# POLICE VISIBILITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES AMONG SELECTED BARANGAY IN DAVAO CITY, PHILIPPINES

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**Abstract:**

Neighborhood crimes have been one of the major problems worldwide, and it is getting worse as time goes by. This study aims to determine the effectiveness and impact of police visibility as a crime prevention tool for neighborhood crimes in selected barangays in Davao City. The research has utilized quantitative research and survey methods in the performance of this study as a tool for collecting data. The researchers utilized an adapted questionnaire from the study of España & Nabe (2023), A Scale Development on Neighborhood Crime in Davao City: An Exploratory Factor Analysis, and a study by Borovec *et al.* (2019), Police Visibility as an Influencing Factor on Citizens' Perception of Safety. Research was conducted on 300 random participants from districts 1, 2, and 3 in Davao City. The statistical tools employed in understanding the data gathered are Descriptive Statistics, Spearman's Rho, and Multiple Regression Analysis. The findings show that the increase in police visibility is associated with reduced occurrences of social disorder, social disorganization, and breakdown of social control. The result of this study found that the overall mean of neighborhood crimes is 3.17 with a standard deviation of 0.59, which indicates an average mean level; it shows that the residents do not feel completely safe in their neighborhood due to the uneven distribution of safety perception. Thus, to promote a safer environment, the community should work and build strong relationships with their neighbors and police officers.

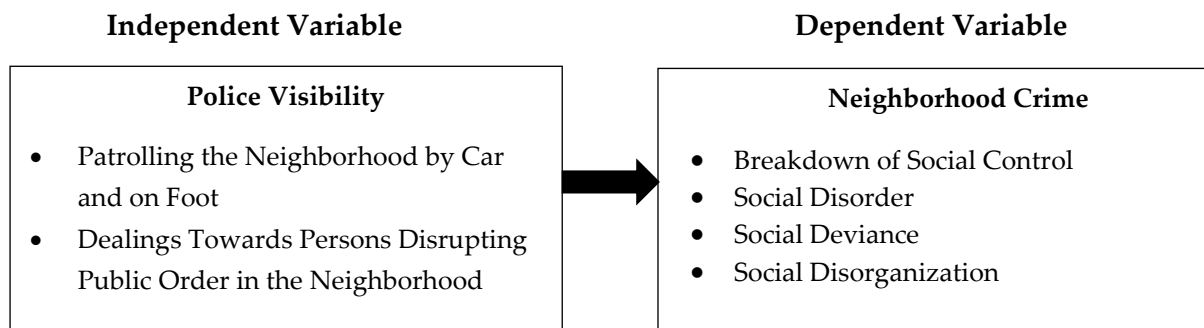[i] Correspondence: email exequielgono@gmail.com

## 1. Introduction

Neighborhood crime is a major global issue, escalating with time. Each neighborhood's unique characteristics necessitate tailored remedies. Chicago, a large city with diverse neighborhoods, is notorious for its high rates of violent crime, being 67% more dangerous than the U.S. average (Property Club, 2023). The city faces significant challenges with both violent and property crimes, particularly gun violence. Various strategies have been implemented worldwide to address neighborhood crime. In the U.S., the "Neighborhood Watch Program" encourages community members to employ fundamental crime-prevention practices and report suspicious activities, thereby reducing crime through increased vigilance (Burden & Bender, 2023). Similarly, China employs community policing to foster public-police collaboration for crime prevention (Cuiye & Junling, 2021). Despite these efforts, crime remains prevalent in some areas. The government has responded by increasing police visibility in high-crime neighborhoods. This study examines the impact of police visibility, defined by indicators such as patrolling by car, foot patrols, and handling public disruptions, on neighborhood crime, characterized by social disorder, deviance, and disorganization. Increased police presence enhances community safety, as noted by Borovec, Balgač, and Mraović (2019), who highlight the importance of technological advancements and community engagement in police operations.

