

TRENDS OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES ON SAFETY OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY IN NAIROBI CITY COUNTY, KENYA 2011-2021

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ABSTRACT

Trends of criminal activities can be defined as major changes in the nature of selected criminal activities over time in a specific geographic area. Criminal activities are part of human nature and society. That is why there is no society that can be completely free from criminal activities. In most cases, Trends of criminal activities tend to follow the patterns of social, and economic development of a given urban settlement or society. This study investigates the trends of criminal activities on the safety of persons and property in Nairobi City County, Kenya 2011-2021. One of the objectives was to establish the types and changing patterns of criminal activities in Nairobi City County Kenya. The study used Routine activity theory to understand the types and changing patterns of criminal activities in Nairobi City County. The study embraced a descriptive research survey design whereby a target population of 271,290 households were used in the study. The main respondents in the study were Kenya Police Officers, the Directorate of Criminal Investigation, household's heads, and County Administrators. The study utilized simple random and purposive sampling techniques with a sample size of 225 respondents. The

study used focused group discussions, interview schedule, rules and questionnaires on collecting data for the study. In the study 2015 questionnaires were used whereby respondents returned 200 questionnaires in time. The findings were presented in tables, graphs, and pie charts, while qualitative data were analyzed through the themes and patterns formed and presented in narrative verbatim quotation forms. The research findings revealed that pickpocketing led with 55 percent as the major type of criminal activity, 51 percent assault, and 35 percent gangs as some of the least occurring criminal activities in Nairobi City County. According to the study, the researcher noted that increasing day and night patrols, installing surveillance cameras in buildings, revitalizing the Nyumba Kumi Initiative, reducing corruption among civil servants, and educating youths on the dangers of drugs and substance abuse would all help to create a long-term solution to end criminal activity in Nairobi City County.

Keywords: Crime trends, Safety of persons and property, Nairobi County, Kenya

INTRODUCTION

Trends of criminal activities can be defined as major changes in the nature of selected criminal activities over time in a specific geographic area. Criminal activities are part of human nature in a society. That is why no society can be completely free from criminal activities. (Vossekuil et al., 2002). Therefore, it is common that a community will experience a low level of development and

loss of lives due to an increase in the rate of violent crime such as politically motivated killings, armed robbery, ethnic clashes, use of illegal guns, terrorism, Maritime Piracy, Drug trafficking, human organs trafficking and cybercrime and others crimes. These crimes have led to the destruction of property and loss of life (Moher, 2000).

In most countries around the world such as e.g. Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, USA, and Canada among others are affected by trends of criminal activities therefore these governments are re-evaluating strategies, policies and programs in bid to enhance security and economic development. These criminal activities are divided into three types, which include crime against Person, and hate crime. Crimes against a person include Murder, aggravated assault, and rape, Property crimes do not entail bodily injury, and they include burglary, robbery, vehicle theft, and arson, to mention a few. While hate Crimes are crimes that occur when someone is motivated by politics or personal feelings based on tribe culture or belief (Braga 2016).

According to FBI and BJS, in USA crime patterns have changed over the last two decades with the rise of property crimes such larceny/theft, Burglary and motor vehicle theft were on the rise. Among violent crimes were aggravated assault, robbery, rape and murder. Though most scholars in USA paid much attention to emerging types of crimes such as cybercrimes, terrorism among others created a gap by neglecting the changing trends in traditional crimes which has affected the economic stability and viability of cities in USA (Brandon and Magnus 2020, Fox, 2000; Spellman, 2000).

In Canada, according to violent crime severity index (VCSI) and crime severity index (CSI) indicates that trend in violent crime have affected the lives and property of individuals The major a major trends in criminal activities are related to drug-related offenses, violent crime, fraud, assault. (Shelley, 2014). The major point in the difference between trends in criminal activities in developed and developing countries are the policies and strategies that are being used by the government to address crime. According to Gibson and Douglas (2020), changing patterns of criminal activities in African countries such as Nigeria and South Africa, crimes such as, murder, assault, rapes, and other violent acts increased in 2019 as compared to most African countries. In South Africa prevalence of crimes such as rape, carjacking, robbing motorists, taxi violence, cash-in-transit heist, gang violence, xenophobic violence has been associated with immigration, migration, and lack of economic opportunity in South Africa (Demombynes & Zler, 2005).In Nigeria, the last ten years of transitional democracy, the country had witnessed increase in violent crimes such as the kidnaping of school girls and journalists in Arabia state in 2010.The rise crimes such as murder, corruption, organized crime, human trafficking, domestic violence, Money laundering, human organ trafficking and child sexual abuse are manifestations of Nigeria being caught up in the crime dilemma (Kyamana,2015). This is opposed to early years where criminal activities were based on property crimes as opposed to politically motivated crimes, which are deterring economical and investment development in the major cities.

In Kenya, criminal activities have been there since colonial times. Mogeni, (2013) points out that in 1987 and 2002, criminal activities in Kenya reduced from 84022 cases to 80143 cases, a 4.6 per cent reduction. Crime continued to decrease steadily up to 77852 in 2012. a good number of these crimes are majorly found in Kisumu, Nairobi, Mombasa and coastal regions. These crimes are attributed to economic, political and social instability as opposed to individual gain. The changing trends in criminal activities are evident in the reports of recent attack against tourist by armed criminals, Snatch and run crimes by Boda Boda operators, maritime piracy, Terrorism, drugs/ human /arms trafficking, and cybercrime and muggers have become common on the streets and towns within the country.

