



**USAID**  
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS  
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

**Prevención de la Violencia**

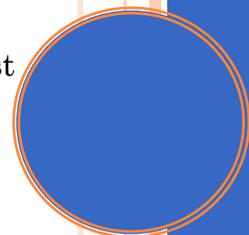


# USAID Violence Prevention Project: Baseline Measurement Results

JMatute–CIENSA

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Consultant /Translator: Dr. Anita Schrader McMillan, Social Psychologist





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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction and background

On April 2013 RTI contracted JMatute-CIENSA to finish sampling and do analysis and report of baseline from Project: USAID Violence Prevention.

“*Prensa Libre*” (a Guatemalan newspaper) in his April 7, 2013 edition reports the 25 most violent municipalities in Guatemala, where there are more than 80% of homicides. Among those 25 municipalities, there are five of the eleven with intervention from the Project. The report also mentions the relevance of actions to be developed with prevention programs aside from the governmental work, so reduction of violence could be integral; being here where the Project match with this necessity.

USAID’s Violence Prevention Project (VPP) is being implemented RTI International and CECL. Started on March 2010 aiming to contribute to prevent and diminish causes that lead to violence in Guatemala, and on line with Security Central America Regional Initiative (CARSI). Under this frame, VPP supports a new establishment of effective presence from the State, services and security into communities in risk, within the *Departamentos* of Guatemala, Alta Verapaz and Chiquimula. VPP works with youth to develop alternatives to lead them away from crime and violence in 44 communities from 11 municipalities in those three *departamentos*.

We consultants perceived that the project is focus in issues with value to those participants; nonetheless, measurement of the proposed indicators using the given instrument to us, as well as the places in itself have limitations to do a perfect or good job. Places are a limitation in themselves because of insecurity to be there (so sampling is a problem). Besides, the perception of security measured and given by respondents in a study, does not means to live in a secure place.

## Methodology

Sample size attained in the study is of 3,399 respondents, which came from a complex sampling design: being a combination of strata and clusters, where strata are the municipalities, and clusters the communities (clusters were selected within each strata). Therefore statistical analysis was made with this sampling design in mind and using weights according to probability of being selected depending on the place where the interviewed came from.

Eighteen indexes were constructed to analyze the information. Of these only two do not have a scale given in points (0 to 100 points). The numerical scale of 100 points is used to express the wellbeing of

the condition being measured by the indicator or index, so 100 points means the best condition. Besides these indexes, people were classified in groups which locate each person (or observation) according to the value attained with the index; so most of the indexes had cut of points to classify people in “low”, “medium” or “high” groups.

## Results

### Sample characterization

A 58.6% of the sample is women, given the other 41.4% being males. Mean age are 41 years old. 25% of the sample has 25 years or less (down to 18), and another 25% is 53 years old or more.

There is an economical index calculated, based on family’s income. None of the families in the population studied could be seen as belonging to “high income or status”, a 44.2% of the people are considered to be from “middle class”, and 55.8% belong to “low class”. These shows that people from the study areas could be considered as poor. The place with the lowest class is Tamahú (78%), and the place with the less low class is San Juan Ermita (46.4%).

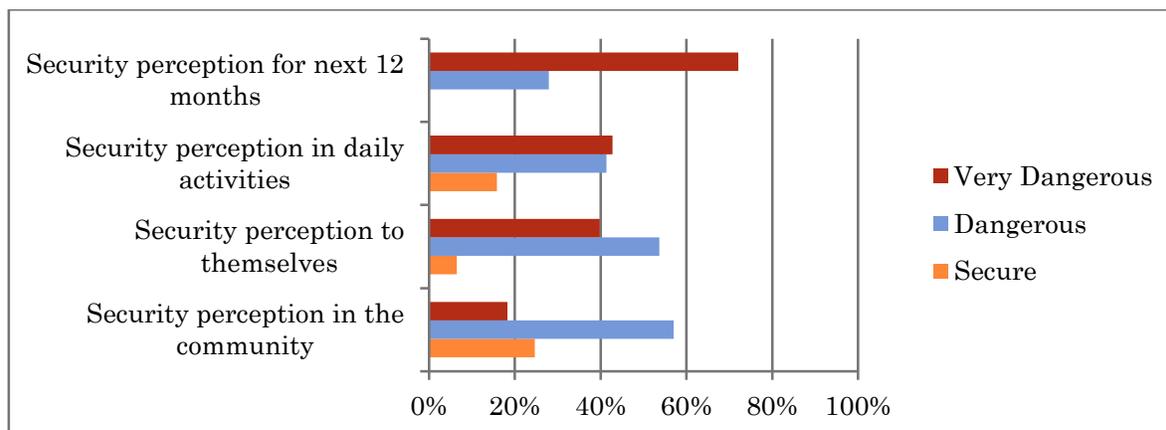
A 55% mentioned security as a concern, being the place with highest percentage of people mentioning that Guatemala (85%), and the place with less or lowest percentage Tamahú (14%).

A cluster analysis was made, which allow identifying three different groups of people living in the project area:

- \* Group 1: (52 people, 1.5% from sample) These have the higher time living in the community, are not catholic nor evangelic, are the eldest, most men, have a moderate income because have partial time work or have a retirement insurance, have higher education. There were none of this people living in Esquipulas, and the largest group found lives in Villa Nueva (3.1%).
- \* **Group 2: (1,781 people, 52.5% from sample)** most are **women, catholic or evangelic**, do not identify themselves as the household leader, **do not have an income**, and have the **lowest level of education** (no more than primary). The higher amount of these people is in San José la Arada (74.8%), Tamahú (69.6%) and Esquipulas (68.9%), while the fewer amount is in Guatemala (35.7%).
- \* Group 3: (1,559 people, 46% from sample) youth, live with a partner (married or just together), have few time living in the communities, most do not have a religion, and they consider themselves as household leaders. Are economically productive and most have secondary education. This group is highest in Guatemala (62.2%), and lowest in San José la Arada (22.4%).

## Security and victimization experiences; perceptions and opinion

### Security perception



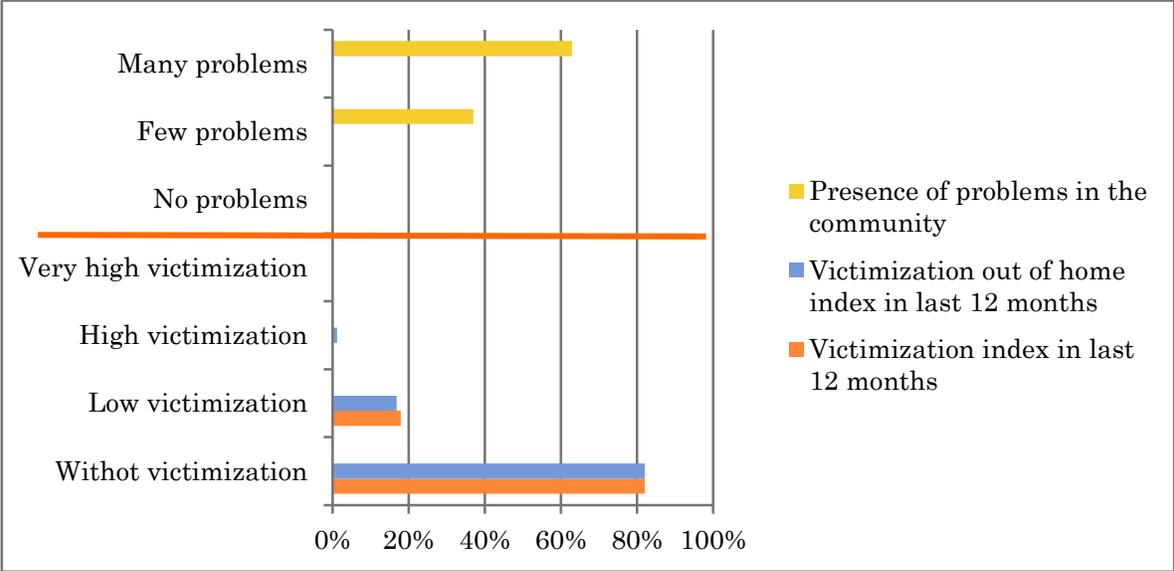
Results show that **security perception in the community** has the highest index; being the highest values among San José La Arada y Tamahú (71.26 points and 69.98 points, respectively). This is also seen with the amount of people grouped within the “secure” group, were these last communities have the highest values (77.6% and 75.2%, respectively). Esquipulas and San Juan Sacatepéquez also show relatively high values (58% and 57.2% respectively); while Cobán has the lowest (15.3%), which makes of it as the less secure place. The highest values in the “very dangerous” category belong to Guatemala (21.3%), Palencia (17.9%) and Cobán (17.4%). So a 24.7% people have the perception of living in a secure community, 57% in a dangerous one, and 18.3% in a very dangerous one.

Own security perception (security was mentioned as a concern) shows 45.4 points for all the population. The highest percentages of people belong to **very dangerous** and **dangerous** categories, which are clearly seen in Tac Tic, Tamahú and San José la Arada, with values 66.1%, 63.6% and 62.9%, respectively. As a summary, only 6.5% of people feel being safe, another 53,7% perceive a danger to themselves, and 39.8% perceive a high danger to themselves.

**Security perception with daily routines** presents 48.06 points for all population, having the highest value Tamahú (61.58 points). The highest percentages of people are within the “**dangerous**” category, being San José La Arada y Tamahú the places with highest percentages (71.0% and 64.0%, respectively). On the other hand, **security perception to the future** (next 12 months), have 33.27 points in the total population, this so because the highest percentages of people are classify within “**very dangerous**” category, highlighting Cobán, Guatemala and Palencia (85.3%, 75.1% and 72.9%, respectively).

Results show a contradiction given by people mentioning (perceiving) to live in secure places, while they, themselves mention (perceive) high levels of insecurity to themselves. We do not have an answer to this contradiction, although we could think that people may answer most honestly to questions related to their own security than the ones related to the community, or maybe there are some other issues related that were not measure by this study.

**Victimization and community problems**



Results show a report to low on victimization during last 12 months (*victimization index*) because all the communities show values of less than 2% in victimization categories. So, the higher percentages of people belong the category of *none victimization* (82% for all the people); nonetheless, *low victimization* category shows values 4.2% and 21.9% (Guatemala and Tamahú, respectively), and the value for the whole population is 17.9%.

*Victimization out of home* shows a similar behavior than the last index, which was expected because this index is a part of the last. Therefore, once again Guatemala highlights with a percentage of 20.7% in *low victimization*; Palencia and Cobán also show some considerable values (17.5% and 16.9%, respectively).

*Home violence's* percentage, in last 12 months, is very low (1.0%) for all the people and for each of the municipalities.

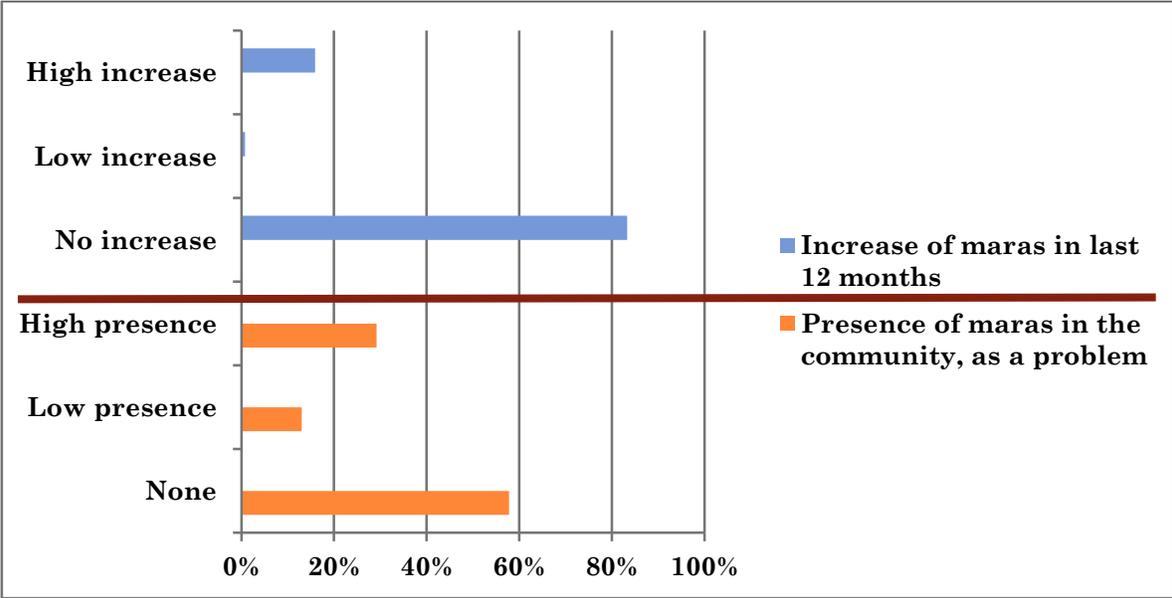
These results on victimization are contradictory to results mentioned in security perception, for example, Villa Nueva has a large proportion of people mentioning insecurity to themselves as very high

or high (85%) and only 7.3% mentioned being a victim (or someone from their family) in the last 12 months.

**Reporting violence** is highest in San José La Arada (74.9%) and Villa Nueva (71.4%). On the other hand, Esquipulas, Tac Tic and Tamahú are the places with less people reporting (33.4%, 31.6% and 23.1% respectively). Most of the reports were to *Policía Nacional Civil* (80%).

Almost all of the people (99%) mentioned to live in communities with problems. So the category of **there are many problems** is the highest, being Palencia, Guatemala and Mixco (77.5%, 64.6%, y 64.6%, respectively) the places with the highest percentages of people mentioning this category; Tamahú is the place with the lowest percentage of people mentioning this category (32.1%).

**Maras**



A high proportion of people do not have a perception of *maras* being in their communities, because the correspondent index has a value of 81.08 points. Places with the highest values of this index (above 90 point) are Tamahú and Esquipulas. This being so, because 57.8% mentioned that there is no *maras* in their communities (or at least does not recognized them or did not want to identify any). Only 29.2% mentioned that there are *maras* in their communities, highlighting Guatemala as the place with the highest percentage (33.8%).

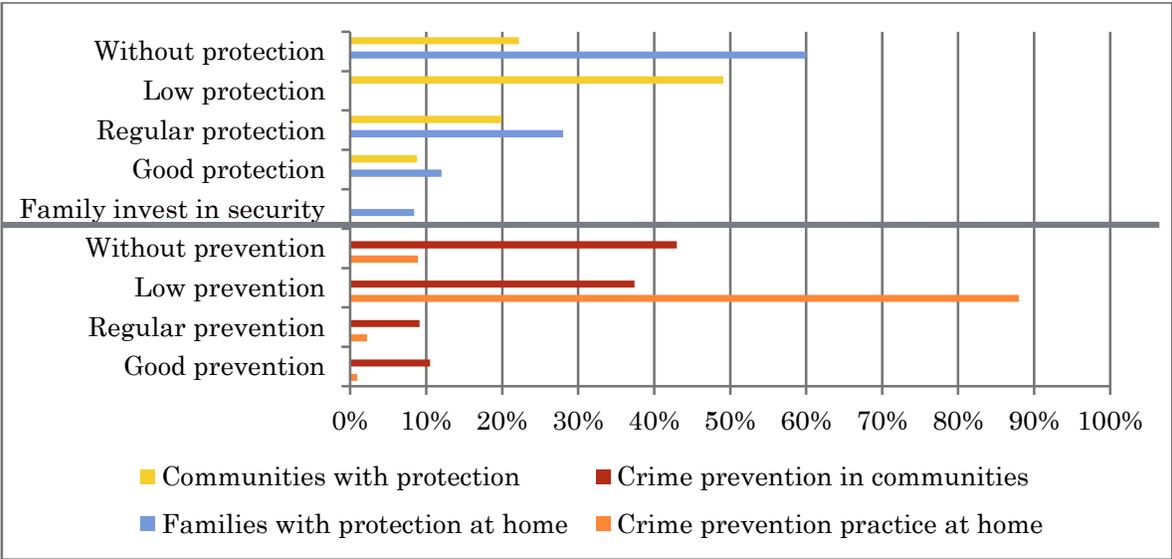
People neither perceived an increment in *maras* in the last 12 months; the correspondent index has a value of 87.93 points. Guatemala, Mixco and Palencia are the places with highest mention of *maras* been incremented in last 12 months (17.6%, 15.9% and 13.5% respectively).

So we may think: are *maras* decreasing? Or they are not easily perceived because they have adapted to make themselves “invisible” or hard to identify (not using tattoos or so).

Possible reasons for *maras* to be in the communities are: lack of recreation, lack of opportunities to study, poverty, as well as family problems, and need of power by the gangs. All of those were well mentioned leading to think in a multicausal relationship for *maras* to appear.

How to deal with *maras*? People mentioned: To increase police protection, to open job opportunities, having recreation programs and advisory.

**Prevention and protection**



Prevention and protection as practices against violence show the higher values in Tamahú and San José La Arada: 34.41 points and 31.84 points, respectively; while the mean to the total was 24.09 points.

Those values could be interpreted like there is a few or a very few practice to prevent crime at household level. Around an 80% of the people mentioned not to have or have just a little prevention.

Very few people invest in security within the communities in the project, being the places with the higher percentages Guatemala (10.6%), Mixco (8.7%), and San Juan Ermita (6.3%). The mean amount invested to security does is not more than Q200/month (around \$25).

Community prevention to crime from *maras* is weak. Highlights Tamahú, San José La Arada, Tac Tic and San Juan Ermita, places were the mean of the index is 33.82, 33.01, 29.00 and 25.40 points, respectively, being the higher values. A high percentage of people mentioned that there is little prevention by the community. Again, results show that there is a considerable percentage of

communities without prevention against crime, highlighting: Cobán, Mixco and Villa Nueva, where 33.0%, 24,1% and 22.7% of people say that there is no community prevention.

Being involved or participate in crime prevention organizations is not a rule among these people. Only 57.3% reported to participate, highlighting Tamahú with the highest percentage (71.7%).

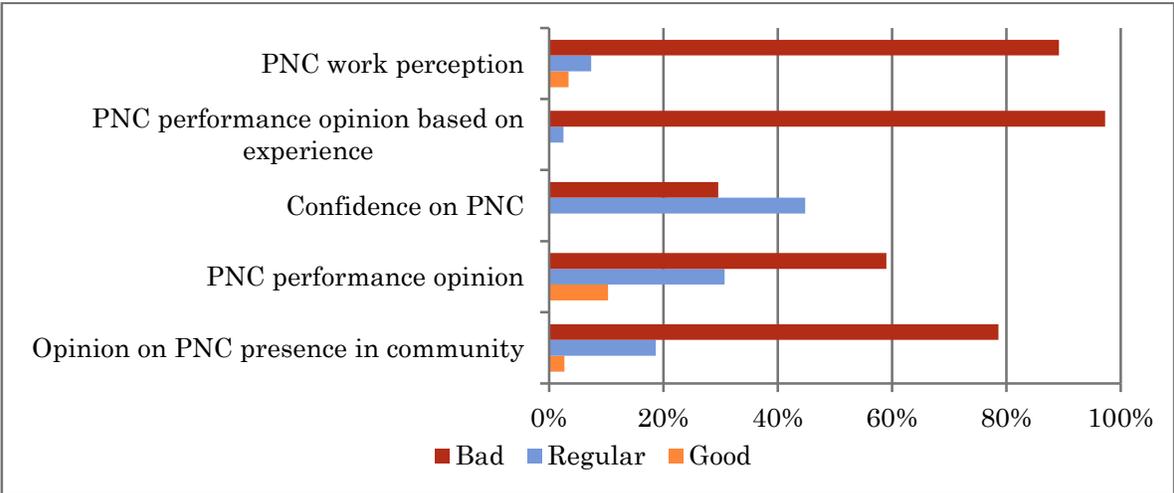
Less than a third of the people have some protection at home (structure improvement, gun acquisition or having a guardian dog). There are a 60% of people **without protection**, highlighting Tamahú, Cobán y Esquipulas, with the highest values of 88.2%, 75.9% and 71.8% respectively.

Activities or measurements at community level to prevent crime are scarce. Prevention of crime at community level index is only 21.09 points for all the population. The groups of **low prevention** and **none prevention** have the higher percentages of people (37.4% y 43.0% respectively).

The last index in this section refers to communities with protection, which was constructed based on the presence of preventive of crime measurements and activities such as civic-social and cultural recreation. Only a fourth of the population mentioned to participate or have participated in such activities. Related to this, around 50% of the people were classified as living in a **low protection** community.

All from above show that the studied population understand that crime prevention, at least with youth, has many social dimensions; but prevention and protection in general, probably, is very reactive (active vigilance, and others). This also points to the need to create opportunities at community level to make efforts to prevent youth to fell into crime

**Opinion on PNC (Policía Nacional Civil)**



Opinion on PNC from the people in the study is not good, because the correspondent index has a value of 31.84 points, being the highest value in Villa Nueva 43.6 points, and the lowest in Cobán with 19.91 points, meaning that it is in this *municipio* where there is the worst image from police at community level. With an exception of Villa Nueva and Mixco, almost none of the people (less than 3.0%) has a good opinion on the work and actions made by PNC in their communities; therefore what exists is a bad opinion or a disapproval on PNC actions (78.6% of all total population). The communities with the higher percentage of people thinking as such are Cobán, Esquipulas, Tamahú and Palencia, with 95.3%, 90.9% 84.3% and 82.2%, respectively; very high percentages that show contempt to PNC in their communities.

