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Socio-spatial Pattern of Crime Prevalence in Akure, Nigeria

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Abstract

Crime is a human security problem affecting humanity around the world. In Nigeria, the upsurge in crime is a serious concern. This study examines the socio-spatial patterns of crime in Akure to provide physical planning measures that will aid policy formulation in the study area. Crime prevalence was analysed using statistical tools to examine the spatial patterns of crime, types and nature of crime committed, factors affecting crime and the impact of crime in the study area. Akure was zoned into high, medium, and low-density zones, and questionnaires were administered to 170 residential buildings using simple random sampling within the street of each zone. Findings showed that 70% of the types of crime examined in the three density zones were categorized as very high within the high-density area of Akure. The study highlighted unemployment, parent conflict, and dysfunctional families with uncaring behaviours as the major factors influencing crime across the board. In addition, confusion, fatigue, sadness, loss of property, and helplessness adversely affect criminal activities in the vicinity of Akure. Analysis of variance and Turkey's honestly significant difference (HSD) test revealed significant differences in the prevalence of crime across different density zones in Akure. Therefore, the study encourages planning professionals to integrate crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) to design neighbourhoods and commercial areas, promote natural surveillance, discourage illicit activities, and enhance community cohesion across the board.

Keywords
Physical planning, Residents, Spatial pattern, Upsurge, Urban crime

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1. Introduction

Urbanization in the 21st century has led to a significant increase in city populations worldwide, leading to increased social problems and criminal activities (Sayafzadeh and Hassani, 2014). Crime has always been a part of human history and is a complex phenomenon that differs across cultures and periods (Ayuba *et al.*, 2016). It is defined as an unlawful act or omission that violates criminal law without justification, and is punishable by the state (Olajuyigbe *et al.*, 2016). Studies have shown that 60% of urban residents in developing countries have experienced victimization, with higher rates observed in Latin America and Africa (UN-Habitat, 2007). Crime rates tend to be higher in areas with densely populated areas and lower in less populated regions. Criminal behaviour is shaped by a variety of factors, including genetics, environment, social influences, psychology, and culture. According to Usman, Yakubu, and Bello (2012), different people commit different crimes at different times and places. Urban crime has become a source of anxiety for everyone, even with efforts to combat it becoming more frequent, frightening, and seemingly uncontrollable (Oyenike, 2013).

Crime has been increasing in Nigeria, and those who commit it are becoming increasingly sophisticated. As a result, different vigilante groups have been formed to deal with this issue (Ayoola, Adeyemi, and Jabaru, 2015). Nazri, Ludin, and Yusoff (2013) claim that the fear of crime and insecurity have become a part of daily life in cities. Crime is defined as deviant behaviour that threatens communities and subverts societal morals (Ideh, Aronu, and Bilesanmi, 2019). Research has demonstrated that crime patterns are greatly influenced by the spatial distribution of urban features like bars, shops, schools, and abandoned buildings (Zahnow, 2018). Moreover, Olajuyigbe *et al*. (2016) established a connection between crime and socio-demographic characteristics, emphasizing the noteworthy influence of elements like income, ethnic composition, youth demographics, and educational attainment, regardless of the spatial layout of crime settings.

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Akure, the capital city of Ondo State in southwestern Nigeria, serves as an important case study for examining urban crime. With more than 500,000 residents, Akure has quickly become more urbanized and expanded, creating a variety of socioeconomic dynamics. The city draws residents from all over the nation as a commercial and administrative centre, adding to the intricate social structure of the area. Because of its distinctive fusion of modern and traditional lifestyles and its quick growth, Akure has become a hub for research on crime trends (Oyinloye, Olamiju, and Otokiti, 2017). Crime has become a major concern in recent years, especially in Akure, a city where various ethnic groups coexist and interact within constrained physical spaces. The frequent occurrence of crimes like theft, burglary, assault, and shop/house breaking instils fear among residents. Due to their direct influence on the standard of living and liveability of the cities, safety and security in urban areas are essential to their stability and sustainability (England and Simon, 2017). Thus, to provide physical planning measures that will support policy formulation in the study area, this study aims to investigate the socio-spatial pattern of crime in Akure, Nigeria.

