

Crime Victimization In The Province Of Ilocos Norte

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Abstract

This research was undertaken to determine crime victimization before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the province of Ilocos Norte. Specifically, the researcher sought to find out the crime profile in the province of Ilocos Norte in the year 2018, 2019, and 2020, 2021 in terms of the general nature of the offense, month, municipality, and status of the crime, the crime solution efficiency of Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office (INPPO) and the challenges encountered by the Philippine National Police (PNP) before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The descriptive survey method was used in this study. The data was extracted from the Crime Information Reporting and Analysis System (CIRAS) or the Enhanced e-Blotter System of the Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office for the year 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 and an informal interview with a few police officers was conducted. This study is delimited only to present, analyze, interpret, and recommend factors affecting victimization and crime prevention measures accounting similarities and differences before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Frequency count and rank were used to treat the gathered data statistically.

Findings of the study revealed that: (1) As to the crime profile in the province of Ilocos Norte, there are more crimes committed Before than During COVID-19, particularly traffic incidents, Frustrated/Attempted Homicide, Theft, Reckless Imprudence Resulting to damage to property and Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act 2002. In comparison During COVID-19, these are the crimes committed Special Laws, Resisting Authorities, Physical Injury, and Reckless Imprudence Resulting to Physical Injury, particularly in Ilocos Norte. As to month, Before March and May had the highest crime committed while During COVID-19, May had the highest crime committed. Moreover, Laoag City has the highest crime committed Before and During COVID-19 and there are more solved cases Before than During COVID-19; (2) The COVID-19 epidemic has reduced the Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office's (INPPO) ability to solve crimes as compared to before the pandemic and (3) There are several challenges encountered by PNP even before and during the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, the researcher hereby recommends the following: (1) The Ilocos Norte Provincial Office (INPPO) may regularly carry out patrol operations in Ilocos Norte's urban areas; (2) In select accident-prone areas of Ilocos Norte, the Ilocos Norte Provincial Office (INPPO) may install additional traffic signals, road signs, and multiple lights; (3) The Ilocos Norte Provincial Office (INPPO) may severely enforce the curfew, reducing the hour from 10 to 9 pm as was done during the pandemic, as well as checkpoints at certain times, as was performed during that time; (4) As part of Police Community Relations, the INPPO may continue to have cordial ties with the general population, which will significantly aid in crime prevention; (5) To resolve the concerns mentioned, the community, PNP, DPWH, barangay, and city engineer may adopt the proposed Action Plan.

Keywords: Crime, Crime Rate, Crime Efficiency

1. Introduction

Crime is widespread and occurs everywhere; it can be significant or not; it can be rampant or not; it can be perpetrated against people, against things, or against other people.

Crime is an act committed in violation of law for which punishment is imposed upon conviction. It also can be unlawful activity, a serious offense, especially in violation of morality. Crime affects all towns, cities, states, and countries; even though many places are significantly different in matters of crime that take place there (Bartleby, n.d). One characteristic of crime is, crime is pervasive as it affects people regardless of age, sex, race, education, financial, and other personal circumstances.

Social disorganization theory explains the ecological difference in levels of crime, simply based on cultural and structural factors that influence the social order in a given community. Social disorganization is triggered by poverty, social stability, ethnic heterogeneity, and a few key elements. Although Clifford Shaw and Henry D. McKay (1942), were known for social disorganization theory, in 1947 Edwin Sutherland introduced the notion of a ecological differences in crime that is the result of differential social organization. Despite similar arguments on social organization, Shaw and McKay argued that the cultural integration explained the ecological variation in crime rates as a result of the negative impact on the community. Also elaborating on structural socioeconomic factors shaping informal control like poverty, heterogeneity, and residential mobility. Later Robert Sampson and Byron Groves, refined the work of Shaw and McKay by highlighting on the importance of social ties and new measures of social disorganization (Social Disorganization Theory by Clifford Shaw and Henry. . . | Bartleby, n.d.)

Additionally, according to the social disorganization theory, the weakening of the social bonds leads to 'social disorganization,' and social disorganization is the main cause of the crimes in society. The social bonds could be connections with the family, community, or religious connections. This theory associates the involvement in the criminal activities with the locality of the person, i.e., the location where the person lives influences the behaviour of the person, whether he/she will indulge in the criminal activities or not. This theory emphasises the significance of the residential address of the person even more than the characteristics of the person, i.e., age, race, and gender in determining the decisions to involve in the delinquency (Kaur, 2022).

As cited from the study of Formosa (2013), Spatial research in crime has a long history where the earliest attempts at analysing crime through spatial patterning can be traced back to several nineteenth century innovations. In Belgium, Adolphe Quetelet in 1835 and in France, Andre Michel Guerry in 1833 made use of maps together with studies of urban-rural and crime/ socio-economic conditions relationships (McLaughlin et al, 2001, p. 133; McLaughlin and Chapter 8: Even before Spatialising the hotspot 185 Muncie, 2005).

Further, we cannot eradicate crime but we can control, prevent and reduce it, most typically by eliminating the one anatomy of crime, the opportunity which means open windows or a chance given to the person for the successful commission of the crime. Preventive measures are done by the Police like patrolling, high visibility of police, conducting checkpoints, in addition, implementing curfews and laws, installing CCTV (closed-circuit television), educating everyone about crime, and so forth.

Crime victimization is defined as involuntary, personal exposure to criminal acts. Victimization can be economic it includes loss of property, the crime of robbery, arson theft, and other crimes, for example, a person who shoves a college student walking home from a bar and grabs the student's cell phone has committed robbery, while physical, generally involves physical pain like the crime of rape, homicide, physical assault, physical injury, murder and etc., and last psychological, and/or emotional, example crime can be domestic violence, bullying, and other crimes can affect psychologically, for example, An elderly woman is threatened verbally by her son, with whom she lives. In addition, Victimization (or victimization) is the process of being victimised or becoming a victim. The field that studies the process, rates, incidence, effects, and prevalence of victimization is called victimology. This research will focus on the in-depth study of crime profiles before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the result of NCBI study it is indicated that in contrast to numerous violent crime categories such as domestic violence where findings have repeatedly

found increases during the COVID-19 pandemic, acquisitive crimes in this city were reduced during the lockdown period for all categories, while “cyber-fraud” was found more resilient in the sense that its decrease was not as salient as for most other crime types, possibly due to people’s use of the internet during the lockdown period. Since the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic started, the required precautions to stop the spread of the virus have been taken, including social withdrawal, crowd avoidance, remote work, and the cancellation of public activities.

Moreover, crime victimization is very known and is spreading throughout the entire world. Anyone can become a victim of a crime and gives a big impact on impaired occupational functioning, higher rates of unemployment, and problematic intimate relationships. The COVID-19 pandemic huge impact on people’s daily activities and the number of crimes decreased and there is a new trend of crime. Within just a few short weeks during the first few months of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic fundamentally altered how people interacted with one another and conducted business around the world. And All facets of life are affected by these continuing developments, and crime is no exception. During COVID-19, the government in the Philippines has implemented some measures or protocols to lessen the spread of the so-called COVID-19. These measures are lockdowns, curfew hours, movement restrictions, social distancing, and even checkpoints this measure was implemented at different moments in time. But this implemented measure can give pros and cons in some places or different levels of society. For instance, the number of unemployed increased because businesses have permanently shut down lost business due to the coronavirus pandemic. But for some instances, the lockdown policies or some measures implemented during COVID-19 may lead to a significant reduction in crime victimization and extensive impacts on people’s daily activities.

To conclude, for a society to be a safe place to live in, all society members including the governments and people must take necessary measures to keep it a crime-free place, and not a victim of crime. In developing this study, the researcher believes that the result of this study is very important and will be a great contribution not only to the researcher but also to the PNP for implementing programs, preventive measures, and policies in preventing crime that will lead to lessening crime victimization. The study will be useful to the government, which will also be able to use it to promote seminars on crime prevention.

