STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF BELIZE

# KEY FINDINGS REPORT

2022 | POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

BELIZE

# Key Findings Report

Population and Housing Census
Belize, 2022

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# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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|---|---|
| BWS | Belize Water Supply |
| CAPI | Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing |
| GIS | Government Information System |
| IT | Information Technology |
| PWDs | Persons with Disabilities |
| SIB | Statistical Institute of Belize |
| SMAM | Singulate Mean Age at Marriage |

# CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

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| **Annual Rate of Intercensal Population Growth:** | This is the rate of change in census population counts for two consecutive census enumerations, expressed as a percentage based on the assumption that population counts have changed exponentially. |
| **Annual Intercensal Population Growth:** | This is the change in population counts between two consecutive census enumerations relative to the population count of the earlier census, expressed as a percentage. |
| **Childlessness:** | With respect to the lifetime experience of a real cohort of women, this phenomenon is measured as a percentage representing the proportion of women who never had any children. Women aged 45-49 years are almost unlikely to have any additional children, regardless of parity given that they are approaching the end of their childbearing life stage. Thus, women aged 45-49 years at the time of census enumeration constitute a real cohort for the derivation of the proportion of women who never assume motherhood. |
| **Cohort Fertility Rate:** | This is a proxy measure of the mean number of children that have been born alive to a real cohort of women during their lifetime. Women aged 45-49 years are almost unlikely to have any additional children, regardless of parity given that they are approaching the end of their childbearing life stage. Thus, women aged 45-49 years at the time of census enumeration constitute a real cohort for the derivation of the measure. |
| **Crude Birth Rate:** | The number of live births per 1,000 persons in the estimated mid-year population, usually for a calendar year. |
| **Crude Death Rate:** | The number of deaths per 1,000 persons in the estimated mid-year population, usually for a calendar year. |
| **Dependency Ratio:** | For any given population, this refers to the number of persons aged under 15 years and those aged 65 years or older per 100 persons aged 15-64 years. It is a proxy measure of the dependency burden placed on persons assumed to be economically active by persons presumed to be dependent. |
| **Elderly Dependency Ratio:** | For any given population, this refers to the number of persons aged 65 years or older per 100 persons aged 15-64 years. It is a proxy measure of the dependency burden placed on persons assumed to be economically active by persons presumed to be dependent due to being among the elderly population aged 65 years or older. |
| **Lifetime In-Migration Rate:** | In the context of Belize, this is the proportion of the population counted in census 2022 in each of the six districts that were born in each of the remaining five districts, the proportion being expressed as a percentage. |
| **Lifetime Net Migration Rate:** | This is the current impact of in-migration relative to out-migration between any given district and the remaining five districts relative to the population born in the given district, expressed per 1,000 of the latter. |
| **Lifetime Out-Migration Rate:** | In the context of Belize, this is the proportion of the population born in each of the six districts that were enumerated in each of the remaining five districts in census 2022, the proportion being expressed as a percentage. |

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| **Lifetime Turnover Rate:** | This is the sum of all in-migrants and out-migrants between any given district and the remaining five districts relative to the population born in the given district, expressed per 1,000 of the latter. |
| **Natural Increase:** | This is the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths, usually for a calendar year. |
| **Overall In-Migration:** | In the context of Belize, this is the proportion of the population counted in census 2022 in each of the six districts that were born in the remaining five districts, the proportion being expressed as a percentage |
| **Overall Out-Migration:** | This is the proportion of the population born in each of the six districts that were collectively enumerated in the remaining five districts in census 2022, the proportion being expressed as a percentage. |
| **Overcrowded Households:** | This constitutes households in which there are more than three persons per bedroom. It contributes towards the computation of overcrowding rates with respect to the universe of households by expressing households classified as overcrowded as a percentage of all households. |
| **Parity Progression Ratio:** | With respect to the lifetime experience of a real cohort of women, this measure reflects the probability that such a cohort would assume motherhood and continue having higher-order live births. For any given cohort of women, one might be interested in the probability of transiting from being childless to having a first child, that is, assuming motherhood. Additionally, one might be interested in the probability of women transiting to an eighth liveborn child having had seven liveborn children previously. This measure is based on a real cohort targeting women aged 45-49 years at the time of any given census enumeration. |
| **Prevalence Rates:** | For Long-Term Illness and Disability, this refers the number of existing cases reported based on census counts per 1,000 census population. It has also been estimated for specific age groups and sex groups jointly reporting different types of long-term illnesses and disabilities. |
| **Rate of Natural Increase:** | The difference between the crude birth rate and the crude death rate. |
| **Sex Ratio:** | For any population of interest, this refers to the number of males per 100 females. |
| **Singulate Mean Age at Marriage (SMAM):** | This is a proxy measure of average number of years that are lived by male and female populations before experiencing marriage for the first time. It is predicated on the likelihood of commencement of marriage in the 15-19 age group and the likelihood of a first marriage after attaining the age of 50 years being minimal to negligible. Between the ages of 15 years and 50 years, the magnitude of this proxy measure is contingent on age and first marriage trends reflected among male and female populations at the time of a census enumeration. While the cohort fertility rate and the percentage childless are based on a real cohort, SMAM is based on the prospective experience of synthetic cohorts. |
| **Working-Age Population:** | This is defined as the set of persons aged 14 years or older and either in the labour force or not in the labour force. For those in the labour force, they are either employed or unemployed. |
| **Youth Dependency Ratio:** | For any given population, this refers to the number of persons aged under 15 years per 100 persons aged 15-64 years. It is a proxy measure of the dependency burden placed on persons assumed to be economically active by persons presumed to be dependent due to being among youth population aged under 15 years. |

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The Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) extends its sincere appreciation to all individuals, institutions, and partners whose contributions made the successful implementation of the 2022 Population and Housing Census possible.

The Institute expresses its deep gratitude to the Government of Belize for its continued commitment to national development and for recognizing the importance of the Census as a critical tool for evidence-based planning and decision-making. The Government's provision of financial resources for this national exercise reflects its support for strengthening the country's statistical system and ensuring the availability of reliable and timely data.

The SIB also acknowledges the financial and technical assistance provided by Statistics Canada and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which contributed significantly to the quality and execution of the Census. The Institute further recognizes the financial contributions of the Social Security Board, the Central Bank of Belize, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which were instrumental in supporting this undertaking.

The SIB extends its appreciation to its Board of Directors, National Census Advisory Committee and management team for their guidance and oversight throughout the various phases of the Census.

Sincere thanks are also extended to the CARICOM Secretariat for its technical support, to the International Labour Organization (ILO) for its assistance in the design of the Economic Activity Module of the Census questionnaire, and to the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) for its support in the development of the module on multidimensional poverty, which strengthened the quality and relevance of the data collected.

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The SIB also recognizes the dedication, professionalism, and tireless efforts of its staff, whose commitment was central to the successful planning, coordination, and execution of the Census at every stage of the process. From the initial design and preparatory activities to field operations, data processing, and dissemination, their contributions ensured the delivery of a high-quality national statistical exercise. Special acknowledgement is also given to the temporary field and office staff who worked diligently across the country, often under challenging conditions, to support all aspects of data collection and processing.

Finally, the Institute extends its appreciation to the people of Belize for their cooperation and participation. Their willingness to take part in the Census is the foundation of the data produced and will contribute to the development of policies and programmes aimed at improving the well-being of all Belizeans.

# SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

## 1. BELIZE 2022 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS – AN OVERVIEW

### Administering the 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census

A Population and Housing Census is an exercise that permits the enumeration of human populations and households in spatial domains such as enumeration districts (Eds), communities, larger geographic regions, and nation states, including those that are non-independent. It constitutes a valid count of population sizes, household units, housing stock, and their characteristics. It is associated with important gains such as the determination of population size and composition, revision of the national sampling frame for conducting national and sub-national sample surveys, evaluation of the validity of mid-year estimates of population size, application of techniques to project population size and related characteristics of populations, estimation of social and demographic events using indirect techniques, and establishment of a platform towards a population register. In Belize, the Population and Housing Census is undertaken decennially.

Data collection for the 2020 Round of Census began on May 13th, 2022, and ending on January 31st, 2023, in Belize. Census night was the period of twelve hours commencing at 6 o'clock in the afternoon of the 12th May and ending 6 o'clock in the forenoon of 13th May 2022 and the census traversed nine (9) regions in Belize. The nine (9) regions included Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize North, Belize South, San Pedro, Cayo, Belmopan, Stann Creek, and Toledo. The 2022 Population and Housing Census for Belize targeted data on households and individuals in Belize. While the 2010 Round of the Belize Population and Housing Census resulted in the enumeration of 322.424 individuals within households, the corresponding population size based on the 2022 Round was 397,483.

Data were collected using CAPI. Such collection was expedited using Survey Solutions and SIB Collect. Survey Solutions permitted data collection that targeted household and individual characteristics within dwelling units. Electronic data capture and cleaning encompassed three phases - pre-processing, field-manual processing, and post-processing, the three of which were pursued meticulously by the SIB in the conduct of the 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census. The SIB encountered numerous methodological challenges including various threats associated with unavoidable systematic errors, census population size estimation, and editing challenges pertaining to household data. Nonetheless, census evaluation and analytical processes were sufficiently resilient and reinforced appropriate remedies such as techniques that permitted non-response adjustment through the assignment of weights. Preserving the soundness and quality of the census data was a critical criterion driving the SIB Team in the quest to overcome inherent challenges.

## 2. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE BELIZEAN POPULATION

### Census Population Sizes and Growth

In the immediate post-emancipation era, the first census count for Belize (formerly British Honduras) and several of the other Anglophone Caribbean countries was in 1861. In 1861, the entire population of Belize stood at 25,635, being less than the population size of Belize City. From 1861, the population size of Belize doubled at some time during the 1930s or 1940s, a period of almost 80 years. The population size doubled for the second time during the 1960s, a period of 20 to 30 years with a similar period of approximately 30 years elapsing before the population size of Belize would double for the third time during the 1990s. At the end of the first twenty years of the 21st century, the official population size for Belize based the 2022 Population and Housing Census was trending towards 400,000 persons.

An examination of intercensal changes in the population sizes of Belize and its six districts between 2010 and 2022 reveals that the population of Belize had grown by an amount equivalent to 75,060 persons, or relatively speaking 23.3% with an annual rate of intercensal

growth that was just under 2% per annum. The largest share of such intercensal growth was evident in the two most populated administrative districts, Belize District and Cayo District with respective growth in population size amounting to 18,344 and 24,071 respectively. Every district has experienced a gain in its population size across the intercensal period between 2010 and 2022. On examining the population of Belize across the six municipal districts, it appears to be fairly well dispersed across the six districts with virtually no major departures in such dispersion as it relates to the censuses of 2010 and 2022.

## Sex Composition

The sex composition of Belize has been characterised by a predominance of persons classified as male over those classified as female for most of the period since gaining Independence in 1981. Based on the 2010 Population and Housing Census, Belize's national population tended towards being balanced between the sexes and by 2022, persons classified as female had outnumbered those classified as male. Commencing in 2010 based on census observations, and intensifying in 2022, there has been an erosion of the male advantage for persons aged 20-24 years and evident for all five-year age groups until 50-54 years. This could be a function of sex differentials in mortality with females having more favourable outcomes when compared to their male counterparts, and international migration favouring female populations.

## Age Structure and Age Dynamics

For 2010 and 2022, the age of the population of Belize exhibited evidence of a young population despite reflecting characteristics indicating that both populations were ageing. During the 2010-2022 intercensal period, population growth was consistent with fertility and mortality transitions that rendered Belize at risk of experiencing an intensification population aging with the passage of time, a process that evolved similarly for male and female populations.

Between the censuses of 2010 and 2022, the median age of the population increased from 21 years in 2010 to 25 years in 2022. Moreover, there were increases in the median ages of the populations in each of the six districts during the intercensal period with districts such as Corozal, Cayo, and Toledo exhibiting the greatest manifestation of the aging process that had occurred in Belize between the censuses of 2010 and 2022. Based on the 2022 Census, Toledo and Stann Creek had younger populations, on average, when compared to the remaining four districts.

Based on the 2022 Census, the age structure of the population of Belize was consistent with a reduced overall burden of dependence on the working-age population when compared to the 2010 Census. The more favourable nature of the overall dependency burden in 2022 was principally a function of the more favourable youthful dependency that prevailed in 2022, resulting in the prospect that more favourable opportunities may arise for improving the quality of education, training, and other services targeting children under 15 years.

In contrast, the elderly dependency burden increased during the intercensal period signalling an intensification of challenges that Belizean authorities may encounter in their efforts to address health care and pension needs for a rapidly growing elderly population. In Belize, the pattern of population aging will likely have increasingly sinister implications if the overall dependency rates change and reflect an increased burden on working-age populations in tandem with persistent increases in the elderly dependency burden.

In sustaining the well-being and vitality of the Belizean social and economic landscape, current and immediate public investment should seek to build human capital and diversify the economy to assure potential gains that yield demographic dividends. Concomitant with growing elderly dependency, attention will also have to be placed on favouring adjustments that render solvency between pension contributions and pensionable benefits with the passage of time.

## Trend in Annual Natural Increase 2010-2022

Between 2010 and 2018, the annual number of live births fluctuated assuming counts ranging between 7,000 and 8,000 per calendar year, peaking at 7,723 in 2018. However, annual and consistent declines were evident with respect to the number of live births between 2019 and 2021, followed by an increase in 2022. In Belize, total fertility rates have been on the decline and can account for the eventual decline in annual live births as a preliminary manifestation of declining female fertility in Belize. Natural increase fluctuated between 2010 and 2022, exhibiting a similar annual pattern when compared with annual live births though declining natural increase especially after 2019 was likely to be associated with somewhat elevated annual counts of death in 2020, 2021 and even 2022 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

## Trend in Annual Live Births 2010-2022

On an annual basis during 2010-2022, the annual occurrences of live births in Belize were at best sporadic and best characterised by a weak linear trajectory indicating a decline of approximately 20 live births on average, from one year to the next. For Belize, this sheds light on the prospect of declines in annual live births during the mid-to-late 2020s and beyond.

### Trends in Annual Deaths 2010-2022

With respect to annual deaths between 2010 and 2022, the trend in Belize follows a linear upward trajectory reflecting an increase of approximately 69 deaths on average, from one year to the next. However, the annual number of deaths would have increases by a smaller margin on average, had it not been for COVID-related deaths in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

## 3. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE BELIZEAN POPULATION

### Ethnic Composition

Based on the 2022 Population and Housing Census, persons classified as Mestizo, Hispanic, and Latino constituted the largest ethnic category accounting for slightly more than half of the national population of Belize while persons classified as Creole accounted for another 25%. Persons classified as Maya, Garifuna, and Mennonite accounted for respective proportions of 11%, 4%, and 4% of the national population while persons classified as East Indian, Chinese, Caucasian/White among other minority groups comprised the remaining 5% of the national population. During the intercensal period 2010-2022, the relative share for each of the two largest ethnic sub-populations increased though it did not change for the Maya population and decreased for each of the other sub-population groups including the Garifuna.

As far back as the 1980 Population and Housing Census, there has been a growing feminisation of the Belizean population. Based on the 2022 Population and Housing Census, the sex ratio was 97 males per 100 females. Such sex ratios prevailed for the most populous ethnic categories. However, numerically small ethnic sub-populations including the Mennonites continue to be characterised by an excess of males over females, while sex ratios in districts such as Belize and Cayo closely approximate corresponding sex ratios of the national population. For the remaining districts, especially Stann Creek and Toledo, a male preponderance persists within many of the ethnic categories.

Mestizo, Hispanic, or Latino constituted the majority of the population in each of the districts except Belize and Toledo. Mestizo, Hispanic, and Latino are overwhelmingly located in Corozal, Orange Walk, and Cayo, with a smaller majority in Stann Creek. More than a half of the population of Belize District (57%) was classified as Creole while 64.7% of the population of Toledo were classified as Mayan. Orange Walk and Corozal had notably higher proportions of their populations classified as Mennonite when compared to the other four districts (10.8% and 8.8% respectively). Stann Creek had 17.7% of its population classified as Garifuna, this being higher than the corresponding percentage in the other five districts. Stann Creek had the most ethnically diverse population when compared to the other five districts.

According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, the population of Belize is reasonably well-represented across the six administrative districts with a relatively higher index of diversity equivalent to 0.80 when compared to the magnitude for the corresponding index for each ethnic category. In contrast, almost 65% of the Creole population were reported as residents of Belize District; 70% among Maya Ketchi were reported as residents of Toledo District; almost 54% among Garifuna were reported as residents of Stann Creek, more than three-quarters (76.9%) among Maya Yucatec were reported as residents of Cayo; and approximately 80% among Maya Mopan were reported as residents of the southern districts of Stann Creek and Toledo. These contrasting patterns reflect greater ethnic segregation that points to enclave areas that have been the home-base for specific ethnic populations in Belize.

### Religious Affiliation

According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, the population of Belize was classified according to twelve categories including “other” and “don’t know/ not stated” representing religious affiliation. Persons classified as either Roman Catholic or with no religious affiliation accounted for the vast majority of the national population (31.8% and 31.0% respectively). Persons classified as Pentecostal accounted for approximately 9% of the national population while each of the other religious groups accounted for less than 5% of the national population. This pattern of variability was observed regardless of individuals’ sex though relatively greater numbers among males were observed to have had no religious affiliation.

Compared to the 2010 Population and Housing Census, the relative sizes of the most dominant forms of religious affiliation based on the 2022 Population and Housing Census have exhibited variable changes. Notable increases have been observed among persons claiming to have had no religious affiliation with the percentage virtually doubling during the intercensal period from 15.5% to 31.0%. A more modest increase was observed among Pentecostals from 8.4% to 9.2%. Otherwise, notable declines have been observed among Roman Catholics, from 40.1% to 31.8%. More modest declines had occurred among Anglicans, Seventh Day Adventists, and persons affiliated with other religious groups.

Regardless of administrative district, having no religious affiliation and affiliation to Roman Catholicism persisted as the most dominant forms of religious affiliation in Belize. In the districts of Cayo and Stann Creek, the

percentage of the respective sub-populations classified as having no religious affiliations was substantially greater than the percentage classified as Roman Catholic, the respective percentages being 34.7% versus 27.2% in the case of the Cayo District, and 46.6% versus 26.1% in the case of the Stann Creek District. Although all of the religious groups appear to have representation in each of the six administrative districts in Belize, there appears to be some degree of segregation in religious enclaves in specific districts. This has been observed in the Corozal District for Seventh Day Adventists, in the Cayo District for Pentecostals, in the Belize District for Anglicans and Methodists, in the Toledo District for Nazarenes and Baptists, and in the Orange Walk District for Mennonites.

## Language Characteristics

Belize is a multi-lingual society where several languages are spoken among persons 4 years or older. Creole, English, Spanish, German, Garifuna, Chinese, Hindi, and a variety of Mayan languages are spoken in Belize. There is likely to be an association between individuals' ethnic group and their capacity to speak languages other than English, Spanish, and Creole. Based on the 2022 Population and Housing Census, English, Spanish, and Creole are the three dominant languages spoken by persons aged 4 years or older and are readily spoken across most administrative districts. Though less dominant and spoken by ethnic minority groups, Hindi, Chinese, and German are also spoken readily across most of the administrative districts. During the intercensal period between 2010 and 2022, there was noteworthy growth in the percentage of persons who spoke English, the percentage increasing from 62.9% to 75.5%. A smaller increase was also observed in the case of persons who spoke Creole.

Based on the 2022 Population and Housing Census, there were 368,924 persons aged 4 years or older in Belize speaking languages such as English (75.5%), Spanish (54.0%), and Creole (49.0%). Much smaller percentages spoke Maya Ketchi (6.3%), Maya Mopan (3.9%), German (3.1%), and Garifuna (2.0%). Despite the dominance of English as a language spoken in all of the six districts, the dominance of other languages was evident in specific districts - Maya Ketchi (47.0%) in Toledo, Creole (43.9%) in Stann Creek, Spanish (82.5% and 83.6% respectively) in Corozal and Orange Walk, the two Mayan languages (24.1% and 62.4% respectively) in Stann Creek and Toledo, and German (8.2%, 6.7%, and 3.1% respectively) in Corozal, Orange Walk, and Cayo.

## Educational Attainment

For the purposes of the 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census, the highest level of educational attainment equates to the highest level of education completed. For Belize as a whole and in each of the six administrative districts, overwhelmingly large percentages of the population attained education no higher than primary level. In Belize and Cayo Districts, the respective percentages were 54.3% and 69.4%. In each of the other districts, corresponding percentages were at least 70.0%. With respect to the attainment of secondary and tertiary level education, the highest percentages were observed among the population in Belize District when compared to the other five districts. Regardless of age group, the majority of persons attained primary level education as their highest level. Moreover, persons in successively older age cohorts were less likely to have attained secondary education as their highest level. For the age cohorts 30-44 years, 45-64 years, and 65+ years, consisting of persons deemed highly likely to have attained their highest level of educational attainment, persons in successively older cohorts were less likely to have attained tertiary education as their highest level.

With the exception of persons categorised as Chinese, Indian, Caucasian/White or Other, evidence from the 2022 Census indicates that overwhelming proportions of persons categorised in the remaining ethnic categories attained education no higher than primary level. Persons attaining tertiary level education constituted the largest proportions among the following ethnic categories – Other (41.5%), Caucasian/White (46.7%), and Chinese (36.9%).

## Working-Age and Employed Persons

Based on the 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census, the working-age population consisted of 287,811 persons of which 139,940 were male and 147,871 were female. Moreover, a little more than a half of the working-age population (53.3%) were employed with a substantially higher percentage among males of working age when compared to their female counterparts (70.1% versus 37.4%). Regardless of age group, working-age males were more likely to be employed when compared to their female counterparts. For persons of working-age, the percentage employed peaked among those aged 35-44 years amounting to 70.8% for both sexes, 91.5% for males, and 52.0% for females.

Almost half of all employed persons were classified as being employed as service and sales workers (27.2%) or as elementary workers engaged in unskilled activities (21.9%). Some 19.2% of employed persons worked as managers, professionals, technicians, and associate professionals while 10.5% worked as craft and related trades workers. Male employees were most likely to be engaged in the following occupational activities – elementary occupations (26.3%), service and sales workers (19.9%), managers, professionals, technicians, and associated professionals (15.7%), and craft and

related trades workers (14.1%); the four occupational groups accounting for the employment of 76.0% of all male employees. In contrast, female employees were most likely to be engaged in the following occupational activities – service and sales workers (40.2%), managers, professionals, technicians, and associated professionals (25.5%), elementary occupations (14.1%), and clerical support workers (12.8%); the four occupational groups accounting for the employment of 92.4% of all female employees.

Approximately 45% of employed persons worked in the following industries – wholesale and retail trades, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (14.9%); accommodation and food service activities (10.1%); administrative and support service activities (9.3%); public administration and defence, compulsory social security (7.0%); and education (5.2%). Except for the education sector, the remaining sectors constituted main domains that engaged the services of at least 36.0% of employed males. For females, almost 60.0% of those who were employed were engaged in the abovementioned industries.

Almost 60.0% of all employed persons worked in the private sector, this being the case for both male and female workers. The public sector employed 12.5% of all employed persons. A greater percentage from among female workers were employed in the public sector when compared to their male counterparts (15.6% as opposed to 10.8%). Almost a quarter of all employed persons were self-employed with a larger share not having any hired help/employees (17.3% as opposed to 7.2%). A similar pattern was observed regardless of individuals' sex group.

## Country of Birth

At the time of the 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras were the countries of birth for approximately three quarters of the foreign-born population in Belize with Guatemala accounting for more than a half of such persons. Smaller but noteworthy proportions of the foreign-born population stock were born in the United States, Mexico, and a collection of countries classified as Rest of World. Since 1980, the size of the foreign-born population of Belize increased across every intercensal period despite evidence that it had declined by 2022. In 1980, there were 12,940 foreign-born persons in Belize, almost doubling to 25,745 in 1991; 36,642 in 2000; 49,819 in 2010 before evidence of a decline to 45,644 persons in 2022.

Based on the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize, there were increases in the share of the population that consisted of foreign-born persons for successive censuses between 1980 and 2010 before declining to 11.5% in 2022 from 15.5% in 2010. During 2000-2010, noteworthy growth was evident for foreign-born populations from all countries especially in the cases of Nicaragua, Canada, United States, China, and the Rest of the World, though each had relatively smaller sub-populations among the foreign-born population stock of Belize.

Among Belize's foreign-born population, the percentage aged under 15 years was 11.9% in 2010 and declined by more than 4 percentage points to 7.8% in 2022. In contrast, the percentage 65 years or older increased by almost 6 percentage points from 6.2% in 2010 to 12% in 2022. At least four-fifths of the enumerated foreign-born population were aged 15-64 years and belonged to prime working-age population groups. For each of four neighbouring Central American countries, namely, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, a similar age composition was characteristic of the respective populations. The respective shares aged under 15 years were characterised by similar intercensal declines between 2010 and 2022 in each of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In contrast, the respective shares aged 65 years or older increased, having either doubled or almost doubled over the intercensal period. For foreigners born in the remaining countries, intercensal increases in the relative share aged 65+ years were generally evident. However, there were some obvious differences in intercensal changes in the relative sizes of the populations aged under 15 years dependent on country of birth. For persons born in Mexico, China, and Canada, there were increases in the relative sizes of the respective foreign-born populations aged under 15 years.

## Health Status

Hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and arthritis rheumatism were the four main medical illnesses afflicting the population with potential negative impacts on its wellbeing. The respective prevalence rates were 55.4 per 1,000 population, 37.4 per 1,000 population, 21.9 per 1,000 population, and 17.7 per 1,000 population. In gauging the impact that age has been having on the prevalence of different long-term illnesses within the contemporary Belizean population, the population is disaggregated according to five age groups – under 15 years, 15-29 years, 30-44 years, 45-59 years, and 60 years or older.

There were striking differences in the prevalence rates associated with the leading long-term illnesses dependent on age group. Among the population under 15 years, the impact of conditions such as autism, sickle cell and down syndrome stood out as being the most prevalent. Asthma prevailed among the top five illnesses in each of the age groups being ranked higher among the most prevalent illnesses in younger

age groups when compared to older age groups. Among populations in each of the five age groups, the prevalence rate for asthma was highest in the youngest and oldest populations being 25 per 1,000 population in the under 15 age group and 24.4 per 1,000 population in the 60+ age group. For the age groups 15-29 years, 30-44 years, and 45-59 years; asthma, hypertension, diabetes, arthritis rheumatism, and kidney disease were the top five long-term illnesses plaguing the respective populations, despite changes in the ranking of the prevalence rates across the three populations. Hypertension and diabetes stood out as being ranked highest within the 30-44, 45-59, and 60+ age groups. For these three age groups, arthritis rheumatism trailed hypertension and diabetes. Heart disease assumed significance as a dominant long-term illness among persons in the 60+ age group.

### Disability Status

Based on the 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census, approximately one-tenth of the population of Belize constituted persons with disabilities (PWDs) or 101.1 PWDs per 1,000 population. Difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses was the most common form of impairment in the Belizean population accounting for 59.3 PWDs per 1,000 population. Mobility issues resulting from difficulty walking or climbing stairs were also common, being characterised by a prevalence rate of 41.4 PWDs per 1,000 population. Though less commonplace, difficulty remembering or concentrating (26.6 PWDs per 1,000 population), and difficulty hearing even if using a hearing aid (21.3 PWDs per 1,000 population) were outcomes associated with impairments. It was observed that the prevalence rates for disability were positively associated with the selected age groups.

Compared to prevalence rates for persons aged 30-44 years or 45-59 years, corresponding rates had more than doubled for persons in successive age groups. Difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses stood out as the most prevalent form of disability among persons in each of the age groups except the under 15 age group, reinforcing the relatively higher prevalence of vision impairment when compared to other forms of impairment that present themselves in the Belizean population. For persons aged 30-44 years, 45-59 years, and 60+ years, difficulty walking or climbing stairs, though not as prevalent as disability due to vision impairment, may have been due to population aging and the greater prevalence of long-term illness in the form of arthritis rheumatism observed among such older populations. With respect to difficulty remembering or concentrating, prevalence rates ranked higher than other forms of disability among younger persons under 15 years and those aged 15-29 years.

## 4. SPATIAL CHARACTERISTICS AND HUMAN POPULATION MOBILITY

### Population Density and Spatial Concentration

The land area of Belize spans 22,964 square kilometres with four (4) of its six (6) districts accounting for either just above or just below one-fifth of the land area. This is the case for Orange Walk, Belize District, Cayo, and Toledo. The remaining two (2) districts, Corozal and Stann Creek together constitute a proportion close to being another one-fifth of the national land area.

The Belize and Cayo Districts are two neighbouring districts in the centre of Belize accounting for approximately 42% of the national land area and 53% of the national population, this being evident in 2010 and 2022. Stann Creek and Corozal are the two smallest districts accounting respectively for 9.5% and 8.1% of the national land area. However, their respective percentages of the national population changed from 10.6% to 12.1% and 12.7% to 11.4% between 2010 and 2022. Contrastingly, Orange Walk and Toledo span land areas that are similar to those of Belize and Cayo Districts but constitute substantially smaller percentages of the national population. Between the 2010 and 2022 Population and Housing Census counts for Belize, the relative sizes of the resident populations in Orange Walk and Toledo changed from 14.2% to 13.6% and from 9.5% to 9.3% respectively.

These intercensal dynamics increased the population density of Belize from 14 persons per square kilometre to 17.3 persons per square kilometre during the intercensal period. With respect to the Gini Index of Concentration, the slightly lower Gini Index of Concentration in 2022 compared to 2010 indicates a slightly more equitable spatial concentration of the national population in 2022 compared to 2010; a result due to positive intercensal population growth that was evident in every administrative district especially in Stann Creek, one of the smallest districts.

### Intercensal Population Redistribution: Period 2010-2022

Variable intercensal growth rates for the six districts of Belize resulted in changes in a spatial redistribution of the national population across the six administrative districts based on census counts from the 2010 and 2022 Population and Housing Censuses. Intercensal population redistribution is gauged in accordance with the index of population redistribution, a measure of the extent to which the relative distribution of a national population across administrative districts based on a current census is congruent with the corresponding relative distribution that had emerged on the basis of the preceding census. Altogether, the magnitude of the index suggests that population redistribution is minimal.

## Urban-Rural Population Dynamics

In each of the six (6) administrative districts, spatial areas are classified according to urban and rural criteria by the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB). Based on the Population and Housing Censuses of 2010 and 2022, the size of the urban population exceeded the size of the rural population in Belize and Cayo Districts. Based on the 2022 Census however, this urban majority was observed only in Belize District as there was a slight rural majority in Cayo District. Despite positive intercensal population growth in Belize and in each of the administrative districts, the largest relative increases in population size were in Stann Creek (35.0%) and Cayo (32.1%). In fact, much of the intercensal population growth has been triggered by corresponding intercensal growth among rural populations between the censuses of 2010 and 2022.

Except in Corozal District where the urban population declined by 4.6% during the intercensal period, each of the remaining five administrative districts had notably lower rates of intercensal growth in urban areas when compared to the rural areas. The urban-rural differences were especially marked in Orange Walk, Stann Creek, Toledo, and Corozal, having the effect of intensifying the rural concentration relative to the urban concentration of the population in these districts in 2022.

Belize is predominantly a rural nation given the low proportions of the national population living in urban areas. This was also the case in five of the six administrative districts, regardless of census year. For Belize, this was supported by the fact that the proportion of its population living in urban areas was 45.2% based on the 2010 Census and declined marginally to 42.2% based on the 2022 Census. Similar trends were evident for each of the six administrative divisions implying that the rural concentration of the national population and the population in each of the districts had intensified between 2010 and 2022.

## Lifetime Out-Migration

Lifetime out-migration rates are computed per 100 population born in each of the six administrative districts in Belize. According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize, the vast majority of the population born in each of the six administrative districts had been enumerated in the same administrative district either because they were non-migrants or had migrated and returned to their district of birth at the time of enumeration. This was the case for approximately 90% of the population born in Cayo and Belize Districts, between 80% and 90% among those born in Orange Walk and Corozal Districts, and between 75% and 80% among those born in Stann Creek and Toledo. Out-migration rates between administrative districts measure out-migration from a reference district to each of the other districts relative to the population that was born in the reference district. Out-migration between administrative districts did not exceed 10%, and in more than 80% of the cases, had not exceeded 5%. Out-migration from Stann Creek to Toledo, Toledo to Cayo, Corozal to Belize, and Toledo to Stann Creek had been characterised by the highest rates despite being relatively low. Overall lifetime out-migration was greatest in Toledo and Stann Creek. Specifically, approximately 22% of the enumerated population in the remaining five administrative districts were born in Stann Creek District while approximately 20% was the corresponding percentage for Toledo District. For Corozal District, Orange Walk District, Belize District, and Cayo District, the corresponding percentages were approximately 16%, 14%, 10% and 9%.

## Lifetime In-Migration

Lifetime in-migration rates represent the percentage of the population enumerated in each of the six administrative districts in Belize at the time of the 2022 Population and Housing Census but born in one of the other five districts. For each of the six administrative districts, the vast majority of the population had been born in the same district where they were enumerated for the 2022 Census. In each of the six administrative districts, it is understood that the population born in the same administrative district where they had been enumerated were either non-migrants or had migrated and returned to their district of birth at the time of enumeration. This was the case for approximately 90% of the population enumerated in Orange Walk District, and at least 80% in each of the remaining districts. In-migration rates between administrative districts measure in-migration into a reference district from each of the other districts relative to the enumerated population of the reference district as at the 2022 Population and Housing Census. Such lifetime in-migration rates had not exceeded 13%, and in more than 80% of the cases, had not exceeded 5%. In-migration from Stann Creek to Toledo, Orange Walk to Corozal, Toledo to Stann Creek, and Belize to Cayo had been characterised by the highest rates despite being relatively low.

For Belize as a whole, overall lifetime in-migration refers to the stream of migrants entering collectively from all districts, and this was greatest in Toledo District (approximately 20%), followed by Stann Creek and Cayo Districts, both of which exhibited similar magnitudes (approximately 15%). For the remaining three administrative districts, each of Belize and Corozal Districts exhibited overall in-migration rates of approximately 14% while Orange Walk District exhibited an overall in-migration rate that approximated 8%.

## Lifetime Internal Migration Events

Lifetime internal migration events focus on net in-migration and internal migration turnover. Each event is measured relative to the enumerated population in each administrative district based on the 2022 census. Both rates reflect magnitudes per 1,000 enumerated population in each administrative district. Net in-migration rates constitute measurements of the impact on population size in each of the administrative districts due to lifetime net in-migration of persons born in the other five districts. In contrast, internal migration turnover rates constitute measurements of the complete set of internal migratory events that have impacted population sizes within each of the six administrative districts. Both measures summarise variability in lifetime internal migratory events contingent upon variation in population sizes for each district.

Accordingly, lifetime net in-migration is positive for Cayo and Belize Districts, and negative for Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, and Toledo Districts. It can be surmised that lifetime in-migration had a positive impact on population change in Belize District (34.4 per 1,000 population) and Cayo District (60.9 per 1,000 population). Contrastingly, lifetime net in-migration had a negative impact on population change in the other four districts, exhibiting the greatest negative impact in Orange Walk District (93.4 per 1,000 population) when compared to Corozal District (7.6 per 1,000 population), Toledo District (32.3 per 1,000 population), and Stann Creek District (61 per 1,000 population).

Lifetime turnover is substantially greater in Toledo District (425.3 per 1,000 population) and Stann Creek District (361.8 per1,000) relative to corresponding magnitudes for each of the other four districts. Though lifetime turnover is greater in Corozal District (278 per 1,000 population), there does not appear to be much variability between the lifetime turnover rates of the remaining districts such as Orange Walk District (257.6 per 1,000 population), Belize District (228.6 per 1,000 population), and Cayo District (234.7 per 1,000 population). The greater extent of lifetime turnover in Toledo and Stann Creek should not be surprising as populations from these two districts have embraced overwhelming reciprocity that has resulted in movement between the two districts exhibiting the highest rates of lifetime in-migration and out-migration.

## Return Migration Patterns

For the 2022 Population and Housing Census, approximately 11% of the national population of Belize were classified as return migrants, having returned to Belize after living abroad for a period of at least one year. Specific reference is made to such persons who were enumerated in the census regardless of their date of return to Belize.

# 5. MARITAL STATUS, TERMINATION OF MARRIAGE, AND CHILDBEARING

## Age at Entry into First Marriage

For male and female populations, SMAM serves as a proxy measure of the average age of entry into a first marriage before attaining the age of 50 years. The magnitudes of SMAM remained virtually unchanged between 2010 and 2022, displaying very small increases, each being less than a small fraction of a year and evident for the population as a whole, and for male and female populations separately. For both census years and regardless of sex, SMAM is equivalent to 28 years.

## Marital Status Dynamics and Never Married Persons

For the population 15 years or older, the proportion never married increased from just below 60% to just over 60% between 2010 and 2022, this being evident regardless of the sex of respondents. Whether among male or female respondents, proportions never married were greater in each of the selected age groups based on the 2022 census enumeration when compared to the 2010 enumeration.

## Marital Status Dynamics and Ever-Married Persons

The ever-married population consists of persons 15 years or older who were either legally married, divorced, legally separated, or widowed at the time of the respective census enumerations. For the population 15 years or older, the proportion ever married decreased from just above 40% to just below 40% between 2010 and 2022, this being evident regardless of the sex of respondents.

## Marital Status Dynamics and Currently Married Persons

Currently married persons are those who were legally married at the time of the respective census enumerations and exposed to a future risk of transiting into being divorced, legally separated, or widowed. For persons 15 years or older, there was a very slight decline in the proportion currently married between the census enumerations of 2010 and 2022. This was evident for both male and female populations with slightly higher proportions being observed within the female population. For both census enumerations, proportions in the neighbourhood of 30% for the respective populations 15 years or older were currently married. Whether for the entire population aged 15 years or older, its male sub-population or its female sub-population, the pattern of variation with respect to the proportions currently married within the different age groups was similar across the two census enumerations despite somewhat lower proportions being currently married in 2022 when compared to 2010.

## Termination of Marriage and Currently Divorced

Whether male or female, similar proportions of approximately 3.6% of ever-married persons were currently divorced during enumeration in the 2010 Population and Housing Census. Altogether, 3.6% of all ever-married persons were currently divorced based on the 2010 Census. Based on the 2022 Census, the corresponding percentage was marginally lower being 3.3% with a higher percentage being observed among females (3.6%) when compared to males (2.9%). Regardless of age group and sex of individuals, the percentage currently divorced was observed to be higher among persons enumerated during the 2010 Census when compared to corresponding percentages for the 2022 Census.

## Termination of Marriage and Currently Widowed

For the population aged 15 years or older, 7.2% of the ever-married population were currently widowed at the time of the 2010 census and increased to 8.7% at the time of the 2022 census. For the male population, the respective percentages changed from 4.0% at the time of the 2010 census to 4.9% at the time of the 2022 census. For the female population, the corresponding change was from 10.2% at the time of the 2010 census to 12.0% at the time of the 2022 census. Regardless of age group, the percentage currently widowed among ever-married females was consistently greater than the corresponding percentage among their male counterparts based on the census counts in 2010 and 2022.

## Termination of Marriage and Legally Separated as Current Marital Status

Among male and female populations 15 years or older, respective percentages of 2.5% and 3.2% of those who were ever-married persons were legally separated during enumeration in the 2010 Population and Housing Census. Altogether, 2.9% of all ever-married persons were legally separated based on the 2010 Census. Based on the 2022 Census, the corresponding percentage was notably lower being 1.7% with a higher percentage being observed among females (1.9%) when compared to males (1.4%). Regardless of age group and sex of individuals, the percentage classified as being legally separated was observed to be higher among persons enumerated during the 2010 Census when compared to corresponding percentages for the 2022 Census.

## Marital Status and Persons Living with a Common-Law Partner

For persons 15 years or older at the time of census enumeration in 2010 and 2022, respective numbers amounting to 48,014 and 69,060 were currently living with a common-law partner. For male respondents, the respective numbers were 23,698 in 2010 and 33,697 in 2022. Corresponding counts for female respondents were 24,316 and 35,102. The intercensal increase in the number of persons 15+ years living with a common-law partner was 21,046 or 43.8%. Corresponding increases for male and female populations were 9,999 or 42.1% and 10,786 or 44.4%.

For the entire population 15 years or older, the vast majority of the population living with a common-law partner had never been married, a percentage amounting to at least 90%. In contrast, less than 10% had ever been married, whether formally married, divorced, widowed, or legally separated, though the majority were formerly married. This was observed to be the case in 2010 and 2022. In every five-year age group, a greater percentage of the population currently living with a common-law partner had never been married based on the 2022 census when compared to the corresponding percentage for the 2010 census. This was observed to be true for males as well as females. For five-year age groups younger than the 35-39 age group, more than 90% of persons living with a common-law partner had never been married in each of 2010 and 2022 census. Among their counterparts 50+ years, the respective percentages for 2010 and 2022 were 70.9% and 85.9%.

Marital status among persons currently living with a common-law partner was more variable in the older five-year age groups beginning with persons 25-29 years and becoming increasingly variable from one age group to another, such an outcome being evident regardless of sex and census year. Among those persons who had ever been married, the greatest percentages have been among those who had been formally married and still being formally married while currently living with a common-law partner. This outcome was also evident despite gender, and persisted across the two census years.

## Lifetime Childbearing Experiences

Lifetime childbearing experiences are best examined on the basis of real cohort analyses that permit the determination of cohort childlessness, cohort fertility rates, and parity progression ratios. Notwithstanding limitations, the three measures constitute formal demographic proxies used to determine lifetime childbearing experiences of birth cohorts deemed to be close to completing, if not having fully completed their lifetime childbearing.

### Cohort Fertility Rates and Childlessness

For women presumed to have completed their childbearing during the 2010 and 2022 census enumerations, greater magnitudes of childlessness were observed among the younger cohort (persons aged 45-49 years in 2022) when compared to the older cohort (persons aged 45-49 years in 2010), the respective magnitudes being 11.3% as opposed to 8.5%. The lifetime fertility of the older cohort is higher than that computed for the younger cohort, with the former having given birth to 4 liveborn children on average compared to 3 among the latter. This provides additional evidence of fertility decline.

### Parity Progression

For women aged 45-49 years in 2010, 91.5% assumed motherhood during their lifetime with a smaller percentage amounting to 88.7% assuming a similar role among women aged 45-49 years in 2022. Moreover, 77.1% of women aged 45-49 years in 2010, having had 3 children progressed to have had at least 4 children during their lifetime with a smaller percentage amounting to 65.7% having a similar experience among women aged 45-49 years in 2022. Additionally, lower transition proportions have been observed among women aged 45-49 years in 2022 when compared to corresponding transition proportions for 2010, reinforcing the higher lifetime fertility that was characteristic of the older cohort of women.

### Current Childbearing

Current childbearing captures the fertility outcomes of women in childbearing ages, principally 15-49 years at the time of enumeration in 2010 and in 2022. For all women aged 15-49 years, almost 34.7% for the 2010 enumeration and 38.3% for the 2022 enumeration were childless. For both census years, most of the women were childless. On the other extreme, 13.5% among women enumerated in 2010 and 7.0% among those enumerated in 2022 had given birth to at least 5 live-born children. Among women aged 15-49 years, the percentage having at least 5 children in 2010 was greater by almost a factor of 2 when compared to 2022. The difference between these two percentages constitutes yet another outcome that is indicative of current fertility that was lower in 2022 when compared to 2010, and tantamount to intercensal fertility decline.

## 6. DWELLING UNIT AND HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

### Spatial Distribution of Dwelling Units

In accordance with the 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census, dwellings were analysed based on a total of 75,491 units, of which 29,985 were in spaces classified as urban and 45,506 in spaces classified as rural. In addition to having the largest population sizes, Belize District and Cayo District had the largest number of dwelling units being respectively 20,596 and 19,186. In contrast, the number of dwelling units in each of Corozal District (8.895), Orange Walk District (10,386), Stann Creek District (8,795), and Toledo District (7,634) were notably lower.

More than half of the dwelling units in Belize were in Belize and Cayo Districts. Among rural dwellings in Belize, the share in each of the six districts is somewhat homogeneous being in the neighbourhood of 15% except in the case of Cayo where the share was marginally in excess of 20%. Belize District had in excess of 60% of its dwellings in urban spaces while Cayo District had in excess of 40%. In the remaining districts, the proportion of urban dwelling units does not exceed 26%. This reinforces the urban character of the Belize and Cayo Districts and is thus consistent with the fact that the largest shares of the national urban population reside in those two districts.

### Age of Dwelling

The 2022 Population and Housing Census in Belize indicates that regardless of district, the largest numbers of dwelling units were built during the first and second decades of the 21st century, with a somewhat larger percentage being observed for units built during the second decade. On a national scale, more than a half of the dwelling units were built during the two periods and except in the cases of Belize and Cayo Districts, more than half of the dwelling units in each of the remaining four districts were built during these two periods. This was most pronounced in Stann Creek and Toledo Districts where just over 60% of the dwelling units were built during the two periods.

### Land Tenure for Dwelling Units

Data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize show that 82.3% of all dwelling units were built on land that was owned by the owner of the dwelling unit, 7.4% were built on leased land while almost 4% were built on communal land. In every district, the vast majority of dwelling units were built on land owned by the owner of the dwelling unit and except for Toledo, more than three in every four dwelling units were built on land owned by the owner of the dwelling unit. Dwelling units on leasehold land were noteworthy

in the northern districts of Corozal and Orange Walk while communal land as a site for dwelling units was most prevalent in Toledo with a heavy concentration of Mayans.

## Spatial Distribution of Households and Intercensal Change

With respect to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, households were analysed based on a total of 110,719 units, of which 49,991 were in spaces classified as urban and 60,728 in spaces classified as rural. In addition to having the largest population sizes, Belize District and Cayo District had the largest number of household units being respectively 35,063 and 26,818. In contrast, the number of household units in each of Corozal District (12,148), Orange Walk District (14,285), Stann Creek District (12,719), and Toledo District (9,687) were notably lower. More than half of all households in Belize were located in Belize and Cayo Districts (55.9%). However, the pattern of variation for percentage distribution of urban and rural households within each of the districts is aligned to the pattern of variation that was observed in the case of dwelling units.

At the national level, 54.8% of households are located in rural areas as opposed to 45.2% in urban areas. It is evident that Belize District had in excess of 70% of its households in urban spaces while Cayo District had 51.4%. In the remaining districts, urban households accounted for no more than 29%, being as low as 16.4% in the case of Toledo District.

The growth rate with respect to the number of households in Belize between 2010 and 2022 was approximately 40% with the highest relative growth being evident in Cayo District (58.8%) and Toledo District (48.2%). The lowest intercensal growth rate was in Belize District (28.5%). Noteworthy intercensal growth was evident in every district. With respect to urban and rural areas, intercensal growth in the number of households was substantially more pronounced in rural Belize when compared to urban Belize (50.6% compared to almost 27.7%).

## Characteristics of Dwellings and Exposure for Households

### Type of Dwelling

Data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize show that 87.8% of all households lived in an undivided private house, 6% lived in an apartment/ condominium, and 2.6% lived in part of a private house. Altogether, at least 96% of all households resided in one of these three types of dwellings. In general, the pattern of household residence according to dwelling type hardly varied, if at all, across the six districts of Belize.

### Ownership of Dwelling

Drawing on data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize, 59.9% of all households lived in dwelling units that were owned with no mortgage/ hire purchase while 20% lived in dwelling units that were rented. Just 7.9% lived in dwelling units that were owned in accordance with a current mortgage/hire purchase agreement, while 9.1% of all households lived in rent-free dwelling units. Almost 96% of all households occupied a dwelling unit for which ownership status was in accordance with one of the four aforementioned classifications. In each of the six districts, households were most likely to be residing in dwelling units owned with no mortgage, this being followed by rented dwelling units. Among the six districts, Toledo had the greatest percentage of households living in dwelling units that were owned with no mortgage (76.6%) and Belize District had the lowest percentage (49.3%). Among the six districts, Belize District had the greatest percentage of households living in rented dwelling units (29.9%) while Toledo had the lowest percent (9.9%).

### Material for Outer Walls

Data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize show that as much as 53.9% of all households lived in dwelling units with outer walls built mainly of concrete while 30.3% lived in dwelling units with outer walls built mainly of wood. Four of the six districts exhibited patterns indicating that the majority of households lived in dwelling units that were built mainly of concrete. These districts were Corozal (71.7%), Orange Walk (59%), Belize District (53.8%), and Cayo (55%). In Stann Creek and Toledo Districts, the majority of households lived in dwelling units built mainly of wood (44.7% and 52.3% respectively). Compared to the other four districts, Stann Creek and Toledo had the highest percentages of households living in dwellings built mainly of wood. For Belize and in every district with the exception of Orange Walk, more than 80% of households lived in dwelling units built mainly of wood or concrete. In Orange Walk, however, it is interesting to note that approximately 15% of all households lived in dwelling units built of sheet metal, this proportion being notably higher than that of corresponding percentages observed in each of the other five districts.

### Main Roofing Material

With respect to all households, sheet metal/zinc was the main roofing material for their respective dwelling units whether reference was to Belize as a nation or to each of the six districts. Though a notably high percentage amounting to 82.9% was observed for Belize as a nation, and districts such as Orange Walk (83.2%), Belize District (86.6%), Cayo (95.1%), and Stann Creek (85.2%), notably smaller proportions amounting to 55.8% and 66.1% were observed in Corozal and Toledo Districts respectively. Altogether, at least 95% of all households

were observed to be living in dwellings with sheet metal/zinc or concrete as the main roofing material. In Corozal District, it is worth noting that 42.6% of households lived in dwelling units with concrete as the main roofing material, and that in Toledo District, some 29% of all households lived in dwelling units where thatch was the main roofing material.

### Main Floor Material

All households in Belize were analysed according to the main floor material of dwelling units occupied at the time of enumeration for the 2022 Population and Housing Census, and at least 95% lived in dwelling units with floor materials in the form of concrete (51.2%), wood (24.1%), or tiles (20.4%). This was also true within each of the six districts with at least 95% of households living in dwelling units with concrete, wood, or tiles as the main floor material. Whether at the national level or in any of the six districts, concrete was the main floor material in dwelling units occupied by households. Otherwise, main floor material was variable across the six districts. For example, floors made of wood were mostly prevalent among households in Belize District (37.4%), Stann Creek District (34.8%), and to a slightly lesser extent, Cayo District (20.6%). Tiled floorings were mostly prevalent among households in Corozal District (29.6%), Orange Walk District (25.2%), Belize District (23.3%), and Cayo District (20.6%). Compared to the other five districts, Toledo District had a notably higher percentage of households living in dwelling units that had earth/sand floors, this percentage being 16.4% as opposed to substantially less than 3% for each of the other five districts.

## Access to Household Services and Amenities

### Water Supply and Use

### Main Water Supply

Data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize show that 83.8% of all households in Belize had a water supply that was publicly piped into their yard or house, 8.2% had such a supply being piped privately into their dwelling or yard, and 3.1% accessed water from a protected dug well. Altogether, 95% of households had their water supply from one of these three sources, this being the case in all of the districts except Toledo where percentages relying on protected dug wells (7.3%) and other sources (7%) were greater than corresponding percentages observed for the other districts. As indicated for Belize as a whole, the percentage of households that had access to a water supply piped publicly in their house or yard was 83.8%, this being greater than corresponding percentages for other sources of water supply. Similar observations prevailed for each of the six districts though the percentages that had access to a publicly piped water supply in their houses or yards were lower in Corozal District (73.7%) and Toledo District (78.5%) when compared to the other four districts.

### Main Source of Drinking Water

Drawing on data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize, 74.3% of all households in Belize relied upon bottled water as their main source of drinking water. Another 15.4% obtained their drinking water supply through publicly piped water into their yards and houses, 1.6% from a water supply privately piped into their homes and yards, 5.4% from a private catchment area (not piped), 3% from sources classified as other. As observed for Belize as a whole, a substantial majority of households relied upon bottled water as their main supply of drinking water in districts such as Corozal (78.7%), Orange Walk (88.3%), Belize District (91.8%), and Cayo (80%). In the districts of Stann Creek and Toledo, the greatest percentage of households relied upon publicly piped water into their houses and yards as the main supply of water for drinking (53.6% and 58.9% respectively).

### Sanitation

### Main Toilet Facilities

Flush toilets linked to Belize Water Services (BWS) or to a septic tank were the main toilet facilities accessed by 76.5% of all households in Belize based on data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census. As much as 67.8% of households had flush toilets that were linked to septic tanks. Each of four districts had more than 70% of all households relying on flush toilets as their main toilet facilities whether connected to BWS or a septic tank. These districts included Orange Walk (70.2%), Belize District (95.5%), Cayo (76.1%) and Stann Creek (71.3%), though only two of the six districts in Belize had households that relied on flush toilet systems linked to BWS. This was the case in Belize District (23%) and to a much lesser extent in Cayo (5.9%). In the other four districts of Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, and Toledo, toilet facilities linked to BWS were virtually non-existent despite having substantial percentages of households that had access to flush toilets. With respect to pit latrines, 21.8% of all households in Belize relied on such facilities as their main form of human waste disposal. In the six districts, observed percentages were noticeably variable ranging from 2.9% in Belize District to 57.2% in Toledo District where it was also observed that 6.9% of households had no access to any toilet facilities whatsoever when compared to less than 1% in each of the other districts.

### Means of Garbage Disposal

Garbage disposal addresses the disposal of solid waste and similar to the disposal of human waste, has implications for community and national health and environmental concerns. Data from the 2022 Population

and Housing Census of Belize point towards noticeable variability in methods of solid waste disposal across the six districts of Belize. Among all households in Belize, as much as 39.7% disposed of solid waste by relying upon municipal collection, 22.8% through burning waste, 18.3% through private garbage truck services, 15.4% by taking waste to a dumpsite, and 2.3% by dumping on land. In the more urbanised and populated districts such as Belize District and Cayo, municipal collection was the main means of garbage disposal with rates of delivery to households being 56.1% and 46.4% respectively, and thus almost twice or more than twice that of households in the other four districts – Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, and Toledo.

While private garbage disposal is evident in each of the six districts, it is mostly prevalent among households in Stann Creek (30.6%) and less prevalent among households in Belize District (24.4%) and Cayo District (18.7%). Taking garbage to a dumpsite is mostly prevalent among households in the northern districts of Corozal and Orange Walk being 36.4% and 35.6% respectively. Taking garbage to a dumpsite, burning it, or dumping it on land are practices that are more prevalent among households in communities where access to municipal collection is lower. In this regard, Belize District and Cayo District stand out more favourably when compared to Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, and Toledo. It is also worth noting that more than a half of the households in Toledo District (54.6%) disposed of their garbage mainly through burning.

## Electricity, Energy and Sources for Lighting

### Main Lighting Sources

Electricity from Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) is the main source of lighting and electricity for households in Belize. According to data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize, 87.4% of all households in Belize relied on BEL as the main source for their lighting and electricity. An additional 4% relied on solar energy as their main source, and 3.2% relied on electricity dropped from a neighbour. Kerosene lamps and candles constituted the main source of lighting for 1.5% and 1.2% respectively of all households in Belize. In every district, the greatest percentage of all households relied on BEL as their main source for lighting and electricity – Corozal (86.6%), Orange Walk (84.5%), Belize District (95.2%), Cayo (86.5%), Stann Creek (91.1%) and Toledo (62.5%). There is evidence of use of solar energy across the districts of Belize and the fact that it is mostly prevalent among households in Toledo. Approximately one fifth of all households (20.2%) relied on solar energy as their main source of lighting in Toledo. Notwithstanding the fact that 82.7% of all households in Toledo district relied on BEL or solar energy as their main source of energy for lighting and other purposes, the extent of their reliance on other sources for lighting is noteworthy and greater than the extent of reliance observed among households in the five other districts. With respect to electricity dropped from a neighbour, 6% of all households in Toledo District relied on this practice as a main source of energy for lighting and other purposes. Corresponding percentages for reliance on kerosene lamps, candles, and nothing whatsoever were 2.9%, 5.4% and 1.4%.

### Solar Production

Households in Belize have been analysed according to solar production within Belize and its districts based on statistical evidence emanating from the 2022 Population and Housing Census. On a national scale, just 4.6% of all households accessed electricity from solar panels while almost 95% did not rely upon such technologies for electricity. There is evidence of striking variability across the six districts regarding the percentage of households that sourced electricity from solar panels. A markedly greater percentage was observed for Toledo District (18.9%) when compared to the other five districts – Corozal (4.8%), Orange Walk (6.5%), Belize District (1.7%), Cayo (3.7%), and Stann Creek (1.4%).

## Access to Selected Household Amenities

Having analysed access to 21 household amenities that were central to gauging living standards and quality of life based on responses from households enumerated during the 2022 Population and Housing Census in Belize, the emergent evidence points to substantial variation in access across the 21 selected household amenities. Observed variations become much more interesting when examined within and across the six districts that comprise Belize. A cursory review of household amenities suggests that they include luxury items, items that have declining utility for example fixed telephone lines, items considered to be necessities, and items that have become increasingly popularised as a result of emerging technologies.

For each of the six districts, an Index of Equitable Access to Household Amenities assumes significance as a measure of the extent to which access to the full range of household amenities depart from a standard array of household amenities across established quartiles. For the six districts, variation in the index indicates that households in Belize and Cayo Districts exhibited greater equity with respect to accessing household amenities when compared to corresponding outcomes for the other four districts. The magnitude of the index for households in Corozal and Stann Creek suggests that they were less likely to access arrays of household amenities that were consistent with the standard when compared to households in Orange Walk. The observed score on the index for Toledo suggests that access to household amenities was not as favourable when compared to access that appeared to be manifest for households in each of the other five districts.

## Household Composition

### Number of Persons and Living Arrangements

Based on the 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census, there were clear indications that there were on average 3 persons per household in Belize District. In Cayo and Toledo Districts, one can also assert that there were on average 4 persons per household. For Corozal, Orange Walk, and Stann Creek District, there were on average three persons per household though having relatively higher percentages of households with at least four persons masked their average, reflecting a mean household size equivalent to 4. For Belize as a whole, one can assert that the average household size is 3 though impacted by skewness which may not be as pronounced as in the cases of Corozal and Orange Walk Districts.

Given that on average there were 3 persons per household in Belize, it was instructive to examine variability associated with the proportion of households having at least 4 persons in each of the six districts. The percentage of households with at least 4 persons approximated or exceeded a half in four districts - Toledo (55.3%), Cayo (53.9%), Orange Walk (52.3%), and Corozal (49.5%) with slightly smaller percentages being observed for Belize District (48.9%) and Stann Creek District (47.2%). The percentage of all households consisting of persons living alone is usually an interesting statistic. Thus, single-person households as a percentage of all households were observed to be greatest in Belize District (19.2%) and somewhat lower in Stann Creek (17.4%). It amounted to 10.9% in Orange Walk District, 11.7% in Corozal District, and 12.5% in Cayo District, and was lowest in Toledo District (10.8%). On average, the data also suggest that households in rural areas were larger when compared to those in urban areas. Such an outcome reinforces the attention that ought to be placed on addressing challenges that are associated with inherent vulnerabilities which are often more widespread among rural populations than among urban populations due to differences in average household sizes.

## Overcrowding Status of Households

Overcrowding is defined as having more than 3 persons per bedroom in a household setting. Overcrowding has implications for the well-being of household members and negatively impacts the health status of household members especially with respect to contracting communicable illnesses due to increased risks of exposure and spread. Overcrowding is also evident when living arrangements are altered to cope with livelihood challenges such as unemployment, underemployment, job insecurity, constraints due to low income, and even violence. According to the 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census, 8.0% of all households in Belize had been overcrowded. Overcrowding was found to be highest in Toledo District where 22.5% of all households had been overcrowded while the Belize District had the lowest overcrowding rate amounting to 4.1% of all households. Cayo is a district similar to Belize District as these two districts host the most significant urban centres in Belize, namely Belmopan and Belize City respectively. In Cayo, 6.0% of all households were overcrowded and below the national rate. In contrast, Orange Walk (8.5%), Stann Creek (9.2%) and Corozal (9.9%) had overcrowding rates that were slightly higher than the national rate of 8.0%.

# CHAPTER 1

# Historical and Contemporary Practices – Population and Housing Census

## 1.1 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES

A Population and Housing Census is the single most important exercise that permits the enumeration of human populations and households in spatial domains such as enumeration districts (Eds), communities, larger geographic regions, and nations, not excluding non-independent states. It is an exercise that seeks to obtain a valid count of population sizes, household units, housing stock, and their characteristics. Census-taking involving the enumeration of human populations is not a phenomenon that gained significance in the 20th century. In early civilisations such as in Babylonia (4000 BC), ancient census-taking pursuits provided a basis for determining the supply of food. In Egypt (2500 BC), census-taking pursuits provided a basis for determining the supply of labour to build the pyramids and facilitate land distribution during times of flood. In ancient China, Confucius (555-470 BC) advocated for census counts as a means towards more effectively accessing resource needs and providing human services. In 6 BC, concerns about population size counts were deemed significant in determining military might and making decisions impacting public revenue in the context of the Roman Empire. Early civilisations recognised the importance of census-taking activities that constituted efforts to account for human population sizes and provide a basis for serving the needs of their peoples as well as well as communal and wider territorial interests that were pursued by administrative organs with communal and territorial responsibilities.

