



**SECURITY  
COLOMBIA**

**Security Overview**

***SAO PAULO***

September 2024



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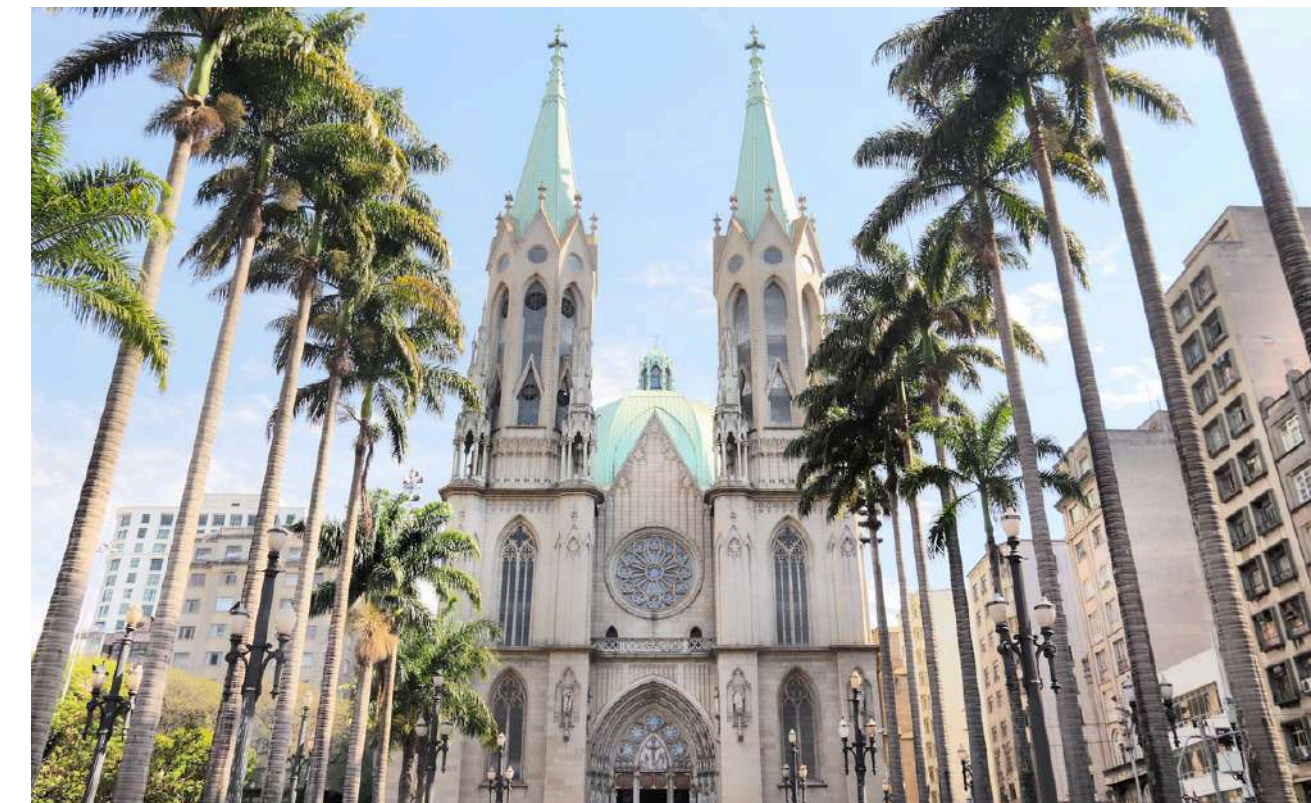
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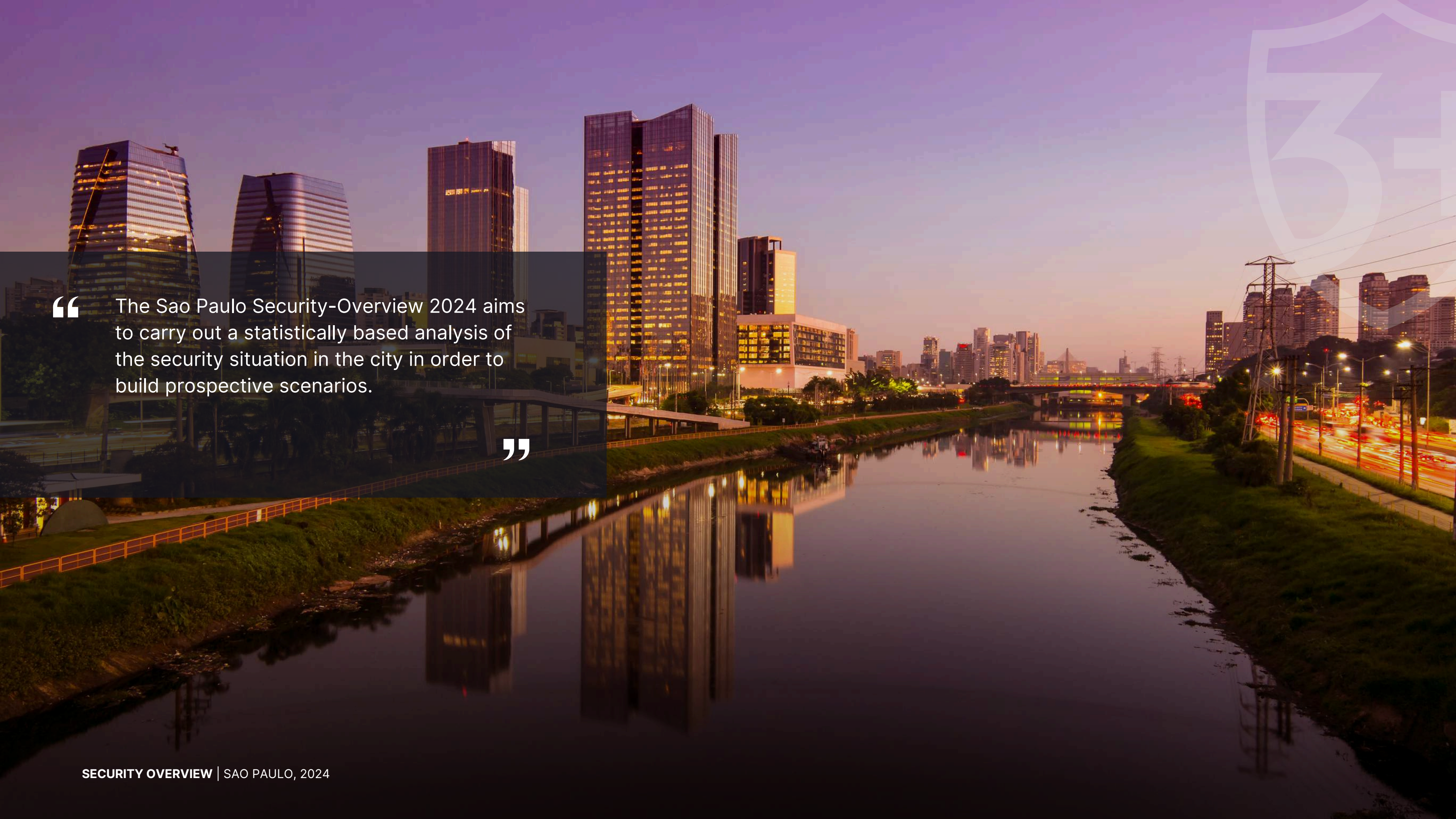
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“ The Sao Paulo Security-Overview 2024 aims to carry out a statistically based analysis of the security situation in the city in order to build prospective scenarios.