Also, the community will surely be safe, aware of trending crimes in their places, and know how to play their important role in their society. Finally, the future researchers would also benefit from the findings and recommendations of this study and would be a good reference material on similar research topics of crime rates, crime profiles, trending crimes can also be used to improve or develop future studies regarding crime profiling.

Statement of the Problem

The study’s main objective is to determine crime victimization before and during COVID-19 pandemic in the province of Ilocos Norte. Specifically, the researcher sought to find out the answers to the following questions:

1. What is the crime profile in the province of Ilocos Norte in the year 2018, 2019 and 2020,2021 in terms of:
 - a. general nature of offense
 - b. month
 - c. municipality and
 - d. status of the crime?
2. What is the crime solution efficiency of Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office (INPPO)?
3. What are the challenges encountered by the Philippine National Police (PNP) before and during the COVID-19 pandemic?
4. What measures may be proposed to help lessen crime victimization?

Scope and Delimitation

This study focused on the crime victimization in the province of Ilocos Norte where, and when crime victimization has been recorded in the Philippine National Police National Crime Reporting System (PNP-

NCRS). Specifically, the crime profile in the province of Ilocos Norte in the year 2018, 2019, and 2020, 2021 in terms of the general nature of the offense, month, municipality, and status of the crime. It also analyzed Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office INPPO's effectiveness at solving crimes and assessed the challenges that Philippine National Police (PNP) has experienced before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study is delimited only to present, analyze, interpret, and recommend factors affecting victimization and crime prevention measures accounting for similarities and differences before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The inputs of the study included the crime profile of the Ilocos Norte and the crime solution efficiency of the Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office (IINPO). The process utilized in the study is the analysis on the data gathered from the PNP's NCRS File and the problems encountered by the INPPO before and during the COVID19 Pandemic while the output is an action plan.

The data gathered from 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 of the Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office (INPPO) as the primarily main source of information and an informal interview with a few police officers was conducted.

The descriptive survey method was used in this study. The data was extracted from the Crime Information Reporting and Analysis System (CIRAS) or the Enhanced e-Blotter System of the Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office for the year 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 and supplemented by informal interviews.

The data gathered, collected, and tabulated were subjected to analysis and interpretation through the use of appropriate tools. The statistical treatment used in the study in interpreting the data was frequency count and rank. Thematic Analysis was used in presenting the verbatim responses of the participants regarding the challenges encountered by the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Theoretical framework

This section provides the theory that explained or supported the study.

Victim Precipitation Theory

People becomes a victim and crime occurs because they precipitate the offender, according to victim precipitation theory, some people may actually initiate the confrontation that eventually leads to their injury or death. For example, in 1971, Menachem Amir suggested female rape victims often contribute to their attacks by... pursuing a relationship with the rapist. A woman may become the target of domestic violence when she increases her job status and her success results in a backlash from a jealous spouse or partner.

Lifestyle Theory

This theory can help to explain why some crimes occur and reasons that certain people may become victims of crimes because of their lifestyles and choices. For example, someone with a gambling or substance addiction could be as an "easy victim" by a con artist. In addition, walking alone at night in a dangerous area, conspicuously wearing expensive jewellery, leaving doors unlocked, and associating with known criminals are other lifestyle characteristics that may lead to victimization. Like example Single women who drink frequently and have a prior history of being sexually assaulted are most likely to be assaulted on [college] campus. Additionally, People who belong to groups that have an extremely risky life—homeless, runaways, drug users—are at high risk for victimization; the more time they are exposed to street life, the greater their risk of becoming crime victims (Gcu, 2019).

Deviant Place Theory

This theory helps to explain that greater exposure to dangerous places makes an individual more likely to become the victim of a crime (Seigel, 2006). Unlike the victim precipitation theory, the victims do not influence the crime by actively or passively encouraging it, but rather are victimized as a result of being in "bad" areas. In order to lower the chance that one will become the victim of a crime, the individual should avoid the "bad" areas of town where crime rates are high (LaineHarper, 2022).

Routine Activity Theory

This theory explains that crime is committed and people become a victim because of these three elements 1) the presence of a motivated offender, 2) an availability of suitable targets, and 3) the lack of capable guardianship. Routine activity theory was first proposed by Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson in

1979. Cohen and Felson (1979) posited that the risk of criminal victimization increases. Without any one of these three elements, the likelihood of a crime occurring decreases. This theory has met some criticism in the context of victimology as it assumes that a victim can lessen the offender's motivation by being less of a suitable target (Scott, 2016). Furthermore, it assumes equality exists between all three parties: the victim, the offender, and the guardian, ignoring the different power imbalances at play (Scott, 2016).

Strain theory

This proposes that pressure derived from social factors, such as lack of income or lack of quality education, drives individuals to commit a crime. The ideas underlying strain theory were first advanced in the 1930s by American sociologist Robert K. Merton, whose work on the subject became especially influential in the 1950s. People commit crimes as a result being of deprived of achieving their goals in life (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2023).

Social disorganization theory

This theory explains ecological differences in levels of crime based on structural and cultural factors shaping the nature of the social order across communities (Social Disorganization, n.d.).

Conceptual Framework

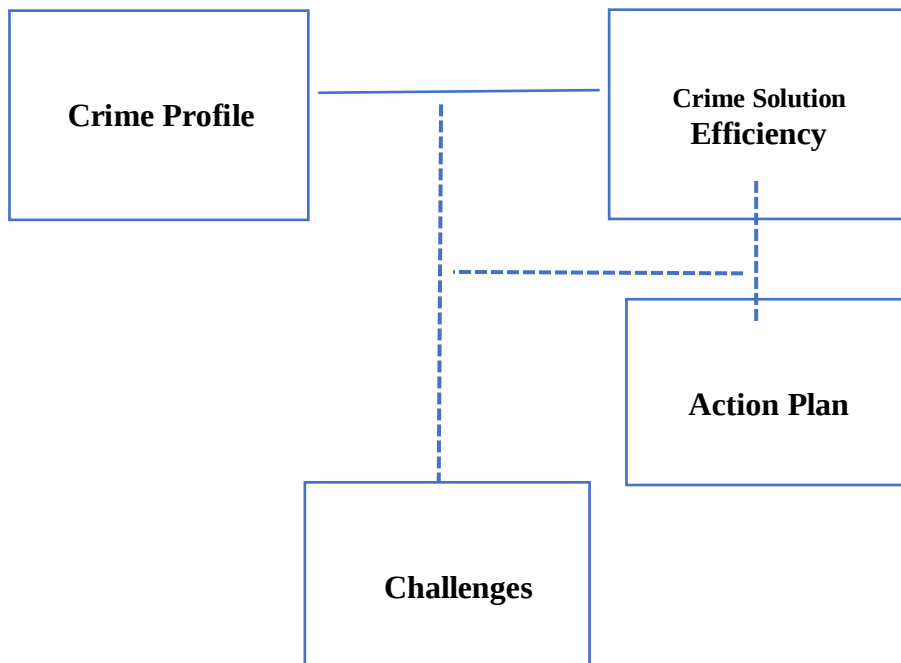


Figure 1. Paradigm of the Study

The research was guided on the premise that all data was analyzed thoroughly. Since the study is crime profiling in Ilocos Norte the research paradigm is consist of Crime Profile and Crime Solution Efficiency. The Action Plan was formulated to address identified problems in the study. Further the challenges encountered by the Officers before and during COVID-19 was determined.

A conceptual framework is an analytical tool with several variations and contexts. It is used to make

conceptual distinctions and organize ideas. Conceptual frameworks, according to educational researcher Smyth (2004), are structured from a set of broad ideas and theories that help a researcher to properly identify the problem they are looking at, frame their questions, and find suitable literature.

Operational Definition of Terms

Specific terms were used in this study were operationally explained and defined to give the reader a better understanding of the whole study.

Crime Victimization- it refers to the field of the study victimization in a particular place and time, including the process, crime rate, incidence, impacts, and prevalence.

Crime - it refers to the act committed or omitted in violation of public law, it is the intentional commission of an act usually deemed socially harmful or dangerous and specifically defined, prohibited, and punishable under criminal law.

