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Community Rural Patrol in the Metropolitan Region of Maringá: activities and results of the 32nd Military Police Battalion (2024–2026)

Patrulha Rural Comunitária na Região Metropolitana de Maringá: atuação e resultados do 32º BPM (2024–2026)

Patrulla Rural Comunitaria en la Región Metropolitana de Maringá: actuación y resultados del 32.º Batallón de Policía Militar (2024–2026)

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Abstract: This study analyzes the performance of the Community Rural Patrol 4.0 of the 32nd Military Police Battalion, headquartered in Sarandi, in the Metropolitan Region of Maringá, Paraná, Brazil, from the Battalion's creation in April 2024 to October 2026. It is a quantitative, descriptive and documentary study based on 845 police reports and 1,003 incident types recorded by the team in the eleven municipalities of the area, extracted from the Business Intelligence system of the Paraná Military Police. The results show predominantly preventive work: 91.9% of the incident types are non-criminal occurrences. The start of registration visits to rural properties, in April 2025, marked a shift in the team's profile. Visits came to account for 47.2% of all activity, and the share of records in rural settings rose from 58.3% to 67.5%. During the period, the rural patrol responded to 28 thefts and no robberies, arrested 95 people and recovered agricultural equipment. Areas for attention were also identified: registration concentrated in two municipalities, 60.7% of thefts occurring between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m., when the team is least present, and a slowdown in visits in 2026. The study concludes that the preventive model established by the police force has been implemented but is still being consolidated. Because it relies on the team's own records, the study does not support conclusions about effects on rural crime in the area.
Keywords: Community Rural Patrol. Community policing. Rural security. Paraná Military Police. 32nd Military Police Battalion.

Resumo: Este estudo analisa a atuação da Patrulha Rural Comunitária 4.0 do 32º Batalhão de Polícia Militar, com sede em Sarandi, na Região Metropolitana de Maringá, Paraná, desde a criação do Batalhão, em abril de 2024, até outubro de 2026. Trata-se de pesquisa quantitativa, descritiva e documental, baseada em 845 boletins de ocorrência e 1.003 naturezas registrados pela equipe nos onze municípios da área, extraídos do sistema de Business Intelligence da Polícia Militar do Paraná. Os resultados mostram uma atuação predominantemente preventiva: 91,9% das naturezas correspondem a ocorrências não delituosas. O início das visitas de cadastro de propriedades rurais, em abril de 2025, marcou uma mudança no perfil da equipe. As visitas passaram a representar 47,2% da atividade, e a participação do ambiente rural nos registros cresceu de 58,3% para 67,5%. No período, a Patrulha Rural atendeu 28 furtos e nenhum roubo, prendeu 95 pessoas e recuperou equipamentos agrícolas. Foram identificados também pontos de atenção: a concentração do cadastro em dois municípios, a ocorrência de 60,7% dos furtos entre 17h e 22h, horário de menor presença da equipe, e a redução do ritmo das visitas em 2026. Conclui-se que o modelo preventivo previsto pela corporação foi implantado, mas ainda está em consolidação. Por se basear nos registros da própria equipe, o estudo não permite afirmar efeitos sobre a criminalidade rural da área.
Palavras-chave: Patrulha Rural Comunitária. Policiamento comunitário. Segurança rural. Polícia Militar do Paraná. 32º BPM.

Resumen: Este estudio analiza la actuación de la Patrulla Rural Comunitaria 4.0 del 32.º Batallón de Policía Militar, con sede en Sarandi, en la Región Metropolitana de Maringá,

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Paraná, desde la creación del Batallón, en abril de 2024, hasta octubre de 2026. Se trata de una investigación cuantitativa, descriptiva y documental, basada en 845 boletines de ocurrencia y 1.003 tipos de incidencia registrados por el equipo en los once municipios del área, extraídos del sistema de inteligencia de negocios de la Policía Militar de Paraná. Los resultados muestran una actuación predominantemente preventiva: el 91,9 % de los tipos de incidencia corresponde a hechos no delictivos. El inicio de las visitas de registro de propiedades rurales, en abril de 2025, marcó un cambio en el perfil del equipo. Las visitas pasaron a representar el 47,2 % de la actividad, y la participación del entorno rural en los registros creció del 58,3 % al 67,5 %. Durante el período, la Patrulla Rural atendió 28 hurtos y ningún robo, detuvo a 95 personas y recuperó equipos agrícolas. También se identificaron puntos de atención: la concentración del registro en dos municipios, la ocurrencia del 60,7 % de los hurtos entre las 17 y las 22 horas, horario de menor presencia del equipo, y la reducción del ritmo de las visitas en 2026. Se concluye que el modelo preventivo previsto por la corporación se implantó, pero aún está consolidándose. Al basarse en los registros del propio equipo, el estudio no permite afirmar efectos sobre la delincuencia rural del área.
Palabras clave: Patrulla Rural Comunitaria. Policía comunitaria. Seguridad rural. Policía Militar de Paraná. 32.º BPM.

1 Introduction

Public security in rural areas has characteristics that require policing strategies compatible with the territorial organisation, economic activities and living conditions of the communities occupying these areas. The scattering of properties, the large distances between localities, the extent of rural roads and the presence of high economic value goods make policing particularly challenging. In this context, the protection of rural areas cannot be limited to the response to criminal occurrences, but must incorporate preventive action, territorial presence and permanent mechanisms for the rapprochement between the security forces and rural producers.

In Paraná, the relevance of this discussion is related to the strong participation of agricultural activity in the state economy and the diversity of the territories in which it develops. In the Maringa Metropolitan Region, the coexistence between urban areas and agricultural production areas is a reality that extends the demands on public safety institutions. This particularity makes it necessary to understand how policing is organised to simultaneously meet the demands of cities and the specificities of the rural environment, especially in municipalities where urban expansion is closely linked to agricultural activities.

It is in this scenario that the Community Rural Patrol of the 32nd Battalion of Military Police (32nd BPM), established in April 2024, is based in Sarandi, and is responsible for policing eleven municipalities. The deployment of the unit represented a territorial reorganization of policing in the region and brought with it the challenge of structuring an

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action taking into account the different configurations of the municipalities under its responsibility. For the Community Rural Patrol, this task involves both the response to incidents and the development of preventive practices, including property registration, community visits, police presence and interaction with rural residents and producers.

While the Community rural policing model is geared towards prevention and population rapprochement, its effective implementation depends on operational conditions, continuity of action and adequate distribution of police effort across the territory. It is therefore possible to identify the activities that have become part of a unit's routine, the spaces that receive the most attention, the operational results achieved and the aspects that still need to be improved. The administrative records produced by the staff themselves are thus a relevant source for understanding their institutional trajectory, provided they are interpreted according to their limits and characteristics.

Given this perspective, this study analyses the performance of the 32nd Rural Community Patrol in the period from April 2024 to October 2026, taking into account occurrence records, preventive actions, the territorial distribution of activities, the patterns of the thefts addressed and the operational results achieved. The research has a quantitative approach, descriptive character and documentary nature, based on data extracted from the Business Intelligence (BI) system of the Paraná Military Police. The analysis seeks to provide a systematic understanding of the team's work and contribute to improving rural policing planning in the Battalion's area of responsibility.

The investigation also considers a necessary distinction between the description of police activity and the assessment of its effects on crime. The records of the Patrol allow to examine what the team has done and what operational results it has produced, but, in isolation, they do not allow to attribute to its action any reduction of rural crime in the municipalities covered. This delimitation guides the interpretation of the data and establishes the scope of the conclusions presented throughout the work.

1.1 Rural security and the importance of agribusiness in northwestern Paraná

Talking about public safety in Paraná without considering the rural environment is omitting a decisive part of the state's economy. In 2025, the Gross Value of Paranaense Agricultural Production (GIP) reached R$ 213.06 billion, a real growth of 9% from the previous year, according to the Department of Rural Economy (Deral) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Supply. Soybeans accounted for almost one fifth of this value (19.69%), followed by broiler

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chicken (16.23%) (SISTEMA FAEP, 2026). The regional core of Maringa, which includes 58 municipalities, amounted to R$ 17.87 billion, placing it among the regions with the largest agricultural production in the state(SISTEMA FAEP, 2026).

In the area of operation of the 32nd Military Police Battalion, this economic strength is not limited to large volumes of grain. The city of Marialva is the largest producer of grapes in Paraná: it harvests about 17 thousand tons per year and accounted for 10.5% of the state production in 2021. Since 2017, the fine table grapes of the municipality have a recognised Geographical Indication (PARANÁ, 2023). Sarandi, a municipality with a markedly urban profile, has 6,515 of its 10,368 hectares classified as rural. In the 2019/2020 harvest, soybeans occupied 6,250 hectares of that territory (IDR-PARANÁ, 2022). It is a coexistence characteristic of the inner metropolitan regions: the city grows alongside the farmland, and the distance between the neighbourhood and rural property is sometimes a few kilometres.

That closeness has two sides. It facilitates the flow of production but also exposes the producer to crimes that exploit justly the isolation of property, the low movement of people and the high value of machines, tools, inputs and animals. State data shows the scale of the problem and also how it can be addressed. In 2019, 7,890 thefts and 853 thefts were recorded in rural properties in Paraná, in addition to 1,224 cases of livestock theft. By 2025, those numbers had dropped to 3,658 thefts, 247 thefts, and 443 burglaries, according to the Department of Public Safety(AGROLINK, 2026). During the same period, the Military Police's Community Rural Patrol already counted 37,362 registered properties and 24,607 with identification plates(AGROLINK, 2026).

The fall does not eliminate the concern of those living in the countryside, because a single theft of tractor or defensive equipment can jeopardize a family's crop. But it indicates that rural policing, based on the property register, the regular presence of the teams and the proximity to the producers, produces results that go beyond the response to the crime that has already occurred. It is in this context that the creation of the 32nd BPM, based in Sarandi, and the deployment of its Community Rural Patrol, which is the subject of this study, are inserted.

1.2 Establishment of the 32nd BPM through redistribution of the 4th BPM’s area

The growth of the Metropolitan Region of Maringa in recent decades has not been restricted to the seat of the municipality. Sarandi, Paiçandu, Marialva and Mandaguaçu have gained population, new neighbourhoods and an urban dynamic increasingly linked to that of Maringa, without losing their relationship with the agricultural production that marks their

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environment. For policing, that brought a challenge of scale. By 2024, the 4th Military Police Battalion was responsible for an area of nearly 3,000 square kilometers and a population of about 718,000 (PARANÁ, 2024).

The answer came with State Law No. 21,925, enacted on April 9, 2024. The law expanded the effectiveness of the Paraná Military Police by 273 positions, which has now grown to 23,469 police officers, and made it possible to deploy a new battalion in the region (PARANÁ, 2024). The 32nd BPM was established on 16 April 2024, a week after the enactment of the law, headquartered in Sarandi. The change redistributed the area of the 4th BPM: Mandaguaçu, Marialva, Paiçandu and Sarandi, which together numbered about 237,000 inhabitants, moved to the new battalion. Maringa remained under the 4th BPM, now with exclusive dedication to the municipality. Both units remained subordinate to the 3rd Regional Military Police Command (PARANÁ, 2024).

