

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



INTERNATIONAL
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CENTRO
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DE LA CRIMINALIDAD

5th International Report

CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Cities and the New Urban Agenda

This is the fifth International Report on Crime Prevention and Community Safety to be published by ICPC since the series was initiated in 2008. As with all previous iterations, this edition presents a unique opportunity to reflect on the evolution and development of crime prevention globally, and to look at some of the challenges and the promising policies and practices that are emerging.

The report is intended primarily for three key sectors:

- a) decision-makers and elected officials who are responsible for creating safer and more inclusive societies, whether at national, state or local level;
- b) practitioners and professionals whose work has a major impact on building safe and healthy communities, ranging from the police and the justice sector to social and health workers, teachers and civil society and non-governmental organizations;
- c) and the research community, including those in universities and institutes who help build knowledge and evidence on the effectiveness and the costs and benefits of prevention policies and practice.

The information in this report comes from a wide range of sources, from reports produced by UN entities and international and regional bodies such as the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the Organization of American States; national and local governments; non-governmental organizations and research and academic sources. As always, ICPC's extensive international network of member governments and organizations involved in crime prevention and community safety is a privileged source of information.

The theme for this edition: Cities and the New Urban Agenda

We live in a world of cities. The year 2007 was a turning point: until that time, never in the history of humanity have the majority of human beings lived in urban settings. This process of global urbanization has in recent years entailed a radical transition in human relations, in ecology, and in the environment in which we live.

Urban crime and violence are among the most important challenges in contemporary cities, and as such one of the major concerns of citizens and governments throughout the world. In many cases, **urban dynamics and characteristics have an influence on crime and violence**. These include segregation, inequality and loss of social cohesion. Despite these difficulties, **cities provide opportunities** for education, health and emotional, professional and economic growth, and also are a space for meeting and community building. The urbanization processes and the ties that bind people and communities are **key to intervention and the avoidance of factors that lead to crime**. Thus, the city holds a huge potential for transformation.

Consequently, following the central mandate of ICPC, this new edition of the International Report focuses on analysing the **role of cities in relation to safety and crime prevention**. This is also in recognition of the significance of the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development – Habitat III – which will take place in Quito in October 2016. The Quito meeting is only the third opportunity in 30 years for global debate on cities, and on the challenges of increasing urbanization, environmental disaster and climate change for governance and safety. Habitat III is also the first major global conference following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Agenda in September 2015.

International Reports on Crime Prevention and Community Safety, 2008-2014

2008: women's safety, youth safety, school safety, safety in public spaces

2010: migration, organized crime, drugs and alcohol

2012: human trafficking and exploitation, informal settlements, post-conflict and post-disaster areas, drug production in developed countries

2014: migration and the movement of people within countries and across borders

1 Trends in Crime and its Prevention

Each new version of the International Report provides a brief resume of **knowledge and practice in relation to the prevention of crime at a global level**. For example, this chapter examines trends in the reduction of homicide and traditional crimes at the global level. However, these trends continue to illustrate how unequally they are distributed not only between different regions, but also within regions and within countries. The continuing decline in violent and property crime is evident in Western countries, but less so across Latin America. The focus on prevention continues to grow around the world with 51% of countries having reported national plans to reduce various types of violence.

The past two years have witnessed a series of significant events and developments at global and regional levels that are likely to have an impact on prevention. The first and second chapters of this report in particular present a panorama of some of these initiatives. For example, the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and 2016 Habitat III summit. In this first chapter, three recent areas of research on the impacts of crime prevention are also examined: the first discusses the results of studies that on the one hand demonstrate the benefits of support to families in crime prevention, and on the other evaluate a series of prevention programmes. The second area of research concerns recent evidence on the effectiveness of community policing and its role in prevention. Finally, the third discusses the possible disadvantages of certain models of crime prevention.

Main conclusions:

- Even though there has been a reduction in violence and traditional crime at the global level, rates vary substantially between regions as well as between countries. Although this reduction is significant and continuing in Europe, North America and parts of Africa, Latin America still experiences high levels of violence.
- This global reduction has been explained by an improvement in governance, in penal justice systems and in prevention practices, but also by a transformation in the types of crime being committed. Cybercrime, for example, could be replacing many traditional forms of crime.
- A focus on prevention continues to grow around the world: 51% of countries have reported national plans to reduce various types of violence. However, despite this increase, governments at all levels have been less enthusiastic about developing monitoring and evaluation systems to evaluate their strategies and programmes.

