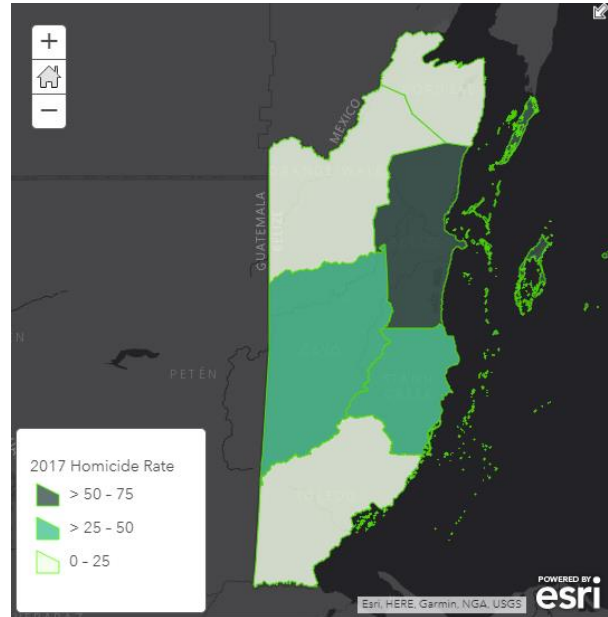




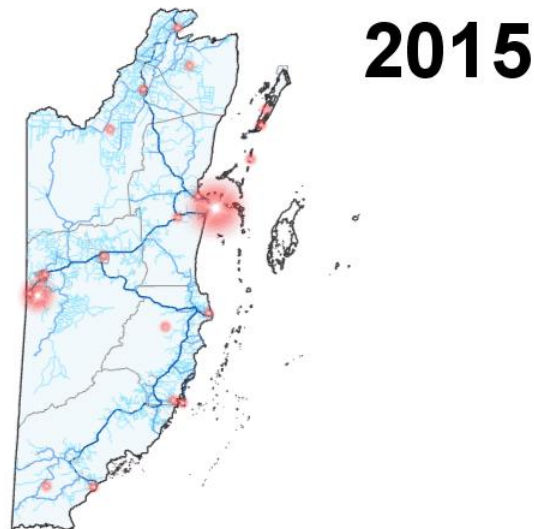
Citizen Security BELIZE Report

JULY 2018

Belize is geographically located in Central America and the Caribbean, with a population of 398,050 as of July 2018, according to official estimates provided by the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB). The country covers 8,867 square miles, divided into six districts and nine municipalities. Although only thirty percent (30%) of the population lives in the Belize District, over fifty percent (50.37%) of major crimes recorded during the month of July 2018 happened in that central district. Of every 10 homicides which occurred in 2017, four of them happened in Belize City – the largest municipality in the country, located in the Belize District. That City recorded a homicide rate of 99.07 murders for every 100,000 in the local population during 2017, well above the national rate of 36.61.

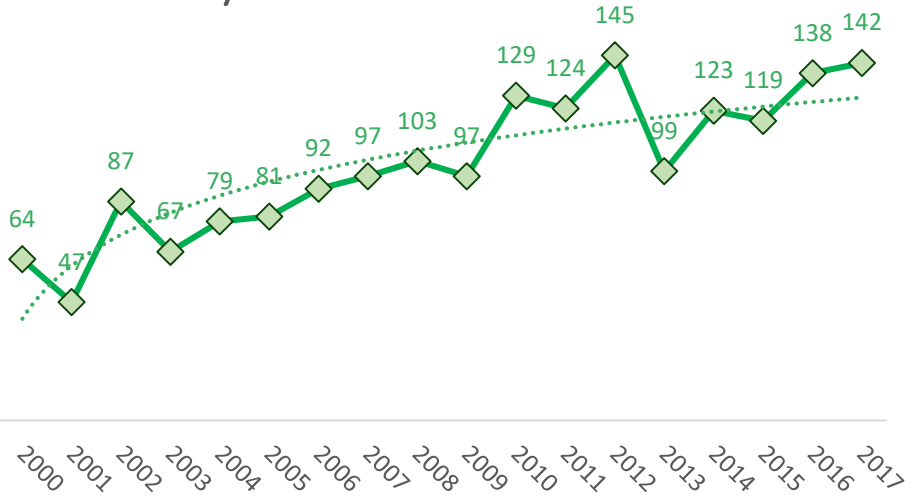


Belize's homicide rate has been fluctuating over the past 8 years. Whereas the national rate is comparatively high on both the regional and global scales, spatial analysis of the data reveals persistent hotspots in the Belize City area. In 2017, Belize's homicide rate rose marginally, remaining near the 8-year average although the year ended with 142 homicides -- the second highest murder count since the record high of 145 in 2012. At the end of July 2018, there were 91 homicides (a 12 percent increase over the same time last year), and if intentional killings were to continue at the current pace, the 2018 homicide rate could exceed the 8-year average. (See *animated map*.)