Despite evidence of population counts in pre-emancipation Caribbean societies that were characterised by chattel slavery, population censuses were first taken during the period 1838-1844. Between 1851 and 1921, thirteen (13) British Caribbean colonies conducted population censuses decennially. Censuses were also conducted in the 1930s and in the Post-World War II Years during the late 1940s and early 1950s in selected Caribbean colonial territories. Collectively, these activities set the stage for census-taking practices that have prevailed, especially since the onset of the 1960s, and continuing to have impact at the beginning of the third decade of the 21st century. Since the 1960s, most of the CARICOM Member States, including Belize, have gained political independence and have recognised the importance of census-taking targeting human populations. Having become an independent nation since 1981, successive governments in Belize have recognised the importance of population census enumerations in their respective governance arrangements geared towards serving human needs in disparate spatial communities, a wide array of sub-population entities, and especially the delivery of goodwill towards the nation.

There are some important gains associated with taking a census of human populations. Such gains include the following:

- An enumeration representing a snapshot of a population in terms of its composition and size,
- A formal systematic opportunity to revise national sample frames of households and spatial units thereby enabling more reliable processes for conducting national and sub-national sample surveys targeting human populations during intercensal periods,
- The derivation of robust population counts that become instrumental in evaluating mid-year population estimates,
- The derivation of baseline population counts disaggregated by age and sex, and providing a basis for conducting population projections,
- The generation of data that provide a basis for indirect estimation of births, deaths, and migration, and
- The establishment of a platform that can inform efforts geared towards the establishment of a population register.

From a global standpoint, countries have embarked on Population and Housing Census enumerations quinquennially and decennially. While such periodicities ought to prevail and as a result, reinforce essential pre-requirements that underlie technically correct formal practices in the pursuit of estimating population sizes, intercensal intervals have varied in the conduct of several national census undertakings across time. Without a doubt, gains from census-taking fuel the needs of social databases rendering them to be useful sources for data that address the requirements of national development policies. Belize has benefitted from census enumerations targeting human populations, household, and communities in accordance with global programmes of census-taking and has conducted population and housing censuses in accordance with ten-year intercensal intervals.

## 1.2 THE 2022 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN BELIZE

In Belize, data collection for the 2020 Round of Census began on May 13th, 2022, and lasted for 8 months covering 956 enumeration districts and ending on January 31st, 2023. Census night was the period of twelve hours commencing at 6 o'clock in the afternoon of the 12th May and ending 6 o'clock in the forenoon of 13th May 2022, and the census traversed nine (9) regions in Belize. The nine (9) regions included Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize North, Belize South, San Pedro, Cayo, Belmopan, Stann Creek, and Toledo. The data collection relied on the use of tablets that were carried by field interviewers. Despite a field presence, the census relied heavily upon electronic modes to facilitate data collection. The tablets contained electronic questionnaires and digital maps, in addition to information pertaining to all persons and households. For all buildings across the country, the tablets also permitted access to GIS data. The 2022 Population and Housing Census for Belize targeted data on households and individuals in Belize. Thus, there were two principal census questionnaires – a household questionnaire and an individual questionnaire, each collecting module-specific data as illustrated in Table 1.1. For the 2010 Round of the Belize Population and Housing Census, the enumerated household population count was 322,424. The corresponding count based on the 2022 Round was 397,483.

**Table 1.1**
***Household/Individual Census Questionnaires According to Modules, Belize, 2022***

| Household Questionnaire | Individual Questionnaire |
|---|---|
| · **Housing** | · General Characteristics |
| · **Emigration** | · Census Night |
| · **Agriculture** | · Migration |
| · **Environment** | · Disability and Health |
| · **Crime** | · Education |
| · **Mortality** | · Access to the Internet |
| · **Food Security** | · Training |
| | · Economic Activity |
| | · Income |
| | · Marital/Union Status |
| | · Fertility |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Altogether, there were one hundred and seventy (170) teams crisscrossing the nine (9) Regions of Belize. The number of teams in each Region was variable though most regions had between 16 and 19 teams. In San Pedro and Toledo, there were 7 and 12 teams respectively. A team consisted of one field supervisor and 3-4 interviewers (on average). In each of the Regions, teams interacted with their respective Regional Office that housed a Regional Co-ordinator, an Assistant Regional Co-ordinator, an IT Specialist, and an Administrative Assistant. All Regional Offices collaborated with the Technical Staff (IT and GIS professionals), editor-coders, census co-ordinators, and a Census Officer, all of whom were located at SIB Headquarters.

### 1.2.1 Data Collection and Enumeration Units

Data were collected using CAPI and was expedited using Survey Solutions and SIB Collect. Survey Solutions was developed by the World Bank and used to administer the listing, household and individual questionnaires that were instrumental to census administration processes. It also consisted of built-in validations with error/warning messages for erroneous and questionable data inputs. SIB Collect was developed in SIB to permit geo-spatial data capture and updates. SIB Collect was used for listing enumeration units such as buildings and determining prospective dwelling units principally through observation in the field. Further, interrogative procedures were embraced to ensure that dwelling units were accurately identified and that buildings without dwelling units were excluded from further census activities.

Survey Solutions permitted data collection that targeted household and individual characteristics within dwelling units. For the purposes of the census, dwelling units and households were clearly defined to the extent that visits to dwelling units yielded outcomes such that some units identified as dwellings during listing exercises were no longer classified as dwelling units at the time of enumeration. This was an important revelation that was validated through a post-census enumeration targeting a sample of units that were not classified as dwelling units and on the basis of complex weighting and imputation procedures, facilitated the adjustment of estimates pertaining to the number of dwelling units.

### 1.2.2 The Administration of Long-Form and Short-Form Questionnaires

For households, housing units, and individuals, the Long Form Version of the census questionnaire represented the full census questionnaire and was administered in each of the nine (9) Regions. In Belize North and Belize South, Long Form Versions and Short Form Versions were administered due to data collection challenges that prevailed in these two regions which are the most populated regions nationwide. In these two regions, high non-response necessitated the adoption of the Long-Form and Short-Form Versions to precipitate greater efficiency and effectiveness of the census data collection process, especially given the potential deleterious effect of a high non-response rate if enumeration were to be stalled in these two regions.

The Long Form/Short Form Split was 25% / 75%. There were 147 enumeration districts (EDs) across the two regions and every household within these EDs had a 25% chance of receiving the Long-Form Version of the questionnaire and a 75% chance of receiving the Short-Form Version. The automatic generation of household assignments in accordance with the Long-Form/Short-Form Split was executed using a software application. Moreover, an additional set of weights was assigned to enumeration units in Belize North and Belize South due to the Long-Form/Short-Form Split.

### 1.2.3 Electronic Data Capture and Cleaning

Pre-processing, field-manual processing, and post-processing are different phases of census data processing and have been pursued meticulously by the SIB in the conduct of the 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census. With respect to pre-processing, there is evidence that SIB staff exuded capabilities and displayed tremendous zeal in undertaking activities such as the preparation of maps, the establishment of master building files, the development of CAPI Questionnaires that included data validation, skip commands, and the operationalization of a monitoring dashboard. With respect to field-manual processing, editor-coders were exposed to training that facilitated their appreciation of the logic of the questionnaire requirements and flow of questions, their role in generating data that were high in quality, and their capacity to validly classify responses through the assignment of codes. IT technicians and data processors also received substantive training in spotting inconsistencies between enumeration units and their geo-spatial domains. Specifically, they have been trained in identifying such inconsistencies and embarking on remedies to counteract them. From the standpoint of post-processing, collected data were appropriately processed in accordance with Census Editing Rules bearing in mind requirements that had been set to meet local settings.

## 1.3 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

### 1.3.1 Census Weighting

The implementation of the Long/Short Form has been associated with the onset of critical technical challenges characterising limitations in the conduct of statistical analysis, especially when such analyses must be conducted by users. Resulting from the administration of the Long/Short Form to treat with non-responses in Belize North and Belize South, two noteworthy challenges have emerged and warrant attention. The first challenge is with respect to discrepancies between population totals derived from using the long and short form weights. The second arises out of generating cross-tabulations between long-form versus short-form variables. To overcome the two challenges, the SIB has embarked upon creatively calibrating weights. Moreover, cross-tabulations involving variables from both the Long Form and the Short Form were compromised by inherent differences in responses resulting from enumerations using the two Forms. To effectively address this challenge, the SIB Team sought advice on the most efficient weighting plan from the standpoint of users.

### 1.3.2 Census Population Size Estimation

The 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census was not without its challenges that were destined to increase threats to the validity of population counts at national and sub-national levels. These challenges were due to a variety of systematic factors that negatively impacted various stages of the census administration process. Challenges associated with the retention of staff especially with respect to field operations, and challenges due to spatial logistics have been identified as principal factors underlying emergent threats to validity. These challenges negatively impacted some census regions more seriously than others with resultant outcomes characterised by the generation of biased counts unless appropriate remedies were adopted to reduce and/or eliminate bias. The previous section acknowledged these remedies. Additionally, expertise from Statistics Canada provided technical support that facilitated the in-house generation of more robust population counts by SIB staff.

### 1.3.3 Editing Challenges and Household Data

The SIB Team recognized the need to draw on research, best practice, and expert advice in overcoming specific sets of challenges connected to shortcomings in editing the census data. Examples of such challenges have been cited in accordance with the Housing Module when attempting to verify the quality of responses pertaining to variables such as roof materials, materials of outer walls, and source of water supply. Similarly, the SIB Team has been sufficiently agile, seeking to prevent problems such as those that can emerge in the context of monitoring individual's age, disability and morbidity status from a health standpoint, and the interpretation of part-time school attendance among primary school students. The Team noted that checks on responses in such situations reinforced the confidence in responses attached to household informants and their capacity to provide consistent responses. Thus, there have been cautious approaches to interrogating household informants if there were concerns regarding their knowledge of characteristics pertaining to attributes of household members, households, and dwelling units.

### 1.3.4 Non-Response Adjustment

During the 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census, buildings, dwellings, and households were the main enumeration units of analysis. Complete enumerations capturing the respective universes were essential requirements for obtaining valid census counts. Nonetheless, complete counts are at best contingent upon the extent to which there is a one-to-one correspondence between the sampling frame and the true population. While the true population ought to be the principal source for embarking upon non-response adjustment, the process of non-response adjustment is ultimately dependent upon enumeration units contained in the sampling frame.

For questionnaires targeting the attributes of households in dwellings or buildings within blocks, it should be noted that some households were classified as element non-responses and not subject to post-processing despite the fact that the respective households had been visited and listed for enumeration purposes. This poses challenges with respect to capturing such structures in the census count, classifying the use of affected buildings and their characteristic features, and determining units within buildings including prospective dwelling units. On another level, blank questionnaires or questionnaires with missing data were returned. While several items of data have often been detected as "missing/not stated", the outcome was especially acute when key information akin to identifying buildings and classifying units within buildings defy data capture. Item weighting and imputation strategies were adopted to readjust counts taking into consideration the various factors determining item missing data.

The SIB has produced sufficient evidence to suggest that appropriate weighting and imputation strategies were adopted to counteract the imperfections associated with missing data. Specifically, imputed values for missing data were based on the observed distributions for targeted items of data. Despite internal efforts within the SIB to validate the census data emanating from the 2022 Population and Housing Census, two external expert reviews were conducted as means of further validating the census data drawing upon administrative data (i.e. births and deaths) and adjustments for net migration.

## 1.4 OUTLINE OF THE REPORT

This report consists of six (6) substantive chapters that thematically capture and analyse data that were drawn from the 2010 and 2022 Population and Housing Censuses of Belize. Invariably, the data from both censuses were received in tabular formats and had to undergo further refinement to yield findings considered to be meaningful in describing and explaining contemporary realities that are borne out from comprehensive statistical and interpretive analyses of data collected during the two consecutive census-taking exercises. Though the report is primarily on the 2022 Census, the data from the two censuses permitted descriptive accounts of a variety of thematic domains reflecting population and demographic characteristics of individuals and households. Additionally, the two sets of data permitted comparisons that reflect the presence or absence of intercensal changes and the nature of such changes in a wide array of thematic domains. In the main body of the report, commentaries are largely based on tables and figures that convey messages about trends and patterned relationships, often times involving two or more variables. However, more detailed tabular representations reflecting selected tables that could be useful for public consumption are contained in Appendix A and Appendix B.

Chapter 1 constitutes an introductory chapter that places emphasis on the essence of census-taking focusing specifically on its rationale in development contexts and referring to historical and more contemporary encounters with modern approaches to census-taking in Caribbean societies, including Belize. The chapter addresses the essential features characterising census-taking in Belize based of the 2022 Population and Housing Census. It treats frontally with a range of field and other logistical challenges that threatened the validity of the data collected, and addressed remedies pursued by the SIB to overcome such challenges. The main challenges revolved around data collection, non-response, the impact of establishing the Long Form versus the Short Form, electronic data capture, data cleaning, and prospective analysis of the captured data. Chapter 1 ends with a discussion of remedies and lessons learned in the quest to elevate confidence in the processes and data that render the 2022 Census a sufficiently valid undertaking. Some of the principal concerns revolved around census weighting, census population size estimation, editing challenges in the context of household data, and non-response adjustment.

Chapter 2 addresses demographic attributes such as population sizes and their changes in the context of Belize. Specifically, it captures population sizes and dynamics for Belize dating back to the immediate post-emancipation period, and tracing temporal changes across intercensal intervals leading up to the early years of the third decade of the new millennium. Demographic characteristics and trends characterising the Belizean population have relied on past census data from the early 1980s, a period that coincided with Belize gaining national independence from Britain. Accordingly, Chapter 2 provides interesting descriptive and interpretive accounts of period changes in the age and sex composition of the Belizean population. The evidence does reinforce prospects of population aging as a characteristic feature of Belizean society in the 21st century. It also highlights changes in key age-determined dependency indicators especially in the context of signalling awareness of contemporary requirements deemed essential in promoting sustainable futures and progressive development agendas for Belize. Chapter 2 examines trends in live births and deaths across the intercensal period and permitted a basis for determining the impact that natural increase had upon intercensal population size change and prospective future dynamics regarding annual rates of population growth.

Chapter 3 examines the socio-demographic characteristics of the population of Belize based on the 2022 Population and Housing Census, despite occasional references to the 2010 Census for comparative purposes. The chapter elucidates patterns of association involving demographic attributes such as age and sex, spatial attributes such as administrative district, and a host of human characteristics predicated upon ethnicity, religious affiliation, language spoken, educational attainment, engagement in economic activity, nativity, and health and disability status. Within each of the human attributes that permit socio-demographic analyses based on data from the 2022 Census, distributions and other related proxy measures are presented and interpreted to gauge patterns of homogeneity or heterogeneity that may be critical in accounting for the presence or absence of patterned associations, and the implications of such outcomes for describing extant patterns of relationships and their eventual relevance in the context of informing development agendas.

Chapter 4 focuses specifically upon population sizes and how they have been distributed and concentrated within spatial areas that characterise the Belizean landscape. The spatial areas assume the form of the six administrative districts – Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, Cayo, Stann Creek, and Toledo, as well as the clearly defined urban and rural spaces that exist within each administrative district. As much as possible, Chapter 4 provides analyses drawing on data from the 2010 and 2022 Population and Housing Censuses and as such, examines trends and patterns across the two censuses in the context of spatial differences, inequalities, and inequities. Despite limitations in the extent to which the census data permit analyses of international migration during the intercensal period, opportunities do exist for the analysis of lifetime internal migration among the local born population using data pertaining to the place of residence of local born persons at the time of the 2022 Population and Housing Census. Accordingly, Chapter 4 describes and discusses emergent migratory episodes reflecting the movement of local born persons relative to their place of residence at the time of the 2022 Census. To this end, a few proxy measures of internal migratory movement are presented and interpreted to inform and confirm notions of population movement and redistribution within Belize. Chapter 4 concludes with an analysis of episodes that have been best defined as return migration in a Belizean context.

Chapter 5 examines the census data from the 2010 and 2022 Population and Housing Censuses of Belize to describe and explore patterns linking age and sex to marital status outcomes. This is accomplished through analyses of persons who had never been married, ever been married, and currently married at the time of the respective censuses. Similar analyses were also undertaken for persons who were married but experienced some form of termination of their marriage due to divorce, widowhood, and legal separation, in particular those who are currently divorced, widowed or legally separated. Chapter 5 recognises that there are persons currently in common-law unions regardless of their current marital status. The distribution of such persons according to marital status and variations in such distributions, dependent upon sex, age group, and census year constitute interesting outcomes that are explored especially given the importance of common-law partnerships as yet another means of initiating the formation of families and sustaining such units and their outcomes. The 2010 and 2022 Population and Housing Census sought data on the number of live born children that were ever born to women at the time of enumeration. Accordingly, Chapter 5 drew upon such data from the two consecutive censuses and permitted the generation of three sets of measures indicative of lifetime childbearing in the context of women who were presumed to have completed their childbearing life stages. Additionally, Chapter 5 facilitated analyses of women's current fertility according to their age group and parity. Altogether, these analyses in Chapter 5 reinforce the phenomenon of fertility decline which is evident based on the findings emerging from the data on childbearing.

Finally, Chapter 6 examines the characteristics of dwelling units and households enumerated during the 2010 and 2022 Population and Housing Censuses of Belize, principally the latter. The Chapter also addresses the wellbeing of household members placing specific weight upon their access to household amenities that have been associated with enhanced condition and opportunities that positively impact resilience. For both Censuses, dwelling units and more specifically households have been analysed focusing on attributes such as household size, overcrowding status, land tenure, building tenure, source of water supply, source of drinking water, source of electricity/lighting, solar energy production, disposal of waste, type of toilet/bathroom facilities, age of dwelling unit, and access to household amenities. In addition to national level analyses, sub-national analyses were undertaken to reflect differences, inequalities, and inequities across the different administrative districts.

# CHAPTER 2

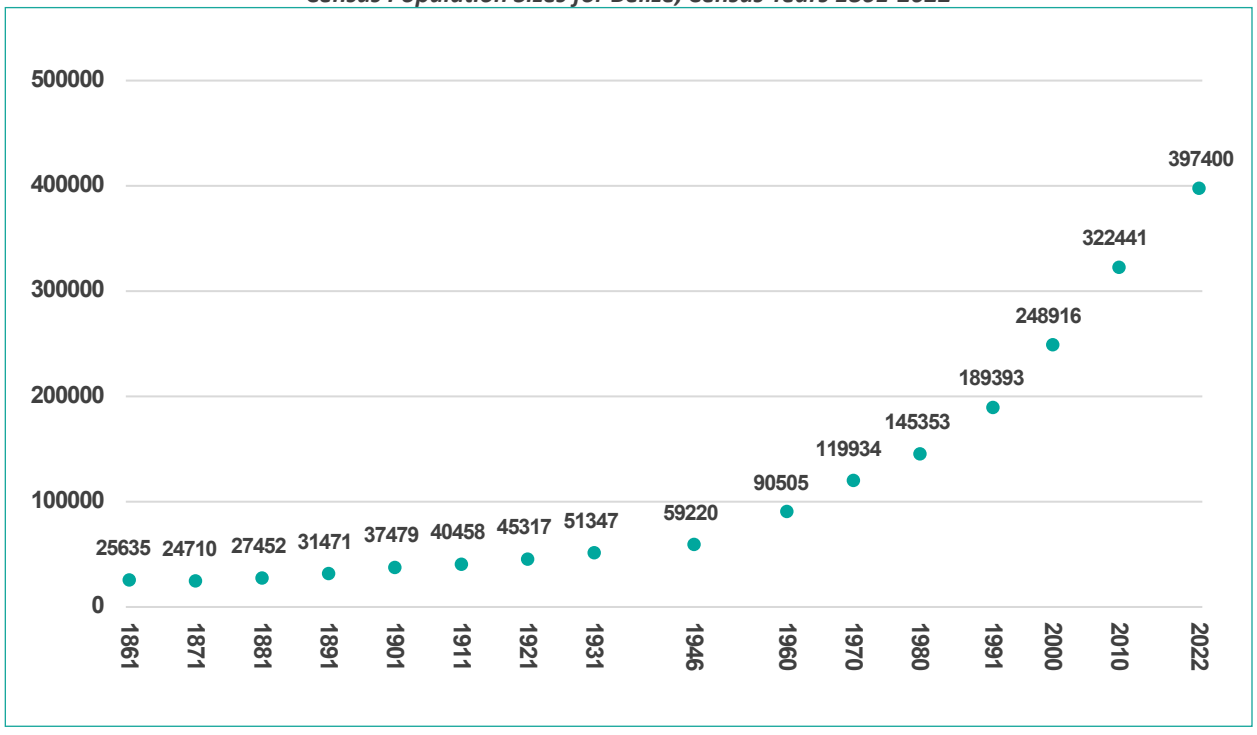
# Demographic Profile of the Belizean Population

## 2.1 CENSUS POPULATION SIZES AND GROWTH – CENSUS YEARS 1861-2022

The first census count for Belize (formerly British Honduras) and several of the other Anglophone Caribbean countries was in 1861 in the immediate post-emancipation era. In 1861, the entire population of Belize stood at 25,635, being less than the population size of Belize City (See Figure 2.1 and Table 2.1). Figure 2.1 and Table 2.1 reveal that during the last half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, the annual rate of intercensal population growth was at best modest being in excess of 1% but never exceeding 2% during both periods. In the Post-World War II Period and until the end of the 20th century, the annual rate of intercensal population growth exceeded 2%. Though exhibiting signs of slower annual rates of growth since the onset of the 21st century, intercensal annual averages remain close to or above 2%.

**Figure 2.1**

***Census Population Sizes for Belize, Census Years 1861-2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Figure 2.1 and Table 2.1 reveal that from 1861, the population size of Belize doubled at some time during the 1930s or 1940s. This was a period of almost 80 years. The population size doubled for the second time during the 1960s over a period of 20 to 30 years with a similar period of approximately 30 years elapsing before the population size of Belize would double for the third time during the 1990s. At the end of the first twenty years of the 21st century, the official population size for Belize based the 2022 Population and Housing Census was trending towards 400,000 persons.

**Table 2.1**
***Population Size and Intercensal Growth Dynamics, Belize, 1861-2022***

| Census Year | Census Population | Intercensal Period | Intercensal Annual Rate of Population Growth |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1861** | 25,635 | ... | ... |
| **1871** | 24,710 | 10 | -0.37 |
| **1881** | 27,452 | 10 | 1.05 |
| **1891** | 31,471 | 10 | 1.37 |
| **1901** | 37,479 | 10 | 1.75 |
| **1911** | 40,458 | 10 | 0.76 |
| **1921** | 45,317 | 10 | 1.13 |
| **1931** | 51,347 | 10 | 1.25 |
| **1946** | 59,220 | 15 | 0.95 |
| **1960** | 90,505 | 14 | 3.03 |
| **1970** | 119,343 | 10 | 2.77 |
| **1980** | 145,353 | 10 | 1.97 |
| **1991** | 189,393 | 11 | 2.41 |
| **2000** | 248,916 | 10 | 2.73 |
| **2010** | 322,424 | 10 | 2.59 |
| **2022** | 397,484 | 11 | 1.9 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 2.2 CENSUS POPULATION SIZES AND GROWTH – INTERCENSAL PERIOD 2010-2022

Table 2.2 exhibits intercensal changes in the population sizes of Belize and its six districts between 2010 and 2022. The population of Belize had grown by an amount equivalent to 75,060 persons between the two census dates, or relatively speaking 23.3%. The largest share of such intercensal growth was evident in the two most populated administrative districts, Belize District and Cayo District with respective growth in population size amounting to 18,344 and 24,071 respectively. In fact, Cayo District and Stann Creek District have exhibited intercensal population growth rates (32.1% and 40.3% respectively) that were greater than those observed in each of the remaining districts. Despite being the district with the smallest population size, Toledo exhibited a noteworthy intercensal growth rate in its population between 2010 and 2022 (20.6%). Nonetheless, every district experienced a gain in its population size across the intercensal period between 2010 and 2022.

**Table 2.2**

***Population Size and Intercensal Growth According to Administrative Areas, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

| Administrative Area | 2010 | 2022 | Intercensal Growth | Growth Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belize** | **322,424** | **397,483** | **75,060** | **23.30%** |
| **Belize District** | 95,287 | 113,630 | 18,344 | 19.30% |
| **Cayo District** | 75,034 | 99,105 | 24,071 | 32.10% |
| **Corozal District** | 41,060 | 45,310 | 4,250 | 10.40% |
| **Orange Walk District** | 45,936 | 54,132 | 8,216 | 17.90% |
| **Stann Creek District** | 34,324 | 48,162 | 13,838 | 40.30% |
| **Toledo District** | 30,783 | 37,124 | 6,341 | 20.60% |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Table 2.3 presents the percentage distribution of the Belizean population for census years 2010 and 2022 showing that there is virtually no change in relative share of the nation's population dispersed across the six districts for each of the two census years. A notable difference, however, is the switch in positions of Stann Creek and Corozal with respect to their respective shares of the national population. With respect to population size, Corozal was placed fourth and Stann Creek was placed fifth based on the 2010 distribution of population census counts. While all of the remaining districts have retained their placement, Corozal was placed fifth and Stann Creek was placed fourth based on the 2022 census count. Over the intercensal period, phenomenal growth was observed with respect to the population size of Stann Creek. Except for this observation, the index of variability reflects a national population that is fairly well dispersed across the six district and virtually no major departures in such dispersion between the censuses of 2010 and 2022.

**Table 2.3**

***Percentage Distribution of Population According to Administrative Area, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

| Administrative Area | 2010 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| **Belize** | **322,424** | **397,483** |
| **Belize District** | 29.6 | 28.6 |
| **Cayo District** | 23.3 | 24.9 |
| **Corozal District** | 12.7 | 11.4 |
| **Orange Walk District** | 14.2 | 13.6 |
| **Stann Creek District** | 10.6 | 12.1 |
| **Toledo District** | 9.5 | 9.3 |
| **Index of Variability** | 0.802 | 0.801 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 2.3 SEX COMPOSITION

According to Table 2.4, the sex composition of Belize has been characterised by a predominance of persons classified as male over those classified as female for most of the period since gaining Independence in 1981. Notwithstanding such an observation, Belize's national population tended towards being balanced based on the 2010 Population and Housing Census, and by 2022, persons classified as female had outnumbered those classified as male.

**Table 2.4**
***Sex Composition of Census Population, Belize, 1980-2022***

| Sex Group/Ratio | 1980 | 1991 | 2000 | 2010 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Both Sexes** | **145,353** | **185,969** | **248,916** | **322,424** | **397,483** |
| **Male** | 73,617 | 93,968 | 125,065 | 161,207 | 195,695 |
| **Female** | 71,736 | 92,001 | 123,851 | 161,204 | 201,789 |
| **Sex Ratio (males per 100 females)** | 102.6 | 102.1 | 101.0 | 100.0 | 97.0 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Across the vast majority of countries globally, there has traditionally been a predominance of male births when compared to female births resulting in greater male representation in child, adolescent, and young adult populations. Table 2.5 reveals that this male advantage has characterised the Belizean population during the early years of national independence and has persisted through to the early years of the 21st century. Table 2.5 is also indicative of the erosion of the male advantage for persons aged 20-24 years and evident for all five-year age groups until 50-54 years. This process commenced in 2010, intensified in 2022, and could be a function of mortality and international migration favouring female populations in the respective age groups. With respect to mortality, women in age groups between 20-24 years and 50-54 years would have experienced fewer mortality risks when compared to their male counterparts, several of whom, may have succumbed to fatalities and injuries linked to violent crime that emerged as a national crisis especially with the onset of the 21st century. During this period, declining sex ratios as a demographic dynamic was also likely to be due to greater net gain in the population size due to migration among women between 20-24 years and 50-54 years when compared their male counterparts.

**Table 2.5**
***Sex Composition of Census Population, Belize, 1980-2022***

(Males per 100 Females)

| Age Group | 1980 | 1991 | 2010 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **0-4** | 101.6 | 103.4 | 104.2 | 102.4 |
| **5-9** | 102.4 | 102.6 | 101.5 | 104.6 |
| **10-14** | 102.2 | 104.9 | 100.2 | 104.7 |
| **15-19** | 102.0 | 100.0 | 100.1 | 102.1 |
| **20-24** | 105.8 | 99.7 | 96.5 | 96.4 |
| **25-29** | 103.4 | 100.3 | 93.7 | 87.8 |
| **30-34** | 103.4 | 106.0 | 94.3 | 86.9 |
| **35-39** | 103.4 | 109.2 | 95.4 | 89.9 |
| **40-44** | 109.6 | 107.6 | 98.8 | 91.6 |
| **45-49** | 103.5 | 110.0 | 104.4 | 94.2 |
| **50-54** | 110.7 | 114.2 | 102.9 | 88.5 |
| **55-59** | 103.4 | 111.2 | 108.9 | 102.0 |
| **60-64** | 103.4 | 112.8 | 112.2 | 101.6 |
| **65-69** | 91.7 | 103.5 | 113.7 | 109.6 |
| **70-74** | 89.9 | 102.5 | 112.7 | 104.1 |
| **75-79** | 90.2 | 92.7 | 103.2 | 97.7 |
| **80+** | 89.9 | 79.9 | 88.8 | 85.2 |
| **ALL AGES** | 102.6 | 103.5 | 100.0 | 97.0 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize*

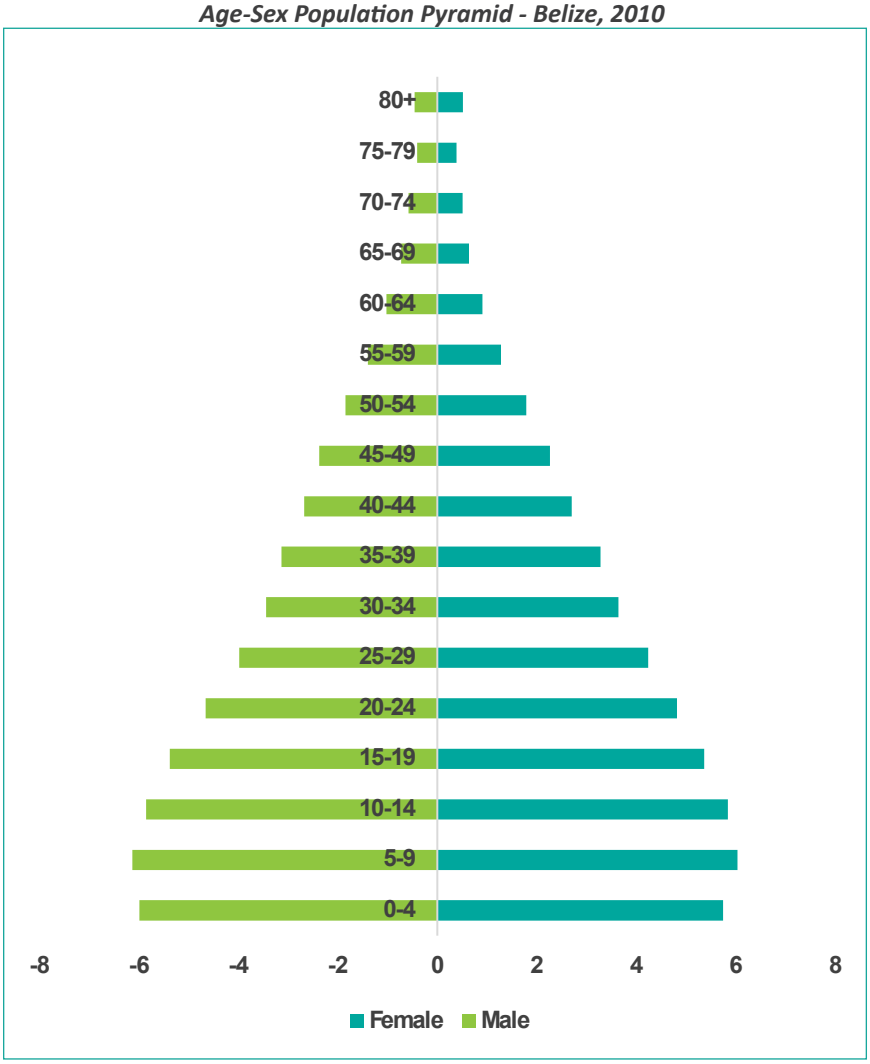
## 2.4 AGE STRUCTURE AND AGE DYNAMICS

Figure 2.2 and Figure 2.3 constitute age-sex population pyramids reflecting the age-sex composition of the national population of Belize based on respective counts from the 2010 and 2022 Population and Housing Censuses. For 2010, the configuration of the pyramid is consistent with a relatively young population in Belize, despite evidence of young children under 5 years consisting of relatively smaller shares of the national population when compared to persons in older child age groups. Whether male or female, older children aged 5-9 years and 10-14 years constituted larger shares of the national population when compared to their older counterparts. This reflects the higher fertility levels that prevailed preceding recent declines characterised by below-replacement fertility. For 2022, the configuration of the pyramid continued to be reflective of a young population, despite displaying features of a population that has been intensifying its aging process. This process is captured by a pyramid undergoing a transformation that has begun to become more rectangular in age groups characterising older childhood and young adulthood and persisting further, also to include older adult age groups with the passage of time.

Further evidence of the intercensal aging of the Belizean population is borne out in Table 2.6. Between the censuses of 2010 and 2022, the Belizean population count increased from 322,424 to 397,484 or an intercensal change equivalent to 23.3%. However, improvements in responding to mortality threats and net migration exhibited variable impacts on intercensal population growth in different functional age groups. For example, intercensal growth rates for the populations age 60+ years, 65+ years, 80+ years, and 15-64 years were 75.8%, 65.8%, 33.6%, and 32.4 % respectively. In contrast, much smaller intercensal growth rates were evident for the population aged 15-24 years, 5-14 year, and Under 15 years being 16.4%, 6%, and 2.9%. During the intercensal period, there were respective declines of 3.5%, 4.8%, and 23.7% among populations under 5 years old, infants under 1 year, and the youthful population under 18 years in Belize.

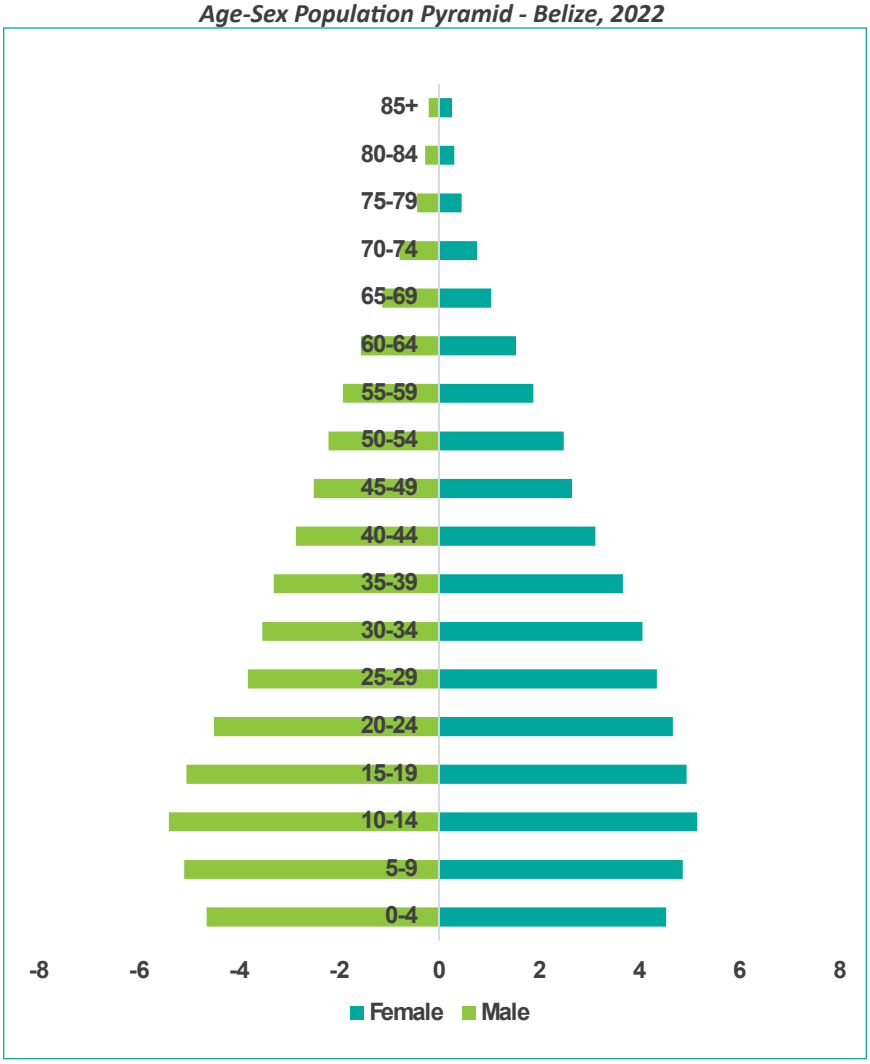
**Figure 2.2**

***Age-Sex Population Pyramid - Belize, 2010***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 2.3**
***Age-Sex Population Pyramid - Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table 2.6**
***Age Group Structure and Dynamics, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

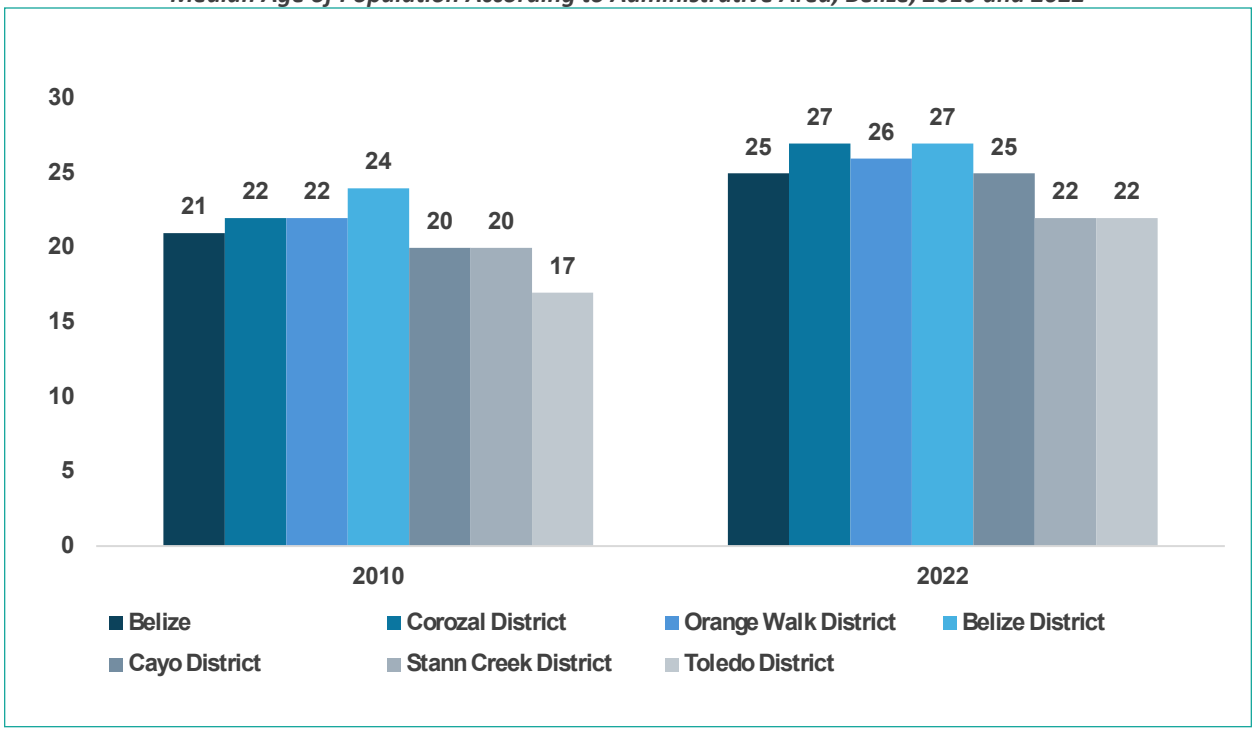
| Population Group | 2010 Count | 2022 Count | Intercensal Change (%) | 2010 Percentage | 2022 Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Population Size** | **322,424** | **397,484** | **23.3** | **100.0** | **100.0** |
| **Population Under 1year** | 7,409 | 7,054 | -4.8 | 2.3 | 1.8 |
| **Population 0-4 years** | 37,823 | 36,490 | -3.5 | 11.7 | 9.2 |
| **Population 5-14 years** | 76,925 | 81,542 | 6.0 | 23.9 | 20.5 |
| **Population Under 15 years** | 114,748 | 118,032 | 2.9 | 35.6 | 29.7 |
| **Population Under 18 years** | 186,288 | 142,117 | -23.7 | 57.8 | 35.8 |
| **Population 15-24 years** | 65,196 | 76,145 | 16.8 | 20.2 | 19.2 |
| **Population 15-64 years** | 194,105 | 256,926 | 32.4 | 60.2 | 64.6 |
| **Population 60+ years** | 19,811 | 34,830 | 75.8 | 6.1 | 8.8 |
| **Population 65+ years** | 13,588 | 22,524 | 65.8 | 4.2 | 5.7 |
| **Population 80+ years** | 3,133 | 4,187 | 33.6 | 1.0 | 1.1 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

The observed patterns of intercensal population change have altered changes in the respective shares of Belize's national population belonging to specific age groups. Notable increases were evident among persons aged 60+ years, 65+ years, 80+ years, and 15-64 years. For persons aged 15-24 years, under 15 years, 5-14 years, and Under 5 years, declining shares of the national population emerged based on the 2022 Population and Housing Census when compared to the corresponding proportions that prevailed at the time of the 2010 Census.

Between the censuses of 2010 and 2022, observed changes in the share of the Belizean population in the different age groups have resulted in an increase in the median age of the population from 21 years in 2010 to 25 years in 2022. This is borne out in Figure 2.4 which is also indicative of increases in the median ages of the populations in each of the six districts during the intercensal period. Based on the 2022 Census, Toledo and Stann Creek had younger populations, on average, when compared to the remaining four districts. Figure 2.4 also provides evidence that districts such as Corozal, Cayo, and Toledo had been indicative of the greatest manifestation of the aging process that occurred in Belize between the censuses of 2010 and 2022.

**Figure 2.4**
***Median Age of Population According to Administrative Area, Belize, 2010 and 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Table 2.7 presents dependency profiles of the population of Belize as at the 2010 and 2022 Censuses. Based on the 2022 Census, the age structure of the population of Belize was consistent with a reduced overall burden of dependence on the working-age population when compared to the 2010 Census. The more favourable nature of the overall dependency burden in 2022 was principally a function of the more favourable youthful dependency that prevailed in 2022, resulting in the prospect that more favourable opportunities may arise for improving the quality of education, training, and other services targeting children under 15 years. In contrast, the elderly dependency burden had increased during the intercensal period and could signal an intensification of challenges that Belizean authorities may encounter in their efforts to address health care and pension needs for a rapidly growing elderly population. In Belize, the pattern of population aging will likely have increasingly sinister implications if the overall dependency rates change and reflect an increased burden on working age populations in tandem with persistent increases in the elderly dependency burden. In sustaining the well-being and vitality of the Belizean social and economic landscape, current and immediate public investment should seek to build human capital and diversify the economy to assure potential gains that yield demographic dividends. Concomitant with growing elderly dependency, attention will also have to be placed on favouring adjustments that render solvency between pension contributions and pensionable benefits with the passage of time.

**Table 2.7**
***Selected Dependency Parameters, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

| Dependency Parameters | 2010 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| **Dependency Ratio** | 66.1 | 54.7 |
| **Youth Dependency Ratio** | 59.1 | 45.9 |
| **Elderly Dependency Ratio** | 7.0 | 8.8 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 2.5 TREND IN ANNUAL NATURAL INCREASE 2010-2022

Analysing trends in annual live births and deaths between 2010 and 2022 can provide an indication of annual trends in live births, deaths, and natural increase during the intercensal period. Table 2.8 and Figure 2.5 draw upon annual vital statistics from the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) and provide a basis for describing and where possible, accounting plausibly for variations in the respective annual live births and deaths which collectively determine annual population growth trajectories between the 2010 Census and the 2022 Census. The counts contained in Table 2.8 are displayed in Figure 2.5 and provide a visual interpretation of period trends for each of the three demographic outcomes. On reviewing Figure 2.5, the annual trend in natural increase during 2010-2022 was principally a mirror image of the annual trend in live births and hence more greatly influenced by the annual trend in live births rather than annual trend in deaths. Between 2010 and 2018, the annual number of live births fluctuated assuming counts ranging between 7,000 and 8000 per calendar year, peaking at 7,723 in 2018. However, annual and consistent declines were evident with respect to the number live births between 2019 and 2021, followed by an increase in 2022. In Belize, total fertility rates have been on the decline and can account for the eventual decline in annual live births as a preliminary manifestation of declining female fertility in Belize. Natural increase also fluctuated between 2010 and 2022, exhibiting a similar annual pattern when compared with annual live births. However, evidence of declining natural increase especially after 2019 was likely to be associated with somewhat elevated annual counts of death in 2020, 2021 and even 2022 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Table 2.8**

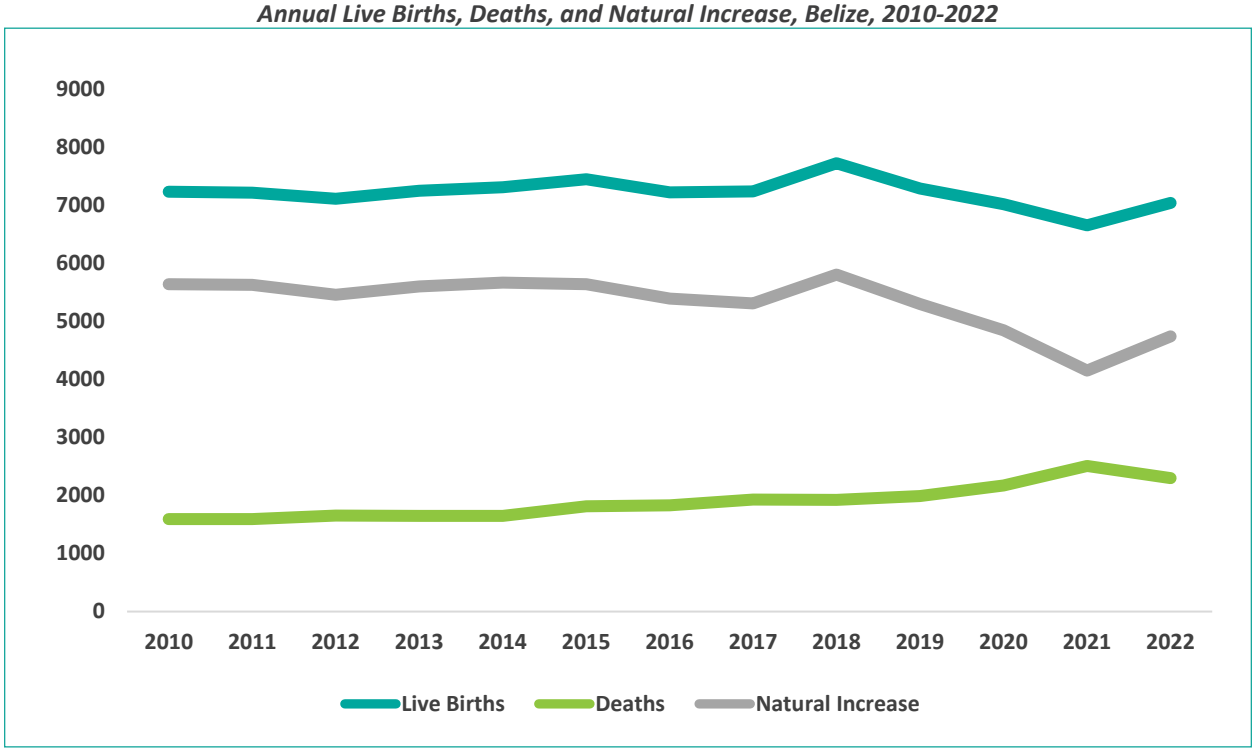
***Annual Live Births, Deaths, and Natural Increase, Belize, 2010-2022***

| Years | Live Births | Deaths | Natural Increase |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2010** | 7,230 | 1,591 | 5,639 |
| **2011** | 7,217 | 1,589 | 5,628 |
| **2012** | 7,110 | 1,654 | 5,456 |
| **2013** | 7,246 | 1,649 | 5,597 |
| **2014** | 7,311 | 1,646 | 5,665 |
| **2015** | 7,449 | 1,812 | 5,637 |
| **2016** | 7,221 | 1,829 | 5,392 |
| **2017** | 7,238 | 1,930 | 5,308 |
| **2018** | 7,723 | 1,920 | 5,803 |
| **2019** | 7,287 | 1,990 | 5,297 |
| **2020** | 7,016 | 2,173 | 4,843 |
| **2021** | 6,654 | 2,504 | 4,150 |
| **2022** | 7,039 | 2,298 | 4,741 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 2.5**

***Annual Live Births, Deaths, and Natural Increase, Belize, 2010-2022***

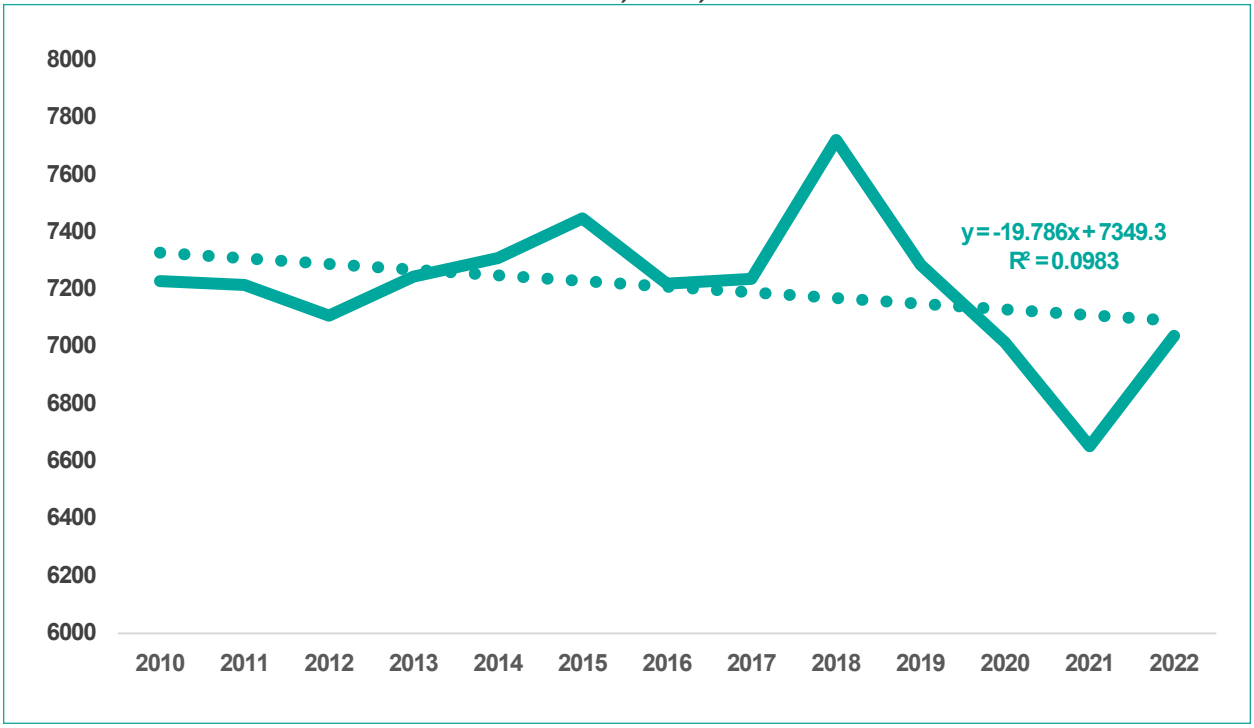



*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 2.6 TREND IN ANNUAL LIVE BIRTHS 2010-2022

Between 2010 and 2022, the annual trend reflecting live births that occurred in Belize is illustrated in Figure 2.6. Based on estimated parameters ($R^2$ = 0.0983) displayed in Figure 2.6, a linear trajectory does not constitute a sufficiently good fit given the sporadic occurrence of live births on an annual basis during 2010-2022. Assuming that this weak linear trajectory informed annual declines in live births between 2010 and 2022, there would be a decline of approximately 20 live births on average, from one year to the next between 2010 and 2022. Interestingly, however, evidence of declining fertility levels among women in Belize sheds light on the prospect of declines in annual live births occurring in Belize during the mid-to-late 2020s and beyond.

**Figure 2.6**
***Annual Live Births, Belize, 2010-2022***



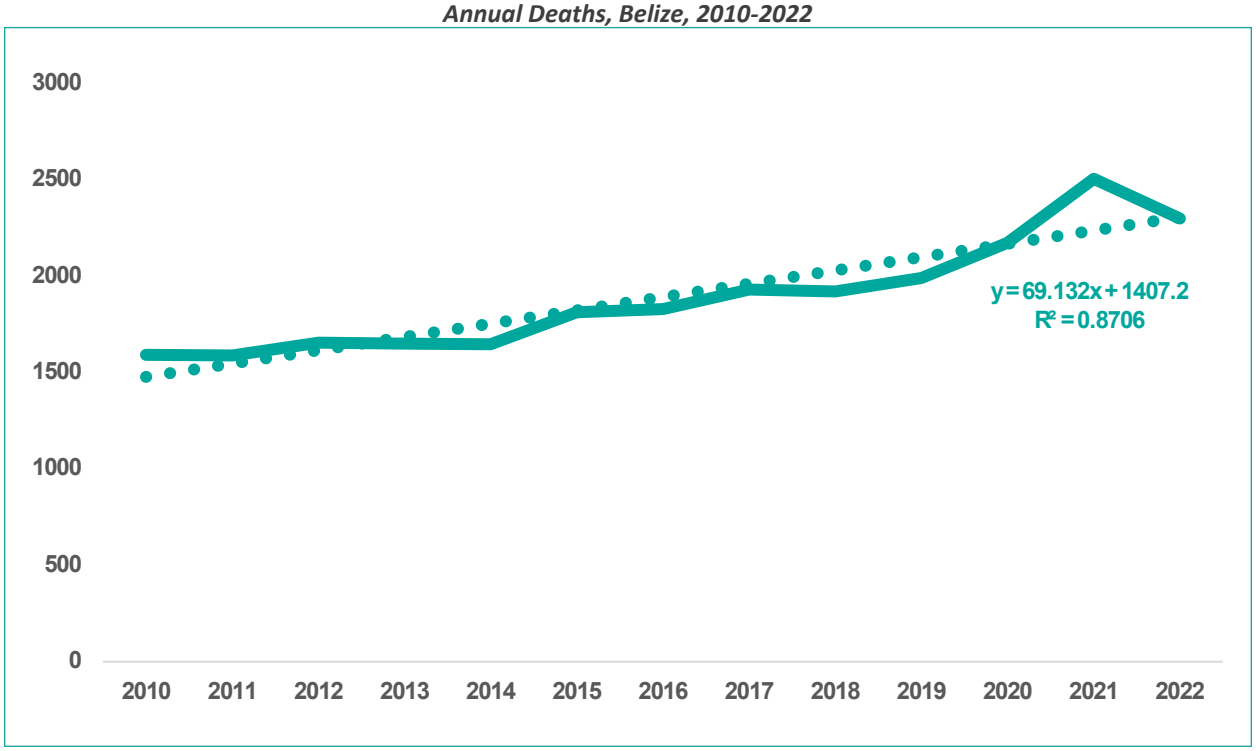

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 2.7 TREND IN ANNUAL DEATHS 2010-2022

With respect to annual deaths between 2010 and 2022, the trend in Belize is illustrated in Figure 2.7. Based on estimated parameters ($R^2 = 0.8706$) displayed in Figure 2.7, a linear trajectory constitutes a sufficiently good fit given the occurrence of deaths annually during 2010-2022. Assuming that this linear trajectory adequately maps annual increases in deaths occurring between 2010 and 2022, there would be an increase of approximately 69 deaths on average, from one year to the next between 2010 and 2022. Bearing in mind elevated counts due to COVID-related deaths in 2020, 2021, and 2022, the linear trajectory representing annual increase would have been stronger and the annual number of deaths would have increased by a smaller margin on average.

**Figure 2.7**

***Annual Deaths, Belize, 2010-2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

# CHAPTER 3

# Socio-Demographic Profile of the Belizean Population

## 3.1 ETHNIC COMPOSITION

Table 3.1 shows the distribution of the population of Belize according to ethnic categories based on data emanating from the 2022 Population and Housing Census. The Census classified the population of Belize according to thirteen categories including "other" and "don't know/not stated". Persons classified as Mestizo, Hispanic, and Latino constituted the largest ethnic category accounting for slightly more than half of the national population. Persons classified as Creole accounted for another 25% of the national population so that the two ethnic sub-populations collectively accounted for a little more than three-quarters of the national population. Persons classified as Maya, Garifuna, and Mennonite accounted for respective proportions of 11%, 4%, and 4% of the national population while persons classified as East Indian, Chinese, Caucasian/White among other minority groups comprised the remaining 5% of the national population.

Figure 3.1 provides a basis for determining changes in the relative sizes of ethnic sub-populations during the intercensal period. Compared to the 2010 Population and Housing Census, the relative sizes of the respective ethnic sub-populations have not changed much, if at all. However, while the relative share for each of the two largest ethnic sub-populations had increased during the intercensal period, it had not changed for the Maya population and had decreased for each of the other sub-population groups including the Garifuna.

Drawing on observations from the 1980 Population and Housing Census, the population of Belize had been exhibiting sex ratios consistent with a growing feminisation of the Belizean population. According to Table 3.2, the 2022 Population and Housing Census has reinforced this pattern as the size of the female population had exceeded the size of the male population, accounting for a sex ratio of 97 males per 100 females. This is especially true for the most populous ethnic categories. However, numerically small ethnic sub-populations including the Mennonites continue to be characterised by an excess of males over females. In the districts of Belize and Cayo, the sex ratios of the ethnic categories most closely approximated corresponding sex ratios of the national population. For the remaining districts, especially Stann Creek and Toledo, a male preponderance persisted within many of the ethnic categories. The districts of Belize and Cayo have the larger populations when compared to each of the other four districts and thus, have an influence on the pattern of national sex ratios by district.