2. Literature Review

One of the issues with human security that the entire world is facing is crime. According to Felson (2020), crime can be conceptually defined as a type of deviance that results from a violation of law. Nations have struggled to manage the increasing incidence of murder, armed robbery, abduction, drug and sex trafficking, illicit firearm trafficking, and other criminal activities (Aduloju, Adeniran, and Ageh, 2020). In particular, Nigeria is dealing with a complex criminal problem characterized by an increase in both violent and non-violent crimes. Notably, in this context are the increasing numbers of armed robberies, murders, and kidnappings for ransom, which are currently wreaking havoc on the political system and fostering a culture of fear and anxiety regarding public safety (Oruwari, 2006). Oyinloye, Olamiju, and Otokiti, (2017) state that crime patterns are examined in terms of their temporal, spatial, and sociodemographic features and that these aspects are frequently shown graphically using tables, graphs, and maps. Bawaria and Pasupuleti, (2023) stated that crime analysis is essential to law enforcement because it provides insightful information about crime trends and aids in the prevention and detection of crimes.

Many scholars have investigated the spatial analysis of crime globally. For instance, Olajuyigbe *et al* (2016) conducted a spatial examination of factors contributing to the proliferation of criminal activities in Akure to enhance the city's security. Findings demonstrated how the main road network in Akure Metropolis provides easy access and escape for criminals and acts as a hub for crime incidents, especially armed robberies and burglaries targeting facilities along these routes. Alabi *et al.* (2022) investigated the role of perception in identifying crime hotspots within residential neighbourhoods in Akure, Nigeria, using street connectivity and people's perceptions. Their findings showed a relationship between perceived and real crime hotspots, especially when it comes to socioeconomic and geographic factors. The study also emphasized the importance of street connectivity, which was linked to improved mobility and a higher density of pedestrians that expose city neighbourhoods to higher crime rates. Similarly, Olapeju (2017) conducted a study analysing urban crime in Abeokuta, Nigeria, suggesting measures to mitigate crime in the study area. Findings revealed that the most common crimes in the research area, according to the results, were theft and vandalism.

Additionally, Zhou and Wang (2023) investigated the socioeconomic factors that influence the spatial patterns of crime rates in London and found that there is a notable spatial clustering of crime rates in central London. Similarly, Jiburum, Chike, and Josephine (2014) investigated the impact of crime on households' residential location choices in Enugu and demonstrated that crime incidence was lowest in medium-density neighbourhoods. In the same vein, Badiora and Afon (2016) identified the prevalence and spatial distribution of criminal activities in Ile-Ife, highlighting significant variations in residents' socio-economic attributes and crime rates across different residential zones. Although various scholars have conducted numerous studies on the distribution of crime in Akure, this study aims to fill a knowledge gap by providing empirical data on reported offenses in each of the three density zones of Akure.

3. Materials and Methods

3.1 Research locale

Akure became the capital of Ondo State in 1976. It is at latitude 7^0 12'N – 7^0 16'N and longitude 5^0 9'E – 5^0 15'E, with an elevation of approximately 370 m above sea level. Akure comprises two local government areas, Akure North and Akure South, with corresponding land area coverage of 676.7km^2 and 318.0 km^2, respectively. Due to the expansion of social, commercial, and industrial activities, the city has undergone tremendous change and has drawn migrants seeking work and opportunities from nearby areas. Over the past 25

years, Akure has experienced rapid urbanization, with its population soaring from 353,211 in 2006. Currently, using a population growth rate of 3.2%, the city is estimated to have more than 500,000 people. The availability of jobs, the existence of the government, and the provision of public amenities like markets, roads, hospitals, and schools are all responsible for this growth. As a result, the city has developed into a thriving centre with a wide variety of people and activities.