Neighborhood crime studies often focus on the relationship between crime rates and neighborhood features, but few have developed tools to contextualize these crimes (España & Nabe, 2023). Factors like social disorder, social deviance, and social disorganization contribute to crime. Errol, Madsen, and Moslehi (2021) emphasize that social disorganization—marked by poverty, residential instability, and ethnic heterogeneity—leads to a breakdown in informal social controls, increasing crime rates. Davao, one of the Philippines' safest cities, has also faced neighborhood violence. Despite strict law enforcement and a robust emergency response system, Davao saw a 39.13% increase in robbery crimes in 2022 due to economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic (Llemit, 2022). Additionally, drug-related crimes and rape, particularly involving minors, remain significant issues (Daugdaug, 2022; Lim, 2023). The government's solution to neighborhood crimes has been to enhance police visibility, as low visibility correlates with higher crime rates. The Philippines, ranked poorly on the region's order and security index, faces high crime rates, particularly in impoverished neighborhoods (Statista Research Department, 2022). Increasing police presence, especially in schools, helps reduce crime and maintain order (Paunan, 2023).

Criminals seek opportunities, and the Routine Activity Theory posits that crime occurs when a motivated offender finds a suitable target without a capable guardian. Increased police presence acts as a guardian, deterring crime (Wickert, 2019). This study

integrates Routine Activity Theory, Broken Window Theory, and Deterrence Theory. The Broken Window Theory suggests that visible signs of disorder encourage further crime, creating a downward spiral of increased criminal activity (Ruhl, 2022). Deterrence Theory posits that the fear of being caught and punished reduces the likelihood of committing crimes, advocating for increased police presence and harsher penalties (Johnson, 2019).

Figure 1 illustrates the study's conceptual framework, detailing its independent and dependent variables. The independent variable is police visibility, characterized by indicators such as patrolling the neighborhood by car, patrolling on foot, and managing public order disruptions. These indicators, adapted from Borovec *et al.* (2019), encompass actions such as vehicular patrols covering neighborhood sections, foot patrols involving officers walking a beat, and measures taken to maintain public order.

| Independent Variable | Dependent Variable |
|---|---|
| **Police Visibility**<br><br>• Patrolling the Neighborhood by Car and on Foot<br>• Dealings Towards Persons Disrupting Public Order in the Neighborhood | **Neighborhood Crime**<br><br>• Breakdown of Social Control<br>• Social Disorder<br>• Social Deviance<br>• Social Disorganization |

**Figure 1:** The conceptual framework of the study

The dependent variable, neighborhood crime, is measured through indicators like the breakdown of social control, social disorder, social deviance, and social disorganization, as adapted from España & Nabe (2023). Breakdown of social control refers to the erosion of social cohesion, leading to identity loss, apathy, and conflict. The social disorder includes public behaviors such as intoxication, drug use, gang activity, and prostitution, along with high levels of police activity. Social deviance describes actions that violate societal norms and ethical standards, while social disorganization indicates a lack of efficient social control, resulting in poor integration among community groups and increased maladjustment.

Unlike other research that typically focuses on either police visibility or neighborhood crime, this study examines both variables simultaneously. It aims to uncover the significant relationship between police visibility and neighborhood crime and to evaluate the effectiveness of police visibility as a crime prevention strategy. Additionally, the study seeks to understand the public's perception of safety in areas with high police visibility.

The primary objective is to determine the effectiveness of police visibility in preventing neighborhood crimes through a quantitative analysis of its impact in selected barangays of Davao City. Specifically, the study aims to: (1) assess the level of police visibility in terms of car patrols, foot patrols, and public order management; (2) describe the level of neighborhood crime in terms of social control breakdown, social disorder,

social deviance, and social disorganization; (3) identify the relationship between police visibility and neighborhood crime; and (4) determine the impact of police visibility towards neighborhood crime occurrences. This comprehensive approach assesses how increased police presence influences perceived crime reduction and public safety in the selected barangays of Davao City.

## 2. Methods

### 2.1 Research Respondent
The study was conducted in the selected barangays in Davao City. The respondents were chosen using a simple random technique, and everyone who lived within the community had an equal chance of being selected. The researchers included 300 participants for Districts 1, 2, and 3, as well as 100 survey questionnaires for the chosen barangay from each district in Davao City. This selection ensured that the study's findings were applicable, ethically sound, and meaningful to the research field. Participation is entirely voluntary. All research participants and respondents were not obliged to participate in the distribution of the survey questionnaire.

### 2.3 Materials and Instruments
In this study, the researchers utilized an adapted questionnaire from the study of España & Nabe (2023), A Scale Development on Neighborhood Crime in Davao City: An Exploratory Factor Analysis, and for the independent variable, it was adapted to the study by Borovec *et al.* (2019), Police Visibility as an Influencing Factor on Citizens' Perception of Safety. The independent and dependent variables, police visibility and neighborhood crimes, could be measured using this survey questionnaire. The researcher gave survey questionnaires in the selected barangays in Davao City to collect data. Questionnaire surveys were, without a doubt, the most extensively utilized data-gathering tool in the social sciences. The same questions were presented to a possibly large sample of respondents in quantitative surveys, frequently with fixed-response possibilities to choose from (Hellevik, 2019).

