

2nd Gathering of the ParLAmericas Parliamentary Network on Security.

Public Security in the Americas and the Caribbean: Parliamentary Responses to Organized Crime and Violence.

Evidence-based citizen security policies

Experience in the design, implementation, and evaluation of citizen security policies in Latin America and the Caribbean

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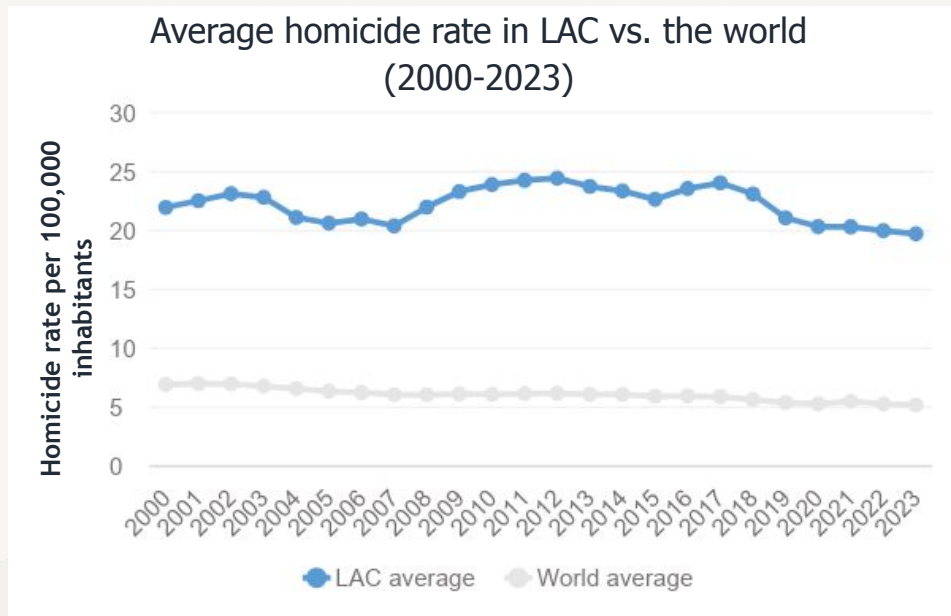
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Insecurity is an urgent challenge for LAC

Crime and violence are persistent and highly prevalent problems that manifest themselves in different ways in the region.



Source: UNODC (2025)



1 in 3 women has experienced physical or sexual violence in her lifetime. Source: WHO (2021)



1 in 4 companies identifies crime as a serious obstacle to doing business. Source: WB (2018)

