MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS & ENTERPRISE

BELIZE CRIME OBSERVATORY

Citizen Security Analysis 2025

Belize

2025 Situational Analysis on Crime and Violence in Belize

- Major Crimes
- Murders
- Suicides
- Road Traffic Fatalities
- Sexual Violence
- Domestic Violence
- Missing Persons
- Property Crimes

Data Sources: Belize Police Department through the Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center and Belize National Forensic Science Service

Disclaimer: The BCO uses reasonable efforts to provide accurate and up-to-date information however, some of the information found on this report may be susceptible to change.

Main Findings:

- In 2025, Major Crime Incidents decreased by 1% when compared to 2024.
- Murders have been on a general decline since 2021.
- In 2025, suicides recorded a 26% increase compared to 2024.
- Motorcycles accounted for 38% of the vehicles involved in fatal road traffic accidents (a total of 55 motorcycles).
- Unlawful sexual intercourse decreased in reports during 2025 to a total of 39. Meanwhile, rape cases increased to 45.
- 2025 recorded a 17% decrease in Domestic Violence reports relative to 2024.
- During 2025, the largest percentage of female missing persons were between 0 and 19 years old. Meanwhile, for males, there was not one single age group that dominated the population.
- During 2025, 914 property crimes were recorded in the major crimes category. This represents no change from the 914 incidents recorded during the same period in 2024.

Major Crimes

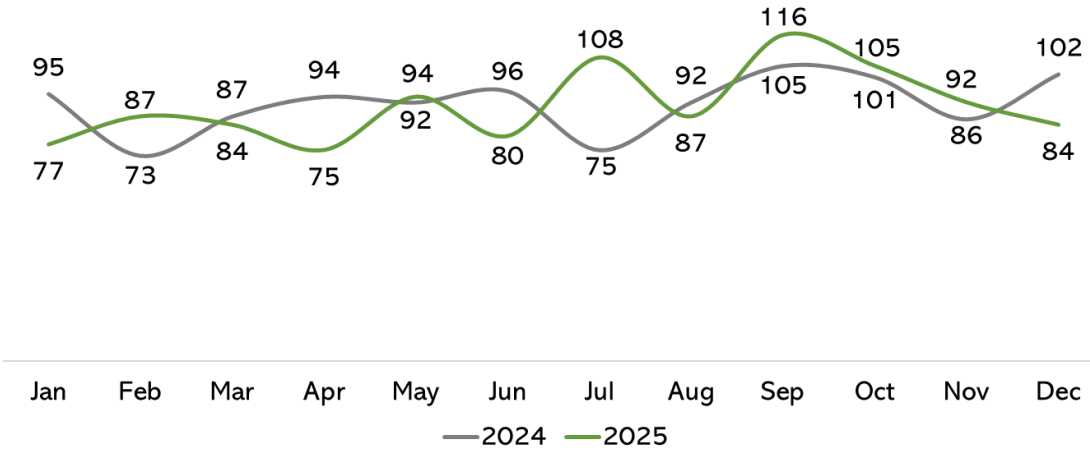
There are 6 major crime categories recorded by the Belize Police Department.

Homicide
1. Murder

Sexual Violence
2. Rape
3. Unlawful Sexual Intercourse

Property Crimes
4. Robbery
5. Burglary
6. Theft

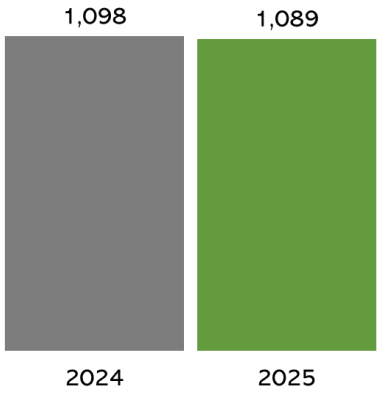
Total major crimes by month



Major Crimes fluctuated throughout the entire year during 2025.

April recorded the largest decrease, with 20% (19 fewer reports). Meanwhile, July recorded the largest increase, with 44% (33 more reports).

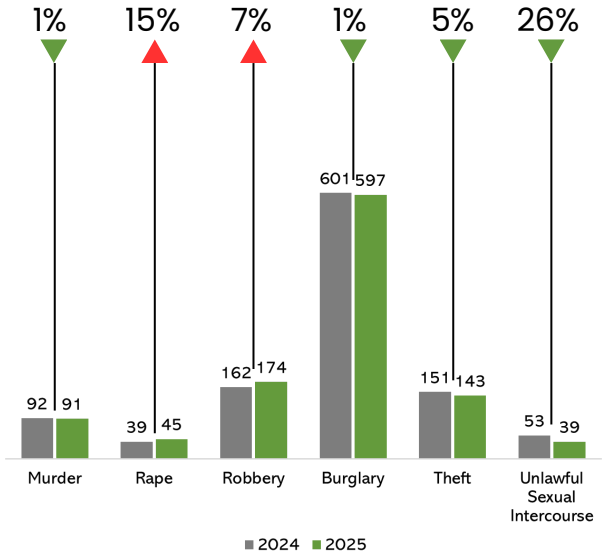
Total major crimes



The total Major Crimes from January to December 2025 accounts for 1089 reports.

