

**THE MOST DANGEROUS
CITIES IN THE WORLD //**
2018

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The Most Dangerous Cities in the World // 2018

Individuals traveling overseas often check the [travel advisories](#) from the Department of State prior to traveling to unfamiliar countries to determine if additional safety precautions must be taken or if specific areas or regions ought to be avoided. The State Department also offers a convenient [color-coded map](#) to provide guidance to travelers.

It is true that danger can be found anywhere; nevertheless, certain cities – including some in the United States – pose increased risks for encountering danger or becoming the victim of a crime (especially a violent crime). The Mexican thinktank, The Citizens' Council for Public Security, yearly, creates a list of the most violent cities in the world (excluding combat zones). In recent years, despite concerted efforts by public authorities, more than most of the cities present on the Citizens' Council's list were in Latin America with Brazil, Mexico, and Venezuela. Much of violence in Latin America is attributed to drug and gang related violence and poverty that has – especially in Venezuela's case – been [fueled by a total economic collapse](#). Indeed, Caracas is the second most dangerous city in the world, and, in recent years, has often ranked as the most dangerous city; the city had more than 130 homicides per 100,000 residents.

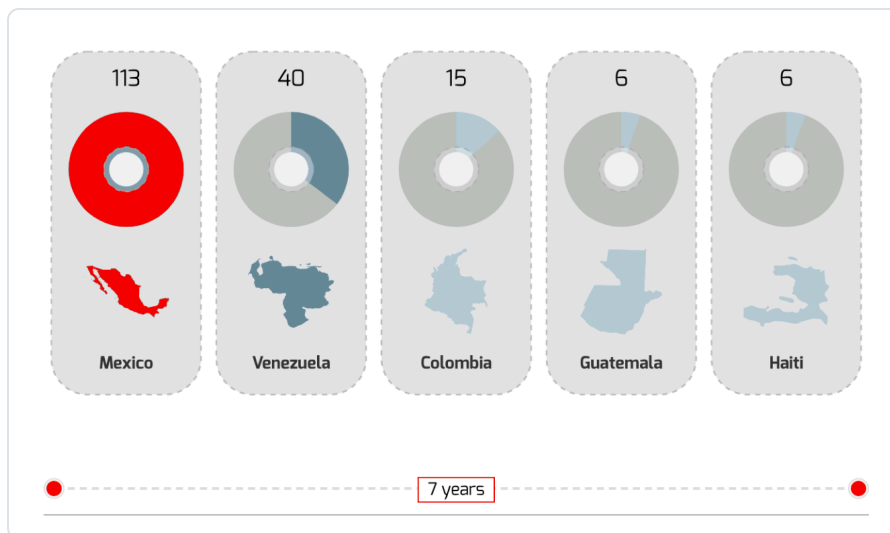
Outside of Latin America, four cities in the United States made the list of the world's most dangerous – Baltimore, St. Louis, Detroit, and New Orleans; in South Africa three cities – Cape Town, Durban, and Nelson

Mandela Bay also made the list. It is believed that the high crime rates are related to unemployment and racism.

Mexico, which has been plagued by an upsurge in violence since former president Felipe Calderon (2006-2012) launched an [ambitious and highly confrontational battle](#) against the drug cartels. The growth in violence has been so strong that in 2015 only 5 Mexican cities made the list; in 2017 there were 12 (Mexico was more than one-fifth of the list). [The Citizens' Council, the authors of the ranking, attributed Mexico's prominence in the list to the high-levels of both gang violence and impunity from prosecution](#) which provides criminal gangs and private militias with the means to act without a strong fear of being apprehended let alone prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The biggest commonalities that can be found amongst the cities listed – including those within the United States – are not simply high levels of poverty for, if that were the case, a large number of cities in Asia and Africa would be represented – but high levels of inequality coupled with corrupted or ineffective institutions to support a common civil society. To borrow from the social sciences, countries featured prominently on the list are low trust societies. Such societies tend, due to low levels of trust, to encounter difficulties building the civil society necessary to control crime overall and, specifically, well-organized crime syndicates that act as de-facto political entities. It is likely that the trend for such low trust societies to dominate the list will continue until or unless political and civil reforms occur that address the root causes of the high homicide rates.