”





# 1. Situational Analysis

The city of Sao Paulo is one of the most important cities in Brazil due to its importance in the country's economy, as it receives a large part of the foreign investment that comes to the country, as well as the dynamization of Brazilian multinational businesses. For this reason, it is a diverse and dynamic city that attracts a large population from other regions of Brazil, as well as from the state of Sao Paulo itself. For this reason, it is one of the largest cities in the world, with close to 12 million inhabitants in its urban area. These factors contribute to the fact that crime wants to take advantage of this scenario to strengthen itself and at the same time grow its illicit economies.

During the four years that Mayor Ricardo Nunes was in charge of the Sao Paulo prefecture, the security strategy focused on expanding crime prevention programs for at-risk youth, modernizing and equipping police forces, strengthening cooperation between different security and justice agencies, and implementing advanced technologies for surveillance and criminal data analysis, resulting in an improved perception of security in the large Brazilian metropolis.

In 2024 the new administration of the city will be elected and therefore it is important to be attentive to the proposals that may come from the winner of this race to have a clearer perspective towards the future.



## CENTRO HISTÓRICO:

**78%**

perception of citizen insecurity,

**↑ 12%**

compared to the last measurement.

## SAO MATEUS:

**74%**

perception of citizen insecurity

## JARDINS:

**15%**

perception of citizen insecurity, the best figure of the city.



## 2. Crime Analysis:

In order to visualize the percentage changes and dynamics by crime in the city of São Paulo, a crime analysis will be conducted below, showing the figures and trends of variation of different high-impact crimes throughout the first six months of the year 2024. Likewise, each phenomenon will be analyzed in depth, as well as the risk scenarios present in the city, associating recent events of insecurity and the areas in which they materialized.

In general, the Public Security Secretariat of the state of Sao Paulo has registered a decrease in crime figures throughout the territory, including the state capital. This is reflected in figures such as homicides, which show historical numbers due to the low incidence in a territory with such a high population density as Sao Paulo.



