

# WOMEN'S LIVES AROUND THE WORLD

A Global Encyclopedia

VOLUME 2  
THE AMERICAS

---

Susan M. Shaw, General Editor  
Nancy Staton Barbour, Patti Duncan,  
Kryn Freehling-Burton, and Jane Nichols,  
Editors

---



An Imprint of ABC-CLIO, LLC  
Santa Barbara, California • Denver, Colorado

Copyright © 2018 by ABC-CLIO, LLC

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, except for the inclusion of brief quotations in a review, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Names: Shaw, Susan M. (Susan Maxine), 1960- editor.

Title: Women's lives around the world : a global encyclopedia / Susan M.

Shaw, General Editor.

Description: Santa Barbara, California : ABC-CLIO, [2018] | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017015976 (print) | LCCN 2017031062 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781610697125 (ebook) | ISBN 9781610697118 (set) | ISBN 9781440847646 (volume 1) |

ISBN 9781440847653 (volume 2) | ISBN 9781440847660 (volume 3) | ISBN 9781440847677 (volume 4)

Subjects: LCSH: Women—Social conditions—Encyclopedias.

Classification: LCC HQ1115 (ebook) | LCC HQ1115 .W6437 2018 (print) | DDC

305.4—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2017015976>

ISBN: 978-1-61069-711-8 (set)

978-1-4408-4764-6 (vol. 1)

978-1-4408-4765-3 (vol. 2)

978-1-4408-4766-0 (vol. 3)

978-1-4408-4767-7 (vol. 4)

EISBN: 978-1-61069-712-5

22 21 20 19 18 1 2 3 4 5

This book is also available as an eBook.

ABC-CLIO


An Imprint of ABC-CLIO, LLC

ABC-CLIO, LLC

130 Cremona Drive, P.O. Box 1911

Santa Barbara, California 93116-1911

[www.abc-clio.com](http://www.abc-clio.com)

This book is printed on acid-free paper 

Manufactured in the United States of America

- UN Women Caribbean. 2016. "The Bahamas." Retrieved from <http://caribbean.unwomen.org/en/caribbean-gender-portal/caribbean-gbv-law-portal/gbv-country-resources/the-bahamas>.
- WHO (World Health Organization). 2016. "Statistical Profile" Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/countries/bhs/en>.
- Wiggins, John. 2015. "PEFA Assessment of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Final Report." International Consultants. Retrieved from <https://pefa.org/sites/default/files/assessments/comments/TC-Feb12-PFMPR-Public.pdf>.
- Williams, Marie-Claire. 2015. "Living LGBT: Piggott Hopes Queen's Recognition Will Lead to Greater Tolerance." *Barbados Today*, June 27. Retrieved from <https://www.barbadostoday.bb/2015/06/27/living-lbgt>.

## Belize

### Overview of Country

Belize, previously British Honduras until 1973, is located on the eastern coast of Central America on the Caribbean Sea between Guatemala and Mexico. Its shallow coastal waters are protected by a 185-mile barrier reef dotted by islets called *cayes*. The area of the mainland and cayes is 8,805 square miles (22,806 sq. km) (CIA 2016). The Maya Mountains and the Cockscomb Range dominate the southern half of the country with the highest elevation in Belize at 3,688 feet above sea level. The Cayo District in the west includes the Mountain Pine Range. The northern districts contain considerable areas of tableland. Eighteen major rivers drain low-lying areas, the largest being the Belize River (Merrill 1992).

Belize's subtropical climate is tempered by trade winds. Temperatures in the coastal districts range from 50 to 96 degrees Fahrenheit, with greater ranges inland. Average yearly rainfall ranges from 51 inches per year in the north to 175 inches in the extreme south (EOB 2016a). The Maya Golden Landscape forms one of Central America's last unbroken stretches of broadleaf forest and is a key link in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, one of the world's richest assemblages of biodiversity where some 18 species can be found nowhere else on earth. The forests preserve water quality that drains onto the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef and provide water for local communities and large agricultural areas (Fauna & Flora International 2014).

