



Security  
**OVERVIEW**

# **BOGOTÁ D.C.**

November 2024

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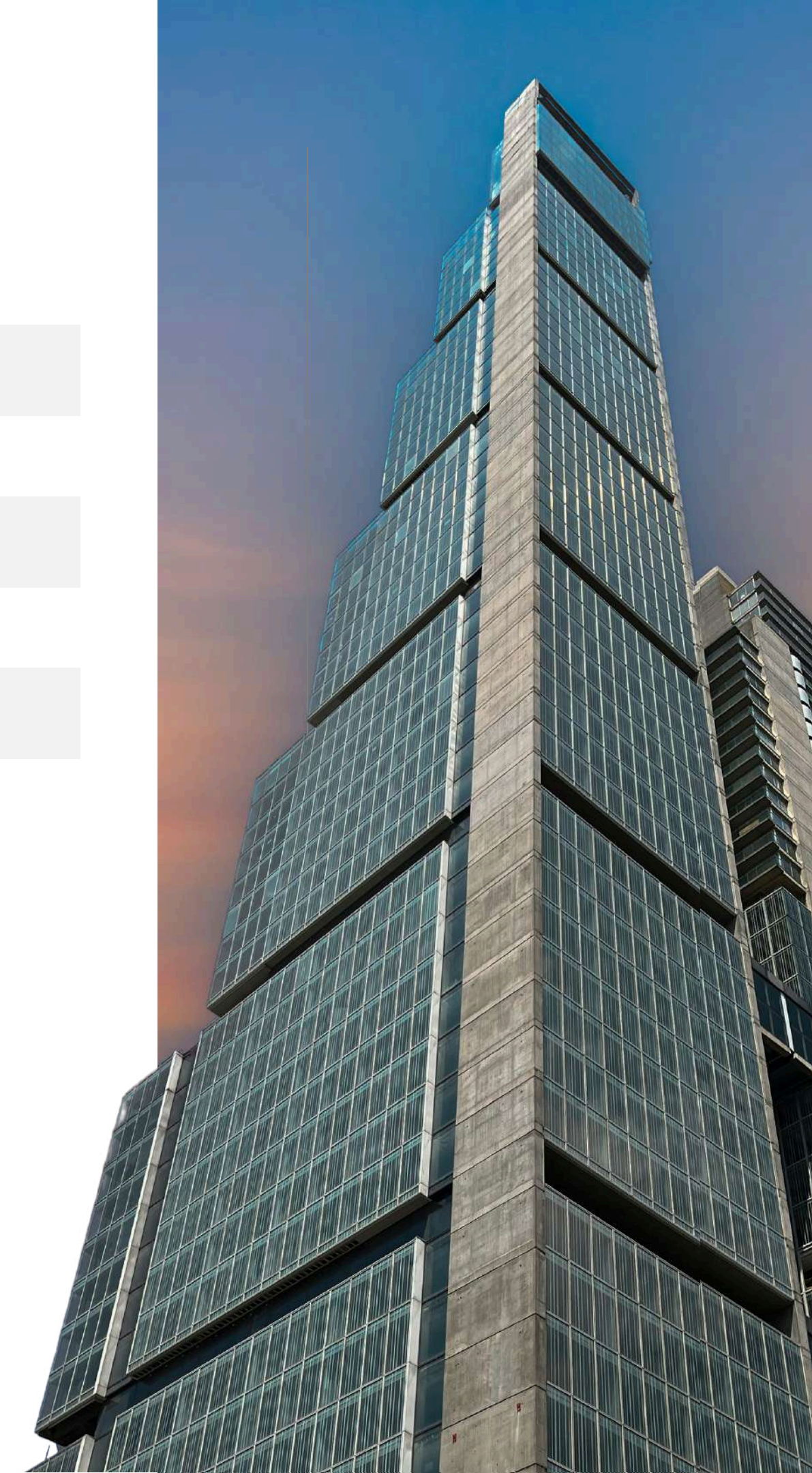
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“ The Security-Overview-Bogotá Second Half of 2024 aims to conduct an analysis, based on statistics, of the security situation in the Colombian capital to develop prospective scenarios. ”



