

**SEPTEMBER**  
**2020**

BELIZE CRIME OBSERVATORY



**CRIME ANALYSIS**  
**REPORT**

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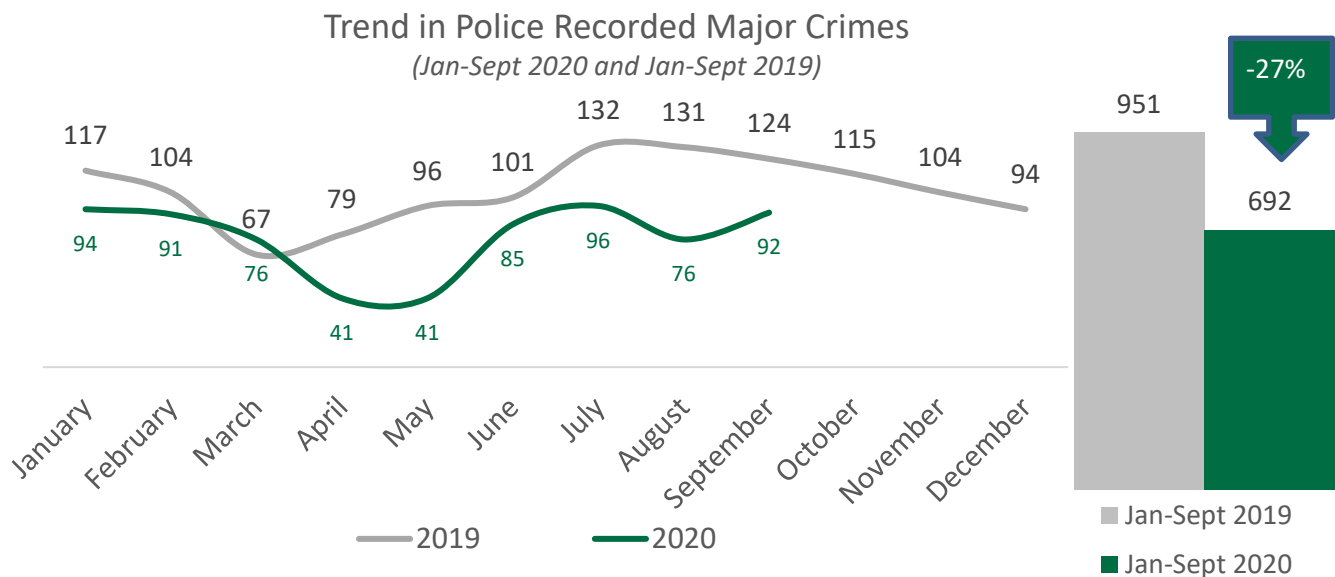
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## SUMMARY

- Despite fluctuations over the recent months in reports of major crimes in Belize, an overall decline of **27%** has been registered for the period January to September 2020, relative to the same period in 2019.
- Murders were down by **24%**, with male victims recording a larger reduction than female victims.
- However, murders increased in the Corozal and Stann Creek Districts.
- Robberies, burglaries, and thefts recorded an overall decline, although the southernmost district of Toledo recorded an increase.
- Nationally, the reductions in cases of theft and rape were less pronounced than the reductions in the other crime categories.
- The prison population grew about 14% by the end of September 2020, compared with one year prior. An increase in incarcerated migrants contributed to the rise, in addition to incarceration related to COVID-19 and gang-related State of Emergency measures.
- The proportion of inmates held in pretrial detention remained virtually unchanged, at 1 in 4 inmates.
- Although females accounted for less than 5% of the prison population, the number of female inmates grew 36%, whereas the number of inmates below the age of 18 fell 36%.