**20000**  
Theft from persons



**8000**  
Carjackings



**6000**  
Motorcycle theft



**1500**  
Homicides

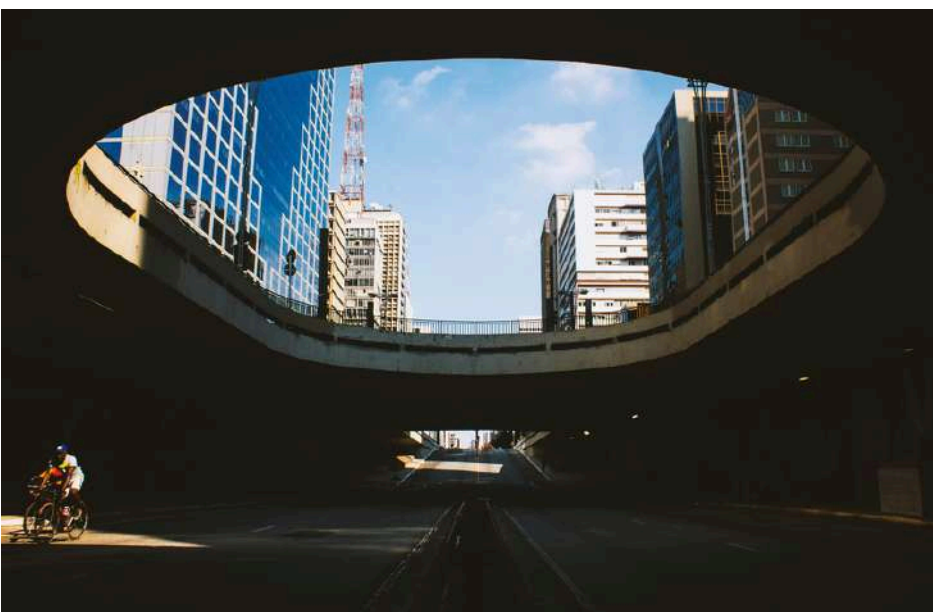




## 2.1 Theft from persons

Theft from persons in São Paulo takes place through various modalities such as pickpocketing, muggings or false emergency cases. Pickpocketing is one of the most common forms of theft in public places, such as public transportation, markets and shopping areas.

Criminals often work in groups and take advantage of crowds to steal wallets, cell phones and other valuables. The subway and buses are critical points for these crimes due to the high congestion. Criminals tend to operate during rush hour, when passenger density is high, making thefts less detectable (Metrópolis, 2024).





## 2.2 Theft in different modalities

In 2024, approximately 8,000 carjackings have been registered in São Paulo and although the numbers may vary, there has been a slight decrease compared to previous years, in part due to improvements in surveillance and security technology. Criminals often target luxury cars or cars in high demand on the black market. There have been several notable cases of thefts from parking areas of large shopping malls, which has led to increased surveillance in these areas ([Insight Crime, 2024](#)).

About 6,000 motorcycles are estimated to have been stolen in São Paulo in 2024. Motorcycle theft remains a persistent problem due to the ease of transport and concealment of stolen motorcycles. It usually materializes when criminals find motorcycles parked on public roads, especially in less policed areas, are frequent targets. Criminals often use tools to break locking systems. A fairly common modality for this type of theft is that of motorcycles used by delivery companies, which has affected the operations of several businesses. The southern zone and the center of the city are the most affected by this type of theft, which makes these areas critical points for residents and visitors, as well as for law enforcement ([Metrópoles, 2024](#)).