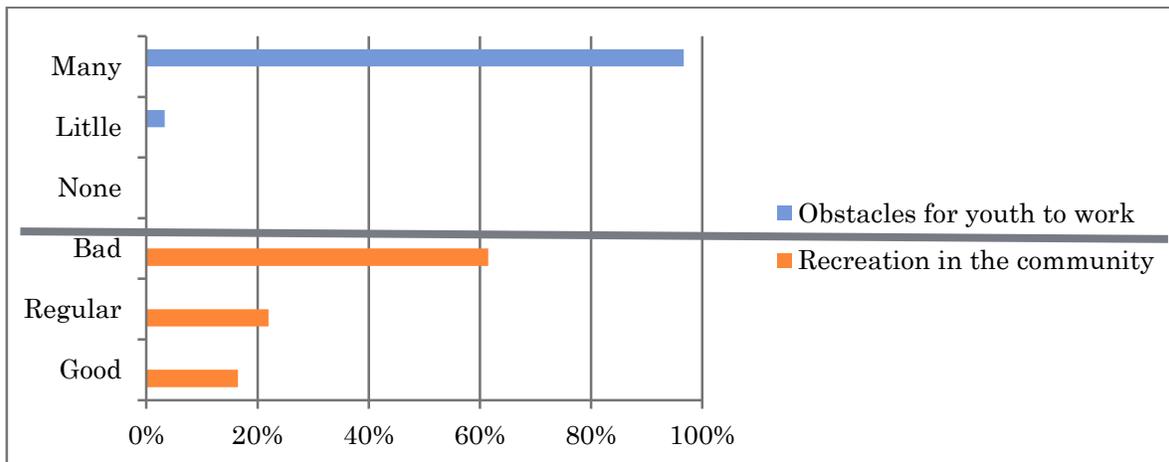
There is a mean of 18.56 points to the perception of PNC being active, which means that people has the idea of a PNC with very low involvement or work within their communities. This issue is higher in Tamahú, Cobán, Esquipulas and Tac Tic.

A better score, but always low, is on PNC performance opinion, dealing with actions or work that belongs to PNC into the communities. The mean of the index is 38.22 points. A 40% of people grade PNC performance as good or regular, which means that another **60% grade it as bad**.

Regarding on “**being confident on PNC or trusting PNC**” the index has a mean of 42.79 points for the whole population, which may be consider as a low score. A 44.8% of people classify as “**having regular confidence**”, being in Cobán the highest percentage of people within this category (52.4%). The group of people of having “**none or very little confidence in PNC**” has the highest percentage in Palencia (39.6%).

There is an unfavorable expression on PNC performance based on experience (27.96 points). A higher percentage of people mentioned a bad performance (above 90.0%). Good performance was mentioned by less than 1.0% people.

## Recreation and work for youth

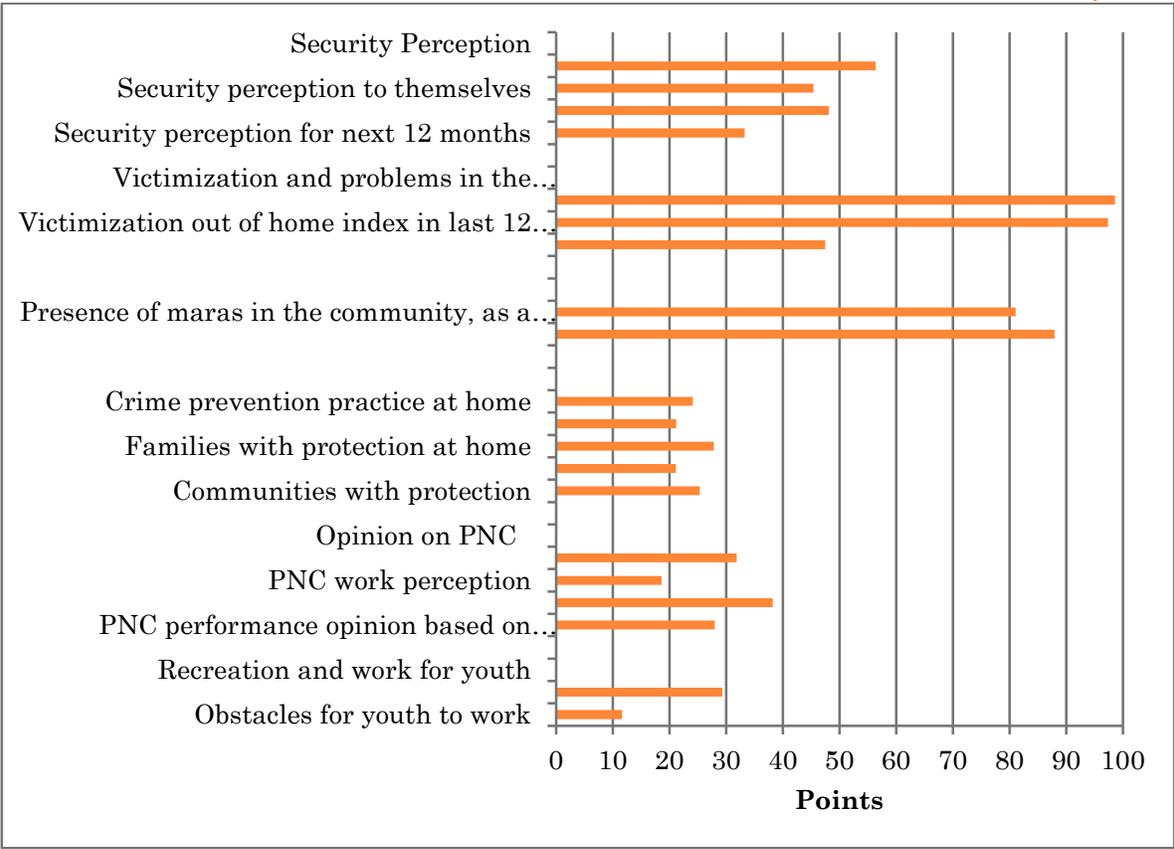


The value of 29.31 points shows that there is a **lack of recreation in the communities**; which is more evident in Esquipulas, Tamahú, Mixco and Tac Tic, with values of 11.32, 18.00, 20.21 and 20.13, respectively. “**Bad recreation presence in the communities**”, is the category where there is the higher percentage of people (61.5%), highlighting: Esquipulas, Tamahú, Mixco and Tac Tic, because of their higher values 94.0%, 79.0%, 77.8% y 74.6%, respectively.

Regarding obstacles to prevent youth to work, the index has a mean value of 11.63 points among all population, which means that people perceives a good number of obstacles, leading to youth not working and being part of a social productive community. Therefore, most of the people in the study were categorized within the group of people who believe that **there are a lot of obstacles**. None of all people interviewed recognized that there are no obstacles for youth to work in their communities. Recognized obstacles are: no work openings, lack of training, lack of support to take care of children, and lack of support to have transportation. Use of drugs among youth, being part or *maras*, and lack of model people with jobs in the community, were also mentioned as obstacles or conditions to attain youth working by a high percentage of people.

**Summary of indexes (indicators)**

Worst → Best



**Conclusions**

Base line from USAID’s Violence Prevention Project, shows that:

1. **Security perception in the community** is high; nonetheless, perceptions of security to a personal level are the contrary, which points to a lack of security in the studied places.
2. People in the study mentioned to have a very low index of victimization. By looking to above conclusion, the very low index of victimization may be due to a response base on fear, which makes people not to be honest while answering the questionnaire.
3. To report a crime is not a common practice, being Esquipulas, Tac Tic and Tamahú places were this mal practice is higher. This makes an urgency to invest in having a better and professional police service, as well as creating relationships or networks among all security and justice instances.

4. People identify the presence of *maras* being a multi causal effect or outcome. There is need to know how drug dealing has influence into *maras*. People also think that there are ways to stop *maras*, but there are not objective studies to prove that the mentioned ways work to prevent *maras*. Because the Project has some actions leading to these ways, it is important to wait for final evaluation to measure the effectiveness of those.
5. Communities as well as families have a lack on prevention and protection against crime. It is important to push programs on prevention and protection at community level, and evaluate their effectiveness.
6. People from the studied communities have a poor opinion regarding the work and performance of PNC in their communities. Highlights the lack of confidence and the low score given by the people to PNC into their communities.
7. Recreation is poor or limited in the studied communities. This is said based on perception from the people, therefore it is advised to evaluate the presence and quality of recreation places as well as activities being done and people participation in this area, within the communities.
8. People recognize that there are a lot of obstacles for youth from their communities to work. Being this an opinion from the people in the communities, there is a real need to objectively evaluate which really constitute an obstacle.



# I INTRODUCTION

In early 2013 RTI contracted JMatute-CIENSA to undertake the conclusion of 'Baseline for USAID Violence Prevention Project' study.

The objective of the consultancy was to complete the baseline, for which the following activities were undertaken:

- Completion of baseline data collection in three municipalities: Cobán, Mixco and Villa Nueva
- Entry of data from these three municipalities and integration with 3046 surveys that had been collected in the earlier phase.
- Analysis of data from the 11 municipalities and creation of the baseline report.

# II BACKGROUND

The April 2013 edition of "*Prensa Libre*" listed the 25 most violence municipalities in Guatemala, where more than 80% of homicides take place. The article reported on initiatives by the Government of Guatemala to reduce violence in these places, which are focused primarily on strengthening the capacity of the National Police (Policia Nacional Civil, PNC). These 25 include five of the municipalities served by the Project. The report showed that while crime was concentrated in these 25 municipalities, in total 164 of the 334 municipalities in the country can be defined as insecure and the remaining six municipalities included in this Project fall into this category. The article also stresses the importance of multiple strategies to prevent violence; this is where the Project fits in.

## II.1 USAID Violence Prevention Project

The USAID/ RTI Violence Prevention Project (VPP) began in March 2010 with the aim of preventing and reducing some of the causes of violence in Guatemala in line with the goals established by the Central American Regional Initiative for Security (CARSI). As is consistent with this framework, the VPP backs the reestablishment of an effective presence by the State, and provision of services and security for communities at risk in the departments of Guatemala, Alta Verapaz and Chiquimula. The VPP works with young people in order to create alternatives **that will draw them away from crime and violence in 44 communities of the 11 municipalities in three departments.**

## Proyecto USAID Prevención de la Violencia (VPP)

El proyecto de Prevención de la Violencia de USAID (VPP), implementado por RTI International y CECI, inició en marzo de 2010 con el objetivo de contribuir a prevenir y disminuir las causas generadoras de violencia en Guatemala, en línea con las metas establecidas por la Iniciativa Regional Centroamericana de Seguridad (CARSI). En este marco, el VPP apoya el restablecimiento de la presencia efectiva del Estado, los servicios y la seguridad en comunidades en riesgo de Guatemala, Alta Verapaz y Chiquimula, y trabaja con jóvenes para crear alternativas que los alejen del crimen y la violencia.



### Educación

- Durante el 2012, el Proyecto USAID Prevención de la Violencia otorgó **7,316 becas a jóvenes** en riesgo en comunidades priorizadas de Guatemala, Alta Verapaz y Chiquimula
- 4,169 becas vocacionales
- 2,386 becas educativas
- 761 becas de pasantía o inserción laboral

### Actividades culturales

- Durante el 2012, unos **15,359 jóvenes participaron en actividades culturales y recreativas**
- 9,069 jóvenes en actividades deportivas
- 6,290 jóvenes en actividades culturales y artísticas

### Prevención de la violencia

- **23 Comisiones Locales y Municipales de Prevención de la Violencia** en Guatemala, Alta Verapaz y Chiquimula asistidas en actividades de prevención y elaboración de planes durante el 2012
- En el 2012 se conformaron **15 Comisiones de Prevención de la Violencia en el Municipio de Guatemala** a través del proyecto Comunidades Seguras, en alianza con el Ministerio de Gobernación y la Municipalidad de Guatemala

### Responsabilidad cívica

- **14,041 personas participaron en actividades de civismo** en comunidades meta del Proyecto USAID Prevención de la Violencia en Guatemala, Alta Verapaz y Chiquimula

### Políticas de prevención de la violencia

- Durante el 2012, el Proyecto USAID Prevención de la Violencia promovió la firma de tres **Pactos Municipales de Seguridad con Equidad**, con acciones integrales a favor de la prevención de la violencia, en alianza con la Secretaría Presidencial de la Mujer SEPREM y las municipalidades de Tactic y Tamahú en Alta Verapaz y San José La Arada en Chiquimula.
- El VPP fortalece a **11 equipos** de las Oficinas Municipales de la Mujer en Guatemala, Alta Verapaz y Chiquimula
- El VPP apoya la creación de **redes de Mujeres por la No Violencia** en 11 municipios, para fortalecer las redes de derivación de casos y un sistema de monitoreo y evaluación para reducir la violencia de género
- Se continúa el apoyo al grant de la Fundación Myrna Mack para desarrollar un Observatorio de Violencia Criminal

### Policía comunitaria

- **300 policías** recibieron el curso de actualización universitaria, 300 de organización comunitaria, 300 de trabajo de la policía en la comunidad
- Creación de **Licenciatura en Ciencias Policiales** con especialización en Policía Comunitaria, una certificación obligatoria para ser oficial de la Policía Nacional Civil, con 76 estudiantes becados por VPP, en alianza con la Universidad de Occidente y la Academia de la PNC
- **Equipamiento de todas las comisarías** del país con equipo de sonido, computadoras portátiles, proyectores, cámaras fotográficas, pantallas
- Se inicia con programa de dignificación de la Policía Nacional Civil a través del **remozamiento de subestaciones** en comunidades meta del proyecto

## II.2 Studying violence: our experience of this study

Based on our own experience undertaking this study, as well as the many years of experience of members of our team on issues around violence, we make the following observations.

We have seen that the project is focused on issues that are of value to those who participate in the activities it offers; nonetheless the instrument which we were provided and have used has limitations. There were also been difficulties in undertaking fieldwork in the study locations, precisely because they are unsafe (as will be seen, team members was exposed to a shootout).

One of our team members, who has worked in highly volatile urban (Canalitos) and rural areas (Zacapa and Baja Verapaz) has observed that it is difficult to ask direct questions (or receive accurate answers) about subjects like narcotraffic or extortion because these issues are so frightening. Two aspects of fear need to be highlighted: people who live in high violence areas tend to be guarded in expressing their opinions (who might the interviewer be working for? Who might they speak to?). In our experience, such information is only shared with trusted informants<sup>1</sup>. These issues can only be understood using qualitative methods, such as in-depth interviews and in some cases focus group discussions.

It is also important to note that the term 'safety' does not mean the absence of violence. The team member who worked in El Gallito in 2002 interviewed people who said they felt 'very safe' because there were no *maras*. The reason there were no *maras* and therefore no street crime was that the local cartel killed petty criminals and saw gangs off. However, there were shootouts among different drug factions in which bystanders frequently died. The sense of 'safety' was linked above all to the fact there was some logic to violence – i.e. that unlike *maras*, the El Gallito cartel did not (at the time, at least) target those who did not challenge it.

There are also forms of violence that are considered private matters, or standard behavior within families. This is especially true of harsh physical disciplinary practices towards children (often inflicted by women), or a male head of household hitting his wife to keep her in line<sup>2</sup>. The real scale of domestic violence is unknown, nor trends in 'private' violence. It is certainly underreported<sup>3,4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Translator's comment: There are micro-level events that affect respondents' sense of safety and danger. To give just one example, the popular and effective mayor of Tamahú was assassinated in late 2011; who assassinated him and why is not known. But this may affect the perception by respondents that their community is safe – a good place – but that they themselves live in fear related to this violent (and clarified) incident. See

[http://www.prensalibre.com/alta\\_verapaz/MP-ignora-movil-crimen\\_0\\_562743758.html](http://www.prensalibre.com/alta_verapaz/MP-ignora-movil-crimen_0_562743758.html)

<sup>2</sup> Ver por ejemplo, : <http://www.pami-guatemala.org/Documentos/Incesto.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.s21.com.gt/nacionales/2013/04/05/preocupa-alza-casos-violencia-intrafamiliar>

<sup>4</sup> Translators comment: And violence against children in the context of poverty is a major cause of gang involvement. See for instance Walker-Barnes C & Mason C (2001) Ethnic Differences in the Effect of Parenting on Gang Involvement and Gang Delinquency: A Longitudinal, Hierarchical Linear Modeling Perspective. *Child Development*, 7: 6, 1814-1831

To understand violence in our country, we need to triangulate research methods and involve a range of people who have expertise in different aspects of violence and violence prevention<sup>5</sup>.

### III OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To establish the baseline indicators against which the impact and efficacy of the Project will be measured.

### IV INDICATORS

As was mentioned earlier, the consultants' study involved a baseline that had already been collected, but which did not include detailed indicators that could help interpret data. We proposed to RTI the following indicators:

Indicator		Scale	Categories
Code	Name		
<b>I Characteristics of the sample</b>			
C1 C2	Family economic scale	0 to 100 points	Low <= 15 points Medium 15 to 26 points High 27 points or more
C3	profile of the person interviewed (cluster analysis)		
C4	Concern about security scale % of people who say that security is a concern		People who mention security/ people who don't mention it
<b>II Perceptions and opinions about security and experiences of victimization n (Indicators over which the Project wants to have an effect)</b>			
i1	Perception of security in the community (for a higher scale greater security)	0 to 100 points	Secure (>69), dangerous (40 a <70) very dangerous (<40)
i2	Perception of their own security (for a higher scale greater security)	0 to 100 points	Secure (>69), dangerous (40 a <70) very dangerous (<40))
i3	Victimization in the last 12 months (for a higher scale lower victimization)	0 to 100 points	No victimization (100), Low level victimization (petty crime) (75 a <100) high victimization (50 a <75), very high victimization (<50)
i4	Perception of problems in the community (a higher score means fewer problems)	0 to 100 points	None (100), there are few (51 a <100) there are many (< 51)
i5	Perception about the presence of maras as a threat to their community (a higher score means fewer maras)	0 to 100 points	None (100): 25=0, there are few (65<100) there are many (<65)
i6	Perception of increased risk because of maras in the last 12 months	0 to 100 points	No increase (100), limited increase (65<100) great increase

<sup>5</sup> Translator's comment: More detailed information will be needed about the project sites for the final evaluation.

Indicator		Scale	Categories
Code	Name		
	(a higher score means less increase of maras)		(<65)
i7	Opinion about the reasons maras form		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of education or recreation and / or poverty</li> <li>Lack of family or a secure group to which to belong</li> <li>Desire for power</li> </ul>
i8	Household practices to prevent crime (for a higher scale greater prevention)	0 to 100 points	<p>Family with strong prevention strategies (&gt; 80), some prevention strategies (65&lt;81), few prevention strategies (1 a &lt; 65), no prevention (0)</p> <p>Besides this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Index 8a: Family that invests in security</li> <li>Index 8b: Existence of community protection strategies</li> <li>Index 8c: Participation of respondent in crime prevention strategies at community level</li> </ul>
i9	Families with some form of protection to their home (a higher score means greater protection)	0 to 100 points	Good protection (> 64), middling protection (40 <65), low protection (1 < 40), no protection (0)
i10	Community efforts for protection (a higher score means greater protection)	0 to 100 points	Good prevention (> 64), middling prevention (40 <65), low prevention (1 < 40), no prevention (0))
i11	Communities with protection (higher score means greater protection)	0 to 100 points	Good protection (> 64), middling protection (40 <65), low protection (1 < 40), no protection (0)
i12	Opinion about the PNC's presence in the community (a higher score means a better opinion)	0 to 100 points	Good (> 74), middling (50 <75) and poor (<50)
i13	Perception the respondent of the active presence of the PNC in their community (a higher score means a better opinion)	0 to 100 points	Very active (> 69), fairly active (50 <70) inactive (<50)
i14	Opinion of the work of the PNC (a higher score means a better opinion)	0 to 100 points	Good work (> 59), middling quality work (35 <60) poor work (<35)
i15	Contact with the PNC in the last 12 months (percentage)		Have had contact / have not had contact

Indicator		Scale	Categories
Code	Name		
i16	Trust in the PNC (a higher score means greater trust)	0 to 100 points	Solid trust (> 59), some trust (30 <60) little or no trust (<30)
i17	Opinion of the work of the PNC based on personal experience (a higher score means better opinion)	0 to 100 points	Good work (> 59), work of middling quality (35 <60) poor work (<35)
i18	Presence of recreational opportunities at community level (a higher score means greater number of opportunities)	0 to 100 points	Good recreational opportunities (> 59), middling recreational opportunities (35 <60) poor recreational opportunities (<35)
i19	Opinion about the reasons why young people find it difficult to get Jobs: presence of obstacles/barriers (a higher score means fewer barriers)	0 to 100 points	young people face no barriers (100), young people face barriers (70 <100) and young people face many barriers (<70)

## IV.1 Construction of indicators

As can be seen from the previous table, scales are based on indicators of perceptions and opinions to be measured in the target population. Thus, the 'financial status index' is intended to briefly categorize the socioeconomic status of the families interviewed. The following information was used to construct it:

Example of construction of scales:

1. *SCALE C1*: Family economic scale: constructed using questions 1, 3, 4, 5 and 11 on the questionnaire. It has a scale of 0 to 100 points, in which 100 equals the best condition. It is built by integrating answers to the following questions:
  - Q1: Whose house is this(20 points)
    - 1. Own house (20 points) (demonstrates family economic stability)
    - 2. Rented (5 points)
    - 3. Watchman's house (looking after someone else's property) (15 points) (no costs to the family)
    - 4. Family property (10 points) (could loaned or rented)
    - 5. Other (5 points)

- Q3: What is the total income for all the people in this house? (Average monthly income) (20 points). Income is on a scale of 1 to 6, where 6 represents the highest income. This is represented in the equation:

$20 \times (\text{value of the variable} / 6)$

- Q4: (20 points) Do you or any other member of your household receive remittances?. If the answer is YES, 20 points, if anything else, 0 points”.
- Q5: (20 points) Does any member of your household have access to social security? If the answer is YES, 20 points, if anything else, 0 points”.
- Q11: How many people live in this house? (20 points). The smaller the family, the better the economic condition. Families are distributed in percentiles, as follows:
  - Family over the 75 percentile (largest number of people): 5 points
  - Family between 50 and 75 percentile: 10 points
  - Family between 25 and 50 percentile: 15 points
  - Family below 25 percentile: 20 points

The final score include all the points obtained for each question.

