

Factors Affecting the Crime Rates in Sto Tomas Davao Del Norte

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Abstract — The Philippine National Police (PNP) reported a decrease of 39.59 percent in the total eight focus crimes for 2020 compared to 2019, mainly due to the implementation of the community quarantine across the country amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

This research study used the descriptive research design employing a self-made survey questionnaire distributed randomly to 100 resident-respondents of Davao Del Norte. The basic statistical tools were used to interpret and analyze the data gathered. Likewise, Pearson r was used to test the association between the profiles of the respondents and the factors affecting the crime rates in Davao Del Norte. The study revealed that unemployment and low family income are some of the factors influencing crime rates in Davao Del Norte. However, there is no association between the profiles of the respondents and the factors affecting the crime rates in Davao Del Norte.

Keywords — *Crime Rates, Unemployment, Pandemic, Population*

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the world in ways not seen in generations. Due to the crisis that we're experiencing right now, one of the effects is crime rates, which appear to have fallen drastically in many communities worldwide. An economic crisis is when a country's economy experiences a sudden downturn brought on by a financial crisis. Whether there is an economic crisis or not, economic factors like unemployment and poverty directly impact our government, society, and population and thus affect crime rates. Due to the financial crisis, there is an increase in unemployment, and many people suffer a sudden reduction in their income.

The significant drop in the country's index crimes during the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic is expected to help improve the Philippines' ranking in the following law and order survey of US-based analytics and advisory firm, Gallup.

Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, Philippine National Police (PNP) deputy chief for administration, said Gallup's 2020 Global Law and Order report only mirrored the peace and order situation in the Philippines that showed a consistent decline in index crimes nationwide not only

in 2019 when the survey was conducted but also since July 2016 when President Rodrigo Roa Duterte assumed office.

“With the dedication and hard work of all policemen, soldiers, firemen, and Coast Guard in strictly implementing quarantine rules that played a key role in further improving the peace and order situation nationwide, we are confident that we would further improve in the next survey,” he said in a media statement.

The latest data from the PNP showed a 46-percent drop in focus crimes in the country during the 226-day community quarantine period (March 17 to October 28, 2020) with 21,729 crimes, compared to 39,920 during the same period before the community quarantine (August 4, 2019, to March 16, 2020).

Several researchers have made initial examinations into how crime rates have fluctuated in the advent of COVID-19. The results have been mixed, especially when comparing broad categories of crime across different cities and with different methods and periods of study. However, these initial academic studies are intrinsically valuable and deserve to be mentioned here.

According to Nath (2006), the crime rate is affected by a number of Economic factors such as income level, unemployment rate, and Gross Domestic Product, Consumer Price Index, etc.

Some statistics and studies are currently trying to provide a solution about personal connections between socioeconomic and demographic variables and crime, indicating that the current crisis has much weight on the social environment and, therefore, on the offense factors that increase criminal behavior. According to social disorganization theory, many studies reveal that social segregation in the urban environment creates fragile environments. These are directly associated with high crime rates, according to Cahil (2004), Bjerck (2009), Raphael and Sills (2006). Moreover, the direct correlations between the rural environment and criminal behavior turn out to be manifestations unique to Romania (Albu et al., 2013).

By investigating studies concentrated on analyzing the relationship between crime and macroeconomic variables, Diaw et al. (2014) noted some contradictory results related to the relationship between economic conditions and crime.

A recent study by Traxler & Burhop (2010) confirms the strong positive effect of poverty on property crime and a substantial negative impact of poverty on violent crime by using panel data methodology for Prussia from 1882 to 1910 and the rye price as a proxy for poverty. Moreover, Oster and Agell (2007) several studies confirm that unemployment increases crime:

Furthermore, in a study conducted by the World Bank, Fajnzylber et al. (2002) discovered that crime rates and inequality are positively correlated within countries and also between countries. It appears that this correlation reflects causation from difference to crime rates, even controlling for other crime determinants.

The same results show that crimes in the urban area are affected by the urban population and average salary variables. Some studies support the hypothesis that the same effect for criminality follows the increase in urbanization. (Galvin, 2002; Gaviria & Pagés, 2002, Gümüş, 2004)

Within all these studies, there are different mechanisms through which unemployment can affect crime: alcohol consumption, substance abuse, drug dependence, income inequality, the availability of theft-worthy goods (Buonanno & Montolio, 2008; Gümüş, 2004; Omotor, 2009)

With this, the researcher would like to determine the profiles of the respondents in terms of age, civil status, highest educational attainment, religion, occupation, and employment status, and determine the factors affecting the crime rates in Davao del Norte and correlate the profiles of the respondents and factors affecting the crime rates in Davao del Norte.