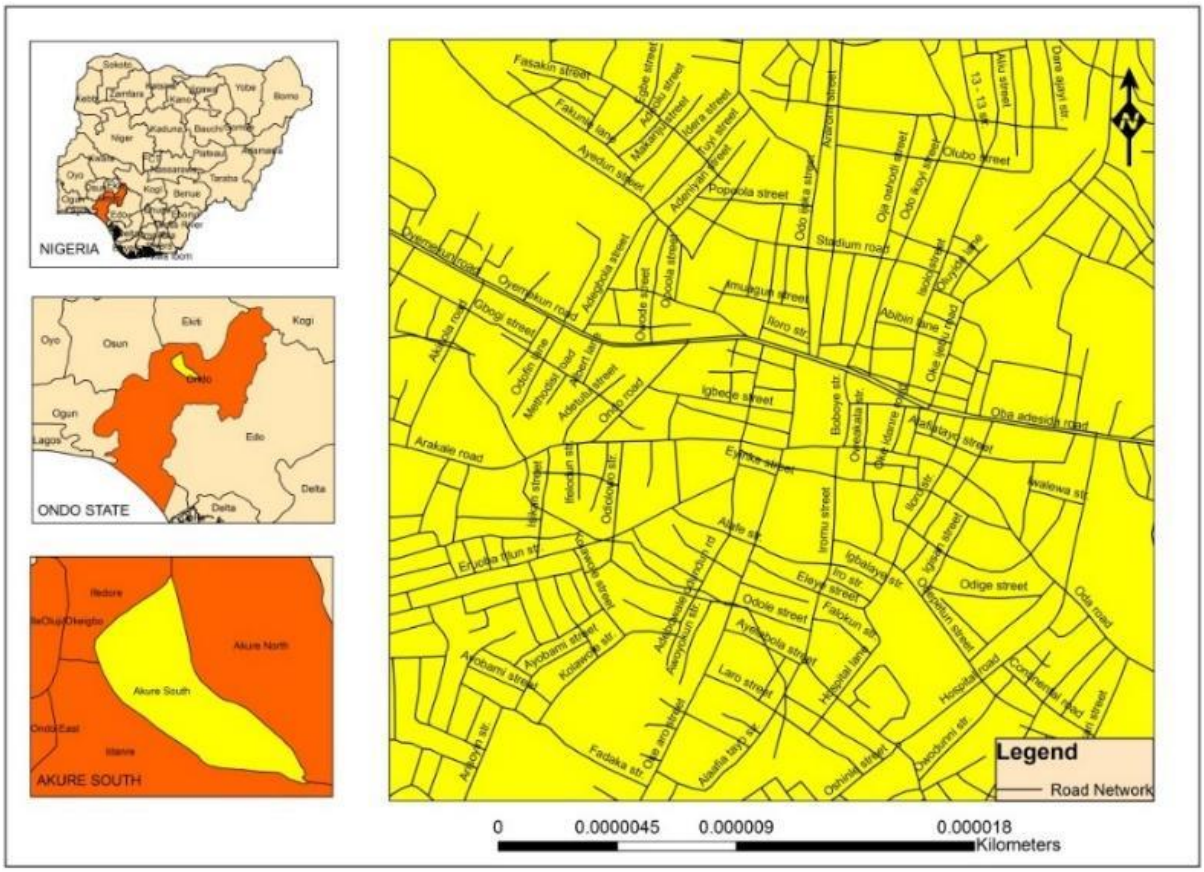

Figure 1: Open road map of the study area
Source: Adapted from Olajuyigbe *et al.* (2016)

3.2 Methodology

Primary and secondary sources of data were used in this study. Primary data collection involved administering structured questionnaires to residents to determine their perceptions of the socio-spatial crime pattern in Akure, Nigeria. Secondary data were obtained from crime reports (National Bureau of Statistics, 2017) and relevant publications on crime statistics and demographics in the region. This study used a multistage stratified sampling technique, and the research was methodically progressed through sequential stages. In the first phase, all residential locations in Akure were identified and then categorized into low, medium, and high-density areas. In the second phase, main roads in each selected residential area were identified and randomly selected. In the third phase, all residential buildings on each selected street were counted, and 25% of these buildings were randomly selected, regardless of whether the building was owned or unoccupied (rented). Therefore, 170 residential buildings were selected for the sample based on residents' residences in the selected residential buildings and their minimum duration of two or three years in their respective locations to ensure that they have sufficient knowledge and experience regarding crime patterns in their area (see Table 1). This sample is plausible considering that Olajuyigbe, Adegboyega, and Adenigba (2015) used a smaller sample size of 115 households for the spatial analysis of factors responsible for the spread of criminal activities in Akure, Nigeria to achieve a meaningful result. First, residents in each of the three areas were visited to seek voluntary collaboration with the research team. However, the examined houses in the high-density (n = 61), medium-density (n = 50), and low-density (n = 58) zones were representative of the general situation in the zones (Table 1).

- High-density residential areas with a population density of over 200 inhabitants per hectare in the city's core area. The districts in this zone are Oja-

oba, Ayedon, Ijoka, Odo-ipetu, Odo-ikoyi, Nepa, Iro, Ala district, and Ijemikin.

