



NATIONAL CRIME RESEARCH CENTRE

Fighting Crime through Research



**2020 NATIONAL CRIME MAPPING: CRIME PATTERNS AND
TRENDS IN KENYA**

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 Introduction

The rising incidents of crime patterns and trends in Kenya have raised serious security concerns among citizens in general and security agents in particular. In this regard, the National Crime Research Centre has a National Survey with a view to mapping crime trends and analyzing crime incident patterns across the country to inform crime prevention policy and establish a national crime database at the National Crime Research Centre. Specific emphasis was put to: examine crimes patterns and trends in Kenya; establishing the victims and perpetrators of crimes in Kenya; examining the factors contributing to crimes in Kenya; establishing the modus of Operandi of crimes in Kenya; establishing the consequences of crimes in Kenya, and examine crime prevention measures and strategies in Kenya.

The survey was anchored on the crime theory pattern which explains trends and patterns of crimes in a given geographical location. This study was descriptive and was carried out in 47 counties within the Republic of Kenya.

Sample respondents were drawn at the household level in respective sampled study sites. The sample size was computed using the Kenya National Population and Housing Census 2019 statistics. The actual sample respondents for this study involved **4,842** members of the public who included **2893** males and **1946** females respectively drawn across the 47 counties of the Republic of Kenya.

The Key informants were sampled purposively and drawn from the following institutions: National Police Service, National Government Administrative Officers, County Government Administration Enforcement Directorates, Probation and After Care Service, Department of Children Services, Judiciary, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, National Intelligence Service, Kenya Prisons Service, Public Health/Health Institutions, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service and Private Security Regulatory Authority/Agencies.

The survey utilized an interview schedule with both open and closed-ended questions administered in a face-to-face interaction to collect quantitative information on general knowledge, perceptions, opinions and experiences from sample respondents; a key informant interview guide to collect qualitative information from select individuals of particular organizations in criminal justice and those working on crime prevention initiatives.

Qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis were utilized. Quantitative data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences and the information was presented in frequency and percentage tables and figures. Qualitative data was analyzed by way of interpretation of responses obtained from key informants. All information from the analyzed data was presented thematically based on study objectives.

1.1 Summary of Major Findings

1.1.1 Crimes Patterns and Trends in Kenya

Sample respondents were asked to list crimes perceived within the last 12 months. From the findings, the top ten crimes respondents were aware of or understood occurred within their respective localities were stealing (64.5%), burglary and housebreaking (58.7%), possession of illicit brews (51.6%), being drunk & disorderly (49.1%), gender-based violence (45.4%), theft of stock (including cattle rustling) (37.2%), assault causing actual bodily harm (34.9%), possession of narcotic drugs (34.3%) and defilement (31.3%). The findings of the survey are similar to the findings of the 2018 Crime mapping survey that involved 9981 sample respondents drawn from 47 counties. According to the survey, the common crimes committed were stealing (53.3%), assault causing actual bodily harm (30.1%), murder (26.1%), assault causing actual bodily harm (26.0%), rape (24.5%) robbery (23.3%) and robbery with violence (18.6%).

Sample respondents were asked to list crimes they had experienced or had been the victim of within the last 12 months. From the findings of the survey, the top ten crimes that were listed included stealing (46.7%), burglary and housebreaking (37.0%), theft of stock (including cattle rustling) (23.6%), being drunk and disorderly (20.6%), possession of illicit brews (17.9%), gender-based violence (15.5%), assault causing actual bodily harm (11.0%), robbery (8.8%) and defilement (7.5%).

Respondents were asked to list crimes they had witnessed or come into contact with within the last 12 months. The findings established the top ten crimes witnessed within the last 12 months included stealing (50.0%), being drunk and disorderly (48.8%), possession of illicit brews (45.7%), burglary and housebreaking (44.7%), gender-based violence (including domestic violence) (37.2%), possession of narcotic drugs (29.6%), theft of stock (including cattle rustling), assault causing actual bodily harm (26.4%), child abuse (including child neglect (23.1%) and defilement (21.7%). % respectively.