**Table 3.1**

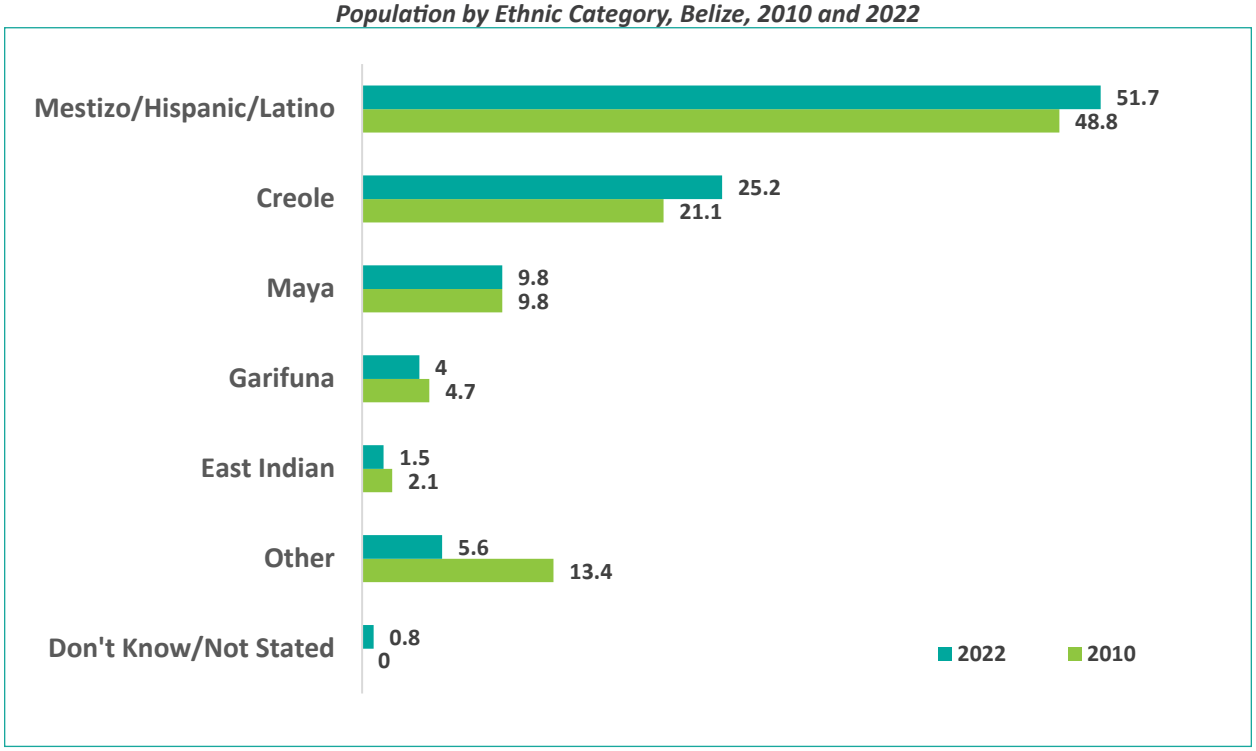
***Census Population According to Sex and Ethnic Categories, Count and Percentage Distribution, Belize, 2022***

| Individuals' Sex | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Count | | | Percent Distribution | | |
| **All Ethnic Category** | **397,483** | **195,695** | **201,789** | **100.00** | **100.00** | **100.00** |
| **Mestizo/Hispanic/Latino** | 205,646 | 100,944 | 104,702 | 51.74 | 51.58 | 51.89 |
| **Creole** | 100,111 | 49,148 | 50,964 | 25.19 | 25.11 | 25.26 |
| **Maya Ketchi** | 26,230 | 12,824 | 13,407 | 6.60 | 6.55 | 6.64 |
| **Garifuna** | 15,845 | 7,545 | 8,301 | 3.99 | 3.86 | 4.11 |
| **Mennonite** | 15,249 | 7,702 | 7,546 | 3.84 | 3.94 | 3.74 |
| **Maya Mopan** | 15,932 | 7,875 | 8,057 | 4.01 | 4.02 | 3.99 |
| **East Indian** | 6,111 | 2,992 | 3,120 | 1.54 | 1.53 | 1.55 |
| **Chinese** | 1,344 | 734 | 610 | 0.34 | 0.38 | 0.30 |
| **Caucasian/White** | 2,905 | 1,540 | 1,365 | 0.73 | 0.79 | 0.68 |
| **Maya Yucatec** | 2,160 | 1,164 | 996 | 0.54 | 0.59 | 0.49 |
| **Indian** | 601 | 362 | 239 | 0.15 | 0.18 | 0.12 |
| **Other** | 2,263 | 1,262 | 1,001 | 0.57 | 0.64 | 0.50 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 3,086 | 1,603 | 1,482 | 0.78 | 0.82 | 0.73 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 3.1**

***Population by Ethnic Category, Belize, 2010 and 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table 3.2**

***Census Population According to Administrative Districts and Ethnic Categories, Census Sex Ratios, Belize, 2022***

(Males per 100 Females)

| Administrative District | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Ethnic Categories** | **97.0** | **96.3** | **98.7** | **94.7** | **97.0** | **101.0** | **97.0** |
| **Mestizo/Hispanic/Latino** | 96.4 | 94.4 | 97.0 | 94.5 | 95.9 | 105.0 | 100.3 |
| **Creole** | 96.4 | 103.4 | 106.8 | 93.7 | 97.9 | 104.7 | 108.1 |
| **Maya Ketchi** | 95.7 | 133.3 | 111.2 | 114.1 | 91.4 | 94.4 | 95.3 |
| **Garifuna** | 90.9 | 121.8 | 129.4 | 92.0 | 96.7 | 87.4 | 91.4 |
| **Mennonite** | 102.1 | 97.8 | 101.8 | 91.5 | 108.1 | 100.0 | 101.4 |
| **Maya Mopan** | 97.7 | 116.7 | 118.8 | 66.2 | 93.4 | 107.3 | 91.2 |
| **East Indian** | 95.9 | 95.9 | 92.9 | 84.7 | 88.5 | 106.1 | 109.7 |
| **Chinese** | 120.3 | 95.0 | 148.5 | 130.5 | 116.6 | 113.7 | 133.3 |
| **Caucasian/White** | 112.8 | 118.0 | 93.5 | 112.0 | 119.8 | 93.1 | 153.8 |
| **Maya Yucatec** | 116.9 | 140.2 | 137.0 | 250.0 | 109.6 | 62.5 | 100.0 |
| **Indian** | 151.5 | 141.7 | 168.4 | 176.8 | 134.3 | 97.3 | 100.0 |
| **Other** | 126.1 | 147.5 | 126.5 | 142.5 | 109.1 | 117.2 | 151.9 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 108.2 | 95.2 | 105.6 | 115.1 | 98.7 | 112.3 | 100.0 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

More than a half of the population of Belize had been classified as Mestizo, Hispanic, or Latino and this category constituted the majority in each of the districts except Belize and Toledo (See Table 3.3). Mestizo, Hispanic, and Latino have been overwhelmingly located in Corozal, Orange Walk, and Cayo, with a smaller majority in Stann Creek. More than a half of the population of Belize District (57%) was classified as Creole while 64.7% of the population of Toledo were classified as Mayan. Orange Walk and Corozal had notably higher proportions of their populations classified as Mennonite when compared to the other four districts (10.8% an 8.8% respectively). Stann Creek had 17.7% of its population classified as Garifuna, this being higher than the corresponding percentage in the other five districts. Considering the main ethnic categories that comprise the population of Belize, Stann Creek has been observed to have the most ethnically diverse population when compared to the other five districts. In Stann Creek, the respective proportions according to ethnic category were as follows: Mestizo, Hispanic, and Latino (32.7%), Creole (21.8%), Garifuna (17.7%), and Mayan (23.2%).

**Table 3.3**
**Percentage Distribution of Census Population According to Ethnic Categories Within Administrative Districts, Belize, 2022**

| Administrative District | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Percentage Distribution | | | | | | |
| **All Ethnic Categories** | **397,483** | **45,310** | **54,132** | **113,630** | **99,105** | **48,162** | **32,783** |
| **Mestizo/Hispanic/Latino** | 51.7 | 77.2 | 79.8 | 33.0 | 67.7 | 32.7 | 19.2 |
| **Creole** | 25.2 | 7.4 | 6.3 | 57.0 | 16.4 | 21.8 | 5.0 |
| **Maya Ketchi** | 6.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 2.6 | 8.4 | 49.4 |
| **Garifuna** | 4.0 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 3.3 | 1.5 | 17.7 | 4.1 |
| **Mennonite** | 3.8 | 8.8 | 10.8 | 0.3 | 4.2 | 0.3 | 2.0 |
| **Maya Mopan** | 4.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 2.4 | 14.7 | 15.3 |
| **East Indian** | 1.5 | 2.1 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 0.9 | 1.8 | 4.1 |
| **Chinese** | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| **Caucasian/White** | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| **Maya Yucatec** | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 1.7 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| **Indian** | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| **Other** | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.2 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.3 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Table 3.4 shows that the population of Belize is reasonably well-represented across the six administrative districts with a relatively higher index of diversity equivalent to 0.80 when compared to the magnitude for the index of diversity reflecting representation across the six districts for each ethnic category. In contrast, almost 65% of the Creole population were reported as residents of Belize District; 70% among Maya Ketchi were reported as residents of Toledo District; almost 54% among Garifuna were reported as residents of Stann Creek, more than three-quarters (76.9%) among Maya Yucatec were reported as residents of Cayo; and approximately 80% among Maya Mopan were reported as residents of the southern districts of Stann Creek and Toledo. These proportions are indicative of the lower magnitudes pertaining to the index of diversity in the context of these districts and thus greater ethnic segregation that points to enclave areas that have been the home-base for specific ethnic populations in Belize.

**Table 3.4**
***Percentage Distribution of Census Population According to Administrative Districts Within Ethnic Categories, Belize, 2022***

| Administrative District | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District | Index of Diversity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Ethnic Categories** | **397,483** | **11.4** | **13.6** | **28.6** | **24.9** | **12.1** | **9.3** | **0.80** |
| **Mestizo/Hispanic/Latino** | 205,646 | 17.0 | 21.0 | 18.2 | 32.6 | 7.7 | 3.5 | 0.78 |
| **Creole** | 100,111 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 64.7 | 16.2 | 10.5 | 1.8 | 0.54 |
| **Maya Ketchi** | 26,230 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 3.7 | 9.8 | 15.4 | 70.0 | 0.48 |
| **Garifuna** | 15,845 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 23.8 | 9.1 | 53.8 | 9.6 | 0.64 |
| **Mennonite** | 15,249 | 26.3 | 38.2 | 2.5 | 27.1 | 1.1 | 4.8 | 0.71 |
| **Maya Mopan** | 15,932 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 3.2 | 15.2 | 44.5 | 35.7 | 0.65 |
| **East Indian** | 6,111 | 15.4 | 2.7 | 28.1 | 14.7 | 14.3 | 24.8 | 0.79 |
| **Chinese** | 1,344 | 17.6 | 12.6 | 28.2 | 25.3 | 11.6 | 4.7 | 0.79 |
| **Caucasian/White** | 2,905 | 15.0 | 3.1 | 30.5 | 31.4 | 15.4 | 4.5 | 0.76 |
| **Maya Yucatec** | 2,160 | 12.4 | 5.0 | 4.2 | 76.9 | 1.2 | 0.3 | 0.39 |
| **Indian** | 601 | 19.4 | 8.4 | 45.7 | 13.6 | 12.1 | 0.7 | 0.71 |
| **Other** | 2,263 | 6.4 | 10.2 | 35.6 | 33.6 | 11.1 | 3.0 | 0.73 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 3,086 | 10.5 | 8.3 | 49.7 | 19.4 | 8.9 | 3.2 | 0.69 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 3.2 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

Table 3.5 shows the distribution of the population of Belize according to religious affiliation based on data emanating from the 2022 Population and Housing Census. The Census classified the population of Belize according to twelve categories including "other" and "don't know/not stated". Persons classified as either Roman Catholic or with no religious affiliation accounted for the vast majority of the national population (31.8% and 31.0% respectively). Persons classified as Pentecostal accounted for approximately 9% of the national population while each of the other religious groups accounted for less than 5% of the national population. This pattern of variability was observed regardless of individuals' sex though relatively greater numbers among males were observed to have had no religious affiliation.

Figure 3.2 provides a basis for determining changes in the relative sizes of the population according to religious affiliation during the intercensal period. Compared to the 2010 Population and Housing Census, the relative sizes of the most dominant forms of religious affiliation have exhibited variable changes. Notable increases have been observed among persons claiming to have had no religious affiliation with the percentage virtually doubling during the intercensal period from 15.5% to 31.0%. A more modest increase was observed among Pentecostals from 8.4% to 9.2%. Otherwise, notable declines have been observed among Roman Catholics, from 40.1% to 31.8%, despite more modest declines that had occurred among Anglicans, Seventh Day Adventists, and persons affiliated with other religious groups.

Regardless of administrative district, Table 3.6 indicates that having no religious affiliation and affiliation to Roman Catholicism persisted as the most dominant forms of religious affiliation in Belize based on the 2022 Population and Housing Census. In the districts of Cayo and Stann Creek, the percentage of the respective sub-populations classified as having no religious affiliation was substantially greater than the percentage classified as Roman Catholic, the respective percentages being 34.7% versus 27.2% in the case of the Cayo District, and 46.6% versus 26.1% in the case of the Stann Creek District.

**Table 3.5**

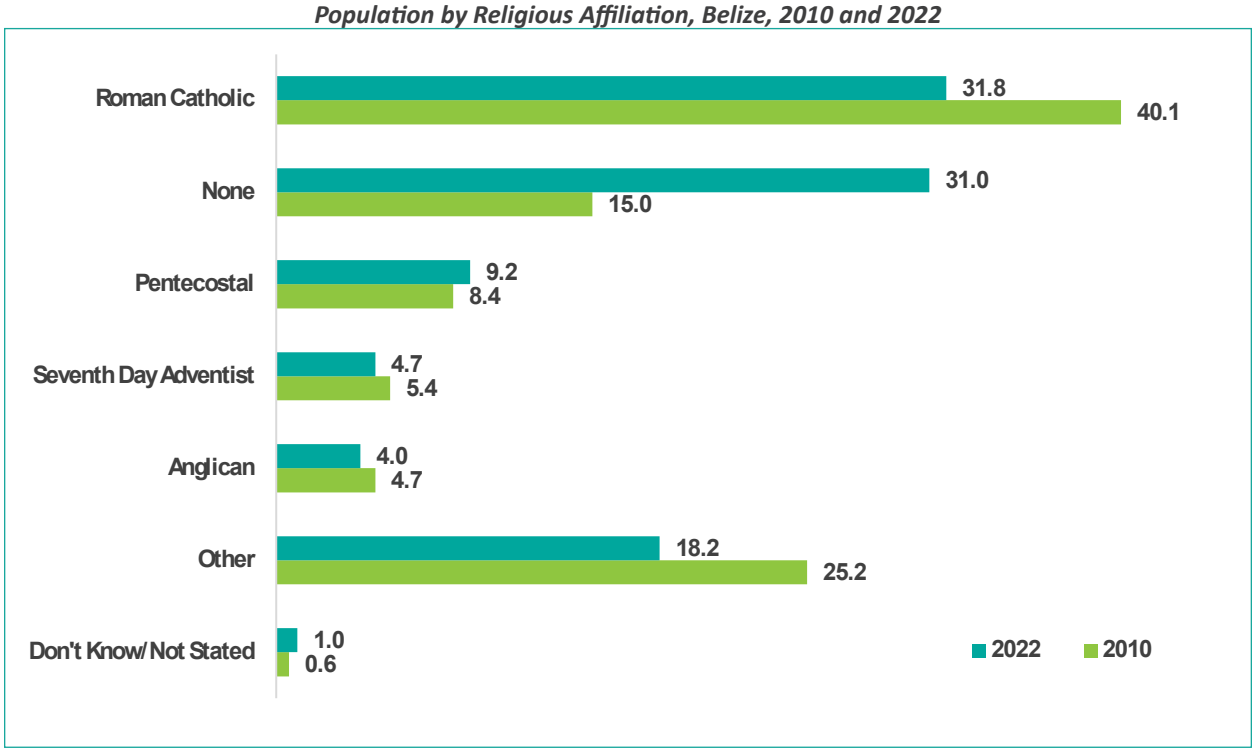
***Census Population According to Sex and Religious Affiliation, Count and Percentage Distribution, Belize, 2022***

| Individuals' Sex | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Sex Ratio |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Religious Affiliation** | **397,483** | **195,695** | **201,789** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **97.0** |
| **Roman Catholic** | 126,596 | 60,245 | 66,351 | 31.8 | 30.8 | 32.9 | 90.8 |
| **Pentecostal** | 36,460 | 17,088 | 19,371 | 9.2 | 8.7 | 9.6 | 88.2 |
| **Seventh Day Adventist** | 18,642 | 8,650 | 9,992 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 86.6 |
| **Anglican** | 15,943 | 7,471 | 8,472 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 88.2 |
| **Mennonite** | 15,440 | 7,734 | 7,707 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 100.3 |
| **Baptist** | 14,109 | 6,596 | 7,513 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 87.8 |
| **Methodist** | 6,623 | 2,993 | 3,630 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 82.4 |
| **Nazarene** | 6,568 | 3,022 | 3,546 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 85.2 |
| **Jehovah's Witness** | 4,478 | 1,987 | 2,491 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 79.8 |
| **Other** | 25,117 | 11,978 | 13,139 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 6.5 | 91.2 |
| **None** | 123,373 | 65,847 | 57,526 | 31 | 33.6 | 28.5 | 114.5 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 4,135 | 2,084 | 2,051 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 101.6 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 3.2**

***Population by Religious Affiliation, Belize, 2010 and 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table 3.6**

***Percentage Distribution of Census Population According to Religious Groups Within Administrative Districts, Belize, 2022***

| Administrative District | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Religious Groups** | **397,483** | **45,310** | **54,132** | **113,630** | **99,105** | **48,162** | **32,783** |
| **Roman Catholic** | 31.8 | 37.9 | 37.3 | 33.4 | 27.2 | 26.1 | 31.7 |
| **Pentecostal** | 9.2 | 5.3 | 7.5 | 5.5 | 14.9 | 8.4 | 13.3 |
| **Seventh Day Adventist** | 4.7 | 10.4 | 4.0 | 5.1 | 4.1 | 2.7 | 1.6 |
| **Anglican** | 4.0 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 8.6 | 2.4 | 3.3 | 1.3 |
| **Mennonite** | 3.9 | 8.9 | 9.9 | 0.5 | 4.2 | 0.5 | 2.8 |
| **Baptist** | 3.5 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 3.6 | 1.9 | 5.0 | 12.0 |
| **Methodist** | 1.7 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 4.1 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 1.3 |
| **Nazarene** | 1.7 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 1.1 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 4.8 |
| **Jehovah's Witness** | 1.1 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.7 |
| **Other** | 6.3 | 7.2 | 11.9 | 4.5 | 6.0 | 2.7 | 8.4 |
| **None** | 31.0 | 22.8 | 24.2 | 30.8 | 34.7 | 46.6 | 21.7 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 1.7 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.3 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

The evidence in Table 3.7 is indicative of a concentration of populations affiliated to specific religious groups in specific administrative districts across Belize, and in such contexts, is reflective of some degree of segregation in religious enclaves. According to Table 3.7, this has been observed in the Corozal District for Seventh Day Adventists, in the Cayo District for Pentecostals, in the Belize District for Anglicans and Methodists, in the Toledo District for Nazarenes and Baptists, and in the Orange Walk District for Mennonites. Nonetheless, all of the religious groups appear to have representation in each of the six administrative districts in Belize

**Table 3.7**
***Percentage Distribution of Census Population According to Administrative Districts Within Religious Groups, Belize, 2022***

| Administrative District | Belize District | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Religious Affiliation** | **397,483** | **11.4** | **13.6** | **28.6** | **24.9** | **12.1** | **9.3** |
| **Roman Catholic** | 126,596 | 13.5 | 15.9 | 30.0 | 21.3 | 9.9 | 9.3 |
| **Pentecostal** | 36,460 | 6.6 | 11.2 | 17.1 | 40.5 | 11.1 | 13.6 |
| **Seventh Day Adventist** | 18,642 | 25.4 | 11.6 | 31.3 | 21.5 | 7.0 | 3.1 |
| **Anglican** | 15,943 | 4.0 | 6.7 | 61.5 | 14.9 | 9.9 | 3.0 |
| **Mennonite** | 15,440 | 26.2 | 34.7 | 3.7 | 27.2 | 1.5 | 6.8 |
| **Baptist** | 14,109 | 5.7 | 3.3 | 28.8 | 13.6 | 17.0 | 31.7 |
| **Methodist** | 6,623 | 5.7 | 1.8 | 70.9 | 6.8 | 7.8 | 7.1 |
| **Nazarene** | 6,568 | 9.0 | 1.2 | 19.4 | 29.2 | 14.2 | 27.0 |
| **Jehovah's Witness** | 4,478 | 14.0 | 17.0 | 26.7 | 25.3 | 10.8 | 6.2 |
| **Other** | 25,117 | 13.0 | 25.6 | 20.3 | 23.6 | 5.1 | 12.4 |
| **None** | 123,373 | 8.4 | 10.6 | 28.4 | 27.9 | 18.2 | 6.5 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 4,135 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 45.8 | 24.8 | 9.9 | 3.1 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 3.3 LANGUAGE CHARACTERISTICS

According to Table 3.8, Belize is a multi-lingual society where several languages are spoken among persons 4 years or older. Table 3.8 indicates that Creole, English, Spanish, German, Garifuna, Chinese, Hindi, and a variety of Mayan languages are spoken in Belize. There is likely to be an association between individuals' ethnic group and their capacity to speak languages other than English, Spanish, and Creole. Based on the 2022 Population and Housing Census, English, Spanish, and Creole appear to be the three dominant languages spoken by persons aged 4 years or older and are readily spoken across most administrative districts with little evidence of linguistic enclaves based on having relatively larger spatial indexes of diversity. Though less dominant and spoken by ethnic minority groups, Hindi, Chinese, and German are also spoken readily across most of the administrative districts, being depicted by similarly large spatial indexes of diversity. During the intercensal period between 2010 and 2022, Figure 3.3 indicated that there was noteworthy growth in the percentage of persons who spoke English, the percentage increasing from 62.9% to 75.5%. A smaller increase was also observed in the case of persons who spoke Creole. Otherwise, observed changes were relatively small.

**Table 3.8**

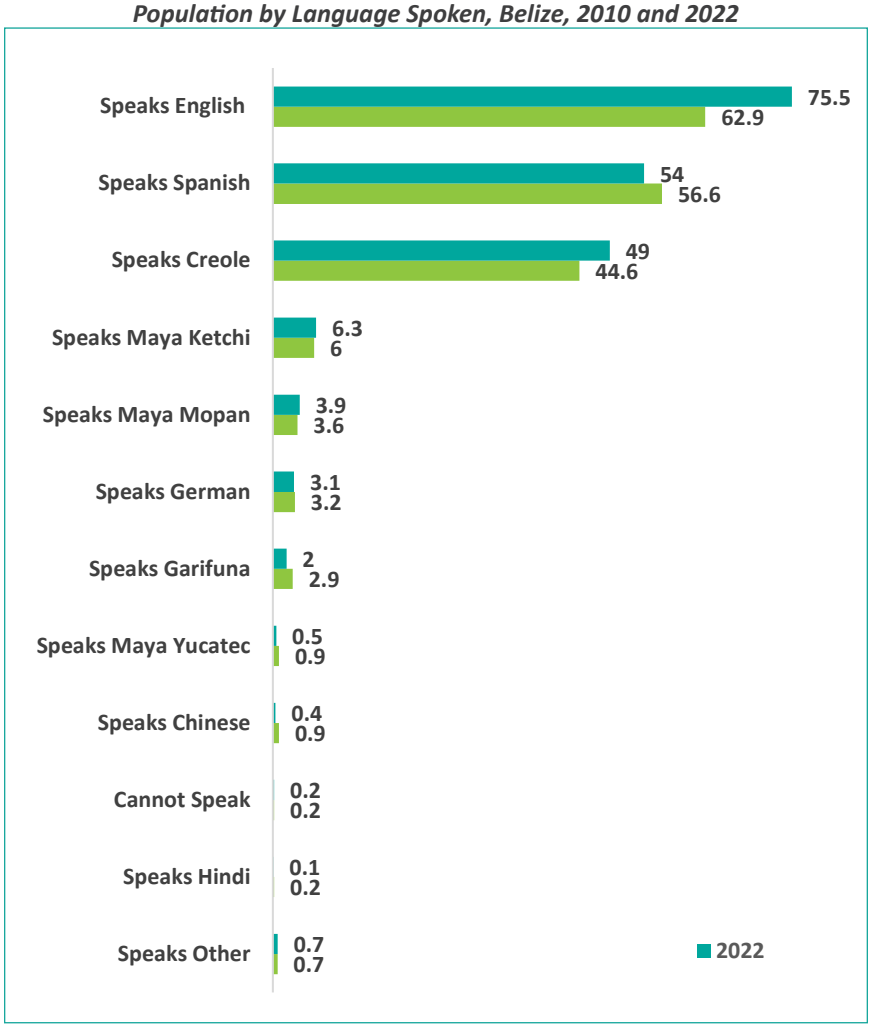
***Percentage of Census Population Aged 4 years or older who can speak Selected Languages According to Administrative Districts, Belize, 2022***

| Administrative Districts | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo | Index of Diversity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Creole** | 180,792 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 42.9 | 21.6 | 17.7 | 8.6 | 0.73 |
| **English** | 278,390 | 10.2 | 13.0 | 32.8 | 26.3 | 10.3 | 7.5 | 0.78 |
| **Spanish** | 199,393 | 17.4 | 21.1 | 17.2 | 32 | 8.2 | 4.1 | 0.78 |
| **Garifuna** | 7481 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 22.6 | 7.2 | 58.6 | 7.7 | 0.59 |
| **German** | 11,294 | 30.7 | 29.9 | 2.9 | 30.8 | 0.7 | 5.1 | 0.72 |
| **Maya Yucatec** | 1,822 | 22.9 | 9.4 | 3.1 | 59.9 | 1.8 | 2.9 | 0.58 |
| **Maya Ketchi** | 23,315 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 2.6 | 9.4 | 15.7 | 71.5 | 0.45 |
| **Maya Mopan** | 14,479 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 2.4 | 12.5 | 46.4 | 37.7 | 0.63 |
| **Chinese** | 1420 | 15.1 | 15.7 | 28.8 | 26.6 | 10.4 | 3.2 | 0.79 |
| **Hindi** | 542 | 22.3 | 13.5 | 46.1 | 11.3 | 6.1 | 0.7 | 0.70 |
| **Other** | 2,475 | 6.3 | 67.7 | 13.3 | 10.0 | 1.9 | 0.7 | 0.51 |
| **Cannot Speak** | 716 | 14 | 16.8 | 27.1 | 21.5 | 10.8 | 9.9 | 0.81 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 3.3**

***Population by Language Spoken, Belize, 2010 and 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table 3.9**
***Percentage of Census Population Aged 4 years or older within Administrative Districts According to Language Spoken, Belize, 2022***

| Administrative Districts | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Population Aged 4+ years** | 368,924 | 42,103 | 50,219 | 106,522 | 91,664 | 42,971 | 35,446 |
| **Creole** | 49.0 | 19.1 | 17.1 | 72.9 | 42.6 | 74.5 | 43.9 |
| **English** | 75.5 | 67.5 | 71.9 | 85.8 | 79.8 | 66.7 | 58.5 |
| **Spanish** | 54.0 | 82.5 | 83.6 | 32.2 | 69.7 | 37.9 | 23.2 |
| **Garifuna** | 2.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 1.6 | 0.6 | 10.2 | 1.6 |
| **German** | 3.1 | 8.2 | 6.7 | 0.3 | 3.8 | 0.2 | 1.6 |
| **Maya Yucatec** | 0.5 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| **Maya Ketchi** | 6.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 2.4 | 8.5 | 47.0 |
| **Maya Mopan** | 3.9 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 2.0 | 15.6 | 15.4 |
| **Chinese** | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| **Hindi** | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| **Other** | 0.7 | 0.4 | 3.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| **Cannot Speak** | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Based on the 2022 Population and Housing Census, Table 3.9 shows that there were 368,924 persons aged 4 years or older in Belize and that they spoke mainly English (75.5%), Spanish (54.0%), and Creole (49.0%). Much smaller percentages spoke Maya Ketchi (6.3%), Maya Mopan (3.9%), German (3.1%), and Garifuna (2.0%). In addition to being the most dominant languages spoken, English, Spanish, and Creole were the most dominant languages spoken by residents in every administrative district except Toledo where Maya Ketchi (47.0%) was among the three main languages, the other two being English (58.5%) and Creole (43.9%). In Stann Creek District, Creole was the most dominant language being spoken by 74.5% of the persons 4 years or older. In the districts of Corozal and Orange Walk, Spanish was the most dominant language being spoken by respective proportions amounting to 82.5% and 83.6% respectively. In the districts of Belize, Cayo, and Toledo, English was the most dominant language being spoken by respective proportions amounting to 85.8%, 79.8%, and 58.5%. The two Mayan languages were more dominant in the two southern districts – Stann Creek (24.1%) and Toledo (62.4%) and thus much more widely spoken than in any of the other four (4) districts. It should also be noted that German was more dominant in Corozal (8.2%) and Orange Walk (6.7%), and to a lesser extent in Cayo (3.1%) when compared to the other three (3) districts.

## 3.4 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Table 3.10 and Figure 3.4 are indicative of the distribution of the census population of Belize according to highest level of educational attainment (i.e. level of education completed) dependent on administrative district of residence. For Belize as a whole and in each of the six administrative districts, overwhelmingly large percentages of the population attained education no higher than primary level. In Belize and Cayo Districts, the respective percentages were 54.3% and 69.4%. In each of the other districts, corresponding percentages were at least 70.0%. With respect to the attainment of secondary and tertiary level education, the highest percentages were observed among the population in Belize District when compared to the other five districts.

With the exception of persons categorised as Chinese, Indian, Caucasian/White or Other, Table 3.11 provides evidence indicating that overwhelming proportions of persons categorised in the remaining ethnic categories attained education no higher than primary level. Except for Mayan and Mennonite populations, each of the remaining ethnic sub-populations had at least 10% of their respective populations claiming to have attained either secondary or tertiary education as their highest level. In fact, persons attaining tertiary level education constituted the largest proportions among the following ethnic categories – Other (41.5%), Caucasian/White (46.7%), and Chinese (36.9%).

**Table 3.10**

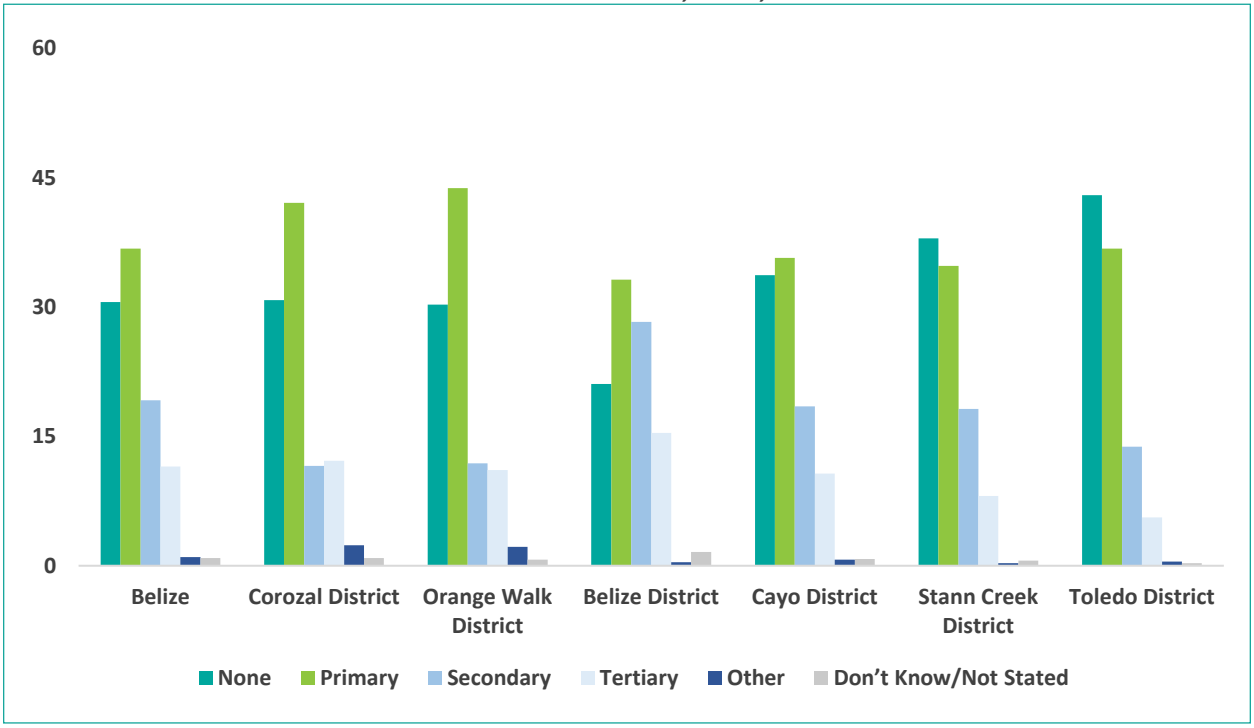
***Percentage Distribution of Census Population According to Highest Level of Educational Attainment Within Administrative Districts, Belize, 2022***

| Highest Level of Educational Attainment | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| None | 30.6 | 30.8 | 30.3 | 21.1 | 33.7 | 38.0 | 43.0 |
| Primary | 36.8 | 42.1 | 43.8 | 33.2 | 35.7 | 34.8 | 36.8 |
| Secondary | 19.2 | 11.6 | 11.9 | 28.3 | 18.5 | 18.2 | 13.8 |
| Tertiary | 11.5 | 12.2 | 11.1 | 15.4 | 10.7 | 8.1 | 5.6 |
| Other | 1.0 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.3 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 3.4**

***Percentage Distribution of Census Population According to Highest Level of Educational Attainment Within Administrative Districts, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table 3.11**

***Percentage Distribution of Census Population According to Highest Level of Educational Attainment Within Ethnic Categories, Belize, 2022***

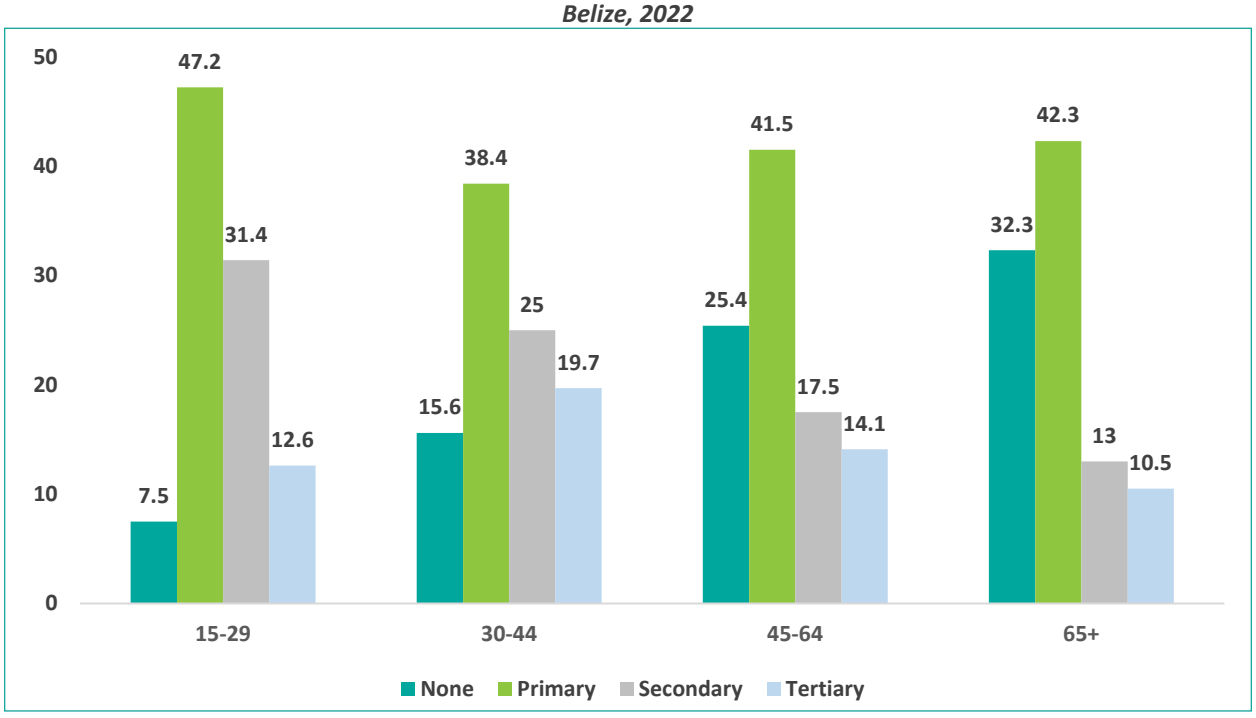
| | None | Primary | Secondary | Tertiary | Other | Don't Know/Not Stated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Mestizo/Hispanic/Latino** | 35.0 | 37.8 | 15.7 | 11.0 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| **Creole** | 21.9 | 34.0 | 28.8 | 14.6 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| **Maya Ketchi** | 47.6 | 35.9 | 12.9 | 3.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| **Garifuna** | 19.9 | 34.9 | 27.8 | 16.8 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| **Mennonite** | 14.6 | 63.5 | 2.5 | 0.5 | 18.4 | 0.5 |
| **Maya Mopan** | 45.0 | 35.3 | 14.7 | 4.9 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| **East Indian** | 21.8 | 37.9 | 23.5 | 16.0 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| **Chinese** | 19.6 | 19.6 | 45.6 | 14.0 | 0.0 | 1.3 |
| **Caucasian/White** | 7.9 | 8.6 | 34.8 | 46.7 | 0.9 | 1.2 |
| **Maya/Yucatec** | 27.1 | 53.4 | 9.9 | 9.1 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| **Indian** | 15.6 | 15.1 | 31.3 | 36.9 | 1.0 | 0.2 |
| **Other** | 10.6 | 12.6 | 33.3 | 41.5 | 1.1 | 1.0 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 3.1 | 4.3 | 2.9 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 88.0 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Figure 3.5 illustrates the share of respective populations aged 15-29 years, 30-44 years, 45-64 years, and 65+ years according to highest level of educational attainment. Regardless of age group, the majority of persons attained primary level education as their highest level. However, successively younger age cohorts were less likely to have attained no education, the respective percentages ranging from 7.5% for the 15-19 age cohort, 15.6% for the 30-44 age cohort, 25.4% for the 45-64 age cohort, and 32.3% for the 65+ age cohort. In contrast, successively older age cohorts were less likely to have attained secondary education as their highest level. For the age cohorts 30-44 years, 45-64 years, and 65+ years, consisting of persons deemed highly likely to have attained their highest level of educational attainment, successively older cohorts were less likely to have attained tertiary education as their highest level.

**Figure 3.5**

***Percentage of Census Population According to Highest Level of Educational Attainment Within Age Cohorts, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 3.5 WORKING-AGE AND EMPLOYED PERSONS

The 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census permits an analysis of the contemporary status of the population of Belize focusing on persons of working-age (14+ years) and the sub-population that was classified as employed. According to Table 3.12, the working-age population consisted of 287,811 persons of which 139,940 were male and 147,871 were female. Moreover, a little more than a half of the working-age population (53.3%) were employed with a substantially higher percentage among males of working age when compared to their female counterparts (70.1% versus 37.4%). Regardless of age group, Table 3.12 indicates that working-age males were more likely to be employed when compared to their female counterparts.

Table 3.12 and Figure 3.6 throw light upon the employment of working-age populations according to age group. For persons of working-age, the percentage employed peaked among those aged 35-44 years amounting to 70.8% for both sexes, 91.5% for males, and 52.0% for females. In fact, employment appears to be highest among persons aged 25-34 years, 35-44 years, and 45-54 years regardless of sex group. For older persons aged 55-64 years and 65+ years, percentages employed declined and may have been likely due to factors associated with health challenges, increasing risks of disability, and the onset of retirement. In contrast, perceptions regarding inexperience in the world of work, and participation in full-time schooling are likely factors that impact the lower percent of employment among persons aged 14-24 years. These findings are indicative of gendered nuances fuelled by stereotypes, prejudices, discrimination, disincentives, among other negative experiences that militate against higher levels of employment among working-age females and result in the persistence of gender gaps characterising the employment of working-age males and females. Further investigation targeting such nuances become necessary as a primary means of redressing such gaps towards charting more progressive national development futures.

**Table 3.12**

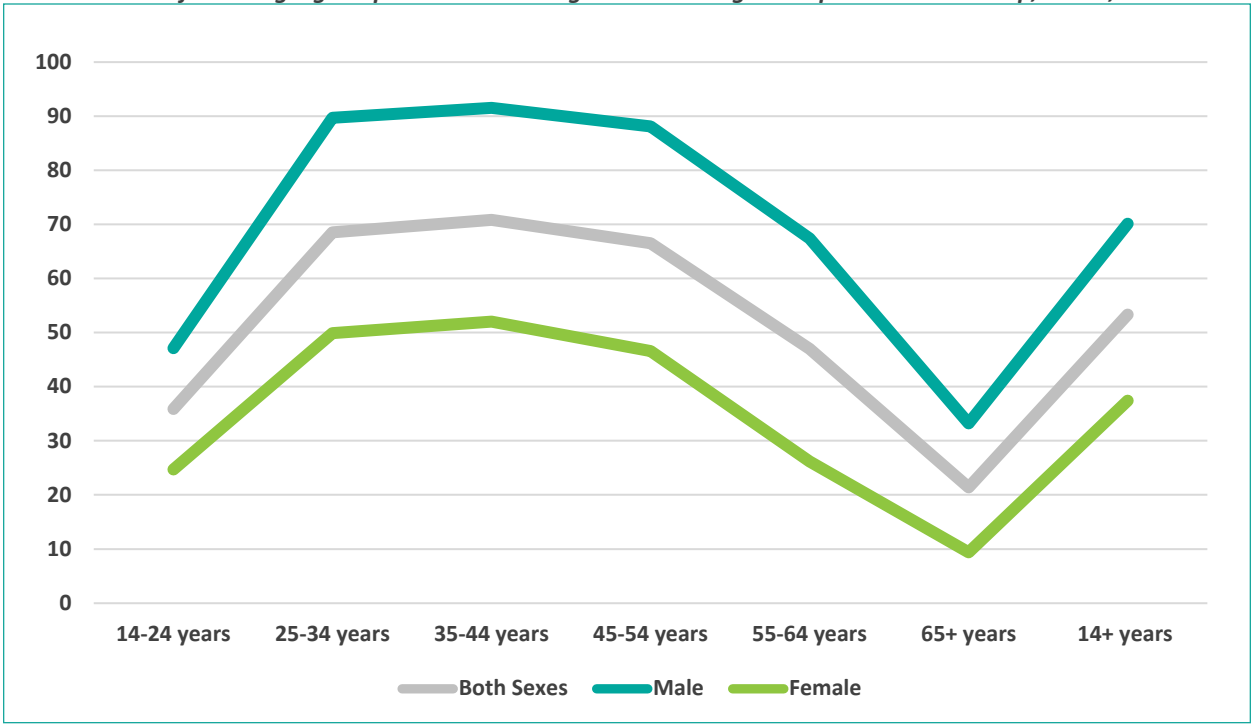
***Working-Age Population (14+ years) and Percent Employed According to Selected Age Group Within Sex, Belize, 2022***

| Population of Working-Ages | Both Sexes | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Working Age Population (14+ years)** | 287,811 | 139,940 | 147,871 |
| **Percent Employed – Persons 14+ years** | 53.3 | 70.1 | 37.4 |
| **Percent Employed – Persons 14-24 years** | 35.9 | 47.1 | 24.7 |
| **Percent Employed – Persons 25-34 years** | 68.5 | 89.7 | 49.9 |
| **Percent Employed – Persons 35-44 years** | 70.8 | 91.5 | 52.0 |
| **Persons Employed – Persons 45-54 years** | 66.5 | 88.1 | 46.6 |
| **Persons Employed – Persons 55-64 years** | 47.0 | 67.4 | 26.2 |
| **Persons Employed – Persons 65+ years** | 21.4 | 33.2 | 9.4 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 3.6**

***Percent of Working-Age Population According to Selected Age Group Within Sex Group, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

With respect to the main occupations of persons employed in jobs at the time of the 2022 Population and Housing Census, Table 3.13 describes the percentage distribution of employed persons and also reflects variable patterns in such distributions that may be associated with gendered patterns dependent upon individuals' sex group. Almost half of all employed persons were classified as being employed as service and sales workers (27.2%) or as elementary workers engaged in unskilled activities (21.9%). Some 19.2% of employed persons worked as managers, professionals, technicians, and associate professionals while 10.5% worked as craft and related trades workers. Male employees were most likely to be engaged in the following occupational activities – elementary occupations (26.3%), service and sales workers (19.9%), managers, professionals, technicians, and associated professionals (15.7%), and craft and related trades workers (14.1%); the four occupational groups accounting for the employment of 76.0% of all male employees. In contrast, female employees were most likely to be engaged in the following occupational activities – service and sales workers (40.2%), managers, professionals, technicians, and associated professionals (25.5%), elementary occupations (14.1%), and clerical support workers (12.8%); the four occupational groups accounting for the employment of 92.4% of all female employees.

**Table 3.13**

***Percentage Distribution of Employed Persons to Main Occupation Within Sex Group, Belize, 2022***

| Main Occupation | Both Sexes | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| All Employed Persons (14+ years) | 153,475 | 98,160 | 55,315 |
| Armed forces occupations | 1.0 | 1.4 | 0.2 |
| Managers | 4.4 | 3.9 | 5.4 |
| Professionals | 8.0 | 5.1 | 13.0 |
| Technicians and associate professionals | 6.8 | 6.7 | 7.1 |
| Clerical support workers | 7.1 | 3.8 | 12.8 |
| Service and sales workers | 27.2 | 19.9 | 40.2 |
| Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers | 6.2 | 9.2 | 1.0 |
| Craft and related trades workers | 10.5 | 14.1 | 4.1 |
| Plant and machine operators, and assemblers | 5.7 | 8.4 | 0.8 |
| Elementary occupations | 21.9 | 26.3 | 14.1 |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.2 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table 3.14**

***Percentage Distribution of Persons Employed According to Main Industry Within Sex Group, Belize, 2022***

| Main Industry | Both Sexes | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| All Employed Persons (14+ years) | 153,475 | 98,160 | 55,315 |
| Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles | 14.9 | 13.7 | 17.1 |
| Transportation and storage | 4 | 5.3 | 1.5 |
| Accommodation and food service activities | 10.1 | 7.2 | 15.4 |
| Information and communication | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0.9 |
| Financial and insurance activities | 1.9 | 1.3 | 2.9 |
| Real estate activities | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Professional, scientific and technical activities | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.9 |
| Administrative and support service activities | 9.3 | 7.9 | 11.7 |
| Public administration and defence; compulsory social security | 7 | 7.3 | 6.5 |
| Education | 5.2 | 2.5 | 9.8 |
| Human health and social work activities | 2.9 | 1.3 | 5.6 |
| Arts, entertainment and recreation | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Other service activities | 2.2 | 1.7 | 3.2 |
| Activities of households as employers - activities of households for own use | 4.9 | 2.9 | 8.5 |
| Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.7 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

With respect to the main industries that framed the type of activities pursued by persons who were employed in jobs at the time of the 2022 Population and Housing Census, Table 3.14 describes the percentage distribution of employed persons and also reflects variable patterns in such distributions dependent upon individuals' sex group. Approximately, 45% of employed persons worked in the following industries – wholesale and retail trades, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (14.9%); accommodation and food service activities (10.1%); administrative and support service activities (9.3%); public administration and defence, compulsory social security (7.0%); and education (5.2%). Except for the education sector, the remaining sectors constituted main domains that engaged the services of at least 36.0% of employed males. For females, almost 60.0% of those who were employed were engaged in the abovementioned industries. Compared to their male counterparts, the relatively greater engagement of employed females in education, accommodation and food service activities, and human health and social work activities is noteworthy. Contrastingly, the relatively greater engagement of employed males in transportation and food storage is also noteworthy when compared to their female counterparts.

**Table 3.15**
***Percentage Distribution of Employed Persons According to Type of Worker Within Sex Group, Belize, 2022***

| Type of Worker | Both Sexes | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| **All Employed Persons (14+ years)** | 153,475 | 98,160 | 55,315 |
| **Self-employed (with hired help/employees)** | 7.2 | 8.2 | 5.5 |
| **Self-employed (without hired help/employees)** | 17.3 | 17.7 | 16.6 |
| **Employee (Government/Quasi Government)** | 12.5 | 10.8 | 15.6 |
| **Employee (NGO)** | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.1 |
| **Employee (International Organization/Embassy)** | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| **Contributing family worker** | 3.0 | 2.5 | 3.8 |
| **Employee (Private)** | 58.3 | 59.2 | 56.6 |
| **Paid apprentice/Intern** | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Based on 2022 Population and Housing Census, Table 3.15 describes the percentage distribution of employed persons according to type of worker. Almost 60.0% of all employed persons worked in the private sector, this being the case for both male and female workers. The public sector employed 12.5% of all employed persons. Almost a quarter of all employed persons were classified as self-employed with a larger share not having any hired help/employees (17.3% as opposed to 7.2%). A similar pattern was observed regardless of individuals' sex group. However, a greater percentage from among female workers were employed in the public sector when compared to their male counterparts (15.6% as opposed to 10.8%).

## 3.6 COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Table 3.16 indicates that Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras were the countries of birth for approximately three quarters of the foreign-born population in Belize with Guatemala accounting for more than a half of such persons. Smaller but noteworthy proportions of the foreign-born population stock were born in the United States, Mexico, and a collection of countries classified as Rest of World. Drawing on the population census counts of 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2022, Table 3.17 examines intercensal changes in the population size of Belize, the size of the local Belizean population, and the size of foreign-born populations in Belize. Since 1980, the size of the foreign-born population of Belize increased across every intercensal period despite evidence that it had declined by 2022. In 1980, there were 12, 940 foreign-born persons in Belize, almost doubling to 25,745 in 1991; 36,642 in 2000; 49,819 in 2010 before evidence of a decline to 45,644 persons in 2022. Though positive, the intercensal rate of growth with respect to successive census populations declined across intercensal periods and was actually negative during the 2010-2022 intercensal period. Nonetheless, Table 3.17 revealed that there were increases in the share of the population that consisted of foreign-born persons for successive censuses between 1980 and 2010 before declining to 11.5% in 2022 from 15.5% in 2010.

Since gaining Independence from Britain, Table 3.17 shows that growth of the foreign-born population for the intercensal period between 1980 and 1991 was 99.0% indicating that the foreign-born population of Belize almost doubled during that period. For subsequent intercensal periods during 1991-2000 and 2000-2010, the rate of intercensal growth was noticeably positive despite a decline to 42.3% and 36.0% respectively. The most recent intercensal period between 2010 and 2022 was actually characterised by a decline in the size of the foreign-born population amounting to 8.4%. For the intercensal periods between 2000-2010 and 2010-2022, Table 3.18 accounts for rates of intercensal changes in the sizes of foreign-born populations according to selected countries of birth. During 2000-2010, noteworthy growth was evident from all countries of birth especially in the cases of Nicaragua, Canada, United States, China, and the Rest of the World, each having relatively smaller sub-populations among the foreign-born population stock of Belize. Except in the case of Canada, and El Salvador, the foreign-born population stock with birth-origins in all of the other countries declined, exhibiting variable rates of intercensal decline. To understand the factors that would have accounted for such changes in the most recent intercensal period, it will be necessary to undertake a more detailed inquiry of fertility, mortality, and international migration targeting Belize's foreign-born population according to country of birth.

**Table 3.16**
***Census Population Distribution According to Foreign Country of Birth, Count and Percentage, Belize, 2000, 2010 and 2022***

| Foreign Country of Birth | 2000 | 2010 | 2022 | 2000 | 2010 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Foreign Countries** | 36,642 | 49,819 | 45,644 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| **Guatemala** | 15,581 | 20,181 | 19,061 | 42.5 | 40.5 | 41.8 |
| **El Salvador** | 6,479 | 7,582 | 8,511 | 17.7 | 15.2 | 18.6 |
| **Honduras** | 5,315 | 7,517 | 6,940 | 14.5 | 15.1 | 15.2 |
| **United States** | 1,886 | 3,574 | 2,985 | 5.1 | 7.2 | 6.5 |
| **Mexico** | 2,500 | 3,026 | 2,528 | 6.8 | 6.1 | 5.5 |
| **China** | 972 | 1,753 | 834 | 2.7 | 3.5 | 1.8 |
| **Canada** | 473 | 714 | 822 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.8 |
| **Nicaragua** | 306 | 654 | 638 | 0.8 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| **Rest of World** | 3,130 | 4,817 | 3,323 | 8.5 | 9.7 | 7.3 |

*Source: 2022 Population and Housing Census, Belize*

**Table 3.17**
***Population Size and Intercensal Growth Characteristics National, Local-Born and Foreign-Born Population, Belize, 1980, 1991, 2000, 2010 and 2022***

| Population Size and Intercensal Growth Characteristics | 1980 | 1991 | 2000 | 2010 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Belize population** | **144,850** | **185,969** | **248,916** | **322,424** | **397,483** |
| **Total local-born population** | 131,910 | 160,224 | 212,274 | 272,605 | 351,839 |
| **Total foreign-born population** | 12,940 | 25,745 | 36,642 | 49,819 | 45,644 |
| **Percent of foreign-born to total population** | 8.90% | 13.80% | 14.70% | 15.50% | 11.50% |
| **Intercensal local-born population growth rate** | | 21.50% | 32.50% | 28.40% | 29.10% |
| **Intercensal foreign-born population growth rate** | | 99.00% | 42.30% | 36.00% | -8.40% |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table 3.18**

***Intercensal Population Growth for Belize and Selected Foreign Countries, Belize, 2000-2010 and 2010-2022***

| Foreign Country of Birth | 2000-2010 | 2010-2022 |
|---|---|---|
| **All Foreign Countries** | 36.0% | -8.4% |
| **Guatemala** | 29.5% | -5.6% |
| **El Salvador** | 17.0% | 12.3% |
| **Honduras** | 41.4% | -7.7% |
| **United States** | 89.5% | -16.5% |
| **Mexico** | 21.0% | -16.5% |
| **China** | 80.3% | -52.4% |
| **Canada** | 51.0% | 15.1% |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Table 3.19 presents the aging characteristics of foreign-born persons who were enumerated in the census populations of 2010 and 2022. The median age group constitutes the best measure of the aging status of the respective foreign-born populations enumerated during the two censuses. Being a little more than 10 years apart, it seems reasonable to deduce that as foreign-born birth cohorts age across different periods, the cohort of persons belonging to the median age group being 25-29 years in 2010 will constitute the majority of persons aged 35-39 years in 2022. For the foreign-born populations from countries represented in Table 3.19, the median age group was virtually homogenous in 2022 except in the cases of the United States and Canada, each having 40-44 years as the median age group. As of 2022, these observations suggest that the aging status of foreign-born populations from the United States and Canada was most pronounced. In general, however, there was less variability in the aging status of the foreign-born populations across the different countries of birth in 2022 when compared to 2010.

For the foreign-born populations observed for 2010, the age groups across the respective countries of origin were much more variable, and the aged status of the foreign-born persons from Canada were the most pronounced with a median age group of 40-44 years. Mexico, and to a somewhat lesser extent, El Salvador, China, and the Rest of the World were also jurisdictions with notably aged foreign-born populations in 2010 with a median age group of at least 30-34 years. Despite having experienced intercensal aging, foreign-born populations from Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua were observed to have had relatively young populations while the United States had the youngest population with a median age group of 15-19 years.

**Table 3.19**

***Age Characteristics of the Foreign-Born Population of Belize According to Selected Functional Age Groups and Country, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

| Country of Birth | Under 15 years | | 15-64 years | | 65+ years | | Median Age Group | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2010 | 2022 | 2010 | 2022 | 2010 | 2022 | 2010 | 2022 |
| **All Foreign Countries** | 11.9 | 7.8 | 81.9 | 80.1 | 6.2 | 12.0 | 25-29 | 35-39 |
| **Guatemala** | 10.6 | 5.9 | 84.4 | 84.2 | 4.9 | 9.9 | 25-29 | 35-39 |
| **El Salvador** | 6.0 | 4.2 | 88.3 | 84.6 | 5.8 | 11.1 | 30-34 | 35-39 |
| **Honduras** | 10.0 | 6.3 | 85.5 | 85.7 | 4.4 | 8.0 | 25-29 | 35-39 |
| **United States** | 36.8 | 19.4 | 53.5 | 55.2 | 9.7 | 25.3 | 15-19 | 40-44 |
| **Mexico** | 17.8 | 21.3 | 68.4 | 54.9 | 13.8 | 23.9 | 35-39 | 35-39 |
| **China** | 4.5 | 7.4 | 93.0 | 88.1 | 2.5 | 4.5 | 30-34 | 35-39 |
| **Canada** | 16.4 | 23.7 | 62.1 | 52.2 | 21.6 | 24.1 | 40-44 | 40-44 |
| **Nicaragua** | 10.4 | 4.3 | 87.0 | 87.8 | 2.5 | 7.9 | 25-29 | 35-39 |
| **Rest of the World** | 9.7 | 7.6 | 83.6 | 78.6 | 6.7 | 13.7 | 30-34 | 35-39 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Among Belize's foreign-born population, the percentage aged under 15 years was 11.9% in 2010 and declined by more than 4 percentage points to 7.8% in 2022. In contrast, the percentage 65 years or older increased by almost 6 percentage points from 6.2% in 2010 to 12% in 2022. At least four-fifths of the enumerated foreign-born population were aged 15-64 years and belonged to prime working-age population groups. For each of four neighbouring Central American countries, namely, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, a similar age composition was characteristic of the respective populations. The respective shares aged under 15 years were characterised by similar intercensal declines between 2010 and 2022 in each of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In contrast, the respective shares aged 65 years or older increased, having either doubled or almost doubled over the intercensal period.

With respect to foreigners born in the remaining countries, Table 3.19 shows that intercensal increases in the relative share aged 65+ years were generally evident. However, there were some obvious differences in intercensal changes in the relative sizes of the populations aged under 15 years dependent on country of birth. For persons born in Mexico, China, and Canada, there was an increase in the relative size of the respective foreign-born populations aged under 15 years. Specifically, the relative sizes of the populations in that age group increased between 2010 and 2022 for foreign-born persons from those three countries. Such an outcome may be indicative of emergent living arrangements that favour the increasing presence of young children whether through fertility outcomes or family unification. Despite intercensal decline between 2010 and 2022, the relatively high percentage of children under 15 years among the foreign-born population from the United States is also noteworthy.

## 3.7 HEALTH AND DISABILITY STATUS

### 3.7.1 Health Status

Based on the 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census, Table 3.20 presents prevalence rates for long-term illnesses among the entire population. The evidence indicates that hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and arthritis rheumatism were the four main medical illnesses afflicting the population with potential negative impacts on its wellbeing. The respective prevalence rates were 55.4 per 1,000 population, 37.4 per 1,000 population, 21.9 per 1,000 population, and 17.7 per 1,000 population. Table 3.20 also presents corresponding rates for additional forms of long-term illness including heart disease and kidney disease. Nonetheless, it is important to gauge the impact that age has been having on the prevalence of different long-term illnesses within the contemporary Belizean population. Accordingly, the population is disaggregated according to five age groups – under 15 years, 15-29 years, 30-44 years, 45-59 years, and 60 years or older.

Table 3.21 presents results in accordance with such a disaggregation and exhibits striking differences in the prevalence rates associated with the leading long-term illnesses, the prevalence of which is age-determined. Among the population under 15 years, the impact of conditions such as autism, sickle cell and down syndrome stood out as being the most prevalent. Asthma prevailed among the top five illnesses in each of the age groups being ranked higher among the most prevalent illnesses in younger age groups when compared to older age groups. It is also worth noting that among populations in each of the five age groups, the prevalence rate for asthma was highest in the youngest and oldest populations being 25 per 1,000 population in the under 15 age group and 24.4 per 1,000 population in the 60+ age group. For the age groups 15-29 years, 30-44 years, and 45-59 years; asthma, hypertension, diabetes, arthritis rheumatism, and kidney disease were the top five long-term illnesses plaguing the respective populations, despite changes in the ranking of the prevalence rates across the three populations. Hypertension and diabetes stood out as being ranked highest within the 30-44, 45-59, and 60+ age groups. For these three age groups, arthritis rheumatism trailed hypertension and diabetes. Heart disease assumed significance as a dominant long-term illness among persons in the 60+ age group and was likely a full-blown outcome of illnesses such as hypertension and diabetes that had developed as dominant long-term illnesses at earlier life stages.

**Table 3.20**

***Prevalence Rates per 1,000 Population: Selected Long-Term Illness Conditions, Belize, 2022***

Census Population Size = 397,483

| Long-Term Illness Condition | Per 1,000 Population |
|---|---|
| **Has arthritis rheumatism** | **17.7** |
| **Has kidney disease** | 7.1 |
| **Has asthma** | **21.9** |
| **Has diabetes** | **37.4** |
| **Has hypertension/ high blood pressure** | **55.4** |
| **Has sickle cell anaemia** | 2.8 |
| **Has glaucoma** | 2.7 |
| **Has cancer** | 2.8 |
| **Has heart disease** | **7.6** |
| **Has lupus** | 0.9 |
| **Has autism** | 2.5 |
| **Has dementia** | 1.5 |
| **Has down syndrome** | 1.9 |
| **Has spina bifida** | 1.5 |
| **Has another disease or condition** | 23.5 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table 3.21**

***Prevalence Rates per 1,000 Population: Top Five Long-Term Illness Conditions According to Selected Age Groups, Belize, 2022***

| 0-14 years | 15-29 years | 30-44 years | 45-59 years | 60+ years |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Asthma 25 | Asthma 21.4 | Hypertension 49.3 | Hypertension 139.8 | Hypertension 262.3 |
| Autism 3.4 | Hypertension 11.0 | Diabetes 24.4 | Diabetes 102.9 | Diabetes 193.0 |
| Heart disease 2.2 | Arthritis rheumatism 3.9 | Asthma 19.2 | Arthritis rheumatism 33.5 | Arthritis rheumatism 109.4 |
| Sickle Cell 2 | Diabetes 3.9 | Arthritis rheumatism 9.6 | Asthma 18.6 | Heart Disease 39.5 |
| Down Syndrome 1.9 | Kidney disease 3.7 | Kidney disease 8.6 | Kidney disease 13.0 | Asthma 24.4 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

### 3.7.2 Disability Status

Based on the 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census, Table 3.22 presents prevalence rates for persons with disabilities among the entire population. Accordingly, approximately one-tenth of the population of Belize constituted persons with disabilities (PWDs) or 101.1 PWDs per 1,000 population. Table 3.22 shows that difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses was the most common form of impairment in the Belizean population accounting for 59.3 PWDs per 1,000 population. Mobility issues resulting from difficulty walking or climbing stairs were also common, being characterised by a prevalence rate of 41.4 PWDs per 1,000 population. Though less commonplace, difficulty remembering or concentrating (26.6 PWDs per 1,000 population), and difficulty hearing even if using a hearing aid (21.3 PWDs per 1,000 population) were outcomes associated with impairments. Figure 3.7 indicates that the prevalence rates for disability were positively associated with the selected age groups. This should not be surprising as greater risks of impairment due to injury and disease are linked to individuals' aging processes. For persons aged 30-44 years or 45-59 years, Figure 3.7 shows that prevalence rates had more than doubled for successive age groups.