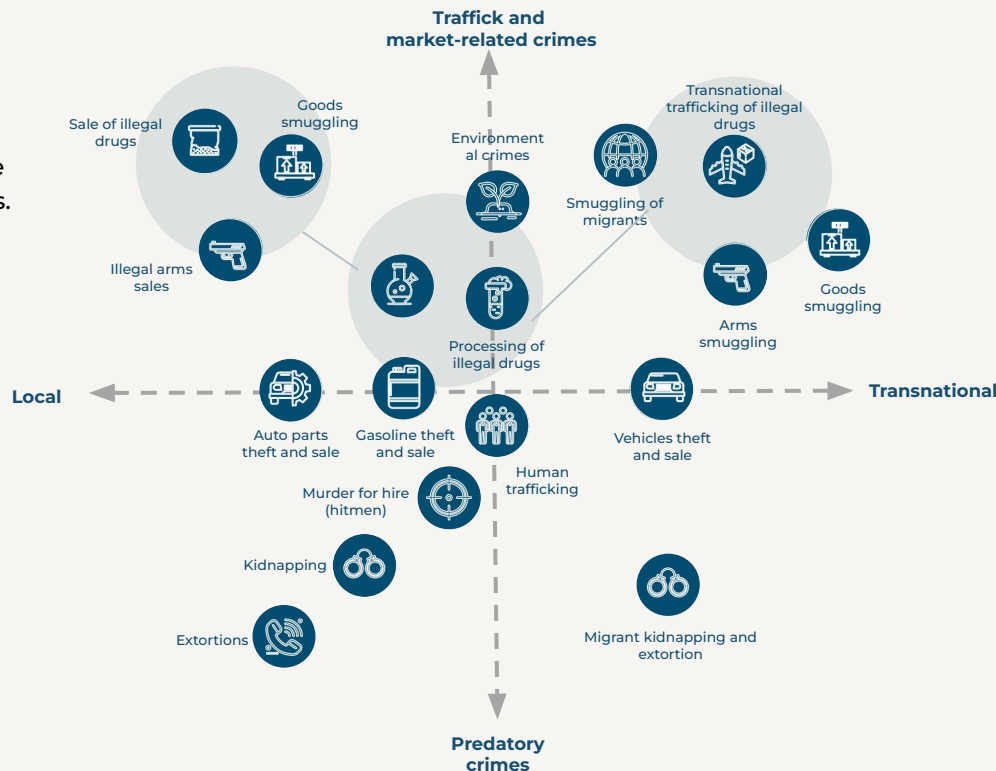


51% of people report not feeling safe. Source: WVS (2017-22)

Organized crime accounts for a significant proportion of the crime and violence in the region

- **50% of homicides** are linked to organized crime vs. 22% globally and 6% in Europe.

Source: UNODC (2023).



- **54% of households** report the presence of local criminal groups. **14%** indicate that these groups impose order and reduce crime.

Source: Latinobarómetro (2020)

LAC exceeds the world average for crime in **12 of 15 illicit markets**

Source: Global Organized Crime Index (2023).

With enormous social and economic impacts

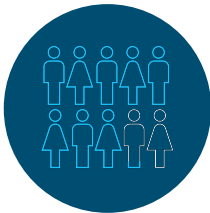
Reduces human capital



Exposure to illicit labor markets fosters the accumulation of criminal capital; gang violence affects human capital.

Source: Monteiro & Rocha (2018), Sviatchi (2022)

Reduces well-being



Living in gang-controlled neighborhoods reduces material well-being, income, and educational opportunities.

Source: Melnikov et al. (2023)

Limits economic growth



Companies exposed to greater violence face lower selling and input prices, reduce their production, and often exit the market.

Source: Roza (2018)

Threatens the rule of law and democracy



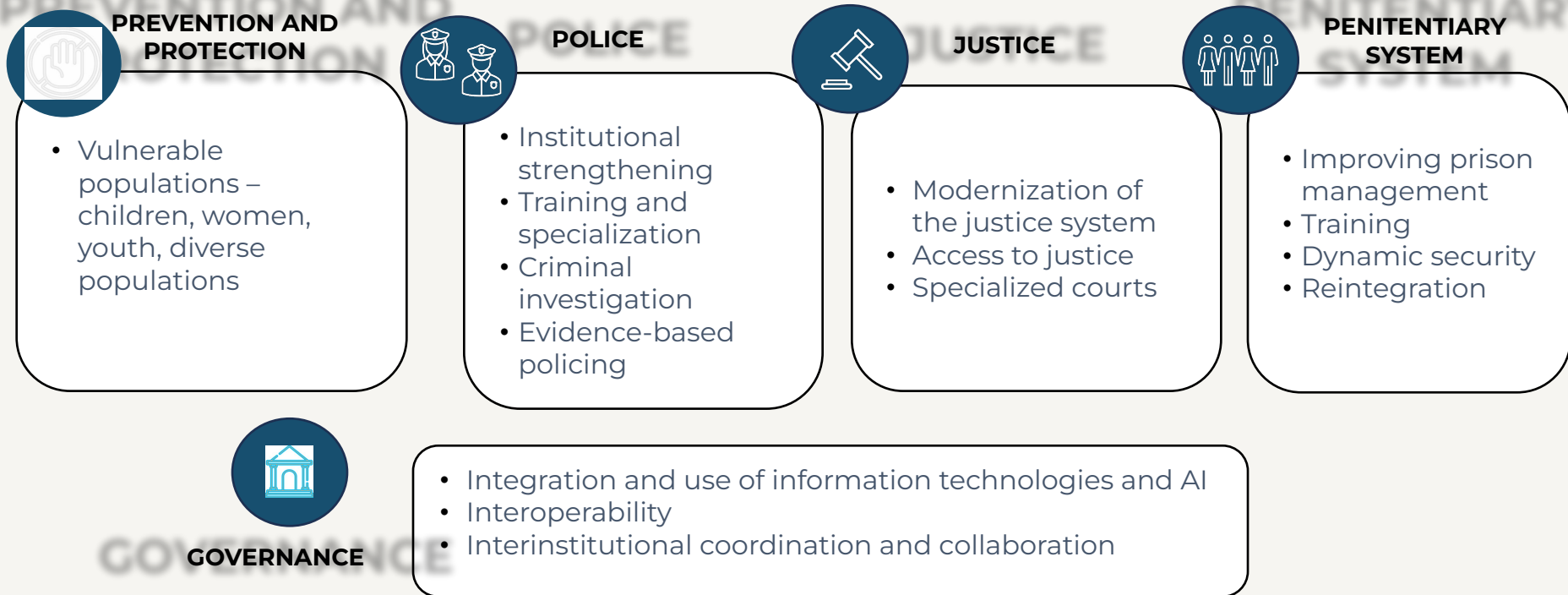
Criminal governance, corruption, and the inability to respond to them reduce the authority of the State.

