



Belize Open Data Review

An overview of the legislative environment for Belize and its effect on open data

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Introduction

Why is open data now a development imperative

The global movement toward open data has gained increasing relevance as societies grapple with complex, interconnected challenges—from public health and climate resilience to economic inequality and democratic accountability. Initiatives such as the International Open Data Charter¹ and the World Bank's Open Data Program² have defined open data as a foundational element of good governance, economic modernization, and participatory development. Open data enables innovation, fosters cross-sectoral collaboration, and strengthens public oversight.

Yet this vision remains unevenly realized. Many small states, primarily in the Caribbean and Pacific regions, face formidable barriers to open data implementation. These include limited technical capacity, institutional fragmentation, and legal uncertainty around data reuse. According to the World Bank's Statistical Performance Indicators (SPIs), Belize, for instance, has achieved reasonable but improvable performance in data use (65%) and data services (68%), with slightly greater challenges in infrastructure (55%) and data periodicity (60%). A recent article from the Pan American Health Organization public health journal³ underscores the risks of data silos and the need for harmonized standards in national and regional health data systems.

Open data should not be seen as an optional enhancement if finances allow—it is a critical tool for smaller nations to build resilience, increase transparency, and empower inclusive development to strengthen resilience, enhance transparency, and foster trust. When governments treat open data as a cross-cutting development priority, the impact can extend far beyond the statistical system.

How governments contribute to the open data movement

Governments are both major producers and key stewards of public data. Their role in the open data ecosystem is unique, as they possess the legal mandate and infrastructural reach to release and manage high-quality data across a range of domains. The most

¹ International Open Data Charter (<https://opendatacharter.net/>)

² World Bank's Open Data Program (<https://data.worldbank.org/>)

³ The silent barrier: exploring data availability in Small Island Developing States. DOI: 10.26633/RPSP.2024.80

successful government-led open data programs combine legal reform, institutional leadership, and civic engagement.

Estonia's X-Road data exchange platform exemplifies how digital interoperability can underpin secure, accessible, and citizen-centric services⁴. The United Kingdom's Data.gov.uk offers over 50,000 datasets, emphasizing licensing clarity and usability. In the global South, Kenya's Open Data Portal and Uruguay's AGESIC agency demonstrate how developing nations can lead on proactive transparency. Within the Caribbean, Jamaica – through their Open Data Policy (2021) has pioneered open data licensing reforms⁵, while the Dominican Republic has invested in open budget and procurement datasets. These efforts show that open data success depends less on GDP and more on vision, coordination, and policy coherence.

The objective of this review

This review seeks to assess the status and legislative environment for open data in Belize, drawing on both quantitative and legislative sources. The analysis is grounded in three cycles of the Open Data Inventory (ODIN) from 2020 to 2024 and evaluates national legislation relevant to open data provision, privacy, and digital governance. Our goal is to provide policymakers, data producers, and stakeholders with a synthesized evidence base to guide future strategy.

Methods

This study is “mixed-methods” in the sense that we perform simple descriptive analyses on the three OPEN survey rounds in Belize, and provide context for the Belize ODIN results by synthesizing the regional open data landscape and the legislative environment in Belize. We incorporate elements of the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) framework to ensure transparency and reproducibility.

Data review

We extracted ODIN scores for Belize for the years 2020, 2022, and 2024 from the Open Data Inventory (ODIN) public data portal (<https://odin.opendatawatch.com/Data/download>). These datasets were reviewed for changes in overall score, coverage, and openness at the national level, across the 22 ODIN thematic categories.

Additionally, we conducted a regional benchmarking exercise for the year 2024 by reclassifying Belize alongside Caribbean countries (ODIN categorizes Belize with Central America). Scores were ranked and summarized using descriptive statistics and visualized using an equiplot—a horizontal bar chart displaying 2020 and 2024 ODIN summary scores for each Caribbean country to highlight relative country progress over time.

Legislative review

We undertook a systematic documentary review of Belize's legal instruments relevant to open data. We identified, retrieved, and analyzed seven primary pieces of legislation using

⁴ A Historical Analysis on Interoperability in Estonian Data Exchange Architecture: Perspectives from the Past and for the Future. 10.1145/3494193.3494209

⁵ Jamaica Open Data Policy (2021). <https://www.egovja.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/GOJ-Open-Data-Policy-July-2021.pdf>

structured coding criteria. Each law was classified as "enabling," "potentially contradictory," or "restrictive" with respect to its influence on open data. The interpretation emphasized practical implications for data producers.

Legislative inclusion criteria

- Published and enacted as of June 2025
- Referenced in ODIN reports or national digital/data strategies
- Contains clauses affecting the collection, dissemination, protection, or reuse of public sector data

Narrative synthesis

We integrated the findings from the data and legislative reviews using a thematic narrative approach. This triangulation highlights synergistic insights and systemic challenges, identifying areas where data practice and policy are aligned—or misaligned.

Results

Trends in Belize's ODIN scores (2020–2024)

Belize's overall ODIN score improved from 41 in 2020 to 52 in 2024, reflecting parallel gains in coverage (45 to 50) and openness (38 to 53). Table 1 presents these scores longitudinally, revealing notable gains across the data domains, driven by digital governance reforms and expanded administrative data publication.

Table 1. Belize Open Data Inventory (ODIN) results (coverage, openness, total score) in social statistics, economic statistics, environment statistics, and total survey score for three survey rounds (2020, 2022, 2024)

Data Measure	2020			2022			2024		
	Cov.	Open.	Tot	Cov.	Open.	Tot	Cov.	Open	Tot
Social Statistics Subscore ^A	33.8	37.0	35.4	38.5	41.0	39.8	46.5	50.0	48.6
Economic Statistics Subscore ^B	76.8	48.6	59.8	72.9	52.9	60.5	68.6	55.7	60.7
Environment Statistics Subscore ^C	23.5	26.0	24.8	25.5	40.0	33.7	32.8	54.0	45.2
Total ODIN score	45.1	38.2	40.7	46.5	44.5	45.0	50.4	52.7	51.7
<p>(A) Social Statistics Subscore is comprised of Population and vital statistics, Education facilities, Education outcomes, Health facilities, Health outcomes, Reproductive health, Food security and nutrition, Gender statistics, Crime and justice, Poverty and income.</p> <p>(B) Economic Statistics Subscore is comprised of National accounts, Labor, Price indexes, Government finance, Money and banking, International trade, Balance of payments.</p> <p>(C) Environment Statistics Subscore is comprised of Agriculture and land use, Resource use, Energy, Pollution, Built environment</p>									

Each subscore is a summation of individual data domains – listed as table footnotes. Belize's openness score improved in 11 of 22 categories between 2022 and 2024. Key gains were observed in Health Facilities, Built Environment, and Food Security. However, areas such as Energy (score = 0), Education (score = 35), and Government Finance (score = 50) remain underdeveloped. Full details are provided as a supplement to this report.

Regional benchmarking

To contextualize Belize's progress, we analyzed ODIN trends across 13 Caribbean countries from 2020 to 2024⁶ using a regional time-series dataset obtained from the ODIN survey website⁷. The results show a general upward trend in open data scores throughout the region, but with notable variation in rate and magnitude.

Overall ODIN score

Belize's trajectory placed it as one of the fastest risers regionally, improving its overall ODIN score by 11 points—ranking it 4th among the Caribbean countries for the magnitude of its improvement and trailing only Trinidad and Tobago (24-point gain), Haiti (23-point gain) and Anguilla (13-point gain), with each of these three countries starting at a much lower 2020 baseline.

In 2024, Belize achieved a total ODIN score of 52, behind only St. Lucia (ODIN score in 2024 56), Jamaica (score 60) and Dominican Republic (score 62). Of these 4 leading Caribbean countries, Belize reported the largest 4-year improvement (Belize with an 11-point improvement, Dominican Republic with a 3 point improvement, Jamaica with no improvement, and St. Lucia with a 6-point fall). Belize's progress is evidence of effective and continuing national reforms.