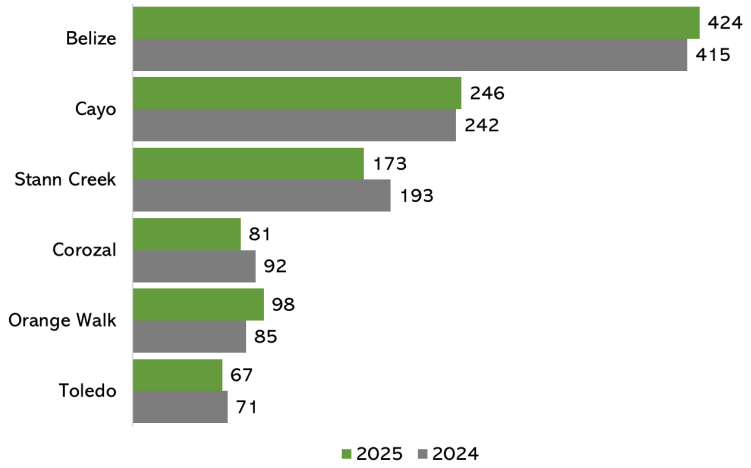
Major Crime incidents decreased by 1% (9 fewer reports).

Major Crimes by category



During 2025, majority of the categories of major crimes recorded a decrease except for rape and robbery, with an increase of 6 and 2, respectively.

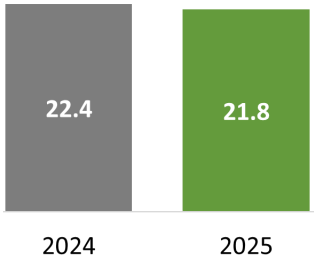
Major Crimes by district



The Belize District accounted for 39% (424 cases) of the major crimes recorded during 2025.

50% (3) of the districts decreased in major crimes while the Belize, Cayo, and Orange Walk Districts increased, by 2% (9 cases), 2% (4 cases), and 15% (13 cases), respectively.

Murders

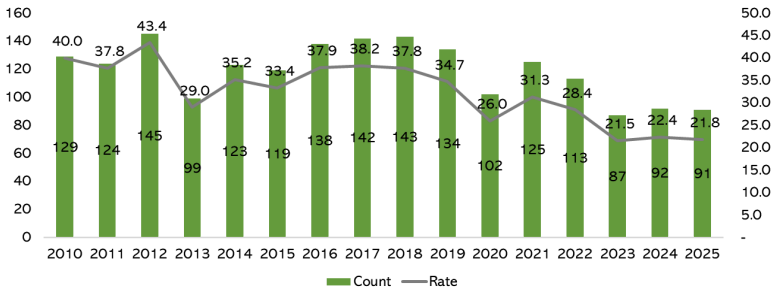


Murders have been on a general decline since 2021.

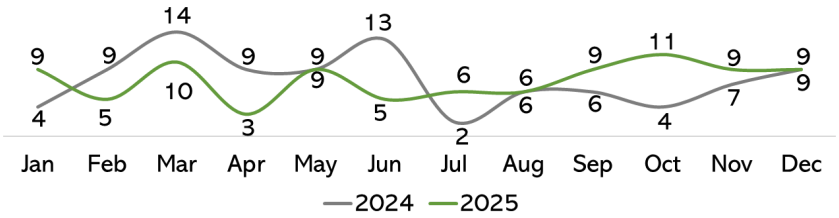
Post COVID-19, 2023 accounted for the lowest murder rate in the last 15 years, with 21.5 murders per 100,000 population.

Murders slightly decreased in 2025 when compared to 2024, which had resulted in an increase compared to 2023; however, in the last three years, murders have remained below 100.

Note: The murder rates were recalculated with the updated mid-year and census population provided by the Statistical Institute of Belize.



Total murder victims by month



On average, 8 Murders per month occurred from January to December 2025. April 2025 accounted for the largest decrease, with 67% (6 fewer murder victims) when compared to April 2024.

A State of Emergency took effect on May 6, 2025, in parts of the Belize and Cayo Districts. This SOE ran for a period of 30 days, concluding in June 2025. This policy decision could be the leading factor that contributed to the decrease in Murders during that period.

Proportion of Murder victims by sex, 2025



9 in 10 Murder victims were males

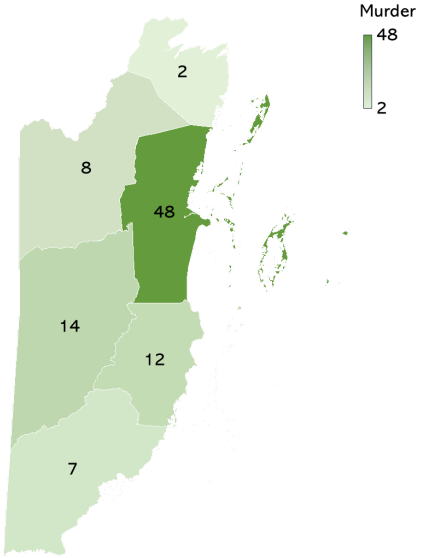
Murder weapons used, 2025



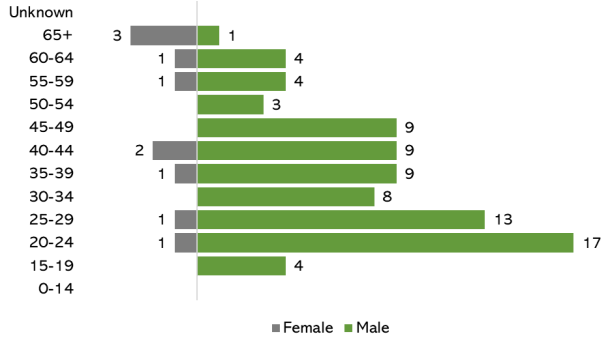
3 unknown weapons

- In Belize, 8 in 10 murders were committed using a firearm.
- 1 in 10 murders were committed using a sharp object.
- Other includes blunt objects, fire, and vehicle.