**Table 3.22**

***Prevalence of Disability including Type of Disability Per 1,000 Population, Belize, 2022***

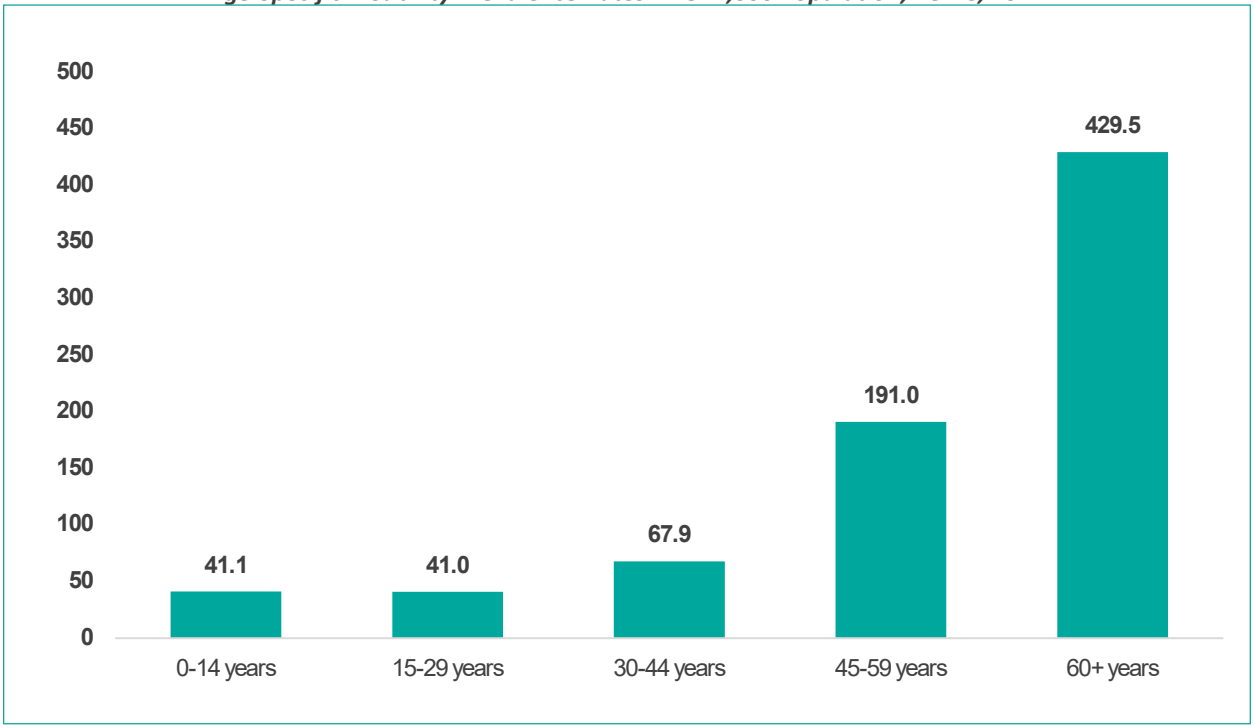
Census Population Size = 397,483

| Type of Disability | Per 1,000 Population |
|---|---|
| **Total Disabled Population** | 101.1 |
| **Difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses** | 59.3 |
| **Difficulty hearing even if using hearing aid.** | 21.3 |
| **Difficulty walking or climbing stairs.** | 41.4 |
| **Difficulty remembering or concentrating.** | 26.6 |
| **Difficulty with (self-care, such as) washing all over or dressing.** | 14.4 |
| **Difficulty communicating (for example, understanding or being understood).** | 13.2 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 3.7**

***Age-Specific Disability Prevalence Rates – Per 1,000 Population, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

According to Table 3.23, difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses stood out as the most prevalent form of disability among persons in each of the age groups except the under 15 age group. This reinforces the relatively higher prevalence of vision impairment when compared to other forms of impairment that present themselves in the Belizean population. For persons aged 30-44 years, 45-59 years, and 60+ years, difficulty walking or climbing stairs, though not as prevalent as disability due to vision impairment, could be due to population aging and the greater prevalence of long-term illness in the form of arthritis rheumatism observed among such older populations. With respect to difficulty remembering or concentration, prevalence rates ranked higher than other forms of disability among younger persons under 15 years and those aged 15-29 years. This form of disability was also manifest, ranking third among all forms of disability within populations aged 30-44 years and 45-59 years.

**Table 3.23**

***Summary of Age-Specific Disability: Prevalence of Disability Within Selected Age Groups According to Type of Disability Per 1,000 Population, Belize, 2022***

| 0-14 years | 15-29 years | 30-44 years | 45-59 years | 60+ years |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Difficulty remembering or concentrating | Difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses | Difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses | Difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses | Difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses |
| 16.6 | 21.6 | 38.1 | 134.6 | 283.6 |
| Difficulty with (self-care, such as) washing all over or dressing | Difficulty remembering or concentrating | Difficulty walking or climbing stairs | Difficulty walking or climbing stairs | Difficulty walking or climbing stairs |
| 3.4 | 11.7 | 18.3 | 68.7 | 262.3 |
| Difficulty communicating (for example, understanding or being understood) | Difficulty communicating (for example, understanding or being understood) | Difficulty remembering or concentrating | Difficulty remembering or concentrating | Difficulty hearing even if using hearing aid |
| 14.0 | 8.7 | 15.4 | 34.4 | 143.8 |
| Difficulty walking or climbing stairs | Difficulty walking or climbing stairs | Difficulty hearing even if using hearing aid | Difficulty hearing even if using hearing aid | Difficulty remembering or concentrating |
| 10.6 | 7.7 | 9.9 | 29.1 | 115.5 |
| Difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses | Difficulty hearing even if using hearing aid | Difficulty communicating (for example, understanding or being understood) | Difficulty communicating (for example, understanding or being understood) | Difficulty with (self-care, such as) washing all over or dressing |
| 7.7 | 5.8 | 8.0 | 11.6 | 67.04 |
| Difficulty hearing even if using hearing aid | Difficulty with (self-care, such as) washing all over or dressing | Difficulty with (self-care, such as) washing all over or dressing | Difficulty with (self-care, such as) washing all over or dressing | Difficulty communicating (for example, understanding or being understood) |
| 3.6 | 4.3 | 4.6 | 11.1 | 39.5 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

# CHAPTER 4

# Spatial Characteristics and Human Population Mobility

## 4.1 POPULATION DENSITY AND SPATIAL CONCENTRATION

According to Table 4.1, the land area of Belize spans 22,964 square kilometres with four (4) of its six (6) districts accounting for either just above or just below one-fifth of the land area. This is the case for Orange Walk, Belize District, Cayo, and Toledo. The remaining two (2) districts, Corozal and Stann Creek together constitute a proportion close to being another one-fifth of the national land area. The Belize and Cayo Districts are two neighbouring districts in the centre of Belize accounting for approximately 42% of the national land area and 53% of the national population for the two census years. With respect to land area, Table 4.1 shows that Stann Creek and Corozal are the two smallest districts accounting respectively for 9.5% and 8.1% of the national land area. However, their respective percentages of the national population changed from 10.6% to 12.1% and 12.7% to 11.4% between 2010 and 2022. Contrastingly, Orange Walk and Toledo span land areas that are similar to those of Belize and Cayo Districts but constitute substantially smaller percentages of the national population. Between the 2010 and 2022 Population and Housing Census counts for Belize, the relative sizes of the resident populations in Orange Walk and Toledo changed from 14.2% to 13.6% and from 9.5% to 9.3% respectively.

**Table 4.1**

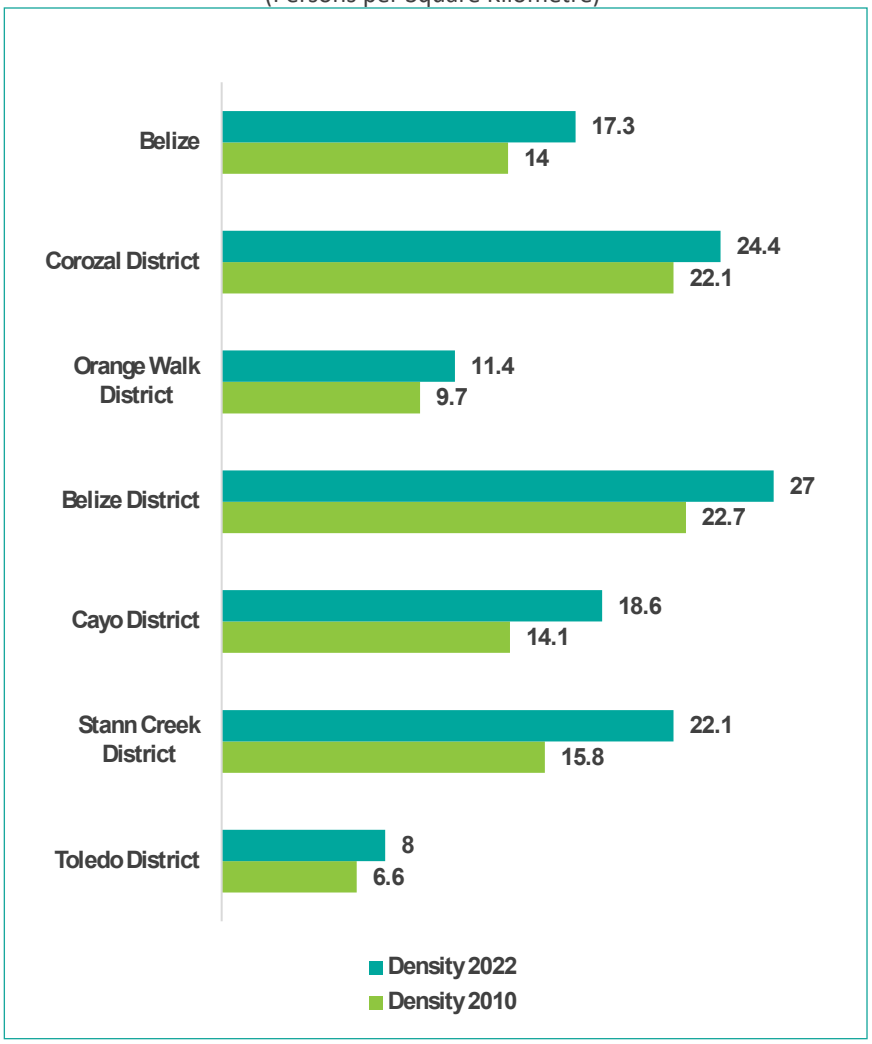
***Land Area and Population Size Characteristics According to Administrative Districts, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

| Administrative District | Land Area (km2) | Count | | Percentage Distribution | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Census Population 2010 | Census Population 2022 | Land Area (km2) | Census Population 2010 | Census Population 2022 |
| **Belize** | **22,964** | **322,453** | **397,483** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** |
| **Corozal District** | 1,860 | 41,061 | 45,310 | 8.1 | 12.7 | 11.4 |
| **Orange Walk District** | 4,737 | 45,946 | 54,152 | 20.6 | 14.2 | 13.6 |
| **Belize District** | 4,204 | 95,292 | 113,630 | 18.3 | 29.6 | 28.6 |
| **Cayo District** | 5,338 | 75,046 | 99,105 | 23.2 | 23.3 | 24.9 |
| **Stann Creek District** | 2,176 | 34,323 | 48,162 | 9.5 | 10.6 | 12.1 |
| **Toledo District** | 4,649 | 30,785 | 37,124 | 20.2 | 9.5 | 9.3 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Figure 4.1 is indicative of the intercensal growth that characterised the population of Belize between the 2010 and 2022 Population and Housing Censuses. This explains the observed increases in population densities at national and district levels. At the national level, the population density increased from 14 persons per square kilometre to 17.3 persons per square kilometre during the intercensal period with notably larger increases being evident in Stann Creek, Belize District, and Cayo.

**Figure 4.1**
***Population Densities at National and District Levels, Belize, 2010 and 2022***
(Persons per Square Kilometre)




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

The index of concentration measures the extent of the departure between the relative distribution of total land area spanned by each administrative district and the relative distribution of the national population resident in each of the administrative districts. To the extent that the distributions are identical and congruent, the magnitude of the index of concentration will be equal to zero. The magnitude of the index is especially high when there is an over-representation of the national population in relatively smaller areal units and an under-representation of the population in relatively larger areal units. Based on the 2010 and 2022 Population and Housing Censuses, Table 4.2 shows that the respective indexes of concentration were 17.1 and 17.9, meaning that 17.1% and 17.9% of the respective populations had to be in other administrative districts to achieve the congruence between the relative distributions of the spatial areas representing administrative districts and their respective population sizes. In sum, there is a very marginal intensification of the imbalance characterising intercensal changes in the spatial distribution of the population of Belize.

**Table 4.2**

***Measures of Population Concentration in Administrative Districts, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

| Measures of Population | 2010 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| **Index of Concentration** | 17.1 | 17.9 |
| **Gini Index of Concentration** | 0.109 | 0.082 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

The Gini Index of Concentration captures and describes a complimentary interpretive option for addressing spatial variability in population size relative to variation in land area of the administrative districts of Belize. Table 4.2 shows a slightly lower Gini Index of Concentration in 2022 compared to 2010 and indicative of a slightly more equitable spatial concentration of the national population in 2022 compared to 2010; a result due to positive intercensal population growth that was evident in every administrative district especially in Stann Creek, one of the smallest districts. It should be noted that the observed intercensal change in the spatial concentration of the national populations persisted in spite of evidence showing intercensal increases in the share of the national population living in Stann Creek, one of the two smallest districts, and intercensal declines in the share of the national population living in Orange Walk and Toledo, two among the larger district in Belize (See Table 4.4).

## 4.2 INTERCENSAL POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION: PERIOD 2010-2022

The census population of Belize increased from 322,453 in 2010 to 397,483 in 2022 in accordance with an intercensal population growth rate of 23.3% as illustrated in Table 4.3. Table 4.3 also shows that the population in each of the administrative district grew at variable rates exhibiting intercensal growth rates that ranged from a low of 10.4% in Corozal to 40.3% in Stann Creek. These rates have resulted in changes in the relative shares of the population resident in the different administrative districts of Belize resulting in a spatial redistribution of the national population across the six administrative districts.

Figure 4.2 highlights intercensal variation in the relative share of the population of Belize resident in the six administrative districts based on census counts from the 2010 and 2022 Population and Housing Censuses. Despite positive intercensal population growth in each of the six administrative districts, Cayo and Stann Creek were the two districts that exhibited evidence characterised by intercensal increases in the relative share of the national population. For Cayo, the relative share of the national population increased from 23.3% to 24.9% with a corresponding increase from 10.6% to 12.1% for Stann Creek. For the remaining, administrative districts, marginal declines were observed summarising intercensal changes in their respective population sizes relative to the national population (See Figure 4.2 and Table 4.4).

**Table 4.3**

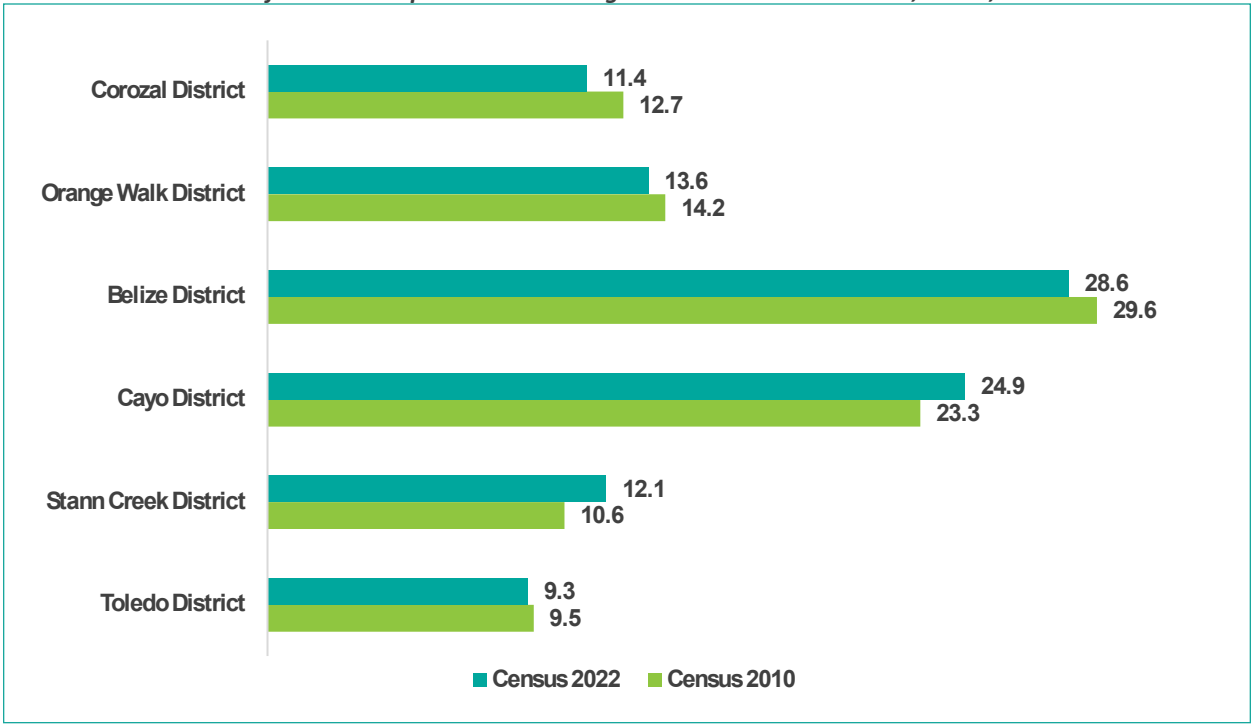
***Intercensal Population Growth Rate According to Administrative Districts, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

| Administrative District | 2010 | 2022 | Intercensal Growth Rate |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Belize** | **322,453** | **397,483** | **23.3%** |
| **Corozal District** | 41,061 | 45,310 | 10.3% |
| **Orange Walk District** | 45,946 | 54,152 | 17.9% |
| **Belize District** | 95,292 | 113,630 | 19.2% |
| **Cayo District** | 75,046 | 99,105 | 32.1% |
| **Stann Creek District** | 34,323 | 48,162 | 40.3% |
| **Toledo District** | 30,785 | 37,124 | 20.6% |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 4.2**

***Relative Share of National Population According to Administrative Districts, Belize, 2010 and 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table 4.4**

***Measures of Intercensal Population Redistribution, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

| Administrative Districts | Counts | | Percentages | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Census Population 2010 | Census Population 2022 | Census Population 2010 | Census Population 2022 |
| **Belize – Nation** | **322,453** | **397,483** | **100.0** | **100.0** |
| **Index of Population Redistribution = 3.1** | | | | |
| **Corozal District** | 41,061 | 45,310 | 12.7 | 11.4 |
| **Orange Walk District** | 45,946 | 54,152 | 14.2 | 13.6 |
| **Belize District** | 95,292 | 113,630 | 29.6 | 28.6 |
| **Cayo District** | 75,046 | 99,105 | 23.3 | 24.9 |
| **Stann Creek District** | 34,323 | 48,162 | 10.6 | 12.1 |
| **Toledo District** | 30,785 | 37,124 | 9.5 | 9.3 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Intercensal population redistribution is gauged in accordance with the index of population redistribution. The index constitutes a measure of the extent to which the relative distribution of a national population across administrative districts based on a current census is congruent with the corresponding relative distribution that had emerged on the basis of the preceding census. Table 4.4 throws light upon the absolute and relative distributions of the census populations based on 2010 and 2022 counts, reinforcing the intercensal differences and the fact that there had been some measure of population redistribution determining changes in the respective population sizes within the six administrative districts. Such changes are due to intercensal births, deaths, internal migration, and international migration, but difficult to unravel as a result of inherent limitations characterising the data being collected.

In gauging the extent to which the relative distribution of the population across each of the administrative areas fails to be congruent with that of the preceding census, greater magnitudes of the index of population redistribution connote departure from the original pattern. Table 4.4 shows that the index of population redistribution was 3.1 meaning that 3.1% of the census population of 2022 had to be re-assigned to other administrative areas to be identical and congruent with the distribution of population across administrative districts based on data from the 2010 Population and Housing Census. Altogether, the magnitude of the index suggests that population redistribution is minimal.

## 4.3 URBAN-RURAL POPULATION DYNAMICS

In each of the six (6) administrative districts, spatial areas are classified according to urban and rural criteria by the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB). Based on the Population and Housing Censuses of 2010 and 2022, Table 4.5 disaggregates the national population of Belize according to urban-rural status and administrative district. During both census years, the rural population exceeded the urban population in Belize as a whole. This has persisted in four administrative districts – Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, and Toledo. According to the 2010 Census, the size of the urban population exceeded the size of the rural population in Belize and Cayo Districts. Based on the 2022 Census however, this urban majority was observed only in Belize District as there was a slight rural majority in Cayo District.

**Table 4.5**

***Census Population Size According to Urban/Rural Space and Administrative Districts, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

2010 Census Population

| Administrative District | Total | Urban | Rural |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Belize Nation** | **322,424** | **145,796** | **176,627** |
| **Corozal District** | 41,060 | 10,287 | 30,773 |
| **Orange Walk District** | 45,936 | 13,699 | 32,237 |
| **Belize District** | 95,287 | 68,931 | 26,356 |
| **Cayo District** | 75,034 | 37,945 | 37,089 |
| **Stann Creek District** | 34,324 | 9,583 | 24,741 |
| **Toledo District** | 30,783 | 5,351 | 25,431 |

2022 Census Population

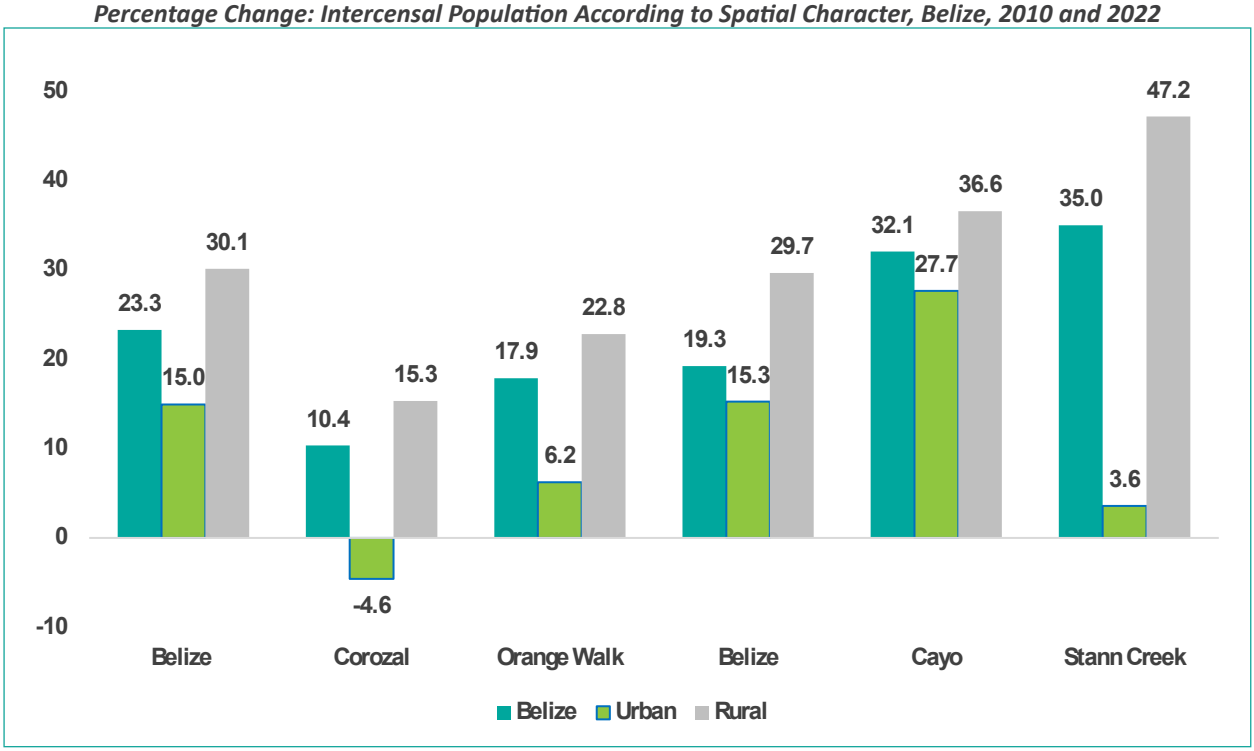
| Administrative District | Total | Urban | Rural |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Belize Nation** | **397,483** | **167,603** | **229,881** |
| **Corozal District** | 45,310 | 9,815 | 35,495 |
| **Orange Walk District** | 54,152 | 14,553 | 39,599 |
| **Belize District** | 113,630 | 79,455 | 34,175 |
| **Cayo District** | 99,105 | 48,447 | 50,658 |
| **Stann Creek District** | 46,342 | 9,927 | 36,415 |
| **Toledo District** | 38,944 | 5,406 | 33,538 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Figure 4.3 examines intercensal population change characterising the population of Belize and each of the six administrative districts between the censuses of 2010 and 2022. Despite positive intercensal population growth in Belize and in each of the administrative districts, the largest relative increases in population size were observed in Stann Creek (35.0%) and Cayo (32.1%). In fact, much of the intercensal population growth had been triggered by corresponding intercensal growth among rural populations between the censuses of 2010 and 2022. There is a notably strong positive correlation between intercensal population growth rates observed for Belize as a whole and the six administrative districts. Except in Corozal District where the urban population declined by 4.6% during the intercensal period, each of the remaining five administrative districts were observed to have notably lower rates of intercensal growth in urban areas when compared to the rural areas. The urban-rural differences were especially marked in Orange Walk, Stann Creek, Toledo, and Corozal, having the effect of intensifying the rural concentration relative to the urban concentration of the population in these districts in 2022.

**Figure 4.3**

***Percentage Change: Intercensal Population According to Spatial Character, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

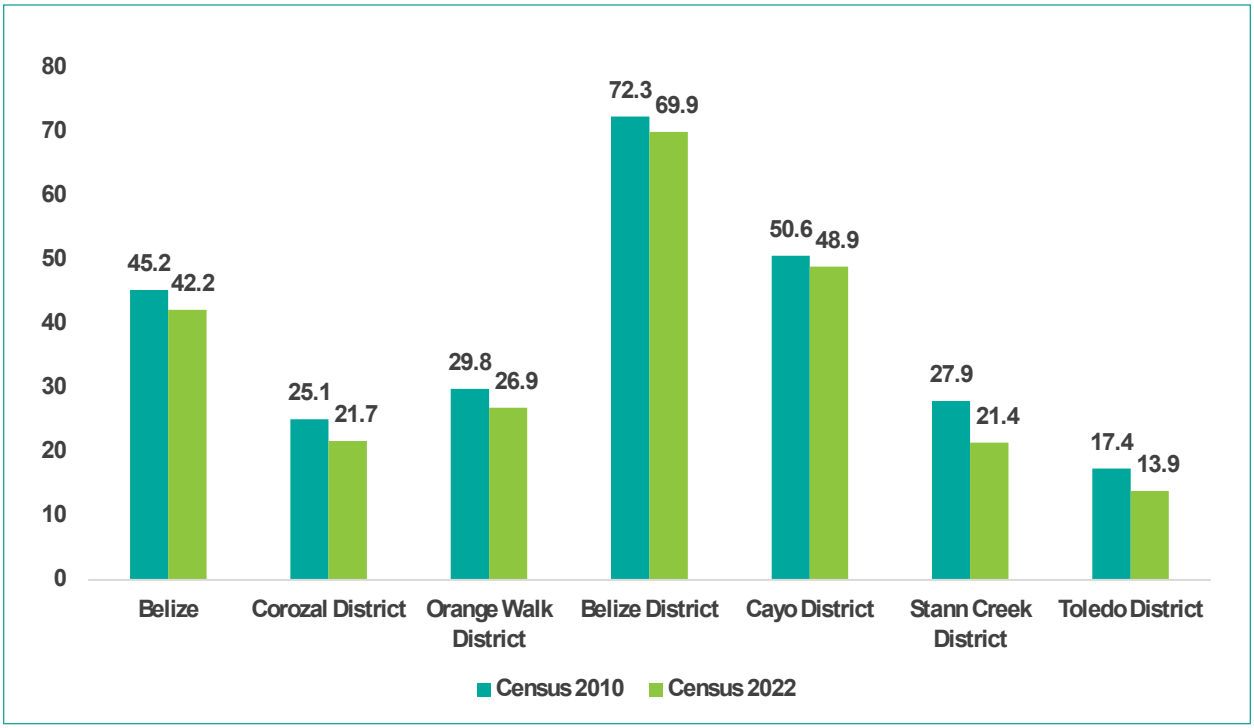



*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Resulting from the evidence associated with Figure 4.3, Figure 4.4 reinforces the notion of Belize as predominantly a rural nation given the low proportions of the population living in urban areas. This was the case in five of the six administrative districts, and by extension, Belize as a whole, regardless of census year. For Belize, this is supported by the fact that the proportion of its population living in urban areas was 45.2% based on the 2010 Census and declined marginally to 42.2% based on the 2022 Census. Similar trends were evident for each of the six administrative divisions implying that the rural concentration of the national population and the population in each of the districts had intensified between 2010 and 2022. Belize City appears to be a major magnet within the Belize District and thus responsible for the urban character that appears to be consistent with the relatively high proportion of the population living in urban areas in Belize District, 72.3% in 2010 and 69.9% in 2022.

**Figure 4.4**

***Percentage of National Population Living in Urban Areas According to Administrative Districts, Belize, 2010 and 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 4.4 LIFETIME INTERNAL MIGRATION – TRENDS AND PATTERNS

In the context of internal migration, lifetime migratory events are characterised as out-migration or in-migration. For the purpose of this analysis, lifetime migration has two reference space-time locations, one being the administrative district of birth and the other being the administrative district of residence at the time of census enumeration in 2022. Internal migration refers to any change in residence across migration-defining administrative spatial areas for a period of at least six months to the extent that the process does not involve crossing international boundaries. In accordance with this principle, an individual is deemed to have engaged in internal migration if he/she has ever changed his/her residential address to live in a migration-defining area that is not his /her place of birth.

For the purposes of this section, it should be noted that lifetime internal migration is a process that is not without its challenges. It should be noted that some lifetime internal migrants can be overlooked if they were enumerated in the same administrative district where they were born, despite having engaged in internal migration during their lifetime. These individuals, in addition to those who never engaged in internal migration, were considered to be non-migrants thereby threatening efforts towards validly accounting for lifetime migrants in this study. To overcome this shortcoming, the only alternative is reliance on the collection of internal migration histories which are never undertaken in Population and Housing Censuses. The findings presented in this section are contingent on lifetime observations of internal migration that facilitate comparison of respondents' place of birth and their place of residence at the time of enumeration during the 2022 Population and Housing Census.

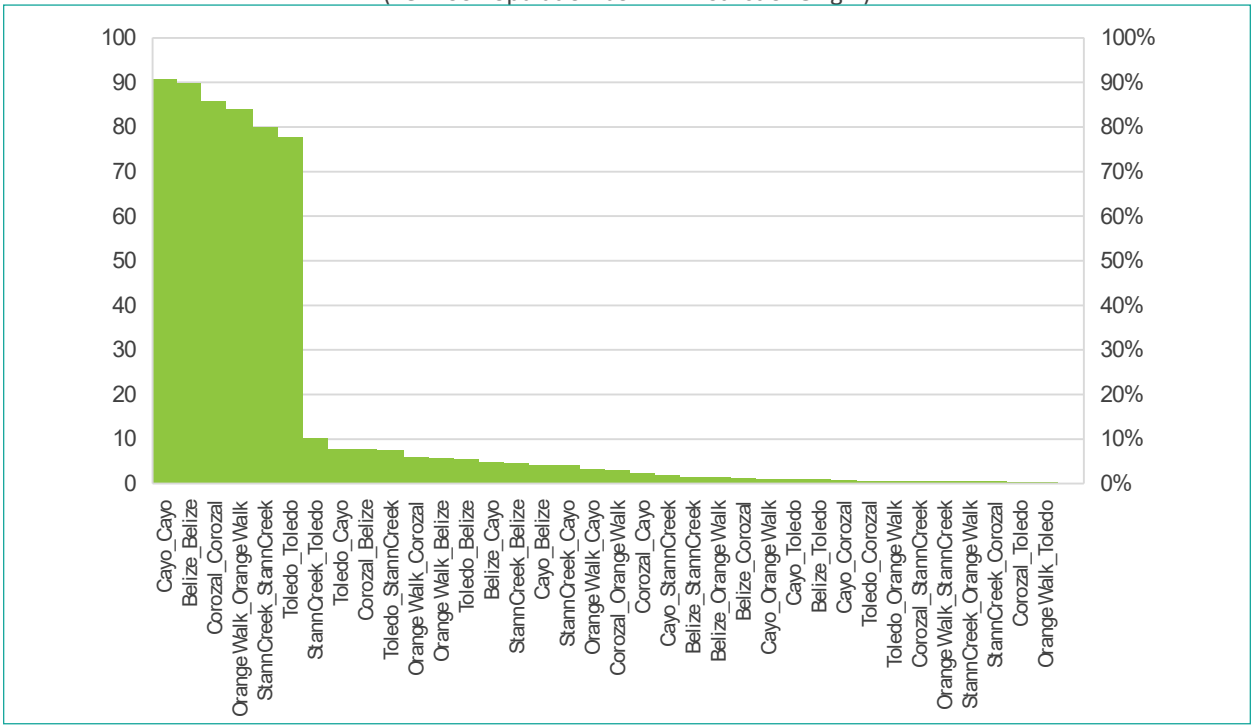
### 4.4.1 Lifetime Out-Migration

Lifetime out-migration rates are computed per 100 population born in each of the six administrative districts in Belize. Figure 4.5 reveals that the vast majority of the population born in each of the six administrative districts had been enumerated in the same administrative district either because they were non-migrants or had migrated and returned to their district of birth at the time of enumeration. This was the case for approximately 90% of the population born in Cayo and Belize Districts, between 80% and 90% among those born in Orange Walk and Corozal Districts, and between 75% and 80% among those born in Stann Creek and Toledo. Out-migration rates between administrative districts measure out-migration from a reference district to each of the other districts relative to the population that was born in the reference district. With respect to out-migration between administrative districts, Figure 4.5 reveals that rates had not exceeded 10%, and in more than 80% of the cases, had not exceeded 5%. Out-migration from Stann Creek to Toledo, Toledo to Cayo, Corozal to Belize, and Toledo to Stann Creek had been characterised by the highest rate despite being relatively low.

**Figure 4.5**

***Lifetime Out-Migration Rates Between Administrative Districts, Belize, 2020***

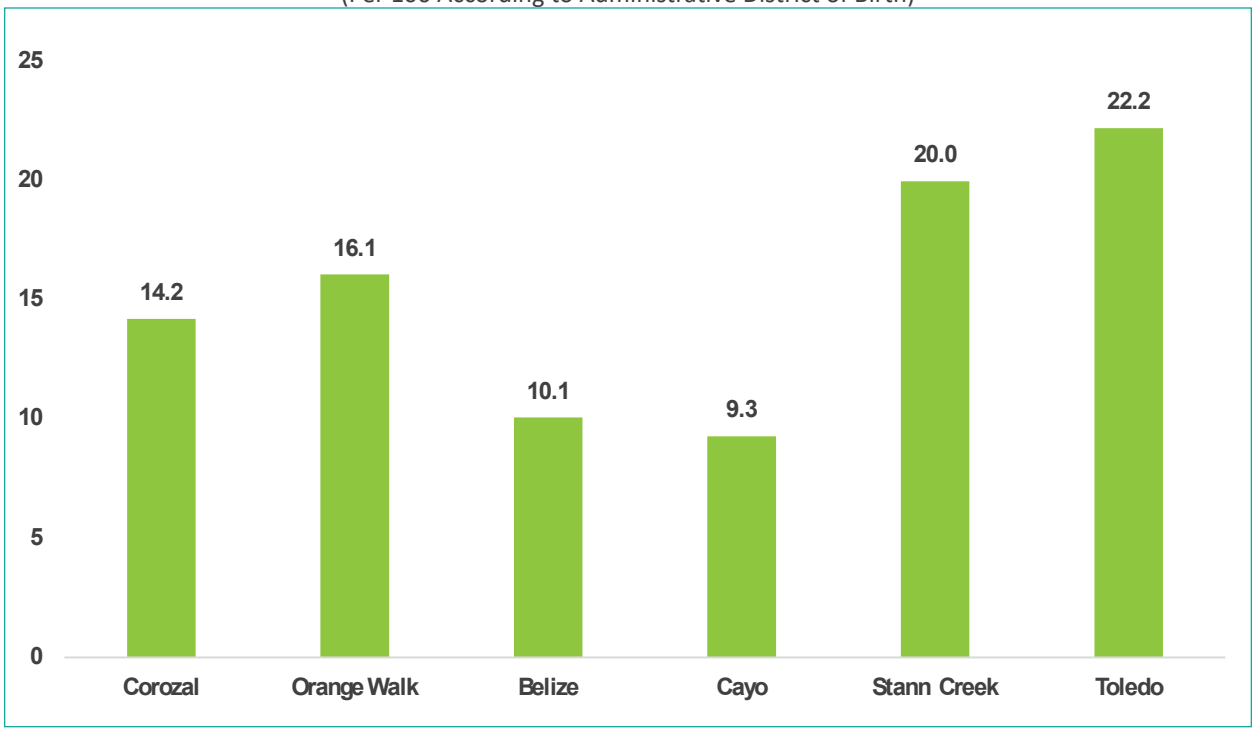
(Per 100 Population born in District of Origin)




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Figure 4.6 shows that overall lifetime out-migration was greatest in Toledo and Stann Creek. Specifically, approximately 22% of the enumerated population in the remaining five administrative districts were born in Stann Creek District while approximately 20% was the corresponding percentage for Toledo District. For Corozal District, Orange Walk District, Belize District, and Cayo District, the corresponding percentages were approximately 16%, 14%, 10% and 9%.

**Figure 4.6**
***Overall Lifetime Out-Migration Rates According to Administrative District, Belize, 2020***
(Per 100 According to Administrative District of Birth)

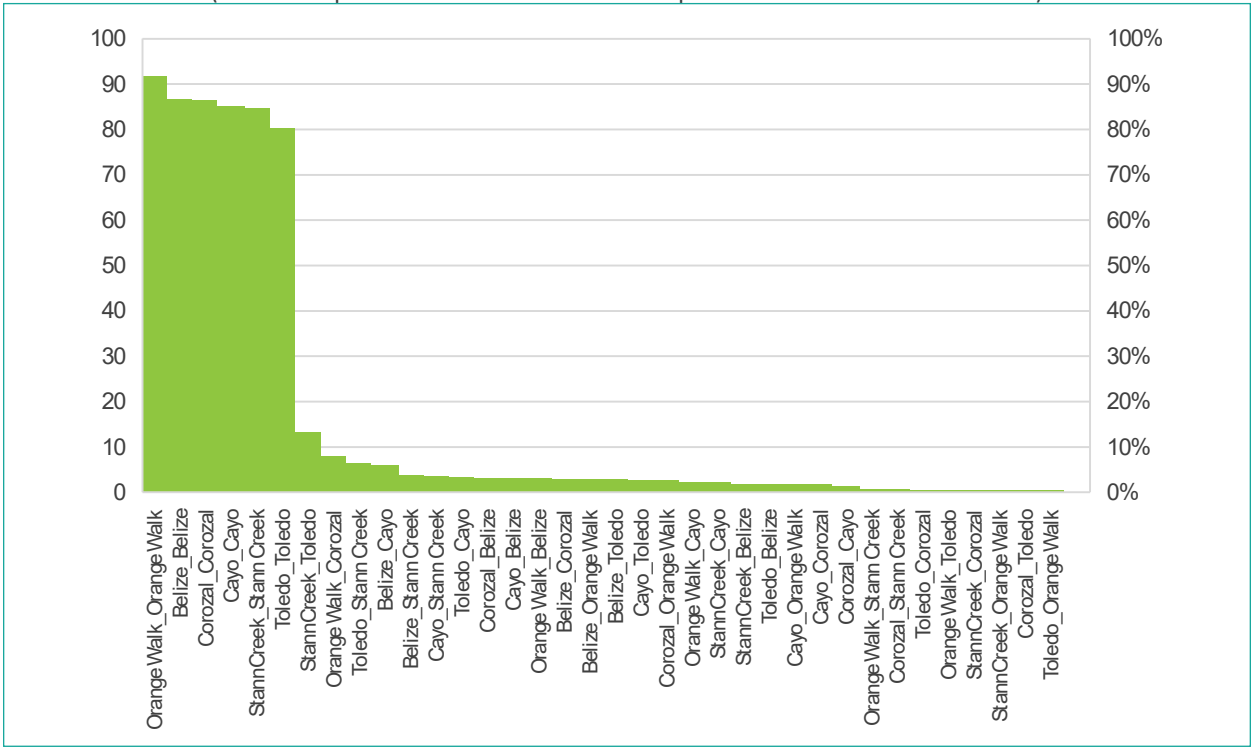



*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

### 4.4.2 Lifetime In-Migration

Lifetime in-migration rates are computed as a percentage of the population enumerated in each of the six administrative districts in Belize at the time of the 2022 Population and Housing Census but born in one of the other five districts. For each of the six administrative districts, Figure 4.7 reveals that the vast majority of the population had been born in the same district where they were enumerated for the 2022 Census.

**Figure 4.7**
***Lifetime In-Migration Rates Between Administrative Districts, Belize, 2020***
(Per 100 Population Enumerated Census Population in District of Destination)




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

In each of the six administrative districts, it is understood that the population born in the same administrative district where they had been enumerated imply that they were either non-migrants or had migrated and returned to their district of birth at the time of enumeration. This was the case for approximately 90% of the population enumerated in Orange Walk District, and at least 80% in each of the remaining districts. In-migration rates between administrative districts measure in-migration into a reference district from each of the other districts relative to the enumerated population of the reference district as at the 2022 Population and Housing Census. Figure 4.7 reveals that these rates had not exceeded 13%, and in more than 80% of the cases, had not exceeded 5%. In-migration from Stann Creek to Toledo, Orange Walk to Corozal, Toledo to Stann Creek, and Belize to Cayo had been characterised by the highest rates despite being relatively low.

Figure 4.8 shows that overall lifetime in-migration entering collectively from the other districts was greatest in Toledo District (approximately 20%), followed by Stann Creek and Cayo Districts, both of which exhibited similar magnitudes (approximately 15%). For the remaining three administrative districts, each of Belize and Corozal Districts exhibited overall in-migration rates of approximately 14% while Orange Walk District exhibited an overall in-migration rate that approximated 8%.

**Figure 4.8**
***Lifetime In-Migration Rates According to Administrative District, Belize, 2020***
(Per 100 Enumerated Population in Census 2022)

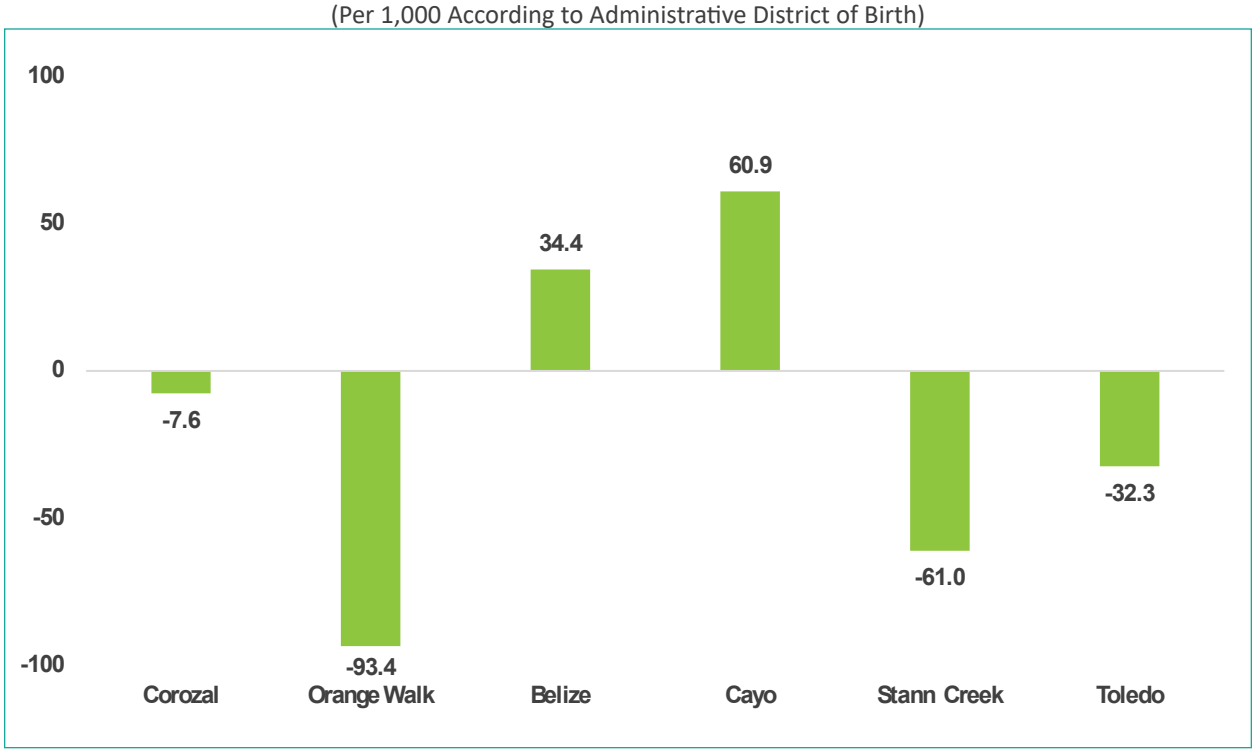

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

### 4.4.3 Lifetime Internal Migration Events

Lifetime internal migration events focus on net in-migration and internal migration turnover. Each event is measured relative to the enumerated population in each administrative district based on the 2022 census. Both rates reflect magnitudes per 1,000 enumerated population in each administrative district. Net in-migration rates constitute measurements of the impact on population size in each of the administrative districts due to lifetime net in-migration of persons born in the other five districts. In contrast, lifetime internal migration turnover rates constitute measurements of the complete set of internal migratory events that have impacted population sizes within each of the six administrative districts. Both measures summarise variability in lifetime internal migratory events contingent upon variation in population sizes for each district.

Figure 4.9 summarises variation in lifetime net in-migration for each of the administrative districts. Accordingly, lifetime net in-migration is positive for Cayo and Belize Districts, and negative for Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, and Toledo Districts. It can be surmised that lifetime in-migration had a positive impact on population change in Belize District (34.4 per 1,000 population) and Cayo District (60.9 per 1,000 population). Contrastingly, lifetime in-migration had a negative impact on population change in the other four districts, exhibiting the greatest negative impact Orange Walk District (93.4 per 1,000 population) when compared to Corozal District (7.6 per 1,000 population), Toledo District (32.3 per 1,000 population), and Stann Creek District (61 per 1,000 population).

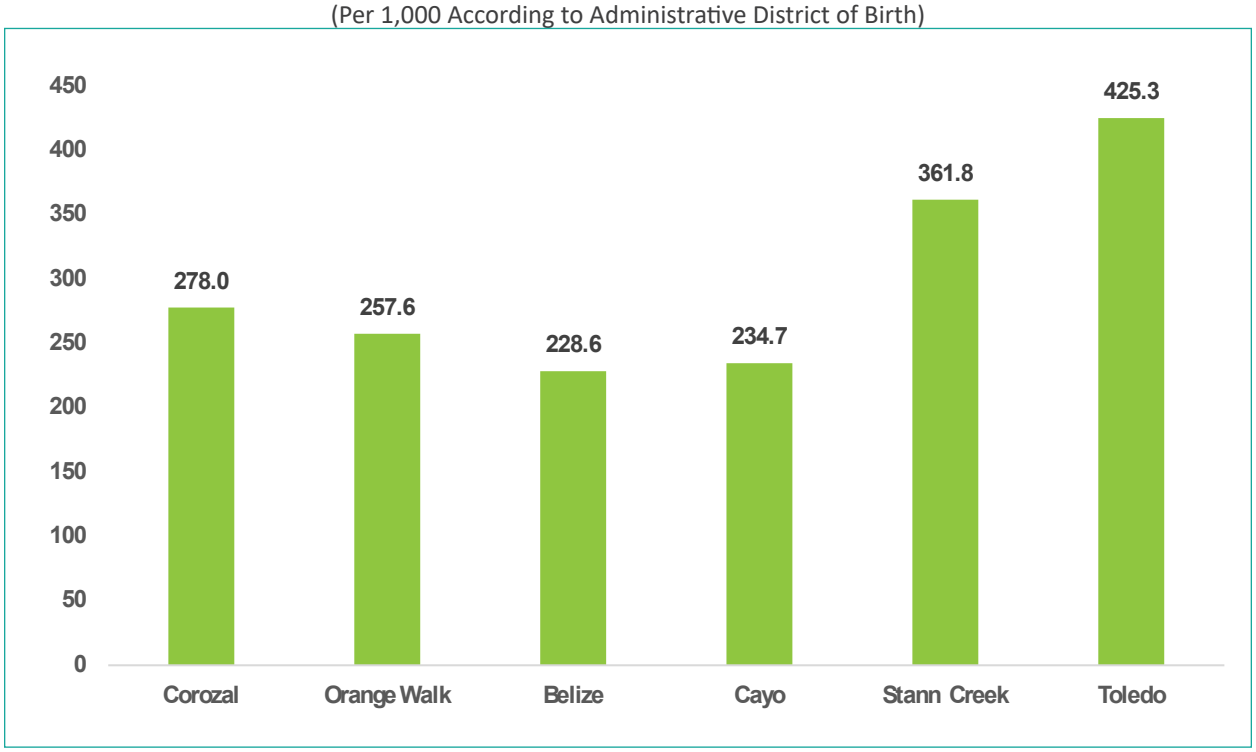
**Figure 4.9**
***Lifetime Net In-Migration Rates According to Administrative District, Belize, 2020***
(Per 1,000 According to Administrative District of Birth)




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Figure 4.10 summarises variation in lifetime internal migration turnover or gross lifetime internal migration events for each of the administrative districts. Accordingly, lifetime internal migration turnover is substantially greater in Toledo District (425.3 per 1,000 population) and Stann Creek District (361.8 per1,000) relative to corresponding magnitudes for each of the other four districts. Though lifetime internal migration turnover is greater in Corozal District (278 per 1,000 population), there does not appear to be much variability between the lifetime internal migration turnover rates of the remaining districts such as Orange Walk District (257.6 per 1,000 population), Belize District (228.6 per 1,000 population), and Cayo District (234.7 per 1,000 population). The greater extent of lifetime internal migration turnover in Toledo and Stann Creek should not be surprising as populations from these two districts have embraced overwhelming reciprocity that has resulted in movement between the two districts exhibiting the highest rates of lifetime in-migration and out-migration.

**Figure 4.10**
***Lifetime Turnover Rates According to Administrative District, Belize, 2020***
(Per 1,000 According to Administrative District of Birth)




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 4.5 RETURN MIGRATION PATTERNS: ENUMERATED POPULATION 2022 CENSUS

With respect to the enumerated population count for the 2022 Population and Housing Census, Table 4.6 provides a basis for gauging the percentage of the population classified as return migrants, having returned to Belize after living abroad for a period of at least one year. Specific reference is made to such persons who were enumerated in the 2022 census regardless of their date of return to Belize. Among the 2022 census population consisting of 397,483 persons, Table 4.6 indicates that approximately 11% were classified as return migrants. This percentage persisted among male and female populations enumerated in the 2022 population census.

**Table 4.6**

***Census Population Size According to Return Migration Status, Sex, and Most Recent Period of Return Among Persons Classified as Returnees, Belize, 2022***

| Migration Experience | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Census Population Size** | **397,483** | **195,695** | **201,789** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** |
| **Never Lived Overseas for at Least 12 months** | 351,709 | 173,371 | 178,338 | 88.5 | 88.6 | 88.4 |
| **Have Lived Overseas for at least 12 months** | 42,571 | 20,665 | 21,905 | 10.7 | 10.6 | 10.9 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 3,203 | 1,658 | 1,545 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| **Period when Last Returned to Live in Belize** | | | | | | |
| **Return Period** | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female |
| **Before 1990** | 9,472 | 4,737 | 4,735 | 22.2 | 22.9 | 21.6 |
| **1990s** | 9,018 | 4,265 | 4,753 | 21.2 | 20.6 | 21.7 |
| **2000s** | 8,756 | 4,090 | 4,666 | 20.6 | 19.8 | 21.3 |
| **2010s** | 10,983 | 5,365 | 5,598 | 25.8 | 26.0 | 25.6 |
| **2020+** | 2,836 | 1,472 | 1,364 | 6.7 | 7.1 | 6.2 |
| **Don't Know** | 1,526 | 737 | 789 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Among persons classified as returnees, Table 4.6 provides an analysis according to their most recent period of return. Returnees were classified according to the following return periods – before 1990, the 1990s, the 2000s, the 2010s, 2020+, and don't know. For all returnees and regardless of sex, the percentage of returnees that had returned before 1990, during the 1990s, and during the 2000s seem to be fairly similar. However, somewhat higher percentages were observed among returnees for those who returned more recently in the 2010s. This outcome is likely to be linked to the prospect of serial returnees who lived abroad for at least 12 months in earlier periods but were captured in the most recent period of return. Further interrogation of return migration and other international migration processes may best be executed by relying upon life histories drawing upon individuals' international migration episodes.

Intercensal immigration and emigration are important processes that have been gauged on the basis of census data. While the 2022 Belize Population and Housing Census permitted the collection of valuable population-related data to inform demographic and other population-related trends, sufficient data were not available to yield trends and patterns pertaining to intercensal immigration and emigration as key human population movements in a Belizean context. The available data have therefore precluded steps to pursue such analyses.

# CHAPTER 5

# Marital Status, Termination of Marriage, and Childbearing

## 5.1 AGE AT ENTRY INTO FIRST MARRIAGE

The Singulate Mean Age at Marriage (SMAM) is calculated as a demographic indicator of age at entry into a first marriage among a synthetic cohort of persons transiting to ever-married status. It is computed in accordance with cumulative proportions ever married at specific ages before their 50th birthdays. For populations between their 15th and 50th birthdays, SMAM is computed as a proxy measure of the mean age at entry into a first marriage for synthetic cohorts based on cumulative proportions obtained from the census enumerations of 2010 and 2022 and classified by sex. For female populations in particular, SMAM is indicative of differences in their age at first marriage and its impact on outcomes linked to family formation through the delivery of live births during childbearing life stages. For male and female populations, SMAM also serves as a period measure gauging differences in the average age of entry into a first marriage based on period-specific cumulative proportions ever married at specific ages for synthetic cohorts before attaining their 50th birthdays. Table 5.1 indicates that the magnitudes of SMAM remained virtually unchanged between 2010 and 2022, displaying very small increases, each being less than a small fraction of a year and evident for the population as a whole, and for male and female populations separately. For both census years and regardless of sex, SMAM is equivalent to 28 years.

**Table 5.1**

***Gender Differentials in the Magnitudes of SMAM, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

| Sex Category | 2010 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| **Both Sexes** | 27.71 | 28.39 |
| **Male** | 27.72 | 28.23 |
| **Female** | 27.71 | 28.55 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 5.2 MARITAL STATUS OUTCOMES

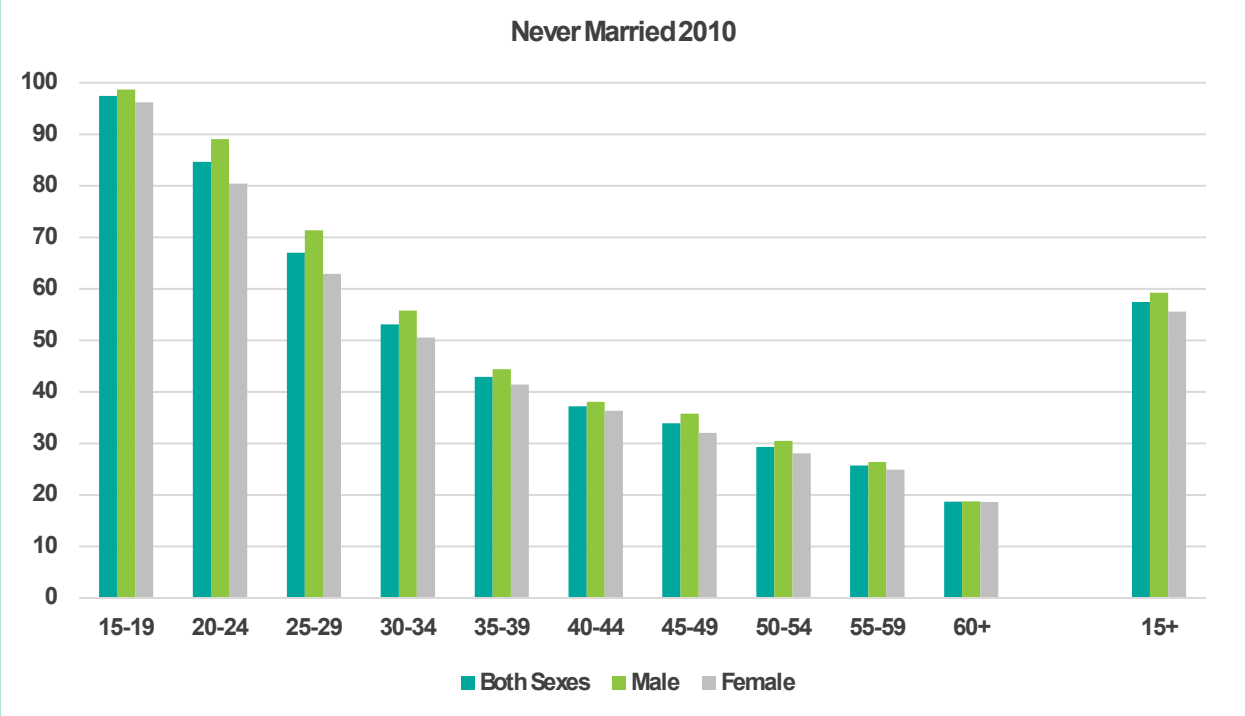
Trends in marital status do partially impact trends in the formation of new families and by extension, fertility outcomes. This chapter examines variation in marital status for the Belizean population aged 15 years or older based on the census enumerations of 2010 and 2022. In particular, it examines differences in marital status outcomes between the sexes and across selected age groups, permitting a basis for determining changes in outcomes, if any, that are likely to be associated with the census period. This section examines marital status according to whether individuals were never married, ever married, or currently married.

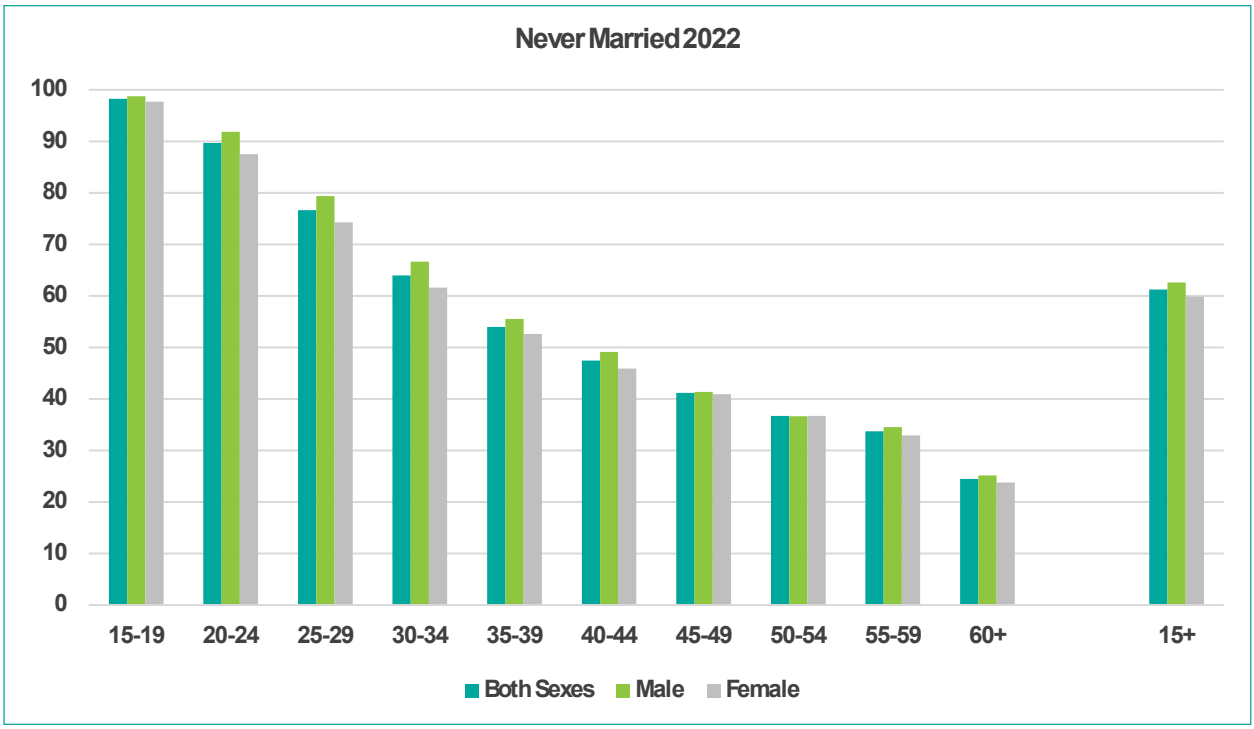
### 5.2.1 Never Married Persons

Figure 5.1 examines the proportion never married among the population aged 15 years or older and within each selected age group according to sex for the census enumerations of 2010 and 2022. For the population 15 years or older, the proportion never married increased from just below 60% to just over 60% between 2010 and 2022, this being evident regardless of the sex of respondents. Whether among male or female respondents, proportions never married were greater in each of the selected age groups based on the 2022 census enumeration when compared to the 2010 enumeration. Whereas in the 30-34 age group, less than 60% of all persons regardless of sex were never married in 2010, the corresponding proportion in 2022 was notably in excess of 60%. For 55–59-year-olds, less than 30% of all persons regardless of sex were never married in 2010 with a somewhat higher proportion in excess of 30% being observed in 2022. Similar intercensal differentials were observed in each of the remaining age groups. Compared to females, slightly higher proportions among males were observed to be never married regardless of age group and for each of the two census years.

