

# Characterization of the Implementation of Law 1801 of 2016 in Manizales: A Socio-Legal and Methodological Analysis



Original Article

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective.** To analyze the characterization of the implementation of Law 1801 of 2016 in Manizales between 2017 and 2021, with a socio-legal and methodological analysis. **Methods.** A mixed research approach was used, which consisted of relating qualitative and quantitative variables such as the social context, the function and activity of the Police regarding the application of fines, and the number of behaviors contrary to coexistence. Surveys and documentary review were applied in six communes, and indicators of coexistence, security, and citizen perception were evaluated. **Results.** The findings evidenced an increase in behaviors contrary to coexistence, police discretion, and challenges in normative appropriation; an increase in behaviors that affect peaceful coexistence as a consequence of different sociocultural factors; scarce collective awareness to build social and institutional ties; individualism that keeps the population detached from the knowledge and approval of general norms, and characterization of the recurrent population in this regard. **Conclusion.** Challenges persist in the appropriation of the norm and its effective application, and the exercise of sanction may not be effective in achieving acceptance and the cultural change required for prevention and the articulation of Police actions within the community.

**Keywords:** coexistence; security; culture of peace; Police; social norm; economic sanction.

## Caracterización de la implementación de la Ley 1801 de 2016 en Manizales: análisis sociojurídico y metodológico

## RESUMEN

**Objetivo.** Analizar la caracterización de la implementación de la Ley 1801 de 2016 en Manizales entre 2017 y 2021, con un análisis sociojurídico y metodológico. **Métodos.** Se empleó un enfoque de investigación mixta, que consistió en relacionar variables cualitativas y cuantitativas tales como el contexto social, la función y actividad de la Policía en cuanto a la aplicación de comparendos y la cantidad de comportamientos contrarios a la convivencia. Se aplicaron encuestas y revisión documental en seis comunas, y se evaluaron indicadores de convivencia, seguridad y percepción ciudadana. **Resultados.** Los hallazgos evidenciaron incremento de conductas contrarias a la convivencia, discrecionalidad policial y retos en la apropiación normativa; aumento de conductas que afectan la convivencia pacífica como consecuencia de los diferentes factores socioculturales; escasa conciencia colectiva para construir vínculos sociales e institucionales; individualismo que mantiene a la población ajena al conocimiento y aprobación de normas generales, y caracterización de la población recurrente al respecto. **Conclusión.** Persisten retos en la apropiación de la norma y su aplicación efectiva, y el ejercicio de sanción puede no ser efectivo para lograr la aceptación y el cambio cultural requerido para la prevención y articulación de acciones de la Policía en la comunidad.

**Palabras clave:** convivencia; seguridad; cultura de paz; Policía; norma social; sanción económica.

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## INTRODUCTION

The interest of the present research arises from the analysis of the implementation of the National Code of Security and Citizen Coexistence (CNSCC) in the city of Manizales during the period 2017–2021, as well as its characterization during this period. The implementation of said regulation in the city of Manizales is evaluated, in the communes of San José, Ciudadela del Norte, Cumanday, Atardeceres, Estación, and Palogrande, in which predominant behaviors that affect the environment and the security of citizens have been evidenced, which in turn are derived from factors such as culture, idiosyncrasy, and the customs of the context.

Manizales was chosen as the place of the object of study taking into account that it is one of the cities in Colombia that has been characterized as one of the most peaceful and where high levels of perception of security are presented, consecutively, in the reports of the Cities Cómo Vamos network, in which comparisons of various capital cities are carried out, among them Bogotá, Quibdó, Cartagena, Cúcuta, Cali, Ibagué, Santa Marta, Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Medellín, Armenia, Pereira, and Manizales. Manizales, during the last five years, has been the city that shows that its population feels the safest, with percentages above 73%; for 2017, 76%; for 2018, it continued in first place in perception of security with 75%; for 2019, 73%; for 2020, 81%; and for 2021 it recorded 74% perception of security, a year in which it decreased compared to the previous ones.