Belize's total population is approximately 353,000. Mayans, at 11 percent of the population, are the indigenous

people of Belize and among the poorest. They mainly live in the Toledo District, the least developed and southernmost district. Mestizos, the largest population at nearly 50 percent, arrived in Belize after fleeing the Yucatan in 1848. They mainly reside in the more developed Northern Districts. An influx of immigrants from Central American countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras can also be considered mestizo; they have been settling in rural areas and are creating new communities. Creoles, or Afro-Belizeans, comprise 25.9 percent of the population and are descendants of enslaved Africans; they primarily live in Belize City, Belize's largest city. Once slavery was abolished, East Indian people were brought as indentured servants; they now make up 3.9 percent of the population. The Creole and East Indian populations were integrated into the wider Belizean culture. Garifunas are 6.1 percent of Belizeans and have Afro-Honduran roots. Chinese people immigrated to Belize primarily to work in the sugarcane fields; Asians as a whole represent 1 percent of Belizeans (CIA 2016). Mennonites, who make up 3.6 percent of the population, immigrated after World War II to find land and escape religious discrimination. They adopt modern conveniences as needed, but otherwise hold to their traditions (CIA 2016; Kok and Roessingh 2015). Recent immigrants from Europe and North America further add to this cultural mix.

Many cultures intermingle in Belize, and people tend to think of themselves as Belizean before another culture, such as Creole or Maya. In fact, so great an intermingling of cultures has occurred that concerns are growing that individual cultural heritage is being lost. UNESCO held a five-day workshop on ways to preserve cultural heritage (Moody 2012). Most people in Belize are bilingual, with English, the official language, being the first language and spoken by 62 percent of the population. At 56 percent, more than half of the residents speak Spanish, which is taught as a second language in school. A significant number of people speak Belizean Creole (44%). Other languages include Maya (10%), German (3%), and Garifuna (or Garinagu, 2%) (CIA 2016).

The population is nearly evenly divided between women and men. Average life expectancy for the total population is 70 years for women and 67 for men. Migration continues to transform Belize's population. About 16 percent of Belizeans live abroad, often for financial reasons, while immigrants constitute approximately 15 percent of Belize's population (CIA 2016). Belize has a favorable immigration policy for retirees who emigrate from the

United States as well as from neighboring Guatemala and Mexico. Immigration accounts for an increasing share of Belize's population growth rate, which is steadily falling due to fertility decline. Belize's declining birth rate and increased life expectancy are creating an aging population (CIA 2016).

Belize has a public-private economy. Tourism is an important foundation of the economy, as are exports of marine products, citrus, sugar, bananas, and garments. Major efforts are being made toward agricultural diversification. Industrial development is encouraged through incentives that include tax holidays and import duty exemptions.

The labor force works in services such as tourism and call centers (71%), industry (15%), and agriculture (10%) (Martin 2015; CIA 2016). Belize's fishing industry is small and growing, with potential for development. In recent years, forestry has had a resurgence. Reforestation and natural regeneration in the pine forest and artificial regeneration of fast-growing tropical hardwood species are in progress (EOB 2016a). Mennonites, while only 3.6 percent of the population, produce more than 60 percent of the food in local stores (Girma 2011). Although Belize has the second-highest income per capita in Central America, it also has significant income disparity between the rich and the poor, with 40 percent (2013 estimate) of Belizeans living in poverty (CIA 2016).

Belize generates electricity domestically using firewood and other biomass products, including bagasse, a by-product of sugarcane. Belize has adopted renewable energy technologies and is connected to a power grid in Mexico. Recently, the Chalillo hydroelectric dam, covering about three square miles, was built on the Macal River in western Belize. Threats to the country's biodiversity include the expansion of commercial citrus and banana farms; agricultural practices such as burning; wildlife hunting; and extraction of timber and xaté (floral industry palm) (Fauna & Flora International 2014).