The Nairobi Annual Crime Observatory report 2011/2012 established more criminal activities hotspots in urban slums than in planned residential estates in Nairobi City County, whereby muggings, carjacking, bank robberies, assaults, to mention but a few, has been on the rise. Some of the common places within Nairobi with increased rate of crime are Kasarani, Kibra, Kamkunji, Uhuru Highway, Nyamakima, Gikomba, National Archives, and Kayole amongst others. This report was supported by the Kenya National Police service reports which indicates the main stream of Nairobi city County inhabitants lives in continual fear of insecurity .This is because the crime rate had been on the rise for the last ten years, with a 6.2 percent rise in crime from 2011 to 2020. The changing patterns of criminal activities are associated with mushrooming of unplanned settlement such as Kibra, Mathare and Mukuru Kwa Jenga. This slums has presented inhabitants with limited opportunity for legal employment which create helplessness and hopelessness which drive individuals to theft and robbery in the most affluent neighborhood.

Problem statement

Changing trend in Criminal activities are some of the human insecurity problems confronting the safety of individuals and their property in Nairobi City County. The constant changing pattern of these criminal activities has made it difficult for the inhabitants of the towns to access these social amenities. The changing patterns of criminal activities are manifested in new ways such as terrorism; proliferation of illegal guns, Boda illegal activities, using small children and beautiful girls in criminal activities has made Nairobi City County a risky area to stay in. In spite of the governments' interventions, criminal activities remain a big problem in Nairobi City County. Therefore, the main purpose of the study was to investigate the Trends of Criminal Activities on Safety of Persons and Property in Nairobi City County, Kenya 2011-2021.

Specific Objectives

The specific objective was to:

- i. Establish the types and changing patterns of criminal activities in in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

EMPIRICAL LITERATURE REVIEW

Types and Changing patterns of Criminal Activities

Criminal activities are divided into three different types. Property crime, crime against Person, and hate crime. Crimes against persons include Murder, aggravated assault, rape, and robbery are commonly referred to as personal crimes. Property crimes do not entail bodily injury, and they include burglary, robbery, vehicle theft, and arson, to mention a few. While hate Crimes are crimes that occur when someone is motivated by politics or personal feelings based on tribe culture or belief (Braga 2016).

The current study sought to explore the extent to which these crimes have changed over time. Albanese (1993) conducted a study on changing trends of criminal activities. The study revealed that computer crime, white-collar crime, and organized crime are all crimes that affect the economy. Criminal activities such as domestic and foreign terrorism, official public corruption, and dangerous drug transmission by addicts are concerns that undermine the political system, have changed in mode of omission and commission. The data reviewed from UNODC also shows that Person to person crimes such as homicide (intentional killing of another person by another), murder, infanticide, and assault have been leading worldwide. The incidences of homicide have been high in areas such as Asia, Europe, and America, whereas in Africa and Oceania have experienced low rates of homicide (UN-CTS). In 2011 to 2017 homicide resulted from Burglary, theft or robbery, drug, and drug-related crime, which are constantly referred to as property crimes. However, in 2019 to 2021 homicide has resulted from organ trafficking and other human body part trafficking that has led to loss of life across the world.

Furthermore, on Property crimes, Boman and Mowen (2021) stated that thefts were avenues of revenue for persons who survive in a street culture that put more importance on an immediate gain without considering consequences. These people cannot manage to pay for basic needs without engaging in property crimes. These patterns may also include aggressive and violent behavior that may disregard other needs and feelings. Therefore, these crimes are not based on weighing the advantages and disadvantages; rather, calculated decision-based desperation is directed as a source of income to support a lifetime or immediate satisfaction. However, in 2020-2021 property crimes have changed patterns. For example, political gangs or groups create income through extorting money from businesses and members of the public employed by politicians during electioneering periods, and the disposal of stolen properties are well connected with some powerful politicians to generate more income for their campaigns (Ombati, 2013).

Nevertheless, Crime in USA have changed overtime with sharp rise 1990s especially between 1970s and early 1990s. After 1991, criminal activities began to fall until 2015 when crime began to rise slightly. This trend reversed in 2018 and 2019 but violent crimes increased significantly in

2020 and 2021. The violent crimes that increased in 2021 include homicides though the overall prevalence came far below the peak of crimes that occurred in the USA during the late 1990s and early 2000s. The increase or decrease of these crimes depend on the seasons of the year. For example, during Summer most cases of homicide are reported due to longer daylight hours, high temperature, more foot traffics and interaction creating more opportunity for crime. The increased homicide in 2020 and 2021 were as a result of gun attacks by rouge civilian in colleges and private place. According to FBI and uniform Crime reports stated, that crime index in USA include violent crimes and property (crimes. Fox, 2000). The changing criminal activities have cost the US government over \$4.9 trillion in 2021. A study conducted in USA by Savia and Mulimani (2021) revealed that criminal possibilities, as indicated by the total of real individual's expenditure in each of the previous years from 2011, was connected to thefts and burglaries. Burglary and theft rise by around 2 percent for every 1 percent increase in individuals spending on property. Burglary and theft rise by around 1 percent for every 1 percent increase in youth aged between 20 to 30 years. However, the proposed explanation is a compelling historical explanation of property crime patterns that can be applied across a half-century and broadly depends on the age of individuals (Boman & Mowen, 2021). This is a clear indication that in the traditional society, Individuals were more interested in crimes that are meant for personal gain.