- Medium-density residential districts with a population density of 100-200 people per hectare. It includes districts such as Leo, High School, Aule Faribi, Lafe, Ondo Road, Oke-Aro, Araromi, Agagu Road, Agape, Champion, High School, Futa Area, Oke-odu, Orita Obele, Ipinsa, Oke-Ogba, and Adegbola.
- In the GRA, there are low-density neighbourhoods with approximately 60-100 residents per hectare. These planned neighbourhoods include areas such as Ijapo Estate and Extension, Alagbaka Estate and Extension, Avenue, and Idofin.

Table 1: Akure Capital City and the selected Residential Density Areas

Density Areas	Area/Locality Selected	Streets selected	No. of houses per street	No. of houses selected (25%)
Low	Ijapo Estate and extension, Alagbaka Estate, Avenue, and Idofin.	Mummy's place	45	11
		Alagbaka GRA	52	13
		Shoprite Area	81	20
		Igbatoro	59	15
Medium	Leo, high school, Aule, and Oke-Aro	Imagun Street,	54	14
		Araromi street	63	16
		Aule GRA Avenue	40	10
		Grace Gold Avenue.	43	10
High	Oja-oba, odo-ikoyi, Nepa, and Ijemikin	Oja-oba,	87	22
		Arakale street	56	14
		hospital road, street	42	10
		Isolo Street, Ijemikin	58	15
Total			680	170

Source: Authors' Compilation, 2024

3.3 Analytical Methods

Computation of Mean Index (MI) values for factors influencing crime in Table 3

(i). Weight values of 5,4,3,2, and 1 were assigned respectively to each rating of strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree, and strongly disagree.

(ii). The summation of the weight value (SWV) was computed. This step is the addition of the product of the value attached to a rating and the respective number of residents to the rating.

(iii). The SWV is divided by the number of residents and is expressed mathematically as follows:

$$SWV = I = 15XiYi \text{.....(i)}$$

Where:

SWV = summation of weight value;

X_i = number of residents to rating i;

Y_i = the weight assigned a value (i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

The SWV divided by the number of residents gives the resident influencing factors (IF) Index. It can be expressed mathematically as follows:

$$IFI = SWVI = 15XiYi \text{.....(i).....(ii)}$$

Where IFI is the Index of influencing factors, and SWV is defined previously. The closer the IFI of a particular indicator to 5, the higher is assured of the importance attached to such indicator (Olanipekun & Owoeye, 2024).

Computation of Resident Influencing Factors Index (IFI) on the socio-spatial pattern of crime in Akure as presented in Table 1.

Column 1: Component Variables identified

Column 2: Number of individual perceptions of each component with 5 (Strongly Agree)

Column 3: Number of individual perceptions of each component with 4 (Agree)

Column 4: Number of individual perceptions of each component with 3 (Undecided)

Column 5: Number of individual perceptions of each component with 2 (Disagree)

Column 6: Number of individual perceptions of each component with 1 (Strongly Disagree)

Column 7: Addition of the product of individual respondents' rating a particular component and their respective weight values. For instance, SWV for "Unemployment" = (85×5) + (54×4) + (12×3) + (13x2) + (2×1) = 705.

Column 8: Mean weighted values (MWV) equals the summation of weighted value (SWV) divided by the sum of individual respondents' ratings for each indicator. For instance, MWV for "Unemployment" = 705/ (85+54+12+13+2) = 4.24

Column 9: The deviation equals the total Mean Index for the 7 components subtracted from the

mean value for each variable, e.g., 67.01/20=3.35, Deviation=4.24-3.35=-0.89

Column 10: Ranking of adequacy of infrastructure components in order of highest positive deviation to the least negative deviation.

Computation of Mean Index (MI) values for effects of crime prevalence in Table 3

Column 1: Identified effect component variables

Column 2: Number of individual perceptions of each component with 5 (Strongly Agree)

Column 3: Number of individual perceptions of each component with 4 (Agree)

Column 4: Number of individual perceptions of each component with 3 (Undecided)

Column 5: Number of individual perceptions of each component with 2 (Disagree)

Column 6: Number of individual perceptions of each component with 1 (Strongly Disagree)

Column 7: Addition of the product of individual respondents' rating a particular component and their respective weight values. For instance, the SWV for "Confusion" = (70×5) + (48×4) + (18×3) + (24x2) + (10×1) = 654.