Murders by district, 2025

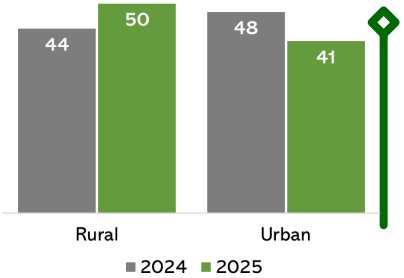


Total Murder victims by sex age, 2025



In 2025, the largest number of murder victims was recorded for individuals between the ages of 20 and 24 years.

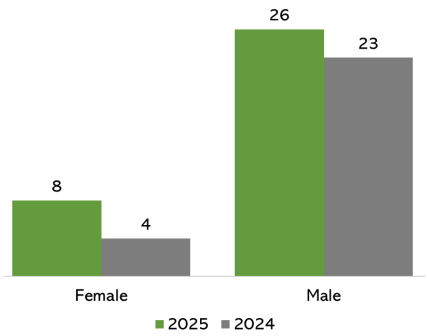
Total Murder victims by geographical area



In 2025, the murders recorded in urban areas decreased while the murders in rural areas increased when compared to 2024.

In 2025, the Belize District accounted for 48 of the murder victims. The majority of the Murders were committed in the urban areas of the district accounting for 69% (33).

Suicides

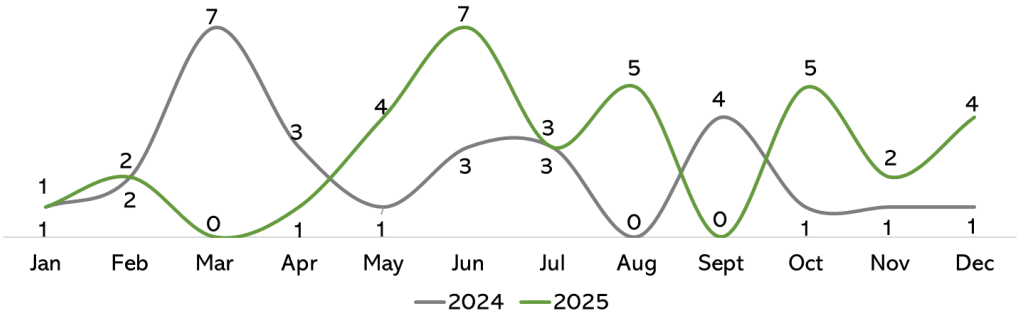


34 suicides were recorded in 2025. This represents an increase of 26% (7 more suicides) compared to the previous year.

Males accounted for 76% of the deaths by suicide.

Moreover, males who died by suicide decreased by 9 percentage points when compared to 2024, while females who died by suicide increased by 9 percentage points.

Suicides by month

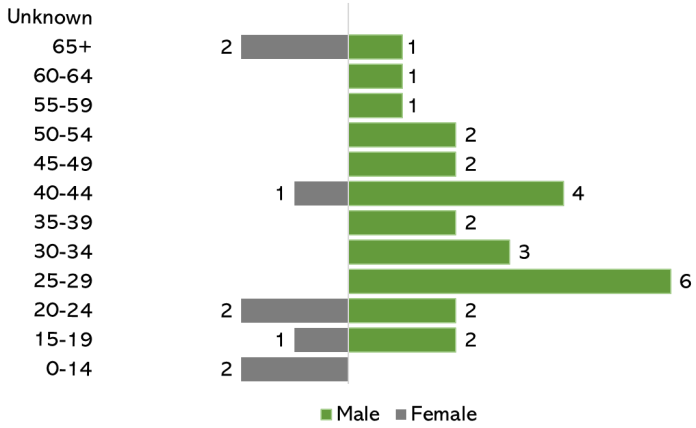


March recorded the largest count of deaths by suicide in 2025, with 7 suicides.

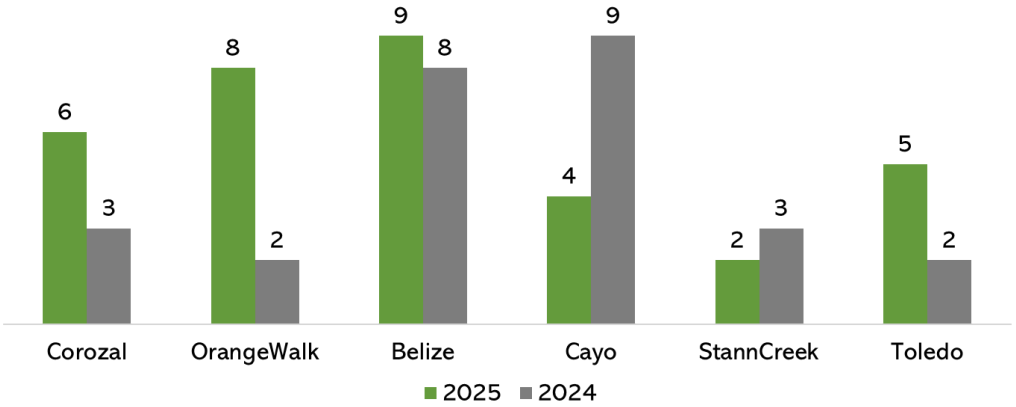
2025 recorded an overall increase in suicide deaths throughout the year when compared to 2024. Moreover, March and September resulted in no deaths by suicide. January, February and July reported no change in deaths by suicide for 2025.

