Police visibility and public perceptions towards an enhanced policy on police patrol

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Abstract

This study investigates how the presence of police officers influences public perceptions of safety and trust in law enforcement in the City of San Juan, a densely populated region facing increasing security challenges. With the ongoing urbanization of the city's population, the need for efficient law enforcement and community education on public safety has become more important. The research explores how police visibility affects community perceptions, focusing on crime victimization, feelings of safety, and the presence of problematic individuals. An educational component was integrated into the study, aiming to inform the public about the role of law enforcement, crime prevention strategies, and community involvement in safety initiatives. A mixed-method approach was employed, combining both quantitative and qualitative research methods to obtain a thorough understanding of the subject. A total of 100 police officers and 497 community members residing in high-crime areas were surveyed to gather data. The findings reveal a strong correlation between an increased number of police officers and enhanced perceptions of public safety and trust in the police force. Both law enforcement officials and community members concur that police presence in public spaces plays a significant role in reducing the likelihood of criminal activity and fostering a heightened feeling of safety. However, variations in perspectives regarding the influence of police presence on specific community challenges indicate the need for more focused educational efforts to address these issues. Additionally, the study highlights key obstacles faced by police officers during patrols, such as scarce resources, the need for flexibility in rapidly changing situations, and the importance of community support. These findings offer valuable insights for improving police patrol strategies, community engagement, and public education efforts to better address the needs of San Juan's residents and foster a more collaborative approach to public safety.

Keywords: police visibility, public perceptions, police patrol, policy enhancement, crime victimization

Police visibility and public perceptions towards an enhanced policy on police patrol

1. Introduction

Maintaining security and order within urban communities is essential for the well-being and quality of life of residents, particularly in today's rapidly changing urban settings. Ensuring public safety requires active participation from law enforcement agencies, with the visibility of police through patrol operations being a key strategy. Among the methods employed by the Philippine National Police (PNP), patrols have long been recognized as a cornerstone of crime prevention and community policing. Studies support this approach, emphasizing the importance of visible police presence in reducing crime. Ratcliffe et al. (2020) found a 31% reduction in property crime in areas patrolled by marked police cars, while unmarked vehicles had no significant effect. This highlights the deterrent effect of visible police. However, research also suggests that the effectiveness of patrols may vary depending on crime levels in specific areas and may have a short-term impact, as Novak et al. (2016) noted that foot patrols reduced violence for only 30 days during a three-month intervention. Importantly, focused police activity does not necessarily displace crime to other areas; instead, crime reduction often spreads to surrounding areas (Braga et al., 2019; Santos, 2014; Ariel et al., 2016).

Public trust and engagement are crucial elements in successful policing, as reflected in research across multiple studies. GOV.UK (2023), OSCE (2022), and Sound Thinking (2021) emphasize procedural justice and community-oriented strategies as key to fostering public confidence. This is echoed by Marion and Twede (2020) and Balendres (2023), who stress the importance of building positive relationships between the police and the public to ensure effective crime prevention. Various studies have explored the challenges faced by patrol officers in different regions. Valmari et al. (2023) examine global perspectives on patrol challenges, such as mental health and job satisfaction, while Leigh et al. (2019) focus on resource allocation in the UK under financial constraints. Dewinter et al. (2020) highlight the role of technology in improving patrol efficiency, while Samanta et al. (2022) explore decision-making frameworks in Indian policing. Localized studies like those by Mutasa (2021) and Borovec et al. (2021) emphasize community engagement, with Mutasa focusing on police-community collaboration in Zimbabwe and Borovec analyzing how foot patrols impact safety perceptions in Croatia.

These studies reveal both commonalities and differences in policing strategies. For example, Rowe et al. (2023) discuss the symbolic role of police uniforms in maintaining legitimacy, while Shabbir et al. (2018) examine public perceptions of police corruption and favoritism in Pakistan. Similarly, Vicente (2020) and Guelas (2022) address challenges faced by mobile patrol units in Baguio City and Bulusan, Philippines, emphasizing the need for effective resource management and expanded patrol coverage to improve community safety.

In the context of the Philippines, localized efforts reflect the importance of adapting police strategies to the specific needs of the community. For instance, San Juan City faces unique security challenges as its population grows and urbanizes. While the city boasts a generally favorable crime rate, concerns about mugging, robbery, and drug-related crimes highlight areas for improvement. Crime data from 2019 to 2022 suggest that while certain crimes have declined, others, like physical injuries, theft, and robbery, have seen slight upticks. The city's police department has responded with initiatives such as randomized checkpoints and increased patrol visibility in high-crime areas, demonstrating a proactive approach to crime prevention.