The area of the 32nd BPM, however, is not limited to the four metropolitan municipalities which motivated its creation. Since its creation, the battalion has also served Mandaguari, São Jorge do Ivaí, Doutor Camargo, Floresta, Itambé, Ivatuba and Ourizona, totalling eleven municipalities(POLÍCIA MILITAR DO PARANÁ, 2025). The result is a mixed area: on the one hand, cities with high urban density, such as Sarandi and Paiçandu; on the other, small municipalities where the economy revolves almost entirely around rural production.

It is precisely this combination that makes the Community Rural Patrol relevant to the new battalion. Team records begin in April 2024, the month of the creation of the 32nd BPM. Since then, the activity has spread to eleven municipalities, with the greatest concentration in Marialva and Sarandi, which add up to half of the 1,003 incident types reserves recorded by 20 October 2026 (POLÍCIA MILITAR DO PARANÁ, 2026). A battalion born to alleviate the urban demand of the metropolitan region had, from the outset, to look also at the countryside.

1.3 Research problem

The creation of a battalion is often accompanied by objectives linked to urban reality: reducing response times, increasing the presence of vehicles in neighbourhoods and curbing the crimes that most affect the population of cities. In the case of the 32nd BPM, this logic coexists with another, less visible in public debate. Much of the territory under the responsibility of the Battalion consists of rural roads, sites, farms and farms, where crime has other characteristics and conventional policing is more difficult.

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The Community Rural Patrol was designed for this scenario. The model is based on property registration, periodic visits and contact with producers, and not just on dealing with crime already committed. In a newly created Battalion, however, it is not yet known how this model was put into practice: what type of activity predominates in the team's day-to-day work, where it concentrates its efforts, what operational results it achieves, and what patterns present the crimes it meets. In just over thirty months of operation of the 32nd BPM, the Rural Patrol registered 845 police reports of occurrence (POLÍCIA MILITAR DO PARANÁ, 2026). So far, this volume of information has not been systematized or analyzed.

In view of this, this study begs the following question: how has the 32nd BPM Community Rural Patrol been acting in protecting the rural environment of the municipalities under its responsibility from the creation of the Battalion in April 2024 to October 2026?

1.4 Objectives

The overall objective of this study is to analyse the performance of the Community Rural Patrol of the 32nd Military Police Battalion in protecting the rural environment of the eleven municipalities under its responsibility, in the period from April 2024 to October 2026. In order to achieve this, the following specific objectives have been set:

a) characterize the totality of incidents recorded by the Community Rural Patrol over the period, identifying the proportion between prevention activities and response to crimes committed;
b) describe approaches to the rural community, in particular preventive registration visits, community and solidarity visits and meetings, and their distribution among the municipalities;
c) monitor the evolution of the team's performance in the rural environment over the period;
d) identify the pattern of thefts handled by the Community Rural Patrol in terms of nature, location, day of the week and time;
e) reporting on the operational results of the team, such as arrests, execution of warrants, seizure of weapons and recovery of property;
f) draw up a Community Rural Patrol profile of detainees as regards sex, age and colour.

1.5 Justification

The 32nd BPM has been around for a little over two and a half years. In that short period, its Community Rural Patrol accumulated a considerable volume of records, but the team's

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performance has not yet been systematically analysed. In the research done for this work, no published studies on the Battalion or its Community Rural Patrol were located. The gap is understandable given the short running time of the unit, but it is at this early stage that a diagnosis is most useful, while routines are still being consolidated and can be adjusted.

From an institutional point of view, the study provides Battalion Command with an organized reading of data that is now scattered throughout the Corporation's systems. Knowing in which municipalities the team concentrates visits, on what days and hours it operates and at what times the crimes occur allows better planning for the employment of an employee who is, by nature, limited given the extent of the rural territory. The analysis can also serve as a reference for other PMPR units that are deploying or reorganizing their rural patrols, especially those that, like the 32nd PMP, need to reconcile urban and rural demands in the same area.

There's still a social dimension. For the rural producer, property security is not an abstract issue. Theft of agricultural equipment, defensive equipment or livestock can jeopardise the outcome of an entire harvest and, in many cases, the income of a family. Understanding how policing reaches this public, and where it does not yet reach it, helps to ensure that the protection of the countryside does not depend solely on the response to crime and is increasingly based on prevention and proximity to the community.

Finally, in the academic field, the work is in dialogue with the study carried out on the Community Rural Patrol of the 5th CIPM in Cianorte, a unit also subordinate to the 3rd Regional Military Police Command (3rd CRPM). It brings the look of a metropolitan region from the interior, where the border between urban and rural is less sharp than in predominantly agricultural areas.

2 Theoretical framework

2.1 Crime in rural areas

For a long time, crime studies have focused on cities. The countryside appeared, at times, as a quiet counterpoint to urban violence. Ceccato (2016) draws attention to this discrepancy and shows that rural crime has its own dynamics. It is not a lesser version of urban crime, and therefore requires different responses from the public authorities. In Brazil, the perception that the countryside also needs specific security policies has gained momentum in recent years, driven by the expansion of agribusiness and the increase in the value of property held.

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The first peculiarity of the rural environment lies in the geography itself. Properties are far away from each other and from urban centers, traffic is low, and many roads are earthen. For those who commit crime, this means finding, in the words of Scorzafave, Justus and Shikida (2015 apud COSTA, 2023, p. 11), isolated targets with little protection, which offer less risk of failure. For the victim, the same distance produces a sense of helplessness. Oliveira, Medina, and Teixeira (2022, p. 206), studying the Rural Patrol of Catalão, Goiás, record the "powerlessness victims feel because of their distance from urban centers" and identify extensive territory, poor roads, and radio communication failures among the obstacles to policing.

Ribeiro and Jesus (2025, p. 3) recall that agriculture, " because it is an open-air enterprise, is exposed to numerous factors that can interfere with its production ", including safety or lack thereof. In other sectors, property would be protected by walls and gates.

In the countryside, the machines are parked on the farm, the inputs are stored in sheds, and the animals remain loose in the pasture. It is precisely in this context that the Community Rural Patrol seeks to act, tackling the crimes against farmers and minimizing the feeling of insecurity or invisibility of this public(RIBEIRO, 2025, p. 13).

These conditions directly affect response time. In the city, a car usually arrives in a few minutes. In the countryside, finding property can be the first problem, and delay reduces the chances of a flagrant arrest and recovery of property. Oliveira, Medina and Teixeira (2022, p. 219) highlight that getting to the site quickly is very important, especially in the rural area. Therefore, the georeferenced register of properties came to be treated as the central tool of rural policing. A data from Catalão contradicts the idea that crime is concentrated in the most remote areas: 67% of the records occurred within a radius of up to 20 kilometres of the urban perimeter, and the authors conclude that the closer to urban centres, the higher the crime rate (OLIVEIRA; MEDINA; TEIXEIRA, 2022, p. 214, 219). This finding is particularly relevant for metropolitan areas such as the 32nd BPM, where rural and urban areas converge.

As for the typical crimes, property crimes predominate. In Paraná, theft in rural properties totaled 7,890 records in 2019 and 3,658 in 2025. In the same period, theft increased from 853 to 247, cases of abigeate from 1,224 to 443, and theft of agricultural inputs from 160 to 43(AGROLINK, 2026). The most common targets are machines and tools, engines, tools, defences, production itself and animals. In Goiás, the Costa survey (2023, p. 23) also treated as central categories theft and theft in rural property, cattle and agricultural defences.

The impact of these crimes goes beyond the value of the property. In Catalão, the theft of a single water pump engine was sufficient for small producers to reduce or stop production,

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and the theft of a few dairy cows had a similar effect(OLIVEIRA; MEDINA; TEIXEIRA, 2022, p. 216). In large properties, larger losses, such as a soybean load or irrigation pivot engines, had a proportionally lower financial weight. Rural crime strikes more forcefully precisely those who have less capacity to absorb the damage.

Finally, the subnotification must be considered. Some of the victims don't record the fact, either because of disbelief in the solution or the difficulty of accessing the police. So the official figures tend to underestimate the problem(COSTA, 2023, p. 24). This same factor explains why approximation programmes such as the Rural Patrol can lead to an initial increase in registrations without this meaning more crime (OLIVEIRA; MEDINA; TEIXEIRA, 2022, p. 210). It is an important reservation for reading any historical series of rural crime, including the one discussed in this study.

2.2 Community policing and policing oriented toward prevention

The traditional policing model was built around the reaction. The car circles, waits for the radio call and moves to the scene after the incident. This model has its place, but it shows obvious limits when the territory is extensive, the effectiveness is reduced and the distance between the occurrence and the arrival of the team can be tens of kilometers, as happens in rural areas. It is at this point that the Community police ceases to be a mere concept and becomes a practical necessity.

The most widespread definition in Brazil comes from Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux, adopted by the National Secretariat of Public Safety. For them, community policing is an organizational philosophy and strategy that provides a new partnership between the population and the police, in which the two must work together to identify, prioritize and solve contemporary problems(TROJANOWICZ; BUCQUEROUX, 1994 apud BRASIL, 2007, p. 39). SENASP's own material makes it clear that Community policing is not a tactic, a program or a technique(BRASIL, 2007, p. 43). It's a different way of designing the police service, which puts the community at the center of planning.

Skolnick and Bayley (2002), in studying experiences from several countries, identified four elements that are repeated in successful programmes:

a) organising crime prevention on a community basis;
b) the reorientation of patrol activities to non-emergency services;
c) the decentralisation of control by area;
d) involvement of civilians in the planning, implementation and evaluation of actions.

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The National Community Police Guideline, established by Portaria no. 43, of 2019, incorporated this vision and listed ten principles that should guide the actions of Brazilian police (BRASIL, 2019, p. 16-18). Between them, two dialogue directly with the reality of the field. The first is decentralized, personalized policing, where the policeman becomes known by the people he serves. The second is preventive problem solving. On the latter, SENASP's material summarizes the idea directly: the police officer must not be "activated" by the radio, but must be (BRASIL, 2007, p. 46).

Not coincidentally, the Directive itself recalls that, in Japan, the historical reference of the model, the Chuzaisho-type community bases in which the police officer resides in the place where he works predominate in rural areas(BRASIL, 2019, p. 11). In the countryside, where everyone knows each other and the presence of a stranger is instantly noticed, the trust between the resident and the policeman has operational value. It's the source of information about a suspicious vehicle on the road, an off-site animal, or a strange movement in the early hours of the morning.

The Community Rural Patrol can be seen as the application of these principles to rural areas. In practice, the property registration, periodic visit, identification plate and contact groups with producers correspond to community-based prevention and reorientation of patrol to non-emergency activities described by Skolnick and Bayley (2002). The question this study seeks to answer is to what extent this preventive logic actually appears in the routine recorded by the Community Rural Patrol of the 32nd BPM.

2.3 The Community Rural Patrol within the Paraná Military Police

Rural policing is an old activity of the Paraná Military Police, but only in recent decades has it gained the form of an institutional program. According to Ribeiro and Jesus (2025), the community rural patrol has existed in the corporation since the late 1990s. In 2009, the PMPR implemented the Rural Patrol Programme, a pioneering experience in the country, which later served as a reference for other military police in designing their own rural policing programmes.

The programme was reformulated in 2021 through the Guideline No 009/2021-PM/3, which gave rise to the Community Rural Patrol 4.0, the current name of the programme. In this work, briefly, the form Community Rural Patrol is used. The reformulation brought three key changes (RIBEIRO; JESUS, 2025):

a) georeferencing of rural properties by the teams themselves;

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b) the consolidation of Community protection networks by means of immediate communication groups with producers;
c) the specific training of patrols.