## Overview of Women's Lives

While cultural norms and other structural barriers limit gender equity for women, they have seen improvements. In comparison to countries around the world, women's empowerment is ranked at 90th out of 188 countries, placing it in a high human development category. Empowerment is determined by reproductive health, political representation, and participation in the labor force (UNDP 2015).

## Girls and Teens

The Labor Act of Belize sets the minimum age for work at 14. The Families and Children Act prohibits hazardous work for children under 18 years old; however, a shortage of inspectors hampers enforcement. Despite these structural protections, Belize faces ongoing problems with child labor; more than one-third of the child population works. Children work agricultural jobs after school and on weekends and may work with dangerous tools or chemicals. Children are also victims of forced prostitution and sex tourism, often by tourists from the United States (CIA 2016).

In 2008, the Belize Police Department initiated the Gang Resistance Education and Training program, where police officers work in classrooms to mentor teens. This has been successful in reducing violence and gang membership. A youth apprentice program has been established in Belize City to help teens find employment by working closely with businesses (Sanchez 2013). In 2012, young people in Belize from churches and civil organizations united to develop a proposal called the Prevention of Youth Involved in Violence in Belize 2012–2022. The proposed policy addressed the problems of violence against young people and the resulting effects from such violence (Interpeace 2013).

Childhood hunger is a problem in Belize. In 2011, 3.3 percent of children under five did not receive proper nutrition and were categorized as wasting (World Bank 2016). School meals are the only nutrition for some children, especially those from indigenous communities (World Bank 2013).

Teenagers are defying traditional thought by questioning traditional gender roles. They face the same problems as teens in many other countries, such as bullying, stress, and social pressures. They express themselves through blogging and are concerned with such societal problems as education, violence, and poverty (FLC 2014).

## Recreation

Young women are participating more in sports and activities that were once the realm of boys. For example, the Belize Volleyball Association ran a free camp in the summer of 2014 for boys and girls. Girls and women participate in community activities that include walks for charity, bicycle races, book clubs and religious activities. They also participate in music and dance, and beauty and talent pageants are ubiquitous. It is not a part of Mayan culture

for women to relax; rather, more work should be found (Stepanek 2005, 57).

## Education

Education is compulsory from ages 6–14. Primary and secondary schools are free; however, many families are unable to afford school fees or textbook and uniform expenses. Religious organizations and the government operate schools. Vocational training is available for those unable to complete secondary school. Combined with a lack of transportation in rural areas and a general shortage of trained teachers, educational opportunities may be limited or unavailable, particularly for indigenous women. The government has greatly expanded preschool education over the past five years and recognizes education as a basic human right.

## Health

In its National Gender Policy, Belize articulates its commitment to women's and men's health with several goals: invest in primary and preventative health care, integrate sexual and reproductive health into the country's development and increase men's access to such services, support mental health services in local areas, and continue to expand access to care in rural areas among others.

## Access to Health Care

To meet its goals, Belize relies on foreign medical providers, which fill the shortage of local health care workers, many of whom leave the country to find better opportunities elsewhere. With this arrangement, there are 72 doctors per 100,000 people (Catzim-Sanchez 2013, 15). Care is available through a network of over 30 hospitals, clinics, and other agencies distributed across the country.

## Maternal Health

Because investing in women's education has a multi-pronged effect, children's health is correlated to the education level of the mother, not the father (Catzim-Sanchez 2013). Women have the right to birth control and the Ministry of Health and the Belize Family Life Association provide access to women's health services, including family planning. Belize's low maternal mortality rate of 28 per 100,000 live births (2015 estimate) is due in part to the fact that 96 percent of pregnant women received prenatal

care and benefited from having a skilled medical professional attend just over 96 percent of births (CIA 2016; UNICEF 2013).

Mayan women and children often live in poverty and suffer from anemia, malnourishment, and worm infestation (World Bank 2013). Mayan women also rely on the medicinal value of many plants.

