

**AUGUST**  
**2020**

BELIZE CRIME OBSERVATORY



20%

010101

010101

**CRIME ANALYSIS**  
**REPORT**

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## SUMMARY

### MAJOR CRIMES DECLINE

27%

For Jan-Aug 2020

### MURDERS DECLINE

22%

For Jan-Aug 2020

### MALES COMPRISED

97%

of people incarcerated  
during August 2020

### MALES AGES 18-25 COMPRISED

1 in 3

of people incarcerated  
during August 2020

- Major crimes continued to decline during the month of **August 2020**. There were 76 police recorded cases during that month, down from 131 for August 2019. This represented a decline of 55 cases (or 42%).
- For the period January to August 2020, major crimes cases amounted to 600, a decline from 827 reports for the same period in 2019. The decline of 227 cases amounted to 27%.
- For the period January to August 2020, the number of murders declined from 86 to 67 (a reduction of 19 cases or 22%).
- Whereas sexual violence reports have also declined, the number of cases of unlawful sexual intercourse doubled in August 2020 when compared with August 2019, from 4 to 8 cases.
- March was the only month to have registered an increase in major crimes cases. The number of cases peaked at 96 in July 2020. During the strict period of COVID-19 restrictions (April to May 2020), the number of cases plateaued at 41.
- The murder count hit the second highest peak in July, with 12 cases reported nationally for that month. This was well above to year-to-date average of 8 murders per month. August saw a marked decline to 4 murder cases.
- The Belize District continued to account for the largest percentage of major crimes, among to about 1 in 3 reports. This is
- 97% of incarcerated inmates were males, and 3% were females. Six out of every ten people newly incarcerated were remanded inmates. The most frequent crimes or offences for which they were incarcerated were illegal entry and property crimes.
- There were three people incarcerated for murder, another 3 for attempted murder, 1 for rape and 5 for unlawful sexual intercourse.
- Males ages 18 to 25 comprised approximately 30% of people incarcerated during the month of August 2020.

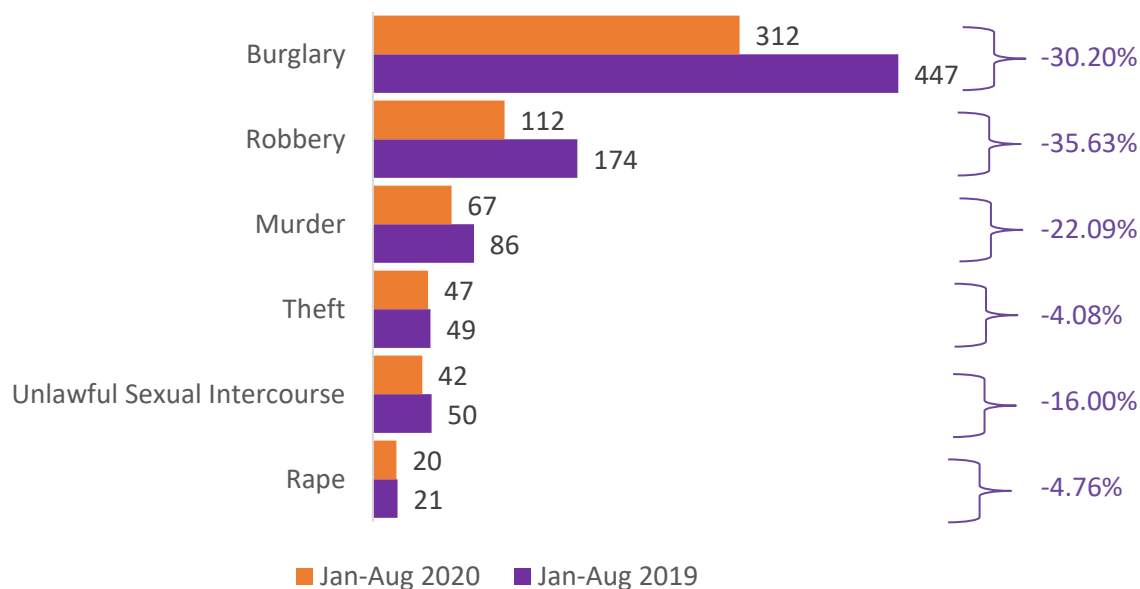
# Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020