According to Statistics Canada (2000), indicated that the most important and widely reported violent crime trends was realized in early 1990s. In comparison to 1998, the total crime rate dropped 5 percent. In addition, violent crime decreased by 2.4 percent, marking the eighth year in a row that the rate has decreased. In 1998, the number of homicides fell by 4.7 percent, to its lowest level since 1967 (Statistics Canada, 2000). In 2019 violent crimes such as homicides increased by 7% from 1.83 homicides per 100000 populations per 1.75 homicides per 100000 populations in 2020. A part from violent crime, property and person-to-person crimes also increased, these crimes included assaults, sexual assaults, theft of motor vehicle parts. According to reports by statistics Canada 2020 (CSI and VCSI) indicates that there has been 8 to 10 prevalent decrease in crime between 2011 to 2019. Though there has been changing patterns in crime in 2021 whereby drug related offences, sexual offences, and fraud increased.

In Africa countries such as South Africa have experience constant change in crime pattern. A research conducted by Louw (1997) states that over the last two decades, crime and violence have characterized South Africa's transition. High crime rates instill widespread emotions of insecurity and dread, eroding public trust in the democratic process. This study examines shifting crime levels over the last decade, expanding on the issues connected with crime data in South Africa and the significance of the transition for present crime levels, considering both trends and public perceptions. Official police statistics, as well as victimization and other surveys, are used to compile the data. Since 1980, crime in South Africa has steadily increased (Louw, 1997). However, levels have grown rapidly since 1990, rather than more recently, as is widely assumed. These tendencies result from the political shift, and they were linked to apartheid and political

violence, the criminal justice system's disintegration, and, more recently, the rise of organized crime. South Africans are suffering because of high crime rates rather than socioeconomic difficulties, increasingly dominates people's worries, according to surveys crime fear is on the rise (Louw, 1997). And the People are less confident in the government's ability to handle the situation now than in past years. Property crime continuous to rise in the face of widespread unemployment on the one hand and the possibility of development on the other. While violent crime is expected to diminish in the long term, better ties with the police and a culture of reporting crimes such as rape and assault may result in more crimes being recorded.

In Nigeria types and changing patterns of criminal activities has been linked to violent crimes especially on terrorism activities of Boko Haram which has led to insecurity in Naigeria. The changing pattern of crime in Nigeria can be dated back to 1970s during civil wars when violent crimes was common. During those days' dangerous weapons were used in killing innocent individuals. These civil war laid a foundation for violent crimes by criminals. The most common violent crimes were; murder, rape, kidnaping, and sea piracy. These types of crimes were attributed to proliferation of small arms which fueled insecurity and violence. In 1980, trend of criminal activities changed from minor crimes to major violent crimes such as rape, murder and kidnappings. According to Emeh, (2012), armed robbers who used to operate at night are now operating in both day and night attacking homes, banks and shops where they main, kill individuals, and such cases increased mostly in the year 2011 to 2021.

Therefore, in comparison of crime trends between countries, it is difficult to predict or state crime trends due to difference in jurisprudence, crime classification and reporting. In most cases national crime statistics only concentrate on selected crime types, different data gathering method and different survey methods. For example, different type's crimes such as assaults and homicides are always classified differently in both Canada and USA hence making studying crime very difficult. Such classification created bias on the general trends of crime hence creating a gap in studying criminal trends. Therefore, in most cases homicide has been favored in studying crime trend.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Routine Activities Theory

Cohen and Felton (1979) established the routine Activity theory; they stated that crime must have three fundamentals in order to occur: motivated offender with criminal intention, availability of a proper victim or target, and absence of preventive measures on the target. According to Cohen and Felson, there must be an interaction between the three factors in space and time for criminal activity to occur. Hence, the routine activity theory links offensive patterns and common patterns of social interaction that help to understand the changing patterns of crime are grounded on the availability of an opportunity to commit a crime. This means that the number of motivated

offenders will rise or fall depending on the availability of unprotected targets and appropriate rewards. The criminal impression of the victims or target vulnerability influences the choice of appropriate victim or target. The availability of suitable targets, the more possibility of a crime occurring, which will influence the extent of motivated criminals in the inhabitants, which determines crime trends in terms of prevalence and mode of commission or omission.

People are also believed to be hindered from committing criminal activities when skilled guardians are present. Guardians can be any person who is physically present and can protect the property or take the form of a mechanical technology such as CCTV or Security Systems. These physical safety systems help in restricting criminals' access to suitable targets. Motivation and target are important in routine theory because the guardians will always prevent the majority of offenders from attacking the most appealing targets or victims. However, the lack of guardianship enhances criminal motives and the possibility of criminal behavior.

