

Assessment: Urban Patrol in Reducing Crime in Tagbilaran City, Bohol

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Abstract

This study assessed urban patrol in reducing crime in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, focusing on routine patrol schedules, strategic patrol deployments, crime incidence rates, crime response times, community safety, and crime prevention effectiveness. Anchored on Routine Activity Theory, Deterrence Theory, Hot Spots Policing Theory, and an input-process-output framework, the study employed a quantitative correlational research design. Data were gathered from 398 community residents within selected patrol coverage areas using a structured survey questionnaire. The data were analyzed using weighted mean, standard deviation, and Pearson r correlation. Findings showed that respondents agreed that routine patrol schedules were properly implemented, with an overall mean of 3.12, while targeted patrol deployments were also positively assessed, with an overall mean of 3.04. Crime-related outcomes were likewise rated positively, particularly crime incidence rates with a mean of 3.18, crime response time with a mean of 3.05, and community safety perception with a mean of 3.20. Crime prevention effectiveness was rated effective, with an overall mean of 3.15. Correlation results showed significant relationships between urban patrol frequency and crime-related outcomes, indicating that patrol visibility, routine scheduling, and strategic deployment are associated with reduced crime incidence, faster response, and improved community safety. The study concluded that urban patrol plays a significant role in crime prevention in Tagbilaran City. It recommended strengthening routine patrols, using crime data and hot-spot analysis, improving officer deployment, sustaining community engagement, and adopting the proposed action plan. The study supports SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. Its sustainability impact is reflected in stronger community safety, improved governance, evidence-based policing, and institutional support for peace and order.

Keywords: Community Safety, Crime Incidence Rates, Crime Prevention Effectiveness, Crime Response Time, Hotspot Policing, Routine Patrol Schedules, Strategic Patrol Deployment, Urban Patrol

1. Introduction

Urban patrol remains an important policing strategy in crime prevention, especially in expanding urban communities where population movement, economic activity, and public safety concerns intersect. In Tagbilaran City, Bohol, urban patrols are used to strengthen police visibility, deter potential offenders, improve response times, and promote community safety. Existing studies suggest that patrol presence, particularly when strategically deployed in high-risk areas, can contribute to crime reduction; however, patrol effectiveness depends not only on frequency but also on deployment quality, timing, geographic focus, community engagement, and the use of data-driven approaches (Weisburd et al., 2024; Braga et al., 2020; Basford et al., 2021; Carvalho & Guerra, 2025; Tregle et al., 2025). This study therefore assesses urban patrol in reducing crime in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, focusing on routine patrol schedules, strategic patrol deployments, crime incidence rates, crime response times, community safety, and overall crime prevention effectiveness.

Crime in expanding cities remains a continuing concern because urban growth, population density, commercial activity, and social mobility may increase opportunities for criminal behavior. In Tagbilaran City, Bohol, local law enforcement prioritizes public safety through routine patrol schedules and strategic deployments intended to control criminal activity, deter offenders, and improve police response. Prior research emphasizes that patrol presence contributes to crime prevention, particularly when patrols are concentrated in urban crime-prone areas rather than distributed uniformly across broad jurisdictions (Weisburd et al., 2024; Braga et al., 2020; Basford et al., 2021). Technological tools such as GPS-tracking devices have also improved the measurement of patrol frequency, time, and area coverage, allowing more precise assessment of how patrol implementation affects crime-related outcomes at the microgeographic level (Carvalho & Guerra, 2025). In addition, brief patrol presence may produce residual deterrent effects even after officers leave the area (Tregle et al., 2025). Despite these findings, empirical evidence on urban patrol strategies in Tagbilaran City remains limited. The city's urban environment, varying crime patterns, and resource constraints require a localized assessment of how patrol frequency and strategic deployment relate to crime incidence, response time, community safety, and crime prevention effectiveness. Since increasing patrol frequency does not always automatically produce greater crime reduction, identifying optimal deployment strategies is necessary (Weisburd et al., 2024). Accordingly, this study provides empirical data on

urban patrol implementation in Tagbilaran City by examining respondents' assessments of patrol schedules, strategic deployments, and their relationship with crime-related outcomes.

