



ABSTRACT

Crime rate globally has become a source of concern, especially in urban centers from various continents the issues are the same. In the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), rate of kidnapping, vehicular borne crime, cattle rustling among others are pandemic that worries the residents, thus this study on Urbanization and crime rates in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria. The specific objectives are to investigate crime incidents in the FCT and to determine the

URBANIZATION AND CRIME RATES IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA, NIGERIA

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Introduction

The issue of crime globally has become a cause for concern as many lives are lost yearly due to criminality. While international reports show varying levels of crime across nations, what is most relevant for this study is the increasing insecurity within Nigeria and its capital, Abuja. Nigeria faces diverse security challenges across its regions, ranging from Jihadist insurgency in the North East, banditry and kidnapping in the North West, herder-farmer clashes in the North Central, separatist agitations in the South East, to oil militancy in the South-South. These patterns of violence highlight the complex and multi-layered nature of insecurity in the country (BBC, 2021).

Abuja, as the Federal Capital Territory, was originally designed to be a safe, planned, and politically neutral city. However, rapid urbanization, population growth, and migration have created pressures that have contributed to rising crime and insecurity. Issues such as kidnapping, armed robbery, drug abuse, and communal conflicts increasingly challenge the city's



areas with critical incidences of crime. The study adopted survey design. The sample size was four hundred (400) respondents drawn using Yamane Statistics. Concept of Crime and the concept of crime rate was reviewed. Charts were given by the Urban and Rural Planning Department of the FCTA. Also, Crime Statistics for the years 2006 and 2021 were analyzed from the FCT Police Command. The Monthly Intelligence Report (MIR) of the Security Services Department of Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) for Year 2021 to analyses crime rates as per Monthly level, Area Council by Area Council and Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) were sourced and compared. Crime Pattern Theory was the guiding theoretical framework used. The study revealed that armed robbery and drug abuse were the most prevalent crimes in the FCT. The study also finds out that the most vulnerable area to crime in AMAC was Gwagwa village in FCT just like it also identified areas in other Area Councils. The study thus concluded that the vulnerability of these areas was due to the influence of urbanization of the areas. The study recommends that The FCT authority should intensify efforts at mopping small arms and light weapons proliferation in the FCT; and that the Police and other Intelligence agencies should step up their efforts at the identified areas and locations within the Area Councils in the FCT to enable business and social activities to thrive in the areas.

Keywords: Urbanization, Crime Rate, Kidnapping, Law Enforcement, Federal Capital Territory Administration, Vehicular Borne Crime, Abuja, Nigeria, Policing, Criminology.

security framework. Unlike many global capitals where strong law enforcement systems help maintain relative safety, Abuja's experience shows how socio-economic pressures, weak urban planning enforcement, and governance gaps can interact to produce insecurity.

This study therefore focuses on assessing the factors influencing urbanization and crime rate in Abuja. By narrowing the discussion from the global concern of crime to Nigeria's specific security realities, and finally to the unique case of Abuja, the study seeks to contribute to a clearer understanding of how urban growth dynamics and crime are interlinked, and how policy responses can be better shaped.

Statement of Problem:

The moving of the nation capital from Lagos state to Abuja in 1979 was meant to create a new capital city where among other things crime rate would be curbed. Abuja as an urban



city was meant to be designed with all necessary conducive environment to ensure safety and security of lives and property.

However, the crime rate in the capital city has made residents live in fear both at night and daytime. The crime of kidnapping is one crime the residents consider too many. 29 residents of Yewuti village, in Kwali Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory, were kidnapped on 3rd April 2023 (Sahara Reporters, 2023). Another kidnap incident of 12 residents of Grow Homes Estate, along Kuchibiyi in the Kubwa in March 2023 (The Guardian Newspaper, 2023). A case of kidnap at Tunga Maje village, near Zuba (The Guardian, 2021). Many cases of such kidnap in Kuje, Kwali, Abaji, Bwari area councils have also been recorded. Other crimes like Vehicular borne crime (one chance), drug trafficking among other identified in the Territory have contributed to the increase in the crime rate. Crimes like armed robbery, cattle rustling, car theft, murder/assassination, drug peddling, attempted suicide/suicide, rape/assault and many more are identified in Abuja (2015 Statistical yearbook, FCTA, 2015). Hence, this paper critically examines urbanization and crime rate in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

Concept of Crime

Oxford University Press (2023) observed that having a definition of crime does not take a fix term. Crime is considered from the Legal and Sociological perceptive. Crime is seen from scientific and ideological position as it considers that people conceive crime in different forms. Crime must follow the historic and social context to society. Legal definition of crime changes over time as the law itself is historically situated and socially produced and is not static. Crime is thus seen as an offence of the time. However, media also plays a lot of roles in shaping the perceptions of crime in the way it is being reported by media houses.

Stuart & Mark (2001) explained crime from the theoretical integration angle where it stated on the combination of two or more pre-existing theories and selected based on their perceived commonalities and joining it into a single reformulated theoretical model with greater comprehensiveness. Thus, one level of the integrated theory can focus on learning process; the second can be based on impact of social control and last can be on effects of the class structure or social ecology. In providing a definition for crime, it identified critical paths that influence the definition of crime traditionally. These paths are legal, moral consensus, rule-relativism, political conflict, power and social harm. The study went further to present three of the integrated perspectives as: Left realist, postmodernist-constitutive (both from the critical tradition) and Hagan's pyramidal approach. The Left realist considers that before crime can be said to have taken place, there must be an Offender, a Victim, The Police or multi-Agencies and the Public.



However, the prism of crime presented three layers of crime as crime of the powerless, social deviance and crime of the powerful.

Sowmyya, (2014) defines crime as a public wrong. He sees crime as more of acts or omission against the law of the land. The study stated four elements of crime as; individual, mens rea, actus rea and injury/hurt. While the causes of crime identified are social causes, economic causes, psychological causes, biological causes, geographical causes. Boundless sociology noted that crime is a breach of rules or laws for which some governing authority can ultimately prescribe a conviction.

Legal Services Commission of South Australia describes crime as an offence that merits community condemnation and punishment, usually by way of fine or imprisonment. This is different from a civil wrong (a tort), which is an action against an individual that requires compensation or restitution. Criminal offence is normally prosecuted by the State or the Commonwealth, whereas it is usually up to an individual to take a civil action to court. It is also possible for an individual to begin criminal proceedings, but this is very rare.