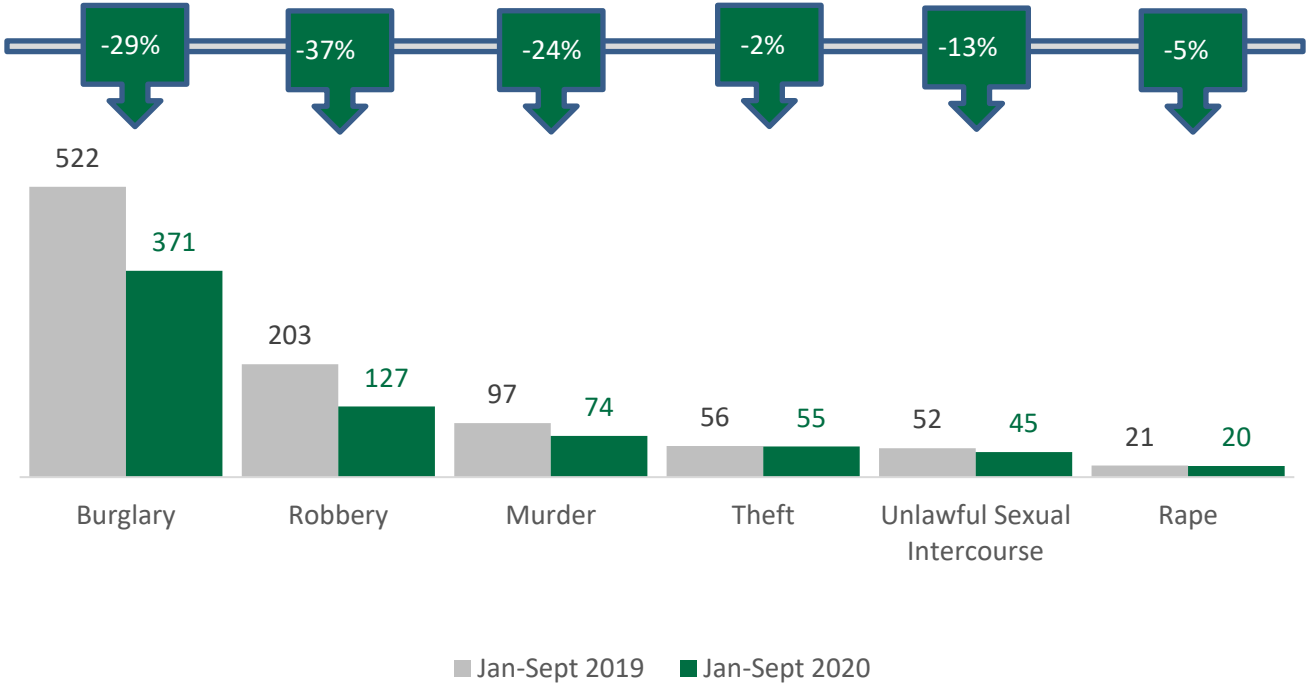
## MAJOR CRIMES

Major crimes continued its general upward trend for the period June to September 2020, after a marked decline in April-May 2020, during strict measures to contain the spread of COVID-19.



All categories of major crimes recorded a decline for the first 9 months of 2020 when compared to the same period in 2019.

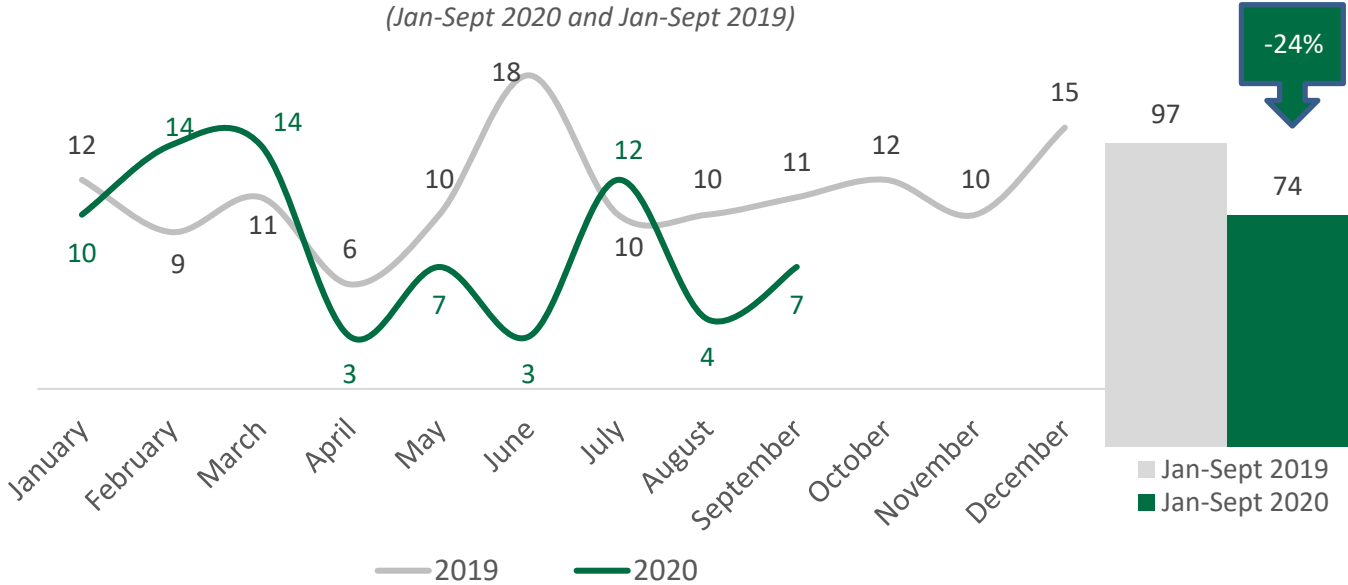
Change in Major Crimes Incidents by Category  
(Jan-Sept 2020 and Jan-Sept 2019)