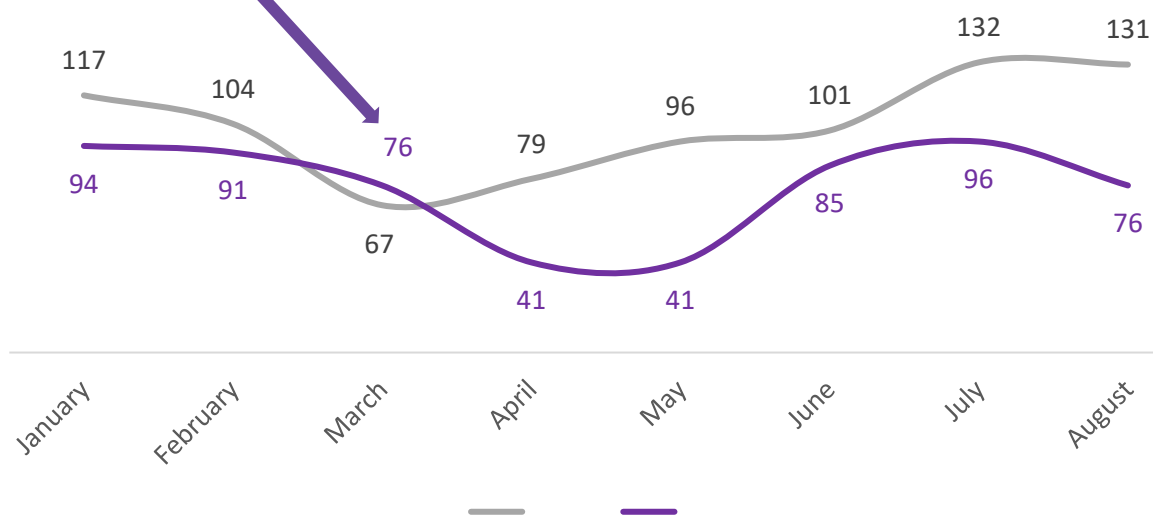
## MAJOR CRIMES

Change in Major Crimes by Category  
(Aug 2020)



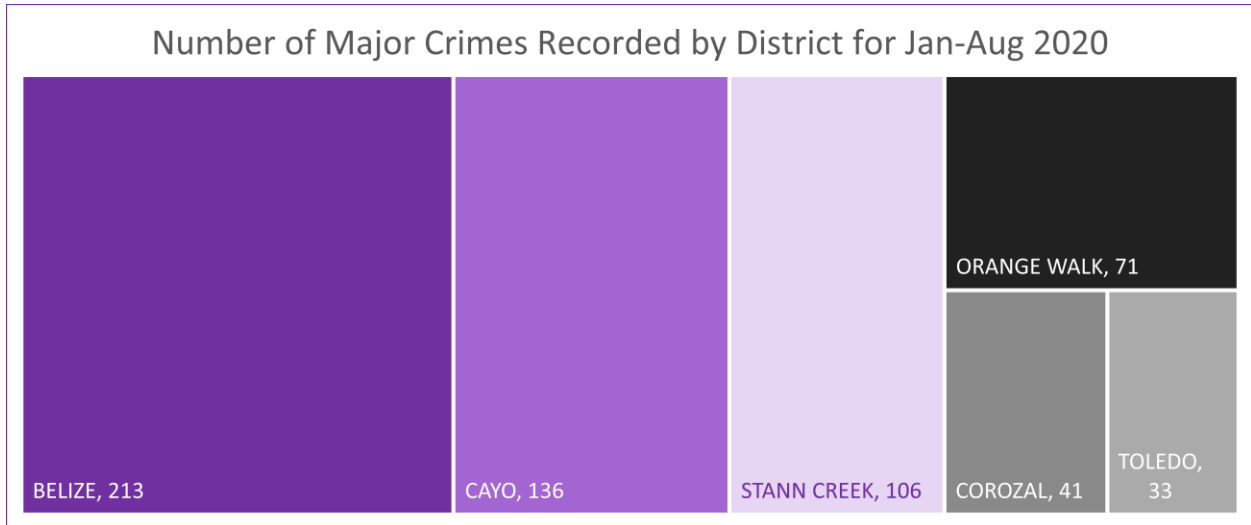
March is the only month to have registered an increase relative to the same month in 2019

