

# Crime Occurrence, Prevention and Community Resilience in Rumuolumeni Community, Obio/Akpor LGA, Rivers State, Nigeria

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## Abstract

*This study examined the crime occurrence, prevention and community resilience in Rumuolumeni Community in Obio/Akpor LGA. Rivers State, Nigeria. One hundred and ten copies of questionnaire were administered on the residents using random sampling technique. Archived crime data were from 2011 to 2017 were also used for the study. Descriptive statistics were used for the data analysis. Findings revealed that The yearly frequency of occurrence showed that there were 1295 cases of crime in total and the highest was recorded in 2015 with 236 cases (18.2%), followed by 2017 having 231 cases (17.8%) and the next is 2016 having 210 cases (16.2%). Findings also revealed that majority of respondents were males (57.2%) and within the age brackets of 21-32 years (54.1%). The dominating contributing factor for the occurrence of crime was unemployment (44%) while age group of 21-26 years (32.3%). However, 35% agreed that crime occurred in the study area frequently, 42% agreed on the presence of gated street while 55% agreed on maintaining one entrance and exit is a major reason for the establishment of the gated street. In addition, the major security agencies in the study area remained police patrol (32%) and local vigilante (29%) while the operation was seen to be effective (66%). Crime strategies to reduce the frequency of crime can be achieved by creating employment (35%), improved police patrol (24%) and common security awareness programmes (26%). The study concluded that that the level of crime occurrence in Rumuolumeni Community is frequent and mostly committed by young unemployed people. Moreso, the crime was higher between 2015 and 2017; and it was predominated by robbery, stealing, armed robbery and assault. The study recommended that the physical environment should be provided with functional street lights; and social crime prevention programmes should be carried out to increase awareness and resilience. Re-integration programmes should also be introduced to individuals involved with criminal justice system.*

## Introduction

Crime is a threat to the economic, political and social security of a region, settlement, community or a nation, and a major factor associated with underdevelopment (United Nations Handbook on Planning and Action for Crime Prevention in Africa, 2008). Crime is defined as an act punishable by law as forbidden by statute or injurious to public welfare, it can be seen as an act or omission defined by the validly passed laws of a nation state in which its occurrence attracts punishment (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and World Bank 2007). Crime is a demoralizing problem which affects all of us presently. Crime discourages both local and foreign investments, reduces the quality of life of its citizens, and damages relationship between citizens and states, thus undermining democracy, the rule of law and the ability of the country to promote sustainable development and peace (Abayomi, 2013). The victims of crime often suffer intimidation, injury, financial loss and so on. Those who live or work in high crime areas can be deprived of opportunities by the social and economic impact of crime. There are various forms of crimes that exist in the

world today such as arm robbery, murder, rape, kidnapping, shoplifting, assault, vehicular crime, etc. All crimes are not of the same magnitude nor attracts the same penalty, for instance, an offense of illegal parking though a crime is different compared to a crime of murder, illegal parking will attract a small fine while murder will incur a term of imprisonment. (Ekblom, 1995), explains that crime has two major elements; criminal act which is either of commission or an omission and mental element which is called the criminal intent or committed. This therefore explains that the type of crime determines the level or degree of punishment attached. Crimes inhibit the processes of planning and the ability of the government to promote development of any community, state, country or nation. Thus, it is important to note that, if planning is about making places better for people, then it has to address those elements that make places problematic for people, and crime and the fear of crime are high up in this list (Schneider & Kitchen, 2002).

Several factors that influence the incidence of crime and violence include, poverty, unemployment, inequality, intergenerational transmission of violence as reflected in the continuous witnessing of parental abuse during childhood, the rapid rate of urbanization, poor urban planning, design and management, growth in youthful population etc. (Cozens, Hillier & Prescott, 1999). In some areas, crime may be seen as a survival alternative in the face of grinding poverty, however, there are poor communities where crime levels are low because behaviour is constrained by informal social and cultural values (Farrington 1993). Although poverty is a contributing factor to crime, records and research has shown that inequality is an important underlying factor in the perpetration of crime and violence than poverty, most research has also shown that unemployed youths tend to be more involved in criminal activities, as well as being the victims of crime and violence (Cozens 2008). Poor urban planning, design and management have also play a significant role in the shaping of urban environments that put citizens and property at risk (Brantingham, 1998). Thus, the physical fabric and layout of cities have a bearing on the routine movements of offenders and victims and on opportunities for crime.

In Nigeria, the level of crime offences has been on the increase, this is caused by a host of factors. Crime rates in different states are not on the same level, there are areas where the level of crime is higher than others. Urban crime and violence are among the most significant challenges in the society today. On a daily basis violence and crime have an impact on the quality of life of individuals and communities, as well as their chances of development and the development of their potential. Crime affects human rights, stability, social relations and sustainable economic development. Can we hope to eliminate the problem of crime? Probably not, but it is rather possible to believe that crime can be controlled or prevented.

