

Community Discernment Towards the Effectiveness of Police Visibility and Crime Deterrence

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ABSTRACT : This study focuses on the community's perception of how effective police visibility is and how it contributes to crime prevention. Based on Hirschi's Social Control Theory, the study aims to ascertain how satisfied community members, particularly University of Mindanao criminology students, are with police visibility and its effects on safety, public trust, and crime reduction. Data were gathered from 300 selected respondents using a customized survey instrument and a descriptive quantitative research approach. The findings showed high satisfaction levels in important areas like perceived safety, police presence in high-crime areas, and community cooperation. Perceived police performance is greatly influenced by community perception, as seen by the strong links discovered between community discernment, trust, fairness, and collaboration. Additionally, through crime deterrence, community discernment influences perceptions of police visibility directly and indirectly, according to regression and mediation analyses. The results indicate that to increase public safety and institutional confidence, community-based policing initiatives must be strengthened, public participation must be increased, and transparent policing methods must be promoted.

Keywords: *Community policing, public trust, police visibility, crime deterrence, perception of fairness, community engagement*

SDG #16: *Peace, Justice, and Strong Institution*

I. INTRODUCTION

Neighborhood crime is a serious worldwide problem that is getting worse over time. Because every area is different, customized solutions are required. Crime is influenced by elements such as social disorder, social deviance, and instability in society. According to Errol, Madsen, and Moslehi (2021), crime rates rise due to a breakdown in informal social controls brought on by social disarray characterized by poverty, housing instability, and ethnic diversity. Neighborhood violence has even occurred in Davao, one of the safest cities in the Philippines. Robbery offenses in Davao increased by 39.13% in 2022 as a result of the economic effects of the COVID-19 epidemic, despite stringent law enforcement and a strong emergency response system (Llemit, 2022). Furthermore, rape and drug-related crimes, especially those involving adolescents, continue to be serious problems (Daugdaug, 2022; Lim, 2023). Since low police exposure corresponds with local crimes, the government has responded by increasing police visibility, with greater incidences of criminal activity. The Philippines has an elevated crime rate, especially in underprivileged areas, and a low ranking on the region's order and security index (Statista Research Department, 2022). Maintaining order and lowering crime are two benefits of increased police presence, particularly in schools (Paunan, 2023).

For people's health and quality of life, maintaining safety and order in urban areas is essential, particularly in today's quickly changing metropolitan landscapes. Active measures are needed to ensure public safety. The involvement of law enforcement organizations in patrol activities serves as a primary tactic to increase police presence. Patrols have long been one of the Strategies used by the Philippine National Police (PNP) are acknowledged as a fundamental component of community policing and crime reduction. Research backs up this strategy, highlighting how crucial a visible police presence is to lowering crime. In 2020, Ratcliffe et al. discovered a 31%, whereas unmarked vehicles had no discernible impact, and regions patrolled by recognized police cars showed decreased property crime. This demonstrates how police visibility has a deterring effect. However, research indicates that patrol efficiency may differ based on local crime levels and may only have a temporary effect. According to Novak et al. (2016), during a three- month study, foot patrols only decreased violence for 30 days. Crucially, targeted police efforts frequently expand to neighboring regions, rather than displacing crime in other places (Braga et al., 2019; Santos, 2014; Ariel et al., 2016).

Several implicit presumptions regarding the purpose of a police presence, the function of citizens, and the neighborhood as the site of policing underpin police visibility as a component of community engagement in policing policy. It is included in descriptions of how the police provide community-responsive services, which suggests that people will interact with patrolling police officers and staff, that a police presence will serve as an engagement tool, and that communities will be recognizable units that patrolling police officers and staff can identify (Weston, 2020).

According to Kappeler et al. (2020), community policing is not an academic endeavor but a philosophy. It lists the criminal acts brought on by social problems in society that can be resolved with the help and collaboration of the general population. Because communities are conscious of police tactics for making efficient use of resources that are accessible,

Community policing as a philosophy increases policing transparency and responsibility, fosters positive working relationships and trust between the public and the police, and requires particular forms of police work and a different approach.

Thus, the majority of crimes involving auto theft, property crimes, violent crimes, and gun-related offenses are reduced when police are present. Additionally, the presence of police improves traffic behavior and lowers service calls. The most effective police presence is one that is concentrated on particular locations, times, and types of crimes (Dau, 2023). Due to the role the police play in society, it is believed that their visibility and presence can successfully lower this kind of dread in local areas, increasing residents' sense of general safety (Borovec, 2019). Most importantly, police have to react quickly to situations that occur in real time while also patrolling proactively to stop criminals from committing crimes. In order to decrease emergency response times and manage limited police resources, effective patrol methods are essential (Beken, 2020).