Literature Review

Felson, Jiang, and Xu (2020) examined burglary in Detroit during three periods, representing data before stay-at-home orders were in place and two periods under orders (March 10 to March 23 and March 24 to March 31). Their findings indicated an overall 32% decline in burglary, with the most substantial change in the third period. However, the reduction was more significant in block groups of higher residential parcels than in mix-use land areas.

Campedelli et al. (2020) analyzed Crime in Los Angeles in two time periods (the first ending March 16 and the second ending March 28) using Bayesian structural time-series models to estimate what crime would have been if the COVID-19 pandemic had not occurred. Comparing the actual crime data against the estimated 'sans-pandemic' data, the first model found an overall crime reduction of 5.6% during the pandemic. Likewise, the second model (ending March 28) showed a 15% reduction. Specifically, researchers found that overall crime rates significantly decreased, particularly when referencing robbery (-24%), shoplifting (-14%), theft (-21%), and battery (-11%). However, burglary, domestic violence, stolen vehicles, and homicide remained statically unchanged.

Studying crime based at a place is another critical part of understanding crime trends and methods to disrupt Crime (Eck & Weisburd, 2015). Under the current circumstances with people's daily routine disrupted, this is even more important as people shift to more time within the home. The opportunities and places for offenders and victims to meet become limited. As a result, there is likely far less crime as people; both victims and offenders are not together in a place for the crime to occur.

Methodology

The researcher used the descriptive research design to employ a self-made survey questionnaire formulated based on previous studies' existing literature and results. The researcher used the google survey to randomly distribute the self-made survey questionnaire to 100 residents – respondents of Davao Del Norte. The self-made survey questionnaire is composed of two parts: part one is about the profiles of the respondents in terms of age, sex, highest educational attainment, civil status, religion, occupation, and status of employment, and the second part is about the factors affecting the crime rates in Davao Del Norte. The five-point Likert scale was used to guide the respondents in answering the survey questionnaire: strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree. One hundred respondents answered the google survey thoroughly. After the data gathering, the basic statistical tools were used to interpret and analyze the data gathered. These are the frequency, percentage, median, and ranking. Pearson r was used to determine the degree of association of the profiles of the respondents and the factors affecting the crime rates in Davao Del Norte. The researcher follows the ethical considerations in the conduct of this study.

Results and Discussion

Table I. Frequency of Age of the Respondents

Age	f	%	Ranking
18 – 22 years of age	20	20	3
23 – 27 years of age	24	24	1
28 – 32 years of age	22	22	2
33 – 37 years of age	5	5	7.5
38 – 42 years of age	10	10	4
42 – 47 years of age	5	5	7.5
48 – 52 years of age	8	8	6
53 – 57 years of age	9	9	5
58 – 62 years of age	1	1	9
Total	100	100	

Table I presents the frequency of age of the respondents. The majority of the respondents are from the age bracket of 23 – 27 years of age with a frequency of 24 (24%), followed by the age bracket of 28 – 32 years of age with a frequency of 22 (22%). The least of the respondents are from the age bracket of 58 – 62 years of age with a frequency of 1 (1%).

Table II. Frequency of Sex of the Respondents

Sex	f	%	Ranking
Male	55	55	1
Female	45	45	2
Total	100	100	

Table II presents the frequency of sex of the respondents. The majority of the respondents are male, with a frequency of 55 (55%), and the female respondents have a frequency of 45 (45%).

Table III. Frequency of Highest Educational Attainment of the Respondents

Highest Educational Attainment	f	%	Ranking
High School Undergraduate	15	15	4
High School Graduate	18	18	3
College Undergraduate	27	27	2
College Graduate	40	40	1
Master's with Units	12	12	5
Master's Graduate	0	0	6
Total	100	100	

Table III presents the frequency of the highest educational attainment of the respondents. The majority of the respondents are college graduates with a frequency of 40 (40%), followed by college undergraduates with 27 (27%). The least of the respondents are masters with units with a frequency of 12 (12%).

Table IV. Frequency of Civil Status of the Respondents

Civil Status	f	%	Ranking
Single	56	56	1
Married	43	43	2

Widow/widower	1	1	4
Separated/Solo Parents	2	2	3
Total	100	100	

Table IV presents the frequency of civil status of the respondents. The majority of the respondents are single with a frequency of 56 (56%), followed by married with a frequency of 43 (45%). The least of the respondents are widow/widower and separated/solo parents with a frequency of 1 (1%) and 2 (2%).