Urban safety

This chapter looks at **crime prevention from an urban perspective**. It describes trends, debates, challenges that cities of the world are confronted with and some of the solutions they are using today in relation to safety. In particular, it outlines some of the discussions being animated by UN-Habitat leading up to the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at Habitat III in Quito. The chapter has several sections. The first describes the evolution of international norms and standards which have recently been adopted on the city. The second looks at a series of trends and challenges at the urban level: the growth of megacities, the increase in socio-spatial segregation, migration and natural disasters and the situation of women and children in the development of urban safety. The third and fourth look at the role of cities in implementing prevention policies from a perspective of urban governance, and at one of the biggest innovations in city management: the use of technology to improve urban safety. The final section focuses on some examples of effective urban crime prevention practice.

Main conclusions:

- The main factors that contribute to urban crime are rooted in urban inequalities that are created, reinforced and maintained by the combination of poor urban planning and design, and poor urban governance. It is not the size of cities, nor population density, that causes the lack of safety in cities; rather, it is the rapidity of urbanization, which exceeds the rate at which cities can receive new urban residents while maintaining the quality of public spaces and services. This creates the conditions for urban crime and violence to flourish.
- It is critical that municipal governments take on leadership to champion urban safety, equality and inclusion in their cities. Efforts to enhance urban safety are successful when:
 - municipal governments are supported by national and subnational governments, in terms of capacity, human and financial resources and the decentralization of responsibilities, enabling them to localize national safety plans and to carry out prevention policies that reflect local contexts and priorities;
 - governance structures support the participation of the diversity of urban residents to participate in developing, implementing and monitoring community safety strategies;
 - the principles of inter-sectionality are applied to develop comprehensive, responsive and inclusive urban safety strategies that acknowledge gender, race, age and cultural differences;
 - city development strategies embrace a long-term vision that incorporates a balance of social and situational prevention as cross-cutting issues in all urban sectors, including urban planning and design, housing, poverty reduction, employment, education, gender equality and social cohesion, as well as in times of urban humanitarian crises.

Cities, territory and public safety policies: A Latin American perspective

This chapter looks at a cross-cutting issue in the implementation of safety policies – that of **territorial coordination**. Processes of decentralization, and the increase in the relative power of cities in relation to nation states present important challenges in terms of local governance. How can national and local policies be coordinated to improve the outcome of prevention strategies? This chapter attempts to look at this question with a comparative case study of 10 selected Latin American cities. It analyses the specific coordination processes between their national governments and the cities of Ciudad Juárez and Aguascalientes (Mexico), San Salvador (El Salvador), Bogotá (Colombia), Quito (Ecuador), Lima (Peru), Santiago (Chile), Rosario (Argentina) and Recife and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). The first section of the chapter defines the processes of territorial coordination from the perspective of urban governance. The second contextualizes trends in urbanization and crime in Latin America. The third studies the evolution and emergence of citizen safety policies in the region, looking at normative and institutional developments. The fourth section analyses specific processes of territorial interaction between these cities and national structures. The final section assesses the findings, placing an emphasis on recommendations for improving the development of territorial aspects of safety and prevention policies.

Main conclusions:

- The success of prevention policies in cities is rooted in the processes of territorial coordination between different levels and government entities, and the use of tools with the objective of reducing the crime rate. In these processes, citizen participation has been fundamental.
- These processes of coordination have been successful when:
 - the respective territorial authority has been directly and permanently involved;
 - the community has been involved through participatory processes;
 - processes of coordination have been institutionalized;
 - internal teams have been created and formed that specialize in safety and security.



Crime prevention in urban public transport

This chapter focuses on an essential aspect of cities: **urban public transport** and particularly its relationship with the prevention of crime and fear of crime. It puts a particular emphasis on risk factors of transport spaces, but it also looks at the influence that the organization of the city has on the safety of these spaces. The chapter is divided into three parts. The first gives an overview of trends related to crime and fear of crime on transport systems around the world. This is a particularly complex exercise because the data related to these phenomena are few, incomplete and disaggregated at different levels, which problematizes comparisons between countries. The second part presents the risk factors related to crime and fear of crime in this area. These may be related to the transportation itself, for example the architecture of the transport space or the mass of people, but also to its location within the city, to the influence of the built environment, commercial activities and the social organization that surround it. Finally, the third part looks at prevention strategies. It puts a special emphasis on integrating crime prevention on public transport with that of the city itself. It also highlights international norms that have recently been adopted in this regard. The chapter concludes by presenting a classification of prevention practices.