## Diseases and Disorders

Belize has the highest rate of HIV/AIDS in Central America with approximately 3,600 adults (2,000 women) infected. Young women become infected at twice the rate of their male peers (IFRC n.d.; Catzim-Sanchez 2013, 16). Poverty, drug abuse, and violence all contribute to the high rate of the disease. The Global Fund supports efforts in Belize to provide access to condoms and testing for sexually transmitted infections, and antiretroviral (ARV) drugs are available free of charge.

Women in rural areas are the most lacking in education on health issues, and outreach efforts have been made to this community, including the establishment of health centers (GOB-UNICEF 2011). Four percent of teenage pregnancies occur among girls 10–14 years old. In fact, the major cause of hospitalization among teenagers is due to a lack of obstetric care (Catzim-Sanchez 2013). In 2015, 6 percent of the entire population was undernourished, an increase of 1 percent since 2005 (World Bank 2016).

## Employment

Services (71.7%), industry (18.1%), and agriculture (10.2%) are the largest employment sectors. Women participate less than men in the labor force. At 35 percent (2012 estimate), their unemployment rate is almost twice that of men (CIA 2016). Women work in many occupations, including teaching, where there are many Garifunas. Nursing and professional jobs such as law and accounting are often held by Creole women. Many government jobs, such as social work and law enforcement, are held by mestizos, who also predominate in small business and farming. Although the cultures have intermixed, Mayan women have not succeeded in moving to middle-class jobs, and many Creole women in Belize City have limited economic opportunity (Merrill 1992). It is difficult for women in either rural or urban areas to move out of poverty and unemployment and into the middle class. More women are completing higher education, and some women are entering nontraditional fields (Lewis and Vernon 2012, 53).

As of 2013, it was estimated that 4 out of 10 households lived in poverty, despite an unemployment rate of 12 percent (CIA 2016). Poverty tends to be chronic rather than temporary. Issues of alcoholism, absentee fathers, and gender-based violence compound the problem of poverty.

The law offers women protection from sexual harassment in the workplace, and cases are resolved through a labor complaints tribunal. In 2012, the labor commissioner received no complaints regarding unequal pay, though women and men tend to work in different occupations (U.S. Department of State 2012, 3). The minimum wage was recently equalized for jobs traditionally held by women; previously it differed by occupation. Belize subscribes to the construct of Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value and legislated equal pay for equal tasks (Catzim-Sanchez 2013, 29).

### Family Life

Women are generally in charge of daily household affairs and raising children, and they are expected to obey their husbands. While cultural norms prescribe that women hold traditional family roles; mother and daughter relationships are typically close, which seems to benefit both parties (Anderson-Fye 2004, 582). There are laws that criminalize rape and spousal rape; but in actuality, many incidents are not reported, and those that are reported are often not prosecuted (U.S. Department of State 2012, 14). Women who speak out against these forms of male domination are often silenced through male ridicule. Though efforts to stop domestic violence have gained some traction in recent years, women are often still blamed for sexual misconduct, and rape is often viewed culturally as just another form of sex (Catzim-Sanchez 2013). In addition, women may feel the need protect themselves from sexual harassment by foregoing certain activities. For example, in 2014, interviews of young women revealed that many choose not to attend the annual Carnival celebration due to inappropriate touching (*Ambergris Today* 2012).

### Politics

The government of Belize is a parliamentary democracy based on the Westminster system. The country is a sovereign, democratic state. A prime minister and cabinet comprise the executive branch, while a 31-member elected House of Representatives and a 12-member appointed Senate form a bicameral legislature. Her Majesty Queen

Elizabeth II is the constitutional head of state. A governor-general, who must be a Belizean and has always been a man, represents the Queen in Belize (CIA 2016).