This comparative analysis suggests several regional insights:

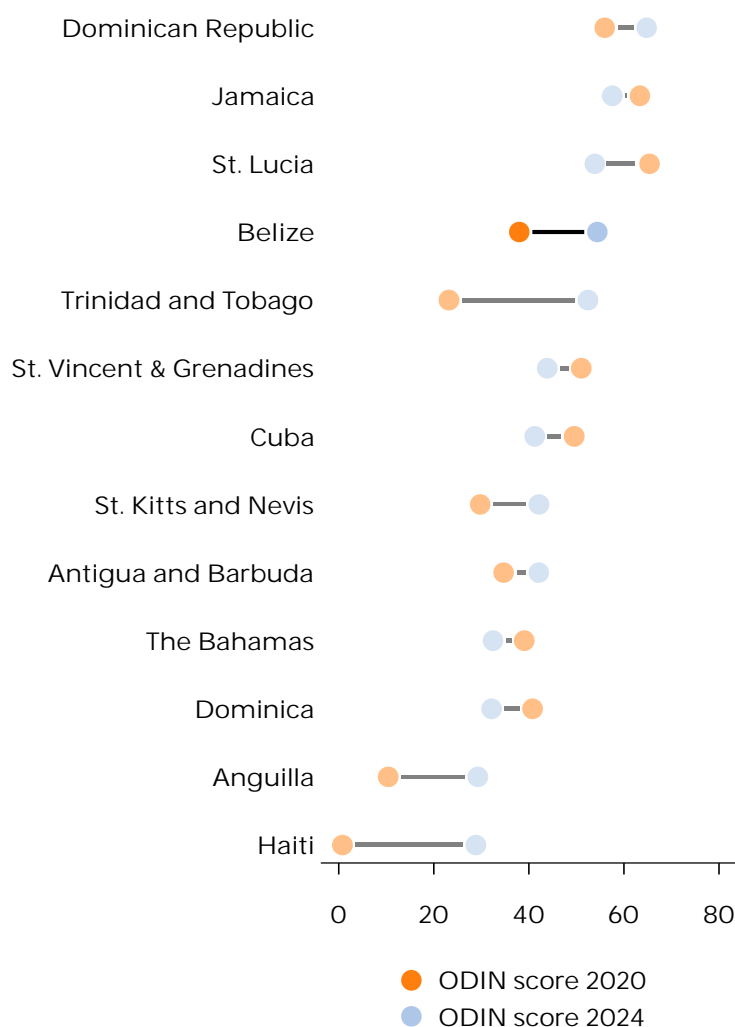
- Countries with centralized digital governance bodies (e.g., Jamaica, Dominican Republic) show consistently high scores.
- Smaller island states tend to have more volatile trajectories, indicating potential challenges in sustaining data investments.
- Belize's steady rise suggests institutional coordination and legislative reform are beginning to yield measurable gains.

Figure 1 visualizes ODIN overall score trends for all 13 Caribbean countries with full results in 2020 and 2024. Belize is highlighted in bold.

⁶ The 13 Caribbean countries were: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & Grenadines, The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago

⁷ Open Data Inventory Data Download. <https://odin.opendatawatch.com/Data/download>

Figure 1. ODIN total score in 2020 and 2024 for 13 Caribbean countries, ordered by total score in 2024.



Component ODIN scores

In Belize, high-scoring data categories included:

- Money and Banking: 100
- Labor: 75
- Built Environment: 75

Belize's improvement trajectory and relative position suggest that strategic investments have had regional impact. However, areas for improvement remain. Several ODIN categories continue to score below average, notably Energy (score = 0), Education Facilities and Outcomes (score = 35), and Government Finance (score = 50). Addressing these gaps will require targeted strategies such as publishing administrative datasets, improving data licensing practices, and prioritizing metadata development. Closing these category-level gaps would raise Belize's ODIN standing and would enhance the utility of data for national planning and public accountability.

Legal frameworks

Enabling legislation

- **Statistical Institute of Belize Act (2006):** This Act mandates the impartial collection, analysis, and dissemination of national statistics. It explicitly authorizes the publication of statistical data and permits access to anonymized microdata for research purposes under defined safeguards, promoting transparency while upholding confidentiality.
- **Public Sector Data Sharing Act (2021):** The Act enables structured data exchange between government agencies and establishes the Office for Data Analytics. It supports the reuse of administrative data for policy and research, promoting interoperability and reducing data duplication. Sections 5 to 9 outline mechanisms for secure sharing and ministerial authority to unlock siloed datasets.
- **Digital Government Act (2022):** This legislation lays the foundation for a digital-first public service model. It mandates interoperable systems, once-only data collection, and user-centric design. Section 12 promotes publication of administrative datasets, while Sections 14–17 require digital integration across ministries, facilitating open data workflows.
- **Electronic Transactions Act (2003):** The Act confers legal validity to electronic records and digital communications. It permits public authorities to publish and receive data electronically, removing barriers to online dissemination and supporting a transition to digital data governance.
- **Freedom of Information Act (1994):** This Act grants citizens the right to access government documents, subject to exemptions related to national security, personal privacy, and commercial confidentiality. Though it lacks proactive disclosure obligations, it establishes a legal basis for requesting public data and reinforces accountability mechanisms.

Potentially contradictory legislation

- **Cybercrime Act (2020):** Enacted to address growing threats related to digital security and criminal misuse of ICT systems, the Cybercrime Act aims to protect data integrity and ensure system security. However, Sections 5 to 8 of the Act criminalize a wide range of data-related activities, including unauthorized access, illegal interception, and interference with data. These provisions are broad and do not explicitly exempt legitimate public interest activities such as open data reuse, investigative journalism, or academic research. This ambiguity could suppress civic innovation and discourage responsible engagement with open data platforms—even when datasets are published under open licenses. Without clear interpretive guidance or public interest exemptions, the Act risks being misapplied in ways that undermine transparency and accountability efforts.

Restrictive legislation

- **Data Protection Act (2021):** This Act establishes a strong legal framework to protect the privacy rights of individuals and regulate how personal data is collected, processed, and stored in Belize. It mandates high standards for consent and anonymization and so should be seen as a very positive legislative advance.

Nonetheless, it includes only narrow, conservative exemptions for “journalism,

literature, art” (section 35) and for “research, history and statistics” (section 36). Academic and scientific research is not explicitly mentioned and research organizations are not explicitly seen as “trusted actors” – able to work with identifiable data when consent might be impractical.

The Act lacks a broad “public interest” basis for data processing or exemptions—such as those needed by NGOs, civic tech groups, or independent researchers. Other Acts – such as the European Union (EU) GDPR – offer this “public interest” exemption to allow processing without consent for purposes such as public health, transparency, anti-corruption, or community-level decision-making—provided appropriate safeguards are in place.

The Act offers no safe harbor for anonymized datasets or “responsibly de-identified” data as sufficient protection. The consequence is that organizations may face full liability even for responsibly de-identified data, which might discourage open data publication or reuse—even when identification risks are extremely low.

These omissions set Belize apart from international norms, such as the EU GDPR, which provide for such public-interest exceptions. The lack of exemptions potentially creates uncertainty for data producers, including the Statistical Institute of Belize, who may err on the side of non-disclosure. The law also includes strict provisions on cross-border data transfers, which further complicate collaboration with regional and international partners. In practice, this might lead to overly cautious implementation, limiting the release of valuable but non-sensitive data. Without targeted legal reform or interpretive guidance, the Act risks prioritizing privacy at the expense of legitimate and beneficial open data reuse.

Discussion, Conclusions, and Recommendations

Discussion

Caribbean-level open-data trends reinforce the significance of Belize’s achievements. The regional comparison shows that while ODIN scores are improving across the Caribbean, progress is uneven. Belize has emerged as a leader among countries with moderate ODIN baseline scores by advancing legal and institutional mechanisms that support open data. However, the analysis also exposes systemic regional challenges: gaps in education and environmental data are widespread, and only a few countries (e.g., Jamaica, Dominican Republic) have fully institutionalized open data policies. Belize’s reforms—if built on then sustained—could offer a replicable model for peer nations.

In this context, Belize is improving its own data ecosystem and simultaneously contributing to a broader regional narrative about data-driven governance. The opportunity exists for Belize to play a convening role in regional efforts to harmonize standards, share good practices, and strengthen statistical capacity through south-south collaboration. Belize has made significant progress in developing a coherent open data ecosystem, evidenced by rising ODIN scores and new digital governance legislation. Its legal framework includes several enabling instruments that, together, offer a foundation for proactive data release and inter-agency coordination.