Data Source: Belize Police Department

**MURDERS**

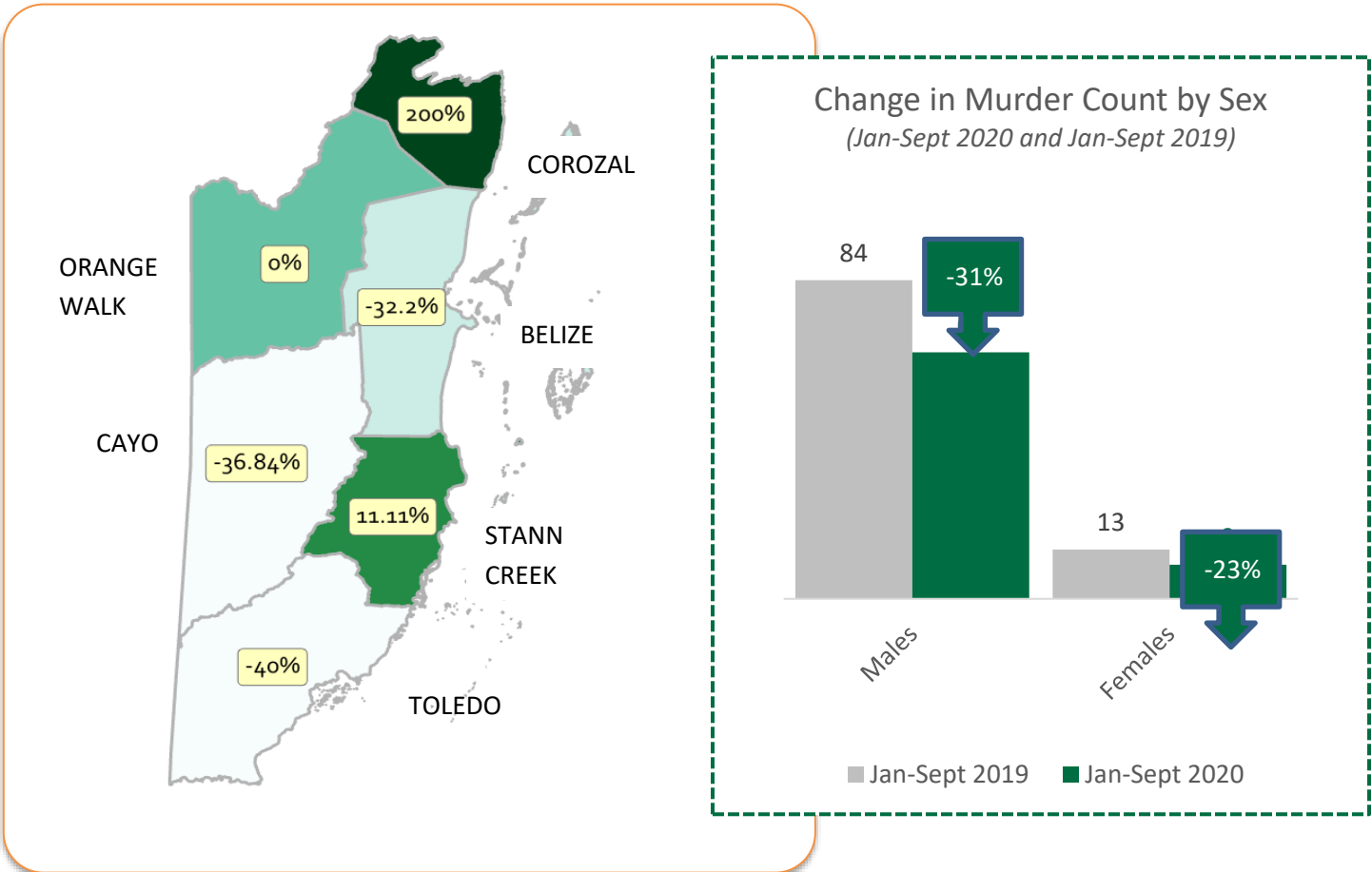
Trend in Police Recorded Murders  
(Jan-Sept 2020 and Jan-Sept 2019)



