

17 Crime Statistics and Crime Management in Nigeria

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Introduction

It is a notable fact now that Nigeria is experiencing population explosion, societal growth, and rapid urbanization. The aftermath effects of these could include among others is high crime rate in Nigeria. Crime has become a major social phenomenon in rural, urban, towns, states in Nigeria, and not that alone, it cuts across cities across the globe. In every human society, total conformity is not possible, so also, total deviance cannot be in existence. However, whenever the rate of deviation is outrageous, it calls for concerns of the public. In Nigeria, the traditional structures and societal value system that was used as buffers that restricted criminal behaviour in the society has been eroded, as a result of westernization. As the society develops, so also the nature and types of crime require strategic and pro-active programmes for crime management and control. Such management measures require adequate understanding of crime information and knowledge of the crime rate, spatial pattern, trend, and others. All these information are embedded in the crime statistics of any country/society (Badiora, Okunola, and Ojewale, 2014).

Crime is constantly changing with the development of new technologies, and the changes has also affected the crime's nature, pattern and trend. As a result of this, crime statistics in the country becomes complex. This is coupled with the weak or poor data and poor record keeping by the Nigeria police. Crime statistics helps to attend to so many questions in the society, like: what do the official figures of crime claim in terms of these? How many crime committed in the society? How many arrests were made? Who are the major perpetrators of the crimes? Are they high profile criminal elements? Were the crimes misdemeanours or felonies? How many of the arrested suspects were prosecuted and tried? How many of them resulted into conviction? How many of them were stars (first time offenders) or how many of them were recidivists? Has crime really falling or increasing?

In order to attempt these pivotal questions, Nigeria are mainly rely on the data from the Bureau of Statistics. Unlike the United States of America that makes use of different programmes and channels to get their crime statistics. The US department of justice administers these programmes to measure the magnitude, nature, and impact of crime in the nation, with: US gets their crime statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Uniform Crime Reporting Programme Summary

Reporting System (UCR SRS), and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The NCVS was established in 1973 to complement the UCR SRS and measure crime that are not reported to the police. The NCVS and UCR SRS have different purposes, and they use different methods and focus on different aspects of crime. The information they produce together provides a comprehensive understanding of crime in the United States (Morgan and Alexandra, 2022).

Adequate crime control and crime management in Nigeria require good management of crime statistics. It is on this premise that this chapter examines the concept of crime statistics, crime management, crime statistics, source of crime statistics, statistical analysis of official crime statistics in Nigeria, relevance of crime statistics in crime management, challenges of crime statistics in Nigeria, and among others.

Crime

According to Idowu (2019) crime simply refers to a violation of criminal law for which some governmental authorities apply formal penalties. Thus, represents a deviation from formal social norms administered by the state. Legally, a crime is an act of human behaviour or deviant action that violates the norms and values of the society (Schaefer, 2007). Therefore, crime is “an act or default or conduct prejudicial to the community, the commission of which by-law renders the person liable to punishment by fine or imprisonment in special proceedings, instituted by officers in the service of the crown (state)”. Thus, crime is the intentional commission of an act deemed socially harmful or dangerous to self and/or others. Thereby the society attempts to prevent it by prescribing specific punishments for each crime in the society.

Crime as an act or omission against public interest and which is proscribed by law enacted by the legislature in the overall interests of the society and to which prescribed punishment is attached in the event of violation; and it involves four major principles of crime, which are: public wrong, moral wrong, law and punishment for the criminal. Thus, crime is an act of human behaviour prohibited by the criminal law. It is an act or omission forbidden by law and punishable by fine, imprisonment, or even death (Bennette, 1987 cited by Dambazau, 1994). Notably, not all acts which are penalised under the law are really criminal, such as minor traffic offences, and many more (Idowu, 2019).

Statistics

Statistics is the science of collecting raw data, organizing, summarizing, analysing and interpreting raw information (data) in order to draw out a logical conclusion. According to Murray and Larry (2011), statistics is concerned with scientific methods for collecting, organizing, summarizing, presenting and analysing data, as well as, with drawing valid conclusions and making reasonable decisions on the basis of such analysis. Thus, statistics is a scientific method of selecting, collection,

organization of basic facts into meaningful data, as well as, summarization, presentation, analysis, interpretation and presentation of numerical data into useful information for the purpose of decision making. Also, Lind, Marchal and Wathen (2010) posit that, statistics is the science of collecting, organizing, presenting, analysing and interpreting data to assist in making more effective decisions.

Therefore, statistics in this context refers to the systematic collection of raw data of crime suspects, criminals and the victims which can be organized, summarized, analysed and used for interpreting the raw criminal data in order to draw logical conclusion from the basic analysis of the raw data for making meaningful decision on crime management.

Crime Management

The issue of police and crime management has been engraved with myriad of viewpoints. Notwithstanding the quanta of extant literature available on the subject, the divergent manners, circumstances, and dimensions in which crimes have always emerged and managed posed a challenge of its uniform idea. Apart from the fact that crime is perceived as a way of life and, which no country has existed without, the question of how much of crime would a country tolerates to feel secure and do well, has been difficult to answer. This is because crime is viewed as a wrongdoing that bedevils progress and good order in a country. In other words, people consider crime as a “twin-evil” that can rubbish the hopes of any developing nation from economic greatness and drive a gloomy nation into a perpetual poor economy and inflict the people with low quality of life if it is not nip on the bud (Aisedion and Edoghogho, 2018; Oikhala, 2020).

Crime management is concerned with the effort to reduce and deter crime and criminals in a society. It simply implies the efforts made by government or group or individuals to reduce crime rate in the society, enforce the law, and maintain criminal justice system. Effective crime management involves the police to be proactive, rapid respond to crime, effective crime scene management, good public-police relation, strategic crime prevention, risk of crime reduction, and so on.

Crime Statistics

The term crime statistics is also known as “record of crime” or “crime record”. According to Odivwri (2023), crime statistics refers to the volume of crimes counted or recorded in a given country over some time. It is the collection, organization, collation, and interpretation of criminal activities in a country. Membere (1982) defines crime statistics as a collection of crime data or facts expressed in figures and/signs, glaring at a glance the totality of crime situation or state of crime in a given area. Crime statistics are expressed in numerical terms and often tabulated, classified, and analysed to establish a relationship between or among the classes of offences recorded.

The information reflects the total number of cases reported, the number of cases convicted, prosecuted, or discharged, as well as, the number of cases accepted as true cases. The common sources of crime statistics in Nigeria is usually from the Criminal Justice System (CJS) – Police, Court, and Correctional institutions such as: Prison, Juvenile homes or social welfare, vigilante group, and so on. However, the major source of crime statistics remains the police. Ideally, crime statistics should be published quarterly, every six months, or yearly in a country. However, the official source of crime statistics is still the main source of crime data. In Nigeria, the Nigeria Police Headquarters, Abuja publishes crime statistics annually, and the State Police Headquarters quarterly publishes crime statistics of various crimes or offences committed. The statistics indicates the level and pattern of criminality in the society (Odivwri, 2023).

Henry (2016) basically stated that, crime statistics are compiled based on recorded crime. The crimes consist of crimes that are detected by the police on patrol, reported to the police by the community people and so on, by recorded by the officers. The statistical significance of this crime are not just numbers, but a very deep meaning that a crime can be predicted. Statistical data on crime/criminal is arranged in the form of crime, the frequency of occurrence of each form of crime, area of events and the nature of events. Crime statistics contains a variety of information about the characteristics of the perpetrators and victims of crime, social aspects and demographics that are important to the occurrence of crime and other information that is not presented on the official crime statistics.

