

## Preventive Strategies for Citizen Security: A Comparative Analysis of International and National Models

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### KEYWORDS

citizen security, preventive strategies, community participation, crime prevention, police modernization.

### ABSTRACT:

The general objective of this research was to understand the scientific evidence on preventive strategies for citizen security. A qualitative approach and a literature review were used, covering national and international studies. The instruments applied included content analysis of scientific publications. The main results indicated that preventive strategies, such as community participation, environmental design and increased police presence, are effective in reducing crime. In the United States and the United Kingdom, community integration in security programs has shown positive results; in Peru, police modernization and the implementation of technologies have improved the response to security incidents. The main conclusion is that the implementation of evidence-based preventive strategies can significantly improve citizen security and the perception of security.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Citizen security is a complex, retractable, volatile issue of vital significance, since it has a direct impact on both the well-being and the quality of life of society. Research on preventive strategies is crucial to develop effective policies that significantly reduce crime and improve the perception of public safety; This study aims to provide scientific evidence that informs and improves these strategies, thus contributing to a safer and more secure environment for all.

The problem of citizen insecurity has been widely documented in the scientific literature. Tonry (2015) mentioned that in the United States, various preventive strategies have been implemented with mixed results, developing, highlighting, and implementing the need for more integrated and evidence-based policies. In the United Kingdom, Crawford (1998) stressed that community initiatives have been effective in reducing certain types of crime, and for this he is emphatic in referring to the participation of citizens as essential for their success. In Australia, Farrington and Welsh (2006) stressed that in the area of crime prevention, programmes that aim to focus on youth have shown promising results, but require greater investment and continuity. According to a study by Van Dijk (2008), Scandinavian countries have implemented holistic approaches that combine social and situational prevention, obtaining significant reductions in crime. Finally, Farrington and Ttofi (2009) emphasized that evidence suggests that bullying prevention programs in schools can have a positive impact on improving the climate of schoolchildren and on reducing bullying.

Also, Reike (2014) mentioned that situational prevention strategies have been shown to significantly reduce crime by modifying specific aspects of the immediate environment of the crime. Tilley and Sidebottom (2017) argued that the most immediate causes are usually the most influential in the generation of crimes, underlining the importance of direct interventions in risk situations. In addition, Cozens (2008) highlighted the benefits of environmental design in crime prevention, especially in disadvantaged areas where social interventions are crucial. On the other hand, Crawford and Evans (2017) emphasized the need for community-based approaches that integrate diverse actors

to improve local security. Finally, Fagan and Buchanan (2016) highlight the importance of multi-stakeholder alliances for crime prevention, pointing out that collaboration between government agencies and the community can lead to a sustained decrease in crime.

At the national level, Torres (2022) pointed out that, in a Peruvian district, strategies focused on increasing police presence and improving resources, such as patrols and vehicle units, have been effective in reducing theft crimes. Likewise, the analysis of community participation for citizen security highlights how important collaboration between the community and institutions is to curb crime. A study by Gaona and Ruiz (2023) highlighted that the implementation of technologies has allowed for faster and more specialized responses to incidents of insecurity; In addition, public-private collaboration and police reform focused on human rights and democratic values are essential to strengthen security. In another study, the Ministry of the Interior (2023) argued that police modernization must include changes in values and practices to ensure a professional and democratic police force.

That is why it came to be formulated as the problem in our academic purpose: What is the scientific evidence on preventive strategies for citizen security?

Regarding the research background, Quintero (2020) investigated the new models of police management in Latin America, focused on citizen participation and citizen security, with the aim of involving populations in crime prevention. The research was aimed at analyzing the implementation of community policing in various countries, highlighting common principles and challenges, especially in terms of effective citizen participation. The study concluded that, although progress has been made, it is necessary to improve community participation and response to strengthen trust in police institutions and ensure more inclusive and effective security, promoting prevention over repression.

Khalid and Kamal (2020) also investigated the need for internal security strategies in Pakistan to prevent terrorist threats and urban crime, drawing inspiration from established models in India, the United States, and the United Kingdom. In the post-September 11 context, they stressed that internal and citizen security is essential to achieve the desire for sustainable development in cities, through communication technologies and modern strategies. The study covered principles of partnership, convenience, networking, transparency and monitoring. They concluded that Pakistan must adopt these strategies to ensure the economic development and security of its citizens, proposing a dual approach to safety and security to address these urgent needs.