TOP 5 COUNTRIES IN LATAM WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF KIDNAPPED VICTIMS KILLED // 2012 - 2018



City rank

RANK	CITY	COUNTRY	HOMICIDE RATE (PER 100,000)
1	Los Cabos	Mexico	111.33
2	Caracas	Venezuela	111.19
3	Acapulco	Mexico	106.63
4	Natal	Brazil	102.56
5	Tijuana	Mexico	100.77
6	La Paz	Bolivia	84.79
7	Fortaleza	Brazil	83.48
8	Ciudad Victoria	Mexico	83.32
9	Ciudad Guayana	Venezuela	80.28
10	Belem	Brazil	71.38
11	Vitoria da Conquista	Brazil	70.26

RANK	CITY	COUNTRY	HOMICIDE RATE (PER 100,000)
12	Culiacan	Mexico	70.1
13	St. Louis	United States	65.83
14	Maceio	Brazil	63.94
15	Cape Town	South Africa	62.25
16	Kingston	Jamaica	59.71
17	San Salvador	El Salvador	59.06
18	Aracaju	Brazil	58.88
19	Feira de Santana	Brazil	58.81
20	Ciudad Juarez	Mexico	56.16
21	Baltimore	United States	55.48
22	Recife	Brazil	54.96

RANK	CITY	COUNTRY	HOMICIDE RATE (PER 100,000)
23	Maturin	Venezuela	54.43
24	Guatemala City	Guatemala	53.49
25	Salvador	Brazil	51.58
26	San Pedro Sula	Honduras	51.18
27	Valencia	Venezuela	49.74
28	Cali	Colombia	49.59
29	Chihuahua	Mexico	49.48
30	Joao Pessoa	Brazil	49.17
31	Obregon	Mexico	48.96
32	San Juan	Puerto Rico	48.7
33	Barquisimeto	Venezuela	48.23
34	Manaus	Brazil	48.07
35	Distrito Central	Honduras	48
36	Tepic	Mexico	47.09

RANK	CITY	COUNTRY	HOMICIDE RATE (PER 100,000)
37	Palmira	Colombia	46.65
38	Reynosa	Mexico	41.95
39	Porto Alegre	Brazil	40.96
40	Macapa	Brazil	40.24
41	New Orleans	United States	40.1
42	Detroit	United States	39.69
43	Mazatlan	Mexico	39.32
44	Durban	South Africa	38.12
45	Campos dos Goytacazes	Brazil	37.53
46	Nelson Mandela Bay	South Africa	37.53
47	Campina Grande	Brazil	37.29
48	Teresina	Brazil	37.05
49	Vitoria	Brazil	36.07
50	Cucuta	Colombia	34.78

Source: <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/most-dangerous-cities-in-the-world.html>