Trend in Major Crimes Incidents  
(based on Police cases for Jan-Aug 2020 and 2019)

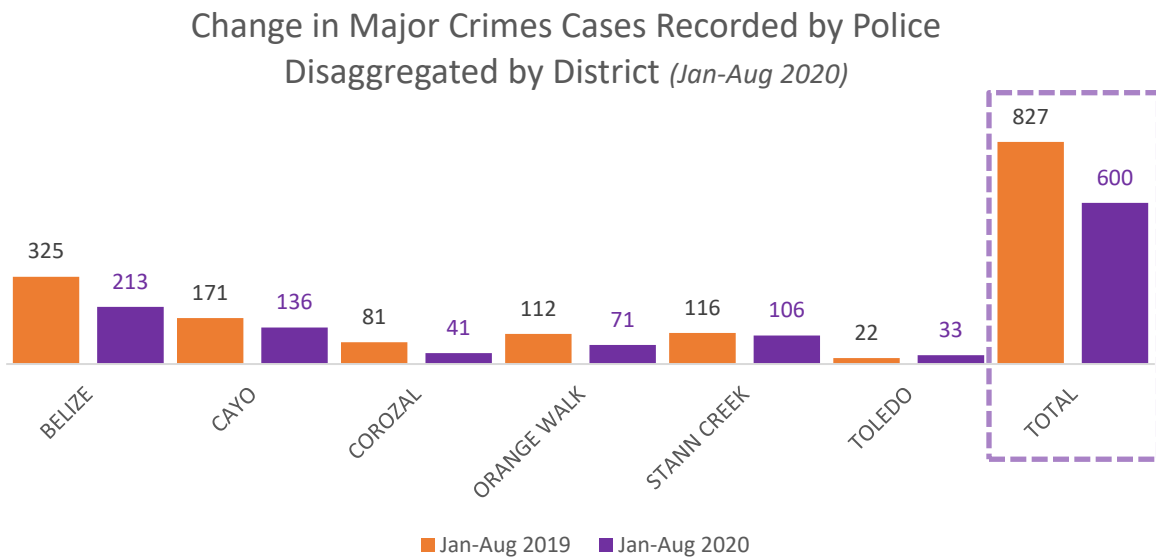


# Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020



(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)



