



# MONTHLY MAJOR CRIMES ANALYSIS **AUGUST 2019**



# Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019



## SUMMARY

For the month of August 2019, **131** major crimes were reported by the Belize Police Department. This represents an increase of **31%** over the same month last year, when 100 incidents were reported. Although total major crime incidents since the year began have declined by 11% when compared with the same period in 2018 (down from **929** to **827**), there was a general upward trajectory for the 5-month period, March to July 2019. There was a marginal 1% decline (from 132 to 131) between July and August 2019.

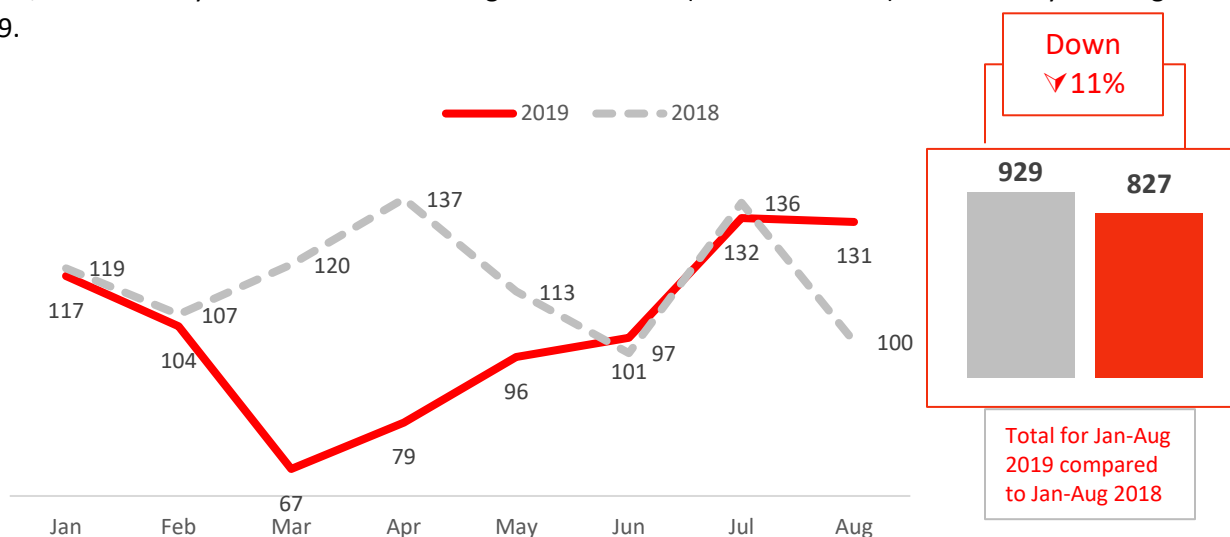


Chart A: Trend in Major Crime Incidents for January to August 2019, compared with the same period in 2018.  
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

The Belize District (which accounts for 30% of the national population, based on mid-year 2019 estimates by the Statistical Institute of Belize ) accounted for 36% of the major crimes recorded during the month of August 2019, and about 4 in every 10 incidents recorded since the year began.

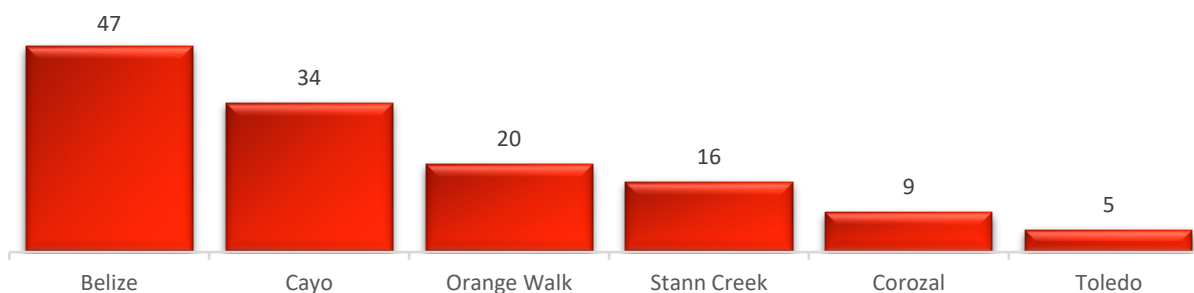


Chart B: Number of Major Crimes by District for August 2019.  
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

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Major Crimes Trend for the Belize and Cayo Districts  
(January to August 2019)

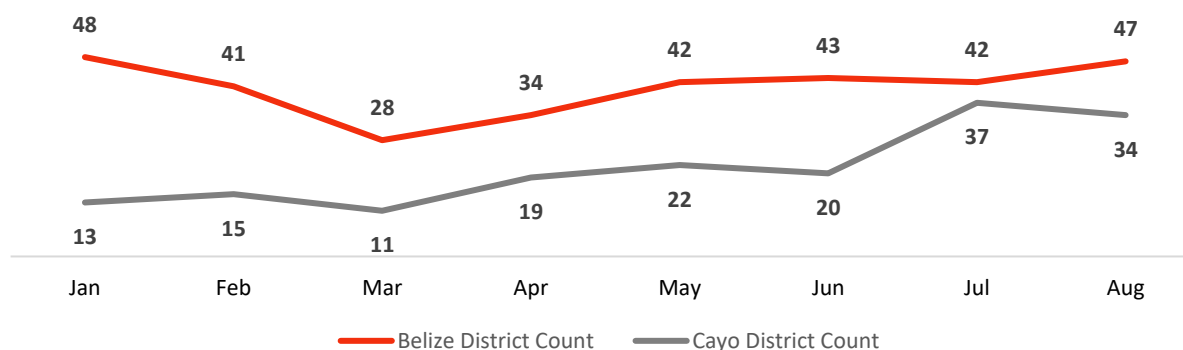


Chart C: Major Crime Trends for the Belize and Cayo Districts (January to August 2019)  
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

Major crime reports declined in the Cayo District (the second largest district) during August 2019, while total major crimes reported in the Belize District, the largest district, increased, continuing on a general upward trend since March 2019.

The number of reports of murder recorded in August 2019 declined 37.5% when compared with the same month last year. Reports of major theft (of items valued BZ\$5,000 and above) were up 50%, while, burglary reports were up by 46%. Reports of sexual violence more than doubled.

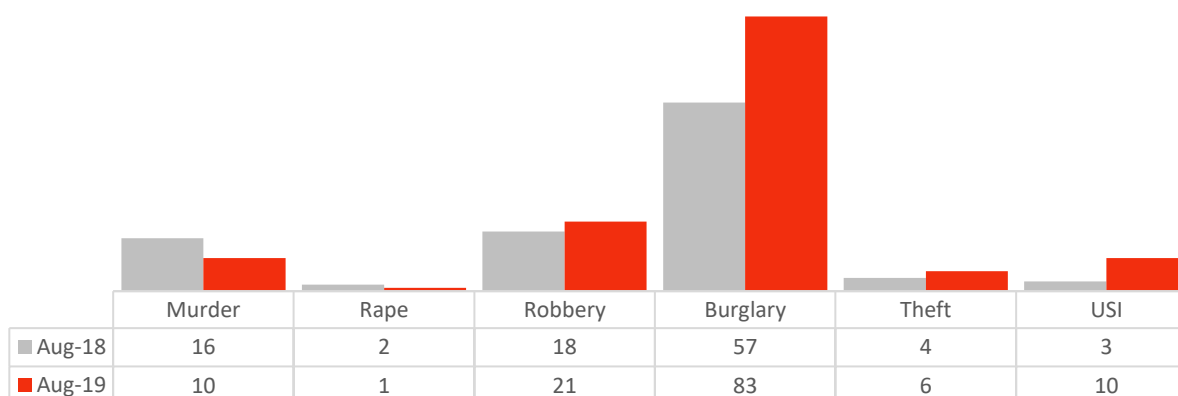


Chart D: Major Crime Reports by Category for August 2019 compared with August 2018.  
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

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Cayo joined the northern districts of Corozal and Orange Walk to register among the districts to report an overall increase in major crime incidents for the period January to August 2019 when compared with the same time last year. Orange Walk recorded a substantial increase of 32%, year-on-year. Meanwhile, the Belize District recorded the largest decrease of 36%.