Victimization- as used in this study, it refers to is the development of being victimised or becoming a victim in a crime against person, property or other specific type as classified by the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic – It refers to the pandemic caused by the infectious disease (AKA SARS-CoV-2). It's started on early December 2019 in the Philippines, and the lockdown started on March 19, 2020.

Before- used in this study as the year of 2018–2019, were COVID-19 pandemic has not yet occurred in the Philippines.

During- used in this study as year of 2020-2021, in the time of COVID-19 in the Philippines.

Peace and Order Index Crimes- this categorizes crime incidents that reflect the true picture of crime, and peace and order situation of a particular community. This comprises the totality of Index and Non-Index Crimes.

Index Crimes (Focus Crimes) – It refers to a crime which are serious in nature and which occur with sufficient frequency and regularity such that they can serve index to the crime situation, the policy considers only the crimes of murder, homicide, physical injuries (including frustrated murder and homicide), carnapping, cattle rustling, robbery, theft and rape as index crimes.

Special Laws –It refers to the laws that define and penalize crime not included in the RPC or Revised Penal Code

Other Non-Index – It refers to the violation of Special Laws and RPC that are NOT categorized as index crimes. EXCLUDED herein are Reckless Imprudence, Vehicular Incidents, and Other Quasi-Offenses under the provision of RPC. Further, Frustrated and Attempted Stages of Focus Crimes are included under this category omitted from the Index Crime Category of the LOI UCPEP.

Public Safety Index Crimes- This refers to a classification created under the new policy, to provide a separate and distinct accounting of Vehicular Incident cases such as, RIR in Homicide, Physical Injury and Damage to Property.

Traffic Incidents - It refers to law enforcement action, a motor vehicle crash, a fire, an emergency or any unplanned event causing a disruption of or substantial reduction in traffic flow and movement unrelated to traffic volume.

Crime Cleared Cases - It refers to a case is considered cleared if the offender, or if there are several offenders, at least one of the offenders, has been identified; and a criminal complaint has been filed against him/them, regardless of whether he or none of them, was arrested.

Crime Solved Cases - It refers to case is considered solved if the offender has been arrested and a criminal complaint has been filed. In the case of at least two offenders, it is still considered solved if one of them has been arrested and was slapped with appropriate case/s.

Police Community Relation – It refers to the sum total of all dealings of the police with the people it serves and whose goodwill and cooperation it craves for to insure the greatest possible efficiency in

public service.

Preventive Measures- This encompasses the methods being used by the Philippine National Police (PNP) in preventing crimes.

Robbery- This refers to the taking of thing or goods in the possession of another, by force or intimidation.

Theft- This refers to a criminal act in which property belonging to another is taken without that person's consent.

Arson- This refers to the crime of deliberately setting fire to or charring property.

Homicide- This refers to unlawful killing of one person by another; murder

Rape- it refers to an unlawful sexual activity, involving sexual intercourse, against the will of the victim through force.

Domestic Violence- This occurs when an intimate relationship, a partner aims to control their partner through physical, sexual, or emotional abuse.

Bullying- This refers to a repeated use by one or more persons of written, verbal or physical act or any combination thereof.

2. Research Methodology

In this study, the researcher used the descriptive survey method of research. The researcher used this method to determine how crime exists every year and the challenges encountered by the Ilocos Norte PPO before and during the pandemic.

The researcher utilized the data record for the year 2018 -2019 and 2020-2021 of Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office. Furthermore, an interview guide was utilized to answer the challenges encountered by the PNP.

After the approval of the letter given to the Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office that addressed to PCOL Julius C. Suriben the Provincial Director, the researcher coordinated with the administration of the Philippine National Police National Crime Reporting System (PNP-NCRS) to conduct the study, the researcher personally extracted the Crime Information Reporting and Analysis System (CIRAS) or the Enhanced e-Blotter System of the Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office for the year 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 with the help of Non-Uniformed Personnel. The researcher also did an informal interview with a few police officers to learn more about the difficulties they faced both before and after the pandemic.

Statistical Treatment Data.

The data gathered, collected, and tabulated were subjected to analysis and interpretation through the use of appropriate tools. The statistical treatment used in the study in interpreting the data was frequency count and rank.

- Frequency count- was utilized to determine crime incidents, general nature of offenses, Non-Index, Index Crime, Traffic Incidents, Special Laws, month, and municipality of the Province of Ilocos Norte.
- Rank- was used to arrange crime incidents, general nature of offenses, Non-Index, Index Crime, Traffic Incidents, Special Laws, month, and municipality of the Province of Ilocos Norte.

Thematic Analysis

The researcher used thematic analysis. Researcher used said type of analysis as a means to gain insights and knowledge from data gathered.

It can be used to analyze qualitative information and to systematically gain knowledge; thus; the following scheme was used:

1. Transcript of the Data

-The data gathered from the answers of the participants. Data from written record was transcribe.

2. Coding of Data

-The researcher encodes the data through electronic device. The researcher compares and find the similarities in the answers of the respondents.

3. Code Validation

-To ensure the integrity of the codes, that they have not been misinterpreted and are free of bias. The researcher read and re-read the data, double-checking the codes for consistency and validation.

4. Themes from the codebook

-The researcher was able to identify the themes patterns that emerged from the code data.

5. Finalize theme name

-The researcher finalizes the name of each theme, wrote its description and illustrated it with a few quotations from the original text to help communicate its meaning to the reader.

3. DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Problem 1. What is the crime profile in the province of Ilocos Norte in the year 2018, 2019 and 2020,2021 in terms of:

- a. general nature of offense,
- b. month,
- c. municipality, and
- d. status of the crime?

Table 1 presents the highest total number of crime incidents in the year 2018- 2019 and 2020-2021.

Table 1
Total Crime incidents before and during the pandemic

CRIME INCIDENTS	BEFORE (2018-2019)	DURING (2020-2021)
Peace and Order Index Crimes	1,913	1,544
Index Crimes (Focus Crimes)	474	317
Special Laws	880	681
Other Non-Index	559	546
Public Safety Index Crimes	2,146	534
Total	4,059	2,078

Table 1 presents the total number of crime incidents. Before it is revealed that Public Safety Index Crimes has the highest with a total of 2,146 followed by Peace and Order Index Crimes with a total of 1,913, categorized as Index Crime (Focus Crimes) with a total of 474, Special Laws with a total of 880 and Other Non-Index with a total of 559. Over all the total number of crime incidents before had 4,059.

Furthermore, During the highest number of crime incidents is Peace and Order Index Crimes with a total of 1544, categorized as Index Crimes with a total of 217, Special Laws with a total of 681, and Other Non-Index with a total of 546 followed by the Public Safety Index Crimes with a total of 534. Overall the total number of crime incident during had 2,078.

This implies that, before the highest number of crime incidents is Public Safety Index Crimes with a total of 2,146 while during it was Peace and Order Index Crimes with a total of 1544. And overall the highest number of crime incidents was before with a total of 4,059.

According to Lifestyle, this theory can help explain why some crimes occur and why certain people may become victims of crimes because of their lifestyles and choices. Life before which is 2018-2019 is different from during which 2020-2021, before people can do anything; they attend services, classes, and jobs, going home late. But during people are held, according to the novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19 has significantly altered people's lives and business activities at the national, regional, and global levels. The Philippine government responded promptly, imposing enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) to contain the

spread of COVID-19 and implementing an emergency subsidy program of massive public spending to support badly affected households and businesses. The lockdown— or strict stay-at-home order—started on 16 March 2020 (ADB 2020c, 2020d).

Furthermore, during the pandemic, there is a reduction in crime committed as a result of some laws implemented. As Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, deputy chief for administration of PNP said in a phone interview “Crime volume during the pandemic was “lowest” because there were fewer people in the streets as the public was required to stay home to reduce, if not stop, the transmission of SARS Cov2, the virus that causes COVID-19 and which is spread mainly by humans (Marquez, 2020).

Table presents the highest committed General Nature of Offense Before and During.