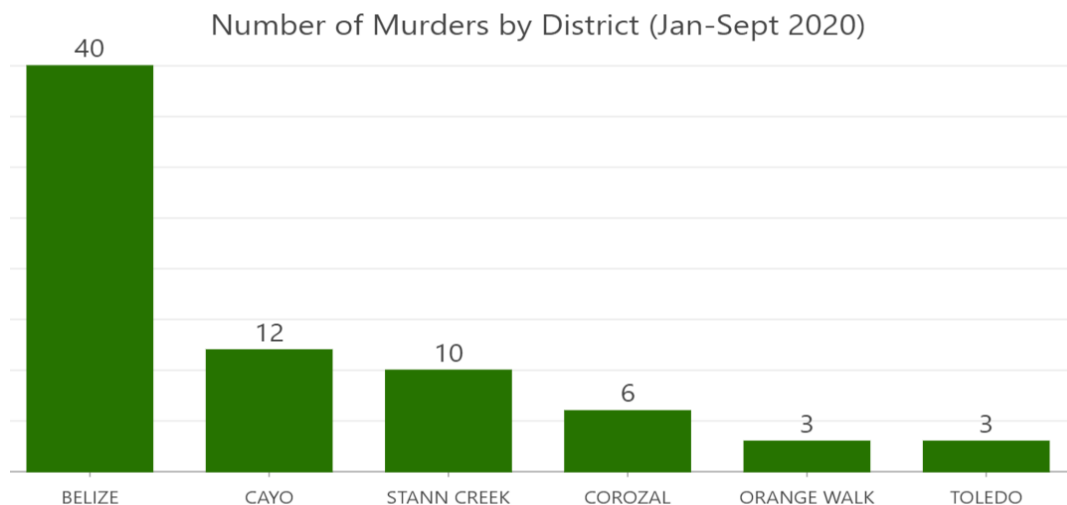
Nationally, the murder count has declined by 24%, with the count for males registering a more notable decline of 31%, while for females, the count declined 23%.

For January to September 2020, an average of 8 murders per month were recorded, down from an average of 11 for the same period last year.

Although nationally, the murder count declined by 24%, the districts of Corozal and Stann Creek registered an overall increase.