Law 1801 of 2016, known as the CNSCC, is framed within police power, understood as the state faculty to regulate behaviors that affect public order, security, and coexistence (García Parra, 2018). This power, however, is limited by the Constitution and fundamental rights, which generates tensions between citizen security and the protection of individual freedoms. In this context, police discretion emerges as a critical element: while it allows the norm to be adapted to specific situations, it also poses risks of arbitrariness and violation of rights (Castillo and Ayala, 2019). Institutional legitimacy thus becomes a central axis, since the social acceptance of corrective measures depends on their proportionality, transparency, and respect for due process. These categories are articulated with recent debates on punitive populism and the role of the social rule of law in the management of security (Ortega, 2019; Prada Méndez, 2021), which requires an analysis that goes beyond normative description to evaluate the effectiveness, equity, and sustainability of the implementation of the code in local scenarios.

Recent studies present the need for the implementation of the code with socio-legal and urban planning approaches (Madrid Garcés, 2024; Vivas Buitrago, 2023; Pacherres Ruiz, 2024). These works analyze normative validity and institutional challenges in local contexts, providing categories such as effectiveness and legitimacy to achieve its effective implementation, and in turn the importance of strengthening culture and citizen co-responsibility.

In this sense, in the present study not only are the figures of citations generated for alleged offenders or those involved due to infractions of the mentioned articles observed, but also the impact on the reparation of the damages caused by the author of the offense, since to the extent that citizens behave better, fewer citations will be generated, which may signify a true advance in the implementation of the CNSCC in the city of Manizales.

Therefore, the objective of this study was to analyze the implementation of Law 1801 of 2016 in Manizales, through a socio-legal and methodological analysis that allows identifying the impact of the norm on the reality of coexistence in the city.

## METHODS

This study was developed under a mixed descriptive design with a descriptive approach, simultaneously integrating qualitative and quantitative phases to guarantee methodological triangulation (Hernández Sampieri et al., 2018). The choice of this design responds to the need to characterize the implementation of Law 1801 in Manizales and to evaluate its impact from multiple dimensions. The quantitative phase included the application of 197 surveys in six communes (San José, Ciudadela del Norte, Cumanday, Atardeceres, Estación, and Palogrande), selected for presenting the highest rates of behaviors contrary to coexistence according to the National Registry of Corrective Measures (RNMC-PONAL). The sampling was considered non-probabilistic of an intentional type, supported by criteria of prevalence and accessibility, which is justified by the exploratory nature of the study and territorial focus. Quantitative data are expressed numerically to analyze knowledge of the main behaviors contrary to coexistence. As it is a non-experimental type, data were taken only as statistical reference and not as personal information.

### Population and sample

For the present study, the population object of intervention was taken as the inhabitants of the communes of the city of Manizales, specifically the commune that presented the highest number of records of behaviors contrary to coexistence. In this sense, reference is made to the U.S. theory of “broken windows”, in which, according to García Perilla and Devia Garzón (2018), several countries have adopted codes of conduct to manage the improvement of police activity in their legitimate use of force in order to exercise adequate social control. Likewise, in recent decades, codes of ethics and rules of conduct have been created and reformed to inspect police activity in daily practice and to materialize the functions of agents of social order in a mechanism of reaction, mediation, and reparation of offenses against public order (Trindade and Grossi, 2011).

The population defined for the research corresponded to the inhabitants of communes 2, 5, 6, and 12 of the city of Manizales, located in the central-western region of Colombia. The total population in each commune was as follows: San José (commune 2) with 25,676 inhabitants; Ciudadela del Norte and Nuevo Horizonte (communes 5 and 12) with 63,224 inhabitants; and Ecotourism Cerro de Oro (commune 6) with 36,640 inhabitants. The selection of the sample was based on a police report that raised concern due to its highlighted data by presenting the highest rates of behaviors contrary to coexistence, as well as the expertise and knowledge of the researchers and prevention and citizen education managers. The defined sample evaluated 197 diagnoses (surveys), which represents 0.001% of the city's population. A simple random sampling type (SRS) was used due to the large and heterogeneous population.

### Variables and data collection instruments

The study establishes as an analysis variable the most recurrent behaviors contrary to coexistence; likewise, it classifies the age range of offenders, their academic level, and other labor aspects as variables to be measured. The survey was used as a measurement instrument, and an institutional diagnostic format was also employed.