Investments were also made in 4x4 traction vehicles, drones, mobile system and satellite internet, resources designed for displacement and field communication conditions. In 2022, Operation Plan No. 021/2022 organized Operation Rural Security, with 76 teams of three police officers each, distributed by the state (POLÍCIA MILITAR DO PARANÁ, 2022 apud RIBEIRO; JESUS, 2025).

The current regulatory framework is Guideline No 002/2024-PM/3, published on 9 February 2024, two months before the creation of the 32nd BPM. It has set up a policy to combat crime in the rural environment with the following objectives:

> Establish guidelines to steer the policy for tackling crime in rural areas through the creation of protection networks to strengthen community ties. This policy will include monitoring of preventive, reactive, and crime indicators, which will underpin campaigns and projects planned annually in accordance with the reality of the population living and working in rural areas (POLÍCIA MILITAR DO PARANÁ, 2024, cited in RIBEIRO; JESUS, 2025, p. 4).

Two points to this end deserve emphasis. The first is that prevention appears as a policy axis, not as a complement to repression. The Directive provides for rural policing to act " precisely in preventive police actions " and only in a supplementary way in repression, by integrating with Community policing of nearby urban areas and by stimulating the organisation of Community safety councils focused on the rural environment(RIBEIRO; JESUS, 2025, p. 7). The second is the need for monitoring by preventive, reactive and criminal indicators, which makes the analysis of Patrol records, as proposed in this study, part of the logic of the programme itself.

In practice, the Rural Patrol is organized around four instruments:

a) Register of the property. It may be initiated by the producer himself by means of pre-registration forms made available by battalion (POLÍCIA MILITAR DO PARANÁ, 2025). The register is completed at the time of the team's visit, which records the georeferenced location, the occupants and the characteristics of the property. With it, the police get to know where each property is and who lives in it, which reduces the arrival time in the event of an incident.
b) identification plate. Installed at the entrance to the registered property, it signals that the site is monitored by the Rural Patrol. It has a preventive, dissuasive effect on whoever intends to commit the crime, and symbolic, to make the presence of the State visible.

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c) Visits. In the PMPR registration system, they appear as their own: preventive registration visit, Community visit, solidarity visit and Community meetings. It's the moment when the bond between the team and the producer builds.
d) safety net. Formed by police and community communication groups, it turns each producer into a source of information and quickly circulates alerts about suspicious vehicles, recent thefts and strange movements in the region.

The scale achieved by the programme helps to scale its importance. By 2025, the PMPR counted 37,362 registered rural properties and 24,607 with identification plates in the state(AGROLINK, 2026). Between 2022 and 2025, about 520 military police officers passed the Community Rural Patrol Training Course (CCPRC), and the fleet reached 93 4x4 trucks (RIBEIRO; JESUS, 2025). It is within this already consolidated state structure that the Rural Patrol of the 32nd BPM starts its activities in 2024.

2.4 Previous studies

Research on rural patrol in Brazil is still scarce, but three recent studies help to situate this study. One of them was done at the 3rd CRPM itself, and the other two in Goiás, a state that also structured field-specific units.

The closest work, in territory and method, is that of Ribeiro and Jesus (2025). The authors analysed the Community Rural Patrol of the 5th CIPM, based in Cianorte and also subordinate to the 3rd CRPM. They compared two triennials: 2019 to 2021, before the implementation of version 4.0 of the program, and 2022 to 2024, after that. The data were extracted from PMPR's BI and gathered rural incidents attended by all company teams. The results point to a decline in property crimes:

Table 1 – Thefts, robberies, and incidents attended in rural areas of the 5th CIPM (Cianorte), by three-year period

Indicator	2019–2021	2022–2024
Robberies	35	5
Thefts	277	211
Thefts and robberies	312	216
Incidents attended	507	440

Source: prepared by the author based on Ribeiro and Jesus (2025).

Calculated over the first period, the variations corresponded to a reduction of 30,8% in combined thefts and thefts and 13,2% in reported incidents. During the same period, the preventive indicators increased. The number of identification plates, which did not exist in the

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first triennium, reached 104. Registered properties increased from 55 in 2021 to 517 between 2022 and 2024 (RIBEIRO; JESUS, 2025). The authors conclude that the programme has achieved its objective and associate the result with the constant presence of the teams, the training of the staff and the closeness with cooperatives, trade unions and rural associations.

In Goiás, Oliveira, Medina and Teixeira (2022) they studied the Catalan Rural Patrol through criminal data and interviews with producers. Two findings are directly relevant to this work:

a) The increase in records after deployment largely reflected a greater willingness of victims to report facts, not necessarily more crimes (OLIVEIRA; MEDINA; TEIXEIRA, 2022, p. 210). This warning applies to any reading of historical rural crime series.
b) Crimes were concentrated near the city. 67% of the records occurred within 20 kilometers of the urban perimeter (OLIVEIRA; MEDINA; TEIXEIRA, 2022, p. 214). The standard is particularly relevant for a metropolitan area such as the 32nd BPM.

Also in Goiás, Costa (2023) assessed, using statistical methods, the effect of the deployment of the Rural Battalions of the Military Police on crime in the field. Absolute numbers have dropped exponentially: theft in rural property increased from 13,196 in 2018 to 3,330 in 2022, and theft from 598 to 78(COSTA, 2023, p. 23). Nevertheless, the author found only a statistically significant effect of the programme on cattle theft. He attributed the fragility of the other results to the lack of an appropriate comparison group, since other battalions were deployed over the study period(COSTA, 2023, p. 32-34). The work serves as a methodological reminder: a drop in numbers is not, by itself, proof that the programme caused it.

This study differs from the previous one in two respects. The first is the object: a newly created Battalion with a metropolitan area, not a predominantly agricultural region. The second one is cutting the data. Ribeiro and Jesus (2025) worked with all the rural crime in the company's area. Here, the analysis focuses on the records produced by the Community Rural Patrol of the 32nd BPM itself, which allows a more detailed description of the team's routine. In contrast, the study does not allow measuring the impact of the programme on total rural crime in the region.

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3 Methodology

3.1 Type of research

As for the approach, this research is quantitative. What is sought is to measure the performance of the Rural Patrol: how many occurrences were recorded, of what type, in which municipalities, on what days and times, and how these figures behaved over time. The data were processed by means of descriptive statistics, with absolute and relative frequencies, category distributions and monthly and annual series, organised in tables and charts. No statistical inference tests were applied because the goal is to characterize the phenomenon, not to establish cause and effect relationships.

As far as objectives are concerned, this is descriptive research. The main purpose of this type of study is to describe the characteristics of a particular population or phenomenon(GIL, 2002). This is exactly what is proposed here in relation to the 32nd BPM Community Rural Patrol: to depict, from the official records, how the team has been acting since the creation of the battalion. The choice is consistent with the timing of the unit. Before you ask whether a program produces effects, you need to know clearly what it actually does.

As regards the procedures, the research is documentary and bibliographic. It is documentary because its empirical basis consists of newsletters registered in the system of the Paraná Military Police, that is, documents produced for administrative and operational purposes, and not for research, and which have not yet received analytical treatment (GIL, 2002). These records were extracted from the corporation's Business Intelligence (BI) tool with filters detailed in section 3.3. It is also bibliographical because the theoretical reference was based on books, scientific articles, dissertations and institutional documents on rural crime, community police and the Community Rural Patrol programme.

Finally, it should be noted that the data used do not identify victims, perpetrators or police officers by name. The information on the detainees is limited to sex, estimated age and colour as recorded in the system and has only been analysed in aggregate form. Data were provided by the Fundamental Conflict Mediation Coordinatorate (COORTERRA).

3.2 Study area

The survey covers the eleven municipalities under the responsibility of the 32nd Military Police Battalion, headquartered in Sarandi, in the northwestern region of Paraná,

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subordinate to the 3rd Regional Military Police Command. Together, these municipalities total 308,400 inhabitants and 2,488.5 km2 of land area. Box 1 shows the data for each, according to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics.

Box 1 – Municipalities in the 32nd BPM's area: population and territorial area

Municipality	Population (2022)	Territorial area (km²)	Density (inhabitants/km²)
Sarandi	118.455	103,942	1.144,48
Paiçandu	45.962	170,824	268,19
Marialva	41.851	474,954	88,00
Mandaguari	36.716	335,912	109,33
Mandaguaçu	31.457	293,792	106,99
Floresta	10.458	158,334	66,10
Doutor Camargo	6.327	118,278	53,49
Itambé	6.111	244,495	25,06
São Jorge do Ivaí	5.168	315,088	16,40
Ourizona	3.187	176,457	18,06
Ivatuba	2.708	96,427	28,02
Total	308.400	2.488,503	123,93

Source: IBGE (2022; 2025).

The numbers clearly show the mixed profile of the area. Sarandi alone concentrates 38.4% of the population, in an area of just over 100 km2 and with a density of over one thousand inhabitants per square kilometer, characteristic of a fully urbanised municipality and integrated into Maringa. The four municipalities that came out of the 4th BPM (Sarandi, Paiçandu, Marialva and Mandaguaçu) total 237,725 inhabitants. At the other extreme, São Jorge do Ivaí, Ourizona, Ivatuba and Itambé have densities of between 16 and 28 inhabitants per square kilometre, with a small population spread over proportionally large territories, where farming occupies most of the land.

Marialva deserves to be singled out. It is the largest municipality in the area by area, with almost 475 km2, and combines a medium-sized urban headquarters with a broad, productive rural area, marked by viticulture (PARANÁ, 2023). This combination helps to explain why the municipality occupies a central position in the operation of the Rural Patrol, as will be seen in the results section.

The choice of area is therefore justified by the coexistence, in the same battalion, of very different realities. This obliges the Rural Patrol to divide its attention between small and mainly agricultural municipalities and rural areas close to large urban concentrations, a situation which,

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as pointed out by Oliveira, Medina and Teixeira (2022), tends to raise the incidence of crime in the countryside.

3.3 Data source and collection procedures

The data was extracted from the Business Intelligence (BI) tool of the Paraná Military Police, which collects information from the Unified Occurrence Police reports (BOUs) recorded by the corporation's teams. Separate extractions were made, each focusing on an aspect of the operation of the Rural Patrol. They all used the same time and territory cutoff and the same policing type filter, which ensures that the records correspond exclusively to the teams of the 32nd BPM Community Rural Patrol. Box 2 details the parameters of each consultation.

Box 2 – Data extractions from the PMPR's BI system and filters applied

Dataset	BI dashboard	Specific filters
Incidents by setting	BOU-BPM / Ocorrências	—
Recorded incident types	BOU-BPM / Quem São – Naturezas	—
Thefts and robberies	BOU-BPM / Quem São – Naturezas	Incident type: simple theft; aggravated theft; livestock theft; theft of jointly owned property; theft of wires, cables, or equipment; theft of explosive substances; robbery; aggravated robbery; robbery resulting in serious bodily injury; robbery resulting in death
People arrested	BOU-BPM / Quem São – Envolvidos	Action: arrest; Status: perpetrator
Recovered objects	BOU-BPM / Objetos	Status: recovered
Seized firearms	BOU-Armas / Armas por Localidade	—

Filters common to all datasets: incident date from 1 April 2024 to 20 October 2026; BPM: 32nd BPM; type of policing: Rural Patrol; police force: Military Police; incident-type category: 3 – Confirmed completed incident type. Source: prepared by the author based on Paraná Military Police (2026).

