

# REGIONAL Analysis of the State of the Violence and Citizen Security January to December 2021



Al servicio de las personas y las naciones

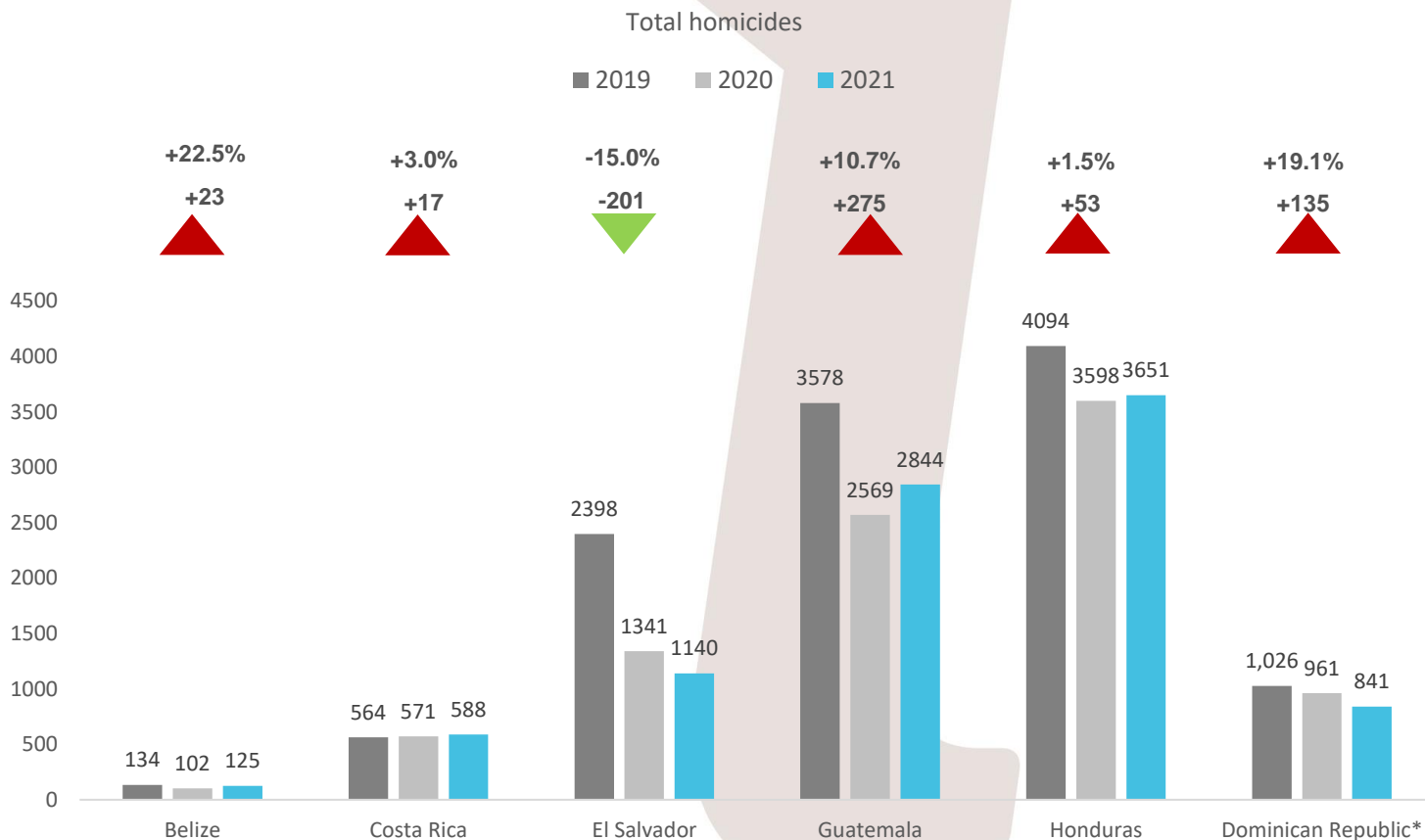
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## Highlights

- On average, 25 persons per day lost their lives to violence throughout the region in 2021<sup>i</sup>.
- Records show 9,188 victims of homicide in the subregion comprising Central America and the Dominican Republic. This is equal to a rate of 19.3 homicides per 100 thousand population, lower than the average rate in Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>ii</sup>.
- Records show 1,029 female- and 8,144 male victims of homicides.
- Young people continue to be the primary victims of homicide. Some 42% of victims were 18 to 30 years of age.
- Firearms were involved in the vast majority of homicides: Three in four homicides were committed with this type of weapon.
- A higher proportion of homicides took place in urban areas (55.5%).
- Homicide levels have been fairly consistent among the countries, but an analysis at the territorial level in each country reveals marked differences.