Victim Support explains that a crime is a deliberate act that causes physical or psychological harm, damage to or loss of property and is against the law. There are lots of different types of crime and nearly everyone will experience a crime at some point in their lives. One in five people were affected by crime: the equivalent of ten million people. It affects people from all backgrounds, locations and ages; more than one in ten children have been a victim of crime in the past year. Johnson E. (1968) view crime as socially anti-social behavior that is injurious to those social interest whose rules behavior are designed to support.

The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, (2015) analyze two points. The Oxford English Dictionary version which defines crime simply as: 'An action or omission which constitutes an offence and is punishable by law'. While the Oxford Dictionary of Sociology defines crime in a more complex way: 'an offence which goes beyond the personal and into the public sphere, breaking prohibitory rules or laws, to which legitimate punishments or sanctions are attached, and which requires the intervention of a public authority.' The difference between these two definitions goes to the heart of issues surrounding crime.

Concept of Crime Rate

USLegal.com (2023) defines it as the count of crimes complied to assess the effectiveness of a crime control policy, and the impact of the policy on the risk of crime victimization. Sheffield Hallam University, (2002) explains crime incidences as the number of victims and the number of crimes per victim combine to produce the overall crime incidence. Crime incidence refers to the number of crime events that have occurred



in a given area. Incidence is often expressed as the number of events suffered per head of population; this allows comparisons to be made across areas with different sized populations.

Oxford University Press noted some ways in which crime can be measured depends on the definition given. Three measurements used by criminologists as identified are; the realist approach which focuses on uncovering the real figures of crime incidents as many incidents might not have been properly captured by the Police record, Court record or Prison record. While the second measurement approach is called the institutionalist approach. In this approach, it shows the bias in the criminal justice system as how it designates some people as criminals and others are not. The critical realist approach focuses on victimization. It's about measuring how the vulnerable are treated without the relevant Agencies protecting these group of vulnerable ones.

Crime Rate and Urban Area

Studies have shown that crime rates in urban Centre's is daily on the increase. Jeffrey (2022) opined that through the survey carried out by National Crime Victimization Survey in 2021 revealed an increase in urban crime in the USA. The survey looked at victimization per 1,000 persons aged 12 or older and concluded that violent crime in urban areas rose 29 percent from 2020 to 2021, from 19.0 to 24.5. It was noted that the rise in crime was not random but due to neglect of the powers that be in sanctioning offenders rather than generalizing everyone as victim. George, James (1982) analyzed the "Safe and Clean Neighborhoods Program," of the mid-1970s where The State of New Jersey announced that foot patrol would be introduced as a measure to curb crime. This step was done. Many saw the Police as effective in those areas where it was introduced but it was discovered that it did not reduce crime rate rather than the people's perception.

Denis (1988) pointed out that urban crime is higher than rural crime. He further noted that three factors contribute to this. They are, the degree of urbanization and populated density, the greater rates of migration and population growth, and the differences in demographic structures between urban and rural areas, urban areas having greater proportions of young people.

Susanna, Rebecca (2022) explained that crime and law & order are decided by the politicians. It is how they perceive it that culminates in what the citizens get. The ability to understand prospective hot spots as a measure to predict crime rate is very vital (Kate, Bower, Ken, 2004).

Adigun (1999) then categorizes and stated types of crimes as Crime of acquisition: Armed robbery, robbery, car snatching, theft and other stealing, house breaking, store/shop breaking, school breaking, forcible entry, burglary, gambling, demanding with menace,



suspected stolen vehicle, procurement of minor gift, other property related offenses, foreign exchange, cybercrime. Crime of stealth/pretence; False pretence, mischief, cheating, unlawful possession, receiving stolen property, being in possession. Crime of aggression Murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, child stealing, abduction, homicide, suicide, attempted suicide, slave dealing, threatening violence, and other offenses against persons. Crime of assaults Grievous harm/wounding, assault occasioning harm, assault, intimidation, intentional insult, deformation of character. Crime against morality and custom Rape, attempt to commit rape, indecent assault, enticing, defilement. Crime against property Arsons, destruction of property, fire incidence. Crime of public disorderliness Breach of peace, affray, public unrest, riot, inciting disturbance, obstruction, trespass, conspiracy/breach of trust. White collar crime Perjury, coining offenses, forgery of currency notes, forgery, bribery, corruption, misappropriation, impersonation, examination/election malpractices. Crime against public law and regulations Escape from lawful custody, resisting arrest. Unnatural crime Unnatural offenses, occultic/witchcraft trial by ordeal, sudden & unnatural death. All these are crimes that can be identified in the FCT. This could mean that the crime rate in Abuja is due to poverty. Idris, et al. (2022) agreed that migration, which urbanization brings contributes to crime rates in a city that does not have well established crime mapping technology.

Methodology

The main objective of this study is to examine urbanization and crime rates in FCT, Abuja. The specific objectives are to investigate crime incidents in the FCT and to determine the areas with critical incidences of crime. The study adopted survey design. The population of the study 2,923,072 being the population from age 15 and above resident within the area councils in the study area the sample size was four hundred (400) respondents drawn using Yamane Statistics. The study adopted a simple random sampling technique; regression analysis was used for data analysis.

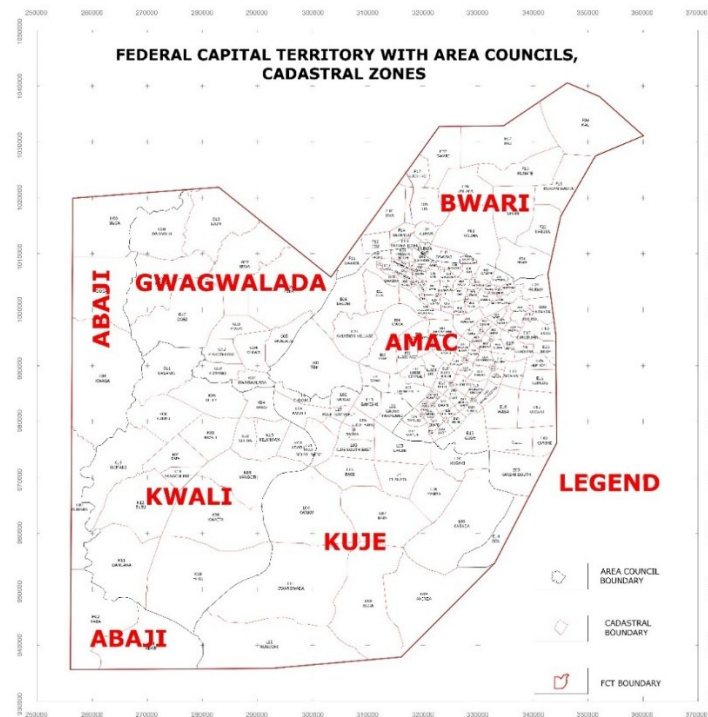


Figure 1.