The basis of recorded incident types is the main focus of the study. It collects 1,003 incident types, distributed in 845 occurrence police reports, and contains, for each record, the police report number, the date and time of the event, the day of the week, the municipality, the neighborhood, the place of establishment, the criminal title and the incident types. Preventive indicators (preventive registration visits, Community visits, solidarity visits and Community meetings), policing and approach activities and operational outcomes, such as compliance with warrants and recovery of vehicles, were drawn from it. The other bases were used to delve into specific aspects: the environment of the incidents, the pattern of the thefts, the profile of the

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prisoners, the objects recovered and the weapons seized. Three criteria guided the data processing. Counting unit: A single police report may record more than one incident types and more than one environment. Therefore, the count of incident types or environments exceeds the number of police reports. In this study, total police reports were obtained by counting the unique police report codes. Analyses by type of activity take into account incident types, and environmental analyses take into account the recorded environments. In each table and chart, the counting unit is informed. Temporary cut-off: The period shall start on 1 April 2024, the initial date available in the BI for the 32nd BPM area. Although the Battalion was created on 16 April 2024, the system assigns to its area 22 registered incident types between 1 and 15 April. They were maintained by corresponding to the same territory and teams, without changing the trend of results. The year 2026 is partial, with data up to 20 October. Therefore, comparisons between years take into account the number of months in each period. Data not used as a result of the Community Rural Patrol: BI does not permit the extraction of vehicles recovered exclusively by the Community Rural Patrol teams. The available data cover the entire area of 32° BPM. Therefore, he was not considered among the team's results. The recovered vehicles mentioned in this study are only those listed as such in the police reports of the Community Rural Patrol itself.

The data were organized and processed in an electronic spreadsheet, with the standardization of the names of municipalities and neighbourhoods and the cross-conference between the bases by the police report number. This conference confirmed the consistency of the whole: all records of theft and prisoner bases are also in the incident types base, and the total monthly police reports coincide with the monthly quantity provided by the BI.

3.4 Time frame

The period analysed is from 1 April 2024 to 20 October 2026, which corresponds to just over thirty months of operation of the Community Rural Patrol of the 32nd BPM. The start coincides with the first registration available in the BI for the Battalion area, created on 16 April 2024. The 22 incident types recorded between 1 and 15 April were maintained by corresponding to the same territory and teams. The end of the period shall be the date on which the data were extracted.

The civil years covered by the study do not have the same duration. The year 2024 contributes nine months (April to December), 2025 with twelve full months and 2026 with just under ten months (January to 20 October). Therefore, whenever the years are compared with

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each other in addition to the absolute figures, the monthly average of records is taken into account, so that differences in the length of periods are not counted as an increase or decrease in activity.

Within this period, the start of preventive land registry visits on rural properties was adopted as an analytical benchmark. The records show that of the 271 such visits made in the period, only one took place before April 2025, in December 2024. The rest began systematically on 8 April 2025 and have continued ever since(POLÍCIA MILITAR DO PARANÁ, 2026). On this basis, the period was divided into two phases:

phase 1 – deployment (April 2024 to March 2025): the first 12 months of the battalion, during which the Community Rural Patrol operated mainly with presence policing, approaches and event management, without systematic property registration;

Phase 2 – registry (April 2025 to 20 October 2026): about 19 months during which, in addition to previous activities, the team has moved on to regular registry visits, approaching the preventive model set out in Guideline 002/2024-PM/3. This division is not intended to measure the impact of the register on crime, which would require data from the entire rural area of the Battalion, as discussed in section 3.3. It serves to observe how the performance profile of the Community Rural Patrol itself has changed from the moment the cadastre became part of the team's routine.

3.5 Study limitations

All research based on administrative records inherits the characteristics and flaws of those records. Some limitations need to be clarified in order for the results to be read to the correct extent.

The first relates to the counting unit. In the PMPR system, a single police report may contain more than one incident types and more than one environment. A single action by the Community Rural Patrol may result, for example, in the recording of an approach, a traffic violation and the enforcement of a warrant. Therefore, the totals of incident types and environments are greater than the number of police reports and cannot be summed as if they were independent occurrences. In this study, each table indicates the unit used.

The second is the partial character of 2026. The data runs through October 20, so the year isn't complete. Comparisons with 2025 consider this difference, but it is not possible to say how the last months of 2026 will behave.

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The third concerns data that the system does not allow to be isolated. The BI does not separate vehicles recovered by the Community Rural Patrol from those recovered by the other battalion teams. Therefore, this indicator, which is important in rural areas, was excluded from the team's results, except in cases where recovery appears as a matter of nature in the police reports of the Community Rural Patrol itself. It was also not possible to obtain the estimated value of the recovered goods, and two of the four arms records seized do not report the species or quantity.

The fourth, and most important, is the scope of the data. All extractions were filtered by the Community Rural Patrol type of policing. They show, therefore, what the team recorded, not the whole rural crime in the 32nd BPM area. A burglary on rural property handled by another Battalion vehicle does not appear on this base. For this reason, the study describes the action of the Community Rural Patrol, but does not allow to conclude that it increased or reduced crime in the countryside.

Finally, the records depend on the completion by the teams at the time of attendance. There are variations in how the rural area is indicated in the field “ bairro ” (e.g. “ rural ”, “ rural ”, “ rural ”), and the age of those involved is recorded as an estimate. In addition, the effects of subnotification are common in rural areas(COSTA, 2023), which makes some of the facts never reach the police's knowledge. These limitations do not compromise the proposed descriptive analysis, but should be taken into account in the interpretation of the results and indicate ways to improve recording and data extraction in future studies.

4 Results

4.1 Overview of activities

Between 1 April 2024 and 20 October 2026, the Community Rural Patrol of the 32nd BPM registered 845 occurrence police reports, totalling 1,003 incident types. The difference between the two figures is explained by the fact that the same attendance can generate more than one record. Nevertheless, most of the police reports (707, or 83.7%) contain a single incident types. The average for the entire period was 27.6 police reports per month. Table 2 shows the yearly distribution.

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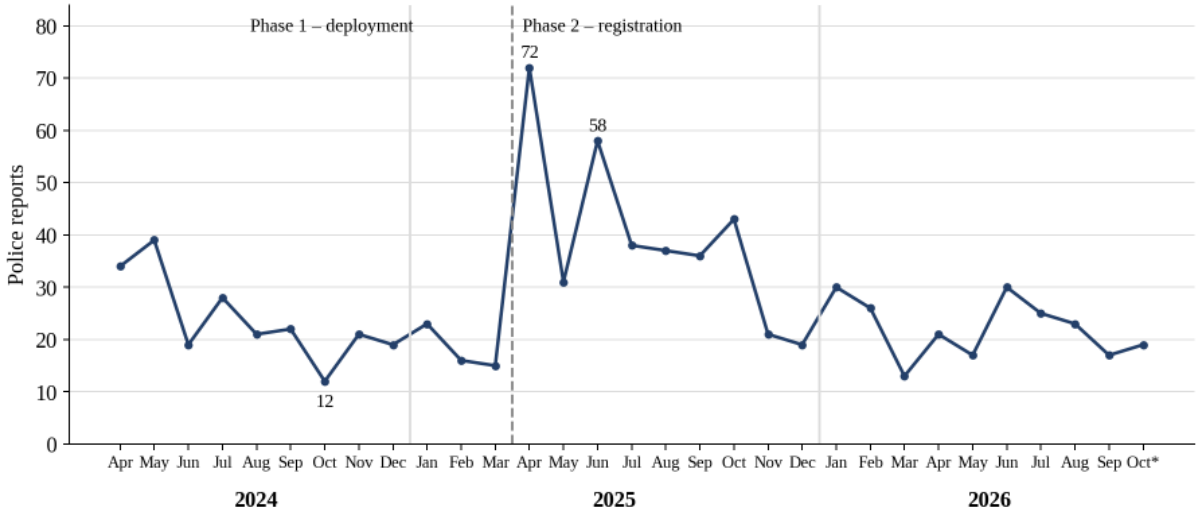
Table 2 – Police reports and incident types recorded by the 32nd BPM Rural Patrol, by year

Period	Months	Police reports	Incident types	Monthly average of police reports
2024 (Apr.–Dec.)	9	215	278	23,9
2025 (Jan.–Dec.)	12	409	480	34,1
2026 (Jan.–20 Oct.)	9,6	221	245	22,9
Total	30,6	845	1.003	27,6

Source: prepared by the author based on Paraná Military Police (2026).

Comparison by monthly average shows that 2025 was the most active year, with 34.1 police reports per month, up from 23.9 in 2024 and 22.9 in 2026. Figure 1 allows you to see in more detail how this movement has taken place over the months.

Figure 1 – Police reports recorded by the 32nd BPM Rural Patrol, by month (April 2024 – October 2026)



* October 2026 includes data through the 20th. Source: prepared by the author based on Paraná Military Police (2026).

In the first 12 months, which correspond to the implementation phase, output remained relatively stable, between 12 and 39 monthly police reports, averaging 22.4. The most visible change occurs in April 2025, when the series reaches its peak: 72 police reports, more than three times the previous-phase average. This is precisely the month when preventive property registration visits begin. Between April and October 2025, the Patrol maintained a high level, with a new peak in June (58 police reports) and an average of 45 police reports per month in those seven months.

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From November 2025, records return to levels close to first-year levels, ranging between 13 and 30 monthly police reports throughout 2026. Taking into account the registration phase as a whole (April 2025 to October 2026), the average was 30.9 police reports per month, 38% above the implementation phase. This result, however, was mainly drawn by the months of 2025. The following sections detail what makes up these records and help to understand what has changed in the team's routine at each moment.

4.2 Preventive profile of activities

By classifying the 1,003 species recorded in the period, it is clear that the 32nd BPM Rural Community Patrol operates mostly outside of crime prevention. Of the registered incident types, 922 (91.9%) correspond to non-criminal occurrences, i.e. actions in which the team was present without a crime to be registered. Crime and criminal offences total 81 counts (8.1%). Table 3 details this distribution by type of activity.

Table 3 – Incident types recorded by the 32nd BPM Rural Patrol, by type of activity (April 2024 – October 2026)

Type of activity	Incident types	%
Preventive registration visit	271	27,0
Presence patrol	215	21,4
Stops of suspects	150	15,0
Execution of judicial, arrest, and search and seizure warrants	99	9,9
Community and support visits, meetings, and talks	69	6,9
Other non-criminal incidents[1]	44	4,4
Support for other units and agencies	43	4,3
Traffic incidents	31	3,1
Subtotal – non-criminal incidents	922	91,9
Crimes and criminal misdemeanors	81	8,1
Total	1.003	100,0

[1] Unconfirmed incident, recovered vehicle, report of a future event, abandoned vehicle, found object, disagreement, lost object, and abandoned firearm. Percentages are rounded. Source: prepared by the author based on Paraná Military Police (2026).