The main instrument defined by the research was a structured questionnaire, validated through expert review and pilot testing, and organized into thematic blocks: (i) knowledge of Law 1801, (ii) perception of security and coexistence, and (iii) sociodemographic characterization. Each block included indicators associated with dimensions such as frequency of behaviors, age range, educational level, and institutional perception. Data

collection was complemented with documentary review of police reports, crime statistics, and administrative records.

## Techniques and procedures for data collection

The techniques used for the study corresponded to documentary review, and crime and operational statistics data from the Manizales Police Station and from the strategic analysis rooms of the National Police were verified, as well as institutional reports of behaviors contrary to coexistence and the Manizales *Cómo Vamos* perception survey. Data collection was carried out by seven professionals and fifty students who conducted the survey application exercise in the neighborhoods of the mentioned communes. The teams previously received training and guidance regarding the application of the instrument.

## Data analysis

The interpretation of the data was carried out through descriptive statistics, performing the characterization of the data on themselves; no software typology was used for analysis. The research had the approval of the institution's Research Committee, where the topic and its development were approved. According to the above, the application of mixed research is timely to advance applied work through implementation evaluation, based on three fundamental aspects: (1) identifying the behaviors contrary to coexistence and citizen security most common in the city of Manizales, (2) classifying in which population range this type of behavior is generated, and (3) characterizing the phenomenon in the city.

The mixed research approach is defined, in which elements of qualitative research and the quantitative approach are taken. Elements are taken from the documentary review of existing regulations associated with the research topic, as well as the data available in relation to the application of citations for behaviors contrary to coexistence. Data are expressed numerically, referring to knowledge of the main behaviors contrary to coexistence that have been recorded in the city of Manizales, as well as the type of behavior established in the decree. The prevailing approach is descriptive because it makes inferences about actions, languages, and relevant facts and places them according to the broader social context (Martínez, 2011, p. 11). In the present study, this corresponds to the social spaces in which criminal acts by adolescents occur most frequently.

As a data collection technique, technical documentary review was used, which fundamentally depends on the information obtained on a given topic. This material used as a reference source provides research or bears witness to a reality (Hernández Sampieri et al., 2018). The identified problems are supported through the documentary tool called crime and operational statistics of the Manizales Police Station, prepared by the Seccional Police Strategic Information Center (CIEPS) of the Metropolitan Police of Manizales (MEMAZ); the presentation of behaviors contrary to coexistence prepared by the same police unit; and the results of the 2021 security perception survey conducted by the entity Manizales *Cómo Vamos*. The interpretation of quantitative and qualitative information was used to support the analysis.

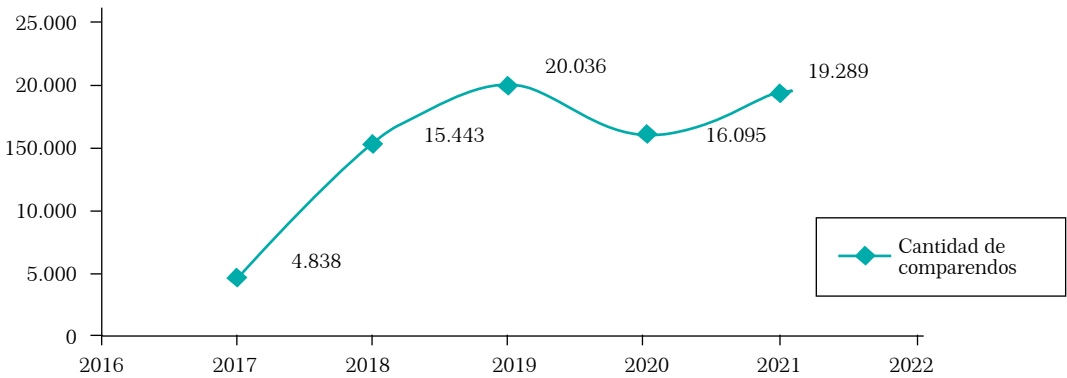
## Ethical aspects

The methodological design was oriented toward implementation evaluation, incorporating criteria defined a priori regarding the effectiveness of normative application. In this sense, its development is explained: effectiveness (degree of compliance with the objectives of the norm), efficiency (relationship between resources and results of normative applicability), equity (impact on different population groups; therefore, age ranges are proposed), and sustainability (feasibility of continuity over time, according to the effectiveness of fulfilling the purpose for which it was created).