Finally, Hagberg et al. (2023) conducted a joint anthropological study on the security challenges perceived and experienced by the citizens of Burkina Faso. Eight researchers documented and qualitatively analyzed security at the local level in 13 municipalities of the country, highlighting the importance of integrating citizen perceptions of security and insecurity in a global analysis of these challenges. The "security from below" approach considers military and police security as one perspective among several others. The study was part of a series of anthropological investigations that describe and analyze how daily realities are "seen and lived" by ordinary citizens and local social and political actors.

In Peru, the study by Sánchez (2020) aimed to analyze how public policies impact citizen security in the district of Lurigancho in 2019. This research, with a methodological approach, qualitative type and non-experimental cross-sectional design, included interviews with four officials of the Municipality of Lurigancho Chosica. The research concluded that, although the policies applied did not achieve the expected results, they managed to prevent and partially reduce citizen insecurity; strategies, while good, were not fully implemented, and problems such as prostitution and crime persist, especially in the areas of Huachipa and Carapongo. Coordination between the security forces and the police has helped to contain insecurity, and legal and psychological support for victims has been effective in increasing security when reporting aggressors.

Also, Asencios (2020) carried out a study on the impact generated by the public policies that have been implemented on citizen security in Peru. This research, of a descriptive nature with a qualitative approach and a cross-sectional non-experimental design, evaluated the consequences of

these policies, was carried out through interviews using the Delphi method to four people related to the topic, using a non-probabilistic sampling due to the operational and functional restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The interviews, validated by experts and with reliability determined by Cronbach's Alpha, revealed that citizen security policies had a significant average impact, but with relatively progress in closing positive gaps. Despite having good strategies, some elements were not well defined, which, however, did not prevent the fulfillment of the goals set in the National Plan for Citizen Security.

Likewise, Peña et al. (2022) conducted a qualitative case study on the implementation of the National Strategy for Citizen Security 2018-2023 in the District Municipality of Ate. The objective was to coordinate institutional efforts and analyze the allocation of ordinary public resources to meet the demands and needs of citizens in security according to their operational plans. The results showed an increase in budgets over time, with no corresponding increase in results. The research concluded that, despite the sustained increase in the execution of resources for the 030 budget program, budget availability varies significantly between municipal entities, influenced by local collection and transfers from the central and regional government, evidencing asymmetric budget allocations per inhabitant and year.

Finally, Cayro (2019) investigated the participation of formal neighborhood councils in the application of preventive public security policies implemented in the District of Miraflores, Arequipa, during 2018. The objectives were to explain the manifestation of the participation of all duly constituted neighborhood councils, to determine the operation of preventive public policies and to analyze the effects of this participation. The research concluded that the participation of neighborhood councils is limited due to the apathy of the municipal authority, which implements its policies independently of the coordinated actions between neighborhood councils and police stations. This lack of coordination contradicts international recommendations to involve the community in the prevention of citizen security to ensure the success and sustainability of policies, which often respond to political or electoral interests.

Regarding the definition of the study variables, for the preventive strategy it refers to the methods and approaches used to reduce the incidence of crime before it occurs, through interventions in the environment and the community (Clarke & Weisburd, 1994; Cohen & Felson, 1979). Citizen security involves the protection of individuals and their property against criminal activity, ensuring a safe and orderly environment for coexistence (Cornish & Clarke, 2003). The effectiveness of these strategies is measured through the reduction in crime rates and the improvement in the community's perception of safety (Eck & Guerette, 2007). Finally, the implementation context includes socioeconomic and cultural factors specific to the environment in which the strategies are applied, which can influence their success or failure (Fagan et al., 2019).

Regarding the theoretical framework, the research included the theory of routine activity, establishing that crime occurs when there is a motivated offender, an adequate target, and the absence of a capable guardian (Cohen & Felson, 2003). Rational choice theory posits that criminals make calculated decisions based on the potential risks and benefits of their actions (Cornish & Clarke, 1986). Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) emphasizes how the physical design of the environment can influence criminal behavior, promoting spaces that discourage crime (Ekblom, 1995). Social control theory suggests that strong social ties and effective institutions can reduce crime by fostering social conformity (Hirschi, 1969). Finally, crime pattern theory explores how mobility patterns and spatial structure influence the opportunity for crime (Brantingham & Brantingham, 2017).

The research was based on key theories such as Cohen and Felson's (1979) theory of routine activity, which explains how the convergence of certain factors facilitates crime, and Cornish and Clarke's (1986) theory of rational choice, which emphasizes risk assessment by offenders. In addition, Ekblom's (1995) (1995) prevention of crime through environmental design (CPTED) and Hirschi's (1969) theory of social control complement the analysis of physical and social factors that influence crime.