## Evidence

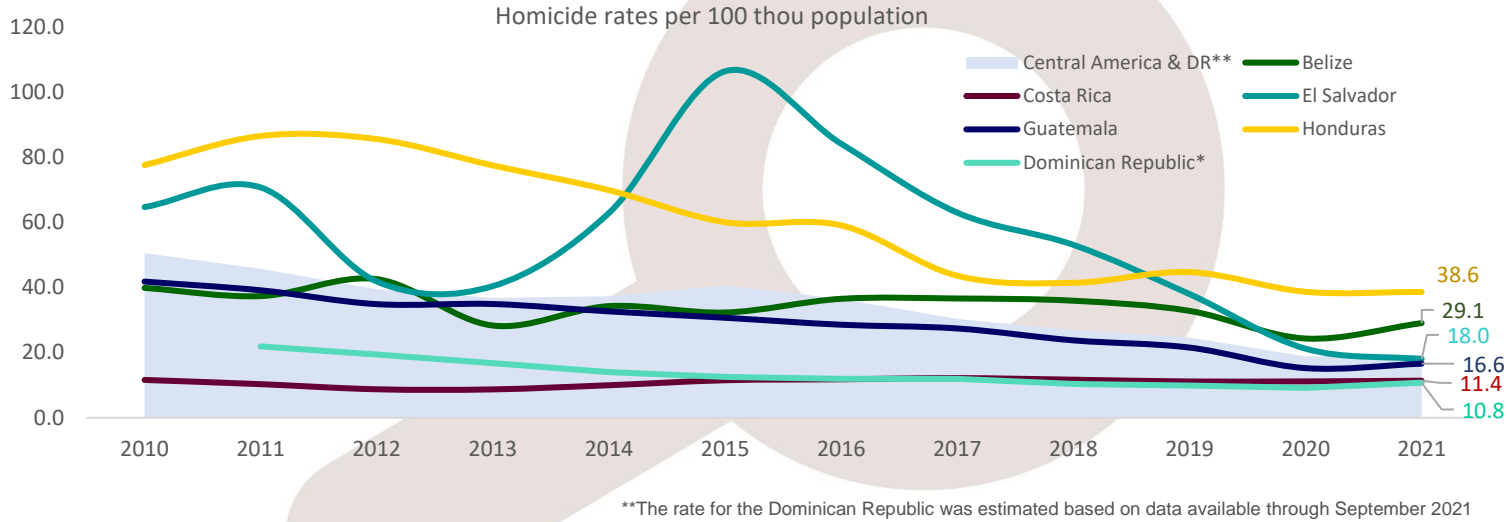
Instances of homicide rose in the countries throughout the region, except for El Salvador with a 15.0% reduction.



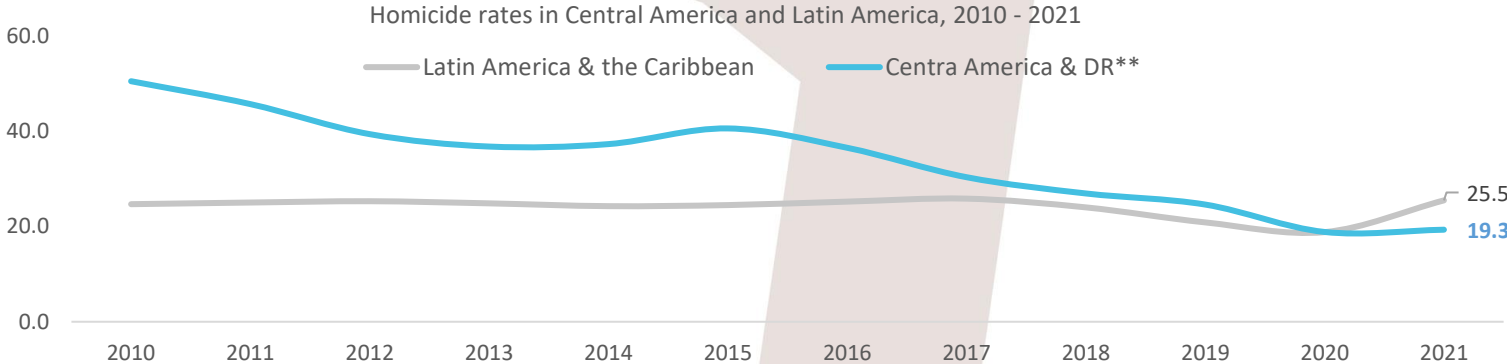
\*Data from the Dominican Republic is for the period from January to September in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

The downward trend in homicides recorded since 2015 stabilized in 2021. The regional rate rose half a point, going from 18.9 to 19.3 homicides per 100 thou population. Except for El Salvador, which recorded a 3.2 point decrease, and Honduras, which maintained a similar rate, all countries had increases in their rates compared to the previous year.