Numerous studies have shown that public trust and engagement are essential to effective policing in community discernment. In order to build public trust, procedural fairness, and community-focused tactics are crucial, according to GOV.UK (2023), OSCE (2022), and Sound Thinking (2021). Marion and Twede (2020) and Balendres (2023) concur, emphasizing the value of fostering goodwill between the public and the police to guarantee successful crime prevention. Numerous studies have examined the difficulties patrol officers have in various geographical areas. While Leigh et al. (2019) concentrate on resource allocation in the UK under financial restrictions,

Valmari et al. (2023) examine broad perspectives on patrol challenges, including psychological wellness and job satisfaction. Samanta et al. (2022) investigate structures for decision-making in Indian policing, while Dewinter et al. (2020) emphasize the importance of technology in enhancing patrol efficiency. Community participation is emphasized by local studies such as those conducted by Mutasa (2021) and Borovec et al. (2021), with the former concentrating on police-community cooperation in Zimbabwe and the latter examining the effects of foot patrols on safety perceptions in Croatia.

To evaluate the effectiveness of a quantitative police presence, Dau et al. (2021) carried out a systematic review. They discovered proof that the presence of police has a largely positive impact on lowering crimes, including firearms, violence, property, and auto theft. Additionally, police presence improves traffic behavior and lowers service requests. Maximum effectiveness is achieved when police presence is concentrated on particular locations, periods, and types of crimes. The high level of reporting heterogeneity in the examined research restricts the capacity to compare results from different investigations. There is proof that targeted police operations can reduce crime, according to research on police presence. Police departments may concentrate on particular regions, periods, and categories of criminal activity. They recommend that future studies concentrate on the effects of police presence on the road, such as preventing crime, controlling traffic, and instilling a fear of crime.

The study is anchored to the Social Control Theory of Travis Hirschi (1969). The theory provides a valuable framework for understanding how police presence and visibility can impact the level of community discernment towards

Crime deterrence. When individuals in a community have strong bonds and connections, they are less likely to engage in criminal behavior. Police presence and visibility can contribute to the community. Police presence or visibility, as part of community policing, is also believed to improve collective efficacy by making citizens feel safer and less afraid of crime. This encourages them to confidently participate in informal efforts to maintain order in their community (Kochel & Weisburd, 2019). Individuals may be more susceptible to their surroundings and less inclined to engage in criminal activities. This is because law-abiding citizens feel secure when they see police officers present. At the same time, potential offenders experience terror when they know that police are always ready to respond when needed (Alferez, 2018). Thus, it is included in an overview of how the police provide community-responsive services, which suggests that people will interact with patrolling police officers and staff, that a police presence will serve as an engagement tool, and that societies will be recognizable units that patrolling police officers and staff can identify (Weston, 2020).

The diagram below (Figure 1) shows the conceptual framework of this study. It comprises the independent and dependent variables. The independent variable is the Community Discernment, and the dependent variable is the Effectiveness of Police Visibility and Crime Deterrence.