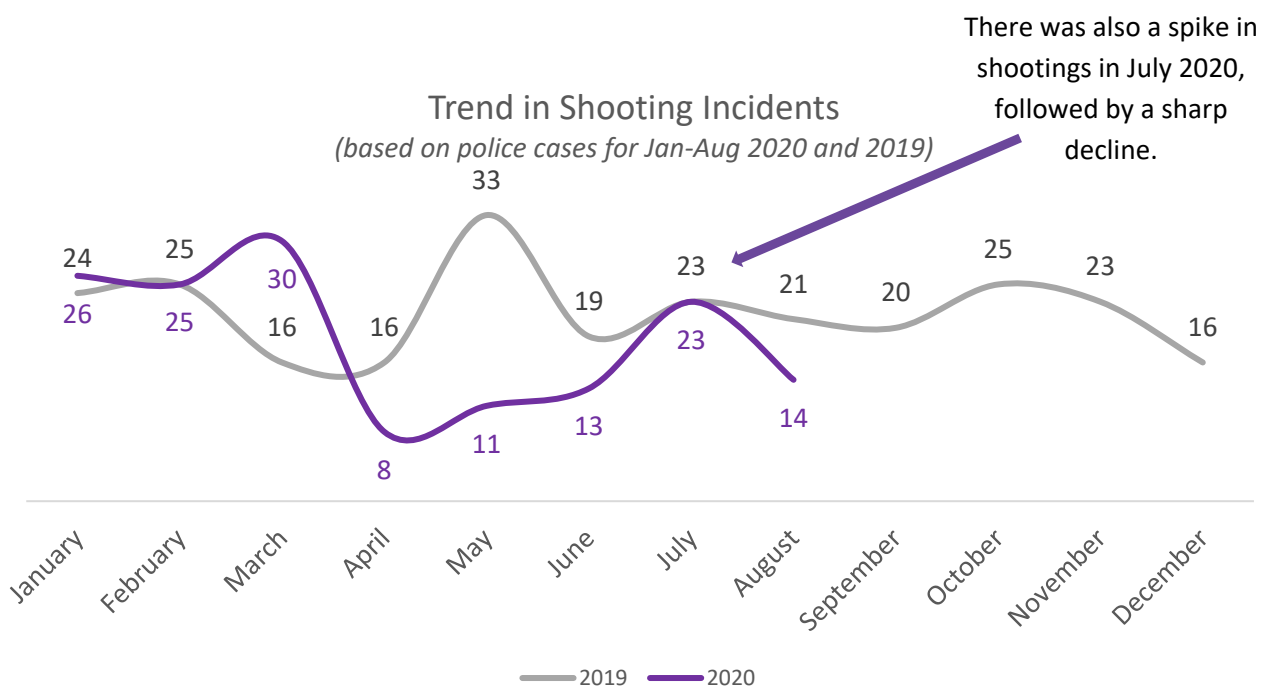
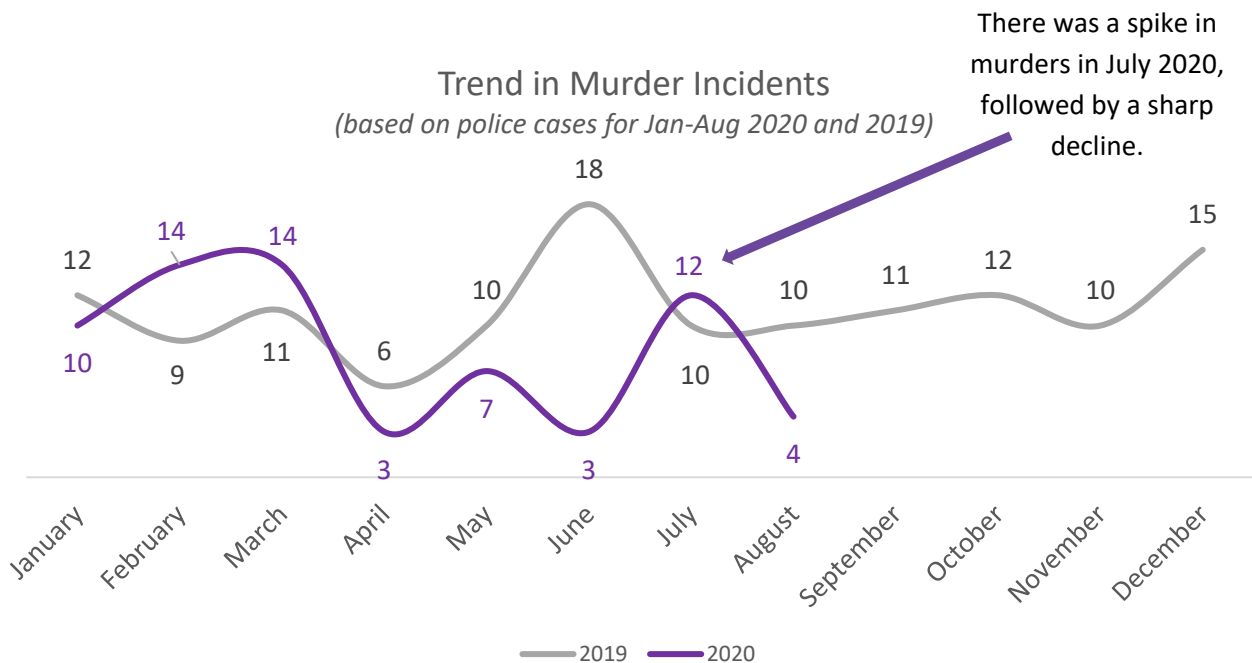
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

# Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020



## MURDERS AND SHOOTINGS



(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

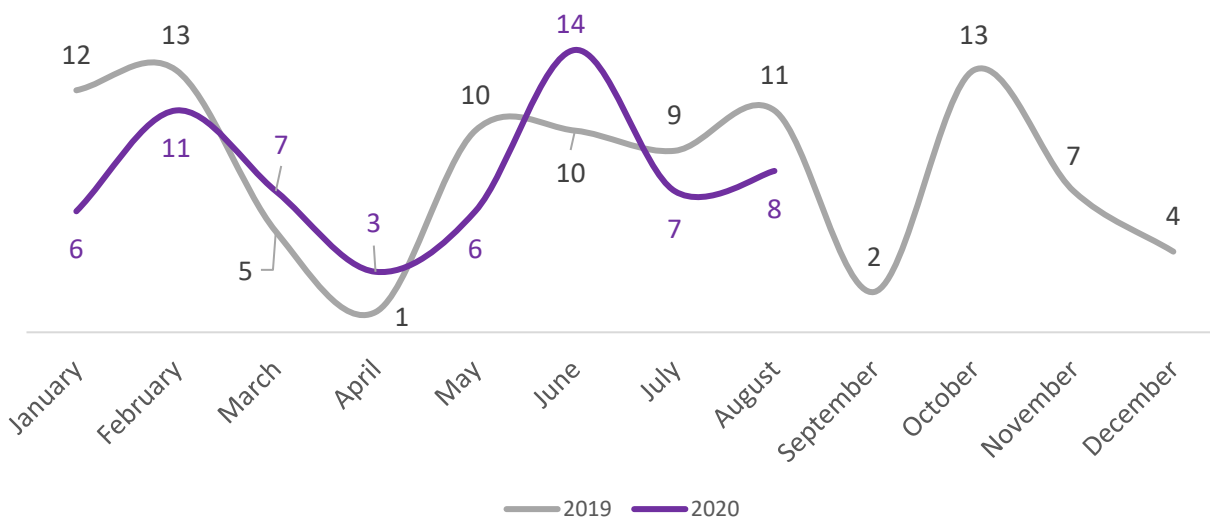
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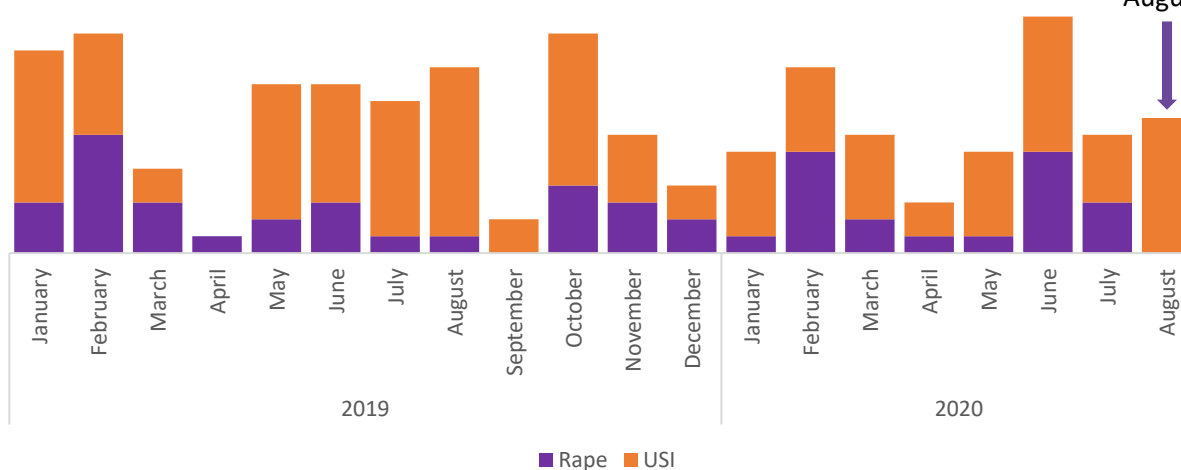


## SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Trend in Sexual Violence Incidents  
(based on police cases of rape and unlawful sexual intercourse for Jan-Aug 2020 and 2019)



Rape and Unlawful Sexual Intercourse Cases recorded by Police (2020 and 2019)



Cases of unlawful sexual intercourse increased from 4 in July 2020 to 8 in August 2020.

(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

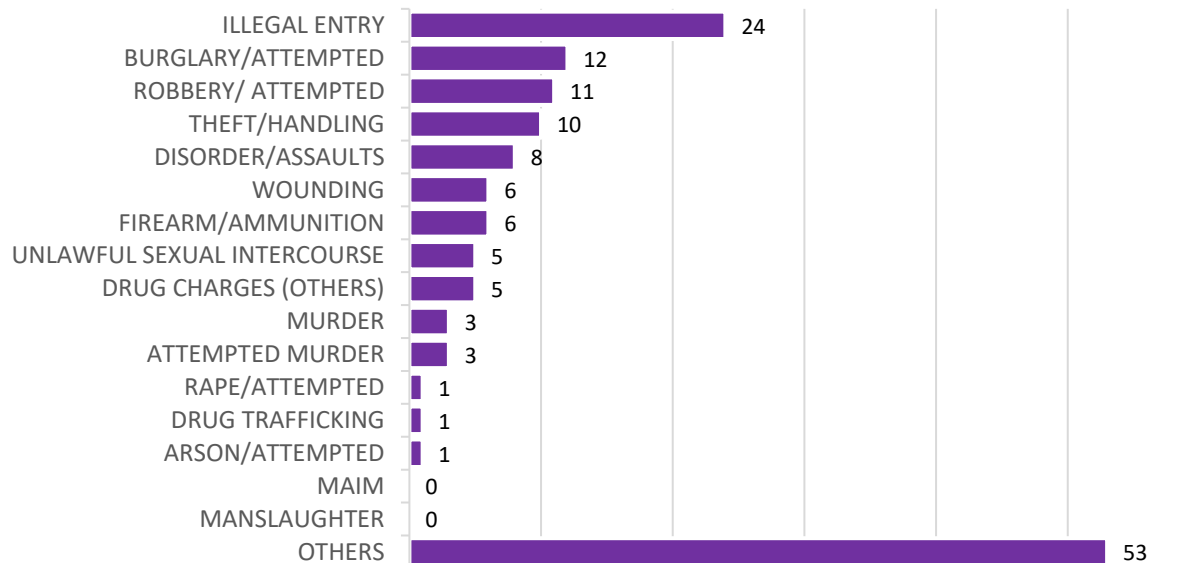
# Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020