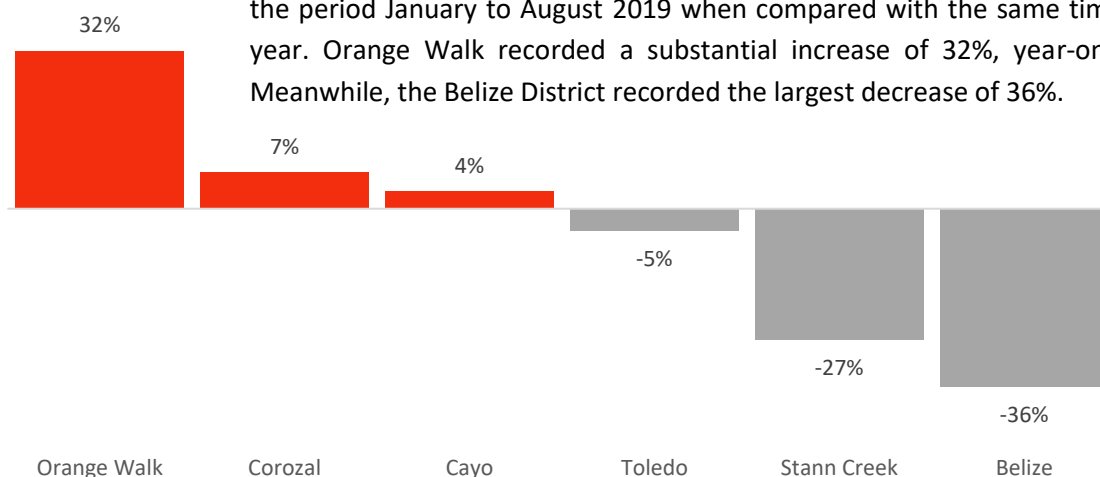
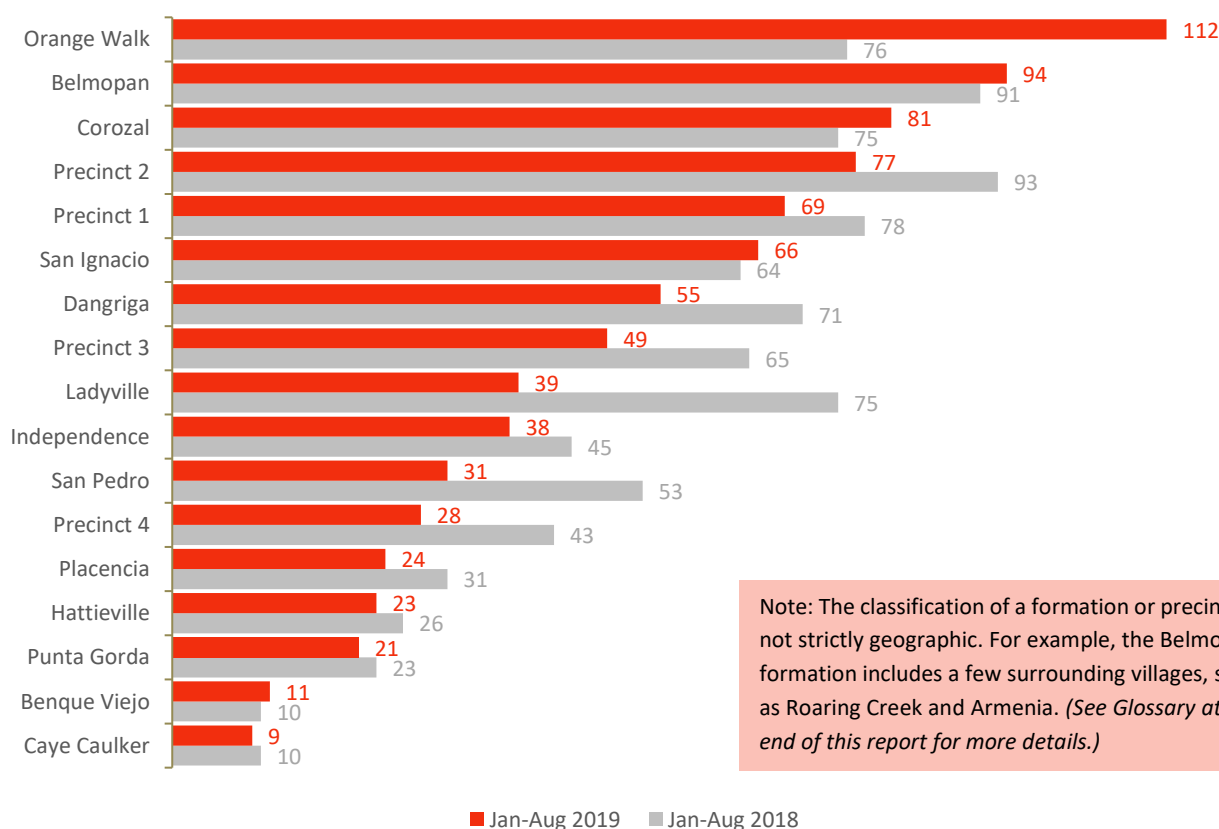


Chart E: Percent Change in Total Major Crimes recorded By District for January to August 2019

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



Note: The classification of a formation or precinct is not strictly geographic. For example, the Belmopan formation includes a few surrounding villages, such as Roaring Creek and Armenia. (See Glossary at the end of this report for more details.)

Chart F: Total Major Crimes recorded by Police Formation/Precinct for Jan-Aug 2019 compared with Jan-Aug 2018

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

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## MURDER

Murders for  
August 2019

**10**

**37.5% change**  
**compared to**  
August 2018

Ten murders were recorded in Belize during August 2019, a marked decline of 37.5% from August 2018, when 16 murders were recorded.

Murders for  
January to  
August 2019

**86**

▼ by **22** or  
**20.37%**  
compared to  
January to  
August 2018

For the period January to August 2019, 86 murders were recorded, down from 108 for the same period last year. This represents a decline of 22 (or 20.37%).

### Murders recorded in August 2019 by Police Formation/Precinct

One of three Belize City murders were deemed by the Belize Police Department to have been gang-related.

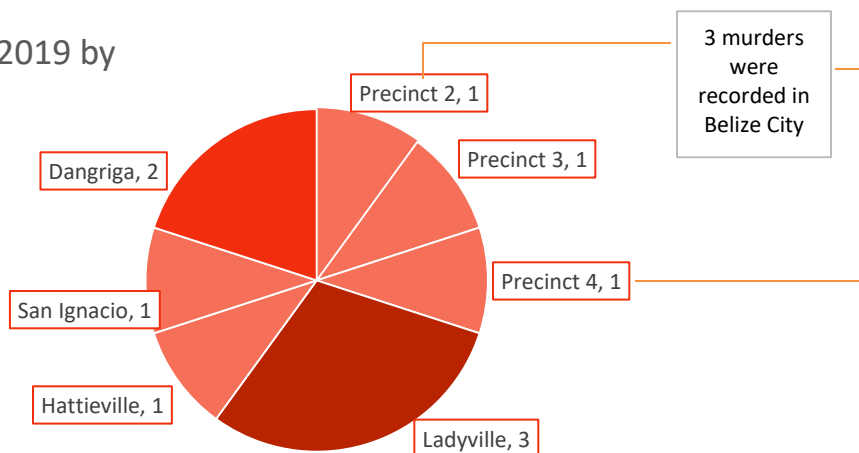


Chart G: Total Murders recorded by Police Formation/Precinct for August 2019.