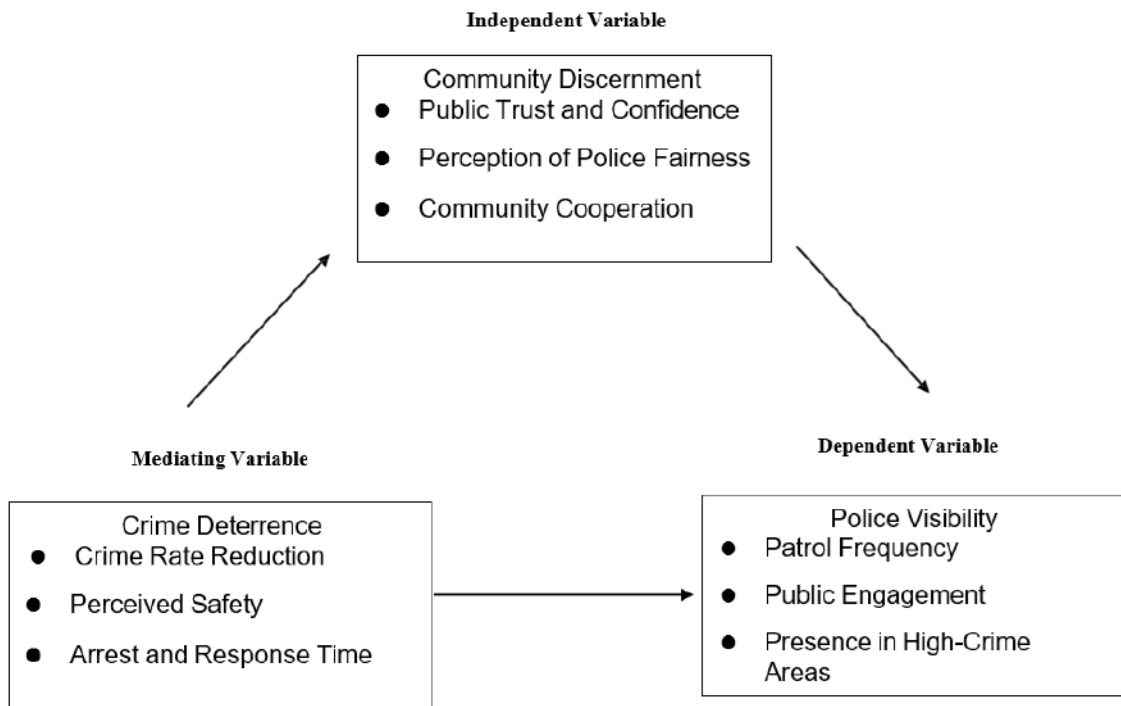


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework

The conceptual Framework in Figure 1 shows the relationship between the independent and dependent variables. The independent variable is the community discernment, which is used to determine the community's level of satisfaction towards the dependent variable, Police Visibility and Crime Deterrence. In Police Visibility, empirical research is presented on how police officers deal with the information politics of visibility and surveillance brought about by using body cameras in everyday operations and the growing occurrence of being filmed by onlookers (Newell, 2021). The idea behind deterrence is that when offenders are punished, other individuals are deterred from committing the same crimes. (Johnson, 2019).

The objective of this study is to comprehensively evaluate the level of community discernment towards the effectiveness of police visibility and its influence on crime deterrence, guided by Hirschi's Social Control Theory. In the context of the University of Mindanao undergraduate students, it aims to investigate the direct and mediated links among important variables such as community discernment, police visibility, and crime deterrent. In particular, the study aims to evaluate students' community discernment regarding perceptions of police fairness, community collaboration, and public trust and confidence. It seeks to ascertain how effective police visibility is, focusing on patrol frequency, public engagement, and presence in high-crime areas. It also assesses how effective crime deterrence is, especially regarding crime rate reduction, perceived safety, arrests, and response time. The study explores the connections between police visibility, crime prevention, and community discernment. It also looks into the correlation between police visibility and crime deterrence. The study determines the predictive impact of crime deterrence and community discernment on police visibility using regression analysis. The mediating function of crime deterrence in the link between police visibility and community discernment is also investigated using mediation analysis, offering a comprehensive understanding of how internal community factors and external policing strategies interact to influence public perception and safety outcomes.

The null hypothesis was tested at a 0.05 level of significance, stating that there is no significant relationship between the effectiveness of police visibility and crime deterrence, and the community's discernment.

This study is significant, particularly in assessing and determining the Effectiveness of police visibility. This will help learn the level of trust and satisfaction the community has towards the police and help the administration and those in high authority develop solutions to resolve and address the problem. The UM students and professors, specifically those under the department of criminal justice education, will develop appropriate measures to address the problem and properly discipline the future police officers. Completing this study will serve as a foundation for future researchers regarding the community's

discernment towards the effectiveness of police visibility and crime deterrence. Furthermore, this study will serve as a basis for the community in Davao City and other communities, not only for the police. Through this research, they will understand the value of community-oriented policing and act with awareness.

SDG 16, which emphasizes peace, justice, and strong institutions, cannot be achieved without adequate police visibility and crime prevention tactics. These tactics support the development of peaceful societies and institutional trust by lowering crime and boosting feelings of security. Furthermore, Dau et al. (2021) discovered evidence that the presence of police positively impacted the lowering of crimes involving property, assault, vehicle theft, and firearms violations. The results have significant implications for legislation aiming to create communities that are more adaptive and resilient (Yesberg et al., 2021). Thus, regardless of gender identity, religion, or nationality, people everywhere feel secure and unafraid to go about their lives without fear of harm.

There are several limitations to this study, prominent among them being the restricted metrics in the dataset, especially those that reflect.

Various facets of community policing. People's awareness of their local policing team's aims was our sole indicator of police involvement. Other metrics better capture police-community involvement, even though awareness of these goals indicates active police engagement to keep people updated on their efforts. For instance, citizens were asked if police met and collaborated with local businesses or residents to solve crime and other issues in Kochel and Gau's (2019) police engagement measure.

II. METHODS

This section presents the methods used by the researchers to conduct the study, including the study participants, design, procedure, and research instrument.

Research Respondent

The respondents of this study were the college students of University of Mindanao from all departments namely programs in Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Accountancy, Criminal Justice, Computing, Engineering, Architecture and Fine Arts, Legal Education, and the College of Health and Science Education whose aim is to observe the discernment of the community towards the effectiveness of police visibility and crime deterrence. The researchers used simple random sampling to collect data from various programs of college students of the University of Mindanao, regardless of age, sex, and religion. Simple Random Sampling is a probability sampling method where researchers randomly choose participants from different programs of college students with an equal probability of being selected (Thomas, 2023). The researchers randomly chose 300 as the minimum number of respondents to understand the community's perspective better. This study requires a lot of time and effort, mainly when it is conducted inside the campus of the University of Mindanao.