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MOST DANGEROUS



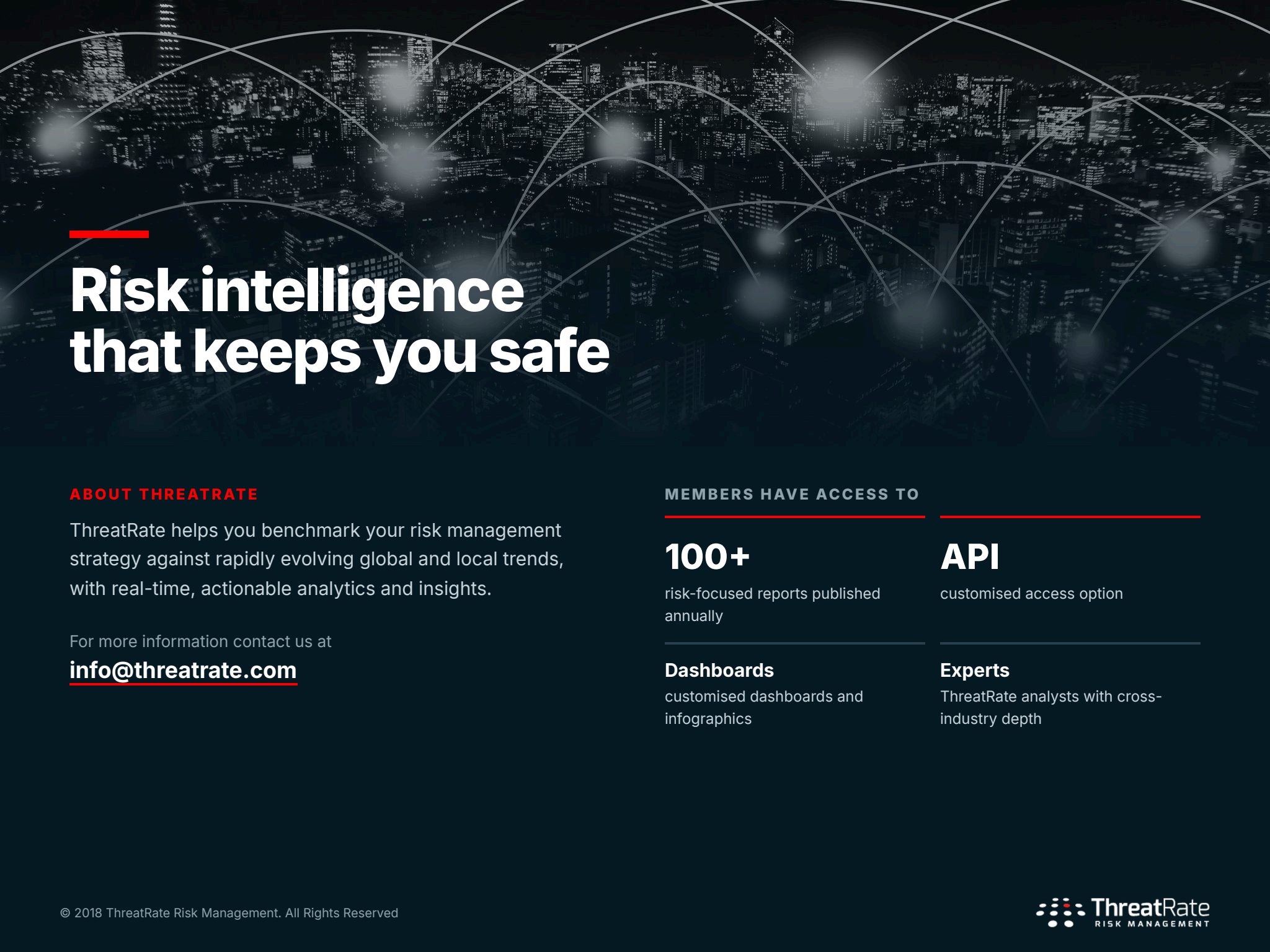
Takeaways

- Of the countries surveyed, China and Sweden had exhibited the highest level of trust.
- Tokyo and Singapore are considered the safest cities in the world.

- The most dangerous city in the world, Los Cabos (Mexico), has 111.33 murders per 100,000.
- Tourist heavy Acapulco, the third most dangerous city, has a murder rate of 106.63 per 100,000.

SOURCES

- 1 <http://www.pewglobal.org/2008/04/15/where-trust-is-high-crime-and-corruption-are-low/>
- 2 [https://travelmaps.state.gov/TSGMap/?
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- 4 <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/what-legacy-does-felipe-calderon-leave-in-mexico/>
- 5 <https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/mx-dominates-list-of-most-violent-cities/>
- 6 <http://www.pewglobal.org/2008/04/15/where-trust-is-high-crime-and-corruption-are-low/>



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