Total suicides by sex and age, 2025

The largest count of males who died by suicide were between the ages of 25 and 44 years, accounting for 58% (15).



Suicides by district



Majority of the districts resulted in an increase in suicide deaths with the exception of the Cayo and Stann Creek Districts with a 56% (5 less) and 33%(1 less) decrease, respectively.

The Belize District recorded the largest count of suicide deaths with 9, followed by the Orange Walk District with 8. The Orange Walk District also recorded the largest increase in deaths by suicide with 300% (6 more).

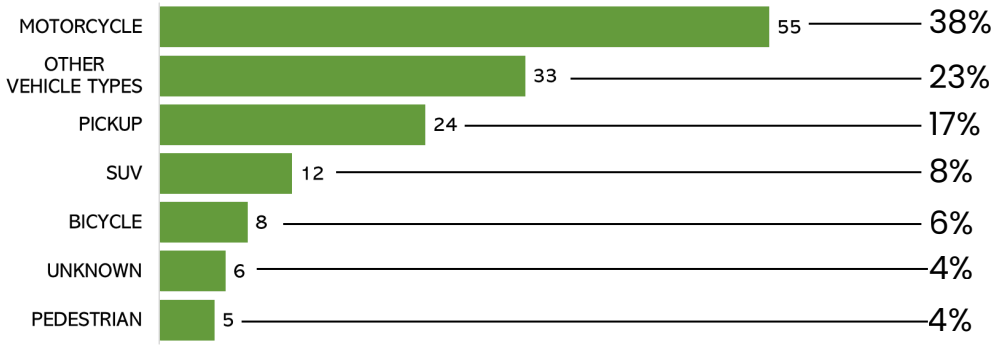
Means of suicide, 2025



Suicide by means of hanging accounted for most of the suicides at 71% (24 suicides). Males accounted for 71% (17) of the suicide deaths by hanging. Males also accounted for 90% (9) of suicide deaths involving a firearm or other means.

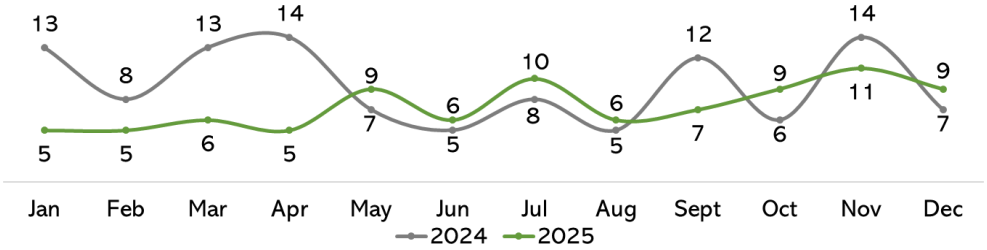
Road Traffic Fatalities

Fatal Road Traffic Accidents by mode of transportation, 2025



The vehicle type that recorded the largest count of vehicles involved in fatal road traffic accidents were motorcycles. Motorcycles accounted for 38% of the vehicles involved in fatal road traffic accidents (a total of 55 motorcycles).

Fatal Road Traffic Accidents by month



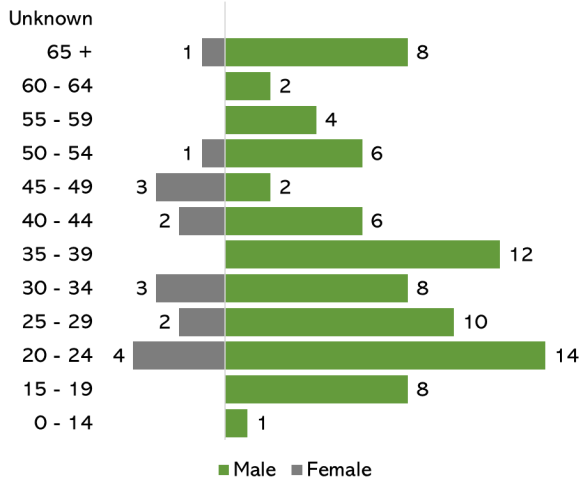
In 2025, there were 88 fatal road traffic accidents. An average of 7 fatal road traffic accidents occurred per month during 2025. July recorded the largest count of fatal road traffic accidents, with 10. October recorded the largest increase of fatal road traffic, with 50% (3). Meanwhile, April recorded the largest decrease, with 64% (9).