United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, (2002) defined Crime prevention as strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring, and their potential harmful effects on individuals and society by intervening to influence their multiple causes. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2011) further defines Crime prevention as any action or policy designed to influence the underlying or contributing factors that increase the risk of crime or victimisation occurring or improve actual or perceived safety. Crime prevention can also be said to be an attempt to reduce and deter crime and criminal behaviour in partnership with the community, it contributes to community safety as one part of the government's principal approach to reducing crime (Onoge, 1988). Crime prevention attempts to identify and understand why crime occurs and then addresses these causes with appropriate preventative measures.

Crime prevention is not a new idea, for as long as people have been victimized there has been attempts to protect oneself, it can be seen as a set of ideas for combating crime. Ekblom (2005) stated that crime prevention is intervention in the causes of criminal and disorderly events to reduce the risks of their occurrence and/or the potential seriousness of their consequences, it addresses both crime and its impacts on

individuals and the society. Crime prevention requires understanding and responding to both the cause of the crime and the crime itself, thus, the role of the government and the community residents are very crucial. Community crime prevention often involves the active participation of local residents and organizations in those communities and neighbourhoods. The term Community can be referred to as small neighbourhoods, areas within a city or towns or in some cases groups of citizens with particular concerns (Tilley and Laylock 2002). Community participation is essential in community crime prevention because crime and community safety issues emerge from local contexts (Goodchild, 1994). Local residents tend to experience crime problems first hand and have valuable knowledge that may be critical to the success of any crime prevention strategy. Most community crime prevention activities can be identified and driven by communities, rather than the government through community resilience.

Community resilience is defined as the ability to withstand an extreme event without suffering devastating losses, damage, diminished productivity, or quality of life without a large amount of assistance from outside the community (Gottfredson and Hirschi 1990). Resilience is a system's capacity to absorb and recover from the occurrence of a hazardous event; reflective of a society's ability to cope and to continue to cope in the future (Timmerman, 1981). Resilience factors, therefore, are those factors that diminish the potential to engage in particular behaviours. More specifically, these factors provide a buffer against exposure to risk factors and the onset of delinquent and criminal involvement. Some factors which can help to enhance the resilience of young people to engage in crime includes education, non-violent family environment, non-exposure to criminal role models, life-skills training, apprenticeship programmes, job creation schemes, good support and housing in the community (Johnson, 2005). Resilience factors interact with each other to increase resilience to criminal behaviour. The attempt to enhance the school environment as a context for fostering youth resilience to crime, this will have a diminishing effect on youth's tendency to engage with deviant peers, use and abuse alcohol and other illegal substances, as well as reduce involvement in violent and other antisocial behaviours. Similarly, when intervention strategies are geared toward reducing the levels of violence within the community, this reduction will decrease youths' susceptibility to subsequent criminal victimisation and hence provide a buffer against the onset of criminal involvement. Furthermore, nonviolent environments will also influence the development of attitudes intolerant of violence and antisocial behaviour. Crime causative factors are not only the source of crime and violence but careful understanding of these factors can also be a tool in crime prevention and the prospective for development to benefit individuals and communities.

Cities are faced with crime and the problem of insecurity cannot be overemphasized, crime is attributed to the increase in growth rate of urban population and has the ability to significantly affect the social and environmental quality and life of city dwellers. In Nigeria, Rivers State in particular, crime has wreaked havoc in the environment which has led to obstruction of development within the state. Crimes such as armed robbery, kidnapping, cultism, rape, domestic violence, pick pocketing, phone theft and many others are being committed in newer and improved means and patterns, and these criminals have also devised various ways of avoiding the watchful eyes of the security operatives. Crime portrays the inability of government to provide a safe and secure environment for lives, properties and the conduct of economic activities considering the alarming increase in criminal activities (Someren, 2013). The efficiency of urban settlements depends upon how well they are planned, how economically they are developed and how efficiently they are managed. Can we confidently say that the Government and its security institutions are doing a good job in regards to crime? Have government being committed to positively carrying out crime prevention? This has led to this research work, to examine crime prevention and resilience by discovering the prominent crimes in Rumuolumeni, analysing the causative factors and suggesting community resilience

methods aimed at reducing or preventing criminal activities in Rumuolumeni community in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

## **Material and Methods**

The study was carried out in Rumuolumeni community in Obio/Akpor LGA, Rivers State, Nigeria. Rumuolumeni is bounded in the North by Egbelu and Diobu and Rumueme to the South West. Rumuolumeni consists of 5 host settlements namely Azumini, Minikpiti, Mgbuosimini, Mgbuodohia, and Nkpor. Much of the land is suitable for agricultural purposes and the major crops include palm oil, cassava, vegetable, maize, cocoyam, citrus, plantain, okra, yam and so on. The soil is relatively rich due to the type of soil and organic matter contents. The population of Rumuolumeni gotten from the 1991 population census statistics from the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning Statistics of the Rivers State Government 2003 and projected to 2018 using the exponential method with a growth rate of 5.0 percent to 22,072 persons. The population is made up of 5 settlement areas which are Azumini, Minikpiti, Mgbuosimini, Mgbuodohia, and Nkpor. There is tremendous population growth as a result of migration. Rumuolumeni displays climatic characteristics that could be classified as Humid, Semi-Hot equatorial type (Gobo 1999). Generally, the state is characterized by high rainfall which decreases from South to North. Total annual rainfall decreases from about 4,700mm on the coast to about 1,700mm in extreme North of the city. The study area experience heavy rainfall from March to October and even the dry months between November to February are not free from occasional rainfall (Gobo 1999). The mean rainfall is about 2,500mm (Akintola 2000), with the extensive rainfall and the consequent reduction in the infiltration capacity of the soil due to its low permeability, flooding is commonly experienced in most homes during the rainy season which wash the soil below the earth into the drainage system.