The researchers adhered to the study's data collection methods, employing the Likert scale to assess the relationship between police visibility and neighborhood crimes. The Likert scale, a common assessment technique in questionnaires, was used to gauge respondents' attitudes, opinions, or feelings. The study participants' responses were analyzed using the following scale:
- A rating of 5, with a mean range of 4.20 to 5.00, is equivalent to "Strongly agree."
- A rating of 4, with a mean range of 3.40 to 4.20, is equivalent to "Agree."
- A rating of 3, with a mean range of 2.60 to 3.39, is equivalent to "Neutral."
- A rating of 2, with a mean range of 1.20 to 2.59, is equivalent to "Disagree."
- A rating of 1, with a mean range of 1.00 to 1.79, is equivalent to "Strongly disagree."

The questionnaires were validated by a panel of experts. Irrelevant questions, based on the unique culture and experiences of the people in Davao City, were

eliminated. Furthermore, the researchers conducted pilot testing to ensure the administrability of the questionnaire. Both adapted questionnaires were subjected to reliability testing, yielding a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.87 for police visibility and 0.92 for neighborhood crimes.

## 2.4 Design and Procedure

This study utilized the quantitative research design. Quantitative research was concerned with numbers, logic, and an objective viewpoint. Quantitative research systematically examined phenomena by collecting quantifiable data and applying statistical, mathematical, or computational techniques. Quantitative research used sampling methodologies and the distribution of online surveys, polls, and questionnaires to collect information from present and potential clients (Fleetwood, 2023). The study utilized a descriptive-correlational research technique to describe and determine a relationship between police visibility and neighborhood crime. A descriptive correlational design is a research study in which the researcher aims to characterize a relationship between variables rather than assuming causation (Devi *et al.*, 2023).

The researchers first wrote their letter of intent to the dean of their college and the barangay captains. They then randomly selected barangays and 300 participants from districts 1, 2, and 3 to answer their research questionnaires. The researchers followed ethical guidelines when conducting the study. Participation was entirely optional. All research participants and respondents had the option of receiving the research survey questionnaire and the choice of not responding or participating in the study's conduct. Respondent information, such as name, age, and program, was kept private. All participants were given an oral and written consent form that outlined the study's goal and the risks and benefits of participation. After those questionnaires were answered, the researchers proceeded to tabulate them to determine if the individuals living in the said barangay were satisfied with the performance of the police personnel in maintaining their visibility in the effort to keep the rate of crime low. The data that the researchers collected through survey questionnaires were analyzed honestly and accurately. The data collection for this survey study was likely conducted over a period of one to two months. The statistical tools employed to analyze the data gathered included Descriptive Statistics (such as Mean and Standard Deviation), Spearman's rho, and Multiple Regression Analysis. The researcher applied Spearman's rho due to the non-normal distribution of data on police visibility (KS=0.901, p-value=0.00) and neighborhood crimes (KS=0.923, p-value=0.00). Spearman's rho was used to assess the monotonic relationship between police visibility and neighborhood crime. A monotonic relationship occurs when, as one variable increases, the other variable either increases or decreases consistently. Additionally, regression analysis, a set of techniques for predicting relationships between one or more independent variables and a dependent variable, was utilized. This analysis helps to understand the strength of the link between variables and to predict their future relationships (Taylor, 2020). To ensure the normality of the data distribution, the researchers performed a log transformation.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1 Level of Police Visibility

Table 1 illustrates the first objective of this study: to assess the level of police visibility in selected barangays of Davao City, focusing on patrolling on foot and by car and handling disruptions to public order. The overall mean score is 3.87, with a standard deviation of 0.47, indicating a high level of perceived police visibility and effectiveness in crime prevention. The mean scores reflect the residents' average perception of police presence and actions, while the standard deviation indicates the variability in these perceptions.