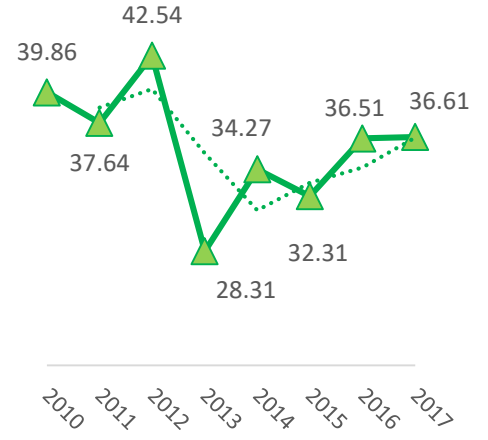


This analysis was prepared by the focal point for InfoSegura in Belize, the Belize Crime Observatory (BCO), with official data from the Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center (JICC), Belize Police Department, in the Ministry of National Security. Information was also provided by the Belize Central Prison, managed by the Kolbe Foundation. Demographic data was accessed from the Statistical Institute of Belize.

Yearly Homicide Count Since 2000



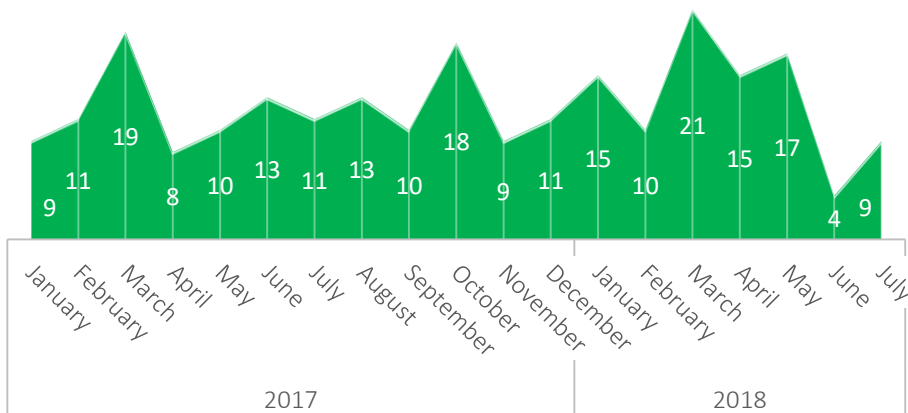
Homicide Rate (2010-2017)



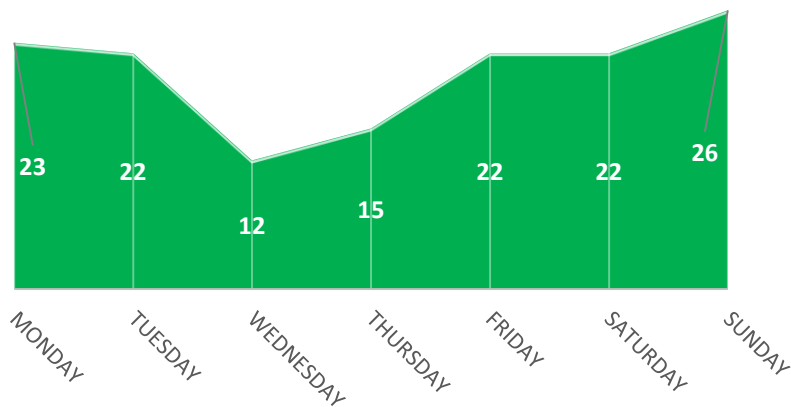
The months of March 2017 and March 2018 recorded the highest murder counts over the past 19 months. The second highest count was recorded in October 2017. The lowest count (4 murders) was recorded in June 2018. This represented the lowest figure since November 2013.

Sunday was the day when most cases were reported, with incidents occurring most often between 6:00 p.m. and midnight.

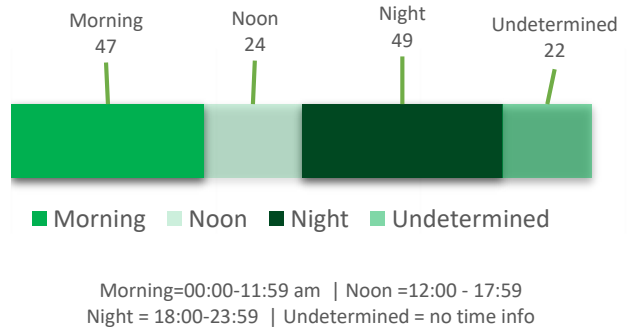
Homicides by Month



Homicides by Day of Occurrence

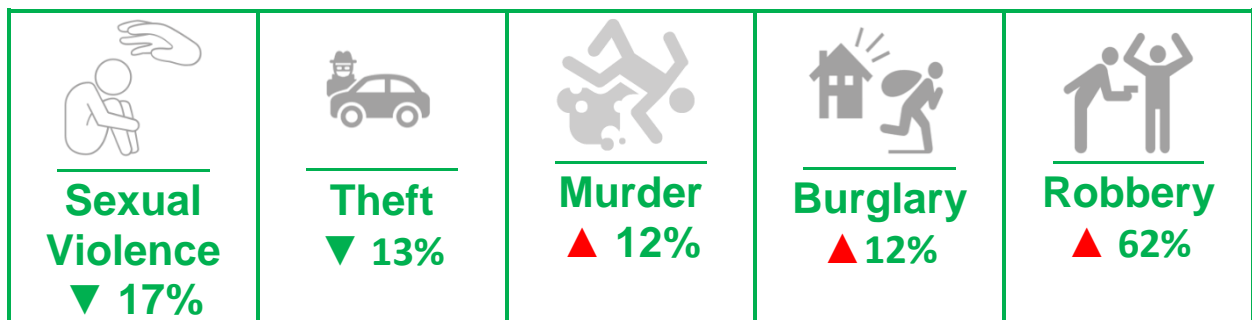
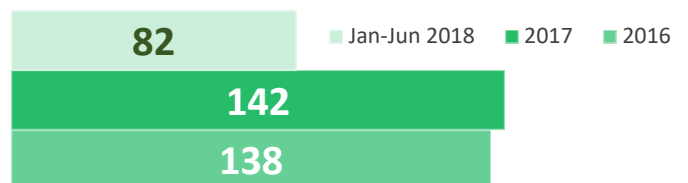


