



Report

PRIVATE SECURITY ANALYSIS

SCOPOLAMINE THEFT RISKS



For decades, the modality of theft using drugs has been widely used by criminals in Colombia. This phenomenon tends to manifest in sectors of cities where there are clusters of nightlife entertainment venues, as the high influx of people enables criminals to employ various strategies to approach their potential victims, committing anything from thefts to sexual abuses.

According to a study by the CES University, crime continues to use scopolamine, as the substance achieves the submission of the victim, leaving them in a state of defenselessness and obeying the instructions of the perpetrator. This substance is commonly administered in alcoholic beverages, food, and even sweets. Additionally, there are known cases where benzodiazepines such as Clonazepam are used to subdue victims.

MODALITIES



One of the most recognized modalities by authorities through which Criminal Groups operate is the use of attractive women to seduce their victims. These victims are often targeted inside nightclubs or through social media platforms such as Facebook or Tinder, where, using fake profiles, they seduce their victims and arrange meetings in clandestine locations to facilitate the crime.

While the majority of victims are men, cases have been reported where criminals make sudden approaches to anyone, who, after taking an object, paper, or asking for help, become subjected to drugs, thereby surrendering cash, cards, or other demands of the criminals.

Foreign citizens are another population identified as vulnerable in this scenario of insecurity, as criminal groups take advantage of visitors' unfamiliarity and their economic status to commit the crime.

The country's capital cities are the areas with the highest frequency and reports of cases of this theft modality.

In Bogotá, in the year 2023, according to official figures, there were 1,409 cases of scopolamine victims, with the localities of Chapinero, Teusaquillo, Santa Fe, Engativá, and Fontibón being the most affected.



RECOMMENDATIONS



- Do not accept drinks from third parties or strangers who suddenly want to strike up a conversation or approach you or your social group.
- Do not attend night entertainment establishments alone, and if you do, avoid areas where cases of scopolamine use have been reported in advance.
- Always maintain a high level of situational awareness, allowing you to identify suspicious groups or individuals attempting to approach your table or watching you.
- Avoid accepting samples of products or beverages offered to you both inside and outside the establishment.
- Alert trusted individuals if you experience symptoms such as headache, difficulty breathing or speaking, blurred vision, increased body temperature, or cardiac arrhythmias, as you may be intoxicated.
- Do not carry large sums of cash, credit cards, or jewelry that may be of interest to criminals.
- When traveling, use safe means of transportation through authorized mobility platforms and share your real-time location with trusted individuals.
- Send your mobile phone and pickup point to your emergency contacts so they are aware of possible departure and arrival times at the destination point.

Call the emergency line 123 when you observe any suspicious situation, disoriented individuals, aggressive behavior, or changes in behavior due to unknown substances.

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