The study area has a flat topography with inadequate drainage facility in some parts. Its elevation varies between 3m and over 15m above mean sea level (Abam, 1996). The low relief of the area is gently inclined towards the sea; thus discharges into the major natural drainages, through the Bonny river. The drainage network of rivers, streams and creeks of the study area include Bonny river, the New Calabar river and Okpokar rivers while the creeks are Elechi, Woji, Amadi and Dockyard (Ukpaka, 2016) The streams are south flowing, which are turbid during the wet season due to the discharge of clay and silt into the drainage channels. In the dry season however, the discharge and turbidity are highly reduced (Abam 1996). The study area lies on the recent coastal plain of the Eastern Niger Delta. Its surface geology consists of fluvial sediments which include the recent sediments transported by Niger river distributaries and other rivers, such as Andoni, Bonny and New Calabar rivers. These materials deposited as sediments of 30m thickness are clays, peat, silts, sands and gravels (Abam, 1996). The depositional sequence exhibits massive continental sand stones overlying an alternation of sandstones and clays of marginally marine origin, but eventually grading downwards into marine clays (Abam, 1996). Most of the activities in the study area are oil and gas due to the various companies located within the study area such as Frigate Upstream and Energy services limited, Pelfaco Jetty, Aveon Offshore limited, Saipem Contracting Nigeria limited, Master Energy, Liquid Bulk company limited, Moriban Sand mining company limited, Eastern Bulkcem company limited which involves building materials, cement manufacturing and so on. The study area also contains Delmar Marine Company Limited which is the first indigenous tank farm in the State. The study area is also a mix used residential area with a significant amount of local businesses and informal sector activities. The population of Rumuolumeni was 9027 (1991 population census statistics from the National Population Commission (2003) and projected to 2018 using the exponential method with a growth rate of 5.0 percent to 22,072 persons. The population was made up of 5 settlement areas (Azumini, Minikpiti, Mgbuosimini, Mgbuodohia, and Nkpor). To ensure that each settlement is fully represented in the sample size, the researcher used the formula of Taro Yamane to determine the number of questionnaires to be allocated to

each sampled settlement i.e. Azumini, Minikpiti, Mgbuosimini, Mgbuodohia and Nkpor. Secondary data on frequency and types of crime from 2011 to 2017 were collected from Rumuolumeni District Police Station. Copies of questionnaire were administered using a random sampling technique. Descriptive in form of frequency and percentages were used for data analysis and findings are presented in tables and charts. All data were analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 20.0).

**Results and Discussions**

**Temporal Analysis of Crime in Rumuolumeni from 2011 to 2017**

Table 1 presents the types and frequency of occurrence of crime in Rumuolumeni Community from 2011 to 2017. Ten types of crime were identified over time with stealing, armed robbery, assault and robbery dominating (Figure 1). The yearly frequency of occurrence showed that there were 1295 cases of crime in total and the highest was recorded in 2015 with 236 cases (18.2%), followed by 2017 having 231 cases (17.8%) and the next is 2016 having 210 cases (16.2%) (Figure 2).

Table 1. Types and Frequency of Crime in Rumuolumeni from 2011 to 2017

CRIME TYPE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total	Percentage (%)
Armed Robbery	19	22	27	42	38	50	42	240	18.5
Assault	22	19	24	31	27	33	41	197	15.2
Cultism	13	21	18	13	28	15	19	127	9.8
Forgery & Altering	9	6	12	15	13	11	16	82	6.3
Kidnapping	3	6	7	5	9	8	6	44	3.4
Murder	3	5	9	6	10	7	8	48	3.7
Robbery	11	15	13	18	26	23	28	134	10.3
Sex Offences	10	13	6	11	14	8	9	71	5.5
Stealing	25	30	36	32	50	42	46	261	20.2
Vehicular Crime	8	11	9	13	21	13	16	91	7.0
Total	123	148	161	186	236	210	231	<b>1295</b>	100.0
Percentage (%)	9.5	11.4	12.4	14.4	18.2	16.2	17.8	100.0	