Homicides by Time of Day



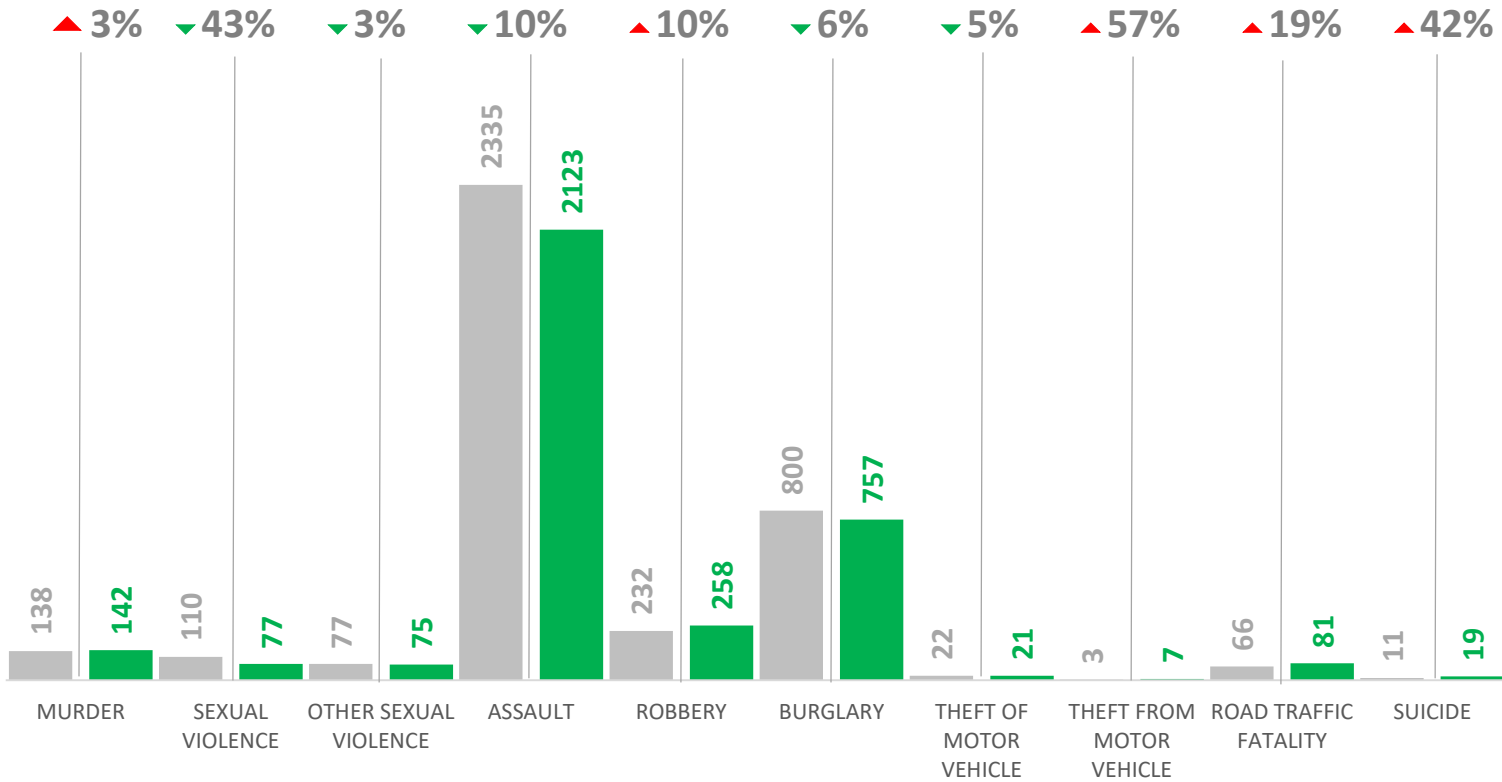
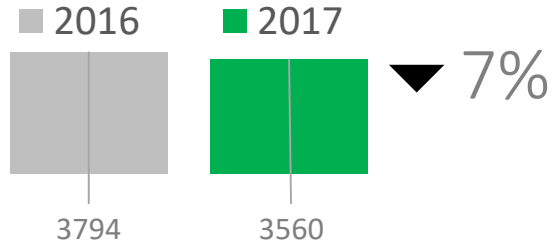
As of June 2018, there were 82 murders recorded nationally, and the figure increase by 9 as of July 2018. The [Monthly Major Crimes Analysis](#) published by the BCO for July 2018 reports that sexual violence cases were down 17%, and theft by 13%. Meanwhile, murder and burglary reports were each up by 12%. Robbery recorded the largest increase of 62%.

