

SECURITY OVERVIEW

GUAYAQUIL

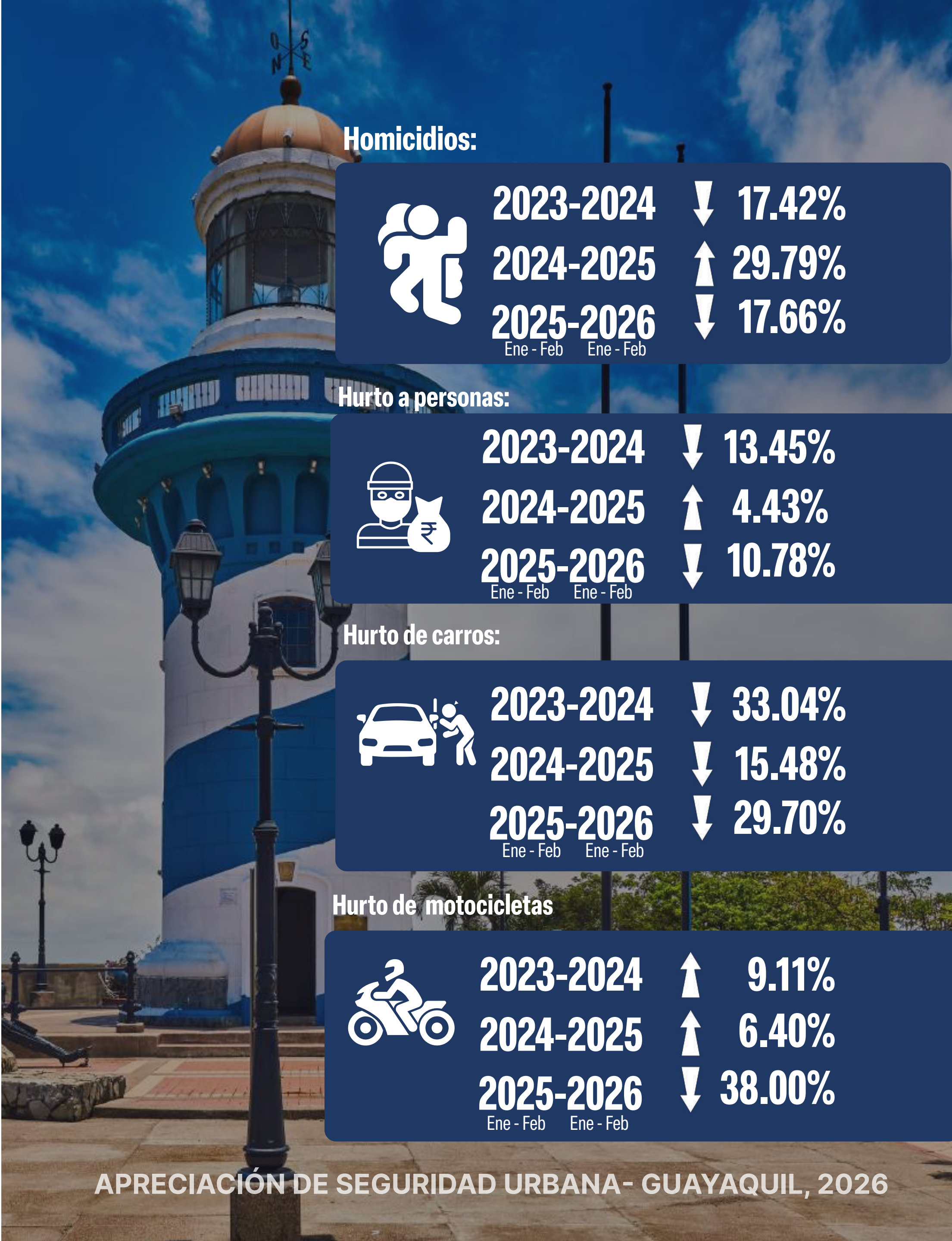
UNIDAD DE ANÁLISIS POLÍTICO Y SEGURIDAD CORPORATIVA (UAPSC)

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SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The province of Guayas, where Guayaquil is located, is one of Ecuador’s main organized crime hotspots, with approximately eight major criminal organizations linked to multiple homicides, drug microtrafficking, and armed offensives. This issue has a particularly significant impact on Guayaquil, as well as Durán and Samborondón, where homicides, extortion, and territorial disputes over control of ports and maritime routes used for transnational drug trafficking have been reported (Radio Pichincha, 2026).

