

BCO CRIME REPORT

2021 6 January 2021



BELIZE CRIME OBSERVATORY

The National Repository of Crime Data and Information

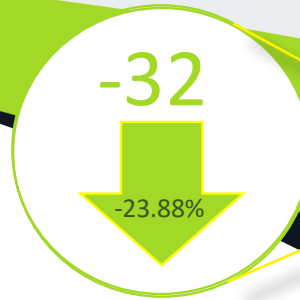
HOMICIDES

BELIZE MURDER RATE SEES NOTABLE DECLINE

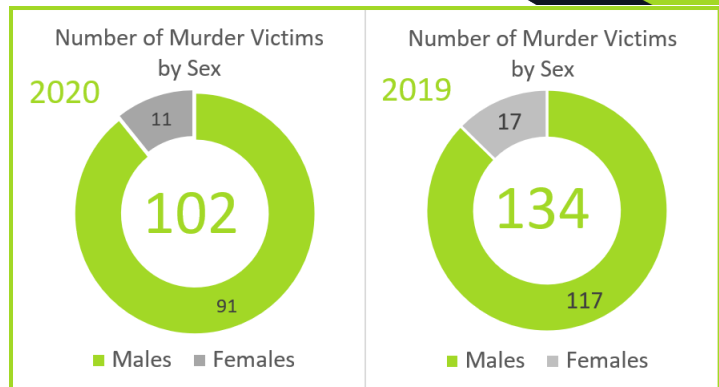
For the first time since 2013, Belize has registered a murder rate below what is deemed to be civil war levels, at **24.33 per 100,000 inhabitants**. The Belize Crime Observatory had projected a rate of about 25 per 100,000, based on trends.

Official statistics released by the Belize Police Department, indicate that there were 102 murders recorded in Belize during January to December 2020. This represents a reduction of 32 incidents (from 134), amounting to a decline of 23.88%.

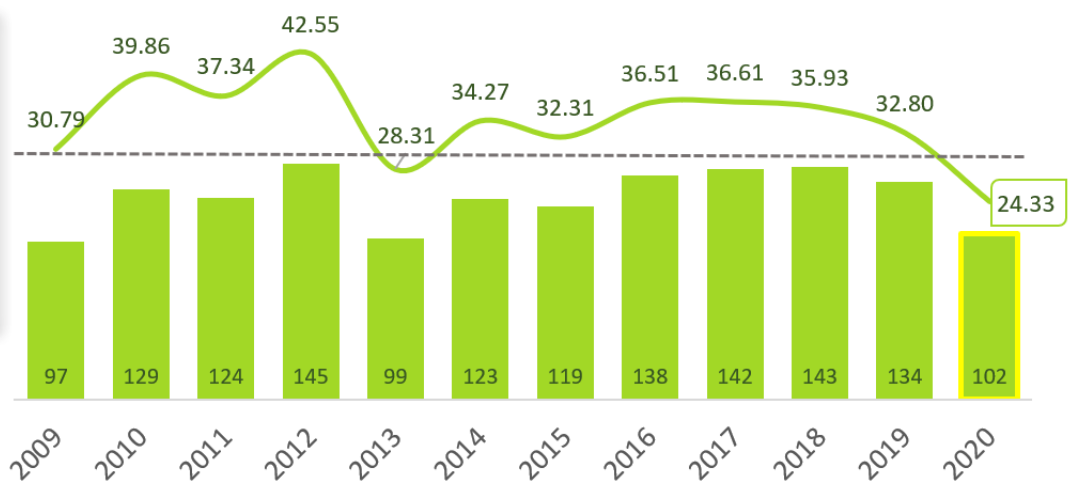
The decline was recorded for both male and female victims.



National murder count declines



Belize Murder Rate (2009-2020)



BELIZE'S MURDER RATE FOR 2020 IS THE LOWEST SINCE 2001 & THE LOWEST RECORDED DURING THE PAST DECADE

Historical data can be accessed via: <https://bco.gov.bz/infographics/>

BELIZE CITY CONTINUES TO POSE UNIQUE CHALLENGE

Despite a marked decline in murders nationally during 2020, Belize City recorded the same amount of murders that it did the previous year. There were 47 murders recorded in that municipality during January to December 2020 and the same period during 2019. Since the population is estimated to have grown marginally, the murder rate registered a nominal decline.

City murders constituted a higher percentage of the national total in 2020 than they did in 2019.

The situation improved in Precincts 3 and 4 (the City's northside) but worsened in Precincts 1 and 2 (the City's southside). No murders were recorded in Precinct 4.