Crime statistics contributed to the shaping or constructing reality of crime. In terms of crime statistics as a social construction that it is the result of the social activities of social organizations and the jobs that are in it do the various levels of flexibility in choosing among options of behaviour in their view called a crime. The end result of the use of discretion by them are crime statistics or in general can be said as a picture of crimes and criminals on a region or a particular community. Statistical overview of the criminal or the crime is therefore a social construction (Henry, 2016). Crime statistics is the result of recording conducted by law enforcement officials (particularly the police) based on reports of victims and members of the public in general. Crime statistics aims to measure crime and criminal behaviour patterns through the followings:

- i. To collect and analyse data to test theories about why people commit crimes.
- ii. To study the characteristics of the crime situation to develop preventive strategies.
- iii. To determine the needs of the patterns of crime on a daily basis.
- iv. Crime statistics aims to measure the state of crime, for example by making comparisons across time and place.

Furthermore, crime statistics are the result of a recording made by law enforcement based on the reports of victims or members of the public. Crime statistics helps in building a picture of crime in the community that is about the amount and pattern of crimes, the development of the ups and downs, so it can be used for planning, improvement, implementation and control tasks of other governments, particularly in the field of crime prevention and control. Talking about crime statistics in criminology cannot be released from the talks on the understanding and use of statistics in general in various fields of knowledge and community life. In connection with the process of collecting, recording, dissemination, and use is seen as part of the establishment or the conditions of social reality of crime. Crime statistics in its use can be differentiated between quantitative and qualitative. Quantitative namely by stating the exact figures; and qualitative by not specify the exact figures, but only mentions "increase" and "decrease" (Henry, 2016).

Sources of Crime Statistics

Odivwri (2023) posits that, the sources of crime statistics can be divided into two as: official crime statistics and unofficial crime statistics.

a. Official Crime Statistics

Official crime statistics refers to the reported crimes to the police. Reporting crime to the police is defined as notifying the police of a crime that took place in a place and in a time. In most cases, this takes place in the police stations, and the report is done through physical appearance, letter writing, and/or social media with the use of internet. In other words, official crime statistics are data on offences and offenders which are obtained from government agencies, such as: Police, prosecutors, courts, prisons, and other law enforcement agencies. Each event of crimes known to the police will be filed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Official crime statistics can be characterized as follows: a more comprehensive and complete, made regularly, and because it is made by authorized officers then considered valid, so it is used widely by other agencies and by the society at large. Official crime statistics are not made by the individual or other institutions for certain purposes (Henry, 2016).

In Nigeria, some of these agencies include: Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Nigeria Immigration Services (NIS), Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Person (NAPTIP), among others. However, the most often used crime statistics emanates from the Nigeria Police Force (NPF). Succinctly, for administrative purposes, official crime statistics are derived from police recorded crime, prosecution/court data, prison data, and so on.

Challenges to Official Crime Statistics in Nigeria

There are some problems associated with the official crime statistics which make it

unreliable, and less valid in Nigeria. These include the followings:

- i. The official crime statistics are based only on the numbers of arrests made and the crime known to the law enforcement agencies (the police). Several crimes are unreported and unknown to the law enforcement agencies. This gives a lot of discrepancies between the official crime statistics and the actual crime in the society. Thus, reported crimes are the offences reported to the judicial authorities, while the actual crime level includes, offences which are reported, undetected crimes, and unreported crimes to the police and/or the criminal justice system (law enforcement agencies). There is gap between the number of reported crimes and the actual crime level in the society. This is the basis of what is generally known as the Dark-Figure of crime (invisible unreported crime).
- ii. Some crimes are reported, but they are not recorded (grey figure) because of the personality involved or for political or security reasons. The consideration may be based on the legal aspect that is influenced by perceptions, conditions, personal interest, and so on. At times, police do not keep the records of reports of crime received, and this is trivial as it is not considered as crime. In some cases, the matter is considered to be better resolved by the parties themselves (by way of atonement), and keeps it out of police, as a result of socio-cultural, political, economic and religious factors that are involved (Henry, 2016). To measure the dark figure of crime, and to understand crime in its entirety, there is the need for victimization survey.
- iii. Multiple offences may sometimes be committed during the same crime incident, but only one may eventually be recorded and treated. What happens to the rest aspect of the crime? For instance, if a gang with guns forced a car owner into his/her car and ordered him/her to drive them to any destination with a threat to kill him/her, if he/she fails to cooperate. If at the end, the person was robbed of his/her money, personal belongings, kept him/her for some days (hostage) before release, and his/her car was abandoned somewhere else. Here, several offences have been committed: armed robbery, kidnapping, and car theft (Odivwri, 2023). Only one of the crimes may be recorded and jettisoned the rest. Does it mean that others are not crime?
- iv. The official crime statistics of the Nigeria police could not cover the crimes that are not reported to the agency; crimes that are not recovered by the police based on their discretion; the crimes that are recorded as misdemeanours among others. All these are also crimes, and it makes the crime statistics not reliable.
- v. The official crime statistics by the Nigeria police does not adequately capture the crimes that are perpetrated with cyber (internet crimes). Crime that happened abroad (across the continents) and other distanced geographical locations are not covered since it is not committed in Nigeria. Some of these

crimes are invisible that police records could not capture and this makes the official crime statistics not complete.

- vi. Official crime statistics seems to be discussed more than figures for other social phenomenon. Some feel they are little more than government propaganda. Some feel the police count what they choose to and put their faith in the figures obtained from surveys. Others avoid using figures at all and look at their own experience. Most people rely on the media for their information. Few actually read the statistics themselves, published in great detail on the internet. Most rely on highly summarized versions from their favourite source. This confuses further the message from official crime statistics (Chris, nd.).

b. Unofficial Crime Statistics

Unofficial crime statistics are crime data that are not compiled by the state, but are compiled by individuals or researchers or by organizations who are interested in crime issues in the society. The unofficial source of crime statistics supplements those produced by law enforcement agencies. The sources of unofficial crime statistics are victim/victimization surveys, self-report studies, corruption survey, and direct observation. According to Henry (2016), the source of unofficial crime statistics or statistical research are derived from official data and that does not mean that the study of criminology never did directly to the public to determine the level of crime. But the survey to measure the level of crime is obtained through the recognition of victims of crime is known as a method of victim surveys.

However, some of it will be given attention here, and they include:

- i. ***Victimization Survey:*** In victims-survey, crime victims are asked questions about their experiences of victimization during a specific period of time. Victimization survey mainly focuses on the individuals and their experiences as victim of crime (and not case or incidents); and the targets is on the actual experience (and not reported crime). Hence, the crime victims recount their experiences which provide useful information that is unknown to the law enforcement agencies (Odivwri, 2023). Victimization surveys also help to measure the level and trend of crime, fear of crime and perception of safety, impact of crime on the society and/or high risk/vulnerable group, acceptance of the criminal of the justice system and trust in their actors and actions.

