

found exposed to sun incidence during noon hours, every user was located in shady spots of the plaza under a tree. In Plaza de la República those users who mentioned feeling comfortable in the plaza at noon hours were also asked if they would visit the plaza if it had no trees. All answers were no. Plaza de la Madre users answered this last question the same way. Therefore, the presence of trees and shade determines people's comfort and satisfaction of any outdoor space during noon hours with severe sun incidence.

What this topic has showed is that a lack of climatic conditioning of Plaza de la Madre is affecting the climatic comfort of users. This climatic comfort could be enhanced with the location of trees and protection from solar incidence. It was also found that climatic issues also affect people's comfort in Plaza de la República and thus, determines the hours of visit to the plaza. But the presence of many adult trees, which provide sufficient shade in Plaza de la República, reduces the uncomfortable effects of the climate at during noon hours. Therefore, climatic issues are a greater concern in Plaza de la Madre than Plaza de la República, but this last plaza is able to support passive use and comfort at noon hours while people remain under a tree. Therefore, climatic issues are a critical factor for attracting people at certain hours of the day and creating human comfort in Plazas in Maracaibo.

### **16.6.2 Security Comfort**

Another important task of this research was identifying how security affected the use and livability of plazas in Maracaibo. This question seeks to understand if the users of both Plaza de la Madre and Plaza de la República felt secure in those public spaces. Also understand if their visit whether engaged in a group or not, were influenced by security issues. Additionally it was studied what conditions caused people to avoid visiting the plazas and how comfortable they felt while using the plazas at night.

When asked about security while visiting the plazas, 73% of Plaza de la Madre users mentioned that they did not feel secure because there was an evident lack of police surveillance. Also this area of the city was not considered safe, and they would not visit the plaza when they were alone. Twenty-seven percent of the population interviewed mentioned that factors for visiting the plaza were the presence of others (people surveillance), and daylight hours. Also, they felt secure visiting the plaza because they had not been a victim of crime at any time in the plaza. Conversely, in Plaza de la República, 86% of the interviewed users felt secure in this plaza. The reasons given for feeling safe were people presence, the perception of security due to police surveillance, and lack of evidence of any crime in the plaza. The minority who were insecure in Plaza de la República (14%), was due to the perception of lack of police surveillance and security when the plaza was empty.