Column 8: Mean weighted values (MWV) are the summation of weighted value (SWV) divided by the additional of individual respondents' ratings for each indicator. For instance, the MWV for "Confusion"

= 705/ (70+48+18+24+10) = 3.84

Column 9: Deviation equals total mean index for the 7 components subtracted from mean value for each variable, e.g., 31.9/11=2.9, Deviation=3.84-2.9=-0.94

Column 10: Ranking of adequacy of infrastructure components in order of the highest positive deviation to the least negative deviation.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Types and nature of crime in the high-density area of Akure

Figure 2 provides important information on the spatial distribution of crime in high-density areas of Akure, Nigeria. Findings showed that 9 out of 13 crime variables assessed and classified as "very high" in high density areas are: theft and stealing (65.60%), armed robbery (57.4%), assault and snatching of bags or phones with (52.5% each), drug and trafficking (74.1%), pocket picking (54.1%), and property damage (74.10%). This suggests that these types of crimes are more common in high-density areas, particularly in busy business districts or heavily populated neighbourhoods. To successfully combat these crimes and guarantee residents' safety, urban planners and law enforcement agencies should prioritize the implementation of targeted security measures, such as increased police presence, community engagement initiatives, and the installation of surveillance systems. Similarly, car snatching and rape were classified as medium-density crimes at 32.80% each, while burglary (36.10%) was less common in high-density areas. Even though they are less common, maintaining public safety and stopping these crimes from spreading requires vigilance and preventive measures. The concentration of crimes in these areas suggests a relationship between high population density and a rise in property-related crimes. These incidents frequently occur in a congested environment with limited access to resources and law enforcement.

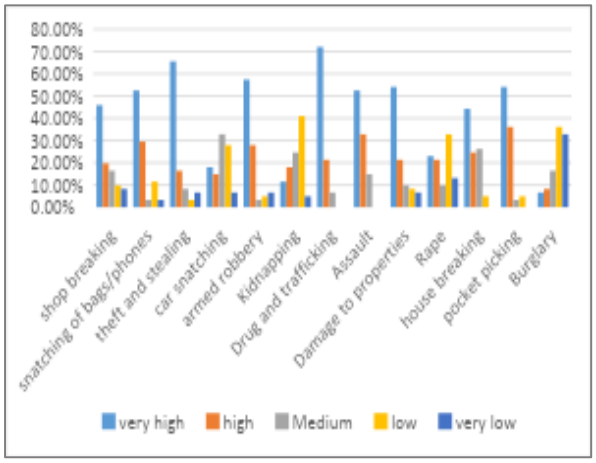

Figure 2: Types and nature of crime in the high-density area of Akure

Source: Author's Compilation, 2024

4.2 Types and nature of crime in the medium-density neighbourhood of Akure

Analysis of crime data in the medium-density zones of Akure revealed diverse patterns of varying degrees of severity. The findings in Figure 4 revealed that 4 out of the 13 crime variables examined were rated "high" in prevalence in areas with moderate population density. These included houses breaking (22%), assault (30%), pickpocketing (34%), and burglary (50%). In addition, several crime types are classified as "medium" in prevalence, including rape (42%), drug and human trafficking (42%), property damage (40%), armed robbery (34%), theft of bags/phones (48 %), and shoplifting (40%). In contrast, the prevalence of theft and theft (36%) and kidnapping (36%) in areas with a medium population density fell into the "low" category. In contrast, car theft (56%) was rated "very low," compared to other types of crime. This implies that house breaking, assault, pick-pocketing, and burglary occur most frequently in medium-density zones in Akure, highlighting the need to combat the prevalence of these serious crimes to ensure the safety and well-being of residents.

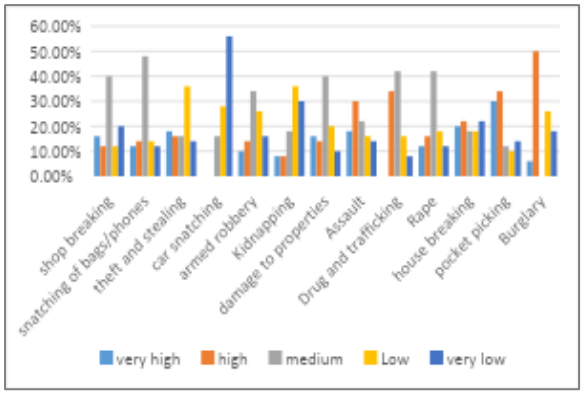

Figure 3: Types and nature of crime in the medium-density area of Akure
Source: Author's Compilation, 2024

4.3 Types and nature of crime in the low-density neighbourhood of Akure

Figure 4 reveals that 2 of the 13 crime variables examined in low-density areas were rated "high" in prevalence. These categories include burglary (40.7%) and kidnapping (42.40%). Additionally, only armed robberies (33.90%) were classified as "medium. In contrast, the prevalence rates of snatching of bags/phones (36%), theft and theft (33.9%), car theft (39%), property damage (49.20%), drug and human trafficking (55.90%), rape (50.80%). The number of cases of housebreaking (47.5%) and pickpocketing (50.8%) falls into the "low" category, whereas shoplifting (33.90%) and assault (50.8%) are very low in the study area. Although the individual prevalence rates of these crimes may be lower, their cumulative impact significantly contributes to the overall crime landscape in low-density areas.