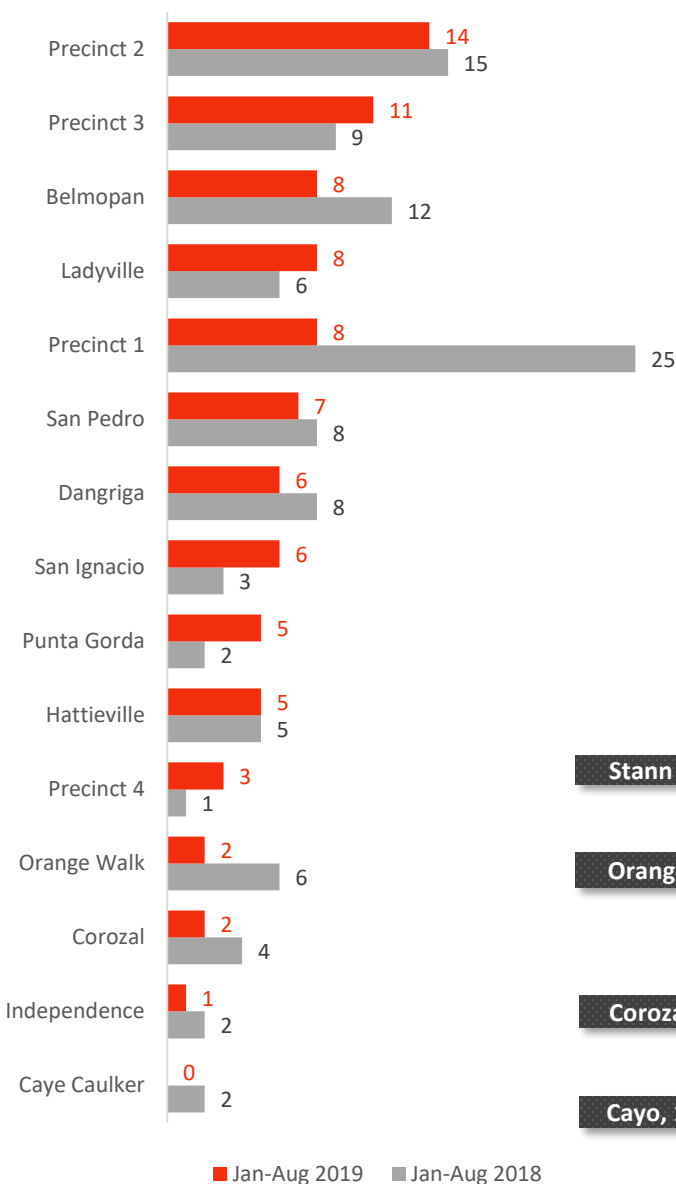
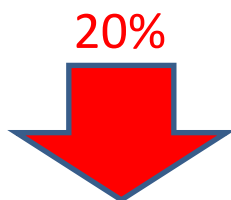
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

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**86**  
murders  
January to August 2019



▼ 9 of the 17 policing areas recorded a decline in murders

▲ 5 recorded an increase.

■ 3 recorded no change, including two locations (Placencia and Benque Viejo del Carmen) for which no incidents were reported for the period under review and the reference period in 2018.

▼ 5 of 6 districts have recorded an overall decrease in murders for the first 8 months of 2019.

▼ Whereas incidents of murder fell about 20% overall, nationally and in the Belize District, in the Belize City area, they have declined to a greater extent – by roughly 30% (down from 51 to 36).

▲ At the district level, only Toledo reported an increase in incidents of murder: from 2 during January to August 2018 to 5 during January to August 2019.

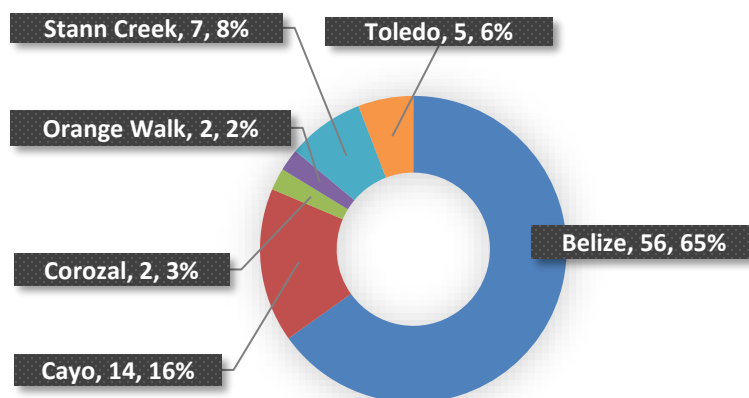


Chart H: Total Murders recorded by Police Formation/Precinct for Jan-Aug 2019, compared to Jan-Aug 2018.

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

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## SHOOTINGS

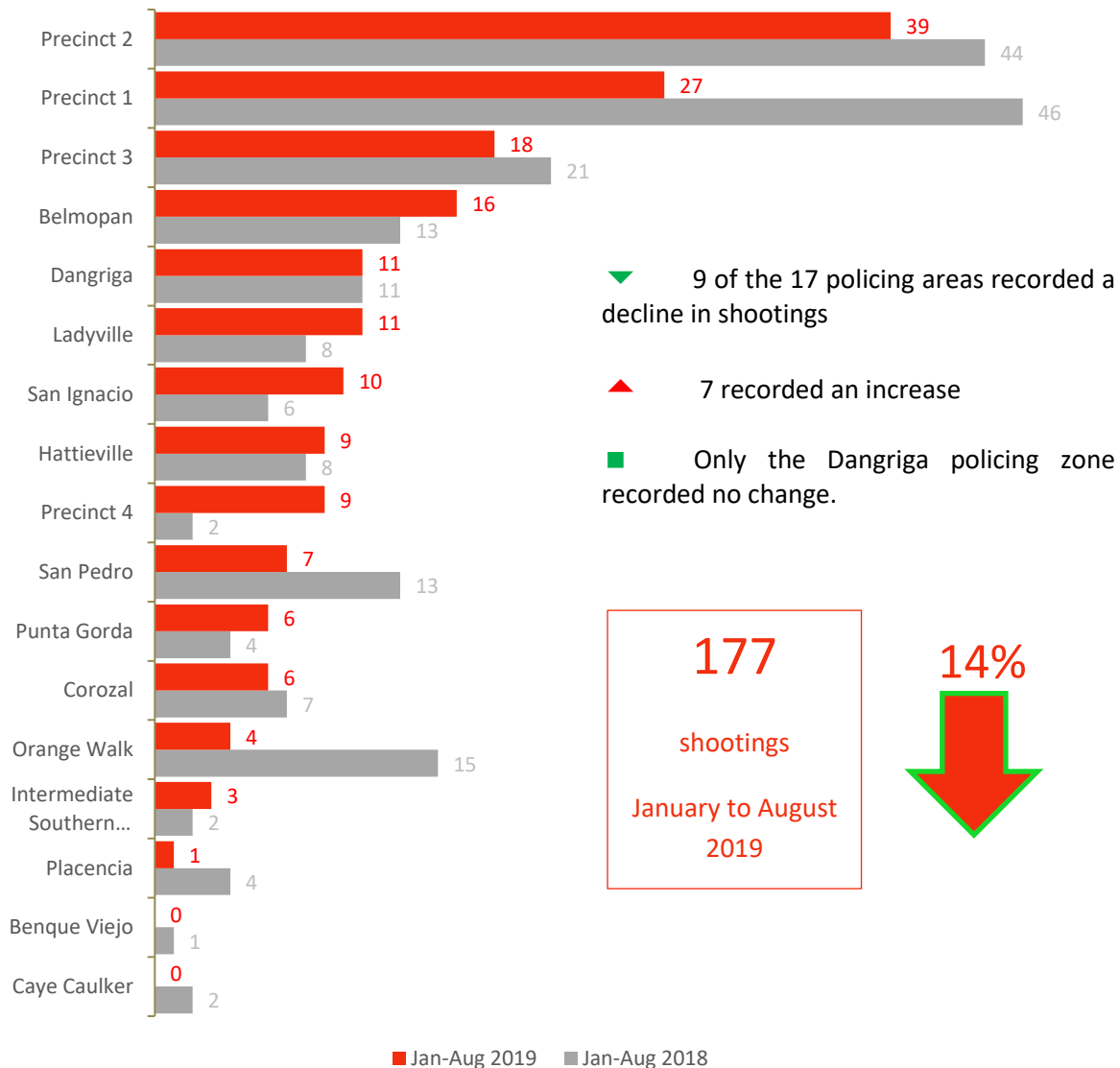


Chart I: Total Shootings recorded by Police Formation/Precinct for Jan-Aug 2019, compared to Jan-Aug 2018.