Appendix 3 contains the detailed questions used in the construction of each scale and Appendix 4 how each scale was constructed using EPI INFO.

## V DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

### V.1 Sampling

**The design of the sample was provided for the consultant by RTI.** According to this, the 11 municipalities were considered strata, and each of the communities within the municipalities, a cluster. Sampling within a community (cluster) was random. Staff of JMatute-CIENSA interviewed a randomized sample of the areas which were considered safest to visit in each of the 6 communities<sup>67</sup>. According to the information provided

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<sup>6</sup> During the training workshop, RTI included members of the communities to be visited, in order to organize fieldwork and assess and reduce risks to interviewers.

<sup>7</sup> Translator’s comment: Due to the selection of safe places, results are biased. It is understandable the presence of this selection bias because otherwise information could not be obtained.

by RTI, interviews in the 38 communities previously studied were also based on a randomized sample. However, the selection of the communities themselves was not random, since it involves all the communities in which the Project is being implemented.

## V.2 Fieldwork and sample size

Appendix 1 contains the report on the training and standardization<sup>8</sup> received by the staff contracted by JMatute-CIENSA to undertake the survey in the six communities. The team consisted of 1 coordinator and 2 fieldwork supervisors, and 20 survey staff who were trained and standardized to undertake the survey in the six communities. The workshop put particular emphasis on the teaching /learning of the research group on data collection in order to standardize the process. The instrument itself was provided by RTI.

Fieldwork was undertaken over three consecutive days, between the 7th and 9th of April 2013. It was possible to complete the survey in the six communities. Results obtained were as follows:

Municipality	Community	Visit date	Number of completed interviews			Total visits undertaken
			Complete	Incomplete	Refusals	
Villa Nueva	El Búcaro	7 / 04	90	6	32	128
Cobán	La Esperanza	7 and 8 / 04	50	0	5	55
Mixco	La Brigada	8 / 04	94	2	16	112
	Belencito	8 / 04	19	1	1	21
	Pablo VI	8 / 04	16	0	3	16
	Belén	9 / 04	74	1	15	90
Total			343	10	72	425

As can be seen, around 17% of potential respondents in randomly selected households declined to be interviewed. 10 (2.8% of the questionnaires) were incomplete. These were primarily in the community of El Búcaro, where staff were getting ready to finish their interviews but were forced to leave when a shootout started. There were some other irregularities in data collection in four other instances - questions were not completed.

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<sup>8</sup> Translator's comment: Standardization means that enumerators would handle the questionnaires in the same way, therefore controlling the bias due to enumerators' way of asking the questions and the way they interpret the answers.

### V.3 Quality control and data entry

All hard copies of data collected were reviewed by staff of JMatute-CIENSA, before being entered into the computer in order to detect and correct errors and inconsistencies.

Once this was done, data was entered using the EPI INFO (version 6.04dled identification) software. Separate data entry was made, of the same information, by two different people. This double entry ensured identification and correction of potential errors at data entry, by a validation of both data sets. Therefore, the final data set was free of data entry errors.

### V.4 Data analysis

Statistical analysis was made following the sample design; so variables to identify strata as well as clusters were created and used. Estimates were adjusted by weights. Weights were defined and calculated as the probability of selection inverse:

$$weight = \frac{Total\ households\ in\ the\ community}{Sample\ size\ from\ the\ community}$$

Information was disaggregated by municipality (strata). However, confidence intervals (CI) and design effects<sup>9</sup> have only been calculated for the whole sample (all strata) and for the principal indicators (these are included in Appendix 2).

## VI RESULTS AND KEY FINDINGS

Tables with the original outputs from EPI INDLO, appear in the Appendices to this report. This section presents a summary of the indicators by municipality and for the population as a whole.

### VI.1 Characteristics of the sample

The sample has been organized according to four indicators. The first relate to the family economic situation (C1) on a scale of 1 to 100 points, where 100 points means that the family is in a good financial condition. For the construction of this measure, we took into account whether the property is owned by respondents, borrowed (e.g. from relatives), rented, or it comes as part of a job (e.g. for a security guard). The highest value

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<sup>9</sup> Translator's comment: Design effect refers to how variance increase due to the simple design, compare to a simple random sampling.

was given to privately owned housing. The second question related to household income, with the highest value assigned to the highest income. The other questions related to remittances, whether the family had access to social security and the number of people in the household, with a higher value assigned to smaller families (since their expenditure is lower).

The second indicator (C2) classifies families according to their position on the scale. Families were considered to belong to the lowest economic stratum when they scored 15 points or less on the scale; on the intermediate group when they scored between 15 and 26 points, and in the highest stratum when they scored 27 points and above.

The third of the indicators used the information collected on questions 2, 6,7,8,9, 10, 12 and 13 of the questionnaire, which measure:

- Time living in the community
- Religion/denomination
- Age of the person interviewed
- Sex of the person interviewed
- If the person interviewed is a head of household
- Whether the spouse of the person interviewed lives with him/her
- Employment situation of the person interviewed (whether or not s/he is engaged in paid work)
- Education level of the person interviewed

With this information it was possible (using SPSS version 18) to cluster the sample in the communities interviewed into the following groups:

- **Group 1:** 52 people who have lived in the community for the longest period of time, who are neither catholic or evangelical, who are older, predominantly men, who receive an income because they work part time or have a pension and who have a higher level of formal education<sup>10</sup>.
- **Group 2:** 1,781 persons, primarily women, who are catholic or evangelical, who are not heads of household, who do not work outside the home and who do not have more than primary education.

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<sup>10</sup> Translator's comment: secondary.

- **Group 3:** 1,559 persons, the majority young (18 to 25 years old) living with their spouse or partner, who have little time living in their communities, with no religious affiliation and who consider themselves heads of households. They are economically productive and most have completed secondary education.

The four scale measures the concern that people interviewed have about security according to whether or not they mention it as a concern.

Of the 3,399 persons interviewed 1,406 (41.4%) were men and 1,993 (58.6%) were women. The average age of those interviewed was between 18 and 91, with a median age of 41 and a mean age of 30. 25% of the sample was aged 18 – 25 while 25% were aged 53 and over.

**Table 1: Characteristics of the sample**

(highest value municipalities in green and lowest in yellow)

		Municipality											Total (CI 95%)
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú	Villa Nueva	
Size of the sample		400	286	619	207	420	222	286	222	355	286	96	3399
Indicator													
C1	Family economic indicators	23.49 points	22.15 points	21.31 points	21.45 points	22.05 points	21.51 points	23.17 points	23.46 points	22.25 points	21.82 points	23.14 points	21.53 Points (20.65, 22.40)
C2	Low	55.1%	59.4%	54.6%	57.0%	55.5%	54.5%	57.7%	46.4%	59.5%	78.0%	53.1%	55.8%
	Medium	44.9%	40.6%	45.4%	43.0%	44.5%	45.5%	42.3%	53.6%	40.5%	22.0%	46.9%	44.2%
	High	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
C3	Profile of the person interviewed												
	Group 1	1.0%	0%	2.1%	1.0%	1.9%	1.4%	2.8%	2.3%	1.1%	0.7%	3.1%	1.5%
	Group 2	42.6%	68.9%	35.7%	47.8%	51.7%	49.5%	74.8%	44.6%	60.0%	69.6%	46.9%	52.5%
	Group 3	56.4%	31.1%	62.2%	51.2%	46.4%	49.1%	22.4%	53.1%	38.9%	29.7%	50.0%	46.0%
C4	Concern about security % of respondents who mention security as a concern	63.1%	33.2%	84.8%	49.9%	51.0%	39.2%	29.4%	37.8%	24.3%	14.0%	56.3%	54.9% (51.6, 58.2)

## Main findings: Characteristics of the sample

From the results it is evident that the family economic index (or all members of the household) for the study is below 25 points (21.53 points for the population). No respondents or households, in any of the communities, could be categorized as belonging to a high family economic stratum. This was not unexpected.

Within these results there are differences in the number of people living in the lowest economic stratum. San Juan Ermita and Villa Nueva had the smallest proportion of respondents living in the most marginal economic conditions (46.4% and 53.1% respectively). At the other end of the spectrum Tamahú has the highest proportion of respondents (78.0%), in this category – it is the community with the largest proportion of people in the lowest economic stratum.

The highest proportion of people characterized **as of 'medium' ranking on the economic scale are in the community of San Juan Ermita**, and the lowest in Tamahú, which as has been noted, has the highest proportion of respondents in the lowest economic stratum.

Only 25% of those interviewed mention have access to Social Security (because they have been in formal employment and paid into the Guatemalan Institute of Social Security, which provides some forms of health care).

Those who have not, depend on the limited number of public health services at community and district level.

The cluster analysis allowed the identification of three broad groups. the smallest of these (1.5%) was comprised of older people, predominantly men, who are neither Catholic or Evangelical, who have spent the longest time in their communities, who have a medium level of income derived from part time work or pensions, and who have a higher level of education (secondary or above). No respondents in this profile were identified in Esquipulas, and the majority was in Villa Nueva (3.1%).

The second group – which involved the majority (52.5%) – is comprised primarily of women, with high levels of religious affiliation, with limited education (never more than primary), with no paid work and who do not consider themselves to be heads of household. The majority of these were from the municipalities of San José la Arada (74.8%), Tamahú (69.6%) and Esquipulas (68.9%), and the smallest number in Guatemala (35.7%).

The third group identified through cluster analysis is also relatively big (46%) and is comprised predominantly of young people who live with their partner, have not lived long in the community, do not have much religious affiliation, consider themselves heads of households, are economically active and have completed secondary education. The largest proportion of this cluster is in Guatemala (62.2%), and the smallest in San Jose la Arada (22.4%).

Results show that the highest levels of worry about security issues in the community are in Guatemala City, where 84.8% referred to this. Other communities with high levels of worry about security are: Cobán, Villa Nueva and Palencia, with 63.1%, 56.3% and 51.0%, respectively referring to this. It is interesting that respondents in Tamahú were least likely to refer to concerns about security in their community (14.0%) although as will be seen, they expressed worry about their personal safety.

## VI.2 Perceptions and opinions about security and victimization

*(Indicators over which the Project intends to have an effect)* Appendix 5 contains the questionnaire relating to this issue.

### VI.2.1 Perception of security

Perception of security was calculated and summarized on the base of seven measures.

**i1. Perception of security in the community.** This measure was constructed using questions 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 21. It has a scale of 0 to 100 points, where 100 shows a sense of security/safety within the community.

The questions measured the following themes:

- How do you rate safety in this community, from very dangerous to very secure
- Satisfaction with living in this community, from highly unsatisfied to highly satisfied
- Having witnessed a criminal act within the last 12 months
- Opinion regarding crime: is it a problem in your neighborhood
- Opinion about the future of trends in crime in your neighborhood over the next 12 months
- Intention regarding moving out of the neighborhood in the next 12 months

i1g. Respondents were classified in three groups:

- Secure, with a score of 70 points or above
- Dangerous, with a score of between 40 and 69 points
- Very dangerous, when the score was below 40 points.

- **i2. Perception of personal safety/security.** This scale was designed using the indices: C4 (see above), 2a and 2b. It has a scale of 0 to 100 points, where 100 shows that the family feels a sense of personal security.
  
- **Measure 2a: Perception of safety/security in daily life.** This was constructed using question 20 (the same question relates to how the person feels, from unsafe/insecure to very secure, in the following contexts: walking alone through the community, being alone at home during the day or night, walking alone when going shopping or to the market. This scale was designed using the indices: C4 (see above), 2a and 2b. It has a scale of 0 to 100 points, where 100 shows that the family feels a sense of personal security.
  
- According to points given to each respondents on the above scale, respondents were classified in three groups according to their sense of safety in daily life
  - Secure, with a score of 70 points or above
  - Dangerous, with a score of between 40 and 69 points
  - Very dangerous, when the score was below 40 points.
  
- **Scale 2b: Perception of security in the next 12 months** This was constructed using question 22, on the probability of the following happening to them (from no probability to very high probability): being burgled, being attacked and robbed, being attacked physically, being raped, having damage to property, having a car stolen or the car of another family member stolen, or having a car broken into. It has a scale of 0 to 100 points, where 100 shows that the family feels a sense of personal security over the next 12 months.
  
- According to points given to each respondents on the above scale, respondents were classified in three groups (i2bg):
  - Secure, with a score of 70 points or above
  - Dangerous, with a score of between 40 and 69 points
  - Very dangerous, when the score was below 40 points.

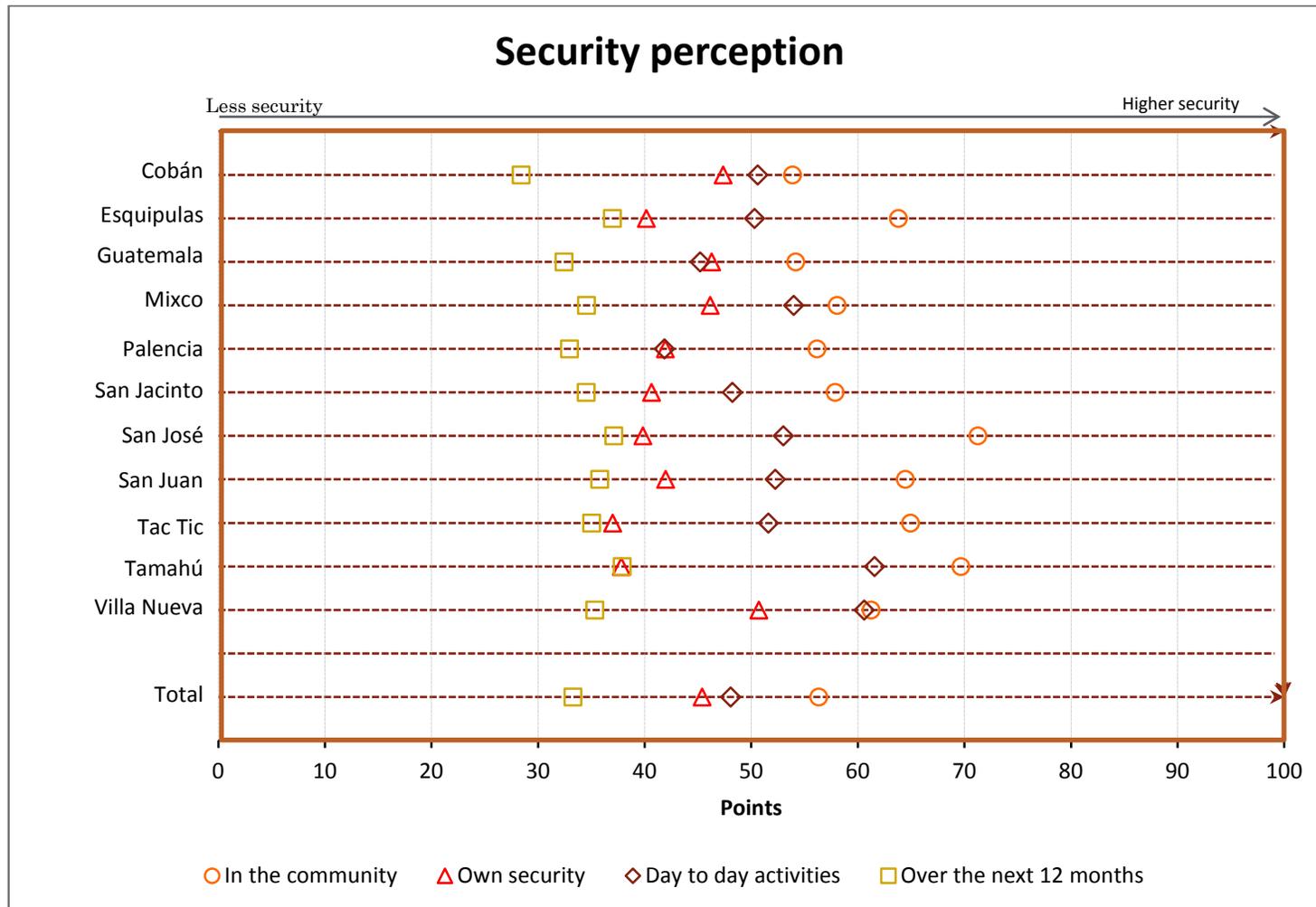
**Table 2: Perception of safety/security**

(highest scoring municipalities in green and lowest scoring in yellow)

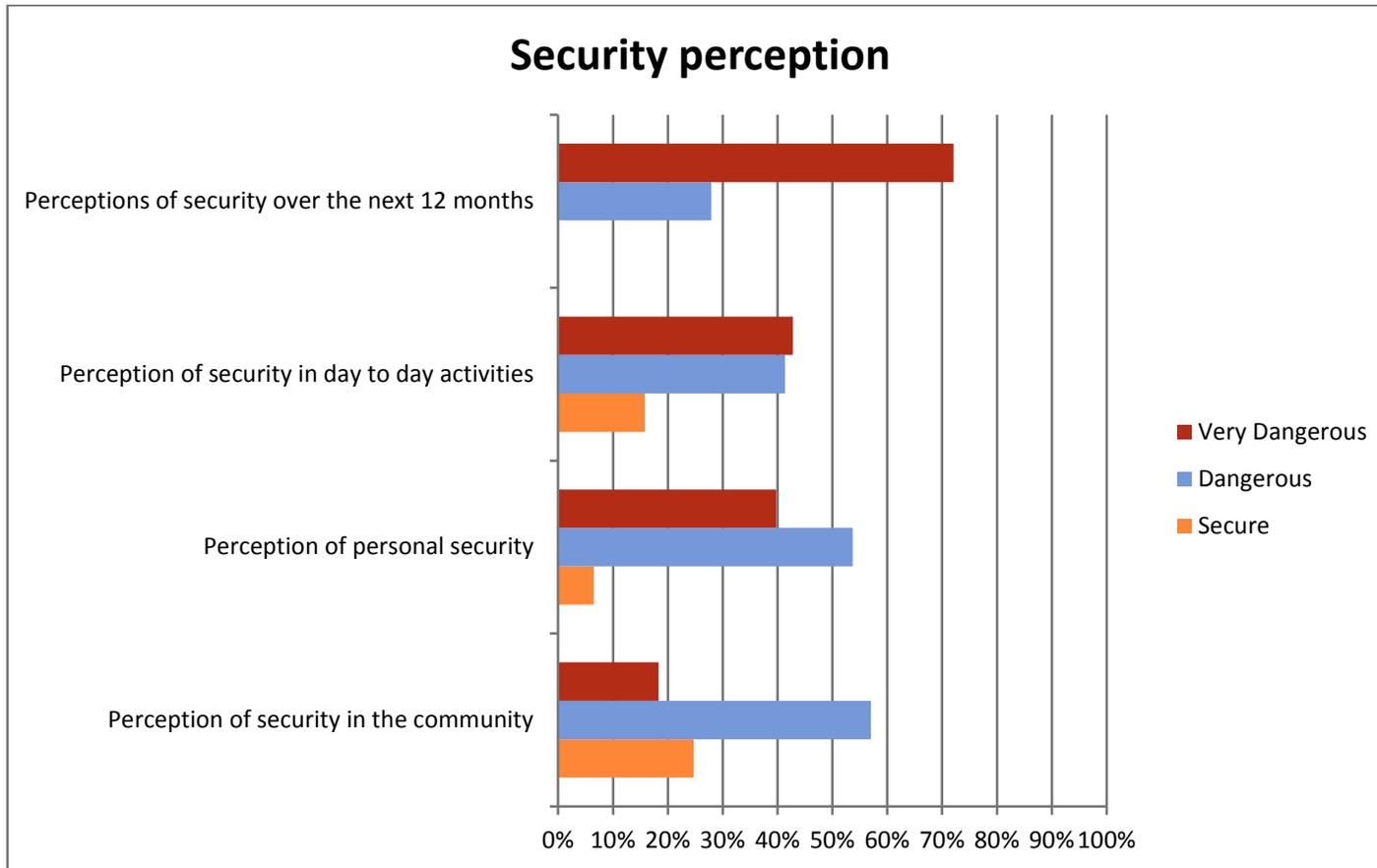
		Municipality											Total (CI 95%)
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú	Villa Nueva	
		Municipality			Municipality			Municipality			Municipality		
		Cobán	Esquipulas		Cobán	Esquipulas		Cobán	Esquipulas		Cobán	Esquipulas	
i1	Perception of security in the community (for a higher scale greater safety/security )	53.87 points	63.81 points	54.17 points	58.07 points	56.18 points	57.86 points	71.26 points	64.45 points	64.95 points	69.98 points	61.26 points	56.32 points (54.6, 58.1)
i1g	Safe	15.3%	58.0%	19.8%	26.2%	22.5%	34.2%	77.6%	57.2%	51.1%	75.2%	32.3%	24.7%
	Dangerous	67.3%	36.0%	59.0%	58.1%	59.5%	47.7%	21.0%	33.8%	41.6%	20.6%	60.4%	57.0%
	Very dangerous	17.4%	6.0%	21.3%	15.7%	17.9%	18.1%	1.4%	9.0%	7.3%	4.2%	7.3%	18.3%
i2	Perception of personal safety/security (for a higher scale greater safety/security )	47.37 points	40.17 points	46.30 points	46.15 points	41.93 points	40.65 points	39.83 points	41.96 points	36.99 points	37.81 points	50.72 points	45.40 points (44.1, 46.7)
i2g	Safe	10.4%	1.8%	5.7%	10.1%	2.3%	4.1%	4.6%	5.0%	2.7%	4.5%	14.6%	6.5%
	Dangerous	55.4%	42.0%	58.9%	48.1%	53.0%	45.0%	32.5%	43.2%	31.2%	31.8%	53.1%	53.7%
	Very dangerous	34.2%	56.2%	35.4%	41.8%	44.7%	50.9%	62.9%	51.8%	66.1%	63.6%	32.3%	39.8%
i2a	Perception of security in daily life	50.60 points	50.32 points	45.22 points	53.99 points	41.87 points	48.22 points	53.01 points	52.26 points	51.61 points	61.58 points	60.59 points	48.06 points (45.0,