In sum, the discussion of crime patterns in the high-density area of Akure, particularly the prevalence of property-related crimes, is consistent with the findings of Olajuyigbe et al. (2016) and Alabi et al., (2022), who emphasized the influence of urban spatial characteristics on the occurrence of crimes and highlighted a link between high population density and the increase in the manner which crimes are committed in densely populated areas of Akure.

4.3.1 Hypothesis Test

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) revealed significant differences in the prevalence of several crime variables in zones of different densities in Akure, Nigeria. First, there was a statistically significant difference in armed robberies ($F_{(2, 167)} = 37.017$, $p < 0.001$), indicating differences in the occurrences of armed robbery across high, medium, and low-density areas. Similarly, kidnapping in these zones differed significantly ($F_{(2, 167)} = 3.807$, $p = 0.024+$) in the study area. Assault also showed notable differences ($F_{(2, 167)} = 110.023$, $p < 0.001$) in crime prevalence, suggesting different patterns of criminality in the study area. Likewise, drug and trafficking offenses also varied significantly between the density zones ($F_{(2, 167)} = 88.365$, $p < 0.001$). Furthermore, burglaries also showed significant differences across boards ($F_{(2, 167)} = 21.713$, $p < 0.001$).

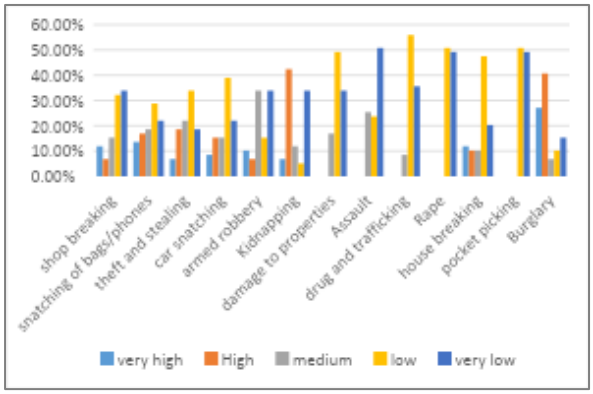

Figure 4: Types and nature of crime in the low-density area of Akure
Source: Author's Compilation, 2024

4.3.2 Tukey honestly significant difference (HSD) test

The Tukey Honestly Significant Difference (HSD) test was conducted to further examine the differences in the prevalence of crime in Akure. Significant differences were found for armed robbery between all pairs of density zones ($p < 0.001$), with mean differences ranging from 1.80522 to 1.48590 for Zone 1 compared to Zones 2 and 3. Similarly, significant differences were found in kidnapping, with mean differences ranging from 0.62164 to 0.07113 for high-density compared to medium and low density ($p < 0.05$). Regarding sexual attacks, there were significant differences between all pairs of density zones ($p < 0.001$), with mean differences ranging from 2.63128 to 1.17505 for high compared to medium and low densities. There were also notable differences in drug and drug trafficking, with significant differences observed between all pairs of density zones ($p < 0.001$), with mean differences in high-density compared to medium and low-density zones ranging from 2.35315 to 1.06177. In contrast, no significant differences were found on the prevalence of burglaries between high and medium densities ($p = .527$). However, significant differences were found between high and low density and medium and low density, with mean differences of 1.34565 and 1.10237 ($p < .001$), respectively. This implies that there is a significant difference in the types and nature of crime in the three density zones of Akure, Nigeria.