# 1. Situational Analysis

The security situation in Bogotá remains complex. Although statistics from “Bogotá Cómo Vamos” indicate that thefts have generally decreased, the perception of insecurity among citizens persists. Moreover, high-impact crimes such as homicides, extortion, and sexual offenses continue to rise (Infobae, 2024). Since 2016, the percentage of citizens perceiving an increase in insecurity in the capital has been on an upward trend. Despite the arrival of Carlos Fernando Galán to the mayor’s office and the noticeable increase in police presence in some areas of the city, along with numerous operations against illegal groups, the mayor's disapproval rating has risen.

In this document the Unidad de Análisis Político y Seguridad Corporativa (UAPSC) of 3+SC will carry out the Security Overview-Bogotá, analyzing the dynamics that impact security, risk generating factors and criminal behavior based on statistics, with the main objective of making known the security situation of the city, information that will be useful for the control and mitigation of risks.



74%

of respondents believe the situation in Bogotá has worsened

56%

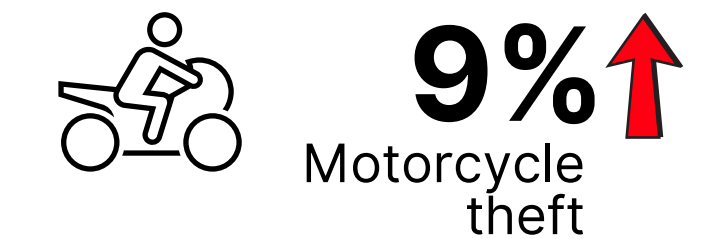
of participants consider **insecurity to be the main issue** facing Bogotá.

## 2. Crime Analysis

### High-Impact Crimes in Bogotá 2024

Based on figures provided by the National Police, between January and September 2024, **five high-impact crimes experienced an increase.**

CRIME STATISTICS IN BOGOTÁ	YEAR 2022	YEAR 2023	VARIATION % 2022 VS 2023	JAN-SEP 2023	JAN-SEP 2024	VARIATION % JAN-SEP 2023 VS 2024
Homicides	1007	1069	6%	808	877	8%
Theft from Persons	136307	147321	8%	115202	98528	-14%
Extortion	1251	1518	21%	1068	1729	62%
Kidnapping	11	13	18%	12	11	-8%
Threats	10784	9751	-9%	6224	14050	126%
Terrorism	2	0	-200%	0	0	0%
Resident Theft	6947	7302	5%	5767	4675	-19%
Carjacking	3306	3856	17%	2985	3127	5%
Motorcycle Theft	4560	4790	5%	3690	4040	9%
Retail Theft	10086	8617	-14%	7933	7724	-3%
Land Piracy	10	18	80%	18	9	-50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>174271</b>	<b>184255</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>143707</b>	<b>134770</b>	<b>-6%</b>



Resource: Own elaboration with information from the National Police.  
Note: Figures are subject to change based on source updates.

## 2.1 Theft from persons



**66.770**

were committed without the use of weapons



**18.066**

with a sharp object/blade



**8.224**

with a firearm

Despite the decrease shown in the figures, personal theft remains a high-impact crime in the city of Bogotá. The methods are varied, ranging from the use of force by perpetrators (as in the case of armed robberies) to the "opportunity" factor, which occurs in situations where the victim's carelessness makes theft easier (such as "cosquilleo" or "raponazo"). The actors involved are also diverse, including common criminals, smaller gangs, and organized criminal groups with a solid structure. One of the most recurring issues related to personal theft is the phenomenon of "motoladrones".

**98.528** personal thefts in 2024



**3.946**

have been victims of thefts by "motoladrones"

Localities most impacted by "motoladrones": **Suba, Engativá, Kennedy, Usaquéen y Chapinero.**



## 2.2 Theft in Different Modalities

In addition to personal theft, Bogotá also experiences various forms of theft such as retail theft, residential theft, carjacking, and motorcycle theft. These high-impact crimes affect the security of citizens as they harm people's property.