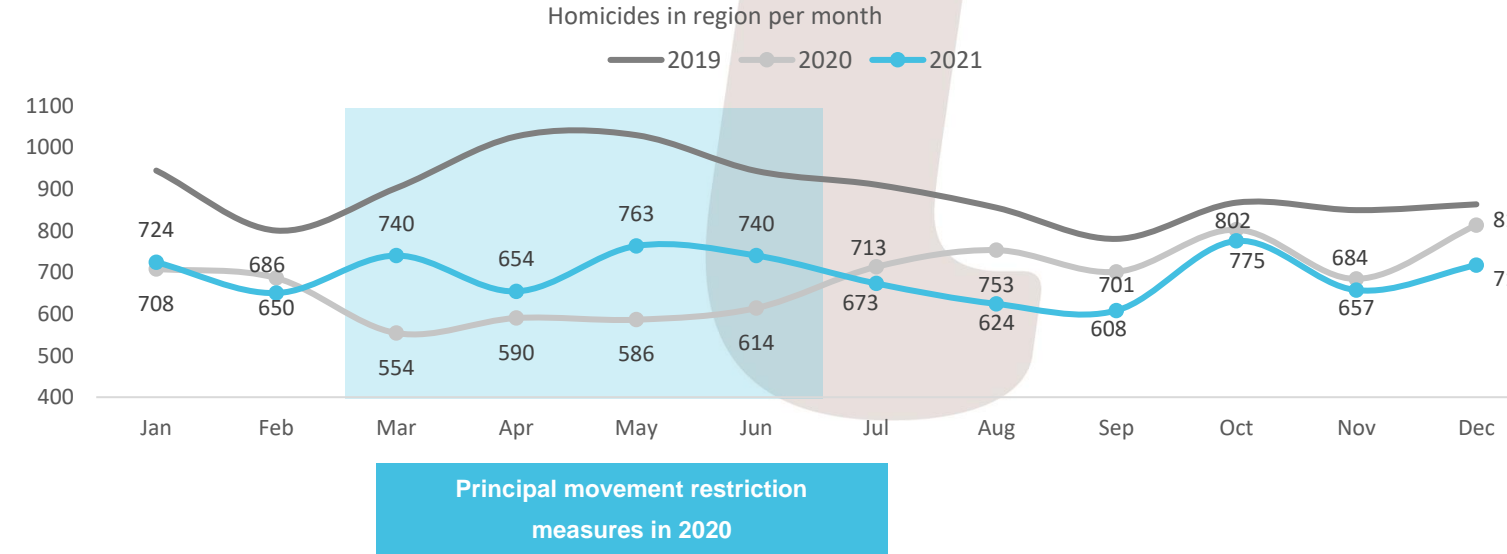
The downward trend in total homicide victims observed since 2015 was affected by a rebound effect following the lifting of restrictions on mobility implemented during 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Despite the 0.5% rise in the number of homicides in Central America and the Dominican Republic in 2021 as compared to 2020 (with 46 more victims), the rate is below that of Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole for the first time.