RESULTS

The graph shows an increase in records of behaviors contrary to coexistence, which to some extent may be attributable to greater appropriation of the law and knowledge of the reporting procedure on the part of the general population, who, in some cases, are the ones who inform police personnel of the situation; in other cases, it is the police personnel who identify them directly and carry out the procedure. At the same time, some behaviors contrary to coexistence that are recurrent among citizens are evidenced. These, in order of registration in the system according to their recurrence, are presented below (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1**  
*Number of citations for behaviors contrary to coexistence recorded in Manizales during the five years of implementation of Law 1801*



In the table, the records of behaviors contrary to coexistence in Manizales are evidenced. Those with the highest prevalence and that affect integrity and the care of public space are presented. The application of Law 1801 focused especially on Article 27, which sanctions behaviors that have an impact on generating risk to life, for a total of 11,474 citations associated with the carrying of weapons, such as sharp objects and reduced-lethality blank firearms, and 1,306 for fights or violent confrontations. In second place, Article 140 is recorded, which refers to the care of public space, with a record of 6,284, of which 2,830 correspond to carrying prohibited substances and 2,076 to consuming such substances in spaces such as educational centers and parks, and 1,378 for consuming in places of cultural interest (see Table 1).

On the other hand, if the classification by age range of the population to whom the highest number of citations for behaviors contrary to coexistence were recorded is observed, it can be evidenced that young people between eighteen and twenty-nine years of age are those who present the greatest number of behaviors contrary to coexistence, this being the highest record with 50,894 behaviors, followed by adults thirty years of age and older with 23,292 behaviors and, finally, minors between fourteen and seventeen years of age with 1,515 citations for violations of coexistence norms (see Table 3). In this sense, the concentration of corrective measures in the young population (eighteen to twenty-nine years), associated with the carrying and consumption of substances (Art. 140), generates a risk of focusing service activities on individual behaviors in public space, with respect to situations of greater impact such as resolving coexistence conflicts; at the same time, this generates an impact on the image of the police service by violating the free development of personality established in the CPC, as well as in different court rulings, prioritizing sanction over the

**Table 1**  
*Table of the most frequent behaviors contrary to coexistence recorded during the five years of validity of Law 1801 of 2016 in the city of Manizales*

Description		Years and number of behaviors				
Article	Item	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Art. 27. Behaviors that put life and integrity at risk.	Item 6. Carrying weapons, cutting or piercing elements or similar items, or dangerous substances, in common areas or places open to the public.	1196	4648	5259	4152	7827
Art. 140. Behaviors contrary to the care and integrity of public space.	Item 7. Consuming prohibited substances in stadiums, coliseums, sports centers, parks, hospitals, health centers, and, in general, in public space.	1344	4174	2708	311	36
Art. 140. Behaviors contrary to the care and integrity of public space.	Item 8. Carrying prohibited substances in public space.	320	1824	3109	1057	1622
Art. 35. Behaviors that affect relations between people and the authorities.	Item 2. Failing to comply with, disobeying, disregarding, or obstructing the police function or order.	80	426	315	4387	1156
Art. 27. Behaviors that put life and integrity at risk.	Item 1. Fighting, inciting, or engaging in violent confrontations that may result in physical aggression.	380	1186	1579	934	827
Art. 140. Behaviors contrary to the care and integrity of public space.	Item 13. Consuming, carrying, distributing, offering, or commercializing psychoactive substances, including the personal dose, within the perimeter of educational centers; also inside sports centers, and in parks.	0	0	31	419	1393
Art. 35. Behaviors that affect relations between people and the authorities.	Item 1. Disrespecting police authorities.	166	448	345	193	121
Art. 95. Behaviors that affect the security of people and their property related to mobile terminal equipment.	Item 1. Buying, renting, or using mobile terminal equipment reported as stolen and/or lost in the negative database referred to in Article 106 of Law 1453 of 2011.	112	427	395	139	43

comprehensive approaches of care required in these cases, which are directly associated with the individual’s mental health; but which, at the same time, produce constant demands by citizens on the police service (see Table 2).