**Table 1:** Level of Police Visibility

| Police Visibility | Mean | SD | Descriptive Level |
|---|---|---|---|
| Patrolling the Neighborhood on Foot and Car | 3.89 | 0.49 | High |
| Dealings Towards Persons Disrupting Public Order in the Neighborhood | 3.86 | 0.56 | High |
| **Overall Mean** | **3.87** | **0.47** | **High** |

The highest-rated indicator, "Patrolling the Neighborhood on Foot and Car," received a mean score of 3.89 with a standard deviation of 0.49, indicating strong resident awareness of police patrols. This aligns with findings from Sorg *et al.* (2019), which highlight the effectiveness of increased police patrols, particularly on foot, in reducing crime rates and enhancing community responsiveness. Similarly, Weston (2020) emphasized that proactive patrolling strategies significantly deter criminal activities and improve perceptions of community safety.

"Dealings Towards Persons Disrupting Public Order in the Neighborhood" had a slightly lower mean score of 3.86 and a standard deviation of 0.56, still reflecting a high level of effectiveness. This supports the conclusions of Braga *et al.* (2019), who stressed the importance of police interventions in managing disorderly behavior to prevent more serious crimes. Bennell *et al.* (2022) further emphasized the role of police discretion and communication skills in handling conflicts and maintaining public order, highlighting the multifaceted nature of policing that combines technical expertise with interpersonal competencies.

Overall, with an average mean score of 3.87 and a low standard deviation of 0.47, the study concludes that police visibility in the selected barangays is high. Residents generally perceive a substantial police presence and responsiveness in maintaining order and security. These findings underscore the importance of robust police visibility and proactive enforcement efforts in enhancing community safety and crime prevention. Research by Kondo *et al.* (2018) and Paunan (2023) further supports the effectiveness of increased police presence in reducing crime rates and improving public perceptions of safety, emphasizing the significant impact of police visibility on community well-being.

## 3.2 Level of Perceived Neighborhood Crimes

Table 2 illustrates the second objective of the study: assessing the level of neighborhood crimes in terms of social deviance, social disorder, social disorganization, and breakdown of social control. The overall mean score is 3.17, with a standard deviation of 0.59, indicating an average level of perceived neighborhood crime, suggesting that residents do not entirely feel safe in their neighborhoods.

Among the crime indicators, social deviance had the highest mean score of 4.17 and a standard deviation of 0.66, reflecting a high level of perceived social deviance. This implies a significant presence of behaviors that violate community norms and ethical standards, potentially increasing the risk of criminal activity. Eitle (2022) supports this observation, emphasizing the pivotal role of social deviance as a precursor to criminal behavior. Tinner *et al.* (2024) also highlight the importance of interventions that strengthen community cohesion and foster prosocial behaviors to mitigate the risks associated with social deviance.

**Table 2:** Level of Perceived Neighborhood Crimes

| Neighborhood Crimes | Mean | SD | Descriptive Level |
|---|---|---|---|
| Social Deviance | 4.17 | 0.66 | High |
| Social Disorder | 3.07 | 0.92 | Average |
| Social Disorganization | 2.81 | 0.91 | Average |
| Breakdown of Social Control | 2.63 | 0.93 | Average |
| **Overall Mean** | **3.17** | **0.59** | **Average** |

Social disorder scored a mean of 3.07 with a standard deviation of 0.92, indicating an average level of perceived social disorder. This suggests the moderate prevalence of behaviors such as public intoxication or rowdy groups. Baysal (2023) underscores the need to address social disorder as a preventive measure against escalating criminal activities. Lanfear *et al.* (2019) further emphasize that social disorder signals weakened social control, which can increase the likelihood of crime.

Social disorganization had a mean score of 2.81 and a standard deviation of 0.91, indicating an average level of perceived social disorganization. This suggests a moderate breakdown of informal social controls, such as weak neighborhood bonds or family ties. Kubrin *et al.* (2022) highlight the correlation between social disorganization and crime rates, stressing the importance of addressing community-level factors to mitigate crime effectively.

The breakdown of social control had a mean score of 2.63 with a standard deviation of 0.93, also indicating an average level. This suggests that while there are instances where informal social controls are less effective, these are not pervasive throughout the community. Weisburd *et al.* (2021) emphasize the importance of effective social control mechanisms in reducing opportunities for crime within communities.

Overall, the composite mean score of 3.17 and a standard deviation of 0.59 indicate an average perception of neighborhood crime. This suggests areas of concern but does not reflect a pervasive sense of insecurity. Wickert (2023) discusses social disorganization

theory, stating that crime rates remain constant in locations with certain environmental factors, such as high unemployment or population instability, which undermine neighborhood social structure and informal social control. Addressing these factors is crucial to mitigating neighborhood crime rates and enhancing community safety.

