



**KOLBE FOUNDATION
BELIZE CENTRAL PRISON**



**ANNUAL
REPORT 2022**

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“

The **GREATEST GLORY** in living
lies not in never falling, but
in rising every time we fall.

— Nelson Mandela



Table of Contents

The Director's Overview -----	Pg. 1
Extra-ordinary Events-----	Pg. 3
Prison Statistics	
i. Escapes -----	Pg. 5
ii. Contrabands -----	Pg. 6
iii. Incidents -----	Pg. 12
Imprisonment	
i. Convictions -----	Pg. 14
ii. Remands -----	Pg. 15
iii. Total Imprisonment -----	Pg. 17
iv. Inmate Population -----	Pg. 19
v. Time on remand -----	Pg. 23
Parole -----	Pg. 26
Medical Diagnoses -----	Pg. 29
Gangs in Prison -----	Pg. 32
Other Highlights -----	Pg. 33
i. Staff Training and Development-----	Pg. 33
Education and Rehabilitation Programs	
i. Prison Industrial Zone-----	Pg. 41
ii. Other Rehabilitation Programs -----	Pg. 42
Re-launch of The Visiting Justice Program-----	Pg. 48
Infrastructure and Improvements-----	Pg. 51
Donors-----	Pg. 55
Conclusion -----	Pg. 56

THE DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

As we enter the year 2023, we take time to reflect and report on the events that shaped 2022 and reflect on our role as Kolbe Foundation and a prison, as a key component of the Criminal Justice System, which is to work towards a safer and just Belize. We achieve these goals by ensuring the safe and secure custody – with dignity of care, for those entrusted to our custody and by reducing the risk of harm to the public and recidivism through rehabilitation of inmates. We also worked tirelessly with the supervision of Parolees in assisting them in whatever way possible to guarantee their seamless transition and successful reintegration into their communities.

In 2022, even with an average increase of **69 (6.5%)** inmates per day over the previous year, and still being significantly challenged by the Covid-19 pandemic, I am very happy to report that the year ended very positively and peacefully for us at the prison with no escape and not even a minor disturbance! One incident that baffled us somewhat, took place at Tango 9 (Remanded Block), where two inmates who had escaped in the 2020 mass escape, assaulted and locked up the two prison officers manning that building, in their cell. They did this by tricking one of the officers into assisting them with putting in a 5-gallon water that they bought from the commissary earlier that day into their cell. We were alerted to this incident by other inmates on the flight who ran downstairs to the checkpoint to tell the officers there. After subduing the two inmates and rescuing the two officers who were locked in the cell with two other inmates, our investigations revealed that the whole idea behind the incident was that the two culprits were planning another mass-escape from the said building. However, as it turned out, even though they had opened the cells for several other inmates on the flight, those inmates did not come out and obviously did not want to participate.

In the end, this was one of our most peaceful year and I attribute this to what we call “*Dynamic Security*”, which is staff knowing the inmates and sharing a *respectful* and *responsible* relationship with them as they serve their sentences or await their trials, as well as other effective security measures put in place to keep inmates and staff in check and hold them accountable to the rules of the prison. We also stepped up our random drug-testing of inmates and staff **934 (98.3%)** when compared to the previous year, to keep drugs out of the facility as our experience has taught us that the availability of drugs in the prison fuels violence amongst inmates. Although there was a higher drug use positivity rate in 2022 (**37%**) when compared to 2021 (**23%**), my solace rests in the fact that we doubled the number of tests conducted. The inmate population recorded an overall **18.5%** drug use positivity rate; a slight increase of **0.5%** over 2021. All in all, though, I must express how extremely proud I feel about our 250 staff who worked tirelessly in whatever way possible in these endeavours towards our goals of public safety and reducing re-offending as mentioned above.

The oddest anomaly in 2022 was the unprecedented number of suicides that occurred in our prison. Two (2) of our inmates – one being a Captain of the Belize Defence Force and the other, a mentally challenged inmate, both hung themselves in their cells. As a backdrop, suicide in our prison is a rare occurrence and the last one we recorded took place in December of 2019. In these two particular cases, both inmates had been in the prison for a little while and did not display any suicidal tendencies, therefore making them very hard to have prevented.

The Kolbe Foundation, being a humanitarian organization, maintains the firm belief that the real cost of not supporting offenders in turning their lives around is **HUMAN** because at the end of the day, it is the **public** not feeling safe and the **offenders** who never live up to their full potential! We know fully well that imprisonment ruins both the inmate and their families' lives, hence we are very committed to assisting inmates with maintaining family relationships and contact with the wider community to reduce this total human cost mentioned above. This, of course, is done also recognizing that prison is the intersection to punishment, retribution, deterrence, and rehabilitation and that we are not the judges therefore, we are not to afflict prisoners any further than the deprivation of their freedom already has.

To achieve the goals of imprisonment as outlined above, the prison administration **must** ensure that the prison culture is one that is not corrupt, and that all its employees carry out their duties and responsibilities respecting the **human rights** of its inmates, as well as the **rule of law**. Once this is the case, the prison environment will make it possible for the proper rehabilitation of the offender, thus making him or her a law-abiding and productive citizen upon being discharged. A properly reformed inmate will translate into a reduction in crime and lower recidivism rate for the country of Belize.

Another unorthodox venture we engaged in during 2022 was the Ahmadiyya Basketball Tournament which culminated with Tango 4 winning the championship. This tournament was sponsored by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Community, Belize and in the end benefited over 150 inmates in one way or the other (player, referee, coach, etc.). It is our hope to do another one in 2023 and we are also exploring the possibility of designating an all-star team to represent the prison in a national tournament.

Our relentless efforts to keep drugs out of the facility continue to make the prison conducive to rehabilitation. During the year most of the inmate population were engaged in the various rehabilitation programs such as the ARC Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program, Gang Affiliation and Intervention Program, RACHEL, IFFB, Spiritual, Journey To Freedom, etc. for the most part and occupied their time positively in other meaningful activities in and around the prison. As will be seen by our statistics to follow, not much contraband was intercepted which indicates that our narcotics interdiction systems and strategies – including our ramped-up drug-testing amongst inmates and staff were very effective during the year. We know too well that drugs in prisons obstructs rehabilitation by making it hard for those with a drug problem to kick the habit and those without one to developing a drug addiction problem whilst in prison, therefore it is very imperative that the prison administration go after this forcefully, to keep it out at all costs!

Extra-ordinary Events:

Visit by Rotary International Governor: On September 7, 2022 we were graced with a visit by Rotary International President District Governor – Mrs. Carolina Corzo. She was given a Power Point presentation by the CEO on Rotary’s involvement with the Kolbe Foundation in the management of the Belize Central Prison over the last twenty (20) years. During the presentation she was shown images of the deplorable condition the prison was in before Kolbe took over the management and was later given a tour of the facility. This allowed her to be able to make the comparison before and after Kolbe.

Re-launch of Visiting Justices Program: Of major significance, however, was the re-launch of the Visiting Justices Program (VJP) after it had been discontinued since 2006 thereabout. This re-launch was spearheaded by the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries; the Ministry responsible for the prison. Even though the prison for the most part is guided by the different international conventions governing prisoners, the re-introduction of the VJP, should be an added layer of protection for the Kolbe Foundation as it continues to manage the prison for the Government and people of Belize. Eventually, all the clamor from the public for the protection and respect for the human rights of prisoners should quiet down. As the management agency duly contracted with the Government to manage the prison, we are committed to working very closely with the Visiting Justices to ensure that prisoners’ inherent and inalienable rights are being respected by the prison administration.

Hurricane Lisa: Hurricane Lisa wreaked havoc on Belize on November 2, 2022 and left in its wake an extensively damaged Belize Central Prison with some of its buildings badly torn up and twisted and approximately 80% of the outer perimeter security fence flattened to the ground! Aside from this, several computer equipment, office furniture and fixtures, and prisoner properties sustained irreparable damages. These unforeseen damages by hurricane Lisa, which were estimated at around \$500,000.00 BZD, almost brought our operations to a screeching halt forcing us to go into recovery mode.

Corrections One Online Training Graduation: In April, our stalwart friend and supporter – Dr. Jarrod Sadulski, through his Church – Grace Community Baptist Church, paid a one-year subscription for our prison officers to obtain much needed prison training via the Corrections One Online Training Academy platform. A total of 30 user accounts were made available, therefore up to this number of prison officers could be in training at any one time. By the end of the year 49 Prison Staff graduated from the training program by completing no less than 30 training courses in prison duties and operations as set up by the HR Manager.

PROJECT ECHO: Ending HIV in Prisons, was a Health through Walls initiative that was made possible through a Zeroing In Ending the HIV Epidemic grant from Gilead Sciences, Inc. This program which was geared towards training Healthcare Workers in prisons as well as inmate peer counselors was offered to us by Mr. John May of the American Corrections Association (ACA). In total the prison was offered to participate in fifteen training sessions via Zoom along with another prison in Malawi, Africa over a fifteen-month period. Participants included the Director and Medical Officer of the Belize Central Prison and eight inmate Peer Counselors. The training, in its entirety focused on HIV/AIDS in prisons and covered subjects such as treatment, nutrition, stigma, preventive measures, and counseling of those inmates infected with the virus. The sessions were jam-packed, and the experts presented extremely well on all subject matters for all participants to understand the topic at hand with ease and clarity. The project even

afforded us a \$300.00 USD monthly for the prison to use in an educational campaign on this subject matter. This was no doubt a one-of-a-kind offer and a blessing all around!

PRISON STATISTICS

ESCAPES

As with any other prison in the world, we do not cater for escapes as they are very costly when trying to recapture the escaped prisoner and can be extremely dangerous as the escapee can harm or even kill his victim(s) or witness(es) or even some innocent member of the public whilst on the run! Thankfully for us, 2022 was the second successive year that ended with no escapes, thus making this the second time since Kolbe's management of the prison, we celebrated a zero escape in two successive years! The last time this happened was in 2015 and 2016 when we made history for the very first time by breaking the prison's escape track record from time immemorial – both under Government and Kolbe!

The mass escape of 2020, as well as other escapes that occurred under our management of the prison, has taught us tremendous lessons and has forced us to devise effective strategies to prevent these from reoccurring. With these experiences, we have had to also adjust our Standard Operating Procedures and strengthen our Policies as they relate to the escorting and supervision of inmates by staff, both inside and outside the prison. A strategy enforced is unannounced checks by superior staff on junior staff who have inmates in their custody to ensure that they are fully compliant with the prison's SOPs and Policies related to the safe custody and control of inmates. The objectives of these visits are to prevent prisoners escaping altogether and to enhance the overall security and safety of the prison itself.

Overall, we enforced security procedures and controls, increased patrols and building raids/cell searches, and continued with erecting high-rise guard towers to discourage inmates from wanting to escape as we strive to making 2023 another year with no escapes. As we all know, razor wires, steel bars, and concrete walls do not keep prisoners in, however, wide awake and vigilant guards do therefore, we kept our prison guards on their toes, by constantly imploring and reminding them to remain awake and alert at all times.

(Please see Chart 1 below)

ESCAPES - 2000 - 2022

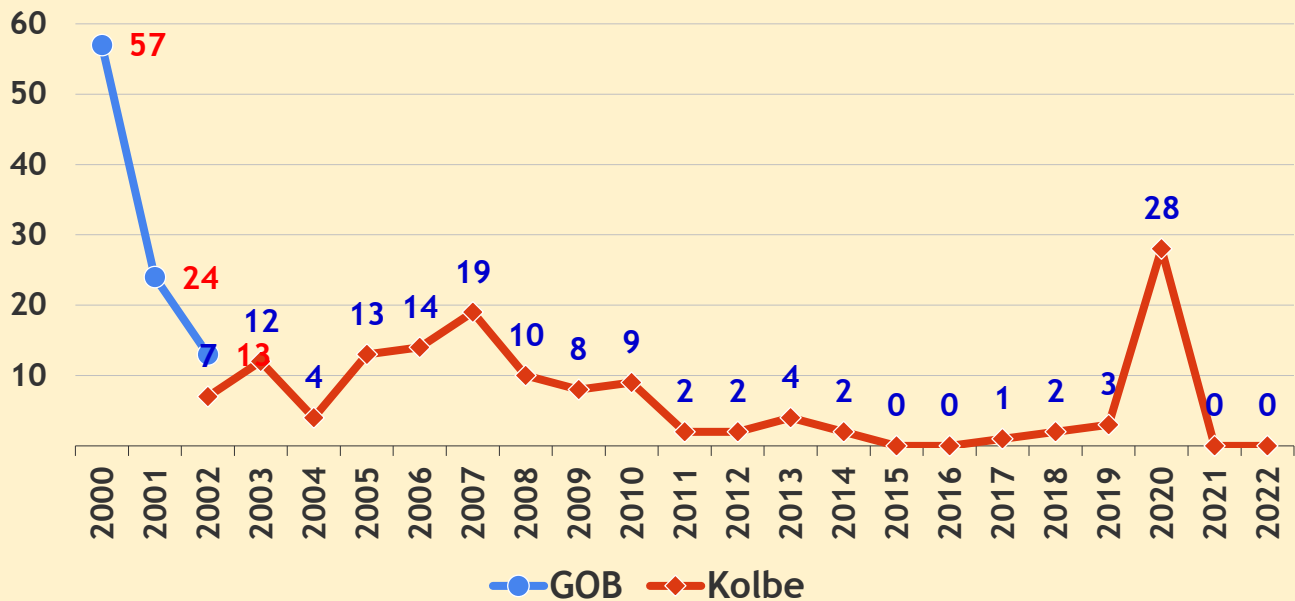


Chart 1

CONTRABAND

It is a known fact that keeping drugs out of the prison makes the prison a safer place for inmates, staff, and visitors. Our most effective strategy in achieving this remarkable accomplishment is keeping our personnel on the straight and narrow path by putting in systems and policies that prevent them from engaging in corrupt practices with inmates or their loved ones to smuggle drugs into the prison and to steer them away from drugs completely whilst they work in the prison. We also doubled our random drug-testing of both staff and inmates to discover the drugs we never managed to find through other methods. By years end we had a drug usage positivity rate of **18.5%** amongst inmates and a whopping **46.6%** amongst staff (Prison Guards and Civilian staff)!

Our zero tolerance for drugs in the prison made us part ways with one prison guard when he was found in possession of a stick of marijuana whilst being searched before coming on duty. I would say that this discovery was *“the straw that broke the camel’s back”* because we were on his trail for a quite a while as intelligence was indicating that he was smuggling drugs into the prison for inmates when he worked night shifts. He lived in Burrell Boom, but intelligence received was that he was seen picking up parcels at notorious drug peddlers’ residences and visiting the homes of the inmates’ loved ones to pick up the payment for transporting the drugs. His dismissal from the prison should send a very strong message to other employees and will deter them from engaging in any illegal activities with inmates.