## 2.3 Homicides

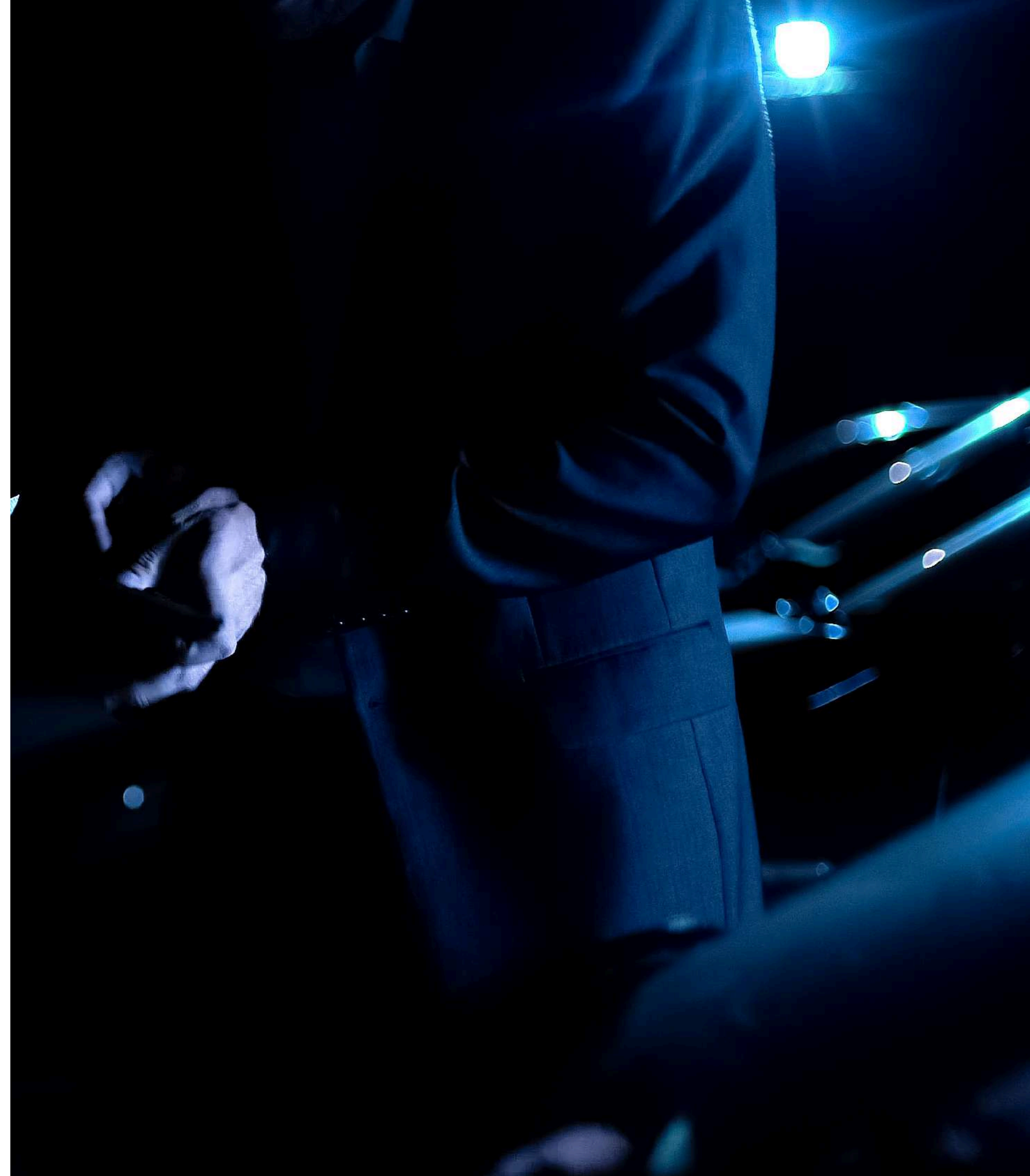
In 2024, São Paulo has registered approximately 1,500 homicides. This figure represents a slight decrease compared to the previous year, which registered around 1,700 homicides (R7, 2024). Although there is a slight decrease in the total number of homicides, violence remains a significant problem in the city. Homicides committed with firearms are one of the most common types of homicides in São Paulo. They include murders related to criminal activities, gang confrontations and interpersonal violence.

This is mainly due to disputes between organized crime gangs who fight over territories to continue the exploitation of illicit economies such as drug trafficking, or extortion. In the peripheral neighborhoods and favelas of the metropolitan area of Sao Paulo, this is more prevalent due to the lack of territorial control that state institutions may suffer in the city ([CNN, 2024](#))



## 2.4 Extortion, kidnapping and threats

The kidnapping in the city of São Paulo is a crime that has significantly affected the population over time. Criminal groups tend to use this practice as a means of threat to steal cargo or money from truck drivers traveling through vulnerable areas of the São Paulo metropolitan area. In January 2024, a truck driver was approached by a group of criminals who held him for 24 hours, demanding 30,000 reais from his family for his release. Following this, the São Paulo Metropolitan Police conducted an investigation and managed to capture four members of this group dedicated to extortionate kidnapping in Guarulhos ([Government of São Paulo, 2024](#)). In a high-profile case that occurred in December 2023, the famous former footballer Marcelinho Carioca was kidnapped along with a companion while leaving a show in the Itaquera area in the eastern part of the city. It is presumed that this incident occurred with the intention of extorting the victim's entourage due to his public image and fame in the country ([CNN Brazil, 2024](#)).