Homicides Count



Last year, robbery reports were up only 10% over the previous year. Among the incident reports of interest, theft from motor vehicles recorded the largest percentage increase (57%), although assault cases were most common. Homicides were up 3% in 2017 over 2016, while sexual violence was down 43%.

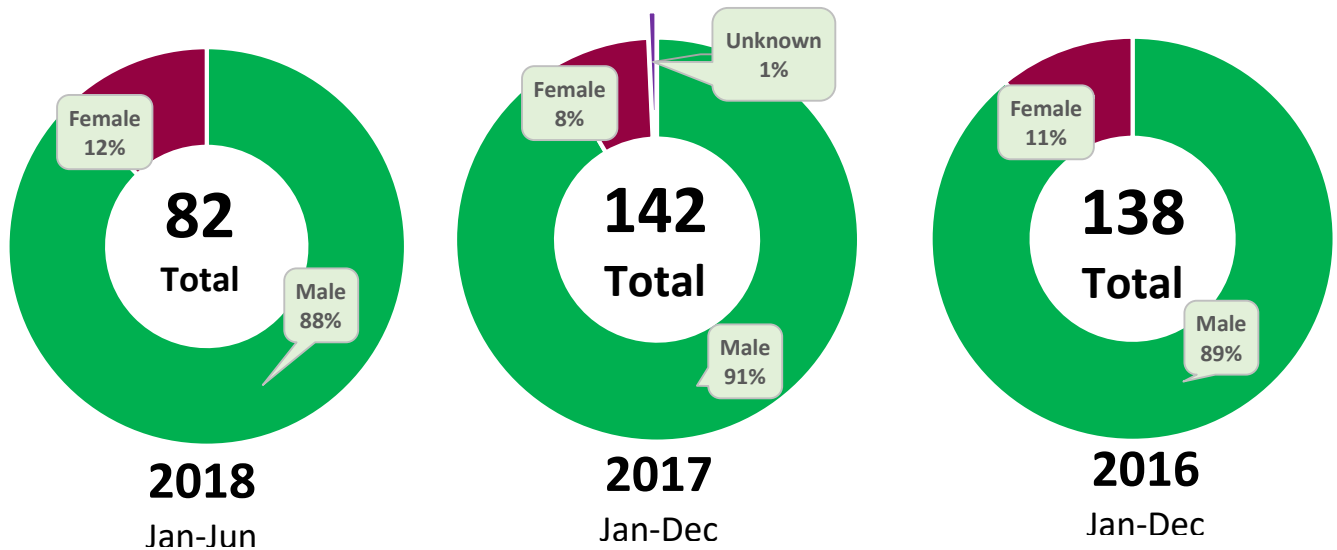
INCIDENT REPORTS (2017, 2016)



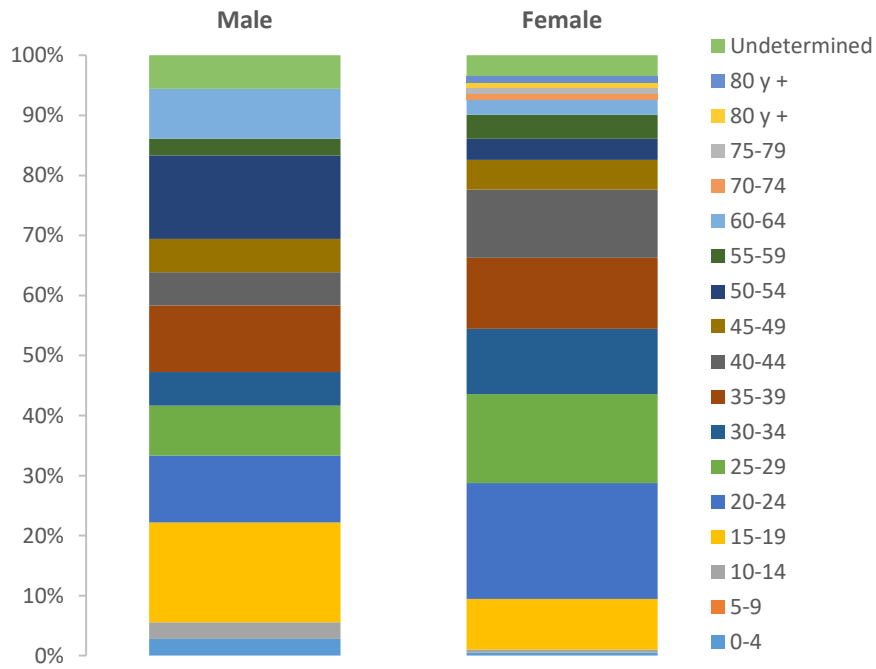
Suicide reports showed the second highest increase during the period of 42%, up from 11 in 2016 to 19 in 2017. Roughly 9 out of every 10 victims were males and 7 out of every 10 cases involved males in the 15-39 age group.



As was the case with suicide, 9 out of every 10 homicide victims were males. Four (4) out of every 10 were young males in the 15 to 30 age group, underscoring the fact that young males are most vulnerable. However, there has been an increase in the proportion of homicide victims who are females, when preliminary 2018 data are compared with 2017 data.