**Figure 5.1**

***Percentage Never Married According to Selected Age Groups and Sex, Belize, 2010 and 2022***






*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

### 5.2.2 Ever-Married Persons

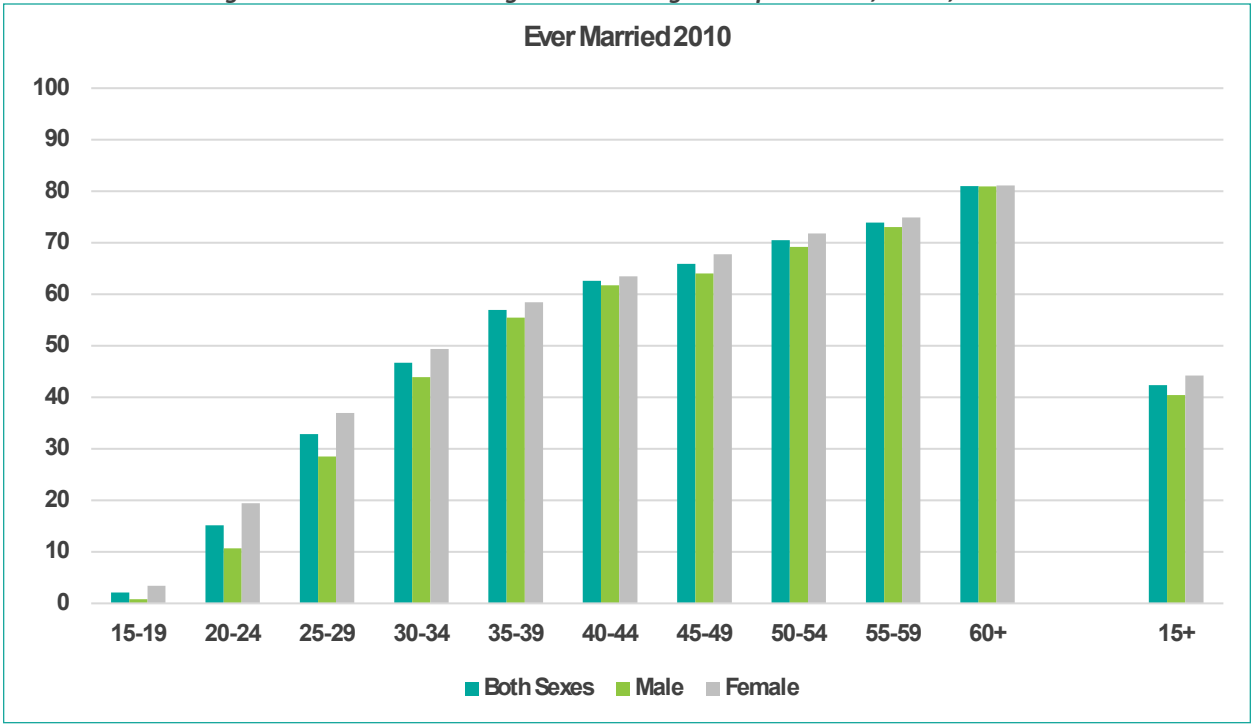
Figure 5.2 examines the proportion ever married among the population aged 15 years or older and within each selected age group according to sex for the census enumerations of 2010 and 2022. For the purposes of this analysis, the ever-married population consists of persons 15 years or older who were either legally married, divorced, legally separated, or widowed at the time of the respective census enumerations. The results are the complement of those presented in Figure 5.1 and should produce proportions ever married that are consistent with the proportions never married for respective age groups and sex groups for each of the two census years. For the population 15 years or older, the proportion ever married decreased from just above 40% to just below 40% between 2010 and 2022, this being evident regardless of the sex of respondents. Whether among male or female respondents, proportions ever married were lower in each of the selected age groups based on the 2022 census enumeration when compared to the 2010 enumeration. Whereas in the 35-39 age group, greater than 50% of all persons regardless of sex were ever married in 2010, the corresponding proportion in 2022 was greater than 40% but notably less than 50%. For 55–59-year-olds, greater than 70% of all persons regardless of sex were ever-married in 2010 with a somewhat lower proportion in excess of 60% but notably less than 70% being observed in 2022. Similar intercensal differentials were observed in each of the remaining age groups. Compared to males, slightly higher proportions among females were observed to be ever-married regardless of age group and for each of the two census years.

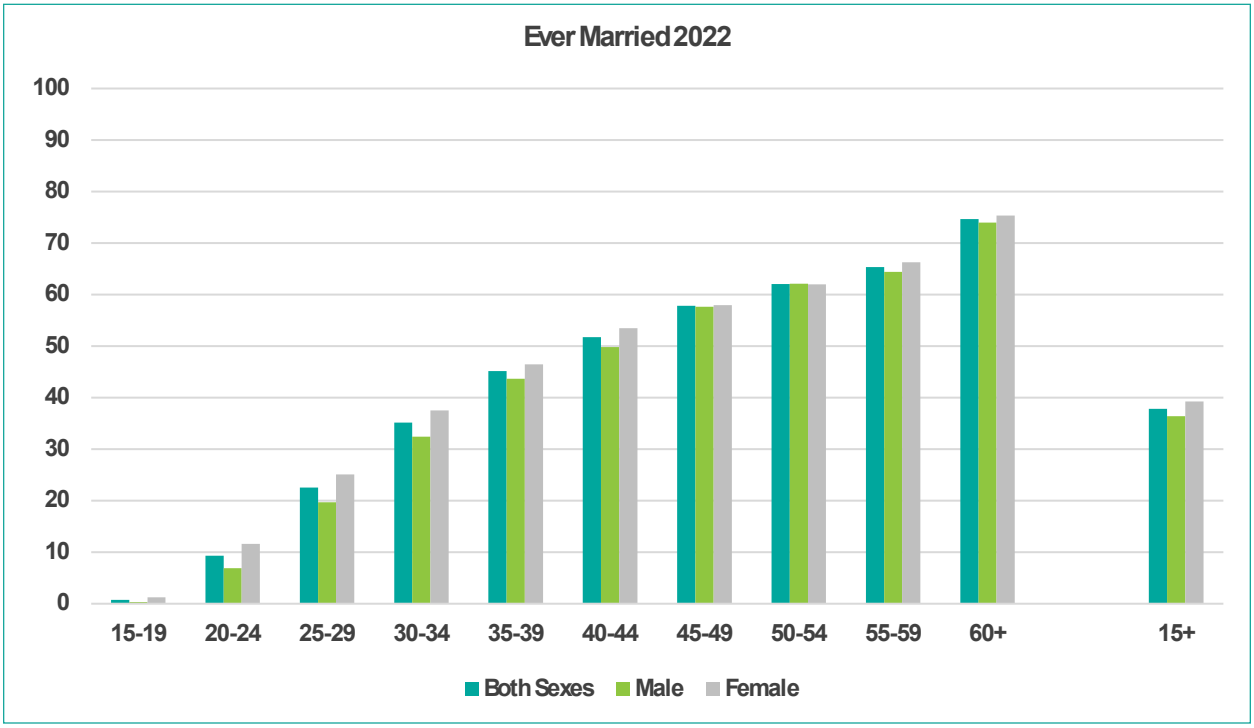
### 5.2.3 Currently Married Persons

Figure 5.3 examines the proportion currently married among the population aged 15 years or older and within each selected age group according to sex for the census enumerations of 2010 and 2022. Currently married persons are those who were legally married at the time of the respective census enumerations and exposed to a future risk of transiting into being divorced, legally separated, or widowed. For persons 15 years or older, there was a very slight decline in the proportion currently married between the census enumerations of 2010 and 2022. This was evident for both male and female populations with slightly higher proportions being observed within the female population. For both census enumerations, proportions in the neighbourhood of 30% for the respective populations 15 years or older were currently married. Whether for the entire population aged 15 years or older, its male sub-population or its female sub-population, the pattern of variation with respect to the proportions currently married within the different age groups was similar across the two census enumerations despite somewhat lower proportions being currently married in 2022 when compared to 2010. From the age group 15-19 years, the proportion of the population currently married increased for successive age groups, hitting a peak among the men in their 50s and women in their 40s. Having peaked, proportions currently married exhibited declines in successive age groups for women in their 50s and those aged 60+ years, and for men 60 + years.

**Figure 5.2**

***Percentage Ever-Married According to Selected Age Groups and Sex, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

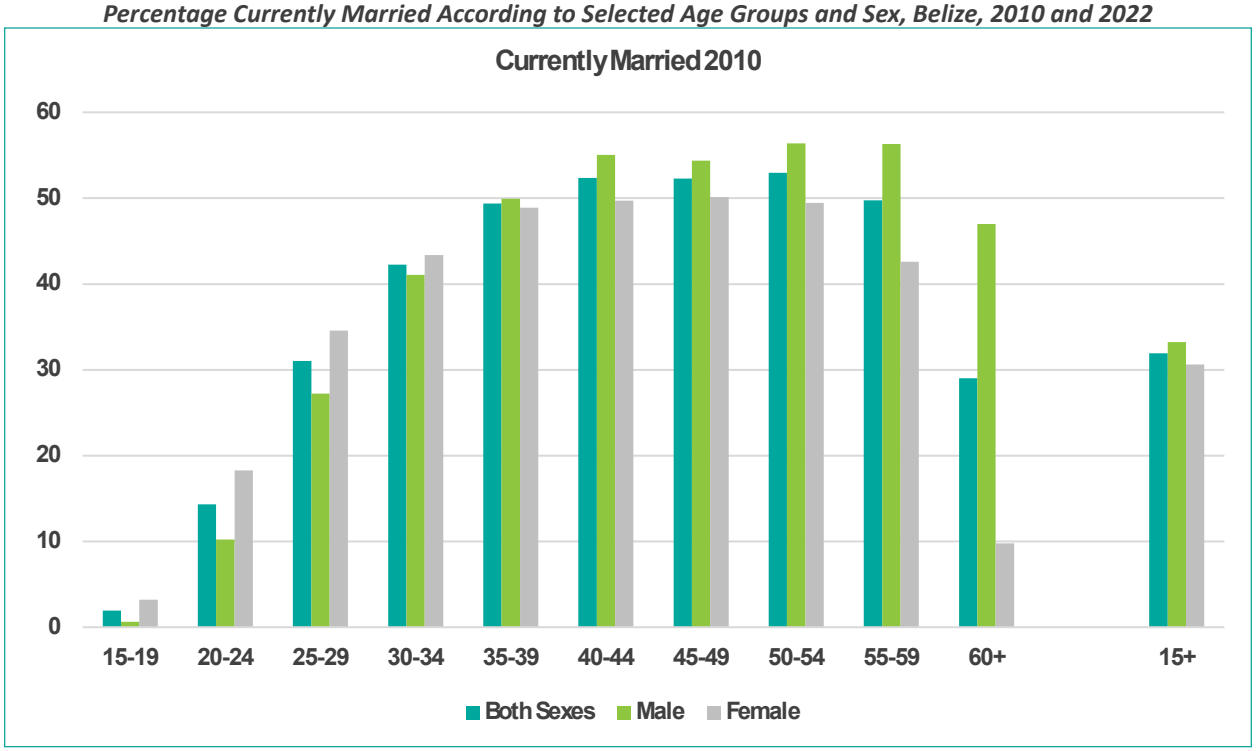


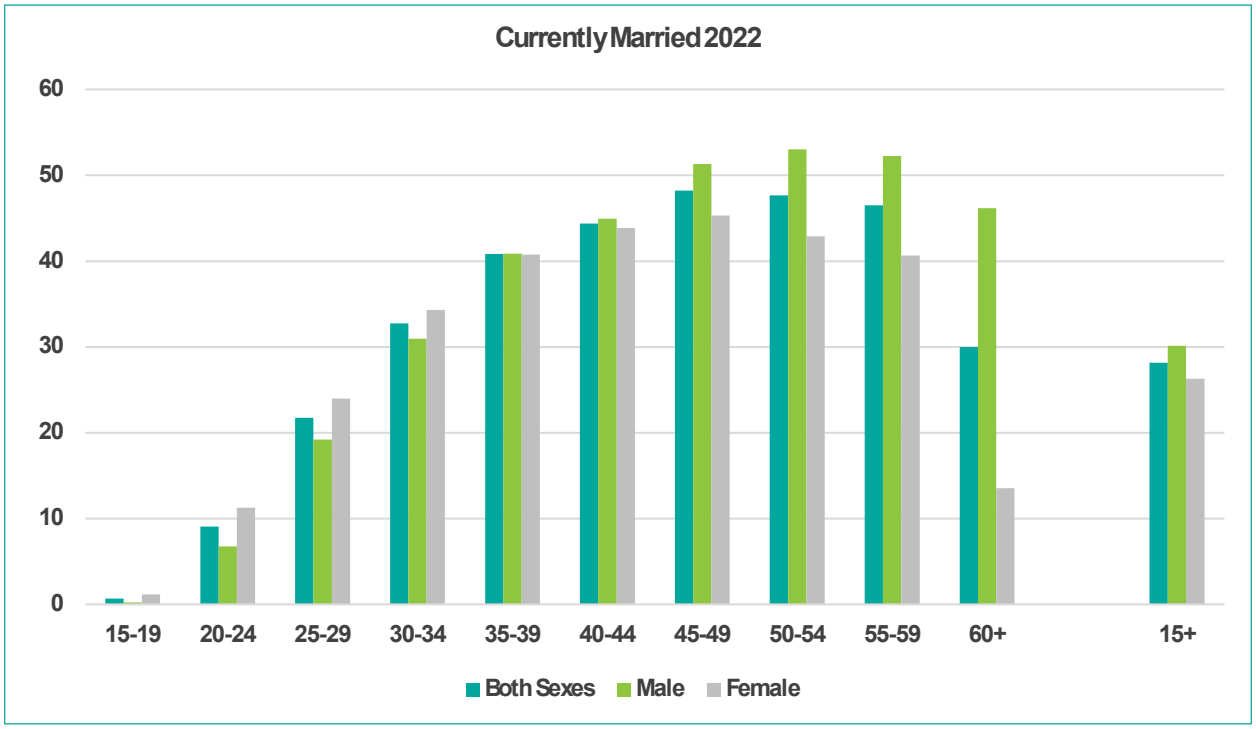




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Figure 5.3

*Percentage Currently Married According to Selected Age Groups and Sex, Belize, 2010 and 2022*




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Sex differentials in proportions currently married are contingent upon the sex and age group characteristics of the population 15 years or older. For age groups 15-19 years, 20-24 years, 25-29 years, and 30-34 years, observed percentages of the respective population currently married were greater among females than among males. For the 35-39 age group, there had virtually been no differences in the percentages currently married across the sexes. For the populations aged 40-44 years, 45-49 years, 50-54 years, 55-59 years, and 60+ years, percentages currently married were greater among males than among females, differing by increasingly greater percentage-point differences in successive age groups. These patterned variations are worthwhile observations as they persisted across the intercensal period despite declines in the proportions of the population currently married. This can be a function of prolonged delays, perhaps even a growing aversion to legal marriage, and variable rates of divorce, legal separation, widowhood, and remarriage, such variability being the impact of gendered experiences across the age groups.

## 5.3 TERMINATION OF MARRIAGE

### 5.3.1 Currently Divorced

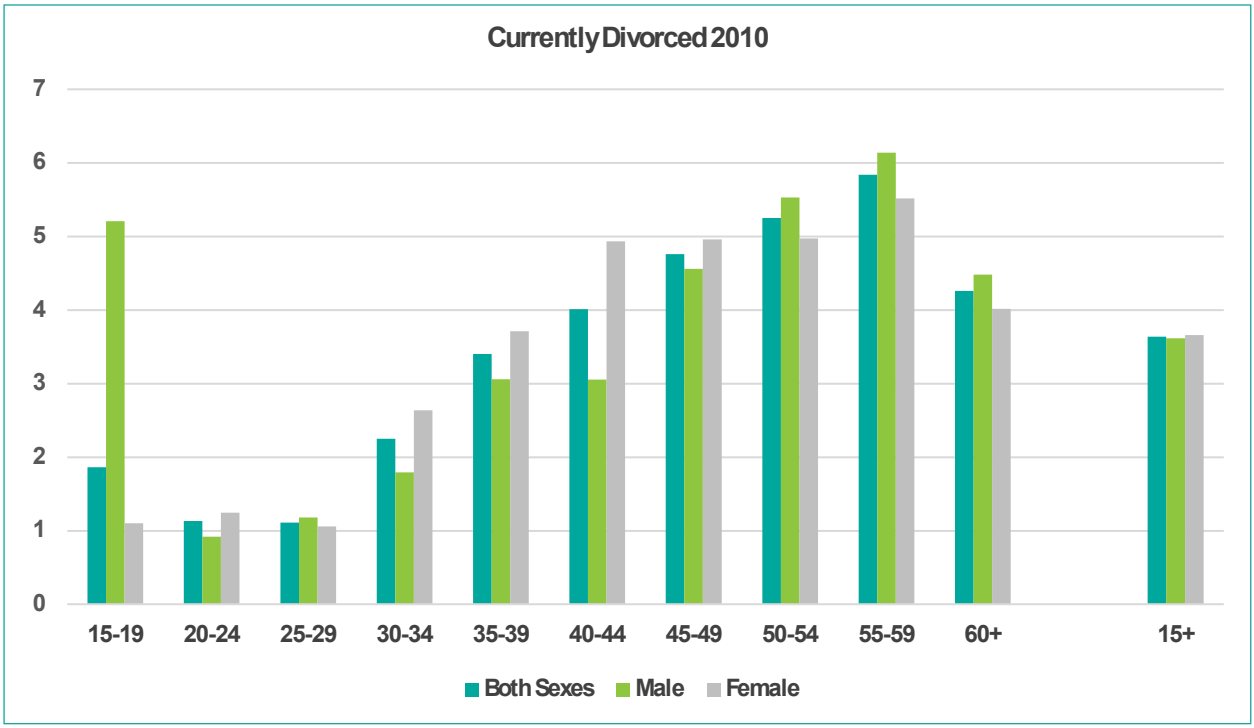
With respect to the population aged 15 years or older, Figure 5.4 shows persons currently divorced as a percentage of all persons who had ever been married. Moreover, Figure 5.4 also accounts for the percentage of persons currently divorced among male and female populations in selected age groups for the census years 2010 and 2022. Whether male or female, similar proportions of approximately 3.6% of ever-married persons were currently divorced during enumeration in the 2010 Population and Housing Census. Altogether, 3.6% of all ever-married persons were currently divorced based on the 2010 Census. Based on the 2022 Census, the corresponding percentage was marginally lower being 3.3% with a higher percentage being observed among females (3.6%) when compared to males (2.9%). Regardless of age group and sex of individuals, the percentage currently divorced was observed to be higher among persons enumerated during the 2010 Census when compared to corresponding percentages for the 2022 Census.

Despite these observed differences in percentages currently divorced between 2010 and 2022, Figure 5.4 displays interactions between age group and sex in determining the percentage claiming to be currently divorced among ever-married persons. However, the manifestations of such interactions were different across the two census years, the enumerated populations of 2010 and 2022 populations. For both census years, substantially higher percentages among the male ever-married population aged 15-19 years were observed to be currently divorced when compared to their female counterparts. Among ever-married persons aged 20-24 years and 25-29 years, there were virtually no differences between the male and female populations, and for both census years, percentages currently divorced were the lowest when compared to corresponding percentages for respective populations in the other age groups. Moreover, percentages currently divorced were observed to increase for each successive age group above the 25-29 age group with a maximum being attained among persons aged 55-59 years, this being the case regardless of individuals' sex. Among persons aged 60 years or older, however, currently divorced persons as a percentage of the ever-married population showed a decline when compared to the population aged 55-59 years.

With respect to determining the percentage claiming to be currently divorced among ever-married persons, the differences in the outcome due to interactions between age group and sex are evident upon examining variations presented in Figure 5.4 across the two census years. For the population based on the 2010 census, currently divorced persons as percentages of the ever-married population were greater among females than among males for persons aged 30-34 years, 35-39 years, 40-44 years and 45-49 years. With respect to the population aged 50-54 years, 55-59 years, and 60 years or older, currently divorced persons as percentages of the ever-married population were greater among males than among females. For the population based on the 2022 census, currently divorced persons as percentages of the ever-married population were greater among females than among males regardless of age group. Between the two census years, the general decline in currently divorced persons as a percentage of the ever-married population suggests that there could be higher rates of remarriage that has been occurring with the passage of time. Moreover, the observed impact of the interaction between age group and sex could be a function of notably higher rates of remarriage among older men when compared to older women.

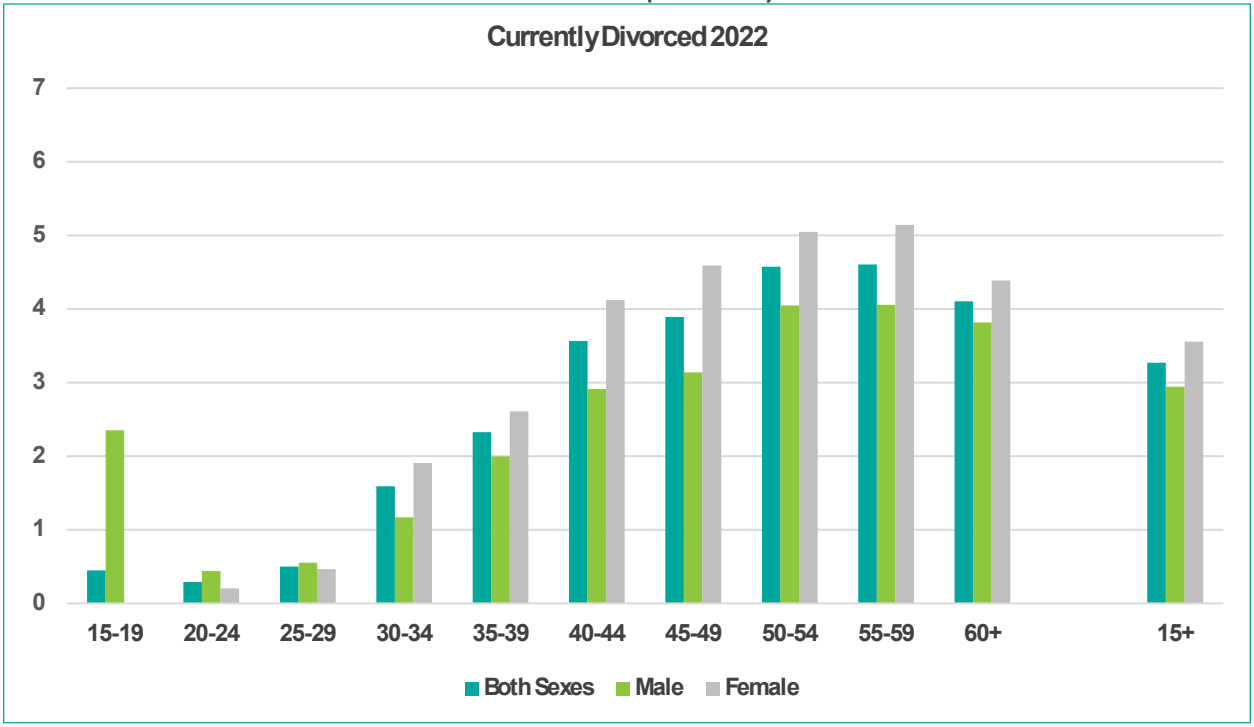
**Figure 5.4**

***Percentage of Ever-Married Population Currently Divorced According to Selected Age Groups and Sex, Belize, 2010 and 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 5.4**
***Percentage of Ever-Married Population Currently Divorced According to Selected Age Groups and Sex, Belize, 2010 and 2022 (Continued)***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

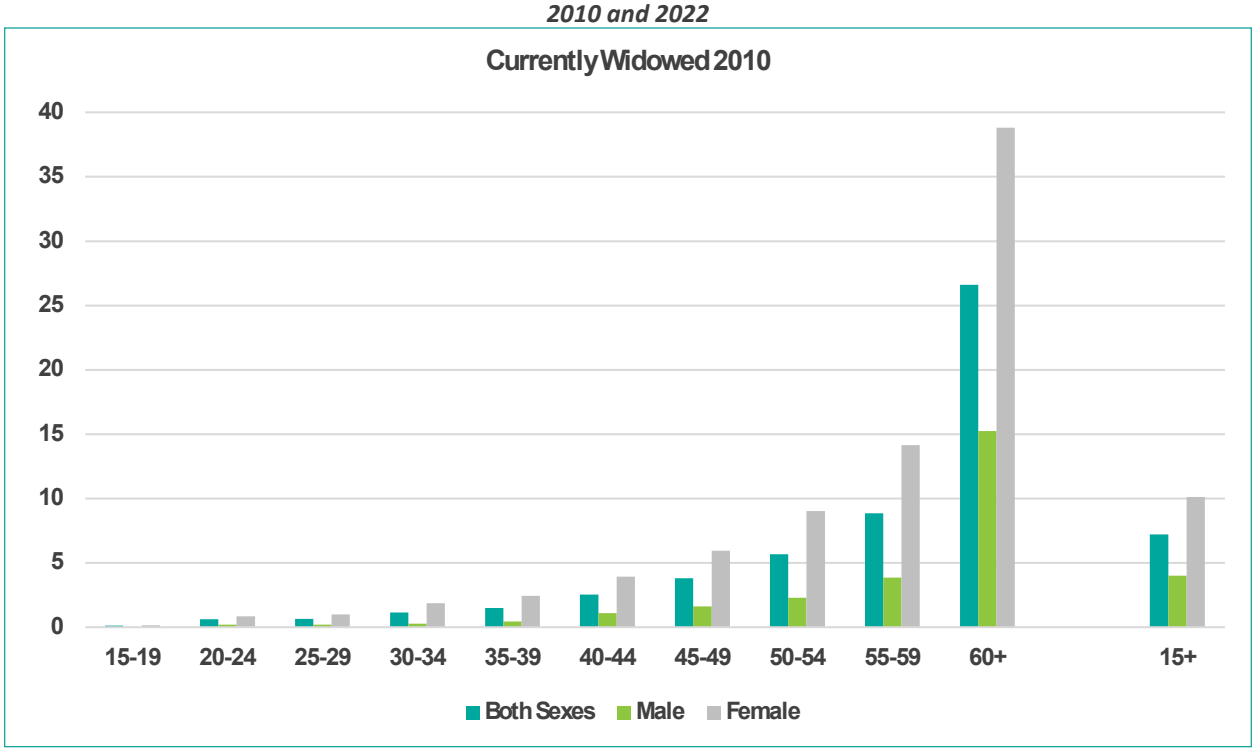
### 5.3.2 Currently Widowed

With respect to the population aged 15 years or older, Figure 5.5 shows persons currently widowed as a percentage of all persons who had ever been married. Moreover, Figure 5.5 also accounts for the percentage of persons currently widowed among male and female populations in selected age groups for the census years 2010 and 2022. For the population aged 15 years or older, 7.2% of the ever-married population were currently widowed at the time of the 2010 census and increased to 8.7% at the time of the 2022 census. For the male population, the respective percentages changed from 4.0% at the time of the 2010 census to 4.9% at the time of the 2022 census. For the female population, the corresponding change was from 10.2% at the time of the 2010 census to 12.0% at the time of the 2022 census.

Figure 5.5 clearly reveals that the percentage of ever-married persons currently widowed among females 15 years or older is consistently greater when compared to the corresponding percentage among their male counterparts for the two censuses in 2010 and 2022. Regardless of age group, this is also true among ever-married males and females based on the census counts in 2010 and 2022. The two census counts also indicate that regardless of sex, the percentage currently widowed among the ever-married population was in the neighbourhood of 5% or less for persons aged 45-49 years and in each of the younger age groups. For persons aged 50-54 years, 55-59 years, and 60 years or older, corresponding percentages increased substantially for each successive age group exhibiting increasing differentials between the percentages among male and female ever-married populations. For the 2010 census, the percentages were 15.2% and 38.8% respectively for ever-married men and women aged 60 years or older. The corresponding percentages were 14.2% and 35.9% for the 2022 census, a gender differential of 23.6 and 21.7 percentage-points respectively.

**Figure 5.5**

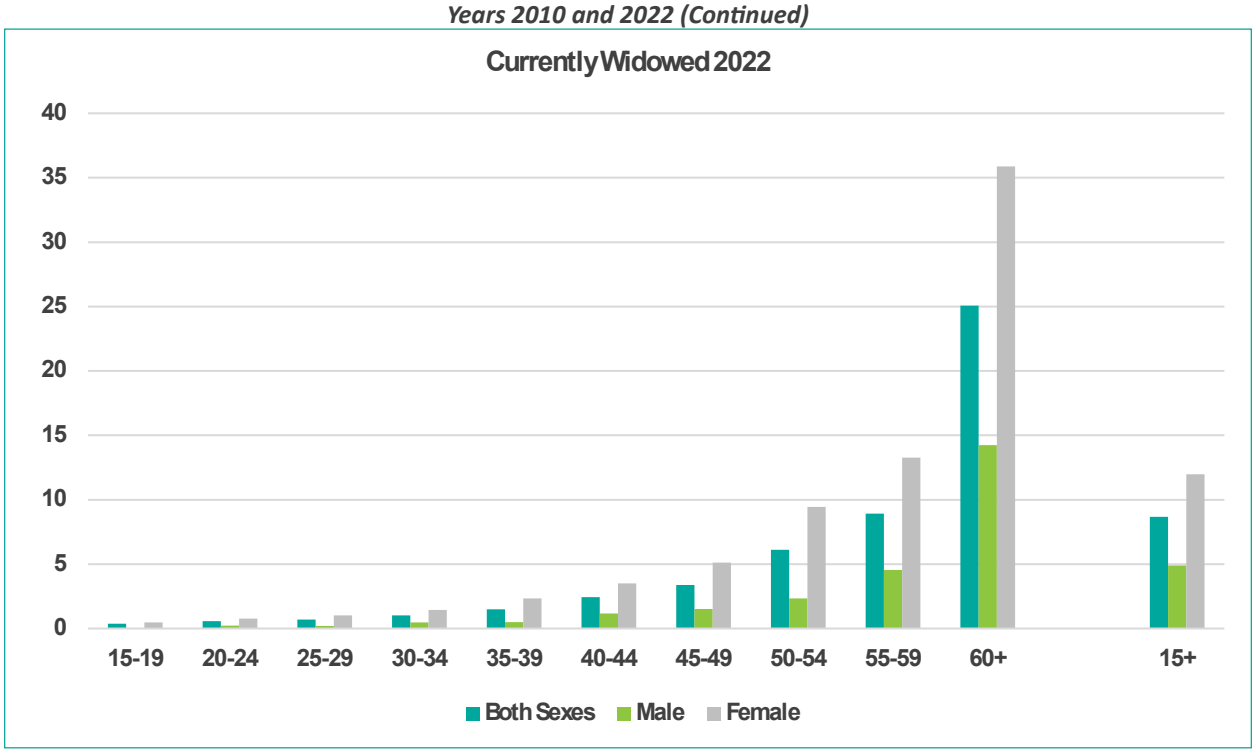
***Percentage of Ever-Married Population Currently Widowed According to Selected Age Groups and Sex, Belize, 2010 and 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 5.5**

***Percentage of Ever-Married Population Currently Widowed According to Selected Age Groups and Sex, Belize, Years 2010 and 2022 (Continued)***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Between the two censuses, the increase in the percentage of currently widowed persons relative to ever-married persons aged 15 years or older seems consistent with intercensal population aging in Belize. With respect to the greater percentages currently widowed among the ever-married female population when compared to their male counterparts; this is likely to be an outcome associated with the fact that husbands have usually been older than their wives and usually exposed to higher risks of mortality throughout their life cycle when compared to younger wives.

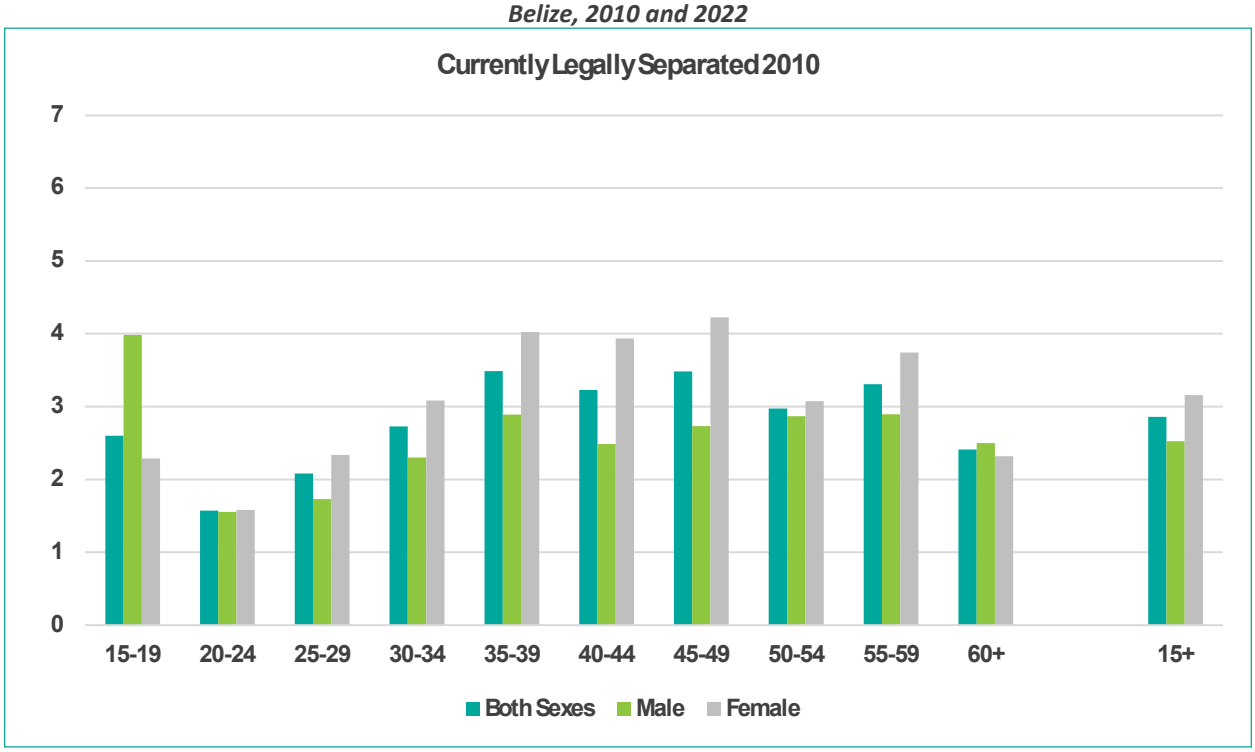
### 5.3.3 Legally Separated as Current Marital Status

With respect to the population aged 15 years or older, Figure 5.6 shows persons whose current marital status was classified as legally separated and expressed as a percentage of all persons who had ever been married. Figure 5.6 also accounts for the percentage among male and female populations classified as legally separated and belonging to selected age groups for the census years 2010 and 2022. Among male and female populations, respective percentages of 2.5% and 3.2% of those who were ever-married persons were legally separated during enumeration in the 2010 Population and Housing Census. Altogether, 2.9% of all ever-married persons were legally separated based on the 2010 Census. Based on the 2022 Census, the corresponding percentage was notably lower being 1.7% with a higher percentage being observed among females (1.9%) when compared to males (1.4%). Regardless of age group and sex of individuals, the percentage classified as being legally separated was observed to be lower among persons enumerated during the 2022 Census when compared to corresponding percentages for the 2010 Census.

Except for the persons aged 15-19 years at the time of the two census counts and those aged 60 years or older at the time of the 2010 Census, relatively greater numbers among the ever-married female population regardless of age group were classified as legally separated when compared to corresponding percentages for their male counterparts for both census counts.

**Figure 5.6**

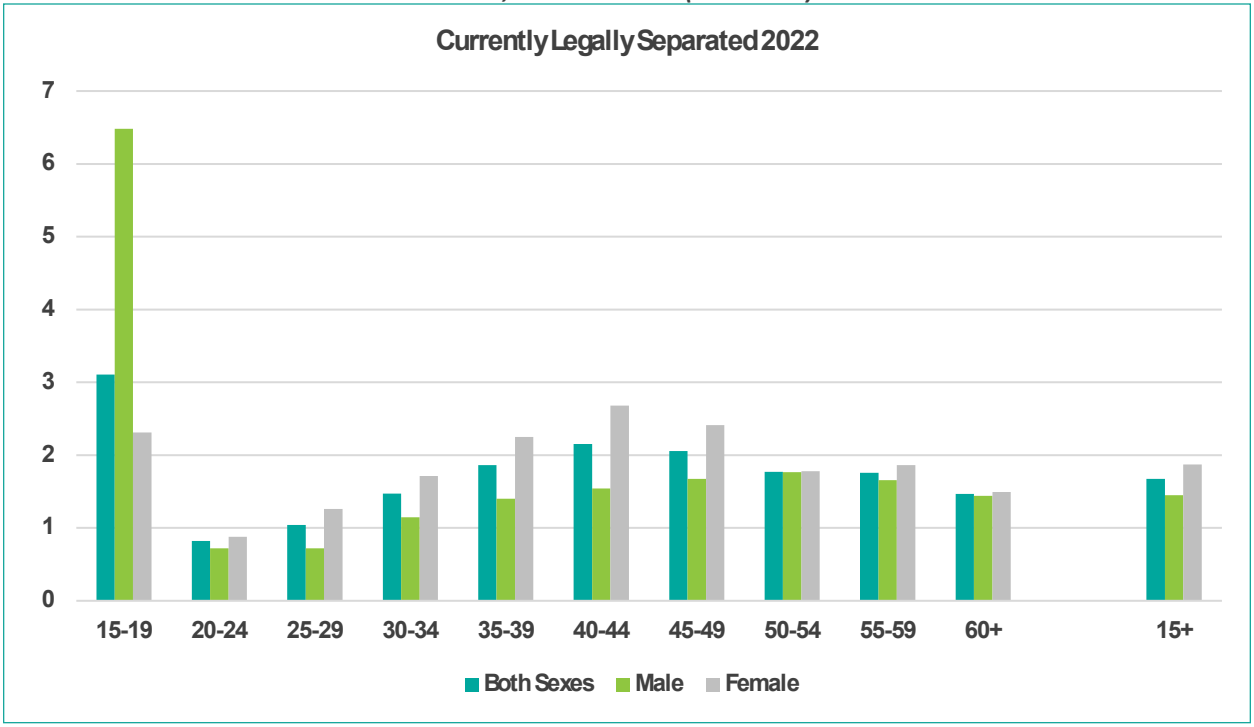
***Percentage of Ever-Married Population Currently Legally Separated According to Selected Age Groups and Sex, Belize, 2010 and 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 5.6**

***Percentage of Ever-Married Population Currently Legally Separated According to Selected Age Groups and Sex, Belize, 2010 and 2022 (Continued)***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

The data from the two census years reveal findings indicating that legal separation was most prevalent among ever-married women aged 50-54 years and 55-59 years. In contrast, legal separation was most prevalent among ever-married men aged 15-19 years, 35-39 years, 40-44 years, and 45-49 years. For the two census years, legal separation was most prevalent among the ever-married male population aged 15-19 years when compared to corresponding male populations belonging to the remaining age groups. The relatively high prevalence of legal separation among the young male ever-married populations is worthy of further investigation with implications for family formation processes.

## 5.4 MARITAL STATUS AND PERSONS LIVING WITH A COMMON-LAW PARTNER

For persons 15 years or older at the time of census enumeration in 2010 and 2022, respective numbers amounting to 48,014 and 69,060 were currently living with a common-law partner. For male respondents, the respective numbers were 23,698 in 2010 and 33,697 in 2022. Corresponding counts for female respondents were 24,316 and 35,102. The intercensal increase in the number of persons 15+ years living with a common-law partner was 21,046 or 43.8%. Corresponding increases for male and female populations were 9,999 or 42.1% and 10,786 or 44.4%. These counts can be gleaned from Table A.23 in the Appendix A. The intercensal increases were likely to be associated with intercensal increases in the sizes of adult populations in Belize.

Table 5.2 presents percentage distributions for persons currently living with a common-law partner according to marital status and sex within different age groups for census years 2010 and 2022. Despite their common-law status, the respective individuals have each reported a current marital status. For the entire population 15 years or older, Table 5.2 reveals that the vast majority of the population living with a common-law partner never had been married, a percentage amounting to at least 90%. In contrast, less than 10% had ever been married, whether formally married, divorced, widowed, or legally separated, with the majority being formerly married. This was observed to be the case in 2010 and 2022. Compared to 2010, a greater percentage of the population currently living with a common-law partner indicated that they had never been married in 2022. For male and female populations 15 years or older and currently living with a common-law partner, patterned observations pertaining to prior marital status are similar to those observed for the entire population 15 years or older.

Further, Table 5.2 elaborates the distribution of the population currently living with a common-law partner according to marital status by examining changes with respect to the entire population and for males and females separately across the different five-year age groups. In every five-year age group, a greater percentage of the population currently living with a common-law partner had never been married based on the 2022 census when compared to the corresponding percentage for the 2010 census. This was observed to be true for males as well as females. In 2010 as well as in 2022 and for the entire population 15+ years currently living with a common-law partner, it should not have been surprising that the percentages claiming to have never been married would have been lower for those persons in older five-year age groups, a finding that was also evident whether persons were male or female. For five-year age groups younger than the 35-39 age group, more than 90% of persons living with a common-law partner had never been married in each of 2010 and 2022. Among their counterparts 50+ years, the respective percentages for 2010 and 2022 were 70.9% and 85.9%. Among older persons whether male or female, the likelihood of being ever married, that is being formally married, divorced, legally separated, or widowed, would increase the variability of marital status observations among persons living with a common-law partner, this being evident regardless of census year.

**Table 5.2**

***Percentage of Population Currently Living with a Common-Law Partner According to Age Group, Marital Status, and Sex, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

| Age Group | Census Year | Never Married | Married | Divorced | Widowed | Legally Separated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **Both Sexes** | | | |
| **15+ years** | 2010 | 90.2 | 5.2 | 2.1 | 0.9 | 1.4 |
| | 2022 | 95.1 | 2.3 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| **Under 25 years** | 2010 | 98.6 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| | 2022 | 99.2 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **25-29 years** | 2010 | 96.6 | 2.5 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| | 2022 | 98.5 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| **30-34 years** | 2010 | 92.6 | 4.7 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 1.3 |
| | 2022 | 97.3 | 1.7 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| **35-39 years** | 2010 | 87.5 | 6.7 | 2.7 | 0.8 | 2.3 |
| | 2022 | 95.6 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 0.7 |
| **40-44 years** | 2010 | 83.6 | 8.6 | 3.6 | 1.3 | 2.8 |
| | 2022 | 93.1 | 3.1 | 2.1 | 0.6 | 1.0 |
| **45-49 years** | 2010 | 80.8 | 9.5 | 5.1 | 1.9 | 2.7 |
| | 2022 | 91.3 | 3.8 | 2.1 | 1.4 | 1.3 |
| **50+ years** | 2010 | 70.9 | 13.4 | 7.4 | 5.1 | 3.2 |
| | 2022 | 85.9 | 5.1 | 4.0 | 3.4 | 1.4 |

**Table 5.2**

***Percentage of Population Currently Living with a Common-Law Partner According to Age Group, Marital Status, and Sex, Belize, 2010 and 2022 (Continued)***

| Age Group | Census Year | Never Married | Married | Divorced | Widowed | Legally Separated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **Male** | | | |
| **15+ years** | 2010 | 89.1 | 5.9 | 2.5 | 0.8 | 1.6 |
| | 2022 | 94.6 | 2.4 | 1.5 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| **Under 25 years** | 2010 | 98.7 | 0.9 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| | 2022 | 99.3 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **25-29 years** | 2010 | 97.2 | 2.0 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| | 2022 | 98.7 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| **30-34 years** | 2010 | 93.5 | 4.2 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 1.3 |
| | 2022 | 97.6 | 1.6 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| **35-39 years** | 2010 | 88.3 | 6.4 | 2.6 | 0.2 | 2.4 |
| | 2022 | 96.1 | 1.9 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 0.7 |
| **40-44 years** | 2010 | 83.6 | 9.5 | 3.2 | 0.7 | 2.7 |
| | 2022 | 94.5 | 2.4 | 1.8 | 0.3 | 0.9 |
| **45-49 years** | 2010 | 81.5 | 10.1 | 5.4 | 0.9 | 2.1 |
| | 2022 | 91.5 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 1.0 | 1.3 |
| **50+ years** | 2010 | 68.8 | 14.7 | 8.3 | 4.2 | 3.9 |
| | 2022 | 84.9 | 5.4 | 4.6 | 3.3 | 1.6 |

**Table 5.2**

***Percentage of Population Currently Living with a Common-Law Partner According to Age Group, Marital Status, and Sex, Belize, 2010 and 2022 (Continued)***

| Age Group | Census Year | Never Married | Married | Divorced | Widowed | Legally Separated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **Female** | | | |
| **15+ years** | 2010 | 91.3 | 4.6 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| | 2022 | 95.5 | 2.2 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.5 |
| **Under 25 years** | 2010 | 98.5 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| | 2022 | 99.1 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **25-29 years** | 2010 | 96.0 | 2.9 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.4 |
| | 2022 | 98.3 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| **30-34 years** | 2010 | 91.7 | 5.2 | 1.4 | 0.4 | 1.4 |
| | 2022 | 97.0 | 1.8 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| **35-39 years** | 2010 | 86.6 | 7.0 | 2.7 | 1.4 | 2.2 |
| | 2022 | 95.2 | 2.6 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| **40-44 years** | 2010 | 83.6 | 7.5 | 4.0 | 1.9 | 2.9 |
| | 2022 | 91.6 | 3.9 | 2.4 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| **45-49 years** | 2010 | 79.8 | 8.8 | 4.8 | 3.1 | 3.5 |
| | 2022 | 91.1 | 4.0 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.2 |
| **50+ years** | 2010 | 74.5 | 11.1 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 1.9 |
| | 2022 | 87.5 | 4.6 | 3.1 | 3.6 | 1.2 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Marital status among persons currently living with a common-law partner also appears to be increasingly variable in older five-year age groups beginning with persons 25-29 years, becoming increasingly variable from one age group to another. Such an outcome is evident regardless of sex and census year. This is due to the fact that for persons currently with common-law partners, increasingly greater percentages have on average been either formally married, divorced, widowed, or legally separated regardless of sex and census year based on observed percentages for any successive five-year age group when compared to any given five-year age group. Among those persons who had ever been married, the greatest percentages have been among those who had been formally married and still being formally married while living currently with a common-law partner. This outcome was also evident despite gender, persisting across the two census years. For persons currently living with a common-law partner, five-year age group did not matter as variation in their marital status appeared to be lower based on observations from the 2022 census when compared to the 2010 census. Thus, it is worth investigating the persistence of period influences that may have been having a similar impact on different age cohorts.

## 5.5 LIFETIME CHILDBEARING EXPERIENCES

Lifetime childbearing experiences are best examined on the basis of real cohort analyses that permit the determination of cohort childlessness, cohort fertility rates, and parity progression ratios. For the census years 2010 and 2022, lifetime childbearing experiences have been obtained from women who were aged 45-49 years during the respective census enumerations and presumed to have either completed their lifetime childbearing or on the verge of completing it. Due to events such as migratory movements and mortality, the real cohorts of women born in Belize 45-49 years prior to the respective censuses are not identical when compared to the actual population that was enumerated during each of the two censuses. Notwithstanding this limitation, the three measures do constitute formal demographic proxies used to determine lifetime childbearing experiences of birth cohorts deemed to be close to completing, if not having fully completed their lifetime childbearing.

### 5.5.1 Cohort Fertility Rates and Childlessness

For women presumed to have completed their childbearing during the 2010 and 2022 census enumerations, Table 5.3 is indicative of greater magnitudes of childlessness among the younger cohort (aged 45-49 years in 2022) when compared to the older cohort (aged 45-49 years in 2010), the respective magnitudes being 11.3% as opposed to 8.5%. These percentages reflect the percentage of women from the respective birth cohorts who never assumed motherhood whether due to celibacy, conscious choices to remain childless despite having been sexually active in their childbearing life stages, physiological factors that prevent conception, or pregnancies terminating in a foetal mortality. The lifetime fertility of the older cohort is higher than that computed for the younger cohort, with the former having given birth to 4 live-born children on average compared to 3 among the latter. This provides additional evidence of fertility decline which can eventually be examined and further reinforced on the basis of subsequent evidence resulting from similar attempts to gauge lifetime childbearing among successive cohorts of women.

**Table 5.3**

***Cohort Fertility Rates and Childlessness – Cohort of Women aged 45-49 Years, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

| Childbearing Index | 2010 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| **Cohort Fertility Rate** | 4.016 | 3.055 |
| **Percent Childlessness** | 8.5% | 11.3% |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

### 5.5.2 Parity Progression

For the two cohorts aged 45-49 years based on the 2010 and 2022 census enumerations, Table 5.4 presents transition proportions. For example, 91.5% of women aged 45-49 years in 2010 assumed motherhood during their lifetime with a smaller percentage amounting to 88.7% assuming a similar role among women aged 45-49 years in 2022. Moreover, 77.1% of women aged 45-49 years in 2010, having had 3 children progressed to have had at least 4 children during their lifetime with a smaller percentage amounting to 65.7% having a similar experience among women aged 45-49 years in 2022.

**Table 5.4**

***Parity Progression Ratios - Cohort of Women aged 45-49 Years, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

| Parity Progression | Ratio for 45–49-year-olds as at Census 2010 | Ratio for 45–49-year-olds as at Census 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| 0-1 | 91.5 | 88.7 |
| 1-2 | 91.6 | 85.6 |
| 2-3 | 83.1 | 71.9 |
| 3-4 | 77.1 | 65.7 |
| 4-5 | 73.8 | 64.3 |
| 5-6 | 72.8 | 60.2 |
| 6-7 | 69.2 | 61.3 |
| 7-8+ | 71.4 | 60.3 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

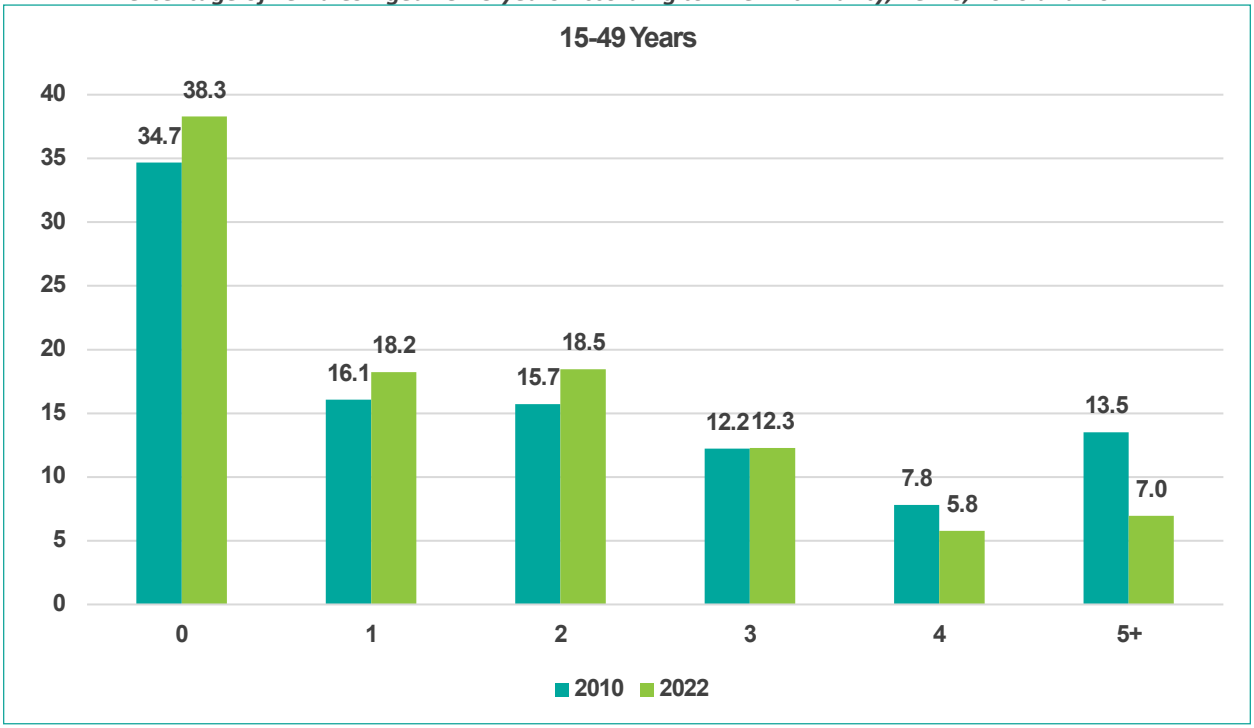
Regardless of parity, Table 5.4 provides evidence indicating that lower transition proportions have been observed among women aged 45-49 years in 2022 when compared to corresponding transition proportions for 2010. For both cohorts, more than 3 in every five women having attained a given parity, were observed to have a higher order birth. For any given parity, the lifetime odds of transiting to a higher order birth was greater for the older cohort of women aged 45-49 years in 2010 when compared to the younger cohort aged 45-49 years in 2022. This outcome reinforces the higher lifetime fertility that was characteristic of the older cohort of women.

## 5.6 CURRENT CHILDBEARING

Current childbearing captures the fertility outcomes of women in childbearing ages, principally 15-49 years at the time of enumeration in 2010 and in 2022. For all women aged 15-49 years, Figure 5.7 captures variations in the percentages with respect to current childbearing according to current parity for the two census enumerations in 2010 and 2022. Regardless of census enumeration the majority of women, almost 34.7% for the 2010 enumeration and 38.3% for the 2022 enumeration were childless. For both census years, most of the women were childless and this was not surprising given that the largest percentages of all women were those in relatively young age groups, for example 15-19 years and 20-24 years and thus more likely to be childless. On the other extreme, 13.5% among women enumerated in 2010 and 7.0% among those enumerated in 2022 had given birth to at least 5 live-born children. Among women aged 15-49 years, the percentage having at least 5 children in 2010 was greater by almost a factor of 2 when compared to 2022. The difference between these two percentages constitutes yet another outcome that is indicative of current fertility that was lower in 2022 when compared to 2010, and tantamount to intercensal fertility decline.

**Figure 5.7**

***Percentage of Females Aged 15-49 years According to Live Birth Parity, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

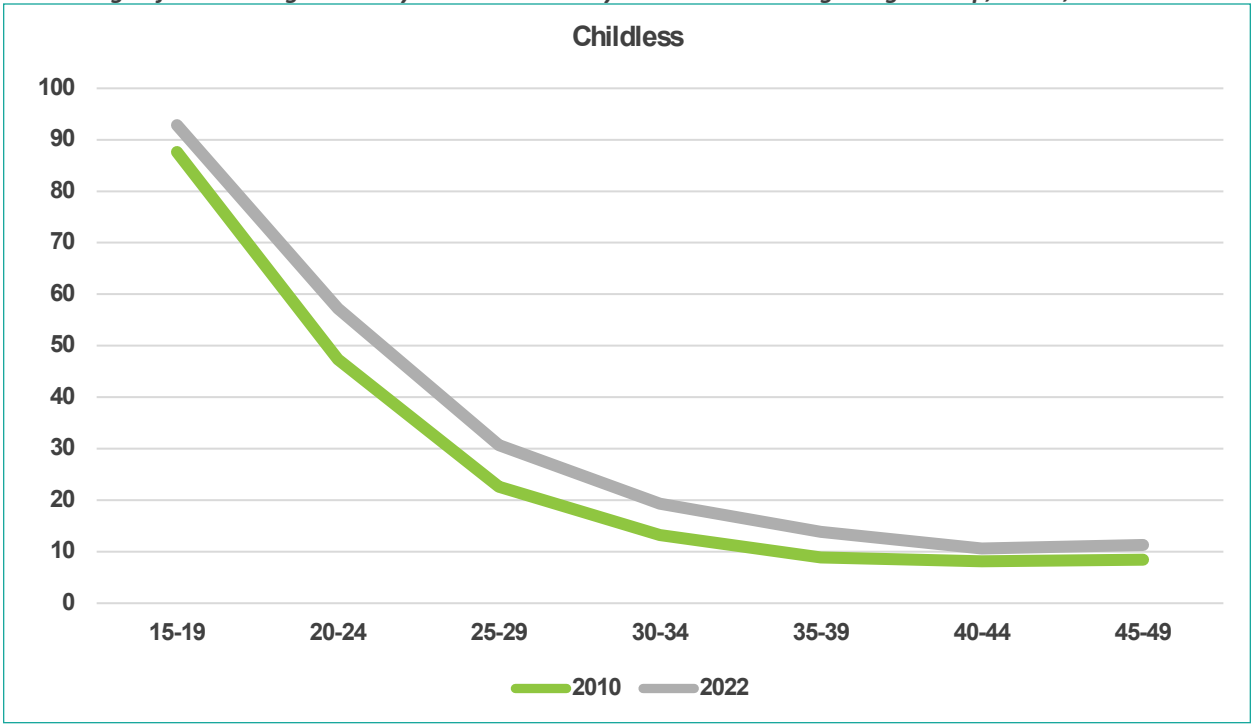



*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Figure 5.8(a) displays current childlessness as at the 2010 and 2022 census enumerations among females aged 15-49 years. As expected, females in younger age groups were more likely to be childless than those in older age groups whether enumerated in 2010 or 2022. Regardless of age group, the percentage of females who were currently childless was consistently greater in 2022 when compared to 2010. This constitutes yet another outcome that is consistent with declining intercensal fertility. With respect to the percentage of females currently childless in the respective childbearing age groups, Figure 5.8(a) also exhibits a similar pattern of variability within each of the two census years.