Importance of Victimization Survey

Alemika and Chukwuma (2014 cited in Odivwri, 2023), explains that victimization surveys are important for the following reasons:

- a. Victimization survey gives room for comparability at international level (if common methodology is used), which the crime reported to the police may not get. It gives in-depth knowledge of crime than just figure.
- b. Victimization survey provides valuable answers to the questions, such as: How many crimes are committed, and what are its characteristic? Has the level of crime changed over time? What are the risks of becoming a victim? How many crimes are reported to the appropriate authority, and if not, why not? Are crime prevention policies working?
- c. Victimization surveys are instruments for effective and efficient planning, operations, and administration by the police, prosecutors, judges, and prison officials. This is feasible as victimization surveys can be used to measure the tendency to report crime, trust in the criminal justice system (particularly the police), and to measure fear of crime in the society.
- d. Victimization surveys help to elicit a clearer picture of the levels of crime victimization, as well as, the opinion of a cross-section of society on matters relating to crime and punishment, their perception of the criminal justice agencies, and the method of handling offenders and victims.
- e. Victimization surveys help to provide data on the characteristics of victims, the costs or injurious consequences of crime, or the circumstances in which the crime occurred and thus contributing to the understanding of repeat and chronic victimization.
- f. Victimization surveys indicate broad areas of further debate, investigation, and intervention.
- g. Victimization surveys serve as a consolidated methodology to crime statistics, as it is independent for the government institution for national laws and institutions.
- h. Victimization surveys serves as sources of reliable information as a basis for understanding and combating national and local crimes, and formulating policies and programmes. The information can reliably measure crime trends, despite changes in reporting rates.

Limitations to Victimization Surveys

Despite the pivotal roles being played by victimization surveys in crime statistics, there are limitations which include the followings among others:

- a. Respondents may mis-report the event, and the time lag of their victimization and the time of the survey may cause them to exclude some other events.
- b. Some victims may not be able to accurately remember the victimization events. This creates memory errors. Also, some victims may be scared to report the crime to the researcher due to fear of unknown and security precautions.
- c. Victimization surveys do not provide information about victimless crimes, such as: prostitution, drug trafficking, gambling, self-victimization, and so

- on.
- d. There is the problem of scoping. This is because victim surveys are space and time-bound. Therefore, an individual may telescope forward into the future or telescope backward into the past events and give wrong account of their victimization.
 - e. There are methodological problems associated with victimization surveys. These include: over-reporting, under-reporting, and sampling errors in responding to the researcher. All these and others do not give victimization surveys credibility.
 - f. Age of the victim is a limitation of victim survey. As a result of the ethics of legal age and others. Victimization survey may be limited to the age ranges of 18 and 65 years of age. What happens to other ages (age ranges) who are victims of criminality?
 - g. Residence could also serve as a limitation to victimization surveys.

Reasons for Non-Reporting Crime to the Police by the Victims of Crime

According to Idowu (2019), when a crime has been committed, it is either discovered, reported or not reported at all to the police. The tendency to report or not to report crimes varies, of course, according to the type and nature of the offence and the characteristics of the victim. In Nigeria, the victims do not usually report offences to the police for several reasons, such as:

1. Some victims usually feel that the offence had been committed and the issue of reporting is a waste of time because the investigation by the police may delay the case, and at the end nothing tangible as “justice” will be made on the case.
2. The substance of the crime might be so insignificant (e.g. minor offence) that may not require reporting to the police. For example, reporting to the police that your car tape had been stolen. Some victims of such rather keep it to themselves, that reporting to the police. They usually see the crime (theft of car tape/battery) as insignificant.
3. There is lack of confidence in the police again, because at times, the victim may turn to be offender.
4. At times, the fear of attack by the suspect may make the victim not to report the criminal act to the law enforcement agent, and this is caused by high level of insecurity in the country.
5. The relationship between the victim and the offender may water-down the case e.g. raping does not usually just happen. In most cases, there must be a kind of relationship between the rapist and the victim. So, in order not to spoil the relationship, victim may not bother to report the crime to the appropriate authority. It may be treated as family matter.
6. The social stigma that is attached to the act may discourage the victim to report. For example, raping of a woman by armed robbers in the presence of

her husband. They may feel that reporting to the police may worsen the situation that may attract social stigmatization.

7. The deep religious people usually do not report any case, even, if they are the victims. They believe in the spirit of “we commit the issue to the hands of God for appropriate judgment”. Therefore, they do not usually want to report to the police and this does not give room for the real crime figures in the society.
 8. Ignorance coupled with high level of illiteracy is another factor. At times, one may think that an offence has been committed and it may not be so, because of the ignorance of criminal offence. Ignorance of one's right and obligation may cause one not to report criminal case to the police.
 9. Location/place of event (*loco in quo*) is another reason. The victim may find it too far to go and report the case to the police. Thus, the distance between the crime scene and the police station may be too far, then there is no point reporting the case.
 10. The victim may not only able to identify the offender, but he/she may be unconscious at the moment; e.g. accident or a seriously drugged rape victim. Thus, he/she may be psychologically imbalance at that moment.
 11. Problem of favoritism, partiality, nepotism, ethnicity and politics discourage reporting of crime by the victim. Even, if reported to the police the power that be will not let it work since justice will not hold. Thus, lack of trust in the authorities may discourage victims/witnesses to report crime to the police in Nigeria.
 12. Child victims and other people who lack power or status in society may find it practically very difficult to report crimes against them. Most children are scared to report crimes done to them in most cases.
 13. Succinctly, crime-victims do not usually report crime to the law enforcement agents because of the fear of crime. This may be due to age, gender, previous victimization, geographical location, level of education, level of socio-economic status (wealth), level of vulnerability, poor information, powerlessness and isolation, unsafe time, insecurity, high level of unemployment in the society and so on (Idowu, 2022).
- ii. ***Self-Report Studies:*** Self-report survey involves asking questions from the specific population about the types of crime or offences they have committed in the past. Self-report studies are commonly carried out with juveniles who are delinquents, but not adults per se, although adults can also be studied through the self-report survey to confirm the conclusion of victimization surveys that the dark-figure can hide (Conklin, 1989).

Advantages of Self-Report Study

There are a lot of advantages in the use of self-report studies in gathering crime data, and some of them include:

- a. Self-report survey allows for comparison with official data in terms of volume, nature, and characteristics.
- b. Self-report survey helps to illuminate the “dark figures” of crime, as well as, the “grey figures” of crime. Thus, those crimes that are not reported or those crimes that are reported, but not recorded and/or treated.
- c. Self-report survey helps to provide in-depth insight into hidden offences or crimes commonly committed by young offenders and probes into why they do so.
- d. Self-report survey helps to unravel non-reported crimes, substance abuse, and personal characteristics of the offenders, and so on.
- e. Self-report survey serves as an instrument for assessing the efficiency of the law enforcement agencies, such as: Police, National Drug and Law Enforcement Agencies (NDLEA), and others.

Limitations of Self-Report Study

Despite the usefulness of self-report studies in gathering data for crime statistics, there are some limitations to self-report survey which include the followings:

- a. Questionnaires used in self-report survey often lack validity. They do not accurately measure the amount of crime that respondents have committed, because the respondents may hide some facts that are useful for the crime survey and crime statistics.
- b. Respondents may not report the true position of the offence or crime committed for fear of being arrested by the law enforcement agencies.
- c. Self-report survey does not lend itself to the easy comparison between grounds such as police records and field reports. Such a comparison may be misleading.
- d. Self-report survey is mostly suitable for young offenders, but not adults because adults are not easily manipulated.
- e. Self-report survey tends to concentrate on only non-serious, occasional delinquents, while ignoring hard-core chronic offenders who may be hidden and not easily available for self-report studies.