Main conclusions:

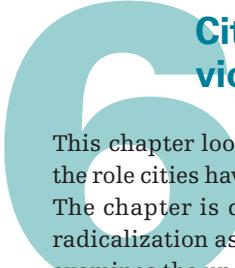
- In the case of public transport, although this has its own social and physical characteristics, an effective crime prevention strategy must be developed in an integrated way with the overall city prevention strategy.
- As with many other prevention strategies, it is clear that they will be effective when:
 - an in-depth diagnosis of the situation is carried out;
 - the participation of all stakeholders is included;
 - an integrated and multi-sectoral approach to interventions is developed;
 - implementation monitoring and evaluation is incorporated.

Crime prevention in relation to drug use in the urban environment

This chapter focuses on the **prevention of drug-related crime** in the urban context. The chapter is divided into four parts. The first examines different theories on the relationship between drug use and crime, including whether there is a direct causal link, or only a correlation. It also highlights the fact that the consumption of different types of drugs has different impacts in terms of the crimes associated with them. The second part presents global trends in drug use and legislation, and the prevention role of cities. It also discusses the evolution of international conventions on drug prevention which provide guidance to countries and cities. The third part aims to identify the necessary elements for effective drug crime prevention strategies. It outlines three elements: the prevention of drug use itself, the prevention of crime linked to drug use, and the prevention of recidivism. Finally, and drawing on recent research undertaken by ICPC, the chapter illustrates the components of effective drug crime prevention strategies with an analysis of prevention approaches developed in eight cities in a range of countries.

Main conclusions:

- There is no direct linear relationship between drug use and crime, but many common factors are often associated with problems of criminality and with drug abuse.
- Apart from the elements common to effective urban crime prevention, those concerned with the prevention of drug abuse should include the following:
 - strategies should be holistic and multi-sectoral, and facilitate integration between the different levels of government, as well as promoting a favourable social environment that reduces marginalization;
 - space needs to be left for municipal autonomy, especially in the case of harm reduction programmes;
 - monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should be incorporated;
 - the continuous sharing of information needs to be promoted between non-governmental and governmental entities, as well as at the local, regional and international level.



Cities and preventing violent radicalization

This chapter looks at **urban issues linked to violent radicalization**, including the role cities have gradually taken on in relation to preventing this phenomenon. The chapter is divided into four parts. The first presents a global review of radicalization as an emerging concern at the global level. Among other issues, it examines the unequal distribution of terrorist attacks in different regions of the world, as well as the under-estimation of the role of the extreme right, especially in North America. Of particular concern is the situation in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia. In addition, the chapter emphasizes the limited knowledge available on this subject, the strong presence of young men involved in radicalization and the growing concern about the role of young women. The second section focuses on the local factors that have an influence on processes of radicalization. In this regard, it highlights the problems of integration and social cohesion of minority communities as a route into radicalization. The last parts of the chapter address interventions implemented at the international, national and local level to prevent radicalization. The third part deals with international norms and standards. The fourth part analyses the main types of national strategies, as well as the different types of methods which cities are using to decrease radicalization. This includes a comparative analysis of cities which have implemented such strategies.

Main conclusions:

- Cities are becoming more aware of their important role in understanding and preventing violent radicalization, and in a number of cases have attained an important degree of autonomy.
- Violent radicalization in cities is a result of a combination of individual and group factors rooted in communities that are often isolated, with limited integration into the city. In this respect, the factors which explain radicalization in the city are not that much different from the problems that many citizens face – in terms of inclusion, cohesion, marginalization and segregation. The solutions are in many respects similar to prevention policies developed by municipalities to respond to such issues as youth crime or family isolation.
- Apart from the religious component, models of intervention for the prevention of radicalization have many similarities with other crime prevention projects at the local community level. Successful programmes that reinforce integration, cohesion and community resilience could be effective in preventing radicalization.
- The future debate, therefore, will focus on whether interventions designed to specifically counter violent extremism will be an effective and useful response at the local community level, or whether interventions which focus more generally on integration and inclusion will be sufficient.

***The 5th International Report on Crime Prevention
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will be available on the ICPC Website
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