**Source: Rumuolumeni Divisional Police Crime Records (2018)**

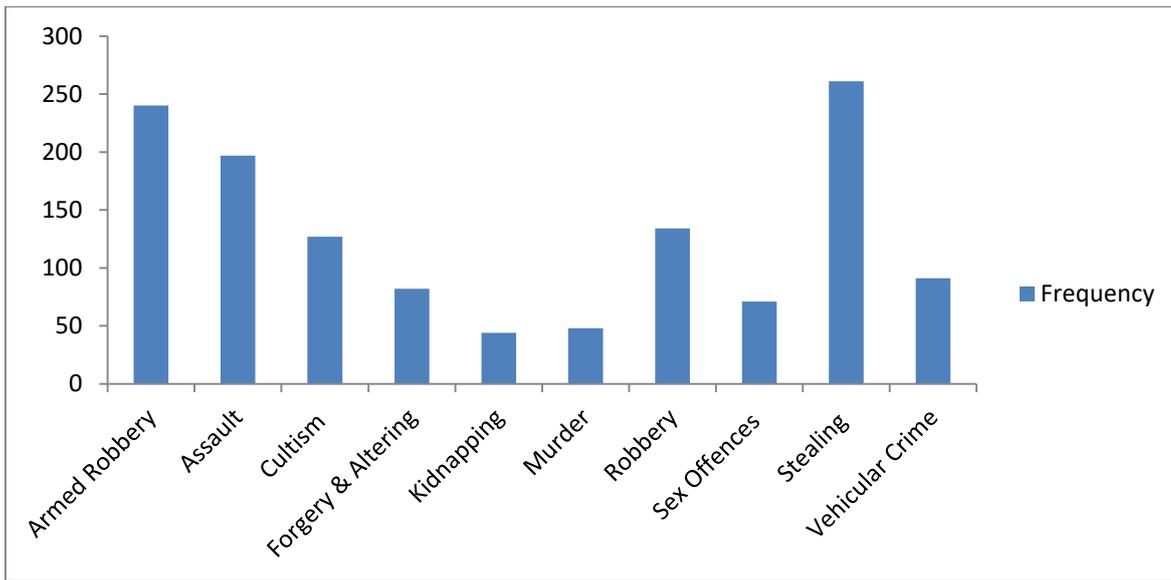


Figure 1. Total Frequency of the Types of Crime from 2011 to 2017

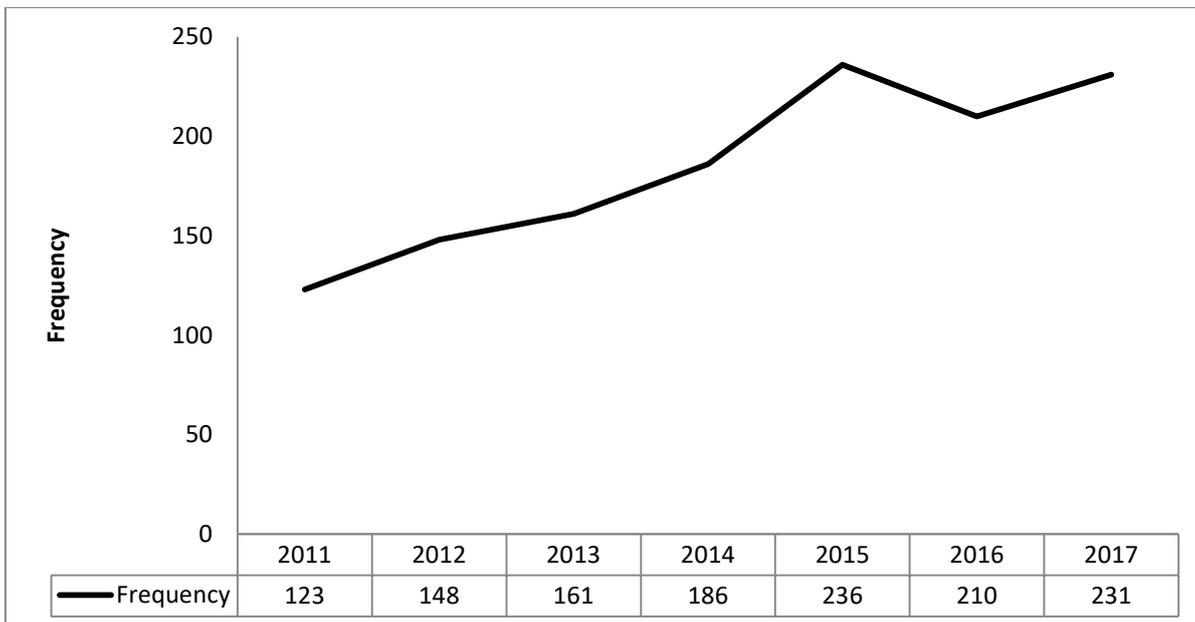


Figure 2. Temporal Frequency of Crimes in Rumuolumeni from 2011 to 2017

**Socio-economic Characteristics of Respondents**

Table 2 shows that 57% of the respondents were male while 43% of the respondents were female which means more responses was gotten from the male gender, the marital status showed that that 44% of the sample population consisted of married individuals while and 40% of the respondents were still single. Findings also indicated the various age groups of the sample population 29 respondents were within the ages of 27-32 years of age which was the highest in ranking followed by those within 21-26 years of age, the least was those within the age group of 52 years and above which constituted 3 respondents. The sample

population comprises of individuals with various occupations such as Businessmen/women (34%) which was the highest followed closely by Artisans (26%), students were the least with 18% of total respondents. Lastly, the table shows the level of income of respondents 27% of the respondents earned within ₦100,000 & above and the least were those within the ₦61,000-₦70,000 range (6.2%). In other words, the fact is that the study area was dominated by employed and self-employed persons which confirm the statement that the neighbourhoods are mainly populated by people of medium income category.