However, gaps remain. The absence of comprehensive guidance on data anonymization, open licensing, and cross-border sharing creates uncertainty. The co-existence of enabling and restrictive statutes demands careful interpretation and coordination. Countries like Canada, Finland, and New Zealand have balanced privacy with openness by adopting tiered access frameworks and codifying exemptions for public-interest data reuse.

Canada's data governance framework balances privacy with openness through structured guidance and mechanisms—supported by both the Statistics Act and administrative direction under the Privacy Act. Belize might consider similar administrative steps, including de-identification guidelines and tiered data access models, before pursuing longer-term legislative reform.

Finland's legal framework for data transparency is built on the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (1999), which establishes a strong presumption of access to official records held by public authorities. This includes structured mechanisms for public access, with exceptions only for narrowly defined privacy, national security, or commercial concerns. The Finnish model demonstrates how access to government data can be legally mandated while still respecting personal data protections under separate laws, such as the Personal Data Act (now superseded by the GDPR). Belize might consider adopting similar provisions—enshrining a right to access non-personal government data by default, supported by administrative review processes and clearly scoped exceptions.

New Zealand's dual legislative framework—comprising the Privacy Act 2020 and the Official Information Act 1982—offers a mature model for balancing the right to privacy with the right to access public data. The Privacy Act provides strong protections for personal information but includes clear public-interest exceptions for research, journalism, and archival purposes. Simultaneously, the Official Information Act creates a presumption of disclosure for information held by government agencies, with withholding permitted only for specified reasons such as privacy, commercial sensitivity, or national security. Together, these Acts ensure both accountability and responsible data stewardship. Belize could benefit from a similarly dual approach—pairing robust personal data protection with a dedicated legal right to access non-sensitive public data, clearly defining allowable exceptions and appeals mechanisms."

The Belizean experience illustrates that meaningful progress on open data is possible even with limited resources—provided there is policy alignment, institutional coordination, and sustained commitment to reform.

Recommendations

1. Provide guidance documents for routinely exempt sectors on lawful data sharing, while laying the groundwork for future legislative reform.

Justification:

Organizations in sectors like health, education, and journalism may hesitate to share or reuse data due to uncertainty about what the Belize Data Protection Act permits. Clear, practical guidance would help these sectors understand how to responsibly publish de-identified or aggregate data in the public interest. In the longer term, legislative amendments to explicitly allow exemptions for research, journalism, and other public-good uses would bring Belize's legal framework in line with global data governance standards.

2. Develop national anonymization and data minimization guidelines, with oversight from a multi-agency Data Governance Board.

Justification:

In the absence of clear protocols, Belizean institutions may default to risk-averse practices, leading to unnecessary restrictions on data sharing. National guidelines would provide consistent standards for removing personal identifiers while preserving data utility. Oversight by a Data Governance Board would ensure cross-sector coordination, enhance trust, and build internal capacity across government ministries.

3. Institutionalize an Open Data Policy, grounded in enabling legislation and aligned with CARICOM and SDG frameworks.

Justification:

While Belize has enabling legislation, it lacks a formal policy to coordinate open data activities and translate legal potential into practice. A national Open Data Policy would clarify responsibilities, define data release priorities, and set benchmarks aligned with CARICOM regional efforts and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This would formalize commitment and improve coherence across public agencies.

4. Enhance the national open data portal, prioritizing metadata quality, bulk downloads, and open licensing.

Justification:

Belize's open data portal remains underutilized, partly due to inconsistent metadata, limited download formats, and unclear licensing terms. Upgrading these features would improve usability for researchers, journalists, and businesses. Better documentation and machine-readable access would also enhance Belize's ODIN openness score and support data-driven innovation.

5. Use tiered access models for sensitive data, balancing openness with ethical risk management.

Justification:

Belize's current legal environment offers limited flexibility for releasing sensitive or disaggregated datasets, even when de-identified. A tiered access model—such as public access, restricted researcher access, and secure enclave use—would allow greater data use without compromising privacy. This approach is internationally validated and feasible through existing institutional structures like the Statistical Institute of Belize.

6. Invest in capacity-building and user engagement, including annual open data hackathons and feedback surveys.

Justification:

A culture of open data cannot emerge without skilled users and engaged institutions. Regular hackathons, training workshops, and user surveys would build technical fluency, stimulate civic innovation, and strengthen the feedback loop between data producers and users. These activities also increase visibility and accountability, helping demonstrate the value of public investment in data systems.

7. Publish an annual Open Data Impact Report to monitor progress and solicit stakeholder feedback.

Justification:

To maintain momentum and accountability, Belize needs a regular mechanism to track open data progress. An annual impact report would document advances, highlight use cases, identify challenges, and solicit feedback from the public and private sectors. This would help institutionalize learning, guide policy adjustments, and contribute to regional transparency benchmarks.

Conclusion

Belize's open data landscape is advancing steadily, with legislative foundations, institutional reforms, and rising international recognition. Realizing the full benefits will

require harmonizing legal interpretations, addressing remaining data gaps, and embedding transparency in public sector culture. By learning from global best practices and investing in inclusive, rights-based approaches, Belize can become a regional leader in open data governance.

Supplement

ODIN survey reports for Belize in 2020, 2022, and 2024

52

ODIN SCORE

Belize

114th

GLOBAL RANK
OUT OF 198

50

COVERAGE SCORE
OUT OF 100

53

OPENNESS SCORE
OUT OF 100

Summary of Results

The Open Data Inventory (ODIN) measures how complete a country's statistical offerings are and whether their data meet international standards of openness. **Belize ranks 114th in the Open Data Inventory 2024 with an overall score of 52.** The overall score is a combination of a data coverage subscore of 50 and a data openness subscore of 53.

Category Scores

Data Category	Coverage	Openness	Overall
Population and vital statistics	70	50	60
Education facilities	40	30	35
Education outcomes	40	30	35
Health facilities	60	50	55
Health outcomes	60	50	55
Reproductive health	50	50	50
Food security and nutrition	25	80	56
Gender statistics	30	50	40
Crime and justice	40	50	45
Poverty and income	50	60	55
Social Statistics subscore	47	50	48
National accounts	38	60	50
Labor	80	70	75
Price indexes	38	60	50
Government finance	75	30	50
Money and banking	100	60	75
International trade	50	50	50
Balance of payments	100	60	75
Economic Statistics subscore	67	56	61
Agriculture and land use	30	50	40
Resource use	38	80	61
Energy	0	0	0
Pollution	17	70	50
Built environment	80	70	75
All Categories	50	53	52

Last updated: April 29, 2025

Rankings

	Coverage	Openness	Overall
Global OUT OF 198	114th	114th	114th
Central America OUT OF 8	6th	5th	5th

Understanding the Scores

Each category receives a coverage and openness score. Coverage scores are based on five coverage elements* and openness scores are based on five openness elements. Overall scores are an average of all 10 criteria.

- Score 100

Data in this category fulfill all ODIN coverage/openness criteria.
- Scores 81-99

Data in this category fulfill most ODIN coverage/openness criteria.
- Scores 61-80

Data in this category fulfill several ODIN coverage/openness criteria, but many important gaps remain.
- Scores 41-60

Data in this category fulfill some ODIN coverage/openness criteria, but many important gaps remain.
- Scores 21-40

Data in this category fulfill some ODIN coverage/openness criteria, but many important gaps remain.
- Scores 1-20

Data in this category fulfill few ODIN coverage/openness criteria and there are significant gaps.
- Score 0

Not enough data were published to meet the minimum threshold to receive a score.

*Some categories are only scored on 3 or 4 coverage criteria. View the coverage tab for more information.