To establish the most irritating threatening crimes in the locality, respondents were asked to list only one crime during the last 12 months. The findings indicated that burglary and housebreaking (17.4%), stealing (13.1), possession of illicit brews (10.6%), theft of stock (including cattle rustling) (10.1%) robbery with violence (5.4%), being drunk and disorderly (4.6%), murder (4.6%), possession of narcotic drugs (4.0%), assault causing bodily harm (3.6%) and gender-based violence (3.3%) as the most threatening crimes in their localities.

1.1.2 Perpetrators and Victims of Crimes in Kenya

Respondents were asked to state the most victims of the crimes perceived and witnessed within the locality. According to the findings, women were mentioned as the most victims of perceived crimes (82.1%) and witnessed crime(s) (76.5%) while children (57.6%) and 53.8% respectively. Youths were mentioned in the place as victims of perceived (50.7%) and witnessed crime(s) (44.0%). These findings indicate that there is a need for all stakeholders to strengthen and initiate programmes to address the rights of women and children.

Further, Respondents were asked to the respondent on the main perpetrators of crime(s) in the locality. The survey findings indicated that the youth (78.8%) were the main perpetrators of perceived crimes, followed by men (66.7%) respectively. On witnessed crime(s), youth (78.3%) and men (62.7%) were mentioned as key perpetrators. These findings draw attention to the Government of Kenya and all stakeholders to put more emphasis on addressing the plight of the youthful population within the country through the provision of economic empowerment and initiatives. This will ensure the youths have a source of livelihood and contribute positively to the country's development.

1.1.3 Factors Contributing to Crimes in Kenya

Respondents were asked to indicate the factors contributing to crime(s) within their localities. The findings of the study revealed that the most contributing factor to crime(s) was unemployment (61.6%). This was followed by alcohol, drug and substance abuse (34.7%), idleness (33.6%), and poverty (28.5%) respectively. These findings call for urgent interventions to address the high rate of unemployment in the country. There is a need to strengthen the fight against alcohol, drug and substance abuse and poverty by all relevant stakeholders.

1.1.4 Modus Operandi of Crime

Respondents were asked to mention the time of crime(s) occurrence in the locality. The findings revealed that crime(s) occur mostly early at night (7 pm-11.59 pm) (30.2%), and the least time crime would occur was at noon (12. pm to 12.59 pm). These findings are significant to inform the people and the security agents on when to take measures to prevent crime occurrence.

Similarly, the findings indicated that the most weapons used in crime commissions were pangas and machetes (66.1%). This was followed by knives and swords (57.9%), metal rods, iron bars and crowbars (43.4%), rúngus and clubs (31.2%), guns and rifles (18.0%).

According to the survey findings, the commonly methods of crime commission include: breaking into a building 946.2%), ambushing and attack of the victims (25.4%), use of weapons such as pangas, machetes and knives (18.7%), snatching personal properties (14.9%) threatening of the victim (7.8%), sexual assaulting the victim (6.7%), drugging and intoxicating the victim (6.5%) and suffocating the victims until they die (0.4).

1.1.5 Consequences of Crimes in Kenya

Respondents were asked to mention the consequences of crime(s) in the locality. According to the findings, loss of property (36.2%), death (34.2%), mistrust/fear (26.6%), increase in poverty level (22.8%), slow economic development (21.2%) were mentioned as the most consequences of crime(s) in Kenya.

1.1.6 Crime Prevention Strategies and their Effectiveness in Kenya

Further, the findings revealed that the existing crime prevention measures available were: nyumba Kumi and community policing (86.5%), regular police patrols (51.9%), arrests, prosecution and sentencing of offenders (45.5%), timely reporting (35.3%), street lighting (32.6%), regular security meetings with community members (32.3), and provision of

physical protection (including perimeter walls, fence, locks, guards (27.2), and civic education on crime (15.9%) as the most existing measures on crime prevention in Kenya.