**Table 2**  
*Number of behaviors contrary to coexistence recorded by localities or communes during the five years of validity of Law 1801*

Locality/Commune	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total 5 years
C-2 San José	1082	2669	3818	2677	5251	15 497
C-5 Ciudadela del Norte	539	2990	3878	4827	1845	14 079
C-3 Cumanday	377	1677	2140	1275	1864	7333
C-1 Atardeceres	659	1617	1713	1341	1604	6934
C-4 Estación	646	949	1520	677	887	4679
C-8 Palogrande	425	1440	1386	745	578	4574

Likewise, an analysis was conducted regarding the status of said fines established in the decree. In this sense, it is found that, as of the date of the analysis of the information in October 2021, with respect to the five years mentioned, 48,731 were recorded, which represents 32% of behaviors contrary to coexistence “in process,” a situation that implies



that they were in the collection of evidence and verification by police inspectors to determine whether the imposition of the sanction would be ratified. In second place, 43,960 citations, which represent 29% of the total, were recorded as “closed,” that is, during the collection of evidence it was decided not to impose them by the police inspector or they had already been paid by the persons on whom they were imposed. In third place, the impose or ratify category is found, with 42,132, which represent 28%; in this case, the police inspector ratifies the measure. In fourth place, those cases in which it is decided not to impose the measure are recorded, for 7,746 cases, with 5%; through the evidence and the hearing, the inspector decides not to impose the measure. In fifth place are the measures by commuted payment, that is, those that were fulfilled through the development of a pedagogical activity or participation in a course or program, in the case of type 1 and 2 fines. In sixth place, with 1,478, are those that present noncompliance, with 1,478, which represent a percentage of 1%; in 1,279 cases the total payment of the imposition of the measure is evidenced; likewise, with 1,127 (see Table 3).

**Table 3**  
*Number of behaviors contrary to coexistence of Law 1801 of 2016 classified by age range recorded in the city of Manizales*

Age range	Number of B. C. C. 2017–2021
Young people from 18 to 29 years	50 894
Adults from 30 years onwards	23 292
Adolescents from 14 to 17 years	1515

On the other hand, it was found that the greatest number of measures are imposed on weekends, attributable to the commercial nighttime activities carried out in different areas. Thus, for Sunday, 15,356 records are evidenced; for Saturday, 13,626; and the day on which they occur least is Monday, with 8,791 out of a total of 75,701. Regarding the time periods in which there is a greater number of behaviors contrary to coexistence, there are 5:00 p.m. with 6,152 records; in second place, 6,071 are recorded in the 6:00 p.m. time slot; and, in third place, in the 4:00 p.m. time slot (see Table 4).

**Table 4**  
*Status of behaviors contrary to coexistence of Law 1801 of 2016, with respect to their imposition*

Status/description	Quantity
In process	48 731
Closed	43 960
Impose or ratify measure	42 132
Do not impose measure	7746
Commuted payment–course/program	4301
Non-compliance	1478
Total payment	1279
Discount for prompt payment	1127
Not applicable	123
Payment with discount under Law 2069 of 2020–Art. 29	10
Payment with a 75% discount for prompt payment and community program or pedagogical activity	4

The implementation of Law 1801 has gone through different stages in its development. The first stage corresponded to the training process of uniformed personnel, aimed at efficiency and compliance with due process as legitimized by the National Code of Security and Citizen Coexistence (CNSCC), conceptual mastery of police authority and police activity, as well as pedagogical action in the civil sphere for dissemination and public outreach between the period of enactment in 2016 and 2017. This stage sought to educate citizens about police mechanisms, corrective measures, and the unified police procedure, as well as to train police personnel for its proper implementation.

It can be stated that, progressively, the increase in the imposition of measures resulted from greater appropriation of the regulation in its applicability within police service and from citizen oversight to ensure compliance. Initially, the number of measures increased from 4,838 in 2017 to 19,289 in 2021, attributable to the transition from the pedagogical stage to the enforcement stage of the regulation, which involved the imposition of fines.