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

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## PROPERTY CRIMES

There were **110** property crimes recorded during August 2019, up nearly 40%, from 79 in August 2018. For the first eight months of the year, **670** property crimes were recorded in the major crimes category, excluding theft of items valued at below BZ\$5,000. This represents an overall decline of 13%, from 772 incidents recorded during the same period in 2018.

**Orange Walk** continues to stand out as the district recording the most significant increase in property crimes, from 65 for January to August 2018 to 99 for January to August 2019. This amounted to a **52%** increase, mostly attributable to robberies and burglaries. Conversely, the **Belize District** recorded a **31%** decline in property crime reports.

About **8 out of every 10** major crimes reported are property crimes.

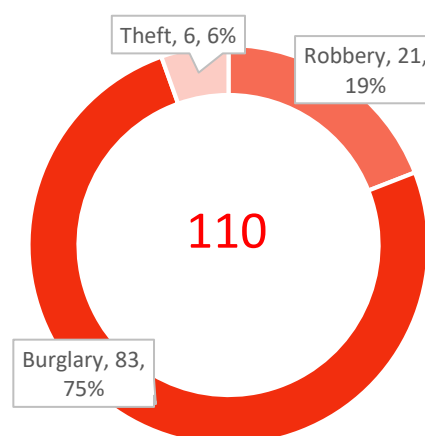


Chart J: Property Crimes by Type for August 2019.  
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

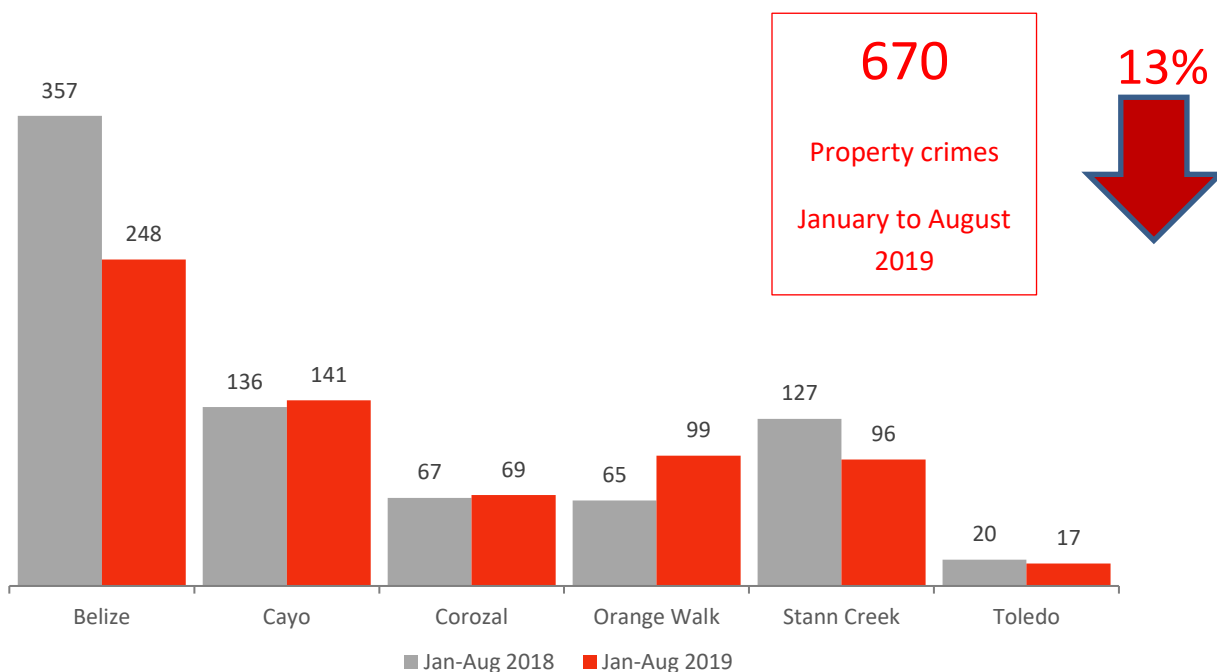


Chart K: Number of Property Crimes by District for Jan-Aug 2019 compared to the period Jan-Aug 2018.  
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)



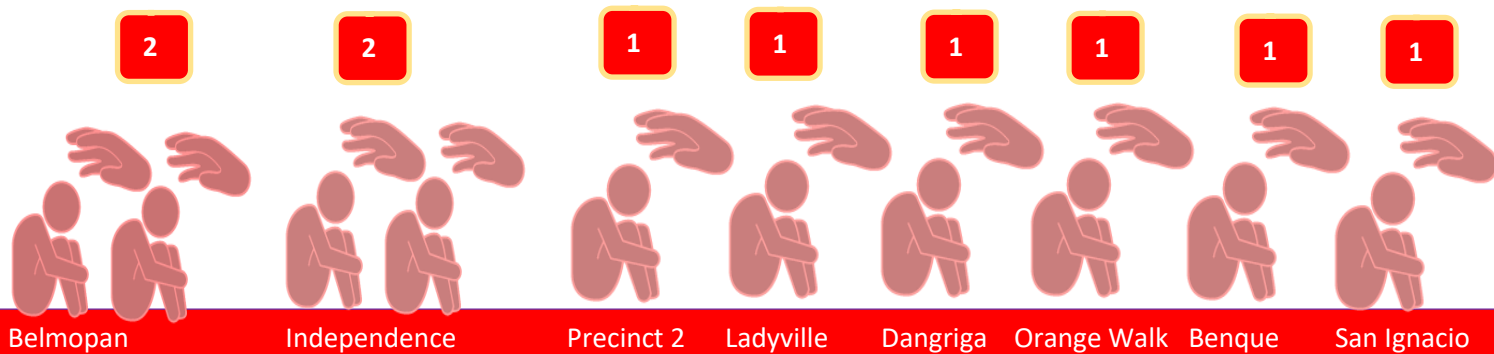
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## SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Unlawful Sexual Intercourse: 10 reports for August 2019. 50 cases for January to August 2019.



Sexual violence (rape and unlawful sexual intercourse) were the only types of major crimes that recorded an overall increase for the first 8 months of 2019. Reports of **rape** were up from 12 to 21 (or **75%**), while reports of **unlawful sexual intercourse** were up from 37 to 50 (or **35%**).