This research was grounded in a practical way as it is crucial to inform public policies and crime prevention strategies in urban areas; Their findings can help policymakers and security officials implement more effective, evidence-based measures to improve citizen security and reduce crime.

In view of the above, the general objective was to know the scientific evidence on preventive strategies for citizen security. Likewise, as specific objectives (i) To know the scientific evidence on the different types of preventive strategies of citizen security implemented at the international level; (ii) To know the scientific evidence on the results and effectiveness of the preventive strategies of citizen security implemented in Peru.

## **II. METHODOLOGY**

According to the focus of the study, the research is qualitative, according to Fernández (2017) this type of research focuses on the study of social reality from the perspective of the subjects involved, seeking to understand the meaning that social phenomena and situations have for people and their contexts.

Ochoa and Yunkor (2019) point out that the descriptive scope in a research focuses on collecting accurate information about a phenomenon without altering its environment, in order to describe the characteristics, behaviors or relationships within a specific group, these studies, also called "correlational" or "observational", provide data on attitudes, behaviors or other qualities of a certain group, thus being transversal or longitudinal, interacting with groups at a specific time or over time.

For the design of the research, the non-experimental cross-sectional design was used, where the variables will not be manipulated. (Álvarez, 2020) it is also mentioned that it is transversal since data will only be collected at a single time and in a specific place, whose objective is to be able to describe the variables and analyze both the incidence and the interrelationship at a specific time, all in a documentary way.

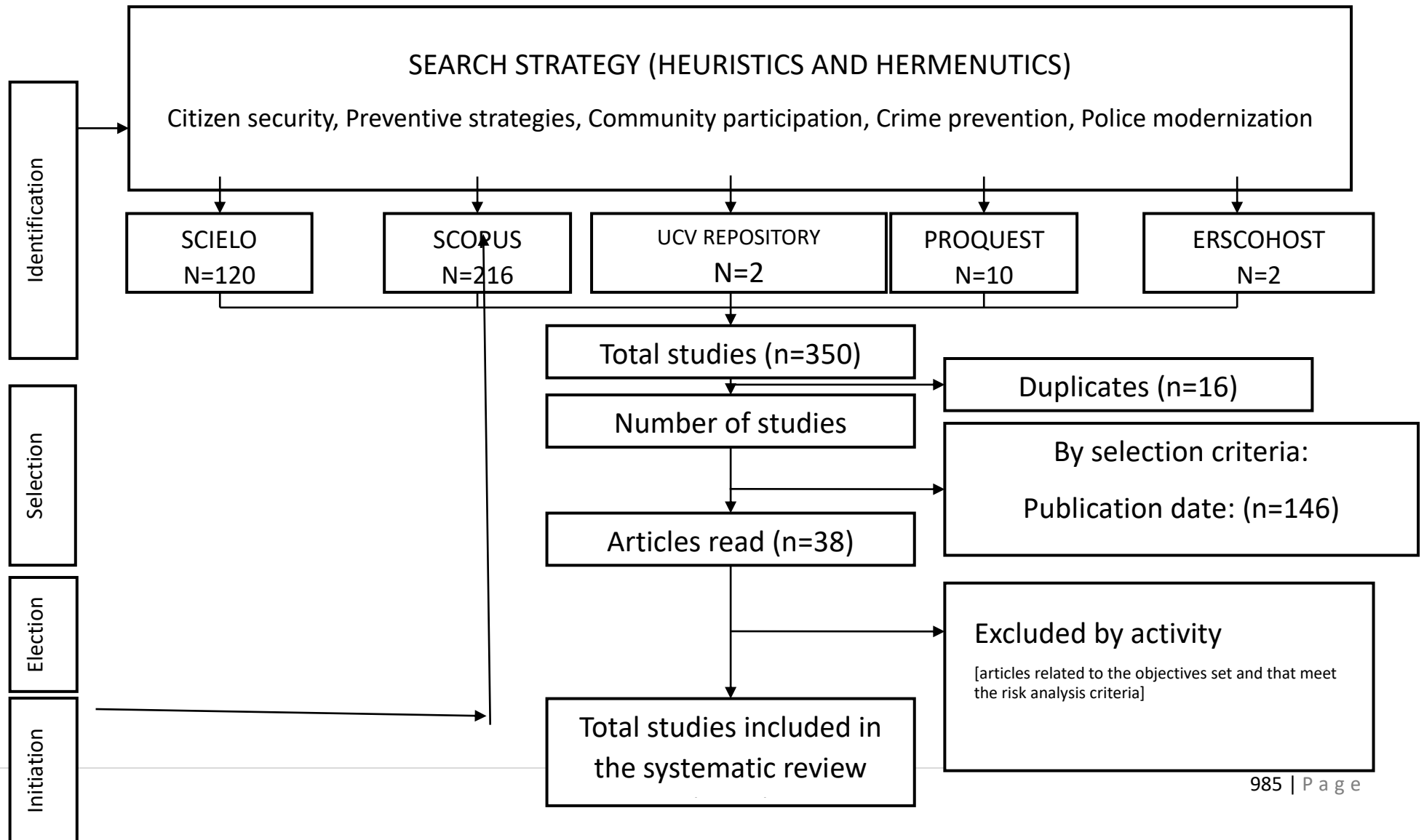
Campos and Lule (2012) mention that there are currently a wide variety of forms or techniques for the collection of data and information, which can be used for all types of research, therefore, to carry out the procedure of collecting data from reliable sources, physical or digital databases are taken into account.