This study seeks to explore how police visibility influences public perceptions of safety and trust in law enforcement in San Juan City. The research aims to assess the effectiveness of current patrol strategies and identify areas for improvement. By integrating quantitative data analysis with qualitative insights and community feedback, this research will provide a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between police visibility and public perceptions of safety.

The findings of this study will be significant for law enforcement agencies, policymakers, and community

leaders in San Juan City and beyond. By understanding how police visibility impacts public trust and crime risk perceptions, this research will contribute to more effective policing practices, improved resource allocation, and stronger community-police relations. Ultimately, the study aims to offer evidence-based recommendations for enhancing police patrol policies, thereby promoting a safer and more orderly urban environment.

1.1 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to assess the public's perceptions of police visibility and its impact on various aspects of community safety to develop policy recommendations to improve police patrol effectiveness based on the findings. Specifically, this research sought:

1. Determine the perception of the respondents on police visibility in terms of:

    1.1.   Crime victimization risk and frequency;

    1.2.   Feeling of safety and assessment of self-protection ability;

    1.3.   Incivilities that disrupt the public order;

    1.4.   Presence of problematic categories of persons; and,

    1.5.   Police visibility.

2.   Identify if there is a significant difference in the perceptions of the respondents regarding the aforementioned public perceptions.

3.   Examine the relationship between police visibility and the respondents' perceptions concerning crime risk, safety, incivilities, and presence of problematic individuals.

4.   Explore the challenges faced by police officers during patrolling activities.

5.   Propose policy enhancements based on the study's findings to improve police visibility and patrol effectiveness.

2. Methodology

Research Design. This study employed a mixed-methods research approach, blending quantitative and qualitative designs to assess police visibility and public perceptions in San Juan City. Quantitative data, gathered through structured questionnaires, measured variables such as crime victimization risk, feelings of safety, public order disruptions, and police visibility. Statistical analysis helped identify trends and relationships between these perceptions and police presence. The qualitative component, through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, explored the challenges police officers face during patrol activities, providing a deeper understanding of the realities behind patrol efforts. Together, these methods offer a comprehensive view of public safety perceptions and the effectiveness of police visibility, ensuring the research is both data-driven and contextually relevant to community experiences.

Research Method. This study employed a descriptive and correlational design to assess public perceptions of police visibility in San Juan City. The descriptive survey gathered both quantitative and qualitative data, measuring variables like crime victimization risk, feelings of safety, public order disruptions, and police visibility. This method provided valuable insights into how residents perceive their safety and the effectiveness of police patrols. The correlational design further explored the relationships between these variables without assuming causality. By observing and analyzing these interconnections, the study offered a comprehensive understanding of public perceptions and their links to police visibility, helping to inform more effective patrol policies for the San Juan

City Police Station.

Population of the Study. The study's inclusion and exclusion criteria ensured that respondents provided valuable insights into perceptions of police visibility and its impact on community safety. It involved two groups: 100 police officers from San Juan City Police Station and 497 community members from high-crime barangays. For police officers, those with at least five years of service and patrol experience were included to ensure a deep understanding of police operations. Officers with less experience were excluded. Community members, including residents, businesspeople, workers, and members of religious groups, were selected using convenience and snowball sampling to capture a diverse range of perspectives. Those not meeting the location or sampling criteria were excluded to focus on high-crime areas. Demographic data, such as gender, marital status, educational attainment, and years of service, provided a comprehensive view of the experiences and perceptions of both groups, enhancing the analysis of police visibility and community safety.

Data Gathering Tools. The study ensured both validity and reliability through multiple measures beyond Cronbach's Alpha. In addition to using Cronbach's Alpha to assess internal consistency, face validity and content validity were employed to confirm that the survey questions accurately reflected the research objectives. Face validity was achieved by having experts review the questionnaire to ensure it appeared to measure what it was intended to. Content validity was ensured by aligning the questions with the key constructs of public safety, crime victimization, and police visibility. A dry-run test was conducted before the full deployment of the survey to identify any ambiguities or issues in question formulation, allowing necessary adjustments to improve clarity and comprehension. This pilot test further reinforced the reliability of the instrument by ensuring consistency in responses across different participants. By using both quantitative methods (surveys) and qualitative methods (interviews), the study captured a broader range of insights. The combination of self-administered surveys and semi-structured interviews allowed for triangulation, enhancing the credibility of the findings by corroborating data from different sources. This comprehensive strategy strengthened the study's reliability and validity, providing a well-rounded analysis of police visibility and public perceptions in San Juan City.