The preventive registration visit is the most frequent activity of the period, with 271 registrations (27.0% of the total). In addition to Community and solidarity visits, meetings and lectures, direct approach to rural communities has been achieved in 340 countries, a third of all recorded by the team. Then comes presence policing (21.4%) and approaching suspects

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(15.0%), overt activities that give police visibility on roads and rural localities. Compliance with court orders, arrest warrants and search and seizure warrants accounts for almost 10% of the incident types and shows that the team also acts in support of judicial activity.

The general picture, however, hides an important change over time. Table 4 compares the composition of the activities in the two phases defined in the methodology.

Table 4 – Incident types recorded by the 32nd BPM Rural Patrol, by phase

Type of activity	Stage 1 (n)	Stage 1 (%)	Stage 2 (n)	Stage 2 (%)
Visits (registration, community, support, meetings, and talks)	27	7,9	313	47,2
Presence patrol	101	29,7	114	17,2
Stops of suspects	90	26,5	60	9,0
Execution of warrants	47	13,8	52	7,8
Crimes and criminal misdemeanors	31	9,1	50	7,5
Other incident types	44	12,9	74	11,2
Total	340	100,0	663	100,0

Phase 1 – deployment: April 2024 to March 2025 (12 months). Phase 2 – registration: April 2025 to 20 October 2026 (18.6 months). n = number of incident types recorded. Percentages are rounded. Source: prepared by the author based on Paraná Military Police (2026).

In the implementation phase, the activity of the Patrol was essentially ostentatious: presence policing and approaches amounted to 56.2% of incident types, and visits were no more than 7.9%. With the start of registration, that ratio reverses. Visits now account for 47.2% of all team records, almost half of activity, while attendance policing and approaches fall to 26.2%. In absolute numbers, visits jump from 27 in twelve months to 313 in the next phase, an average of almost 17 per month.

This change does not mean that overt policing has been abandoned: the number of police presence records in the second phase (114) is even higher than in the first (101). What changes is the centre of gravity of the team's routine, which moves from presence and monitoring to direct contact with the rural producer. It is precisely the displacement envisaged by Directive 002/2024-PM/3, according to which the rural police must act “ precisely in preventive police actions ” and only supplementarily in repression (POLÍCIA MILITAR DO PARANÁ, 2024 apud RIBEIRO; JESUS, 2025, p. 7).

4.3 Registration and visits to rural properties

The registration of rural properties began to be part of the routine of the 32nd BPM Patrol in April 2025. Before that, there was only one record, in December 2024. As of 8 April 2025, the visits have taken place on a continuous basis and totalled 271 to 20 October 2026.

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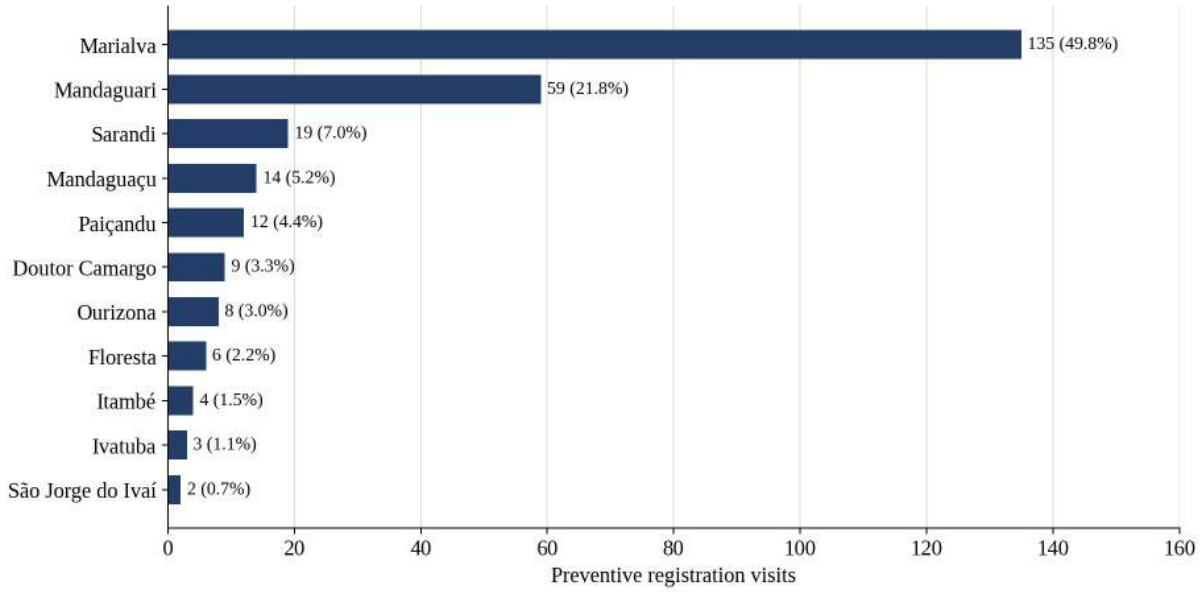
The rhythm was more intense in the first year. From April to December 2025, there were 178 registry visits, with peaks in April (30), June (31) and October (35). In 2026, up to October, there were 92 visits, corresponding to a monthly average of 9.5, about half of the 19.8 recorded in 2025.

The distribution of these visits across the territory, as shown in Figure 2, is quite concentrated.

Figure 2 – Preventive registration visits by the 32nd BPM Rural Patrol, by municipality (April 2024 – October 2026)



Source: prepared by the author based on Paraná Military Police (2026).

Marialva alone concentrates 135 registration visits, almost half of the total (49.8%). Mandaguari comes next with 59 (21.8%). Together, the two municipalities accounted for 71.6% of all registers made in the period. The other nine municipalities total 77 visits. Among them, only Sarandi, Mandaguaçu and Paiçandu pass through ten records.

The concentration in Marialva is consistent with the profile of the municipality. It is the largest in area, with almost 475 km2, and has a broad, productive and fruit-growing rural area, with a focus on fine table grapes (PARANÁ, 2023). Table 5 relates the visits to the area of each municipality and adds the other forms of contact with the community.

Table 5 – Visits by the 32nd BPM Rural Patrol, by municipality (April 2024 – October 2026)

Municipality	Registration visits	Other visits[1]	Total visits	Registrations per 100 km²
Marialva	135	24	159	28,4

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Municipality	Registration visits	Other visits[1]	Total visits	Registrations per 100 km²
Mandaguari	59	7	66	17,6
Sarandi	19	13	32	18,3
Mandaguaçu	14	4	18	4,8
Paiçandu	12	1	13	7,0
Doutor Camargo	9	3	12	7,6
Ourizona	8	2	10	4,5
São Jorge do Ivaí	2	8	10	0,6
Itambé	4	5	9	1,6
Floresta	6	1	7	3,8
Ivatuba	3	1	4	3,1
Total	271	69	340	10,9

[1] Community and support visits, community meetings, and talks. Source: prepared by the author based on Paraná Military Police (2026) and IBGE (2025).

Considering the territorial extent, Marialva also leads, with 28.4 registry visits per 100 km2, followed by Sarandi (18.3) and Mandaguari (17.6). The average battalion area is 10.9 visits per 100 km2. The case of St. George of Ivai draws attention. It is the third largest municipality in the area, with 315 km2, and has a predominantly agricultural profile, but has registered only two registration visits, equivalent to 0.6 per 100 km2. In return, it received eight Community visits, solidarity visits and meetings, indicating the team's presence in other ways. It also has a similar situation, with four registration visits.

In addition to the register, the Patrol recorded 69 Community and solidarity visits, Community meetings and lectures, bringing the total number of direct contacts with the rural population to 340. In this type of activity, the distribution is somewhat more balanced: Marialva continues ahead, with 24, but Sarandi (13), São Jorge do Ivaí (8) and Mandaguari (7) also feature prominently.

There's a reservation. The data records visits, not properties. The same property may have been visited more than once, and the number of registry visits does not necessarily correspond to the number of properties actually registered in the programme. This total, as well as the number of plates installed, was not available in the extractions carried out.

4.4 Specialization in rural settings

One of the questions that arise for a Community Rural Patrol incorporated into a metropolitan profile Battalion is whether it actually operates in the countryside or is absorbed by urban demands. Environmental records of occurrences help answer that question.

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Table 6 shows their distribution over the three years.

Table 6 – Settings recorded in incidents attended by the 32nd BPM Rural Patrol, by year

Setting	2024[2]		2025		2026[3]		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Rural	140	58,3	292	64,5	172	67,5	604	63,7
Public road	55	22,9	67	14,8	35	13,7	157	16,6
Residence	31	12,9	46	10,2	25	9,8	102	10,8
Commercial premises	5	2,1	13	2,9	5	2,0	23	2,4
Other[1]	9	3,8	35	7,7	18	7,1	62	6,5
Total	240	100,0	453	100,0	255	100,0	948	100,0

[1] Association, public agency, vehicle, religious temple, healthcare, transportation, service provision, events, education, industry, accommodation, market, gas station, prison unit, and others. [2] April to December. [3] Through October 20. One police report may record more than one setting. n = number of records. Percentages are rounded. Source: prepared by the author based on Paraná Military Police (2026).

In the period as a whole, the rural environment accounted for 63.7% of the registers, well ahead of public transport (16.6%) and housing (10.8%). More important than the general number, however, is the trend. The share of the rural environment is growing continuously: 58.3% in 2024, 64.5% in 2025 and 67.5% in 2026. In the same period, public transport fell from 22.9% to 13.7%, and housing fell from 12.9% to 9.8%. In other words, each year the team spends a larger portion of its work in the space for which it was created.

This trend is also manifested in another way. Taking into account the neighbourhood reported in the police reports, the proportion of police reports located in rural areas goes from 59.5% in the deployment phase to 78.1% in the registration phase(POLÍCIA MILITAR DO PARANÁ, 2026). The two indicators are measured in different ways and are therefore not directly comparable. Still, they point in the same direction.

The result is consistent with what was observed in the previous section. As of April 2025, property visits now occupy almost half of the staff's activity, and these visits are by definition rural. The registry therefore not only added a new activity to the Patrol's routine. It has also geographically refocused its activities, bringing it closer to the territory and the public provided for in Guideline 002/2024-PM/3.

Nevertheless, about a third of the registrations still take place in urban environments, such as public roads, residential and commercial. Part of this is explained by the very configuration of the area. In municipalities such as Sarandi and Paiçandu, the rural area begins where the neighborhood ends, and moving between properties forces the team to cross urban areas. The other part reflects supporting other teams and fulfilling mandates, activities that are not always confined to the field.

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4.5 Thefts attended by the Community Rural Patrol

In the period analysed, the Rural Patrol of the 32nd BPM attended 28 cases of theft and no theft. The BI consultation included all theft modalities provided for in the system, including aggravated theft and theft resulting from serious bodily injury or death, and none of these appear in the team's records in just over 30 months of operation. The thefts spread steadily over time: 9 in 2024, 12 in 2025 and 7 in 2026, which corresponds to about one theft per month. Table 7 shows these records by municipality and by nature.

Table 7 – Thefts attended by the 32nd BPM Rural Patrol, by municipality and incident type (April 2024 – October 2026)

Municipality	Aggravated theft	Simple theft	Livestock theft	Total	In rural areas[1]
Marialva	6	2	—	8	6
Sarandi	5	2	—	7	3
Mandaguaçu	4	2	—	6	3
São Jorge do Ivaí	2	1	—	3	3
Paiçandu	1	1	—	2	2
Doutor Camargo	1	—	—	1	—
Ourizona	—	—	1	1	1
Total	19	8	1	28	18

[1] Police reports indicating a rural area in the neighborhood field. No robbery was recorded by the Rural Patrol during the period. Source: prepared by the author based on Paraná Military Police (2026).

