



SECURITY
COLOMBIA

SECURITY OVERVIEW

BARRANQUILLA

UNIDAD DE ANÁLISIS POLÍTICO Y SEGURIDAD CORPORATIVA (UAPSC)

September 2026

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Regarding the security situation in Barranquilla, available data show a decrease in most high-impact crimes, with the exception of those that have a greater impact on the population, such as homicide and theft from persons (El Tiempo, 2026). However, the city continues to experience the presence of criminal organizations with a history of more than 13 years, demonstrating their ability to remain and adapt within the territory's criminal dynamics (Fundación Ideas para la Paz, 2025). These structures have an economic support base sustained primarily by activities such as drug trafficking and extortion, with the resources generated through these activities enabling them to strengthen their criminal capabilities and acquire weapons for the perpetration of crimes such as homicide and theft (Cano, 2025).

Homicide:



2023-2024	↑ 31.47%
2024-2025	↓ 12.98%
2025-2026 Jan - Jun Jan - Jun	↑ 39.74%

Extortion:



2023-2024	↑ 1.71%
2024-2025	↓ 18.16%
2025-2026 Jan - Jun Jan - Jun	↑ 1.71%

Theft from persons:



2023-2024	↑ 44.39%
2024-2025	↓ 35.99%
2025-2026 Jan - Jun Jan - Jun	↑ 1.47%

CRIME STATISTICS

High-impact crimes in Barranquilla

CRIME STATISTICS IN BARRANQUILLA	YEAR 2023	YEAR 2024	% VARIATION 2023VS 2024	YEAR 2024	YEAR 2025	% VARIATION 2024VS 2025	JAN-JUN 2025	JAN-JUN 2026	% VARIATION JAN-JUN 2025 VS 2026
HOMICIDES	375	493	+31.47%	493	429	- 12.98%	229	320	+39.74%
THEFT FROM PERSONS	13.470	7.490	-44.39%	7.490	10.187	+35.99%	4.408	4.473	+1.47%
EXTORTION	877	892	+1.71%	892	730	-18.16%	351	357	+1.71%
KIDNAPPING	0	1	+100%	1	2	+100%	2	0	- 100%
TERRORISM	0	0	0 %	0	0	0 %	0	0	0 %
THREATS	1.431	1.308	-8.60%	1.308	1.056	-19.27%	488	845	+73.16%
RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY	688	460	-33,14 %	460	478	+3.91%	211	226	+7.11%
VEHICLE THEFT	444	422	-4.95%	422	415	-1.66%	251	164	-34.66%
MOTORCYCLE THEFT	1.221	1.087	-10.98%	1.087	1.118	+2.85%	569	379	-33.04%
COMMERCIAL THEFT	1.100	970	-11.82%	970	600	- 38.14%	360	320	-11.11%
FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ROBBERY	16	5	-68.75%	5	7	+40.00%	6	1	-83.33%
CARGO THEFT	3	8	+166.67%	8	0	- 100%	0	0	0%
SEXUAL OFFENSES	456	550	+20.61%	550	463	- 15.82%	244	260	+6.56%
TOTAL	18.981	13.686	-27.89%	13.686	15.485	+13.15%	7.319	7.345	+0.36%

Source: Own elaboration based on data from the Colombian National Police (2026).

Note. Figures subject to change based on the source's updating processes.

CRIME STATISTICS

Key data



RISK-GENERATING ACTORS AND FACTORS

Local drug trafficking constitutes one of the main activities that provide economic support to criminal structures operating in Barranquilla, enabling them to obtain resources to strengthen their capabilities and engage in other illicit activities (Mesa, 2025). This dynamic also fuels territorial disputes between “Los Costeños,” “Los Pepes,” and “Nueva Generación,” particularly in the Las Flores and Villanueva neighborhoods, located near the Magdalena River, where activities associated with the storage and movement of narcotics are concentrated (El Tiempo, 2023; Pares, 2024). These disputes may result in homicides, confrontations, and crossfire situations that expose the civilian population. Likewise, local drug trafficking affects perceptions of security and may represent a health risk associated with drug consumption.