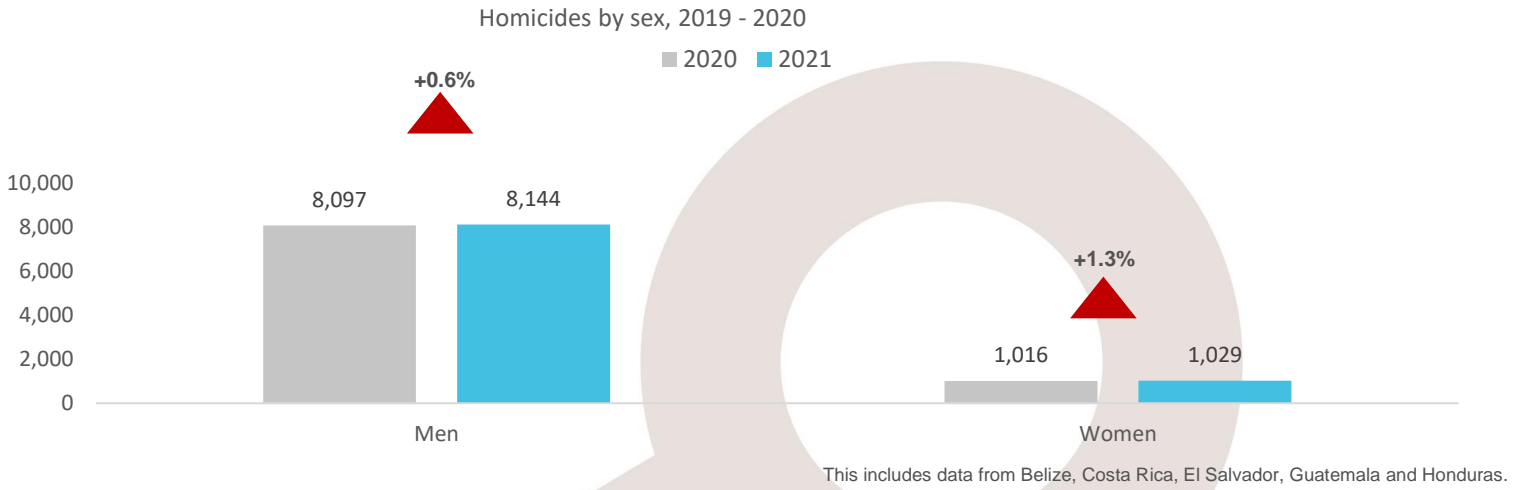


There was an observable rise in the number of victims of homicide between March and June, which were the months that main movement restriction measures were enforced during 2020. During the remaining months, homicidal violence remained below 2019 and 2020 levels, with the exception of January.

