

Ethnic Diversity and its Effects on Crime in Urbanized Areas

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ABSTRACT

This study sought to provide significant insights pertinent to urban planning and public safety initiatives, particularly in light of the Philippines' growing urbanization and ethnic diversity. The mixed-method approach was used, and a stratified random selection procedure guaranteed the representation of people from diverse ethnic groups and socioeconomic backgrounds in several cities within the province of Cavite, Philippines, to examine the relationship between ethnic diversity and crime. The study's responses display a varied array of demographic features, as seen in the profile. Gender dynamics show significant variances in places with more ethnic diversity. Respondents indicated neutrality about the direct impact of ethnic diversity on crime within their communities, implying divergent opinions on the issue. The research discovered substantial negative associations between ethnic diversity and socioeconomic characteristics, as well as community education. The general favorable reaction to community and educational initiatives, on the other hand, shows how important they are for promoting ethnic peace and perhaps lowering crime rates.

Keywords: ethnic diversity, crimes, crime prevention, community engagement

INTRODUCTION

Modern social research has placed a great deal of emphasis on ethnic diversity because of its profound effects on national development, governance, and cultural interactions. In addition to shared ancestry, it encompasses language, traditions, religion, and a feeling of community. This has an impact on how people live in their communities and interact with one another. Ethnic diversity, according to Waruszynski (2023), requires communities to embrace cultural plurality through celebration and integration actively, going beyond simple tolerance. The Philippines' multiethnic population and strong legal protections for indigenous peoples, particularly those provided by Republic Act No. 8371, the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), necessitate careful consideration of this issue.

Recent national statistics highlight the value of diversity in the Philippines. In 2020, nearly 26% of households identified as Tagalog, according to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). Large percentages of Ilocano (8%), Bikol/Bicol (6.5%), Bisaya/Binisaya (14.3%), and Waray (3.8%) came next. Although dominant groups are concentrated in particular regions, provinces like Cavite have seen a large influx of residents due to their proximity to Metro Manila and the rapid growth of their economies. Cavite is an excellent illustration of ethnic diversity in a city because of the significant influx of people from other regions of the nation, which has altered the local culture.

However, the benefits of cultural convergence are often accompanied by societal issues. The economy of Cavite is improving, but there is still a lot of crime in the province. Identity theft, robbery, and physical assault are among the most prevalent crimes that endanger community safety and development, according to earlier research, most notably that of Asor and Sapin (2020). According to Villarica et al. (2022), crime in areas with a high population density and ethnic diversity causes residents to feel uneasy and anxious, which eventually weakens social cohesion.

These findings highlight the necessity of investigating the relationship between urban crime trends and ethnic dynamics. Although the relationship between ethnic diversity and crime has been the subject of more and more international research, there are still relatively few studies that specifically address the urban environment in the Philippines. This study fills a gap in the literature by examining the connection between crime rates and multiculturalism in Cavite's metropolitan areas. The project intends to offer empirical insights that may direct policy formulation and community-driven initiatives intended to promote safer, more inclusive, and cohesive urban societies in the Philippines by situating ethnic diversity within the framework of urban safety and community dynamics.

Theoretical Framework

Ethnic diversity is an exceptionally delicate topic that necessitates careful study from an array of academic disciplines, as it encompasses the diverse factors that influence intolerant behaviors. Several theories clarify the implications of prejudice toward individuals who belong to distinct ethnic groups and ethnic diversity. The relevant theories are presented in this section. The author of this research study draws upon theories from various fields to provide philosophical foundations, undertake methodological investigations, and present critical interpretations for this phenomenon.

Ethnicity Theory. This theory discusses the existence of various approaches, including the classical primordialism and constructionist approaches. In general, primordialism regards ethnic identity as inherent, permanent, and unchanging. They assert that each person is born into an ethnic group or "tribe"—a term that was frequently employed until the 1970s—that is perceived as a culturally defined unit. This resulted in the classification of tribes and subsequently ethnic groups based on aspects of their material culture, in addition to biological and territorial characteristics. Primordialism also suggests that ethnic identity fulfills a fundamental human desire for belonging and significance. The primordial approach also posits, in what is more commonly referred to as the "ancient hatreds" argument, that the fundamental cultural differences and divergent values between ethnic groups inevitably result in a "clash of cultures" and the emergence of ethnic violence. It further explained that the birth of mixed-race individuals exemplifies the potential outcomes when strict boundaries between groups are not followed. It not only represents a deviation from what would typically happen across generations but also leads to the creation of new racial/ethnic groups through intermarriage, which are often seen as inferior. On the other hand, the constructionist approach brought about a change in the literature's emphasis, shifting from defining what ethnicity is to examining how it evolves. The constructionist theory can be categorized into three categories of literature based on how the construction of ethnicity is characterized. They are distinguished based on whether individuals, discursive formations, or broad structural processes are the primary agents in the formation of ethnicity. The primary focus of constructionist literature in discussions of ethnic conflict is the role of individuals, predominantly elites but also ordinary people, in instigating violence, which constitutes the first subset of constructionist study. Constructionist theories explain the extent to which individuals contribute to ethnic conflict. It is suggested that marginalized members of ethnic groups challenge the existing ethnic identities, thereby establishing new ones. This, in turn, may result in retaliatory violence from the elites who benefited from the previous form of ethnic identity. In contrast, marginal ethnic group members may resort to violence that is directed at other ethnic groups. This is done in order to secure the approval of more established members of their own ethnic group.