Table 2
General Nature of Offense

GENERAL NATURE OF OFFENSE	BEFORE (2018-2019)	DURING (2020-2021)
Index Crimes (Focus Crimes)	474	317
Non-Index Crimes	559	546
Traffic Incidents	2,146	534
Special Laws	880	681

Table 2 presents the highest total number of General Nature Offenses Before Traffic Incidents had the highest total number with a total of 2146 followed by Special Laws with a total of 880, Non- index crimes with a total of 559, and lowest Index crimes with a total of 474.

Moreover, During the highest total number of General Nature Offenses is Special Laws with a total of 681 followed by Non- Index Crimes with a total of 546, Traffic Incidents with a total of 534, and lowest Index Crimes with a total of 317.

This implies that Before the highest total number of General Nature Offenses was Traffic Incidents with a total of 2,146 compared with During it was Special Laws with a total of 681. Overall, the General Nature of Offense was decreased During the pandemic.

In the year 2018-2019 have the freedom to move, and travel anywhere, and one of the negative consequences of mobility is traffic accidents, with the resulting material damage and economic (Saladié et al., 2020b). Where during in response to the early phase of the pandemic, the Government of the Philippines implemented travel restrictions, community quarantine, risk communication, and testing; however, the slow ramping up of capacities, particularly on testing contributed to unbridled disease transmission (Amit et al., 2021).

In addition, greater time spent at home should be predicted to enhance possibilities for domestic violence and child abuse. This is because they are generally perpetrated by parents or guardians, which increases the amount of time prospective victims and offenders spend together. But at the same time, spending more time at home might lead to heightened scrutiny by guardians.

Table 3 presents the committed Non-Index crimes Before and During COVID-19.

Table 3
Non-Index Crimes

NON-INDEX CRIMES	BEFORE (2018-2019)		DURING (2020-2021)	
	f	Rank	f	Rank
Abandoning Minor	1	18		
Abandoning A Person In Danger	1	18		
Abandoning A Minor Under Custody	1	18		
Acts Of Lasciviousness	50	4	45	3
Adultery	2	17	4	14
Frustrated /Attempted Robbery W/ Homicide	1	18		
Alarms And Scandals	28	8	21	9
Burning Of Own Property For Arson	1	18	2	16
Frustrated/ Attempted Corruption Of Public Officials	1	18		
Consented Abduction	4	15		
Destructive Arson	3	16	1	17
Concubinage	5	14	2	6
Direct Assaults	29	7	30	7
Falsification By Private Individual	6	13	18	11
Failure To Render Accnts	1	18		
Frustrated /Attempted Discharge Of Firearms	1	18		
Discharge Of Firearms	1	18	2	16
Evasion Through Negligence			1	17
False Certificates			19	10
Frustrated /Attempted Grave Scandal			1	17
Forcible Abduction	1	18	1	17
Grave Scandal	1	18		
Grave Coercions	3	16	3	15
Illegal use of Uniform/Insignia	1	18	1	17
Grave Threats	27	9	38	4
Frustrated Attempted Infanticide	1	18		
Libel	3	16	1	17
Frustrated /Attempted Murder	68	2	38	4
Malicious Mischief	45	5	23	8
Light Coercions	1	18	1	17
Frustrated /Attempted Homicide	75	1	60	2

Continuation of table number 3

NON-INDEX CRIMES	BEFORE (2018-2019)		DURING (2020-2021)	
	f	Rank	f	Rank
Frustrated / Attempted Intentional Abortion			1	17
Kidnapping/ Serious Illegal Detention			1	17
Light Threats	24	11	18	11
Other Forms Of Trespass	2	17	2	16
Other Forms Of Swindling	3	16	1	17
Other Light Threats	1	18	1	17
Frustrated /Attempted Robbery	1	18		
Frustrated /Attempted Rape	4	15	1	17
Possession/ Use False Treasury/ Bank Notes	1	18		
Slander By Deed	3	16	1	17
Frustrated /Attempted Parricide	6	13	3	13
Qualified Trespass To Dwelling			4	14
Resisting Authorities	26	10	115	1
Slander (Oral Defamation)	16	12	12	13
Swindling (Estafa)	66	3	31	6
Unjust Vexations	38	6	35	5
Using Fictitious Name	1	18	2	16
Usurpation Of Authority/Functions	1	18		
Bigamy	1	18		
Slight Illegal Detention	2	17		
Possession Of Picklocks	1	18		
Acts Of Lasciviousness W/ Consent			1	17
Libel By Writing/ Similar Means			1	17
Frustrated / Attempted Anti-Rape Law Of 1997			3	15
Intentional Abortion			1	17
Total	559		546	

Table 3 shows the most committed Non-Index Crimes. Based on the table, Before, Frustrated/Attempted Homicide is the most committed Non-Index Crime with a total of 75 followed by Frustrated/Attempted Murder with a total of 68 and Swindling (Estafa) with a total of 66.

In addition, During, resisting authorities is the most committed crime with a total of 115 followed by Frustrated/Attempted Homicide with a total of 60 and Acts Of Lasciviousness with a total of 45.

This signifies that Frustrated/Attempted Murder is the most prevalent crime committed before with a total of 66, compared with During, Resisting Authorities is the most committed with a total of 115. Further, there are a few non-index crimes that occurred during but were not committed before or otherwise. And non-index crimes were decreased During. As a result of laws implemented during the pandemic people are “pasaway” and resist some authorities or the implementors of law. During the pandemic “To control the virus, different government units and policy-recommending bodies impose prevention and control strategies, such as observing social distancing, practicing frequent hand washing, undergoing mandatory quarantine and participating in voluntary self-quarantine, wearing of face masks, and implementing community lockdown/containment, to reduce and manage the risks of spreading the disease (Logrosa et al. 2021).

Table 4 presents the committed Index Crimes (Focus Crimes) Before and During COVID-19.

Table 4
Index Crimes (Focus Crimes)

INDEX CRIMES (FOCUS CRIMES)	BEFORE (2018-2019)		DURING (2020-2021)	
	f	Rank	f	Rank
Murder	44	5	38	5
Parricide			3	11
Infanticide	1	10		
Murder (Plain)	43	6	35	6
Homicide	18	7	12	10
Physical Injury	130	2	85	1
Rape	89	4	79	2
Robbery	43	6	29	7
Theft	134	1	59	3
Qualified Theft	17	8	15	8
Theft (Plain)	117	3	44	4
Carnapping Mv	3	9	2	12
Carnapping Mc	13	8	13	9
Total	474		317	

Table 4, presents the most committed Index Crime. It is shown that theft is the most committed Index Crime before with a total of 134 followed by Physical Injury with a total of 130 and Theft (plain) with a total of 117, Rape with a total of 89, Murder with a total of 44, Murder (Plain) and Robbery with a total of 43, Homicide with a total of 18, Carnapping Mc with a total of 13, Carnapping Mv with a total of 3 and the lowest crime committed was Infanticide with a total of 1.

Furthermore, During Physical Injury is the most committed index crime with a total of 85, followed by Rape with a total of 79 and Theft total of 59, Theft (Plain) with a total of 44, Murder with a total of 38, Murder (Plain) with a total of 35, Robbery with a total of 29, Qualified Theft with a total of 15, Carnapping Mc with a total of 13, Homicide with a total of 12, Parricide with a total of 3 and the lowest crime committed was Carnapping Mv with a total 2.

This implies Before, the most committed Index Crime was theft with a total of 134 whereas During it is Physical Injury with a total of 85. In addition, there are a few index crimes that occurred during but were not committed before or otherwise. And non-index crimes were decreased During. That Before we have called liberty this study supported the Routine Activity Theory this theory explains that crime is committed and people become a victim because of these three elements 1) the presence of a motivated offender, 2) an availability of suitable targets, and 3) lack of capable guardianship. And during people are held by reason of

some measures or policies implemented. According to new research, on 7 March 2020, the country's COVID-19 alert level system was raised to Code Red Sub-level 1 following the first reported localized transmission. A State of Public Health Emergency was declared throughout the Philippines on 8 March 2020 through Proclamation no. 922. On 12 March 2020, the COVID-19 alert level was raised to Code Red Sub-level 2 following the increase in the number of confirmed cases and evidence of sustained community transmission. Following discussions with the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), Philippine President Rodrigo Roa Duterte approved the imposition of Stringent Social Distancing Measures in the National Capital Region for 30 days (Ochr.org, 2022).