RISK-GENERATING ACTORS AND FACTORS

Seizures (kg) of illicit substances in Barranquilla

ILLICIT SUBSTANCES SEIZED	YEAR 2023 (kg)	YEAR 2024 (kg)	YEr 2025 (kg)	JAN -JUN 2026 (kg)
COMPRESSED MARIHUANA	1.636,46	6.536,10	2.321,08	2.362,18
COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE	6.197,82	5.019,84	8.652,65	700,15
TOTAL	8.810,88	13.780,84	11.566,58	3.136,33

ILLICIT SUBSTANCES SEIZED	YEAR 2023 (un)	YEAR 2024 (un)	YEAR 2025 (un)	JAN-JUN 2026 (un)
2CB	426,60	310,90	402,85	74,00
ECSTASY-TYPE STIMULANTS	550,00	1.914,00	190,00	0
TOTAL	976.60	2.224,90	592,85	74,00

Source: Own elaboration based on data from the Colombian Drug Observatory (2025)..

 **3.136,33kg**
Seized

Local drug trafficking

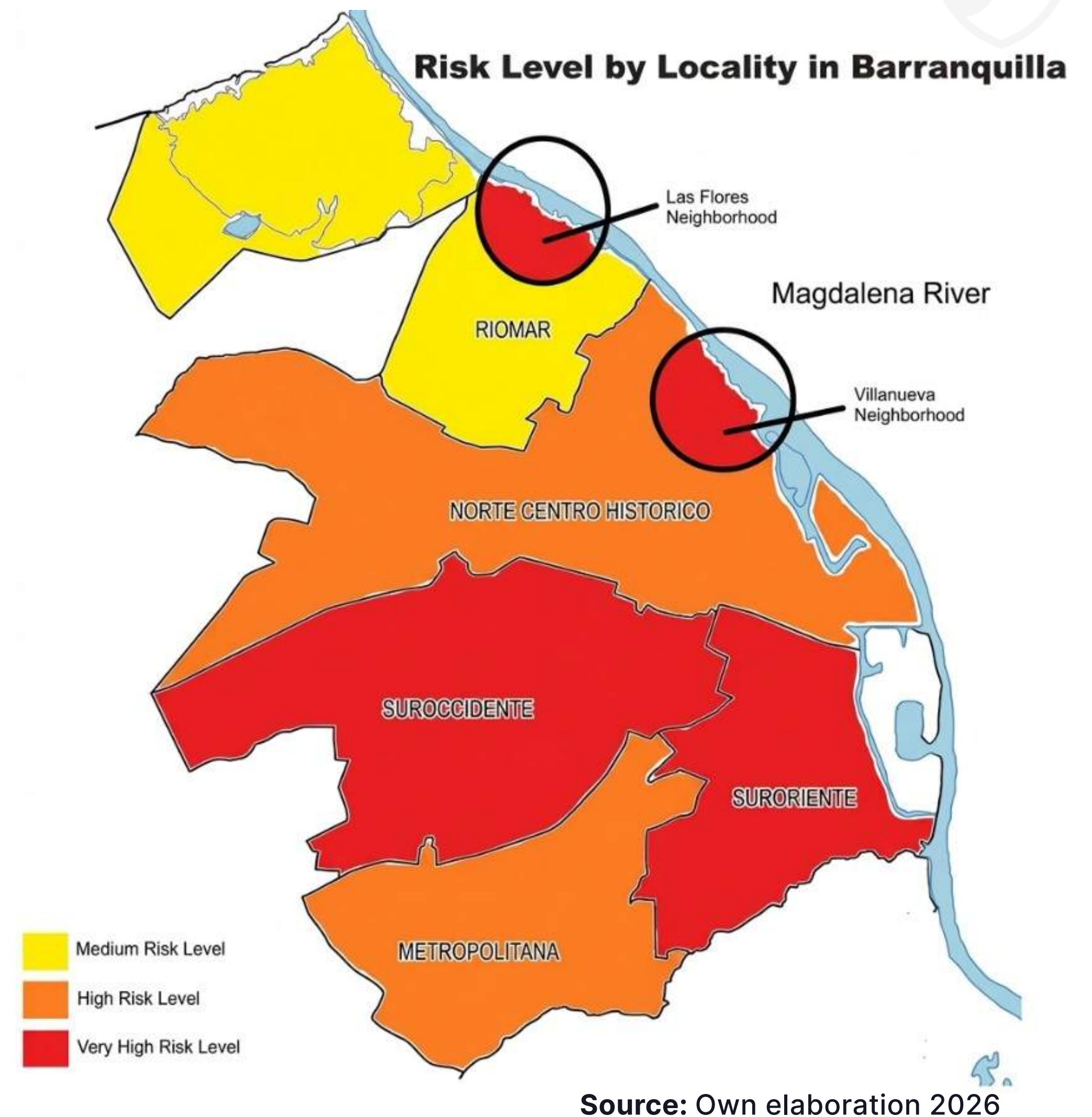
serves as the main driver of urban violence in Cali. This same criminal activity constitutes the economic support base of all major criminal organizations operating in Barranquilla, including “Los Costeños,” “Los Pepes,” and “Nueva Generación.”