Data Source: Belize Police Department

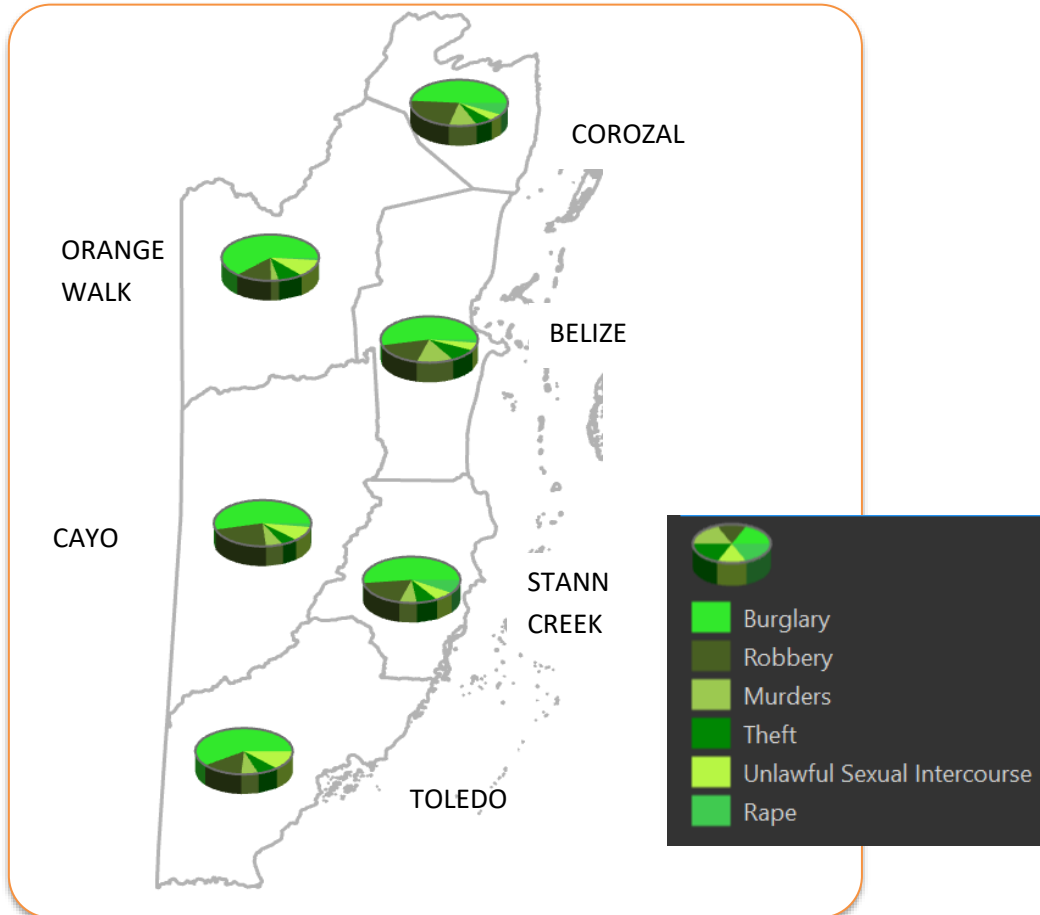


# Crime Analysis Report

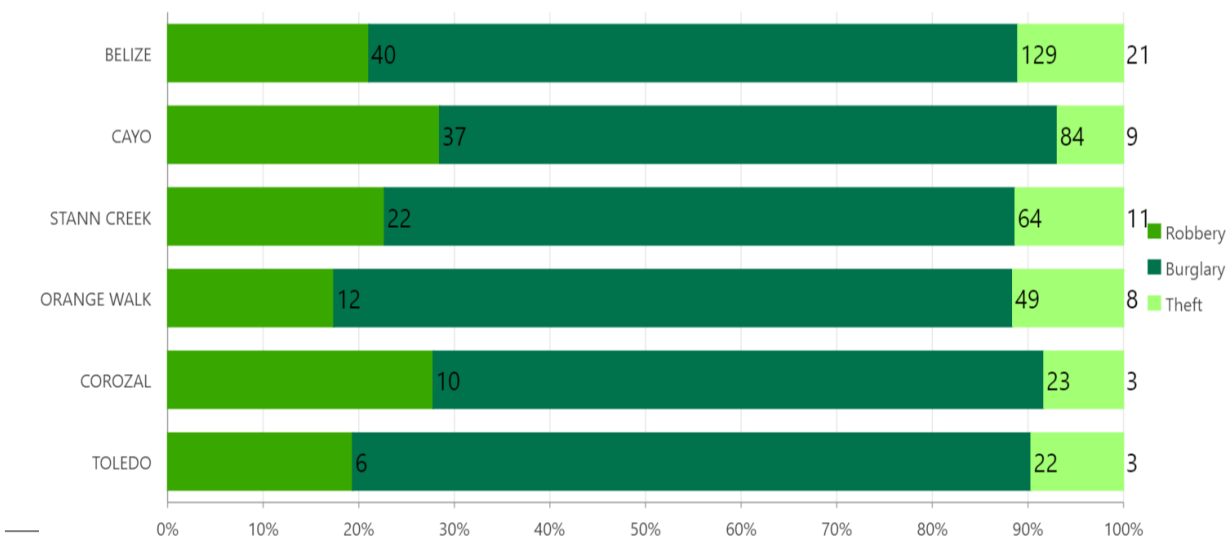
PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020



Property crimes (robberies, burglaries and thefts) continued to account for the vast majority of major crimes cases under police investigation. Although burglaries declined overall over the period, January to September 2020, property crimes reports increased in the Toledo District. Overall, major crimes also increased in Toledo.