In response to this situation, Daniel Noboa’s government maintains a hardline policy against these organizations through arrests and large-scale operations, while the Shield of the Americas initiative has strengthened cooperation with the United States through technological resources and joint operations involving the Armed Forces and the National Police. Nevertheless, the continued presence of these criminal organizations sustains violence and territorial disputes, posing an ongoing challenge to security in Guayaquil (Semanario Ecuador News, 2026).



CRIME STATISTICS

High-impact crimes in Guayaquil

CRIME STATISTICS IN GUAYAQUIL	YEAR 2023	YEAR 2024	% VARIATION 2023VS 2024	YEAR 2024	YEAR 2025	% VARIATION 2024VS 2025	JAN-FEB 2025	JAN-FEB 2026	% VARIATION JAN-FEB 2025 VS 2026
HOMICIDE	2.382	1.967	-17.42%	1.967	2.553	+29.79%	470	387	-17.66%
THEFT AGAINST PERSONS	9.602	8.311	-13.45%	8.311	8.679	+4.43%	1.336	1.192	-10.78%
FEMICIDE	9	9	0%	9	4	-55.56%	2	2	0%
RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY	2.394	1.372	-42.69%	1.372	696	-49.27%	128	129	+0.78%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	4.286	2.869	-33.04%	2.869	2.425	-15.48%	431	303	-29.70%
MOTORCYCLE THEFT	4.269	4.658	+9.11%	4.658	4.956	+6.40%	987	612	-38.00%
COMMERCIAL BURGLARY	1.504	1.079	-28.6%	1.079	717	-33.55%	131	145	+10.69%
THEFT OF CAR PARTS	2.786	2.108	-24.34%	2.108	1.616	-23.34%	268	213	-20.52%
TOTAL	27.232	22.373	-17.84	22.373	21.546	-3.70%	3.753	2.983	-20.52%

Source: Own elaboration based on data from the National Institute of Statistics and Census of Ecuador (INEC, 2026).
Note: Figures are subject to change based on updates to the source.

CRIME STATISTICS

Key data

Total high-impact crimes:



Crimes with the highest increase in the latest comparative period, 2025 (Jan-Jun) to 2026 (Jan-Jun):



Crimes with the greatest decrease in the latest comparative period, 2025 (Jan-Jun) to 2026 (Jan-Jun):



RISK-GENERATING ACTORS AND FACTORS

In Guayaquil, Guayas Province, criminal organizations such as Los Choneros, Los Lobos, Los Tiguerones, and Chone Killers operate in connection with drug trafficking, drug microtrafficking, extortion, contract killings, and territorial disputes (Primicias, 2026). These organizations maintain shifting alliances and relationships with criminal networks in Mexico and Colombia to facilitate transnational drug trafficking (InSight Crime, 2026).

In this context, drug microtrafficking constitutes a risk factor for public health due to exposure to psychoactive substance use and, from a security perspective, because of the population's contact with criminal environments. Likewise, disputes between criminal organizations over control of territories and illicit markets can trigger armed confrontations in residential areas, exposing civilians to the risk of being caught in the crossfire, while also increasing the risks of homicides and extortion.