Data Gathering Procedures. The data-gathering procedures for this study were meticulously structured to ensure accuracy, reliability, and comprehensive data collection. It began with the careful preparation of survey questionnaires and Key Informant Interview (KII) guides, which underwent rigorous validation, including face, content, and dry-run validation, to ensure their effectiveness. Once validated, respondents were selected using convenience sampling, with 497 community members from specific barangays in San Juan City participating in the survey. Simultaneously, police officers with at least five years of service and active in patrol duties were chosen for KIIs to gain insights into the challenges they face. The data collection phase involved administering the survey to community members, focusing on their perceptions of police visibility and public safety, while KIIs with police officers were recorded, transcribed, and analyzed qualitatively to extract meaningful insights. The study focused on barangays with notable crime rates, which were central to the research objectives, and the data collection spanned from 2022 to 2023, allowing for a comprehensive examination of how police visibility and public perceptions evolved over time.

Treatment of Data. The study used various tools for data treatment and analysis. The descriptive statistics such as the weighted mean were employed to summarize respondents' perceptions of crime victimization risk and frequency, feelings of safety, self-protection ability, incivilities disrupting public order, the presence of problematic categories of persons, and police visibility. The t-tests were applied to determine significant differences in perceptions between different groups, such as age and gender, with post hoc tests used if necessary to identify specific group differences. Also, it examined the relationship between police visibility and respondents' perceptions using correlation analysis to assess the strength and significance of the relationship. Lastly, thematic analysis was used to interpret qualitative data from key informant interviews (KII), identifying recurring themes and patterns to understand the challenges police officers face during patrol activities.

Ethical Considerations. The research study upheld informed consent as a fundamental ethical principle,

ensuring that participants fully understood the study's purpose, process, and potential risks before agreeing to participate. We provided clear, comprehensive consent forms to both community survey and key informant interview (KII) participants, providing them with opportunities to ask questions and seek clarifications. Participation was voluntary, with no coercion applied, and data collection only commenced after obtaining explicit consent. We rigorously protected privacy and confidentiality, anonymizing personal data and guaranteeing the confidentiality of responses. We informed participants in advance about sensitive questions and their right to withdraw from the study at any time without facing any repercussions. This ethical approach guaranteed the respect of participants' rights, autonomy, and trust throughout the research process.

3. Results and Discussions

Public's Perceptions of Police Visibility. The public's perceptions of police visibility, as presented in Tables 1-5, provide key insights into how community members view law enforcement presence in relation to various safety concerns. The data highlights perceptions on crime victimization risk and frequency, revealing how often residents experience or fear becoming victims of crime. It also reflects feelings of safety and individuals' assessments of their ability to protect themselves, incivilities that disrupt public order, the presence of problematic categories of persons, and the direct influence of police visibility. These factors collectively shape public confidence in local law enforcement and community safety.

Crime Victimization Risk. Table 1 displays police visibility and public perceptions regarding crime victimization risk and frequency. This agrees with an overall mean of 2.97. Both groups of respondents agree, with the PNP Patrol Office having a mean of 3.12 and the community having a mean of 2.95. Indicators are interpreted as agreeable. These are the following with the mean: "Police presence in the community helps reduce crime occurrence" at 3.5; "There is a need to increase police visibility and patrol frequency to enhance neighborhood safety" at 3.38; "There is a potential risk of becoming a victim while walking alone in the neighborhood during nighttime" at 2.92; "There is a place in the neighborhood that is unsafe to be and/or do business" at 2.86; "Crimes rates concern and worry the neighborhood" at 2.85; "Crimes are usually witnessed physically in the neighborhood" at 2.66; and "There is a potential risk of becoming a victim while walking alone in the neighborhood even daytime" at 2.64.

The implies the need for enhanced patrol strategies to address specific areas or times when individuals feel vulnerable, as well as a focus on reducing fear of crime through community engagement. The findings suggest that increasing patrol frequency, particularly during night hours or in areas perceived as unsafe, could potentially boost public confidence in their ability to protect themselves and reduce anxiety about victimization. Moreover, these results underline the necessity for law enforcement agencies to balance crime deterrence efforts with building a stronger sense of security in communities. Based on the analysis of the data and supporting studies, it is clear that improving police visibility and public perception necessitates a planned approach that goes beyond simply being there. The allusions highlight the intricacy of establishing trust and confidence among the population in the police service. The study conducted by GOV.UK (2023) emphasizes the crucial importance of procedural justice, legitimacy, and efficacy in the field of police. These factors indicate that for police visibility to result in favorable public opinions, the community must perceive the police as not just being there but also as impartial, reliable, and proficient in their responsibilities.