Material and Instrument

This study used a survey to examine and observe the community's discernment towards police visibility and crime deterrence. The researcher used the modified questionnaire about Assessment of Crime Deterrence in Asuncion, Davao del Norte: Basis for Enhancement Program. The questionnaire

It consists of two parts. Part one includes the respondent's name (optional), age, and sex. Part two would be the questions determining the residents' satisfaction level towards the effectiveness of police visibility and crime deterrence. Furthermore, the researcher utilized the Likert scale to measure the respondents' perception and discernment (Mahmuovic, 2020).

Each item in the survey was rated on a 5-point Likert scale to determine respondents' discernment towards the effectiveness of police visibility and crime deterrence. The scale comprises five rating categories, each with a corresponding arrangement of mean scores and levels of explanation to facilitate comprehension of responses. A score of five, which ranged from 4.20 to 5.00, denoted "very high" and meant that the responder strongly agreed with the statement. A score of four, ranging from 3.40 to 4.19, signifies "high" and suggests that respondents agreed with the effectiveness of police visibility. A score of three, which may range from 2.60 to 3.39, indicated a "neutral" amount of observation about police visibility and crime deterrence. A value of two, between 1.80 and 2.59, indicates "Low" agreement, with respondents expressing disagreement with the statement. Several 1, between 1.00 and 1.79, signified "Very Low," implying that the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement.

Design and Procedure

This study uses a quantitative, non-experimental design utilizing a descriptive quantitative research design. The distinction between experimental and non-experimental research lies in the former's lack of variable manipulation, whereas the latter does. Furthermore, they depend on observing and examining already-existing information or natural occurrences.

To get important understandings of the universe (Arteaga, 2022). The researcher employs a descriptive quantitative research design, which allows for investigating one or more variables using a broad range of research methodologies (McCombes, 2022). The design is appropriate for the researcher to observe the community's discernment towards the effectiveness of police visibility and crime deterrence. The following statistical tools are used in processing the gathered data. The mean is used to determine the community's level of satisfaction with the effectiveness of police visibility and crime deterrence. The standard deviation measures the variation or dispersion in the data values. The Pearson r is utilized to ascertain the relationship between the effectiveness of police visibility and crime deterrence and the community's perception. Lastly, the ANOVA test is applied to determine whether there are significant differences among the findings from more than three unrelated samples or groups.

Ethical Consideration

The ethical standards of the research were followed in the study. Its objectives are to uphold academic and scientific integrity, strengthen validity, and safeguard the rights of research participants. These consist of: voluntary participation, where the research respondents can choose whether to participate in the study voluntarily or without coercion. Everyone taking part is free to give up on participation. Privacy and Confidentiality: the respondent's private information has been made anonymous, maintained in confidence, and not revealed. An informed consent process where the goal of the study and their exact role in it are disclosed to the participants. They receive instructions on how to finish the questionnaire.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the key findings from the survey questionnaire about Community Discernment Towards the Effectiveness of Police Visibility and Crime Deterrence. This research aims to learn more about the effectiveness of police visibility, crime deterrence, and the community's discernment. The order of the presentation follows that of the study objectives.

Level of Effectiveness of Community Discernment among College Students of the University of Mindanao

Table 1 shows the community is generally satisfied with crime prevention initiatives, given that all indicators have a high rating, which suggests a favorable view of effectiveness in areas such as trust, fairness, collaboration, and discernment. Community Cooperation had the most excellent mean score of 4.26, with a standard deviation of 0.659, which indicates the community's strong backing for collaboration with law enforcement. Despite some differences, the answers were mostly positive. As seen by the Perception of Police Fairness score of 4.15, with a standard deviation of 0.613, the community believes that law enforcement actions are fair. Most people agreed on this issue, as shown by the low standard deviation.

Table 1. Level of Effectiveness of Community Discernment among College Students of the University of Mindanao

Indicators	Mean	SD	Descriptive Equivalent
Community Cooperation	4.26	0.659	Very High
Perception of Police Fairness	4.15	0.613	High
Public Trust and Confidence	3.78	0.638	High
Overall	4.18	0.536	High

Even though it is still in the High range, Public Trust and Confidence had the lowest mean score of 3.78. The responses were highly varied, with a standard deviation of 0.638. The community is pleased with crime prevention, notably in cooperation and fairness, and the responses demonstrate a high degree of consistency. The overall mean score for Community Discernment is 4.18 with a standard deviation of 0.536, which indicates a high discernment from the community.