RISK-GENERATING ACTORS AND FACTORS



Seizures (kg) of illicit substances in Guayas province

ILLICIT SUBSTANCES SEIZED	YEAR 2021 (Ton)	YEAR 2022 (Ton)	YEAR 2023 (Ton)	YEAR 2024 (Ton)	TOTAL (Ton)
COCAINE AND DERIVATIVES - CANNABIS - OTHER SUBSTANCES	106.5	112.7	95.8	71.4	386.4

Fuente : Elaboración propia con datos del Observatorio Ecuatoriano de Crimen Organizado (2025).

DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING OF ILLICIT SUBSTANCES	YEAR 2021 (Kg)	YEAR 2022 (Kg)	YEAR 2023 (Kg)	YEAR 2024 (Kg)	TOTAL (Kg)
INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING	103.971,6	110.700,7	93.119,3	67.798,9	375.590,5
DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION	2.489,6	1.980,9	2.726	3.570,4	10.766,9

Source: Own elaboration based on data from the Ecuadorian Organized Crime Observatory (2025).

Drug Microtrafficking:

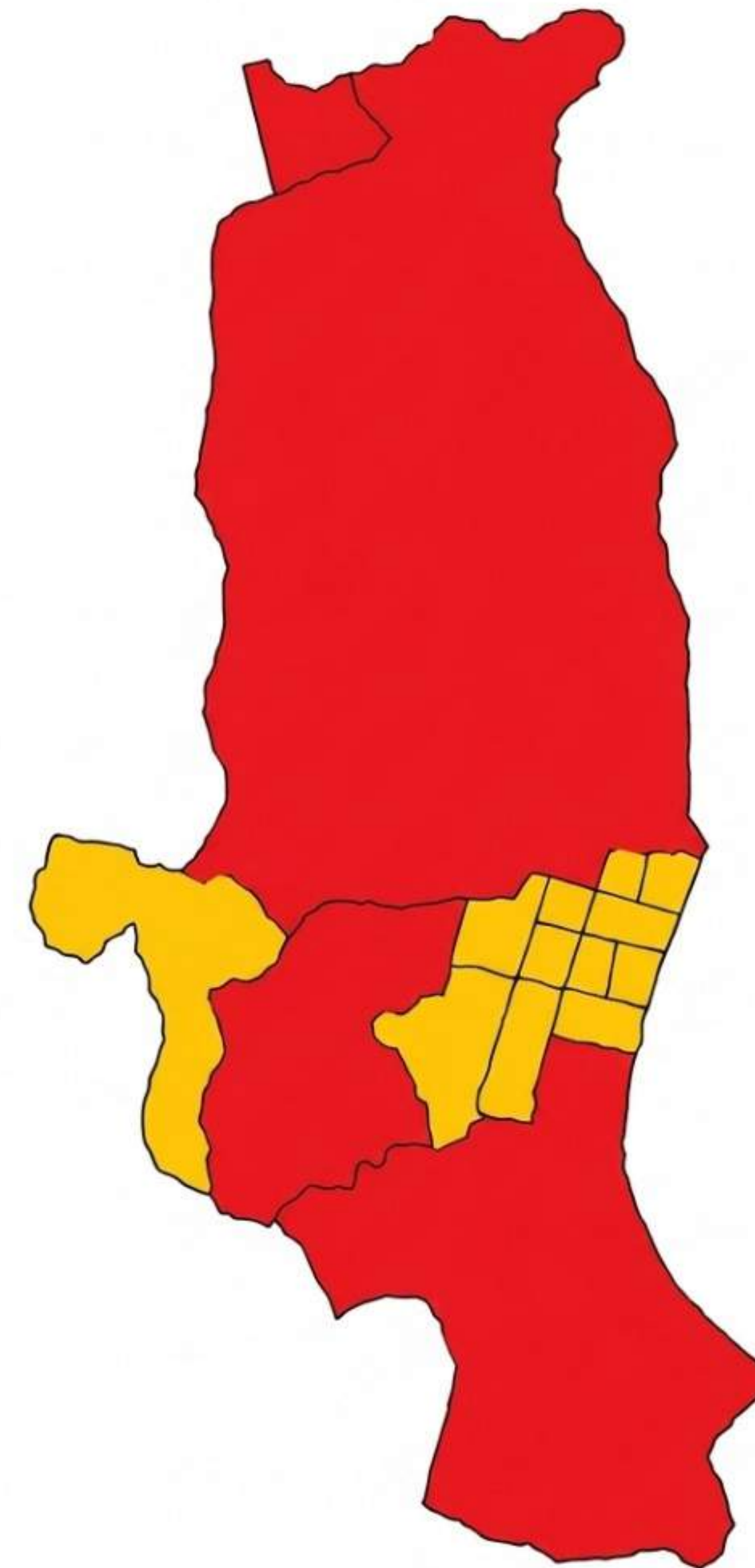
It is one of the factors driving urban violence in Guayaquil, as it provides a source of revenue for criminal organizations and fuels disputes over territorial control and local drug markets.