The literature shows that patrol frequency is useful when it is strategic, targeted, and supported by evidence-based planning. Studies indicate that general increases in patrol presence across large urban areas may not produce consistent crime reduction, but patrols focused on smaller hotspots tend to be more effective (Weisburd et al., 2024). Sherman (2022) further suggested that frequent short visits may produce stronger deterrent effects than long but infrequent patrol visits, supporting the idea that patrol frequency should be systematically measured and operationally adjusted. Strategic or targeted patrol deployment is also shaped by the quality of police-community interaction. Taylor et al. (2022) emphasized that frequent patrols are more effective when combined with community engagement, communication, and procedural justice practices. Similarly, Petersen et al. (2023) noted that frequent police-initiated activities may reduce some forms of urban crime, but they may also weaken public trust when applied unfairly or disproportionately. This suggests that patrol effectiveness depends not only on police visibility but also on legitimacy, fairness, and transparency. Patrol routing studies likewise show that effective patrol deployment requires planning that balances officer availability, travel efficiency, and crime concentration (Chainey et al., 2021). The literature also links patrol strategies with crime incidence rates, response times, and community safety. Fitzpatrick, Gorr, and Neill (2020) found that increased weekly patrol frequency in selected violent crime hotspots reduced violence in treated areas. Carvalho & Guerra (2025) reported that repeated police blitzes produced immediate reductions in violent crime, while Tregle et al. (2025) showed that structured hotspot visits every 15 minutes reduced violent crime in Dallas. Chainey et al. (2023) also found that repeated foot patrol visits in high-crime street sections helped reduce robbery and theft. These studies support the view that patrol frequency is most effective when organized, documented, geographically focused, and aligned with actual crime patterns.

Crime trends are also affected by broader social and spatial conditions. Research on crime during the COVID-19 pandemic showed that property-related and minor offenses decreased during lockdowns, while serious crimes such as homicide did not decline consistently and even increased in some places (Boman and Mowen, 2021). Similar findings were observed in city-level studies where robbery and theft declined under movement restrictions, while aggravated assault and homicide increased later in the year (Hou et al., 2022). International evidence also shows that crime patterns vary across regions, as reflected in the 2023 UNODC Global Study, the Office of National Statistics (ONS, 2025), the Office for National Statistics (2019), the Latin American Economic Review (2019), InSight Crime (2017), the Crime Statistics Agency (2017), and InSight Crime (2019). These findings reinforce the importance of contextualized policing strategies rather than one-size-fits-all patrol models. Recent literature further emphasizes data-driven and technologically supported patrol planning. Predictive policing, dynamic route optimization, patrol zoning, density mapping, and resource allocation tools can improve patrol effectiveness when supported by accurate and ethical data use (Lee, 2024; Tschernutter, 2025; Wang, 2020; Sui, 2025; Sound Thinking, 2025; Moews et al., 2019). Optimization studies also show that patrol effectiveness is not determined by mere presence alone but by proper deployment patterns, manpower allocation, and high-priority hotspot coverage (Yan, Wang, and Chuang, 2019). Predictive approaches may help guide patrols toward areas at higher risk of burglary or other crimes (Calvo et al., 2018), although field experiments also show that hotspot-guided patrols may produce different results depending on geographic and situational conditions (Schaefer, Hughes, and Stelzig, 2019).

Locally, the study is situated in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, where urban patrols are implemented to maintain peace and order, improve police visibility, and strengthen crime prevention in designated patrol coverage areas. The city's central business district, residential areas, commercial establishments, government offices, and areas affected by nightlife and tourism-related movement provide a relevant setting for examining how patrol frequency and strategic deployment relate to crime reduction. Within this local policing context, the Tagbilaran City PNP uses routine patrols, strategic deployment, crime-spot mapping, directed patrols, disorder enforcement, and problem-oriented policing to manage crime-prone areas. At the national and institutional policing level, the study contributes to evidence-based law enforcement by providing data that may help police agencies and local government units improve patrol schedules, manpower allocation, operational response, and public safety initiatives. The study is relevant to law enforcement agencies, LGUs, communities, and future researchers because it examines how police patrol strategies may support crime deterrence, community trust, and peace and order. Globally, the study is connected to broader research on urban patrol, hotspot policing, predictive policing, and data-driven crime prevention. International findings from the United States, Brazil, Argentina, England and Wales, Latin America, Australia, Germany, and other contexts show that patrol strategies are most effective when aligned with spatial crime patterns, community engagement, procedural justice, and operational data (Weisburd et al., 2024; Carvalho & Guerra, 2025; Chainey et al., 2023; Office for National Statistics, 2019; Latin American Economic Review, 2019; Calvo et al., 2018; Schaefer, Hughes, and Stelzig, 2019). These studies support the need for localized empirical assessment in Tagbilaran City.