Statistical Analysis of Official Crime Statistics in Nigeria

The analysis of crime in Nigeria could be derived from the statistical records of crime in the police custody. This therefore gives analytical explanation of the crimes for certain period in Nigeria as follow:

Table 1: Crime Statistics from 2019 – 2021

S/N	Crime Type	2019	2020	2021	Total
1	Murder	2,622	2,852	2,693	8,167
2	Man Slaughter	42	26	30	98
3	Attempt Murder	466	416	348	1,230
4	Suicide	159	185	153	497
5	Attempt Suicide	97	190	191	478
6	G/Haram Wounding	7,402	9,966	6,747	24,115
7	Assault	15,388	16,487	13,576	45,451
8	Child Stealing	197	288	237	722
9	Slave Dealing	63	184	32	279
10	Rape & Indecent Assault	1,410	1,788	1,959	5,157
11	Kidnapping	600	574	350	1,524
12	Unnatural Offence	1,100	1,484	742	3,326
13	Other Offences	9,052	8,622	8,159	25,883
14	Armed Robbery	-	-	2,846	2,846
15	W/With Menace	-	-	101	101
16	Theft/Stealing	-	-	19,332	19,332
17	Burglary	-	-	1,917	1,917
18	House Breaking	-	-	2,773	2,773
19	Store Breaking	-	-	1,290	1,290
20	False Pretence & Cheating/Fraud	-	-	5,475	5,475
21	Forgery	-	-	1,229	1,229
22	Receiving Stolen Property	-	-	1,467	1,467
23	Unlawful Possession	-	-	1,634	1,634
24	Arson	-	-	598	598
25	Other Offences	-	-	7,088	7,088
26	Forgery of Currency	-	-	142	142

Source: Adapted from Nigeria Police Force Headquarters, Abuja (2023)

The above table 1 reveals that from 2019 to 2021, “assault” is the most common type of crime and security threat in Nigeria. This is followed by “G/Haram wounding”, “murder” and other unclassified offences respectively. In the other hand, “man slaughter” takes the least share in the rate of crime and security threat in Nigeria.

Table 2: National Crime/Security Matrix From 2018 – 2021

S/N	Offences	2018	2019	2021	Total
1	Terrorism	124	72	59	255
2	Armed Robbery	1,353	849	2,138	4,340
3	Murder	1,823	373	2,772	4,968
4	Kidnapping	777	484	1,971	3,232
5	Herdsmen/Local Farmer Attack/Rustling	171	27	174	372
6	Rape/SGBV	129	90	300	519
7	Human Trafficking	6	3	11	20
8	Pipeline Vandalism	15	9	8	32
9	Disaster/Accident	-	-	781	781
10	Political Crisis/Protest	-	1,204	27	1,231
11	Religious Crisis/Protest	39	106	24	169
12	Inter-Agency Dispute	-	-	1	1
13	Youth Crisis/Protest	-	-	148	148
14	Industrial Crisis/Protest	-	-	67	67
15	Cult Activities	348	617	471	1,436
16	Arson	317	21	929	1,267
17	Unlawful Possession of Firearms	558	638	586	1,782
18	Communal Clashes	118	52	122	292
19	Cattle Rustling	80	38	304	422
20	Child Stealing	16	11	27	54
21	Secession Activities	-	287	198	485
22	Militant Activities	-	6	6	12
23	Arrest Others	-	2,196	-	2,196

Source: Adapted from Nigeria Police Force Headquarters, Abuja (2023)

Table 2 shows the national crime/security matrix from 2018 – 2021 in Nigeria. The table reveals that, from 2018 to 2021, “murder” is the most common type of crime and security threat in the security matrix in Nigeria. This is followed by “armed robbery”, “kidnapping”, “unlawful possession of firearms”, “cult activities” and other arrests respectively. In the other hand, “inter-agency dispute” takes the least share in the rate of crime and security threat in Nigeria. Thus, there is cordial relationship between the Nigeria police and other sister agencies.

Table 3: National Crime Statistics From January – December 2019

S/no	State Commands	Murder	Manslaughter	Attempted Murder	Suicide	Attempted Suicide	G/harm & Wounding	Assault	Child Stealing	Slave Dealing	Rape/Indecent Assault	Kidnapping	Unnatural Offences	Other Offences	Total
1	ABUJA (FCT)	79	8	3	25	5	591	644	5	0	67	16	80	446	1,969
2	A/IBOM	76	1	60	9	0	69	229	13	0	36	15	254	9	771
3	ANAMBRA	56	0	14	3	0	241	699	16	0	39	71	4	368	1,511
4	ABIA	64	7	7	1	0	57	461	14	1	11	20	10	137	790
5	ADAMAWA	84	5	7	7	6	207	148	3	0	46	13	21	384	931
6	BAUCHI	84	0	3	0	1	90	63	0	0	12	0	15	198	466
7	BENUE	18	0	0	6	0	130	122	1	0	1	3	3	0	284
8	BORNO	297	19	5	0	1	61	37	0	7	4	0	91	118	640
9	BAYELSA	48	0	12	0	3	11	28	6	0	27	0	65	48	248
10	C/RIVER	88	0	23	0	32	175	372	8	15	51	23	92	250	1,129
11	DELTA	143	0	46	5	0	184	1,725	0	0	264	120	210	1,172	3,869
12	EDO	63	1	13	11	0	137	204	1	0	53	97	0	28	608
13	ENUGU	56	0	21	0	0	45	437	1	0	30	30	0	80	700
14	EBONYI	59	0	30	1	0	23	462	2	0	39	23	0	330	969
15	EKITI	29	0	2	0	0	29	90	0	2	8	7	5	63	235
16	GOMBE	68	1	0	1	2	91	18	2	2	20	7	19	162	393
17	IMO	113	0	127	0	0	36	1,078	9	0	28	14	2	122	1,529
18	JIGAWA	21	0	4	1	6	110	80	4	0	63	2	18	433	742
19	KADUNA	80	0	0	0	0	134	113	0	0	5	0	0	20	352
20	KANO	112	0	2	1	0	224	120	5	0	11	0	0	240	715
21	KATSINA	39	0	0	6	5	26	40	0	28	5	0	0	127	276
22	KEBBI	32	0		0	0	72	68	0	0	10	0	0	155	337
23	KOGI	43	0	10	1	0	14	38	0	0	20	0	0	30	156
24	KWARA	37	0	9	0	1	41	51	0	0	22	0	11	10	182
25	LAGOS	138	0	17	5	4	2,308	4,529	84	3	260	10	65	1,493	8,916
26	NIGER	50	0	4	15	0	120	96	0	0	19	0	1	330	635
27	NASARAWA	93	0	4	22	0	275	155	0	0	38	3	7	203	800
28	OGUN	91	0	4	2	0	165	224	0	2	10	8	2	51	559
29	ONDO	50	0	6	3	7	203	427	0	0	26	1	0	37	760
30	OYO	34	0		22	0	519	1,038	2	0	58	5	36	317	2,031
31	OSUN	9	0	3	0	2	228	530	2	0	36	8	11	247	1,076
32	PLATEAU	30	0	0	0	0	166	104	0	0	14	0	2	197	513
33	RIVERS	44	0	19	3	22	213	502	10	3	21	98	27	207	1,169
34	SOKOTO	33	0	0	0	0	60	54	0	0	15	0	25	214	401
35	TARABA	74	0	0	3	0	228	280	0	0	14	1	4	663	1,267
36	YOBE	143	0	9	1	0	82	10	8	0	9	1	6	112	381
37	ZAMFARA	40	0	2	0	0	31	17	0	0	18	2	13	40	163
	TOTAL	2,622	42	466	159	97	7,402	15,388	197	63	1,410	600	1,100	9,052	38,473