		Municipality											Total (CI 95%)
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú	Villa Nueva	
		Municipality			Municipality			Municipality			Municipality		
		Cobán	Esquipulas		Cobán	Esquipulas		Cobán	Esquipulas		Cobán	Esquipulas	
	(for a higher scale greater safety/security )												51.1)
i2ag	Safe	23.9%	15.4%	11.0%	26.7%	7.9%	14.9%	14.7%	17.1%	15.9%	29.4%	36.5%	15.8%
	Dangerous	30.6%	53.9%	41.4%	39.0%	33.2%	47.3%	71.0%	59.9%	57.9%	64.0%	42.7%	41.4%
	Very dangerous	45.5%	30.7%	47.6%	34.3%	58.9%	37.8%	14.3%	23.0%	26.2%	6.6%	20.8%	42.8%
i2b	Perception of security in the next 12 months (for a higher scale greater safety/security )	28.42 points	36.98 points	32.44 points	34.54 points	32.95 points	34.53 points	37.10 points	35.79 points	35.04 points	37.88 points	35.33 points	33.27 points (32.5, 34.1)
i2bg	Safe	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Dangerous	14.7%	35.0%	24.9%	33.0%	27.1%	31.5%	39.9%	33.3%	32.4%	40.9%	31.2%	27.9%
	Very dangerous	85.3%	65.0%	75.1%	67.0%	72.9%	68.5%	60.1%	66.7%	67.6%	59.1%	68.8%	72.1%

**Chart 1: Perception of safety/security**



**Chart 1a: Perception of safety/security, in the population studied**



## Main findings: Perceptions of safety/security

Results show that in general the perception that the community itself is safe is highest in San José La Arada and Tamahú (71.26 points and 69.98 points, respectively). These communities score highest on measures of perceived safety in the community (77.6% and 75.2%, respectively). The communities of Esquipulas and San Juan Sacatepéquez also show relatively high scores (58% and 57.2% respectively); while Cobán scores lowest (15.3%), demonstrating that its inhabitants consider it unsafe. The highest scores for **most dangerous** were reported for Guatemala (21.3%), Palencia (17.9%) and Cobán (17.4%). Overall, 24.7% of respondents report feeling that they live in a safe community, 57.0% in a dangerous community and 18.3% in a very dangerous community.

According to PAHO: A 90% of violent deaths are from countries with low or medium income.

Countries with higher levels of economic inequality tend to have higher death rates due to violence, and within each country the highest rates correspond to people living in poorest areas.

**Perception of personal safety/security** (personal safety/security as a concern) scores 45.4 points in the population as a whole, with between 37.61 to 50.72 points in the communities studied. Very high levels of perceived personal threat/danger (personal safety categorized as “**very dangerous**” and “**dangerous**”, were scored in Tactic, Tamahú and San José la Arada, with scores of 66.1%, 63.6% and 62.9%, respectively; the opposite is true of Villa Nueva and Guatemala (which scored 32.3% and 35.4%, respectively). In other words, only 6.5% of respondents feel secure, 53.7% feel at high personal risk and 39.8% feels themselves to be in great danger.

Perception of security **in daily life** shows similar trends (48.06 to 45.40 for the population as a whole), with the highest scores for Tamahú (61.58 points). The highest percentages of responses are in the “**dangerous**”, category with the highest scores in San José La Arada and Tamahú (71.0% and 64.0%, respectively).

**Perception of security in the future** (in the next 12 months) has a score of 33.27 in the population as a whole, with the highest numbers in the “**very dangerous**” category (i.e. those who believe that they are at very high risk of violence or crime over the next 12 months), figures that are especially high in Cobán, Guatemala and Palencia, with rates of 85.3%, 75.1% and 72.9%, respectively.

We need to have a second look at these figures and ask ourselves what the results show. There are clearly contradictions in some of the responses, as in the case of respondents who report that they live in safe communities but feel themselves to be personally in danger as they go about their daily lives and that they are exposed to danger in the next 12 months. It is impossible to answer this contraction with quantitative measures alone. It is possible that respondents provide a more 'honest' reply to their feelings and beliefs about their personal situation than an accurate assessment of the community in which they live.

Our team member who has strong experience in working in high violence contexts over ten years has made the following observations in relation to Canalitos and El Gallito:

The most dangerous places in which I have worked in Guatemala are Canalitos and El Gallito, where I ran parenting classes in 2002 to 2003. El Gallito – a transit area for drug trafficking, controlled by cartels - has been dangerous for decades, while Canalitos has become a 'red zone' much more recently because of the rise of maras and extortion networks (these are forms of organized crime that are fluid, and sometimes overlap, but should not be conflated). In spite of the intermittent shootouts between rival cartels in El Gallito, it was possible to come and go at night, and during the day amiable young dealers would help me find my way among the maze of small streets (I was launching a parenting program in a church and was – wrongly – defined as a missionary; a category of person who were at the time left alone by the cartels). At night, people walked and visited in the streets and the shops had no metal bars, whereas the rest of the capital virtually closed down at dusk.

The people I interviewed in preparation for the parenting project – adults and adolescents – told me that they loved their community and felt safe there – in spite of the fact that two church members died as a result of stray bullets in the time I was there. They felt safe because they free from mugging; in fact they had a sense of privilege vis a vis other parts of the city. They were part of a church that provided rich opportunities for recreation and learning. So, young people told that they never wanted to leave this neighborhood, considered one of the most dangerous in the city. In fact, things got so bad in early 2003, after the death of a local don that many of the people I knew did leave in due course. There are studies on Guatemala about social perception of traditional cartel leaders that show that they are seen as 'godfathers' – paying for funeral, helping poor people – in some areas. So people adapt to violent contexts and the response 'it is safe' or 'I feel safe' are not straightforward.

The same is true of the terrible phenomenon of lynching. It has extraordinary acceptance in wide swathes of Guatemalan society, including leader writers in national newspapers, largely because of the frustration with the formal security system. In some places it is seen as normal to douse thieves with petrol and set them on fire. Does that lead to a safe community? We need to go beyond statistics, at a deeper analysis at local level to understand what is happening in very different micro contexts.

## VI.2.2 Victimization and problems in the security

Perception of victimization and problems in the community was measured using six scales:

- **i3. Victimization.** This was constructed using questions: 3a and 3b. it has a scale of 0 to 100 where 100 mean that the family has not been the victim of crime or violence.
- **3a: Victimization outside the home.** This was constructed with question 23, which asks if the person interviewed or any member of the household has been a victim of crime in the community. If the persona mentions that they have been a victim, we asked for further information about the number of times they have been victimized through crimes such as: theft, armed robbery, burglary, car theft, death threats, extortion, physical aggression, kidnapping or murder. This is measured on a scale of 0 to 100 points, in which 100 means that the family has not been victimized.
- According to points given to each respondents, the population was were classified in three groups (i3ag):
  - No victimization, with a score of 100 points
  - Low level victimization (petty crime), with a score of 75 to 99 points
  - High victimization, victimization, with a score of between 50 to 74 points
  - Very victimization, with a score of less than 50 points
- **Domestic violence.** This was constructed with question 23, which asks whether the respondent or a family member has been a victim of domestic violence over the last 12 months.
- **i4: Perception about the presence of problems in the community.** This was constructed with question 24, which asks about problems in the neighborhood. The score is a reflection of the number of problems the person mentions, including: unemployment, murder, noise pollution (loud music), abandoned properties, drug trafficking, theft or robbery, graffiti, school exclusion or children abandoning school, domestic violence, lack of lighting in the streets, limited efficacy of

the police. This was measured on a scale of 0 to 100 points, in which 100 means that the family does not perceive there to be problems in the community.

- According to points given to each respondents, the population was were classified in three groups (i3ag):
- (i4ag):
  - No problems, with a score of 100 points
  - few problems, with a score of between 51 to 100 points
  - There are many problems, with a score of less than 51 points

**Table 3: Victimization and presence of problems in the community**

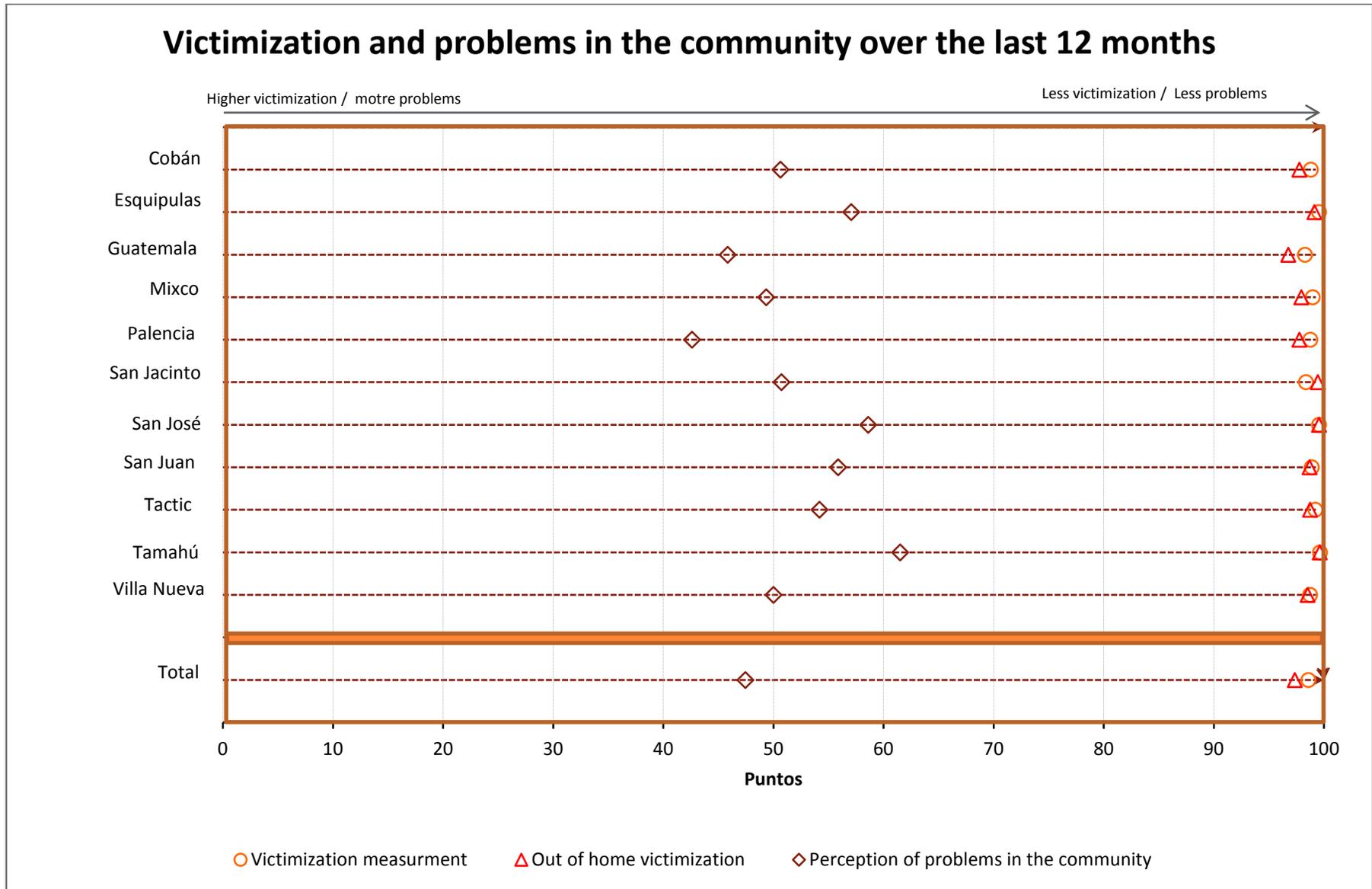
(high values mean low levels of victimization or problems and are highlighted in green; low values mean high levels of violence and problems, highlighted in yellow)

		Municipality											Total (CI 95%)
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú	Villa Nueva	
Size of the sample		400	286	619	207	420	222	286	222	355	286	96	3399
Indicator													
i3	Victimization over the last 12 months (for a higher scale less victimization)	98.80 points	99.56 points	98.28 points	98.98 points	98.76 points	98.37 points	99.55 points	98.89 points	99.22 points	99.64 points	98.74 points	98.59 points (98.3, 98.9)
i3 g	No victimization	82.8%	92.7%	77.9%	87.8%	82.0%	82.3%	95.8%	88.2%	87.4%	95.5%	92.7%	82.0%
	Baja victimization	16.9%	7.3%	21.9%	12.2%	17.8%	16.7%	3.8%	10.8%	12.3%	4.2%	6.3%	17.9%
	High victimization	0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0.2%	0.5%	0%	0.5%	0.3%	0%	0%	0.03%
	Very high victimization	0.1%	0%	0.2%	0%	0%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0%	0.3%	1.0%	0.1%
i3 a	Victimization outside the home over the last 12 months (for a higher scale less victimization)	97.77 points	99.13 points	96.76 points	97.96 points	97.77 points	99.45 points	99.55 points	98.69 points	98.74 points	99.62 points	98.52 points	97.36 points (96.7, 98.0)
i3 ag	No victimization	82.9%	92.7%	77.87%	87.8%	82.2%	82.9%	95.8%	88.7%	87.7%	95.5%	92.7%	82.0%
	Baja victimization	16.9%	7.3%	20.7%	10.7%	17.5%	15.8%	4.2%	10.4%	12.3%	4.5%	7.3%	16.8%
	High victimization	0.1%	0%	1.4%	1.5%	0.3%	1.4%	0%	0.9%	0%	0%	0%	1.2%
	Very high victimization	0.1%	0%	0.2%	0%	0%	0.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.002%

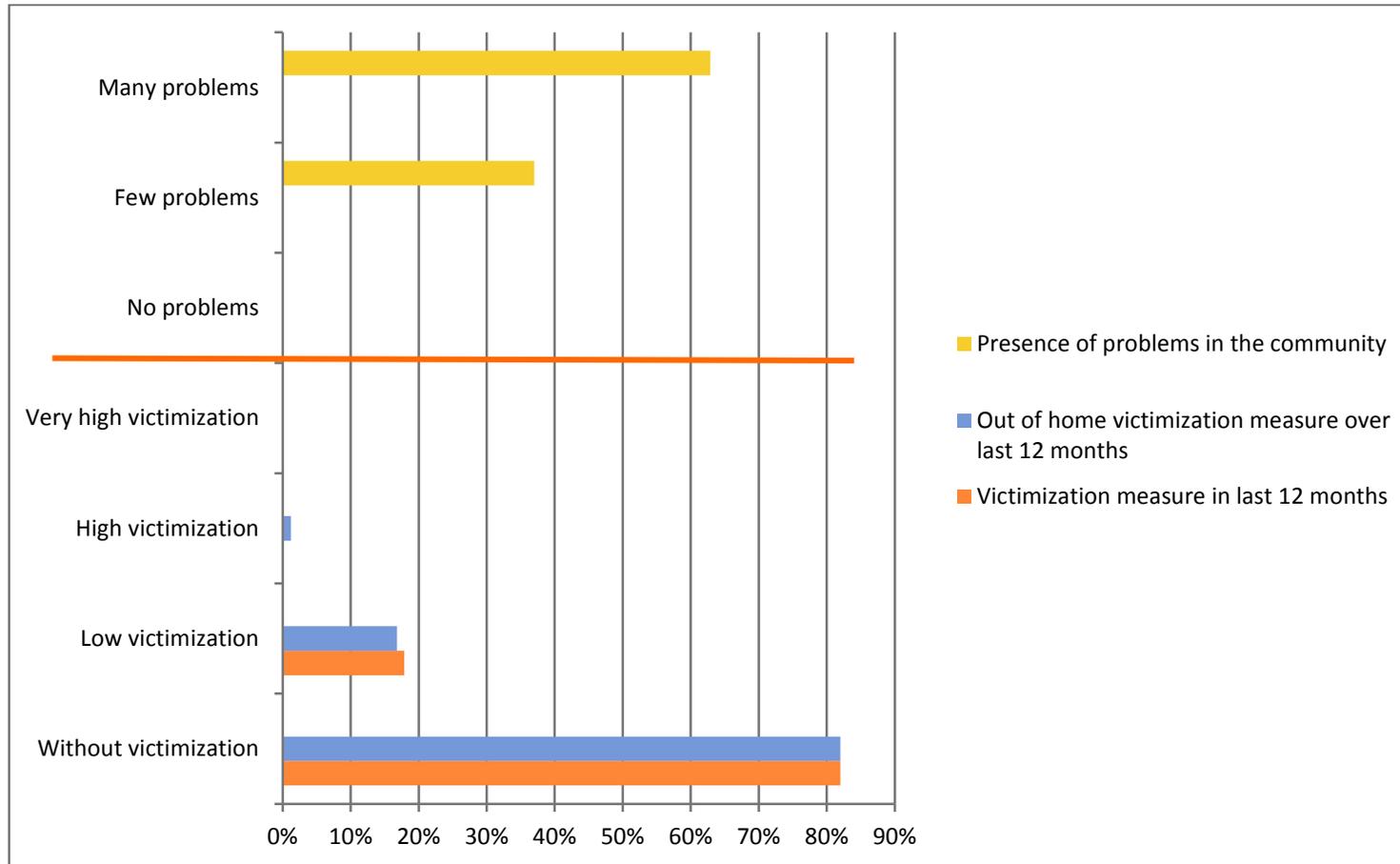
		Municipality											Total (CI 95%)
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú	Villa Nueva	
i3 b	Domestic violence in the last 12 months (% of respondents who mention having suffered domestic violence over the last 12 months)	0.2%	0%	0.2%	0%	0.2%	0.9%	0.3%	0.9%	0.3%	0.3%	1.0%	0.2%
i3 c	% of respondents who have reported violence/ crime over the last 12 months	40.1% (n=77)	33.4% (n=21)	40.9% (n=123)	43.3% (n=25)	47.7% (n=74)	46.2% (n=39)	74.9% (n=12)	42.3% (n=26)	31.6% (n=46)	23.1% (n=13)	71.4% (n=7)	41.7% (n=463)
	Place in which the case was reported	(n=34)	(n=7)	(n=55)	(n=11)	(n=35)	(n=18)	(n=9)	(n=11)	(n=15)	(n=3)	(n=5)	(n=203)
	Police	45.7%	85.7%	80.8%	72.2%	91.3%	94.4%	100%	90.9%	81.2%	100%	60.0%	79.7%
	Public Ministry	29.1%	14.3%	19.4%	19.0%	8.7%	5.6%	0%	0%	26.1%	0%	40.0%	18.4%
	Human Rights Ombudsman	0%	0%	0%	0%	2.9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.2%
	Municipality other	0%	0%	0%	9.1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.7%
i4	Perception of presence of problems in the community ( <i>higher score means fewer problems</i> )	50.64 points	57.08 points	45.86 points	49.35 points	42.62 points	50.73 points	58.61 points	55.88 points	54.18 points	61.51 points	50.0 points	47.46 points (45.4, 49.5)

		Municipality											Total (CI 95%)
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú	Villa Nueva	
i4 g	No problems	0.1%	0.7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.4%	0.5%	0%	0.4%	1.0%	0.1%
	Few problems	42.4%	58.7%	35.4%	38.1%	22.5%	42.3%	58.4%	48.6%	56.4%	67.5%	42.7%	37.0%
	Many problems	57.5%	40.6%	64.6%	64.6%	77.5%	57.7%	40.2%	50.9%	43.6%	32.1%	56.3%	62.9%

Chart 2: Victimization and presence of problems in the community



**Chart 2a: Victimization and problems in the community in the study as a whole**



## Main findings: Victimization and problems in the community

The results show a very low level of actual victimization in the last 12 months (**victimization scale**, which shows whether the person interviewed or a family member has been a victim of crime or violence) since all communities show scores of less than 2%. The highest number of respondents is in the **no victimization** category, with 82% of respondents reporting that they have not been victimized in any way over the last 12 months. Nonetheless there is considerable variance in the category of **low level victimization**, since rates oscillate between 4.2% and 21.9% (Guatemala and Tamahú, respectively), so the overall score in this category is 17.9%.