Criminal Structures in Barranquilla:

There are currently three major criminal structures that constitute the dominant criminal organizations in the city: “Los Costeños,” “Los Pepes,” and “Nueva Generación.”

RISK LEVEL

The risk level of Barranquilla's localities is determined based on the incidence of high-impact crimes, primarily homicide, theft, and extortion, using information from the Barranquilla Mayor's Office and local open sources. Based on this analysis, the Suroccidente and Suroriente localities present a very high risk level, while Metropolitana and Norte-Centro Histórico present a high risk level. Riomar, on the other hand, presents a medium risk level; however, within Norte-Centro Histórico and Riomar, sectors with a very high risk level are identified, specifically the Villanueva and Las Flores neighborhoods, respectively, due to their proximity to the Magdalena River and their importance within drug trafficking dynamics and territorial disputes between criminal structures.



CRIME IMPACT



Crime dynamics in Barranquilla affect the political, economic, social, and technological spheres, influencing governance, economic activity, population security conditions, and institutional capacity to respond to the city's main criminal phenomena.

Political



The security situation shows variations across the periods analyzed. Although the total number of high-impact crimes increased marginally by 0.36% between the first half of 2025 and 2026, homicide increased by 39.74%, representing a challenge for institutional security management.

Economic



Theft from commercial establishments showed a sustained reduction across the three comparative periods: 11.82% between 2023 and 2024, 38.14% between 2024 and 2025, and 11.11% between the first six months of 2025 and 2026. This trend represents a favorable variation for commercial activity in the city.

Social



Theft from persons increased by 1.47% between the first six months of 2025 and 2026, while threats increased by 73.16% and sexual offenses by 6.56%. These trends continue to affect security conditions and the population's perception of safety.

Technological



New international security partnerships are already driving the use of recognition technologies and artificial intelligence to strengthen crime prevention and response capabilities..

RECOMMENDATIONS

-  Strengthen preventive measures against theft from persons in commercial, tourist, and high-traffic areas. Avoid displaying cash, electronic devices, and valuables, and do not confront perpetrators during an attempted theft.
-  Plan travel routes and schedules in advance, prioritizing main roads and well-lit areas. Avoid unnecessary travel through very high-risk areas, particularly in the Suroccidente and Suroriente localities.
-  Exercise particular caution in the Las Flores and Villanueva neighborhoods due to local drug trafficking dynamics and potential disputes between criminal structures. In the event of confrontations or the presence of armed individuals, do not approach the area and proceed to a safe location.
-  Avoid confrontations in response to threats, payment demands, or financial demands from criminal actors. Immediately notify the organization's security officer and public security authorities, and follow established protocols.



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