**Table 2. Demographic Analysis of Respondents**

<b>Demographic</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>Sex</b>		
Males	55	57.2
Females	41	42.7
Total	96	100.0
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	38	39.5
Married	44	45.8
Divorced/ Separated	8	8.3
Widowed	6	6.3
Total	96	100.0
<b>Age (Years)</b>		
15-20	12	12.5
21-26	23	23.9
27-32	29	30.2
33-38	11	11.4
39-45	13	13.5
46-51	5	5.2
52 & Above	3	3.1
Total	96	100.0
<b>Occupation</b>		
Businessman/ Woman	33	34.4
Civil servant	21	21.9
Students	17	17.7
Artisan	25	26.0
Total	96	100.0
<b>Monthly Income</b>		
Less than ₦20,000	-	-
₦21,000 - ₦40,000	11	11.4
₦41,000 - ₦60,000	19	19.7
₦61,000 - ₦70,000	6	6.2
₦71,000 - ₦80,000	10	10.4
₦81,000 - ₦90,000	19	19.7
₦91,000 - ₦100,000	5	5.2
₦100,000 & Above	26	27.1
Total	96	100.0
<b>Level of Education</b>		
Non Formal Education	5	5.2
Primary Education	2	2.1
Secondary Education	26	27.2
Tertiary Institution	63	65.6
Total	96	100.0

### Length of Living Crimes committed in Rumuolumeni community

Figure 3 shows the length of period the respondents have lived in Rumuolumeni community. 32.2% of the respondents had lived within the study area for 7 years and above, it was followed closely by 28.1% who affirmed to have lived within a period of 3-4 years and the least was 15.6% who had lived in Rumuolumeni community within a period of 1-2 years.

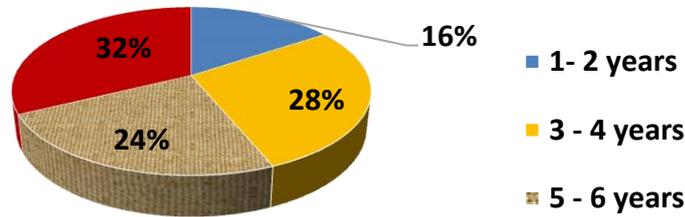


Figure 3: Length of Living Period of Respondents

### Indigenous Status of Respondents

Figure 4 shows the numbers of respondent that are from the community, 63.5% of the sample population were not indigenes of the community while the remaining 36.4% of the respondents were indigenes of Rumuolumeni community.

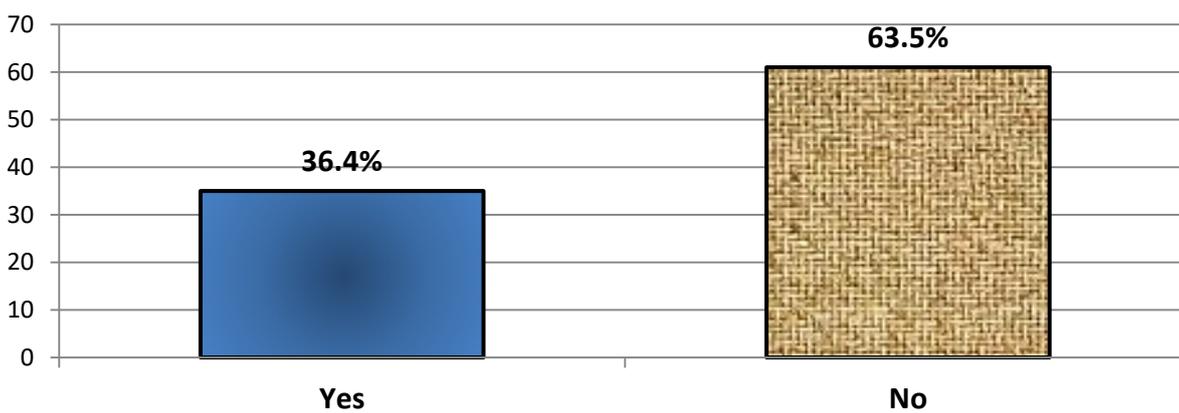


Figure 4. Indigenous Status

### Safe Neighbourhood

Figure 5 shows the perception rating of safety of neighbourhood, 67.7% agreed that their neighbourhood was safe while the remaining 32.3% respondents disagreed on the safety of their neighbourhood. This means that most of the settlements in Rumuolumeni community is safe based on the perception of the respondents.