Among the different types of theft in the capital, motorcycle theft stands out as the one that has seen the greatest increase in the second half of 2024. The most common methods of motorcycle theft are "halado" and armed robbery. The first method relies on the "opportunity" factor, while the second involves the use of force. The objective of the criminals is to steal the motorcycles to resell them at a higher price or dismantle them to sell the parts on the black market ([Noticias Caracol, 2024](#)). Although this criminal phenomenon is widespread, records of personal theft are concentrated in urban centers, areas with high population densities and commercial hubs.



**4.675**  
Cases from January  
to September

**↓ 19%**  
Variation



**4.040**  
Cases from January  
to September

**↑ 9%**  
Variation



**3.127**  
Cases from January  
to September

**↑ 5%**  
Variation



**7.724**  
Cases from January  
to September

**↓ 3%**  
Variation

## 2.3 Homicides



**877**

Homicides in 2024

**6%**

Homicide Variation  
2022 vs. 2023

**8%**

Variation January-  
September 2023 vs.  
January-September 2024

Homicides have experienced an increase in the capital, particularly those related to firearms. September was a particularly problematic month, as 129 violent deaths occurred during this period, 8% more than in September 2023 ([Infobae, 2024](#)). According to the Metropolitan Police of Bogota, on September 1, 13 homicides were registered in seven localities, a situation that evidences the high rates of murders during this season ([Infobae, 2024](#)).

Also worrying are the figures for femicides in the capital. In August, Councilman Julian Espinosa warned about the worrying increase in femicides in Bogota. According to institutional statistics, between 2023 and 2024 there has been an increase of more than 18% in cases of femicides in the city ([Concejo de Bogotá, 2024](#)).

**58%**

Of the reported murders until September were committed with a firearm.





## 2.4 Extortion and Threats

Extortion is a crime that has been on the rise in recent years. Increasingly, criminal groups and smaller gangs are turning to extortion as a source of financing. Although the modalities are varied, prison extortion is one of the most recurrent in the capital. In fact, in eight maximum security prisons the signal inhibitors do not work, in addition to the large black market for cell phones entering the prisons (Alternativa, 2024).

Threats are a crime with multiple manifestations. Some are related to the crime of extortion, others to intimidation as a form of coercion against officials and leaders, and others to situations of coexistence and domestic violence.



**1.729**  
Complaints

Variation  
2023 vs. 2024

**62%**  
Variation



**14.050**  
Complaints

**126%**  
Variation

Extortion Methods:

**703**  
Telephone call

**401**  
Social media

**294**  
without use  
of weapons

## 2.5 Kidnapping



**11**  
Complaints



**8%**  
Variation  
2023 vs 2024

Although the statistics show a decrease in the crime, kidnappings continue to represent a high impact problem in the capital. Currently, the most common type of kidnapping in Bogotá is “ex-press kidnapping”, where the victim is held for a short period of time and the sums demanded by the criminals are not exorbitant. In these cases the main perpetrators are organized criminal groups or smaller criminal gangs that resort to crime as a financing tool or simply to obtain economic resources quickly. According to Councilman Julian Uscátegui, men are the population most affected by this crime and Friday is the day in which more kidnappings are registered ([Infobae, 2024](#)).