Ratio of Robberies, Burglaries and Thefts by District



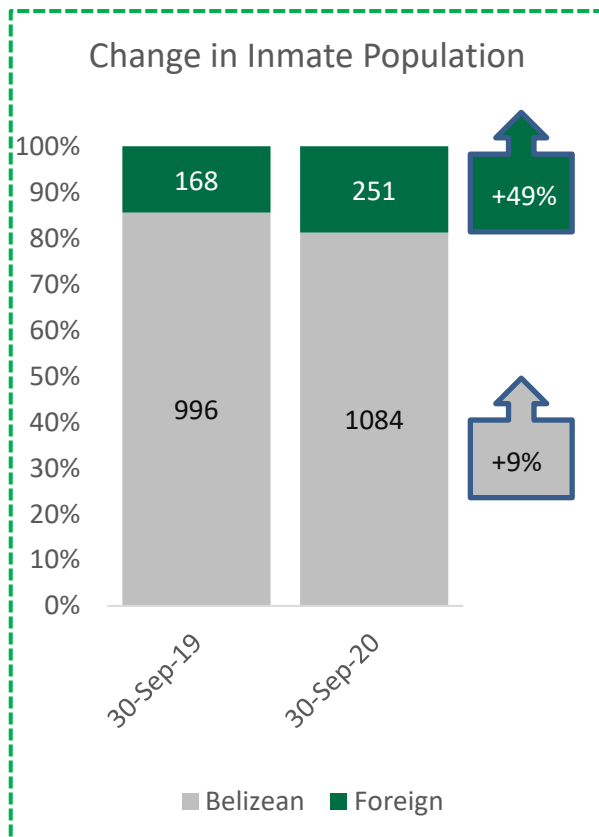
# Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

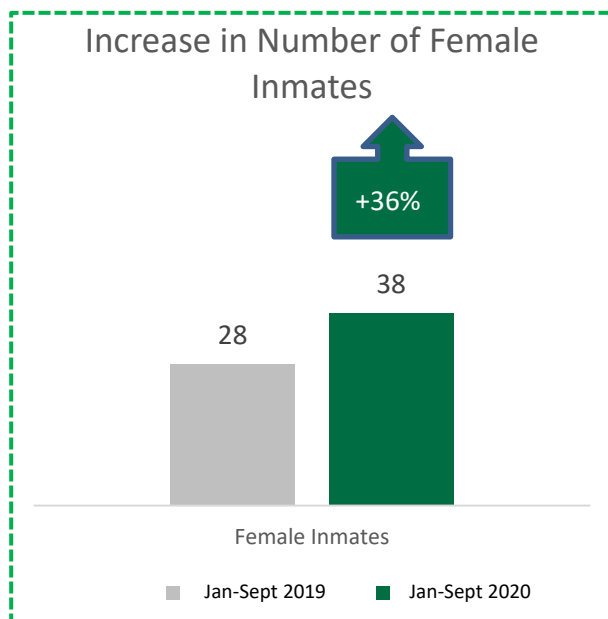
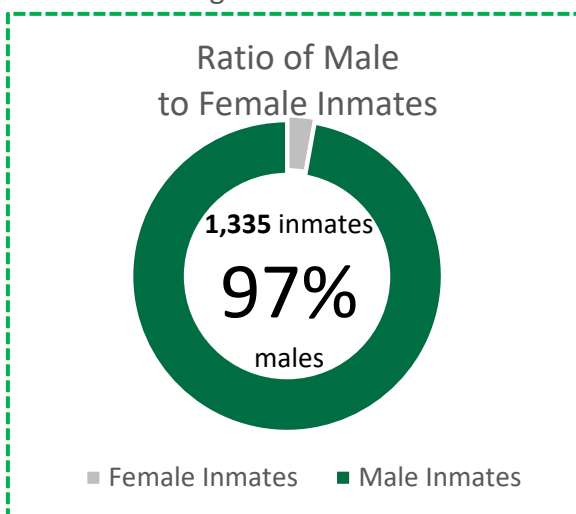


## INCARCERATION

The prison population increased by roughly 14% at the end of September 2020, compared to September 2019, from 1,164 to 1,335. Pretrial detainees amounted to 1 in every 4 inmates.



Whereas there was a decline in the number of inmates under the age of 18, there was an increase in the number of female inmates, although they continued to comprise a very small percentage of the prison population. There was also a notable 49% increase in the number of foreign inmates.



(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

# Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020



## 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.



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

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**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 2020. Any future revisions will be noted in subsequent*