### Figure 5. Safe Neighbourhood

#### Predominant Crime in the area

Figure 6 reveals the various crimes committed in Rumuolumeni community. 31% of the respondents stated that domestic violence was the most frequent form of crime. In the same manner, 21.8% agreed that armed robbery was the second most occurring crime in the area; while very few, 7.2% ticked kidnapping which had the least occurrence. This observation implies that the form of crime with the most occurrence are domestic violence and armed robbery respectively

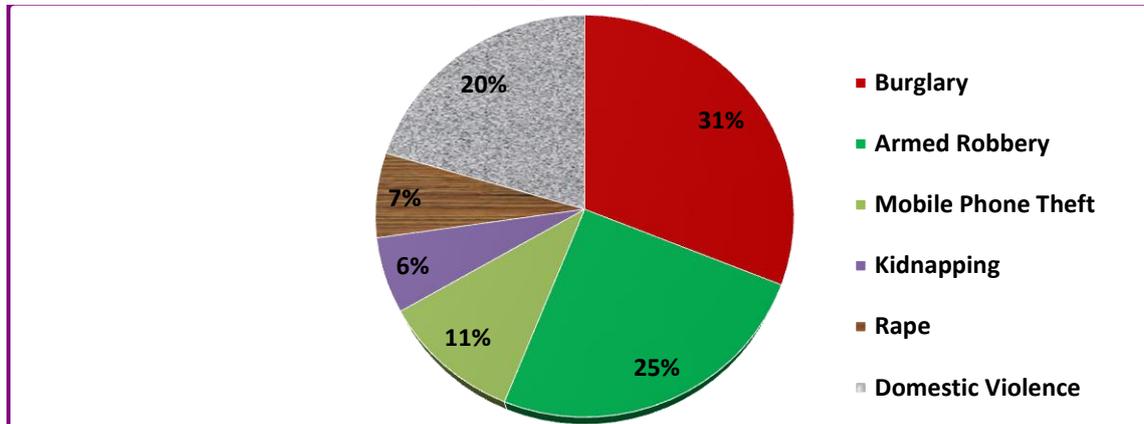


Figure 6. Dominating Type of Crime

#### Contributing Factors to Crime in Rumuolumeni Community

Figure 7 shows the responses given by the respondents as regards the various factors that led to crime in the study area and it was indicated that 44% agreed on unemployment, 20% affirmed to peer pressure, 12% selected hard drugs and the least was political influence with 7%. This shows that unemployment is a major cause of crime in Rumuolumeni community which implies that there is the dire need for the creation of employment opportunities for the individuals in Rumuolumeni to prevent them from involving themselves in various criminal activities.

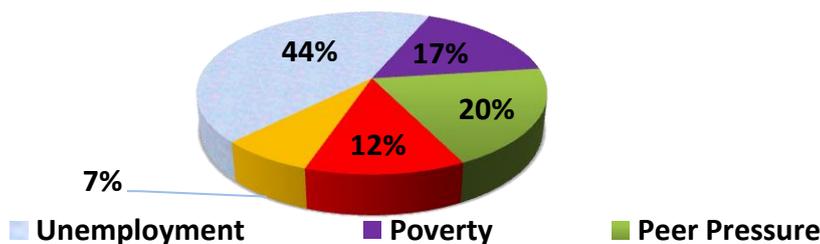


Figure 7. Factors affecting Crime in Rumuolumeni

#### Availability, Provision and Functionality of Street Lights

Table 3 shows the availability, provision and functionality of street lights in Rumuolumeni. The analysis indicated that a greater number of the sample population lacked street lightings in their various neighbourhoods while the remaining respondents claimed that street lights were present in their neighbourhood although they weren't all in a functional state.

However, the responses given by those who had street lights in their areas of residence and 30% responded that street lights was provided by the government, 19% stated that it was mounted through community effort and the remaining 51% respondents affirmed that it was fixed privately by contributions made in their various streets. Furthermore, 57% of respondents affirmed that the street lights in their neighbourhood was

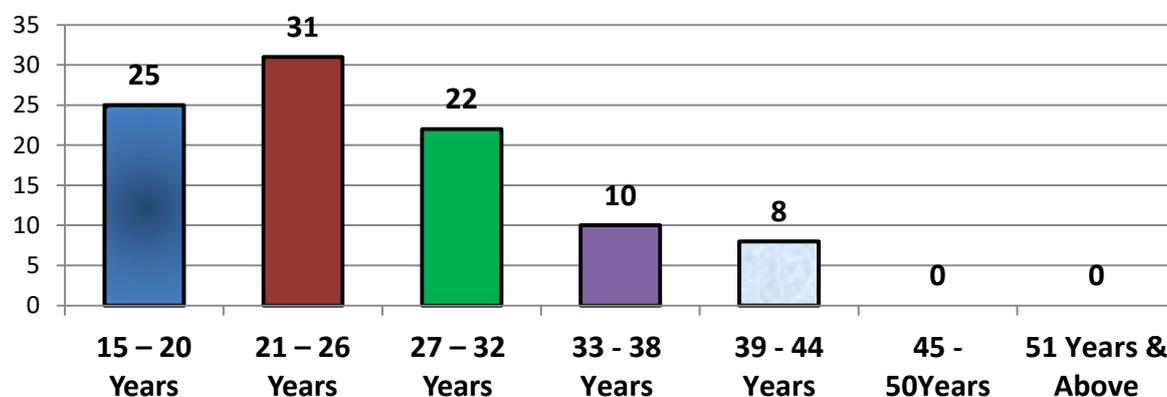
functional while the remaining 43% responded that the street lights in their neighbourhood was not working properly which made committing crime more efficient and easy within the community.