## 3. Risk Generating Factors

### 3.1 Micro-trafficking and criminal groups

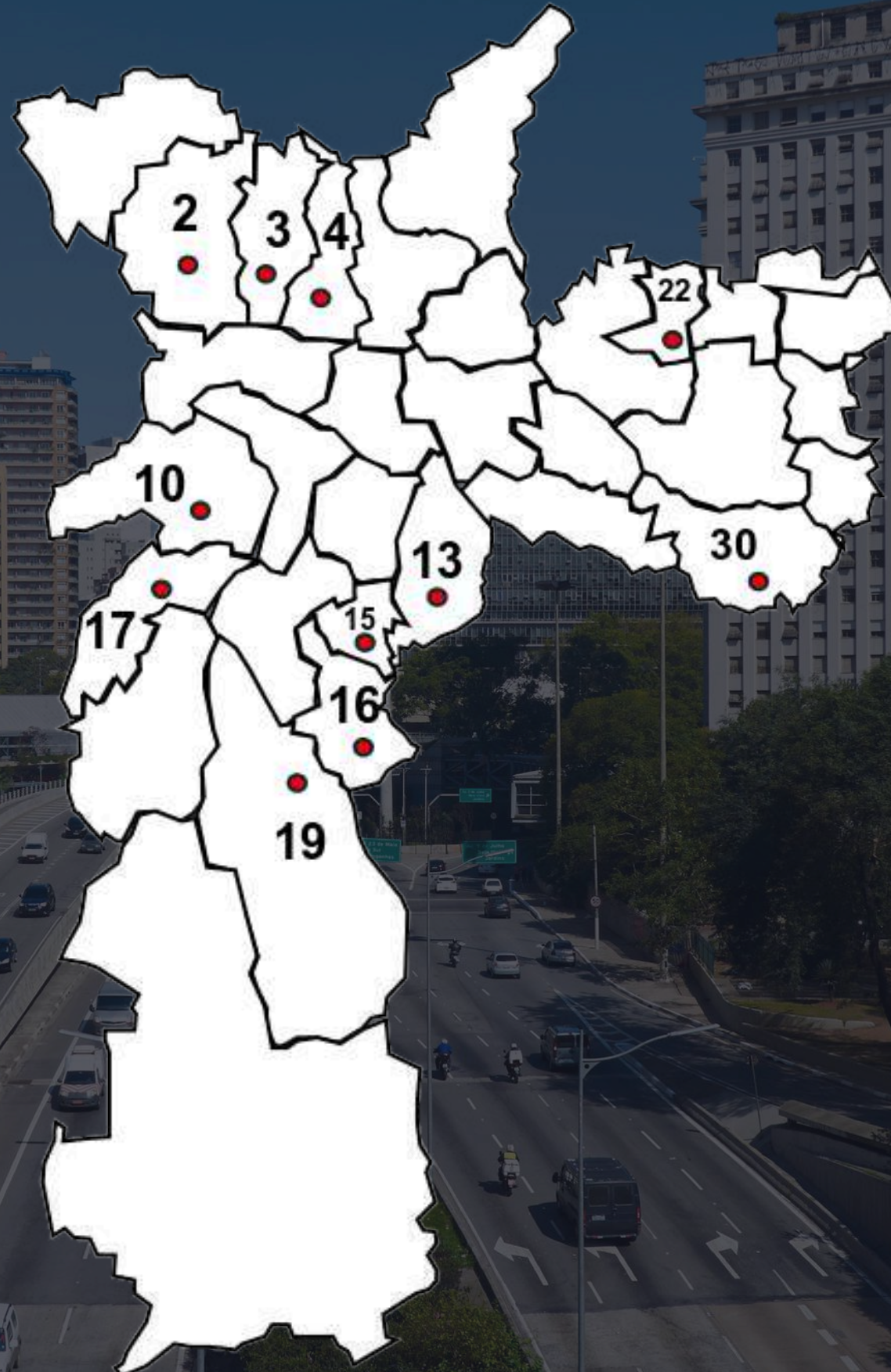
According to reports from Brazilian authorities, the main criminal gangs in the city of São Paulo and its metropolitan area are the Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC) and the Comando Vermelho (CV), which control most of the drug trafficking routes as well as its distribution in the city of São Paulo.

The PCC is currently the largest criminal group in Brazil, with its main centers of operation being prisons and favelas, as it was formed as a way to counter the harsh treatment prisoners received from the Public Force within penitentiary institutions. Today, it controls extortion, kidnapping, and drug trafficking networks throughout the country, making it a critical player in the security landscape of São Paulo.

On the other hand, the CV is an older criminal group that originated in Rio de Janeiro and inspired the creation of the PCC during the 1990s. Until 2016, these criminal groups maintained a truce in which they did not interfere with each other's illicit businesses nor disputed territories. However, after the truce was broken, gang violence skyrocketed ([Insight Crime, 2024](#)).