Source: Adapted from Nigeria Police Force Headquarters, Abuja (2023)

Table 4: National Crime Statistics from January – December 2020

S/NO.	State Command	Murder	M/Slaughter	Att. Murder	Suicide	Att. Suicide	G/Harm Wounding	Assault	Child Stealing	Slave Dealing	Rape & Ind. Assault	Kidnapping	Unnatural Offence	Other Offence	Total
1	ABUJA	126	5	9	11	4	884	930	8	0	115	39	54	633	2,818
2	ABIA	50	0	16	0	0	6	119	31	0	16	13	1	25	277
3	ADAMAWA	104	1	3	5	1	234	175	1	1	29	3	12	496	1,065
4	AKWA-IBOM	85	0	77	6	0	94	263	13	0	45	11	181	65	840
5	ANAMBRA	21	0	2	3	0	76	186	43	1	18	18	1	73	442
6	BAUCHI	73	0	2	4	0	131	42	0	0	22	3	46	320	643
7	BAYELSA	32	0	19	12	0	16	82	1	0	62	9	42	91	366
8	BENUE	49	0	0	1	1	177	114	0	0	5	4	0	0	351
9	BORNO	204	0	4	2	1	46	15	0	1	11	11	7	137	439
10	C/RIVER	94	1	38	4	68	525	23	4	65	24	6	448	0	1,300
11	DELTA	63	5	4	8	5	38	418	3	0	30	28	29	320	951
12	EBONYI	59	0	35	6	0	26	445	7	0	39	10	1	275	903
13	EDO	69	0	18	0	0	178	240	0	0	99	88	0	0	692
14	EKITI	26	0	2	1	0	22	114	0	0	26	1	2	10	204
15	ENUGU	25	0	21	0	0	50	383	2	0	18	10	0	55	564
16	GOMBE	48	0	2	4	0	114	58	1	2	26	14	33	169	471
17	IMO	8	1	58	3	0	49	697	20	1	23	4	0	161	1,025
18	JIGAWA	13	0	0	1	1	57	33	0	2	12	4	8	185	316
19	KADUNA	82	0	3	0	34	24	0	0	41	41	0	5	72	302
20	KANO	98	1	2	0	0	360	304	0	0	91	3	67	276	1,202
21	KATSINA	222	0	1	7	7	40	27	0	11	8	1	3	44	371
22	KEBBI	44	0	0	0	0	114	80	0	0	11	0	1	194	444
23	KOGI	23	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	4	1	0	2	34
24	KWARA	44	0	21	6	5	34	22	3	5	6	4	17	96	263
25	LAGOS	348	8	34	65	27	4994	9533	93	44	639	60	156	2693	18,694
26	NASARAWA	119	1	7	5	33	196	57	27	4	32	53	193	245	972
27	NIGER	84	0	2	0	0	154	94	1	0	16	1	2	396	750
28	OGUN	112	0	6	3	1	110	157	1	0	20	10	0	40	460
29	ONDO	75	0	9	5	2	120	449	14	2	48	16	54	0	794
30	OSUN	25	1	8	9	0	246	591	1	0	85	4	10	308	1,288
31	OYO	23	1	2	6	0	299	172	3	2	33	12	29	0	582
32	PLATEAU	60	0	0	4	0	145	99	0	0	31	3	18	208	568
33	RIVERS	50	0	0	0	0	91	337	3	0	26	119	42	279	947
34	SOKOTO	32	0	2	0	0	43	35	0	0	21	3	8	183	327
35	TARABA	85	0	1	4	0	177	163	0	0	17	6	11	479	943
36	YOBE	135	1	4	0	0	59	8	8	0	8	2	3	92	320
37	ZAMFARA	42	0	4	0	0	36	21	0	0	31	0	0	0	134
	TOTAL	2,852	26	416	185	190	9,966	16,487	288	184	1,788	574	1,484	8,622	43,062

Source: Adapted from Nigeria Police Force Headquarters, Abuja (2023)

Table 5a: National Crime Statistics from January – December 2021

S/NO.	State	Murder	M/Slaughter	ATT. Murder	Suicide	ATT. Suicide	G/Harm Wounding	Assault	Child Stealing	Slave	Dealing Rape & Ind. Assault	Kidnapping	Unnatural Offence	Other Offence	Total
1	FCT-ABUJA	35	2	5	0	0	182	140	8	0	36	0	17	0	425
2	ABIA	62	0	6	2	0	25	75	10	0	12	17	0	60	269
3	ADAMAWA	83	0	7	0	0	103	80	1	0	19	5	10	358	666
4	AK/IBOM	133	3	64	4	0	43	213	27	2	31	5	34	0	559
5	ANAMBRA	50	0	0	6	0	148	0	0	0	47	34	0	0	285
6	BAUCHI	93	0	4	0	0	48	13	0	0	34	10	8	118	328
7	BAYELSA	47	0	16	16	0	35	185	6	0	87	23	27	156	598
8	BENUE	74	0	6	3	5	128	351	7	0	15	0	0	95	684
9	BORNO	291	3	1	3	0	57	22	0	0	19	18	4	139	557
10	C/RIVER	61	0	7	0	0	28	162	3	0	56	12	0	99	428
11	DELTA	76	0	28	3	0	288	1352	5	0	133	11	138	357	2,391
12	EBONYI	60	0	17	2	0	23	363	7	0	40	3	0	0	515
13	EDO	73	2	14	0	0	55	68	0	0	69	24	0	0	305
14	EKITI	35	3	7	5	0	28	427	10	0	22	4	0	192	733
15	ENUGU	33	0	28	2	0	65	601	7	0	28	4	0	97	865
16	GOMBE	69	0	5	4	112	33	286	0	0	25	2	18	205	759
17	IMO	100	0	26	0	0	66	283	24	0	35	11	19	309	873
18	JIGAWA	21	0	0	0	0	48	100	0	0	30	0	48	231	478
19	KADUNA	82	0	0	0	0	65	70	1	0	63	5	11	0	297
20	KANO	65	0	1	5	0	294	182	0	0	200	4	11	464	1,226
21	KATSINA	42	0	0	0	0	75	116	0	0	218	0	0	0	451
22	KEBBI	41	0	0	0	0	21	11	17	0	10	0	0	0	100
23	KOGI	62	5	16	0	0	5	89	0	0	22	4	1	0	204
24	KWARA	33	2	4	2	0	159	402	0	0	9	5	52	302	970
25	LAGOS	136	0	20	36	72	2912	4866	65	30	270	44	196	2775	11,422
26	NASARAWA	78	3	10	0	0	178	325	1	0	53	13	2	300	963
27	NIGER	38	0	0	0	0	45	158	0	0	15	5	1	114	376
28	OGUN	88	0	11	15	2	140	216	5	0	45	38	2	67	629
29	ONDO	75	0	17	14	0	102	695	10	0	38	20	64	0	1,035
30	OSUN	37	0	7	5	0	175	236	0	0	34	0	0	0	494
31	OYO	60	0	0	12	0	563	1073	16	0	83	19	45	770	2,641
32	PLATEAU	74	0	1	0	0	119	66	0	0	35	1	7	254	557
33	RIVERS	65	0	1	4	0	104	68	0	0	22	1	0	188	453
34	SOKOTO	28	0	0	0	0	78	38	7	0	33	0	5	231	420
35	TARABA	143	0	7	6	0	176	98	0	0	25	4	18	256	733
36	YOBE	96	0	0	0	0	85	86	0	0	23	0	0	0	290
37	ZAMFARA	53	7	12	1	0	46	17	0	0	23	0	4	9	172
38	RAILWAY	1	0	0	3	0	2	43	0	0	0	4	0	13	66
	TOTAL	2693	30	348	153	191	6747	13576	237	32	1959	350	742	8159	35,217