The study is anchored on Routine Activity Theory (Cohen & Felson, 1979), Deterrence Theory (Beccaria, 1764; Bentham, 1789; Nagin, 2013), and Hot Spots Policing Theory (Sherman, Gartin, & Buerger, 1989). Routine Activity Theory explains that crime occurs when a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian converge. In this study, urban patrols serve as capable guardians because visible police presence may reduce opportunities for offenders and

strengthen community safety. Deterrence Theory (Beccaria, 1764; Bentham, 1789; Nagin, 2013) assumes that individuals weigh the costs and benefits of committing crime. Frequent patrols increase the perceived certainty of being caught, thereby discouraging potential offenders. In the context of Tagbilaran City, patrol frequency is treated as a deterrent mechanism that may influence offender decision-making and support peace and order through visible enforcement, rapid response, and community collaboration. Hot Spots Policing Theory (Sherman, Gartin, & Buerger, 1989) explains that crime is not evenly distributed but concentrated in specific places. This theory supports strategic patrol deployment in high-crime areas instead of uniform patrol distribution across all locations. In the study, the theory justifies the assessment of strategic patrol deployment, crime-spot mapping, and place-based police interventions as mechanisms for improving crime prevention. Conceptually, the study follows an input-process-output framework. The inputs include respondents' assessment of patrol frequency in terms of routine patrol schedules and strategic patrol deployments, crime-related outcomes in terms of crime incidence rates, crime response times, and community safety, and the level of crime prevention effectiveness. The process involves survey administration, validation, pilot testing, data gathering, statistical treatment, and data analysis. The intended output is an improved environment where residents of Tagbilaran City feel safe and secure, supported by an action plan for strengthening urban patrol and reducing crime.

Although international literature provides strong evidence on patrol frequency, hotspot policing, predictive policing, and data-driven deployment, limited empirical research has examined urban patrol strategies in Tagbilaran City. Existing studies also show that patrol frequency alone does not automatically lead to crime reduction; its effectiveness depends on geographic targeting, timing, community engagement, procedural fairness, manpower allocation, and the use of reliable crime data (Weisburd et al., 2024; Petersen et al. (year); Braga, 2024). This creates a need for localized research that assesses not only the presence of patrols but also their strategic deployment and relationship with specific crime-related outcomes. This study addresses that gap by examining the respondents' level of patrol frequency in terms of routine patrol schedules and strategic patrol deployments, the level of crime-related outcomes in terms of crime incidence rates, crime response times, and community safety, and the level of crime prevention effectiveness. It further investigates whether a significant relationship exists between urban patrol implementation and crime-related outcomes. The findings are intended to serve as the basis for a proposed action plan to enhance patrol strategies and improve public safety in Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

The study naturally aligns with SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities because it focuses on reducing crime, improving community safety, and creating a safer urban environment in Tagbilaran City. By assessing routine patrol schedules, strategic deployment, crime incidence, response time, and community safety, the study supports safer and more resilient urban communities. The study also aligns with SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions because it examines police visibility, crime prevention effectiveness, community trust, law enforcement responsiveness, and evidence-based policing. Since the study aims to strengthen patrol operations and support the anti-criminality campaign of the Tagbilaran City Police Station, it contributes to institutional effectiveness, peace and order, and public confidence in law enforcement. In addition, the study connects with SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure through its discussion of data-driven patrol planning, GPS-based monitoring, predictive policing, patrol zoning, dynamic route optimization, and technological support for police deployment (Carvalho & Guerra, 2025; Lee, 2024; Tschernutter, 2025; Wang, 2020; Sui, 2025). It also relates to SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals because effective crime prevention requires cooperation among police agencies, local government units, communities, and other stakeholders.