According to Brown (2003), states the situational character of criminal activity and how certain "dangerous behaviors" increase the possibility of meeting violent crime. For example, Youths who place themselves in dangerous settings or disorganized neighborhoods increase their chances of being involved in criminal activity. Actions such as drug consumption, being out late at night, gang involvement, and dating may increase the exposure to violent and property crimes. This may lead to increase or decrease of criminal activities which has much influence on the trends in criminal activity.

Though routine activity theory explained the causes and partly the reasons for the emerging trends of criminal activities, the researcher complemented this theory with social learning theory to address on how policy makers can help in controlling emerging trends of criminal activities.

Summary of Literature Review and Gaps

Security is an occupation where you cannot rest easy. The best security experts constantly learn, adjust their thinking, and reconsideration their physical security program. Criminal activities have been a threat to national, regional, and international governments and only a few researchers in sociology and criminology have ever identified the trends of criminal activities on the safety of persons and property.

Therefore, in comparison of crime trends between countries, it is difficult to predict or state crime trends due to difference in jurisprudence, crime classification and reporting. In most cases, National crime statistics only concentrate on selected crime types (Emeh, 2012). These data are gathered using different survey methods. According to FBI, for example, different types of assaults are always classified differently in both Canada and USA making comparison very difficult than crimes such as homicides. Such classification created bias on the general trends of crime hence

creating a gap in studying criminal trends. Therefore, in most cases homicide has been favored in studying crime trend.

There is a rareness of studies on trends in criminal activities that have a national focus, and few of the national studies are recent, offering little guidance on current issues and developments in the nature and activities on trends of criminal activities in Kenya.

The common studies are descriptive in nature, probing the organizational structure and the socio demographic characteristics of crime. There exists a study gap the current study sought to fill. However, this study sought to determine the emerging trends of criminal activities and physical security of persons and property in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study used a descriptive research survey research design. The design approach helped the researcher develop the research questions, approaches to be used, procedure implementation, and data analysis without being biased and without as affecting order of the work. The nature of this research was to seek all kinds of information to conduct a complete analysis of data, ensure that the deviation in data collection is minimal, and reduce errors in the interpretation of the data to be collected.

Study Area

The study was done at Nairobi City County which has a population of 4,337,080, and has eleven sub countries covering an area of 684 sq. km, consisting of 1,506,888 households (Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019).

Target Population

The target population was drawn from Nairobi City County. The target population for the study was drawn from these sub counties Westlands, Dagoretti North, , Kibra, Roysambu, Kasarani, Ruaraka, Embakasi South, Embakasi Central, Embakasi West, Makadara, Kamukunji, Starehe and Matharhas which has over 772,598 people, which consists of over 271,290 households (Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019). The researcher focused on Household heads, County Administrators, Boda Boda operators, and police officers within this target population.

Sample Size Determination

The sample size of the target population was calculated using Nassiuma Formulae. Nassiuma

(2000) claims that a coefficient of variation in the range of 21percent≤C≤30percent and a standard error in the range of 2percent≤e≤5percent are acceptable in most surveys. As a result, the study utilized a 30 percent coefficient variation and a 5percent standard error. To guarantee minimal variability in the same and reduce error, the greater limit for the coefficient of variation and standard error was chosen. The Nassiuma's (2000) formula:

$$n = Nc^2 / (c^2 + (N-1) e^2)$$

Where n is the sample size.

N is the number of people who can be reached Target population

c=coefficient of variance

e=standard error

Nairobi City County has household above 271,290, (Kenya population and Housing Census,2019) which consist of household heads, County Administrators, Kenya Police Offices, Directorate of criminal investigations and County Officials amongst others.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Therefore, sample size (n)} &= \frac{271290 \times 0.3^2}{(0.3^2 + (271,290-1)0.02^2)} \\ &= 224.8 \end{aligned}$$

Which is equal to 225 respondents.

Sampling procedure

The study used purposive random sampling and simple random sampling. The researcher randomly chose 115 police officers and 100 household heads drawn from the police stations and residential houses to participate in the study. Therefore, using purposive sampling, three Officers Commanding Stations (OCS), three heads of the DCIs stationed at the three police stations, three Assistant County Commissioner, and one County Commissioner were used as respondents in the study.

Table 1 Sample Size Distribution

Respondents	Selected respondents
Police Officers	115
Household heads	100
County administrators	10
Total	225

Research Instruments

The study used three research tools: questionnaires, finally, in-depth interviews guides and focused group discussion. Questionnaires were used because they are effective in gathering of first-hand sources of information for the study and were organized according to the research objectives making the process of analysis easier. The study used 215 questionnaires whereby 115 questionnaires were hand delivered to junior police officers and 100 questionnaires were randomly distributed to different household heads and were collected later. Semi-structured interviews were utilized in this survey to gather data. The researcher visited the sub-county offices to conduct interviews where by the main respondents interviewed included three officers commanding stations (OCS), two Heads of DCIs at the three police stations, two Assistant County Commissioners (ACC), one County Commissioner and two county officials. Focused group discussion was used to gain an in-depth understanding of trends of criminal activities in the area. The researcher purposely selected 30 junior police officer from the each of the three police stations to participate in the discussion. During the discussion the officers felt free and were able to discuss freely hence gave substantial information concerning the objectives of the study.