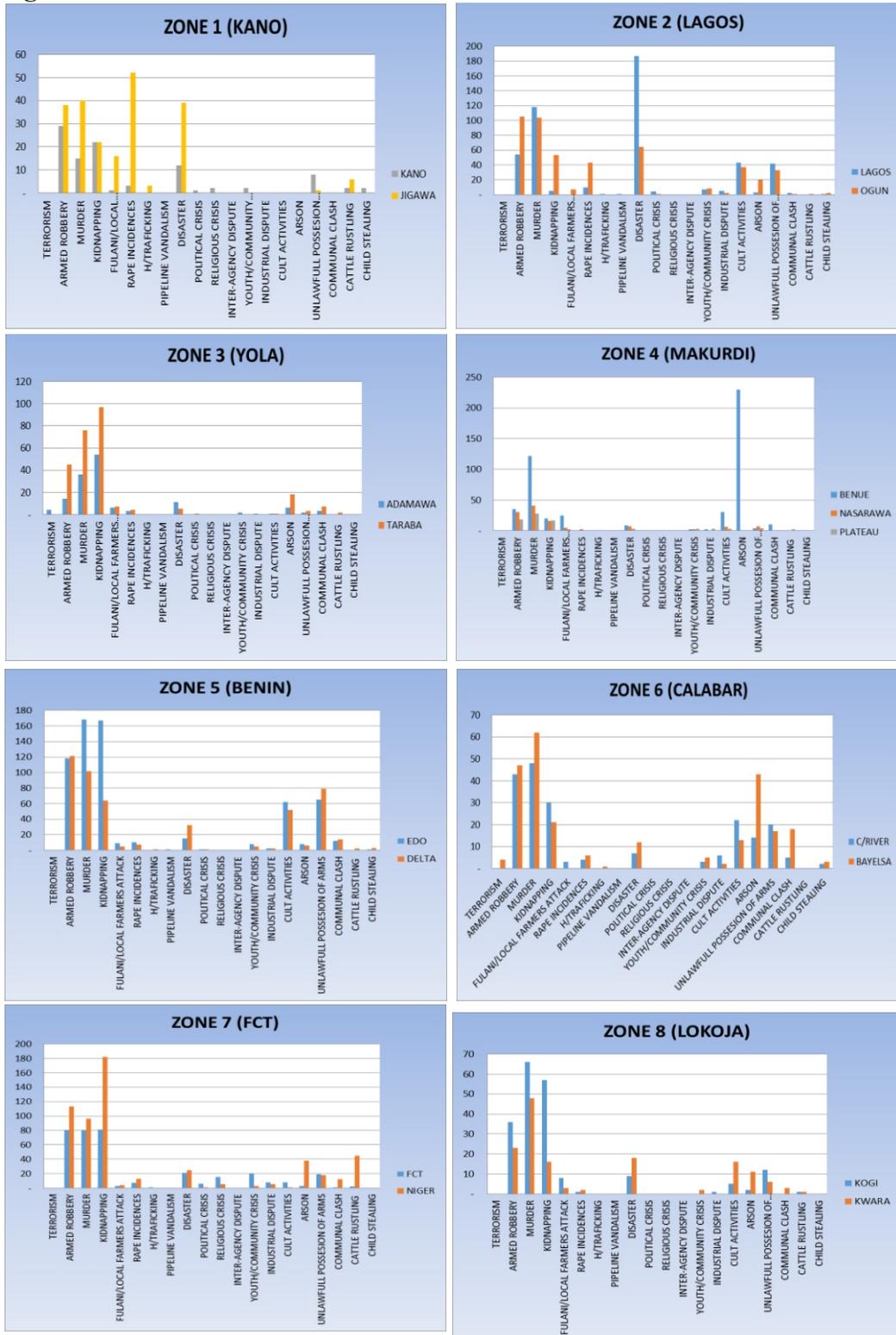
Source: Adapted from Nigeria Police Force Headquarters, Abuja (2023)

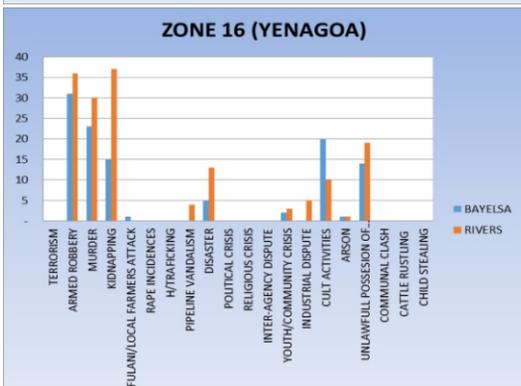
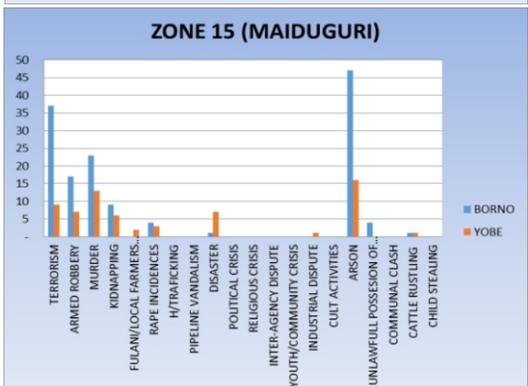
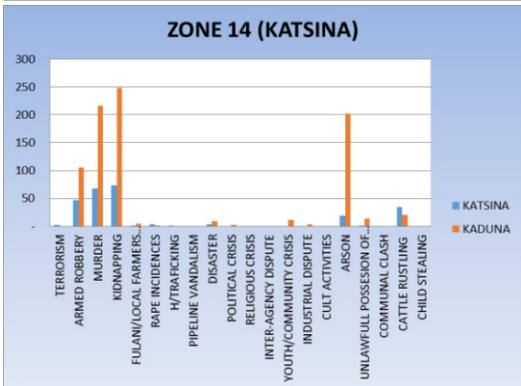
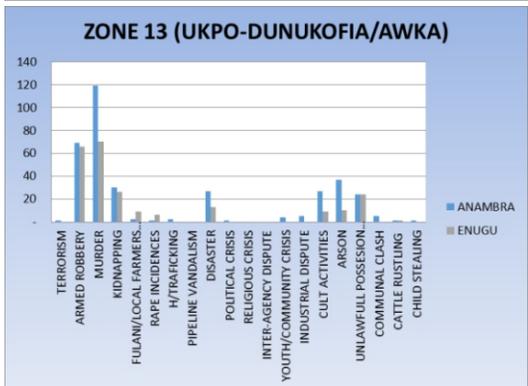
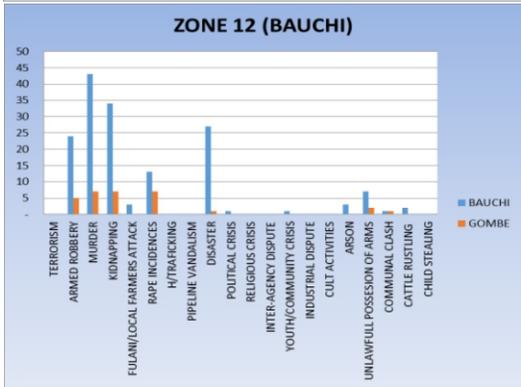
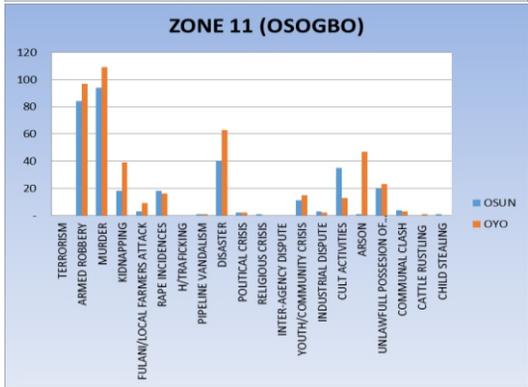
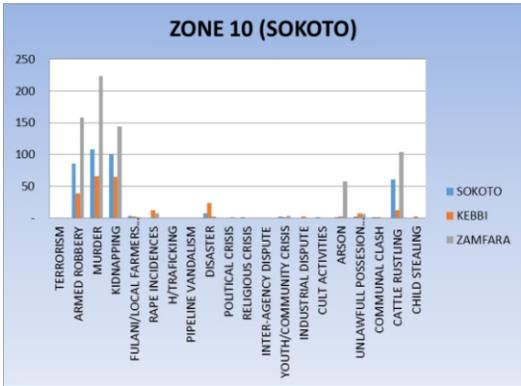
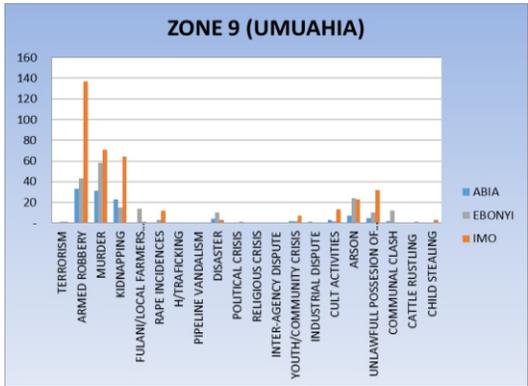
Table 5b: National Crime Statistics from January – December 2021