The study is important to multidisciplinary sustainability because urban patrol and crime prevention affect governance, public safety, community development, institutional performance, and technology-supported decision-making. From a governance sustainability perspective, the study may help law enforcement agencies and LGUs use empirical evidence in planning patrol schedules, allocating resources, monitoring crime trends, and improving peace and order programs. From a community sustainability perspective, improved patrol visibility and strategic deployment may strengthen residents' sense of safety, encourage crime reporting, and build trust between the police and the community. The study also contributes to technological and institutional sustainability by emphasizing the value of data-driven patrol planning, crime mapping, predictive policing, and real-time deployment strategies. These approaches may help police institutions use limited manpower and logistical resources more efficiently while improving response time and crime-prevention outcomes. Overall, the study supports a sustainable public safety framework in which police operations, community engagement, local governance, and evidence-based planning work together to create a safer and more secure Tagbilaran City.

2. Material and methods

2.1 Research Design

The study employed a quantitative correlational research design to examine the relationship between urban patrol implementation and crime-related outcomes in Tagbilaran City, Bohol. This non-experimental design was appropriate because the study sought to determine the strength and direction of relationships among variables without manipulating

them. Specifically, it assessed patrol frequency in terms of routine patrol schedules and strategic patrol deployments, as well as crime-related outcomes such as crime incidence rates, crime response time, community safety perceptions, and crime prevention effectiveness. This design allowed the researcher to generate quantifiable findings that may guide law-enforcement policies and crime-prevention interventions in urban settings.

2.2 Locale of the Study

The study was conducted in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, an urbanized area characterized by a central business district, commercial establishments, residential communities, government offices, and areas affected by tourism and nightlife activities. Because of its diverse land use and relatively high population density, the city experiences varying crime concerns, including minor offenses such as theft and burglary, as well as disturbances associated with urban movement and public activity. The locale was considered appropriate because it allowed the researcher to assess the presence, frequency, and perceived effectiveness of urban patrols in relation to crime reduction and community safety.

2.3 Respondents of the Study

The respondents were community residents of Tagbilaran City, Bohol, particularly those living within the patrol coverage areas. Based on the 2020 Census of Population, Tagbilaran City has a total population of 104,976; however, the study considered only 45,000 residents from the patrol coverage areas as the target population. The final respondents consisted of 398 community members from selected barangays with varying levels of exposure to crime. Their participation provided community-based perceptions on patrol visibility, patrol effectiveness, crime-related outcomes, and public safety.

2.4 Sample and Sampling Procedure

The study used Slovin's formula with a 0.05 margin of error to determine the required sample size from the target population of 45,000 residents within the patrol coverage areas of Tagbilaran City. Based on the computation, the sample size was 398 respondents. The study also used random sampling, giving every member of the population an equal and nonzero chance of being selected. This procedure helped ensure a representative sample and enabled the study to capture community perceptions across different levels of crime exposure.

2.5 Research Instrument

The primary research instrument was a structured survey questionnaire. The researcher also used the library method to develop the theoretical framework, conceptual paradigm, and review of related literature and studies. The questionnaire was divided into three major parts. The first part measured patrol frequency, the second part measured crime-related outcomes in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, and the third part measured the level of crime-prevention effectiveness. Documentary review and analysis were also used to gather secondary data from books, textbooks, reports, journals, and other materials related to the study.

2.6 Data Gathering Procedure

Before actual data collection, the researcher developed a structured questionnaire focused on routine patrol schedules, strategic patrol deployments, crime incidence rates, crime response times, community safety, and crime prevention effectiveness. The questionnaire was pre-tested with 10 community members in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, who were not included as actual respondents. Their feedback was used to determine whether the items were clear, relevant, objective, adequate, and properly aligned with the statement of the problem. During data gathering, permission was obtained from local barangay officials in the 15 barangays and three rural areas in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, before distributing the survey questionnaires. After approval, the researcher personally administered and collected the questionnaires from 398 community residents within the patrol coverage areas. The purpose of the study was explained to the respondents, informed consent was obtained, and sufficient time was given for answering the survey. Clarifications were provided when necessary to ensure accurate responses. After data collection, the completed questionnaires were checked for completeness, encoded into a digital database, organized, tabulated, and prepared for statistical analysis. Data cleaning procedures were applied to ensure accuracy and consistency before analysis.