Coverage

The Open Data Inventory (ODIN) assesses coverage based on five coverage elements described below. Each category receives a coverage score based on the amount of data available in that category. Average scores across all categories are shown in the chart

Indicators Not Published

This is the percentage of ODIN indicators where no qualifying

9%

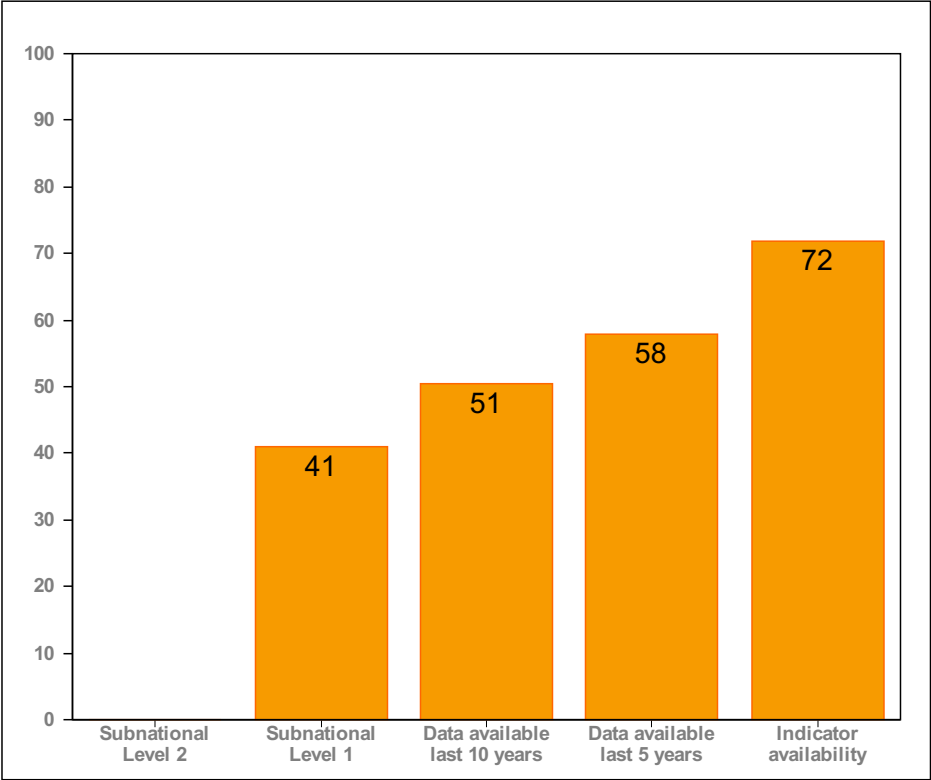
below.

In general, coverage scores are based on the availability of disaggregated indicators, how many observations are available over the last 10 years, and whether national and subnational data exist.

disaggregated data could be found on any government website. Not all indicators are required to be published for full credit, so it is possible to have a small percentage of unpublished data without impacting the coverage score.

Openness

Coverage Element Scores, 2024



Understanding the Scores

Coverage scores are based on five coverage elements.* Overall coverage scores are an average of all criteria.

- Score 100**
Data in this category fulfill all ODIN coverage/openness criteria.
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Data in this category fulfill few ODIN coverage/openness criteria and there are significant gaps.
- Score 0**
Not enough data were published to meet the minimum threshold to receive a score.

*Some categories are only scored on 3 or 4 coverage criteria. See description of the coverage elements below.

The Open Data Inventory (ODIN) assesses openness based on five elements described below. Each category receives an openness score based on the openness of data available in that category. Average scores across all categories are shown in the chart below.

In general, openness scores are based on the format and licensing of the datasets, the comprehensiveness of metadata, and what download options exist.

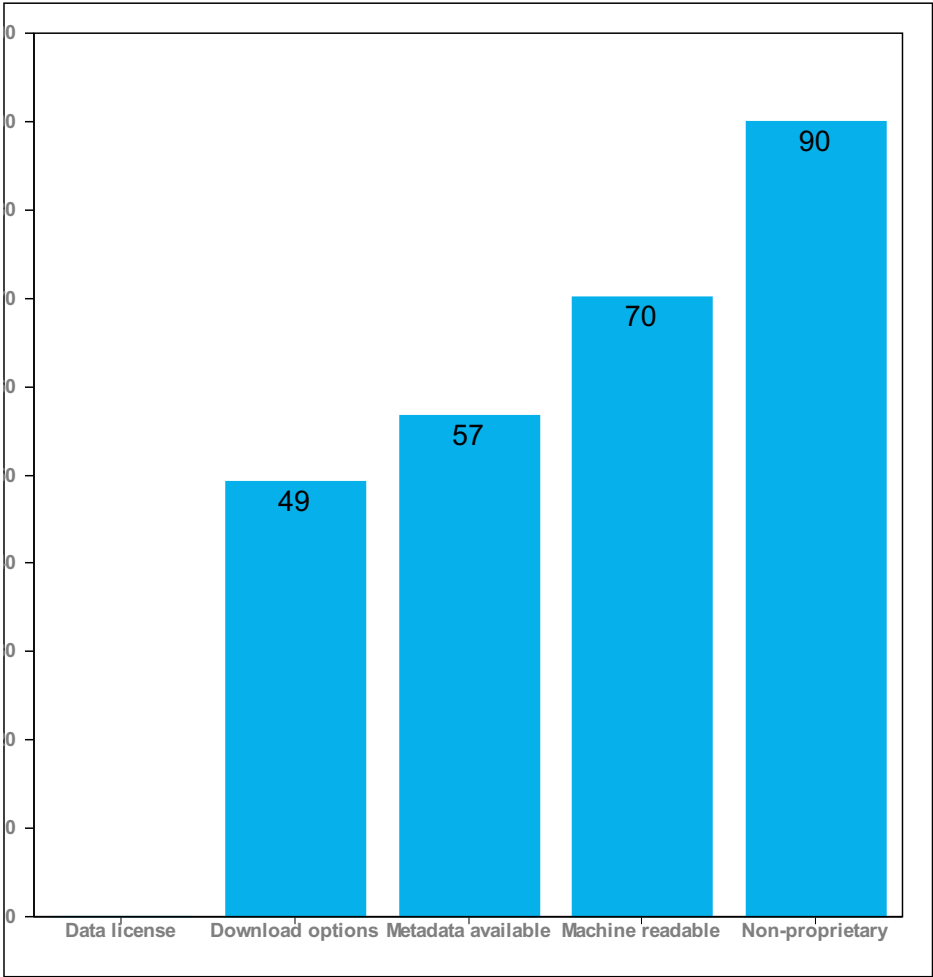
Data License/Terms of Use

The licensing or terms of use that govern the use and reuse of data assessed in ODIN are classified as Open, Some Restrictions, Not Open, or Not Available (if no license is found). Licensing information shown below is for data found on the website of the national statistics office and data portals used in their assessment, if applicable.

NSO Website -

Openness Element Scores, 2024

Understanding the Scores



Openness scores are based on [five openness elements](#). Overall openness scores are an average of all criteria.

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Data in this category fulfill few ODIN coverage/openness criteria and there are significant gaps.
- Score 0**
Not enough data were published to meet the minimum threshold to receive a score.

Country Context

To understand a country's enabling environment for open data, it is important to look at ODIN scores with a wider lens. The country context page identifies important features of the enabling environment for open data, such as existing legal frameworks and data commitments. The page also brings together insights from global indexes on data, human development, gender, and governance, to put into perspective where countries stand and where progress is still needed.

Legal Framework

For open data to have impact, strong legal frameworks must be in place. Some examples of frameworks that support all stages of the data value chain include statistical laws, copyright laws, right-to-information laws, and data privacy laws.



Statistical Law
A [statistical law](#) exists

Statistical laws lay the foundation for a country's national statistical system by defining the mandate for collecting and sharing official data, typically led by the national statistical office.



Copyright Law
A [copyright law](#) exists

Copyright laws provide the parameters for the production, reproduction, publication, and use of original content, shaping how information like statistical data can be accessed, used, and reused throughout the government.



Right to Information Law
A [right to information law](#) exists

Right to information laws safeguard citizens' right to access records or information held by the government, and like open data, are an inherent component of open government, promoting greater transparency.



Data Privacy Law
A [data privacy law](#) exists

Data privacy laws regulate and safeguard the collection, use, and access to personal data held by the government, and are integral to open data as they protect individuals and help gain public trust.

Data Commitments

Legal frameworks lay the foundation, but true progress on open data requires political and institutional will. This section highlights Belize existing commitments to address or improve open data:



National Data Strategy
National data strategies or National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) describe a country's plans for developing statistical capacity across the entire national statistical system (NSS). They present the statistics office's priorities for the next 5-10 years.

Belize has a [national data strategy](#).



IMF Standards for Data Dissemination
Data dissemination standards enhance the availability of timely and comprehensive statistics.

Belize is an [e-GDDS Subscriber](#) ?



Open Data Charter (ODC)
ODC is a collaboration between over 100 governments and organizations working to open up data based on a shared set of seven principles.

Belize has not adopted the charter.