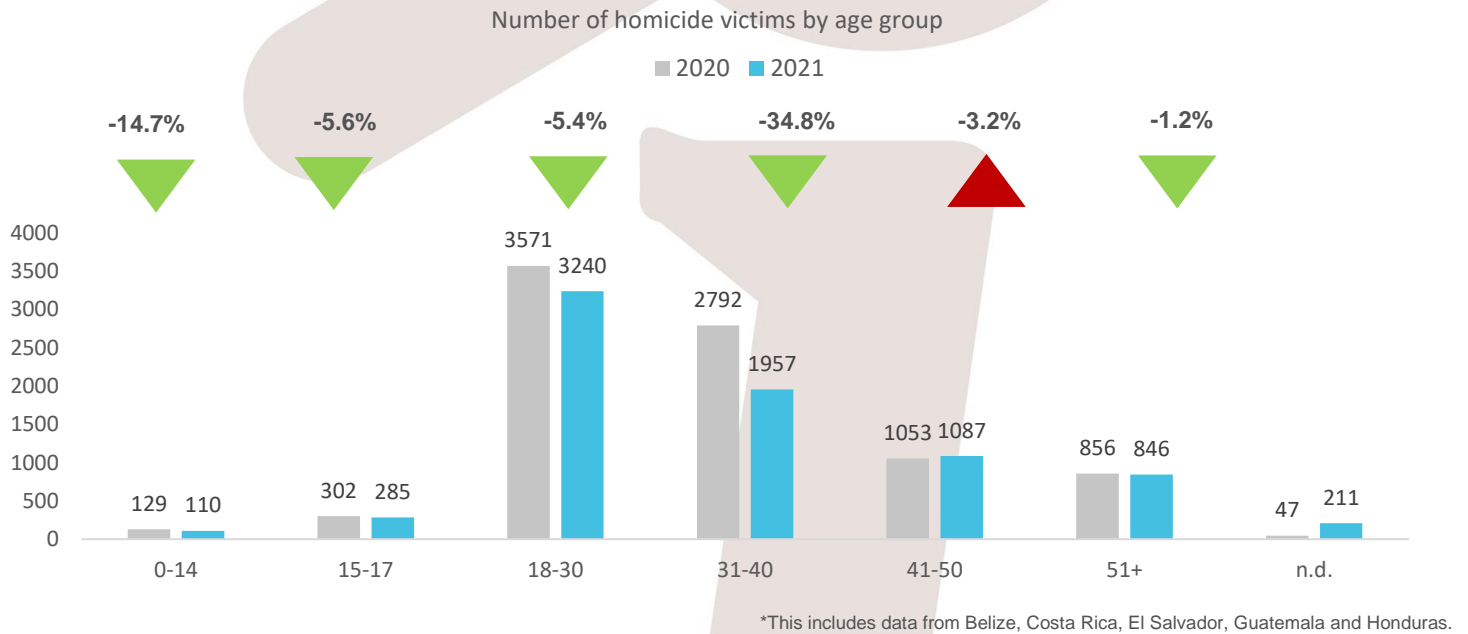


This includes data from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

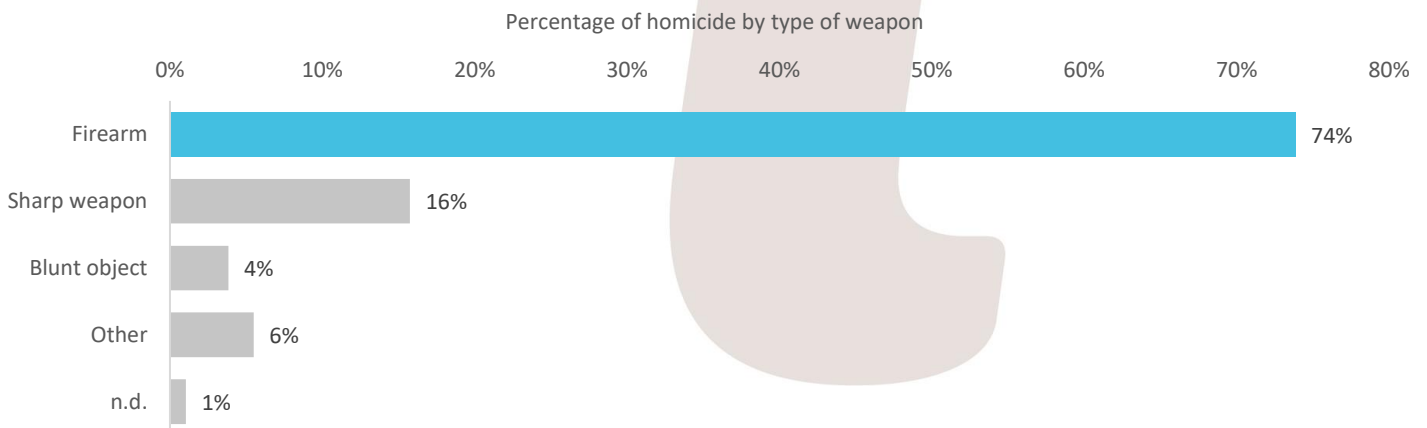
The percentage increase in the total of women victims of homicide was slightly higher than that of men.



The sharpest drop was recorded among those 31 to 40 years old (-972 victims, -34.8%).