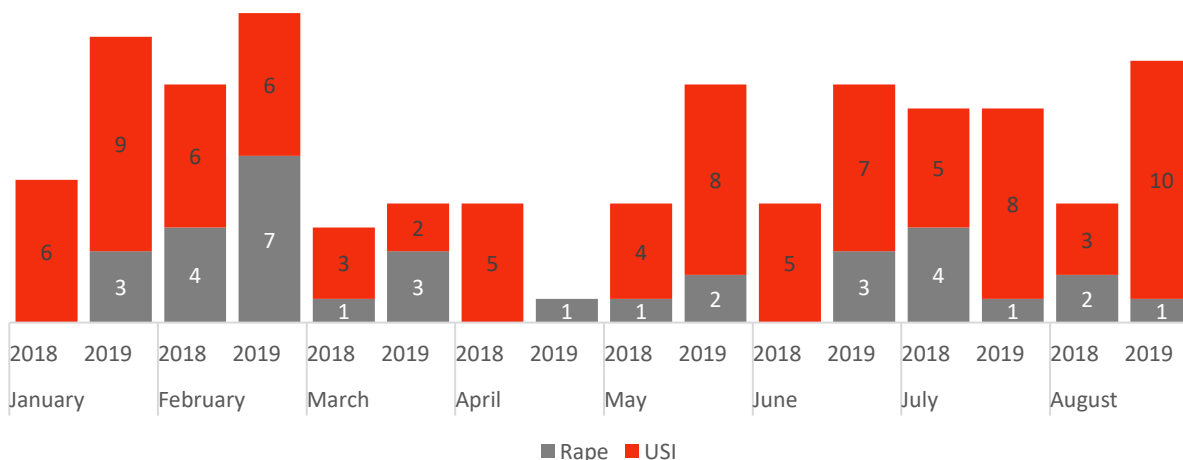
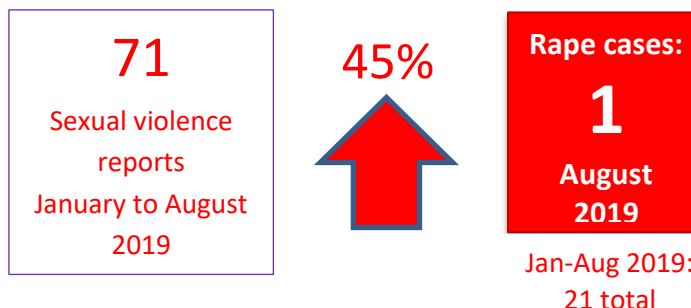


Chart L: Total Cases of Sexual Violence (Rape and Unlawful Sexual Intercourse) recorded for Jan-Aug 2019, compared to Jan-Aug 2018.

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

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## Gang-Related Major Crimes

During August 2019, at least 7 gang-related major crime incidents were reported in Belize City, as well as 3 shooting incidents. (See disaggregation of gang-related major crime incidents below.)



Apart from the above listed major crimes, there were a few reported incidents of aggravated assault with a gun or knife that were also deemed to have been gang-related. Compared with August 2018, there was a decrease in gang-related murders, but an increase in gang-related burglaries during the month under review.

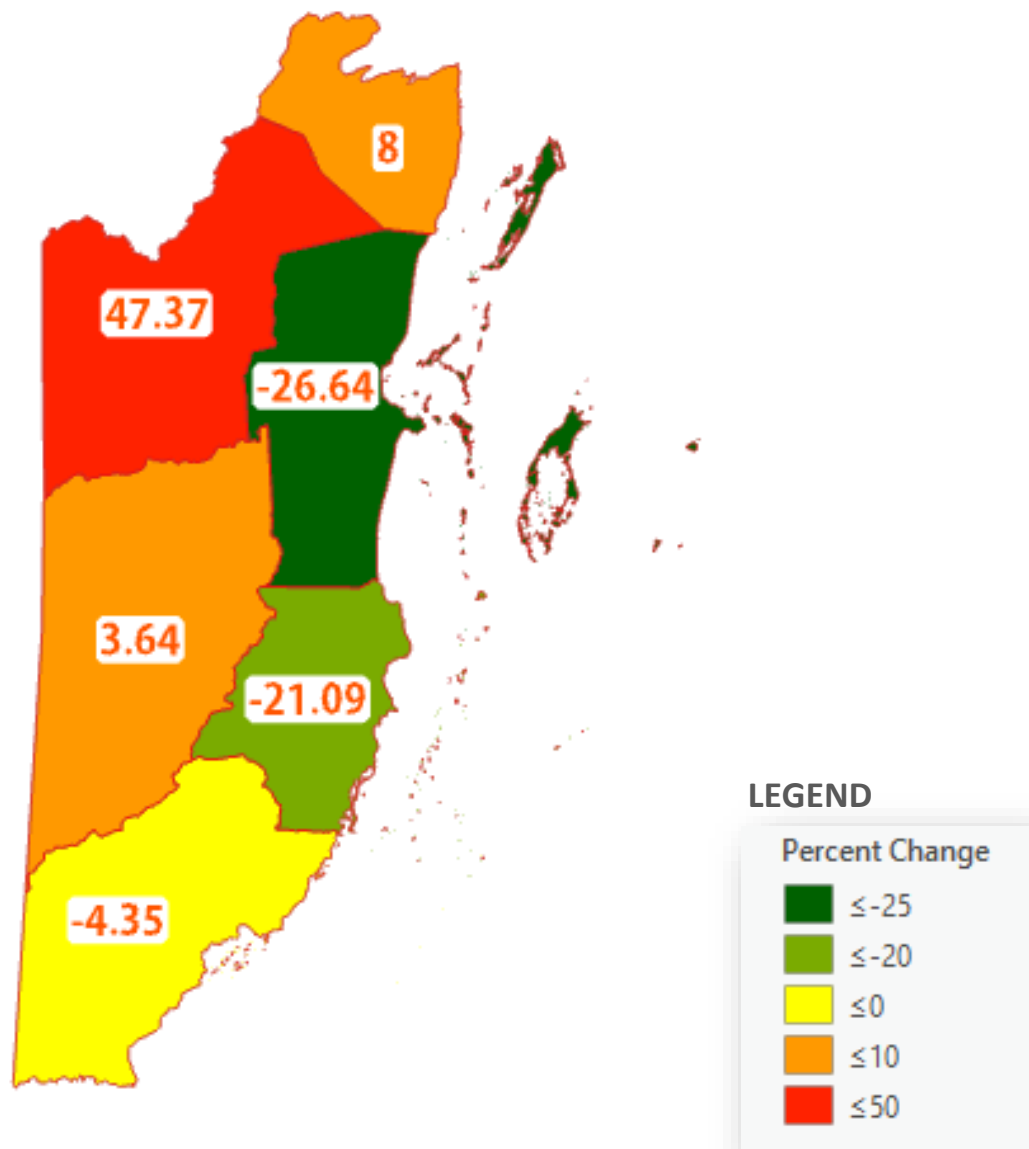
*(Data sources: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center and Gang Suppression Unit)*

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**MAP 1: Percent Change in Major Crimes by District, January to August 2019**