# 3. Risk Generating Factors

## 3.1 Micro-trafficking and criminal groups

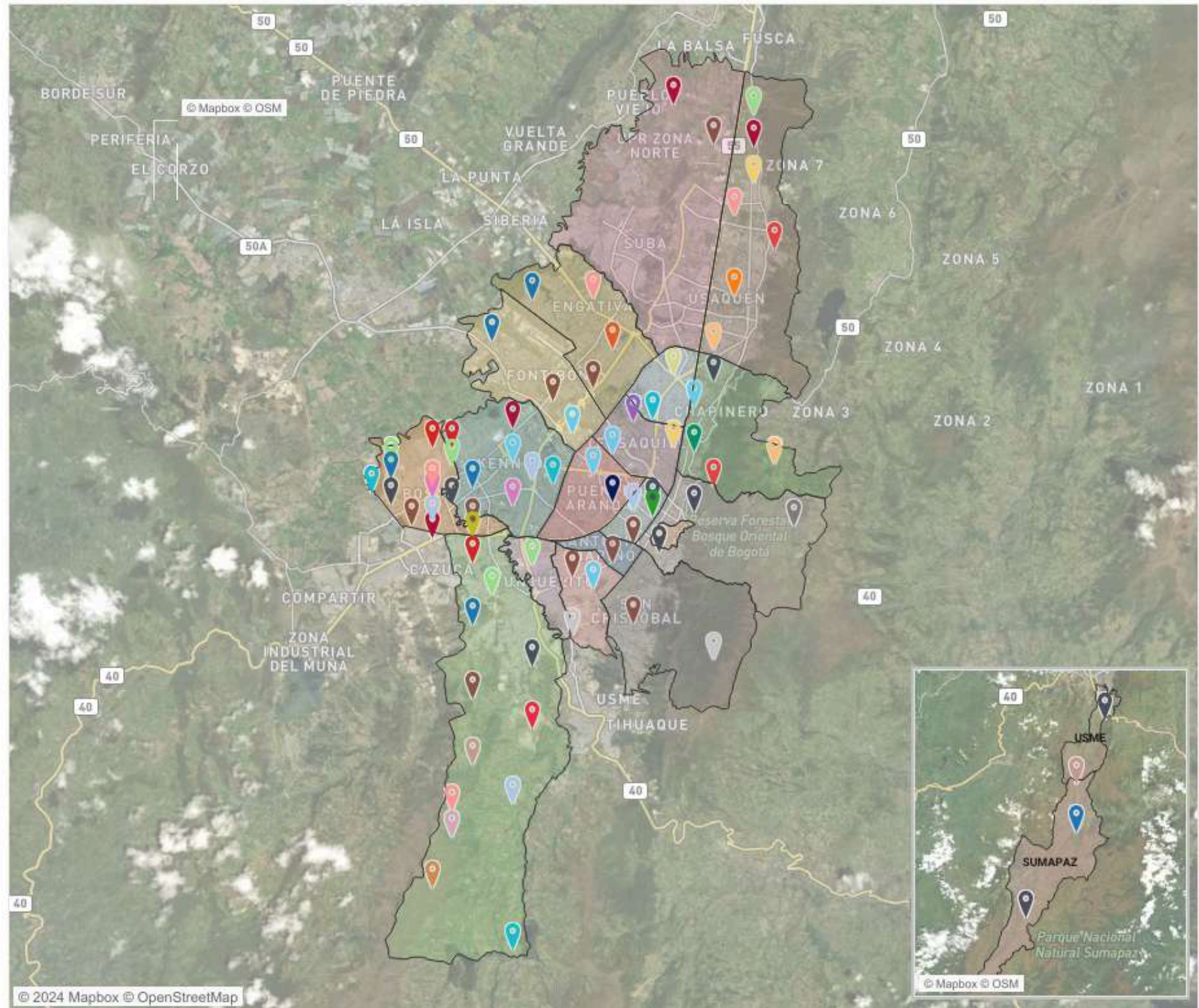
In Bogotá, there is the presence of organized armed groups and organized criminal groups. Although they are distinct, both obtain a large portion of their financial resources from drug trafficking. The criminal structures in the capital have a "multicrime" nature, financing themselves and establishing a presence in the territory in various ways. Alliances are formed between these organizations. In particular, organized armed groups and organized criminal groups engage in subcontracting processes, where, in exchange for money or other resources, smaller groups defend the interests of larger structures and carry out activities in the illicit markets in which they operate. Despite these alliances, there are numerous disputes among the actors over the profits generated by the city's illegal economies.