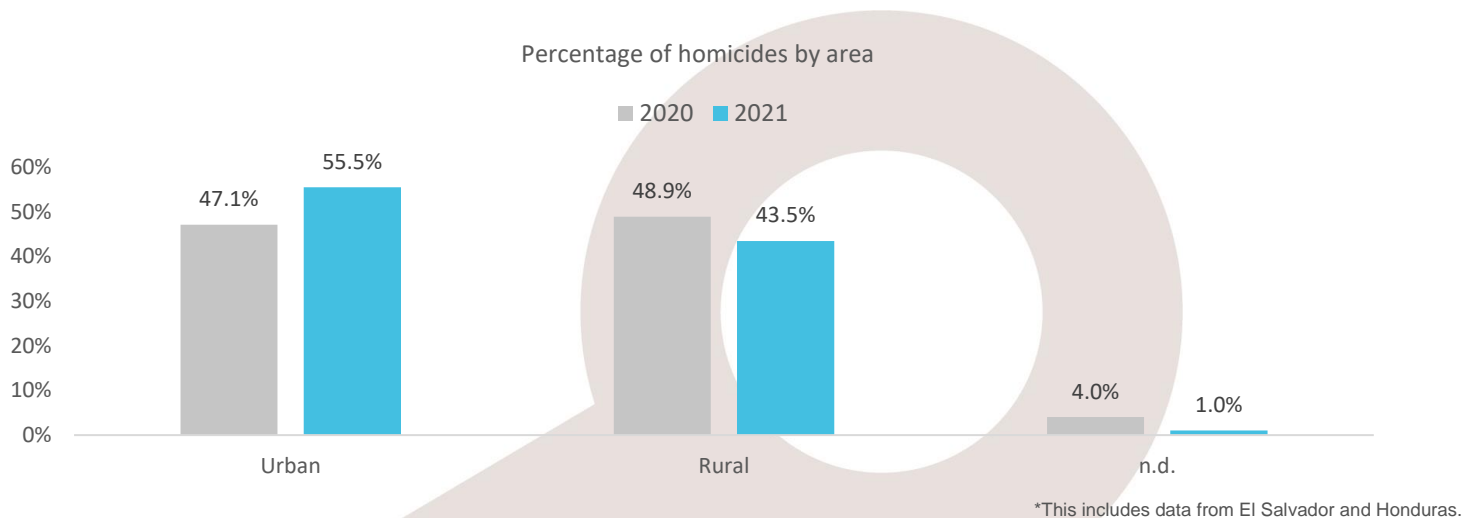


Firearms continue to be involved in the majority of homicides. In 2021, 3 in 4 homicides were committed with a firearm.



\*This includes data from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras.

Homicides in urban areas increased 15.4%, while in rural areas a 13.0% drop was registered. Consequently, the percentage of homicides committed in urban areas rose from 47.1% to 55.5% in 2021.



The decline in the number of homicides has not been consistent across the landscape in 2021.

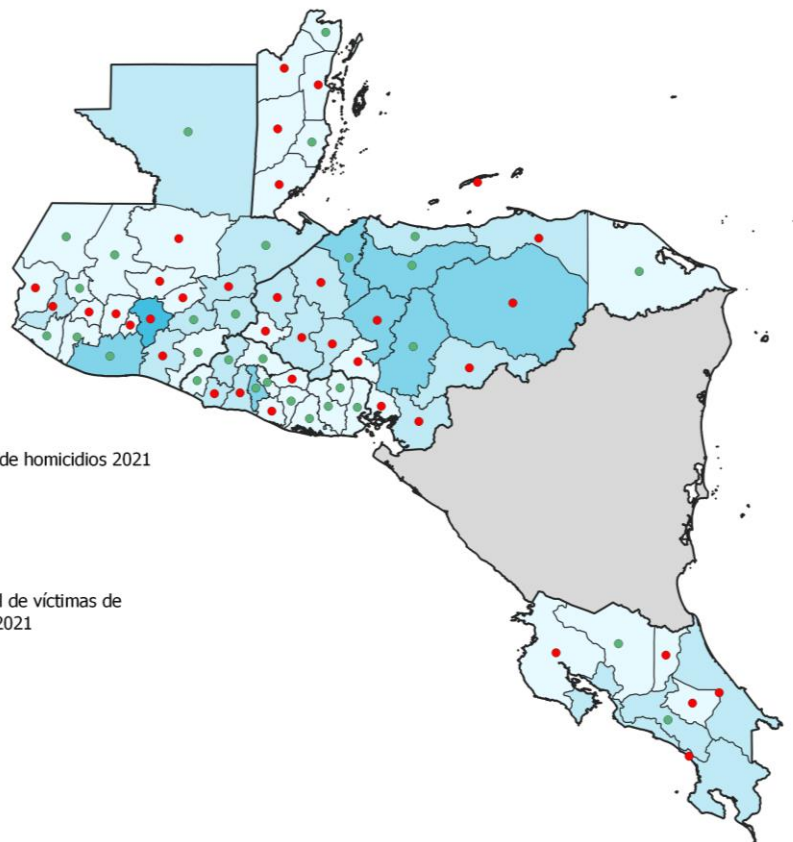
Belize registered increases in 4 of its 6 districts. The increases took place in districts with the highest demographic concentration.

In Guatemala, half of the departments experienced a rise in the total number of homicide victims. The increases concentrated in the country's territories where there is high economic activity, and around border- and trade routes.

In the case of Honduras, 12 of the 18 departments registered increases. These are mainly located on the borders with Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

In El Salvador, 10 of the 14 departments registered reductions. The increases are concentrated in departments on coastal areas and where economic activity is high.

In Costa Rica, five of the seven provinces registered increases in 2021 as compared to 2020. These are located in coastal and border areas.



\*This includes data from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

<sup>i</sup> This includes data from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and the Dominican Republic.

<sup>ii</sup> Rate calculated for 26 countries

- Belize: 12 January 2022.
- Guatemala: 9 January 2022
- El Salvador: January 11, 2022
- Honduras: January 19, 2022
- Costa Rica: January 21, 2022