



Quick Facts	
Immigration detainees (2019)	Not Available
Detained minors (2017)	Not Available
International migrants (2019)	59,998
New asylum applications (2019)	530

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/americas/belize>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

STATISTICS

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	Not Available	2019	Total number of detained minors	Not Available	2017
Criminal prison population	1,443	2015	Percentage of foreign prisoners	11.1	2015
	1,650	2013		8.8	2012
	1,562	2012			
	1,420	2010			
	1,346	2007			
	1,149	2004			
	903	2001			
	1,043	1998			
	630	1995			
	617	1992			
Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	410	2015			
	495	2013			
	476	2012			
	460	2010			
	471	2007			
	434	2004			
	369	2001			
	464	1998			
	304	1995			
	316	1992			

Demographics and immigration-related statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Population	400,000	2020	International migrants	59,998	2019
	359,000	2015		53,900	2015
	300,000	2012		50,900	2013
International migrants as a percentage of the population	15	2015	Refugees	29	2019
	15.3	2013		0	2016
				35	2015
				10	2014
Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants	0.03	2014	Total number of new asylum applications	530	2019
	0.09	2012		2,016	2016
				74	2014
				58	2012

Refugee recognition rate	100	2014	

DOMESTIC LAW

LEGAL TRADITION

Legal tradition	Name	Observation Date
	Common law	

COVID-19 UPDATES

Latest Update	Update Status	Observation Date
	Belize does not appear to have a dedicated immigration detention facility though it detains migrants in administrative procedures in Belize Central Prison. On 13 August, visits to the prison were suspended indefinitely due to the rise in Covid-19 cases in the country. There had been no confirmed cases in Belize Central Prison as of mid-August. Safeguarding measures at the prison were reportedly implemented early on in the pandemic, including having staff members wear masks. New inmates were being quarantined for 15 days (21 days for foreign detainees).	2020

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

International treaties	Name	Ratification Year
	ICPED, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	2015
	OPCAT, Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	2015
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	2015
	CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2011
	CRSSP, Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons	2006
	CTOCSP, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	2006
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2003
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	2001
	ICRMW, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	2001
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	2000
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1996
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	1990
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	1990
	CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1990
	PCRSR, Protocol to the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1990
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	1986
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified		16/19

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
International treaty reservations	Name	Reservation Year	Observation Date
	ICCPR Article 14	1996	1996
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Individual complaints procedure	Name		Acceptance Year
	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1999		2002
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number		Observation Date
	1/8		
	1/8		

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Relevant recommendations issued by treaty bodies	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year
	Committee on Migrant Workers	<p>§19. The Committee urges the State party to: (a) Repeal all discriminatory provisions regarding entry of migrant workers into the State party contained in section 5 (1) of Chapter 156 of the Immigration Act (2000); (b) Bring the laws and practice regarding entry of migrant workers and members of their families in line with article 8, paragraph 1, of the Convention, so as to ensure that permission for a migrant worker to enter the State party is not restricted, unless deemed necessary for the protection of national security, public order, health or morals, in accordance with the rights set forth in the Convention; (c) Ensure the right to privacy of all migrant workers and members of their families wishing to enter the country, in accordance with article 14 of the Convention; (d) Ensure that no medical examination is required on the basis of discriminatory grounds, including non-risk health or medical conditions, physical or psychosocial disability, real or perceived HIV/AIDS status or other communicable disease, sex work or sexual orientation or gender identity; (e) Remove all restrictions on the rights of children of migrant workers based on the particular status or condition of their parents. §27. The Committee recalls that irregular entrance into a country or expiration of authorization to stay is an administrative infraction, not a criminal offence. Consequently, such situation cannot imply a punitive sanction. The Committee recalls that children should never be detained on the basis of their or their parents' immigration status, and urges the State party to: (a) Remove from the its legislation any provision that considers any irregular immigration situation as a criminal offence; (b) Take all appropriate measures to ensure that administrative detention of migrant workers and members of their families on the basis of their migration status is an exceptional measure only for the shortest time possible, and adopted in the framework of a process that includes all due process guarantees; (c) Adopt, by law and in practice, alternative measures to detention of migrant workers and members of their families; (d) Ensure that migrant workers and members of their families held in detention centres have access to legal aid and consular services, that they are held in humane conditions, and that their treatment is otherwise in full compliance with articles 16 and 17 of the Convention; (e) Cease the detention and expulsion of migrant children on the basis of their migration status, and ensure that the best interest of the child and the principle of non-discrimination are taken as primary considerations.</p>	2014
	Human Rights Committee	<p>§13. ...Section 5(1)(e) of the Immigrations Act, which includes homosexuals on the list of prohibited persons for purposes of immigration... The State party should review its Constitution and legislation to ensure that discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity are prohibited. The Committee further urges the State party to include in its initial report information on the outcome of the case challenging the constitutionality of section 53 of the Criminal Code and section 5(1)(e) of the Immigration Act. The State party should also ensure that cases of violence against LGBT persons are thoroughly investigated and that the perpetrators are prosecuted, and if convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions, and that the victims are adequately compensated.</p>	2013
Regional treaties, regulations, and directives			
Regional legal instruments	Name	Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)	
	CBDP, Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem do Para)	1996	
Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms			
Visits by special procedures of the Human Rights Council	Name	Year of Visit	Observation Date
	Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children	2013	2015

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year	Observation Date
Relevant recommendations by UN Special Procedures	Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children	§90. Reconsider the restrictive immigration policy that further compounds the problem of human trafficking and undermines efforts to combat and prevent human trafficking. Urgently establish a separate migrant holding facility. Take all necessary measures to avoid double victimization of those subjected to trafficking and subsequently detained as irregular migrants. Amend relevant laws to decriminalize irregular migrants, especially those victims of trafficking. §91. Halt the practice of detention and deportation of children as this contravenes the principle of the best interest of the child and the principle of non-discrimination entrenched in the international Convention on the Rights of the Child to which Belize is a State Party.	2014	2014

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recommendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
	No	2009	2017
	Yes	2013	

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS

Governing structures

Federal or centralized governing system	Federal or centralized governing system	Observation Date
	Centralized system	2016

Institutions responsible for immigration detention

Custodial authority	Agency	Ministry	Ministry Typology	Observation Date
		Ministry of Home Affairs	Interior or Home Affairs	2010

Institutions responsible for immigration detention

Detention Facility Management	Entity Name	Entity Type	Observation Date
	Kolbe Foundation	Private Not-For-Profit	2015

Institutions responsible for immigration detention

Types of detention facilities used in practice	Immigration detention centre (Administrative)	Immigration field office (Administrative)	Transit centre (Administrative)	Reception centre (Administrative)	Offshore detention centre (Administrative)	Hospital (Administrative)	Border guard (Administrative)	Police station (Criminal)	National penitentiary (Criminal)	Local prison (Criminal)	Juvenile detention centre (Criminal)	Informal camp (Ad hoc)	Immigration detention centre (Ad hoc)	Surge facility (Ad hoc)	Observation Date
											Yes				

More information about immigration detention in Belize is available at the website of the Global Detention Project (www.globaldetentionproject.org)