**Table 3. Availability, Provision and Functionality of Street Light**

Availability of Street Light	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	37	37
No	59	59
Total	96	100
Provision of Street Light		
Government	29	30
Community Effort	18	19
Private	49	51
Total	96	100
Functionality of Street Light		
Yes	55	57
No	41	43
Total	96	100

**Age group of most involved in criminal activities**

Figure 8 shows that the 32% of the respondents agreed that the individuals most involved in criminal activities were between 21–26 years of age followed by those within the age group of 15 – 20 years which were involved in petty crimes such as phone theft, gang affiliations, phone theft, shoplifting etc. Those within 27–32 years had 23%, 39–44 years had a total of percentage of 8%, while the least were those within the ages of 45 – 50 years and 51 years & above respectively. This data indicates that age group of 21–26 years make up majority of the age group more inclined to involve in crime when compared to the other age groups in Rumuolumeni community.



**Figure 8. Age group most involved in criminal activities**

**Occurrence of crime, Presence of Peak Crime Period and Victims of Criminal Activities in Rumuolumeni community**

Table 4 shows the respondents’ view on how often criminal activities happen, presence of peak crime period and victims of criminal activities in Rumuolumeni community. The analysis shows that 54.1% respondents affirmed crime seldom took place, 26% stated frequently and lastly 19.9% of the sample population indicated very frequently.

Responses were given if there were periods when crime was on the increase in Rumuolumeni community and it shows that 67% agreed that there is always a peak period while the remaining 33% of the sample population disagreed. On the experience of being a victim of criminal activities in the study area, 33% have been victims of these activities while 67% have had no experience of criminal activities in the study area so far.

**Table 4. Occurrence of crime, Presence of Peak Crime Period and Victims of Criminal Activities in Rumuolumeni community**

<b>Occurrence of Crime</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Seldom	52	54
Frequently	25	26
Very Frequently	9	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Presence of Peak Crime Period</b>		
Yes	64	67
No	32	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Victims of Criminal Activities</b>		
Yes	32	33
No	64	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

**Level of Security Consciousness in Rumuolumeni Gated Street and Reasons for Gated Street**

Table 5 shows the neighbourhood street that is gated due to security challenges, 42% claimed that streets were gated while the remaining 58% said their streets were not gated. The analysis in Table 4 also shows that the 55% streets were gated due to burglary activities, 30% to regulate security and 15% to maintain one entrance and exit to enforce curfew within the area.

**Table 5. Presence and Reasons for Neighbourhood Gated Street**

<b>Presence of Gated Street</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Yes	40	42
No	56	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Reasons for Gated Street</b>		
Burglary Activities	14	15
Regulate security	29	30
Maintain one entrance and exit	53	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

**Security agencies operational and Level of Effectiveness of Security Agency**

Table 6 shows the various security agencies present in Rumuolumeni community police patrol occupied 29%, private security 32%, local vigilante 18% and 21% of the respondents has no security whatsoever in their area of residence. This means that the most prominent is police patrol. However, responses when asked to rate the effectiveness of the security agencies in Rumuolumeni community, 42% of the sample population

stated that security agencies were effective, 24% responded that they were very effective while 34% of the sample population stated that they were ineffective due to the fact that they did very little in some specific areas within the community.

**Table 6. Operation and Level of Effectiveness of Security Agencies**

Security Agencies Operational	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Police Patrol	31	32
Local Vigilante	28	29
Private Security	20	21
None	17	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Level of Effectiveness</b>		
Effective	41	43
Very Effective	22	23
Not Effective	33	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

**Availability of Police station and Rating of Police Services**

Table 7 presents the analysis on the availability of police station and rating of police services in Rumuolumeni and findings show that 57.2% out of the sample population affirmed that police post was available not far from their residence while the remaining 42.8% responded negatively. Thus, the rating of police services in Rumuolumeni community by the respondents shows that 51% stated police services in the area was average, 31.3% selected good while the remaining 17.7% respondents said police services was poor.

**Table 7. Availability of Police Station and Rating of Police Services**

Availability of Police Station	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	55	57.2
No	41	42.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Rating</b>		
Good	30	31.3
Average	49	51
Poor	17	17.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

**Crime Prevention Measures and Strategies in Rumuolumeni Community**

Table 8 shows the crime precaution/ reduction measures taken which includes the use of car alarms/ trackers, burglary proof, metal bars and Electric fence, this means that the sample population has employed various means of protecting themselves against crime. The opinion of residents on how to reduce criminal activities in Rumuolumeni community shows that 35% of the respondents agreed on creation of employment opportunities which will assist in equipping those involved in these criminal activities with alternative ways of fending for themselves which was is the most preferred approach by the sample population in reducing criminal activities, 24% acknowledged that Police patrol at night should be improved or carried out more often in a bid to reduce the continuous occurrence of burglary, armed robbery, rape and

other forms of crime which tends to take place at night in most cases. The chart also indicates that 15% of the sample population opined that the proper planning of the physical environment would also assist in reducing the tendency of engaging criminal activities within the community, lastly 26% affirmed that community security awareness programmes should be carried out to enlighten the residents on crime reduction measures that should be applied to reduce the occurrence of crime in the area.