### 3.3 Test of Significant Relationship Between Police Visibility and Neighborhood Crimes

Table 3 presents the test results of a significant relationship between police visibility and various aspects of neighborhood crimes in the selected barangays of Davao City. The study aimed to determine whether a statistically significant relationship exists between police visibility and different dimensions of neighborhood crimes, including social disorder, social deviance, social disorganization, and breakdown of social control.

**Table 3:** Test of Significant Relationship Between Police Visibility and Neighborhood Crimes

| Police Visibility | Neighborhood Crimes | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Social Disorder | Social Deviance | Social Disorganization | Breakdown of Social Control | Overall |
| Patrolling the Neighborhood on Foot and Car | -.244** | 0.096 | -.181** | -.222** | -.253** |
| Dealings Towards Persons Disrupting Public Order in the Neighborhood | -.191** | .136* | -.174** | -.194** | -.208** |
| **Overall** | **-.233**** | **.149**** | **-.198**** | **-.211**** | **-.238**** |
| *Significant @p-value<0.05, **Significant @p-value <0.01 | | | | | |

Furthermore, dealings towards persons disrupting public order in the neighborhood exhibit statistically significant negative correlations with the social disorder ($\varrho$ = -.191, p < 0.01), social disorganization ($\varrho$ = -.174, p < 0.01), and breakdown of social control ($\varrho$ = -.194, p < 0.01). This indicates that police interventions towards individuals disrupting public order are associated with reduced occurrences of social disorder, social disorganization, and breakdown of social control. Interestingly, there is a positive but statistically significant relationship between dealings towards persons disrupting public order and social deviance ($\varrho$ = 0.136, p < 0.05), implying that as police visibility increases in dealing with such individuals, instances of social deviance may also slightly increase. Overall, the analysis demonstrates a significant negative relationship between police visibility and neighborhood crimes, as evidenced by the negative correlations across various dimensions of crime and both measures of police visibility. This suggests that higher levels of police visibility, whether through foot and car patrols or dealings with persons disrupting public order, are associated with reducing various types of neighborhood crimes, indicating the effectiveness of police visibility as a crime prevention strategy.

The results of this study align with previous research highlighting the role of police visibility in crime prevention and community safety (Borovec *et al.*, 2019). Increased police presence and proactive engagement with the community serve as

effective deterrents to criminal activity and contribute to maintaining social order and cohesion. The findings underscore the importance of enhancing police visibility as a proactive strategy to address neighborhood crimes and promote public safety in urban environments. Furthermore, a study by Corsaro *et al.* (2018) provides empirical evidence that heightened police presence in urban areas correlates with a decrease in diverse categories of crimes. This finding underscores the potential effectiveness of police visibility as a crime prevention strategy in urban neighborhoods, aligning with the results of the current study regarding the negative relationship between police visibility and neighborhood crimes. Basford *et al.* (2021) conducted research revealing a notable reduction in neighborhood crimes due to foot patrols. This study further supports the notion that increased police visibility, mainly through foot patrols, can effectively deter criminal activity within communities, reinforcing the present study's findings regarding the significant relationship between police visibility and decreased neighborhood crime rates.

Moreover, Ariel *et al.* (2019) research emphasizes the significance of tailored police interventions in tackling particular manifestations of social disorder within communities. Their findings suggest that strategic and focused approaches by law enforcement can effectively mitigate specific types of social disorder, corroborating the notion that police visibility and targeted interventions play crucial roles in addressing complex issues within neighborhoods. Additionally, Yesberg *et al.*'s (2021) research highlights the significance of police visibility in bolstering community safety and mitigating social disorganization within neighborhoods. Their findings suggest that increased police presence fosters a sense of security among residents and maintains social order, corroborating the notion that effective policing strategies are pivotal in addressing social challenges and promoting safer communities. Lastly, Guerette and Bowers' (2018) research emphasized the significant role of police visibility in both deterring criminal activity and enhancing community perceptions of safety. Their findings suggest that increased police presence not only acts as a deterrent to potential offenders but also fosters a sense of security among residents, aligning with the conclusions drawn from the current study regarding the relationship between police visibility and reduced neighborhood crimes.