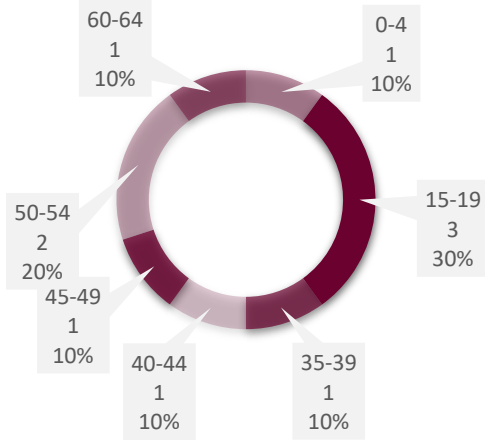


Homicides by Gender and Age Group
(Jan 2016 - June 2018)

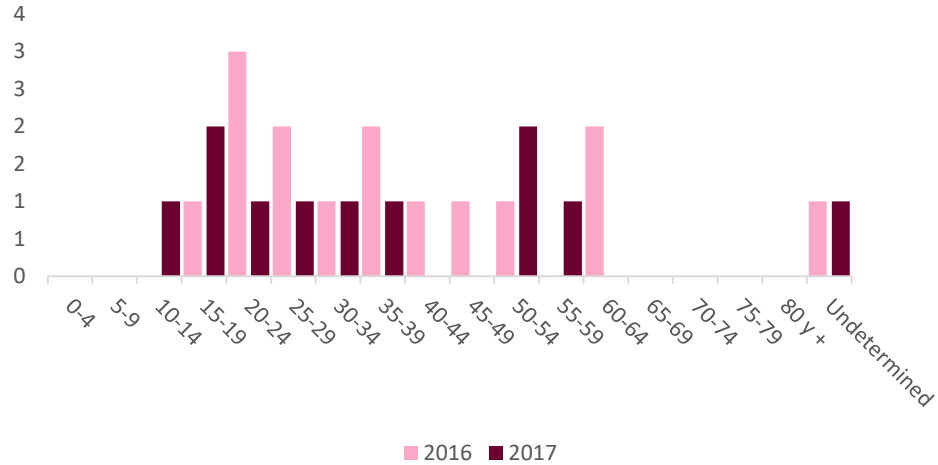


Female homicide victims were mostly in the 15 to 19 age group, which accounted for 30% of the victims for the first half of 2018. The number of female homicide victims declined from 15 in 2016 to 11 in 2017. However, 10 cases were already recorded by June 2018.

Homicides, Females: Jan-Jun 2018

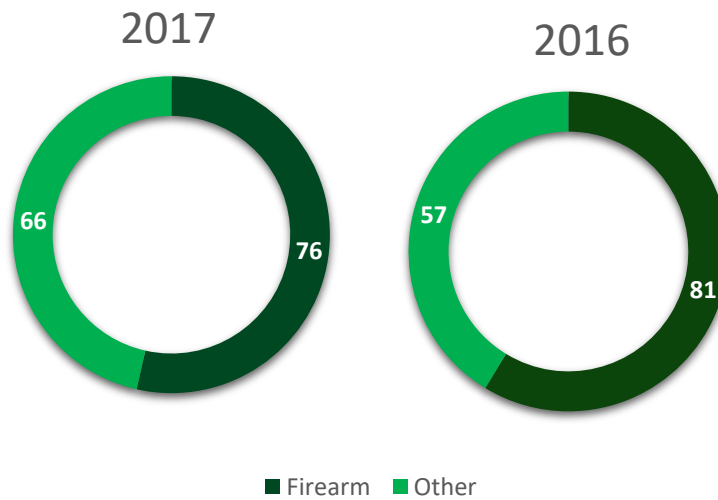


Homicides, Females: 2016 and 2017

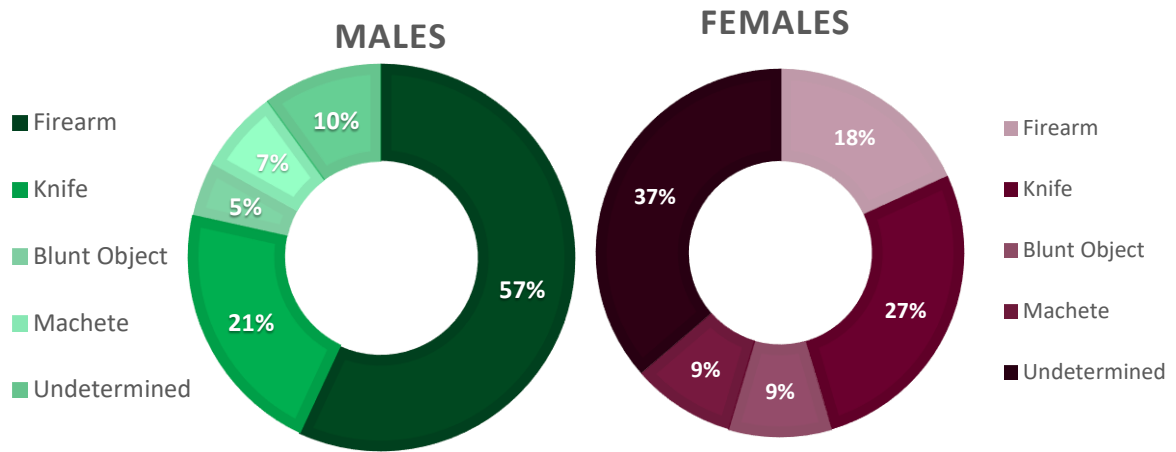


Violent deaths by firearm continue to be the most common (53.5%), and most male victims are killed with a firearm. The mode of death for female victims was most frequently listed as “undetermined.”