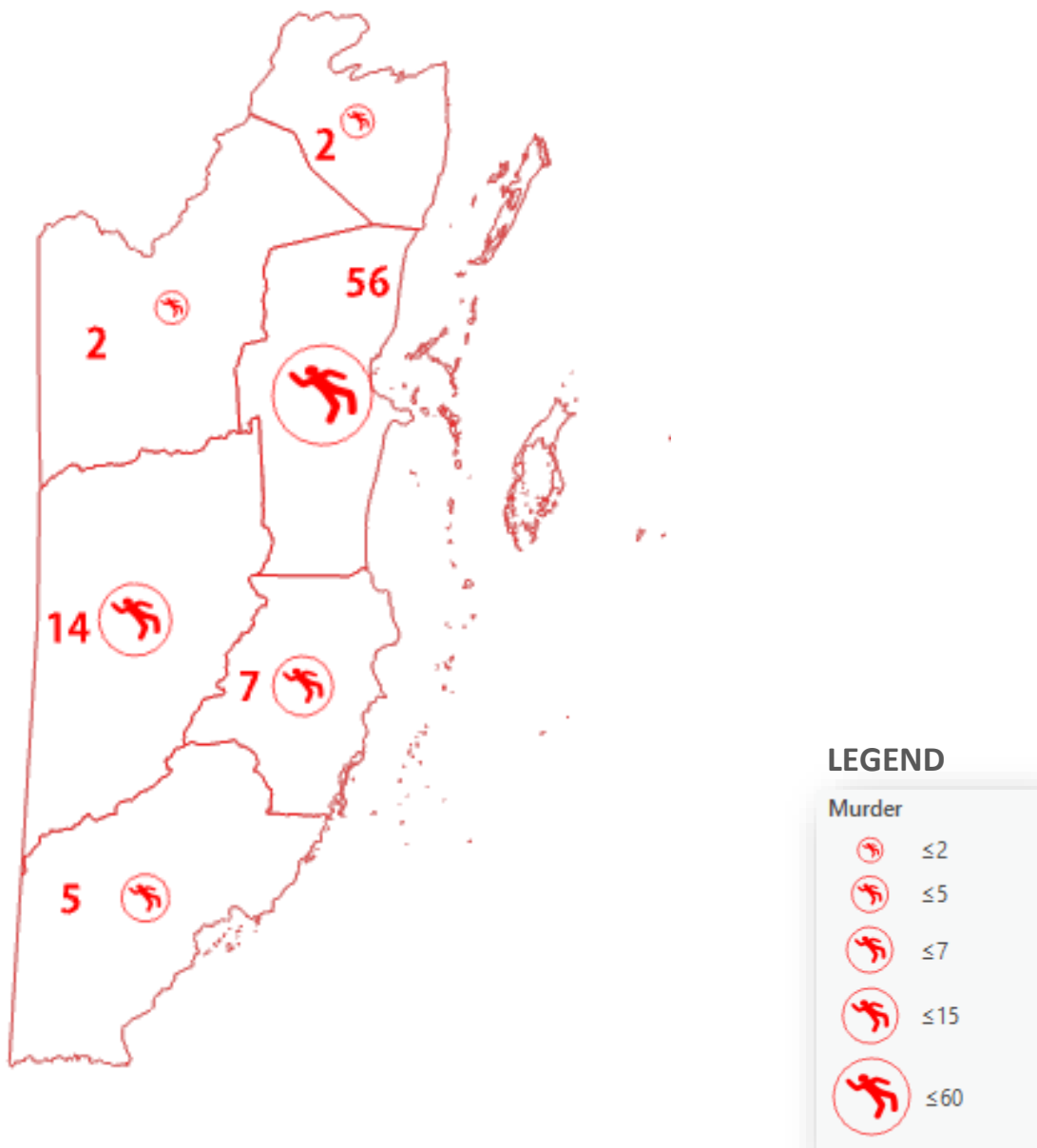


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**Map 2: Number of Murders Recorded by District, January to August 2019**

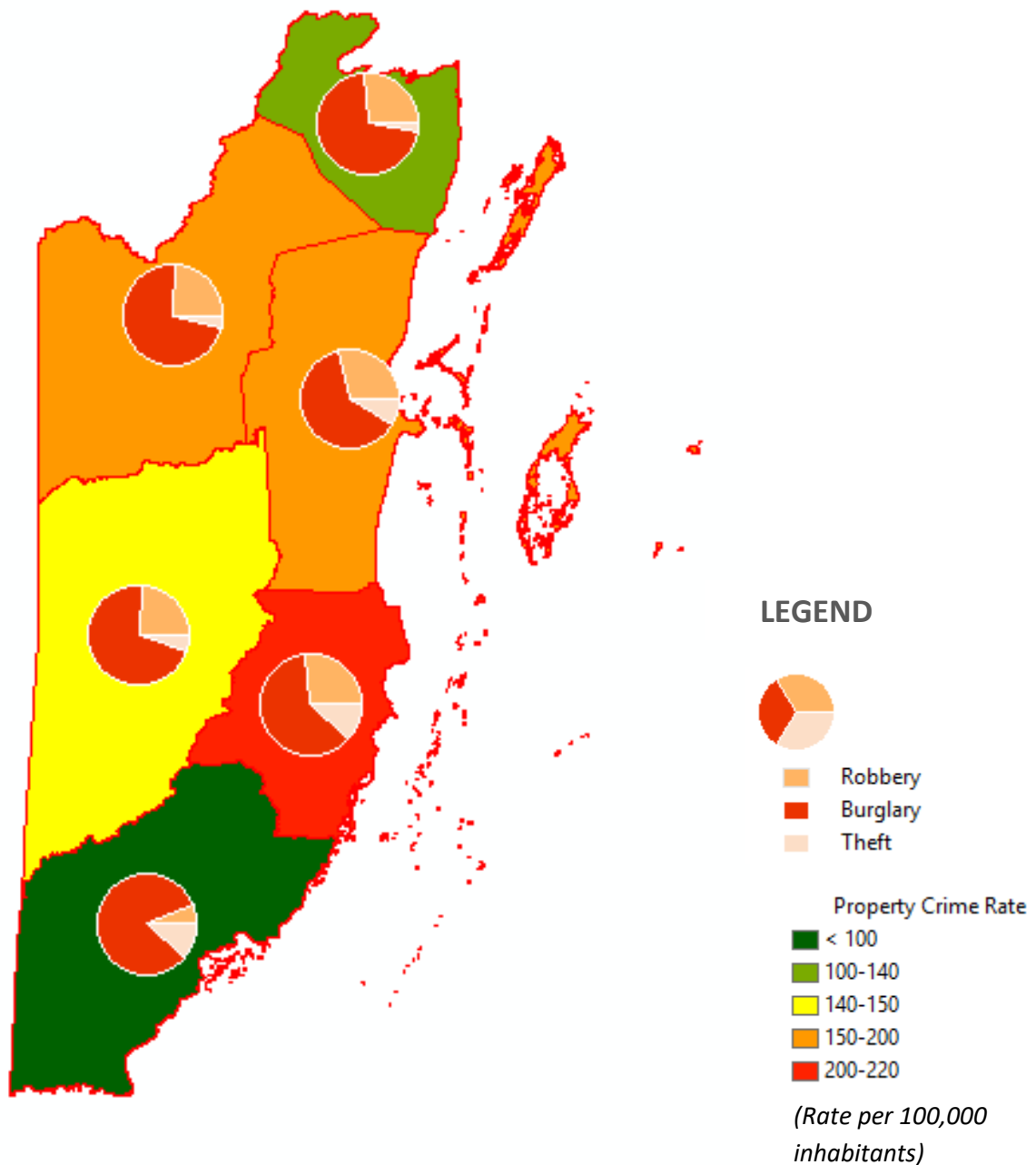


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**Map 3: Breakdown of Property Crimes by District, January to August 2019**



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## Manner of Death

During **August 2019**, the National Forensic Science Service examined **35** deaths (30 males and 5 females). More than half (**20 of 35**) were violent deaths classified as homicides (**11**), suicides (**1**), and road traffic accident (RTA) fatalities (**8**).

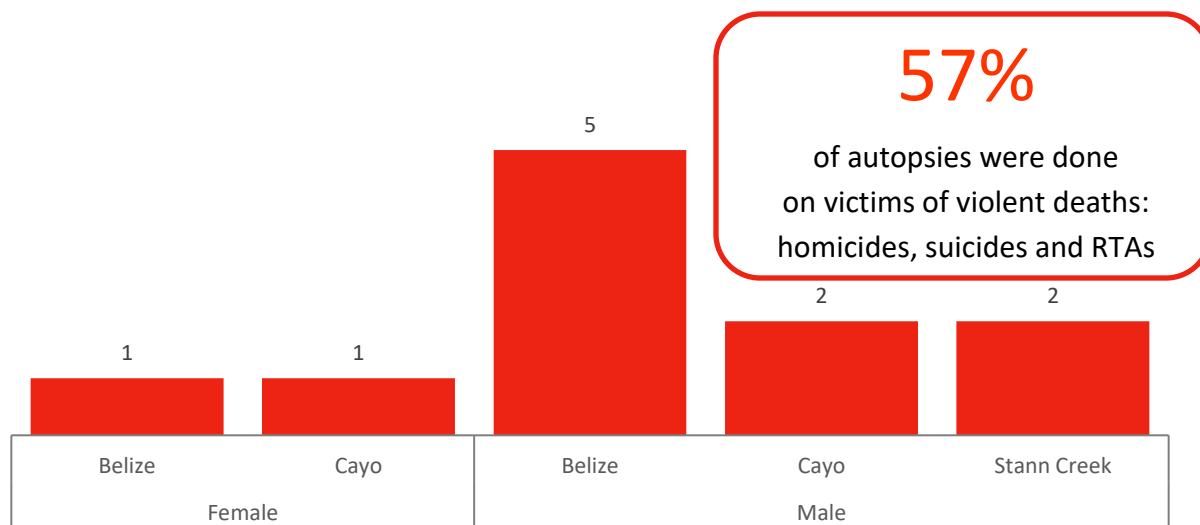


Chart M: Number of homicides by District for which autopsies were done for August 2019, disaggregated by sex.  
(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)