Source: Urban and Regional Planning Department, FCTA 2023

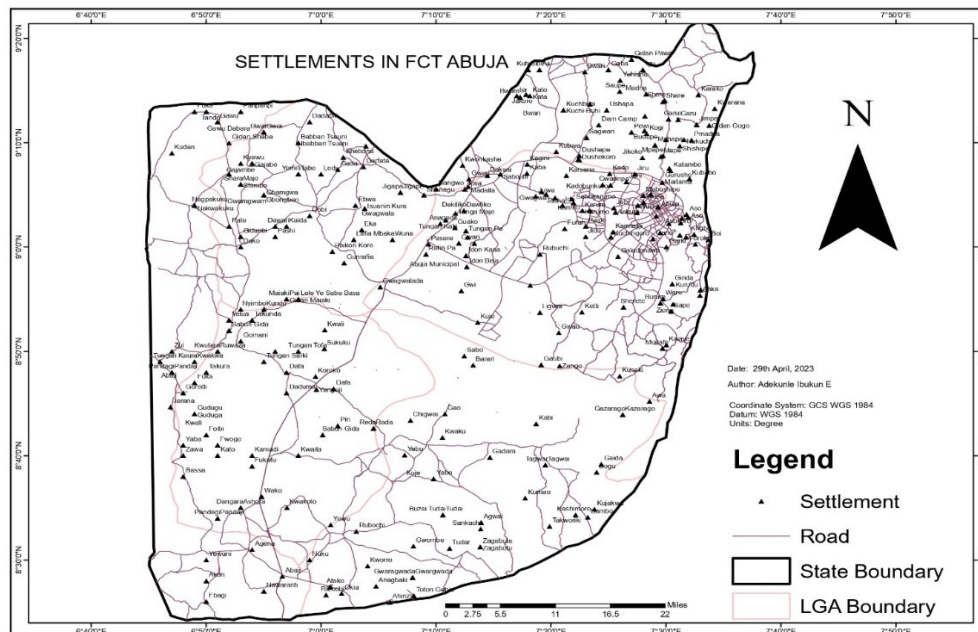


Figure 2.

Source: Urban and Regional Planning Department FCTA, 2023



Chart Showing Crime Statistics in 2006 (A)

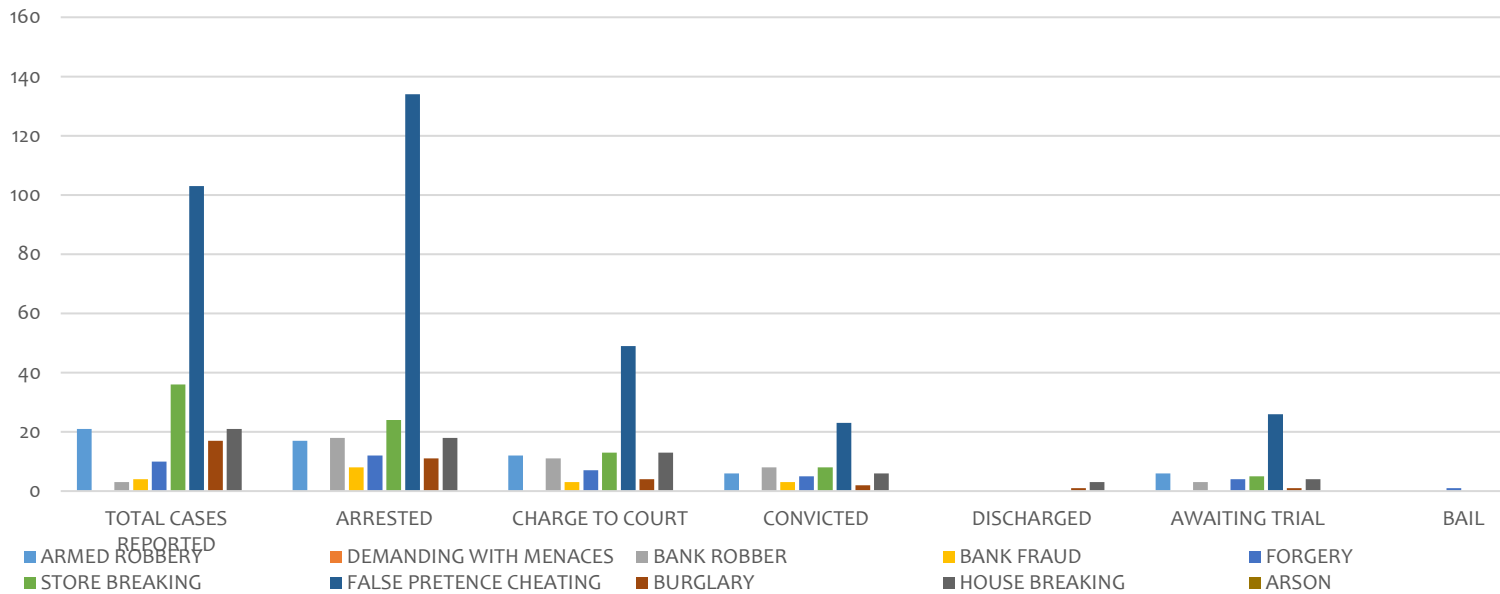


Figure 3.

Chart Showing Crime Statistics in 2006 (B)