Table 5 presents committed Traffic Incidents Before and During COVID-19

Table 5
Traffic Incidents

TRAFFIC INCIDENTS	BEFORE (2018-2019)		DURING (2020-2021)	
	F	Rank	f	Rank
Reckless Imprudence resulting to Homicide	107	3	61	3
Reckless Imprudence resulting to Physical Injury	908	2	272	1
Reckless Imprudence Resulting Damage to Property	1,131	1	201	2
Total	2,146		534	

In the given table 5, presents the most committed Traffic Incidents Before and During. It is shown Before the most committed Traffic Incident is Reckless Imprudence Resulting to Damage to Property with a total of 1,131 followed by Reckless Imprudence Resulting to Physical Injury with a total of 908, and lastly Reckless Imprudence Resulting to Homicide with a total of 107.

In addition, During the most committed Traffic Incident is Reckless Imprudence Resulting to Physical Injury with a total of 272, followed by Reckless Imprudence Resulting to Damage to Property with a total of 201, and lastly Reckless Imprudence Resulting Homicide with a total of 61.

As per the given table, this implies that, Before the most committed Traffic Incidents is Reckless Imprudence Resulting to Damage to Property while during Reckless Imprudence Resulting Physical Injury. We view mobility as a core determinant of the level of crime opportunities. Changes to mobility affect lifestyles and the likelihood of interaction between potential targets (including victims) and potential offenders, and the likelihood of surveillance and potential guardianship by others. In theory, covid-19 policies to restrict movement will affect different crime types in different ways (Farrell & Tilley 2020).

Table 6 presents committed Special Laws Before and During the COVID-19.

Table 6
Special Laws

SPECIAL LAWS	BEFORE (2018-2019)		DURING (2020-2021)	
	f	Rank	f	Rank
Act Regulating Firecrackers	4	15		
Animal Welfare Act 1998	3	16		
Anti-Cattle Rustling Law 1974	6	13	6	13
Anti-Child Abuse Law	50	5	37	6
Anti-Drunk And Drugged Driving Act Of 2013			2	17
Anti-Fencing Law Of 1979	3	16		
Anti-Gambling Law	102	3	132	2
Anti-Graft And Corrupt Practices			1	18
Anti-Photo & Video Voyeurism Act 2009	5	14	7	12
Anti-Rabies Act 2007			1	18
Anti-Red Tape Act 2007			1	18
Anti-Trafficking In Persons Act 2003	3	16	4	15
Anti-Vawc Act 2004	63	4	59	4
Bayanihan Heal As On Act Ra 11469			4	15
Bouncing Check Law	10	10	5	14
Chain Saw Act 2002	5	14	16	8
Cockfighting Law Of 1974			3	16
Coconut Preservation Act 1995	2	17		
Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act 2002 Possession			1	18
Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act 2002 Sale/Trade/Admin	1	18	1	18
Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act 2002	280	1	136	11
Comprehensive Fa Law	192	2	111	3
Consumer Act Of The Phils			2	17
Credit Card Viol Act	1	18	1	18
Cybercrime	10	10	16	8
Domestic Workers Act			1	18

Continuation of Table 6

SPECIAL LAWS	BEFORE (2018-2019)		DURING (2020-2021)	
	f	Rank	f	Rank
Illegal Fishing	10	10	12	9
Illegal Logging	19	8	23	7
Illegal Numbers Game	2	17	9	11
Illegal Possession Of Ammunitions & Explosives	20	7	11	10
Illegal Possession Of Weapons	10	10	5	14
Law On Reporting Communicable Diseases Ra 11332			56	5
Illegal Practice Of Medicine 1959	1	18		
Malicious Dissemination Of False Information	2	17		
Meat Inspection Code	1	18		
Illegal Recruitment	1	18		
Obstruction Of Prosec. Of Criminals	41	6	1	18
Omnibus election code of the phils	15	9		
Phil mining act of 1995	9	11	4	15
Prohibited acts on petroleum	7	12	9	11
Safe spaces act of 11313	1	18	1	18
Sexual harassment act of 1995	1	18		
Philippine fisheries code			1	18
Price act ra 7581			1	18
Revised forestry code of the phils			4	15
Wildlife protection act			2	17
Total	880		681	

Table 6 presents the most committed Special Laws. Based on the table it shows that before Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act 2002 is the most committed with a total of 280.

Moreover, During, the most committed Special Law was Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act 2002 with a total of 138.

This implies Before and During the Most committed Special Laws was Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act 2002. Further, there are crimes that occurred during but were not committed before or otherwise. And non-index crimes were decreased During. “Drug war” killings in the Philippines in 2020 increased by more than 50 percent during the early months of the pandemic. The police reported in November that since Rodrigo Duterte became president, nearly 8,000 alleged drug suspects had been killed during police operations (“Philippines: ‘Drug War’ Killings Rise During Pandemic,” 2021).

Further, the new report shows that drug markets have swiftly resumed operations after the initial disruption at the onset of the pandemic; a burst that has triggered or accelerated certain pre-existing trafficking dynamics across the global drug market. Among these are: increasingly larger shipments of illicit drugs, a rise in the frequency of overland and water-way routes used for trafficking, greater use of private

planes for the purpose of drug trafficking, and an upsurge in the use of contactless methods to deliver drugs to end-consumers (UNODC World Drug Report 2021: Pandemic Effects Ramp up Drug Risks, as Youth Underestimate Cannabis Dangers, n.d.).

Figure 2 presents the month that has the highest crime committed Before and During COVID-19.

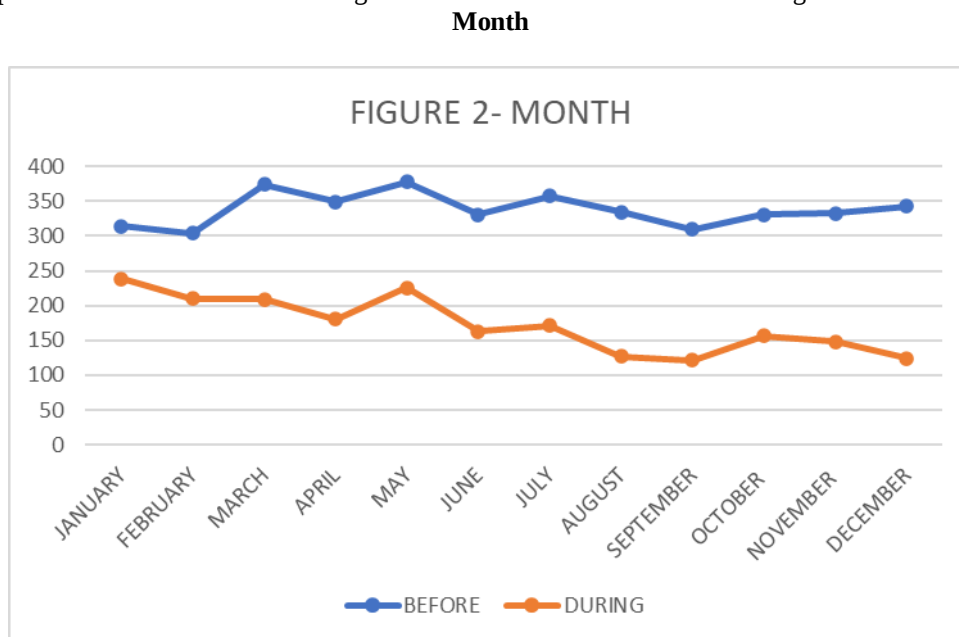


Figure 2, presents the month of Before and During that has the highest number of crimes committed. Based on the line graph, Before March and May has the highest crime committed while During, May has the highest crime committed. Wherein the commencement of the Philippines' shutdown occurs in the middle week of March. According to Aspinwall (2020), Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday ordered a “lockdown” of the entire metro Manila region from March 15 to April 14 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Flanked by army and police officials, the president delivered a meandering, often contradictory address to the nation, leaving residents scrambling to prepare for a month of potential isolation in a region that already struggles to provide access to food, water, and medical care to over 12 million inhabitants.