Open Government Partnership (OGP)

OGP is a multilateral initiative to secure concrete commitments from national and



subnational governments to promote open government, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

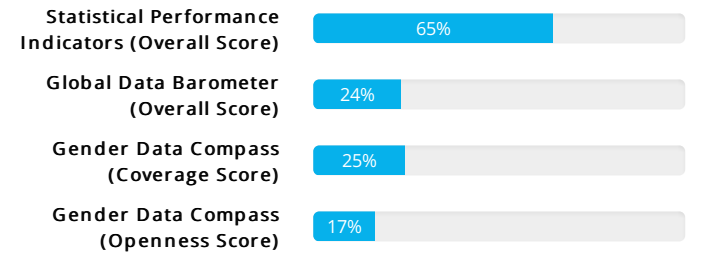
Belize is not a member.

Global Indexes of Statistical Capacity

Beyond ODIN, there are other measurements of statistical capacity or open data.

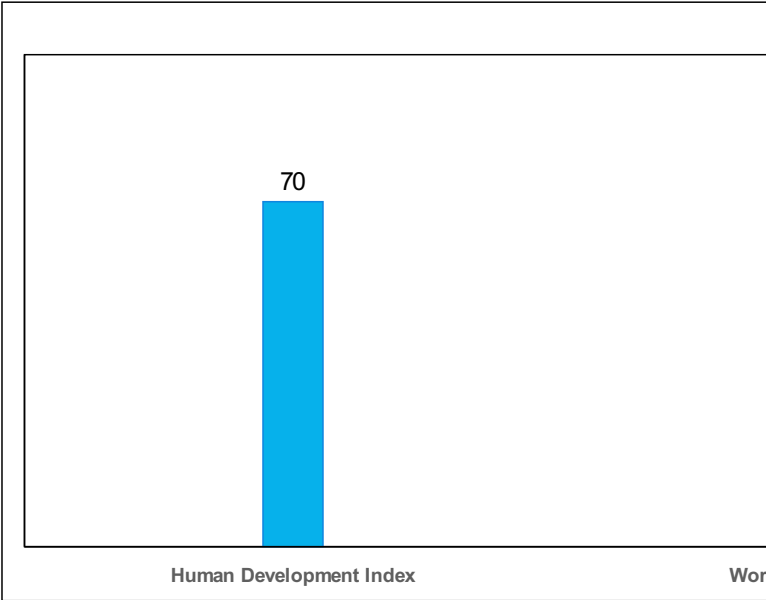
The World Bank's Statistical Performance Indicators (SPI) measures the capacity and maturity of national statistical systems.	The Global Data Barometer (GDB) measures the state of data in countries, specifically on topics of data governance, capability, availability, and use and impact of data for public good.	The Gender Data Compass provides a comprehensive overview of gender data systems encompassing data availability, openness, foundations, capacity, and financing.
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Below is a bar graph showing the overall score for the Statistical Performance Indicators, the Global Data Barometer, and the coverage and openness score for the Gender Data Compass.



Global Indexes of Governance and Human Development

Global governance and socio-economic indexes help researchers and practitioners, providing a snapshot on the state of human development, government transparency and accountability within a country. These indexes show the power of data – we cannot fix what we cannot measure.



[Human Development Index](#) (UNDP): Measures achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and having a decent standard of living.

[Democracy Index](#) (Economist Intelligence Unit): Measures 60 indicators in the categories of electoral process and pluralism, functioning of government, political participation, political culture, and civil liberties.

[SDG Gender Index](#) (Equal Measures 2030): The most comprehensive measure of gender equality, investigating 56 issues across 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

[World Press Freedom](#) (Reporters Without Borders): Is an annual ranking that compares the level of press freedom in 180 countries and territories.

All scores have been converted to a 100 point scale.

45

ODIN SCORE

Belize

115th

GLOBAL RANK
OUT OF 195

44

COVERAGE SCORE
OUT OF 100

45

OPENNESS SCORE
OUT OF 100

Summary of Results

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Category Scores

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Health outcomes	30	40	35
Reproductive health	50	40	45
Food security and nutrition	25	40	33
Gender statistics	10	40	25
Crime and justice	40	50	45
Poverty and income	30	40	35
Social Statistics subscore	39	41	40
National accounts	38	60	50
Labor	60	50	55
Price indexes	38	60	50
Government finance	75	30	50
Money and banking	100	50	69
International trade	100	60	75
Balance of payments	100	60	75
Economic Statistics subscore	69	53	60
Agriculture and land use	30	30	30
Resource use	13	50	33
Energy	0	0	0
Pollution	25	70	50
Built environment	60	50	55
Environment subscore	29	40	35
All Categories	44	45	45

Last updated: August 9, 2023

Rankings

	Coverage	Openness	Overall
Global OUT OF 195	121st	110th	115th
Central America OUT OF 8	5th	4th	4th

Understanding the Scores

Each category receives a coverage and openness score. Coverage scores are based on five coverage elements* and openness scores are based on five openness elements. Overall scores are an average of all 10 criteria.

-  **Score 100**
Data in this category fulfill all ODIN coverage/openness criteria.
-  **Scores 81-99**
Data in this category fulfill most ODIN coverage/openness criteria.
-  **Scores 61-80**
Data in this category fulfill several ODIN coverage/openness criteria, but many important gaps remain.
-  **Scores 41-60**
Data in this category fulfill some ODIN coverage/openness criteria, but many important gaps remain.
-  **Scores 21-40**
Data in this category fulfill some ODIN coverage/openness criteria, but many important gaps remain.
-  **Scores 1-20**
Data in this category fulfill few ODIN coverage/openness criteria and there are significant gaps.
-  **Score 0**
Not enough data were published to meet the minimum threshold to receive a score.

*Some categories are only scored on 3 or 4 coverage criteria. View the coverage tab for more information.

Country Review

Each country's national statistical office is invited to participate in the ODIN Country Review process where they are invited to review the list of datasets found in the assessment and suggest new datasets (that are published online by the end of the deadline for

all countries).

In this assessment feedback was not submitted by the national statistical office in Belize.

Want to submit feedback or sign up for the next ODIN review?
[Contact us](#)

Coverage

The Open Data Inventory (ODIN) assesses coverage based on five coverage elements described below. Each category receives a coverage score based on the amount of data available in that category. Average scores across all categories are shown in the chart below.

In general, coverage scores are based on the availability of disaggregated indicators, how many observations are available over the last 10 years, and whether national and subnational data exist.

Indicators Not Published

25%

Indicators are considered not published when no qualifying and disaggregated data are found. Not all indicators are required for full credit in every category.

Number of Categories That Score 0

1

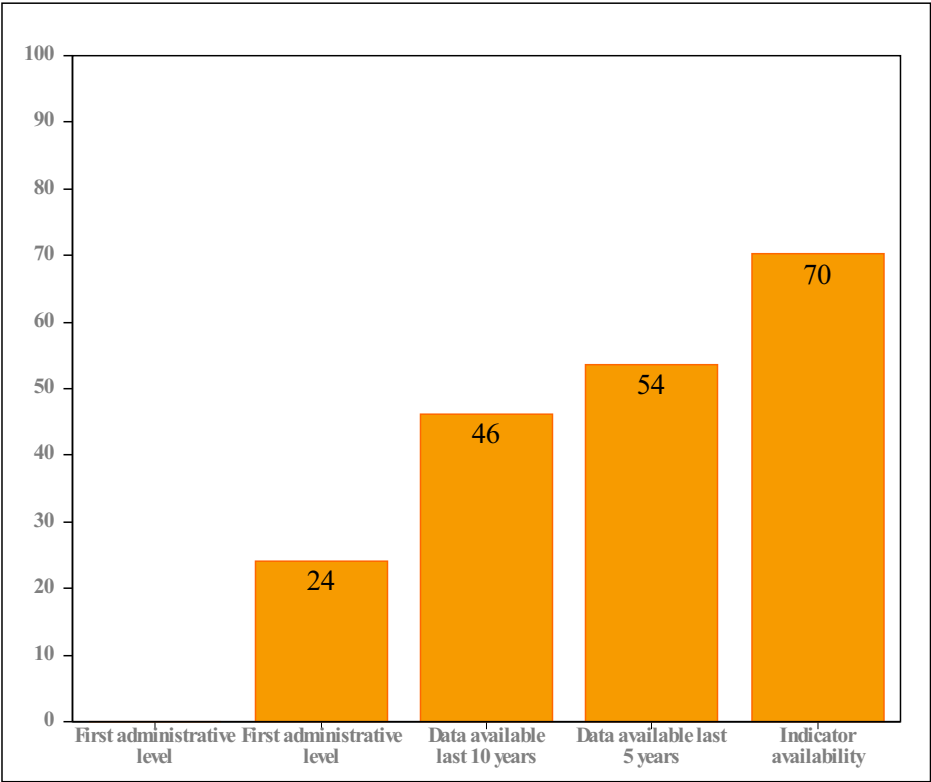
Categories that score 0 do not publish the minimum amount of data to receive a score. For most categories, the minimum amount of data is one indicator. There are 22 categories.