**Victimization outside the home**, i.e. whether the respondent or a family member has been a victim of crime or violence in their neighborhood shows, unsurprisingly, a trend similar to that of violence in the community. Respondents from Guatemala report a level of 20.7%, on "**low level victimization**"; Palencia and Cobán also report high scores of 17.5% and 16.9%, respectively). Results report levels of 1% on domestic violence for the population as a whole for the population as a whole as well as in each one of the communities studied.

As has been mentioned earlier, results contradict results on perceived personal security. For instance, in Villa Nueva a very high proportion of respondents reported that they felt themselves to be in danger or great danger (85% overall) while only 7.3% of their family members had been victimized in the last 12 months.

The municipalities of San José La Arada (74.9%) and Villa Nueva (71.4%) are the municipalities where the highest proportions of people who have been victims of crimes have **reported crimes** to the authorities. Rates are also relatively high in Palencia (47.7%), San Jacinto (46.2%), Mixco (43.3%), San Juan Ermita (42.3%), Cobán (40.1%) and Guatemala (40.9%). Levels of reporting are low in Esquipulas, Tactic and Tamahú (33.4%, 31.6% and 23.1% respectively). The majority of reports (more than 80 %) were made to the Police; a smaller proportion to the Public Prosecutor particularly in the case of Villa Nueva, Cobán, Guatemala and Mixco, with rates of 40.1%, 29.1%, 19.4% and 19.0, respectively. Reports to other places (e.g. Human Rights Ombudsman) were rare, except in Mixco, where 9.1% of those interviewed denounced crimes to the municipalities. In general, only 41.7% of those who have been victimized make reports to the authorities.

The reasons why people do not report crimes more often is not clear from this survey alone, and requires further study. High rates of impunity certainly mean that many people don't waste their time reporting offences that will not be investigated or prosecuted, but no explanation should be assumed. Much depends

on the way that crime operates in a particular location. As our team member who has worked in highly violent communities in Guatemala observes: *“Based on many conversations with people who trust me, over many years, in Canalitos, it is evident that people don’t report crime (1) for fear of reprisals from victimizers in the community and their families; while the identity of criminals is often known, they have informants and supporters whose identity is not always clear (2) fear that some members of the police are taking bribes from criminals (3) related to this, that criminals operate out of prison using cellphones and their support base. So even if a criminal is imprisoned, those who report them and their families are in danger. The whole justice and security system – not just a single institution (police or courts? Public prosecutor or prison systems?) needs to be strengthened.*

99% of those interviewed said that their community had problems. Most reported that **there are many problems**, with the highest scores in a Palencia, Guatemala and Mixco (77.5%, 64.6%, and 64.6%, respectively); once again the smallest percentage (32.1%) of the population to report ‘**many problems**’ is in Tamahú.

### VI.2.3 Maras

Perception of respondents with respect to *maras* (youth gangs) has been measured and summarized using five scales:

- **i5: Presence of maras as a problem in the community.** This was constructed using questions 25 and 26, which ask whether the respondents consider that maras are a problem on the Street, shootouts and violence by *maras* and *maras* committing extortion. This was measured on a scale of 0 to 100 points, where 100 points indicates no *maras* in the community.
- Respondents were classified into three groups (i5g):
  - No maras, when score was 100 points
  - Few maras, when the score was between 65 and 99 points
  - Many maras, when the score was 64 points and under
- **i6: Perception of increased risk from maras.** This was constructed using questions 27 and 28, which ask whether the following has increased over the past 12 months: violent crimes, crimes related to narcotraffic, crimes involving firearms, fear of insecurity, fights, school desertion, public violence and threats to families. This is measured on a scale from 0 to 100 points, where 100 represents no perceived risk of increased threats from maras.

- Respondents were classified into three groups (i6g):
  - No increased risk, when score was 100 points
  - A modest increase of risk when score was between 65 and 99 points
  - Greatly increased risk, when score was less than 65 points
  
- **i7: Opinions on why maras form.** This was asked of those who reported the presence of *maras* in their community. It was constructed using questions 25, 29, 63 and 64, which ask respondents what they think are the reasons why maras have formed, including:
  - i7a. Absence of opportunities for recreation, education and/or poverty
  - i7b. Absence of belonging to a group or family and the experience of being loved.
  - i7c. Desire for power
  -
  
- **Opinion about what to do with regard to maras.** This was asked of those who reported the presence of *maras* in their community. It was constructed using question 30, which ask respondents what they should be done to reduce the threat from maras including:
  - i7d. better police protection
    - i7e. Opportunities for work and job training
    - i7f. Recreational programs
    - i7g. Academic support and counseling
    - i7g. Mentoring
    - i7i. Other

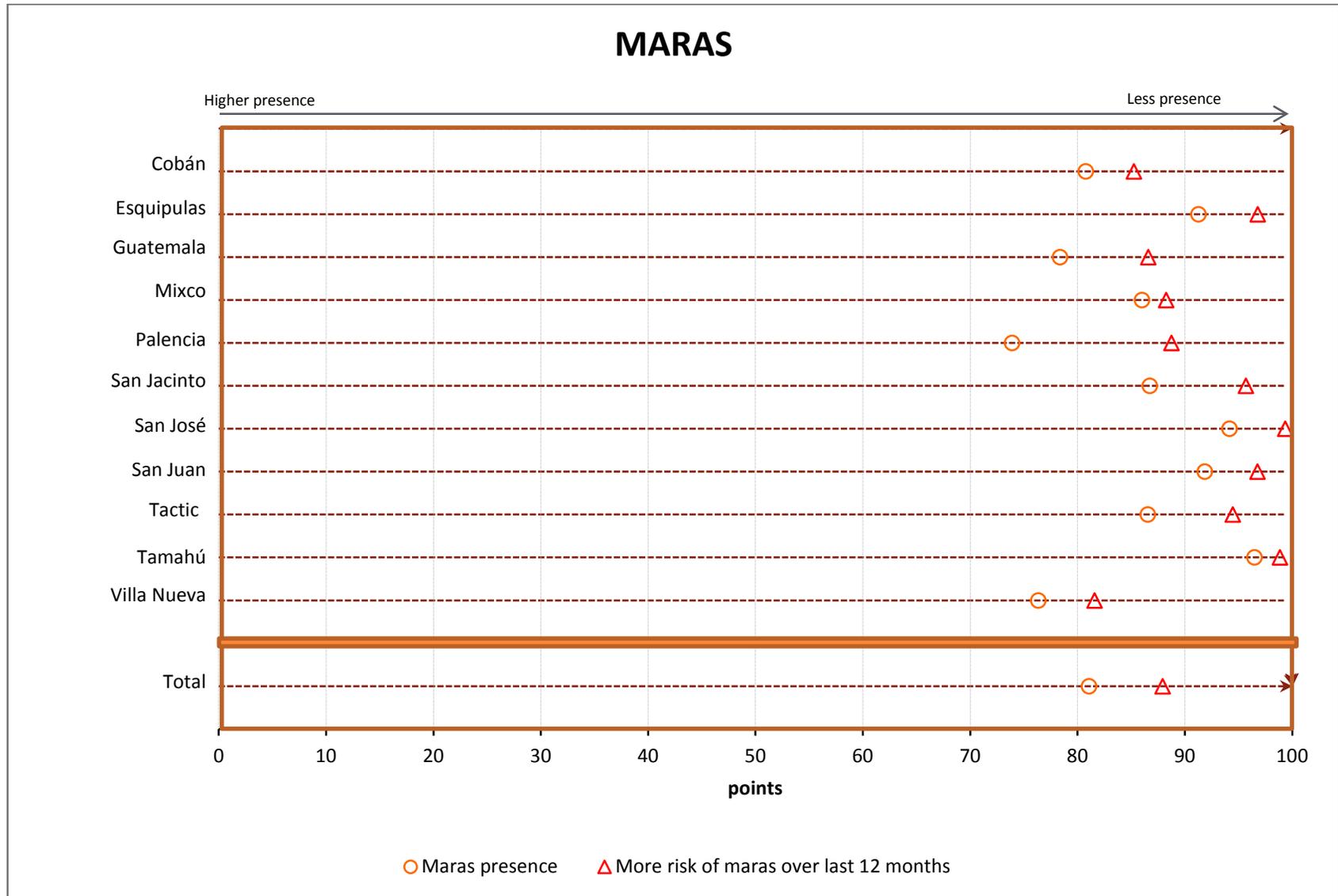
**Table 4: Maras**

(highest value demonstrates absence of maras, in green; low value presence of maras, in yellow)

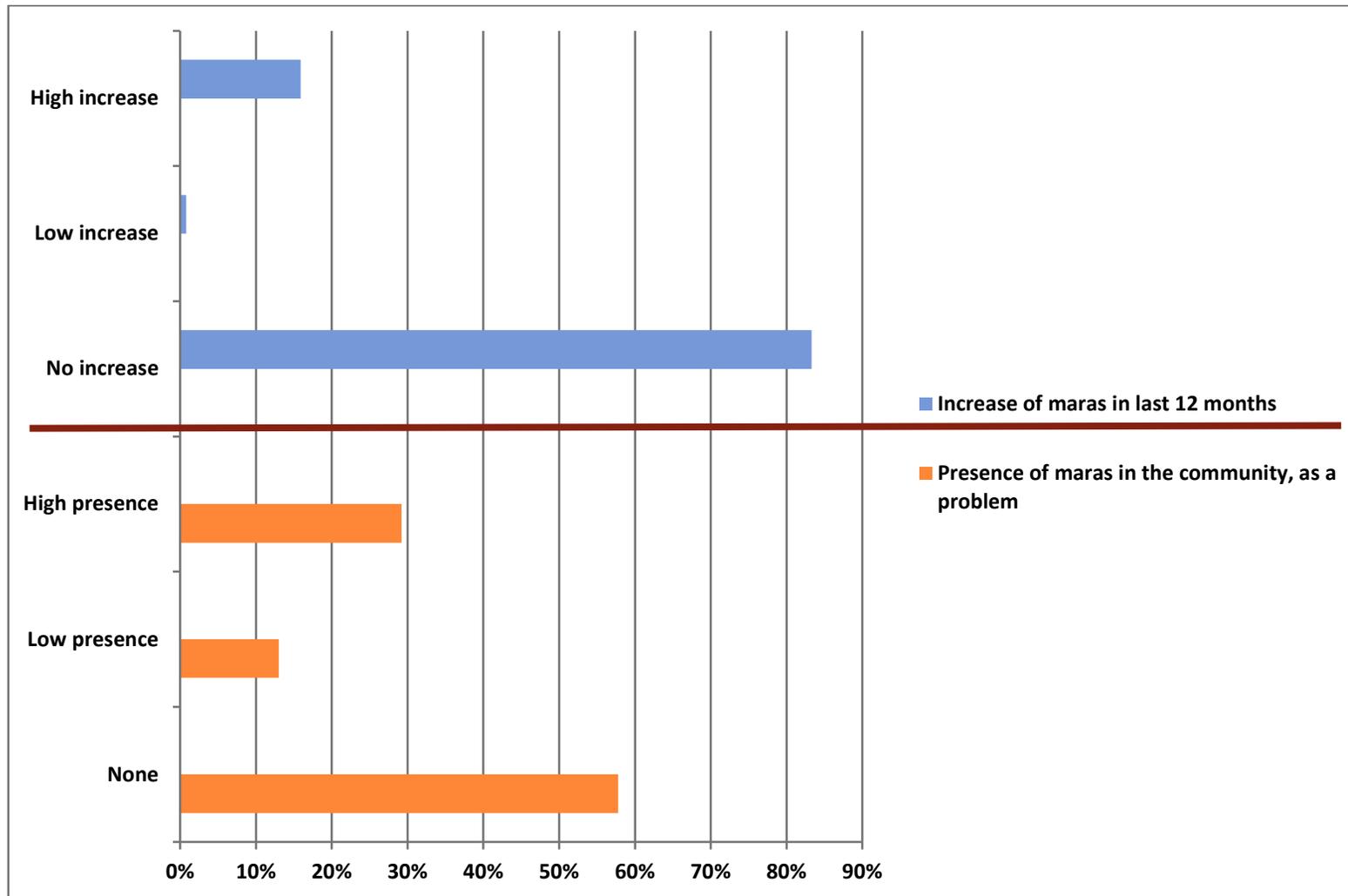
		Municipality											Total (CI 95%)
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú	Villa Nueva	
Size of the sample		400	286	619	207	420	222	286	222	355	286	96	3399
Indicator													
i5	Perception of presence of maras, as a threat to their community (higher scores mean lower presence of maras)	80.76 points	91.27 points	78.38 points	86.01 points	73.91 points	86.74 points	94.15 points	91.85 points	86.55 points	96.49 points	76.36 points	81.08 points (77.8, 84.3)
i5g	No maras	51.6%	82.9%	54.4%	60.9%	48.9%	73.4%	90.2%	86.0%	76.1%	94.8%	29.2%	57.8%
	Limited mara activity	21.0%	1.7%	11.7%	19.2%	8.2%	7.7%	0.7%	1.4%	1.9%	0%	41.6%	13.0%
	Significant mara activity	27.4%	15.4%	33.8%	19.9%	42.9%	18.9%	9.1%	12.6%	22.0%	5.2%	29.2%	29.2%
i6	Increased risk over the last 12 months (higher scores mean lower increase of maras)	85.25 points	96.80 points	86.59 points	88.26 points	88.76 points	95.68 points	99.36 points	96.77 points	94.46 points	98.86 points	81.60 points	87.93 points (85.0, 90.9)

		Municipality											Total (CI 95%)
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú	Villa Nueva	
Size of the sample		400	286	619	207	420	222	286	222	355	286	96	3399
Indicator													
i6g	No increase	80.2%	95.5%	81.3%	83.6%	86.0%	94.1%	99.3%	95.0%	91.3%	98.6%	72.9%	83.3%
	Slight increase	0.4%	0%	1.1%	0.5%	0.5%	0%	0%	1.8%	1.2%	0%	2.1%	0.8%
	Significant increase	19.4%	4.5%	17.6%	15.9%	13.5%	5.9%	0.7%	3.2%	7.5%	1.4%	25.0%	15.9%
i7a, b,c	Reasons why maras form	n=224	n=49	n=344	n=120	n=262	n=73	n=26	n=38	n=87	n=11	n=86	n=1320
	Lack of education, recreation, poverty	99.7%	100%	97.8%	99.1%	99.6%	100%	100%	100%	98.8%	100%	100%	98.4%
	Lack of family / group where they are loved	98.9%	93.9%	86.4%	92.6%	95.5%	94.5%	65.3%	86.8%	98.8%	81.8%	98.8%	89.4%
	Desire for power	92.6%	91.9%	83.9%	91.8%	89.4%	86.3%	53.8%	73.7%	95.3%	63.6%	91.9%	86.9%
i7d, e,f, g,h, i	How to responded to the threat posed by maras:	n=224	n=49	n=344	n=120	n=262	n=73	n=26	n=38	n=87	n=11	n=86	n=1320
	Police protection	85.9%	83.7%	83.2%	89.1%	77.4%	80.8%	65.3%	57.9%	68.4%	63.7%	89.5%	77.4%
	Opportunities for work and training	95.8%	89.8%	87.3%	96.8%	89.7%	87.7%	80.7%	84.2%	88.3%	63.7%	90.7%	90.4%
	Recreational programs	85.8%	87.8%	80.7%	93.5%	88.4%	89.0%	76.9%	86.8%	68.4%	72.7%	89.4%	85.0%
	Academic support and counseling	74.5%	71.4%	74.0%	91.0%	82.7%	89.0%	73.0%	86.8%	66.5%	72.7%	88.2%	79.5%
	Mentoring	67.7%	63.3%	71.6%	91.0%	80.1%	89.0%	69.2%	86.8%	65.4%	72.7%	81.4%	77.7%
	Other	2.2%	10.2%	15.0%	4.2%	16.7%	9.6%	7.7%	13.2%	9.4%	0%	3.5%	11.8%

Chart 3: Maras



**Chart 3a: Perception of maras, in the study as a whole**



Main findings: *Maras*

A high proportion of respondents in this study report that there is little or no threat from *maras* in their communities since the score on this measure was 81.08 overall. 57.8% of those interviewed responded that there were no *maras* in their community. 29.2% of the sample reported significant presence of *maras*, with the highest percentage in Guatemala City (33.8%).

For reasons of security, we did not ask respondents if they had had contact with or knew who were members of *maras*. Responses are therefore indirect, but they do recognise the emotional as well as social deprivation associated with gang formation, something that has amply documented in the literature on gangs elsewhere (See for example, McDaniel D (2012) Risk and Protective Factors associated with gang affiliation among high-risk youth: a public health perspective. ([Inj Prev. Aug;18\(4\)](#))).

The overwhelming majority of those interviewed did not believe that there would be an increased in the threat from *maras* over the next 12 months, since the score in this instance is of 87.93 points. Guatemala, Mixco and Palencia have the highest scores on this question (17.6%, 15.9% and 13.5% respectively), and even here the scores are fairly low.<sup>11</sup>

Respondents understand that youth join gangs not only because of multiple forms of deprivation that need to be addressed at source. The deficits that contribute to gang formation are: absence of recreation, opportunities for study, in the context of extreme poverty: absence of recreation, lack of opportunities to study; weak family networks and the absence of any other groups where they could feel loved.

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<sup>11</sup> Translator's comment:

Has the threat of gangs exaggerated because youth gangs have been historically, more easily identified than more conservative crime networks formed by older members? As more than one observer has commented: "gangs have been blamed, sometimes erroneously, for the rising violent crime rates in Central America."<sup>11</sup> Respondents from Cobán report high levels of insecurity/lack of safety but low levels of gang activity. Cobán has been affected by increase in cartel activity, which as noted earlier, limits the scope of youth gangs but does not mean the population is safe. Literature on *maras* in the region shows that these have changed since the 1980s. In the areas where youth gangs do exist and are affiliated to recognized groups (Mara 18, Salvatrucha etc.) they may be less easy to identify, for instance as the use of tattoos becomes more restrained (precisely to avoid detection). In a study on migration in Guatemala, a migrant deported from the US observed: "*have you asked yourself where maras have gone? the 18, the MS? You don't hear much about them these days. They have died, they have disappeared or they have joined the Zetas. You have heard about the Gulf Zetas? They are Guatemalan, Honduran, Salvadorian, and not just Mexican.*

Gangs form to fulfill the unmet needs of their members. These can include<sup>12</sup>: (i) the absence of any way of earning a living and supporting a family through legitimate means – this is cross culturally, a demand and expectation for men in particular (ii) while most people interviewed recognize that it is not easy to get work, some believe that gang members do have the opportunity to work, but prefer easy money (ii) histories of family violence and abuse, which appear in studies that explore the background of gang members; this points to the need also, for early intervention and support of families as part of a holistic violence prevention strategy.

With respect to the question, what needs to be done to reduce the threat presented by *maras*, suggestions included strategies to reduce the risk that *maras* will form by addressing some of the root causes (work, education, recreation, mentoring), and protecting the population from *maras* (policing). Most respondents (80% or more) believed all these things are necessary. There was an open question on the questionnaire but this did not permit further exploration; responses needed to be recorded only as ‘other’. It would be useful to hear more from respondents about this issue; what do they think is necessary.<sup>13</sup>

As consultants, we were surprised that there were no questions about cartels; we understand that this may be for security reasons, since this is a question that would elicit fear in respondents and would compromise the safety of the team. In fact, the threat posed by transnational crime networks affects the communities where this study takes place; security is affected by the conflicts among cartels, the effect of the antinarcotics efforts in Mexico, that have pushed cartels south and the emergence of the Zetas.

#### VI.2.4 Prevention and protection

Perception of people interviewed about the prevention of violence and protection from violence was measured on eight scales:

- **i8: Family practices to prevent crime.** This was constructed using questions 31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and option “e” of question 65 (good Street lighting). These questions address the following issues: whether the person invests in security, if there are groups or networks in the

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<sup>12</sup> From our expert:

[http://people.missouristate.edu/MichaelCarlie/what\\_i\\_learned\\_about/gangs/whyform/conclusion\\_why\\_gangs\\_form.htm](http://people.missouristate.edu/MichaelCarlie/what_i_learned_about/gangs/whyform/conclusion_why_gangs_form.htm)

<sup>13</sup> Translators comment: Previous experience leads us to suppose that replies would include quite intangible suggestions, such as ‘the need to find God’ which implies the need for education in values and the capacity to exercise moral judgment. Others would point to the need for school based violence prevention and for promotion of support to parents, since schools and (especially) parenting have a significant influence on whether or not adolescents involved in gangs.

community that engage in crime prevention or help to reduce crime and if they are coordinated among themselves; whether there are organizations that work with young people; and if the respondent participates or would like to participate in groups that aim to reduce crime in the area. This is measured on a scale from 0 to 100 points, where 100 represents high levels of initiative, by members of the family, in prevention of crime.