2.7 Data Analysis Techniques

The data were analyzed using statistical methods appropriate to the objectives of the study. Weighted mean was used to assess the level of patrol frequency, crime-related outcomes, and crime prevention effectiveness based on indicators such as routine patrol schedules, strategic patrol deployment, crime incidence rates, crime response times, and community safety. Pearson r was used to determine the strength and direction of the relationship between urban patrol implementation and crime-related outcomes, including reduced crime incidence, faster response times, and improved community safety. A 4-point Likert-type descriptive evaluation scale was used to interpret the responses, ranging from Strongly Disagree or Not Effective to Strongly Agree or Highly Effective.

2.8 Ethical Considerations

The study observed ethical principles to protect the rights, welfare, dignity, and safety of the respondents. It was guided by beneficence because it aimed to produce data-driven evidence that could support better decision-making among law enforcement agencies, policymakers, and local government units. Non-maleficence was observed by ensuring that respondents were not exposed to social, economic, or emotional harm. Participation was voluntary, and respondents were informed that they could refuse to answer any question or withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. Confidentiality was maintained by collecting data anonymously, limiting access to the research team, and securing informed consent. The principle of justice was also upheld by selecting participants fairly and impartially based on the eligibility criteria.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Respondents' Assessment of the Level of Patrol Frequency

3.1.1 Routine Patrol Schedules

The respondents generally agreed that routine patrol schedules were properly implemented in Tagbilaran City, with an overall weighted mean of 3.12 and a standard deviation of 0.83. The highest-rated statement was that patrol officers follow clearly defined daily patrol schedules, which obtained a mean of 3.26 and was interpreted as strongly agree. The lowest-rated statement was that routine patrols cover both high-risk and low-risk areas regularly, with a mean of 3.00, interpreted as agree. This indicates that while routine patrol implementation is generally positive, respondents perceived some limitations in maintaining balanced patrol coverage across different risk areas. These findings suggest that routine patrol schedules are effective in promoting police visibility and operational consistency. This aligns with the study by Braga, Weisburd, and Turchan (2019), which found that structured patrol strategies improve accountability and crime-prevention effectiveness. Telep and Weisburd (2016) also explained that modern policing strategies often allocate patrol resources to high-crime locations through hotspot policing to maximize crime reduction. Thus, the findings indicate that clearly planned patrol schedules are useful, but further improvement is needed in balancing coverage between high-risk and low-risk areas.

3.1.2 Targeted Patrol Deployments

The respondents also agreed that targeted patrol deployments were implemented effectively, with an overall weighted mean of 3.04 and a standard deviation of 0.80. The highest-rated statement was that strategic patrols help maximize limited manpower and resources, with a mean of 3.28, interpreted as strongly agree. The lowest-rated statement was that high-crime areas receive more frequent patrols than low-crime areas, with a mean of 2.92, interpreted as agree. This suggests that although respondents recognized the value of strategic deployment, there may still be a need to strengthen the consistent prioritization of high-crime areas. The findings show that targeted patrol deployment is viewed as useful for maximizing police resources and improving patrol effectiveness. Ratcliffe (2016) argues that intelligence-led policing uses crime data to guide patrol deployment and maximize resources. Similarly, Weisburd et al. (2018) emphasize that focused strategies, such as hotspot policing, reduce crime by concentrating resources in high-risk areas. Therefore, while strategic patrol planning is recognized as effective, improving patrol consistency in high-crime areas may further strengthen crime prevention.

3.2 Respondents' Assessment of Crime-Related Outcomes

3.2.1 Crime Incidence Rates

The respondents agreed that urban patrol contributes to improved crime incidence outcomes, with an overall weighted mean of 3.18 and a standard deviation of 0.70. The highest-rated statement was that patrol presence discourages potential offenders from committing crimes, with a mean of 3.26 and a standard deviation of 0.66. The lowest-rated statement was that crime incidents have decreased in areas with frequent patrols, with a mean of 3.08 and a standard deviation of 0.63. These results indicate that respondents perceived urban patrol as a deterrent to crime, although the actual reduction of crime incidents may still depend on other supporting policing strategies. This finding supports the Routine Activity Theory proposed by Cohen and Felson (1979), which emphasizes that the presence of capable guardians, such as police officers, can discourage criminal behavior. Additionally, Eck and Clarke (2018) highlighted that increased guardianship through visible patrol presence can reduce opportunities for crime. The findings therefore suggest that visible urban patrol contributes to crime deterrence and community safety, but crime reduction may require complementary strategies beyond patrol visibility alone.