ILLICIT SUBSTANCE SEIZED	YEAR 2022 (kg)	YEAR 2023 (kg)	YEAR 2024 (kg)
<b>2CB</b>	10.911,00	19.996,00	7.995,70
<b>Ecstasy</b>	11.534,00	1.338,20	4.728,80
<b>Pressed Marijuana</b>	8.934,09	3.728,02	3.917,38
<b>Cocaine Hydro chloride</b>	3.713,11	1.666,72	2.212,66
<b>Basuco</b>	436,68	338,70	219,52
<b>Cocaine paste/ base</b>	118,31	117,49	100,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.647,19</b>	<b>27.185,13</b>	<b>19.174,16</b>

Resource: Own elaboration with information from Observatorio de Drogas de Colombia, 2024.  
Note: Figures subject to change based on updating processes of the source.

# Criminal organizations in Bogotá

- Nombre Organización**
- Bloque Oriental
  - Clan del Golfo
  - El Mesa
  - ELN
  - Entre Nubes
  - Los Boyacos
  - Los Bury
  - Los Camilos
  - Los Caparros
  - Los del Llano
  - Los del Portal
  - Los Erizos
  - Los Espartanos
  - Los Lucky
  - Los Maestros
  - Los Maracay
  - Los Maracuchos
  - Los Maras
  - Los motorratones
  - Los Niches
  - Los Paisas
  - Los Pelados
  - Los Pereiranos
  - Los Prestamistas
  - Los Residentes
  - Los Zetas
  - OF San Andresito38
  - Satanás
  - Tren de Aragua



**55** Criminal Gangs and Organizations

**3** Main dispute scenarios for the profits from illicit markets: Northeastern border, Western border and Southwestern border.

Localities where criminal subcontracting processes have been identified:

- Antonio Nariño
- Barrios Unidos
- Chapinero
- La Candelaria
- Los Mártires
- Puente Aranda
- Santa Fé
- Tunjuelito
- Teusaquillo.

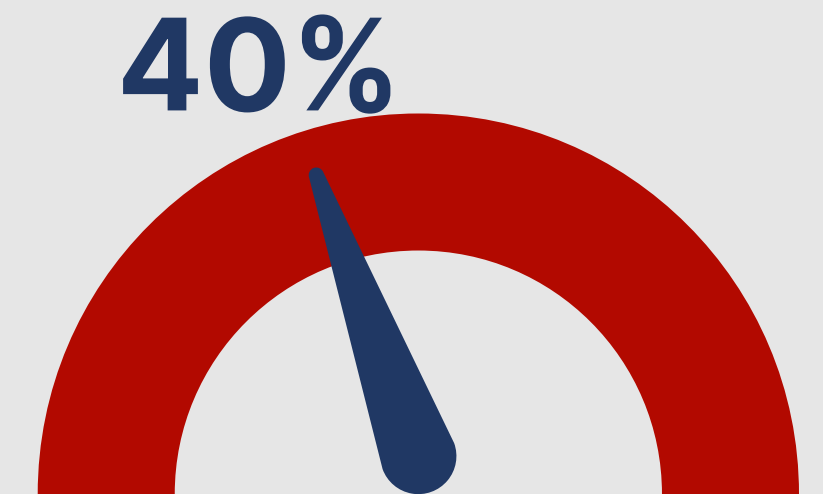


## 3.2 Extortion



In Bogotá, both the organized criminal groups that have been consolidating in recent years and smaller gangs have included these types of actions in their criminal records. In 2024, the most common methods have been extortion for the return of stolen goods and "cyber-extortion," which occurs through digital means (Concejo de Bogotá, 2024). Regarding the origin of the demands and threats, prison extortion stands out, having seen an increase in recent years.

Most affected areas:  
**Kennedy, Bosa y Los Mártires**



Of extortions in Bogotá occur from prison centers, using identity theft methods.

**80%**

of victims who report extortion to the Police manage to avoid paying the extortion.



### 3.3 Recruitment and instrumentalization of minors

Criminality has taken advantage of the differentiation between adults and minors to incorporate into its structures people who are not yet fully covered by the law. In Bogotá, children and youths are constantly instrumentalized by armed organized groups and criminal gangs to commit various crimes or as a financing tool for the organization. Sexual exploitation and micro-trafficking are two of the illicit markets in which minors end up actively participating, becoming victims of criminal groups.