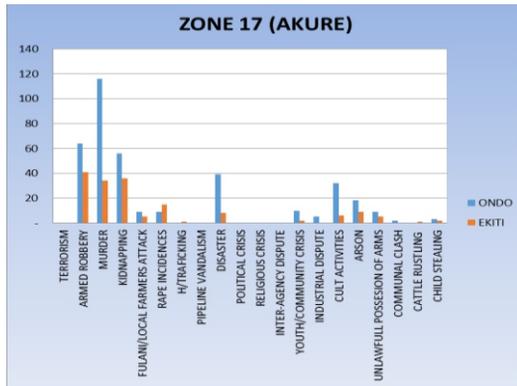
S/NO.	State	Armed Robbery	W/With Menace	Theft/Stealing	Burglary	House Breaking	Store Breaking	False Pretence & Cheating/Fraud	Forgery	Receiving Stolen Property	Unlawful Possess	Arson	Other Offence	Forgery of Currency	Total
1	FCT-ABUJA	287	0	945	17	422	25	0	0	481	56	48	1287	0	3,568
2	ABIA	27	0	30	20	18	7	0	4	28	26	0	37	6	203
3	ADAMAWA	52	6	566	0	66	0	33	6	53	54	0	409	0	1,245
4	AK/IBOM	47	2	11	273	14	0	68	6	9	12	21	27	2	492
5	ANAMBRA	35	0	671	33	85	22	0	14	36	21	0	0	0	917
6	BAUCHI	114	0	82	0	33	11	67	17	10	35	15	96	11	491
7	BAYELSA	65	0	219	27	15	15	124	17	0	41	3	141	0	667
8	BENUE	65	0	152	0	48	30	17	3	18	0	5	118	0	456
9	BORNO	33	2	195	5	4	2	64	14	10	7	7	92	3	438
10	C/RIVER	47	0	88	40	62	38	20	4	0	30	0	94	0	423
11	DELTA	217	4	1486	177	86	59	452	9	19	89	56	211	46	2,911
12	EBONYI	33	0	335	12	20	15	53	11	2	10	10	0	0	501
13	EDO	53	0	72	25	15	14	5	0	5	9	12	0	0	210
14	EKITI	70	0	275	16	30	17	30	5	12	9	15	132	0	611
15	ENUGU	35	24	408	69	72	59	106	29	42	113	2	91	2	1,052
16	GOMBE	66	0	379	0	57	20	31	7	23	17	13	537	11	1,161
17	IMO	31	18	205	27	40	8	94	13	0	24	18	183	0	661
18	JIGAWA	25	0	171	17	23	12	17	0	35	0	0	67	0	367
19	KADUNA	65	0	320	4	64	49	350	12	38	35	5	3	0	945
20	KANO	138	0	560	0	82	61	277	9	70	152	9	175	2	1,535
21	KATSINA	118	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	129
22	KEBBI	57	0	10	0	0	2	0	0	5	25	9	0	2	110
23	KOGI	58	0	18	0	0	0	11	2	0	41	0	72	0	202
24	KWARA	27	5	347	5	311	59	21	22	28	0	103	476	20	1,424
25	LAGOS	330	23	6412	671	363	204	1766	187	156	606	64	1507	20	12,309
26	NASARAWA	93	11	289	1	64	17	73	13	39	10	24	118	0	752
27	NIGER	36	0	214	0	13	14	23	0	5	5	20	101	2	433
28	OGUN	123	0	158	103	98	68	76	0	7	6	6	60	0	705
29	ONDO	63	0	790	95	63	32	516	12	5	74	0	0	0	1,650
30	OSUN	38	0	532	59	85	96	233	608	64	20	0	0	0	1,735
31	OYO	110	0	1074	218	206	197	377	187	158	31	25	0	0	2,583
32	PLATEAU	29	0	666	0	116	117	272	12	31	20	1	202	1	1,467
33	RIVERS	55	0	417	0	41	16	64	0	13	15	49	188	3	861
34	SOKOTO	28	6	342	0	19	0	53	0	7	4	6	137	0	602
35	TARABA	112	0	609	0	105	0	153	5	26	30	40	496	5	1,581
36	YOBE	0	0	209	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	224
37	ZAMFARA	60	0	18	1	23	2	18	1	32	7	5	31	6	204
38	RAILWAY	4	0	57	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0		0	67
	TOTAL	2846	101	19332	1917	2773	1290	5475	1229	1467	1634	598	7088	142	45,892

Source: Adapted from Nigeria Police Force Headquarters, Abuja (2023)

Figure 1: Zonal Annual Crime Statistic Assessment for 2021 in Charts







Source: Adapted from Nigeria Police Force Headquarters, Abuja (2023)

Findings from above tables and figures revealed that, the trend of criminality in Nigeria for about half of a decade show that “assault” top the national crime since 2018 to 2021. This is followed by “grievous bodily harm (GBH) and wounding”, “murder”, “false pretence and cheating (fraud)”, “armed robbery”, “kidnapping”, “arson”, “unlawful possession of firearms”, “cult activities”, “cattle rustling”, “rape/sexual and gender based violence (GBV)”, “secessionist activities”, “communal clashes”, “youth crisis/protest”, among others respectively. These major criminalities are common in the followings states in Nigeria: Lagos, Delta, Oyo, Imo, Cross river, Abuja, Osun, Adamawa, Kano, Ondo state, and so on respectively.