4.4 Factors influencing crime prevalence in Akure, Nigeria

This section describes the findings on the factors affecting crime in Akure, as shown in Table 2. A Likert scale was used to weight factors affecting crime as they occurred in the study area. Values were scored in descending order of 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1. A positive deviation indicates that the index value of the factor is higher than the mean, indicating a greater perceived influence on crime prevalence than the average. Conversely, a negative deviation indicates that the index value of the factor is lower than the mean, implying a lower perceived influence on crime prevalence than the average. The findings presented in Table 2 show that 12 out of the 20 indicators considered for this study were the main factors affecting urban crime in the study area. However, based on the analysis, the top three positive variables affecting crime were unemployment (FIC=0.89), parental conflict (FIC=0.45), and dysfunctional families with indifference (FIC=0.44). This finding implies the urgent need to address socioeconomic inequalities and family support systems. Policymakers should prioritize initiatives aimed at creating employment opportunities, promoting family cohesion, and providing support services to address the social challenges that contribute to crime. The analysis also found that eight of the variables; Excessive use of television as a means of recreation, overload or overcrowding, violent culture imported from foreign films, repressive and abusive parents, peers, discrimination, environmental degradation, lack of financial resources, and collapse of traditional ethics led to negative deviations in the mean index, meaning that the variables had no real influence on crime in the study area. Although these factors may not be the primary causes of crime, their presence highlights broader social and environmental concerns that require attention. Efforts to combat discrimination, improve environmental quality, and promote ethical values remain essential to promoting a safe and cohesive community environment. These results are consistent with the socioeconomic determinants of crime highlighted in the literature by Oyinloye, Olamiju and Otokiti (2017) and Zhou and Wang (2023). The results revealed a link between social inequalities and criminal activity and underscore the need to address societal problems and alleviate risk factors associated with the occurrence of crime.

Table 2: Factors influencing the prevalence of crime in Akure, Nigeria

	Factors Influencing the Crime Index								Mean Deviation		
Factors Influencing Crime	SA 5	A 4	UN 3	D 2	SD 1	NR (f)	SWV	SWV/(f)	$\bar{X}$	d	d^2
Unemployment	85	54	12	13	2	166	705	4.24	3	0.89	0.79
Parental conflict	60	54	31	12	13	170	646	3.8	3	0.45	0.2
Dysfunctional families with uncaring	55	52	33	25	2	167	634	3.79	3	0.44	0.19
Lack of support for families and neighbourhoods	54	48	40	6	22	170	616	3.62	3	0.27	0.07
Lack of respect and responsibility	65	21	57	10	17	170	617	3.62	3	0.27	0.07
Marginalization and Exclusion of Poverty	54	45	26	37	8	170	610	3.58	3	0.23	0.05
Low value placed on children and individual well-being	41	45	58	22	4	170	607	3.57	3	0.22	0.04
Family violence	35	60	47	22	6	170	606	3.56	3	0.21	0.04
Parental criminality	42	55	43	8	22	170	597	3.51	3	0.16	0.03
Lack of communication (both in quality and quantity)	49	37	49	20	15	170	595	3.5	3	0.15	0.02
Inadequate provision of facilities	43	44	31	46	6	170	582	3.42	3	0.07	0
Covetous	62	42	16	7	43	170	583	3.42	3	0.07	0
Overexposure as a means of recreation	12	40	18	32	67	169	405	2.39	3	-0.96	0.92
Problem of congestion or overcrowding	6	36	48	59	21	170	457	2.68	3	-0.67	0.44
Culture of violence imported from foreign films	19	33	45	42	31	170	477	2.8	3	-0.55	0.3
Repressive and abusive parents	20	56	29	2	63	170	478	2.81	3	-0.54	0.29
Peer group	38	7	44	56	20	165	482	2.92	3	-0.43	0.18
Discrimination and degradation of the environment	32	35	53	38	12	170	547	3.21	3	-0.14	0.01
Lack of financial support to engage in many activities (business)	50	43	26	4	47	170	555	3.26	3	-0.09	0.01
Collapse of traditional ethics	39	42	31	50	8	170	564	3.31	3	-0.04	0
Total	**861**	**849**	**737**	**511**	**429**	**3387**	**11363**	**67.01**			

Note: SA-Strongly Agree. A- Agree. UN-Undecided, D-Disagree, and SD- Strongly Disagree SWV mean weighted value, NR Number of respondents, d= mean deviation