Table 7 presents Municipalities that has the highest crime committed Before and During.

Table 7
Total number of crimes committed for Municipality

MUNICIPALITY	BEFORE (2018-2019)	DURING (2020-2021)
ADAMS	14	16
BACARRA	334	131
BADOC	86	114
BANGUI	56	49
BANNA	39	48
BATAC CITY	459	191
BURGOS	44	27
CARASI	7	6
CURIMAO	33	32
DINGRAS	188	165
DUMALNEG	7	12
LAOAG CITY	1,498	579
MARCOS	39	29
NUEVA ERA	19	22
PAGUDPUD	72	72
PAOAY	58	40
PASUQUIN	141	76
PIDDIG	111	70
PINILI	39	72
SAN NICOLAS	523	149
SARRAT	112	57
SOLOSONA	76	54
VINTAR	104	67

Table 7 presents the municipality with the highest crime committed. It clearly shows that Before the City of Laoag has the highest crime committed a total of 1498 followed by, San Nicolas with a total of 523, Batac with a total of 459, Bacarra with a total of 334, Dingras with a total of 334 188, Pasuquin 141 with a total of 141, Sarrat with a total of 112, Piddig with a total of 111 Vintar with a total of 104, Badoc with a total of 86, Solsona with a total of 76, Pagudpud with a total of 72, Paoay with a total of 58, Bangui with a total of 56, with a total of 44, Banna and Marcos with a total of 39, Curimao with a total of 33, Nueva Era with a total of 19, Adams with a total of 14, and the lowest crime committed are Carasi and Dumalneg with a total of 7.

Moreover, During the city of Laoag also has the highest crime committed a total of 579 followed by Batac with a total of 191, San Nicolas with a total of 149, Bacarra with a total of 131, Dingras with a total of 165, Badoc with a total of 114, Pasuquin with a total of 76, Pagudpud and Pinili with a total of 72, Piddig with a total of 70, Vintar with a total of 67, Sarrat with a total of 57, Solsona with a total of 54, Bangui with a total of 49, Banna with a total of 48, Paoay with a total of 40, Curimao with a total of 32, Marcos with a total of 29, Burgos with a total of 27, Nueva Era with a total of 22, Adam with a total of 16, Dumalneg with a total of 12 and the lowest crime committed is Carasi.

This implies that Laoag City has the highest crime committed Before and During, wherein cities are more prone to crimes, and shown in the table that crime incidents in some municipality was decreased. However, the number of crimes reported in the towns of Adams, Badoc, Dumalneg, Nueva Era, and Pinili climbed by 100 percent to 200 percent.

Further, the fact that there is more crime in cities than in rural areas is logical from a statistical point of view, since more people live in cities and, therefore, there are more chances of crimes being committed. It is also where there are higher numbers and more obvious cases of social and economic inequalities, aspects which, very often, trigger these criminal acts (Burbano, 2021). Furthermore, Victims do not encourage crime but are victim prone because they reside in socially disorganized high-crime areas where they have the greatest risk of coming into contact with criminal offenders, irrespective of their own behavior or lifestyle (Gcu, 2019).

Table 8 presents the status of the crime committed Before and During COVID-19.

Table 8
Status of the Crime Before and During COVID-19

Status of the Crime	Before (2018-2019)			During (2020-2021)		
	Total crime incidents	Total crime-cleared cases	Total crime-solved cases	Total crime incidents	Total crime-cleared cases	Total crime-solved cases
Index Crimes	474	446	374	317	304	225
Special Laws	880	872	845	681	676	636
Other Non-Index	559	502	452	546	528	417
Traffic Incidents	2,146	2,017	2095	534	531	513

Table 8 presents the status of the crime Before and During. It is clearly shown that Before there are 474 Index Crimes committed, 446 cleared and 374 were solved, second Special Laws, 880 are committed, 872 cleared and 845 were solved, third one there are 559 Other Non-Index committed, 502 cleared and 452 solved and lastly Traffic Incidents there are 2,146, 2,017 are cleared and 2095 solved. Furthermore During, in Index Crimes, there are 317 committed, 304, cleared and 225 are solved, next there are 681 Special Laws committed, 676 are cleared and 636 are solved, while in Other Non-Index 546 are committed, 528 are cleared and 417 are solved and lastly there are 534 Traffic Incidents committed, 531 are cleared and 513 are solved. As a consequence of the various health procedures or laws and regulations imposed in filing cases and carrying out police tasks during the pandemic, it is implied that there are more instances that have been solved cases before than during.

Problem 2. What is the crime solution efficiency of Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office (INPPO)?

Table 10 presents the crime solution efficiency of Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office (INPPO).

Table 9
Crime Solution Efficiency Before and During COVID-19

BEFORE (2018-2019)	DURING (2020-2021)
92%	86%

The table 9 illustrates the crime solution efficiency of Ilocos Norte Police (INPPO), Before and During. It shows that Before, has 92% percent while During has 86% percent.

This implies that, Before crime solution efficiency was dominant or of a higher percentage than During. A decrease in crime is attributed to the epidemic however the efficiency of the PNP was dropped, the table shows the percentage of crime solution efficiency of the INPPO dropped off 6%, that during the pandemic, the efficiency of the PNP drop as a result of the rules and regulations implemented and the numerous challenges and duties of the PNP.

The role of a police officer has shifted since the start of the pandemic, from not only protecting our communities from crime but also playing a pivotal role in controlling the spread of the virus, maintaining public order, and promoting safer communities during the pandemic (Edwards and Kotera, 2021).

Problem 3. What are the challenges encountered by the Philippine National Police (PNP) before and during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A verbatim report of the responses of the participants on the challenges faced by the Philippine National Police (PNP) before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Challenges faced by the Philippine National Police (PNP) before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Theme 1: Late Reporting of the Community

The researcher came up with the theme "Late reporting of the Community" based on the common answer of the participant on the challenges faced by the Philippine National Police (PNP) before the pandemic. Late refers to taking place or doing something after the proper, appropriate, or usual time. The theme denotes the late reporting of crime in the community.

In response to the question of what are the challenges encountered by the Philippine National Police (PNP) before the COVID-19 pandemic provided the following responses:

Participant number 1 stated,

" Before talaqa ado t late reporting, ada daqijay mabuteng gamin pela nga agreport after masapak ta krime ken bassit t cooperation t community" ((Before pandemic, they are a lot of late reported crime, some people are afraid to report after the crime has happened.)

Further Participant number 5 stated,

"Uncooperative da kasi ado metlang t haan nga marepreport ken late reported crime"

(People are uncooperative because they either don't want to report a crime or they report it late.)

Late Reporting of the Community is one challenge encountered by the Philippine National Police before the pandemic as stated by Participant number 1 that before the pandemic there are a lot of late-reported cases due to fear of reporting. On the other hand, Participant number 5 stated there are late reported crimes because of the uncooperative of people.

Theme 2: Uncooperative of the Community

Participant 1 stated,

"Uncooperativeness of people, haan da met gamin agsao, no ana napasamk idjay crime, bassit t cooperation t community bassit t cooperation t community" (Uncooperativeness of people is the problem, No one wants to say something or witness the crime that happened)

Cooperation is the most important role of the community in Law Enforcement to prevail justice.

Uncooperative of the Community is one challenge encountered by the Philippine National Police stated by Participant number 1 Uncooperativeness of the community is the result of not saying or witnessing the crime happened.

According to the study conducted by Mabasa and Obioha (2020), their study indicates the implementation of community policing has produced the required results in terms of crime prevention, there are some challenges such as the uncooperative attitude of some community members towards policing, their unwillingness to assist the police during investigations and most absurdly, protection or hiding criminals in the neighbourhood were found to be unabated.

Theme 3: Limited resources of the PNP

Participant: 2 stated,

"Kurang t lugan nga pagrespondi, no agsasabay nga ada agtawag nga marespondian, awan mausar" (Patrol vehicles were lacking, and in some instances during multiple reports no vehicles will be available to utilize.)