The cabinet consists of a prime minister and other ministers and ministers of state who are appointed by the governor-general on the advice of the prime minister. The majority party in the House of Representatives selects the prime minister, and the governor-general appoints six senators. The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate are elected. General elections are held at intervals of no longer than five years. There are six administrative districts. District administration is jointly run by a number of government functionaries. Each district town has a locally elected town council of seven members. The voting age is 18 (EOB 2016b). In support of their own community and practices, the Maya appoint an *alcade* or headman in each village to ensure their village laws are not broken.

As of 2012, there was only one woman in the House of Representatives, the sixth woman ever to hold such a position. Women have been gaining more representation in the Senate. In 2003, women comprised 25 percent of the Senate, and by 2012, that total had risen to 41.7 percent (Lewis and Vernon 2012, 47–59).

The political system makes it difficult for women to become elected to office. Government resources are filtered through politicians who show largess to those who are politically loyal. Women are responsible for maintaining their households and need these government resources. Therefore, they often support male politicians. Generally, in national elections, approximately 5 percent of the candidates are women (47–59).

Locally, prior to 1999, a woman generally held only 1 seat on the 9-member Belize City Council. From 2000 to 2009, 3–6 members of the 11-member council were woman. However, since 2009, only 1 woman has served on the council. The council appoints a mayor and has appointed 1 woman as mayor for two terms. The Belmopan City Council, established in 2000, includes 7 members, with 2–3 women holding seats (47–59).

Since 2000, women have consistently held approximately 20 percent of the seats available on town boards. However, since the towns began electing mayors in 2000, there has only been one woman mayor. She held the position for three terms. At the village level, the representation of women depends on location. In more rural areas, women may hold no seats on the village council. However, in the Belize District, women hold an average of nearly

three seats per council. Even in districts with the highest percentages of female town councilors, women hold less than 50 percent of the council seats (47–59).

The National Women's Commission published a Revised National Gender Policy that detailed five priorities: health, education and training, wealth and employment generation, violence producing conditions and power, and decision making. The policy's overarching premise is that everyone benefits when women are included in policy making and governance (Catzim-Sanchez 2013, 4).

The National Women's Commission developed a program titled Women in Politics to train women on how to run for office. In 2013, the Belize Women's Political Caucus launched a two-year action plan with the goal of gender equality in races and government by 2020 (Bowman 2013). From 2012 to 2014, the Strengthening Women's Representation in National Leadership in Belize Project focused on promoting women's representation in politics as a way to strengthen their economic and social status and aimed to institutionalize women's equal participation as representatives (UNDP Belize 2016).

## Religious and Cultural Roles

Christianity is the primary religion practiced in Belize, with nearly 40 percent being Catholic and more than 30 percent Protestant, but the country is religiously diverse, with small populations of Mormons, Hindus, Muslims, Baha'i, and Rastafarian (CIA 2016). The Maya and Garifuna blended their traditional beliefs with Christianity. For example, the Garifunas maintain a *dugu* ritual to honor their ancestors, and some older Creoles practice *obeah*, or witchcraft (Merrill 1992).

In 1959, 3,000 Mennonites immigrated to Belize. They have a special agreement with the Belize government that includes exemption from military service. They are free to practice their own form of local government and run their own schools, banks, and businesses. Mennonites are culturally isolated, but they participate fully in the economy and provide many needed products (Minority Rights 2016).

## Issues

### Sexual Exploitation of Children

Sexual exploitation of children is a serious issue facing the government and people of Belize. In 2012, laws were enacted, including the Criminal Sexual Exploitation of Children Act, which increased penalties related to the

sexual exploitation of children. However, the act allows 16- and 17-year-old children to engage in sexual acts for payment. This fact, combined with a cultural history of families providing older children to much older men to provide income for the family, may lead to more sexual exploitation. Young women (ages 15–24) have twice the HIV rate as young men, whereas the trend is reversed for older women, underscoring the issue of intergenerational sex between young women and older men (Catzim-Sanchez 2013, 16). Poverty and its attendant issues of familial instability and lack of cohesion also contribute to exploitation (33).