That is why, for this review article, the information extracted was from Scopus and Scielo, both being recognized and reliable databases among the research groups.

The review is focused on knowing the scientific evidence on preventive strategies for citizen security and helping our society in this transversal context, likewise, 350 documents focused on the subject were found, of which a total of 24 were considered, because their information is relevant to the research of this article and their variables are related to the information.

On the other hand, for this research, information was collected from scientific articles, books, theses and research papers, which are properly mentioned respecting copyright, therefore, an anti-plagiarism test was used to provide support that the information is correctly processed.

**Figure 1**  
 Search Strategy based on a methodological heuristic



### III. RESULTS

For the research of the systematic review article, relevant information was collected from different reliable sources, using research protocol methods, both national, international and local, where each one mentions studies related to the study variables, exposing the results obtained from the literature review, demonstrating the traceability in the last five years on the objectives of this research. Therefore, according to the data shown in Table 1, a total of 350 articles were examined. After reviewing the titles and abstracts, especially some abstracts, 24 were chosen. Then, 38 of these articles were fully read, of which 146 were previously excluded because they were not adequately contextualized with the topic, therefore, 24 articles were selected, which allowed to meet the objective of this research.

**Table 1**  
*Number of documents consulted*

<b>Fountain</b>	<b>Number</b>
Found	350
Selected when reading Abstract and Title	38
Selected by full reading	38
Selected for critical reading	24

Table 2 presents the results obtained in the literature review, taking into account that the database, 216 articles were from Scopus, 120 articles from Scielo, 2 articles from EbscoHost and 12 articles from ProQuest together with the UCV repository.

**Table 2**  
*Number of selected items*

<b>Fountain</b>	<b>Number</b>
Scopus	216
Scielo	120
EbscoHost	2
ProQuest and UCV Repitorio	12
Total	350

Table 3 presents the results obtained in the literature review, the Scopus database was essential in this process, bearing in mind that only journals of high impact and traceability were considered.

**Table 3**  
*List of indexed journals from 2019 to 2024*

Database	Indexed journals	Year	Language
Scopus		2024	
	Scaffolding		English
		2024	
	Novum Jus		English
	Economic Affairs (New Delhi)	2024	English
	Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding	2024	English
	Latin American Policy	2024	Spanish
		2024	
	Latin American Policy		English
	Latin American Policy	2024	Portuguese
	Security Journal	2024	Spanish
	Official Journal of the Judiciary	2024	English
	Latin American Policy	2024	English
	Civitas	2024	English
	Venezuelan Journal of Management	2024	English
		2024	
	SN Computer Science		Spanish
	Peacebuilding	2024	English
	Bulletin of Latin American Research	2024	Spanish
	Latin American Policy	2024	English
RISTI - Iberian Journal of Information Systems and Technologies	2024	English	
VISUAL Review. International Visual Culture Review / Revista Internacional de Cultura	2024	English	
Clio. Journal of History, Human Sciences and Critical Thought.	2024	English	
Scaffolding	2024	Spanish	
Novum Jus	2024	English	
	2024		
Economic Affairs (New Delhi)		Portuguese	
Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding	2024	Spanish	
Latin American Policy	2024	English	

Table 4 shows the articles selected for systematic review and complete reading on citizen security, crime prevention, participatory security, crime prevention, and police modernization, which were published most frequently in 2023 and 2024, some of them in online publication (96%), followed by 2022 with 4%. With respect to the most recurrent language, the English language was obtained with a percentage of 100%.