Limited resources one challenge encountered by the PNP is limited resources, Participant number 2 stated, that during many complaints or calls from the community that needed to be responded to, patrol vehicles were lacking.

Theme 4: Shortages of PNP Personnel

Participant number 3 stated;

"Kurang t PNP personnel kasi d tay pai na achieve tay police to population nga 1:500 kuma." (PNP Personnel is inadequate because the required number of 1500 officers is not yet reached.)

It is revealed that Shortages of PNP personnel are a challenge encountered by the PNP as stated by Participant 3 Personnel is insufficient since the requisite number of 1500 officers has yet to be met.

The official explained that in reality, around 216,000 uniformed policemen need to work overtime, meaning a 12-hour duty to protect the public round-the-clock. If there will be three duty shifts or 8-hours a day work, the ideal number needed for the 1:500 cop-population ratio would be some 654,000 policemen (Dalizon, 2022).

Theme 5: Many Crimes were Committed

Participant 3 stated,

"ado t natututuso, iso nga ado t madisdisgrasya, haan da amo gamin ububra, masa lalo dagijay agdridrive nga awan lisensyanan ket not following the rules and regulation." (Multiple people were stubborn; thus, many people were involved in vehicular accidents even without experience, especially those who do not have licenses.)

Further, Participant number 4 stated,

"normal met lang idi, t challenging ado t macocommit crime kasi ada t freedom or kalayan t tao not like idi pandemic ado restriction ket tay tao haan makarwar." (It was a normal sight actually, the only challenging thing was, crimes were more prominent due to more freedom.)

Many crimes committed are one challenge of the PNP, as stated by Participant number 3, Before the pandemic, multiple people were stubborn, thus many people were involved in vehicular accidents as the result of many crimes crime committed. Further, Participant 4 claimed, crimes were more prominent due to more freedom.

Challenges include persistently high levels of crime and violence, the need to respond to new forms of criminality as well as enhancing responses to criminal behaviours that have long pervaded societies including corruption and violence against women and children (Anamaria.Cobucci, n.d.).

Challenges faced by the Philippine National Police (PNP) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Theme 1: Late Reporting of the Community

Participant 1 stated,

" kadjay metlang late da agreport t crime, haan da agad agad irereport ta mabuteng da pela ken marigatan da agreport ta ada health protocols." (Crimes are reported late, not only because witnesses are

afraid of reporting it but also because of how difficult it is to report them due to health protocols.)

According to Participant 1, the PNP also experienced late community reporting during the epidemic. Crimes are reported later since doing so is challenging owing to health protocols.

Theme 2: Uncooperative of the Community

Participant 1 stated,

"uncooperative of people, haan da met gamin agsao, no ana napasamk idjay crime, mas lalo idi talaga pandemic haan da makipagcooperate kasi mabuteng da maakaran virus ken dagijay restrictions nga naimimplement." (People were uncooperative, they are afraid of saying anything about the crime, even so during the pandemic people were more uncooperative. Most are worried of contracting the virus and also due to restrictions.)

Uncooperative of the community encountered by the PNP during the pandemic, as supported by participant number, people were uncooperative due most are worried of contracting the virus and also due to restrictions.

Theme 3: Limited resources of the PNP

Participant number 1 claimed,

" challenges idi awan t provided personal protective equipment (PPE) in repounding crimes during pandemic mabalin kami met maakaran ken kailangan mi met t proteksyon, yong daw Camouflage na uniform yon daw ang PPE naming okay na yon pangprotekta sa amin." (The challenges when responding to certain crimes during the pandemic, personal protective equipment (PPE) is not provided we are still vulnerable and need protection, they said that our camouflage uniform is good already to protect us.)

During the pandemic, Limited resources of the PNP are a challenge to them as claimed by participant number 1, personal protective equipment (PPE) is not provided we are still vulnerable and need protection, they said that our camouflage uniform is good already to protect us. According to User and User (2021) Sometimes, the police are deployed without sufficient protection, given the lack of supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) kits. As of June 1, the number of police officers infected with Covid-19 has reached 315 according to the Philippine National Police (PNP) Health Service.

Theme 4: Shortages of PNP Personnel

Participant 1 stated,

"May time na positive lahat ng personnel sa isang municipality wala mag duduty, ang ginawa na lang is clustering kung anong malapit na lugar sila na muna mismo ang magresponde ang hinrap non kulang ang personnel." (At one instance, all personnel's in the municipality were infected by the virus thus, no personnel were available for duty. Because of that, there was no choice but to do clustering, all personnel were assigned according to their proximity to the area.)

Further, Participant number 2 claimed,

"During the pandemic PNP personnel is not enough, dahil din sa madaming responsibilidad na ginagawa namin agbunong t reliefs good kada, kurang t nurse nga member of PNP nga agconduct swab, per municipality." (During pandemic PNP personnel were not enough, because of that there is increased work on our part, which includes giving relief goods. And there was absence also of nurses who are part of the PNP that is supposed to conduct swab testing per municipality.)

Meanwhile, the answer of Participant 3 on the question is,

" Kurang t PNP personnel kasi kinado na t maubra, aside from preventing and controlling crime ket, ada pai sa bali responsibilidad mi t health officials tapno macontain tay virus." (Shortage of PNP personnel was prominent due to increasing work. Aside from preventing and controlling crime we are also tasked to contain the spread of the virus.)

It is revealed that Shortages of PNP personnel are a challenge encountered by the PNP as stated by Participant number 1, At one instance, all personnel in the municipality were infected by the virus thus, no personnel were available for duty. Further Participant 2, During the pandemic PNP personnel were not enough, and because of that there is increased work on our part and last Participant 3 answered Shortage of

PNP personnel was prominent due to increasing work.

During the pandemic, the PNP's duty is not only to prevent crime and control crime but also to help also in containing the spread of the virus as a result of not enough personnel. According to the (COVID-19, n.d.), Law enforcement services play a crucial role in contributing to the effort to control the disease, promoting safer communities, and fighting criminals who take advantage of the outbreak.

Naturally, the number of infected or self-quarantined officers was predicted to increase over the course of the pandemic, which might result in staff shortage and higher workload for those left in the work force (Drake & Alzheimer, 2020; Milliard & Papazoglou, 2020).

Theme 5: Difficult in Implementing Laws

Participant 3 stated,

" ang mahirap talaga ung pagimplement ng napaka madaming laws dahil sa lumalaganap na virus." (Implementing laws was impossible due to the prominence of the virus.)

Further Participant 4 stated

"ti challenges idi ket tay pinang maintain and controlling mo jay health protocols kadagijay tao." (One challenge then was the enforcement of the health protocols to the citizens.)

Difficult in implementing laws include one of the challenges encountered by the PNP during the pandemic as supported by Participants 3 and 4, it's difficult to implement laws due to the prominence of the virus and health protocols implemented therein.

In order to protect the health of residents, unprecedented strict governmental measures have been enacted. In their responsibility to enforce these measures, street patrol officers are confronted with various challenges: the constant risk of infection, changing governmental measures leading to a shift in calls for services, and numerous alterations in policing protocols (Stogner, Miller, & McLean, 2020).

Theme 6: Difficulty to follow the Laws Implemented

Participant 4 stated,

"t narigat ta panangsurot t kaado nga health protocol, particularly in filing case who committed crime, kasi hindi mafafile ng kaso yong isang tao kapag hindi mo sinunod yong proper health protocols." (The difficult thing was following numerous protocols. Particularly in filing case for crime was difficult because strict protocols were enforced before a case can be filed.)

Further, Participant 5 claimed,

"Ang pinaka challenging talaga yong pagsunod sa mga batas na pinapatupad na health protocol o mga batas during pandemic, t kinaado na." (The most challenging task faced was following these strict health protocols because of how numerous these guidelines were, during the pandemic.)