## 3.4 Significant Influence of Neighborhood Crimes as Predicted by Police Visibility

Table 4 presents the empirical analysis of neighborhood crimes as predicted by police visibility, providing statistical insights into the relationship between these variables. The regression analysis reveals crucial findings regarding the influence of different aspects of police visibility on the occurrence of neighborhood crimes in the selected barangays of Davao City. The regression coefficients (B) indicate the change in the dependent variable (neighborhood crimes) associated with a one-unit change in the independent variable (police visibility) while controlling for other variables in the model. The standard error (SE) reflects the precision of the coefficient estimates, and the p-value assesses the statistical significance of each coefficient.

The constant term (4.363) signifies the expected value of neighborhood crimes when all predictor variables are zero. The statistically significant p-value (0.000) suggests that police visibility, represented by the constant term, significantly influences the occurrence of neighborhood crimes. Additionally, the negative coefficient estimates for patrolling the neighborhood on foot and by car (-0.213) indicate that an increase in police visibility through foot and car patrols is associated with a decrease in the occurrence of neighborhood crimes.

**Table 4:** Significant influence of Neighborhood Crimes as predicted by Police Visibility

| Police Visibility | B | SE | *B* | p-value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (Constant) | 4.363 | 0.281 | | 0.000 |
| Patrolling the Neighborhood on Foot and Car | -0.213 | 0.083 | -0.178 | 0.010 |
| Dealings Towards Persons Disrupting Public Order in the Neighborhood | -0.094 | 0.073 | -0.089 | 0.196 |

This relationship is statistically significant, as evidenced by the p-value of 0.010, indicating that the effect is unlikely to be due to random chance. On the other hand, dealings towards persons disrupting public order in the neighborhood show a negative coefficient estimate (-0.094) but with a p-value of 0.196, indicating that while there is a negative relationship between this aspect of police visibility and neighborhood crimes, it is not statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance. It suggests that dealing with individuals disrupting public order may not significantly reduce neighborhood crimes in the selected barangays of Davao City, at least within the scope of this study. Increasing police presence through patrolling could decrease disruptive behaviors in the neighborhood. However, it is worth noting that the dealings towards persons disrupting public order in the neighborhood did not show a statistically significant relationship with police visibility, indicating that other factors may also influence these interactions.

The results align with various studies highlighting the effectiveness of police visibility in crime prevention efforts. A study by Cherney and Murphy (2020) found that increased police presence and visibility in urban neighborhoods significantly reduced the incidence of various crimes, including theft and vandalism. Similarly, research by Georg and Manning (2019) demonstrated that targeted foot patrols in high-crime areas led to substantial declines in criminal activities, illustrating the practical implications of enhancing police visibility for crime reduction initiatives. Additionally, Petersen *et al.* (2023) demonstrated that heightened police patrols in urban areas correlated with a decrease in diverse categories of crimes, reinforcing the negative coefficient observed for patrolling the neighborhood on foot and by car in the current study. It aligns with the notion that increased police visibility through patrols is associated with reducing neighborhood crimes, supporting the effectiveness of police visibility as a crime prevention measure in urban settings.

Furthermore, Koper *et al.* (2022) underscored the crucial role of police visibility in preventing crime and fostering a sense of safety within communities, reinforcing the

importance of the findings in the current analysis. It suggests that increased police presence and visibility can serve as effective deterrents to criminal activity while also improving the overall well-being of communities, aligning with the study's objectives regarding the impact of police visibility on neighborhood crime. Research by Guerette and Bowers (2018) underscored the effectiveness of police visibility in improving community perceptions of safety. Additionally, police officers should conduct foot patrols to increase visibility and deter potential criminals rather than simply passing through their assigned areas without being noticed. Transparency is essential in effective law enforcement (Mugari & Thabana, 2018). It aligns with the negative relationship between police visibility and neighborhood crimes in the regression analysis. Finally, a study by Mohler *et al.* (2018) highlighted the importance of spatial-temporal patterns in police deployment for crime prevention, suggesting that strategic deployment of police resources, such as foot and car patrols, can effectively reduce crime rates in urban areas.

## 4. Conclusion and Recommendation

Based on the study's findings, police visibility is high due to the active patrolling of the police officers by foot and by car or vehicle, which results in substantial police presence in the neighborhood. This kind of active patrolling method emphasizes the effectiveness of police visibility in reducing crime rates in the said chosen barangays. Additionally, the heightened police visibility through patrols enhances responsiveness in dealing with community concerns. Lastly, lacking police visibility can lead to delays in reporting crimes and failure to apprehend criminals. Police visibility is an approach to promote a much more accessible engagement and police involvement, which could improve the quality of life by lowering fear and instances of crime (Valenzuela & Tamayo, 2021).