Source: Arias (2017); Blattman et al. (2024), Yashar (2018)

Our approach and solutions to crime and violence

We promote evidence-based solutions, applied knowledge, and institutional reforms to strengthen the rule of law and drive social and economic development.

Comprehensive approach to security



What are evidence-based policies?

STRICT SENSE

Effectiveness

Does an intervention achieve the desired impact? This is answered with an impact evaluation based on causal inference.

Positive effect

Neutral effect

Iatrogenic effect

BROAD SENSE

Scientific method

Science applied to the entire cycle: understanding the problem, evaluating institutional performance, and measuring results.

Differs from deciding based on opinion, ideology or inertia.

The best approach is to follow both methods: rigorous evaluations whenever possible, and the best available knowledge for all areas of public policy.

Prevention strategies with evidence of effectiveness

-44%

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Arrests for violence crimes
(Chicago)

-74%

Cure Violence Model

Armed and lethal violence
(Colombia)

-50%

Safe School Program

Recruitment (El Salvador)

Police strategies with evidence of effectiveness

-34%

**Problem-oriented
policing**

Crime and disorder, 34
studies, without
displacement

-23%

**Targeted
deterrence**

50 studies; -25.5% in
group violence

-52%

**Results-based
management**

Homicides, 9 goal-based
programs, periodic
monitoring and
accountability

-17%

**Real-time analysis
centers**

Estimated reductions in
crime, according to the
crimes and periods
analyzed (Chicago)

Strategies for criminal prosecution, justice, and reintegration

+30%

**Multidisciplinary
and specialized
Prosecutor's Office
teams**

Conviction rate (Colombia)

–50%

**Youth Redirection
Programs**

Criminal recidivism;
19 studies

–38%

**Drug Treatment
Courts**

Criminal recidivism;
154 studies

–28%

**Risk, Need,
Responsiveness
Model**

Criminal recidivism;
32 studies

Before the remedy, properly diagnose the disease.

WHEN ADMINISTRATIVE DATA IS INSUFFICIENT

Criminal governance

It is not recorded: it must be measured with surveys and other methods.

WHEN THE DATA SHOULD EXIST

Recovery of criminal assets

Most countries do not measure how many assets they seize or whether that weakened the organizations.

Three principles to guide solutions that have not yet been evaluated

Proactivity

Study patterns and anticipate them, instead of responding on a case-by-case basis.

Example: macro-cases of investigation by prosecutors, such as Carbono Oscuro in Brazil.

Focus

Few people, groups, and territories are responsible for the damage: prioritize them.

Example: strategic criminal prosecution, such as the SACFI of the Chilean Prosecutor's Office.

Integration

Networks cross borders and institutions: sharing information and acting in a coordinated manner.

Example: joint investigation teams, like the EncroChat case.

State capacities and regional public goods

Regional public goods

- Alliance for Security, Justice, and Development
- Rapid Response Task Force
- Citizen Security Academy
- Amazon International Police Cooperation Centre for environmental crime (Federal Police of Brazil)
- Observatory of Prosecutors against Organized Crime
- Criminal Asset Recovery Programme

Evidence Platform for Security and Justice

700+

- Programmes evaluated in over 90 types of intervention;
- + curation of evidence on organized crime using AI (*on going*).



70 operations to strengthen state capacities accumulated to 2026

US\$ 3.267 million accumulated to 2026

Thank you!