Proportion of victims of Road Traffic Fatalities by sex, 2025



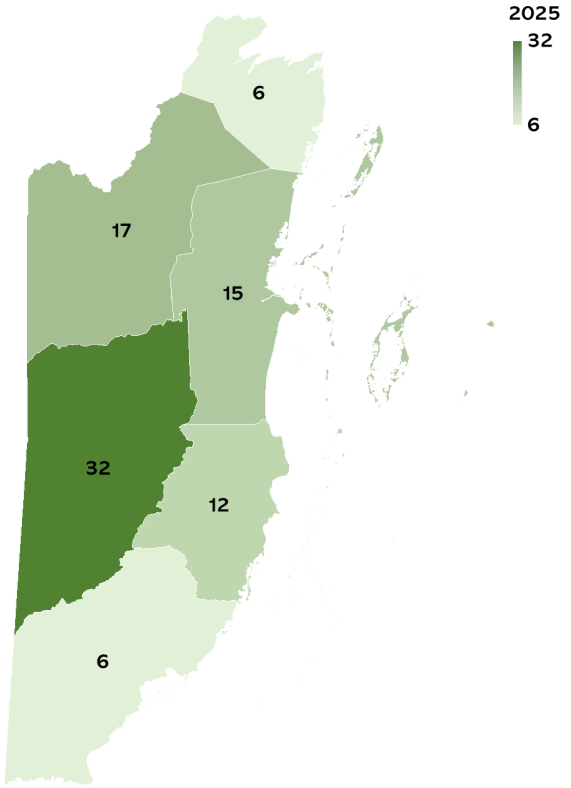
8 in 10 victims of Road Traffic Fatalities were males

Road Traffic Fatalities by age and sex, 2025



Males accounted for majority of the victims (a total of 81 fatalities). The age group with the largest count of male victims was 20 to 24 years of age (14).

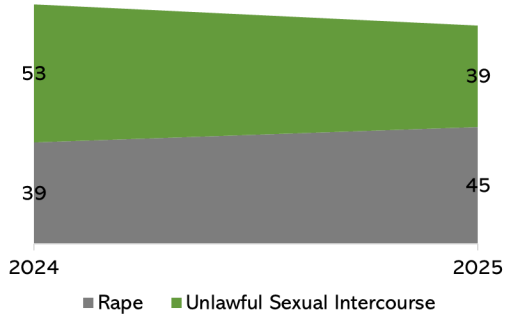
Fatal Road Traffic Accidents by district, 2025



The Cayo District recorded the largest count of fatal road traffic accidents (32) in 2025, followed by the Orange Walk District with 17 fatal road traffic accidents. The Toledo District (6) recorded the least fatal road traffic accidents for the year 2025.

Considering the Cayo and the Belize District are the centres of the country's industrial market, both experience high mobility.

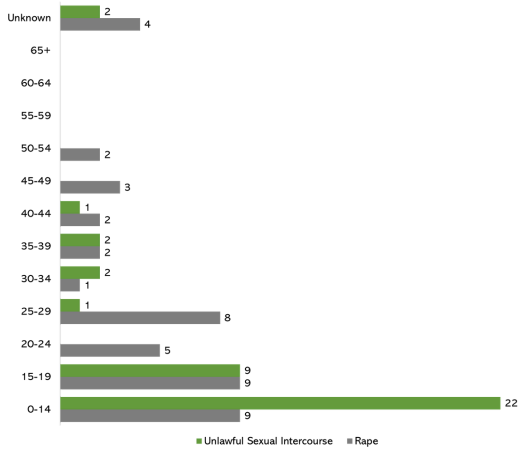
Sexual Violence



Unlawful sexual intercourse decreased in reports during 2025 to a total of 39. Meanwhile, Rape increased in reports to a total of 45.

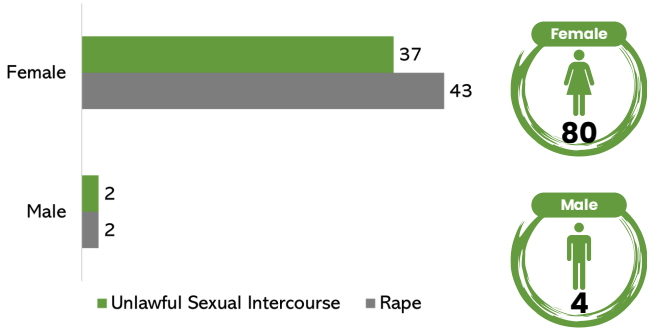
unlawful sexual intercourse decreased by 26% (14 fewer cases) while Rape increased by 15% (6 more reports) in 2025.

Proportion of victims of sexual violence by age



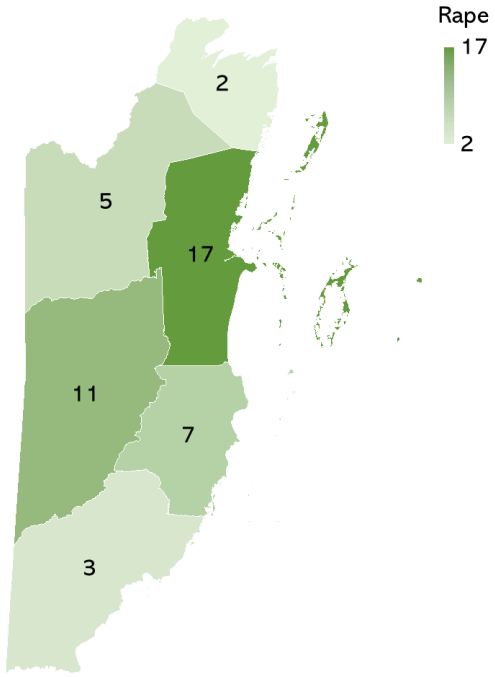
The largest number of cases of sexual violence were recorded for individuals less than 20 years of age (this accounts for 49 sexual violence cases). Unlawful sexual intercourse (31 cases) accounted for the majority of the sexual violence cases for individuals less than 20 years old. However, rape cases also reported high for ages 20 to 29 years (13 cases).