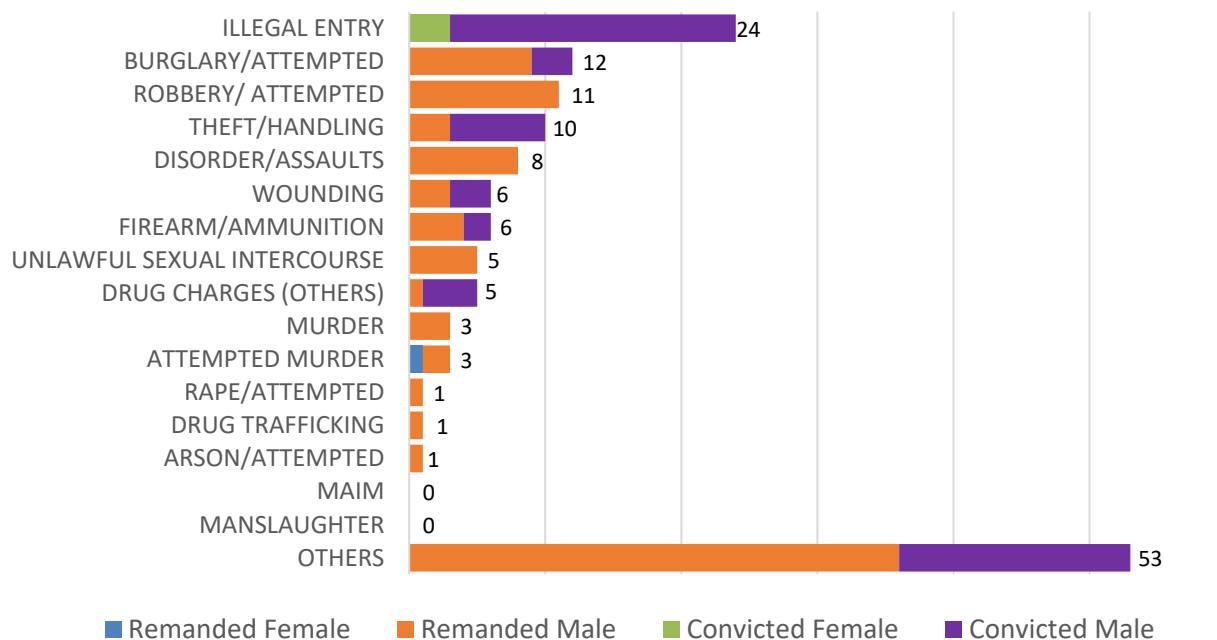


## INCARCERATION

Number of Persons Incarcerated by Offence Type  
(Aug 2020)



Number of Persons Incarcerated by Offence Type  
and Sex (Aug 2020)