Source: Authors' fieldwork, 2024

4.5 Effects of crime prevalence in Akure, Nigeria

This section presents the results on the impact of crime in Akure, as shown in Table 3. The Likert scale was used to weigh the severity of crime effects in the study area. The analysis shows that 6 out of 11 indicators considered for this study had a positive impact across the three density zones; confusion (ECP=0.94), tiredness or sleep problems (ECP=0.9), sadness (ECP=0.82), helplessness (ECP=0.61), loss of property (ECP=0.54), and jumpiness (ECP=0.52), indicating an increased prevalence of these psychological effects among residents. This implies that serious attention should be paid to combating the impact of crime on mental health and improving community support systems to mitigate the negative impact on affected individuals. Likewise, nausea (ECP=-0.82), headaches (ECP=-0.79), murder (ECP=-0.7), loss of life (ECP=0.67), and sexual assault (ECP=-0.6) are negative deviations from the mean index. While this may indicate some level of resilience or effective preventive measures, it is imperative to continue to monitor and address the underlying factors contributing to these outcomes to maintain positive trends and ensure the safety and health of residents. The psychological and physical health impacts of crime reflect concerns raised in the literature by Oruwari (2006) and Badiora and Afon (2016) and highlight the widespread fear and concern for public safety caused by increasing rates of violent crime.

Table 3: Effect of crime prevalence in Akure, Nigeria

	Effect of the Crime Prevalence Index								Mean Deviation (ECP)		
	SA	A	UN	D	SD						
Effect of crime	5	4	3	2	1	NR (f)	SWV	SWV/(f)	$\bar{X}$	D	d^2
Confusion	70	48	18	24	10	170	654	3.84		0.94	0.88
Fatique	60	48	33	26	3	170	646	3.8		0.9	0.81
Sadness	44	79	12	27	8	170	634	3.72		0.82	0.67
Helplessness	21	85	38	12	14	170	597	3.51		0.61	0.37
Property loss	39	56	37	17	21	170	585	3.44		0.54	0.29
Jumpiness	33	59	41	21	16	170	582	3.42	**2.9**	0.52	0.27
Headaches	5	38	43	19	65	170	409	0.24		-2.66	7.08
Nausea	3	34	42	21	70	170	389	2.28		-0.62	0.38
loss of life	25	10	32	49	54	170	413	2.42		-0.48	0.23
Murder	37	12	28	41	52	170	451	2.65		-0.25	0.06
sexual assault	34	10	32	39	55	170	439	2.58		-0.32	0.1
Total	**376**	**483**	**359**	**298**	**369**	**1870**	**59145**	**31.9**			**10.47**

Note: SA-Strongly Agree. A- Agree. UN-Undecided, D-Disagree, and SD- Strongly Disagree SWV mean weighted value, NR Number of respondents, d= mean deviation

Source: Authors' fieldwork, 2024

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

From the foregoing discussion, it is clear that crime is a universal scourge that tears apart the fabric of communities and threatens the lives, health, and happiness of nations. No country or community is spared from crime. A comprehensive analysis of crime data and its impact on various aspects of life in Akure reveals the complexity of challenges facing the community. The high prevalence rates of various crimes such as armed robbery, assault, and drug trafficking highlight the urgent need for targeted interventions to improve security. Furthermore, factors that influence crime prevalence, such as unemployment, parental conflict, and lack of support systems, highlight the connection between social and economic factors that drive criminal activity. The impact of crime on residents' well-being, as evidenced by the mental and physical health indicators, highlights the profound influence of criminal activity on outcomes at the individual and community levels. In response to these claims, the need to combat crime has gone beyond debate. Therefore, due to the incessant crime prevalence in Akure, there is a need for urban planners to consider safety and not just aesthetics and accessibility when planning and designing residential neighbourhoods.

- Local governments should prioritize urban planning measures aimed at improving the physical security of public spaces and residential areas. This includes installing adequate street lights, improving surveillance through CCTV cameras, and improving the visibility and accessibility of streets and sidewalks.
- Law enforcement agencies should focus on community-oriented policing strategies tailored to the specific concerns identified in the analysis. This could include increasing police presence in areas with high rates of assaults and drug-related crimes, as well as implementing targeted outreach and engagement measures to build trust and cooperation with local communities.
- Professionals (urban planners and architects) are responsible for designing the built environment. They should integrate crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles into urban planning practice by designing spaces that promote natural surveillance, prevent illegal activities, and strengthen community cohesion.

- Various government agencies at the local, state, and federal levels are responsible for implementing social and economic development programmes. They should prioritize initiatives that aim to reduce unemployment, poverty, and social exclusion through job creation, skills training, education, and social assistance programs.
- Through collaboration between the public and private sectors, resources and expertise from both sectors can be leveraged to implement crime prevention initiatives. Companies can provide financial support, technology, and expertise to complement government-led efforts to promote community safety and well-being.

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