### Beauty Standards and Body Image

Belize has a tradition of beauty contests that provide upward mobility for girls and women. Women who win beauty pageants are considered successful and can leverage this success to improve their social status. Newspapers often prominently feature stories involving beauty contests. Women have used monetary and educational prizes from such contests to start businesses and to improve their lifestyles (Anderson-Fye 2004, 573). Girls from every socioeconomic class compete in beauty pageants, and body shape, rather than body size, is the most important aspect of beauty (562). In a 1997 study of Belizean teenagers, the ideal body size did not differ from their actual body size, unlike many cultures (567). This may be due to a widespread cultural belief among women to “never leave yourself,” which translates as caring for yourself despite external expectations, including sleeping late if sleep is needed regardless of missing class or having to attend detention. This also means eating when hungry and not starving or exercising until uncomfortable. This attitude is passed down to succeeding generations from woman to woman (577).

Women who work in the tourist industry tend to be thinner than women who work in rural areas and have no contact with tourists. The women view this as part of the job rather than being uncomfortable with their body image (579).

### Violence against Woman

Violence against women is a problem in Belize. Most victims are aged 20–49 and may be married, in a common-law union, single, separated, or in a visiting relationship. Gender inequality compounds such problems because women often cannot leave an abusive relationship due to financial

considerations. The government has tried to address these issues by passing legislation, including the Domestic Violence Act and amendments to the Evidence Act, which is designed to protect rape victims at trial. Two shelters for women have also been opened, and police departments have established domestic violence units of varying size and quality. However, implementation of these laws is hindered by cultural norms, and only the Belize City Police Department has a complete domestic violence unit. Rural police departments often assign only one officer to this duty, resulting in a lack of resources and many uninvestigated complaints. Another hindrance to successful efforts results from the fact that most of the judiciary is male.

The government is attempting to address these issues through training and by increasing the number of women in law enforcement and the judiciary. The number of female police officers is increasing, and a woman is supposed to accompany a male officer to all domestic violence scenes. The National Gender Policy recognizes that violence affects women throughout their lives and individual events should not be considered in isolation. For both women as victims and men as perpetrators, violence should be addressed across the life cycle. Further, the government planned to upgrade its ability to collect data about gender-based violence to promote a multisectorial response that centralizes information about many forms of violence and its linkages to related issues (Catzim-Sanchez 2013, 38).

## LGBT

In 2016, the Belize Supreme Court was the first Caribbean country to overturn its sodomy laws when it ruled in favor of Caleb Orozco, the executive director of the gay rights organization United Belize Advocacy Movement (UNIBAM). Joined by activists, allies, academics, and other supporters, he endured a six-year legal challenge before the Court recognized that the laws violated constitutional rights to dignity, privacy, and equal rights (Outright 2016).

UNIBAM is joined by other advocacy groups, such as PETAL: Promoting Empowerment through Awareness for Lesbian; Bisexual Women and Belize Youth Empowerment for Change, in working to counter cultural prejudice against homosexuality, as lesbians and transgendered women often suffer the same discrimination as gay men (U.S. Department of State 2012, 20). Prime Minister Dean Barrow vocalized his support for the LGBT community by stating that they should be treated equally under the law (Ramos 2016).

## Drug Trafficking

Due to drug trafficking to the United States, violent crime has been increasing. In 2011, Belize was added to the U.S. list of countries considered major transit routes for illegal drugs and money laundering (BBC 2012; CIA 2016).

## Celebrating Woman

March 8 is International Women's Day. Traditionally, Belize celebrated for a week rather than a day and recently increased the celebration to the entire month of March in an effort to highlight women's accomplishments and inspire women and girls to continue to advocate for their rights. Events include health screenings, including pelvic exams; art exhibits; walks; bike rallies; poetry readings; talks on women's issues; skills workshops, including plumbing, decision making, leadership, self-defense, parenting, and finances (Polanco 2015.).