Qualified theft predominates, with 19 out of 28 records (67.9%). This type of theft involves, among other circumstances, breaking and entering, escalating or competing people, common characteristics in crimes against rural property, where access to shelves, barracks and enclosed areas requires some kind of break-in. There were also 8 cases of simple theft and one case of livestock theft, recorded in Ourizona in June 2026 on a state highway in the rural area.

Marialva (8), Sarandi (7) and Mandaguaçu (6) account for three-quarters of the thefts. Of the total, 18 (64.3%) occurred in rural areas, and the proportion increased over the period: 5 of the 9 thefts in 2024, 7 of the 12 in 2025 and 6 of the 7 in 2026. It is a consistent result with the team's growing expertise in the rural environment, as discussed in the previous section. In Marialva, São Jorge do Ivaí, Paiçandu and Ourizona, the thefts handled are predominantly or entirely in rural areas. In Sarandi and Mandaguaçu, the most urbanized municipalities, half of the cases occurred in neighborhoods.

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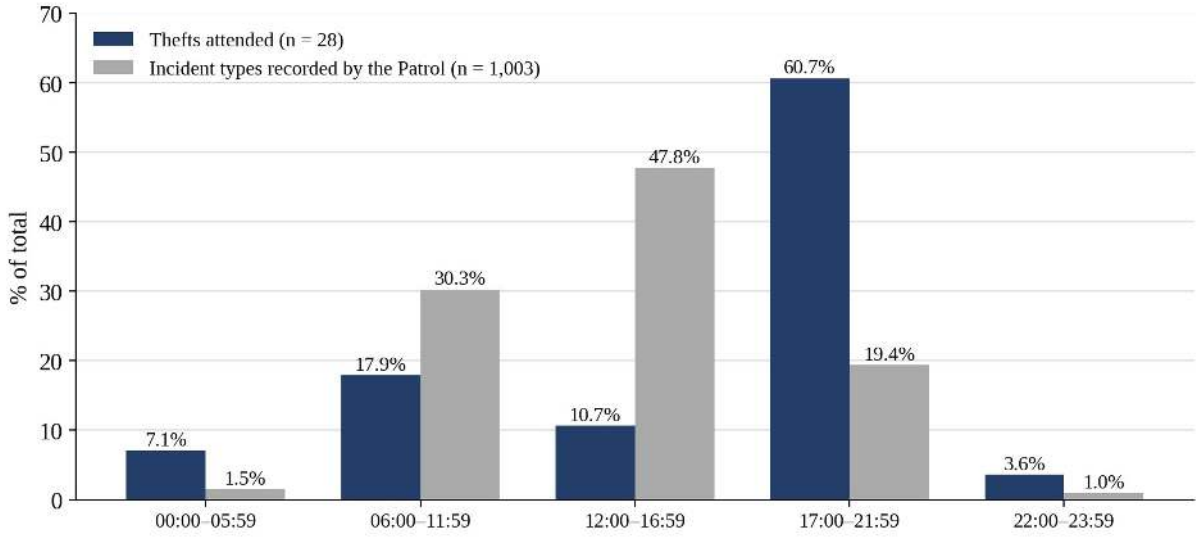
The most relevant data for operational planning, however, is timing. Figure 3 compares the distribution of the thefts by time band to the distribution of all the incident types recorded by the team.

Figure 3 – Distribution of thefts attended and incident types recorded by the 32nd BPM Rural Patrol, by time range



Source: prepared by the author based on Paraná Military Police (2026).

Of the 28 thefts, 17 (60.7%) occurred between 5 p.m. and 9:59 p.m., mostly in the late afternoon and early evening. The activity of the Patrol, on the other hand, is concentrated in the daytime. Almost half of the incident types recorded (47.8%) occur between 12:00 and 16:59, and another 30.3% between 06:00 and 11:59. In the band where the thefts are concentrated, the team records only 19.4% of their activities.

The discrepancy is obvious: the Community Rural Patrol is more present at times when the theft in rural areas is less frequent and less present just when it most occurs. There are understandable explanations for that. Registration visits, for example, need to be made during business hours when the producer is on the property. Nevertheless, the data indicates an opportunity for adjustment on the team scale, a theme that has been discussed again.

It should be remembered that these 28 burglaries are only those handled by the Community Rural Patrol. Raids in the countryside and by other battalion teams are not part of this base. Therefore, the figures do not represent the total of rural thefts in the 32nd BPM area, and the absence of thefts refers to the services of the Community Rural Patrol, not the area as a whole.

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4.6 Operational results

While most of the activity of the Community Rural Patrol is preventive, the team also produces typical results of repressive policing. Table 8 summarizes these indicators.

Table 8 – Operational results of the 32nd BPM Rural Patrol, by year

Indicator	2024[4]	2025	2026[5]	Total
People arrested	26	48	21	95
in execution of warrants	21	36	18	75
in other circumstances[1]	5	12	3	20
Execution of judicial and arrest warrants[2]	30	43	23	96
Execution of search and seizure warrants	—	1	2	3
Police reports involving firearm seizures[3]	—	3	1	4
Records of recovered objects	1	9	1	11
Recovered vehicles (incident type recorded by the Patrol)	3	5	1	9

[1] Drug trafficking, handling stolen property, tampering with a vehicle identification mark, unlawful possession of a firearm, theft, bodily injury, and others. [2] Sum of the incident types “execution of a judicial warrant” and “execution of an arrest warrant.” [3] At least three revolvers and one pistol; two records without specification of type or quantity. [4] April to December. [5] Through October 20. Source: prepared by the author based on Paraná Military Police (2026).

arrests and warrants: During the period, the Community Rural Patrol arrested 95 people in 93 newsletters. The majority of arrests, 75 (78.9%), occurred in the performance of warrants, an activity that appears frequently in the team's routine. There were 96 records of execution and arrest warrants in the period, plus 3 search and seizure warrants. As of 2025, the system has moved to record some of these attendances with the specific nature of 'compliance with a warrant of arrest', totalling 22 records: 7 in 2025 and 15 in 2026. The other 20 arrests stemmed from blatant situations identified by the team, such as drug trafficking, receiving, tampering with vehicle identification and illegal possession of a firearm.

The weight of the warrants deserves a careful reading. On the one hand, it shows that the Community Rural Patrol is also employed to support judicial activity by locating and arresting wanted persons, many of them in areas difficult to access, where the knowledge of the territory by the team makes a difference. On the other hand, it is an activity that is time-consuming and effective with preventive action in the field, a topic which will be discussed again.

Firearms: The team recorded firearms seizures on four occasions, three of them in rural areas. Records identify at least three revolvers seized in the same drug trafficking incident off BR-376 in Marialva, and a pistol found abandoned in rural Mandaguaçu. The other two

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incidents of unlawful possession of firearms do not indicate the type or quantity seized. One of them was in Marialva and the other one was in Sarandi, this one with the deleted weapon ID.

Recovered objects and vehicles: 11 recovered objects were registered for a total of 12 units. Some of them relate to urban events, such as cell phones, chargers, a bicycle and a jewelry. The most expressive outcome for the rural environment, however, is concentrated in December 2025, in the rural area of Paiçandu, as described in Box 3. In addition, the team recorded the recovery of 9 vehicles in the police reports themselves.

Box 3 – Recovery of agricultural implements on Estrada Santo Antônio, Paiçandu (December 2025)

The suit. On 5 December 2025, the Rural Patrol of the 32nd BPM attended a aggravated handling of stolen property in the Santo Antônio Road, rural area of Paiçandu.
The assets recovered. Four items classified in the scheme as agricultural implements, of the brands Valtra, Baldan, Case IH (Farmall 80) and Jacto (Colombia AD18).
The prisons. Two men, aged 64 and 53, were arrested in the incident.
The unfolding. Six days later, on 11 December, the team returned to the same road and recorded a new aggravated handling of stolen property event, with the recovery of another equipment (Civemasa brand), in the same police report which lists a Community visit.
Why does it matter? In two visits, the team recovered five agricultural equipment, high-value and production-essential goods, exactly the kind of heritage that the Rural Patrol was set up to protect.

Source: prepared by the author based on Paraná Military Police (2026).

The episode of Paiçandu illustrates well the kind of outcome that justifies the existence of a specialized patrol. The assets recovered are of high value and essential to production, and their loss can compromise the activity of an entire property, as Oliveira, Medina and Teixeira (2022) recall. The recording of a Community visit in the same newsletter as the second incident also suggests that the team combined repressive action with contact with the inhabitants of the region, precisely the integration between prevention and repression envisaged in the model of the Community Rural Patrol.

4.7 Profile of people arrested

Table 9 shows the characteristics of the 95 people arrested by the Community Rural Patrol during the period as recorded in the newsletters.

Table 9 – Profile of people arrested by the 32nd BPM Rural Patrol (April 2024 – October 2026)

Characteristic	n	%
Sex		
Male	85	89,5
Female	10	10,5

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Characteristic	n	%
Age group[1]		
18–24 years	12	12,6
25–34 years	32	33,7
35–44 years	28	29,5
45–59 years	17	17,9
60 years or older	5	5,3
Not reported	1	1,1
Race/color[2]		
White	43	45,3
Brown (parda)	40	42,1
Black	10	10,5
Asian (amarela)	2	2,1
Location of arrest[3]		
Rural area	14	14,7
Urban area	81	85,3
Circumstance		
Execution of a warrant	75	78,9
Other circumstances	20	21,1
Total	95	100,0

[1] Estimated age recorded in the police report. Mean: 37.5 years; median: 35.5 years; minimum: 20; maximum: 77. [2] As recorded in the police report. [3] Police reports indicating a rural area in the neighborhood field. n = number of people arrested. Percentages are rounded. Source: prepared by the author based on Paraná Military Police (2026).

The profile is predominantly male: 85 men (89.5%) and 10 women (10.5%). The estimated age ranges from 20 to 77 years, with an average of 37.5 and a median of 35.5 years. The highest concentration is between 25 and 44 years of age, a range that encompasses 63.2% of inmates. It draws attention to the relatively small participation of younger people. Only 12 inmates (12.6%) were aged between 18 and 24, while 22 (23.2%) were aged 45 or over. It is a higher age profile than the one usually associated with urban crime, which can be related to the weight of the arrest warrants, which often reach people convicted or tried for previous crimes.

As for race/color, 43 prisoners were registered as white (45.3%), 40 as brown (42.1%), 10 as black (10.5%) and 2 as yellow (2.1%). Combined with browns and blacks, the black population, according to the IBGE classification, represents 52.6% of the prison population.

The data on the location of the arrest is what most interacts with the subject of this study. Only 14 of the 95 arrests (14.7%) took place in rural areas. The others took place in urban areas, notably in Sarandi (28 prisoners), Paiçandu (19) and Mandaguaçu (14). The explanation lies in the nature of these arrests: 75 of them (78.9%) were due to warrants, and the person sought is located where he or she lives or moves, usually in the city. Among the 14 rural arrests, 10 cases

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are concentrated in Paiçandu, Marialva and Floresta, two of which correspond to the incidence of receipt of agricultural implements described in Box 3.