Most relevantly, a primary goal of community policing is frequently to increase legitimacy among the public and confidence by increasing police presence, visibility, and engagement in local communities, hence fortifying ties with locals (Skogan, 2019). The study's results by Mangai et al. (2022) also show that police-community partnerships are crucial for reducing crime and that enhancing these partnerships is a successful

strategy. This is corroborated by research by Kochel and Gau (2019), who found that social connection was significantly predicted by the visibility of police, police approach, and police- community involvement. This policing determines and then subsequently predicts casual social control through social connections. However, locals believed that these tactics were successful in reducing crime.

Level of Effectiveness of Police Visibility among College Students of the University of Mindanao

Table 2 illustrates how content the public is with the presence of police. All of the actions earned a High descriptive rating, which means that people have a positive attitude toward the police presence and their participation in the community. The public sees police presence as a successful strategy for lowering crime and maintaining safety. Police Presence in High-Crime Areas, with a mean of 4.22 and 0.615 standard deviation, ranked as the highest rated indicator. This indicates that the community is delighted with police presence in the areas, and the majority of respondents to the survey agree. The mean score for Police Frequency was 4.15 with a standard deviation of 0.663, indicating a positive response. However, the answers are highly varied, indicating different experiences in different neighborhoods. Finally, Public Engagement had the lowest rating, an average of 4.09 and a standard deviation of 0.616. However, this rating is still considered High, which indicates that the public is receptive to the police's efforts to engage with them. In general, the overall result for police visibility is 4.15 with a standard deviation of 0.532, wherein the results show that people are generally satisfied with the police presence, particularly in high- crime areas.

Table 2. Level of Effectiveness of Police Visibility among College Students of the University of Mindanao

Indicators	Mean	SD	Descriptive Equivalent
Presence in High-crime areas	4.22	0.615	Very High
Police Frequency	4.15	0.663	High
Public Engagement	4.09	0.616	High
Overall	4.15	0.532	High

In a study conducted by Kochel, Parks, and Mastrofski (2011) about examining police effectiveness as a precursor to legitimacy and cooperation with police, it was found that satisfaction was strongly linked to the perceptions of effectiveness, especially in deterring crime and maintaining police visibility. Another study by Braga et al. (2012) noted that increasing police frequency in hot spots improves crime deterrence and community satisfaction.

Level of Effectiveness of Crime Deterrence among College Students of the University of Mindanao

Table 3 shows the community's views on how well the police prevent crime, focusing on crime statistics and the presence of security checkpoints. All four areas measured received high scores, indicating strong agreement among people about the police's effectiveness. The highest score was for Perceived Safety (mean = 4.33), meaning community members feel safe and have similar views on their safety related to police presence. Crime rate reduction had a mean of 4.20, while arrest and response time had the lowest mean at 4.19, yet it was still considered high, showing more varied opinions on how quickly police respond.

Table 3. Level of Effectiveness of Crime Deterrence among College Students of the University of Mindanao

Indicators	Mean	SD	Descriptive Equivalent
Perceived Safety	4.33	.645	Very High
Crime Rate Reduction	4.20	.562	Very High
Arrest and Response Time	4.19	.697	High
Overall	4.24	0.547	Very High

Overall, the findings reveal that the community has high trust in the police for maintaining safety and effectively deterring crime.

A study from the Urban Institute examined how checkpoints affect public perception. This study found that properly implemented checkpoints increase public confidence and perceived police effectiveness (La Vigne et al., 2011). Another study by Cordner (2010) emphasized that the impact of police presence, especially with visible strategies such as consistent patrols and checkpoints, reduces public fear and increases community satisfaction.

Relationship Between Community Discernment Towards the Effectiveness of Police Visibility and Crime Deterrence

The output of Pearson's Partial Correlation is presented in Table 4. This tests the correlations between four of the most significant variables: Public Trust and Confidence, Perception of Police Fairness, Community Cooperation, and Community Discernment. The output shows several statistically significant correlations between the variables as reflected by p-values, and all are less than .001—much lower than the conventional significance level of .05. This indicates that the correlations in the data are not coincidental; hence, the null hypotheses can be rejected. This means that the alternative hypothesis is accepted, which presumes that the effectiveness of police visibility can affect the discernment and perspective of the community.