Furthermore, these criminalities involved a lot of fatalities, and the number of the arrest made by the law enforcement agencies are insignificant compared to the number of crime reported, let alone the real number of crime committed in the society. In the process of these crime commission and crime control, a lot of ammunition are lost and some recovered.

Relevance of Crime Statistics in Crime Management

The basic aim of crime statistics is to provide an overview data about crimes that exist in a society, such as the figures, frequency, spread of the perpetrators, and the crimes. These data are useful for crime control. Crime statistics are usually compiled by law enforcement agencies, such as the police and others, because of the following reasons:

1. Crime statistics serves as clear indicators of societal crime health. For example, it helps the society to know whether crime rate is increasing or decreasing. For instance, if the crime rate is high, there will be likely outrage and development of crime fear among the citizenry; while if the crime rate is low, the citizenry will have the feeling that adequate security exists. Thus, crime statistics is a reflection of crime in the society through which the perpetrators, patterns and distribution are known.

2. The data in crime statistics can be used to describe the state of crime/criminals, and convicts in absolute terms. It helps in the evaluation of the final results. Thus, crime statistics renders a comprehensive picture of crime rate in a country and, if properly used, it provides a useful tool for social policy formulation.
3. Crime statistics provides a valuable tool with which to estimate the amount and type of current crime behaviour, the number of annual arrests, the number of incarcerated felons, and to determine the quality of the crime phenomena at a certain place in a certain time. This helps in decision-making and planning to formulate programmes and policies.
4. Crime statistics serves as a measure of effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement agencies, such as police, court, and correction centres. For instance, a decline in the crime rate to a large extent is an indication of law enforcement's better performance, and vice versa.
5. Crime statistics provides information on the socio-demographic characteristics of criminal offenders, such as: age, gender, education, religion, occupation, rate of recidivism, nature and types of crimes that are more committed. It serves as a source of information that can be used to answer several questions relating to crime commission.
6. Crime statistics provides the basis for decision-making by the government at local and national levels on crime prevention and control. For example, the upsurge in armed robbery and kidnapping in Nigeria led to the introduction of community policing, an increase in patrol vehicles, building of more police stations, increased use of motorcycles for patrol. It is the commission of various crimes that necessitated the ban of the use of motorcycles for commercial purposes and the introduction of tricycles in some states of the federation.
7. Crime statistics can help in the determination of the cost of crime. It enables the society to know the cost incurred by the individual, community, and the government of a country on yearly basis.
8. Crime statistics provides the basis of scientific theories of criminal behaviour. Criminologists and others will understand crime causation and control mechanism. Crime statistics can be useful for researches and crime control policy formulation.
9. Crime statistics enables people to understand to distribution of crimes, as well as, people who mainly involved in crime in different areas in a particular society or country. This in turn helps in the comparative analysis of crimes in a different area.
10. Crime statistics serves as a tool to forecast the future of crime in a society, because it gives room for comparison of some years and this gives trend, direction, and patterns of crime commission in the society. With these information, government and non-governmental agencies can plan and formulate policies to control crimes in the society. Thus, crime statistics gives

crime tract which allows for a greater level of comparative analysis that could be used to determine crime control and management. Furthermore, the unofficial crime statistics can be used as an amplifier and/or a justification of the operation of the law enforcement agencies; in example, police.

11. Crime statistics is used by the government agencies and the non-governmental agencies (NGOs) to formulate crime prevention policies. This is because with crime statistics, a realistic estimation of the magnitude of the crime in the society is considerably known.
12. Crime statistics gives the geographical variation in the types and pattern of crime and locations. Crime statistics reveals the type/nature of crime that are more committed in a particular area of concentration than the other. The reasons could be researched on, as well as, the solution.
13. Crime statistics serves a tool used to determine whether there is a relationship between one factor and criminality, though to gauge how strong the level of the influences.
14. Recording crime (statistics) is also beneficial for the community, so that the people in the society will know the quality (increase or decrease) of the criminality that are occurring in the society. In this regards, the community will know that they also have important roles in the formation of crime statistics through reporting of crime incidents either from personal experience or seen in the vicinity.
15. Statistics criminal helps build a picture of crime in the community that is about the amount and pattern of crimes, the development of the ups and downs, so it can be used for planning, improvement, implementation, and control tasks other governments, especially in the field of crime prevention so that the collection of these materials cultivated as complete. Therefore, crime statistics used as a major tool in criminology (Henry, 2016).
16. Crime statistics is the main method that is often used by researchers in criminology. Criminology research is dominated by quantitative approach using statistics. Analysis of levels, patterns and trends of crime is commonly done in criminology cannot be separated from the use of criminal statistical data collected and compiled by law enforcement officials, especially the police. Police who acted as law enforcement in protecting the community to live, safe, and secure. Police on duty to prevent a criminal act committed by the criminal who caused the unrest in the middle of the community. In order for the creation of order and ensure security in the community (Henry, 2016)
17. Crime statistics can demonstrate or measure the moral state of society and/or used as a way to test the effectiveness of legislation and punitive measures were imposed.

Challenges of Crime Statistics in Nigeria

The use of statistical data and statistical techniques in various fields, especially in the fields of social statistics have shown that it can be used for certain purposes. But often

also there are weaknesses in specific statistics, for example, load data is incorrect or biased, then the amount of data included in the sample is not representative, does not describe the whole data set proportionally. Idowu (2020) stated that, crime control in Nigeria has always involved a manual system of documentation. There have been several problems encountered in this manual system of crime investigation in Nigeria. There are challenges in treating case files due to red-tapism and cumbersomeness, inaccuracy, delay in accessing the information in paper files, the vulnerability of the documents to damage, missing of criminal records, the tediousness of the manual searching for crime case files since they are not usually arranged chronologically or logically, alteration by an unauthorized user and so on.

All these factors lead to poor prosecution of criminal cases in Nigeria. For decades in Nigeria, the crime rate has been on the increase and there have been difficulties and misappropriation of justice in the criminal justice system. Due to the varieties of challenges of the manual method of crime investigation in Nigeria, there is the need for an alternate. Data-based technology and criminalistics ensure that all the relevant facts gathered from the crime scene are analyzed by placing them side by side with all the testimonies and physical evidence(s) gathered along with all observations discovered while examining the crime scene.

Conclusion

Crime statistics are the figures used to measure the rate, trend and pattern of crime, and to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of the criminal justice system, particularly the police. The trend of criminality in Nigeria has been on the increase for several years now, and the pattern of criminality in Nigeria has been complex on daily basis. For years now, the leading crimes in Nigeria has been assault, grievous bodily harm (GBH) and wounding, murder, false pretence and cheating (fraud), armed robbery, kidnapping, arson, unlawful possession of firearms, cult activities, cattle rustling, rape/sexual and gender based violence (GBV), secessionist activities, communal clashes, youth crisis/protest, among others respectively. These crimes are common in Lagos, Delta, Oyo, Imo, Cross river, Abuja, Osun, Adamawa, Kano, Ondo state, and so on respectively in Nigeria. This also involved a lot of ammunition lost and recovery, civilian injured, death, police injured and death, among others.

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