Table V. Frequency of Religion of the Respondents

Religion	f	%	Ranking
Roman Catholic	84	84	1
Baptist	12	12	2
Iglesia ni Cristo	1	1	4
Jehovah's Witness	-	-	-
Adventist	-	-	-
Others	3	3	3
Total	100	100	

Table V presents the frequency of religion of the respondents. The majority of the respondents are *Roman Catholic*, with a frequency of 84 (84%). However, the least respondents are *Iglesia ni Cristo* with a frequency of 1 (1%). It also indicates that from the 100 respondents, there is no *Jehovah's Witness* and *Adventist*. 3 (3%) respondents responded as *others* or Born Again as they specify it.

Table VI. Frequency of Occupation of the Respondents

Occupation	f	%	Ranking
Teacher	31	31	1
Vendor	13	13	5

Police Officer	14	14	4
Businessman/woman	15	15	3
Driver	4	4	6.5
Manager	1	1	8
Security Guard	4	4	6.5
Others	23	23	2
Total	100	100	

Table VI presents the frequency of occupation of the respondents. The majority of the respondents are a teacher with a frequency of 31 (31%). There are 23 (23%) respondents who responded to others, and they did not specify the types or kinds of occupation they have at the time this study was conducted. However, the least of the respondents are managers, security guards, and drivers with a frequency of 1 (1%), 4 (4%), and 4 (4%), respectively.

Table VII. Frequency of Employment Status of the Respondents

<i>Employment Status</i>	f	%	Ranking
Regular	32	56	1
Contractual	27	43	2
Part-Time	24	1	4
Others	16	2	3
Total	100	100	

Table VII presents the frequency of employment status of the respondents. The majority of the respondents are regular employees with a frequency of 32 (32%), followed by contractual status with 27 (27%). 16 (16%) respondents responded as other, and they did not specify the type of employment status they have.

Table VIII. Factors affecting the crime rates in Davao Del Norte

The factors affecting the crime rates in Davao del Norte is/are...	MEDIAN	VI
1. Increased gun ownership	3	Neutral
2. Unemployment and low family income	4	Agree
3. Lockdown because of coronavirus pandemic	3	Neutral
4. The continuous migration of people and increased population.	3	Neutral
5. Deterioration of family and living conditions	3	Neutral
6. Lack of sound crime prevention planning	3	Neutral
7. The apathy of the community towards involvement in anti-crime campaigns	3	Neutral

Table VIII presents the factors affecting the crime rates in Davao Del Norte. The survey findings reveal that item 2, unemployment and low family income, obtained the highest median of 4, with a verbal interpretation of agree. It indicates that unemployment and low family income are factors affecting the crime rates in Davao Del Norte.

However, the survey findings reveal that items 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, *increased gun ownership, lockdown because of coronavirus pandemic, continuous migration of people and increased population, deterioration of family and living condition, lack of sound crime prevention planning, and apathy of the community towards involvement in anti-crime campaigns*, all obtained a median of 3, with a verbal interpretation of *neutral*. It indicates that the respondents neither agree nor disagree that increased of gun ownership, lockdown because of coronavirus pandemic, continuous migration of people and increased population, deterioration of family and living conditions, lack of sound crime prevention planning, and apathy of the community towards involvement in anti-crime campaigns are factors affecting the crime rates in Davao Del Norte.

Table IX. Association between the profiles of the respondents and the factors affecting the crime rates in Davao Del Norte

Variables	S-Tools	C-Value	P-Value	Decision	Interpretation
Age VS Factors Affecting	P E A R S O N r	-.143	.112	Accept	Not Significant
Sex VS Factors Affecting		-.867	.241	Accept	Not Significant
Highest Educational Attainment VS Factors Affecting		-.572	.102	Accept	Not Significant
Civil Status VS Factors Affecting		-.029	.111	Accept	Not Significant
Religion VS Factors Affecting		-.346	.212	Accept	Not Significant
Occupation VS Factors Affecting		-.059	.098	Accept	Not Significant
Employment Status VS Factors Affecting		0.49	.078	Accept	Not Significant

Table IX presents the association between the profiles of the respondents and the factors affecting the crime rates in Davao Del Norte.

It reveals that age, sex, highest educational attainment, civil status, religion, occupation, and employment status have no significant association with the factors affecting the crime rates in Davao Del Norte, which is greater than 0.05 level of significance. This means that age, sex, highest educational attainment, civil status, religion, occupation, and employment status have no significant association between the factors affecting the crime rates in Davao Del Norte.

Conclusion

The researcher concludes that most of the respondents are from 23 – 27 years of age. They are male, single, Roman Catholic, and college graduates working as teachers and with regular employment status. Unemployment and low family income are some of the factors affecting crime rates in Davao Del Norte. However, there is no significant association between age, sex, highest educational attainment, civil status, religion, occupation, and employment status to the factors affecting the crime rates in Davao Del Norte.

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