This viewpoint is consistent with the conclusions produced by Sadongdong M. (2023), which indicate that the PNP has significant trust and approval ratings among Filipinos. These findings imply a favorable level of public confidence that should be maintained through ongoing commitment and openness in police activities. Moreover, The Link's (2022) analysis and the Police's views on the difficulties encountered by police departments, such as matters of responsibility and conformity with community principles, provide pragmatic approaches to improving police-community relations.

Enforcing regulations that encourage openness, such as the adoption of body cameras, and guaranteeing that

police activities align with community expectations are essential measures for strengthening confidence. The proposed solutions, recommended by leaders in law enforcement, entail ensuring that agency values are in line with those of the community, setting a positive example, and providing training to supervisors to enforce responsibility. By implementing these tactics, law enforcement agencies may effectively tackle the intricacies of public opinion, therefore promoting a more secure atmosphere where enhanced police presence is both impactful and well-regarded by the community.

Table 1
Public's perceptions on police visibility in terms of crime victimization risk

Indicators	PNP Patrol Office		Community		Overall	
	M	VI	M	VI	M	VI
Police presence in the community helps in reducing the crime occurrence.	3.44	A	3.52	A	3.50	A
There is a need to increase police visibility and patrol frequency to enhance neighborhood safety.	3.41	A	3.38	A	3.38	A
There is a potential risk of becoming a victim while walking alone in the neighborhood during nighttime.	3.04	A	2.9	A	2.92	A
There is a place in the neighborhood that is unsafe to be and/or do business.	3.21	A	2.79	A	2.86	A
Crime rates really concern and worry the neighborhood.	3.12	A	2.8	A	2.85	A
Crimes are usually witnessed physically in the neighborhood.	2.98	A	2.6	A	2.66	A
There is a potential risk of becoming a victim while walking alone in the neighborhood even at daytime	2.67	A	2.64	A	2.64	A
Overall	3.12	A	2.95	A	2.97	A

Note: Verbal Interpretation (V.I.) of the computed weighted mean (M):
   3.50 – 4.00 =Strongly Agree (SA)   1.50 – 2.49 = Disagree (D)   2.50 – 3.49 =Agree (A)   1.00 – 1.49 = Strongly Disagree (SD)

Feeling of Safety and Self-Protection. Table 2 shows police visibility and public perceptions in terms of feeling of safety and assessment of self-protection capability. This strongly agrees with an overall mean of 3.68. Both groups of respondents strongly agree that the PNP Patrol Office has a mean of 3.74 and the community has a mean of 3.67. All indicators are interpreted as strongly agreeing. These are the following with the mean: "The presence of police officers roving within the community prevents criminal activities and makes the neighborhood maintain peace and order" (3.8); "There is a necessity to increase police visibility in the neighborhood to improve the community's feeling of safety and protection" (3.75); "Police visibility gives protection among business establishments within the community" (3.72); "Police visibility will implicate the feeling of security among the neighborhood during daytime and nighttime" (3.65). "Accessible communication between community and police serves as a safety measure and self-protection among the populace" has a mean of 3.63; "Police visibility promotes crime deterrence and makes the community feel safe"; and "Police presence increases the ability of the community to protect oneself from possible harm in the neighborhood" has the same mean of 3.62.

Table 2
Public's perceptions on police visibility in terms of feeling of safety and self-protection

Indicators	PNP Patrol Office		Community		Overall	
	M	VI	M	VI	M	VI
There is a necessity to increase police visibility in the neighborhood to improve the community's feeling of safety and protection.	3.77	SA	3.74	SA	**3.75**	**SA**
Police visibility gives protection among business establishments within the community	3.88	SA	3.68	SA	**3.72**	**SA**
Accessible communication between community and police serves as a safety measure and self-protection among the populace.	3.69	SA	3.62	SA	**3.63**	**SA**

Police visibility promotes crime deterrence and makes the community feel safe.	3.63	SA	3.62	SA	**3.62**	**SA**
Police presence increases the capability of the community to protect itself from possible harm in the neighborhood.	3.69	SA	3.61	SA	**3.62**	**SA**
Police visibility will build the feeling of security among the neighborhood during daytime and nighttime.	3.68	SA	3.64	SA	**3.65**	**SA**
The presence of police officers roving within the community prevents criminal activities and maintains neighborhood peace and order.	3.83	SA	3.80	SA	**3.80**	**SA**
Overall	**3.74**	**SA**	**3.67**	**SA**	**3.68**	**SA**

The data demonstrates a strong agreement (SA) among different measures on the visibility of police and its perceived impact on community safety. This is further supported by corroborative studies, highlighting a favorable correlation between visible policing and improved public perceptions of security. The agreement between PNP patrol officers and neighborhood citizens is that greater police presence enhances feelings of safety and discourages criminal activity. Cultivating a safeguarded atmosphere for people and businesses demonstrates a mutual conviction in the efficacy of visible policing tactics. This is consistent with the proactive Community-Oriented Policing (CoP) policies emphasized by the OSCE (2022), which emphasize the significance of trust and confidence in the collaboration between the police and the public. These techniques necessitate that the police not only be there but also actively interact with the community, attentively listening to and resolving their concerns. This helps establish a mutually advantageous relationship that improves safety and diminishes crime.