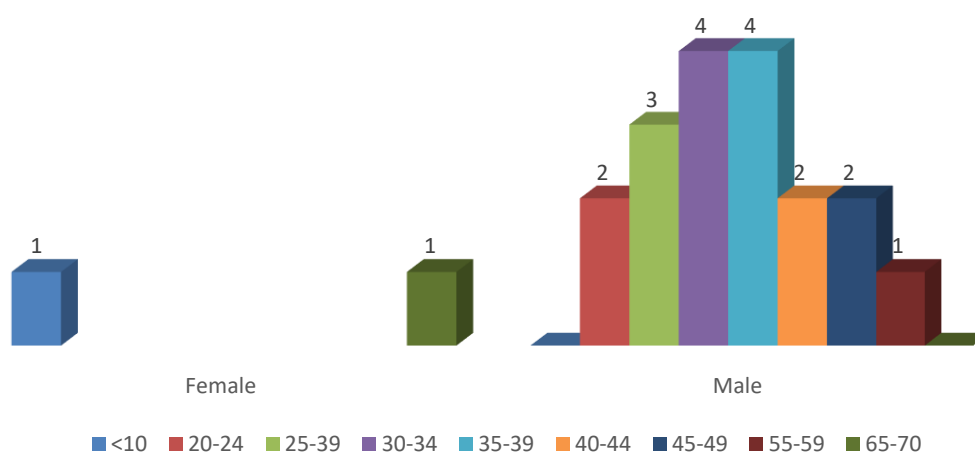


Chart N: Number of autopsies for victims of homicides, suicides or RTAs, disaggregated by sex and age for August 2019  
(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)

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The National Forensic Science Service (Scenes of Crime Unit) processed 311 scenes during August 2019. The most prevalent incident type was burglary, for which 106 scenes were processed. A total of 56 road traffic accident scenes and 11 homicide scenes were also processed.

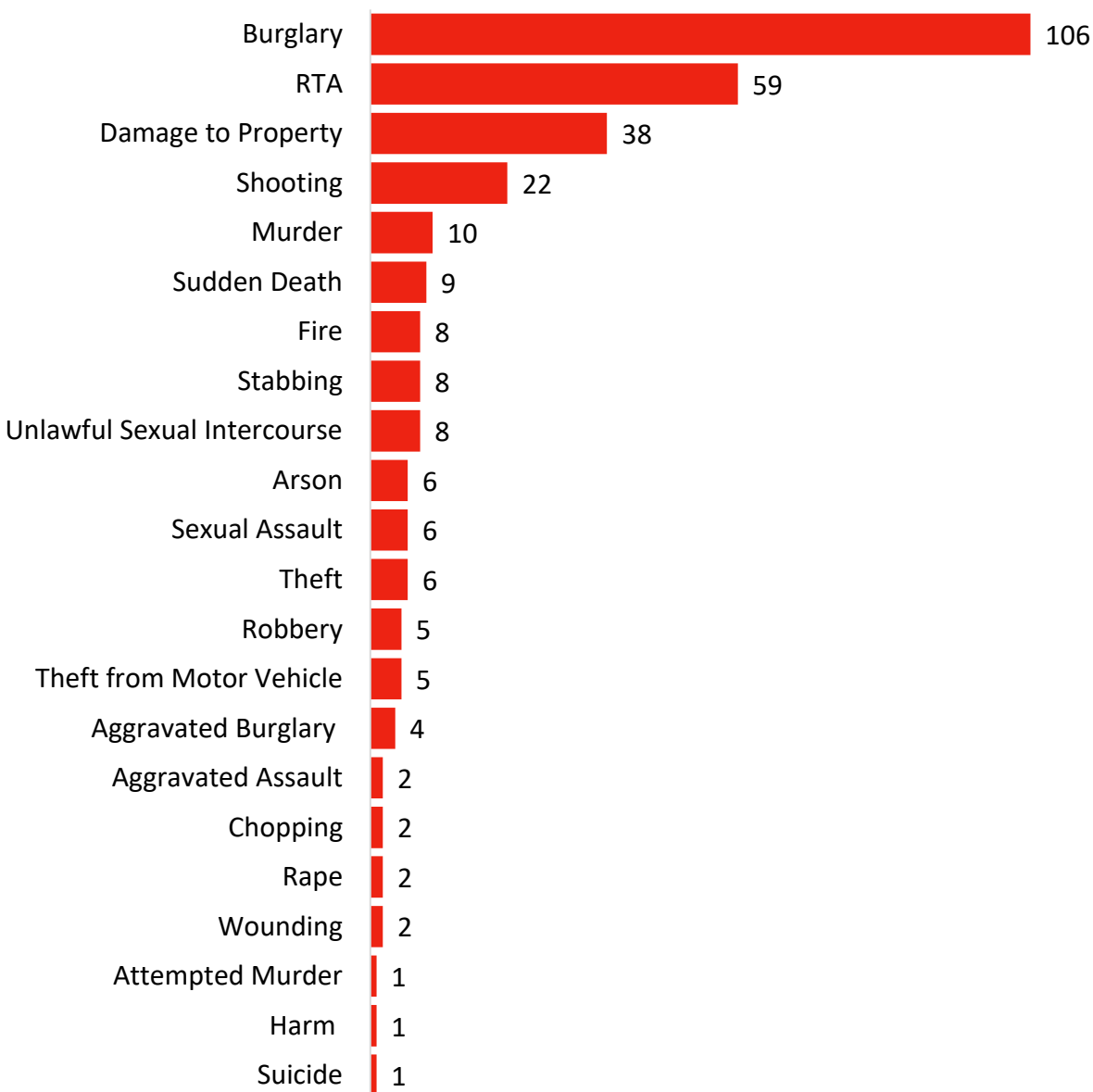


Chart O: Scenes processed for August 2019 by the National Forensic Science Service by Category (suspected at the time of processing the scene).

(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)

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## Imprisonment

During the month of August 2019, 79 people (4 females and 75 males) were listed as newly convicted inmates at the Belize Central Prison, an increase by 25%, from 63 recorded for August 2018. During August 2019, 16 inmates were convicted of illegal entry. Meanwhile, there were 96 people remanded to prison during August 2019 – an increase of 33% when compared with August 2018 (when 72 were remanded). Young males ages 18 to 25 were the most frequently incarcerated.

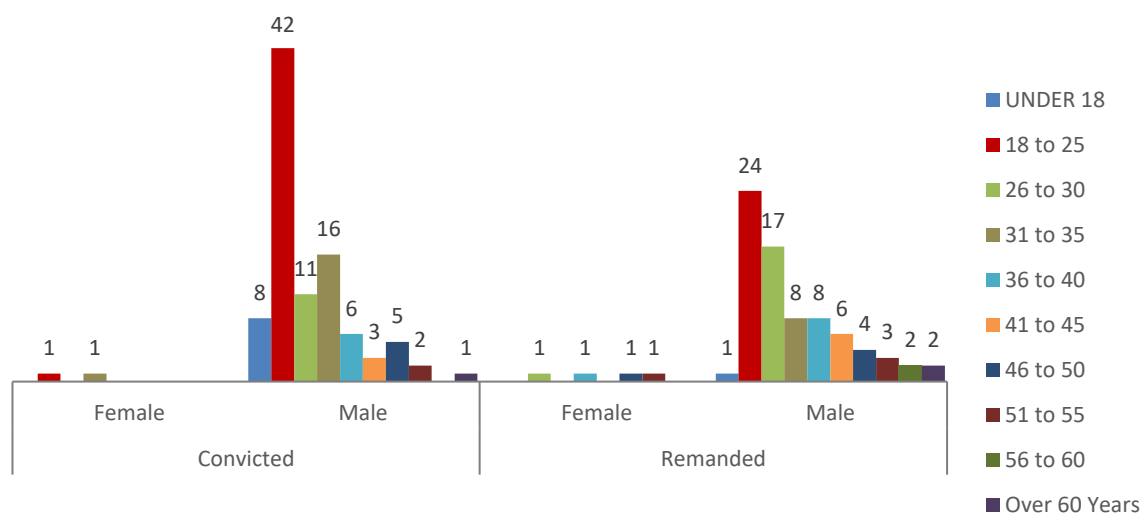


Chart P: Number of persons remanded and convicted during August 2019, according to sex and age.  
(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