**Figure 5.8(a)**

***Percentage of Females Aged 15-49 years and Currently Childless According to Age Group, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

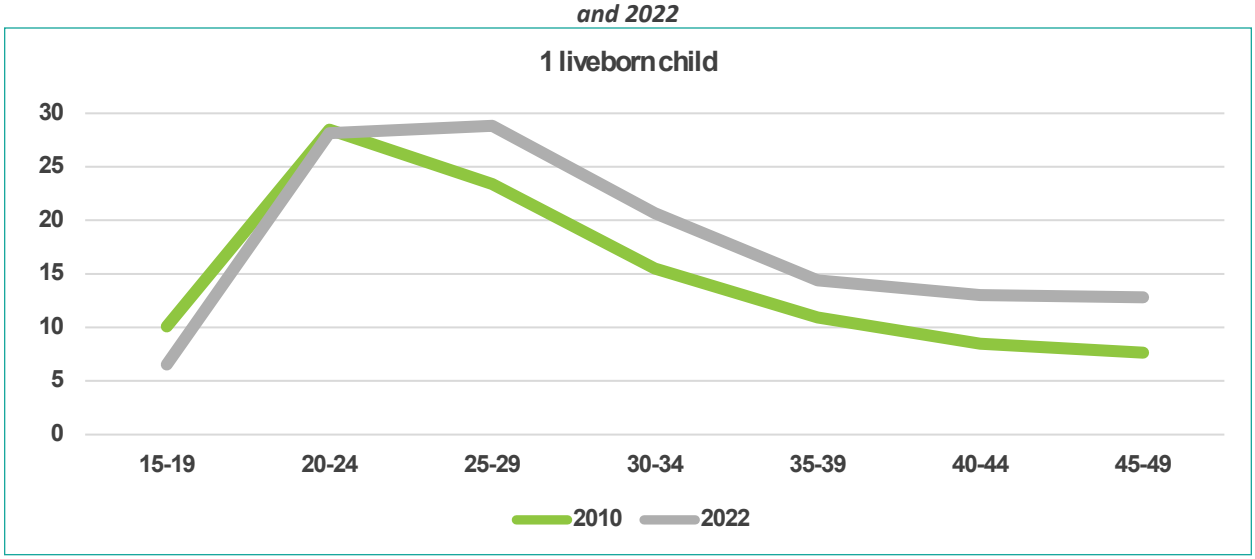


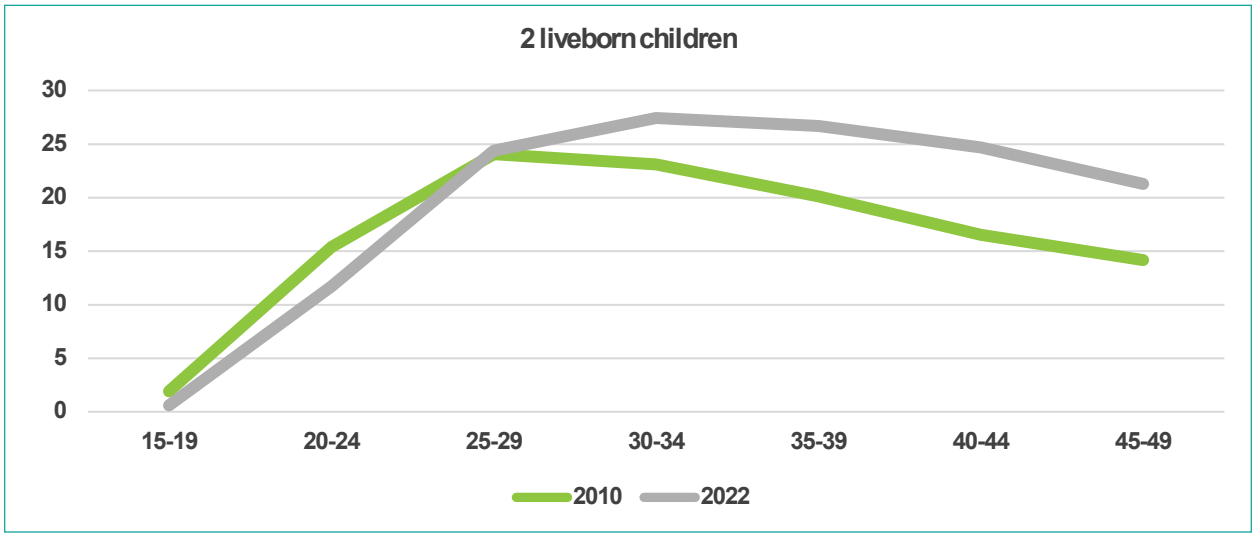

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

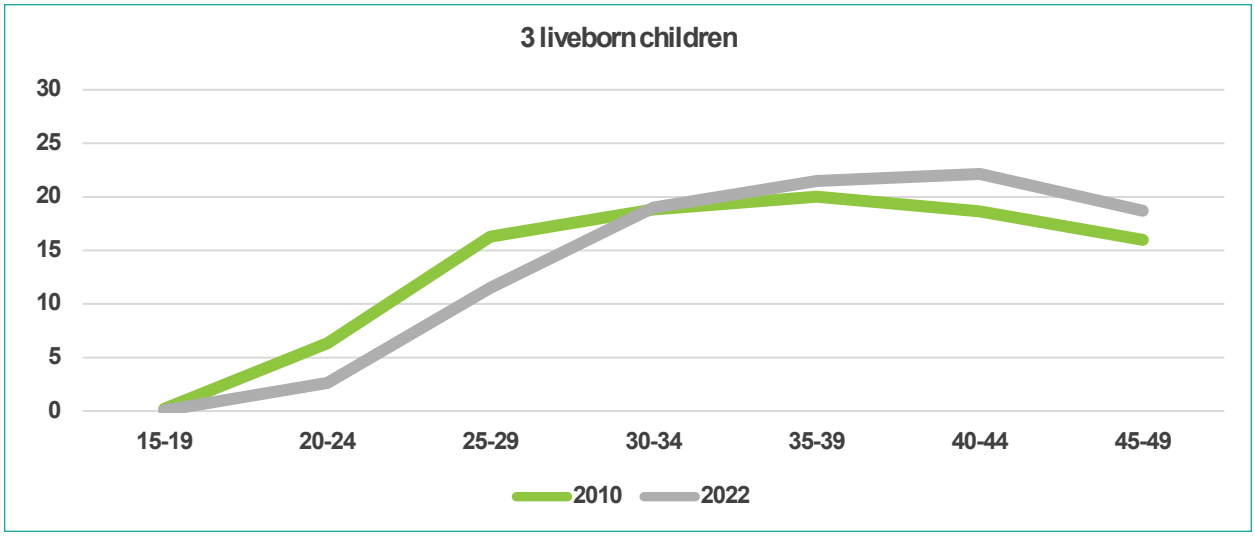
For females aged 15-49 years, Figure 5.8(b) displays the current fertility patterns of those who had 1-3 live-born children as at the 2010 and 2022 census enumerations. With respect to percentages having one, two, or three live-born children currently among females in the different age groups.

**Figure 5.8(b)**

***Percentage of Females Aged 15-49 years and Currently Having 1-3 Live Born Children by Age Group, Belize, 2010 and 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

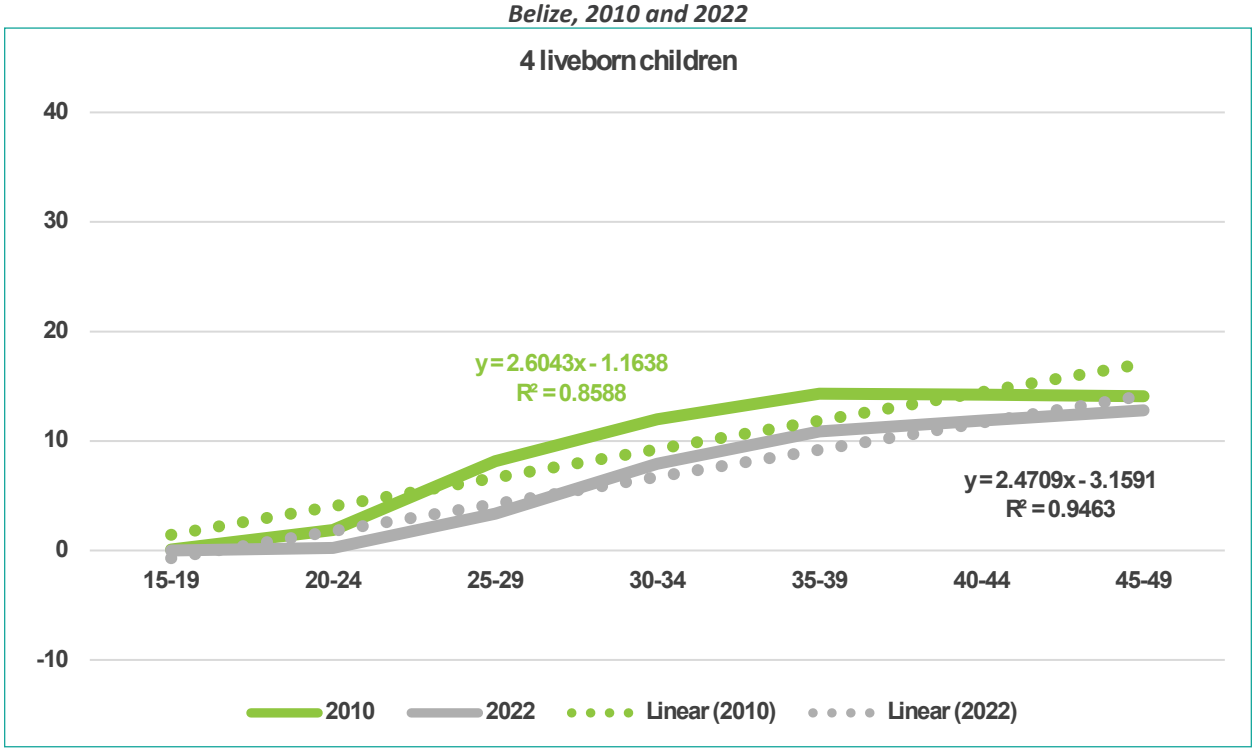
Figure 5.8(b) exhibits a similar pattern of variability within each of the two census years. However, there were some subtle differences in the emergent patterns linked to live birth parity. All three patterns exhibit non-linear interactions between the year of census enumeration and women's age group in the determination of the percentage currently having 1-3 live-born children. In younger age groups, lower percentages of the women enumerated in 2022 currently had 1-3 live-born children when compared to those enumerated in 2010. In contrast, the opposite was observed for older age groups with greater percentages of women currently having 1-3 live-born children in 2022 when compared to 2010. In part, Figure 5.8(b) reinforces the higher current fertility outcomes of the female population aged 15-49 years in 2010 when compared to their counterparts in 2022, this being the case as current parity changed from one live-born child to two and then to three live-born children and being exhibited more comprehensively in Figure 5.8(c) that reflects current fertility outcomes associated with having 4 or at least 5 live-born children.

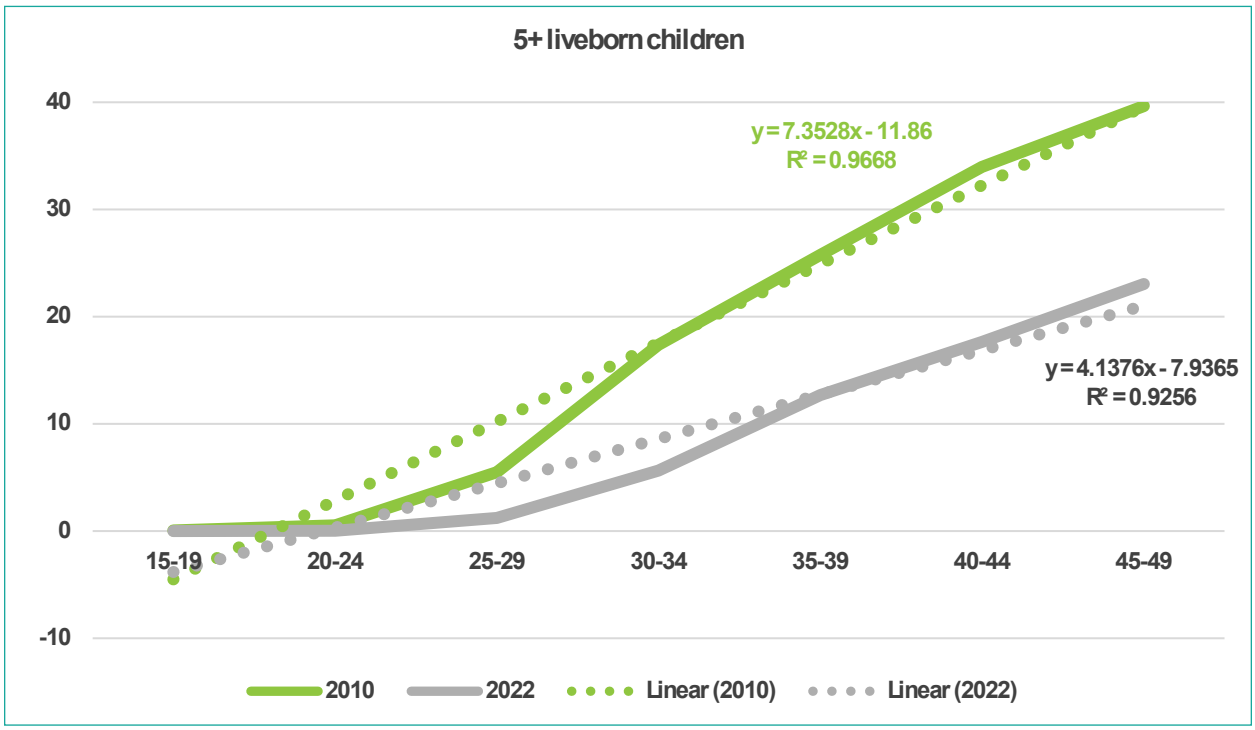
For females aged 15-49 years, Figure 5.8(c) displays the current fertility patterns of those who had 4 or at least 5 liveborn children as at the 2010 and 2022 census enumerations. With respect to percentages having four live-born children currently among females in the different age groups, Figure 5.8(c) exhibits strong linear trajectories for each of the two census years (i.e. $R^2 = 0.8588$ for 2010 and $R^2 = 0.9463$ for 2022). On average, the increase in the percentages having four live-born children at the time of each of the two censuses is similar, increasing by a constant magnitude across the age groups (i.e. b = 2.6043 in 2010 and b = 2.4709 in 2022). In general, the percentage of females having four children by 2010 was consistently higher than the percentage having four children by 2022.

Based on the 2010 and 2022 census enumerations, Figure 5.8(c) presents a line diagram displaying percentages currently having at least five children among women who belonged to different age groups. In examining increases in the percentages from the youngest to the oldest age group, Figure 5.8(c) exhibits strong linear trajectories for each of the two census years (i.e. $R^2 = 0.9688$ for 2010 and $R^2 = 0.9256$ for 2022). On average, the increase in the percentages is notably lower based on observations for the 2022 census when compared to the 2010 census (i.e. b = 4.1376 in 2022 and b = 7.3528 in 2010). These observations are noteworthy and provide evidence that for women aged 15-49 years, current fertility levels amounting to at least five children did increase across the age groups as expected. For women in older age groups, these current fertility levels, despite increasing, reflected a change that was increasingly greater based on the 2010 enumeration when compared with the 2022 enumeration providing further evidence in support of intercensal fertility decline.

**Figure 5.8(c)**

***Percentage of Females Aged 15-49 years and Currently Having 4 or at least 5 Live Born Children by Age Group, Belize, 2010 and 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

# CHAPTER 6

# Dwelling Unit and Household Characteristics

## 6.1 SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF DWELLING UNITS

With respect to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, dwellings were analysed based on a total of 75,491 units, of which 29,985 were in spaces classified as urban and 45,506 in spaces classified as rural (See Table 6.1). In addition to having the largest population sizes, Belize District and Cayo District had the largest number of dwelling units being respectively 20,596 and 19,186. In contrast, the number of dwelling units in each of Corozal District (8.895), Orange Walk District (10,386), Stann Creek District (8,795), and Toledo District (7,634) was notably lower.

**Table 6.1**

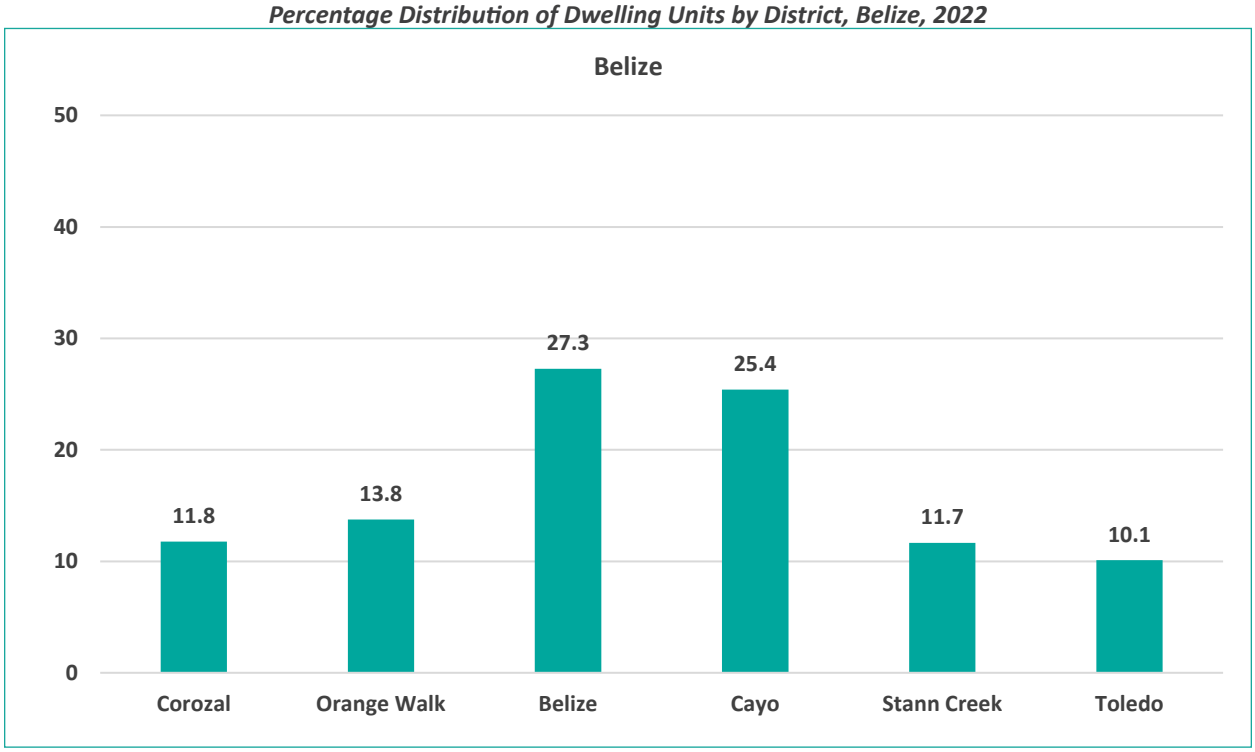
***Distribution of Dwelling Units According to District and Urban/Rural Spaces, Belize, 2022***

| Administrative District | Belize | Urban | Rural |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Belize** | **75,491** | **29,985** | **45,506** |
| **Corozal District** | 8,895 | 1,983 | 6,912 |
| **Orange Walk District** | 10,386 | 2,718 | 7,668 |
| **Belize District** | 20,596 | 13,215 | 7,381 |
| **Cayo District** | 19,186 | 8,968 | 10,218 |
| **Stann Creek District** | 8,795 | 2,036 | 6,759 |
| **Toledo District** | 7,634 | 1,065 | 6,569 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

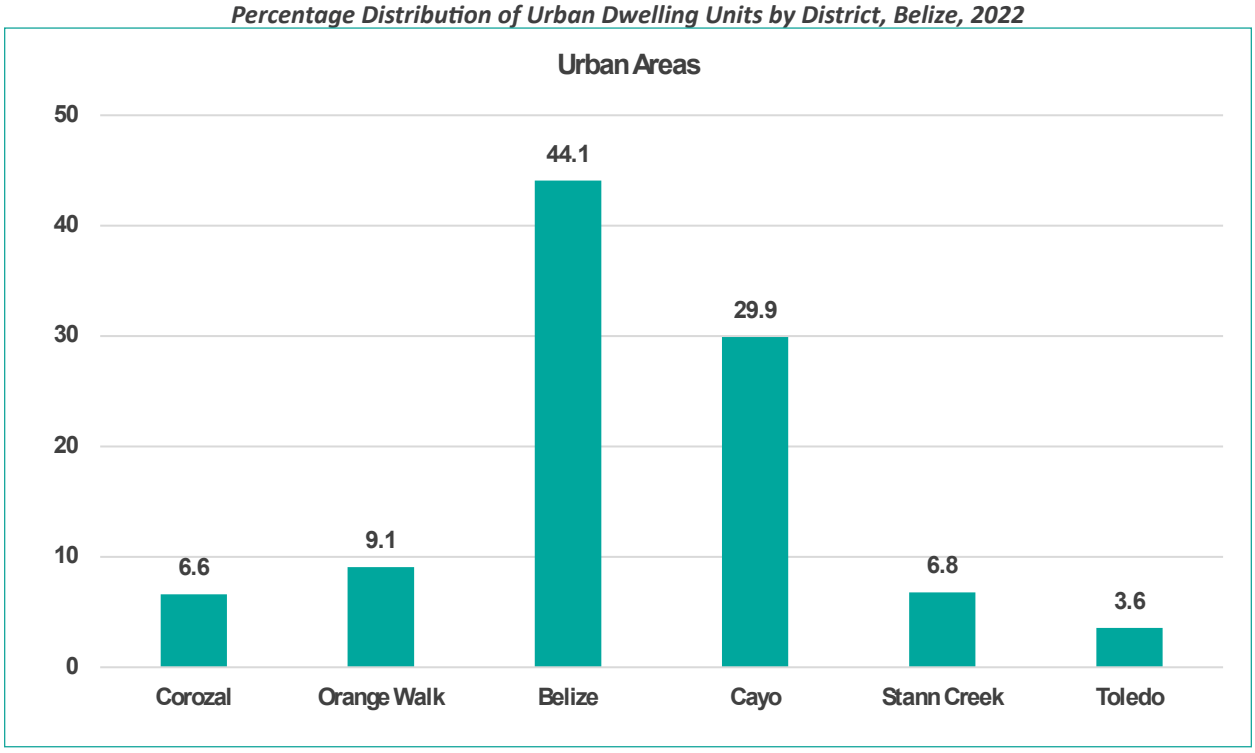
Figures 6.1a indicates that more than half of the dwelling units in Belize were in Belize and Cayo Districts. On examining Figure 6.1c, it is evident that among rural dwellings in Belize, the share in each of the six districts is somewhat homogeneous being in the neighbourhood of 15% though marginally in excess of 20% in the case of Cayo. In contrast, Figure 6.1b accentuates the urban character of Belize and Cayo Districts and reinforces the fact that the largest shares of the national urban population reside in those two districts. This is further borne out in Figure 6.2 based on the relative shares of urban and rural dwelling units in each of the six districts. It is evident that Belize District had in excess of 60% of its dwellings in urban spaces while Cayo District had in excess of 40%. In the remaining districts, the proportion of urban dwelling units does not exceed 26.2%. For Belize as a whole, just about 40% of all dwelling units were located in areas classified as urban and was consistent with earlier findings indicating that the population of Belize is mostly concentrated in areas classified as rural.

**Figure 6.1a**
***Percentage Distribution of Dwelling Units by District, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

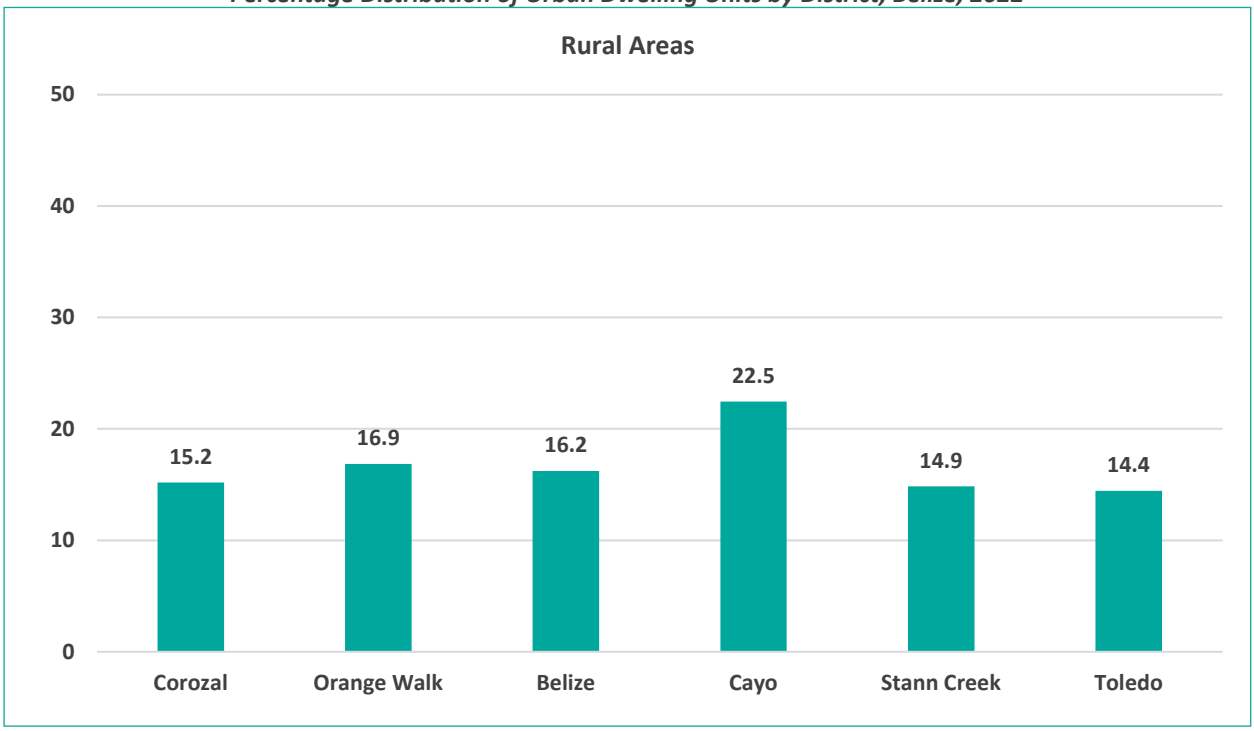
**Figure 6.1b**
***Percentage Distribution of Urban Dwelling Units by District, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 6.1c**

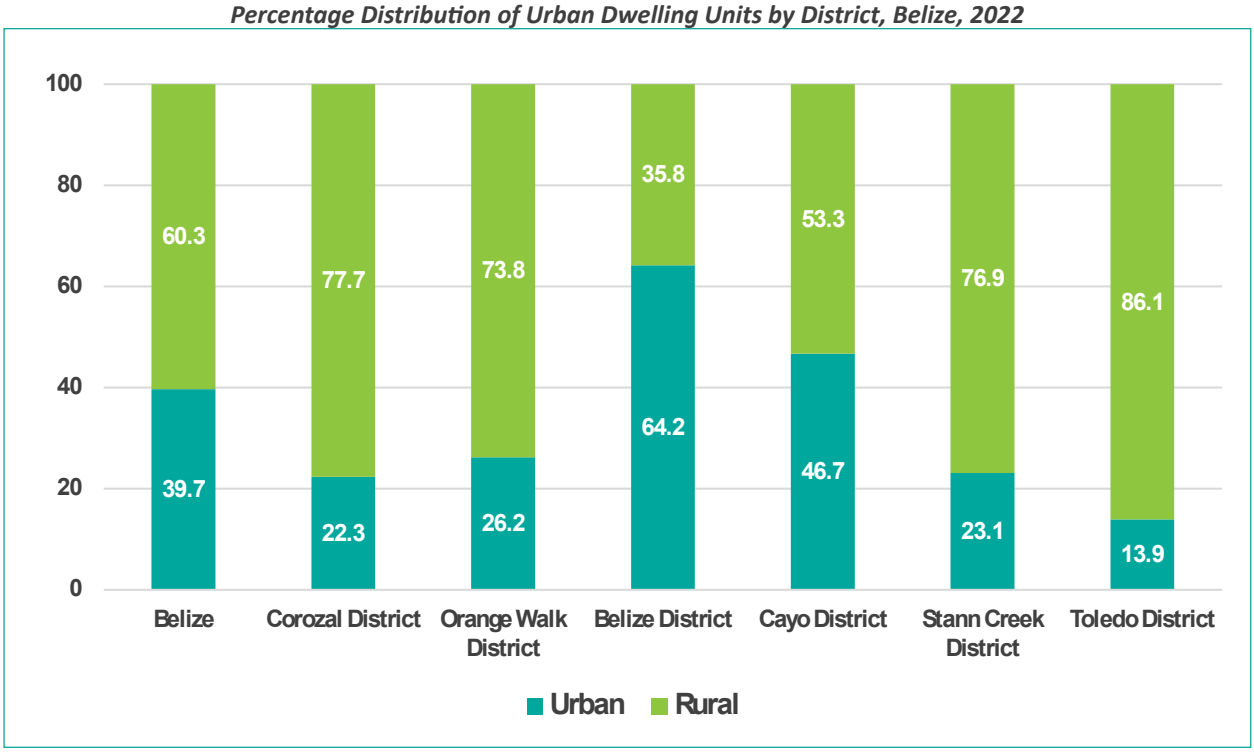
***Percentage Distribution of Urban Dwelling Units by District, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 6.2**

***Percentage Distribution of Urban Dwelling Units by District, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

### 6.1.1 Age of Dwelling Unit

Based on the dwelling units analysed on the basis of the 2022 Population and Housing Census in Belize, Table 6.2 and Figure 6.3 indicate that regardless of district, the largest numbers of dwelling units nationwide were built during the first and second decades of the 21st century, with a somewhat larger percentage being observed for units built during the second decade. On a national scale, more than a half of the dwelling units were built during the two periods and except in the cases of Belize and Cayo Districts, more than half of the dwelling units in each of the remaining four districts were built during these two periods. This was most pronounced in Stann Creek and Toledo Districts where just over 60% of the dwelling units were built during the two periods.

**Table 6.2**

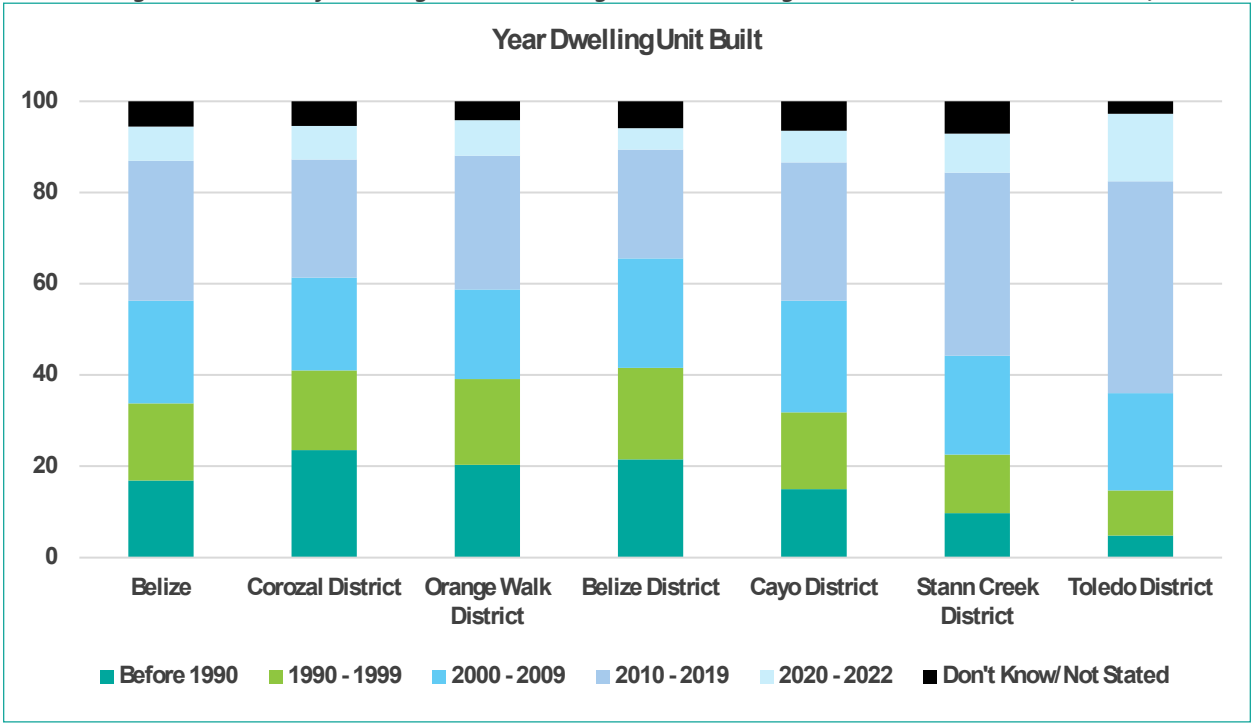
***Percentage Distribution of Dwelling Units According to Year Dwelling Unit Built Within District, Belize, 2022***

| Year Dwelling Built | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Dwelling Units** | **75,491** | **8,895** | **10,386** | **20,596** | **19,186** | **8,795** | **7,634** |
| **Before 1990** | 16.9 | 23.5 | 20.3 | 21.5 | 15.0 | 9.7 | 4.8 |
| **1990 – 1999** | 16.9 | 17.5 | 18.8 | 20.1 | 16.9 | 12.9 | 9.9 |
| **2000 – 2009** | 22.5 | 20.4 | 19.7 | 23.9 | 24.5 | 21.6 | 21.3 |
| **2010 – 2019** | 30.7 | 25.9 | 29.3 | 23.9 | 30.3 | 40.1 | 46.4 |
| **2020 – 2022** | 7.5 | 7.4 | 7.8 | 4.7 | 7.0 | 8.5 | 14.8 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 5.6 | 5.4 | 4.2 | 5.9 | 6.5 | 7.1 | 2.8 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 6.3**

***Percentage Distribution of Dwelling Units According to Year Dwelling Unit Built Within District, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

### 6.1.2 Land Tenure for Dwelling Units

According to Table 6.3 and Figure 6.4, data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize show that 82.3% of all dwelling units were built on land that was owned by the owner of the dwelling unit, 7.4% were built on leased land while almost 4% were built on communal land. In every district, the vast majority of dwelling units were built on land owned by the owner of the dwelling unit and except for Toledo, more than three in every four dwelling units were built on land owned by the owner of the dwelling unit. Dwelling units on leasehold land were most prevalent in the northern districts of Corozal and Orange Walk while communal land as a site for dwelling units was most prevalent in Toledo with a heavy concentration of Mayans.

**Table 6.3**

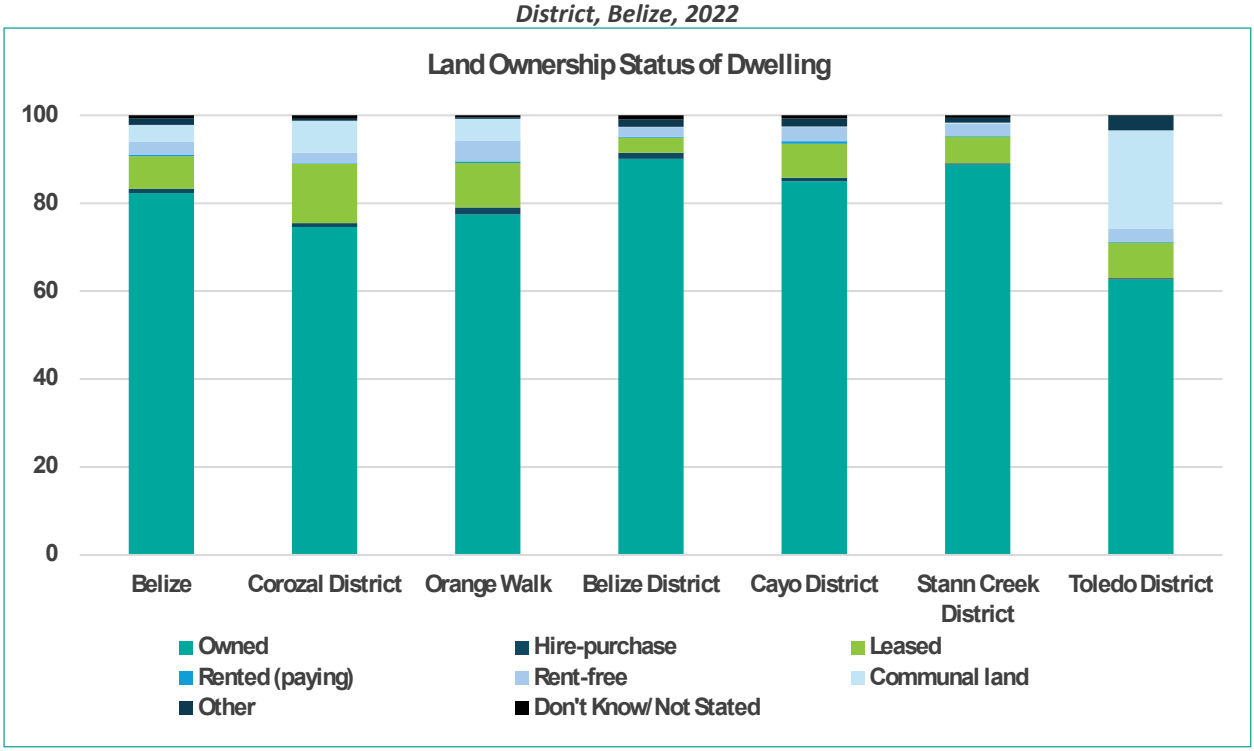
***Percentage Distribution of Dwelling Units According to Land Ownership Status of Dwelling Unit Built Within District, Belize, 2022***

| Land Ownership Status | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Dwelling Units** | **75,491** | **8,895** | **10,386** | **20,596** | **19,186** | **8,795** | **7,634** |
| **Owned** | 82.3 | 74.6 | 77.4 | 90.1 | 85.0 | 88.8 | 62.6 |
| **Hire-purchase** | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| **Leased** | 7.4 | 13.5 | 10.1 | 3.4 | 7.8 | 6.0 | 8.0 |
| **Rented (paying)** | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| **Rent-free** | 3.0 | 2.4 | 4.7 | 2.2 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 3.0 |
| **Communal land** | 3.9 | 7.2 | 4.9 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 22.4 |
| **Other** | 1.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.1 | 3.2 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.2 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 6.4**

***Percentage Distribution of Dwelling Units According to Land Ownership Status of Dwelling Unit Built Within District, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 6.2 SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND INTERCENSAL CHANGE

With respect to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, households were analysed based on a total of 110,719 units, of which 49,991 were in spaces classified as urban and 60,728 in spaces classified as rural (Table 6.4). In addition to having the largest population sizes, Belize District and Cayo District had the largest number of household units being respectively 35,063 and 26,818. In contrast, the number of dwelling units in each of Corozal District (12,148), Orange Walk (14,285), Stann Creek District (12,719), and Toledo District (9,687) was notably lower. According to Table 6.4, more than half of all households in the country of Belize were located in Belize and Cayo Districts (55.9%). However, the pattern of variation for the percentage distribution of urban and rural households within each of the districts is aligned to the pattern of variation that was observed in the case of dwelling units.

**Table 6.4**

***Absolute and Percentage Distributions of Households According to District Within Urban/Rural Categories, Belize, 2022***

| Administrative District | Belize | Urban | Rural | Belize | Urban | Rural |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Absolute Distribution | | | Percentage Distribution | | |
| **Belize** | **110,719** | **49,991** | **60,728** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** |
| **Corozal District** | 12,148 | 2,977 | 9,171 | 11.0 | 6.0 | 15.1 |
| **Orange Walk District** | 14,285 | 4,117 | 10,168 | 12.9 | 8.2 | 16.7 |
| **Belize District** | 35,063 | 24,580 | 10,483 | 31.7 | 49.2 | 17.3 |
| **Cayo District** | 26,818 | 13,781 | 13,036 | 24.2 | 27.6 | 21.5 |
| **Stann Creek District** | 12,719 | 2,955 | 9,764 | 11.5 | 5.9 | 16.1 |
| **Toledo District** | 9,687 | 1,581 | 8,106 | 8.7 | 3.2 | 13.3 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Table 6.5 illustrates the relative shares of urban and rural households within each of the six districts. At the national level, 54.8% of households are located in rural areas as opposed to 45.2% in urban areas. It is evident that Belize District had in excess of 70% of its households in urban spaces while Cayo District had 51.4%. In the remaining districts, urban households accounted for no more than 29%, being as low as 16.4% in the case of Toledo District.

**Table 6.5**

***Percentage Distributions of Households According to Urban/Rural Categories Within District, Belize, 2022***

| Territory | Belize | Urban | Rural |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Belize** | **100.0** | 45.2 | 54.8 |
| **Corozal District** | **100.0** | 24.5 | 75.5 |
| **Orange Walk District** | **100.0** | 28.8 | 71.2 |
| **Belize District** | **100.0** | 70.1 | 29.9 |
| **Cayo District** | **100.0** | 51.4 | 48.6 |
| **Stann Creek District** | **100.0** | 23.2 | 76.8 |
| **Toledo District** | **100.0** | 16.3 | 83.7 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Table 6.6 presents the number of households in Belize and each of the six districts based on the 2010 and 2022 Population and Housing Censuses of Belize. In 2010, there were a total of 79,492 with that number increasing to 110,719 based on the 2022 Population and Housing Census. Figure 6.5 illustrates the relative change in the number of households for Belize, each of the districts, and urban/rural areas between the two censuses. Accordingly, intercensal growth with respect to the number of households was approximately 40% with the highest relative growth being evident in Cayo District (58.8%) and Toledo District (48.2%). The lowest intercensal growth rate was in Belize District (28.5%). Noteworthy intercensal growth was evident in every district. With respect to urban and rural areas, intercensal growth in the number of households was more pronounced in rural Belize when compared to urban Belize (50.6% compared to almost 27.7%).

**Table 6.6**

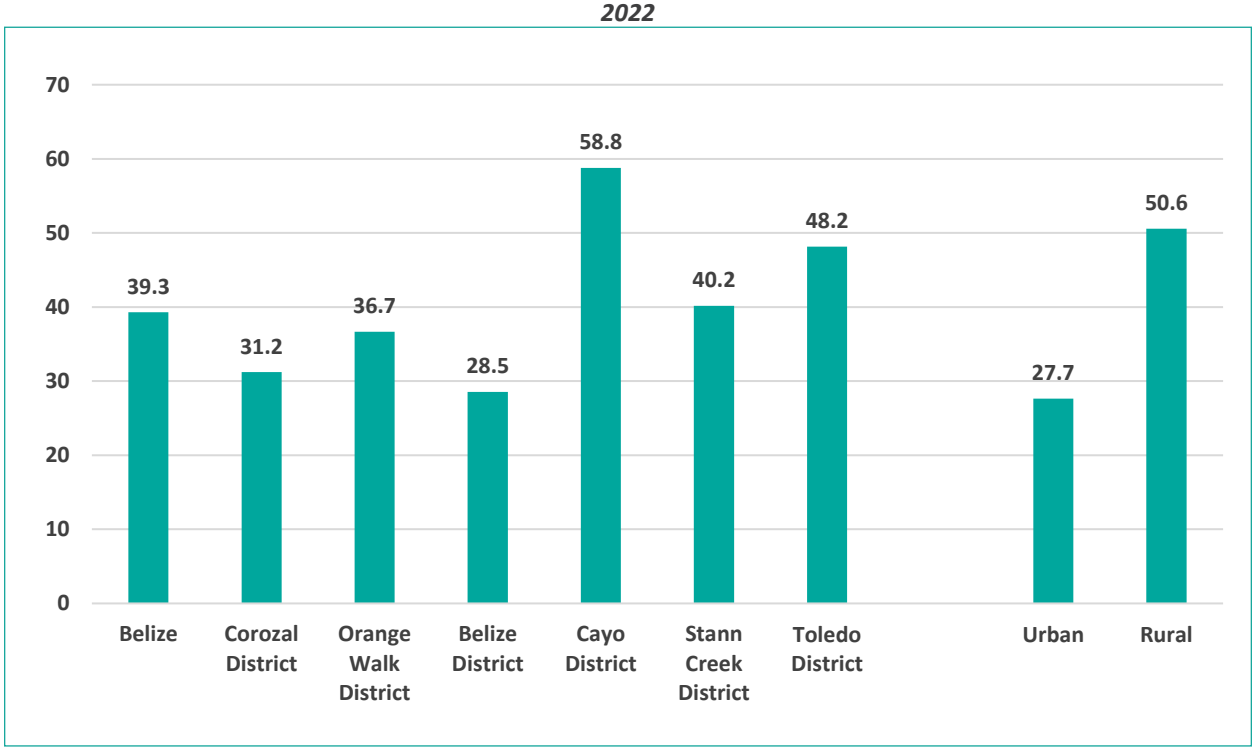
***Census Distributions of Households According to District and Urban/Rural Categories, Belize, 2010 and 2022***

| Territory | 2010 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| **Belize** | **79,492** | **110,719** |
| **Corozal District** | 9,258 | 12,148 |
| **Orange Walk District** | 10,452 | 14,285 |
| **Belize District** | 27,281 | 35,063 |
| **Cayo District** | 16,889 | 26,818 |
| **Stann Creek District** | 9,074 | 12,719 |
| **Toledo District** | 6,538 | 9,687 |
| **Urban** | 39,162 | 49,991 |
| **Rural** | 40,330 | 60,728 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 6.5**

***Intercensal Growth Rates for Households According to District and Urban/Rural Categories, Belize, 2010 and 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 6.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF DWELLINGS AND EXPOSURE AMONG HOUSEHOLDS

### 6.3.1 Type of Dwelling

According to Table 6.7 and Figure 6.6, data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize show that 87.8% of all households lived in an undivided private house, 6% lived in an apartment/condominium, and 2.6% lived in part of a private house. Altogether, at least 96% of all households resided in one of these three types of dwellings. Except for Belize District, Table 6.7 shows that approximately 9 in every 10 households occupied an undivided private house. In Belize District, 13.5% of all households lived in an apartment/condominium which is not a surprise and consistent with the urban character of Belize District. In general, the pattern of household residence according to dwelling type hardly varied, if at all, across the six districts of Belize.

**Table 6.7**

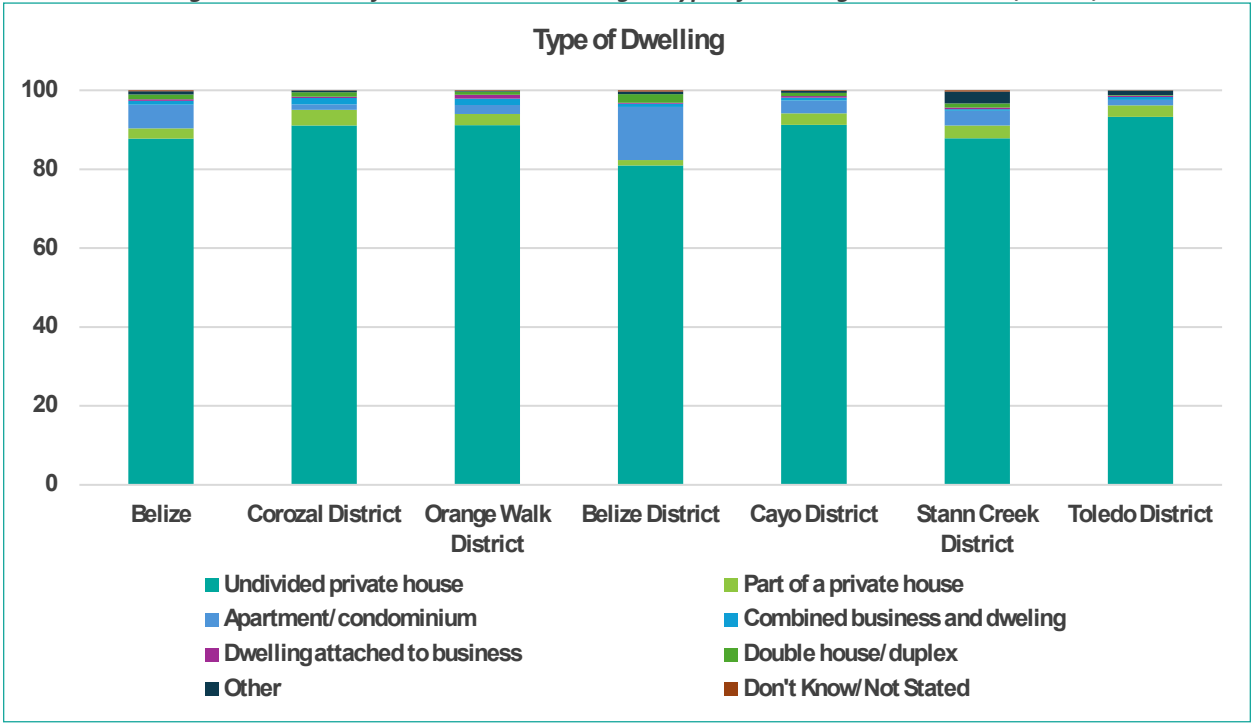
***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Type of Dwelling Within District, Belize, 2022***

| Type of Dwelling | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Households** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |
| **Undivided private house** | 87.8 | 91.1 | 91.2 | 81.0 | 91.3 | 87.9 | 93.3 |
| **Part of a private house** | 2.6 | 3.9 | 2.8 | 1.4 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 2.9 |
| **Apartment/condominium** | 6.0 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 13.5 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 1.4 |
| **Combined business and dwelling** | 0.9 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.8 |
| **Dwelling attached to business** | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| **Double house/duplex** | 1.3 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 2.2 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.2 |
| **Other** | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 3.0 | 1.1 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 6.6**

***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Type of Dwelling Within District, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

### 6.3.2 Ownership of Dwelling

Table 6.8 and Figure 6.7 have been generated in accordance with data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize and show that 59.9% of all households lived in dwelling units that were owned with no mortgage/hire purchase, while 20% lived in dwelling units that were rented. Just 7.9% lived in dwelling units that were owned in accordance with a current mortgage/hire purchase agreement, while 9.1% of all households lived in rent-free dwelling units. Almost 96% of all households occupied a dwelling unit for which ownership status was in accordance with one of the four aforementioned classifications. In each of the six districts, households were most likely to be residing in dwelling units owned with no mortgage, this being followed by rented dwelling units. Among the six districts, Toledo had the greatest percentage of households living in dwelling units that were owned with no mortgage (76.6%) and Belize District had the lowest percentage (49.3%). Among the six districts, Belize District had the greatest percentage of households living in rented dwelling units (29.9%) while Toledo had the lowest percent (9.9%). For these two districts, this observation is reflective of the variable magnitudes of pull factors such as employment and access to a range of human services that render Belize District a main hub drawing internal migrants and transient populations from the more remote northern and southern districts.

**Table 6.8**

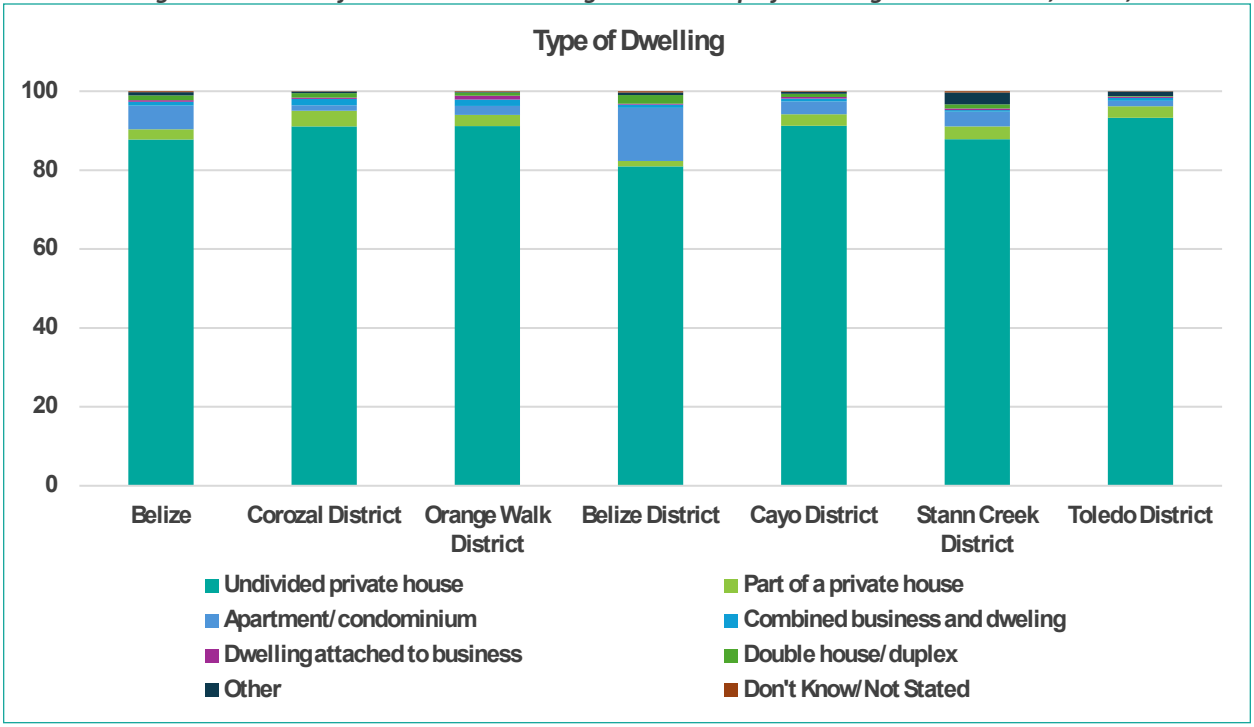
***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Ownership of Dwelling Within District, Belize, 2022***

| Ownership of Dwelling | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Households** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |
| **Own with a mortgage/Hire-purchase** | 7.9 | 10.4 | 8.1 | 9.0 | 8.8 | 4.6 | 2.2 |
| **Own without a mortgage** | 59.9 | 62.3 | 64.4 | 49.3 | 62.3 | 64.2 | 76.6 |
| **Rent** | 20.0 | 12.0 | 13.0 | 29.7 | 19.0 | 18.0 | 9.9 |
| **Rent free** | 9.1 | 8.9 | 9.9 | 10.0 | 7.5 | 10.9 | 7.6 |
| **Lease** | 2.0 | 5.5 | 4.0 | 0.7 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 2.7 |
| **Other** | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.1 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 6.7**

***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Ownership of Dwelling Within District, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

### 6.3.3 Main Material for Outer Walls

Table 6.9 and Figure 6.8 examine households according to the main material of the outer walls of dwelling units containing household members drawing on data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize. As much as 53.9% of all households lived in dwelling units with outer walls built mainly of concrete while 30.3% lived in dwelling units with outer walls built mainly of wood. Interestingly, 5% of all households lived in dwelling units built mainly of sheet metals. As observed for Belize as a whole, four of the six districts exhibited patterns indicating that the majority of households lived in dwelling units that were built mainly of concrete. These districts were Corozal (71.7%), Orange Walk (59%), Belize District (53.8%), and Cayo (55%). In Stann Creek and Toledo Districts, the majority of households lived in dwelling units built mainly of wood (44.7% and 52.3% respectively). Compared to the other four districts, Stann Creek and Toledo had the highest percentages of households living in dwellings built mainly of wood. For Belize and in every district with the exception of Orange Walk, more than 80% of households lived in dwelling units built mainly of wood or concrete. In Orange Walk, however, it is interesting to note that approximately 15% of all households lived in dwelling units built of sheet metal, this proportion being notably higher than that of corresponding percentages observed in each of the other five districts.

Table 6.9

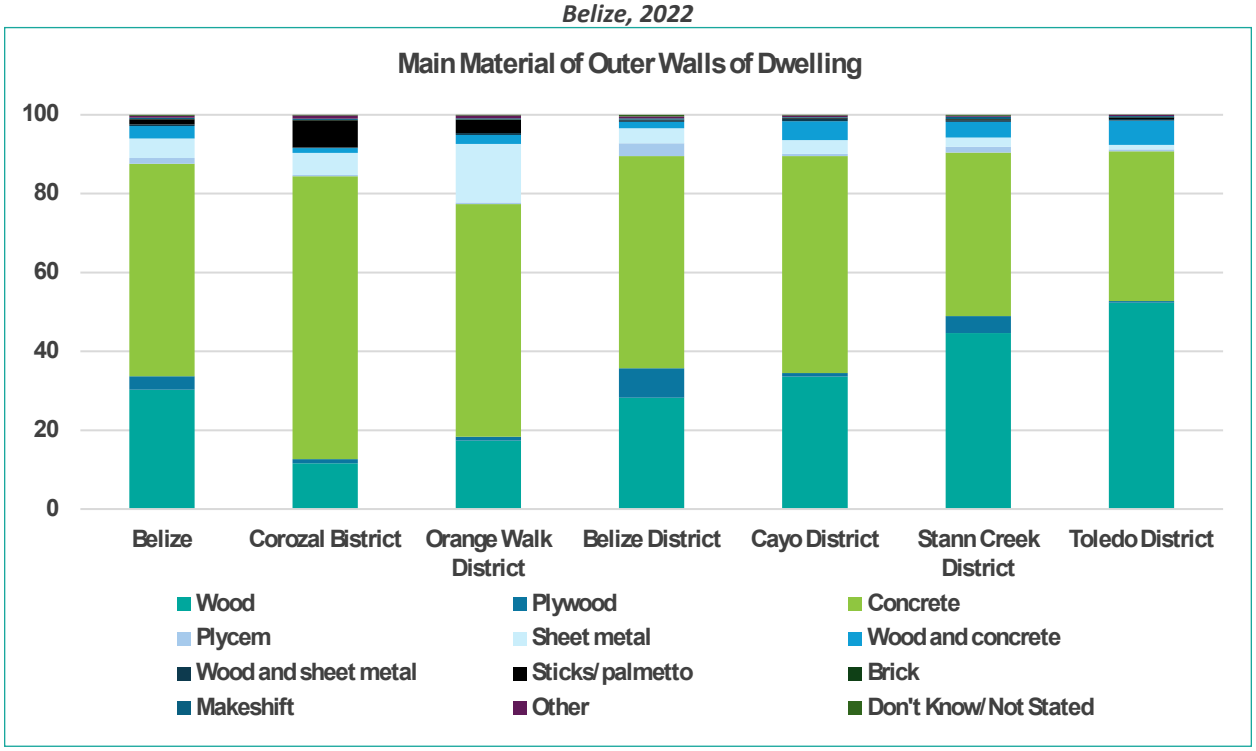
*Percentage Distribution of Households According to Main Material of Outer Walls of Dwelling Within District, Belize, 2022*

| Main Material of Outer Walls | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Households** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |
| **Wood** | 30.3 | 11.6 | 17.4 | 28.3 | 33.6 | 44.7 | 52.3 |
| **Plywood** | 3.4 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 7.5 | 0.9 | 4.3 | 0.5 |
| **Concrete** | 53.9 | 71.7 | 59.0 | 53.8 | 55.0 | 41.4 | 38.0 |
| **Plycem** | 1.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 3.2 | 0.6 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| **Sheet metal** | 5.0 | 5.5 | 14.9 | 3.8 | 3.5 | 2.3 | 1.1 |
| **Wood and concrete** | 3.1 | 1.2 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 4.8 | 4.0 | 6.2 |
| **Wood and sheet metal** | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| **Sticks/palmetto** | 1.3 | 6.9 | 3.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| **Brick** | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| **Makeshift** | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| **Other** | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Figure 6.8

*Percentage Distribution of Households According to Main Material of Outer Walls of Dwelling Within District, Belize, 2022*




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

### 6.3.4 Main Roofing Material

Table 6.10 and Figure 6.9 permit analyses of households according to the main roofing material of dwelling units containing household members based on data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize. On a national scale, more than 8 in every 10 households, to be exact 82.9% lived in dwelling units with sheet metal/zinc as the main roofing material. With respect to all households, sheet metal/zinc was the main roofing material for their respective dwelling units whether reference was to Belize as a nation or to each of the six districts. Though notably high proportions in excess of 8 in every 10 households were observed for Belize as a nation, and districts such as Orange Walk, Belize District, Cayo, and Stann Creek, notably smaller proportions amounting to 55.8% and 66.1% were observed in Corozal and Toledo Districts respectively. Altogether, at least 95% of all households were observed to be living in dwellings with sheet metal/zinc or concrete as the main roofing material. In Corozal District, it is worth noting that 42.6% of households lived in dwelling units with concrete as the main roofing material, and that in Toledo District, some 29% of all households lived in dwelling units where thatch was the main roofing material.

**Table 6.10**

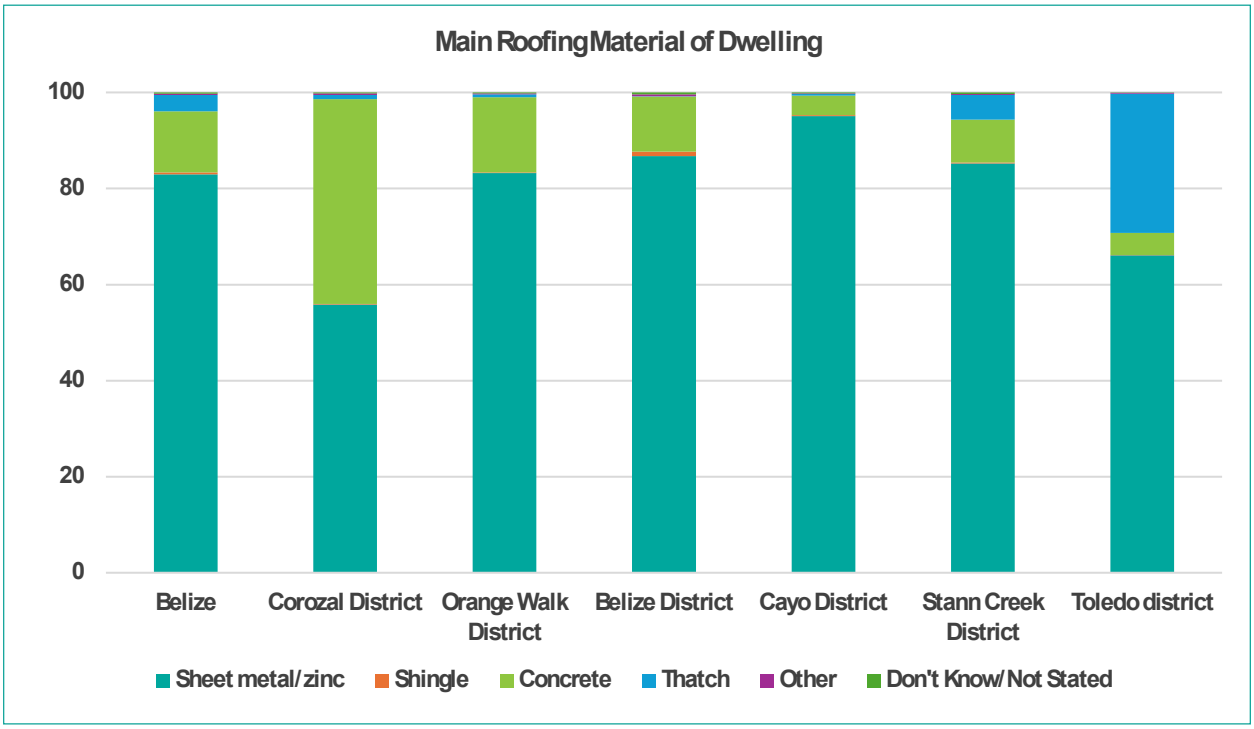
***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Main Roofing Material of Dwelling Within District, Belize, 2022***

| Main Roofing Material | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Households** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |
| **Sheet metal/zinc** | 82.9 | 55.8 | 83.2 | 86.8 | 95.1 | 85.2 | 66.1 |
| **Shingle** | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| **Concrete** | 12.7 | 42.6 | 15.7 | 11.5 | 4.0 | 9.0 | 4.6 |
| **Thatch** | 3.4 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 5.1 | 29.0 |
| **Other** | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 6.9**

***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Main Roofing Material of Dwelling Within District, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

### 6.3.5 Main Floor Material

According to Table 6.11 and Figure 6.10, households in Belize were analysed according to the main floor material of dwelling units occupied at the time of enumeration for the 2022 Population and Housing Census. On a national scale, at least 95% of all households lived in dwelling units with floor materials in the form of concrete (51.2%), wood (24.1%), or tiles (20.4%). This was also true within each of the six districts with at least 95% of households living in dwelling units with concrete, wood, or tiles as the main floor material. Whether at the national level or in any of the six districts, concrete was the main floor material in dwelling units occupied by households, with a low of 37.4% for households in the Belize District and a high of 64.3% in Toledo District.