Incivilities that Disrupt the Public Order. Table 3 presents police visibility and public perceptions in terms of incidents that disrupt public order. This is agreeable with an overall mean of 2.6. Both groups of respondents agree that the PNP patrol officer has a mean of 3 and the community has a mean of 2.52. All indicators are interpreted as agreeing. These are the following with the mean: "Troublemaking individuals affect peace and order in the community" has 3.01; "Illegal gambling activities create trouble and raise neighborhood concerns that affect the safety of the community" has 2.83; "The community is concerned about the influence of juvenile delinquents that affects the safety of other youth in the neighborhood" has 2.59.

Table 3
Public's perceptions on police visibility in terms of incivilities that disrupt the public order

Indicators	PNP Patrol Office		Community		Overall	
	M	**VI**	**M**	**VI**	**M**	**VI**
Troublemaking individuals affect peace and order in the community.	3.03	A	3.01	A	**3.01**	**A**
Illegal gambling activities create trouble and raise neighborhood concerns about safety in the community.	2.83	A	2.83	A	**2.83**	**A**
The community is concerned about the influence of juvenile delinquents who endanger the safety of the youth in the neighborhood.	3.03	A	2.51	A	**2.59**	**A**
The neighborhood is concerned about the presence of some disruptive individuals or gangs who might affect the peace and order condition in the community.	3.04	A	2.47	A	**2.56**	**A**
The disruptive individuals, and gangs hinder the development of sources of livelihood in the community.	3.06	A	2.41	A	**2.52**	**A**

The presence of drug addicts disrupts peace and order in the community.	3.05	A	2.21	A	**2.35**	**A**
The community observed that disruptive individuals, like drug addicts and juveniles increase their criminal activities.	2.99	A	2.22	A	**2.35**	**A**
Overall	**3.00**	**A**	**2.52**	**A**	**2.60**	**A**

"The neighborhood is concerned about the presence of some disruptive individuals or gangs that may affect the peace and order conditions in their community" has a mean of 2.56; "the disruptive individuals and gangs promote negative impact in creating a good livelihood in the community" has a mean of 2.52; and "the presence of drug addicts affects peace and order in the community" and "the community observed that disruptive individuals, like drug addicts and juveniles, create more criminal activities" has a mean of 2.35. The indications demonstrate a consensus between PNP patrol officers and the community that problems such as troublesome individuals, illicit gambling, disruptive groups, substance dependency, and juvenile delinquency have a substantial influence on community tranquility and security.

This agreement emphasizes the need for a vigilant and involved police presence to discourage such actions and improve public safety. The cited findings additionally reinforce the necessity of implementing a comprehensive approach to law enforcement that goes beyond conventional patrols. Suparno (2022) underscores the responsibility of the police to uphold security and public order by enforcing the law, providing protection, and offering services. The author highlights the significance of addressing environmental and societal elements that contribute to criminal activities. Sound Thinking (2021) promotes problem-oriented policing, which involves aligning police methods with crime prevention efforts. This approach emphasizes the identification and resolution of fundamental community issues through the utilization of technology and data analysis. This approach implies that successful law enforcement necessitates comprehending the underlying factors that lead to criminal behavior and collaborating closely with the community to tackle these concerns.

Presence of Problematic Categories of Persons. Table 4 shows the police visibility and public perceptions in terms of the presence of problematic categories of persons. The result agreed with an overall mean of 2.34. Both groups of respondents say this is agreeable, where the PNP patrol officers have a mean of 2.79 and the community has a mean of 2.24. All indicators are interpreted as agreeing. These are the following with the mean: "There are trouble-making individuals that affect the safety of the neighborhood especially minors" have 2.56; "The neighborhood observed the presence of individuals involved in property crimes in the community" have 2.52; "There were occurrences of vandalism and property damage caused by certain groups of people in the neighborhood" have 2.39; "The influence of substance abusers in the community is spreading throughout" have 2.29. "Suspected illegal drug users and dealers exist in the community" have 2.23; "There is an existing threat of intimidation from specific groups in the community" have 2.21; and "Gang members are breaking the peace and order in the community" has 2.15.