We learnt over the years that almost all other contraband (weapons, cellphones, cash, etc.) – except for cell phones (to a certain extent), in a prison, correlates to the availability of drugs in the prison. We all know that these are mostly smuggled in for inmates by corrupt staff for inmates for a fee that has nothing to do with their salary. They are mostly used by the inmates to communicate with their family members

and maintain contact with their criminal associates on the outside for the purpose of running their criminal activities. Even though we have not had this happen to us, we cannot downplay the fact that in today's technological age they can also be used to facilitate escapes or extractions by Cartels of high-profile inmates.

We continued with our efforts to keep contraband – especially drugs, out of the prison at all costs and as you can see on the chart below, we did a superb job keeping it out once more in 2022. As it relates to drugs (marijuana), **97%** of it was found in the possession of inmates – mainly those on remand who have been in prison less than a year, when returning from the courts. The next **3%** was shared evenly between visitors and prison staff. Worthy of mentioning is that **83%** of all the drugs seized in the prison during the year was intercepted at the search area which proves how effective our intelligence work and searching of inmates was. We will continue to disrupt all illegal activities by both inmates and staff in order to make the facility more of a rehabilitation center than a prison.

In explaining the contraband seizures chart below, we saw an average **-50%** decrease in seizures of all other contraband, with cellphones as the exception, which showed three (3) cellphones being discovered by prison authorities; a **300%** increase over 2021! Great intelligence work led us to unearthing these phones – two (2) being smuggled in a pair of sneakers by a prisoner upon being searched by prison officers at the Search Area when returning from attending Court in San Ignacio. I must say that 35 grams of drugs (cannabis) was also found concealed in the other foot of sneaker for which the inmate was charged criminally by Hattieville Police. The other phone was found in the cell of a female prisoner on remand for Firearm Offences. Intelligence suggested that this phone was brought in for the female prisoner by a female prison guard; the said prison guard resigned around the same time of the discovery of the illegal phone.

Excess Cash, in prisons, are monies in the possession of inmates, not authorized by the Director of the prison and are therefore confiscated from inmates during searches and raids of their buildings or cells. They may also very well be cash found along with drugs, which intelligence would indicate are the proceeds of illegal activities being carried out by the inmates. *(Please see Chart 2 below)*

Another significant find worthy of mentioning was fourteen (14) small parcels of marijuana being smuggled in food – specifically turkey bones, for a convicted lifer from the Tango 7 Building, by his younger brother.

CONTRABAND SEIZURES - 2022

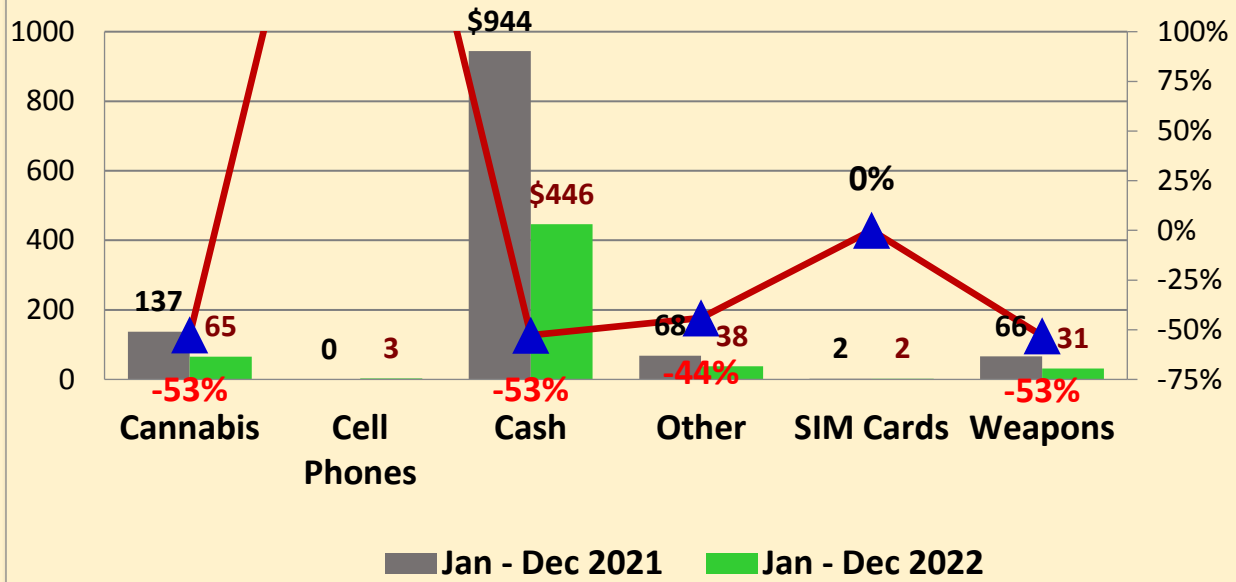


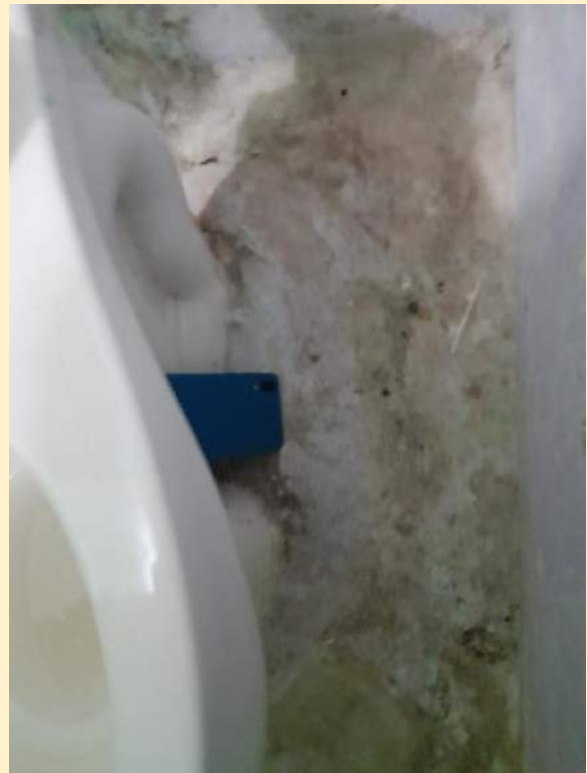
Chart 2



Cellphone and Smart Watch inmate attempted to smuggle into the prison in the sole of his sneakers



Drugs inmate attempted to smuggle in sneakers



Contraband Cellphone in Female cell



Contraband cellphone in female inmate cell



Drugs being smuggled in inmate's turkey bone

The following three charts depict the prison's fighting efforts to consistently and steadfastly keep all forms of contraband out of the prison and run a secure, safe, and disciplined prison that is conducive to rehabilitation for those entrusted to our custody and care. *(Please see Charts 3, 4, & 5)*

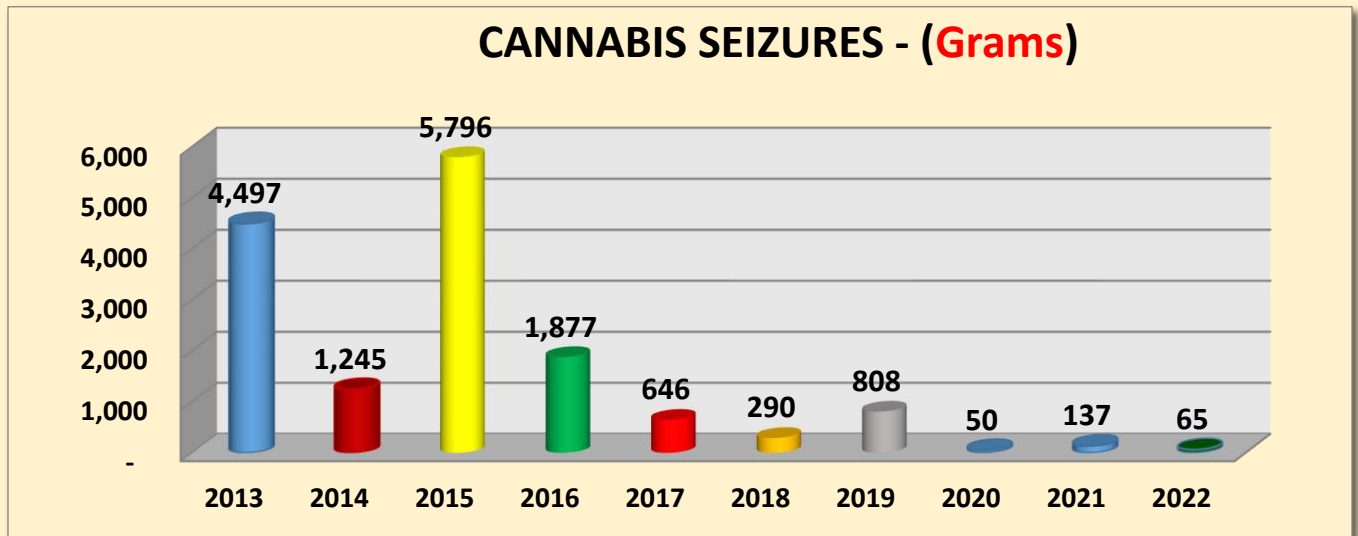


Chart 3

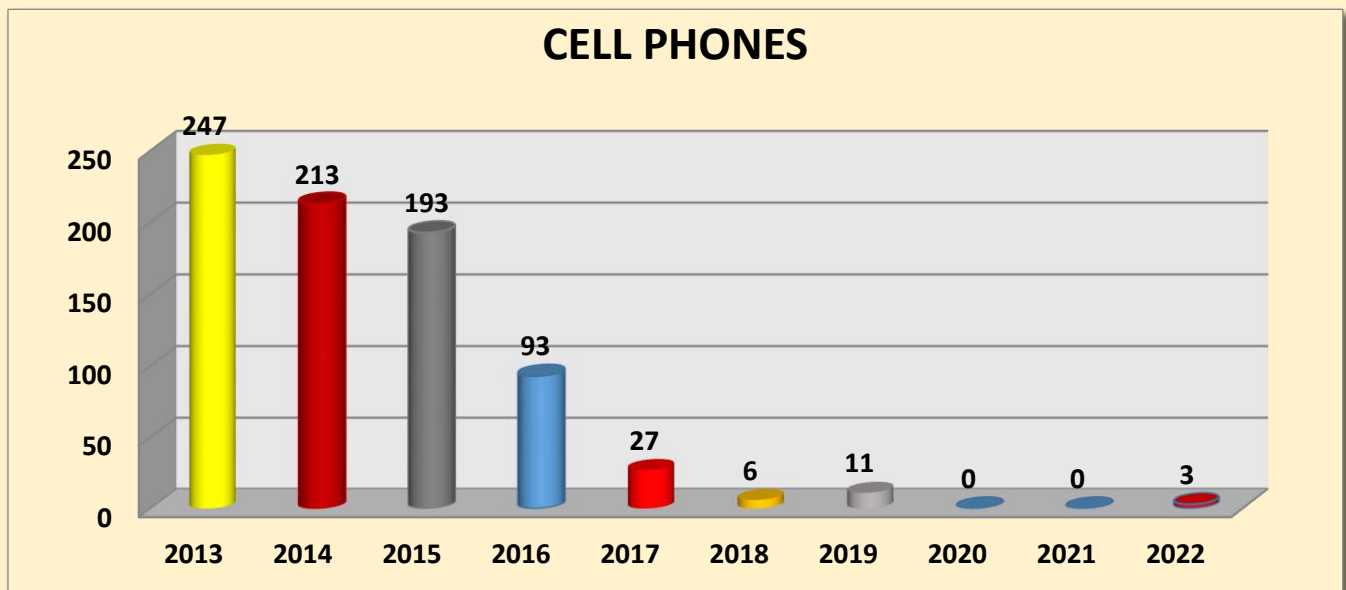


Chart 4

WEAPONS (Homemade Shanks)

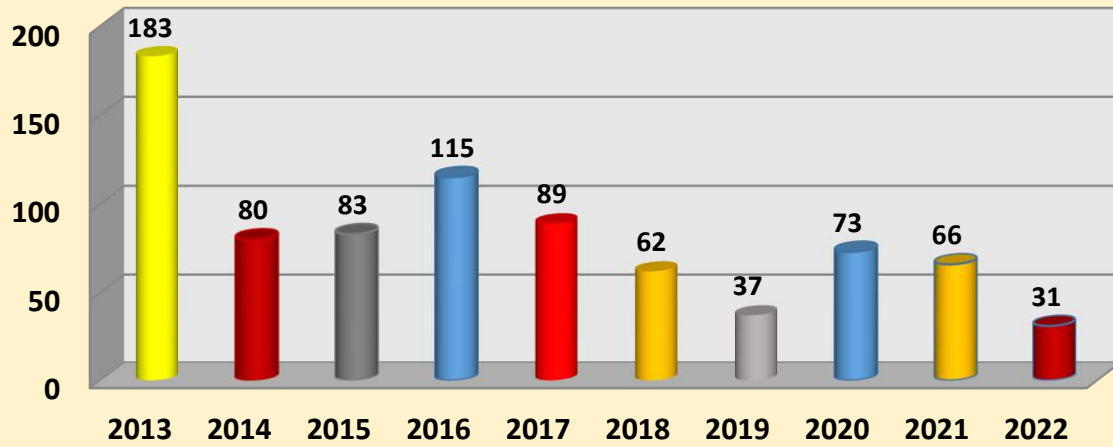


chart 5

INCIDENTS

A total of 570 prison incidents committed by inmate were recorded by the prison in 2022 for which “Offending Good Order and Discipline” accounted for most of them – 46% (249 cases), followed by “Assault – Inmate on Inmate” which accounted for 23% (125 counts). When compared to 2021 however, there was a very sharp upsurge in almost all prison incidents, with an overall increase of 231 (68%) more incidents. The queerest anomaly amongst these incidents was the unprecedented two suicides that occurred. *(Please see Charts 6 & 7)*