Proportion of victims of sexual violence by sex

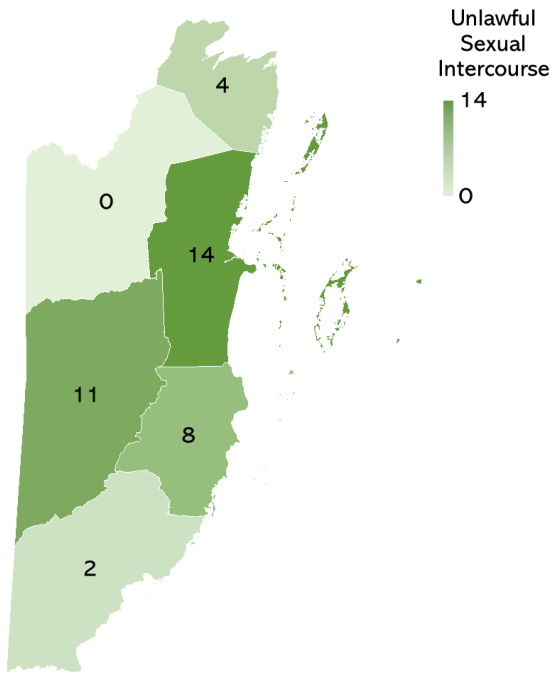


Most of the victims of sexual violence were females, accounting for 95%. This accounted for a total of 43 female victims of rape and 37 female victims of unlawful sexual intercourse.

Rape incidents by district, 2025



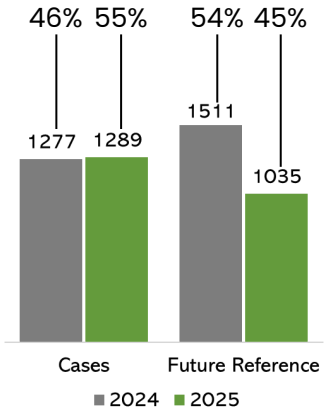
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse incidents by district, 2025



No unlawful sexual intercourse cases were recorded in the Orange Walk District during 2025. The Belize District recorded the largest number of rape and unlawful sexual intercourse reports in 2025. This was a total of 17 rape reports and 14 unlawful sexual intercourse reports.

Moreover, the Cayo District recorded the second largest count of unlawful sexual intercourse and rape, with 11 cases each.

Domestic Violence

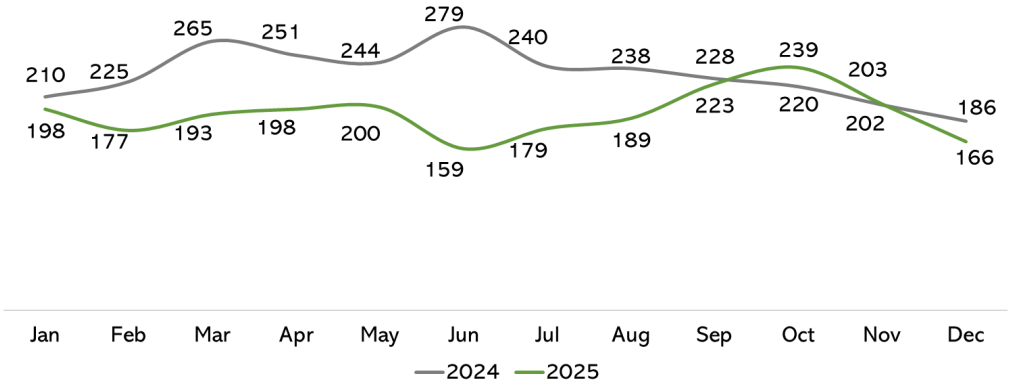


In 2025, 2324 Domestic Violence complaints were recorded.

This was a decrease of 17% relative to 2024 (decrease of 464 reports).

Moreover, future reference reports decreased by 9 percentage points while cases increased by 9 percentage points when compared to 2024.

Domestic Violence reports by month



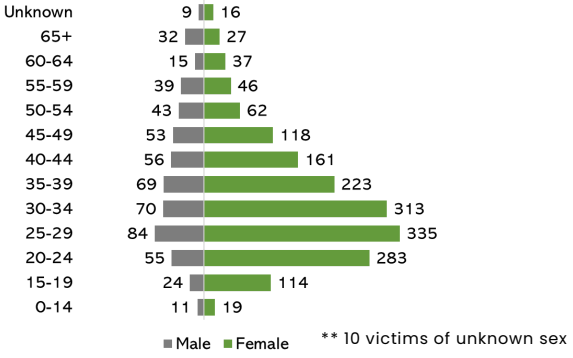
In 2025, Domestic Violence reports decreased throughout January to December. However, October and November reflected an increase of 9% (19) and 0.5% (1), respectively. June accounted for the largest decrease compared to the same period in 2024, with 43% (120 less reports).