- Respondents were grouped as follows(i8g):
  - Families that actively engage in prevention, when the score was between 80 and 100 points.
  - Families engaged in some form of prevention, when the score was between 65 and 79 points
  - Families with little engagement in prevention, when the scores were between 0 and 64 points
  - Families with no engagement in prevention, when the score was of 0 points.

As well as this, the following scores were calculated:

- i8a. Families who invest in security (Q 31 and 32)
- i8b. Community based prevention (Q 33, 34, 35, 36, 37,40, 41 and 65 (option e))
- i8c. Participation of the respondent in prevention of crime at community level (Q38 and 39)
  
- **i9: Families with protection in their homes.** This was constructed using question 42, which asks whether respondents have taken the following steps in the course of the last 12 months: building additional walls, metal frames around doors, windows or patios, stronger locks, firearms, avoided going out at night, avoided leaving the house unoccupied for long periods of time, acquired a watchdog. This is measured on a scale from 0 to 100 points, where 100 represents high levels of personal protection.
- Respondents were grouped as follows (i9g):
  - Families with high levels of protection, when the score is between 65 to 100 points
  - Families with some protection, when the score is between 40 and 64 points
  - Families with low levels of protection, when the score is between 1 and 40 points
  - Families with no protection, when the score is 0 points.

- **i10: Community with protection strategies** This was constructed using question 43 which asks what the community or neighbors did in the last year to protect themselves: restrict the movement of people or vehicles (i.e. by placing security barriers at the entry and exit points to a street), contracting private security guards, organizing neighbors, improve lighting in the street and other public places, lobbying the mayor for the closure of gaming halls, bar or brothels and assessing and creating community plans to address the problem of security. This is measured on a scale from 0 to 100 points, where 100 represent high levels of community based protection.
- Respondents' communities were grouped as follows (i10g):
  - Communities with high levels of protection, when the score is between 65 to 100 points
  - Communities with some levels of protection, when the score is between entre 40 and 64 points
  - Communities with low levels of protection, between 1 and 40 points
  - Communities with no protection, with 0 points.
- **i11: Communities with youth crime prevention strategies.** This was constructed using question 44 which asks what the community does to prevent crime: ensure good Street lighting, rehabilitate and improve public space, organize sports and recreational activities with children and young people, organize sporting events among neighbors, organize walks, floats and parades, talks, cultural events aimed at prevention of crime, promotion of education on sexual and reproductive health or drug use among young people, artistic activities, festival or fairs and demonstrations for peace This is measured on a scale from 0 to 100 points, where 100 represents high levels of community based strategies to prevent the engagement of young people in crime.
- Respondents' communities were grouped as follows (i11g):
  - Communities with significant initiatives to address risk factors that contribute to youth crime, when the score was between 65 and 100 points

Communities with some initiatives to address risk factors that contribute to youth crime when the score was between 40 sand 65 point

  - Communities with few initiatives to address risk factors that contribute to youth crime, when the score was between 1 and 40 points
  - Communities with no initiatives to address risk factors that contributes to youth crime, when the score was 0 points.

**Table 5: Prevention and protection**

(high scoring municipalities with investment in prevention and security are in green, low value ones with low investment are in yellow)

		Municipality											Total (CI 95%)
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú	Villa Nueva	
Sample size		400	286	619	207	420	222	286	222	355	286	96	3399
Indicator													
i8	Family initiated prevention strategies (a higher score means greater prevention)	21.18 points	25.11 points	25.13 points	22.14 points	18.73 points	23.40 points	31.84 points	26.31 points	29.87 points	34.41 points	22.14 points	24.09 points (22.0, 26.2)
i8g	Families with high levels of prevention	0.5%	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%	0.2%	0.5%	2.8%	0.9%	0.8%	3.5%	1.0%	0.9%
	Families with some level of prevention	2.5%	3.5%	2.0%	2.0%	0.2%	1.8%	9.4%	3.2%	5.1%	9.4%	2.1%	2.2%
	Families with limited prevention	75.9%	85.3%	90.3%	83.6%	92.0%	91.9%	80.4%	92.3%	88.0%	81.8%	86.5%	88.0%
	Families with no prevention	21.1%	10.5%	6.8%	13.5%	7.6%	5.9%	7.4%	3.6%	6.2%	5.2%	10.4%	8.9%
i8a	Families who invest in security	0.6%	0.7%	10.6%	8.7%	0.6%	2.7%	0.3%	6.3%	1.2%	0.7%	2.1%	8.4%
	Average amount	Q 257 (n=7)	Q 125 (n=2)	Q 265 (n=75)	Q 473 (n=17)	Q 1,710 (n=3) <sup>14</sup>	Q 187 (n=6)	Q 125 (n=1)	Q 97 (n=14)	Q 120 (n=6)	Q 112 (n=2)	Q 450 (n=2)	Q 326 (n=135)

<sup>14</sup> One person reported Q3,000 and other Q1,000 Translator's note: \$1 = Q8.

		Municipality											Total (CI 95%)
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú	Villa Nueva	
Sample size		400	286	619	207	420	222	286	222	355	286	96	3399
Indicator													
i8b	invested (i8amonto)												
	Community initiated protection strategies	17.71 points	23.40 points	22.49 points	18.03 points	16.01 points	20.54 points	33.01 points	25.40 points	29.00 points	33.82 points	20.00 points	21.18 points (18.8, 23.6)
	Communities with high levels of protection	2.6%	1.0%	2.1%	2.3%	0.2%	0.9%	6.3%	2.7%	2.2%	8.0%	2.1%	2.1%
	Communities with some level of protection	2.8%	5.6%	4.1%	3.4%	1.5%	4.5%	13.3%	5.4%	7.9%	12.9%	2.1%	4.1%
i8bg	Communities with limited protection	61.6%	74.5%	76.2%	70.2%	83.0%	82.0%	67.5%	82.9%	75.2%	63.7%	72.9%	74.5%
	Communities with no prevention	33.0%	18.8%	17.6%	24.1%	15.3%	12.6%	13.0%	9.0%	14.7%	15.4%	22.9%	19.3%
	Average number of organizations involved in protection, according respondents who report that these exist (i8bcant)	1.87 org	1.36 org	1.20 org	1.57 org	1.20 org	1.36 org	1.31 org	1.85 org	1.88 org	2.83 org	1.64 org	1.36 org
i8c	Participation of	62.5%	59.8%	55.5%	60.3%	53.2%	61.3%	56.3%	51.8%	63.9%	71.7%	55.2%	57.3%

		Municipality											Total (CI 95%)
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú	Villa Nueva	
Sample size		400	286	619	207	420	222	286	222	355	286	96	3399
Indicator													
	respondent in community based protection initiatives												
i9	Families with protection in their home (a higher score means greater home protection)	25.03 points	21.61 points	27.57 points	30.41 points	31.03 points	24.92 points	14.30 points	18.67 points	17.85 points	12.50 points	28.82 points	27.79 points (25.2, 30.4)
i9g	Good protection	10.6%	5.7%	12.3%	12.0%	14.1%	11.0%	4.3%	7.8%	6.7%	0.7%	11.8%	12.0%
	Some protection	13.5%	22.4%	27.3%	30.0%	35.1%	32.5%	20.0%	25.6%	18.5%	11.1%	31.6%	28.0%
	No protection	75.9%	71.8%	60.4%	58.0%	50.8%	56.5%	75.7%	66.7%	74.8%	88.2%	56.6%	60.0%
i10	Community based crime prevention (a higher score means greater community prevention initiatives)	15.73 points	7.63 points	22.49 points	24.78 points	8.93 points	9.46 points	8.75 points	13.96 points	13.05 points	10.78 points	29.52 points	21.09 points (16.5, 25.7)

		Municipality											Total (CI 95%)
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú	Villa Nueva	
Sample size		400	286	619	207	420	222	286	222	355	286	96	3399
Indicator													
i10g	Good prevention initiatives	2.4%	0.4%	12.5%	12.1%	1.0%	2.3%	0.7%	4.1%	3.3%	0.3%	12.5%	10.5%
	Some prevention initiatives	6.6%	0.4%	10.5%	10.1%	2.0%	1.3%	1.1%	5.4%	5.3%	2.1%	18.8%	9.1%
	Limited prevention initiatives	46.9%	37.1%	34.5%	43.3%	35.1%	32.4%	38.1%	36.5%	35.5%	44.4%	46.9%	37.4%
	No prevention initiatives	44.1%	62.2%	42.5%	34.5%	61.9%	64.0%	60.1%	54.0%	55.9%	53.1%	21.9%	43.0%
i11	Community protection initiatives (for a higher scale greater protection)	18.16 points	17.80 points	23.46 points	29.44 points	26.45 points	33.24 points	30.67 points	34.91 points	23.04 points	23.22 points	46.56 points	25.35 points (22.9, 27.8)
i11g	Good protection	1.1%	0.7%	6.4%	14.6%	9.0%	14.0%	10.5%	11.7%	6.1%	7.0%	19.8%	8.8%
	Some protection	15.5%	15.3%	18.9%	19.9%	25.2%	30.6%	26.9%	39.2%	20.7%	21.3%	47.9%	19.9%
	Limited protection	49.9%	55.3%	52.1%	46.1%	42.0%	39.2%	45.8%	36.5%	46.6%	40.2%	25.0%	49.1%
	No protection	33.5%	28.7%	22.6%	19.4%	23.8%	16.2%	16.8%	12.6%	26.6%	31.5%	7.3%	22.2%

Chart 4: Prevention and protection

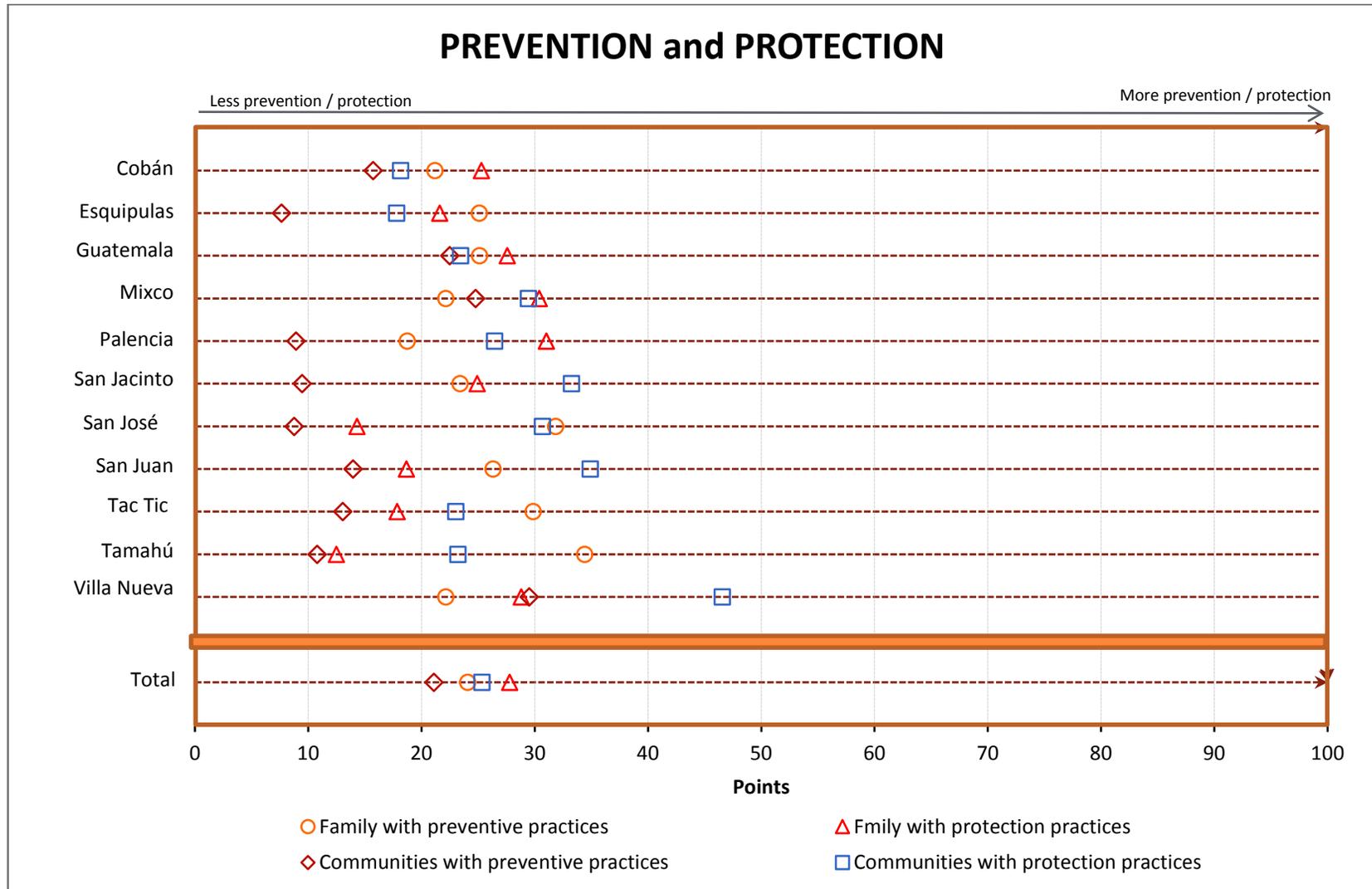
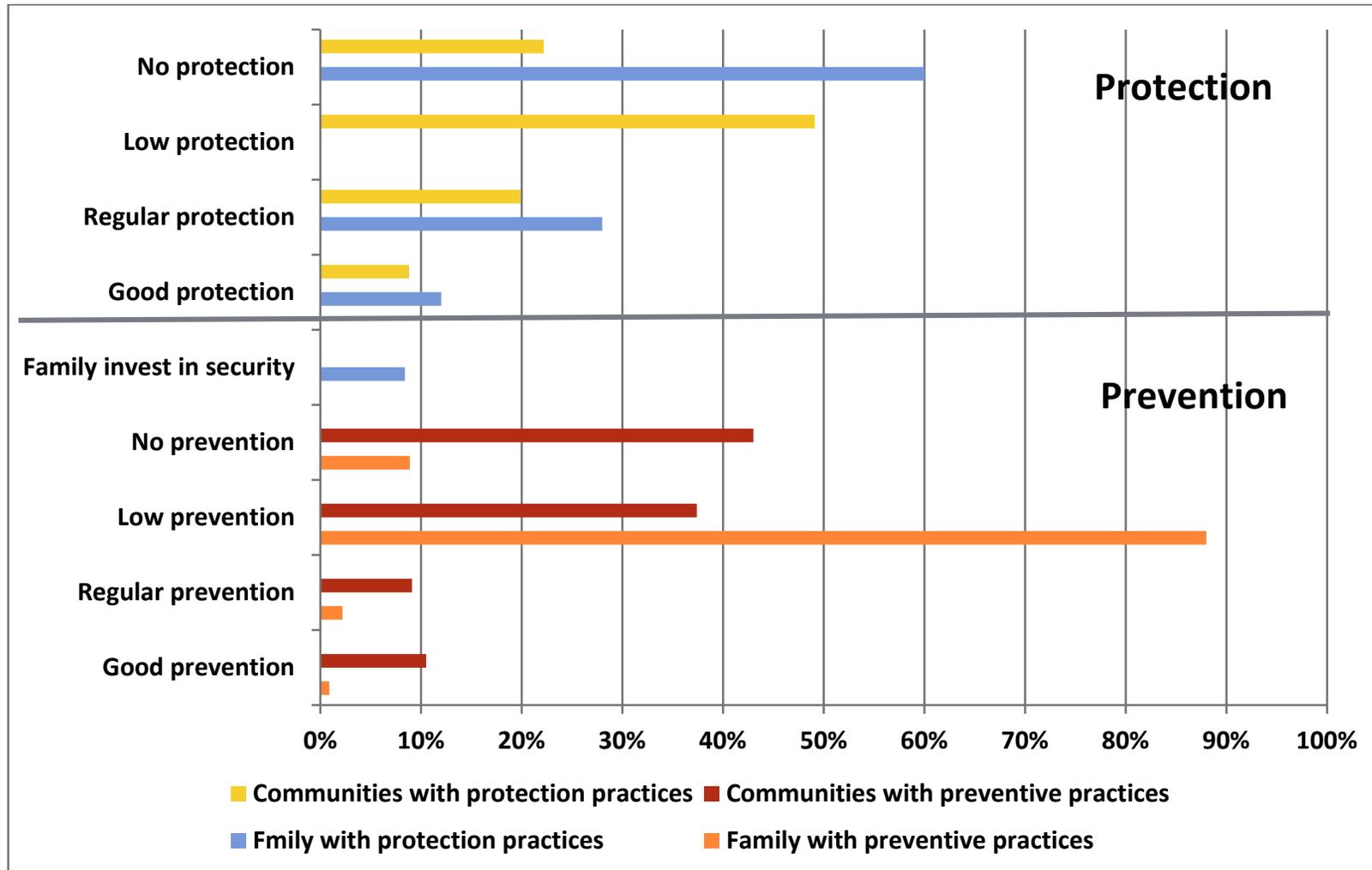


Chart 4a: Prevention and protection in the study as a whole



**Family and household led initiatives for prevention and protection against violence** are highest in the communities of Tamahú and San José La Arada (34.41 points and 31,84 points, respectively); Tactic, Esquipulas and Guatemala, also were seen to have some level of initiative in this sphere, although to a more limited degree. In fact, this is an area in which the whole population scores relatively low (24.09 points); irrespective of the location, 80% of the population interviewed engages limited effort to prevent crime e.g. by strengthening the security of their home.

Very few people invest in security in their communities, with highest levels of expenditure in **privately initiated preventive strategies** being in Guatemala (10.6%), Mixco (8.7%), and San Juan Ermita (6.3%); with the exception of Villa Nueva, Guatemala, Cobán and Mixco, sums involved are never over 200Q (about US\$28) a month, primarily payments to security guards who work at the entrance of gated areas.

The study also found that **community initiatives<sup>15</sup> to reduce youth engagement in crime** are very weak, since less than a third of respondents reported that they supported initiatives of this kind. The most active were in Tamahú, San José La Arada, Tactic and San Juan Ermita, with scores of 33.82, 33.01, 29.00 and 25.40, respectively. Most respondents said that their communities had very few initiatives to address the social and educational deficits that lead to youth engagement in crime. Results showed that there were several communities with very limited **no reported prevention initiatives**, among them Cobán, Mixco and Villa Nueva, where 33.0%, 24.1% and 22.7% said they had no form of community based prevention.

There are also very few organizations that lead initiatives aimed at reducing youth engagement in crime (mean = 1.36 for the population as a whole), although individual respondents (less than 10% of the sample) who said that there were three or more such organizations in their community; five respondents mentioned more than 10. According to respondents, the highest number of such organizations is in Tamahú, Tactic, Cobán and San Juan Ermita.

Participation of respondents in **community based initiatives to protect themselves against crime** is not very high, with only 57.3% overall and the highest levels in Tamahú (71.7%). The questionnaire did not make more

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<sup>15</sup> Translator note: Community initiated protection strategies

than general questions about community based protection measures, which can include vigilante groups, control the entrance and exit from the community, create child protection committees.<sup>16</sup>

Less than a third of those interviewed reported that they had taken steps to **improve security of their home** (building walls, purchasing firearms or a guard dog). 60% of those interviewed were found to have **no household protection** with the highest number in Tamahú, Cobán and Esquipulas, with 88.2%, 75.9% and 71.8% respectively.

Community based initiatives for **protection against crime** is limited in the population interviewed, since it only achieved 21.09 points in the population as a whole. The highest percentages belonged to the “**low prevention**” and “**no prevention**” groups (37.4% and 43.0% respectively, in the study as a whole). The communities of San Jacinto, Esquipulas, Palencia and San José, showed figures of 60.0% for this category.

The final item measured is community based prevention – activities aimed at reducing incursion into crime of young people. This includes recreational, civic and social, and cultural activities. Results show that only a quarter of respondents take part in activities of this kind and that around half are found in the **low community based prevention** categories. The highest numbers of families without access or engagement in activities of this kind are in Cobán, Tamahú and Esquipulas, (33.5%, 31.5% and 28.7%, respectively).

One of the limitations of the questionnaire is that it did not ask about support to parenting<sup>17</sup> or school based violence prevention initiatives,<sup>18</sup> which are known to have an effect in reducing delinquent behaviour in adolescence. According to the WHO community based programmes have an important function in violence prevention. These include: increase of quality and availability of child centres; school based programs that shape norms and attitudes relating to conflict; improvement of the school environment. At community and societal level, this needs to be complemented by reduction of the availability of alcohol and greater control of its sale; reduction of access to lethal weapons; and promotion of gender equity.