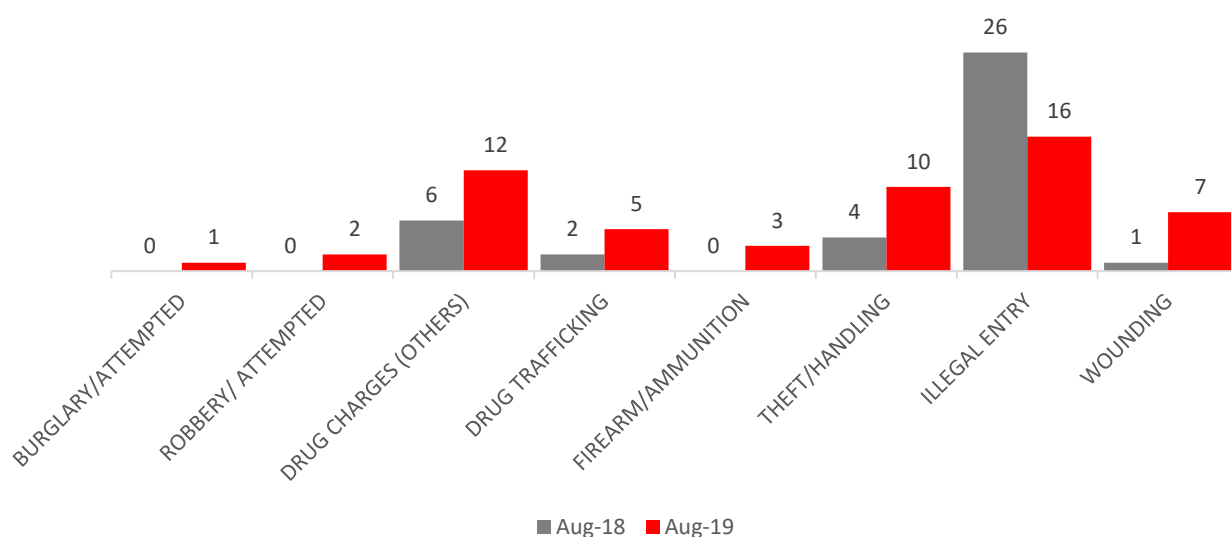


Chart Q: Number of persons convicted by offence during August 2019, compared to August 2018.  
(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)



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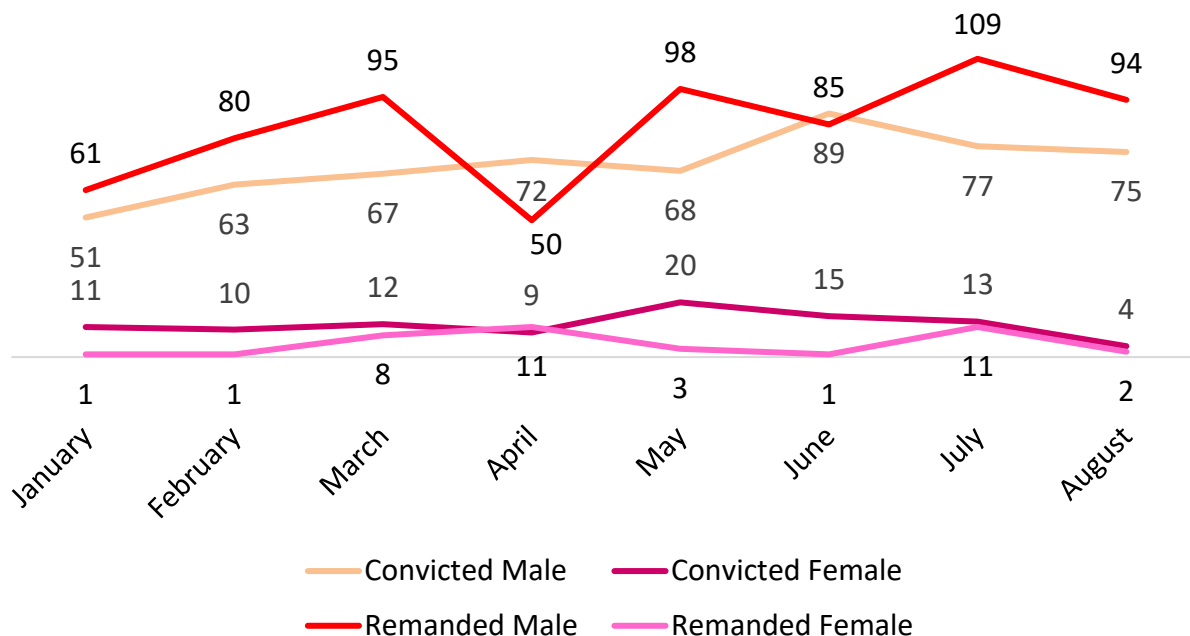


Chart R: Total Number of People Convicted and Remanded, disaggregated by sex for January to August 2019.  
(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

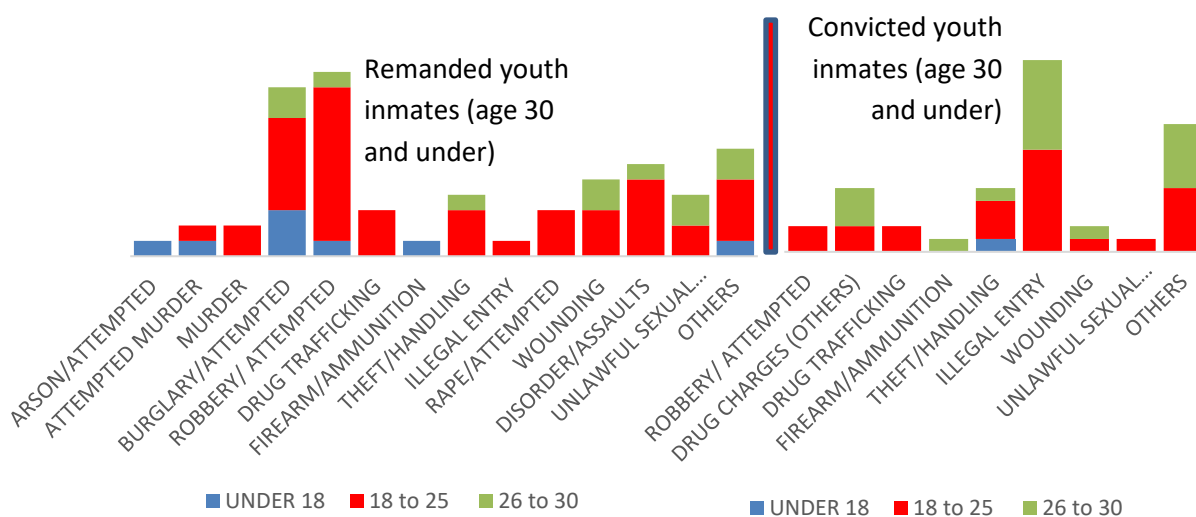


Chart S: Number of Remanded and Convicted inmates ages 30 and under, disaggregated by offence, for the month of August 2019.

(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

## 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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***Note:** We’ve realigned the first section of this report to focus more closely on major crimes and to provide more year-to-date analysis in addition to analysis for the month under review.*

EXPLORE AND DOWNLOAD DATA from

BCO's Open Data Site: <http://hub-belizeco.opendata.arcgis.com/>



*“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 2019. Any future revisions will be noted in subsequent reports.*