**Table 8. Crime prevention measures and strategies to combat crime occurrence**

Measures	Number	Percentage
Metal Bars	33	34.3
Electric Fence Razer	10	10.4
Car Alarm/ Tracker	14	14.5
Burglary Proof	39	40.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Strategies</b>		
Creation of employment	34	35
Improve Police Patrol	23	24
Proper planning of environment	14	15
Community security awareness programmes	25	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

### Discussion of Findings

Socio-economic characteristics of respondents were generally in accordance with the data gotten from the field. The monthly income category the bulk of respondents earned ₦100,000 & above which constituted 27% of sample population and the least was a total of 6.2% which fell within the range of ₦61,000-₦70,000. In other words, the fact is that the study area was dominated by employed and self-employed persons. This confirms the statement that the neighbourhoods are mainly populated by people of medium income category. It was evident that burglary associated crime is the most occurring type of crime in Rumuolumeni community as the respondents complained that their houses and shops were constantly under attack. Pertinent data on crime was gotten from respondents 32.3% which had resided in the community for a period of 7 years and above which had a good understanding of crime in the study area. Indigenes constituted 36.4% from the sample population which means that the study area is made up of both indigenes of the community and non-indigenes of Rumuolumeni community.

It was observed that unemployment is the major cause of the increase in crime rate in Rumuolumeni community which implies that there is the dire need for employment opportunities for individuals to prevent them from getting involved in criminal activities. Also, it was observed that most neighbourhoods are not properly planned and the absence of functional street lights at night can also be contributing factors to certain crimes which takes place at night and therefore should also be taken into consideration when carrying out crime prevention in Rumuolumeni community. Findings have indicated that the individuals most involved in criminal activities were within the age group of 21-26 years which involved themselves in petty crimes such as shoplifting, phone theft, gang affiliations and others which happen at peak periods in the community of which 33% of the sample population had been victims of such crimes in the study area. Police patrol should be improved on and carried out more frequently to reduce the continuous occurrence of crime in Rumuolumeni community. Findings show that due to the continuous increase in crime rate the initiation of gated neighbourhoods by residents as a measure to relief the feeling of insecurity by ensuring the control of access within their neighbourhoods and regulate security. Residents have also taken proactive measures such as by the use of electric fence, metal restrictive bar, burglary proof, installing vehicular alarm/ tracker among others in a bid to secure their properties. Irrespective of government efforts in securing life and property, local

residents are involved in ensuring their own security consciousness by engaging in local vigilante groups and private security agencies by the high income earners. The physical environment of the study area reveals that the neighbourhoods is unplanned, characterised by darkness at night owing to the fact that they are few street lights in the area provided by the Government, the community and private individuals contributions in their various streets and most are not functional and the areas without street lights tend to aid the occurrence of crime in the study area. Majority of the sample population agreed that their neighbourhood was safe despite the increase in crime rate in the area. In creating a functional, safe and workable urban environment in Rumuolumeni community capable of preserving lives and properties, the various problems noted during the research such as insecure neighbourhoods should be taken into consideration and addressed through planning and designs capable of dealing with safety issues.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

It can be concluded that the level of crime occurrence in Rumuolumeni Community is frequent and mostly committed by young unemployed people. Moreso, the crime was higher between 2015 and 2017; and it was predominated by robbery, stealing, armed robbery and assault. The study recommended that:

- community policing should be taken strictly as a very effective way to regulate the urban environment and to prevent crime as well as to develop a positive interaction with the population and alternative community service can be implemented.
- government should improve on the quality of life of its citizens by creating employment for the youths and unemployed
- the police should take it as a point of duty to prosecute offenders accordingly in line with the law and on time.
- government should equip the police and other security agencies so they can effectively combat crime.
- the issue of crime and crime prevention strategies should be considered in the long term vision and in the integrated development plan of the area
- support should be carried for children, women, youth, the elderly and victims of crime and various initiatives should be set up in this regard which should entail mentoring, training, recreational, cultural and sports activities.
- sustainable community safety and crime prevention should be encouraged in providing a safe and peaceful environment for city dwellers by calling for all stakeholders to contribute to the successful implementation of these crime prevention initiatives.
- small groups constituting of adults and youths, often unemployed usually between 19 and 30 in numbers should undergo training on crime prevention and often given allowance taken from the contributions collected on a monthly basis from the households in the community.
- Gated neighbourhoods should be encouraged as it creates a sense of territory on the parts of the residents
- re-integration programmes should be introduced as it is not functional in this part of the world, re-integration has to do with all programmes that relating with individuals already involved in the criminal justice system, it is concerned with equipping them with various conflict resolution skills, life-skills training, education, apprenticeship programmes, job-creation schemes, good support and housing in the community all in a bid to assist with their recovery and prevent them from involving themselves in crime again.
- the government and planning agencies should work with the community in providing layout plans, this will improve the quality of life of citizens by providing adequate housing, functional street lights in a bid to reduce the opportunities available for individuals to commit crime.

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