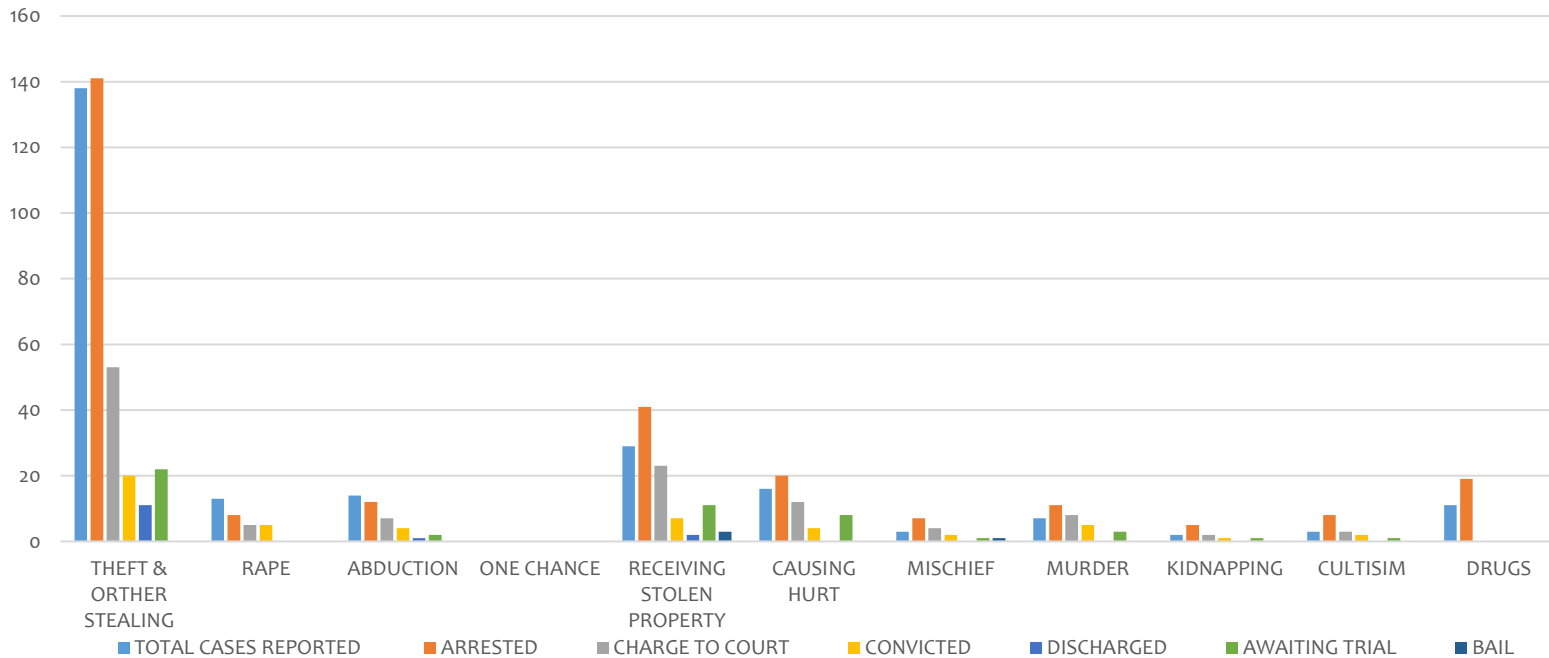


Figure 4.



Chart Showing Crime Statistics in 2021 (A)

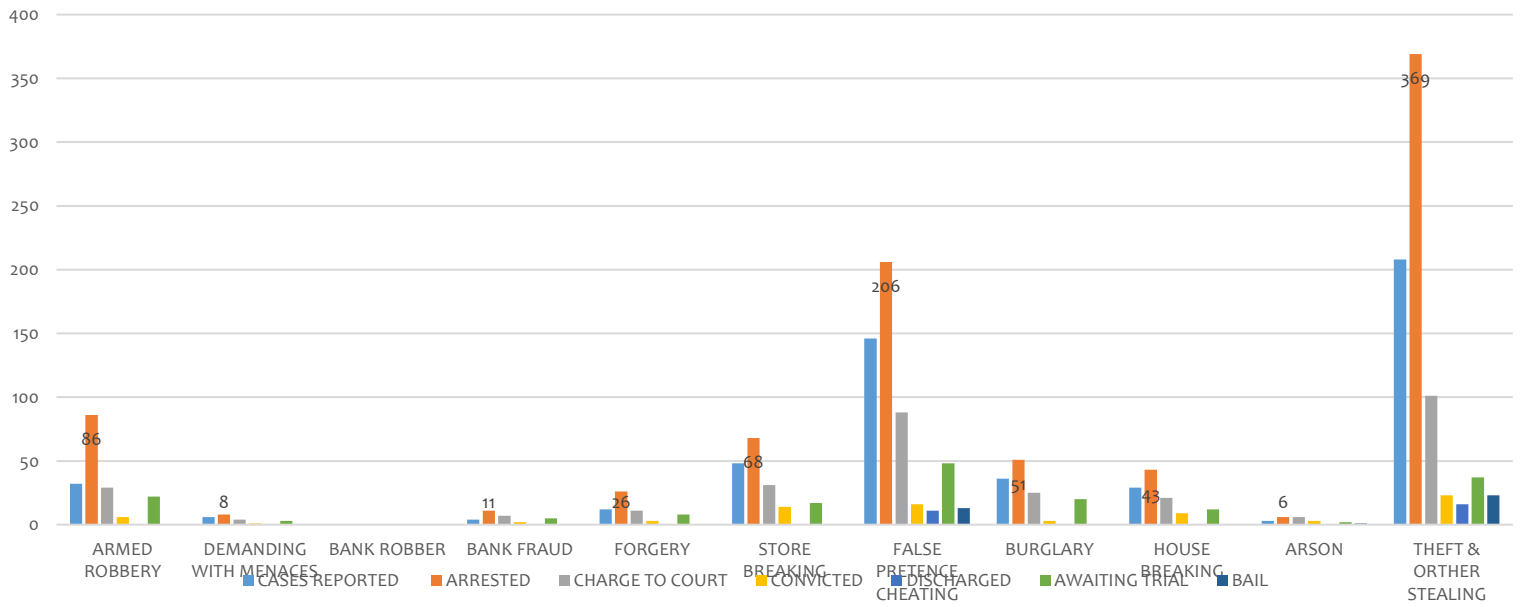


Figure 5.