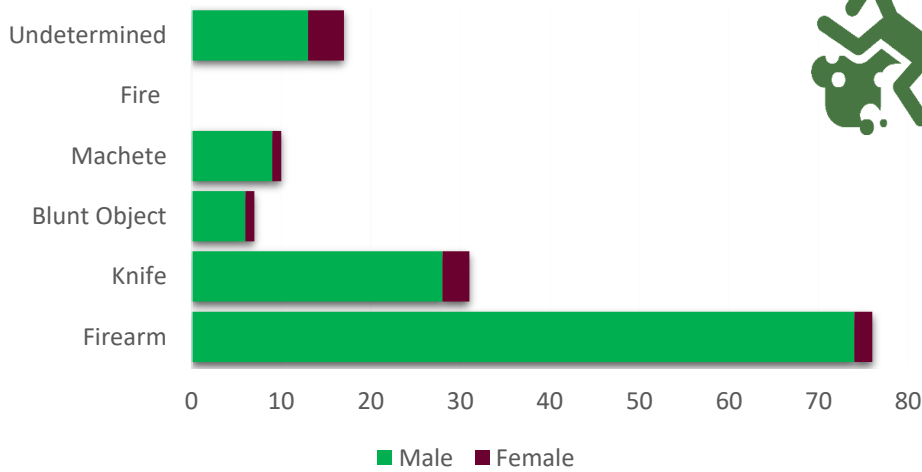
Total Deaths by Firearm, Year-on-year



Deaths by Weapon Type and Sex



Homicides by Weapon Type and Sex



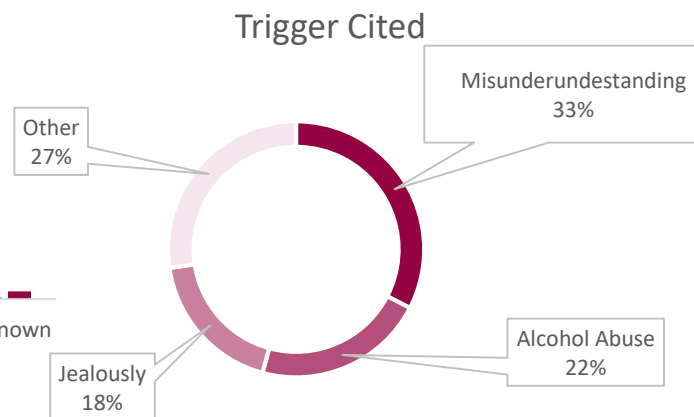
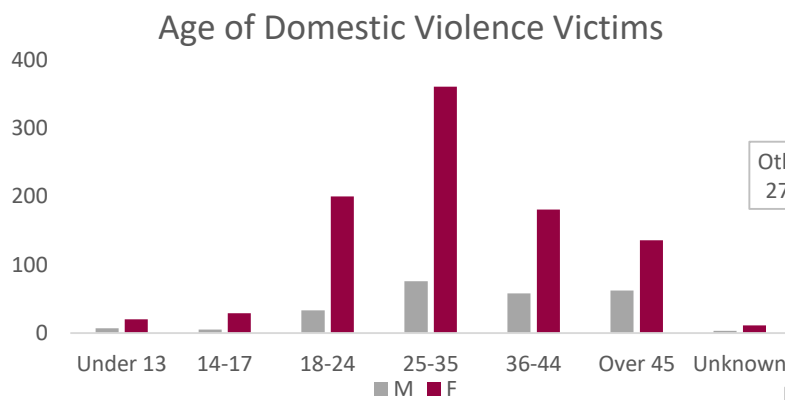
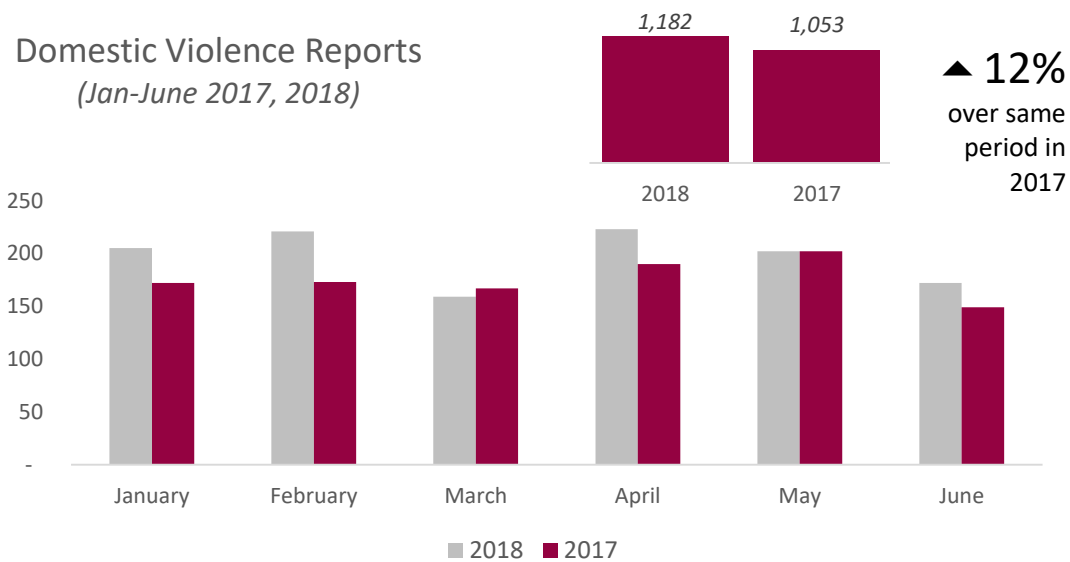
1 out of 3
homicides in 2017
were committed with
a sharp object:
a knife or machete