Data Analysis

The researcher used secondary data that were collected through a review of police reports records, National Crime Research Center (NCR) studies and Police Annual Reports on crime. The researcher visited the police stations to check on documents such as Occurrence books and Cell registers to gain insight into the types of criminal activities common in the Nairobi City County. However, questionnaires were directed to the respondents to fill and later collected by the researcher, interviews and focused group discussions were done face-to-face. The researcher also guaranteed the respondents of their privacy of the information they provided, and at the same time, no identification or names were to be written on the questionnaires. The primary data gathered from respondents' questionnaires were thoroughly checked and verified to ensure completeness and comprehensibility. This review allowed the researcher to understand the knowledge gaps left by other authors and gain new insights to solve the problems of criminal activities by understanding these gaps. The Quantitative study data were analyzed by using SPSS software whereby descriptive statistics such as Tables, pie charts, percentages, standard deviation, and graphs were used. At the same time, qualitative data were analyzed according to the theme and patterns formed and were presented in narrative and verbatim quotations form.

Data Management and Ethical Consideration

The researcher obtained the research authorization letter from Kenyatta University Graduate School and a permit from National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) to go to the field to conduct the study. Prior appointments were made with the respondents before the actual date of administering questionnaires and interviews to avoid any inconveniences. The secondary data were sourced from National Crime Research Centre (NCRC)

studies and Police Annual Reports on crime. However, questionnaires were directed to the respondents to fill and later collected by the researcher, and interviews were done face-to-face. During the study, the researcher also assured the respondents of their secrecy of the information they provided, and at the same time, no identification or names were to be written on the questionnaires.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Types and Changing Patterns of Criminal Activities

There are different types of crime, which are categorized as crime against persons, (murder, aggravated assault, rape and robbery), Crime against property (burglary, larceny, arson and auto theft) and hate crimes. A crime pattern is characterized by a considerable change in the idea of chosen crime inside a characterized geological area and period. In the contemporary urban set up, both emerging and earlier types of crimes take center stage in prevalence and mode of commission in our urban centers (Babu and Parishat,2008). Traditionally, there were different types of criminal activities, which included violent crimes (Threats, sexual crimes, Assault), property crimes (burglary, theft, robbery, pickpocketing) vandalism (damage directed to property). These crimes have changed over time, with some traditional types of crime still taking center stage in prevalence and mode of commission.

In Kenya, Nairobi City County has always experiences many criminal activities, and most of the crimes are neither reported nor recorded. Therefore, the study analyzed the most common types of crime in the county to understand their trends and how they affect the safety of persons and their property.

According to data retrieved from the National crime research center, Nairobi has increased cases of criminal activities. Whereby between 1997 to 1999, the cases of robbery increased from 2994 to 3,618. Other offenses such as offenses against property increased from 331 in 1997 to 733 in 1999. Between 2011 to 2018 criminal activities in Nairobi had been on the rise. According to Baraga, (2016), these Criminal Activities include person-to-person and person-to-person's property crimes. The common criminal activities include; breaking, possession of illegal guns, muggings, and breakings into homes and business properties. In addition, there has been increased pick pocketing, and grab and run criminal activities, mainly in city streets and congested places (National Police Service, 2015). The table below shows the prevalence of selected crimes in N

Table 2: Selected Crime Cases in Nairobi Between 2015-2018

Crime cases	2015	2016	2017	2018
Homicide	93	29	247	235
Offences Against Morality	236	42	370	425
Robbery	256	8	349	361
Breakings	279	42	385	347
Stealing	858	58	1304	1220
Theft by servant	245	3	520	402
Dangerous drug	358	39	537	546
traffic offence	12	1	5	15
Economic crime	292	7	935	984
Corruption	5	292	7	21
Offences involving police		1	5	8

Source: Field data extracted from National police service Annual Report from 2015-2018

When the data in the above table was plotted, it indicated that indeed there has been Changing patterns in criminal activities in Nairobi City County between 2011 to 2021.