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<sup>16</sup> Translators note: all quite different activities, and as has been noted earlier, and not all an unqualified good: vigilante groups are not an alternative to a functioning police force and a strong formal security system.

<sup>17</sup> See for example, Hoeve M et al (2009) The relationship between parenting and delinquency: a Meta-Analysis. *J Abnorm Child Psychol.* 2009 August; 37(6): 749–775.

<sup>18</sup> See for example, Adi Y, Killoran A, Schrader McMillan A & Stewart-Brown S (2007) *Systematic review of interventions to promote mental wellbeing in children in primary education focusing on violence prevention.* National Institute of Health & Clinical Excellence (NICE).

All the above shows that respondents recognise prevention of crime, at least among young people, have many social dimensions; but in general they engage only to a very limited extent in initiatives that proactively create alternatives for young people who might be at risk of involvement in crime. Community protection strategies are on the whole, reactive: encouraging the formation of civilian groups who patrol the entry and exit points of communities, for instance. Yet reactive measures – above all the summary justice administered by vigilante groups – have damaging effects on the many children and young people who witness it. Violence in all its forms can compromise children’s cognitive, social, emotional and even physical development.<sup>19</sup>

### VI.2.5 Views on the police (Policía Nacional Civil – PNC)

Respondents’ views about the presence and performance of the police are measured by 11 items:

- **i12: Presence of the police in the community.** This was constructed with questions 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51 and 52, which ask people their opinion about the police, if they know a police officer, if they know how many police agents are assigned to their community and if the number is sufficient to respond to offences committed in the community,; whether the police should be drawn from community members, if they believe the police has a plan to prevent violence and crime in their community, their opinion of plans and initiatives launched by the police to prevent violence and crime, and if they have observed and increase or decrease in the presence of officers in their community in the last 12 months. xxx así como su opinión con respecto a participar en eventos organizados por la policía para prevenir el delito, and si ha observado un aumento o disminución en la presencia de oficiales en su comunidad en el último año. This was measured on a scale of 0 to 100 points, in which 100 represents a good opinion of the police.
- Respondents were organised in the following groups (i12g):
  - A good opinion of the police, with a score of between 75 and 100 points.
  - A middling or mixed opinion of the police, with a score of between 50 and 74 points
  - A poor opinion, with a score of 49 points or less.
- **i13: Respondents’ perception of the presence and vigilance of the police.** This was constructed on question 53, which asks about the activities that the police undertakes in the neighbourhood: police patrolling on foot or in a vehicle, police on the streets, police approaching and reassuring local people, police talking to owners of businesses, police taking part in community meetings,

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<sup>19</sup> Guerra N , Huesman R & Spindler A (2003) Community Violence Exposure, Social Cognition, and Aggression Among Urban Elementary School Children. *Child Development*, 74:5 1561 – 1576.

police involved with children through recreational or educational activities, opening of sub-stations and information centres. This was measured on a scale of 0 to 100 points, in which 100 represents the view that the police are very active.

- Respondents were organised in the following groups (i13g):
  - Believe the police is very active, with a score 70 to 100 points
  - Believe the police is somewhat active, with a score of between 50 and 69 points
  - Believe police is inactive, with a score of less than 50 points
  
- **i14: Opinion regarding the work of the police** this was constructed on question 54, which asks about police work: police works with citizens to resolve problems, police dedicates enough time to the right problems, police prevents crime, police follows instructions, and police control the speed of vehicles and negligent driving, police helps victims. This was measured on a scale of 0 to 100 points, in which 100 represents the view that the police are very active.
  
- Respondents were organised in the following groups (i14g):
  - Believe the police work well, with a score 60 to 100 points
  - Believe the police work is of mixed quality, with a score of between 35 and 59 points
  - Believe police work is poor, with a score of 34 points or less
  
- **i15: Percentage of contact with police over the last 12 months.** This was constructed on question 55, which asks if the respondent had any contact with the police in the last 12 months.
  
- **i16: Level of confidence in the police** this was constructed on question 60, which using a 10 point scale measures confidence in the police. The 10 point scale was converted to 100 points, in which 100 denotes high level of confidence in the PNC.
  
- Respondents were clustered in the following groups (i16g):
  - High level of confidence in the police, when the score is 60 to 100 points
  - Some level of confidence in the PNC, when the score is between 30 and 59 points
  - Little or no confidence in the police, when the score is below 30 points
  
- **i17: Opinion about the work of the police, based on personal contact.** This was constructed on questions 58, 59 and 61, which asked about services received by the police, speed of response by

the police and opinion with regard the quality of work that the police does. This was measured on a 0 – 100 item scale, in which 100 represents a high opinion of police performance.

- Respondents were clustered in the following groups (i17g):
  - High opinion of the work of the police when the score is 60 to 100 points
  - Mixed opinion of the work of the police, when the score is between 30 and 59 points
  - Low opinion of the work of the police when the score is below 30 points

**Table 6: Opinion about the police**

(PNC Policía Nacional Civil) (high scores mean a high opinion of the police and are in Green; low scores a poor opinion and are in yellow)

		Municipality											Total (CI 95%)
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú	Villa Nueva	
Sample size		400	286	619	207	420	222	286	222	355	286	96	3399
Indicator													
i12	Presence of the police in the community (higher scores mean a better opinion)	19.91 points	23.66 points	31.68 points	34.02 points	31.45 points	35.94 points	29.17 points	29.73 points	29.90 points	25.87 points	43.60 points	31.84 points (29.3, 34.4)
i12 g	Good opinion	0.6%	0.4%	0.9%	7.2%	1.3%	1.8%	1.4%	1.4%	0.9%	2.1%	13.5%	2.7%
	Mixed opinion	4.1%	8.7%	19.3%	20.0%	16.4%	20.3%	18.2%	19.4%	18.3%	13.6%	27.1%	18.7%
	Low opinion	95.3%	90.9%	79.7%	72.8%	82.2%	77.9%	80.4%	79.3%	80.8%	84.3%	59.4%	78.6%
i13	Perception of the activity of the police in the community (higher scores mean a better opinion)	8.33 points	8.43 points	15.03 points	30.93 points	12.13 points	16.28 points	9.87 points	14.17 points	8.41 points	4.65 points	39.32 points	18.56 points (13.7, 23.4)
i13 g	Very active	0.4%	0%	2.0%	8.3%	0.5%	0.9%	0%	0%	0.6%	0%	10.4%	3.4%
	Somewhat active	2.4%	0.4%	5.3%	14.9%	2.5%	5.4%	0.3%	5.9%	2.0%	0.7%	24.0%	7.4%
	Inactive	97.1%	99.6%	92.7%	76.8%	97.0%	93.7%	99.7%	94.1%	97.4%	99.3%	65.6%	89.2%
i14	Perception of the performance of the police in the community (higher scores mean a better opinion)	34.90 points	39.66 points	37.57 points	40.25 points	36.43 points	39.97 points	39.08 points	40.68 points	36.65 points	37.04 points	48.15 points	38.22 points (36.0, 40.4)
i14 g	Good work	4.3%	11.6%	9.9%	12.0%	9.2%	12.6%	8.0%	12.2%	8.6%	5.2%	22.9%	10.3%
	Mixed work	29.5%	29.3%	28.0%	38.1%	22.5%	26.6%	37.4%	35.6%	28.6%	43.0%	40.6%	30.7%
	Poor work	66.2%	59.1%	62.1%	49.9%	68.3%	60.8%	54.6%	52.2%	62.8%	51.8%	36.5%	59.0%
i15	Contact with the police in the last 12 months (percentage of respondents who have had contact with the police)	6.9%	6.3%	10.4%	7.3%	12.2%	12.6%	4.2%	9.0%	10.7%	5.2%	8.3%	9.4% (7.7, 11.1)
	Reasons for contact (only those who say they have had contact)	n=49	n=18	n=69	n=15	n=49	n=28	n=12	n=20	n=38	n=15	n=8	n=321

		Municipality										Total (CI 95%)	
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú		Villa Nueva
Sample size		400	286	619	207	420	222	286	222	355	286	96	3399
Indicator													
	a. Detained, questioned or arrested	8.9%	5.5%	20.7%	34.1%	14.3%	14.3%	8.3%	30.0%	27.7%	26.6%	62.5%	22.8%
	b. Reported a crime experienced or witnessed,	23.9%	5.6%	5.7%	52.7%	8.2%	7.1%	0%	10.0%	1.6%	6.9%	0%	15.8%
	c. reported a frightening												
	d. incident												
	e. Reported disturbance or nuisance behavior, something that affects quality of life	54.5%	77.8%	59.5%	6.6%	67.3%	53.6%	58.3%	60.0%	54.3%	60.0%	12.5%	49.1%
	f. Reported or was involved in an accident ; other reasons	12.7%	11.2%	14.2%	6.6%	10.2%	25.0%	33.3%	0%	16.3%	6.7%	25.0%	12.3%
	Form of contact (only those who mention having had contact)	n=49	n=18	n=69	n=15	n=49	n=28	n=12	n=20	n=38	n=15	n=8	n=321
	g. Telephone	36.6%	27.8%	30.4%	33.5%	46.9%	35.7%	41.7%	40.0%	38.6%	33.3%	12.5%	33.0%
	h. Went to sub-station	45.5%	61.1%	36.9%	20.3%	32.7%	42.9%	16.7%	40.0%	45.1%	53.3%	25.0%	33.7%
	i. In the street	11.5%	5.5%	24.4%	46.1%	20.4%	14.3%	0%	10.0%	13.6%	13.4%	50.0%	27.6%
j. Other	6.4%	5.6%	8.4%	0%	0%	7.1%	41.7%	10.0%	2.7%	0%	12.5%	5.9%	
i16	Confidence in the police (higher scores equal greater confidence)	41.80 points	43.50 points	42.31 points	44.01 points	38.51 points	48.24 points	52.04 points	47.79 points	45.58 points	43.17 points	46.63 points	42.79 points (40.8, 44.8)
i16 g	High level of confidence	20.5%	28.3%	24.9%	26.9%	20.7%	34.7%	41.6%	32.9%	30.6%	29.7%	32.3%	25.6%
	Mixed level of confidence	52.4%	40.6%	45.5%	42.3%	39.7%	38.3%	36.4%	41.0%	36.8%	33.9%	36.5%	44.8%
	Little or no confidence	27.1%	31.1%	29.6%	26.8%	39.6%	27.0%	22.0%	26.1%	32.6%	36.4%	31.2%	29.6%

		Municipality											Total (CI 95%)
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú	Villa Nueva	
Sample size		400	286	619	207	420	222	286	222	355	286	96	3399
Indicator													
i17	Opinion of the work of the police, based on personal experience (higher scores equal greater confidence)	31.56 points	25.18 points	25.63 points	35.28 points	26.37 points	29.46 points	29.60 points	27.12 points	29.2 points	27.26 points	33.85 points	27.96 points (25.3, 30.6)
i17g	Good opinion	0.1%	0%	0.1%	0.5%	0%	0%	0.3%	0%	0.5%	0%	0%	0.2%
	Mixed opinion	2.6%	1.7%	2.0%	2.9%	4.0%	7.2%	0.7%	3.2%	3.4%	1.4%	4.2%	2.5%
	Low opinion	97.3%	98.3%	97.9%	96.6%	96.0%	92.8%	99.0%	96.8%	96.1%	98.6%	95.8%	97.3%

Chart 5: Opinion about the Police

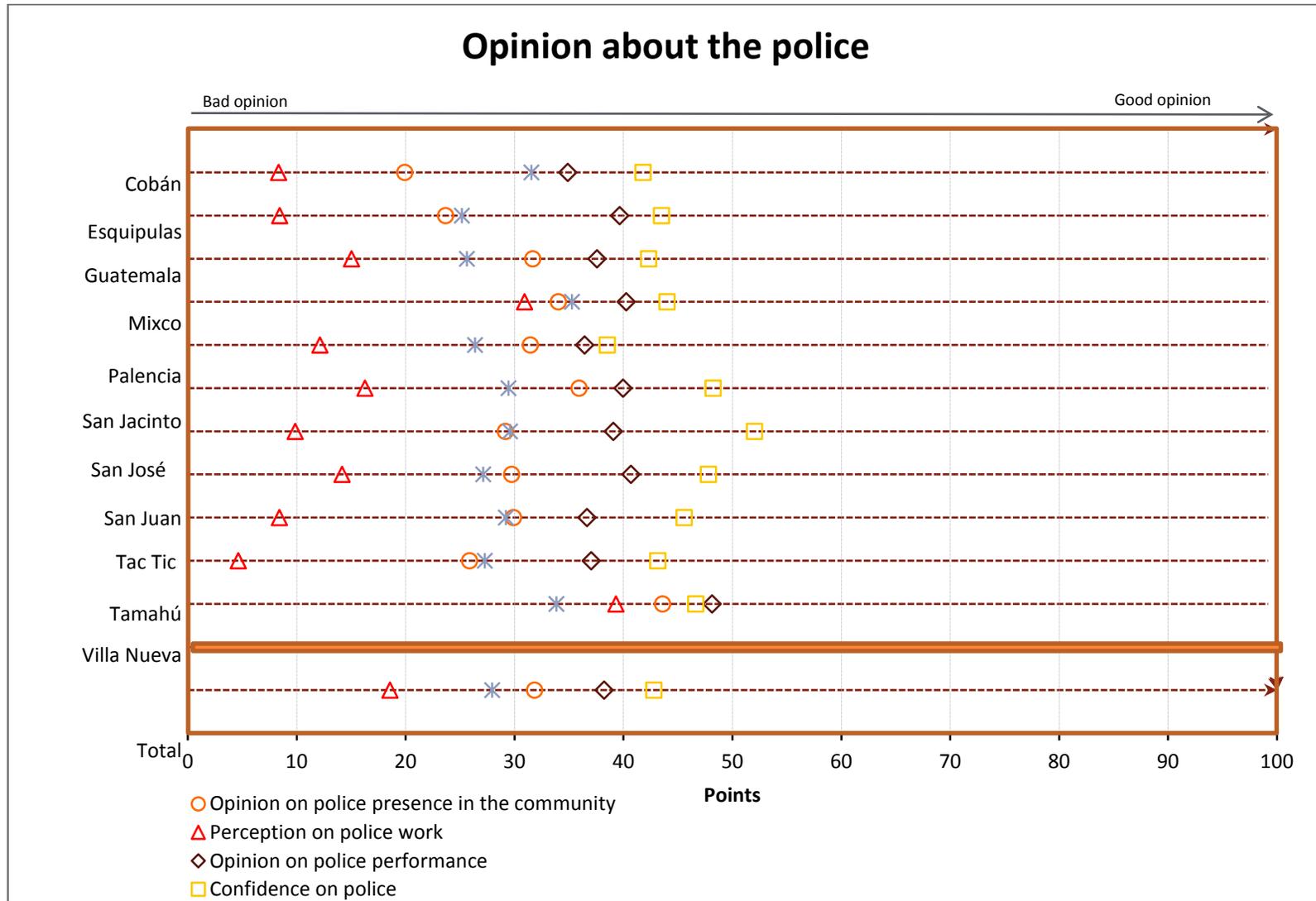
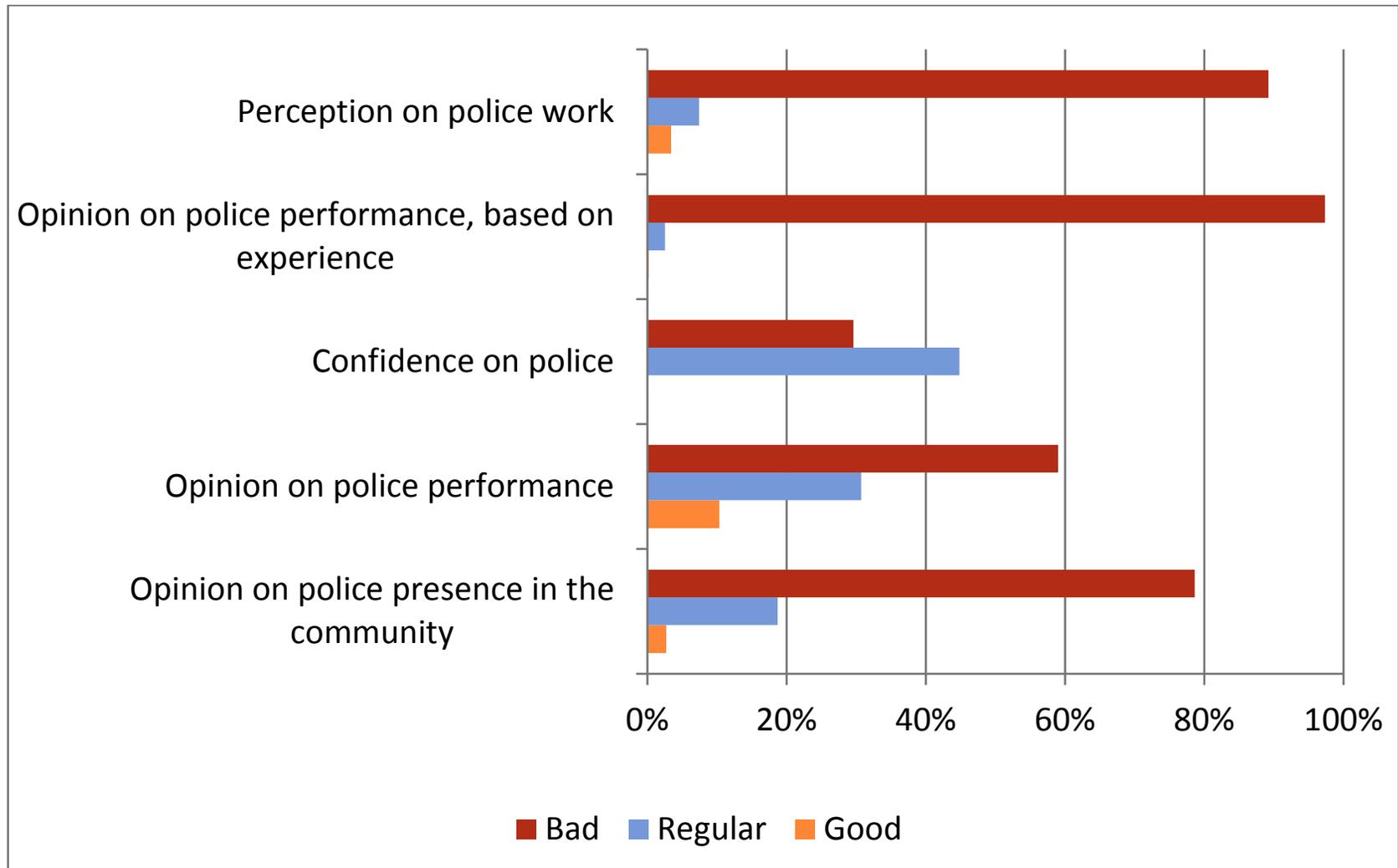


Chart 5a: Opinion about police, in the whole population



## Main findings: Perceptions and opinions about the National Civil Police

On the whole the population interviewed did not have a positive view of the police or the performance and efficacy of the police, since this only scored 31.84 points in the study as a whole. The highest score was in Villa Nueva with 43.6 points, and the lowest – i.e. the most negative view of the police - in Cobán with 19.91 points. Results by categories (e.g., police presence, police performance) showed that with the exception of Villa Nueva and Mixco, less than 3% of respondents have a good opinion of the work of the police in their neighborhoods and, rather, that there is a poor opinion of the police (78.6% for the study as a whole). The communities that expressed the most negative views are Cobán, Esquipulas, Tamahú and Palencia, with figures of 95.3%, 90.9% 84.3% and 82.2%, respectively; a very high percentage of dislike and rejection of the police.

The score of 18.56 reflects the opinion that the police are inactive in communities, something that was particularly evident in Tamahú, Cobán, Esquipulas and Tactic. 89.2% of the sample describe the police as **inactive** (“*poca activa*”). In fact, in 9 of the 11 communities of this study over 90% of respondents described the police as inactive.

A slightly better, but still low opinion of the police was expressed in relation to its work at community level, as this measure had an overall score of 38.22 points. Around 40% of those interviewed describe the work of the police as good or average, which means that 60% rate it as poor. The rating of police work as somewhat effective or average was highest in Tamahú and Villa Nueva, where over 40% of the sample held this slightly more positive view; while over 68% of respondents in Palencia described to police work at community level as being very poor.

A small percentage (9.4%), of those interviewed had had contact with the police in the last 12 with the lowest numbers in San José La Arada, where only 4.2% had done this. Around half of all reports related to nuisance behavior (e.g. fights, noise) and issues affect quality of life. Most cases were denounced by telephone or visits to the local police station.

With respect to the level of confidence in the police expressed by respondents, results show a mean score of 42.79 points for the sample as a whole, something that shows a low opinion. With the exception of San José La Arada (52.04 points), results were consistent for all areas in the study. The highest percentages fell into the category of **somewhat confident** (44.8% of the sample ); with the highest score in this category in Cobán

(52.4%). The highest scores for the category “*limited or no confidence in the police*”, were in Palencia (39.6%); Tamahú, Villa Nueva, Tactic and Esquipulas also showed relatively high levels (over 30%) of ‘limited or no confidence in the police.’