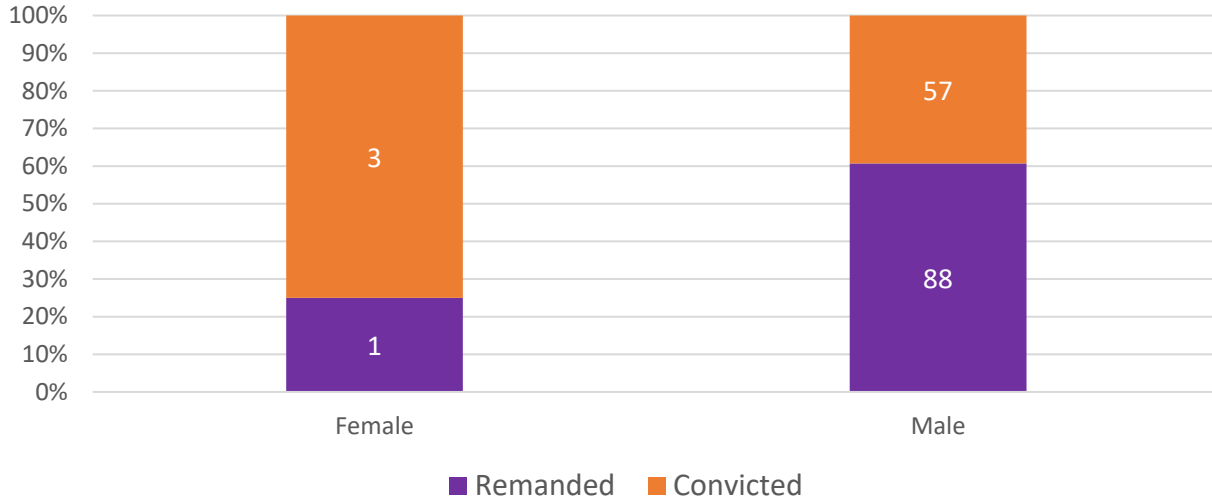


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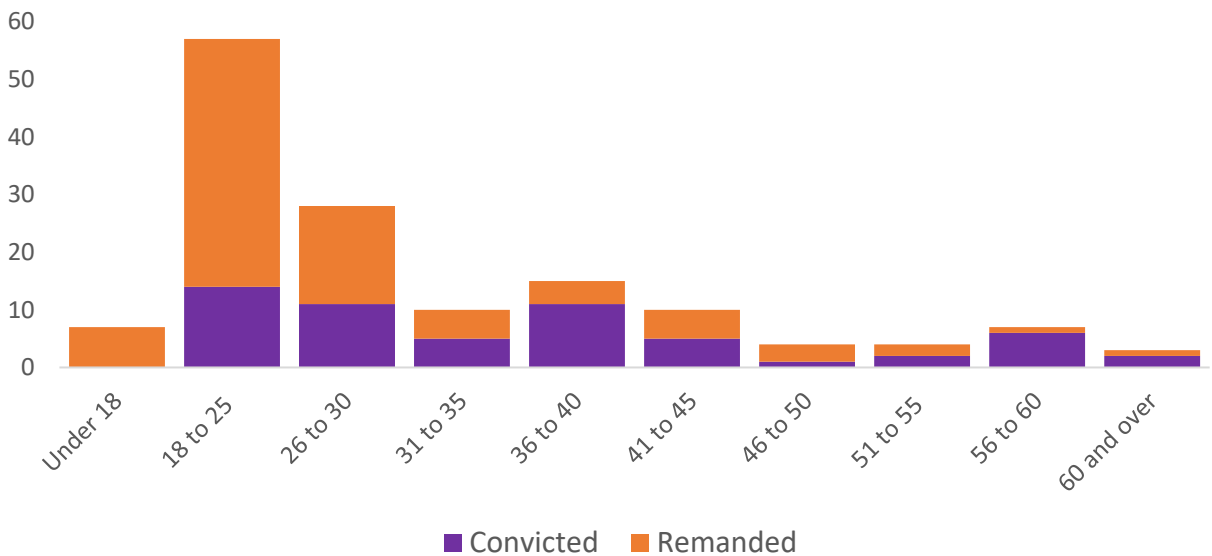


Percentage of Incarcerated Inmates Remanded and Convicted, Disaggregated by Sex (Aug 2020)



(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

Number of Males Incarcerated by Status (August 2020)



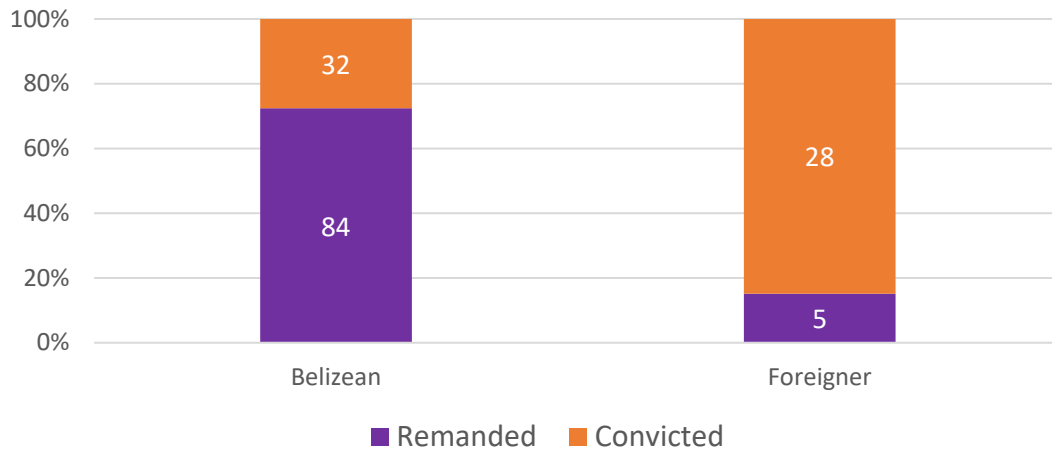
(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

# Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020



Percentage of Incarcerated Inmates Remanded and Convicted, Disaggregated by Nationality (Aug 2020)



(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

# Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 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 August 2020. Any future revisions will be noted in subsequent reports.*