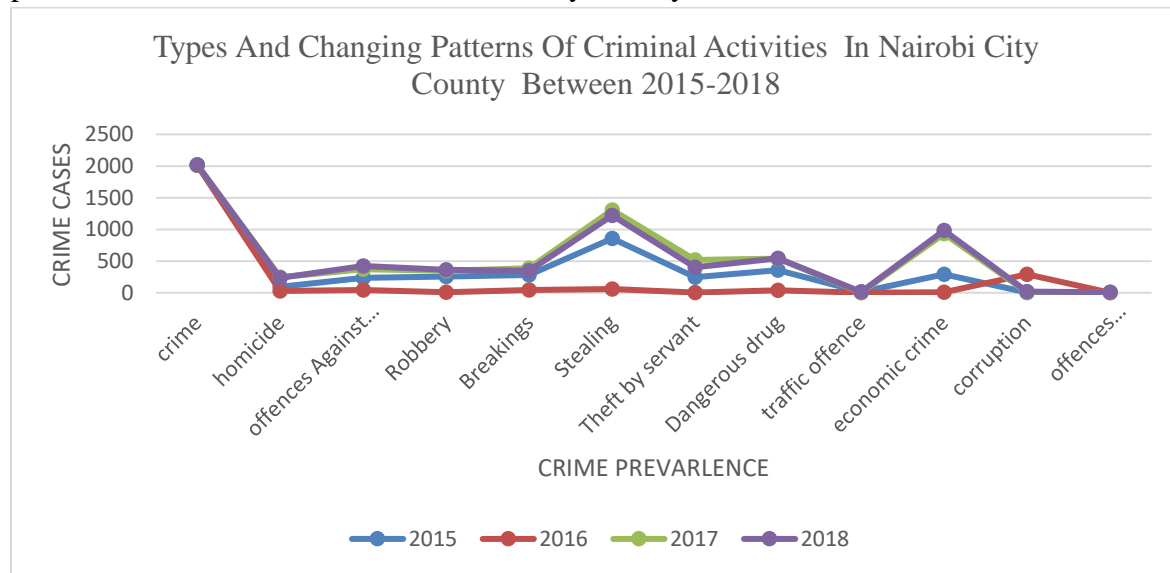


Figure 1: Types and changing patterns of Criminal Activities in Nairobi Between 2015-2018

Source: Field data extracted from National police service Annual Report from 2011-2021

From the figure above it is evident that between 2015 and 2018 there was high prevalence of crime against morality, stealing dangerous drugs and economic crime. Agutu (2018) supported this

finding. According to Agutu (2018), criminal activities have changed over the years Within Nairobi City County as shown on the figure 2.2 above

Therefore, it is apparent that despite the emerging trends in criminal activities, traditional crimes such as the ones stated above still take center stage on the safety of persons and property in Nairobi City County. In spite of most scholars dwelling on the emerging trends of criminal activities, Schneider (2002) noted that changes in crime over the next several decades would be in the character or complexion of crime rather than the breadth of crime. Thieves will gradually target intangible items, such as technological facilities, information, expertise, and even personal identities. Lucrative electronic services, physical gear such as digital television sets, laptops, and mobile phones will be targeted for theft. This prediction is evident in Nairobi city, where theft has been leading between 2015 to 2018.

In Nairobi City County, the major criminal activities performed are carjacking, kidnapping which may always involve guns during criminal activity, as evident in the National police service crime report 2018. Prostitution has also been on the rise, and the government agency does not pay much attention to these criminals' activities that may lead to other crimes such as homicide, robbery, and violence. At the same time, cybercrime incidences have also been reported in Nairobi City County, where Bank frauds, illegal money transfers, and compromise of personal data have been on the rise (OSACs Report, 2019).

In this study, major crimes that were studied include: criminal gangs, pick pocketing, Burglary and Assaults. The results were as stated below

Criminal Gangs

This study wanted to examine the degree to which gang is performed. The results are shown in Figure 2.

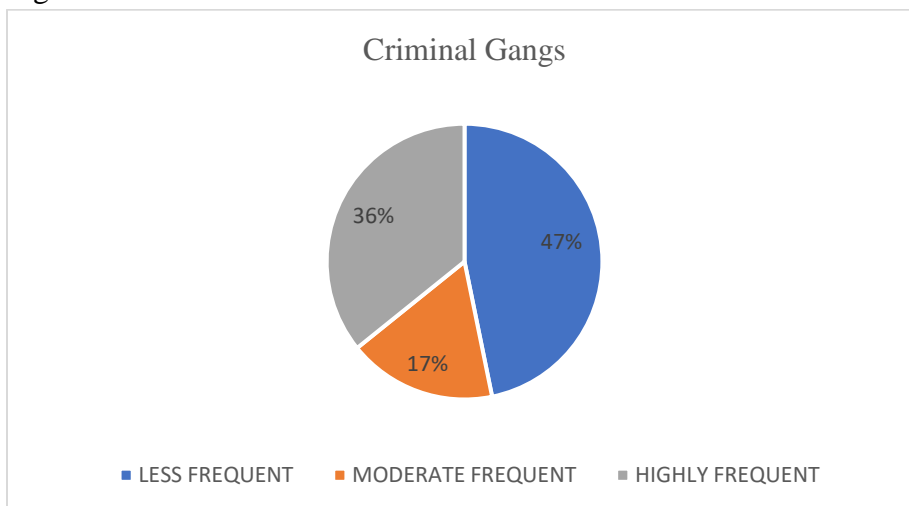


Figure 2: Gang rates in Nairobi City County (Source: Field Data, 2021)

The results presented in Figure 2 show that 35.78 percent of the participants noted gangs as a frequent high crime, 17.43 percent moderate frequent, and 46.79 percent less frequent crime and 46.67 percent of respondents indicated criminal gangs as less frequent in Nairobi. The finding indicates that criminal gang is not highly performed criminal activity in Nairobi City County is evident in the study. Though Criminal gangs are also a source of criminal activity in Nairobi City County according to anonymous interviewer. The view of the interviewer was supported by UN-HABITAT (2012), which revealed that young gangs that idolize staunch criminals have taken control over Nairobi city from the authorities; they control the streets and valleys in Nairobi. According to the report by NCRC, in 2020, the number of criminal gangs increased from 33 in 2010 to 326 in 2017. These gangs used to commit criminal activities by attacking members living in the estate and their businesses. Over the years, trends have changed, in 2018-2022b. The Criminal gangs such as Smarter, Yakuza, and Gaza control highways, bank robberies, dump sites, and populated bus stops by using beautiful young women as bait to attract victims. These gangs always use back streets where Mirraa and Moguka are sold as their hideouts. In most instances, these gangs use swords, guns, and knives as their tools of the trade. At some point, these criminal gangs use retailers who sell shoes, clothes, perfumes in estates and streets of Nairobi as avenues of business.