Criminal Organizations in Guayaquil:

The main organizations operating in the city include Los Choneros, Los Lobos, Los Tiguerones, and Chone Killers. Their shifting alliances and confrontations influence crime dynamics and expose civilians to potential armed clashes.

RISK LEVEL: HIGH

Although the total number of crimes analyzed in Guayaquil decreased by 17.84% between 2023 and 2024, by 3.70% between 2024 and 2025, and by 20.52% during January and February 2026 compared with the same period in 2025, risk factors persist, including the increase in homicides in 2025, motorcycle theft, and the activities of criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking, drug microtrafficking, extortion, and territorial disputes. Risk is particularly concentrated in Pascuales, the Nueva Prosperina sector in Tarqui, and the Ximena and Febres Cordero parishes, where the population may be exposed to armed confrontations and other forms of violence.



- 1 Ayacucho
- 2 Bolívar-Sagrario
- 3 Carbo-Concepción
- 4 Febres Cordero
- 5 García Moreno
- 6 Letamendi
- 7 9 de octubre
- 8 Olmedo-San Alejo
- 9 Roca
- 10 Rocafuerte
- 11 Sucre
- 12 Tarqui
- 13 Urdaneta
- 14 Ximena
- 15 Chongón
- 16 Pascuales





CRIME IMPACT

Crime dynamics in Guayaquil 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 continued presence of criminal organizations such as Los Choneros, Los Lobos, and Los Tiguerones poses a challenge to institutional security management in Guayaquil. Although crime decreased between 2023 and 2025, homicides increased by 29.79% between 2024 and 2025, reflecting patterns of violence and territorial disputes.

Economic



Criminal activity affects commercial operations through financial losses and increased security expenditures for businesses. Although commercial burglary decreased by 33.55% between 2024 and 2025, it increased by 10.69% during January and February 2026 compared with the same period in 2025.

Social



Theft from persons continues to affect the security of residents, pedestrians, and visitors, despite decreasing by 10.78% during January and February 2026 compared with the same period in 2025. Furthermore, confrontations between criminal organizations may expose civilians to armed attacks and stray bullets.

Technological



International cooperation through initiatives such as Shield of the Americas has contributed to strengthening the technological and operational capabilities of Ecuadorian institutions. These resources support intelligence, surveillance, and response efforts against organized crime and its illicit economies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

-  1 Strengthen theft-prevention measures by avoiding the display of valuables and remaining particularly alert in commercial areas, tourist zones, and locations with high pedestrian traffic.
-  2 Plan routes and travel times in advance, prioritizing main roads and well-lit areas while avoiding high-risk sectors, especially at night.
-  3 Use monitored parking facilities for motorcycles and vehicles, and strengthen access controls and surveillance at commercial establishments, residences, and accommodation facilities.
-  4 Maintain personal safety measures in response to threats, extortion, or confrontations between criminal organizations. Avoid confrontation, move away from the area, and proceed to a safe location, notifying the designated security officer or the authorities.



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