The information derived from the findings and the supporting studies and literature jointly emphasizes the intricate characteristics of challenging groups of individuals within communities, as well as the crucial significance of police presence and involvement in tackling these matters. The table illustrates a mutual apprehension among PNP Patrol Officers and the community regarding the existence of individuals engaged in property crimes, substance misuse, illicit drug activities, gang affiliation, vandalism, and the impact of disruptive individuals, especially youngsters. These concerns are considered significant, showing a recognized necessity for an improved policy on police patrol to alleviate these dangers to community safety.

The cited papers offer a comprehensive strategy for addressing these difficulties. Suparno (2022) highlights the extensive obligations of the police in upholding security, preserving order, and offering community service. This includes tackling the environmental and sociological elements that contribute to criminal activities. This is in line with the principles of Sound Thinking (2021), which promotes problem-oriented policing that emphasizes the

identification and resolution of fundamental community issues using technology and data-driven approaches. Kinsey (2019) argues that comprehending police officers' perspectives and utilizing professional judgment in instances requiring the use of force is crucial for mitigating societal challenges and improving the connection between the police and the community.

Table 4
Public's perceptions on police visibility in terms of presence of problematic categories of persons

Indicators	PNP Patrol Office		Community		Overall	
	M	**VI**	**M**	**VI**	**M**	**VI**
There are trouble makers who endanger public safety, especially the minors.	2.95	A	2.48	A	**2.56**	A
The neighborhood observed the presence of individuals involved in property crimes in the community.	2.9	A	2.45	A	**2.52**	A
There were occurrences of vandalism and property damages caused by certain groups of people in the neighborhood.	2.76	A	2.32	A	**2.39**	A
The influence of substance abusers is spreading throughout the community.	2.48	A	2.25	A	**2.29**	A
Suspected illegal drug users and dealers exist in the community.	2.77	A	2.12	A	**2.23**	A
There is an existing threat of intimidation from a specific group in the community.	2.83	A	2.08	A	**2.21**	A
There are gang members disrupting the peace and order in the community.	2.87	A	2.01	A	**2.15**	A
Overall	**2.79**	**A**	**2.24**	**A**	**2.34**	**A**

Direct Influence of Police Visibility. Table 5 shows public perceptions in terms of police visibility. This strongly agrees with an overall mean of 3.73. Both groups of respondents strongly agree that the PNP Patrol Office has a mean of 3.88 and the community has a mean of 3.7. All indicators are interpreted as strongly agreeing. These are the following with the mean: "The police officers are conducting seminars and outreach programs in the community to enhance peace and order and promote an anti-criminality campaign" has 3.8; "The police officers are present in the marketplaces to prevent petty crime and any untoward incidents" has 3.76; "Police officers are visible in strategic locations within the premises of schools to prevent" has 3.75; "There are police officers conducting patrol activities in malls to prevent untoward incidents" has 3.72. "The police officers conduct checkpoints on a regular basis in order to detect motor napping incidents" has 3.71; "The Police sa Barangay is sustained in order to promote public order within the community" has 3.7; and "The transportation terminals are assisted by the police officers to prevent the occurrence of crime" has 3.68.

This suggests that continued visibility and engagement through community outreach, strategic positioning, and regular patrols are crucial in fostering a sense of safety and trust in law enforcement. To maintain and build on this positive perception, law enforcement agencies should prioritize the expansion of such programs and ensure consistent police presence in key community areas. This will not only deter crime but also strengthen the relationship between the police and the public, further promoting peace and order.

Additional evidence from PCO (2023) and Recuenco A. (2023) further substantiates the advantages of enhanced police presence. The PNP's endeavors, such as the praiseworthy utilization of bicycle-riding officers and the calculated positioning in crime-ridden regions, exemplify inventive and proactive methods for preventing crime and fostering community involvement. The combination of these initiatives, along with the substantial

reduction in the overall crime rate and the PNP's dedication to internal purification and resolving wrongdoing, highlights the crucial connection between visible law enforcement and public confidence. The FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 and the Bisikleta Iglesia 2023 program demonstrate how strategic visibility and mobility may improve public safety while also encouraging environmental consciousness and physical fitness among cops.