MAURA VALENTINO

## Further Resources

- Ambergris Today*. 2012. "Is Carnival a Messy Situation?" February 29. Retrieved from <http://www.ambergristoday.com/content/teen-talk/2012/february/29/carnival-messy-situation?page=1>.
- Anderson-Fye, Eileen P. 2004. "A 'Coca-Cola' Shape: Cultural Change, Body Image, and Eating Disorders in San Andrés, Belize." *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 28: 561–595. doi:10.1007/s11013-004-1068-4.
- Auxillou, Ray, and Silvia Pinzon. n.d. "The Early History of Belize." Retrieved from <http://ambergriscaye.com/earlyhistory/index.html>.
- BBC. 2012. "Belize Country Profile." August 2. Retrieved from [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country\\_profiles/1211472.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country_profiles/1211472.stm).
- Bowman, Dorla. 2013. "Belize Women's Political Caucus Launches a 2-Year Action Plan." News5, October 22. Retrieved from <http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/91675>.
- Catzim-Sanchez, Adele. 2013. "Part 2: The Revised National Gender Policy." National Women's Commission. Retrieved from <http://www.nationalwomenscommissionbz.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/National-Gender-Policy-2013.pdf>.
- Cayetano, Isani. 2014. "Transgender Woman Is Stoned and Beaten by an Angry Mob." News5, April 9. Retrieved from <http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/97600>.
- CIA (Central Intelligence Agency). 2011. "Belize." *CIA World Factbook*, 71–74.
- CIA (Central Intelligence Agency). 2016. "Belize." *CIA World Factbook*. Retrieved from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bh.html>.
- EOB (Embassy of Belize). 2016a. "Geography of Belize." Retrieved from <http://www.embassyofbelize.gov.bz/belize-profile/geography-of-belize.pdf>.