Otherwise, main floor material is variable across the six districts. For example, floors made of wood were mostly prevalent among households in Belize District (37.4%), Stann Creek District (34.8%), and to a slightly lesser extent, Cayo District (20.6%). Tiled floorings were mostly prevalent among households in Corozal District (29.6%), Orange Walk District (25.2%), Belize District (23.3%), and Cayo District (20.6%). Compared to the other five districts, Toledo District had a notably higher percentage of households living in dwelling units that had earth/sand floors, this percentage being 16.4% as opposed to substantially less than 3% for each of the other five districts. Despite the variable character of main flooring materials characterising the living experiences of households in each of the six districts, the predominance of different flooring materials in dwellings from one district to another introduces the prospect of variable health and safety risks that are likely to impact negatively on living experiences, especially in Toledo.

**Table 6.11**

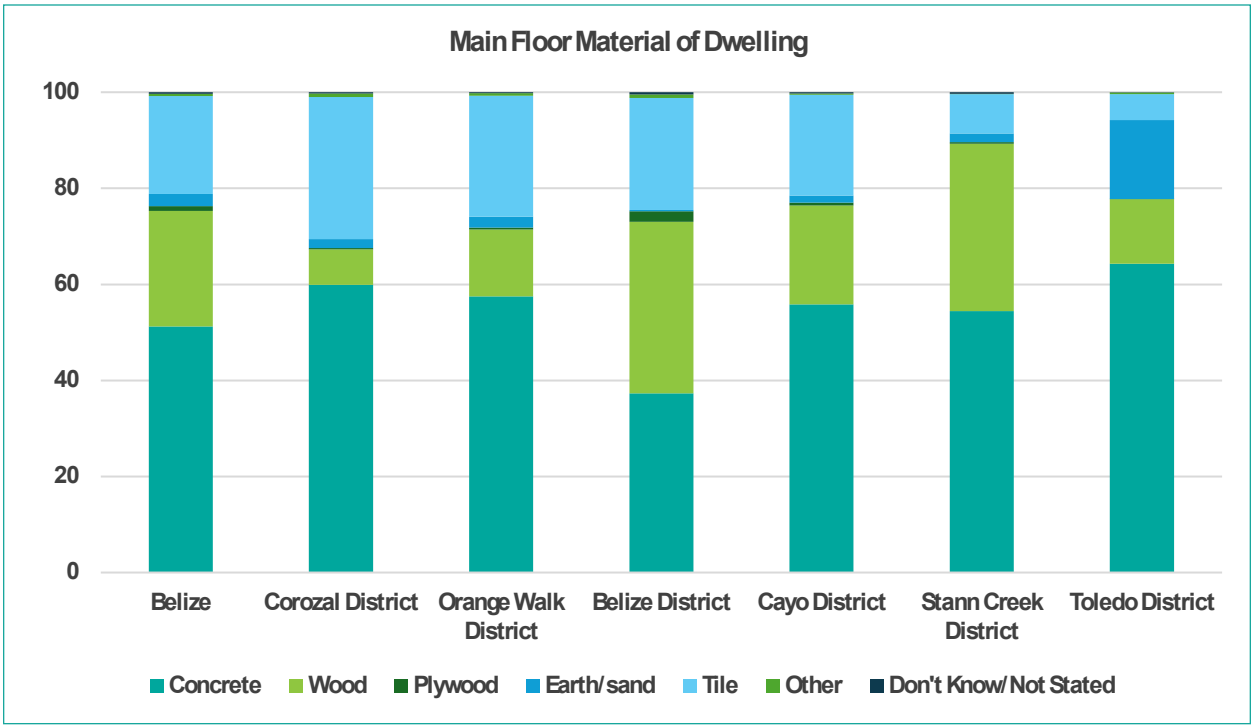
***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Main Floor Material of Dwelling Within District, Belize, 2022***

| Main Floor Material | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All households** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |
| **Concrete** | 51.2 | 59.9 | 57.5 | 37.4 | 55.8 | 54.5 | 64.3 |
| **Wood** | 24.1 | 7.4 | 13.9 | 35.6 | 20.6 | 34.8 | 13.4 |
| **Plywood** | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 2.2 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| **Earth/sand** | 2.6 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 16.4 |
| **Tile** | 20.4 | 29.6 | 25.2 | 23.3 | 20.9 | 8.2 | 5.4 |
| **Other** | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 6.10**

***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Main Roofing Material of Dwelling Within District, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 6.4 ACCESS TO HOUSEHOLD SERVICES AND AMENITIES

### 6.4.1 Water Supply and Use

#### 6.4.1.1 Main Water Supply

According to Table 6.12 and Figure 6.11, data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize show that 83.8% of all households in Belize had a water supply that was piped into their yard or house, 8.2% had such a supply being piped privately into their dwelling or yard, and 3.1% accessed water from a protected dug well. Altogether, 95% of households had their water supply from one of these three sources, this being the case in all of the districts except Toledo where percentages relying on protected dug wells (7.3%) and other sources (7%) were greater than corresponding percentages observed for the other districts. In Belize, the percentage of households that had access to a water supply piped publicly in their house or yard was greatest (83.8%) when compared to the other sources. Similar observations were made for each of the six districts though the percentages that had access to a publicly piped water supply in their houses or yards were lower in Corozal District (73.7%) and Toledo District (78.5%) when compared to the other four districts. The distribution of households according to main water supply within each of the districts appear to be fairly homogeneous.

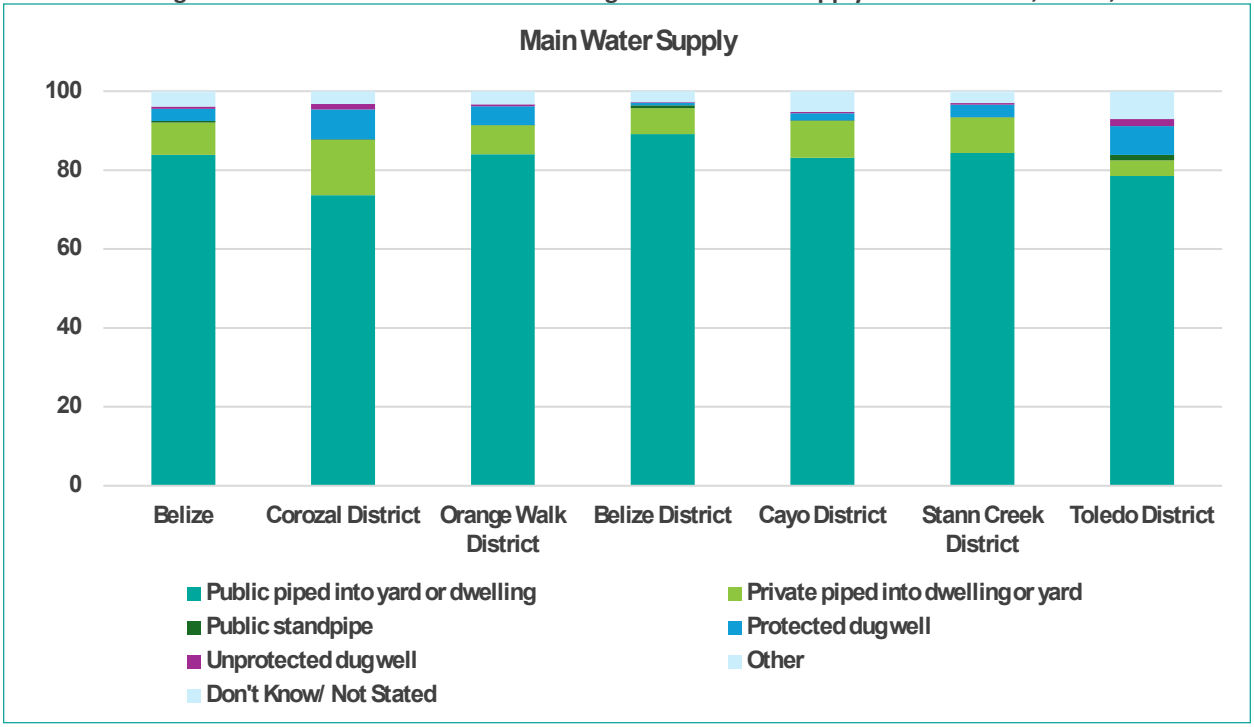
**Table 6.12**

***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Main Water Supply Within District, Belize, 2022***

| Main Water Supply | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |
| **Public piped into yard or dwelling** | 83.8 | 73.7 | 84.0 | 89.1 | 83.1 | 84.3 | 78.5 |
| **Private piped into dwelling or yard** | 8.2 | 14.0 | 7.4 | 6.6 | 9.4 | 9.0 | 4.0 |
| **Public standpipe** | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.4 |
| **Protected dug well** | 3.1 | 7.6 | 4.8 | 0.6 | 1.8 | 3.2 | 7.3 |
| **Unprotected dug well** | 0.5 | 1.4 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 1.7 |
| **Other** | 3.6 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 2.3 | 5.0 | 2.7 | 7.0 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 6.11**
**Percentage Distribution of Households According to Main Water Supply Within District, Belize, 2022**




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

### 6.4.1.2 Main Source of Drinking Water

According to Table 6.13 and Figure 6.12, data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize show that 74.3% of all households in Belize relied upon bottled water as their main source of drinking water. Further, 15.4% obtained their drinking water supply through publicly piped water into their yards and houses, 1.6% from water piped and supplied privately into homes and yards, 5.4% from a private catchment area (not piped), and 3% from sources classified as other. As observed for Belize as a whole, a substantial majority of households relied upon bottled water as their main supply of drinking water in districts such as Corozal (78.7%), Orange Walk (88.3%), Belize District (91.8%), and Cayo (80%). In the districts of Stann Creek and Toledo, the greatest percentage of households relied upon publicly piped water in their houses and yards as the main supply of water for drinking (53.6% and 58.9% respectively). In sum, Figure 6.13 illustrates that there were notable differences in the main sources of drinking water upon examining patterns of variations associated with each of the six districts in Belize.

**Table 6.13**

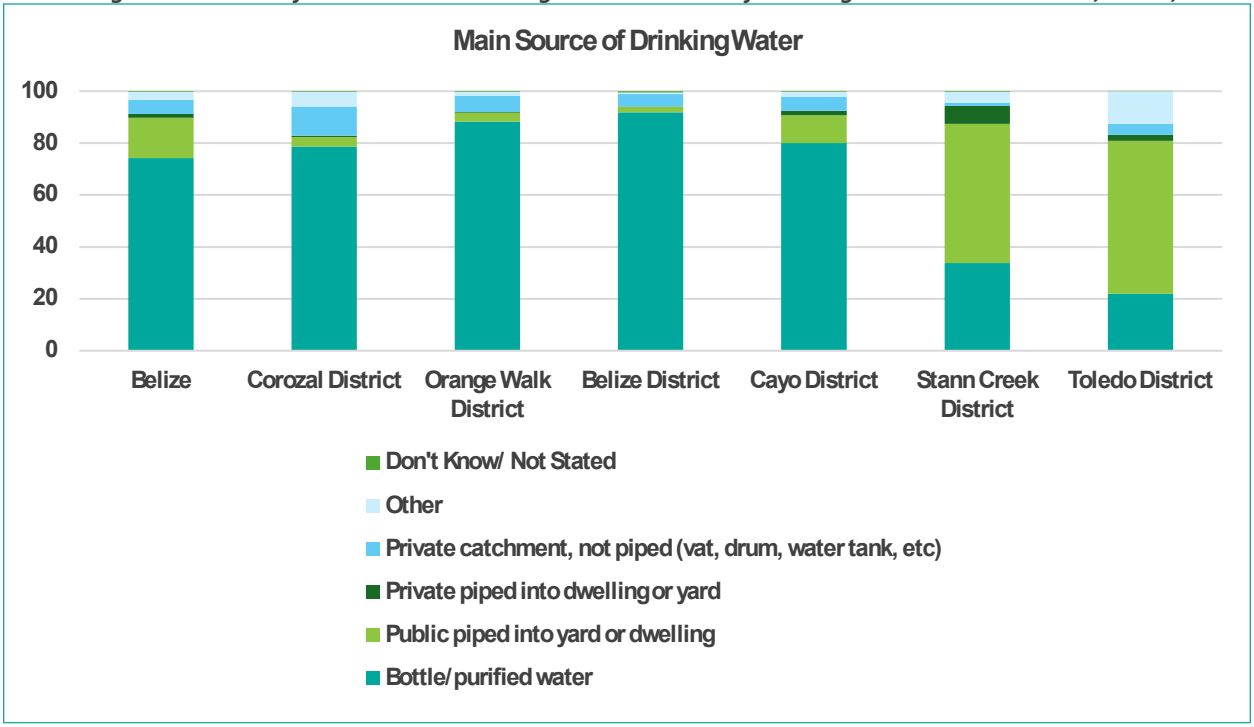
***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Main Source of Drinking Water Within District, Belize, 2022***

| Source of Main Drinking Water | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Households** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |
| **Bottle/purified water** | 74.3 | 78.7 | 88.3 | 91.8 | 80.0 | 33.8 | 21.9 |
| **Public piped into yard or dwelling** | 15.4 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 2.1 | 10.7 | 53.6 | 58.9 |
| **Private piped into dwelling or yard** | 1.6 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.8 | 6.9 | 2.3 |
| **Private catchment, not piped (vat, drum, water tank, etc)** | 5.4 | 11.3 | 6.3 | 4.8 | 5.4 | 1.2 | 4.2 |
| **Other** | 3.0 | 5.6 | 1.5 | 0.6 | 1.9 | 4.2 | 12.6 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 6.12**

***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Main Source of Drinking Water Within District, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 6.4.2 Sanitation

### 6.4.2.1 Main Toilet Facilities

Being linked to Belize Water Services (BWS) or to a septic tank are outcomes that have been exhibited in Table 6.14 and Figure 6.13. Whether linked to BWS or to a septic tank, flush toilets were the main toilet facilities accessed by 76.5% of all households in Belize based on data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census. As much as 67.8% of households had flush toilets that were linked to septic tanks. In Orange Walk (70.2%), Belize District (95.5%), Cayo (76.1%) and Stann Creek (71.3%), more than 70% of all households relied on flush toilets as their main toilet facilities whether connected to BWS or a septic tank. Of the six districts, Belize District (23%) and to a much lesser extent in Cayo (5.9%) were the only two that relied on flush toilet systems linked to BWS. Otherwise, toilet facilities linked to BWS were virtually non-existent in each of the other four districts despite having substantial percentages of households that had access to flush toilets, 67.7% in Corozal District, even higher percentages in Orange Walk and Stann Creek districts, and the lowest percentage in Toledo District (35.6%).

With respect to pit latrines, 21.8% of all households in Belize relied on such facilities as their main form of human waste disposal. In the six districts, observed percentages were noticeably variable ranging from 2.9% in Belize District to 57.2% in Toledo District where it was also observed that 6.9% of households had no access to any toilet facilities whatsoever when compared to less than 1% in each of the other districts. In fact, the two districts that had toilet facilities linked to BWS also had the lowest percentages of all households that either relied on pit latrines or had no toilet facilities whatsoever. The variability across the six districts with respect to households' access to the different types of toilet facilities is startling and do have clear implications for the extent to which inadequate means for the disposal of human waste could be negatively impacting health and other environmental concerns, especially in districts such as Toledo and Corozal.

**Table 6.14**

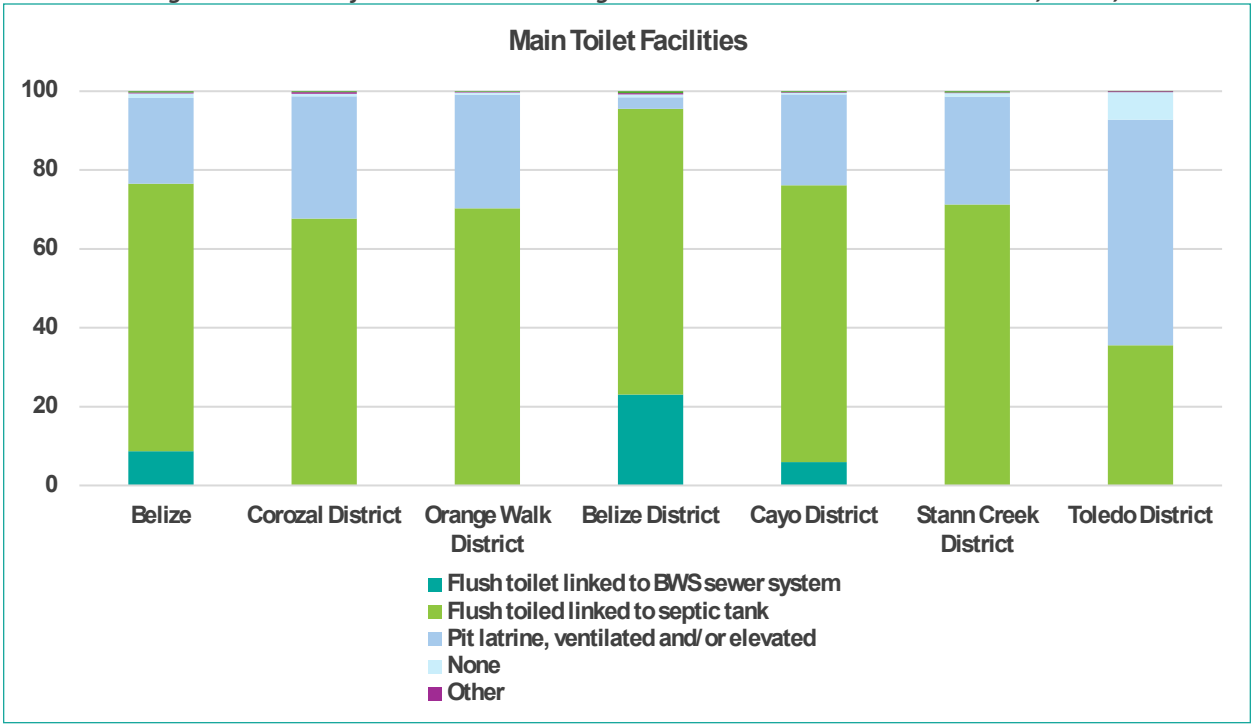
***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Main Toilet Facilities Within District, Belize, 2022***

| Main Toilet Facility | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Households** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |
| **Flush toilet linked to BWS sewer system** | 8.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 23.0 | 5.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Flush toiled linked to septic tank** | 67.8 | 67.7 | 70.2 | 72.5 | 70.2 | 71.3 | 35.6 |
| **Pit latrine, ventilated and/or elevated** | 21.8 | 31.0 | 28.9 | 2.9 | 23.0 | 27.3 | 57.2 |
| **None** | 1.2 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 6.9 |
| **Other** | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 6.13**

***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Main Toilet Facilities Within District, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

### 6.4.2.2 Means of Garbage Disposal

Garbage disposal addresses the disposal of solid waste and similar to the disposal of human waste, has implications for community and national health and environmental concerns. A cursory glance of Figure 6.14 points towards noticeable variability in methods of solid waste disposal across the six districts of Belize. According to Table 6.15 and Figure 6.14, data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize show that the 39.7% of all households disposed of solid waste relying upon municipal collection, 22.8% through burning waste, 18.3% through private garbage truck services, 15.4% by taking waste to a dumpsite, and 2.3% by dumping on land. In the more urbanised and populated districts such as Belize District and Cayo, municipal collection was the main means of garbage disposal with rates of service delivery to households being 56.1% and 46.4% respectively, and almost twice or more than twice that of households in the other four districts – Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, and Toledo. While private garbage disposal was evident in each of the six districts, it was mostly prevalent among households in Stann Creek (30.6%) and less prevalent among households in Belize District (24.4%) and Cayo District (18.7%).

**Table 6.15**

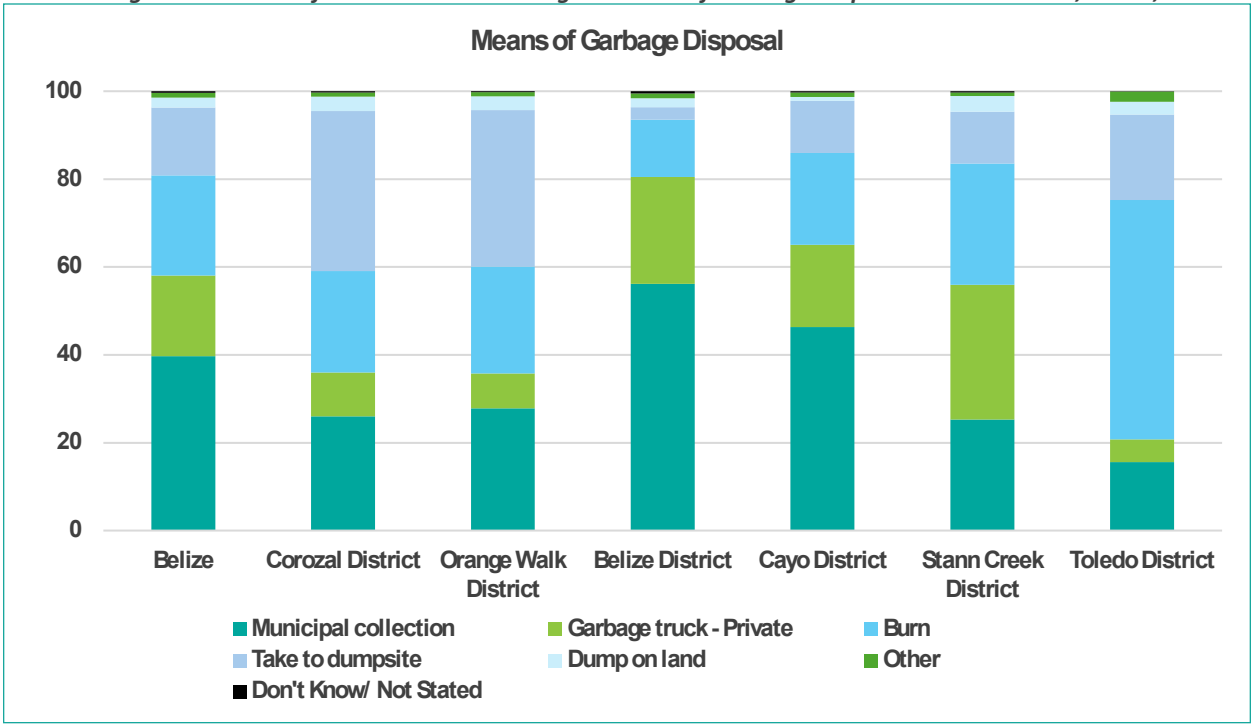
***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Means of Garbage Disposal Within District, Belize, 2022***

| Means of Garbage Disposal | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Households** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |
| **Municipal collection** | 39.7 | 26.0 | 27.9 | 56.1 | 46.4 | 25.3 | 15.6 |
| **Garbage truck – Private** | 18.3 | 10.0 | 7.9 | 24.4 | 18.7 | 30.6 | 5.2 |
| **Burn** | 22.8 | 23.1 | 24.3 | 13.0 | 20.9 | 27.6 | 54.4 |
| **Take to dumpsite** | 15.4 | 36.4 | 35.6 | 2.8 | 11.9 | 11.8 | 19.4 |
| **Dump on land** | 2.3 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 3.6 | 2.9 |
| **Other** | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 2.4 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 6.14**

***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Means of Garbage Disposal Within District, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Taking garbage to a dumpsite was mostly prevalent among households in the northern districts of Corozal and Orange Walk being 36.4% and 35.6% respectively; levels of prevalence that were almost twice or more than twice corresponding levels for households in the other four districts – Belize District, Cayo, Stann Creek, and Toledo. Taking garbage to a dumpsite, burning it, or dumping it on land are practices that are more prevalent among households in communities where access to municipal collection is lower. This could be gleaned from comparing the respective percentages of households that rely mainly upon municipal collection relative to percentages for households that rely mainly upon taking garbage to a dumpsite, burning it, or dumping within each of the six districts. In this regard, Belize District and Cayo District stand out more favourably when compared to Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, and Toledo. It is also worth noting that more than a half of the households in Toledo District (54.6%) disposed of their garbage mainly through burning. These households were more than twice as likely to use this means when compared to households in each of the other five districts. The variability of these practices suggests that households in the different districts were exposed to variable levels of risks due to health and environmental hazards associated with solid waste disposal practices.

## 6.4.3 Electricity, Energy and Sources for Lighting

### 6.4.3.1 Main Lighting Sources

It is clear from Table 6.16 that electricity from Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) is the main source of lighting and electricity for households in Belize. According to data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Belize, 87.4% of all households in Belize relied on BEL as the main source for their lighting and electricity. An additional 4% relied on solar energy as their main source, and 3.2% relied on electricity dropped from a neighbour. Kerosene lamps and candles constituted the main source of lighting for 1.5% and 1.2% respectively with respect to households in Belize. In every district, the greatest percentage of all households relied on BEL as their main source for lighting and electricity – Corozal (86.6%), Orange Walk (84.5%), Belize District (95.2%), Cayo (86.5%), Stann Creek (91.1%) and Toledo (62.5%).

**Table 6.16**

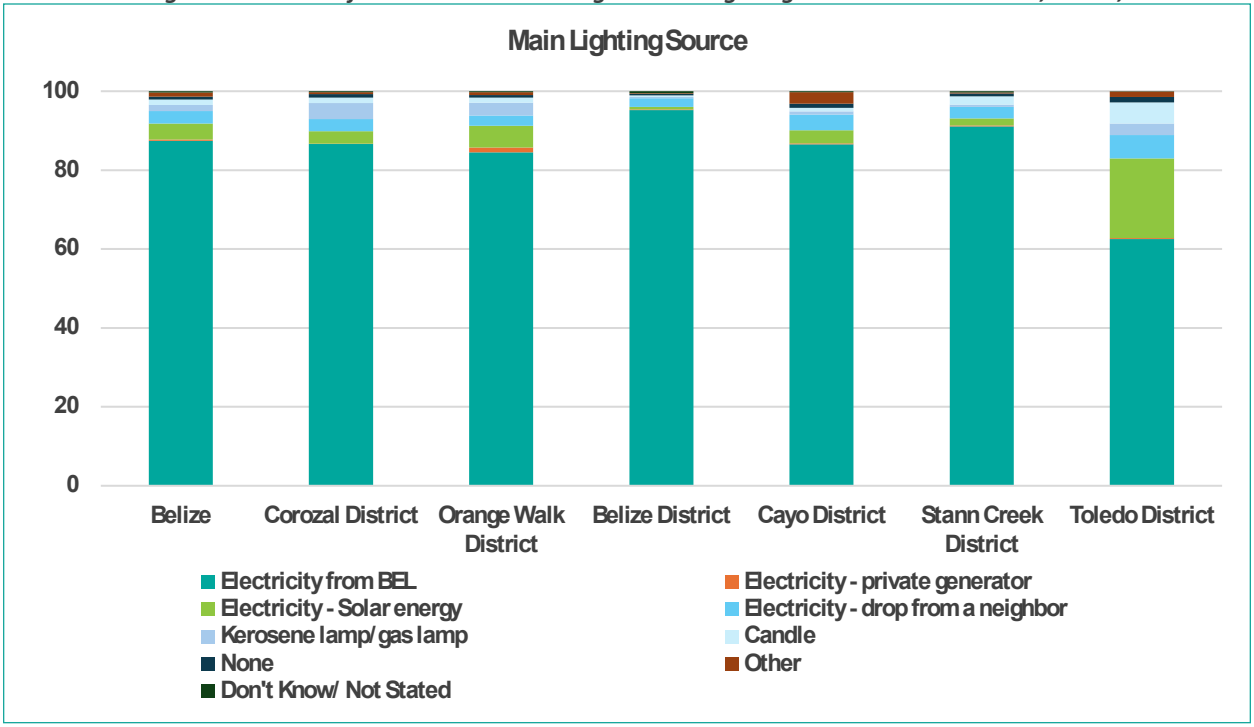
***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Main Lighting Source Within District, Belize, 2022***

| Main Lighting Source | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Households** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |
| **Electricity from BEL** | 87.4 | 86.6 | 84.5 | 95.2 | 86.5 | 91.1 | 62.5 |
| **Electricity - Private generator** | 0.3 | 0.1 | 1.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| **Electricity - Solar energy** | 4.0 | 3.1 | 5.5 | 0.6 | 3.3 | 1.8 | 20.2 |
| **Electricity - Drop from a neighbour** | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 4.0 | 2.9 | 6.0 |
| **Kerosene lamp/gas lamp** | 1.5 | 4.0 | 3.3 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 2.9 |
| **Candle** | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 2.1 | 5.4 |
| **None** | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 1.4 |
| **Other** | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 2.9 | 0.2 | 1.4 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 6.15**

***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Main Lighting Source Within District, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Solar energy persists across Belize and is mostly prevalent among households in Toledo. Table 6.16 indicates that approximately one fifth of all households (20.2%) relied on solar energy as their main source of lighting in Toledo. Notwithstanding the fact that 82.7% of all households in Toledo district relied on BEL or solar energy as their main source of energy for lighting and other purposes, the extent of their reliance on other sources for lighting is noteworthy and greater than the extent of reliance observed in the five other districts. With respect to electricity dropped from a neighbour, 6% of all households in Toledo District relied on this practice as a main source of energy for lighting and other purposes. Corresponding percentages for reliance on kerosene lamps, candles, and nothing whatsoever were 2.9%, 5.4% and 1.4%. These results reflect deprivation with respect to adequate infrastructure that could render greater equity between Toledo and the other districts regarding household access to energy for lighting and other purposes. Moreover, Figure 6.15 illustrates that despite some measure of homogeneity regarding the distribution of the various sources of lighting from one district to the other, the pattern of variation that emerged for Toledo reflects a departure from more favourable access that prevailed for households in each of the other five districts.

### 6.4.3.2 Solar Production

According to Table 6.17 and Figure 6.16, households in Belize are analysed according to solar production within Belize and its districts as gleaned from statistical evidence emanating from the 2022 Population and Housing Census. On a national scale, just 4.6% of all households accessed electricity from solar panels with almost 95% claiming that they did not rely upon such technologies for electricity. Table 6.17 reveals evidence of striking variability across the six districts regarding the percentage of households that sourced electricity from solar panels. A markedly greater percentage was observed for Toledo District (18.9%) when compared to the other five districts – Corozal (4.8%), Orange Walk (6.5%), Belize District (1.7%), Cayo (3.7%), and Stann Creek (1.4%). These percentages seem to complement the respective percentages of households claiming to have had no reliance on solar panels in each of the districts. In essence, the higher percentages of households that relied on solar energy for electricity in districts such as Toledo, Orange Walk and Corozal appear to be associated with compensatory investment in solar energy production in districts where electricity generation through BEL was likely to be inadequate. Except for a slightly different pattern characterising the distribution of reliance on solar energy among households in Toledo, Figure 6.16 is illustrative of the fact that the overall distribution reflecting reliance on solar energy among households in the six districts appears to be relatively homogeneous indicating that solar energy has not been a major player among households sourcing energy for electricity and other purposes.

**Table 6.17**

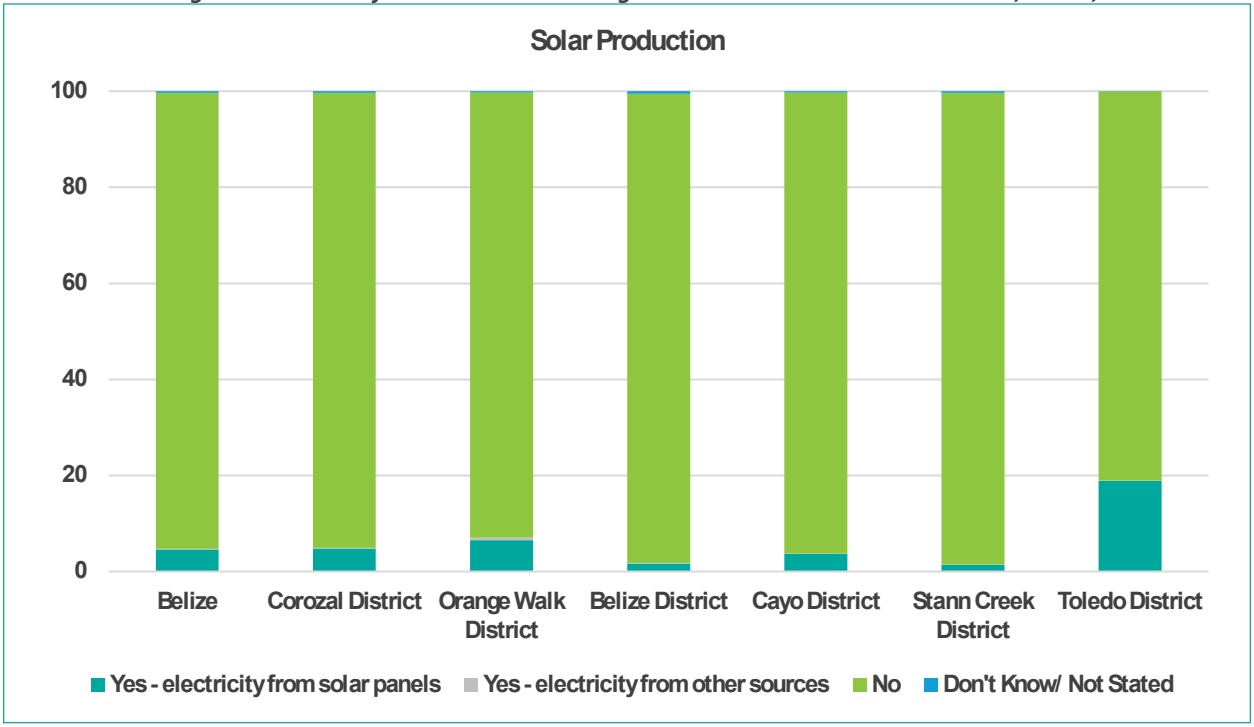
***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Solar Production Within District, Belize, 2022***

| Solar Production | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Households** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |
| **Yes - electricity from solar panels** | 4.6 | 4.8 | 6.5 | 1.7 | 3.7 | 1.4 | 18.9 |
| **Yes - electricity from other sources** | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| **No** | 94.9 | 94.7 | 92.7 | 97.7 | 96.0 | 98.2 | 81.0 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Figure 6.16**

***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Solar Production Within District, Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

### 6.4.4 Access to Selected Household Amenities

Table 6.18 refers to 21 household amenities that were central to gauging living standards and quality of life based on responses from households during enumeration exercises associated with the 2022 Population and Housing Census in Belize. Table 6.19 provides accounts of the percentages of households claiming to have had access to each of the 21 amenities for Belize as a whole and within each of the six districts that comprise Belize. Specifically, there was substantial variation across the 21 selected household amenities at the national level, and these variations become much more interesting when examined within and across the six districts that comprise Belize. A cursory review of household amenities suggests that they include luxury items, items that have declining utility for example fixed telephone lines, items considered to be necessities, and items that have become increasingly popularised as a result of emerging technologies.

For Belize, household access has been categorised into four quartile groups based on the percentages observed to have had access to each of the 21 amenities (See Table 6.18). Thus, luxury items and those likely to have declining utility were more likely to be classified in quartile group #1 and to a lesser extent quartile group #2 while those likely to be necessities or classified as increasingly popularised technologies were more likely to be classified in quartile group #4 and to a lesser extent quartile group #3. For Belize, quartile groups of amenities based on percentages accessing selected amenities have been considered to be the standard for assessing variation in households' capacity to access amenities within households from the different districts. For each of the six districts, an Index of Equitable Access to Household Amenities assumes significance as a measure of the extent to which access to the full range of household amenities depart from the standard array of household amenities across the quartiles. In any given district, the closer the magnitude of the index is to 1, the lower the likelihood of departure between the array of amenities in the district relative to that of the standard.

**Table 6.18**
***Selected Household Amenities by Quartile Group, Belize, 2022***

| Quartile Group Number | Selected Household Amenities |
|---|---|
| 2 | Air Conditioner (AC) |
| 4 | Refrigerator (RF) |
| 3 | Microwave (MW) |
| 4 | Washing machine (WM) |
| 2 | Clothes dryer (CD) |
| 3 | Stereo/radio (SR) |
| 4 | Stove (ST) |
| 1 | Dish washer (DW) |
| 4 | Television (TV) |
| 1 | Water heater (WH) |
| 1 | Electric generator (EG) |
| 4 | Mobile/cellular phone (CP) |
| 3 | Computer (CM) |
| 3 | Tablet (TB) |
| 1 | Home Exercise Equipment (HE) |
| 1 | Home Security System (HS) |
| 3 | Private motor vehicle (MV) |
| 2 | Motorcycle/ atv/golf cart (GC) |
| 2 | Cable/satellite tv service (CS) |
| 1 | Fixed line telephone (FL) |
| 4 | Home internet access (IA) |

*Source: Prepared by the Author*

Drawing on analyses of the percentages accessing the 21 amenities for Belize and in each of the six districts (See Table 6.19), further analyses sought to determine the extent to which sets of items were equivalently accessed within each of the six districts. In quartile group #1, for example, items such as dish washers, electric generators, home exercise equipment, home security systems, and fixed telephone lines were equivalently accessed at the national level and in each of the six districts, appearing to be among amenities deemed either to be luxury items or having declining utility. In quartiles groups #3 and #4, items such as microwave ovens, stereos/radios, stoves, and cellular phones were equivalently accessed at the national level and in each of the six districts due to being necessities or recently popularised technologies appealing to households.

**Table 6.19**

***Percentage Distribution of Households Accessing Selected Household Amenities Belize and the Six Districts, Belize, 2022***

| Amenities | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Households** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |
| **Air Conditioner** | 13.2 | 11.7 | 14.0 | 17.6 | 14.0 | 8.1 | 2.9 |
| **Refrigerator** | 80.8 | 78.1 | 80.9 | 88.5 | 83.9 | 80.1 | 49.1 |
| **Microwave** | 44.4 | 38.0 | 37.4 | 57.7 | 46.9 | 38.8 | 15.5 |
| **Washing machine** | 81.3 | 84.4 | 85.9 | 85.6 | 84.7 | 77.9 | 49.9 |
| **Clothes dryer** | 14.2 | 11.3 | 10.1 | 18.2 | 16.8 | 10.1 | 7.3 |
| **Stereo/radio** | 56.5 | 47.0 | 53.0 | 62.1 | 56.2 | 62.2 | 46.5 |
| **Stove** | 92.0 | 91.5 | 93.3 | 95.0 | 93.4 | 92.9 | 75.3 |
| **Dish washer** | 3.1 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 4.6 | 2.1 | 1.7 |
| **Television** | 70.7 | 69.8 | 65.4 | 83.7 | 70.9 | 65.4 | 39.0 |
| **Water heater** | 12.4 | 7.9 | 8.1 | 14.1 | 14.3 | 20.2 | 2.5 |
| **Electric generator** | 3.9 | 6.9 | 6.7 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 1.7 |
| **Mobile/cellular phone** | 90.9 | 88.0 | 87.8 | 95.0 | 93.7 | 88.8 | 79.1 |
| **Computer** | 34.9 | 30.6 | 29.3 | 41.7 | 38.9 | 29.5 | 19.5 |
| **Tablet** | 31.5 | 28.1 | 26.1 | 37.2 | 33.7 | 30.3 | 18.9 |
| **Home Exercise Equipment** | 3.8 | 3.9 | 2.8 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 1.9 | 1.2 |
| **Home Security System** | 6.8 | 5.2 | 4.5 | 10.4 | 6.9 | 4.3 | 1.8 |
| **Private motor vehicle** | 38.3 | 40.6 | 42.6 | 37.1 | 47.1 | 30.4 | 19.4 |
| **Motorcycle/golf cart** | 16.5 | 9.8 | 17.4 | 13.4 | 23.5 | 14.5 | 18.5 |
| **Cable/satellite tv service** | 20.1 | 20.1 | 16.5 | 24.6 | 24.0 | 14.0 | 6.0 |
| **Fixed line telephone** | 4.3 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 7.0 | 3.3 | 3.8 | 2.0 |
| **Home internet access** | 71.3 | 68.4 | 68.3 | 83.0 | 74.7 | 62.1 | 40.2 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Specifically, Table 6.20 presents variations in the index across the six districts indicating that households in Belize and Cayo Districts had similar but not necessarily identical arrays of amenities across the quartiles when compared to the standard and exhibited greater equity with respect to accessing household amenities when compared to corresponding outcomes for the other four districts. A similar tie is observed with respect to households in Corozal and Stann Creek, both of which appeared less likely than households in Orange Walk with respect to accessing arrays of household amenities consistent with the standard. The observed score on the index for Toledo suggests that access to household amenities was not as favourable when compared to the other five districts in Belize.

**Table 6.20**
***Index of Equitable Accesss, Belize, 2022***

| District | Index | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| **Corozal District** | 0.667 | 4 |
| **Orange Walk District** | 0.762 | 3 |
| **Belize District** | 0.952 | 1 |
| **Cayo District** | 0.952 | 1 |
| **Stann Creek District** | 0.667 | 4 |
| **Toledo District** | 0.476 | 6 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

## 6.5 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

### 6.5.1 Number of Persons and Living Arrangements

Table 6.21 facilitates analyses of household sizes in Belize and each of its six districts. This component of household composition permits thoughts on living arrangements within families and households. Additionally, Table 6.21 presents mean, median and modal household sizes in Belize and each of the six districts thereby providing a definitive account of average household sizes in Belize based on the 2022 Population and Housing Census. While household size is positively skewed favouring the median as a worthy measure of average household size for Belize, more precise computations of the mean indicate that mean household sizes for Belize and each of the six administrative districts is less than 4 persons on average per household. This kind of thought process is embraced in interpreting average household sizes and other related distributional characteristics in Belize and in each of the six districts.

According to Table 6.21, the computed mean reveals an average household size of 3.2 persons per household and is notably lower than that observed in each of the remaining five administrative districts. For the latter set of communities, computed means are either 3.7 or 3.8 persons per household indicating that there was little or no variability in the average household sizes across the remaining five administrative districts. For Belize as a whole, the computed mean is indicative of an average household size equivalent to 3.6 persons per household.

**Table 6.21**

***Percentage Distribution of Households According to Household Size Within District, Belize, 2022***

| Household Sizes | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Households** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |
| **1** | 14.7 | 11.7 | 10.9 | 19.2 | 12.5 | 17.4 | 10.8 |
| **2** | 18.7 | 18.7 | 16.7 | 21.2 | 18.0 | 17.3 | 15.6 |
| **3** | 19.5 | 20.1 | 20.2 | 20.0 | 19.3 | 17.8 | 18.4 |
| **4** | 19.2 | 20.9 | 21.5 | 17.8 | 20.3 | 16.5 | 19.3 |
| **5** | 13.0 | 12.8 | 14.7 | 11.1 | 14.3 | 12.8 | 14.7 |
| **6+** | 14.9 | 15.8 | 16.1 | 10.7 | 15.6 | 18.1 | 21.3 |
| **Mean (computed)** | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.2 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.8 |
| **Mean (rounded)** | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| **Median** | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| **Mode** | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 |

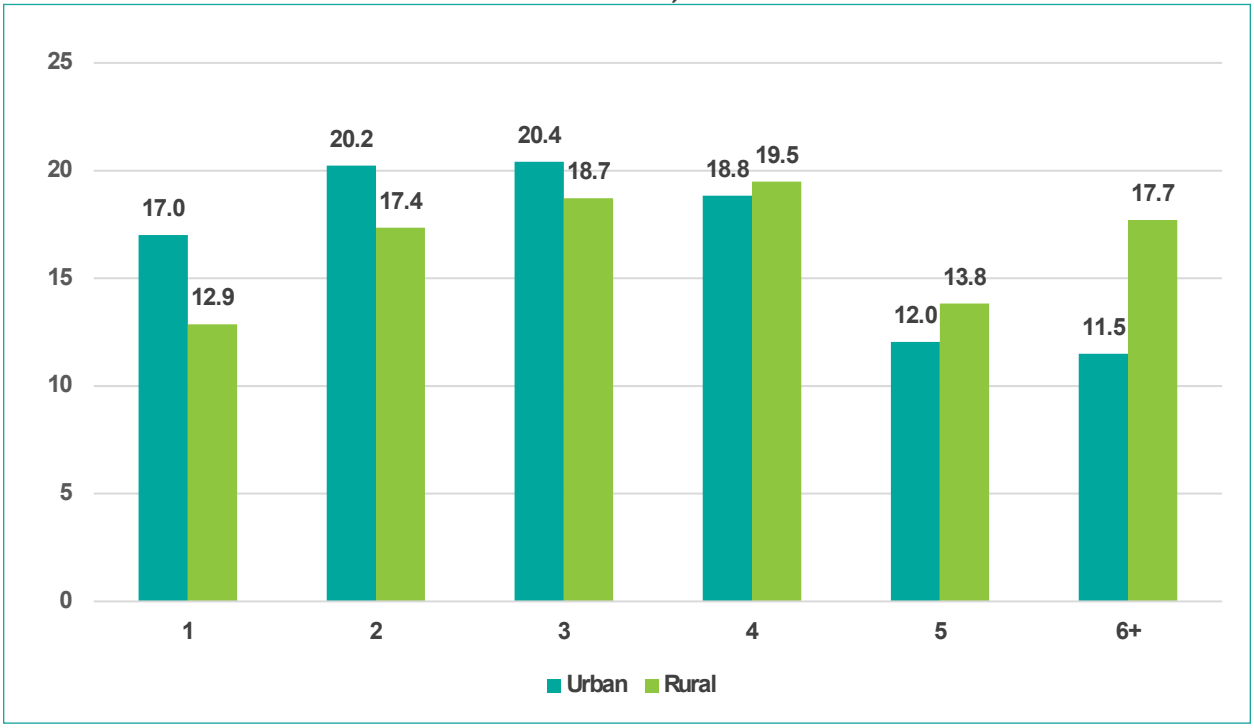
*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Given the assertion that on average, the number of persons per household did not exceed 4 whether in Belize or in each of the six administrative districts, it was instructive to examine variability associated with the proportion of households having at least 4 persons in each of the six districts. According to Table 6.21, Toledo (55.3%), Cayo (53.9%), Orange Walk (52.3%), and Corozal (49.5%) were the districts where the percentages of households with at least 4 persons approximated or exceeded a half of all households. In comparison, slightly smaller percentages were observed for Belize District (48.9%) and Stann Creek District (47.2%). The percentage of all households consisting of persons living alone is usually an interesting statistic and may be positively correlated with the relative size of the population aged at least 65 years. Single-person households as a percentage of all households was greatest in Belize District (19.2%) and somewhat lower in Stann Creek (17.4%). It amounted to 10.9% in Orange Walk District, 11.7% in Corozal District, 12.5% in Cayo District, and lowest in Toledo District (10.8%).

Figure 6.17 addresses differences in household living arrangements across urban and rural Belize. On examining the percentage of households that were classified as single-person, two-person, and three-person households, greater percentages were observed in urban areas of Belize when compared to rural areas. However, in the cases of households classified as four-person, five-person, or as having at least six persons, greater percentages were observed in rural areas when compared to urban areas. Given the assertion that there were on average 3 persons per household, rural areas had 51% of households that had at least 4 persons as opposed to 42.3% in urban areas. These findings are consistent with larger households in rural areas suggesting that attention ought to be placed on addressing challenges that are associated with inherent vulnerabilities which may often be more widespread among rural populations than among urban populations due to differences in characteristics related to average household size (See Table 6.22).

**Figure 6.17**

***Percentage of Distribution of All Households According to Number of Persons in Household Within Urban/Rural Areas in Belize, 2022***




*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table 6.22**

***Average Household Size according to Urban/Rural Areas in Belize, 2022***

| Measure of Central Tendency | Urban | Rural |
|---|---|---|
| **Mean (computed)** | 3.4 | 3.8 |
| **Mean (rounded)** | 3 | 4 |
| **Median** | 3 | 4 |
| **Mode** | 3 | 4 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

### 6.5.2 Overcrowding Status of Households

For the purposes of this chapter, overcrowding is defined as having more than 3 persons per bedroom in a household setting. Overcrowding has implications for the well-being of household members and negatively impacts the health status of household members especially with respect to contracting communicable illnesses due to increased risks of exposure and spread. Overcrowding is also evident when living arrangements are altered to cope with livelihood challenges such as unemployment, underemployment, job insecurity, constraints due to low income, and even violence.

**Table 6.23**

***Overcrowding Among Households in Belize and in Urban-Rural Domains According to National and District Levels, Belize, 2022***

| National/District Level | Belize | Urban | Rural |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Belize** | 8.0 | 4.2 | 11.1 |
| **Corozal District** | 9.9 | 4.2 | 11.8 |
| **Orange Walk District** | 8.5 | 3.2 | 10.7 |
| **Belize District** | 4.1 | 4.4 | 3.5 |
| **Cayo District** | 6.0 | 4.6 | 7.5 |
| **Stann Creek District** | 9.2 | 2.6 | 11.2 |
| **Toledo District** | 22.5 | 3.2 | 26.3 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

Based on Table 6.23 that has drawn on data emanating from the 2022 Population and Housing Census, 8.0% of all households in Belize had been overcrowded. Overcrowding is highest in Toledo District where 22.5% of all households had been overcrowded while Belize District had the lowest overcrowding rate amounting to 4.1% of all households. Cayo is a district similar to Belize District, the two districts being spatial areas containing the most significant urban centres in Belize. In Cayo, 6.0% of all households were overcrowded and below the national rate. In contrast, Orange Walk (8.5%), Stann Creek (9.2%) and Corozal (9.9%) had overcrowding rates that were slightly higher than the national rate of 8.0%.

Table 6.23 reflects the rural character of overcrowding that characterised Belizean households at the time of the 2022 Population and Housing Census. Moreover, rates of overcrowding were greater among rural households in districts such as Corozal, Orange Walk, Cayo, Stann Creek, and Toledo when compared to corresponding rates among urban households. However, Belize District, the most urbanised district of Belize, had a greater rate of overcrowding among urban households when compared to rural households. Moreover, the rate of overcrowding for households in Toledo is twice that observed for households in each of the remaining districts, this being especially due to a similar pattern that is evident for rural households.

# APPENDIX A

**Table A.1**
***Population by 5 Year Age Group and Sex, Belize, 2022***

| | Sex | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| **0-4** | 18458 | 18032 | 36490 |
| **5-9** | 20244 | 19348 | 39592 |
| **10-14** | 21460 | 20490 | 41950 |
| **15-19** | 20056 | 19650 | 39706 |
| **20-24** | 17882 | 18557 | 36438 |
| **25-29** | 15193 | 17298 | 32492 |
| **30-34** | 14035 | 16155 | 30190 |
| **35-39** | 13124 | 14604 | 27729 |
| **40-44** | 11366 | 12415 | 23781 |
| **45-49** | 9946 | 10560 | 20507 |
| **50-54** | 8771 | 9910 | 18682 |
| **55-59** | 7624 | 7474 | 15098 |
| **60-64** | 6201 | 6105 | 12306 |
| **65-69** | 4521 | 4124 | 8646 |
| **70-74** | 3142 | 3019 | 6161 |
| **75-79** | 1745 | 1786 | 3531 |
| **80-84** | 1095 | 1220 | 2315 |
| **85+** | 831 | 1041 | 1871 |
| **Total** | **195695** | **201789** | **397483** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.2**
***Population by Religion, District and Sex*, Belize, 2022**

| Both Sexes | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **397,483** | **45,310** | **54,152** | **113,630** | **99,105** | **48,162** | **37,124** |
| **Roman Catholic** | 126,596 | 17,154 | 20,182 | 37,961 | 26,950 | 12,565 | 11,784 |
| **Pentecostal** | 36,460 | 2,410 | 4,068 | 6,219 | 14,771 | 4,036 | 4,956 |
| **Seventh Day Adventist** | 18,642 | 4,727 | 2,171 | 5,832 | 4,017 | 1,311 | 584 |
| **Anglican** | 15,943 | 645 | 1,072 | 9,798 | 2,378 | 1,573 | 477 |
| **Mennonite** | 15,440 | 4,052 | 5,350 | 572 | 4,192 | 224 | 1,051 |
| **Baptist** | 14,109 | 802 | 466 | 4,058 | 1,915 | 2,400 | 4,469 |
| **Methodist** | 6,623 | 377 | 118 | 4,695 | 448 | 513 | 472 |
| **Nazarene** | 6,568 | 592 | 76 | 1,272 | 1,920 | 932 | 1,776 |
| **Jehovah's Witness** | 4,478 | 627 | 762 | 1,195 | 1,131 | 486 | 276 |
| **Other** | 25,117 | 3,266 | 6,438 | 5,095 | 5,926 | 1,284 | 3,107 |
| **None** | 123,373 | 10,319 | 13,111 | 35,040 | 34,432 | 22,428 | 8,042 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 4,135 | 339 | 336 | 1,893 | 1,026 | 411 | 130 |

| Male | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **195,695** | **22,231** | **26,899** | **55,276** | **48,809** | **24,198** | **18,282** |
| **Roman Catholic** | 60,245 | 8,234 | 9,804 | 17,828 | 12,835 | 5,889 | 5,653 |
| **Pentecostal** | 17,088 | 1,156 | 1,827 | 2,859 | 6,901 | 1,938 | 2,408 |
| **Seventh Day Adventist** | 8,650 | 2,172 | 1,049 | 2,742 | 1,802 | 602 | 282 |
| **Anglican** | 7,471 | 323 | 505 | 4,602 | 1,096 | 737 | 207 |
| **Mennonite** | 7,734 | 2,002 | 2,676 | 273 | 2,141 | 111 | 530 |
| **Baptist** | 6,596 | 356 | 227 | 1,837 | 873 | 1,176 | 2,128 |
| **Methodist** | 2,993 | 162 | 56 | 2,121 | 202 | 216 | 236 |
| **Nazarene** | 3,022 | 278 | 43 | 570 | 890 | 426 | 814 |
| **Jehovah's Witness** | 1,987 | 271 | 329 | 535 | 515 | 211 | 125 |
| **Other** | 11,978 | 1,538 | 3,058 | 2,407 | 2,808 | 633 | 1,534 |
| **None** | 65,847 | 5,571 | 7,152 | 18,537 | 18,231 | 12,058 | 4,299 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 2,084 | 167 | 173 | 965 | 514 | 201 | 65 |

| Female | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **201,789** | **23,079** | **27,253** | **58,355** | **50,296** | **23,964** | **18,842** |
| **Roman Catholic** | 66,351 | 8,919 | 10,377 | 20,133 | 14,115 | 6,676 | 6,131 |
| **Pentecostal** | 19,371 | 1,254 | 2,240 | 3,361 | 7,870 | 2,099 | 2,547 |
| **Seventh Day Adventist** | 9,992 | 2,554 | 1,122 | 3,090 | 2,214 | 708 | 302 |
| **Anglican** | 8,472 | 322 | 567 | 5,196 | 1,282 | 835 | 269 |
| **Mennonite** | 7,707 | 2,049 | 2,674 | 299 | 2,051 | 113 | 521 |
| **Baptist** | 7,513 | 445 | 239 | 2,221 | 1,042 | 1,224 | 2,342 |
| **Methodist** | 3,630 | 214 | 63 | 2,575 | 246 | 297 | 236 |
| **Nazarene** | 3,546 | 314 | 34 | 701 | 1,030 | 506 | 962 |
| **Jehovah's Witness** | 2,491 | 356 | 434 | 660 | 616 | 275 | 151 |
| **Other** | 13,139 | 1,728 | 3,380 | 2,689 | 3,118 | 651 | 1,573 |
| **None** | 57,526 | 4,749 | 5,959 | 16,503 | 16,201 | 10,370 | 3,744 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 2,051 | 172 | 164 | 928 | 512 | 210 | 65 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.3**
***Population by Ethnicity, District and Sex*, Belize, 2022**

| Both Sexes | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **397,483** | **45,310** | **54,152** | **113,630** | **99,105** | **48,162** | **37,124** |
| **Mestizo/ Hispanic/ Latino** | 205,646 | 34,985 | 43,236 | 37,503 | 67,075 | 15,733 | 7,114 |
| **Creole** | 100,111 | 3,340 | 3,412 | 64,816 | 16,204 | 10,500 | 1,840 |
| **Maya Ketchi** | 26,230 | 126 | 188 | 959 | 2,574 | 4,031 | 18,352 |
| **Garifuna** | 15,845 | 275 | 311 | 3,766 | 1,448 | 8,530 | 1,515 |
| **Mennonite** | 15,249 | 4,009 | 5,831 | 385 | 4,126 | 168 | 729 |
| **Maya Mopan** | 15,932 | 104 | 105 | 517 | 2,427 | 7,097 | 5,682 |
| **East Indian** | 6,111 | 944 | 163 | 1,715 | 899 | 872 | 1,518 |
| **Chinese** | 1,344 | 236 | 170 | 379 | 340 | 156 | 63 |
| **Caucasian/ White** | 2,905 | 436 | 90 | 887 | 912 | 449 | 132 |
| **Maya Yucatec** | 2,160 | 269 | 109 | 90 | 1,660 | 25 | <10 |
| **Indian** | 601 | 117 | 50 | 274 | 82 | 73 | <10 |
| **Other** | 2,263 | 146 | 231 | 805 | 761 | 252 | 68 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 3,086 | 324 | 257 | 1,534 | 597 | 276 | 98 |

| Male | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **195,695** | **22,231** | **26,899** | **55,276** | **48,809** | **24,198** | **18,282** |
| **Mestizo/ Hispanic/ Latino** | 100,944 | 16,990 | 21,286 | 18,220 | 32,827 | 8,059 | 3,562 |
| **Creole** | 49,148 | 1,698 | 1,762 | 31,346 | 8,014 | 5,371 | 956 |
| **Maya Ketchi** | 12,824 | 72 | 99 | 511 | 1,229 | 1,957 | 8,955 |
| **Garifuna** | 7,545 | 151 | 176 | 1,804 | 712 | 3,978 | 724 |
| **Mennonite** | 7,702 | 1,982 | 2,942 | 184 | 2,144 | 84 | 367 |
| **Maya Mopan** | 7,875 | 56 | 57 | 206 | 1,172 | 3,673 | 2,711 |
| **East Indian** | 2,992 | 462 | 78 | 787 | 422 | 449 | 794 |
| **Chinese** | 734 | 115 | 101 | 214 | 183 | 83 | 36 |
| **Caucasian/ White** | 1,540 | 236 | 43 | 468 | 497 | 216 | 80 |
| **Maya Yucatec** | 1,164 | 157 | 63 | 65 | 868 | <10 | <10 |
| **Indian** | 362 | 68 | 32 | 175 | 47 | 36 | <10 |
| **Other** | 1,262 | 87 | 129 | 473 | 397 | 136 | 41 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 1,603 | 158 | 132 | 821 | 297 | 146 | 49 |

| Female | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **201,789** | **23,079** | **27,253** | **58,355** | **50,296** | **23,964** | **18,842** |
| **Mestizo/ Hispanic/ Latino** | 104,702 | 17,995 | 21,950 | 19,283 | 34,248 | 7,674 | 3,552 |
| **Creole** | 50,964 | 1,642 | 1,650 | 33,470 | 8,189 | 5,128 | 884 |
| **Maya Ketchi** | 13,407 | 54 | 89 | 448 | 1,345 | 2,074 | 9,396 |
| **Garifuna** | 8,301 | 124 | 136 | 1,961 | 736 | 4,552 | 792 |
| **Mennonite** | 7,546 | 2,027 | 2,890 | 201 | 1,983 | 84 | 362 |
| **Maya Mopan** | 8,057 | 48 | 48 | 311 | 1,255 | 3,424 | 2,972 |
| **East Indian** | 3,120 | 482 | 84 | 929 | 477 | 423 | 724 |
| **Chinese** | 610 | 121 | 68 | 164 | 157 | 73 | 27 |
| **Caucasian/ White** | 1,365 | 200 | 46 | 418 | 415 | 232 | 52 |
| **Maya Yucatec** | 996 | 112 | 46 | 26 | 792 | 16 | <10 |
| **Indian** | 239 | 48 | 19 | 99 | 35 | 37 | <10 |
| **Other** | 1,001 | 59 | 102 | 332 | 364 | 116 | 27 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 1,482 | 166 | 125 | 713 | 301 | 130 | 49 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.4**
***Population Four Years and Older by Languages Spoken and District*, Belize, 2022**

| Both Sexes | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Speaks Creole | 180,792 | 8,052 | 8,589 | 77,602 | 39,009 | 31,992 | 15,549 |
| Speaks English | 278,390 | 28,426 | 36,087 | 91,357 | 73,103 | 28,671 | 20,747 |
| Speaks Spanish | 199,393 | 34,742 | 41,997 | 34,289 | 63,882 | 16,272 | 8,211 |
| Speaks Garifuna | 7,481 | 136 | 157 | 1,693 | 539 | 4,382 | 574 |
| Speaks German | 11,294 | 3,464 | 3,378 | 323 | 3,473 | 82 | 574 |
| Speaks Maya Yucatec | 1,822 | 418 | 171 | 57 | 1,092 | 32 | 52 |
| Speaks Maya Ketchi | 23,315 | 59 | 114 | 613 | 2,203 | 3,653 | 16,674 |
| Speaks Maya Mopan | 14,479 | 84 | 68 | 342 | 1,815 | 6,715 | 5,456 |
| Speaks Chinese | 1,420 | 215 | 223 | 409 | 378 | 148 | 46 |
| Speaks Hindi | 542 | 121 | 73 | 250 | 61 | 33 | <10 |
| Speaks Other | 2,475 | 155 | 1,676 | 330 | 248 | 47 | 18 |
| Cannot Speak | 716 | 100 | 120 | 194 | 154 | 77 | 71 |

| Male | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Speaks Creole | 88,790 | 4,004 | 4,404 | 37,380 | 19,329 | 15,908 | 7,765 |
| Speaks English | 138,462 | 14,399 | 18,403 | 44,406 | 36,426 | 14,291 | 10,536 |
| Speaks Spanish | 99,194 | 17,155 | 21,179 | 16,832 | 31,305 | 8,318 | 4,405 |
| Speaks Garifuna | 3,414 | 70 | 90 | 779 | 274 | 1,943 | 260 |
| Speaks German | 5,744 | 1,730 | 1,714 | 164 | 1,801 | 40 | 296 |
| Speaks Maya Yucatec | 1,061 | 280 | 114 | 40 | 597 | 10 | 18 |
| Speaks Maya Ketchi | 11,332 | 38 | 63 | 345 | 1,004 | 1,798 | 8,083 |
| Speaks Maya Mopan | 7,179 | 45 | 37 | 159 | 902 | 3,458 | 2,578 |
| Speaks Chinese | 746 | 108 | 127 | 205 | 202 | 77 | 26 |
| Speaks Hindi | 329 | 75 | 44 | 149 | 38 | 21 | <10 |
| Speaks Other | 1,279 | 83 | 838 | 190 | 132 | 27 | <10 |
| Cannot Speak | 433 | 62 | 68 | 132 | 88 | 49 | 34 |

| Female | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Speaks Creole** | 92,002 | 4,048 | 4,185 | 40,222 | 19,680 | 16,083 | 7,784 |
| **Speaks English** | 139,928 | 14,027 | 17,684 | 46,951 | 36,677 | 14,379 | 10,210 |
| **Speaks Spanish** | 100,199 | 17,587 | 20,818 | 17,457 | 32,578 | 7,954 | 3,806 |
| **Speaks Garifuna** | 4,066 | 66 | 67 | 915 | 265 | 2,439 | 314 |
| **Speaks German** | 5,550 | 1,734 | 1,664 | 159 | 1,672 | 43 | 278 |
| **Speaks Maya Yucatec** | 761 | 138 | 57 | 17 | 494 | 22 | 33 |
| **Speaks Maya Ketchi** | 11,983 | 20 | 50 | 268 | 1,200 | 1,854 | 8,591 |
| **Speaks Maya Mopan** | 7,300 | 39 | 31 | 184 | 912 | 3,257 | 2,878 |
| **Speaks Chinese** | 674 | 107 | 96 | 204 | 176 | 71 | 19 |
| **Speaks Hindi** | 213 | 46 | 30 | 101 | 23 | 12 | <10 |
| **Speaks Other** | 1,196 | 73 | 838 | 140 | 116 | 21 | <10 |
| **Cannot Speak** | 282 | 39 | 52 | 61 | 66 | 28 | 36 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.5**
***Highest Level of Educational Attained by District and Sex*, Belize, 2022**

| | | Total | None | Primary | Secondary | Tertiary | Other | Don't Know/ Not Stated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **Male** | **177,237** | **55,564** | **66,585** | **34,044** | **17,471** | **1,781** | **1,793** |
| | **Female** | 183,757 | 54,998 | 66,239 | 35,179 | 24,043 | 1,665 | 1,631 |
| | **Total** | 360,994 | 110,563 | 132,824 | 69,223 | 41,514 | 3,446 | 3,424 |
| **Corozal** | **Male** | 20,278 | 6,457 | 8,388 | 2,429 | 2,304 | 517 | 184 |
| | **Female** | 21,002 | 6,270 | 8,983 | 2,351 | 2,739 | 477 | 182 |
| | **Total** | 41,280 | 12,727 | 17,370 | 4,780 | 5,043 | 994 | 367 |
| **Orange Walk** | **Male** | 24,434 | 7,514 | 10,559 | 3,024 | 2,569 | 588 | 180 |
| | **Female** | 24,780 | 7,396 | 11,013 | 2,812 | 2,907 | 505 | 147 |
| | **Total** | 49,214 | 14,910 | 21,572 | 5,836 | 5,476 | 1,093 | 327 |
| **Belize** | **Male** | 50,564 | 11,007 | 17,942 | 14,176 | 6,339 | 212 | 887 |
| | **Female** | 53,801 | 11,009 | 16,682 | 15,391 | 9,717 | 217 | 785 |
| | **Total** | 104,365 | 22,017 | 34,624 | 29,568 | 16,056 | 429 | 1,672 |
| **Cayo** | **Male** | 43,910 | 15,069 | 16,045 | 8,003 | 4,119 | 322 | 352 |
| | **Female** | 45,656 | 15,098 | 15,889 | 8,559 | 5,434 | 334 | 342 |
| | **Total** | 89,566 | 30,167 | 31,934 | 16,562 | 9,552 | 656 | 694 |
| **Stann Creek** | **Male** | 21,779 | 8,600 | 7,626 | 4,059 | 1,300 | 54 | 140 |
| | **Female** | 21,785 | 7,944 | 7,544 | 3,861 | 2,243 | 61 | 133 |
| | **Total** | 43,564 | 16,544 | 15,169 | 7,920 | 3,543 | 114 | 273 |
| **Toledo** | **Male** | 16,272 | 6,917 | 6,024 | 2,352 | 840 | 87 | 51 |
| | **Female** | 16,732 | 7,281 | 6,130 | 2,204 | 1,004 | 72 | 41 |
| | **Total** | 33,004 | 14,198 | 12,154 | 4,557 | 1,844 | 160 | 91 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.6**