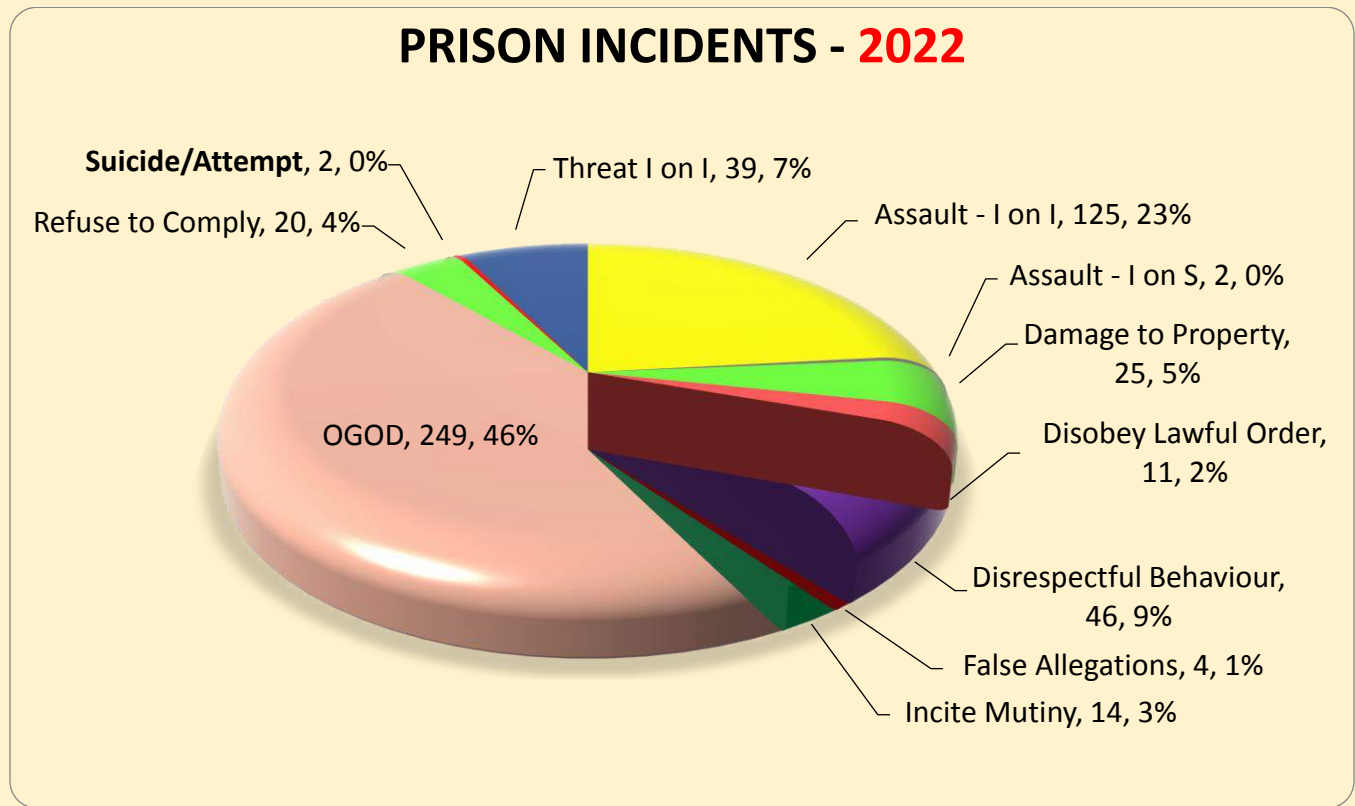


Chart 6

PRISON INCIDENTS COMPARATIVE REPORT - 2022

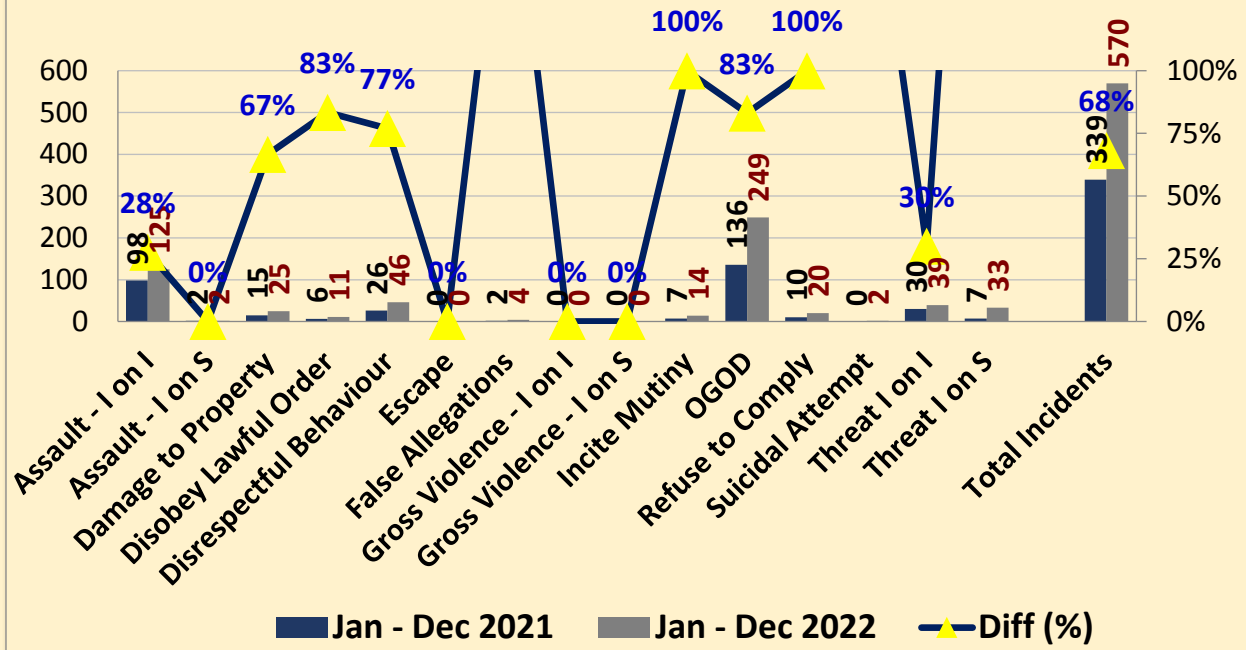


Chart 7

IMPRISONMENT STATISTICS

Convictions

In 2022, a total of 741 persons were admitted into the prison upon conviction by the Courts. As always, of this total, the majority – **354 (48%)** were for **Immigration Offences**, whilst the next large number was for **Other (Other Minor Offences)**, which include offences such as child maintenance, owing a debt, vehicular offences, Covid-19 regulations violations, etc. When compared to 2021, there was an overall increase of **175 (31%)** more persons so convicted in 2022 over that year. These 741 convictions therefore, represented **41%** of the total incarceration for the year which recorded a total of 1,813 persons being sent to prison either convicted or remanded.

In further analyzing the incarceration data for 2021 and 2022, the most significant increase in convictions was for Immigration Offences which more than doubled from **158** in 2021 to **354** in 2022 – an increase of **196 (124%)!** Unlike 2021, there were no convictions for Attempt Murder nor Murder, which back then recorded two and one respectively. Even Manslaughter saw only one conviction – two less than the year before. (See Charts 8 & 9 below)

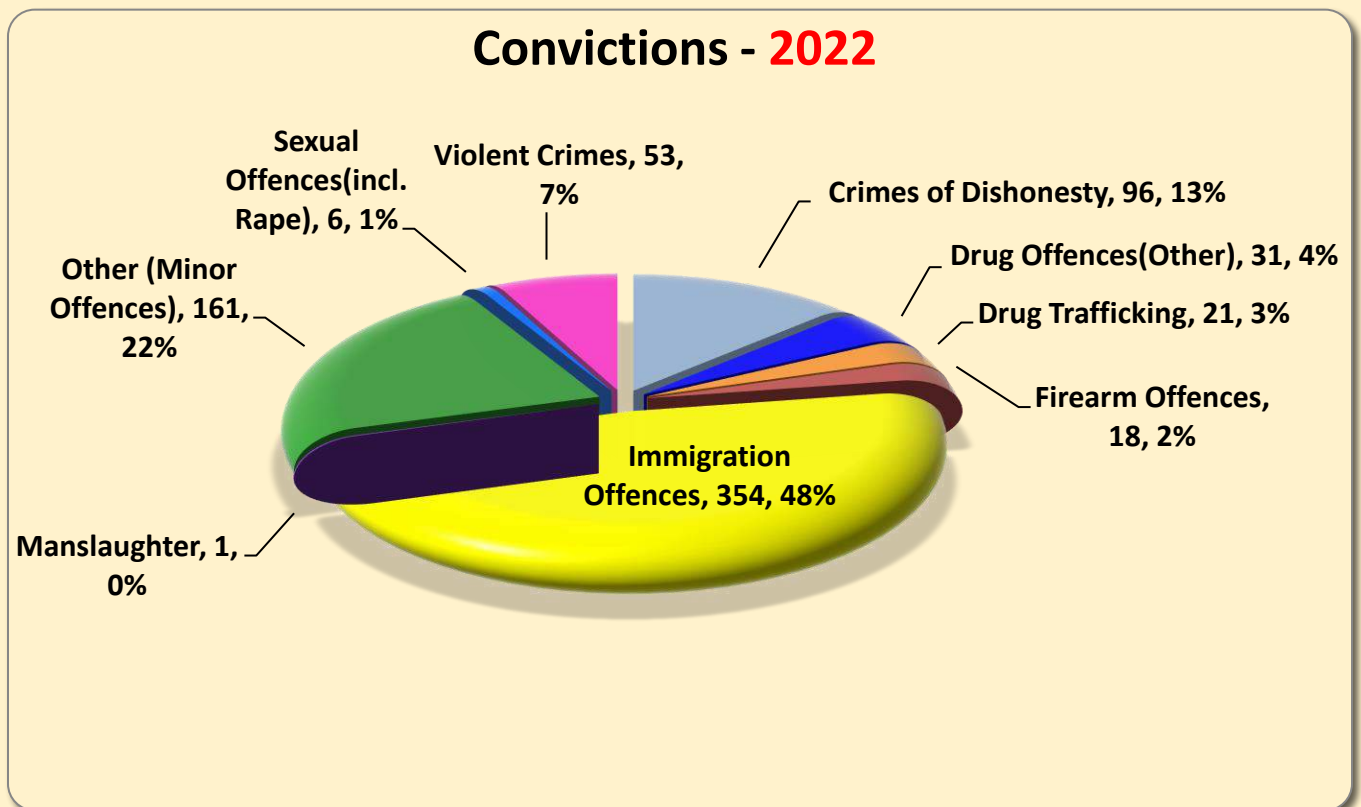
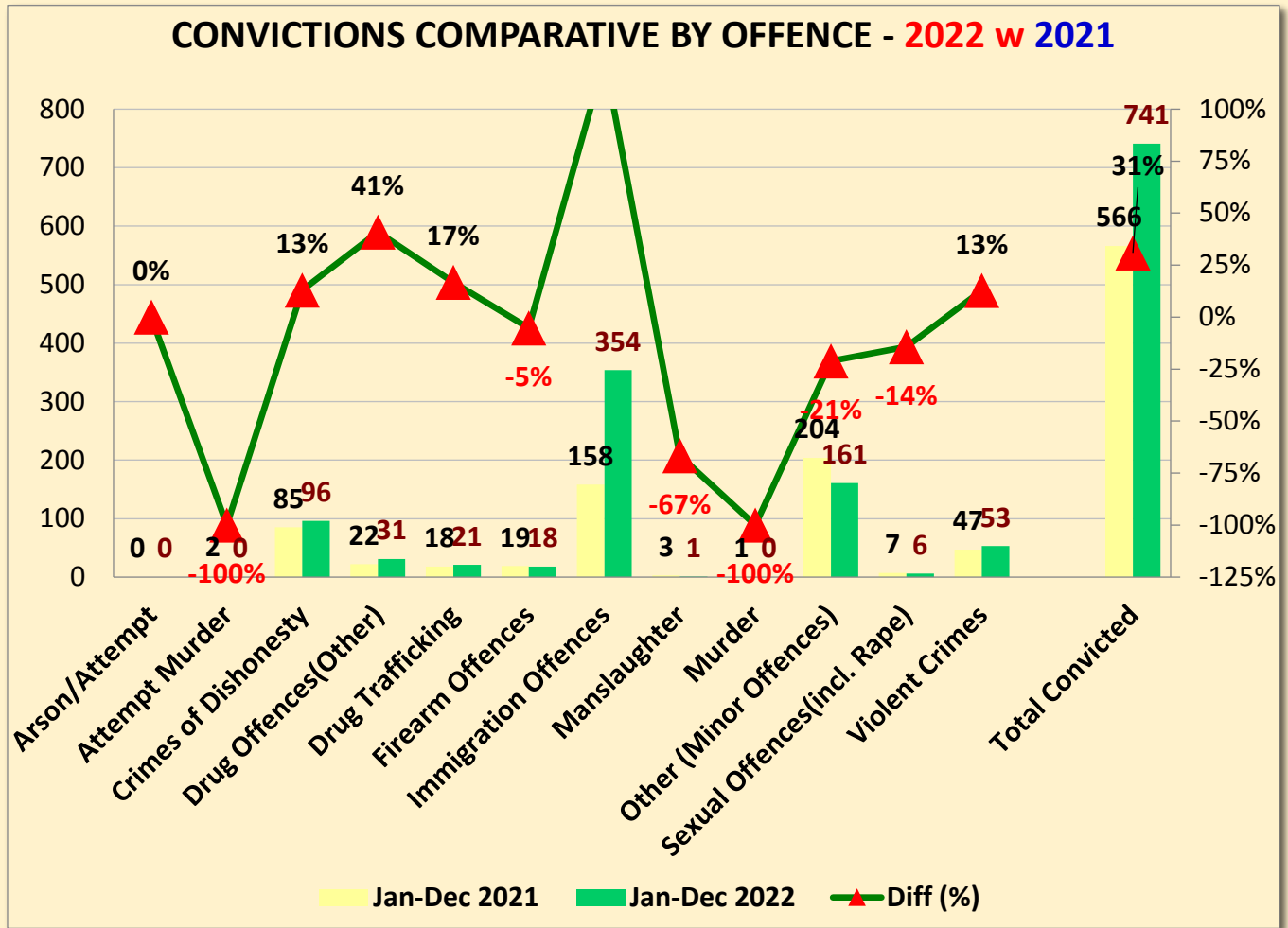


Chart 8



(Chart 9)

Remands

A total of 1,072 persons were remanded to the Belize Central Prison charged for an offence, thus realizing an increase of 196 (22%) over the previous year and as per usual, **Crimes of Dishonesty** (Robbery, Burglary, Theft) accounted for the highest number of those persons so remanded – 270 (25%).