Meanwhile, Participant stated 3,

"t challenging pai no natay tay tao iti pandemic dim mabalin ipa autopsy, maperdi nukwa tay pieces of evidences sen kasi may sinusunod na protocols." (The challenge during the pandemic is, if the victim passes away and tests positive for COVID-19, we cannot conduct an autopsy examination because of protocols implemented, as the result of the pieces of evidence are destroyed.)

Difficulty to follow the Laws Implemented a challenge encountered by the PNP as stated by Participant 4, Participant 5 and Participant stated 3 dues to numerous protocols, particularly in filing cases and numerous guidelines, during the pandemic.

During their shift, they come into contact with a large number of colleagues and civilians, whose COVID-19 status is often unknown, requiring officers to be increasingly hypervigilant of their environment (Stogner et al., 2020). Moreover, critical tasks (e.g., arrests) require them to violate guidelines on social distancing, increasing the risk of infections. At the same time, police officers face new types of threatening and hazardous behaviour by assailants through intentional contamination, such as spitting attacks (Jennings & Perez, 2020).

These findings imply that prior to the pandemic, the PNP encountered Late reporting of the community due to fear and uncooperative of people, Uncooperative of the community as a result of no wants

to become a witness to the crime that occurred, Limited resources as a result of none patrol vehicles will be used in times of numerous need to respond, Shortages of PNP Personnel as a result of insufficient because the requisite number of 1:500 officers has yet to be met, and Many Crimes Committed as a result of many traffic accident occurs and because there is freedom, whereas, during the pandemic, the PNP also encountered Late Reporting of the Community due to many health protocols implemented at the time, Uncooperative of the Community due to fears of contracting the virus and also due to restrictions, Limited resources due to the lack of personal protective equipment (PPE), Shortages of PNP Personnel due to no personnel being available for duty because all personnel was infected by the virus and increased work, Difficult to implement laws due to the prominence of the virus and health protocols implemented and Difficulty to Follow the Laws Implemented numerous protocols, particularly in filing cases and numerous guidelines, during the pandemic.

4. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

This study focused on the crime victimization in the province of Ilocos Norte where, and when crime victimization has been recorded in the Philippine National Police National Crime Reporting System (PNP-NCRS). Specifically, the crime profile in the province of Ilocos Norte in the year 2018, 2019, and 2020,2021 in terms of the general nature of the offense, month, municipality, and status of the crime. It also analyzed Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office INPPO's effectiveness at solving crimes and assessed the challenges that Philippine National Police (PNP) has experienced before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study is delimited only to present, analyze, interpret, and recommend factors affecting victimization and crime prevention measures accounting for similarities and differences before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The inputs of the study included the crime profile of the Ilocos Norte and the crime solution efficiency of the Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office (IINPO). The process utilized in the study is the analysis on the data gathered from the PNP's NCRS File and the problems encountered by the INPPO before and during the COVID19 Pandemic while the output is an action plan.

The data gathered from 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 of the Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office as the primarily main source of information and conducted informal interviews of a few police officers.

The descriptive survey method was used in this study. The data was extracted from the Crime Information Reporting and Analysis System (CIRAS) or the Enhanced e-Blotter System of the Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office for the year 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 and supplemented by informal interviews.

The data gathered, collected, and tabulated were subjected to analysis and interpretation through the use of appropriate tools. The statistical treatment used in the study in interpreting the data was frequency count and rank. Thematic Analysis was used in presenting the verbatim responses of the participants regarding the challenges encountered by the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Findings

The following are the findings arrived at as a result of the interpretation and analysis of the data gathered.

1. The crime profile in the province of Ilocos Norte in the year 2018, 2019, and 2020,2021 are as follows.

Total crime Incidents. The highest number of crime incidents in 2018- 2019 to 2020-2021. Is the year 2019-2018 with a total of 4,059.

General Nature of Offense. Before, Traffic Incidents had the highest number of crimes committed with a total of 2146 while During, Special Laws had the highest with a total of 681.

Non-Index Crime. Before, the most committed Non-Index Crime was Frustrated/Attempted Homicide with a total of 75 while During it was Resisting Authorities with a total of 115.

Index Crime. Before the most committed Index Crime was Theft with a total of 134 while During it was Physical Injury with a total of 85.

Traffic incident. Before RIR damage to property Most committed Traffic Incident with a total of 1,131, while During it was RIR physical injury with a total of 272.

Special Laws. Before Comp. Dangerous Drugs Act 2002 is the most committed with a total of 280

while During it also Comp. Dangerous Drugs Act 2002 with a total of 136.

Month. Before March and May had the highest crime committed while During, May had the highest crime committed.

Municipalities. Before the City of Laoag has the highest crime committed a total of 1498 while During the City of Laoag also has the highest crime committed a total of 579.

Status of the crime. Before, there are 474 Index Crimes committed, 446 cleared and 374 solved, second Special Laws, 880 are committed, 872 cleared and 845 solved, third one there are 559 Other Non-Index committed, 502 cleared and 452 solved and lastly Traffic Incidents there are 2146, 2017 are cleared and 2095 solved. While During in Index Crimes, there are 317 committed, 304, cleared and 225 are solved, next there are 681 Special Laws committed, 676 are cleared and 636 are solved, while in Other Non-Index 546 are committed, 528 are cleared and 417 are solved and lastly there are 534 Traffic Incidents committed, 531 are cleared and 513 are solved.

Problem 2. What is the crime solution efficiency of Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office (INPPO)?

Crime Solution Efficiency. The Crime Solution Efficiency of The Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office (INNPO) Before, has 92% percent while During has 86% percent.

Problem 3. What are the challenges encountered by the Philippine National Police (PNP) before and during the COVID-19 pandemic?

The following challenges were revealed in this study: Before, the PNP encountered a) Late reporting of the community due to fear and uncooperative of people; b) Uncooperative of the community as a result of no wants to become a witness to the crime that occurred; c) Limited resources as a result of none patrol vehicles will be used in times of numerous need to respond; d) Shortages of PNP Personnel as a result of insufficient because the requisite number of 1:500 officers has yet to be met and e) Many Crimes Committed as a result of many traffic accident occurs and because there is freedom, whereas, During the pandemic, the PNP also encountered a) Late Reporting of the Community due to many health protocols implemented at the time; b) Uncooperative of the Community due to fears of contracting the virus and also due to restrictions, Limited resources due to the lack of personal protective equipment (PPE); c) Shortages of PNP Personnel due to no personnel being available for duty because all personnel was infected by the virus and increased work; d) Difficult to implement laws due to the prominence of the virus and health protocols implemented and e) Difficulty to Follow the Laws Implemented numerous protocols, particularly in filing cases and numerous guidelines, during the pandemic.

Conclusions

As a compendium of the findings, the conclusions are deduced as follows:

1. As to the crime profile in the province of Ilocos Norte, there are more crimes committed Before than During COVID-19, particularly traffic incidents, Frustrated/Attempted Homicide, Theft, Reckless Imprudence Resulting to damage to property and Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act 2002. In comparison During COVID-19, these are the crimes committed Special Laws, Resisting Authorities, Physical Injury, and Reckless Imprudence Resulting to Physical Injury. As to month, Before March and May had the highest crime committed while During, May had the highest crime committed. Most crimes were perpetrated in Laoag City and there are more solved cases Before than During.
2. The crime solution efficiency of the Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office (INPPO) Before compared to During has dropped as a result of the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic
3. There are several challenges encountered by PNP even before and during the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendations

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, the researcher hereby recommends the following:

1. The Ilocos Norte Provincial Office (INPPO) may regularly carry out patrol operations in Ilocos Norte's urban areas.

2. In select accident-prone areas of Ilocos Norte, the Ilocos Norte Provincial Office (INPPO) may install additional traffic signals, road signs, and multiple lights.
- 3 The Ilocos Norte Provincial Office (INPPO) may severely enforce the curfew, reducing the hour from 10 to 9 pm as was done during the pandemic, as well as checkpoints at certain times, as was performed during that time.
4. As part of Police Community Relations, the INPPO may continue to have cordial ties with the general population, which will significantly aid in crime prevention.
5. To resolve the concerns mentioned, the community, PNP, DPWH, barangay, and city engineer may adopt the proposed Action plan.

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