Table 5
Public's perceptions on police visibility in terms of the direct influence of police visibility

Indicators	PNP Patrol Office		Community		Overall	
	M	VI	M	VI	M	VI
There are police officers conducting patrol activities in malls to prevent untoward incidents.	3.93	SA	3.68	SA	3.72	SA
The Police sa Barangay is sustained in order to promote public order within the community.	3.88	SA	3.66	SA	3.7	SA
Police officers are visible in strategic locations within the school premises in order to prevent misdemeanors or serious crimes.	3.88	SA	3.72	SA	3.75	SA
The police officers conduct checkpoints on a regular basis in order to detect motornapping incidents.	3.82	SA	3.69	SA	3.71	SA
The transportation terminals are assisted by the police officers to prevent the occurrence of crime.	3.8	SA	3.66	SA	3.68	SA
The police officers are conducting seminars and outreach programs in the community in order to enhance peace and order and promote an anti-criminality campaign	3.95	SA	3.77	SA	3.8	SA
The police officers are present in the market places in order to prevent petty crime and any untoward incidents.	3.94	SA	3.73	SA	3.76	SA
Overall	3.88	SA	3.7	SA	3.73	SA

Significant Difference on the Police Visibility and Public Perceptions. Table 6 states the significant difference between police visibility and public perceptions regarding crime victimization risk and frequency, the feeling of strategy and assessment of self-protection ability, incidents that disrupt public order, the presence of problematic categories of people, and police visibility. The p-values of most variables (crime victimization risk and frequency = 0.001, incidents that disrupt the public order = 0.000, the presence of problematic categories of persons = 0.000, and police visibility = 0.000) are all less than the level of significance of 0.05. This is to reject the null hypothesis. It means that there is no significant difference between the perceptions of two groups of respondents on the Police Visibility and Public Perceptions: Towards an Enhanced Policy on Police Patrol in terms of these variables. However, in terms of feeling of strategy and assessment of self-protection ability, with a p-value of 0.095, which is greater than 0.05, accept the null hypothesis.

The significant differences observed in Table 6 are due to varying t-values and p-values across the analyzed variables. Crime victimization risk and frequency, public order incidents, the presence of troublesome people, and police visibility all have p-values below the significance level (0.05), which means that there are statistically significant differences between the groups and the null hypothesis is not true for these variables. Conversely, the feeling of safety and assessment of self-protection ability have a p-value of 0.095, above the significance level, indicating no significant difference between groups for this variable. These results highlight distinct levels of impact or perception regarding crime, public order, problematic individuals, and police presence across the studied groups.

Table 6

Significant Difference on the Police Visibility and Public Perceptions in terms of the aforementioned variables

Variables	t-value	df	p-value	Remarks	Interpretation	Analysis
Crime Victimization Risk and Frequency	3.469	595	0.001	Less than	Reject Ho	Significant
Feeling of Safety and Assessment of Self-Protection Ability	1.674	595	0.095	Greater than	Accept Ho	Not Significant
Incivilities that Disrupt the Public Order	6.377	595	0.000	Less than	Reject Ho	Significant
Presence of Problematic Categories of Person	5.682	595	0.000	Less than	Reject Ho	Significant
Police Visibility	4.541	595	0.000	Less than	Reject Ho	Significant

Note: If p-value < 0.05, reject null hypothesis (SPSS T-test table α = 0.05)

Police Visibility and Public Perceptions. Table 7 states a significant relationship between police visibility and the perceptions of the respondents as assessed by the two groups of respondents. The p-values of most variables (crime victimization risk and frequency = 0.000, feeling of strategy and assessment of self-protection ability = 0.000, and incidents that disrupt the public order = 0.000) are less than the level of significance of 0.05. This is to reject the null hypothesis. This means there is a significant relationship between police visibility and these three variables. Police visibility plays a crucial role in enhancing community safety. Thus, table 8 indicates there is a significant relationship between police visibility and several safety-related factors, including crime victimization risk and frequency, feeling of safety, and assessment of self-protection ability, all with p-values less than 0.05.

Table 7

Significant relationship between police visibility and the perceptions of the respondents

Variables in Perceptions of Respondents	Police Visibility				
	Correlation Value	P-value	Remarks	Interpretation	Analysis
Crime Victimization	0.439	0.000	Less than LS	Reject Ho	Significant
Feeling of Safety and Assessment of Self Protection Ability	0.558	0.000	Less than LS	Reject Ho	Significant
Incivilities that Disrupt the Public Order	0.386	0.000	Less than LS	Reject Ho	Significant
Presence of Problematic Categories of Person	0.059	0.148	Greater than LS	Accept Ho	Not Significant

Note: If p-value < 0.05, reject null hypothesis (SPSS Pearson Correlation Table at α = 0.05)

This suggests that higher police visibility is associated with a decrease in crime victimization and a stronger sense of safety among residents. Increased police presence helps mitigate incidents of crime and public disturbances, contributing to a safer environment. However, the data also reveal that police visibility does not significantly affect the presence of problematic categories of individuals, with a p-value of 0.148. This suggests that while police visibility enhances overall safety and reduces specific crime-related concerns, it may not address all aspects of community issues, such as certain problematic individuals.