ODIN-Gender Data Index (OGDI) Score

41

OGDI is a sub-index of ODIN, which measures the availability and openness of 35 indicators that should be sex-disaggregated or apply only to women and girls. Click the score to learn more.

Coverage Element Scores, 2022



Understanding the Scores

Coverage scores are based on five coverage elements.* Overall coverage scores are an average of all criteria.

- Score 100**
Data in this category fulfill all ODIN coverage/openness criteria.
- Scores 81-99**
Data in this category fulfill most ODIN coverage/openness criteria.
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- Scores 21-40**
Data in this category fulfill some ODIN coverage/openness criteria, but many important gaps remain.
- Scores 1-20**
Data in this category fulfill few ODIN coverage/openness criteria and there are significant gaps.
- Score 0**
Not enough data were published to meet the minimum threshold to receive a score.

*Some categories are only scored on 3 or 4 coverage criteria. See description of the coverage elements below.

Openness

The Open Data Inventory (ODIN) assesses openness based on five elements described below. Each category receives an openness score based on the openness of data available in that category. Average scores across all categories are shown in the chart below.

In general, openness scores are based on the format and licensing of the datasets, the comprehensiveness of metadata, and what download options exist.

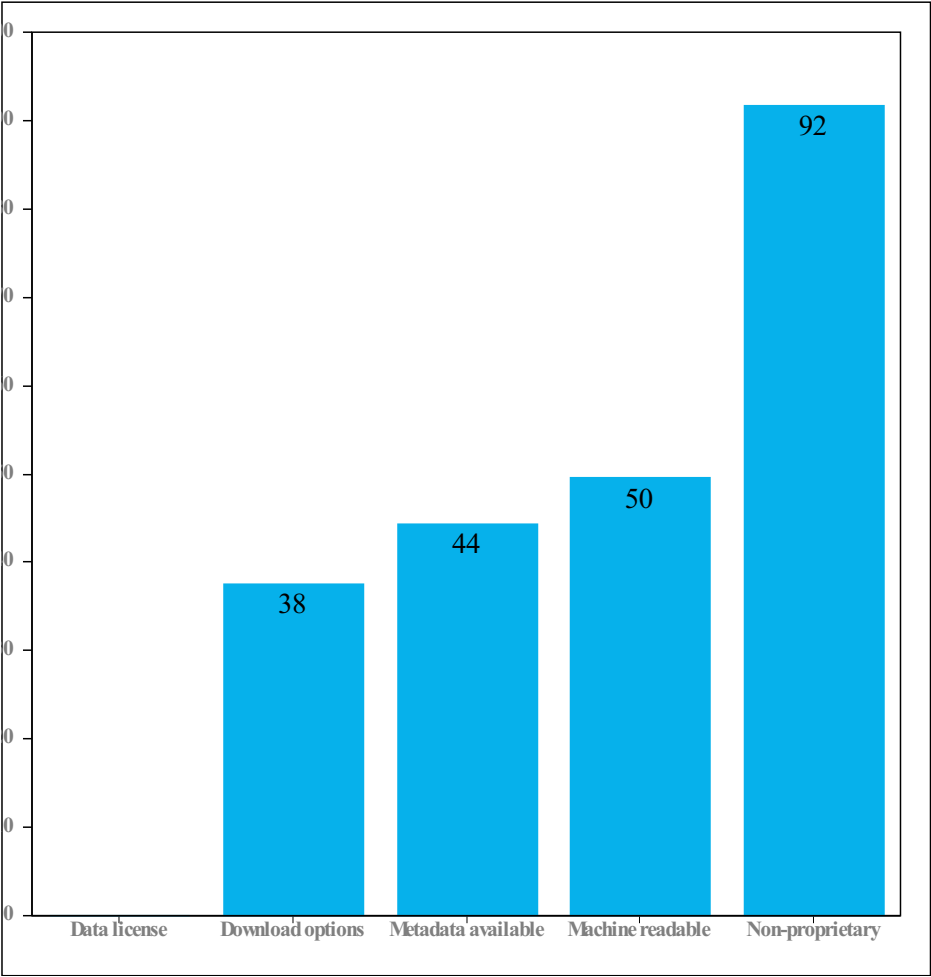
Data License/Terms of Use

The licensing or terms of use that govern the use and reuse of data assessed in ODIN are classified as Open, Some Restrictions, Not Open, or Not Available (if no license is found). Licensing information shown below is for data found on the website of the national statistics office and data portals used in their assessment, if applicable.

NSO Website
Statistical Institute of Belize

Not Available

Openness Element Scores, 2022



Understanding the Scores

Openness scores are based on **five openness elements**. Overall openness scores are an average of all criteria.

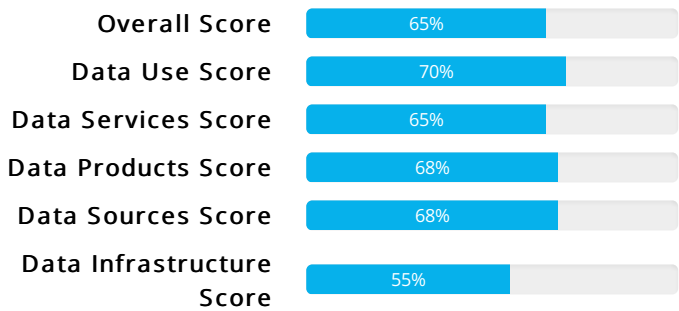
- Score 100**
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- Scores 81-99**
Data in this category fulfill most ODIN coverage/openness criteria.
- Scores 61-80**
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- Scores 41-60**
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- Scores 21-40**
Data in this category fulfill some ODIN coverage/openness criteria, but many important gaps remain.
- Scores 1-20**
Data in this category fulfill few ODIN coverage/openness criteria and there are significant gaps.
- Score 0**
Not enough data were published to meet the minimum threshold to receive a score.

Country Context

To understand a country’s commitment to open data, it is important to look at ODIN scores in context. The information below includes assessments of the country’s statistical capacity, links to relevant laws, and comparative measures of the country’s performance on other measures of data coverage, openness, and government transparency.

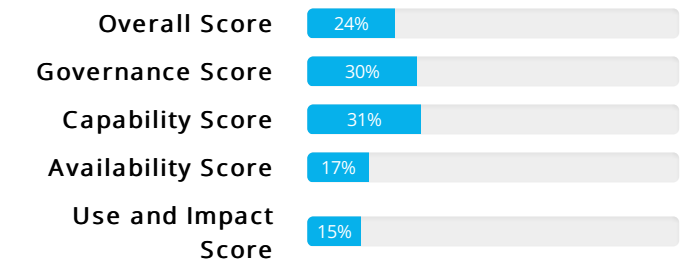
Statistical Performance Indicators

The World Bank’s Statistical Performance Indicators measure the capacity and maturity of national statistical systems by assessing the use of data, the quality of services, the coverage of topics, the sources of information, and the infrastructure and availability of resources. The goal is to improve development outcomes and track progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.



Global Data Barometer

The Global Data Barometer is a project of the Data for Development Network that aims to measure the state of data in relation to urgent societal issues. It seeks to appraise data availability, governance, capability and use around the world to help shape data infrastructures that limit risks and harms in climate action, company information, health and COVID-19, land, political integrity, public finance and public procurement.



Legal Framework

To be sustainable, open data initiatives must be supported by a strong legal framework. Below are some of the more common national laws that should work in coordination with open data policies and data licenses.

Statistical Law Statistics Act (2006) [\(link\)](#)

Right to Information Law Freedom of Information Act [\(link\)](#)

Copyright Law Belize Copyright Act Chapter 252 of the Laws of Belize [\(link\)](#)

Data Commitments

National Data Strategy

National data strategies or National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) provide a country with a strategy for developing statistical capacity across the entire national statistical system (NSS). It presents the statistics office’s priorities for the next 5-10 years.