For almost all offences, there was a significantly higher number of persons remanded; the exceptions to these being Drug Trafficking and Arson, which saw a 50% and 22% reduction respectively. In order of rank (*highest to lowest*), there were major upsurges in remands for Immigration, Sexual, and Attempt Murder Offences! Of the total persons incarcerated during this particular year, **1,072 (59%)** were remanded. (See Charts 10 & 11)

Remands - 2022

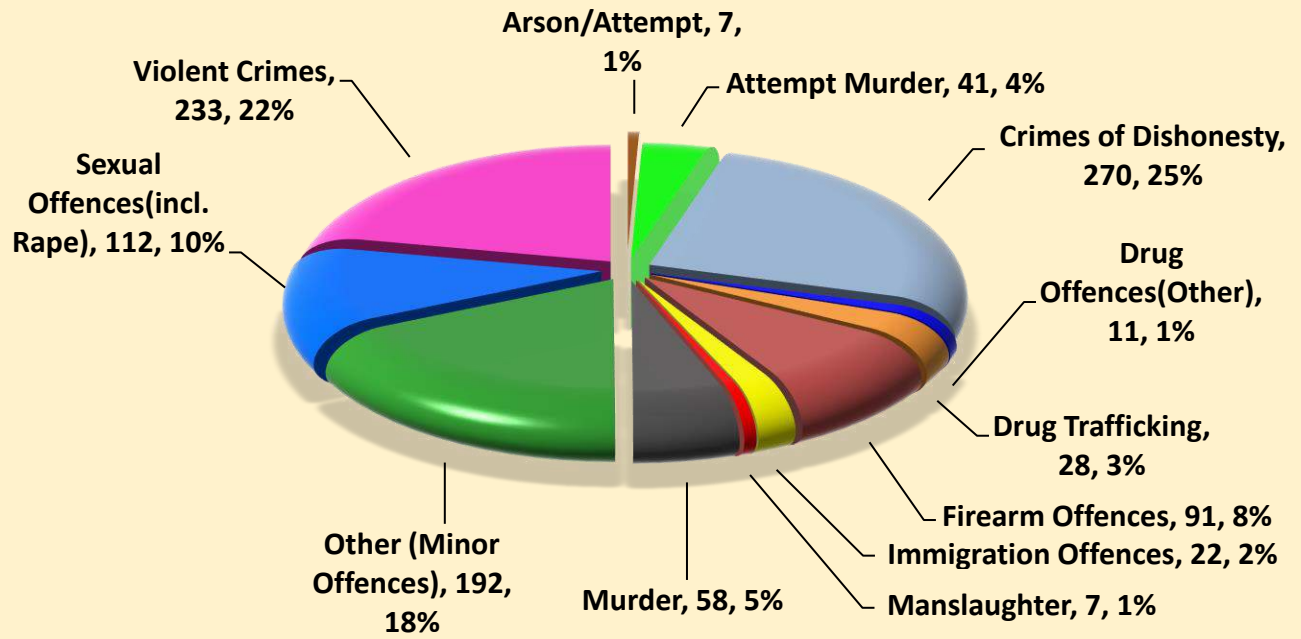


Chart 10

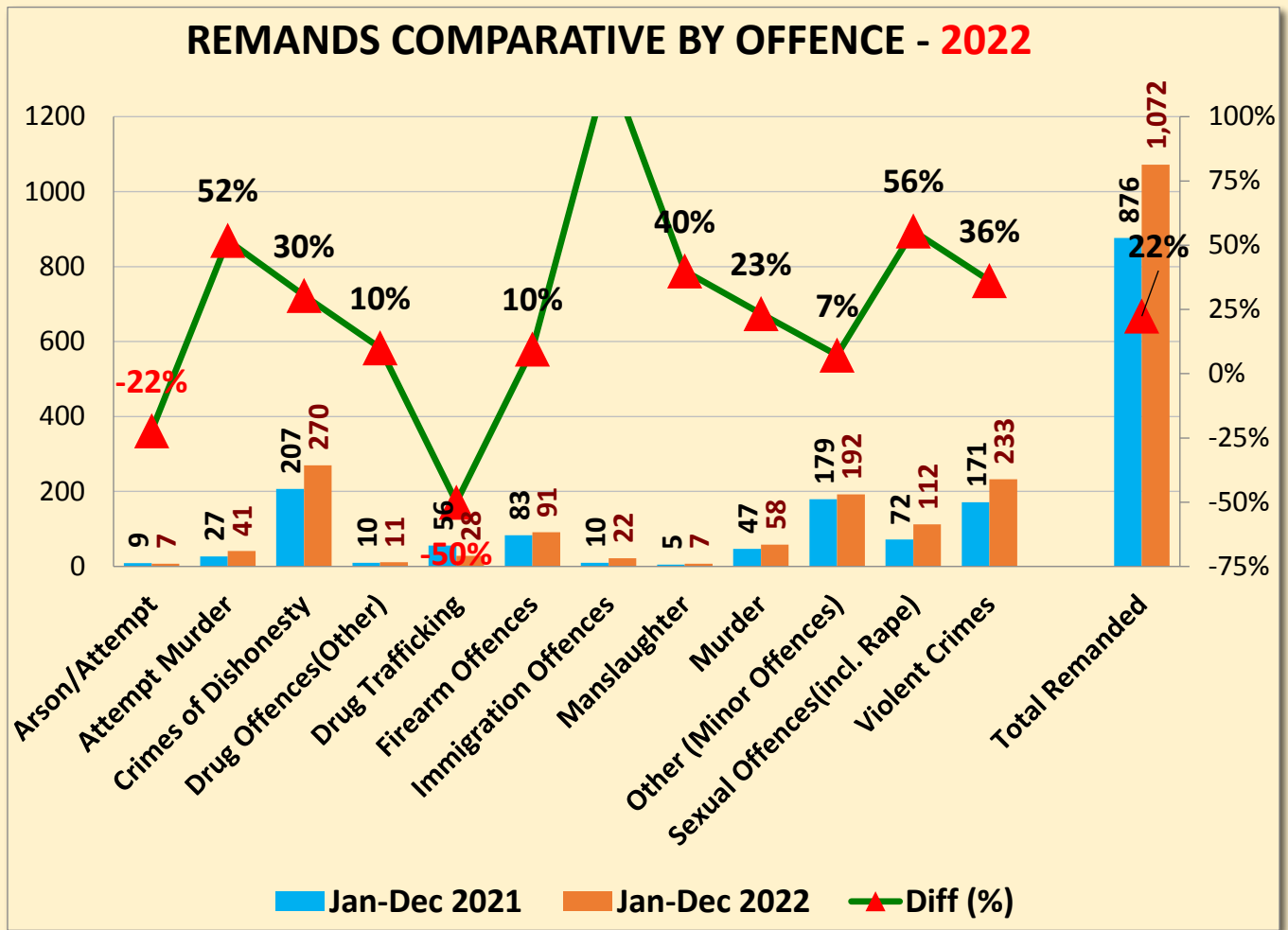


Chart 11

TOTAL IMPRISONMENT

With the Covid-19 Pandemic subsiding, it would seem like crime and imprisonment is back on the rise because when lumped together, the total number of persons incarcerated in 2022 was 1,813; an overall increase of **371 (26%)** when compared to 2021, which recorded 1,442 during the pandemic. Overall, people were, first and foremost, incarcerated for **Immigration Offences** followed by **Crimes of Dishonesty** (Robbery, Burglary, Theft, and White-collar Crimes). When comparing the incarceration for 2022 with the previous year, **Immigration Offences** saw the highest upsurge with an overall increase of **208 (124%)**. Next was **Crimes of Dishonesty** with 74, and third was **Violent Crimes** (Harm, Grievous Harm, Maim, Wounding), with 68 – these many more persons imprisoned. Added to these were 39 more cases of **Sexual Offences (including Rape)**, however there was a significant decrease for the offence of **Drug Trafficking** by **-25 (-34%)**.

The breakdown of this total incarceration are as follows: 1,577 (87%) adult males, 189 (10%) females, including one young female and 47 (3%) young males under the age of 18 years.

The number one reason for female incarceration continued to be Immigration Offences – this time, a whopping 137 (72%) of the total 189 incarcerated, whilst males maintained their number one position for Crimes of Dishonesty. The prevalent age of these offenders was between 18 and 25 years old and most of those imprisoned hailed from the Belize District; mostly Belize City.

(See Charts 12 & 13)

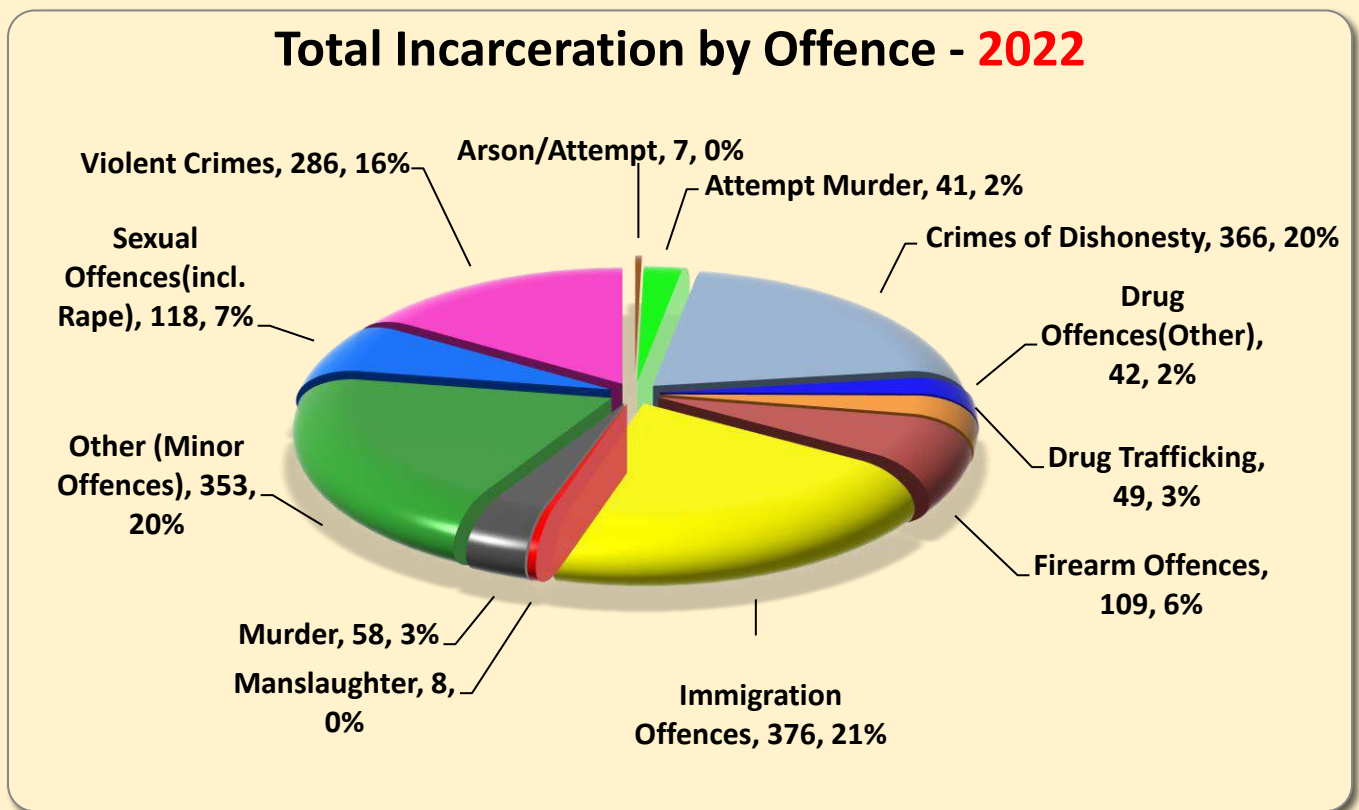


Chart 12

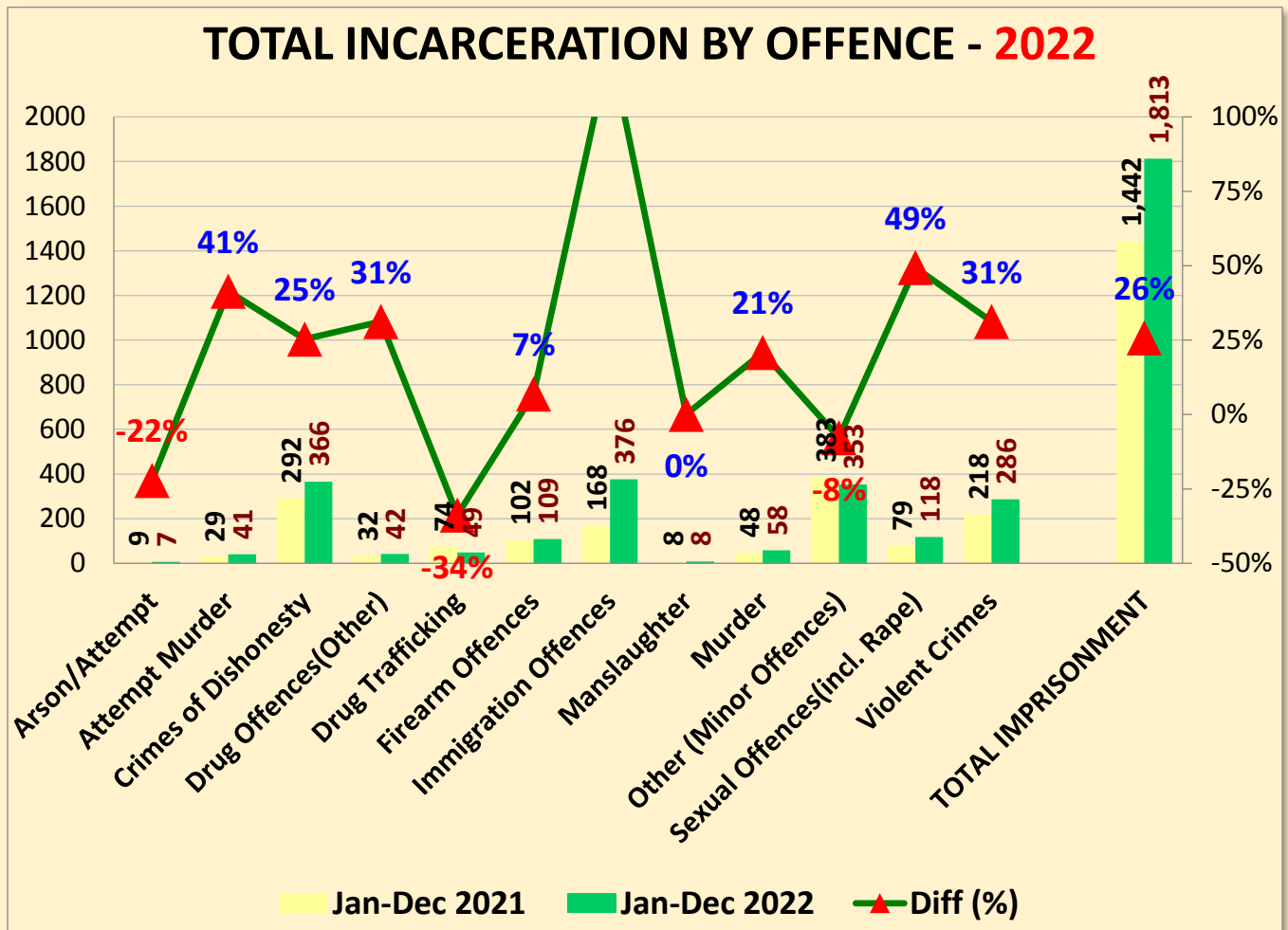


Chart 13

Inmate Population

As at December 31, 2022 the prisoner population stood at 1,199 inmates with 763 (64%) being convicted and 436 (36%) being on remand or awaiting trial. Of this total population, 1,148 (96%) were adult males, 35 (3%) were adult females, 15 young males and one (1) juvenile female under the age of 18 years (1.33%). When compared to 2021, there was an overall growth in the inmate population as at year's end by 164 (16%). A total of 532 (44%) of the inmate population as of this point were between the ages of 18 – 30 years of age. Of this total inmate population, 274 (26%) were in prison for Crime of Dishonesty whilst the other huge number – 266 (22%) were either remanded or serving a sentence for Murder. (Please see Chart 14 & 15)