3.2.2 Crime Response Time

The respondents agreed that urban patrol contributes to better crime response time, with an overall weighted mean of 3.05 and a standard deviation of 0.80. The highest-rated statement was that faster response times help prevent crime escalation, with a mean of 3.26 and a standard deviation of 0.63, interpreted as strongly agree. The lowest-rated statement was that officers are usually nearby when crimes are reported, with a mean of 2.96 and a standard deviation of 0.95, interpreted as agree. This suggests that respondents recognized the importance of rapid police response but were less certain that officers are always near the scene when incidents occur. The findings imply that patrol deployment improves response

effectiveness, particularly in preventing crime escalation. According to Mazerolle et al. (2017), faster police response can help reduce the severity of incidents by interrupting criminal behavior and restoring order quickly. Similarly, Lum et al. (2017) emphasized that effective patrol deployment improves coordination and communication among officers, thereby contributing to more efficient incident response. Hence, urban patrol supports quicker response, but improvements in patrol positioning and deployment may further enhance officer availability during reported incidents.

3.2.3 Community Safety Perception

The respondents agreed that urban patrol improves community safety perception, with an overall weighted mean of 3.20 and a standard deviation of 0.76. The highest-rated statement was that community members are more willing to report crimes due to patrol visibility, with a mean of 3.36 and a standard deviation of 0.80, interpreted as strongly agree. The lowest-rated statement was that visible patrol presence increases public confidence in law enforcement, with a mean of 2.98 and a standard deviation of 0.80, interpreted as agree. This indicates that patrol visibility encourages cooperation and reporting, but public confidence in law enforcement may be influenced by factors beyond visible police presence. These findings show that patrol visibility contributes to community participation in crime prevention. The effectiveness of patrol visibility as a crime deterrence strategy is supported by recent research. According to Mazerolle et al. (2019), visible policing can reduce fear of crime and encourage citizens to approach officers and report incidents. However, Jackson, Bradford, and Hough (2016) emphasized that public trust in law enforcement is also influenced by perceptions of fairness, respect, and effectiveness in police–community interactions. Therefore, visible patrols are important, but long-term public confidence requires fair, respectful, and consistent police engagement.

3.3 Respondents' Assessment of Crime Prevention Effectiveness

The respondents rated crime prevention effectiveness as effective, with an overall weighted mean of 3.15 and a standard deviation of 0.72. The highest-rated statement was that patrol officers play a proactive role in crime prevention, with a mean of 3.30 and a standard deviation of 0.76, interpreted as highly effective. The lowest-rated statement was that police patrols discourage loitering and suspicious behavior, with a mean of 2.94 and a standard deviation of 0.68, interpreted as effective. This suggests that patrols are viewed as effective in preventing crimes, but their impact on minor disorder and suspicious behavior may be less consistent. The findings highlight the importance of proactive patrol operations in preventing crime and maintaining peace and order. According to Skogan (2018), police patrol presence can deter certain criminal activities; however, reductions in low-level disorder often depend on factors such as enforcement style, community norms, and the consistency of police engagement. Passive patrols may have limited impact on behaviors such as loitering, while overly aggressive enforcement may undermine community trust. Thus, a balanced approach that combines community-oriented policing and problem-solving strategies may further strengthen crime prevention effectiveness.