An unfavorable opinion (27.96 points) was expressed about *the performance of the police based on actual experience or contact*, something that was consistent with analysis by categories. The highest percentage – over 90% - of respondents expressed that police performance had been poor. Less than 1% of those interviewed expressed a high level of satisfaction with the performance of the police based on their own experience in the last 12 months.

It is important to note that respondent’s perceptions may not always be an accurate reflection of reality. People denounce more to the police than to any other institution.

The lack of confidence in the police is very high in some places (Tamahú), where there is mistrust of all formal protection services, with the exception of the Volunteer Firefighters (who deal with the consequences of violence and do not investigate them). One does not know if mistrust is felt towards the institution as such or towards the whole protection and justice system – from the capacity of the police to investigate crimes to that of the public prosecutor and judiciary to bring about justice. Certainly improvement in police training, reform and conditions of service could bring about great changes as has been the case, for example in Colombia.<sup>20</sup>

### VI.2.6 Recreation and work for young people

Opinions of respondents about recreation in their communities and the reason for which young people do not work has been summarized in four measured:

- **i18: Presence of recreational facilities in the community.** This was constructed with questions 63, 64 and 65, which ask about the presence of recreational facilities for young people in the community, whether there are enough such spaces, and inquires about the kinds of recreational facilities available in the community: Green spaces, parks, sports fields, parks with play spaces, public lighting, community centers, youth centers and schools. This is measured on a scale from 0 to 100 points, where 100 represents good recreational facilities in the community.
- Respondents were grouped as follows (i19g):

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<sup>20</sup> See for example, Garcia J, Mejia D & Ortega D, Mejia, (2013) *Police Reform, Training and Crime: Experimental Evidence from Colombia's Plan Cuadrantes* (January 28, 2013). Documento CEDE No. 2013-04.

- Believe there are good recreational facilities in the community, when score was 60 points and over
  - Believe there are some recreational facilities in the community, when the score is between 35 and 60 points
  - Believe recreational facilities are poor, when there is a score of less than 35 points
- **i18: Barriers to work by young people.** This was constructed with question 66, relating to barriers and obstacles to work by young people, and asked whether these barriers are important or really not barriers at all. This is measured on a scale from 0 to 100 points, where 100 represents the absence of barriers or obstacles to work.
- Respondents were grouped as follows (i19g):
  - Believe young people face no barriers, when the score is 100
  - Believe young people face few barriers, when the score is between 70 and 99 points
  - Believe young people face many barriers with scores lower than 69

**Table 7: Recreation and work for young people**

(high scores represent better opportunities and are in green; low scores are in yellow)

		Municipality										Total (IC 95%)	
		Cobán	Esquipulas	Guatemala	Mixco	Palencia	San Jacinto	San José	San Juan	Tactic	Tamahú		Villa Nueva
Sample size		400	286	619	207	420	222	286	222	355	286	96	3399
Indicator													
i18	Opportunities for recreation at community level (higher scores indicate better opportunities)	28.36 points	11.32 points	33.83 points	20.21 points	35.97 points	37.06 points	26.57 points	36.93 points	20.12 points	18.00 points	42.33 points	29.31 points (23.4, 35.2)
i18g	Good opportunities	13.5%	1.8%	21.9%	7.7%	17.0%	23.4%	9.8%	21.2%	4.6%	5.6%	31.3%	16.5%
	Some opportunities	30.9%	4.2%	24.2%	14.4%	32.9%	29.7%	22.3%	40.5%	20.8%	15.4%	33.3%	22.0%
	Few or no opportunities	55.6%	94.0%	53.9%	77.8%	50.1%	46.8%	67.9%	38.3%	74.6%	79.0%	35.4%	61.5%
i19	Opinion about barriers and obstacles to work by Young people (higher scores indicate fewer barriers)	23.56 points	14.27 points	10.85 points	13.16 points	7.52 points	10.78 points	8.07 points	11.71 points	12.14 points	19.16 points	19.12 points	11.63 points (8.6, 14.6)
i19g	No barriers for Young people	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	A few barriers	11.5%	3.2%	4.3%	1.5%	2.1%	2.7%	1.1%	2.3%	1.7%	1.0%	4.2%	3.3%
	Many barriers	88.5%	96.8%	95.7%	98.5%	97.9%	97.3%	98.9%	97.7%	98.3%	99.0%	95.8%	96.7%
	Barriers mentioned												
	a. Absence of opportunities for work	92.5%	89.5%	92.7%	97.1%	95.8%	95.9%	94.4%	96.8%	95.6%	94.4%	83.3%	94.2%
	b. Absence of opportunities for training	81.2%	82.9%	90.7%	94.6%	95.8%	91.9%	87.4%	93.7%	95.1%	92.3%	85.4%	91.9%
	c. Absence of support e.g. for childcare or transport	80.9%	77.3%	90.7%	91.6%	94.8%	89.6%	85.7%	90.1%	93.3%	88.1%	82.3%	90.8%
	d. Lack of skills	68.4%	76.6%	87.3%	81.6%	89.5%	88.7%	85.6%	87.8%	80.5%	80.4%	76.0%	85.2%
e. Lack of models for employment in the community	68.5%	74.8%	86.4%	88.6%	91.3%	89.2%	85.0%	82.9%	86.2%	81.8%	79.2%	86.8%	
f. Use of drugs by Young people	87.8%	60.5%	89.4%	84.9%	92.2%	83.3%	73.1%	80.6%	89.1%	76.6%	69.8%	87.4%	
g. Gang membership	70.4%	59.8%	87.6%	81.0%	90.1%	82.4%	73.1%	77.0%	87.9%	75.2%	71.9%	84.8%	

Chart 6: Recreation and work for young people

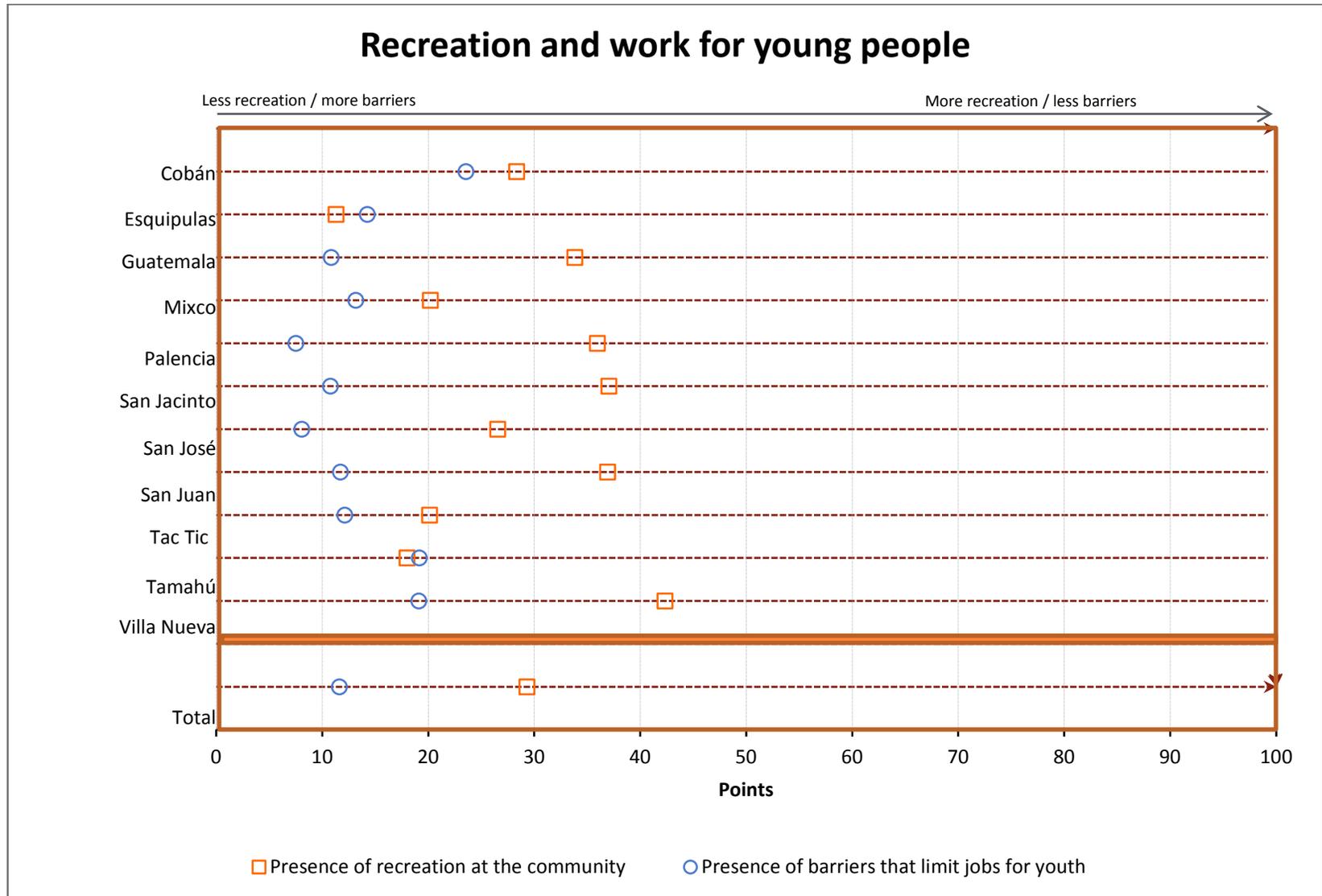
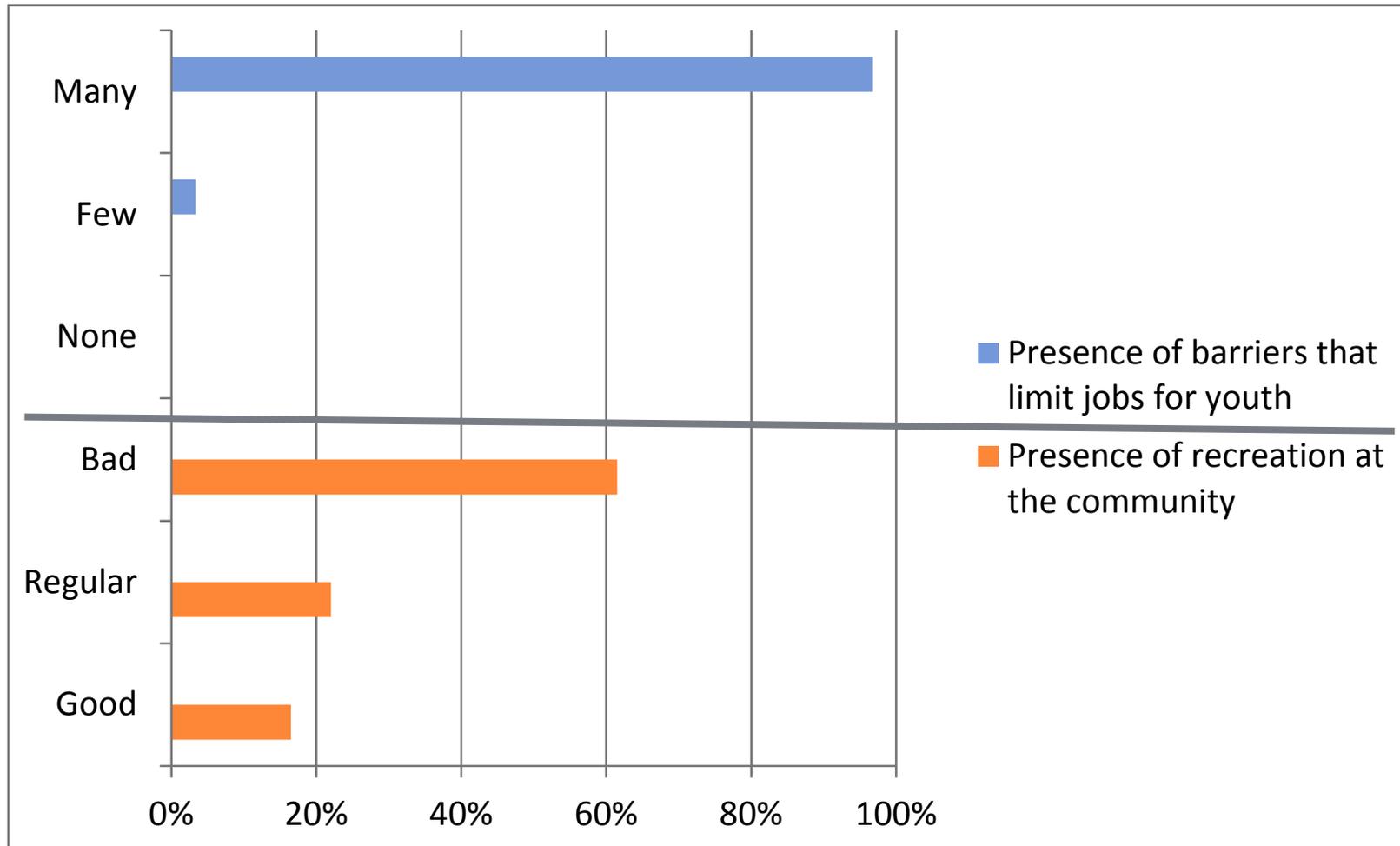


Chart 6a: Recreation and work for young people, in the whole population



Main findings: Opportunities for work and recreation for young people

The score of 29.31 points shows that there is a great gap in opportunities for recreation at community level, which is most evident in Esquipulas, Tamahú, Mixco and Tactic, which have scores of 11.32, 18.00, 20.21 and 20.13, respectively. **“Recreational facilities are poor”**, is the category that has the highest scores, especially in Esquipulas, Tamahú, Mixco and Tactic, with scores of 94.0%, 79.0%, 77.8% and 74.6%, respectively.

With respect to the barriers young people face when it comes to work, the score of 11.63 in the study as a whole shows that the population recognized a considerable number of barriers that impede young people from working and incorporating themselves productively in their society and community, a problem that is evident in all the communities in this study. The majority of respondents believe that young people face a lot of barriers. No respondent suggested that there were no barriers or obstacles for young people who wanted to work, in his or her community. The most widely cited obstacles are the absence of jobs, lack of opportunities for training and lack of childcare support and transport. The use of drugs by young people, membership of gangs and the absence of role models of people with work were also considered barriers or limitations almost as high as the aforementioned ones, by other respondents.

## VII CONCLUSIONS

The baseline from USAID’s Violence Prevention Project shows that:

1. The study shows two apparently contradictory findings: a high proportion of respondents who state that their own community is safe, while at the same time experiencing a sense of threat at a personal level. The reasons for this cannot be ascertained through a purely quantitative study, but show that whatever the objective nature or level of threat the majority of respondents live in a state of insecurity.
2. Again, in contrast with the high reported levels of threat, a relatively low proportion of respondents had experienced extreme victimization in the last 12 months. The contrast

between actual levels of victimization and fear of victimization is raises many questions that would need to be explored using qualitative strategies.

3. Crime is often unreported, particularly in some areas (in particular, Esquipulas, Tactic and Tamahú). There is an urgent need to invest in having a better and professional police service, as well as creating relationships or networks among all bodies tasked with security and justice.
4. Respondents identify multiple causes for the presence of maras. The reported presence of gangs varied greatly, with the highest proportion in the capital city, and no gang activity at all reported in the regions where they live, by a significant proportion of those interviewed. It is known that the nature and scope of gang activity has changed over two or three decades and it may be that in places, gangs are being affected by narcotraffic. Respondents also cite a number of steps that are necessary to address the root causes of gang membership (absence of education, recreation, and opportunities for affiliation into prosocial groups or networks.) As the Project has involved actions to address the social causes of gang membership it is important to see whether these have in fact impact on youth involvement in crime.
5. In spite of the sense of threat, and of recognition of the need for preventive strategies, respondents report few limited community level activity geared at prevention and protection against crime. It is important to promote prevention programs and strengthen protection against crime at community level and evaluate the effectiveness of these programs. Where respondents do report any kind of action to respond to the threat of crime, this tends to be reactive and focused only on personal protection.
6. Respondents report very low levels of satisfaction with the presence and performance of the PNC in their communities. Only 1 per cent of those who had had direct dealings with the PNC in the last 12 months gave a positive account of their experience.
7. There are few and poor opportunities for recreation reported in the communities studies according to respondents. This is of course based on the Perception of respondents and is not an objective result. It would be advisable to identify the actual number and quality of these opportunities.
8. The same is true regarding opportunities for youth to work. Respondents recognize many obstacles for young people's employment, but there is a need for a more objective assessment of obstacles and opportunities.

## VIII LIST OF APPENDICES

All appendices are included in ANEXOS.ZIP.

1. Report on training and fieldwork. Attached file:  
ANEXO 1 Capacitación and Trabajo de Campo.docx
2. Design effects
3. Data analysis plan. Attached file:  
ANEXO 3 Plan de análisis.docx
4. Data collection instruments:
  - a. Instrument used in the first phase of this baseline data collection (38 communities):  
ANEXO 4A Perceptions of Insecurity ESPAÑOL.docx
  - b. **ANEXO 4B** Instrument used in the second phase of this baseline data collection (6 communities):  
Anexo3 boleta informe capacitación.docx
5. Power point presentation. Attached file:Proyecto USAID Prevención de la Violencia.pptx
6. EPI INFO programming to create indicators, data bases with information from all 44 communities, statistical analysis. Documents that can be opened with Word:
  - a. **RTILB38.PGM** Indicators for the 38 communities already interviewed
  - b. **RTILB6.PGM** Indicators for the 6 communities in this project
  - c. **RTILB44.PGM** Integrates data from the 38 communities and 6 communities
  - d. **RTILCLUS.PGM** Creation of a file with standardized variables for cluster analysis
7. Database with attached files: Note: these are within the file named ZIP: RTIDATA.ZIP
  - a. Original files:
    - i. RTILB38.REC Contains information from the first 38 communities
    - ii. RTI.REC Contains information from the 6 additional communities
    - iii. RTIFILT.REC Contains informed consent and demographic data about the person interviewed
  - b. Files with indicators. There are several of these, the ones which contain all the information on the 44 communities are:
    - i. RTICLU44.REC Contains variables for cluster analysis: preg2 preg6a preg6b preg6c preg6d preg7 preg8 preg9 preg10 preg12a preg12b preg12c preg13a preg13b preg13c
    - ii. RTIPNC44.REC Contains indicators:: i12 i12g i13 i13g i14 i14g i15 i15a i15b i15c i15d i15e i15f i15g i15h i16 i16g i17 i17g i17a i17b i17c i17d i17e i17f

- iii. RTIREC44.REC Contains indicators:: i18 i18g i19 i19g i19aa i19ab i19ac i19ad  
i19ae i19af i19ag
  - iv. RTIPRE44.REC Contains indicators:: i8 i8g i8a i8amonto i8b i8bg i8bcant i8c i9  
i9g i10 i10g i11 i11g
  - v. RTIPRO44.REC Contains indicators:: i4 i4g i5 i5g i6 i6g i7a i7b i7c i7d i7e i7f i7g  
i7h i7i
  - vi. RTIVIC44.REC Contains indicators:: i3 i3g i3a i3ag i3b i3c i3cpnc i3cmp i3cpdh  
i3cmun i3cotro
  - vii. RTIPER44.REC Contains indicators: i1 i1g i2 i2g i2a i2ag i2b i2bg
  - viii. RTICAR44.REC Contains indicators: ic1 ic2 ic4
  - ix. RTIPRE44.REC Contains indicators:: i8 i8g i8a i8amonto i8b i8bcant i8c i9 i9g  
i10 i10g i11 i11g
- c. Files with statistical analysis. They end with OUT, and are opened with WORD.

## IX FINAL REFLECTIONS: OTHER POTENTIAL AREAS OF INTEREST TO THE PROJECT

From our expertise in CIENSA: Dr. Anita Schrader McMillan, Social Psychologist, after translation.

July 25, 2013

The Project focuses on recreation, which is in it very important because of the need of young people, especially adolescents, to be part of pro-social groups.

We recommend that in addition to this component, the project makes alliances with organizations that are providing other, essential components to an integrated approach to reduce youth engagement in crime. As the WHO has stated, promising violence prevention strategies address the underlying causes, including low levels of education, incoherent parenting, concentration of poverty, unemployment and social norms that underpin violence.

Among other things, the WHO recommends

- **Encouraging positive family relationships that prevent violence.** These include: parent training on child development, on alternatives to violent disciplinary practices, and in skills for conflict resolution; family focused strategies that have demonstrated effectiveness or show promise in violence prevention; participation of parents in lives of children and adolescents through programmers for school inclusion; and mentoring programs that help adolescents at high risk develop social skills and the capacity to build and maintain relationships.
- **School based violence prevention programmers have positive results.** Personalized strategies that have a demonstrated effect on violence reduction are: preschool enrichment programs (for children aged 3 – 5); social development programs for children aged 6 to 18; the most effective strategies to reduce violence in adolescence focus on shaping attitudes and behaviors around violence in children aged 7 to 9. While inclusive schools programs (which have been introduced to Guatemala) have a proven effect on reduction of adolescent delinquency intervention needs to start in first infancy.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> See: Cepeda (2011) OEA <http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2012/CIDI03577S01.pdf>

- Support adolescents and young people at high risk complete their schooling and make the transition into further education and training for work<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> See: [Howell J 2010](https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/231116.pdf). Gang prevention, an overview of research and programs.  
<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/231116.pdf>