Gender-based Violence

The mid-year 2018 Domestic Violence Statistical Report which the Belize Police Department provided to the BCO indicated that the number of reports rose by 12%, from 1,053 at mid-year 2017 compared to 1,182 at mid-year 2018 or 129 cases. Four out of ten cases were reported in the Belize City area. The most common trigger was cited as misunderstanding, followed by alcohol abuse and jealousy. The perpetrator was most often a current or past spouse, most frequently in common-law unions. The abuse was perpetrated at the residence of one or both parties or a relative's residence in 90% of the cases.

Eight of every ten victims of domestic violence who filed cases with the police for the first half of 2018 were females, although the data indicate that the percentage of males reporting domestic violence increased by about 28% or 53 cases. Reports by females increased by 9% or 76 cases.

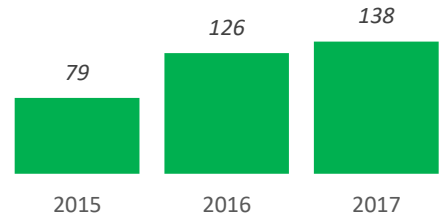
Females ages 18 to 35 were the most common victims, accounting for more than half of the reports filed during the first half of 2018. More than a third of the victims were women ages 25 to 35.



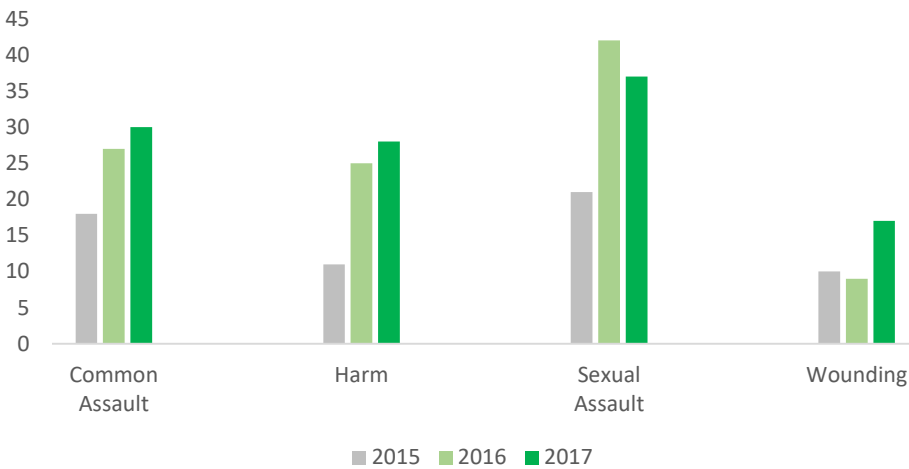
Child Abuse

The number of child abuse cases reported to police has steadily been increasing. According to official information, the most common crime against children is sexual assault. Common assault and harm are the next most frequent. Roughly three-fourths of the victims are females, with older girls more frequently assaulted than younger girls. In 2017, girls 13 to 17 years old made up almost 70% of the female victims of child abuse, and roughly half of the total cases.

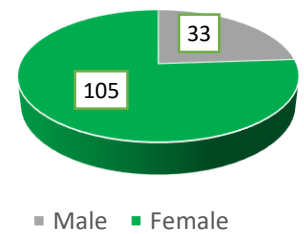
Total Child Abuse Cases Reported to Police, 2015-2017