Pickpockets

This research sought to examine the extent to which pickpocket is performed. The findings are displayed in Figure 3.

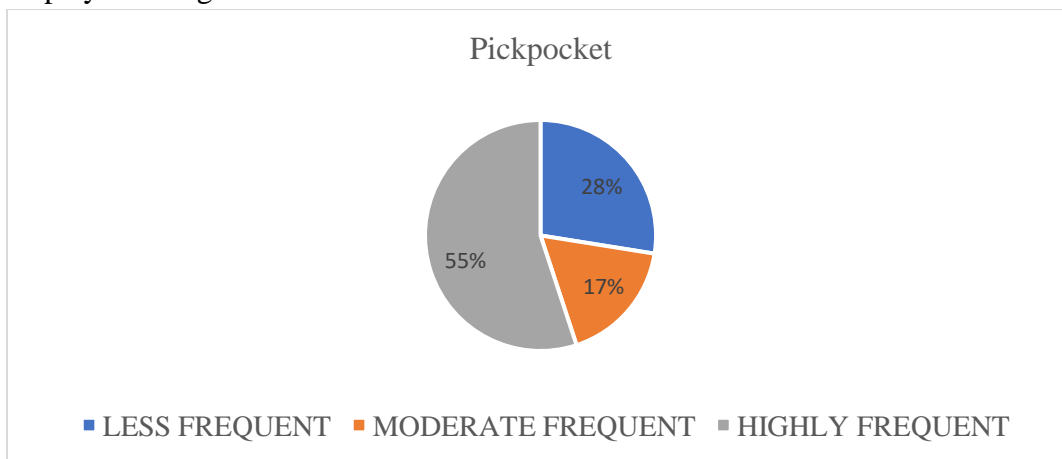


Figure 3: Pick pockets rates in Nairobi City County (Source: Field Data, 2021)

The findings displayed in Figure 3 indicate that pick pocketing is highly rated with 55.05percent of the participants, 17.43percent moderate frequent and 27.52percent less frequent. Between 2011 and 2013, pickpockets were believed to be street children who steal petty items forms travelers and shops for survival but over the time, the crime has changed. In 2018 -2021, pickpockets have changed from petty thieves to “elite” petty crimes. These criminals combine psychology and dexterity. They do not target cash but also other valuables such as phones and credit cards. The

crime is runned by well-educated fellows with advanced technological knowledge whereby they are capable of using stolen phones to commit cybercrimes such as stealing money from banks and other mobile money services. These results agree with the Criminal Justice System Report (2019), which establish that most prison inmates in Kenya were poor individuals held for petty offenses and state-regulated crimes. Pick pocketing involves stealing money or other valuables from a person's pocket or bags without noticing the theft.

Burglary

This research sought to examine the extent to which burglary is performed. The findings are displayed in Figure 4.

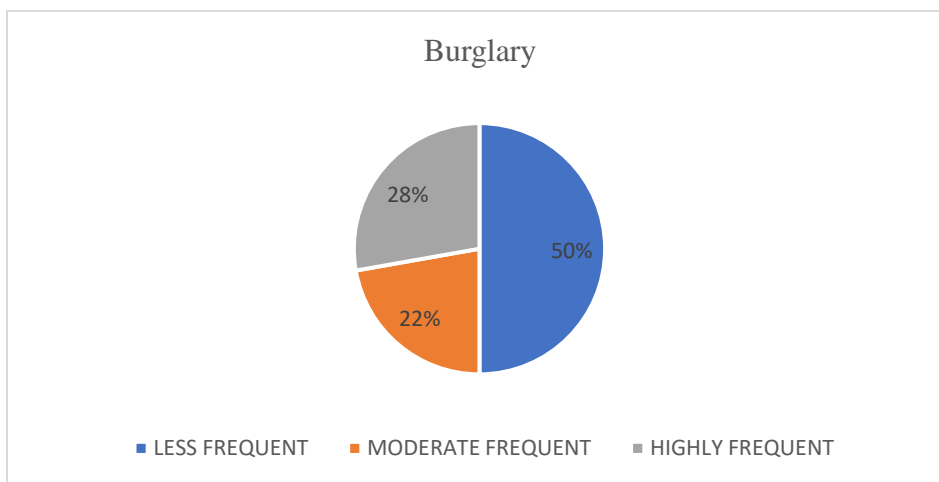


Figure 4: Burglary rates in Nairobi City County (Source: Field Data ,2021)

The results shown in Figure 4 indicate that 27.785 of the respondents rated burglary as a highly frequent type of crime, 22.22percent moderate frequent, and 50percent less frequent. These finding was in line with Katola's (2021) findings, which established that home burglary was a common crime in Nairobi County. The report described the home burglary as the unlawful or persuasive passage of private property, which normally, yet not generally included a robbery. Between 2011 and 2014,burglars used forced to break into houses, for example, constraining an entryway open, breach a window, or breaking a screen, but between 2016 and 2021,buglars use young children to enter into the houses through windows and small openings to facilitate the commission of the burglary.