Chart Showing Crime Statistics in 2021 (B)

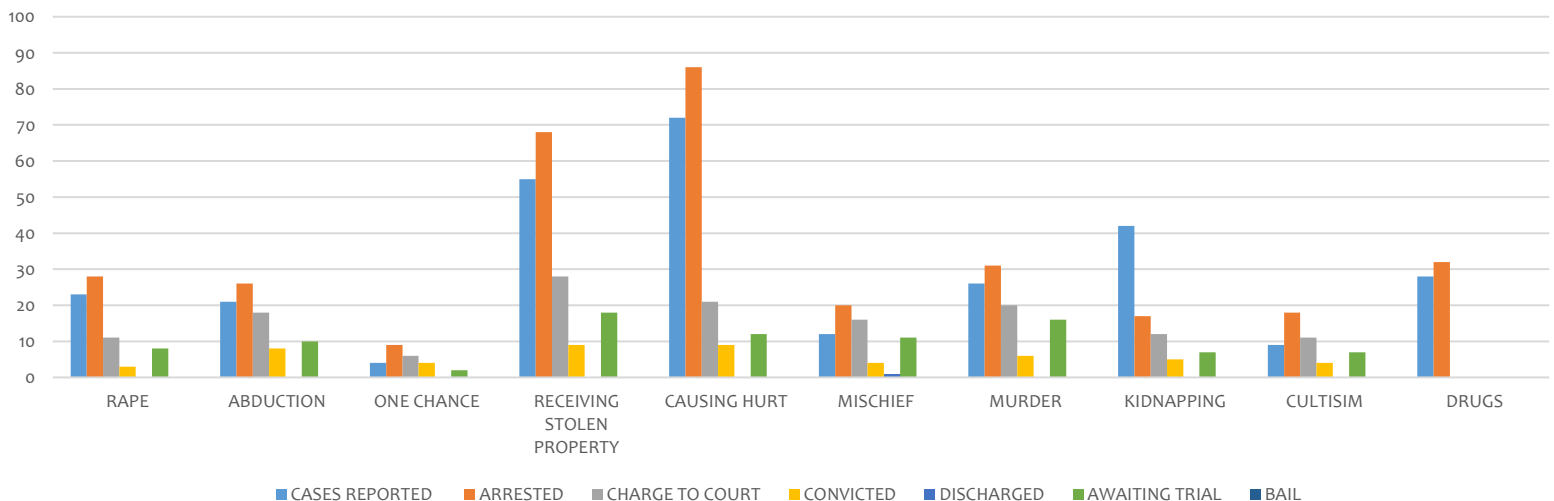


Figure 6.

Source: FCT Police Command, 2022



Table 3.

	PERIOD AND NUMBER OF CRIMES RECORDED (2021)											
	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
Law and Order	2	1	2	2		2	2		2	3	1	17
Recovery of Stolen Vehicle					1	2					1	5
Armed Robbery	6	11	8	8	9	4	2	5	1	2	6	63
Culpable Homicide	9	7	6	8	11	7	6	5	3	4	1	69
Cult Related Matters				1			1					2
Sudden/Unnatural death	4	1	5	5	2	3	6	3	1	1	3	34
Kidnapping	1	9	3	7	3	8	16	6	7	7	4	74
Rape			3			1	1	2				7
Raid of Criminal Hideouts	2	2	10	1	4	8	3	5	5	2		46
Recovery of Illicit Drugs												
Recovery of Stolen Goods												
Attempted Murder					1			1				2
Death of Suspect	1	1	1	2	2	1		1	1	1	2	15
Recovery of illegal arm	3	1		1	2	1				1		9
Impersonation	1	1				1			1	1		5
Electoral and Political Matters				2				1		2	1	6
Road Traffic Matters						1	1				1	3
Social Activities					2	1	1			1		5
Fire Incidents	4	2	1		3	1	1		1		2	17
Suicide	2							1				3

Source: Security Services Department, Federal Capital Territory Administration, 2022



Table 4: Reported crime and other incidences statistics in FCT, 2021

CRIME NATURE	ABAJI	AMAC	BWARI	GWAGWALADA	KUJE	KWALI	TOTAL
Attempted Murder			1			1	2
Armed Robbery	1	43	8	4	2	5	63
Kidnapping	5	5	12	16	20	16	74
Culpable Homicide	1	31	13	11	3	10	69
Raid of Criminal Hideouts	1	34	5	4	1	1	46
Cultism		1		1			2
Stolen Vehicle		3					37
Recovery of Stolen Vehicle		5					5
Sudden and Unnatural death	1	18	2	6	7		34
Burglary/Theft							
Homo-sexualism							
Loss of Firearm		3					3
Recovery of Fire Arm	1	4		1	1	2	9
Fraud							
Impersonation		5					5
Vandalization		1	1				2
Suicide		2		1			3
Rape		3		2		2	7
Death of Suspect	2	7		3	3		15

Source: Security Services Department, Federal Capital Territory Administration, 2022



Table 5: Reported crime and other incidences in FCT, 2021

CrimeType	AirportRoad	Apo	Asokoro	CentralArea	Galadi-mawa	Garki I	Gwarinpa	Jabi	Kaura	LifeCamp	Loko-goma	Mabushi	Maitama	Utako	Wuse	Wuye	Total
Armed Robbery	8	1	1	1	4		5	2		1	1	5	1	4	2		36
Kidnapping		1												1	1		3
Culpable Homicide	4	5			1	1			1			2		1	1	1	17
Theft																	
Stolen Vehicle																	
Recovery of Illegal Fire Arm	2						1										3
Cultism					1												1
Drug Related Matter																	
Rape						1	1					1					3
Inter-Ethnic Clash																	
Homo-Sexualism																	
Attempted Murder																	
Impersonation					1							2			1		4
Fraud																	
Raid of Criminal Hideout	4	1	5		2	4	5	3		1	1	5		1		1	33

Source: Security Services Department, Federal Capital Territory Administration, 2022

Theoretical Framework:

Crime Pattern Theory

Crime Pattern Theory came to be as a combination of rational choice theory and routine activity theory with focus on place and helps to explain the distribution of crime across places (John, E., & Weisburd, 2015). Crime pattern theory provides explanations for the variation in the distribution of criminal events in space and time given a range of different propensities (Paul, B., & Patricia, B 2012). In its original form, the rational choice theory with its neo-classical background argues that the motivation to commit crime originates



from individual free will or choice and that the criminal is capable of weighing many factors before he/she launches into criminal operation. Three perspectives suggest the importance of places for understanding crime: rational choice; routine activity theory; and crime pattern theory. Though these perspectives are mutually supportive, routine activity theory and crime pattern theory provide different explanations for crime occurring at different places. Offenders make rational choice about whom, where, how and against whom they commit an offence. Crime pattern theorists argue that the manner in which victims and location come to the attention of the offenders influence the distribution of crime events over time and space. A place is a very small area, usually a street corner, address, building, or street segment. A focus on crime places contrasts with a focus on neighborhoods. Neighborhood theories usually highlight the development of offenders. While place level explanations emphasize crime events. A place is essential to crime pattern theory, for not only are places logically required for a criminal event, but the characteristics of a place may influence the likelihood of a crime occurring ((John, E., & Weisburd, 2015).

Thus, it can be observed from Tables 1 and 2 that there are are different places identified where crime rates are accounted.

ANALYSIS

Analysis of the Crime incidents in the FCT

Table 6.