Read the [Draft - National Strategy for Development of Statistics \(2023\)](#) for Belize.

IMF Standards for Data Dissemination

Data dissemination standards enhance the availability of timely and comprehensive statistics, which contributes to sound macroeconomic policies and the efficient functioning of financial markets.

Belize is an [e-GDDS Subscriber](#)

Open Data Charter (ODC)

The ODC is a collaboration between over 100 governments and organisations working to open up data based on a shared set of seven principles.

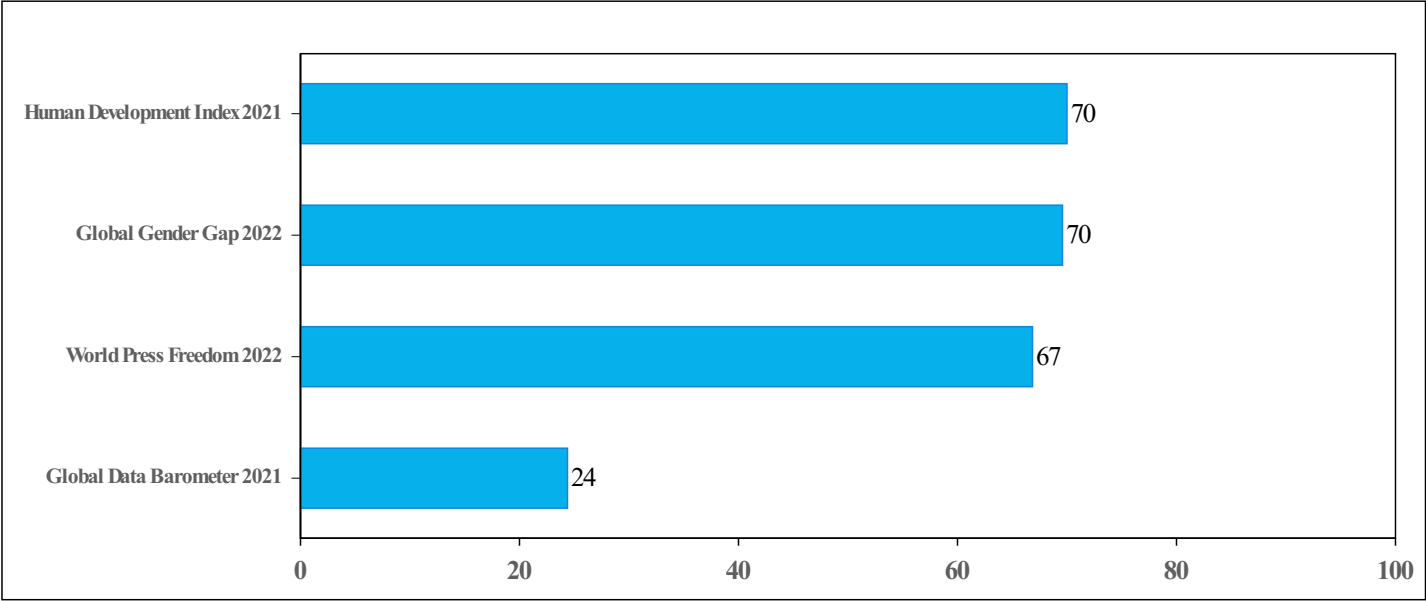
Belize N/A

Open Government Partnership (OGP)

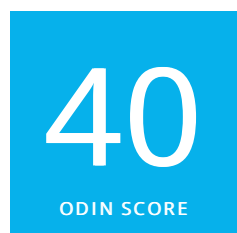
OGP is a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from national and subnational governments to promote open government, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

Belize [has been a not a member](#)

Index Comparison



All scores have been converted to a 100 point scale.



Belize

138th GLOBAL RANK
OUT OF 187

43 COVERAGE SCORE
OUT OF 100

37 OPENNESS SCORE
OUT OF 100

Summary of Results

The Open Data Inventory (ODIN) measures how complete a country's statistical offerings are and whether their data meet international standards of openness. **Belize ranks 138th in the Open Data Inventory 2020 with an overall score of 40.** The overall score is a combination of a data coverage subscore of 43 and a data openness subscore of 37.

Category Scores

Data Category	Coverage	Openness	Overall
Population and vital statistics	40	50	45
Education facilities	40	30	35
Education outcomes	40	50	45
Health facilities	40	30	35
Health outcomes	30	40	35
Reproductive health	50	40	45
Food security and nutrition	38	40	39
Gender statistics	10	40	25
Crime and justice	50	50	50
Poverty and income	0	0	0
Social Statistics subscore	34	37	35
National accounts	75	60	67
Labor	50	30	40
Price indexes	38	60	50
Government finance	75	40	56
Money and banking	100	50	69
International trade	100	40	63
Balance of payments	100	60	75
Economic Statistics subscore	73	49	59
Agriculture and land use	30	40	35
Resource use	38	40	39
Energy	0	0	0
Pollution	0	0	0
Built environment	50	50	50
Environment subscore	26	26	26
All Categories	43	37	40

Last updated: August 9, 2023 (data for 2016-2020 has been updated).

Rankings

	Coverage	Openness	Overall
Global OUT OF 187	131st	138th	138th
Central America OUT OF 8	6th	5th	5th

Understanding the Scores

Each category receives a coverage and openness score. Coverage scores are based on five coverage elements* and openness scores are based on five openness elements. Overall scores are an average of all 10 criteria.

- Score 100**
Data in this category fulfill all ODIN coverage/openness criteria.
- Scores 81-99**
Data in this category fulfill most ODIN coverage/openness criteria.
- Scores 61-80**
Data in this category fulfill several ODIN coverage/openness criteria, but many important gaps remain.
- Scores 41-60**
Data in this category fulfill some ODIN coverage/openness criteria, but many important gaps remain.
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Data in this category fulfill some ODIN coverage/openness criteria, but many important gaps remain.
- Scores 1-20**
Data in this category fulfill few ODIN coverage/openness criteria and there are significant gaps.
- Score 0**
Not enough data were published to meet the minimum threshold to receive a score.

*Some categories are only scored on 3 or 4 coverage criteria. View the coverage tab for more information.

Country Updates

No updates yet.

Want to submit an update or propose a correction? [Contact us](#)

Coverage

The Open Data Inventory (ODIN) assesses coverage based on five coverage elements described below. Each category receives a coverage score based on the amount of data available in that category. Average scores across all categories are shown in the chart below.

In general, coverage scores are based on the availability of disaggregated indicators, how many observations are available over the last 10 years, and whether national and subnational data exist.

Indicators Not Published

23%

Indicators are considered not published when no qualifying and disaggregated data are found. Not all indicators are required for full credit in every category.

Number of Categories That Score 0

3

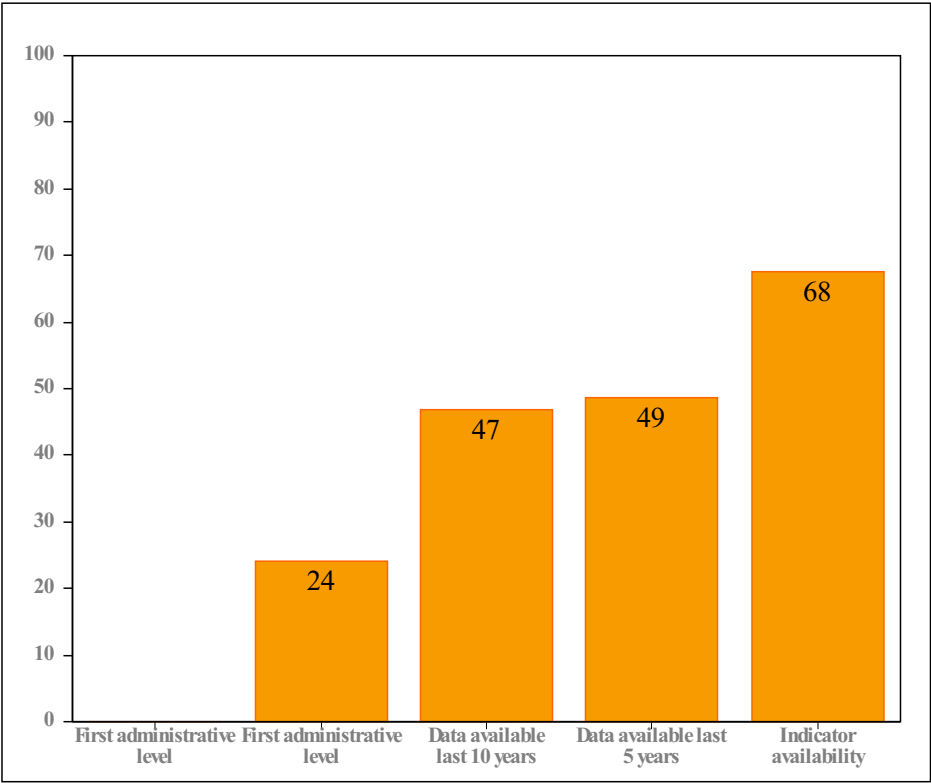
Categories that score 0 do not publish the minimum amount of data to receive a score. For most categories, the minimum amount of data is one indicator. There are 22 categories.