***Highest Level of Educational Attained by Ethnicity and Sex, Belize, 2022***

| | | Total | None | Primary | Secondary | Tertiary | Other | Don't Know/ Not Stated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Mestizo/ Hispanic/ Latino** | **Male** | 91,439 | 32,698 | 34,669 | 14,549 | 9,061 | 237 | 226 |
| | **Female** | 95,522 | 32,775 | 35,964 | 14,822 | 11,541 | 236 | 183 |
| | **Total** | 186,962 | 65,473 | 70,633 | 29,372 | 20,602 | 472 | 409 |
| **Creole** | **Male** | 44,729 | 10,552 | 16,431 | 12,414 | 4,935 | 198 | 200 |
| | **Female** | 46,671 | 9,421 | 14,657 | 13,878 | 8,375 | 180 | 159 |
| | **Total** | 91,400 | 19,973 | 31,088 | 26,291 | 13,310 | 378 | 359 |
| **Maya Ketchi** | **Male** | 11,304 | 5,222 | 4,092 | 1,581 | 381 | 18 | 10 |
| | **Female** | 11,844 | 5,807 | 4,218 | 1,407 | 395 | 10 | 7 |
| | **Total** | 23,148 | 11,030 | 8,310 | 2,987 | 776 | 28 | 17 |
| **Garifuna** | **Male** | 6,987 | 1,487 | 2,550 | 1,983 | 926 | 28 | 13 |
| | **Female** | 7,778 | 1,446 | 2,601 | 2,118 | 1,548 | 57 | 8 |
| | **Total** | 14,765 | 2,933 | 5,152 | 4,100 | 2,474 | 85 | 21 |
| **Mennonite** | **Male** | 6,525 | 973 | 4,098 | 156 | 27 | 1,240 | 30 |
| | **Female** | 6,330 | 903 | 4,065 | 162 | 38 | 1,129 | 33 |
| | **Total** | 12,855 | 1,877 | 8,163 | 318 | 65 | 2,369 | 64 |
| **Maya Mopan** | **Male** | 7,189 | 3,202 | 2,473 | 1,172 | 329 | 10 | 2 |
| | **Female** | 7,345 | 3,332 | 2,662 | 964 | 380 | 6 | 2 |
| | **Total** | 14,534 | 6,534 | 5,135 | 2,136 | 708 | 16 | 5 |
| **East Indian** | **Male** | 2,793 | 639 | 1,096 | 654 | 389 | 13 | 2 |
| | **Female** | 2,930 | 606 | 1,075 | 693 | 529 | 24 | 3 |
| | **Total** | 5,723 | 1,245 | 2,171 | 1,347 | 918 | 37 | 4 |
| **Chinese** | **Male** | 683 | 128 | 152 | 305 | 89 | 0 | 10 |
| | **Female** | 580 | 119 | 96 | 271 | 87 | 0 | 6 |
| | **Total** | 1,263 | 247 | 248 | 576 | 177 | 0 | 16 |
| **Caucasian/White** | **Male** | 1,491 | 121 | 134 | 531 | 671 | 17 | 18 |
| | **Female** | 1,316 | 100 | 106 | 448 | 638 | 8 | 15 |
| | **Total** | 2,808 | 221 | 240 | 978 | 1310 | 25 | 33 |
| **Maya Yucatec** | **Male** | 1,110 | 296 | 557 | 135 | 119 | 1 | 1 |
| | **Female** | 950 | 261 | 542 | 68 | 69 | 4 | 6 |
| | **Total** | 2,060 | 557 | 1,099 | 203 | 188 | 5 | 8 |
| **Indian** | **Male** | 351 | 46 | 51 | 111 | 137 | 4 | 1 |
| | **Female** | 223 | 44 | 35 | 68 | 74 | 1 | 0 |
| | **Total** | 573 | 89 | 87 | 179 | 211 | 5 | 1 |
| **Other** | **Male** | 2,678 | 278 | 349 | 927 | 1,067 | 33 | 25 |
| | **Female** | 2,228 | 242 | 268 | 704 | 969 | 19 | 26 |
| | **Total** | 4,905 | 519 | 617 | 1,631 | 2,035 | 52 | 51 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | **Male** | 1,449 | 43 | 65 | 57 | 12 | 0 | 1,272 |
| | **Female** | 1,357 | 43 | 56 | 24 | 37 | 0 | 1,197 |
| | **Total** | 2,806 | 86 | 122 | 81 | 49 | 0 | 2,469 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.7**
***Highest Level of Educational Attained by Age Group and Sex*, Belize, 2022**

| | | Total | None | Primary | Secondary | Tertiary | Other | Don't Know/ Not Stated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **5-9** | **Male** | 20244 | 19278 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 754 | 200 |
| | **Female** | 19348 | 18394 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 752 | 188 |
| | **Total** | **39592** | **37673** | **26** | **0** | **0** | **1,506** | **388** |
| **10-14** | **Male** | 21460 | 14460 | 6270 | 15 | 0 | 549 | 166 |
| | **Female** | 20490 | 13321 | 6641 | 7 | 0 | 410 | 112 |
| | **Total** | **41950** | **27781** | **12910** | **22** | **0** | **959** | **278** |
| **15-19** | **Male** | 20056 | 1706 | 13239 | 4429 | 426 | 73 | 183 |
| | **Female** | 19650 | 1196 | 12113 | 5301 | 796 | 57 | 186 |
| | **Total** | **39706** | **2903** | **25352** | **9730** | **1,222** | **130** | **369** |
| **20-24** | **Male** | 17,882 | 1,298 | 7,196 | 6,696 | 2,416 | 64 | 211 |
| | **Female** | 18,557 | 1,071 | 6,493 | 7,132 | 3,660 | 34 | 167 |
| | **Total** | **36,438** | **2,369** | **13,689** | **13,828** | **6,077** | **98** | **377** |
| **25-29** | **Male** | 15,193 | 1,369 | 6,112 | 5,091 | 2,420 | 55 | 147 |
| | **Female** | 17,298 | 1,501 | 6,172 | 5,512 | 3,942 | 47 | 124 |
| | **Total** | **32,492** | **2,870** | **12,284** | **10,602** | **6,362** | **103** | **270** |
| **30-34** | **Male** | 14,035 | 1,657 | 5,602 | 4,171 | 2,444 | 27 | 134 |
| | **Female** | 16,155 | 1,935 | 5,811 | 4,392 | 3,828 | 53 | 136 |
| | **Total** | **30,190** | **3,592** | **11,413** | **8,563** | **6,273** | **80** | **269** |
| **35-39** | **Male** | 13,124 | 2,058 | 5,310 | 3,457 | 2,151 | 33 | 117 |
| | **Female** | 14,604 | 2,454 | 5,383 | 3,357 | 3,250 | 33 | 127 |
| | **Total** | **27,729** | **4,511** | **10,693** | **6,814** | **5,401** | **66** | **244** |
| **40-44** | **Male** | 11,366 | 2,054 | 4,654 | 2,563 | 1,919 | 44 | 133 |
| | **Female** | 12,415 | 2,595 | 4,633 | 2,524 | 2,534 | 44 | 86 |
| | **Total** | **23,781** | **4,648** | **9,286** | **5,086** | **4,453** | **87** | **219** |
| **45-49** | **Male** | 9,946 | 2,065 | 4,080 | 2,094 | 1,570 | 34 | 102 |
| | **Female** | 10,560 | 2,492 | 4,100 | 1,976 | 1,852 | 31 | 110 |
| | **Total** | **20,507** | **4,557** | **8,181** | **4,070** | **3,422** | **65** | **212** |
| **50-54** | **Male** | 8,771 | 2,168 | 3,576 | 1,692 | 1,207 | 26 | 102 |
| | **Female** | 9,910 | 2,623 | 4,028 | 1,618 | 1,452 | 32 | 156 |
| | **Total** | **18,682** | **4,792** | **7,604** | **3,310** | **2,659** | **59** | **259** |
| **55-59** | **Male** | 7,624 | 1,972 | 3,253 | 1,325 | 967 | 25 | 81 |
| | **Female** | 7,474 | 2,128 | 3,196 | 1,092 | 971 | 26 | 61 |
| | **Total** | **15,098** | **4,101** | **6,449** | **2,417** | **1,938** | **51** | **142** |
| **60-64** | **Male** | 6,201 | 1,754 | 2,687 | 983 | 679 | 29 | 69 |
| | **Female** | 6,105 | 1,737 | 2,729 | 860 | 667 | 40 | 73 |
| | **Total** | **12,306** | **3,491** | **5,416** | **1,843** | **1,346** | **68** | **141** |
| **65+** | **Male** | 11,334 | 3,724 | 4,594 | 1,528 | 1,272 | 68 | 148 |
| | **Female** | 11,189 | 3,551 | 4,926 | 1,408 | 1,091 | 107 | 107 |
| | **Total** | **22,524** | **7,275** | **9,520** | **2,936** | **2,362** | **175** | **254** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.8**
***Total Working Age Population by Age Group and Sex*, Belize, 2022**

| | Sex | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Total** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **14-24** | 84,504 | 42,345 | 42,159 |
| **25-34** | 62,682 | 29,228 | 33,453 |
| **35-44** | 51,510 | 24,491 | 27,019 |
| **45-54** | 39,188 | 18,718 | 20,471 |
| **55-64** | 27,404 | 13,825 | 13,579 |
| **65 and Over** | 22,524 | 11,334 | 11,189 |
| **Total** | **287,811** | **139,940** | **147,871** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.9**
***Total Employed Population by Age Group and Sex*, Belize, 2022**

| | Sex | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Total** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **14-24** | 30,352 | 19,931 | 10,421 |
| **25-34** | 42,911 | 26,230 | 16,681 |
| **35-44** | 36,477 | 22,418 | 14,059 |
| **45-54** | 26,043 | 16,496 | 9,548 |
| **55-64** | 12,875 | 9,322 | 3,553 |
| **65 and Over** | 4,816 | 3,763 | 1,053 |
| **Total** | **153,475** | **98,160** | **55,315** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.10**
***Total Employed Population by Main Occupation and Sex, Belize, 2022***

| | Sex | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Total** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **Total** | **153,475** | **98,160** | **55,315** |
| **Armed forces occupations** | 1,479 | 1,350 | 129 |
| **Managers** | 6,781 | 3,780 | 3,001 |
| **Professionals** | 12,255 | 5,051 | 7,204 |
| **Technicians and associate professionals** | 10,473 | 6,565 | 3,908 |
| **Clerical support workers** | 10,846 | 3,740 | 7,106 |
| **Service and sales workers** | 41,760 | 19,544 | 22,215 |
| **Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers** | 9,536 | 8,989 | 547 |
| **Craft and related trades workers** | 16,137 | 13,862 | 2,275 |
| **Plant and machine operators, and assemblers** | 8,710 | 8,253 | 457 |
| **Elementary occupations** | 33,584 | 25,782 | 7,801 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 1,915 | 1,244 | 672 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.11**
***Total Employed Population by Type of Employment and Sex, Belize, 2022***

| | Sex | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Total** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **Total** | **153,475** | **98,160** | **55,315** |
| **Self-employed (with hired help/employees)** | 11,082 | 8,063 | 3,019 |
| **Self-employed (without hired help/employees)** | 26,543 | 17,362 | 9,181 |
| **Employee (Government/Quasi Government)** | 19,201 | 10,563 | 8,638 |
| **Employee (NGO)** | 1,455 | 855 | 600 |
| **Employee (International Organization/Embassy)** | 586 | 317 | 269 |
| **Contributing family worker** | 4,571 | 2,461 | 2,110 |
| **Employee (Private)** | 89,461 | 58,152 | 31,309 |
| **Paid apprentice/Intern** | 144 | 97 | 47 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 434 | 291 | 142 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.12**

***Total Employed Population by Main Industry and Sex, Belize, 2022***

| | Sex | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Total** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **Total** | **153,475** | **98,160** | **55,315** |
| **Primary** | 20,304 | 18,306 | 1,998 |
| **Secondary** | 28,027 | 23,739 | 4,288 |
| **Services** | 102,423 | 54,310 | 48,112 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 2,721 | 1,805 | 916 |
| **Total** | 153,475 | 98,160 | 55,315 |
| **Agriculture, forestry and fishing** | 19,979 | 17,996 | 1,983 |
| **Mining and quarrying** | 325 | 310 | 15 |
| **Manufacturing** | 13,350 | 9,696 | 3,654 |
| **Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply** | 671 | 523 | 148 |
| **Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities** | 783 | 581 | 202 |
| **Construction** | 13,223 | 12,939 | 284 |
| **Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles** | 22,907 | 13,455 | 9,451 |
| **Transportation and storage** | 6,064 | 5,228 | 836 |
| **Accommodation and food service activities** | 15,559 | 7,058 | 8,501 |
| **Information and communication** | 1,645 | 1,126 | 519 |
| **Financial and insurance activities** | 2,893 | 1,276 | 1,617 |
| **Real estate activities** | 769 | 442 | 327 |
| **Professional, scientific and technical activities** | 2,174 | 1,145 | 1,029 |
| **Administrative and support service activities** | 14,289 | 7,795 | 6,493 |
| **Public administration and defence; compulsory social security** | 10,775 | 7,158 | 3,617 |
| **Education** | 7,943 | 2,499 | 5,443 |
| **Human health and social work activities** | 4,375 | 1,296 | 3,080 |
| **Arts, entertainment and recreation** | 1,784 | 1,139 | 645 |
| **Other service activities** | 3,399 | 1,648 | 1,751 |
| **Activities of households as employers - activities of households for own use** | 7,561 | 2,870 | 4,691 |
| **Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies** | 286 | 174 | 112 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 2,721 | 1,805 | 916 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.13**
***Total Employed Population by Ethnicity and Sex, Belize, 2022***

| | Sex | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Total** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **Total** | **153,475** | **98,160** | **55,315** |
| **Mestizo/Hispanic/Latino** | 83,007 | 54,209 | 28,798 |
| **Creole** | 40,108 | 22,687 | 17,421 |
| **Maya Ketchi** | 7,298 | 5,637 | 1,661 |
| **Garifuna** | 6,580 | 3,714 | 2,867 |
| **Mennonite** | 5,012 | 4,097 | 915 |
| **Maya Mopan** | 4,702 | 3,430 | 1,272 |
| **East Indian** | 2,696 | 1,640 | 1,056 |
| **Chinese** | 774 | 454 | 320 |
| **Taiwanese** | 145 | 90 | 55 |
| **Caucasian/White** | 870 | 530 | 340 |
| **Maya Yucatec** | 989 | 751 | 238 |
| **African Descent** | 197 | 134 | 63 |
| **Indian** | 272 | 214 | 57 |
| **Lebanese** | 88 | 75 | 13 |
| **Other** | 565 | 375 | 190 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 171 | 123 | 48 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.14**
***Total Number and Percentage of Foreign-Born Population and its Growth Rate, Belize, 1980, 1991, 2000, 2010 and 2022***

| | **1980** | **1991** | **2000** | **2010** | **2022** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total population** | **144,850** | **185,969** | **248,916** | **322,424** | **397,483** |
| **Total foreign-born population** | 12,940 | 25,745 | 36,642 | 49,819 | 45,644 |
| **Percent of foreign-born to total population** | 8.9% | 13.8% | 14.7% | 15.5% | 11.5% |
| **Intercencal Belize born population growth rate** | | 21.5% | 32.5% | 28.4% | 29.1% |
| **Intercensal foreign-born population growth rate** | | 99.0% | 42.3% | 36.0% | -8.4% |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.15**

***Total Foreign-Born Population by Country of Birth, Belize, 2000, 2010 and 2022***

| | 2000 | | | 2010 | | | 2022 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| **Guatemala** | 7,628 | 7,952 | 15,581 | 9,607 | 10,574 | 20,181 | 8,614 | 10,447 | 19,061 |
| **El Salvador** | 3,359 | 3,120 | 6,479 | 3,780 | 3,802 | 7,582 | 4,232 | 4,279 | 8,511 |
| **Honduras** | 2,697 | 2,618 | 5,315 | 3,601 | 3,916 | 7,517 | 3,029 | 3,911 | 6,940 |
| **United States** | 996 | 890 | 1,886 | 1,920 | 1,654 | 3,574 | 1,533 | 1,452 | 2,985 |
| **Mexico** | 1,337 | 1,164 | 2,500 | 1,523 | 1,503 | 3,026 | 1,284 | 1,244 | 2,528 |
| **China** | 547 | 425 | 972 | 989 | 764 | 1,753 | 447 | 387 | 834 |
| **Canada** | 233 | 240 | 473 | 349 | 366 | 714 | 401 | 422 | 822 |
| **Nicaragua** | 158 | 148 | 306 | 313 | 341 | 654 | 298 | 340 | 638 |
| **Rest of world** | 1,746 | 1,384 | 3,130 | 2,712 | 2,105 | 4,817 | 1,844 | 1,480 | 3,323 |
| **Total** | **18,702** | **17,941** | **36,642** | **24,795** | **25,024** | **49,819** | **21,682** | **23,962** | **45,644** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.16**

***Total Population by Disability Status, Type of Disability and Sex, Belize, 2022***

| | Sex | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total |
| **Total Population** | **195,695** | **201,789** | **397,483** |
| **Total Disabled Population** | 18,548 | 21,634 | 40,182 |
| **Difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses** | 10,176 | 13,383 | 23,560 |
| **Difficulty hearing even if using hearing aid.** | 4,460 | 3,990 | 8,450 |
| **Difficulty walking or climbing stairs.** | 7,223 | 9,224 | 16,448 |
| **Difficulty remembering or concentrating.** | 4,929 | 5,640 | 10,569 |
| **Difficulty with (self-care, such as) washing all over or dressing.** | 2,840 | 2,903 | 5,743 |
| **Difficulty communicating (for example, understanding or being understood).** | 2,833 | 2,423 | 5,257 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.17**
***Total Population by Disability Status, Type of Disability and 5 year Age Group,* Belize, 2022**

| | Total | 0-4 | 5-9 | 10-14 | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Population** | **397,483.46** | **36,489.95** | **39,591.84** | **41,950.09** | **39,706.10** | **36,438.12** | **32,491.52** |
| **Total Disabled Population** | 40,182.41 | 2,332.87 | 1,379.35 | 1,141.20 | 1,303.01 | 1,604.64 | 1,541.85 |
| **Difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses** | 23,559.75 | 113.59 | 255.59 | 542.80 | 694.88 | 853.69 | 798.62 |
| **Difficulty hearing even if using hearing aid.** | 8,449.65 | 109.34 | 135.18 | 184.33 | 183.91 | 218.54 | 223.85 |
| **Difficulty walking or climbing stairs.** | 16,447.79 | 907.10 | 214.00 | 133.25 | 214.92 | 277.75 | 341.97 |
| **Difficulty remembering or concentrating.** | 10,568.95 | 1,224.45 | 552.41 | 368.13 | 365.75 | 482.45 | 426.91 |
| **Difficulty with (self-care, such as) washing all over or dressing.** | 5,743.23 | 1,157.34 | 663.89 | 141.91 | 149.82 | 162.10 | 155.74 |
| **Difficulty communicating (for example, understanding or being understood).** | 5,256.57 | 839.96 | 530.14 | 285.45 | 307.34 | 344.16 | 291.56 |

| | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60+ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Population** | **30,190.04** | **27,728.66** | **23,781.27** | **20,506.57** | **18,681.70** | **15,098.18** | **34,829.41** |
| **Total Disabled Population** | 1,671.72 | 1,609.54 | 2,269.19 | 3,075.18 | 3,625.21 | 3,667.98 | 14,960.66 |
| **Difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses** | 874.43 | 833.17 | 1,406.39 | 2,159.28 | 2,615.01 | 2,534.41 | 9,877.90 |
| **Difficulty hearing even if using hearing aid.** | 247.75 | 278.87 | 279.25 | 426.34 | 522.19 | 630.17 | 5,009.90 |
| **Difficulty walking or climbing stairs.** | 375.01 | 445.73 | 672.51 | 914.15 | 1,311.60 | 1,505.36 | 9,134.44 |
| **Difficulty remembering or concentrating.** | 452.26 | 358.72 | 449.74 | 513.28 | 667.74 | 685.08 | 4,022.04 |
| **Difficulty with (self-care, such as) washing all over or dressing.** | 116.89 | 115.07 | 145.87 | 129.69 | 210.13 | 262.57 | 2,332.21 |
| **Difficulty communicating (for example, understanding or being understood).** | 263.97 | 209.54 | 176.05 | 197.94 | 207.82 | 226.55 | 1,376.08 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.18**
***Total Population by Long Term Illness Status, Type of Long Term Illness and Sex, Belize, 2022***

| | Sex | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| **Total Population** | **195,695** | **201,789** | **397,483** |
| **Has arthritis rheumatism** | 2,467 | 4,580 | 7,047 |
| **Has kidney disease** | 1,210 | 1,602 | 2,812 |
| **Has asthma** | 4,141 | 4,570 | 8,711 |
| **Has diabetes** | 5,646 | 9,209 | 14,855 |
| **Has hypertension/ high blood pressure** | 7,594 | 14,433 | 22,027 |
| **Has sickle cell anemia** | 364 | 737 | 1,101 |
| **Has glaucoma** | 534 | 538 | 1,072 |
| **Has cancer** | 433 | 669 | 1,103 |
| **Has heart disease** | 1,331 | 1,680 | 3,010 |
| **Has lupus** | 144 | 210 | 354 |
| **Has autism** | 684 | 299 | 982 |
| **Has dementia** | 303 | 300 | 603 |
| **Has down syndrome** | 450 | 314 | 764 |
| **Has spina bifida** | 320 | 295 | 614 |
| **Has another disease or condition** | 4,147 | 5,195 | 9,342 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.19**

***Total Population by Long Term Illness Status, Type of Long Term Illness and 5 year Age Group, Belize, 2022***

| | Total | 0-4 | 5-9 | 10-14 | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Population** | **397,483** | **36,490** | **39,592** | **41,950** | **39,706** | **36,438** | **32,492** |
| **Has arthritis rheumatism** | 7,047 | 40 | 79 | 96 | 111 | 124 | 186 |
| **Has kidney disease** | 2,812 | 39 | 60 | 79 | 111 | 128 | 165 |
| **Has asthma** | 8,711 | 535 | 1,193 | 1,225 | 908 | 779 | 642 |
| **Has diabetes** | 14,855 | 27 | 41 | 71 | 108 | 108 | 205 |
| **Has hypertension/ high blood pressure** | 22,027 | 11 | 26 | 43 | 162 | 339 | 695 |
| **Has sickle cell anemia** | 1,101 | 57 | 83 | 99 | 120 | 104 | 89 |
| **Has glaucoma** | 1,072 | 14 | 20 | 25 | 41 | 28 | 17 |
| **Has cancer** | 1,103 | 22 | 27 | 42 | 33 | 45 | 31 |
| **Has heart disease** | 3,010 | 71 | 79 | 106 | 90 | 111 | 134 |
| **Has lupus** | 354 | 13 | 21 | 29 | 33 | 19 | 41 |
| **Has autism** | 982 | 88 | 177 | 138 | 148 | 102 | 75 |
| **Has dementia** | 603 | 21 | 10 | 37 | 46 | 28 | 38 |
| **Has down syndrome** | 764 | 63 | 75 | 82 | 101 | 109 | 81 |
| **Has spina bifida** | 614 | 20 | 26 | 46 | 44 | 42 | 57 |
| **Has another disease or condition** | 9,342 | 311 | 535 | 550 | 612 | 620 | 662 |

| | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60+ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Population** | **30,190** | **27,729** | **23,781** | **20,507** | **18,682** | **15,098** | **34,829** |
| **Has arthritis rheumatism** | 195 | 229 | 357 | 466 | 612 | 740 | 3,812 |
| **Has kidney disease** | 187 | 230 | 287 | 206 | 252 | 250 | 818 |
| **Has asthma** | 577 | 534 | 462 | 340 | 351 | 318 | 848 |
| **Has diabetes** | 399 | 642 | 949 | 1,386 | 2,019 | 2,180 | 6,720 |
| **Has hypertension/ high blood pressure** | 985 | 1,333 | 1,709 | 2,136 | 2,693 | 2,759 | 9,136 |
| **Has sickle cell anemia** | 85 | 87 | 79 | 63 | 65 | 42 | 127 |
| **Has glaucoma** | 41 | 26 | 38 | 60 | 56 | 92 | 612 |
| **Has cancer** | 52 | 52 | 78 | 89 | 109 | 104 | 418 |
| **Has heart disease** | 142 | 117 | 125 | 185 | 227 | 245 | 1,377 |
| **Has lupus** | 32 | 31 | 26 | 26 | 23 | 11 | 49 |
| **Has autism** | 60 | 43 | 40 | 24 | 15 | 21 | 51 |
| **Has dementia** | 27 | 17 | 23 | 29 | 22 | 43 | 262 |
| **Has down syndrome** | 63 | 35 | 58 | 20 | 27 | 17 | 33 |
| **Has spina bifida** | 42 | 31 | 36 | 37 | 42 | 50 | 143 |
| **Has another disease or condition** | 693 | 711 | 678 | 703 | 733 | 695 | 1,838 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.20**

***Belize-Born Population According to Current District of Residence and Usual District of Residence of Mother at Time of Birth of Belize Born Population, ,Belize, 2022***

| | | Usual district of residence of mother | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Corozal | Orange Walk | Belize | Cayo | Stann Creek | Toledo | Don't Know/ Not Stated |
| District currently living in | Corozal | **41,412** | 35,759 | 3,268 | 1,219 | 681 | 212 | 220 | 55 |
| | Orange Walk | **49,405** | 1,272 | 45,327 | 1,451 | 879 | 240 | 214 | 21 |
| | Belize | **101,919** | 3,226 | 3,109 | 88,413 | 3,222 | 1,942 | 1,904 | 103 |
| | Cayo | **81,537** | 1,018 | 1,804 | 4,807 | 69,351 | 1,760 | 2,664 | 134 |
| | Stann Creek | **40,497** | 247 | 319 | 1,483 | 1,437 | 34,319 | 2,606 | 88 |
| | Toledo | **33,245** | 152 | 171 | 934 | 869 | 4,407 | 26,674 | 38 |
| | **Total** | **348,016** | **41,673** | **53,996** | **98,307** | **76,440** | **42,879** | **34,281** | **439** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.21**

***Persons Who Have Lived Abroad for 12 Months or More and Year They Returned to Belize By Sex, Belize, 2022***

| | | Sex | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female | Total |
| **Ever lived in another country for 12 months or more** | No | 173,371 | 178,338 | 351,709 |
| | Yes | 20,665 | 21,905 | 42,571 |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 1,658 | 1,545 | 3,203 |
| | **Total** | **195,695** | **201,789** | **397,483** |
| **Year last came to live in Belize** | Before 1990 | 4,737 | 4,735 | 9,472 |
| | 1990 - 1999 | 4,265 | 4,753 | 9,018 |
| | 2000 - 2009 | 4,090 | 4,666 | 8,756 |
| | 2010 - 2019 | 5,365 | 5,598 | 10,963 |
| | 2020 - 2022 | 1,472 | 1,364 | 2,836 |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 737 | 789 | 1,526 |
| | **Total** | **20,665** | **21,905** | **42,571** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.22**

***Population 15 years and older by Sex, Age Group, and Marital Status, Belize, 2022***

| | | Legal Marital Status | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Never Married | Married | Divorced | Widowed | Legally separated | Don't Know/Not Stated | Total |
| **Male** | 15-19 | 19,810 | 51 | 1 | - | 4 | 191 | 20,056 |
| | 20-24 | 16,431 | 1,215 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 218 | 17,882 |
| | 25-29 | 12,063 | 2,944 | 17 | 6 | 22 | 142 | 15,193 |
| | 30-34 | 9,356 | 4,420 | 53 | 22 | 52 | 132 | 14,035 |
| | 35-39 | 7,286 | 5,507 | 114 | 29 | 80 | 108 | 13,124 |
| | 40-44 | 5,586 | 5,342 | 165 | 67 | 87 | 120 | 11,366 |
| | 45-49 | 4,118 | 5,373 | 180 | 87 | 96 | 93 | 9,946 |
| | 50-54 | 3,217 | 5,001 | 220 | 128 | 96 | 109 | 8,771 |
| | 55-59 | 2,632 | 4,405 | 199 | 223 | 81 | 83 | 7,624 |
| | 60-64 | 1,947 | 3,645 | 167 | 313 | 81 | 49 | 6,201 |
| | 65-69 | 1,189 | 2,771 | 138 | 319 | 52 | 52 | 4,521 |
| | 70-74 | 644 | 1,953 | 96 | 394 | 31 | 24 | 3,142 |
| | 75-79 | 331 | 1,059 | 40 | 286 | 14 | 14 | 1,745 |
| | 80-84 | 161 | 620 | 39 | 264 | 4 | 7 | 1,095 |
| | 85+ | 141 | 394 | 15 | 272 | 5 | 4 | 831 |
| | **Total** | **84,911** | **44,701** | **1,451** | **2,410** | **714** | **1,346** | **135,533** |
| **Female** | 15-19 | 19,203 | 231 | - | 1 | 5 | 209 | 19,650 |
| | 20-24 | 16,248 | 2,115 | 4 | 17 | 19 | 153 | 18,557 |
| | 25-29 | 12,852 | 4,217 | 20 | 45 | 55 | 110 | 17,298 |
| | 30-34 | 9,958 | 5,750 | 116 | 87 | 104 | 142 | 16,155 |
| | 35-39 | 7,685 | 6,293 | 177 | 159 | 153 | 138 | 14,604 |
| | 40-44 | 5,697 | 5,954 | 274 | 232 | 178 | 80 | 12,415 |
| | 45-49 | 4,322 | 5,379 | 281 | 313 | 148 | 117 | 10,560 |
| | 50-54 | 3,640 | 5,141 | 310 | 579 | 109 | 130 | 9,910 |
| | 55-59 | 2,462 | 3,950 | 255 | 658 | 92 | 57 | 7,474 |
| | 60-64 | 1,741 | 3,134 | 193 | 889 | 90 | 59 | 6,105 |
| | 65-69 | 998 | 2,032 | 154 | 868 | 52 | 21 | 4,124 |
| | 70-74 | 625 | 1,314 | 106 | 918 | 36 | 20 | 3,019 |
| | 75-79 | 326 | 636 | 64 | 733 | 10 | 16 | 1,786 |
| | 80-84 | 236 | 318 | 27 | 628 | 5 | 5 | 1,220 |
| | 85+ | 193 | 153 | 28 | 638 | 1 | 27 | 1,041 |
| | **Total** | **86,188** | **46,616** | **2,008** | **6,764** | **1,057** | **1,284** | **143,918** |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | 15-19 | 39,013 | 282 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 400 | 39,706 |
| | 20-24 | 32,679 | 3,330 | 10 | 19 | 28 | 371 | 36,438 |
| | 25-29 | 24,915 | 7,161 | 37 | 51 | 76 | 252 | 32,492 |
| | 30-34 | 19,313 | 10,170 | 169 | 109 | 156 | 273 | 30,190 |
| | 35-39 | 14,971 | 11,799 | 291 | 188 | 233 | 246 | 27,729 |
| | 40-44 | 11,284 | 11,296 | 439 | 299 | 265 | 200 | 23,781 |
| | 45-49 | 8,440 | 10,752 | 461 | 400 | 244 | 210 | 20,507 |
| | 50-54 | 6,857 | 10,143 | 530 | 707 | 205 | 239 | 18,682 |
| | 55-59 | 5,094 | 8,356 | 454 | 880 | 174 | 140 | 15,098 |
| | 60-64 | 3,687 | 6,779 | 360 | 1,202 | 171 | 107 | 12,306 |
| | 65-69 | 2,187 | 4,803 | 292 | 1,187 | 104 | 73 | 8,646 |
| | 70-74 | 1,268 | 3,267 | 203 | 1,311 | 68 | 44 | 6,161 |
| | 75-79 | 658 | 1,696 | 104 | 1,019 | 24 | 30 | 3,531 |
| | 80-84 | 397 | 938 | 66 | 892 | 9 | 12 | 2,315 |
| | 85+ | 335 | 547 | 43 | 910 | 6 | 31 | 1,871 |
| | **Total** | **171,099** | **91,317** | **3,459** | **9,175** | **1,772** | **2,630** | **279,452** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.23**

***Population 15 years and older in a Common-Law Relationship by Legal Marital Status, Belize, Census 2010 and 2022***

| | 2010 Census | | | 2022 Census | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| **Never married** | 21,103 | 22,211 | 43,314 | 32,135 | 33,530 | 65,665 |
| **Married** | 1,406 | 1,108 | 2,514 | 803 | 776 | 1,579 |
| **Divorced** | 602 | 422 | 1,024 | 506 | 332 | 838 |
| **Widowed** | 183 | 273 | 456 | 264 | 269 | 533 |
| **Legally separated** | 379 | 285 | 664 | 219 | 176 | 394 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 25 | 18 | 42 | 31 | 19 | 50 |
| **Total** | **23,698** | **24,316** | **48,014** | **33,957** | **35,102** | **69,060** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table A.24**

***Number of Children Ever had by Females 15 - 49 years by Age Group, Place of Birth and Education Completed, Belize, 2022***

| | | Children Ever Born | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **Female** | **1.00** | **2.00** | **3.00** | **4.00** | **5.00** | **6.00** | **7.00** | **8+** | **DK/NS** | **Total** |
| **Fertility 5 year age groups** | **15-19** | 19,650 | 1,282 | 121 | 9 | - | - | - | - | - | 67 | 19,511 |
| | **20-24** | 18,557 | 5,220 | 2,173 | 488 | 46 | 5 | - | - | - | 30 | 18,428 |
| | **25-29** | 17,298 | 4,990 | 4,220 | 1,993 | 580 | 170 | 37 | 5 | - | 25 | 17,222 |
| | **30-34** | 16,155 | 3,341 | 4,435 | 3,069 | 1,280 | 553 | 219 | 77 | 64 | 28 | 16,037 |
| | **35-39** | 14,604 | 2,103 | 3,897 | 3,139 | 1,587 | 1,002 | 433 | 193 | 228 | 54 | 14,518 |
| | **40-44** | 12,415 | 1,616 | 3,067 | 2,748 | 1,473 | 954 | 541 | 306 | 390 | 27 | 12,361 |
| | **45-49** | 10,560 | 1,352 | 2,248 | 1,977 | 1,353 | 969 | 567 | 357 | 541 | 71 | 10,474 |
| | **Total** | **109,239** | **19,904** | **20,161** | **13,423** | **6,320** | **3,652** | **1,797** | **938** | **1,223** | **302** | **108,552** |
| **Place of Birth** | **Belize** | 176,396 | 17,700 | 16,956 | 10,832 | 4,826 | 2,807 | 1,348 | 658 | 895 | 165 | 94,237 |
| | **Abroad** | 23,962 | 2,190 | 3,196 | 2,590 | 1,488 | 844 | 449 | 280 | 328 | 27 | 14,154 |
| | **DK/NS** | 1,431 | 14 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 1 | - | - | - | 109 | 162 |
| | **Total** | **201,789** | **19,904** | **20,161** | **13,423** | **6,320** | **3,652** | **1,797** | **938** | **1,223** | **302** | **108,552** |
| **Education Completed** | **None** | 10,689 | 255 | 339 | 435 | 308 | 391 | 205 | 104 | 144 | 4 | 2,697 |
| | **Pre-Primary** | 44,309 | 1,280 | 1,934 | 2,012 | 1,318 | 861 | 532 | 336 | 362 | 19 | 10,547 |
| | **Primary** | 66,239 | 6,906 | 7,919 | 5,937 | 3,129 | 1,821 | 851 | 409 | 676 | 71 | 44,706 |
| | **Secondary** | 35,179 | 6,698 | 5,640 | 3,187 | 1,056 | 431 | 161 | 72 | 29 | 65 | 30,193 |
| | **Tertiary** | 24,043 | 4,693 | 4,252 | 1,812 | 497 | 143 | 44 | 15 | 9 | 36 | 19,862 |
| | **Other** | 3,297 | 72 | 77 | 41 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 107 | 548 |
| | **Total** | **183,757** | **19,904** | **20,161** | **13,423** | **6,320** | **3,652** | **1,797** | **938** | **1,223** | **302** | **108,552** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

# APPENDIX B

**Table B.1**
***Dwelling Units by Period of Construction and District, Belize, 2022***

| Period of Construction | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Before 1990** | 12,723 | 2,091 | 2,112 | 4,430 | 2,870 | 854 | 365 |
| **1990 - 1999** | 12,760 | 1,552 | 1,948 | 4,133 | 3,239 | 1,132 | 756 |
| **2000 - 2009** | 17,007 | 1,812 | 2,042 | 4,930 | 4,693 | 1,903 | 1,628 |
| **2010 - 2019** | 23,140 | 2,301 | 3,043 | 4,920 | 5,805 | 3,528 | 3,544 |
| **2020 - 2022** | 5,642 | 655 | 810 | 964 | 1,335 | 751 | 1,128 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 4,219 | 484 | 432 | 1,219 | 1,244 | 627 | 213 |
| **Total** | **75,491** | **8,895** | **10,386** | **20,596** | **19,186** | **8,795** | **7,634** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table B.2**
**Dwelling Units by Land Ownership Status and District, Belize, 2022**

| Land Ownership Status | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Owned** | 62,122 | 6,635 | 8,039 | 18,560 | 16,302 | 7,806 | 4,780 |
| **Hire-purchase** | 735 | 79 | 172 | 277 | 155 | 27 | 26 |
| **Leased** | 5,588 | 1,200 | 1,045 | 707 | 1,490 | 531 | 614 |
| **Rented (paying)** | 245 | 13 | 44 | 47 | 110 | 16 | 16 |
| **Rent-free** | 2,249 | 213 | 492 | 448 | 614 | 250 | 231 |
| **Communal land** | 2,919 | 643 | 512 | 9 | 28 | 19 | 1,707 |
| **Other** | 1,124 | 40 | 40 | 352 | 348 | 97 | 248 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 510 | 73 | 42 | 195 | 138 | 49 | 12 |
| **Total** | **75,491** | **8,895** | **10,386** | **20,596** | **19,186** | **8,795** | **7,634** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table B.3**
**Households by Household Size and District, Belize, 2022**

| Household Size | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | 16,319 | 1,421 | 1,551 | 6,732 | 3,359 | 2,209 | 1,047 |
| **2** | 20,654 | 2,270 | 2,392 | 7,450 | 4,825 | 2,206 | 1,512 |
| **3** | 21,565 | 2,444 | 2,887 | 7,005 | 5,184 | 2,266 | 1,779 |
| **4** | 21,252 | 2,537 | 3,066 | 6,250 | 5,431 | 2,098 | 1,870 |
| **5** | 14,414 | 1,555 | 2,094 | 3,879 | 3,832 | 1,632 | 1,421 |
| **6** | 7,566 | 845 | 1,095 | 1,820 | 2,000 | 936 | 869 |
| **7** | 4,275 | 430 | 539 | 914 | 1,106 | 770 | 516 |
| **8** | 2,130 | 267 | 286 | 450 | 485 | 330 | 312 |
| **9** | 1,188 | 166 | 171 | 289 | 265 | 129 | 168 |
| **10** | 658 | 95 | 111 | 132 | 153 | 74 | 93 |
| **11+** | 699 | 118 | 92 | 142 | 178 | 69 | 101 |
| **Total** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |
| **Household Size** | **Urban Areas** | **Corozal District** | **Orange Walk District** | **Belize District** | **Cayo District** | **Stann Creek District** | **Toledo District** |
| **1** | 8,505 | 474 | 539 | 4,759 | 1,826 | 648 | 260 |
| **2** | 10,114 | 654 | 729 | 5,207 | 2,667 | 537 | 320 |
| **3** | 10,199 | 623 | 950 | 4,904 | 2,899 | 516 | 308 |
| **4** | 9,413 | 592 | 852 | 4,406 | 2,820 | 468 | 274 |
| **5** | 6,020 | 332 | 548 | 2,721 | 1,845 | 358 | 216 |
| **6** | 2,842 | 158 | 259 | 1,257 | 843 | 214 | 110 |
| **7** | 1,408 | 69 | 114 | 618 | 478 | 92 | 36 |
| **8** | 680 | 33 | 55 | 316 | 180 | 68 | 28 |
| **9** | 405 | 15 | 25 | 210 | 112 | 29 | 14 |
| **10** | 186 | 13 | 15 | 78 | 51 | 20 | 9 |
| **11+** | 218 | 14 | 31 | 104 | 60 | 6 | 3 |
| **Total** | **49,991** | **2,977** | **4,117** | **24,580** | **13,781** | **2,955** | **1,581** |
| **Household Size** | **Rural Areas** | **Corozal District** | **Orange Walk District** | **Belize District** | **Cayo District** | **Stann Creek District** | **Toledo District** |
| **1** | 7,813 | 947 | 1,012 | 1,973 | 1,533 | 1,561 | 787 |
| **2** | 10,540 | 1,616 | 1,663 | 2,243 | 2,158 | 1,669 | 1,192 |
| **3** | 11,365 | 1,821 | 1,937 | 2,102 | 2,285 | 1,750 | 1,471 |
| **4** | 11,839 | 1,945 | 2,214 | 1,843 | 2,611 | 1,631 | 1,595 |
| **5** | 8,394 | 1,223 | 1,546 | 1,158 | 1,987 | 1,275 | 1,205 |
| **6** | 4,724 | 686 | 837 | 563 | 1,157 | 722 | 759 |
| **7** | 2,866 | 361 | 425 | 295 | 628 | 678 | 480 |
| **8** | 1,450 | 235 | 231 | 134 | 305 | 262 | 284 |
| **9** | 783 | 151 | 146 | 79 | 153 | 100 | 153 |
| **10** | 472 | 82 | 96 | 54 | 102 | 54 | 84 |
| **11+** | 481 | 104 | 61 | 38 | 117 | 63 | 98 |
| **Total** | **60,728** | **9,171** | **10,168** | **10,483** | **13,036** | **9,764** | **8,106** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table B.4**
***Households by Main Floor Material and District, Belize, 2022***

| Main Floor Material | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Concrete** | 56,722 | 7,276 | 8,216 | 13,097 | 14,974 | 6,928 | 6,231 |
| **Wood** | 26,635 | 901 | 1,988 | 12,500 | 5,516 | 4,431 | 1,300 |
| **Plywood** | 1,083 | 29 | 61 | 777 | 170 | 41 | 4 |
| **Earth/sand** | 2,859 | 231 | 317 | 99 | 396 | 225 | 1,591 |
| **Tile** | 22,552 | 3,592 | 3,595 | 8,183 | 5,618 | 1,040 | 524 |
| **Other** | 534 | 92 | 79 | 248 | 71 | 13 | 30 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 336 | 27 | 29 | 160 | 74 | 40 | 6 |
| **Total** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table B.5**
***Households by Material of Main Outer Walls and District, Belize, 2022***

| Material of Main Outer Walls | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Wood** | 33,568 | 1,411 | 2,482 | 9,908 | 9,017 | 5,681 | 5,069 |
| **Plywood** | 3,718 | 132 | 141 | 2,619 | 236 | 547 | 44 |
| **Concrete** | 59,688 | 8,708 | 8,423 | 18,860 | 14,752 | 5,266 | 3,678 |
| **Plycem** | 1,610 | 44 | 55 | 1,126 | 148 | 192 | 45 |
| **Sheet metal** | 5,481 | 673 | 2,125 | 1,347 | 933 | 296 | 107 |
| **Wood and concrete** | 3,437 | 151 | 326 | 556 | 1,294 | 509 | 601 |
| **Wood and sheet metal** | 481 | 17 | 72 | 136 | 165 | 50 | 40 |
| **Sticks/palmetto** | 1,464 | 835 | 465 | 52 | 44 | 31 | 38 |
| **Brick** | 84 | 14 | 31 | 14 | 16 | 7 | 2 |
| **Makeshift** | 370 | 42 | 34 | 130 | 59 | 76 | 28 |
| **Other** | 519 | 99 | 104 | 168 | 92 | 27 | 30 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 298 | 22 | 27 | 146 | 61 | 37 | 5 |
| **Total** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table B.6**

***Households by Type of Dwelling Unit and District, Belize, 2022***

| Type of Dwelling Unit | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Undivided private house** | 97,176 | 11,068 | 13,026 | 28,393 | 24,478 | 11,175 | 9,037 |
| **Part of a private house** | 2,825 | 478 | 404 | 481 | 775 | 406 | 281 |
| **Apartment/condominium** | 6,689 | 167 | 324 | 4,717 | 873 | 474 | 134 |
| **Combined business and dweling** | 1,034 | 195 | 235 | 273 | 198 | 59 | 74 |
| **Dwelling attached to business** | 451 | 40 | 134 | 100 | 101 | 50 | 26 |
| **Double house/duplex** | 1,396 | 140 | 115 | 759 | 229 | 133 | 21 |
| **Other** | 901 | 47 | 21 | 224 | 116 | 384 | 109 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 247 | 14 | 27 | 116 | 48 | 37 | 5 |
| **Total** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table B.7**

***Households by Ownership Status of Dwelling Unit and District, Belize, 2022***

| Ownership Status of Dwelling Unit | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Own with a mortage/Hire-purchase** | 8,721 | 1,260 | 1,158 | 3,144 | 2,367 | 583 | 209 |
| **Own without a mortgage** | 66,341 | 7,564 | 9,193 | 17,283 | 16,717 | 8,166 | 7,418 |
| **Rent** | 22,104 | 1,458 | 1,858 | 10,425 | 5,108 | 2,292 | 964 |
| **Rent free** | 10,129 | 1,082 | 1,412 | 3,510 | 2,006 | 1,381 | 738 |
| **Lease** | 2,217 | 665 | 568 | 238 | 337 | 151 | 258 |
| **Other** | 779 | 47 | 61 | 295 | 182 | 100 | 94 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 429 | 71 | 35 | 169 | 102 | 46 | 6 |
| **Total** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table B.8**

***Households by Main Roofing Material and District, Belize, 2022***

| Main Roofing Material | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sheet metal/zinc** | 91,835 | 6,784 | 11,890 | 30,430 | 25,491 | 10,835 | 6,405 |
| **Shingle** | 443 | 20 | 16 | 313 | 63 | 28 | 4 |
| **Concrete** | 14,102 | 5,172 | 2,243 | 4,017 | 1,085 | 1,140 | 446 |
| **Thatch** | 3,753 | 107 | 80 | 20 | 90 | 645 | 2,810 |
| **Other** | 283 | 40 | 31 | 136 | 31 | 30 | 16 |
| **Don't Know/Not Stated** | 302 | 25 | 26 | 148 | 57 | 40 | 6 |
| **Total** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table B.9**

***Households by Main Water Supply and District, Belize, 2022***

| Main Water Supply | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Public piped into yard or dwelling** | 92,812 | 8,948 | 12,000 | 31,242 | 22,293 | 10,726 | 7,603 |
| **Private piped into dwelling or yard** | 9,128 | 1,700 | 1,056 | 2,325 | 2,514 | 1,144 | 388 |
| **Public standpipe** | 448 | 19 | 2 | 247 | 29 | 18 | 134 |
| **Protected dug well** | 3,419 | 919 | 681 | 220 | 488 | 403 | 708 |
| **Unprotected dug well** | 602 | 169 | 70 | 63 | 84 | 49 | 168 |
| **Other** | 3,971 | 364 | 450 | 793 | 1,344 | 339 | 681 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 340 | 30 | 26 | 173 | 66 | 40 | 5 |
| **Total** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table B.10**

***Households by Main Source of Drinking Water and District, Belize, 2022***

| Main Source of Drinking Water | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bottle/purified water** | 82,248 | 9,558 | 12,614 | 32,194 | 21,455 | 4,303 | 2,124 |
| **Public piped into yard or dwelling** | 17,088 | 448 | 496 | 743 | 2,878 | 6,814 | 5,708 |
| **Private piped into dwelling or yard** | 1,738 | 59 | 29 | 70 | 475 | 879 | 225 |
| **Private catchment, not piped (vat, drum, water tank, etc)** | 5,948 | 1,370 | 898 | 1,679 | 1,440 | 155 | 407 |
| **Other** | 3,361 | 682 | 221 | 211 | 500 | 530 | 1,217 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 337 | 31 | 28 | 165 | 69 | 38 | 5 |
| **Total** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table B.11**

***Households by Main Toilet Facility and District, Belize, 2022***

| Main Toilet Facility | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Flush toilet linked to BWS sewer system** | 9,666 | 0 | 0 | 8,075 | 1,591 | 0 | 0 |
| **Flush toiled linked to septic tank** | 75,022 | 8,223 | 10,033 | 25,424 | 18,828 | 9,066 | 3,448 |
| **Pit latrine, ventilated and/or elevated** | 24,085 | 3,761 | 4,122 | 1,023 | 6,170 | 3,471 | 5,538 |
| **None** | 1,289 | 83 | 72 | 239 | 107 | 114 | 673 |
| **Other** | 276 | 49 | 31 | 105 | 40 | 27 | 23 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 382 | 32 | 26 | 197 | 81 | 41 | 5 |
| **Total** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table B.12**
***Households by Source of Garbage Disposal and District, Belize, 2022***

| Source of Garbage Disposal | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Municipal collection** | 43,990 | 3,164 | 3,979 | 19,683 | 12,434 | 3,219 | 1,512 |
| **Garbage truck - Private** | 20,301 | 1,211 | 1,131 | 8,547 | 5,016 | 3,896 | 500 |
| **Burn** | 25,240 | 2,801 | 3,478 | 4,574 | 5,606 | 3,507 | 5,274 |
| **Take to dumpsite** | 17,051 | 4,426 | 5,082 | 974 | 3,181 | 1,504 | 1,883 |
| **Dump on land** | 2,544 | 400 | 454 | 718 | 232 | 457 | 283 |
| **Other** | 1,237 | 116 | 131 | 394 | 271 | 96 | 229 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 357 | 31 | 31 | 173 | 77 | 40 | 5 |
| **Total** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table B.13**
***Households by Main Lighting Source and District, Belize, 2022***

| Main Lighting Source | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Electricity from BEL** | 96,821 | 10,526 | 12,069 | 33,386 | 23,200 | 11,583 | 6,056 |
| **Electricity - private generator** | 382 | 12 | 179 | 63 | 75 | 31 | 22 |
| **Electricity - Solar energy** | 4,462 | 380 | 783 | 220 | 890 | 232 | 1,956 |
| **Electricity - drop from a neighbour** | 3,532 | 379 | 373 | 765 | 1,066 | 372 | 578 |
| **Kerosene lamp/gas lamp** | 1,650 | 491 | 468 | 124 | 215 | 71 | 281 |
| **Candle** | 1,516 | 161 | 188 | 138 | 250 | 261 | 518 |
| **None** | 864 | 109 | 87 | 156 | 275 | 100 | 138 |
| **Other** | 1,137 | 61 | 109 | 35 | 775 | 27 | 131 |
| **Don't Know/ Not Stated** | 356 | 31 | 29 | 176 | 72 | 41 | 6 |
| **Total** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table B.14**

***Households by Solar Production and District, Belize, 2022***

| Solar Production | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yes - electricity from solar panels | 5,121 | 589 | 935 | 592 | 993 | 183 | 1,830 |
| Yes - electricity from other sources | 160 | 13 | 74 | 46 | 16 | 7 | 4 |
| No | 105,061 | 11,507 | 13,241 | 34,242 | 25,738 | 12,487 | 7,845 |
| Don't Know/ Not Stated | 377 | 38 | 35 | 183 | 71 | 41 | 9 |
| **Total** | **110,719** | **12,148** | **14,285** | **35,063** | **26,818** | **12,719** | **9,687** |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*

**Table B.15**

***Households by Selected Household Amenities and District, Belize, 2022***

| Selected Household Amenities | Belize | Corozal District | Orange Walk District | Belize District | Cayo District | Stann Creek District | Toledo District |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All Households | 110,719 | 12,148 | 14,285 | 35,063 | 26,818 | 12,719 | 9,687 |
| Air Conditioner | 14,645 | 1,418 | 1,993 | 6,160 | 3,759 | 1,035 | 280 |
| Refigerator | 89,508 | 9,483 | 11,556 | 31,023 | 22,503 | 10,185 | 4,757 |
| Microwave | 49,212 | 4,621 | 5,348 | 20,226 | 12,585 | 4,932 | 1,500 |
| Washing machine | 89,999 | 10,255 | 12,264 | 30,027 | 22,712 | 9,904 | 4,837 |
| Clothes dryer | 15,699 | 1,367 | 1,443 | 6,396 | 4,498 | 1,286 | 709 |
| Stereo/radio | 62,558 | 5,711 | 7,577 | 21,776 | 15,074 | 7,914 | 4,506 |
| Stove | 101,916 | 11,118 | 13,333 | 33,293 | 25,060 | 11,815 | 7,297 |
| Dish washer | 3,434 | 447 | 346 | 978 | 1,237 | 264 | 162 |
| Television | 78,300 | 8,482 | 9,348 | 29,362 | 19,009 | 8,320 | 3,779 |
| Water heater | 13,721 | 962 | 1,160 | 4,948 | 3,840 | 2,573 | 238 |
| Electric generator | 4,347 | 840 | 962 | 1,146 | 892 | 342 | 165 |
| Mobile/ cellular phone | 100,646 | 10,689 | 12,546 | 33,325 | 25,128 | 11,298 | 7,661 |
| Computer | 38,606 | 3,719 | 4,180 | 14,625 | 10,441 | 3,755 | 1,887 |
| Tablet | 34,909 | 3,409 | 3,733 | 13,059 | 9,032 | 3,847 | 1,829 |
| Home Exercise Equipment | 4,182 | 470 | 403 | 1,634 | 1,320 | 242 | 112 |
| Home Security System | 7,482 | 634 | 642 | 3,635 | 1,855 | 541 | 175 |
| Private motor vehicle | 42,408 | 4,926 | 6,092 | 13,002 | 12,641 | 3,863 | 1,883 |
| Motorcycle/ atv/golf cart | 18,321 | 1,191 | 2,479 | 4,705 | 6,306 | 1,845 | 1,795 |
| Cable/satellite tv service | 22,254 | 2,445 | 2,361 | 8,630 | 6,450 | 1,783 | 586 |
| Fixed line telephone | 4,782 | 348 | 399 | 2,465 | 894 | 481 | 194 |
| Home internet access | 78,988 | 8,305 | 9,758 | 29,098 | 20,041 | 7,894 | 3,891 |

*Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. 2022 Population and Housing Census.*


**Key Findings Report**

Population and Housing Census, Belize, 2022