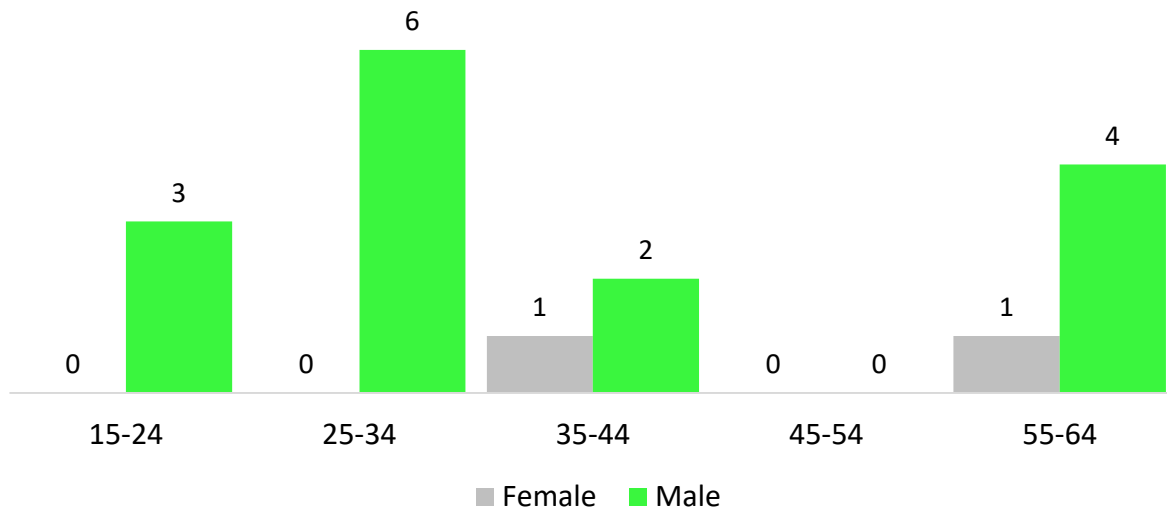
# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

---



About 8 out of every 10 victims of RTA fatalities were males, most often of the 25-34 age group.



# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

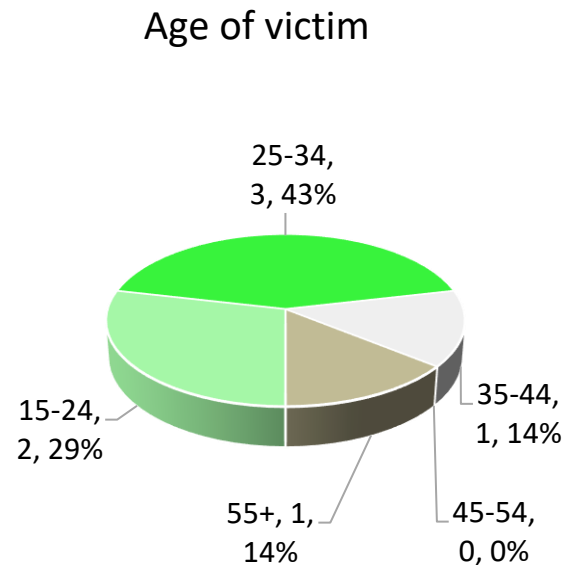
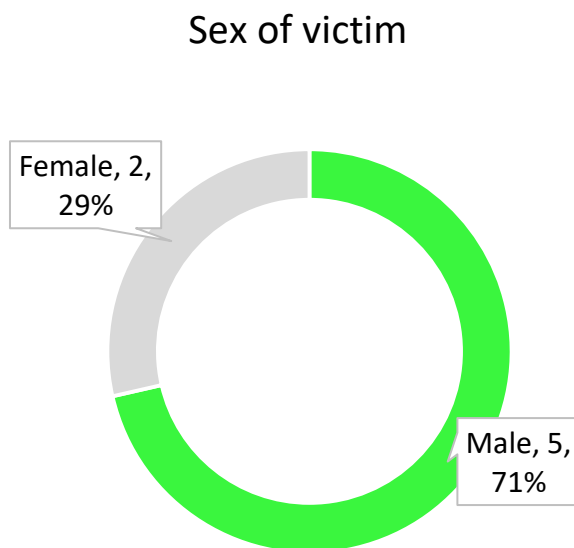
PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## SUICIDE

There was a spike in the number of suicides recorded in May 2019, but a reduction was recorded in June. A total of 13 suicides have been subjected to forensic investigation since the year began.



About 7 in every 10 victims were males. More than 70% of victims were in the 15-24 and 25-34 age groups, as seen in the pie chart below. About 4 in 10 incidents occurred in Orange Walk.



# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

---

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The gains made in early 2019 to curb violent crimes was not sustained during second quarter, particularly due to a resurgence in gang-related crimes. The second quarter of 2019 saw an upsurge in gang-related murders and shootings, following the substantial decline reported during the first quarter of 2019. Most of the increase was noted during May and June of 2019, although a general upward trend had been observed since February-March 2019. In relation to gang-related murders and shootings, the Belize City area (Precincts 1, 2 and 3) continues to be the greatest concern. It is notable that some of the gang-related violence in the City was also deemed to be drug-related. San Pedro and Hattieville also continue to be areas of concern, as they remained among the top five locations most likely to record a murder. San Ignacio has emerged as another area of interest.

Property crimes (specifically robbery and burglary) continued to be the major concern in northern Belize. Notably, though, no district reported an increase in property crimes and nationally, reports had declined by 25% over the same period last year. Drug-related crimes have also been linked to property crimes in the north of the country, particularly the Orange Walk corridor. Major crimes were down by about 20% for the second quarter; however, Corozal was the only jurisdiction to have reported an increase.

Although reports of sexual violence (rape and unlawful sexual intercourse) were far less frequent than other major crimes, the increase in reports relative to the same period last year was substantial, especially for rape. A deeper study should be undertaken on the cases that have been occurring since the year began to determine the reason for the trend. Cayo, Stann Creek and Corozal are the districts of primary concern.

One of the most notable gains made in relation to offences of interest was in the arrest rate for domestic violence cases, which surged from about 8% for the first half of 2018 to 29% for the first half of 2019. Most of the complainants were women ages 25 to 35 who were living in common-law unions; targeted social interventions should complement the shift in police policy to help curb violence against women in that age group.

Fewer people were incarcerated during the second quarter of 2019 than the same period in 2018. Central American migrants convicted of illegal entry continue to form a notable part of the prison population and most of the female foreign inmates that pass through the system had been incarcerated for illegal entry. At the end of the quarter, the head count at the Belize Central Prison was 1,130, with only 3% of the prison population being female.

Data from the National Forensic Science Service revealed that May saw a spike in fatal road traffic accidents (mostly frequently occurring in the Cayo District) while June saw a spike in homicides (mostly in the Belize District). There were a total of 13 suicides recorded for the period January to June 2019. Victims of violent deaths – homicides, road traffic fatalities, and suicides – continued to be mostly young males, and predominantly from the Belize District.

# Second Quarter 2019 Crime Analysis

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

---

## 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.



*“Supporting Improvements in  
Citizen Security by Informing,  
Interpreting, and Influencing  
the Understanding of Crime.”*

## **Belize Crime Observatory**

Ministry of National Security (Home Affairs)



---  
[bco.gov.bz](http://bco.gov.bz)



[bco@nsc.gov.bz](mailto:bco@nsc.gov.bz)

**EXPLORE AND DOWNLOAD DATA** from

BCO's Open Data Site: <http://hub-belizeco.opendata.arcgis.com/>

---

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