Challenges encountered by the police during patrolling activities. The analysis of challenges encountered by the police during patrolling activities highlights several critical themes, reflecting the complexity and diversity of modern law enforcement. One significant challenge is "resource constraints and strategic allocation," where police must effectively manage limited personnel and equipment while striving for proactive crime prevention. This issue necessitates strategic decision-making to ensure optimal use of resources, with a focus on deploying patrols in high-risk areas based on crime rates and historical data (Suparno, 2022; Sound Thinking, 2021). Innovative strategies, including the use of technology and data analytics, alongside community partnerships, are essential to overcoming these constraints and enhancing the efficiency of patrol operations (Kinsey, 2019; Inocencio, 2023).

Challenges encountered by the police during patrolling activities: through Resource Constraints and Strategic Allocation, Adaptability and Quick Decision-Making, and Emergency Response and Public Disturbance

Participants	Direct Quotation	Themes
1	Balancing proactive crime prevention strategies. Managing limited resources effectively, including personnel and equipment to cover a designated patrol area.	Resource Constraints and Strategic Allocation
2	Adaptability and quick decision making is crucial in navigating these challenges.	Adaptability and Quick Decision-Making
3	Responding to emergencies and unpredictable situations	
4	The challenges that I've been encountered during patrolling activities are responded traffic incidents, riots of minors in park, ensuring the safety of people in every barangay that are peacefully and away from trouble, and also the safety of every establishment in our area	Emergency Response and Public Disturbance
5	The challenges we encountered as a police officer during our patrolling, are crime in the street, drinking people in public places, people creating trouble in public.	
7	As a police officer, the challenges that I encountered during patrolling activities were petty crimes on the street, juvenile drinking in public places, and public disturbance.	
8	Lack of support by the barangay tanod within the area of responsibility. Disregarding the curfew by the minors. Additional personnel to provide visibility.	Lack of Community Support and Enforcement Challenges

Another critical theme is "adaptability and quick decision-making," underscoring the need for police officers to respond effectively to rapidly changing situations. The ability to adjust to unforeseen circumstances and make swift decisions is crucial for maintaining public safety and order (Suparno, 2022; Sound Thinking, 2021). This necessitates comprehensive training and support systems that equip officers with the skills to handle high-pressure scenarios, leverage real-time data, and make informed decisions (Kinsey, 2019; Inocencio, 2023). Enhancing adaptability and decision-making capabilities can significantly improve patrol effectiveness and foster greater community trust.

Lastly, the theme of "emergency response and public disturbance" reveals the broad scope of police responsibilities, which includes managing emergencies, handling public disturbances, and ensuring overall community safety (Weisburd et al., 2022; Luczon, 2022). Effective management of these challenges requires not only physical preparedness but also strong communication skills and a deep understanding of community dynamics. Addressing these issues involves a proactive approach to policing, continuous training, and strategic community

engagement to build trust and ensure public safety (Demiguillo, 2022; BusinessWeek Mindanao, 2022). This comprehensive approach helps to navigate the complexities of maintaining order and safety in diverse community settings.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study concludes that both the PNP Patrol Office and the community recognize the positive impact of increased police visibility in reducing crime and enhancing public safety. Visible policing boosts community confidence and lowers crime victimization risks. However, there are differences in how the PNP and the community perceive police visibility's impact on minor offenses and property crimes, with the PNP believing it has some effect, while the community perceives less impact. This highlights the need for stronger community engagement and education strategies to better align perceptions and improve policing effectiveness. To address identified challenges, such as resource constraints and the need for flexibility, the study recommends increasing patrols in high-crime areas, implementing public education campaigns on the benefits of police visibility, and strategically allocating resources based on crime data. Education plays a critical role in these strategies, both in improving police officers' knowledge of policies and ensuring the community understands the value of police presence. Comprehensive training for officers on emerging technologies, policy updates, and community policing will enhance their ability to respond effectively to various situations. Public education campaigns and community forums can further bridge the perception gap between law enforcement and the public. These efforts should promote awareness of the role of visible policing in crime reduction, address misconceptions, and empower residents to collaborate with the police. The implementation of these strategies, combined with regular evaluations and education for both officers and the community, will lead to sustained improvements in police visibility, safety perceptions, and trust in law enforcement.

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