Child Abuse Cases, Most Frequent Types



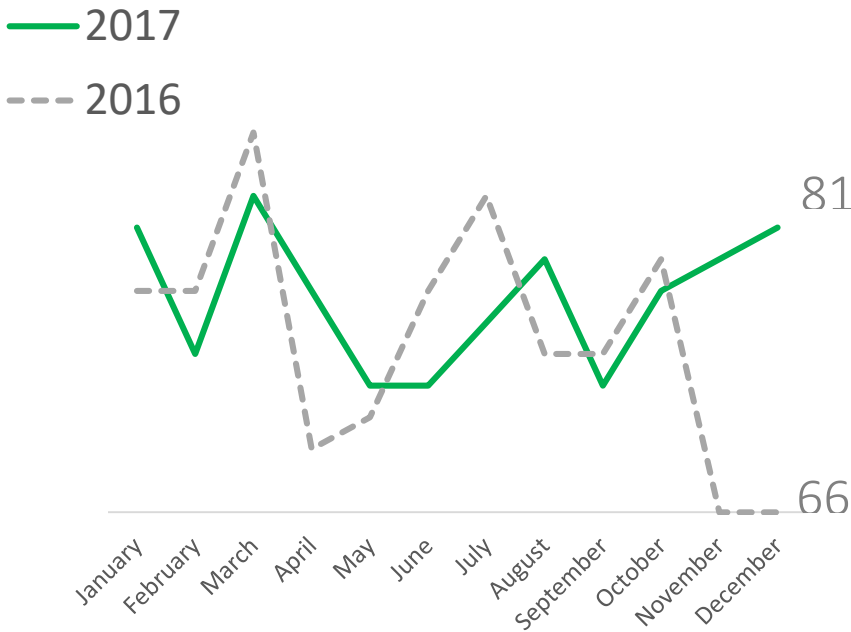
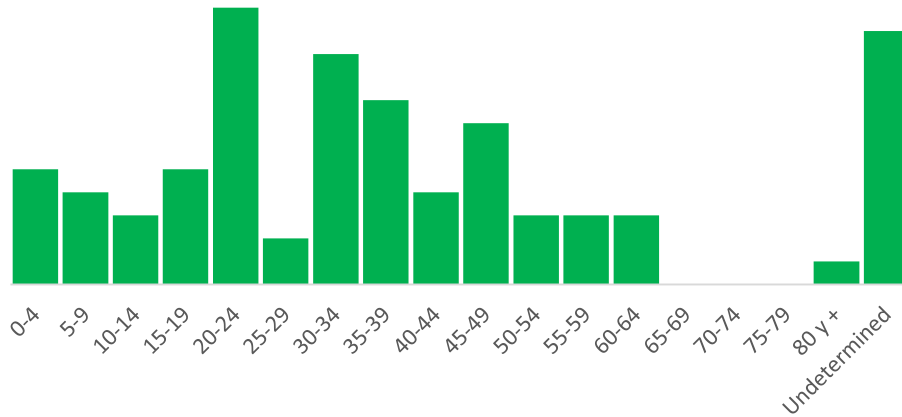
Gender of Child, 2017 Reports



Traffic Fatalities

Belize recorded 81 deaths due to road traffic accidents during 2017, up from 66 the previous year. This represents an increase of 23%. Most of the victims were ages 20 to 40, with almost 8 out of every 10 being males.

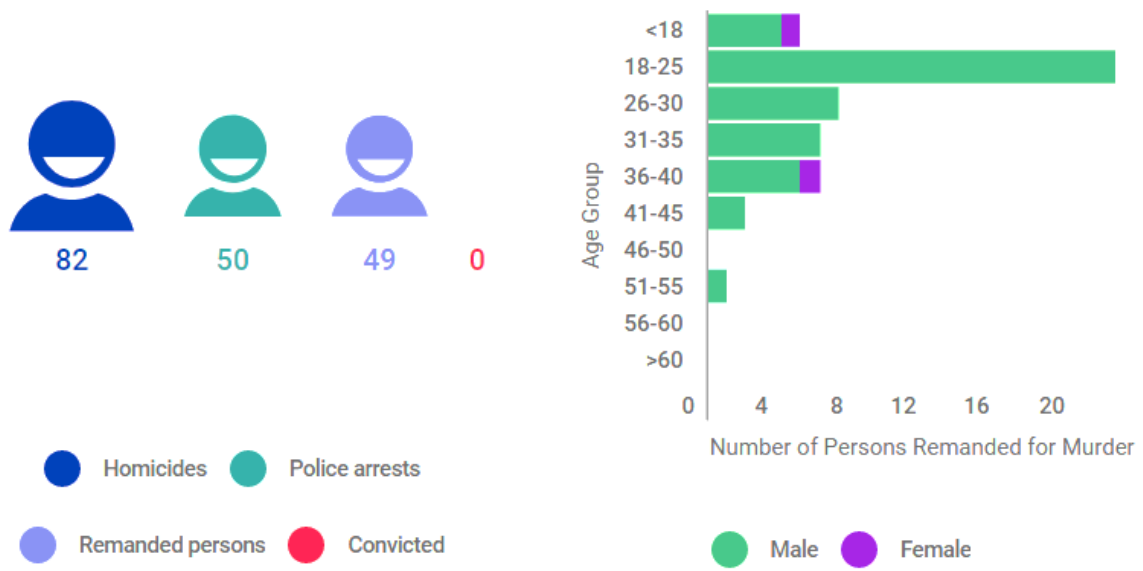
Traffic Fatalities by Age Group



▲ 23%
 in Road Traffic
 Fatalities in 2017, when
 compared to 2016

Imprisonment

At the end of July 2018, there were 1,228 inmates at the Belize Central Prison, the only correctional facility in the country of Belize. The prison has a capacity of 2,100. September 2013 recorded a maximum head count of 1,623.



Young males ages 18 to 25 were the largest category of persons remanded for murder during the first half of 2018 -- 22 of 49 or 45%.

A total of 534 persons (28 females) were remanded to prison during the period, and 360 convicted to serve prison sentences, including 38 females, mostly for immigration offences. Many of the inmates were migrants from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador who had entered the country illegally.

During the first half of 2018, 357 were discharged - 175 for deportation and 84 because they had completed their sentences.