Table 4: Test of Significant Relationship Between Community Discernment and Police Visibility

Variable	PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE	PERCEPTION OF POLICE FAIRNESS	COMMUNITY COOPERATION	COMMUNITY DISCERNMENT
POLICE FREQUENCY	0.448 < .001	0.532 < .001	0.574 < .001	0.616 < .001
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT	0.491 < .001	0.499 < .001	0.406 < .001	0.551 < .001
PRESENCE IN HIGH-CRIME AREAS	0.452 < .001	0.575 < .001	0.387 < .001	0.557 < .001
POLICE VISIBILITY	0.55 < .001	0.635 < .001	0.544 < .001	0.683 < .001

The results showed that there were strong and statistically significant positive correlations between community discernment and police visibility variables like police frequency ($r = 0.616$, $p < .001$), public engagement ($r = 0.551$, $p < .001$), presence in high-crime areas ($r = 0.557$, $p < .001$), and overall police visibility

($r = 0.683$, $p < .001$). This implies that greater community awareness, comprehension, and trust in law enforcement are associated with increasing police presence and participation. Their results support the idea that efficient policing practices are essential for resolving social issues and fostering safer communities by indicating that a greater police presence keeps social order and gives citizens a sense of security. Guerette and Bowers' (2018) research demonstrated how police visibility might enhance community perceptions of safety. Accordingly, police visibility is a strategy to encourage much more approachable engagement and police involvement, which may enhance life quality by reducing crime and fear (Valenzuela & Tamayo, 2021).

Table 1: Test of Significant Relationship Between Community Discernment and Crime Deterrence

Variable	PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE	PERCEPTION OF POLICE FAIRNESS	COMMUNITY COOPERATION	COMMUNITY DISCERNMENT
CRIME RATE REDUCTION	0.477 < .001	0.413 < .001	0.384 < .001	0.504 < .001
PERCEIVED SAFETY	0.448 < .001	0.546 < .001	0.407 < .001	0.552 < .001
ARREST AND RESPONSE TIME	0.567 < .001	0.61 < .001	0.406 < .001	0.624 < .001
CRIME DETERRENCE	0.581 < .001	0.608 < .001	0.462 < .001	0.652 < .001

The correlation between community discernment and crime deterrence was also statistically significant. Indicators such as crime rate reduction ($r = 0.504$, $p < .001$), perceived safety ($r = 0.552$, $p < .001$), and arrest and response time ($r = 0.624$, $p < .001$), and overall crime deterrence ($r = 0.652$, $p < .001$) all demonstrated moderate to strong positive correlations with community discernment. These results indicate that a conscious, perceptive, and involved community enthusiastically supports police work and actively works to reduce crime through civic engagement and vigilance. Because more police officers deter criminal activity, crime rates are lower in neighborhoods with a higher police presence. According to a study by Borovec et al. (2019), the police's prominent presence deters residents who intend to break the law, preventing them from achieving their goals while giving other citizens a sense of security. According to Weisburd et al. (2021), arrest and response time procedures are crucial for lowering crime possibilities in local areas. Similar strategies have been employed by create workable ways to combat crime in their areas. A few but encouraging studies show that community involvement reduced crime in their cities (Rupp et al., 2020).

Table 6: Test of Significant Relationship Between Crime Deterrence and Police Visibility

Variable	CRIME RATE REDUCTION	PERCEIVED SAFETY	ARREST AND RESPONSE TIME	CRIME DETERRENCE
POLICE	0.425	0.389	0.388	0.465

FREQUENCY	< .001	< .001	< .001	< .001
PUBLIC	0.348	0.43	0.462	0.48
ENGAGEMENT	< .001	< .001	< .001	< .001
T	< .001	< .001	< .001	< .001
PRESENCE	0.651	0.607	0.534	0.69
IN HIGH- CRIME AREAS	< .001	< .001	< .001	< .001
POLICE	0.562	0.561	0.545	0.644
VISIBILITY	< .001	< .001	< .001	< .001

There are statistically significant positive relationships between police visibility and crime deterrence, suggesting that both have a significant role in deterring unlawful activity. A moderate association was found between police frequency and crime ($r = 0.465$, $p < .001$), indicating that regular patrols contribute to crime prevention by maintaining an enforcement presence. Additionally, a moderate but marginally more vigorous correlation was found between public engagement and criminal behavior ($r = 0.480$, $p < .001$), emphasizing the importance of community-oriented tactics in fostering cooperation, fostering trust, and lowering crime. Notably, the highest link across all factors was found for Presence in High-Crime regions ($r = 0.690$, $p < .001$), highlighting how crucial it is to focus law enforcement resources on regions with higher crime rates. The effectiveness of a targeted deployment approach in discouraging potential offenders. The idea that police officers' physical presence acts as a potent psychological deterrent was further supported by the strong positive correlation that was found between police visibility and crime deterrence ($r = 0.644$, $p < .001$). These findings highlight the importance of strategic deployment, proactive visibility, and community involvement in enhancing the deterrent potential of law enforcement initiatives.

A study by Corsaro et al. (2018) offers empirical proof that a decrease in various crime categories correlates with increased police presence in urban areas. In line with the current study's findings about the positive correlation between police presence in high-crime areas and crime deterrence, this finding highlights the potential efficacy of police visibility as a crime prevention technique in urban districts. According to studies by Basford et al. (2021), foot patrols significantly lower local crime. The present study's findings about the strong correlation between police visibility and crime deterrence are further supported by this study, which also suggests that enhanced police visibility, primarily through foot patrols, can successfully discourage criminal activity within communities.