Of the total remanded population as at December 31, 2022, 178 (41%) were in prison awaiting trial for Murder, whilst 78 or 18% were awaiting trial for Crimes of Dishonesty. (Please see Chart 16)

Chart 17 below gives a synopsis of the Convicted and Remanded population separately as at the end of each month during the year. *(Please see Chart 17)*

Inmate Population - As of December 31, 2022

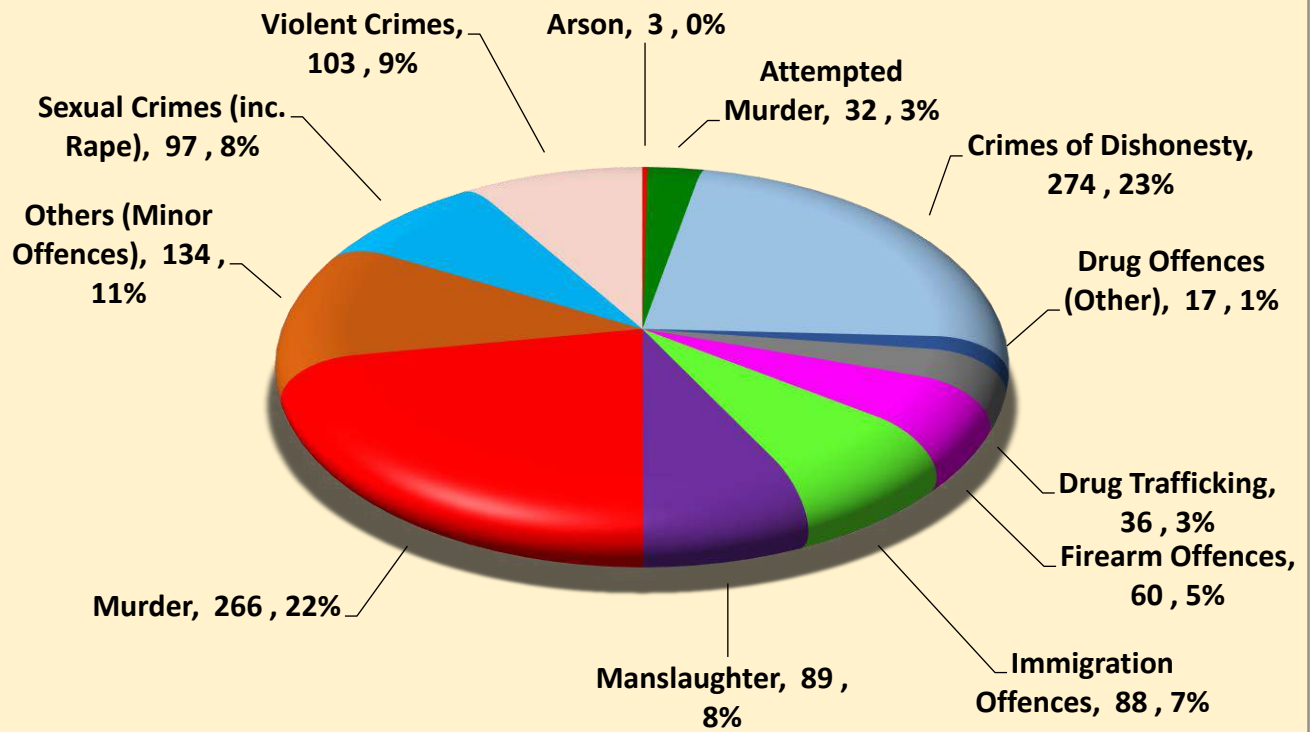


Chart 14

TOTAL INMATE POPULATION - *As of December, 2022*

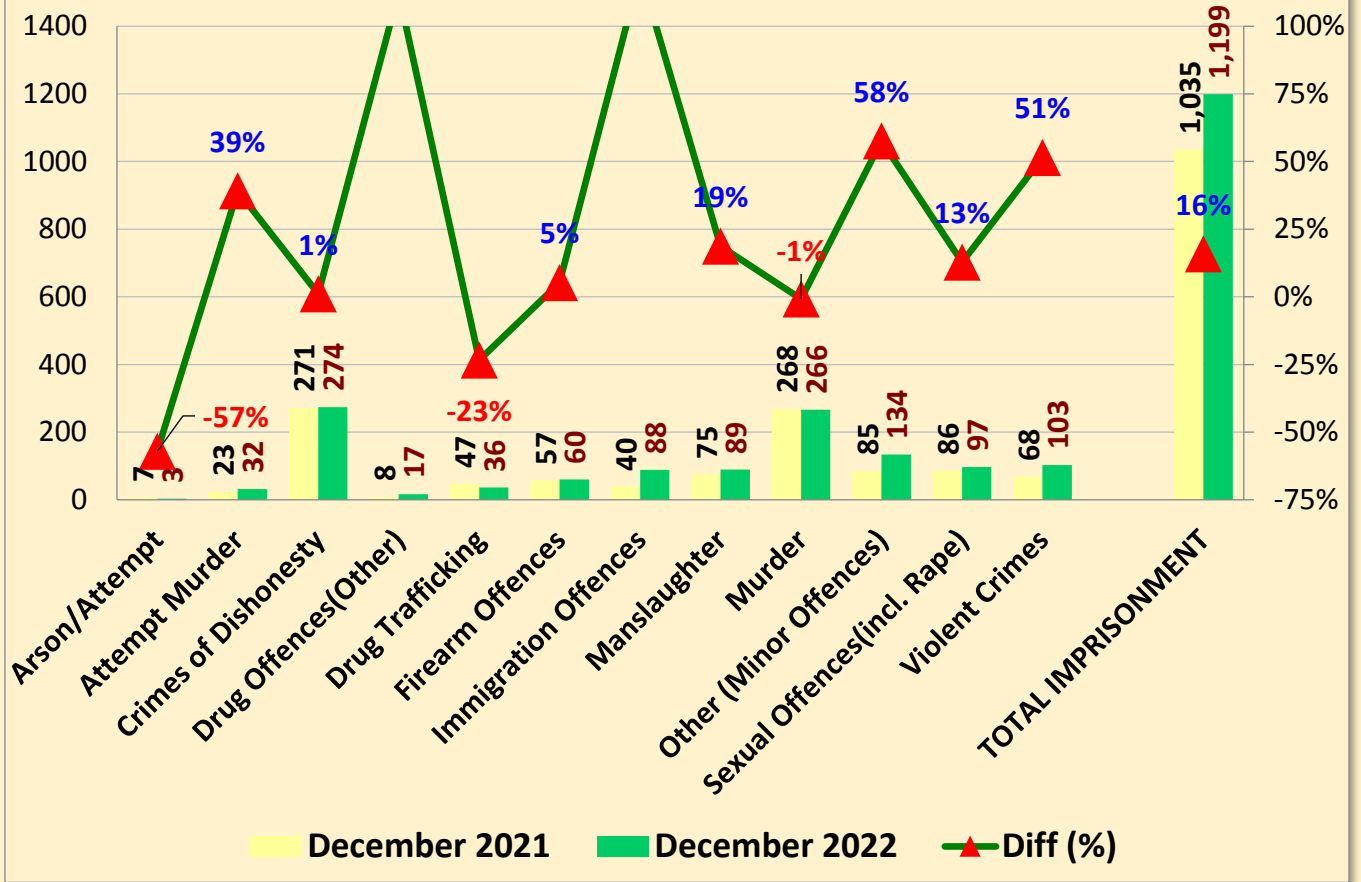


Chart 15

Remanded Population - 2022

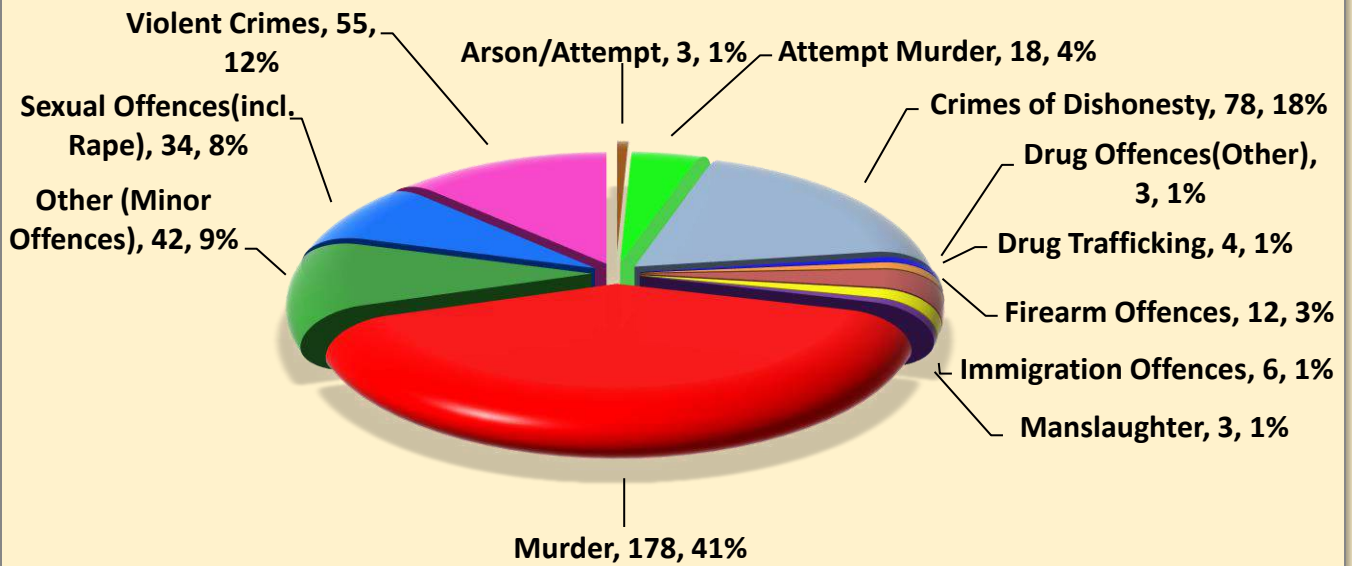


Chart 16

INMATE HEADCOUNT AS AT MONTH'S END - 2022

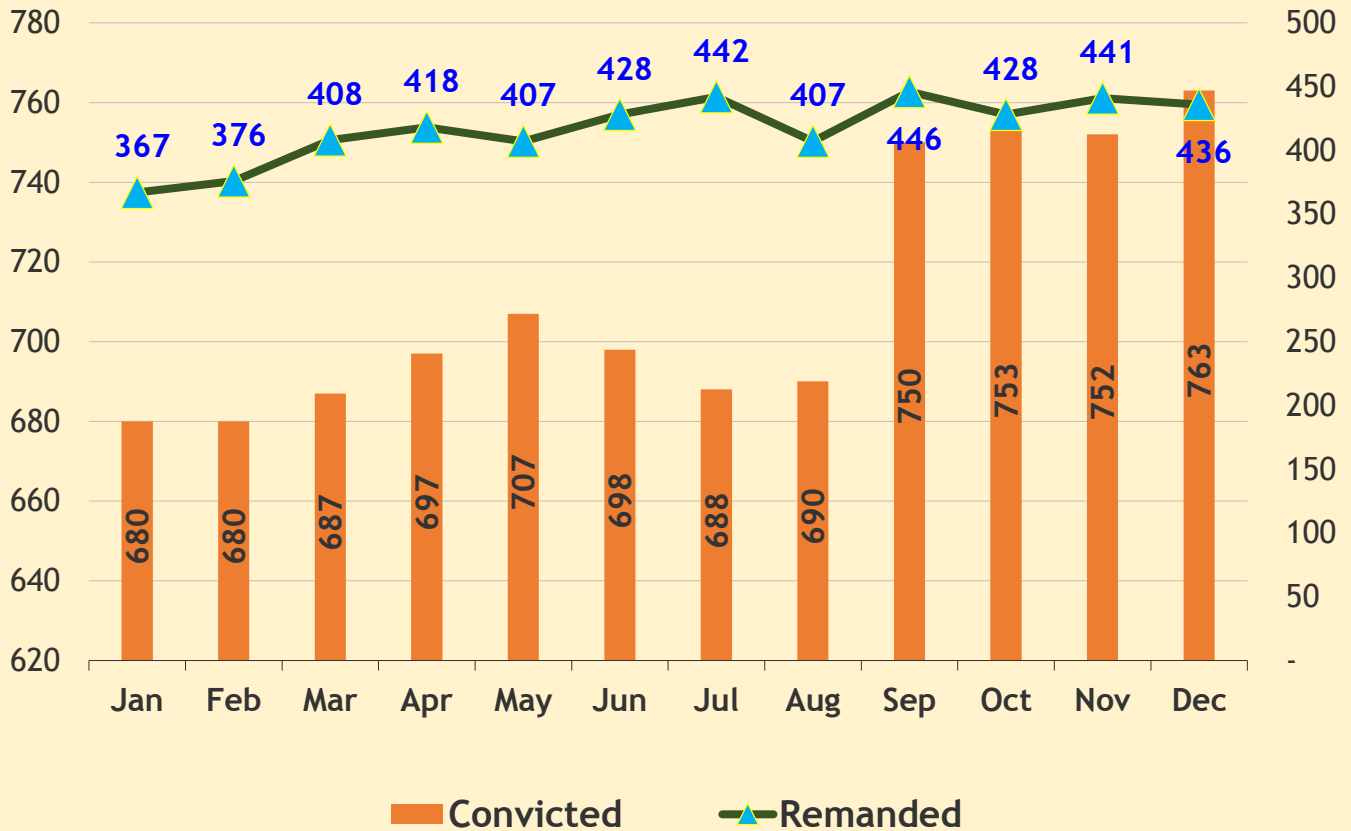


Chart 17

Remand Population by Time

Of the 436 inmates on remand as at December 31, 2022, most of them – **281 (64%)** have been awaiting trial for a year and less, **82 (19%)** have been on remand between two and three years, whilst **73 (17%)** have been awaiting trial over three years and counting. *(Please see Charts 18 and 19 below)*