1.2 Policy Recommendations

Lead Agency-Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government

1. **The National Government Administration Office** strengthens coordination among criminal justice agencies to create awareness of crime prevention in the community through barazas and other platforms.
2. **The National Police Service** to deploy more officers in hotspot areas and increase regular patrol of security officers.
3. **The Government Chemist and the National Forensic Laboratory** work closely in dispensing forensic reports. This will ensure timely access to justice and prevent further suffering of victims of crime.
4. **The Kenya Prison Service and Probation and Aftercare Services** to strengthen/establish rehabilitation treatment programmes in line with the offender's criminogenic factors and also embrace victim-offender mediation programmes and conferences.
5. **Strengthen Nyumba Kumi Programme and community policing.** There is a need to motivate the leaders by the provision of allowances and ensure only those with integrity are engaged. This should be factored into the budget implemented.
6. **The National Police Service to consider disarmament** in collaboration with other stakeholders in conflict-prone areas. This could be undertaken by ensuring the residents register all unlicensed firearms and ensuring total security for the residents.
7. **The National Police Service** and other stakeholders ensure that the police and child protection units are properly manned by specially trained officers and have relevant facilities to address the needs of the victim's crimes. There urgent need for budget allocation and clear policy guidelines on the operation.

Lead Agency-Council of Governors

1. To create recreational facilities across all the counties. This will enable to engage of youth who might be idle and reduce the chances of offending strict adherence to the by-laws in crime prevention.
2. Together with the National Police Service implement the County Policing Authority.

3. Increase street lighting budget allocation, and together with the Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development, ensure all the building infrastructures comply with Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.

Lead Agency-National Council on Administration of Justice

Ensure that there is proper coordination and harmonious relationship among the agencies in the criminal justice system.

Lead Agency-State Law Office

Should ensure that there is the full implementation of the Victim Protection Board and that the Victim Protection Trust Fund is properly operationalized.

Lead Agency-Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Ensure that there is timely prosecution of cases whenever necessary. There is a need for continuous capacity building among staff and the members of the public.

Lead Agency-Ministry of Labour and Social Protection

1. To ensure that the rights of vulnerable children and marginalized members of society are addressed. There is a need for continuous evaluation of OVC cash programmes and the elderly cash programme to ensure proper implementation. This will ensure the programmes target the intended beneficiaries.
2. Create outreach programmes and policy guidelines to equip parents with relevant skills in parenting.

Lead Agency-National Authority for Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse

1. Increase awareness campaigns against drugs and alcohol in schools and at the community level. The findings of the survey revealed that drugs and substances are a risk factor for criminality. There is a need to cascade programmes at the count level and ensure.
2. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, to ensure there are proper policy guidelines on drug and alcohol screening among school-going children.

Lead Agency-Ministry of Education

Together with the Teachers Service Commission, should ensure that there is proper psychosocial support among school children. In this regard, it is highly recommended to establish a fully equipped psychosocial department in each school within the republic, and employment of trained personnel to offer counseling and guidance. This will help address mental challenges affecting children, and hence curb violence and unrest within the institutions.

Lead Agency-National Drought Management Authority

Strengthen programmes in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALS) areas to address the problem of water scarcity. There is a need for mandatory water harvesting projects to reduce the conflicts emanating from fighting for scarce resources, especially in pastoralist communities.

Lead Agency: Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development

1. The Ministry should ensure that land adjudication and titling are properly done. It is paramount to ensure that the digitization platform is fully implemented and the process is cheap and available to the citizens. The findings of the survey established that land disputes as a risk factor for crimes such as murder, and violence among family and community members.
2. There is a need to ensure quality affordable housing among citizens and especially upgrade slum areas. This will help to reduce crimes since studies have established that there is a close association between housing and crime causation.

Lead Agency-National Crime Research Centre

Together with the Data Protection Centre establish a data crime bank. The National Crime Research Centre is mandated by law to establish and host the national crime data bank. The Government of Kenya prioritizes adequate funding for the Centre to enable source advanced equipment and personnel.

Lead Agency-Witness Protection Agency

Ensure that there are proper policies and guidelines for the protection of witnesses and victims. The creation of awareness of the programmes at the grassroots level is highly recommended.

Local Community

Ensure that there is collaboration with the criminal agencies and report crimes timely. Security should start with an individual exercising personal safety. The findings of the study established that there is mistrust and fear in reporting crimes.