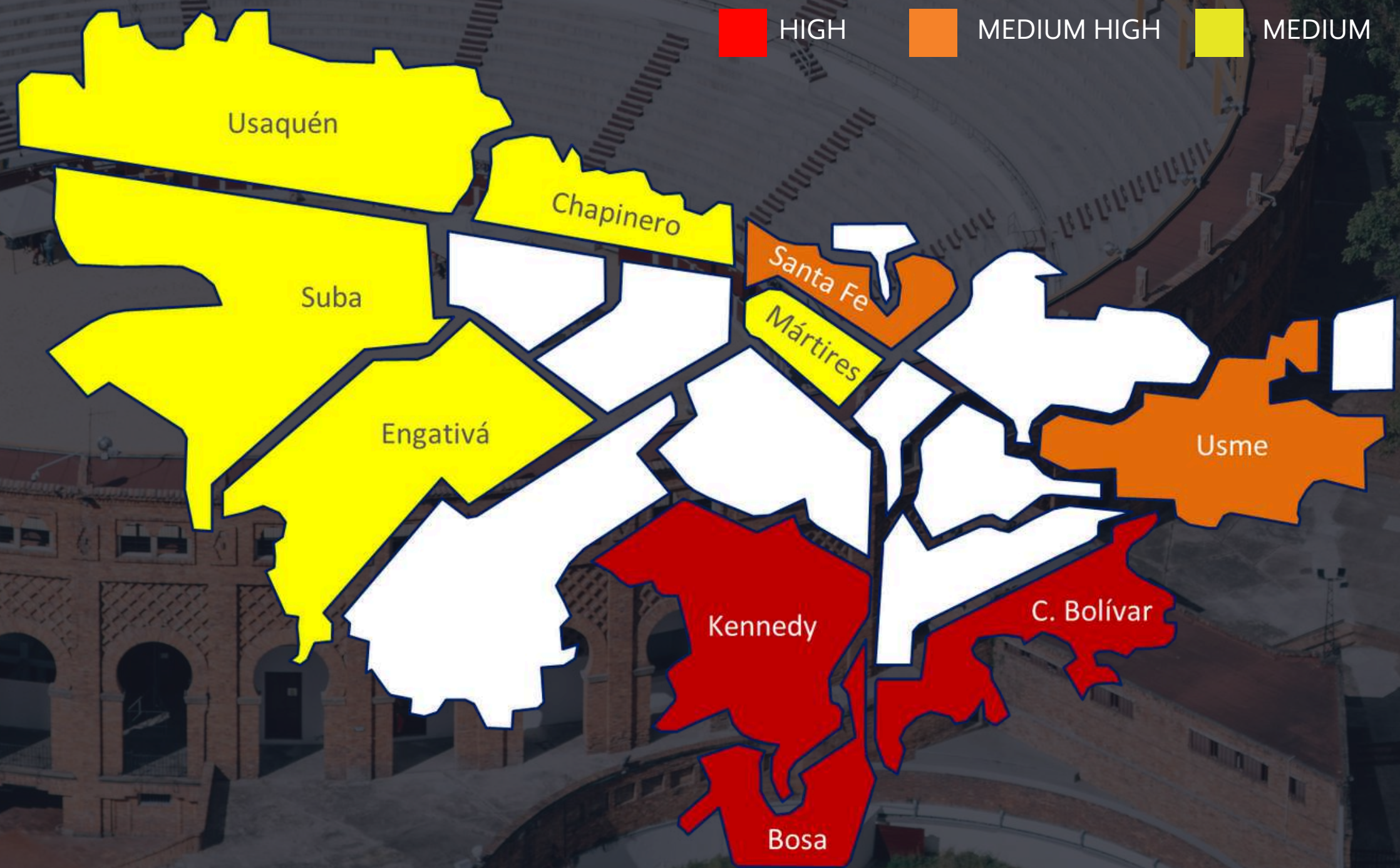
One of the most recent events occurred in September, when the Defensoría del Pueblo warned that the Clan del Golfo was recruiting and using minors in the capital for micro-trafficking and to participate in armed conflict ([Infobae](#), 2024). In August, the council warned that armed organized groups cells were recruiting young people in educational centers such as the National University, the Pedagogical University, and the District University. According to information from the mayor's office, organizations convince young people with precarious socio-economic conditions to join the ranks and move to more peripheral departments, offering in exchange a salary and thus a promising future in economic terms ([El Tiempo](#), 2024).