These figures reinforce a reading already pointed out in the previous section. The repressive activity of the Community Rural Patrol, as measured by the arrests, is largely aimed at supporting judicial activity and takes place mainly in urban areas. Preventive activity, as measured by visits, is concentrated in the field. The two fronts coexist in the team routine but follow different logics, and this coexistence is one of the points to be considered in the discussion on the employment of the Community Rural Patrol in the 32nd BPM.

4.8 Comparison between the deployment and registration phases

The previous sections have shown that the start of registration visits in April 2025 coincides with changes in several aspects of the operation of the Community Rural Patrol. Table 10 summarizes these indicators and compares the two phases. Since periods have different durations (12 months in the first phase and 18.6 months in the second), the comparison is made by the monthly average.

Table 10 – Indicators for the 32nd BPM Rural Patrol in the deployment and registration phases

Indicator	Phase 1 – deployment (12 months)		Phase 2 – registration (18.6 months)		Change in monthly average
	Total	Monthly average	Total	Monthly average	
Police reports	269	22,4	576	30,9	+38%
Recorded incident types	340	28,3	663	35,6	+26%
Visits (registration, community, support, meetings, and talks)	27	2,3	313	16,8	+646%
Presence patrol	101	8,4	114	6,1	−27%
Stops of suspects	90	7,5	60	3,2	−57%
Execution of warrants (all types)	47	3,9	52	2,8	−29%
People arrested	44	3,7	51	2,7	−25%
Thefts attended	11	0,9	17	0,9	−1%
of which in rural areas	5	0,4	13	0,7	+67%

Phase 1: April 2024 to March 2025. Phase 2: April 2025 to 20 October 2026. Rural area as indicated in the police report's neighborhood field. Averages and changes are rounded. Source: prepared by the author based on Paraná Military Police (2026).

The first result is an increase in the volume of work recorded. The average increased from 22.4 to 30.9 police reports per month (+38%) and from 28.3 to 35.6 police reports per month (+26%). However, this growth was not evenly distributed between activities. It is almost

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entirely due to visits, whose monthly average went from 2.3 to 16.8. In other words, the team went on to make, on average, seven times as many visits per month as in the deployment phase.

On the contrary, activities of an ostensible and repressive nature decreased on a monthly average. Approaches dropped 57%, warrants dropped 29%, police presence dropped 27% and arrests dropped 25%. The framework is a redistribution of team time. Part of the hours previously devoted to monitoring and supporting judicial activity have now been devoted to direct contact with rural properties. It is the displacement provided for in Guideline 002/2024-PM/3, which places prevention as the axis of rural policing (POLÍCIA MILITAR DO PARANÁ, 2024 apud RIBEIRO; JESUS, 2025).

The thefts covered deserve a careful reading. The monthly average remained virtually the same in both phases, around 0.9 per month, but the composition changed. At the deployment stage, 5 of the 11 thefts covered occurred in rural areas. In the registration phase, there were 13 out of 17, and the monthly average of countryside thefts attended rose from 0.4 to 0.7. This increase should not be read as an increase in crime in the countryside. Since the data only refer to the services of the Patrol, it is consistent with a team more present in the rural environment and better known to the producers, who then activate it directly when they are victims. Oliveira, Medina and Teixeira (2022, p. 210) observed the same effect in Catalão: after the deployment of the Rural Patrol, part of the increase in records reflected the greater willingness of victims to report the facts.

Finally, the limit of this comparison needs to be strengthened. It shows how the action of the Rural Patrol has changed, but does not allow to say that the register reduced or increased crime in the area of the 32nd BPM. This assessment would require records of all thefts and thefts in rural areas in the eleven municipalities, irrespective of the staff who assisted them, data which were not part of the extractions carried out. It is thus a suggestion for future studies.

5 Discussion

5.1 What the figures indicate about the preventive model

The first point that the results show is that the Community Rural Patrol of the 32nd BPM operates in practice as a preventive patrol. More than nine out of ten natural occurrences recorded during the period (91.9%) are non-criminal occurrences, and direct contact with the rural community forms the largest group of activities of the team. The data has weight because it does not result from a methodological choice of this study. It is the team itself that, when

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recording its routine, describes a job focused on presence, visitation and approach, not response to the crime committed.

This finding makes sense when compared with the theoretical benchmark. Skolnick and Bayley (2002) point out, among the common elements of successful community policing experiences, the organization of community-based prevention and the reorientation of patrol to non-emergency services. Table 4 shows exactly that movement. In the implementation phase, presence policing and approaches accounted for 56.2% of incident types, and visits, 7.9%. In the registration phase, visits accounted for almost half of the activity (47.2%). The principle that the policeman should anticipate the occurrence, and not expect to be triggered by the radio (BRASIL, 2007, p. 46) On average, the team made almost 17 visits per month to properties in the region.

The results also indicate that the registry functioned as the turning point of the model. Before him, the Rural Patrol of the 32nd BPM differed little from a conventional ostensibly policing team. After that, they changed not only the composition of the activities, but also the place where they take place. The share of the rural environment increased from 58,3% to 67,5% between 2024 and 2026, and the proportion of police reports in rural areas increased from 59,5% to 78,1% between phases. Registration, therefore, was not just another routine task. He gave the team a regular reason to be on the field, and it is on this regular presence that the building of the links provided for in Guideline 002/2024-PM/3 depends.

The absence of thefts among the services of the Community Rural Patrol and the low frequency of thefts, around one per month, are consistent with this framework, but should be handled with caution. Since the data refer only to what the team responded to, it is not possible to attribute to the preventive model an effect on rural crime in the area. What can be said is more modest, but no less relevant: the model has been effectively implemented, and the team has devoted most of their time to what state policy sets as a priority. Three aspects, however, indicate that the model is still being consolidated.

a) The territorial coverage is uneven. Marialva and Mandaguari concentrate 71.6% of registered visits, while extensive and mainly agricultural municipalities, such as São Jorge do Ivaí and Itambé, recorded few such visits. In part, the concentration is due to the extent and productive importance of Marialva. Still, she suggests that the safety net has not yet reached Battalion territory homogeneously.
b) The pace of registration has dropped. The monthly average increased from 19.8 visits in 2025 to 9.5 in 2026. The fall may have legitimate explanations, such as the depletion of the

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most affordable properties or the reallocation of the real, but it indicates that the maintenance of the model depends on continuous planning, not just the initial boost.

c) Preventive and repressive activities are equally effective. Enforcement of warrants accounted for 78.9% of arrests, most of them in urban areas. This activity has obvious value, but it takes time from a team whose reason for being is the field.

In summary, the figures indicate that the Rural Patrol of the 32nd BPM adopted the preventive model envisaged by the PMPR and did so quickly: in just over a year of the battalion's operation, the visit to the properties was already the main activity of the team. The challenge now is less to implement the model and more to maintain it, extending its coverage to less-served municipalities and preserving the team's time for the activity that sets it apart from the others.

5.2 Comparison with the 5th CIPM (Cianorte) and other studies

Comparison with other studies requires an initial reserve. The available surveys on the Community Rural Patrol in Paraná and Goiás worked with rural crime recorded throughout the study area, regardless of the team that responded to the incident. This work, on the other hand, analyses the records produced by the Patrol itself. So the numbers can't be placed side by side as if they measured the same thing. What you can compare are the trends and how each experiment was organized.

The closest case is Cianorte, also in the 3rd CRPM. Ribeiro and Jesus (2025) identified, between the three years 2019 – 2021 and 2022 – 2024, a decrease in theft in rural areas from 35 to 5, a decrease in theft from 277 to 211 and a strong growth in preventive indicators: 517 registered properties and 104 plates installed. In both cases, the registry appears as the centre of the strategy, and its expansion coincides with the change in the profile of police work. There is, however, an important difference in maturity. In Cianorte, the programme was analysed after three years of version 4.0 and on a rural patrol structure existing since 2019. In the 32nd BPM, the Community Rural Patrol was born along with the Battalion, just over two and a half years ago, and the systematic property registry is about a year and a half old. The results described here therefore correspond to the initial stage of a process that was already consolidated in Cianorte.

Also at a regional level, Ribeiro (2025) analysed the 2024 crime indicators in the rural area of the entire 3rd CRPM, to which the 32nd BPM belongs. In relation to 2023, the author recorded a reduction in homicides in rural areas (29 to 15), simple and skilled theft (1179 to

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904), theft and theft of motorhomes (404 to 240 animals) and theft and theft of agricultural inputs (39 to 11). Vehicle theft, on the other hand, increased (from 49 to 52) (RIBEIRO, 2025, p. 9-12). These data help to place the 32nd BPM in a regional context of decline in most rural crime, but do not allow to isolate the battalion's contribution as they aggregate the entire command area. Another interesting point is the list of proactive and preventive indicators used by the 3rd CRPM, which includes registered properties, installed plates and communication groups with producers, registered in its own system(RIBEIRO, 2025, p. 8). It is precisely the information that was missing in this study, which indicates that a further work on the 32nd BPM could combine it with the BI data.

In Goiás, the study of Oliveira, Medina and Teixeira (2022) on Catalão offers two direct parallels. The first is the increase in records after the deployment of the Rural Patrol, which the authors largely attributed to the greater willingness of victims to report the facts. In the 32nd BPM, the monthly average of rural burglaries attended by the Patrol rose from 0.4 to 0.7 between phases, and the most plausible explanation is the same: a more active team in the field becomes more activated. The second parallel is the concentration of crime near cities: in Catalão, 67% of the records occurred within 20 kilometres of the urban perimeter. In the 32nd BPM, the proximity between urban and rural areas is even greater. Sarandi, Paiçandu and Mandaguaçu concentrate a significant part of the thefts and arrests, and the neighborhood-farm border is often a road.

Finally, Costa's work (2023) on the Goiás Rural Battalions functions as a methodological warning. Even with sharp declines in absolute numbers, statistical analysis only confirmed the programme's effect on cattle theft. The author attributed this result to the difficulty of separating the effect of the programme from other factors acting at the same time. The lesson for this study and others like it is that a drop in an indicator over time is a positive sign, but it is not enough alone to prove that it was caused by the policy being analyzed. It therefore opted here for a descriptive analysis of the team's performance, without attributing to the Community Rural Patrol any effects on crime that the available data cannot demonstrate.

Overall, the studies point in the same direction. Where the Community Rural Patrol is organised around registration and regular presence in the countryside, the profile of policing changes, and regional indicators tend to improve. The 32nd BPM follows this pattern in the way it has structured its performance. For future studies, it remains to see whether the results on crime are keeping pace with this change.

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5.3 The mismatch between patrol schedules and the times of thefts

Among the results of this study, what offers the most immediate practical application is the difference between the hours of operation of the Community Rural Patrol and the times when the theft occurs. Almost half of the incident types recorded by the team (47.8%) are concentrated between 12:00 and 16:59, and another 30.3% between 06:00 and 11:59. In contrast, 60.7% of the thefts attended occurred between 17:00 and 21:59, a period in which the team records less than one fifth of its activities (19.4%). In simple terms, the Community Rural Patrol is more present when the theft in the countryside is less frequent and less present when it occurs most.