Assaults

This research sought to examine the extent to which assaults are performed. The findings are presented in Figure 5.

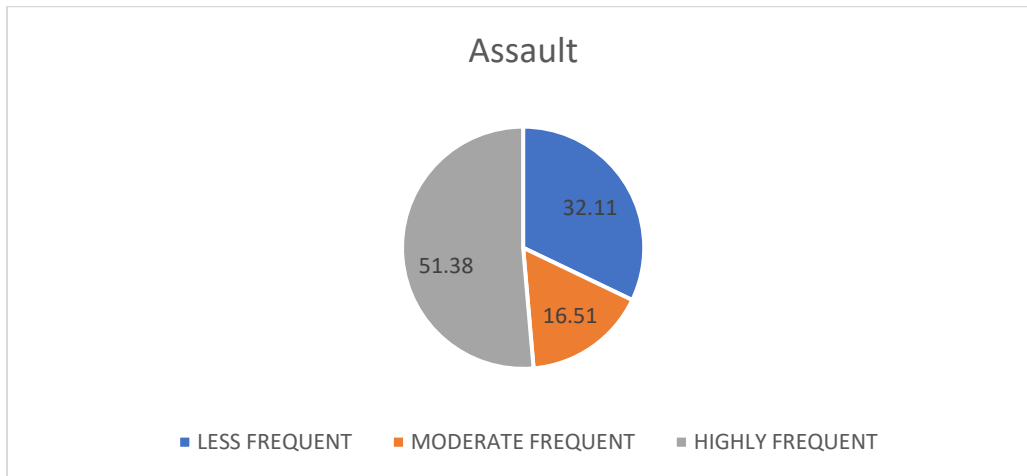


Figure 5: Assaults rates in Nairobi City County
(Source: Field Data, 2021)

The results presented in figure 5 indicate that assault is a high-frequency type of crime as noted by 51.38percent of respondents, 16.51percent noted moderate frequent, and 32.11percent noted less frequent. These findings concur with Elklit (2012) findings that female subjects' anxiety assault seemed to have more unfavorable effects as far as awful pressure symptomatology than real attack. The woman was sexually assaulted after being approached and abused by a group of boda boda riders on Wangari Mathai Road, also known as Forest Road. An OB report states that the female driver was traveling from Gigiri to Parklands when she was engaged in a collision with a pedestrian (Anonymous 2022)

Table 3: Type of Crime

Crime type	Less frequent		Moderately frequent		Highly frequent	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Gangs and cohorts	93	46.8	58	17.4	118	35.8
Pick Pocketing	55	27.5	57	17.3	181	45.0
Burglary	99	50.0	73	22.2	91	27.8
Assaults	64	32.1	54	16.5	170	51.4

(Source: Field Data, 2021)

The results in Table 3 indicate that assault is the main type of crime experienced in Nairobi City County, with 51.4 percent pickpocket, 45.2 percent Gangs, and vigilantism 35.8 burglaries at 27.8 percent. Additionally, crimes such as mugging, car theft, rape, spiking, carjacking, murder, vandalism of vehicles, and kidnapping are minimal experiences in the county. A lot of this kind of

crime committed by a distanced and self -destructive underclass. Soh (2012) pointed out that property crimes, including demonstrations of viciousness, incorporate appropriating, grab burglary, theft, pick taking, and defacing. Those barring savagery incorporate arson, robbery, burglary, stealing conflagration, wreck, house and store breaking, and vehicle theft.

A wide range of crimes represents an assortment of crimes, including those largely perpetrated by people or sloppy gatherings, just as different methods of crime. The examination additionally agrees with an investigation by Ndikaru (2011) tracked down that the normal kind of crimes carried out in Nairobi incorporates: theft, pickpocketing, thievery, robbing, sexual offenses, burglary with brutality, illegal conflagration assaults, and carjacking. Essentially, Ndikaru (2011), in an investigation on the commonness of criminal activities in Nairobi, demonstrates that Nairobi City county is one of the hot sport regions with high instances of theft, robbing, chronic drug use, attack, murder, burglary with viciousness, pickpocketing, among different violations on individual and property.

CONCLUSION

The study findings revealed that the crime rate in Nairobi City County keeps on changing over the years. Criminal activities such as pickpocketing led with 55percent, 51percent assault, 35percent criminal gangs, and mugging were cited as some of the most occurring criminal activities performed by criminal gangs in Nairobi City County. This study indicates that crime has changed over time, and there are more property crimes than crimes against a person due to desire for control, revenge, or power to control the political interest in the city county. These violent crimes usually occur on impulse or the spur of the moment when emotions run high. Property crimes are usually planned.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The empowerment of the community policing forums, for instance, Nyumba Kumi community policing. This will involve intentional association with the local area in policing movement and forming a local area official who goes about as an immediate connection between the police and the local area official to battle emerging trends in crime and tackle the specific issues experienced locally. Increase of foot police patrol with the area. Police visibility of deterring to criminal activity. The crime-prone areas need to be patrolled day and night. However, the acknowledgment must be made of the serious workforce and resources shortage faced by the police force.

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