REMANDED INMATES BY TIME - *As of Dec 31, 2022*

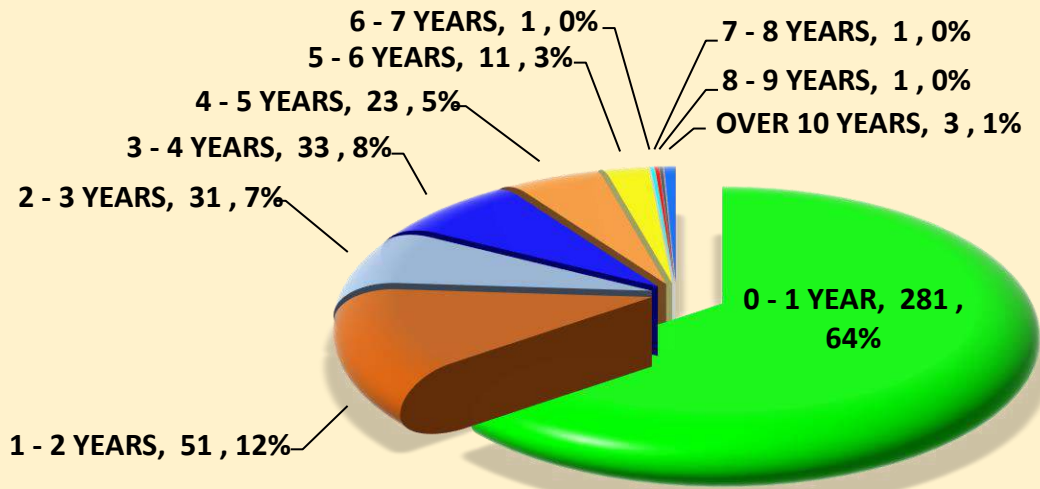


Chart 18

REMANDED INMATE POPULATION BY TIME & OFFENCE – *AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021*

Offence	0 - 1 YEAR	1 - 2 YEARS	2 - 3 YEARS	3 - 4 YEARS	4 - 5 YEARS	5 - 6 YEARS	6 - 7 YEARS	7 - 8 YEARS	8 - 9 YEARS	9 - 10 YEARS	OVER 10 YEARS	Totals
Arson	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Attempted Murder	12	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	18
Crimes of Dishonesty	76	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78
Drug Offences (Other)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Drug Trafficking	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Firearm Offences	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Immigration Offences	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Manslaughter	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Murder	46	37	30	28	22	9	1	1	1	0	3	178
Others (Minor Offences)	41	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
Sexual Crimes (inc. Rape)	26	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34
Violent Crimes	51	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	55
Total Remanded	281	51	31	33	23	11	1	1	1	-	3	436

Chart 19

As at the end of Fiscal Year 22-23, the average annual inmate headcount was 1,153, an average increase of 102 over the previous Fiscal Year – 21-22. *(Please see Chart 20 below)*

YEARLY INMATE AVERAGE POPULATION - FY 03/04 - 22/23

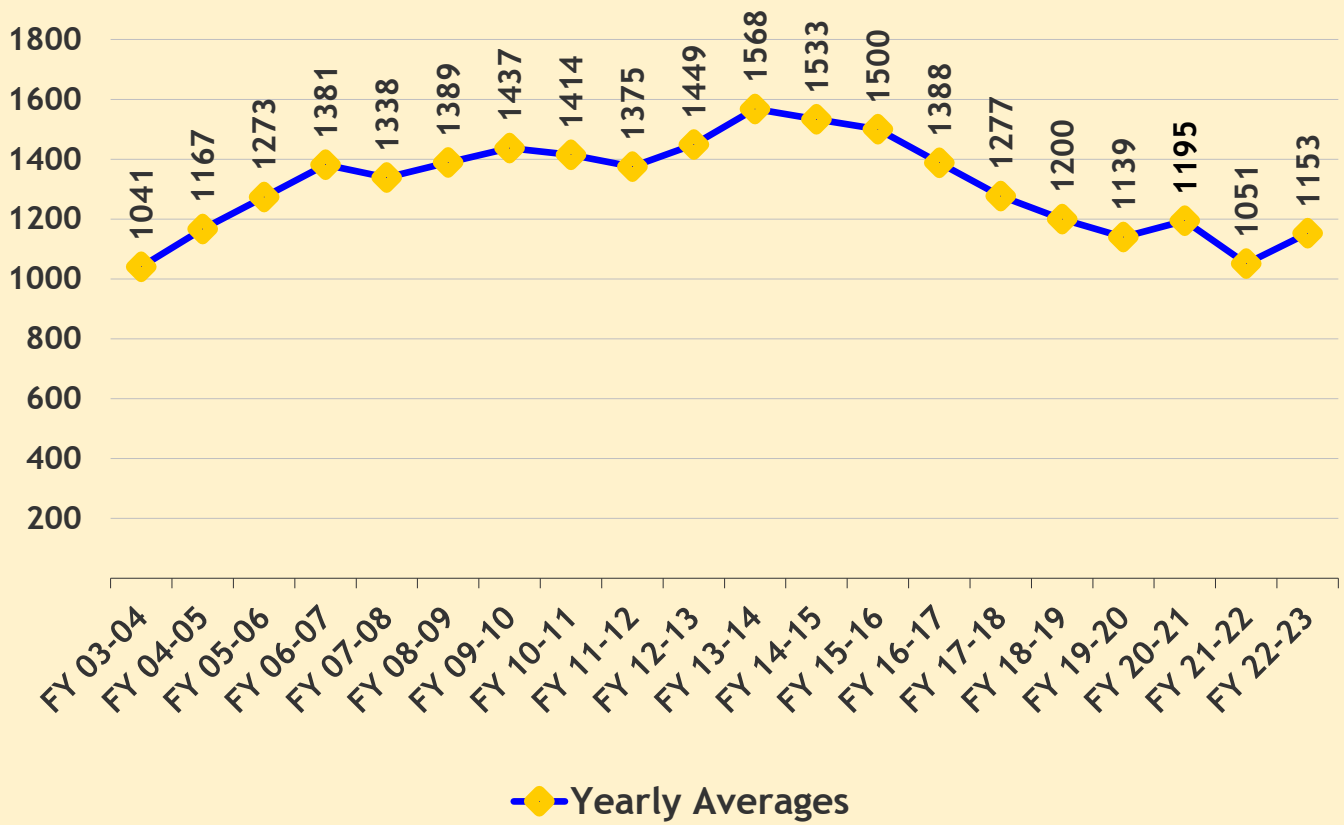


Chart 20

PAROLE

Of the 282 inmates who became eligible for Parole last year, only forty-one (41) or 14.5% were granted Parole in 2022. Most of them – twenty-one (21) or 51% of those inmates so approved were serving sentences for **Crimes of Dishonesty**, the second largest number; 7 (17%) were serving a sentence for **Drug Trafficking**, and the other largest number 6 (15%) were doing a sentence for **Other Minor Offences**. Of note is that, unlike other years where more persons convicted of Manslaughter were paroled, only three (3) were granted Parole in 2022. (*Please refer to Chart 21 below*).

Seventy-seven (77) persons successfully completed their parole last year – 73 males and 3 females and as at December 31, 2022 there remained 69 persons on such license.

2022 saw the lowest parole approval rate since 2013, whilst it simultaneously recorded the highest parole revocation rate of 46% (19 paroles revoked) – all males, since 2014. Of the 19 revocations, most of them, twelve (12), **63%** were returned for violating their Parole Conditions as it pertains to drugs and alcohol abuse and seven (7) **37%** were due to new convictions. (*Please see Charts 22 and 23 below*)