The results show a particularity in 2019, a year in which a higher number of measures was imposed compared to the rest of the observed period. Likewise, at the time when the pandemic was declared in Colombia (March 2020), there was no significant increase compared to previous years. Contrary to what might be expected, although restrictions on citizens' freedom of movement were implemented to prevent contagion, there was no increase in the number of citations issued.

The implementation of the CNSCC through the issuance of citations as a means to correct violations of legal duties led to a second stage related to the perception of discretionary police action. According to a study conducted by Castillo and Ayala (2019), Law 1801 was applied with a certain degree of discretion. Police service faced the dilemma of applying the regulation strictly, adhering to what is explicitly stated in the code, or, alternatively, flexibly adapting it according to context and situations affecting coexistence. Initially, this situation generated circumstances of opposition and hostility between some enforcement agents and citizens due to confrontational verbal procedures and the lack of acceptance of responsibility by the public, as well as fractures in social dynamics caused by arbitrary actions, such as the cumulative imposition of fines and the authoritarian practices adopted by police service in an effort to fulfill its functions and the objectives of the law.

According to Mena (2017), this issue of police discretion becomes much broader when interpretative judgments are made regarding the application of regulations, deriving from a lack of knowledge of police procedures, the structure of the code, and behaviors contrary to coexistence on the part of both authorities and citizens. In this regard, it was found that, out of 150,891 cases, in 28% of them the inspector ratified the measure imposed on the citizen by the police officer, having found sufficient evidentiary elements to support such a decision. Likewise, in cases where the inspector decided not to impose the measure—possibly attributable to inadequate procedural development or the absence of sufficient elements to justify it—this represented 5% of the total measures imposed over the five-year period. According to Article 131, the police inspector may order expert evidence. In this sense, highly relevant aspects arise that are not specified from a legal standpoint and are related to police discretion, as well as to the effectiveness of the regulation and the practice of expert evidence.

This period of discretion prompted the police institution to strengthen the implementation of the CNSCC with a cultural and pedagogical approach in which the norms and values of police service and citizenship are shared, fostering collective identity. In this way, a social fabric is built aimed at ensuring governance, security, and community well-being, since the imposition of economic sanctions for behaviors contrary to coexistence does not guarantee



a reduction in unlawful actions that disrupt coexistence and personal integrity (Ortega, 2019). This element of shared responsibility is essential for understanding the regulation and promoting civic culture. Thus, for the National Police of Colombia, the function of enforcing compliance with citizens' duties is articulated with the formation of a civil police officer guided by moral principles, which progressively transforms the authoritarian tradition of the 1990s and the first decade of the 21st century into a more approachable trend based on respect and justice. This is especially relevant in Colombia's transitional context of peace, with diverse forms of expression and communication highlighting the importance of achieving social harmony through self-regulation, solidarity, cohesion, and collective duty (Congote Ochoa, 2003).

## DISCUSSION

### Norms for Coexistence in the South American Context

Violence and antisocial behavior in the main metropolitan areas of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, and Argentina have, in recent years, demanded the creation and strengthening of public policies for security and citizen coexistence that involve the transformation of police institutions. The social dynamics of the 21st century require intermediary, negotiating, and conciliatory agents with leadership competencies, self-regulation, and moral integrity. In the South American context, the following are the main regulatory frameworks that seek to guarantee conflict resolution, prevent behaviors that escalate into the judicial sphere, and restore trust and credibility in the regulatory actions of police officers.

According to Bernal Ballesteros (2019), it is insufficient to design legal instruments aimed at preventing social violence or uncivil behavior without an ethical code focused on ensuring that police activity within society is both efficient and effective. Carrión (2002) notes that since the 1980s and 1990s, crime has intensified in Latin America and the Caribbean, along with various coexistence-related factors affecting urban and rural settings. Thus, both legal instruments aimed at promoting peaceful, harmonious coexistence with good civic habits and police ethical systems are fundamental to the execution of police procedures for conflict resolution, the application of pedagogical measures, and the prevention of criminal conduct. In this way, police service is recognized as a guarantor of respect, a mediator, and a promoter of dialogue that leads to effective solutions between conflicting parties.