# PCC presence in Sao Paulo



● PCC

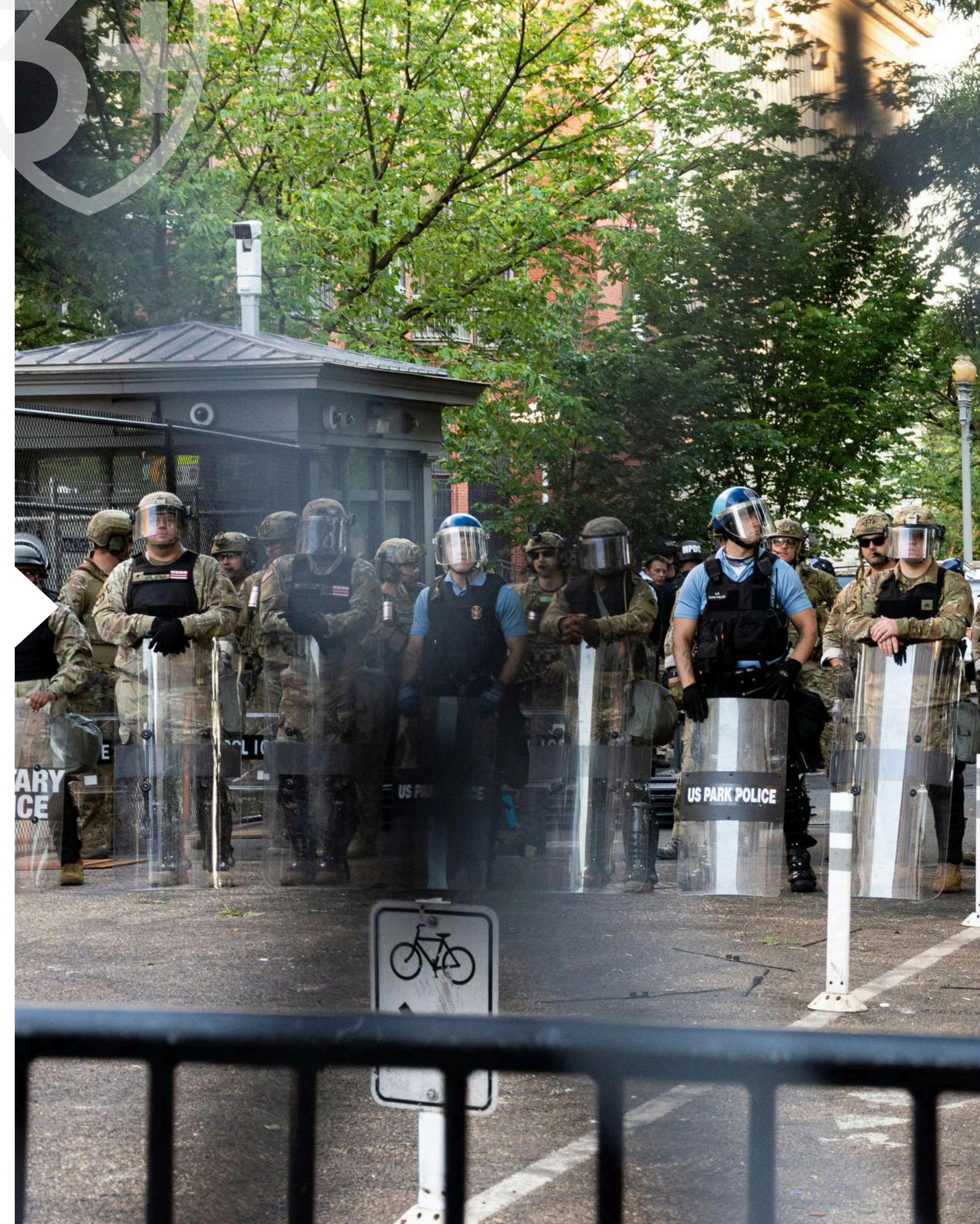
- 2: Pirituba
- 3: Freguesia
- 4: Casa Verde
- 10: Butanta
- 13: Ipiranga
- 15: Jabaquara
- 16: Cidade Ademar
- 17: Campo Limpio
- 19: Capeia do Socorro
- 22: Ermelino Matarazzo
- 30: Sao Mateus



## 3.2 Social unrest

Social protest is a democratic mechanism through which citizens can express their dissatisfaction or discontent with a situation or circumstance they consider negative for their lives. In the case of São Paulo, this mechanism tends to have a relatively high degree of complexity, as it is the most populated city in the country, while also having a high level of diversity within a single urban area. This can become a security issue due to the road blockages that can occur during protests or because the situation can escalate into violence between protesters and the public forces.

In June of this year, Avenida Paulista was filled with protesters who wanted to express their discontent with a bill that sought to equate abortion with homicide ([Globo, 2024](#)). At the same time, a protest against the criminalization of drug possession in Brazil took place, leading to a massive mobilization that halted traffic on the main roads in the city center. Although no violent acts were reported during these public demonstrations, the main roads were blocked due to the large influx of people who decided to protest that day, affecting mobility ([UOL, 2024](#)).