Table 7. Regression Analysis: Predicting Police Visibility
ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p
H ₁	Regression	45.326	2	22.663	171.372	< .001
	Residual	39.277	297	0.132		
	Total	84.603	299			

Note. The intercept model is omitted, as no meaningful information can be shown.

The regression model presented in Table 7 was applied to determine predictors of police visibility perceptions in a community. The model utilized two predictors, community discernment and crime deterrence, both of which were statistically significant predictors of police visibility perceptions. The model yielded an R^2 value of 0.536, indicating that 53.6% of the variance in police visibility is explained by the combined effect of these two predictors.

The standardised beta coefficient (β) for Community Discernment was 0.458, representing a strong

positive relationship with police visibility. This can mean that those more cognisant of and active within the community are most likely to notice higher levels of police presence. This can therefore be interpreted to mean that internal social and cognitive awareness every day within the community plays an important role in shaping citizens' perceptions of external policing activity.

Deterrence of crime was found to have a substantial positive effect, suggesting that if people feel crime is being effectively deterred, they are more inclined to perceive the police as present and active in their neighborhoods. Perceptions of effective crime control reinforce the sense that the police are present and effective, potentially positively affecting police confidence and satisfaction. The regression model determines the interrelatedness of police success and community psychology.

Table 8. Mediation Analysis of the mediating variable

Mediation Analysis

Parameter Estimates

		Direct effects				95% Confidence Interval	
		Estimate	Std. Error	z-value	p	Lower	Upper
COMMUNITY DISCERNMENT	→ POLICE VISIBILITY	0.454	0.051	8.822	<.001	0.353	0.555

Note. Delta method standard errors, normal theory confidence intervals, ML estimator.

		Indirect effects				95% Confidence Interval	
		Estimate	Std. Error	z-value	p	Lower	Upper
COMMUNITY DISCERNMENT	→ CRIME DETERRENCE → POLICE VISIBILITY	0.224	0.037	6.088	<.001	0.152	0.296

Note. Delta method standard errors, normal theory confidence intervals, ML estimator.

Total effects

		Estimate	Std. Error	z-value	p	95% Confidence Interval	
						Lower	Upper
COMMUNITY DISCERNMENT	→ POLICE VISIBILITY	0.678	0.042	16.208	<.001	0.596	0.760

Note. Delta method standard errors, normal theory confidence intervals, ML estimator.

Presented in Table 8 is the mediation analysis, which seeks to understand the underlying mechanism through which Community Discernment influences Police Visibility, with Crime Deterrence posited as the mediating variable. This analysis was meant to determine whether the relationship between community discernment and the perception of police presence is direct, indirect, or both.

The analysis revealed a total effect of 0.678, representing a strong relationship between community discernment and police visibility. This score suggests that individuals who are more aware and engaged with their communities tend to perceive police presence more positively and frequently.

When the effect is separated into components, the direct effect of community discernment on police visibility remains strong at 0.454, even when accounting for the mediating influence of crime deterrence. This meant that community discernment alone significantly affects how police forces are perceived, highlighting the power of internal community awareness as an independent driver of perception. Additionally, the indirect effect via Crime Deterrence is 0.224, which is notably significant ($p < .001$). This finding supports the presence of partial mediation, meaning that part of the reason why people with high community discernment perceive police as more visible is because they also believe that crime is being effectively deterred. In other words, community discernment enhances the perception of crime control, reinforcing police visibility.

This partial mediation reveals a layered dynamic: while community discernment directly impacts how people view police presence, it also shapes perceptions indirectly through its effect on how effectively crime is believed to be managed. Both pathways are essential and mutually reinforcing in influencing public perception. Community Discernment is a direct and indirect influencer of police visibility and remains a robust driver for positive policing outcomes even when accounting for external variables.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The findings of this study conclude that community perceptions greatly influence public opinions about police visibility. Community discernment is the most significant predictor of perceived police visibility, indicating that people's opinions of their community significantly influence observations of police presence. The relationship between community discernment and police visibility is partially mediated by crime deterrence, indicating that people with a more engaged and informed sense of community are more likely to observe successful crime deterrence. According to the regression analysis, perceptual and psychosocial factors account for 53.6% of the variance in police visibility. The most important predictor of reported police visibility is community discernment, suggesting that perceptions about one's community significantly impact police presence observations.

Based on these results, the following recommendations are advised: First, expanding community involvement programs, incorporating perception-based metrics into police evaluation, improving crime deterrence visibility, encouraging civic education and community awareness, and developing culturally relevant community policing models are all things that police agencies should consider. Second, to strengthen the link between perceived presence and safety outcomes, police departments should encourage transparency in their policing tactics. More community discernment and improved police visibility can result from educational programs that inform the public about public safety initiatives, policing duties, and local government. These

tactics ought to be culturally modified to accommodate the various viewpoints found in communities.