S/no	Statements	Always (%)	Occasionally (%)	Sometimes (%)	Rarely (%)
1.	Traditional crimes like armed robbery	66.9%	16.8%	11.9%	4.4%
2.	Terrorism, Insurgency and banditry	0.3%	5.4%	5.7%	88.6%
3.	Kidnapping	12.1%	46.5%	40.1%	1.3%
4.	Cyber crime	53.5%	21.7%	10.1%	14.7%
5.	Drug related	38.0%	46.5%	5.9%	9.6%
6.	Vehicular Borne crime e.g One-chance	40.8%	11.9%	35.4%	11.9%
7.	Rape/Defilement	83.5%	5.9%	2.1%	8.5%
8.	Domestic violence	27.9%	32.3%	25.3%	14.5%
9.	Herders/Farmers clashes	10.1%	85.0%	3.1%	1.8%
10.	Moral decadence	66.15	9.0%	17.8%	7.0%

Source: Field Survey 2022

Key: Always (A), Occasionally (O), Sometimes (S), Rarely (R).



The first objective of the study is to investigate the Crime incidents in the FCT. The researcher asked the respondents if the traditional crimes like armed robbery is common in FCT, 66.9% of the respondents agreed that there are always traditional crimes like armed robbery in FCT, 16.8% of the respondents said “Occasionally”, 11.9% indicated that traditional crimes like armed robbery is sometimes and 4.4% remaining of the respondents said “rarely” to researcher’s statement. Again, the result from the table above is clear evidence that traditional crimes like armed robbery exist always among Abuja resident.

The researcher also asked the respondents if Terrorism, Insurgency and banditry exist in FCT. Just few of the respondents representing 0.3% indicated always, 5.4% said “occasionally” that there is Terrorism, Insurgency and banditry in FCT, 5.7% said “sometimes Terrorism, Insurgency and banditry exist in FCT” and the higher percentage of 88.6% said rarely terrorism, insurgency and banditry exist in FCT, based on the interpretation in this section majority of the respondents said there is no case of Terrorism, Insurgency and banditry exist in FCT.

The respondents were also asked concerning kidnapping. 12.1% of the respondents said “always”, 46.5% of the respondents indicated that is occasionally, 40.1% of the respondent said sometimes and respond to the question, 1.3% of the indicated rarely. From the analysis result it can be deduced that kidnapping occurs in FCT but not on regular bases. The researcher wanted to know the prevalence of Cyber-crime in FCT. 53.5% of the respondents said “always” that cyber-crime is common in FCT, 21.7% of the respondent said occasionally, 5.9% of the respondents said sometimes and 14.7% of the said rarely. The result of the analysis in this section portrayed that cybercrime is common among FCT residents during the period of the study.

The researcher asked the respondent concerning drug related issues in FCT. 38.0% of the respondents also said always that there is drug related problem in FCT, 46.5% of the respondents said “occasionally” that there is drug related issues in FCT, and 5.9% of the respondents said sometimes that there is drug related issues in FCT sometimes and 9.6% of the respondents said “rarely” in regards to drugs related issues in FCT.

The respondents were asked concerning whether there is Vehicular Borne crime e.g One-chance FCT. 40.8% of the respondents indicated that there is always vehicular borne crime in FCT, 11.9% said occasionally, 35.4% of the respondents also said sometimes, while 11.9% of the remaining respondents said “occasionally”. From the result of the analysis, it can be inferred that majority of the respondents indicated that vehicular borne crime is common in FCT during the study period. The researcher wanted to know if there is Rape/Defilement in the study area. 83.5% of the respondents agreed that is true, that there are always rape/ defilement cases in FCT during the study period.



On the domestic violence, 27.9% of the respondents indicated that domestic violence is occurring always in FCT, 32.3% of the respondents said “occasionally”, 25.3% of the respondents said “sometimes”, while the remaining of the respondents representing 14.5% said “domestic violence happens occasionally in FCT”. Concerning Herders/Farmers clashes in FCT, just 10.1% of the respondents indicated that there is herders /farmers clashes in FCT. This result inferred that most of the respondents agreed that herder/farmers clashes happen on rare occasion. In addition, the researcher also wanted to know about Moral decadence. 66.15 of the respondents indicated that there is always problem of moral decadence in the stud area.

Vulnerable areas to crime incidences in FCT

Table 7.

S/no	Area Councils	Always	Occasionally	Sometimes	Rarely
		(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
1.	Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC)	9.0%	15.5%	35.7%	39.8%
2.	Abaji Area Council	41.9%	35.7%	10.9%	11.6%
3.	Bwari Area Council	66.1%	3.6%	13.4%	16.8%
4.	Gwagwalada Area Council	28.7%	37.0%	17.6%	16.8%
5.	Kuje Area Council	57.6%	28.4%	8.8%	5.2%
6.	Kwali Area Council	33.9%	19.1%	22.7%	24.3%
7.	Border Communities	41.3%	16.3%	32.6%	9.8%
8.	Federal Capital City (FCC)	9.8%	4.7%	89.1%	3.1%

Source: Field Survey 2022

Key: Always (A), Occasionally (O), Sometimes (S), Rarely (R).

The second objective of the study is to investigate the Vulnerable areas to crime incidences in FCT, the respondents were asked to indicate the frequency of area Councils vulnerable to crime incidences. The respondents were asked whether Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) is vulnerable to crime incidence. 9.0% of the respondents indicated that AMAC is always vulnerable to crime incidence, 15.5% of the respondents said that “AMAC is occasionally vulnerable to crime incidence”, 35.7% of the respondents said “sometimes vulnerable to crime incidence” and 39.8% of the respondents said “rarely vulnerable”. Based on the result interpreted it can be inferred that majority of the respondent indicated that AMAC is rarely vulnerable to crime incidence during the study period.



The researcher further to ask the respondents concerning Abaji Area Council vulnerability. 41.9% of the respondents indicated that Abaji area council is always vulnerable. 35.7% of the respondent out that Abaji area council is occasionally vulnerable, 10.9% of the respondents indicated that Abaji area council is sometimes vulnerable and 11.6% of the respondents indicated that Abaji area council is rarely vulnerable. It can be inferred from the analysis result that most of the respondent agreed that Abaji area council is always vulnerable to crime incidence.

The respondents were asked if Bwari Area Council is vulnerable to crime incidence. 66.1% of the respondents pointed that Bwari area council is vulnerable to crime incidence. Which is an indication that majority of the respondents fully agreed that Bwari area council is vulnerable to crime incidences.