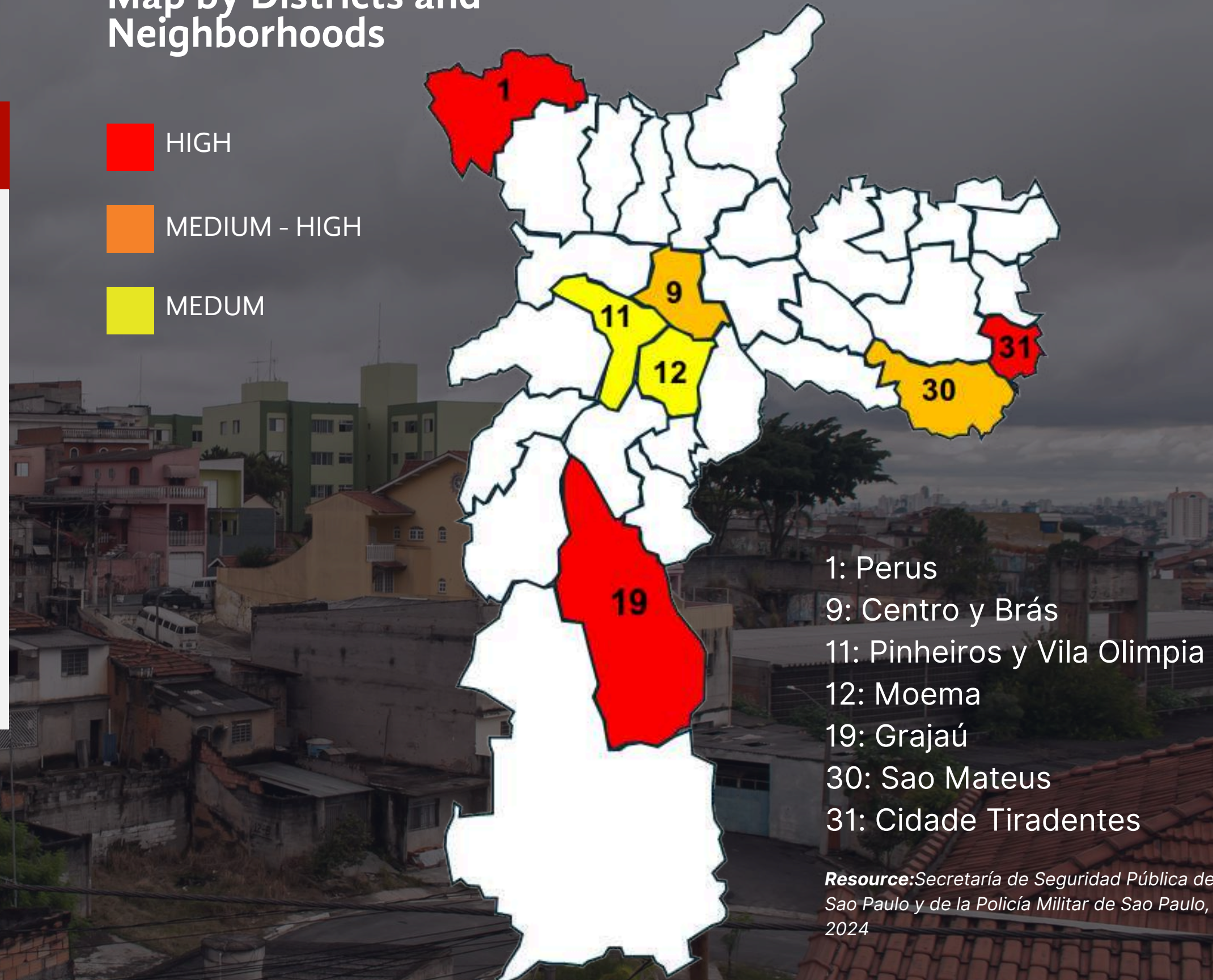
# 4. Risk Level

## Sao Paulo Risk Level Map by Districts and Neighborhoods

### City risk level

These risk level analyses are aimed at identifying the areas where, according to institutional statistics, there is a greater possibility of violence and high-impact crimes occurring. In the case of this Security Overview-Sao Paulo, the characterization will be based on security and crime statistics from the São Paulo Public Security Secretariat and the São Paulo Military Police. The most problematic areas of the city will then be identified using two indicators: homicide cases and personal theft incidents.


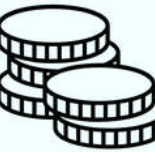


- HIGH
- MEDIUM - HIGH
- MEDUM



*Resource: Secretaría de Seguridad Pública de Sao Paulo y de la Policía Militar de Sao Paulo, 2024*



# Analysis of the dynamics of risks in the city of Sao Paulo so that companies can evaluate their operations (qualification based on ISO 31000 and quantitative risk analysis).

Risk	Main factors that generate risk	Consequences	Implications for private companies	Risk Level
 <p><b>Deterioration in the security situation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployment.</li> <li>• Consolidated presence of criminal groups.</li> <li>• Influence of the micro-trafficking phenomenon in common and organized crime, developing networks of hired killings and their strengthening.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizen distrust</li> <li>• Affectation of small and medium-sized businesses.</li> <li>• Decrease in tourism potential.</li> <li>• Increase in complaints of extortion, threats and homicides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impact on the supply or value chain due to the permeability of crime.</li> <li>• Non-fulfillment of services or commitments.</li> <li>• Leakage of personnel with intentions of harming companies.</li> <li>• Fear of market expansion due to criminal networks.</li> </ul>	<p><b>High</b></p>
 <p><b>Impact on the economic and financial system</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corruption in the public and private sector.</li> <li>• Increasing poverty and inequality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease in foreign investment in the city.</li> <li>• Low wages.</li> <li>• Labor informality.</li> <li>• Inflation.</li> <li>• Limitation and inadequate use of public space.</li> <li>• Low business generation.</li> <li>• Increased recruitment of criminal groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced demand for services and products.</li> <li>• Decrease in revenues.</li> <li>• Increased costs due to phenomena such as inflation.</li> <li>• Limitation of operating capacities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Medium-High</b></p>
 <p><b>Social protest</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissatisfied communities</li> <li>• Failure to comply with agreements between citizens and the government.</li> <li>• Insufficient government management and lack of public resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governmental destabilization.</li> <li>• Interruption of economic activities.</li> <li>• Increase in public spending.</li> <li>• Increased violence.</li> <li>• Resurgence of social conflicts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial losses.</li> <li>• Affectations in the supply chain.</li> <li>• Unfavorable business climate.</li> <li>• Loss of business opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Medium</b></p>
 <p><b>Political instability</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corruption.</li> <li>• Deepening inequalities.</li> <li>• Mistrust in institutions.</li> <li>• Cartel's incidence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polarization.</li> <li>• Social conflict.</li> <li>• Strengthening and increase of organized groups.</li> <li>• Low productivity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease in foreign clients due to political uncertainty.</li> <li>• Reduced revenues due to periods of inflation and recession.</li> <li>• Uncertainty in creating long-term plans and projects.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Medium</b></p>