Proportion of Domestic Violence reports by sex, 2025



8 in 10 Domestic Violence Reports were filed by females

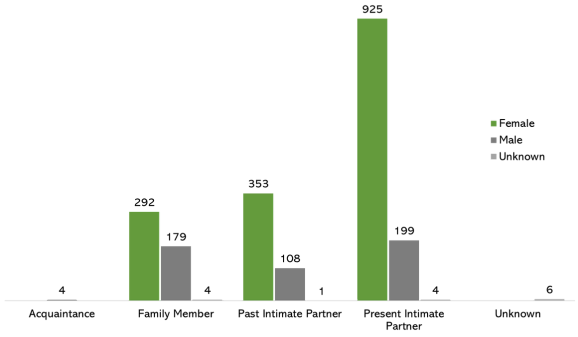
Domestic Violence reports by age, 2025



In 2025, most reports were filed by females aged between 20 and 39 years, which accounted for 66% (1,154) of the female complainants.

Similarly, for males, the largest percentage of Domestic Violence male complainants were between 20 and 49 years old. This accounted for 64% (387) of the male complainants.

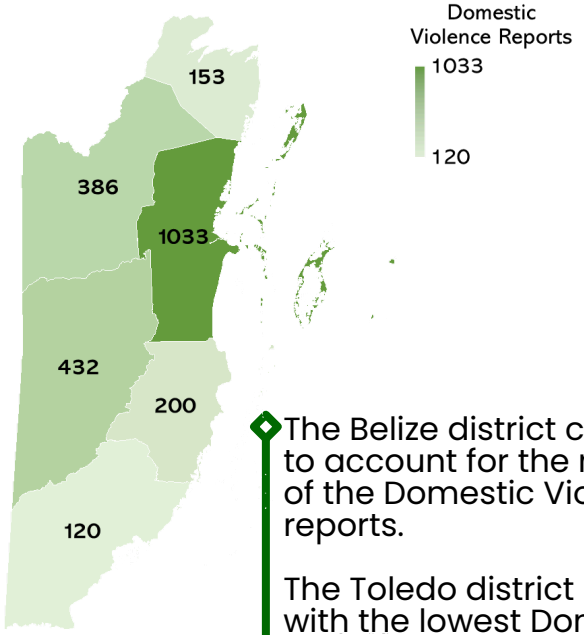
Domestic Violence reports by relationship class, 2025



In 2025, the majority of the Domestic Violence reports filed by females were levied against a present intimate partner.

Meanwhile, the majority of the Domestic Violence reports filed by males were levied against a present intimate partner or family member.

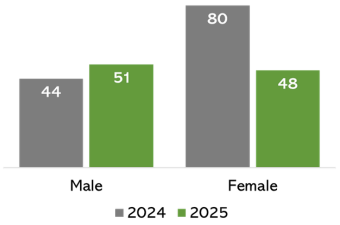
Domestic Violence reports by district, 2025



The Belize district continues to account for the majority of the Domestic Violence reports.

The Toledo district remains with the lowest Domestic Violence reports.

Missing Persons

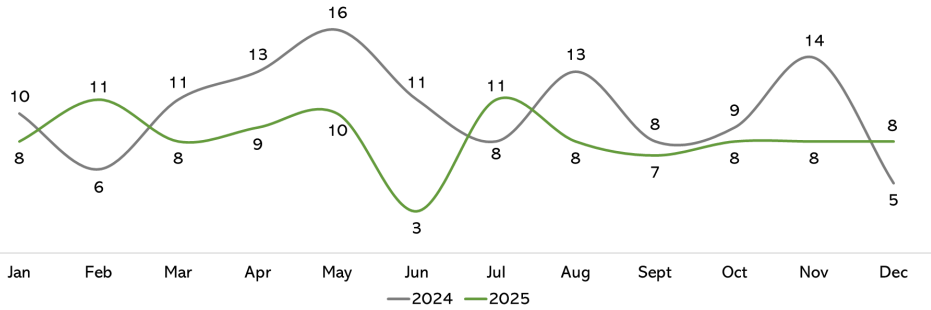


In 2025, there were a total of 99 missing persons. This is a decrease of 20% when compared to 2024 (124 missing persons).

In 2025, 5 in 10 missing persons were males.

While the number of female missing persons decreased, the number of male missing persons increased in comparison to 2024.

Total number of missing persons by status

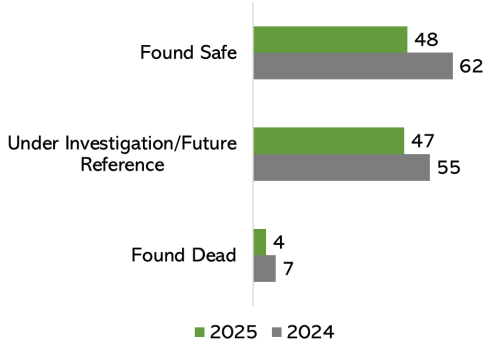


In 2025, June and November accounted for the largest decreases of missing persons recorded for 2025. These represent a decrease of 73% (8) and 43% (6). These months also accounted for the largest count of missing persons per month at 11 missing persons, each. The months February, July, and December increased by 83% (5), 38% (3), and 60% (3), respectively, in missing persons.