- EOB (Embassy of Belize). 2016b. "Government of Belize." Retrieved from <http://www.embassyofbelize.gov.bz/belize-profile/government-of-belize.pdf>.
- Fauna & Flora International. 2014. "Belize." Retrieved from <http://www.fauna-flora.org/explore/belize>.
- FLC (Female Leadership Community). 2014. "Female Leadership Community at Ocean Academy, Caye Caulker, Belize." Retrieved from <http://femaleleadershipcommunity.blogspot.com>.
- Girma, Lebewit Lilly. 2011. "Encounter with a Mennonite in Belize." *Sunshine and Stiletos* (blog), September 14. Retrieved from <http://lilylilyphotography.com/2011/09/encounter-with-a-mennonite-in-belize>.
- GOB-UNICEF (Government of Belize and UNICEF Programme of Cooperation). 2011. "The Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Belize 2011: An Ecological Review." Fer de Lance for United Nations Children's Fund-Belize. Retrieved from [https://www.unicef.org/sitan/files/SitAn\\_Belize\\_July\\_2011.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/sitan/files/SitAn_Belize_July_2011.pdf).
- IFRC (International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies). n.d. "Global Alliance on HIV—Belize." Retrieved from [http://www.ifrc.org/docs/Appeals/annual08/Belizecountrysheet\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/Appeals/annual08/Belizecountrysheet_FINAL.pdf).
- Interpeace. 2013. "Belize: Policy Proposals for Addressing Youth-Related Violence." May 27. Retrieved from <http://www.interpeace.org/2013/05/belize-proposal>.
- Kok, Anne, and Carel Roessingh. 2015. "Where 'God Sleeps at Night': Integration, Differentiation and Fragmentation in a Mennonite Colony." *Journal of Mennonite Studies* 31: 167–182. Retrieved from <http://jms.uwinnipeg.ca/index.php/jms/article/download/1490/1478>.
- Lewis, Debra, and Dylan Vernon. 2012. *Toward Equality of Opportunity for Equality of Results: A Situation Analysis of Gender and Politics in Belize*. National Women's Commission and the UN Development Programme (UNDP). Retrieved from <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/belize/docs/Women's%20Empowerment/SitAn%20Gender%20and%20Politics%20FINAL%20compressed.pdf>.
- Martin, Dougal. 2015. "Rekindling Economic Growth in Belize." Inter-American Development Bank. Retrieved from [https://publications.iadb.org/bitstream/handle/11319/6993/CID\\_TN\\_Rekindling\\_Economic\\_Growth\\_in\\_Belize.pdf?sequence=1](https://publications.iadb.org/bitstream/handle/11319/6993/CID_TN_Rekindling_Economic_Growth_in_Belize.pdf?sequence=1).
- Merrill, Tim. 1992. *Belize: A Country Study*. Washington, D.C.: GPO for the Library of Congress. Retrieved from <http://countrystudies.us/belize>.
- Minority Rights (Minority Rights Group International). 2016. "World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples: Belize—Mennonites." Retrieved from <http://minorityrights.org/minorities/mennonites>.
- Moody, Duane. 2012. "A Workshop to Protect Cultural Heritage." News5, November 5. Retrieved from <http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/77983>.
- OutRight (OutRight Action International). 2016. "Belize Is the First Country in the Caribbean to Overturn Sodomy Laws." OutRight Action International, August 10. Retrieved from <https://www.outrightinternational.org/content/belize-first-country-caribbean-overturn-their-sodomy-laws>.
- Polanco, Andrea. 2015. "International Women's Month Celebrated." News5, March 12. Retrieved from <http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/110857>.
- Ramos, Adele. 2016. "Barrow Says 'Yes' to the LGBT!" *Amandala Newspaper*, August 20. Retrieved from <http://amandala.com.bz/news/barrow-yes-lgbt>.
- Sanchez, Jose. 2013. "64 Graduate from Youth Apprenticeship Program." News5, July 26. Retrieved from <http://edition.channel5/archives/88560>.
- Stepanek, Patricia Ann. 2005. "Wanna Buy a Basket?: Kekchi Maya Women and Cash Economy in San Miguel, Belize." Wichita State University Department of Anthropology. Retrieved from [http://soar.wichita.edu/bitstream/handle/10057/1629/Project\\_10-2-08.pdf?sequence=1](http://soar.wichita.edu/bitstream/handle/10057/1629/Project_10-2-08.pdf?sequence=1).
- UNDP (UN Development Programme). 2015. "Human Development Reports: Table 5: Gender Inequality Index." Retrieved from <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>.
- UNDP Belize (UN Development Programme in Belize). 2016. "Strengthening Women's Representation in National Leadership in Belize Project." Retrieved from [http://www.bz.undp.org/content/belize/en/home/operations/projects/womens\\_empowerment/strengthening\\_womens\\_representation\\_in\\_national\\_leadership\\_in\\_belize.html](http://www.bz.undp.org/content/belize/en/home/operations/projects/womens_empowerment/strengthening_womens_representation_in_national_leadership_in_belize.html).
- UNICEF. 2013. "Belize: Statistics." December 18. Retrieved from [https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/belize\\_statistics.html](https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/belize_statistics.html).
- U.S. Department of State. 2012. "Belize 2012 Human Rights Report." Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2012. Bureau of Democracy, Human Right and Labor. Retrieved from <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/204638.pdf>.
- World Bank Group. 2013. "A Healthier Lifestyle for Indigenous Women and Children, Belize." January 24. Retrieved from <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2013/01/24/Belize-Toledo-health-indigenous-women-children-mopan-qechi-mayas>.
- World Bank Group. 2016. "Prevalence of Wasting, Weight for Height (% of Children Under 5)." Retrieved from <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.WAST.ZS?locations=BZ>.

---

## Bermuda

### Overview of Country

Bermuda, located in the North Atlantic between Great Britain and the United States, has been a British Overseas Territory since 1612. It is an archipelago of some 138 islands and islets, only 20 of which are inhabited. Seven are joined by bridges and causeways to the main island, Bermuda, which measures 20.5 square miles. It is the fifth-smallest country in the world, after Vatican City, Monaco, Nauru,