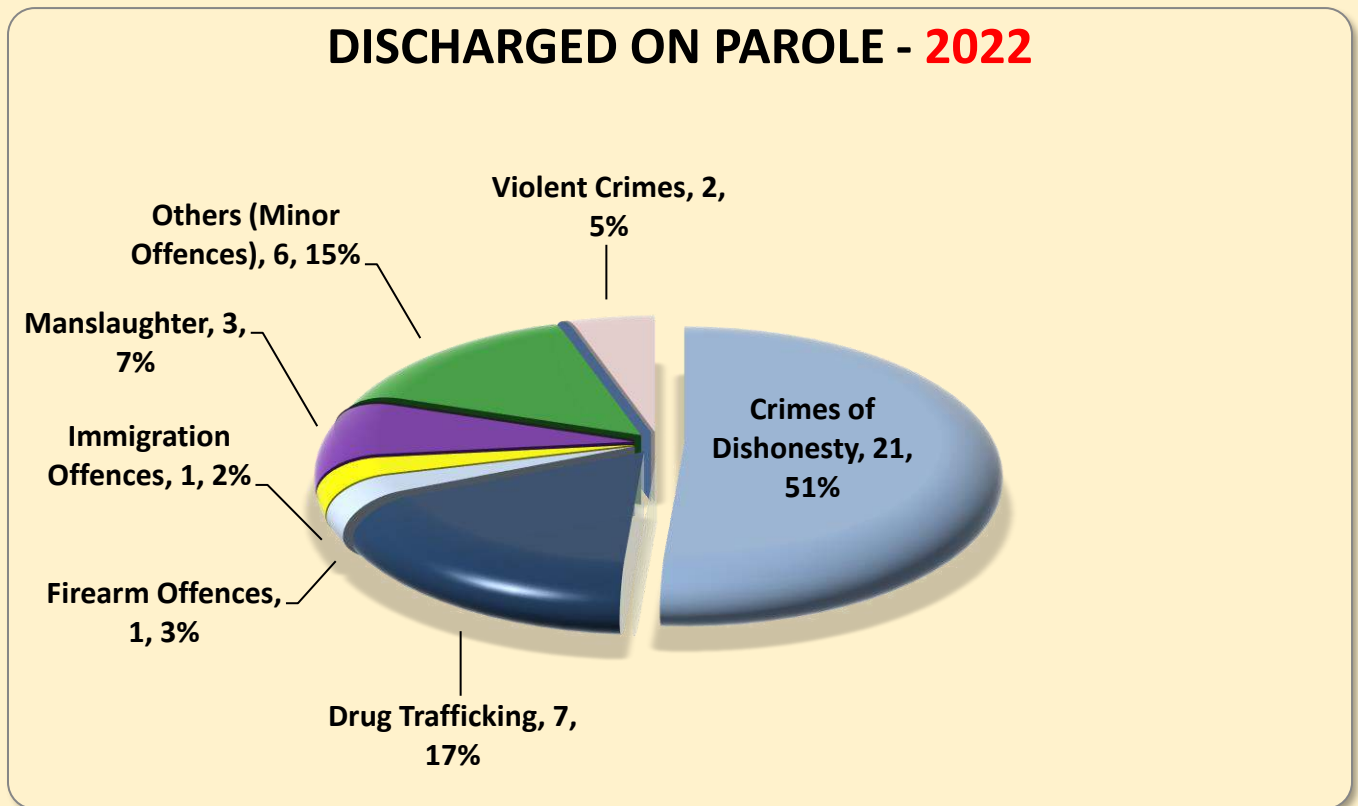


Chart 21

PAROLE APPLICATIONS VS. APPROVALS - 2013 - 2022

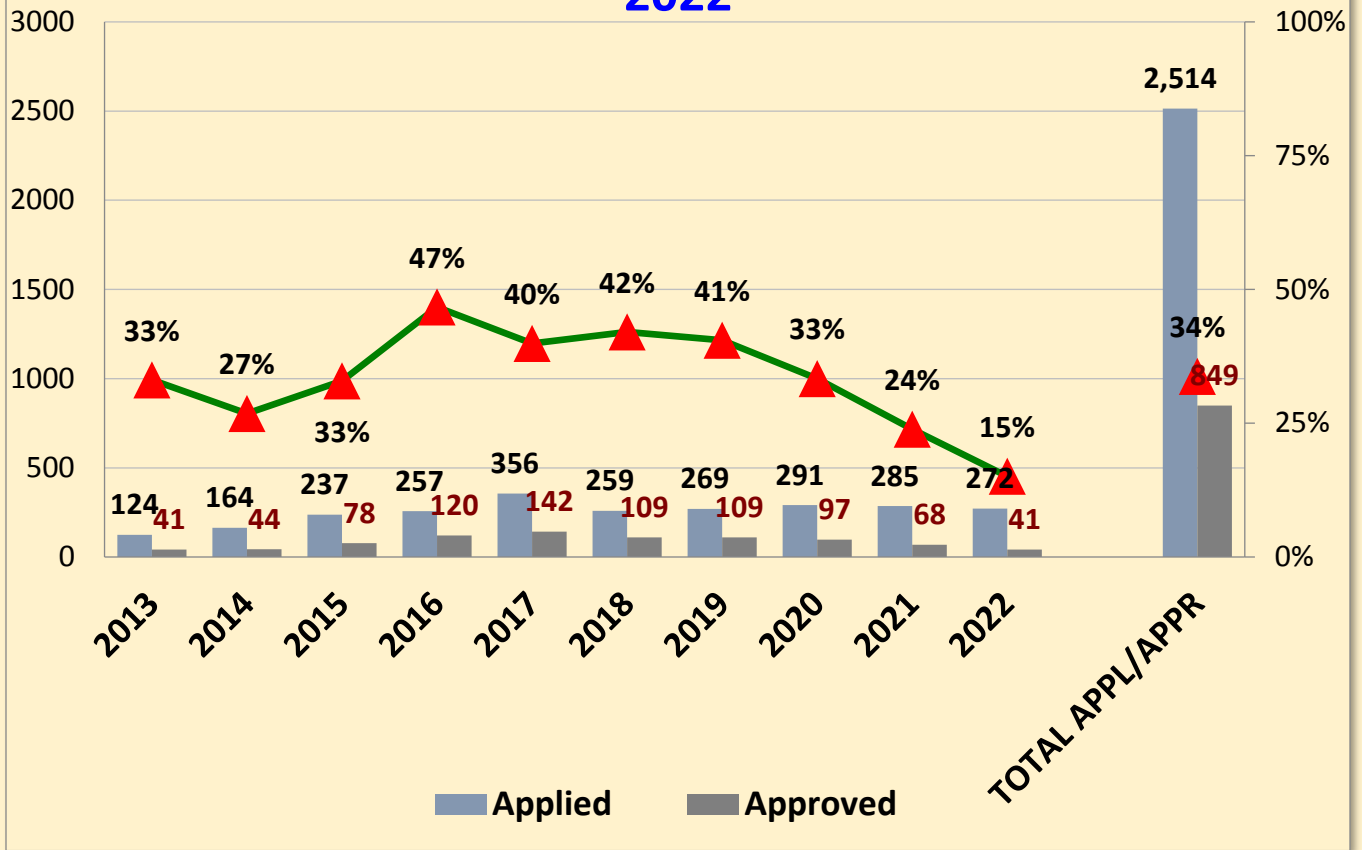


Chart 22

PAROLE REVOCATION TREND - 2013 - 2022

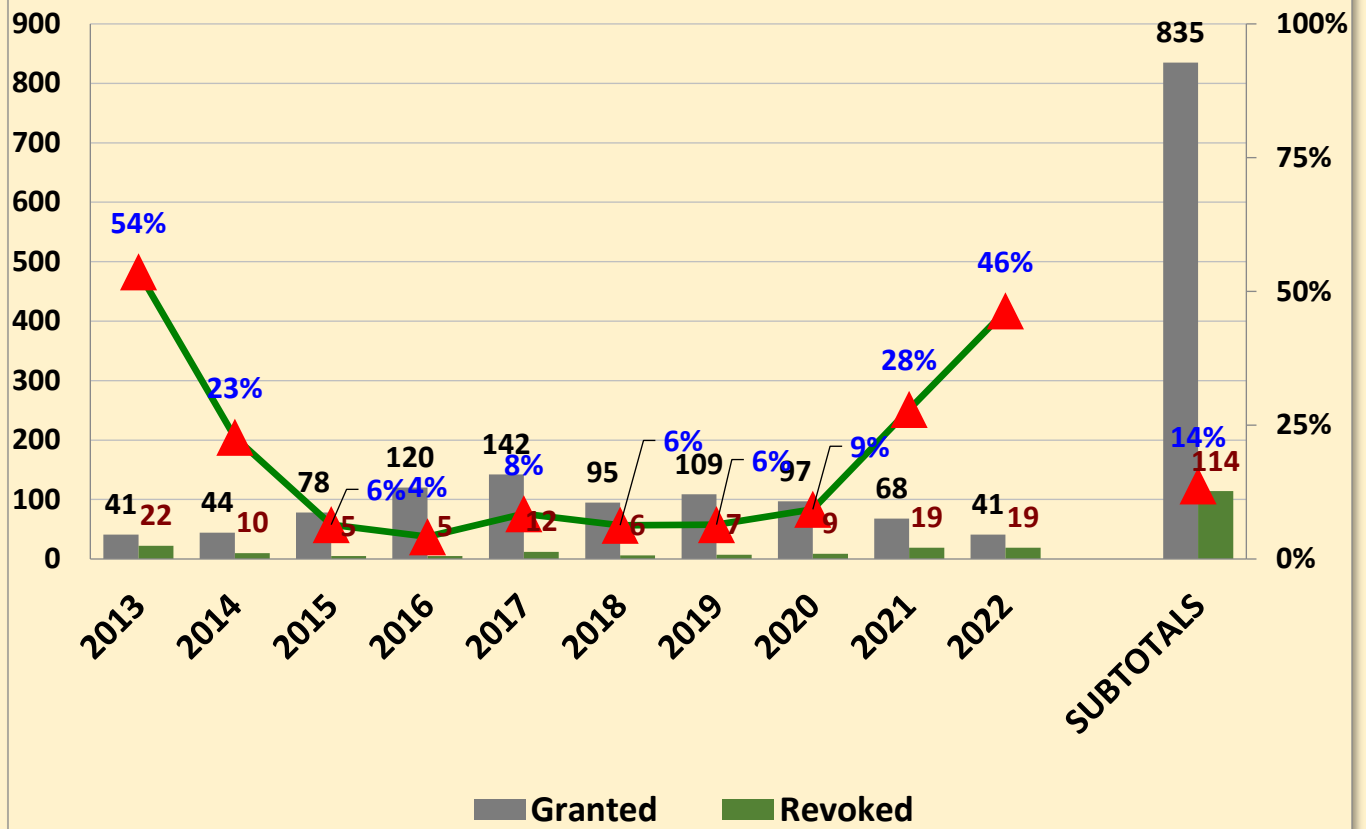


Chart 23

MEDICAL DIAGNOSES

With an average population of 1,126 inmates and 250 employees, the prison’s Medical Officer made a total of 1,469 diagnoses, broken down into 18 different categories of illnesses for which the majority diagnosis 244 (17%) was for “**Other**” (irregular uncommon) illnesses. It must be pointed out that the second highest diagnosis by the doctor was classified as “**Healthy Individual**” – 188 (13%). When compared to the year before, the medical Officer diagnosed 206 (16%) more illnesses in 2022. (*Please see Chart 24 & 25 below*)

In relation to Covid-19 cases, a total of 1,296 tests were conducted of which 281 (22%) yielded positive results of which 27 were amongst prison staff and 251 were amongst inmates.

Once again, there was no serious case that required referral to the KMHM and with a couple of unwanted lockdowns we managed to mitigate the spread of the virus when there was a sudden spike.

With our staff 100% vaccinated and over 90% of the inmates also immunized to take on the virus; not to mention the downgrading of the Coronavirus, we managed the pandemic extremely well by keeping the curve flat for almost the whole year! (*Please see Chart 26 below*)

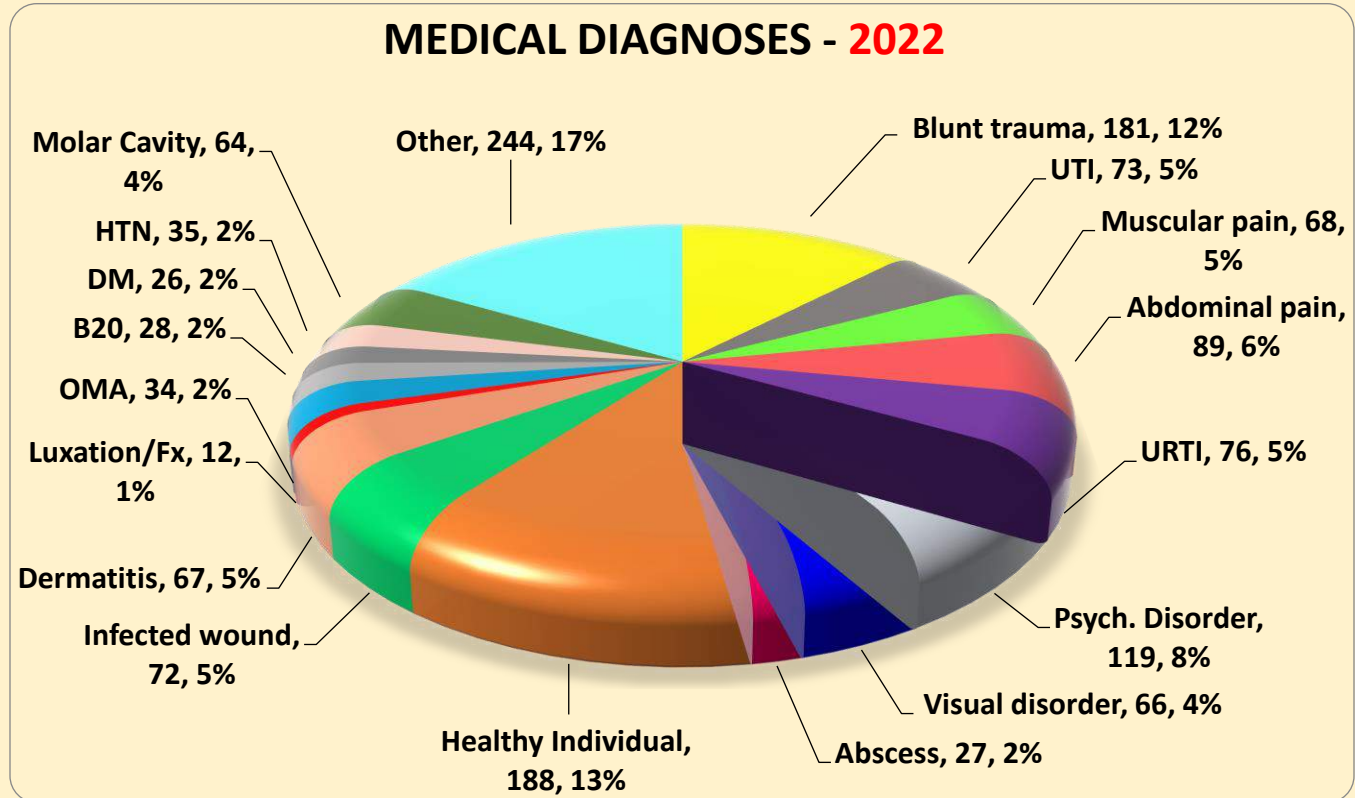


Chart 24

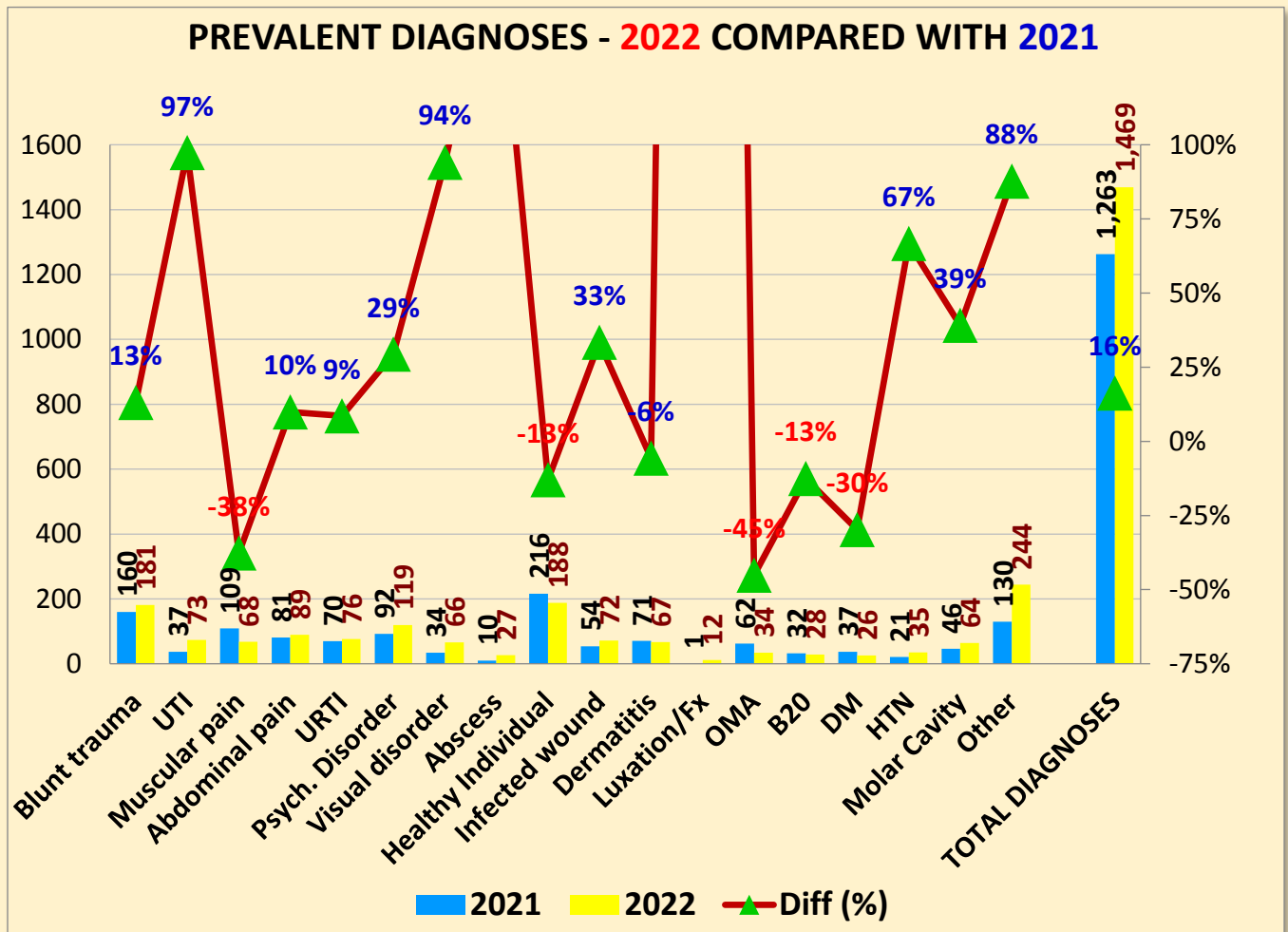


Chart 25

KOLBE FOUNDATION COVID-19 REPORT - 2022

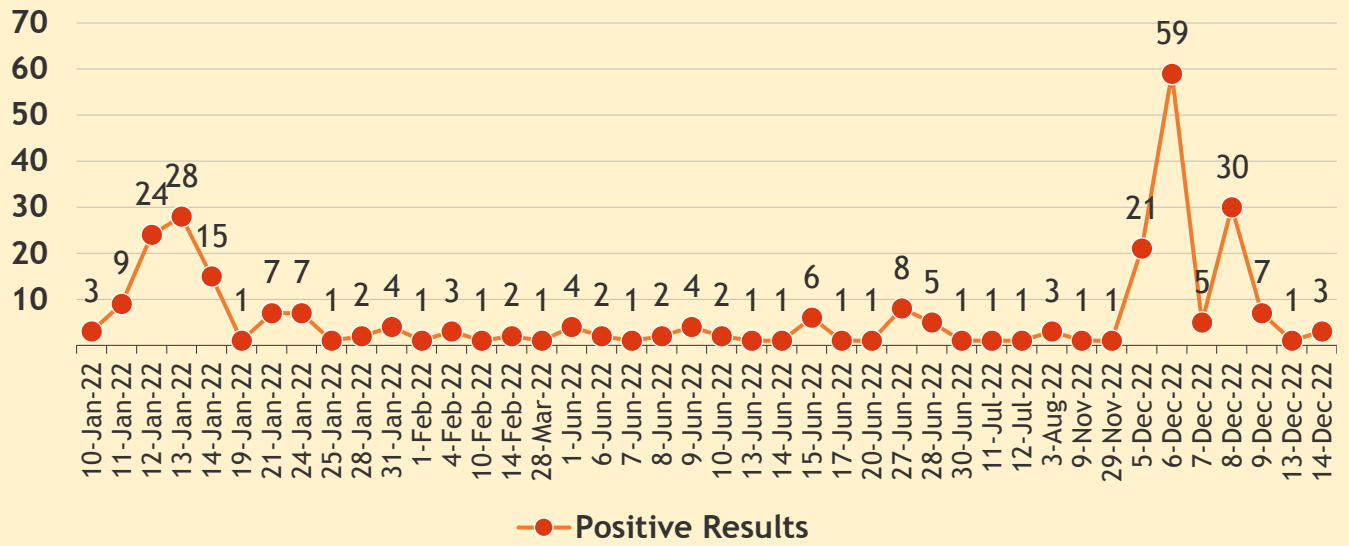


Chart 26

GANGS IN PRISON

As of December 31, 2022, there were 160 gang members from 19 different gangs, including the Salvadoran gangs – MS-13 and 18th Street, in the prison. Fifty-five (55) of them were convicted and 105 were on remand. Of this total, the George Street Gang (**GSG**) continued to have the highest numbers amongst all other gangs in Belize, followed closely by Peace in the Village (**PIV**). Our database shows that the prevalent age range of these gang members are between 18 – 30 years and over 83% are of Creole descent and most of them are from Southside Belize City. Of the sixty-six percent (66%) who were on remand, the majority are awaiting trial for Murder. (*Please see Chart 27 below*)