In the case of the neighboring country of Peru, the administrative and police misdemeanor code regulates offenses against coexistence and social order. Its provisions address interventions related to abandoning vehicles on public roads, circulating with dangerous animals without adopting established safety measures, destroying or removing traffic signs, preventing others from attending public performances, performing physiological needs in public spaces, publicly displaying firearms, and altering turn-taking or order of entry to events. The purpose of the code is to protect the legal interests of individuals and society, promoting peaceful and harmonious coexistence, and safeguarding the environment, mutual respect, and social development (Organic Law of the National Police of Peru, 1999).

Uruguay has Law No. 19,120, entitled Offenses and the Conservation and Care of Public Spaces, which establishes sanctions for offenses and damage to public spaces. These include public intoxication, instigating begging, littering, participating in unauthorized vehicle competitions, vandalism, performing physiological needs in urban and suburban public spaces, and sleeping in public areas. The objective of the regulation is to eradicate behaviors that alter, disturb, or harm citizen coexistence (Law 19,120, 2013).

Argentina regulates coexistence through the Misdemeanor Code under Law 1472 (2021) of the respective province. In its second book, it identifies behaviors subject to sanctions such as fines, community service, and even arrest, including fighting in public places, throwing harmful substances in public spaces, inciting animals, obstructing mobility, providing pornographic material to minors, discrimination, disturbing graves, unauthorized car guarding, offering or soliciting sex in public spaces, and obstructing public performances.

In the case of Costa Rica, coexistence is approached from a broader perspective, as the country does not have an army. Consequently, in 2013 a National Human Development Report entitled *Learning to Live Together: Coexistence and Human Development in Costa Rica* was published (United Nations Development Programme, 2013). This report proposes that coexistence should be based on dialogue, trust, and solidarity, and understood as an interpersonal and social dynamic that allows individuals to feel part of society and enjoy human rights. However, no specific regulatory body was identified. Nonetheless, the report establishes guidelines for shared living, interpersonal relationships, and more complex social bonds.

Santiago de Chile relies on general legal frameworks such as the Penal Code and the Civil Code. Both include regulations related to social behavior and serve as a general framework for municipal ordinances. The city has a particular characteristic: it is composed of several municipalities that have gradually been incorporated into the capital, causing coexistence norms to be reflected at the national level. This group of municipalities is known as Greater Santiago. Regulations address issues such as the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages (Law 19,925, art. 41), as well as offenses related to public order disturbances, care of public-use property, and damage to private property (Penal Law, arts. 495 and 496) (Civil Code, 2000).

## Citizen Coexistence

Coexistence is the creed of institutionalized reciprocity and the guarantor of respect for rights among individuals, where justice plays an inclusive and forward-looking role within the social conglomerate. This aligns with the continuous pursuit of economic, social, cultural, and political development among communities geographically divided within a State. According to Páramo and Burbano (2019), coexistence consists of a set of indispensable conditions that allow individuals to fully enjoy their rights, highlighting the importance of social cohesion.

## Citizen Security

According to Acero (2021), an expert in public security, some countries prioritize national security policies and the consolidation of public forces that guarantee state sovereignty, while neglecting local security, which is responsible for countering crime and violence to achieve healthy coexistence. For this reason, the preamble of the Political Constitution of Colombia establishes as one of its objectives ensuring citizen coexistence within a legal, democratic, and participatory framework. It also emphasizes citizens' duties and obligations in the responsible exercise of constitutional rights and freedoms, which implies the prevalence of social values, respect for differences, and appropriate civic behavior.

Thus, Law 1801 of 2016, the current CNSCC enacted under the police power granted to Congress, repealed Decree Law 1355 of 1970. It was introduced within a context of reforms aimed at overcoming the armed conflict and transitioning toward peace, seeking citizen appropriation and compliance. Accordingly, Law 2000 of 2019 introduced an article stating: "The title of the National Police and Coexistence Code shall henceforth read: 'By which

the National Code of Security and Citizen Coexistence is issued,' and this change shall apply throughout all articles of the law where such expression appears." This aimed to improve public understanding that citizen coexistence entails shared responsibility between authorities and citizens, both in complying with regulations and in their educational role toward new generations and support for authorities in enforcing the law (Atenasio, 2019; Barrios, 2019; Burbano, 2009; Echeverri et al., 2019; Gómez & Baracaldo, 2007; Paz, 2009).