## 5. Foresight Design



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The city of São Paulo is the largest metropolis in South America, which means it concentrates a large number of people from diverse backgrounds. This, combined with its high population density, adds a special complexity when analyzing its security situation. The administration of Mayor Ricardo Nunes has managed to reduce the homicide rate and other high-impact crimes in the city, which have significantly affected the population. This has, in a way, led citizens to regain trust in state institutions, while also beginning to have a more positive view of the São Paulo capital. Likewise, the local police have been provided with more tools to combat organized crime, such as state-of-the-art cameras and drones to improve surveillance in critical areas of the city.

However, in areas like theft and robbery, citizens feel that the situation has remained the same or worsened, as many have expressed concerns about the danger they perceive when withdrawing money from ATMs or carrying their mobile phones in hand while walking on the streets.

Organized crime remains the greatest scourge of the city, as the power exerted by the PCC over the most complex neighborhoods and favelas is quite significant and continues to impact the city's security. The districts affected by the so-called "Cracolândias" or open-air drug markets contribute to the negative perception of security and the local administration among citizens.

The street-level drug trafficking carried out by organized crime groups like the PCC or CV results in daily issues such as firearm-related deaths due to territorial disputes and illicit profits. The new administration to be elected in 2024, tasked with leading the city's future, must fully understand the complexity and diversity of São Paulo to improve local security policies.

***Find the full  
version of this  
document  
here:***





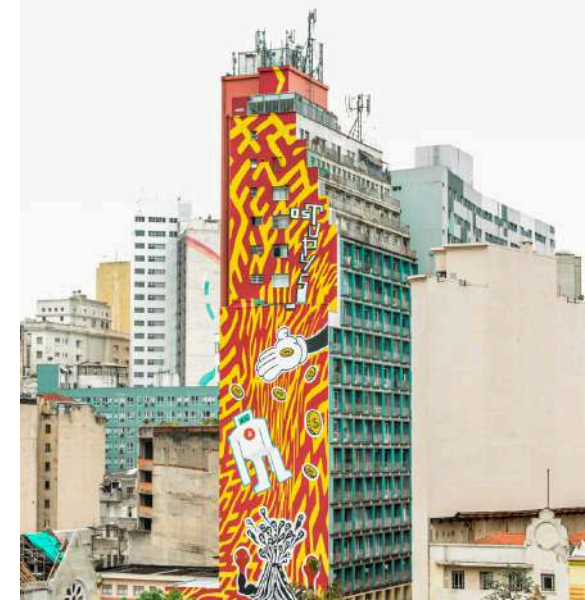
# 6. Recommendations

- 1** Always maintain a high degree of situational awareness, which allows you to identify risks or threats derived from situations external to the place or areas where you travel.
- 2** Taking into account the description of the Risk Level provided in this document, identify the municipalities with a high risk level in the city. This in order not to travel through them or to foresee safety and self-care plans.
- 3** In the case of traveling by private vehicle, perform a route analysis and have alternative routes that allow you to resolve developments on the route.
- 4** Do not travel or travel late at night in sub-prefectures or districts, which, according to this document, have registered some type of criminal phenomenon or register high interference by criminal actors, for example, the Cidade Tiradentes, Perus and Grajaú districts.

- 5** For the movement of expatriates or foreign people within Sao Paulo, evaluate the probability of having systems to monitor movements remotely from a Command Center.
- 6** If you are in spaces with a high influx of people such as restaurants, shopping centers or bars, always remain attentive to the care of your personal belongings and avoid starting conversations with people who suddenly request favors or want to approach you suddenly.
- 7** Avoid having detailed or sensitive information on your mobile phone about your family members, as well as the organization for which you work.
- 8** Be careful with the information you publish through your social networks, taking into account that, with less privacy, your work and personal data and that of your family members are exposed on the Internet, which can lend itself to extortion or kidnapping processes.

- 9** If you are a victim of telephone extortion, do not hang up, try to take notes, do not give your name or your ID and, if possible, record the call.
- 10** If you are a victim of threats in any of their forms, immediately contact the authorities and do not give in to the criminal's requests.
- 11** Train yourself if possible in defensive and evasive driving, increasing your ability to save your life or that of your family in the event of an assault on public roads.
- 12** If you are in a highly vulnerable situation and prone to being a victim of theft, millionaire ride or freight, do not put up any resistance.

**Note.** The investigative work and analysis recorded in this security assessment is exclusive to **3+ Security Colombia**. Therefore, it is recommended not to disclose the document in question.







# SECURITY COLOMBIA

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