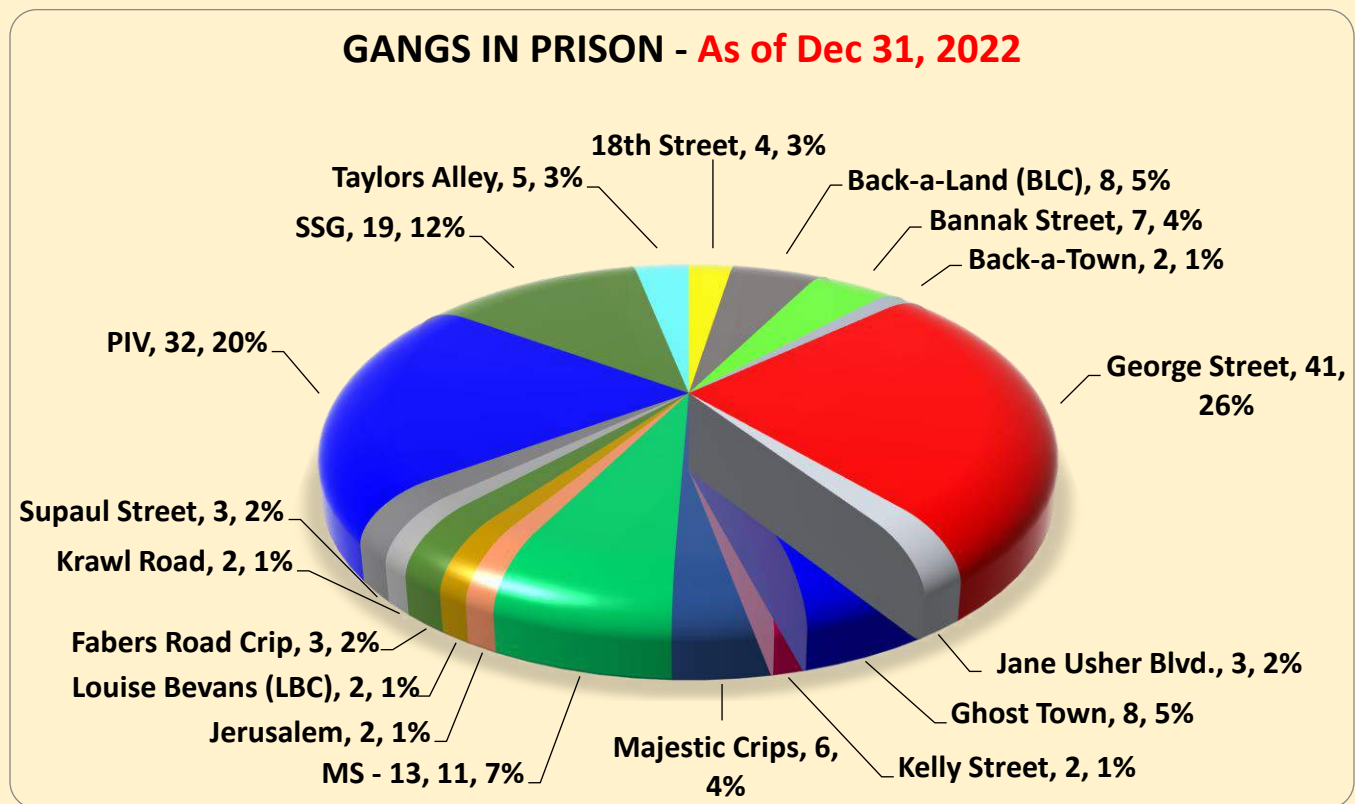


Chart 27

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

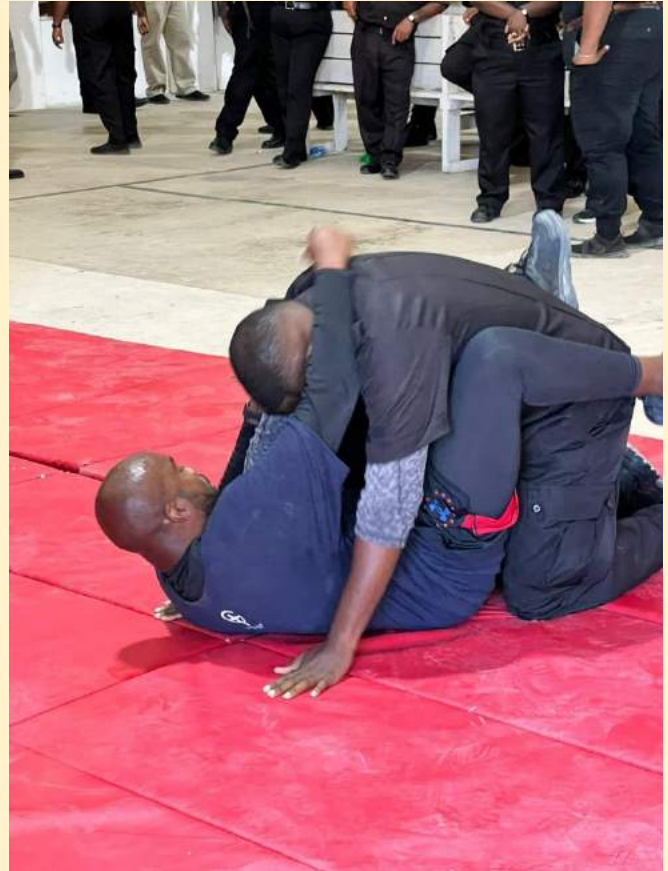
STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

We continue with our struggle to recruit and retain very good staff for the prison environment. As time goes by, we try to come up with innovative ways to incentivize and boost the morale of our staff due to the exacting nature of the work at hand. Over the years, we have established that experience – more than anything else, is most needed to work in the prison environment. This is not to rule out training, but to emphasize what a key role experience plays in managing inmates with their criminal and addictive behavior and thinking.



28 Officers recognized and awarded for Perfect Attendance

Prison Officers Training with Dr. Jarrod Sadulski and Partners



Self-Defense Training



Prisoner Escorts, Report Writing, and Ethics



Hostage -Taking Training for Prison and Police QRT Officers



Hostage-Taking Role-Play Training by Police and Prison QRT Officers



RIOT TRAINING WITH TRADEWINDS



Board Member Mr. Francis Woods conducting Driver Training with our drivers



Driver Training Course concluded



**Corrections One On-line Training for Prison Staff
Graduating Classes – Cohort 1 & 2**



**Corrections One On-line Training for Prison Staff
Graduating Class – Cohort 3**



Kolbe Week Celebrated



Officers sitting Promotional Exam

INMATES EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION

During 2022, a substantial number of inmates participated in educational, rehabilitation, spiritual, vocational, and work programs available throughout the prison. Listed below are programs completed by inmates by year's end:

- RACHEL Program - 196
- Inner-Change for Freedom Belize - 22
- Remands Rehabilitation Program - 85
- Addiction Rehabilitation Program - 79
- Journey to Freedom - 201
- HIV/AIDS Peer Counselors Training - 8

PRISON INDUSTRIES/INDUSTRIAL ZONE

During the year production of chicken, pork meat, clothing, blocks, farm produce, and woodworks continued unabated at the Industrial Zone as a form of income-generating for both the prison and the inmates as well as vocational training skills for the inmates. An average of 60 inmates remained continuously employed at the Industrial Zone during this period.

Throughout the year, an average of 230 inmates were gainfully employed in various capacities of the inmate's workforce, including the Prison Industries, Construction, Buildings Maintenance & Repairs, Program Facilitators, Food Services, Healthcare Services, Peer Counselors, just to mention a few.



Launch of the RACHEL Program at Tango 11



94 inmates graduate RACHEL Program



109 inmates graduate RACHEL Program

JOURNEY TO FREEDOM GRADUATION



Tango 7 JTF Graduating Class



Tango 10 JTF Graduating Class



Females Section JTF Graduating Class



Health Fair for inmates and staff held on May 4, 2022



Inmates Sports Week Celebrated



Inmates participating in activities for their Sports Week



Mayor Sharon Palacio pays a visit to the Female inmates

AHMADIYYAH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT





Visit by Rotary International President District Governor

Ms. Carolina Corzo

RE-LAUNCH OF THE VISITING JUSTICE PROGRAM

On September 30, 2022 the long-awaited Visiting Justice Program (VJP) was finally re-launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries. Present for the occasion were Minister of the Ministry – Honorable Kareem Musa and his Chief Executive Officer – Mr. Kevin Arthurs and President of the Justice of the Peace Association of Belize – Mr. Adrian “Danny” Madrid. Aside from other invited guests, including Kolbe Board members, various media houses were present to cover the momentous occasion as the program has been non-existent since around 2006.



Hon. Kareem Musa officially launching VJ Program



CEO Virgilio Murillo making remarks at the launch of the VJ Program



Invited Guests to the launch of the VJ Program

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE VISIT **BCP** IN CONNECTION WITH VISITING JUSTICE PROGRAM (VJP)

On the heels of the re-launch of the Visiting Justice Program, the President of the JP Association of Belize had requested a tour of the prison by JPs of the Association which I entertained on October 13, 2022. A total of 31 JPs from all over the country were present and I provided them with a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the Belize Central Prison; including the state before and after we took over the management, and the involvement of the Rotary Club of Belize and Kolbe Foundation in the management of the facility on behalf of the Government and country of Belize. Thereafter, a tour of the entire facility was carried out for the benefit of all to see.



CEO Murillo presenting to JPs



Justices of the Peace being briefed by CEO

INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPROVEMENTS

As mentioned earlier, Hurricane Lisa visited Belize on November 2, 2022 and in its wake, left a badly battered and mangled prison with almost all of the outer perimeter security fence flattened to the ground. The Rotary Learning Center, which housed the Medic Center and Computer Lab had 50% of its roof blown off and the entire roof in a state of disrepair! The roofs of the Records and Parole Offices suffered some minor damages, however some of the sheds at the Industrial Zone – particularly the Block Factory suffered major damages to them! As a result of this disaster the prison had to abruptly go into recovery mode with repairing these major damages to its infrastructure!



Rotary Learning Center roof torn off by Hurricane Lisa



Block Factory demolished by Hurricane Lisa



Roof damages to Records/Parole Offices



Outer Perimeter security fence behind ARC & CGS blown down by the hurricane



Outer Perimeter security fence behind the prison flattened



Outer perimeter security fence behind the convicted block flattened

DONORS

Kolbe Foundation takes this opportunity to say a huge “**THANK YOU!!!!!!**” to those Prison Ministries, Businesses, Government Departments, organizations, and all good Samaritans who generously donated to the prison in 2022. Below is a list of donors and we do apologize in advance if anyone was unintentionally missed out:

- **27,500 Surgical Face Masks to the Prison by PAHO/WHO**
- **Covid-19 Supplies by Ms. Gilda Wagner, USA**
- **Eight (8) Bicycles by Mr. Sharp of Life-Net Ministries**
- **In-person prison Operations Training conducted for all prison staff by Dr. Jarrod Sadulski**
- **Grace Community Bible Church of Florida – sponsored Corrections One Online Training 1-year subscription**
- **Ministry of Health – 312 Blankets**
- **Project ECHO – Donated cash and training on HIV/AIDS in prison to inmates, CEO and Dr. Novelo from April – December 2022.**
- **Office furniture, calling cards and apples by The Word at Work Ministry (Tim Tam)**
- **Hygiene Supplies, educational scholarships by the Ministry of Human Development for the youths at WYF**
- **Beverly Totty – JTF Books and stationeries**
- **Cash by Pastors Matthew Phillips and Jacob Varughese**
- **Pastor Derrick Pitts/God Cares Ministry – Cash towards purchasing of amplifiers for Prison Radio Station and Covid-19 supplies.**
- **St. John’s Jesuit Volunteer Corp – education and counseling to inmates at WYF and the adult population and hygiene supplies for the youths at WYF.**
- **Donation of footballs by Mr. Earl jones of FFB**
- **Sponsorship of Basketball Tournament; including jerseys for inmates by Ahmadiyya Muslim Community**
- **Mr. Nathaniel Stampley – spiritual training course for inmates at Tangos 1 and 7 and hair clippers.**
- **Miscellaneous Donors - Bibles**

CONCLUSION

As we enter 2023, we make a solemn commitment, not only to keep up the stellar performance, but to challenge ourselves to be better than we were in 2022. We will strive for 2023 to be another safe and peaceful year with no escapes nor riots.

A tremendous *THANK YOU* to our Board of Directors who have faithfully and freely given of their time and resources to help shaping the philosophies and strategies of the Kolbe Foundation, as well as to our staff who executes the mandates set by the Board and government to the best of their abilities!