Indicators Lacking Sex Disaggregation

0%

Sex- disaggregated data are important to reflect the realities of men and women in various policy areas and narrow gender inequalities.

Coverage Element Scores, 2020



Understanding the Scores

Coverage scores are based on five coverage elements.* Overall coverage scores are an average of all criteria.

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Openness

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scores across all categories are shown in the chart below.

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NSO Website

Statistical Institute of Belize

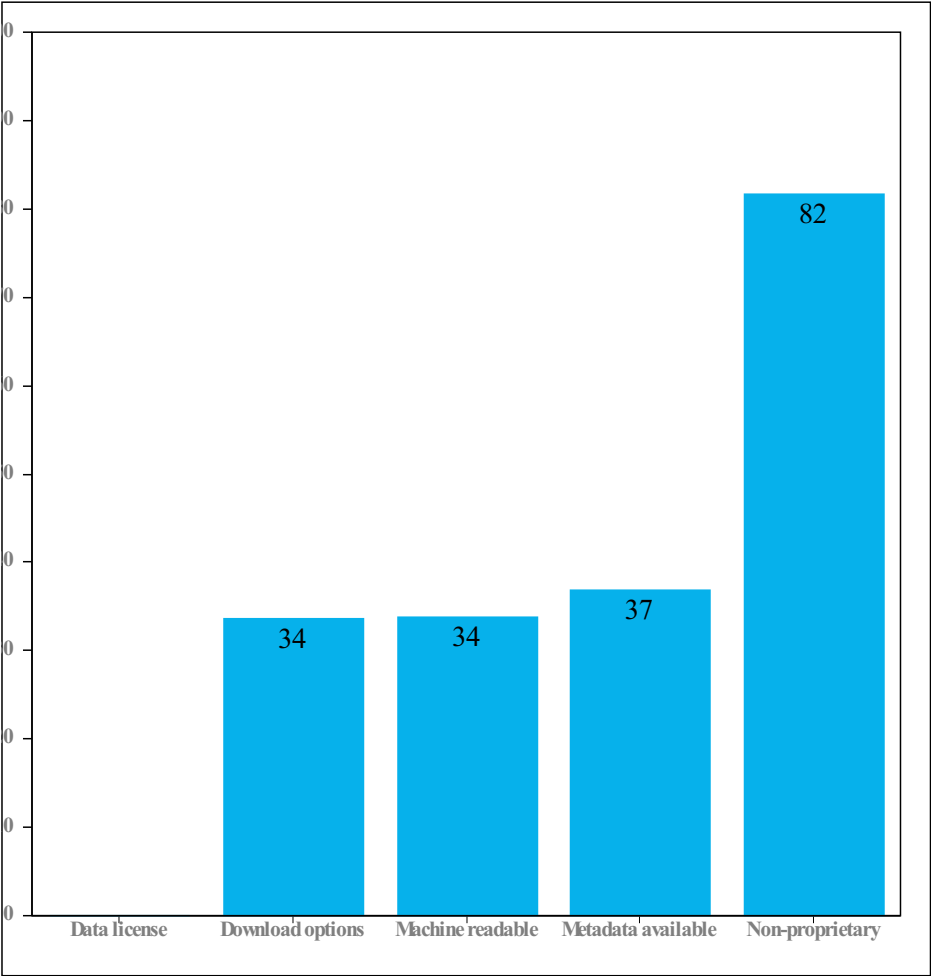
Not Available

NSO Data Portal

Belize National Statistical System Portal

Not Available

Openness Element Scores, 2020



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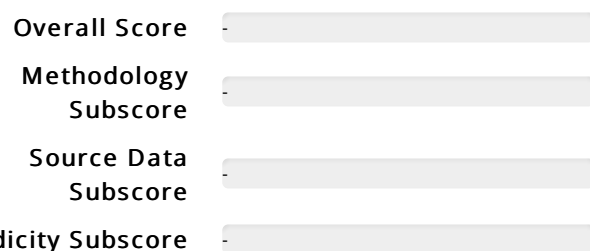
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Statistical Capacity Indicators

The World Bank's Statistical Capacity Indicator is a composite score assessing the capacity of a country's statistical system. It is based on a diagnostic framework assessing the following areas: methodology; data sources; and periodicity and timeliness. For more information, click the scores below.



Scores are only available for low- to middle-income countries.

Legal Framework

To be sustainable, open data initiatives must be supported by a strong legal framework. Below are some of the more common national laws that should work in coordination with open data policies and data licenses.

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Right to Information Law Freedom of Information Act ([link](#))

Copyright Law Belize Copyright Act Chapter 252 of the Laws of Belize ([link](#))

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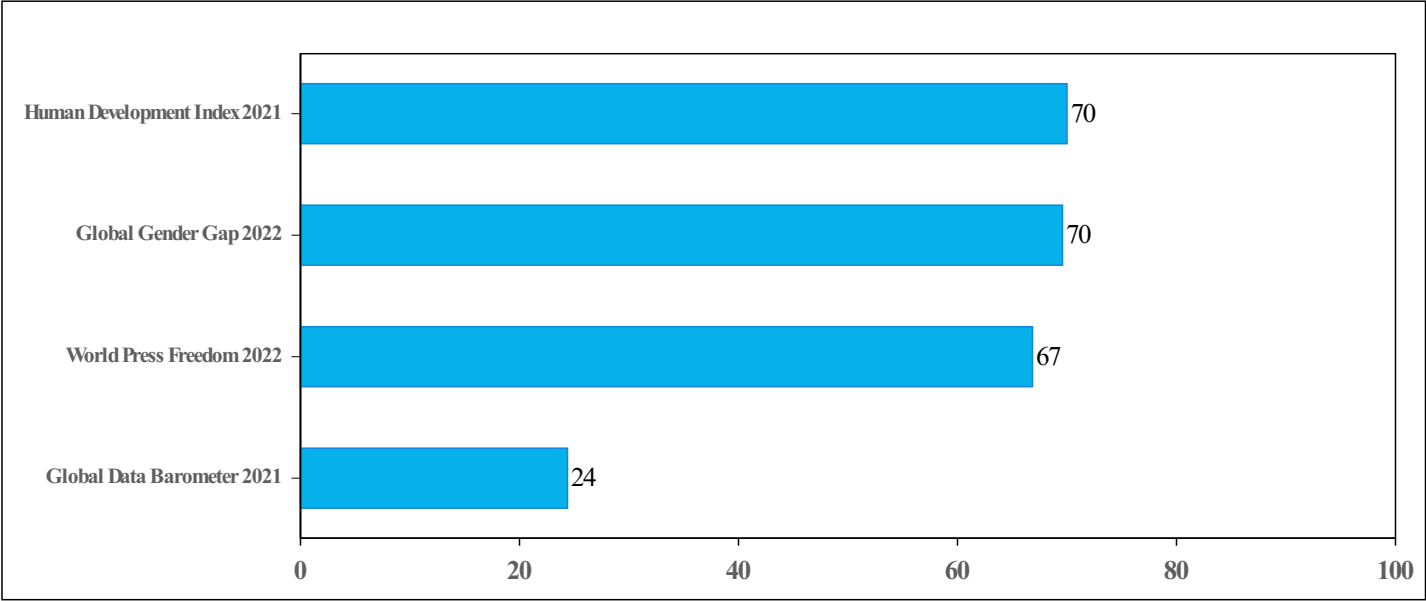
Belize N/A

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Belize [Not a member](#)

Index Comparison



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