3.4 Significant Relationship Between Urban Patrol Frequency and Crime-Related Outcomes

The correlation results showed strong and statistically significant relationships between urban patrol frequency and crime-related outcomes. Routine patrol schedules were significantly related to reduced crime incidence rates, with $r = 0.74$ and $p < 0.001$; faster crime response times, with $r = 0.726$ and $p < 0.001$; and improved community safety, with $r = 0.727$ and $p < 0.001$. Strategic patrol deployments were also significantly related to crime incidence, with $r = -0.736$ and $p < 0.001$; crime response times, with $r = 0.732$ and $p < 0.001$; and community safety, with $r = 0.744$ and $p < 0.001$. Since all relationships were statistically significant, the null hypotheses were rejected. These results indicate that higher patrol frequency is associated with better crime-related outcomes, including lower crime incidence, faster response, and stronger community safety perception. This is in line with the study by Claio, which found that urban crime-prevention patrols reveal a significant difference. Visible police presence, especially in high-crime areas, creates a psychological barrier to criminal activity, while targeted hotspot strategies and community-oriented practices help shape public confidence and deter crime. The findings also align with studies showing that frequent and tactical patrols contribute to reduced crime, stronger police visibility, and more active prevention (Braga et al., 2019; Lum, Koper, and Willis, 2017). Overall, the results confirm that both routine and strategic patrol practices are important components of effective urban policing.

3.5 Proposed Action Plan Based on the Findings

Based on the findings, the proposed action plan focuses on strengthening the implementation of urban patrol in reducing crime in Tagbilaran City. Its major goal is to formulate a coordinated anti-criminality campaign that improves routine and strategic patrol implementation, reduces crime incidence, improves response time, strengthens community trust, and promotes evidence-based crime prevention. The action plan includes personnel competence development, resource generation and mobilization, community motivation, information sharing, and community organization. The proposed plan reflects the study's finding that urban patrol effectiveness depends on trained personnel, sufficient logistics, community cooperation, timely information, and stronger police–community partnerships. Personnel development is intended to update the skills of Tagbilaran City Police Station uniformed personnel. Resource generation aims to improve logistical support and operational responsiveness. Community motivation and organization seek to strengthen public awareness, barangay

participation, and shared responsibility in peace and order. Information sharing further supports the neutralization of lawless elements through timely and accurate communication between the police and the community.

4. Conclusion & Recommendations

The study concluded that urban patrol frequency, particularly routine patrol schedules and strategic patrol deployments, is responsive and effective in reducing crime within the patrol coverage areas of Tagbilaran City, Bohol. The findings showed that visible police presence helps deter potential offenders, improve community safety, strengthen public perception of security, and support faster response to crime incidents. Urban patrols were also found to play a significant role in crime prevention, especially when supported by proactive law enforcement, community engagement, rapid response, and improved visibility. Since significant relationships were observed between patrol frequency and crime-related outcomes, the hypothesis was rejected, and the proposed action plan was considered necessary to enhance urban patrol and support the anti-criminality campaign of the Tagbilaran City Police Station.

Police authorities should strengthen routine patrols to ensure consistent visibility, use crime data and hot-spot analysis to improve strategic patrol deployment, balance patrol coverage between high-risk and low-risk areas, and optimize officer deployment to enable faster response. Community engagement initiatives should also be sustained to build trust, encourage crime reporting, and improve cooperation between residents and law enforcement. A continuous monitoring and evaluation system should be implemented to support data-driven decision-making and improve the long-term effectiveness of patrol operations. The Tagbilaran City Police Station should also be supported with trained and competent personnel, increased financial and logistical resources, and the adoption of the proposed action plan to establish a coordinated anti-crime prevention program for maintaining peace and order in the city.

The study was limited to the assessment of urban patrols in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, specifically within selected patrol coverage areas and based on the perceptions of community sectors in the city's urban areas. It focused only on patrol frequency, routine patrol schedules, strategic patrol deployments, crime incidence rates, crime response times, community safety, and crime prevention effectiveness. The study was also limited to selected residents, a 10-month research period, researcher-made survey questionnaires, and reported crimes based on official records from the Tagbilaran City Police Station; therefore, unreported incidents and other possible influencing factors such as socioeconomic conditions and demographic changes were not included.

Compliance with ethical standards

The study was conducted in accordance with institutional ethical standards, with voluntary participation, informed consent, and confidentiality of respondents' information strictly observed. Ethical approval was secured when applicable, and the researchers declare no conflict of interest. All authors acknowledge their respective contributions, accept responsibility for the accuracy and integrity of the work, and recognize the applicable copyright ownership and ethical obligations related to the conduct and publication of the study.

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