**Table 4**  
*Articles selected according to the year of publication*

	<b>Year/Language</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Year	2022	2	4%
	2023-2024	36	96%
	<b>Total</b>	38	100%
Language	English	38	100%
	Spanish	0	0%
	Portuguese	0	0%
	<b>Total</b>	38	100%

**Impact on the importance of citizen security and crime prevention in all its facets.**

Citizen security within a global context associated with Citizen Security and Order in Argentina shows us that discourses on security and order in Argentina have historically been maintained under two disputed models: that of public order and that of citizen security. This study investigates how both models are configured in new ways in the imaginary of the police during the Covid-19 pandemic, using a qualitative approach based on semi-structured interviews with police officers in Buenos Aires (Fernández & Baquero, 2024).

Other authors mention that the Criminal Responsibility of the State in Armed Conflicts, the scope of criminal responsibility that falls on State agents in cases of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in armed conflicts is discussed. The article proposes a method of imputation based on modern criteria accepted and developed in Colombian jurisprudence, highlighting the need to analyze the framework of powers of State agents and their positive duties as guarantors of citizen security (Torres, 2024).

Regarding the Impact of Digitalization on Citizen Security in Bangladesh, there are studies that show experimentation associated with a transformation towards digitalization as a key driver to improve citizen security and economic prosperity. This study explores the multifaceted impact of digitalization on various sectors such as governance, finance, health, and education. The implementation of digital governance has streamlined administrative processes, improved the efficiency of public services, and strengthened the security of citizens' personal data (Kaiser, 2024).

In the part on Security Perceptions in Post-Conflict Contexts in Liberia, they indicate that citizens' perceptions of security shape their trust in government in post-conflict contexts. Based on a survey of 2000 respondents in Liberia, it is shown that the explicit attribution of security to specific institutions is key to linking more effective security governance with greater citizen trust (Nomikos & Stollenwerk, 2021)

On the other hand, studies closer to our reality show how the Social Construction of International Migrants in Mexico explores the social construction of international migrants as a threat to public health and citizen security in Monterrey, Mexico. A review of the secondary literature and the Mexican legal framework reveals that migrants, perceived as "pathogens" and "criminal illegal immigrants", are excluded from the application of complementary paradigms of citizen security and health (Stoesslé, 2024).

In another interesting result of this systematization, we find that Citizen Security in Mexico and Human Rights: provides a context on citizen security in Mexico, criticizing its democratic bases and offering an alternative genealogy of its analytical and practical implementations. Citizen security is aligned with human security that prioritizes individual existence over territorial integrity and coincides with neoliberal reforms based on public-private partnerships and individual responsibility (Emerson,

2024).

There are interesting studies that show us as results that there is a Feminist Critique of Citizen Security in Mexico problematizing the concept of "security" within "citizen security" in Mexico from a feminist perspective. It analyzes how the high rates of femicide and other forms of violence are ignored in Mexico's national and foreign security policies, which tend to militarize action plans without the participation of civil society (Runyan, 2024).

On the other hand, Public Attitudes towards Government Surveillance in Europe in general according to the results obtained show us a Research on public attitudes towards government surveillance for law enforcement and national security in several European countries. Data from the International Social Survey Programme reveal greater support for surveillance in Western and Nordic countries compared to post-communist countries, influenced by perceptions of corruption and knowledge of political issues (Školník, 2024).

Another interesting point that stands out as results is that Citizen Security and Human Rights are considered a true human right that requires prevention not only by the State, but by society as a whole to build solid public policies. This concept forges the idea of a militant citizenry committed to risk prevention and the construction of security (Gutarra, 2024).

Finally, the Public Security and Justice Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean, as a result of confidential reports and analyses of the centrality of state policies on public security and justice in Latin America and the Caribbean, reveal a labor highlight in the role of the political leadership of the State and civic participation in the integrity of the State. integrated territorial local governance of citizen security policies, despite a punitive political culture and a history of authoritarian governments in the region (Gómez-Mera, 2024).

Another position according to our systematization as a result is that there is a Culture of Peace in Peru. In this case, the research emphasizes the importance of promoting a culture of peace to strengthen social cohesion, eradicate violence and sustain democracy, security and national development in Peru. Based on statistics from the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics, the research concludes that the promotion of the culture of peace is crucial to prevent crimes and resolve conflicts in a non-violent way (Pazinato & Santos, 2024).