This law contains categories associated with coexistence, security, tranquility, the environment, and public health, and establishes the duty of inhabitants to behave in ways that promote coexistence while avoiding behaviors contrary to it. It also sets sanctions for noncompliance. However, this new code introduced discretionary power for law enforcement officers in procedural decision-making. In this context, the city of Manizales was selected as the object of study, considering citizen security perception surveys and *Cómo Vamos* reports, which have shown security perception levels above 70% over the past four years, higher than other cities included in the study.

The findings of the research reveal gaps between the preventive spirit underlying Law 1801 and its practical application. Its high incidence in citations related to public space and substance consumption, contrasted with a low collection rate (only 1%), limits the development of the pedagogical activities suggested by the law itself. In this sense, critiques of punitive policies are reaffirmed, highlighting the symbolic effectiveness of norms but their material inefficiency. Furthermore, although implementation initially generated disruptions due to lack of regulatory knowledge, misunderstanding, and a negative public image of the National Police, particularly regarding officer discretion evidence shows that corrective measures were ultimately ratified by police inspectors.

Regarding the effectiveness of fines in promoting citizen culture and the effectiveness of citation management in improving civic behavior, these outcomes are not clearly observable from the available data. Comparative analyses with other cities would be required to verify such effects. Ideally, the application of sanctions would be unnecessary, and appropriate conduct based on respect in social interactions and recognition of shared responsibility, as proposed by Palomo and Gallego (2023) would be essential to ensure effective implementation.

Finally, police discretion exercised through the imposition of fines, as opposed to other pedagogical tools, results in enforcement centered on economic sanctions. This has implications for fundamental rights, particularly when financial burdens are imposed on population groups that largely consist of young individuals without the capacity to pay and who also lack access to mediation mechanisms. This situation generates a cycle of stigmatization of specific population groups and undermines the development of citizen culture, directly affecting institutional legitimacy, which is indispensable for guaranteeing security.

## CONCLUSIONS

A sustained increase in the imposition of citations was observed, initially with 4,838 and culminating in 2021 with 19,289, which reflects not only police activity, but also the understanding and appropriation of the regulation by citizens, as well as the exhaustion of the initial pedagogical stages. The gap between the imposition of the measures and effective collection, with a payment rate of 1% and 32% under process, functions as symbolic control, but without coercive force in administrative and economic terms.

The highest number of citations is concentrated in Article 27 (carrying bladed weapons and fights), and the second axis focuses on the consumption and carrying of substances in public places, especially in the year 2021. With regard to the sociodemographic impact, it is noted that individuals between eighteen and twenty-nine years of age are the main recipients of the measures (more than 500,000 records). Concern arises regarding the payment capacity of this population and issues related to the development of personality, as well as the institutional image with respect to this age range. At the same time, it is evident how the coexistence phenomenon is not uniform in the city; the San José district and Ciudadela del Norte concentrate the operational activity.

Although 5% is dismissed by inspectors, authoritarianism is perceived with respect to its imposition, contrary to the police mission of being more civil, close, and proactive in order to avoid fractures in the social fabric. The results of the research demonstrate that the economic sanction is not sufficient, nor does it guarantee the strengthening of civic culture, which makes it indispensable to establish parallel processes of co-responsibility, as well as mediation and co-responsibility exercises, which are currently undervalued in relation to the fine. The analysis of the data shows that the phenomena occur primarily at night and on weekends, at times after 4:00 p.m., an aspect that denotes planning of the police service in correspondence with this need.

#### Authorship contribution

OEFR: data curation, methodology.

MLGB: formal analysis, original draft writing.

CAHO: project administration.

JDGV: resources, funding acquisition.

LVBV: writing, review, and editing.

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#### Conflict of interest statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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