The researcher also went further to ask concerning Gwagwalada Area Council vulnerability. 28.7% of the respondent indicated that Gwagwalada area council is always vulnerable to crime incidence. 37.0% of the respondents choose occasionally, based on the analysis result in can deduced that majority of the respondents pointed that Gwagwalada area council is vulnerable to crime incidence.

The respondents were asked if Kuje Area Council is vulnerable to crime incidence. 57.6% of the respondents indicated that Kuje council area is always vulnerable to crime incidence. The interpretation of the result shows that majority of them agreed that Kuje area council is vulnerable to crime incidence. In respect to Kwali area council, the researcher asked the respondents whether Kwali area council is vulnerable to crime incidence. 33.9% of the respondents indicated that Kwali area council is vulnerable to crime incidence.

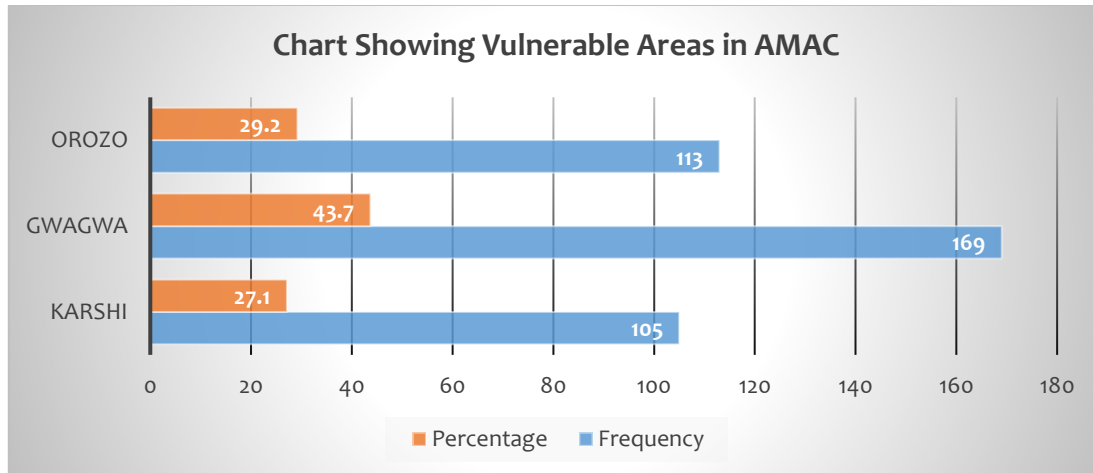
Furthermore, the researcher also wanted to find out more about Border Communities vulnerability. 41.3% of the respondents indicated that the boarder community is more vulnerable to crime incidence during the period of the study.

Finally, the researcher wanted to know if Federal Capital City (FCC) is vulnerable to crime incidence. 89.1% of the respondents indicated that sometimes FCC is vulnerable but not all the time, this result implies that the federal capital city is not vulnerable to crime incidence during the study period.



List of the most vulnerable areas in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC)

Table 8.

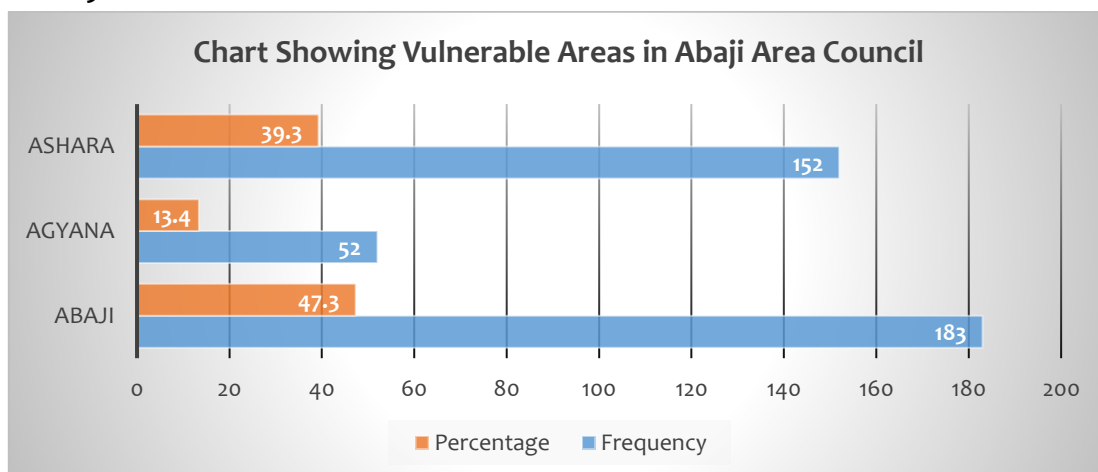


Source: Field survey 2022

Table 8 above shows the results of the most vulnerable areas in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC). The result from the table above displayed that 43.7% of the respondents in AMAC indicated Gwagwa is the most vulnerable area to crime incidence in FCT, followed by Orozo with 29.2% of the respondents indicating the vulnerability of the area and 27.1% of the respondents residing AMAC indicated that Karshi is vulnerable as well. From the interpretation of the result, it can be deduced that majority of the respondents mark that Gwagwa is the most vulnerable area.

List of most vulnerable areas in Abaji Area Council

Table 9.