**Table 5**

*Books, theories, articles referring to community participation and crime prevention as a normative basis to improve the state of the art.*

<b>Author / Year</b>	<b>Contribution of the research</b>
Cayro Ríos, A. M. (2019)	The research analyzes how citizen participation in neighborhood councils can influence the effectiveness of preventive public policies for citizen security, highlighting the importance of community collaboration.
Clarke, R. V., & Cornish, D. (2003)	This study responds to criticisms about situational crime prevention, explaining how opportunities and precipitators influence criminal decisions and suggesting approaches to improve crime prevention through the manipulation of situations.

Clarke, R. V., & Weisburd, D. (1994)	This article looks at how the benefits of crime control can spread beyond the targeted areas, reducing crime displacement and suggesting that interventions can have broader positive effects than initially expected.
Cohen, L. E., & Felson, M. (2003)	The authors present a routine activities-based approach to explaining how societal changes influence trends in crime rates, suggesting that the availability of suitable targets, the absence of capable gatekeepers, and the presence of motivated offenders are key factors.
Cohen, L. E., & Felson, M. (2010)	In this re-edition of the classic 1979 work, the authors reiterate the importance of the routine activities approach to understanding crime trends, highlighting how everyday life patterns and societal changes affect opportunities for crime
Cornish, D. B., & Clarke, R. V. (1986)	This book offers a rational choice perspective on crime, arguing that offenders make logical and calculated decisions based on risk and reward assessments, and proposing strategies to deter criminality by altering these assessments.
Cozens, P. (2008)	The study looks at how environmental design can be used to prevent crime in Western Australia, proposing that sustainable urban design can contribute to public safety by reducing opportunities for crime.
Crawford, A. (1998)	This book examines crime prevention and community safety policies and practices, analyzing the role of policy and community engagement in implementing effective strategies to reduce crime and improve public safety
Crawford, A., & Evans, K. (2017)	The authors discuss current trends in crime prevention and community safety, underscoring the importance of collaboration between different social actors and the implementation of evidence-based policies to achieve safer communities.

**Benefits of community participation and crime prevention.**

Within the global context of citizen security, the situation in South American countries highlights two

historical models of discourses on security and order: public order and citizen security. The study by Fernández and Baquero (2024) analyzes how these models have evolved over time and have been configured in new ways in the imaginary of the police during the Covid-19 pandemic, employing a qualitative approach based on semi-structured interviews with police officers in that country.

On the other hand, Torres (2024) addresses the criminal responsibility of the State in armed conflicts, focusing on cases of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. This article proposes a method of imputation based on modern criteria of Colombian jurisprudence, underlining the importance of analyzing the framework of powers and the positive duties of State agents as guarantors of citizen security.

Regarding the impact of digitalization on citizen security, Kaiser (2024) presents a study that shows how digitalization has become a key driver for improving both citizen security and economic prosperity at all levels. This study examines the multifaceted impact of digitalization on sectors such as governance, technology, education, finance, health, and society, highlighting how the implementation of digital governance has streamlined administrative processes, improved the efficiency of public services, and strengthened the security of citizens' personal data.

#### **IV. CONCLUSIONS**

- ✓ The implementation and importance of active community participation is crucial for the success of preventive public policies for citizen security. This review highlights that the involvement of neighbourhood councils and other forms of community organisation can increase the effectiveness of these policies, fostering collaboration and a sense of shared responsibility between citizens and authorities.
- ✓ Situational crime prevention, which focuses on reducing opportunities to commit crime through environmental design and situation manipulation, has proven effective. It is concluded that it is important to underline that by modifying the physical and social environment, it is possible to significantly reduce the incidence of crime, highlighting the need to integrate these strategies into urban design and community planning.
- ✓ With regard to the Impact of Digitalisation on Citizen Security, digitalisation and the use of advanced technologies have a significant impact on improving citizen security. As observed in the Bangladesh study, the implementation of digital technologies in governance, finance, and health not only improves administrative efficiency and financial inclusion, but also strengthens the security of personal data and facilitates a faster and more effective response to emergencies and crime.
- ✓ Finally, social changes and routine activities have a direct influence on crime trends. Established activity-based approaches, such as those proposed in this paper, suggest that the availability of targets, the presence of security, and the motivation of offenders are key factors that should be considered in the development of crime prevention policies.

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