Beginning March 2020, a series of States of Emergencies were implemented, targeting gang operatives in specific parts of Belize City. There were also States of Emergencies and movement restrictions implemented to contain the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

BELIZE AND CAYO DISTRICTS REGISTERED MARKED DECLINES

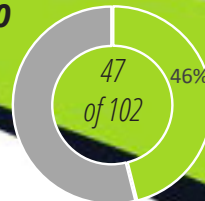
Overall, the Belize District recorded a notable decline in murders, as did three other districts: Orange Walk, Cayo, and Toledo. However, there was an increase registered in Corozal and Stann Creek.

The murder rate in the Belize District declined from 61.24 in 2019 to 46.21 in 2020. Cayo registered a precipitous decline from 25.22 to 11.75.

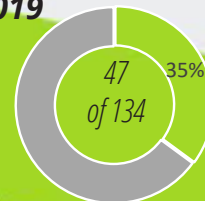
For more detailed information on the Murder and Major Crimes Statistics for January to December 2020, visit our website and click on the DATA tab. Select one of three cards for datatables, crime maps and our open data hub.

FIND OUT MORE BY EXPLORING OUR WEBSITE AND APPS <https://bco.gov.bz/data/>

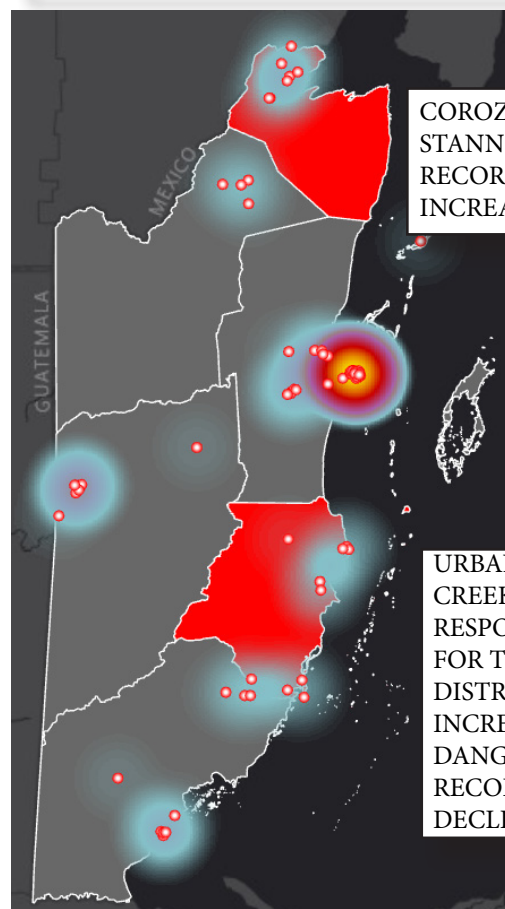
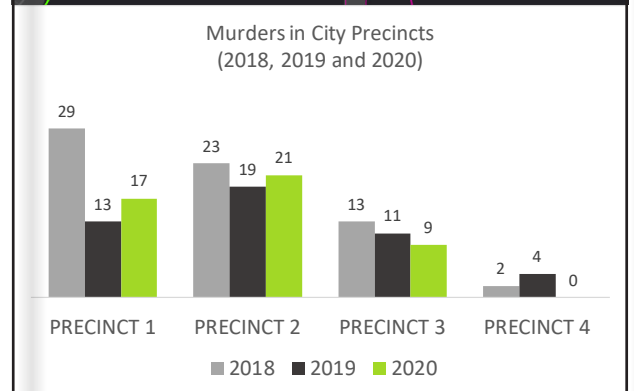
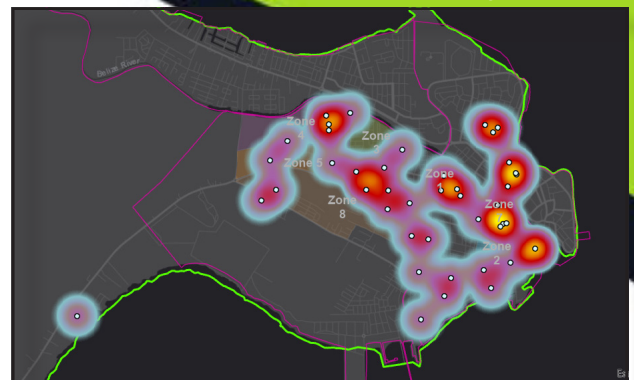
2020



2019



Percentage of murders registered as City murders



COROZAL AND STANN CREEK RECORDED INCREASES

URBAN STANN CREEK WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISTRICT'S INCREASE. DANGRIGA RECORDED A DECLINE.