The theory of routine activities helps to understand why this imbalance matters. From this perspective, crime depends on the convergence, in time and space, of three factors: a motivated offender, a valuable and accessible target, and the absence of guards (police, security guards, self-guarding measures, etc.) to protect and prevent crime(MOLINA; GOMES, 2006, p. 170 apud RIBEIRO; JESUS, 2025, p. 20). In rural areas, the target is permanently exposed, since, as Ribeiro and Jesus (2025, p. 3) recall, agriculture is an open-air enterprise: machines, inputs and animals stay in the field day and night. What varies throughout the day is the presence of guards. Late afternoon and early evening conditions are favourable for the offender: work in the fields closes, workers leave the crops, lightning decreases and traffic on rural roads drops. If, at the same time, the police presence also decreases, the absence of guards becomes complete.

The breakdown, however, is not the result of careless planning. It is largely a consequence of the preventive model itself. Registration visits, the main activity of the team in the second phase, need to be made during business hours, when the producer is on the property and can receive the police officers, provide information and learn about the programme. Compliance with mandates and support for other bodies also tend to focus on the daytime period. There is therefore a real tension between two legitimate needs: to be with the producer during the day, to build the bond, and to be on the road in the late afternoon when the crime occurs.

Two reservations limit the scope of this conclusion. The first is the size of the sample. That's 28 burglaries, enough to set a standard, but not to establish it with statistical certainty. The second is that these thefts are only those handled by the Patrol. The thefts handled by other battalion teams, which may have a different timetable profile, are not part of the base.

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Nevertheless, the concentration is expressive enough to justify attention, especially because it converges with the logic of the theory and what is known about routine in the field. The result suggests that the scale of the Community Rural Patrol can be adjusted without abandoning the preventive model. An alternative is to step up the shift of the team so that part of it moves on over the early evening, reserving the morning and early afternoon for visits and the late afternoon for patrolling rural roads. Another is to use the timing data of the thefts to guide the points and moments of police presence, in line with the criminal analysis as a decision-making tool provided for in Guideline 002/2024-PM/3. Whatever the arrangement, the data shows that the prevention model gains strength when the police presence follows not only the place but also the time of the crime.

5.4 The reduction in records in 2026 and its possible explanations

The results show that the intensity of activity recorded by the Community Rural Patrol did not remain constant throughout the period. In order to avoid distortions resulting from the uneven length of years, the fairest comparison is between the same months: 1 January to 20 October. In this period, the team registered 351 police reports in 2025 and 221 in 2026, a 37% decrease. The decline is even more visible in property visits, which went from an average of more than 30 per month between August and October 2025 to only 5 or 6 in September and October 2026.

Before looking for explanations, it should be noted that the reduction did not reach all activities in the same way. Comparing the same months of the two years, attendance police increased from 52 to 63 records, and enforcement of arrest warrants also increased, as shown in section 4.6. The greatest reductions occurred in visits (from 178 to 108), approaches (from 47 to 23) and the diverse group of activities, such as support for other units, traffic occurrences and undetected events, which fell from 67 to 11. The team, therefore, has not stopped acting. What is observed is a less intense performance with a different composition.

The available data do not allow the cause of this reduction to be identified with certainty. It is possible, however, to raise some hypotheses, which need to be confirmed by the management of the battalion.

The first is a natural implantation cycle. The period from April to October 2025 was exceptional, with an average of 45 police reports per month, double the previous period. It is common for new programmes to have an early phase of intensive mobilisation, in which the team seeks to reach as many properties as possible quickly, followed by a maintenance phase,

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at a slower pace. Viewed from this angle, the average of 22.9 police reports per month in 2026 represents a return to the 2024 level (23.9), not a fall below it.

The second possibility is a partial depletion of the register in the most accessible areas. In 2025, Marialva and Mandaguari concentrated the majority of visits, and these two municipalities continued to lead in 2026, albeit in smaller numbers. If the nearest and most receptive properties have already been registered, each new visit tends to require more travel and more time. The data, however, do not show an expansion of the register to the least-served municipalities in 2026: Itambé and São Jorge do Ivaí, for example, did not register register visits that year. This suggests that if there was exhaustion, it was not compensated by a change in the territorial distribution of effort.

The third hypothesis involves management factors such as reducing the number of police officers on the staff, deployments, holidays, courses or employment of the Community Rural Patrol in other Battalion missions and operations. These factors usually have a large impact on small teams, but they do not appear in newsletters and therefore could not be verified in this study.

The fourth hypothesis concerns the registration form. Ribeiro (2025, p. 8) reports that, in the 3rd CRPM, part of the preventive indicators, such as registry visits, reviews and Community meetings, is accompanied by its own system, other than the BI. If, over time, part of the visits ceased to be recorded as an occurrence police report and became recorded only in that system, the reduction observed in the BI would be, at least in part, a change in record, not activity.

Whatever the explanation, the data has value for management. It shows that the maintenance of the preventive model is not automatic and that the pace achieved in 2025 depends on conditions that need to be preserved, such as effective dedicated time available for visits and territorial coverage targets. It also indicates the importance of continuous monitoring of preventive indicators, as provided for in Guideline 002/2024-PM/3, so that such variations are perceived and explained when they occur.

6 Final considerations

This study began with the following question: how has the 32nd BPM Community Rural Patrol been acting in protecting the rural environment of the municipalities under its responsibility from the creation of the Battalion in April 2024 to October 2026? The analysis

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of the 845 newsletters and the 1,003 incident types reports recorded by the staff during the period allows us to answer this question in four dimensions.

The first is the incident types of acting. The Community Rural Patrol of the 32nd BPM acts predominantly preventively: 91.9% of the recorded incidents are non-criminal incidents, such as visits, police presence and approaches. Crimes and misdemeanors account for less than one tenth of the work recorded. The team therefore fulfils the role that Directive 002/2024-PM/3 assigns to rural policing: acting mainly in prevention and only in a supplementary way in repression.

The second is the transformation of the model over time. The team's performance was not the same throughout the period. In her freshman year, she looked like a conventional, ostensibly policing team, focused on presence and approach. As from April 2025, with the start of registration visits, the routine changed: visits accounted for almost half of the registered incident types, and the monthly average of this type of contact with producers was multiplied by more than seven. At the same time, activity has shifted to the countryside, with the share of the rural environment increasing from 58.3% to 67.5% of records. The register was thus the element that effectively transformed a patrol team into a Community rural patrol.

The third is the production of operational results. Even with a focus on prevention, the team arrested 95 people, most of them in compliance with warrants, seized firearms and recovered property. Among them are five agricultural equipment recovered in rural Paiçandu, a clear example of the type of heritage the programme seeks to protect. Among the services provided by the Community Rural Patrol, 28 thefts and no thefts were recorded, with a growing concentration of thefts in the rural area.

The fourth dimension covers the points that still require attention. Registry coverage is uneven, concentrated in Marialva and Mandaguari. The most frequent cases of theft occur between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m., while the team's activity is concentrated during the day. The pace of visits has slowed in 2026. In addition, the mandate-enforcement activity, mostly urban, occupies a significant portion of the time of a team whose expertise is the field.

In summary, the answer to the research problem is that the Community Rural Patrol of the 32nd BPM adopted, in just over a year of operation of the Battalion, the preventive model envisaged by the Paraná Military Police, having its main instruments in the property register and regular presence in the field. The model is deployed, but it's still consolidating. Its strengthening depends on expanding territorial coverage, adjusting attendance times to crime

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patterns and ensuring teams are able to continuously maintain the pace of rapprochement with the rural community achieved in 2025.

The scope of this study should be reaffirmed. Based on the records produced by the Community Rural Patrol itself, it describes the work of the team, but does not allow to conclude that this work has reduced rural crime in the Battalion area. This question remains open and constitutes the main route for future research.

From the analyses carried out, three recommendations for the management of the 32nd CFP Community Rural Patrol follow. They are not intended to replace the knowledge that Command and crew have of local reality. These are adjustments that the data itself indicates as opportunities for improvement.

a) Adjust the time of part of the patrol to the time of theft. The thefts attended by the team are concentrated between 5pm and 10pm (60.7%), a range in which the Community Rural Patrol records less than a fifth of its activities. It is advisable to assess the possibility of staging the shift of the team so that part of it moves on to the late afternoon and early evening. The morning and early afternoon would be reserved for property visits, which depend on the presence of the producer. The end of the day would be devoted to policing presence on rural roads, prioritizing municipalities and sections with a history of theft. This measure does not require abandoning the preventive model, only better allocating team time between the two fronts.

b) To extend the register to less-served municipalities. Marialva and Mandaguari account for 71.6% of registered visits. Extensive, agricultural-based municipalities, such as São Jorge do Ivaí and Itambé, recorded few such visits, and none in 2026. It is recommended to set territorial coverage targets, by municipality and by period, so that the protection network reaches the entire territory of the Battalion. Partnerships with municipalities, rural trade unions, cooperatives and producer associations can facilitate the identification of properties and the scheduling of visits, such as the link with organised civil society described by Ribeiro and Jesus (2025) in Cianorte.

c) Improve the recording of information. Part of the limitations of this study stem from the way the data is recorded, not the team's performance. It is recommended to: record the estimated value of recovered goods, which would allow to measure the damage avoided to producers; complete the data on seized weapons, with type and quantity; standardize the rural area indication in police reports, which now appears with varying graphs in the field “ bairro ”; integrate the BI data with the preventive indicators accompanied by other

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systems, such as the number of registered properties, installed plates and contact groups with producers.

These measures would enable the Battalion to continuously monitor the preventive, reactive and criminal indicators as envisaged in Guideline 002/2024-PM/3, and would provide a stronger basis for future evaluations of the programme.

This study described the performance of the Community Rural Patrol of the 32nd BPM from the records produced by the team itself. The findings and limitations point the way for research that can deepen knowledge about the programme.

The first and most important is to assess the effect of the Community Rural Patrol on rural crime in the 32°BPM area. To do this, it would be necessary to analyse all the thefts and thefts that occurred in rural areas in the eleven municipalities, regardless of the staff who served them, and compare their evolution before and after the start of the registration. A longer historical series, including the years prior to the creation of the 32nd BPM, from data from each municipality, would allow for this type of comparison. The methodological care pointed out by Costa (2023) also applies: the ideal is to have some term of comparison, such as neighbouring municipalities without systematic registration, that helps to separate the effect of the programme from other factors.

The second way is to know the perception of rural farmers. The police reports show what the police do, but not how this job is received by those who live in the countryside. Interviews or questionnaires with registered and unregistered producers would allow assessing the feeling of security, confidence in the Community Rural Patrol, use of communication groups and willingness to record occurrences. Oliveira, Medina and Teixeira (2022) showed in Catalão that this type of approach reveals aspects invisible in numbers, such as the economic impact of a single theft on small property. Such a study would also help to ascertain whether the increase in the second stage of rural theft actually reflects a greater willingness of producers to engage the police.

The third is to compare registered and unregistered properties as to the occurrence of crime. By crossing the registry base with the theft and theft records, it would be possible to check whether the properties served by the programme are victims less frequently, a direct test of the effectiveness of the registry as a prevention tool.

Finally, it is suggested to follow the development of the programme over the coming years, verifying whether the reduction in the pace observed in 2026 corresponds to a stabilisation phase or a loss of intensity, and to extend the analysis to other units of the 3rd

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CRPM. A comparison between Battalions and Companies with different profiles would help to understand how the Community Rural Patrol model adapts to different realities, from predominantly agricultural regions to metropolitan areas such as the one studied here.

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