



# STAYING SAFE: COMMUNITY PREVENTION IN LIMA



Citizen insecurity is one of the most serious challenges facing families in Lima today. According to recent data from INEI (National Institute of Statistics and Informatics), over

**26%** of the urban population aged 15 and above have been victims of a crime, mainly street theft.

VICTIMS OF CRIME IN URBAN AREAS  
(POPULATION AGED 15 AND ABOVE)



Source: INEI – National Household Survey on Citizen Security, 2023

While local authorities work to improve public safety, neighborhood communities can also take active, preventive steps to protect themselves and foster a culture of prevention.

## BUILD STRONG COMMUNITY NETWORKS



Studies show that organized neighborhood watch groups can reduce local criminal incidents by up to

**30%.**

Residents can share useful safety updates through messaging groups and report suspicious activity to the police or *Serenazgo* immediately. Communication and unity are essential tools for community prevention.

## PRACTICE SAFETY AT HOME AND IN PUBLIC SPACES

### AT HOME



Lock your doors and windows properly, even when leaving for short periods.



Install proper lighting outside your house to deter potential criminals, as bright areas make illegal activities much harder to hide.

### IN PUBLIC SPACES



Stay alert. Avoid displaying expensive personal items, such as laptops or smartphones, especially on public transport or late at night.



Plan your routes in advance and choose well-lit streets whenever possible.



Street crime cannot be eliminated overnight, but individual responsibility and collective action can significantly reduce risks. By working together and adopting preventive habits, citizens in Lima can build safer neighborhoods.



## Reading Comprehension

1. According to INEI statistics mentioned in the text, what percentage of the urban population aged 15 and above have been crime victims?
  - A) Over 15%
  - B) Over 26%
  - C) Exactly 30%
  - D) Around 50%
2. By how much can organized neighborhood watch groups reduce local criminal incidents?
  - A) Up to 15%
  - B) Up to 26%
  - C) Up to 30%
  - D) Up to 50%

3. **What preventive action must families take at home, even when leaving for short periods?**
- A) Turn off all external lights.
  - B) Leave windows open for ventilation.
  - C) Lock their doors and windows properly.
  - D) Stay inside without answering the door.
4. **What should students avoid showing when using public transport or walking late at night?**
- A) Expensive items like laptops or smartphones.
  - B) Their student IDs and notebooks.
  - C) House keys and printed maps.
  - D) Bus tickets and coins.
5. **Why does the author include statistical data from INEI and neighborhood studies in the text?**
- A) To prove that crime in Lima has been completely solved by local police.
  - B) To support the main argument with real evidence and highlight the urgency of prevention.
  - C) To convince students to move to safer cities outside Lima.
  - D) To demonstrate that installing lights is the only way to reduce theft.
6. **What can be inferred about the impact of community organization compared to individual actions?**
- A) Individual actions are useless, so only government policies can protect citizens.
  - B) Individual security habits and collective community efforts complement each other to effectively lower crime rates.
  - C) Neighborhood watch groups only work if everyone buys expensive security cameras.
  - D) Crime rates will drop automatically without requiring residents to communicate with each other.
7. **How does this information about crime change the way you stay safe every day? Justify your answer in 2-3 sentences using modal verbs (*should, must, can*).**
8. **Evaluate the effectiveness of organized neighborhood watch groups reducing crime by up to 30%. Is this strategy feasible in your own neighborhood in Lima? Why or why not? Justify your answer in 2-3 sentences.**