The level of neighborhood crimes in the selected barangays in Davao City obtained an average level. It suggests that residents do not feel completely safe in their neighborhood, mainly when there are new neighbors and when they walk across slum areas day and night. Some residents encounter victimization or threats from their neighbors, while others do not. It implies that some residents might feel more unsafe than others. The researchers conclude that the uneven distribution of safety perception is linked to the type of environment that residents where they live. If people live in a community without social links, connections, or attachments to their neighbors, they are more likely to feel insecure in their neighborhood. When residents in a community are not well-connected, they are less likely to look out for one another or disrupt unlawful conduct. The lack of informal social bonds creates an environment favorable to crime. However, strong social relationships do not guarantee that crime will not occur, but they can foster a more supportive and observant environment. The result of the study also supported the anchor theory of Clifford Shaw and Henry Mckay's Social Disorganization (1942), which argues that crime is more likely to occur in communities with weak social bonds and institutions. It can lead to a breakdown in social control, making it more difficult for communities to maintain order and prevent crime.

Furthermore, there is a significant negative relationship between police visibility and neighborhood crimes across all dimensions assessed. It means that higher levels of police visibility are associated with lower levels of social disorder, social disorganization, and breakdown of social control within the selected barangays of Davao City. Police presence deters criminal activity by raising the perceived risk of getting caught and making residents feel safer, potentially reducing crimes driven by fear. The more police officers in the neighborhood, the lower the crime rate since it discourages people from committing crimes. The study conducted by Borovec *et al.* (2019) highlights that the visible presence of the police hurts those residents who plan to break the law, discouraging them from their objectives while also providing some level of safety to other citizens. Moreover, Yeong (2019) found out that the increase in police numbers results in a significant decrease in neighborhood crime, and hiring an additional police officer is almost certainly compensated by the benefit it brings to society regarding crime reduction. Patrolling remains the primary factor in decreased crime rates.

The results reveal that police visibility considerably impacts the prevalence of neighborhood crime in Davao City's selected barangays. The regression analysis gives the statistical information about the relationship between police visibility and neighborhood crime rates. Notably, increased police visibility via foot and automobile patrols is connected with a drop in local crime. Increased police presence, mainly through targeted patrols, is critical for crime prevention and contributes to the safety and well-being of metropolitan populations. Additionally, the collective evidence presented supports the broader conclusion that police visibility significantly affects neighborhood crimes. The presence or absence of police personnel in the area would indicate the number of crimes that might occur. Criminals or offenders cannot commit a crime when police officers are visible. Thus, there is a need to activate police officers if crime rates are to be reduced. Despite the rise of modern crime control tactics through technical advancements, foot patrol remains a vital crime prevention strategy worldwide. Foot patrols are thought to help reduce specific crimes like assault, loitering, robbery, and pickpocketing (Mark & Sarcena, 2021).

Based on the findings of the study, the researchers offer the following recommendations:

**A. To the Police**

The study findings can be guidelines for the police to increase their personnel in patrolling the neighborhood to prevent crime. Police may patrol daily, even if the crime rate in the community is lower. They may focus mainly on neighborhoods where crimes are high and standard to satisfy citizens and reduce the likelihood of crime occurring. It will help the citizens to feel safer in their community. Police should be proactive in patrolling their beats and developing relationships with the community they serve. In addition, police may develop a program and strategy to improve their patrolling approach or routine in the neighborhood.

## B. To the Community

To promote a safer environment, the community should work with their neighbors and police. The residents may build strong relationships with their neighbors and with the police. If there is drinking and drug abuse in the neighborhood, the residents must report it to the barangay or police officials. Residents are encouraged to attend barangay seminars to foster mutual understanding and positive relationships with their neighbors, barangay officials, and police officers.

## C. To Future Researchers

Future researchers may conduct similar studies among other barangays in Davao City to further validate the findings of the study. Also, researchers may expand the research to include two or three regions that would provide a more comprehensive and detailed evaluation of police visibility and neighborhood crimes. They may conduct their study in locations where crimes are very high and usually happen.

## Conflict of Interest Statement

We have no personal, financial, or other interest that could or could be seen to influence the decisions or actions we are taking or the advice we are giving during my research for this.

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