## 4. Risk Level

### Risk Level map by localities

The objective of the risk level analysis is to identify the areas where, according to institutional statistics, there is a greater probability that scenarios of violence and high impact crimes will occur. In the case of this Security Overview, the rating will be based on the official statistics of the Secretaría Distrital de Seguridad (Secretaría Distrital de Seguridad y Convivencia, 2024), which corresponds to the period January-October 2024, and on the information provided by Pares on the presence of criminal structures by locality in Bogota (Pares, 2024).



# Analysis of the risk dynamics in the city of Bogotá to enable companies to conduct evaluations in their operations (rating 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>• Poverty</li> <li>• Inequality</li> <li>• Consolidation of criminal groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distrust of the citizens</li> <li>• Violence</li> <li>• Decrease in local and foreign investment in the city</li> <li>• Decrease in tourism potential</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>	<b>High</b>
 <p><b>Impact on the economic and financial system</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corruption in the public and private sectors</li> <li>• Increase in 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>	<b>Medium-High</b>
 <p><b>Social protest</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissatisfied communities</li> <li>• Non-compliance with agreements made between citizens and the government</li> <li>• Insufficient government management and lack of public resources</li> <li>• Unresolved or ongoing territorial claims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible governmental destabilization.</li> <li>• Interruption of economic activities.</li> <li>• Possible increased violence.</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>	<b>Medium-high</b>
 <p><b>Political instability</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corruption</li> <li>• Deepening inequalities</li> <li>• Distrust in institutions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polarization.</li> <li>• Social conflict.</li> <li>• Strengthening and increase of organized groups.</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>	<b>Medium</b>



## 5. Foresight Design

Despite the Mayor's Office's plans to counteract criminality, the security situation in Bogotá re-mains complex. In the second half of 2024, as evidenced by police statistics, criminal phenomena such as threats and extortion continue to rise. Homicides, though with minimal variation, have also increased in recent months. Regarding personal theft, despite favorable statistics showing a decrease, this crime remains a high-impact issue that increasingly affects citizens' perception of safety. This is reflected in surveys such as the one conducted by “Bogotá Cómo Vamos”, where participants highlighted the city's poor security situation, which seems far from improving.

While the causes of this scenario are multifaceted, the role of organized criminal groups and other criminal structures operating in the city is highly significant. Numerous illicit organizations operate in the capital and are so well-established that arrests and operations against them do not guarantee their complete eradication.

Historically, the fall of a leader or even an entire gang can lead to the emergence of new groups, especially in the absence of a vertical structure. Similarly, illegal markets continue to generate significant revenues, intensifying disputes over territorial control of these businesses and resulting in highly violent scenarios.

This analysis has highlighted that the criminal issues and phenomena observed at the beginning of the year persist in the city. Criminal trends have shown no substantial variation in the second half of 2024.

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# 6. Recommendations

-  If you are a victim of threats from organized criminal groups, avoid discussing them publicly and immediately report them to the authorities (Police or Army GAULA).
-  If you are a victim of a telephone extortion attempt, do not hang up. Try to take notes, avoid giving your name or ID number, and, if possible, record the call and notify the authorities.
-  Avoid storing detailed or sensitive information about family members on your mobile phone.
-  Avoid walking late at night in neighborhoods or localities identified by crime statistics as high-risk areas.
-  Do not use your cellphone on the street; avoid distractions and remain alert to your surroundings at all times.

-  Never provide personal or financial information through phone calls, messages, or emails. Instead, share such information in person at your bank.
-  Stay informed about the public order and mobility situation in the city to plan alternative transportation and logistics routes.
-  To mitigate risks associated with carjacking, avoid leaving valuables inside the car or visible when exiting.
-  If you find yourself in a highly vulnerable situation and at risk of robbery, "paseo millonario," or armed theft, do not resist.

**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.



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