To the Davao City Police Office (DCPO), to increase deterrence and community trust in the police, the Davao City Police Office (DCPO) should prioritize increasing police visibility in strategic locations, particularly high-crime communities. Regular patrols can significantly lower crime and foster community trust when paired with apparent community involvement. A community policing strategy, which includes frequent engagement with locals through town halls, events, and collaborations with community leaders, should also be implemented by the DCPO. Finally, enhancing officers' well-being through tolerance and stress management education will guarantee they remain fit, driven, and productive in their roles. According to Koper et al. (2022), police visibility strengthens the significance of the results in the present analysis by preventing crime and promoting community safety. It supports the study's objectives on how police visibility affects local crime by indicating that more police presence and visibility may improve community well-being and act as powerful deterrents to criminal behavior.

To the Women Police Officers, it is recommended that women officers actively improve their well-being and professional growth. Women officers will be better equipped to handle the mental and emotional demands of law enforcement employment if they participate in stress management and resilience training programs. In order to overcome gender-related obstacles at work and receive helpful career assistance, they can also look for mentorship possibilities. Creating robust support systems inside the force, primarily through women's organizations and peer groups, will promote cooperation and assistance between members. To properly handle

Stress, women officers must also prioritize self-care, incorporating regular exercise regimens and mental health techniques into their everyday lives. Community-oriented policing, which has emerged as one of the most sought-after policing strategies by law enforcement agencies, tends to benefit from the communication, interpersonal, and procedural justice measures that female officers possess (Hine & Davenport-Klunder, 2022).

To the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), it is recommended that they should promote police officers' well-being by putting in place regulations that prioritize their mental and physical well. DOLE should provide guidelines that address the particular difficulties experienced by law enforcement officers, such as lengthy workdays, exposure to violence, and the psychological effects of their jobs, given the high levels of stress and dangers associated with policing. These regulations should cover stress management courses, mental health services, and a workplace encouraging physical well-being. Organizations, including police departments, must prioritize the well-being of their employees in order to attain a work-life balance where family values health equally (Gragnano et al., 2020). More specifically, thankful people have a positive outlook on themselves and assist in mitigating the negative impacts of stressors, which boosts resilience and well-being when dealing with daily stressors (Kong et al., 2020)

For College Students, they have a significant role to play in advancing community security and crime prevention, especially those studying criminology or law enforcement. It is recommended that they actively participate in community outreach initiatives that inform people about the value of police visibility and crime prevention. These initiatives may take the form of seminars, workshops, or social media campaigns aimed at increasing public awareness of crime trends and ways that communities and law enforcement can collaborate. College students are also urged to conduct studies on police-community interactions, crime prevention tactics, and the efficacy of various policing approaches. Such studies can offer evidence-based suggestions and important insights into law enforcement.

The Local Government Unit (LGU), the Davao City Police Office (DCPO), and the Local Government Unit (LGU) are recommended to work together closely to improve crime prevention tactics and increase law enforcement's visibility in the neighborhood. To make the community safer for locals, this partnership may entail setting up neighborhood policing programs, enhancing street lamps in high-crime areas, and encouraging the installation of surveillance cameras. By funding establishments that facilitate police operations, such as well-equipped police stations and community centers, the LGU should also prioritize public safety infrastructure. The LGU can also support public education initiatives that teach locals how to prevent crimes, the value of police presence, and how they may actively promote community safety. The LGU plays a crucial role in fostering a more secure and united environment for everyone by supporting initiatives that foster collaboration between police and the community, encouraging unidentified crime reporting, and encouraging increased public engagement. Improving the quality of life and reducing crime requires a cooperative relationship between the local administration and the community. Therefore, mutually beneficial partnerships are essential to upholding the law, lowering crime, and preserving peace. Working with the police to launch community safety initiatives may further this cooperation.

Enhanced. A citizen's faith and confidence in the police are restored once they feel safe in the neighborhood. In order to achieve true peace and security, it will be simpler to ask for their assistance in all police initiatives (Matre et al., 2020). For Future Researchers, they are recommended to examine the precise

effects of police visibility on various demographics, such as how it influences how safe particular community groups like women, the elderly, or marginalized populations perceive their surroundings. The long-term efficacy of heightened police presence in reducing crime and its impact on community trust may be better understood through longitudinal research. Furthermore, research should concentrate on comprehending the difficulties that law enforcement encounters when implementing crime deterrence tactics, especially in regions with little funding. Future research might also examine how officers' well-being- including mental health and job satisfaction- relates to the efficacy of police.

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