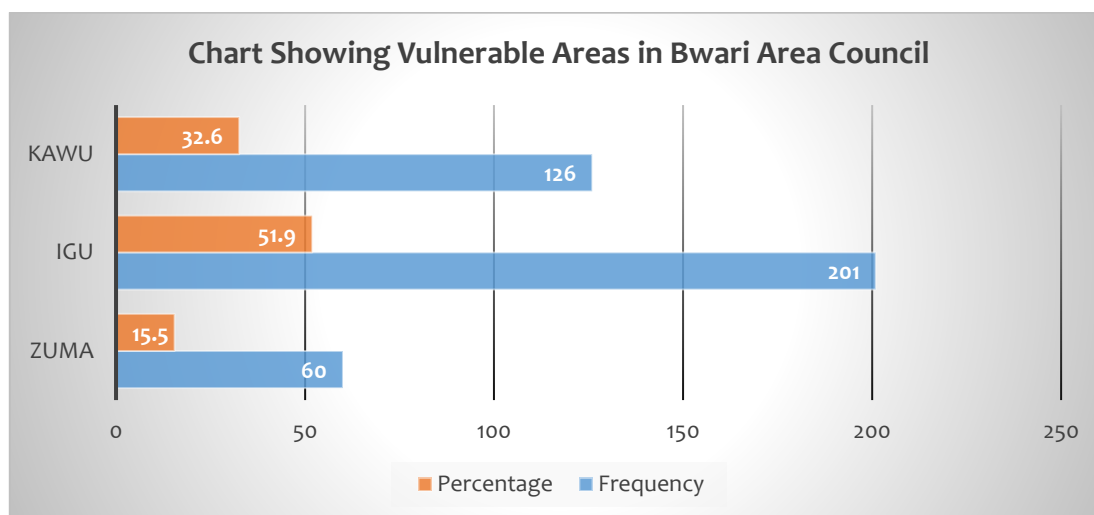
Source: Field survey 2022



Table 9 above shows the results of the most vulnerable areas in Abaji Area Council. The result from the table above displayed that 47.3% of the respondents in Abaji indicated Abaji is the most vulnerable area to crime incidence in FCT, followed by Ashara with 39.3% of the respondents indicating the vulnerability of the area and 13.4% of the respondents residing in Abaji indicated that Agyana is vulnerable as well. From the interpretation of the result, it can be deduced that majority of the respondents mark that Abaji is the most vulnerable area.

List of most vulnerable areas in Bwari Area Council

Table 10.



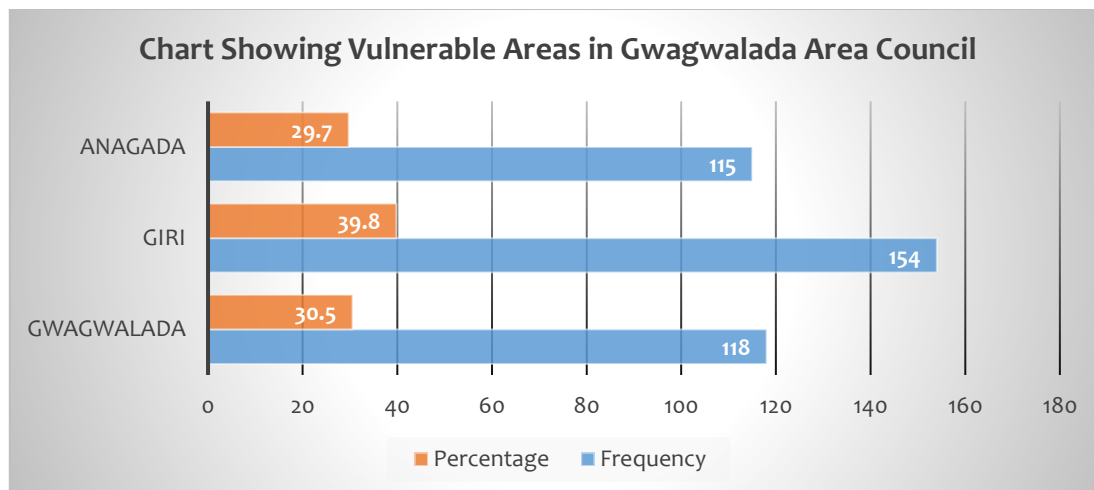
Source: Field Survey 2022

Table 10 above shows the results of the most vulnerable areas in Bwari Area Council. The result from the table above displayed that 51.9% of the respondents in Bwari indicated Igu is the most vulnerable area to crime incidence in FCT, followed by Kawu with 32.6% of the respondents indicating the vulnerability of the area and 15.5% of the respondents residing in Bwari indicated that Zuma is vulnerable as well. From the interpretation of the result, it can be deduced that majority of the respondents rate that Igu is the most vulnerable area.



List of most vulnerable areas in Gwagwalada Area Council

Table 11.



Source: Field survey 2022

Table 11 above shows the results of the most vulnerable areas in Gwagwalada Area Council. The result from the table above displayed that 39.8% of the respondents in Gwagwalada indicated Giri as the most vulnerable area to crime incidence in Gwagwalada area council, followed by Gwagwalada with 30.5% of the respondents indicating the vulnerability of the area and 29.75% of the respondents residing in Gwagwalada area indicated that Anagada is vulnerable as well. From the interpretation of the result, it can be deduced that majority of the respondents mark that almost share their view on the most vulnerable area in Gwagwalada area council.

FINDINGS

The study revealed that majority of the respondents believed that armed robbery and drug abuse were the most prevalent crimes in the FCT. This was agreed on by 66.9 and 46.5 percent of the respondents sampled in the study. The study also finds out that the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) is also vulnerable to crime even though, some respondents believed that crime rarely occurs in their areas. Thus, the study finds out that the most vulnerable area to crime in AMAC was Gwagwa village in FCT,

The study further revealed that Kuje Area Council is vulnerable to crime incidence. 57.6% of the respondents indicated that Kuje council area is always vulnerable to crime incidence. It was further revealed that the most vulnerable areas in Abaji Area Council Abaji village in FCT while, the most vulnerable areas in Bwari Area Council Iguin FCT. The study finally revealed that the most vulnerable areas in Gwagwalada Area Council Giri



junction in FCT. The study thus, concluded that the vulnerability of these areas was due to the influence of urbanization of the areas.

CONCLUSION

This study has established that, despite Abuja's status as the Federal Capital Territory and the administrative seat of government, crime remains a persistent challenge undermining peace, order, and stability. The findings reveal a strong correlation between rapid urbanization and rising crime rates, largely driven by the influx of unemployed migrants, inadequate economic opportunities, and the consequent vulnerability of many residents to criminal recruitment.

However, the study is not without limitations. Its reliance on secondary data and the concentration on selected area councils may have constrained the scope and depth of analysis. Future studies should therefore adopt mixed methods, incorporating primary data collection and wider geographical coverage to capture the multifaceted nature of crime and urbanization in Abuja. Further research should also explore the effectiveness of ongoing policy measures in addressing urban insecurity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

- i. Strengthening Arms Control: The FCT administration should intensify the regulation and retrieval of small arms and light weapons to reduce incidents of armed robbery and violent crime.
- ii. Enhanced Security and Intelligence: Law enforcement agencies should improve intelligence gathering and increase surveillance in crime-prone areas across the FCT to ensure safer conditions for economic and social activities.
- iii. Employment and Social Interventions: Government and stakeholders should prioritize job creation, skills acquisition, and youth empowerment initiatives to mitigate the socioeconomic drivers of criminal behavior.
- iv. Research and Policy Monitoring: Continuous research and periodic policy evaluation are necessary to assess the impact of urbanization on crime and to provide evidence-based strategies for sustainable urban security in Abuja.

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