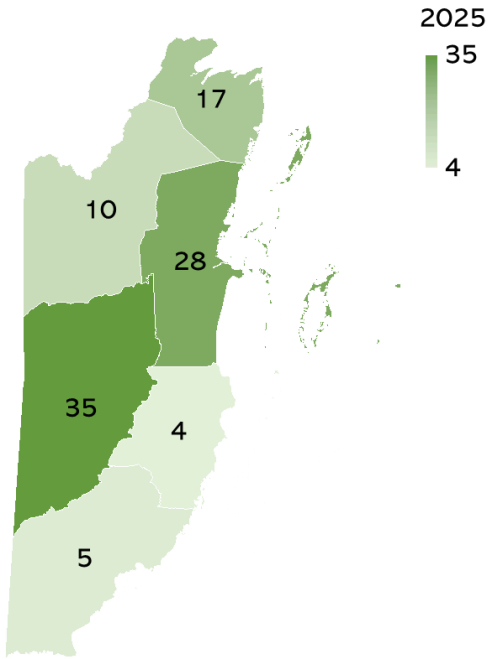
Total number of missing persons by status

In 2025, 49% of the missing persons were found safe, 47% are under investigation, and 4% were found dead.

The amount of missing persons found dead decreased by 2 percentage points when compared to 2024.



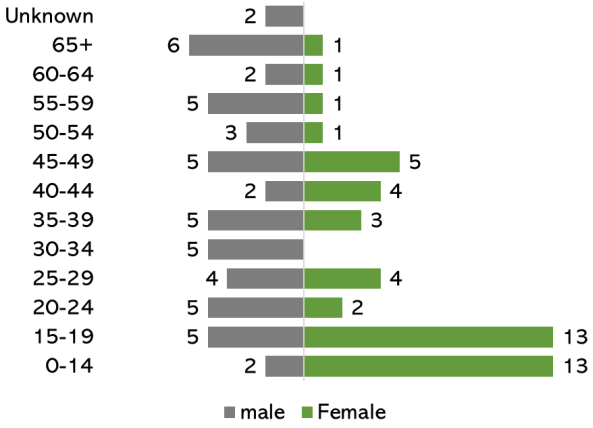
Total number of missing persons by status, 2025



In 2025, the Cayo District accounted for largest count of missing persons, with 35% (35).

The Stann Creek District accounted for the least count of missing persons, representing 4% (4).

Total number of missing persons by status



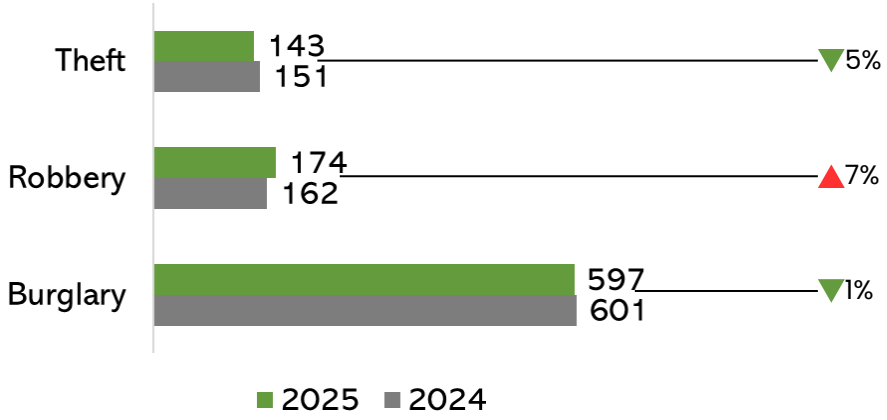
The largest percentage of female missing persons were between 0 and 19 years old.

Meanwhile, for males, there was not one single age group that dominated the population.

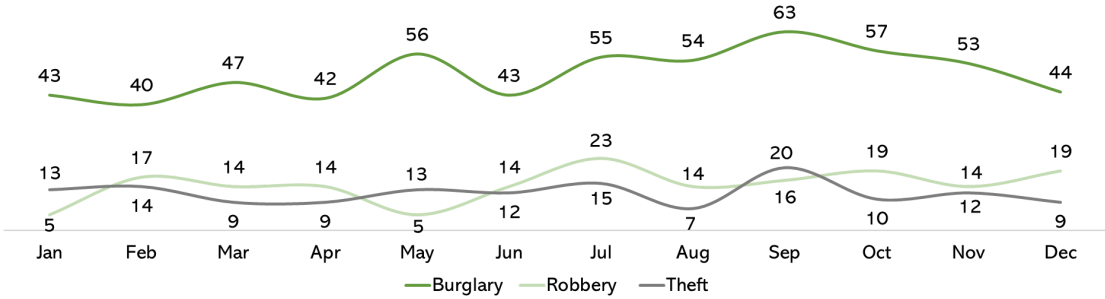
Property Crimes

During 2025, 914 property crimes were recorded in the major crimes category. This represents no change from the total incidents recorded during the same period in 2024.

0%



Property Crimes by month, 2025



In 2025, there was a total of 597 burglary reports. This accounted for 65% of the property crime records. The month with the largest count is September, with 63 burglaries, respectively.

A State of Emergency was implemented on May 6, 2025, in parts of the Belize and Cayo Districts. This SOE ran for a period of 30 days, concluding in June 2025. . During that period, Robbery reports decreased.

Property Crimes by victim sex, 2025

	Female	Male
Robbery	55	158
Burglary	275	326
Theft	21	120

** 1 victim of unknown sex

Even though there was a decrease in Burglary cases, it continues to be most prevalent property crime across all districts.

The Belize District accounted for 345 property crimes. This included 210 cases of burglary, 60 of robbery, and 75 of theft.

The Belize District is known to have a larger population density compared to the other districts. In 2025, it accounted for 38% of the property crimes recorded.

Property Crimes by district, 2025