Social Disorganization Theory. This theory posits that the structure of a community significantly influences its crime rates, suggesting that ethnic diversity might impact social cohesion and criminal activities. This is the basis and the idea behind the inclusion of this theory. Social cohesion is harder to achieve due to the evident differences on culture, habits, and beliefs. This stems from ethnic diversity and it is assumed that this could also be an indicator of the crime rate in a particular locality. Social disorganization theory emerged from studies conducted during the 1920s and 1930s by sociologists affiliated with the University of Chicago. Clifford R. Shaw and Henry D. McKay in the year 1942, who examined the residential locations of juveniles referred to court using spatial mapping, were its primary proponents. Delinquency patterns were found to be more prevalent in areas with substandard housing, inadequate health care, socioeconomic disadvantage, and transient populations, according to Shaw and McKay. This prompted them to hypothesize that crime was not the result of individual actors and their actions, but rather a consequence of neighborhood dynamics. Shaw and McKay's discussions shed light on these patterns by highlighting the challenges that accompanied immigration to Chicago during this period. They

claimed that regions populated by recently arrived immigrants collapsed social norms as a result of competing cultural traditions and ethnic diversity. These undermined traditional systems of social control, making them incapable of monitoring the behavior of young individuals in the locality.

Conflict Theory. This theory provides a lens to examine potential tensions within these diverse communities, hypothesizing that societal conflicts can arise from cultural differences. This is very much relevant to the study due to the goal of looking into the idea of conflict emanating from cultural differences. The said conflict is seen as a contributory factor to the occurrence of crimes in the chosen locale. This is an indication of the positive and negative impact associated with a diverse population. Conflict theories are frequently employed to analyze disparities pertaining to ethnicity, race, social class, gender, and education. From the standpoint of conflict theory, an analysis of the multifarious historical and contemporary disputes that have transpired between the white governing class and racial and ethnic minorities will be undertaken. This would entail highlighting particular conflicts that have emerged when the dominant group perceived the minority group as a threat. In modern times, Professor Kazansky, R. (2020) explained that conflicts in international relations, whether within a country or between countries, have become a highly significant security issue. Typically, they are characterized by their tendency towards violence, resulting in harm to humans and perhaps leading to humanitarian catastrophes and significant destruction of resources, people, and the environment. Conflict-ridden regions serve as catalysts for population migration, intensifying pressure and fostering a climate conducive to the emergence of extremist and terrorist organizations. The negative impact of conflicts results in economic deterioration in countries, consequently exacerbating the disparity between stable regions and countries and those embroiled in continuous hostilities.

Conceptual Framework

The IPO (Input-Process-Output) Framework was utilized to present the conceptual framework of the study. This was specifically chosen due to its simplicity and its usefulness in communicating the different components and processes included in the study. This framework (Figure 1) outlines the research flow, starting with data collection on ethnic diversity, crime data, and previous research studies, followed by analytical processes including statistical analysis, and concluding with the synthesis of findings, and policy and program recommendations. This framework provides a roadmap for examining the relationship between ethnic diversity and crime in the selected urbanized areas.

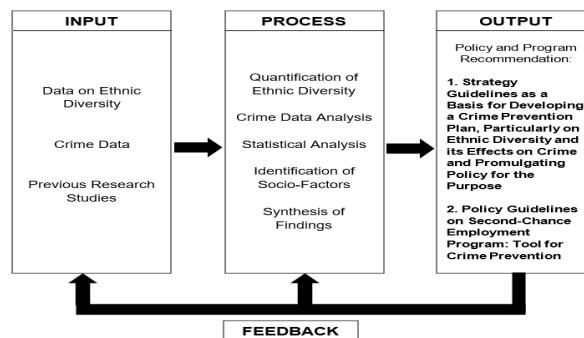


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework

Statement of the Problem

The study sought to answer the following specific questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents of the study in terms:
2. City jail; Age; Sex; Gender; Place of origin; Dialect; Housing type; Length of residency in Cavite; Highest educational attainment; Employment status; Detention data prior to respondents' detention or decision to live in Cavite; Previous crime prior to their detention or decision to live in Cavite; and Types of crimes and reason for detention in the facility?
3. How do the respondents perceive the influence of the following variables and factors on crime in the different cities in the province of Cavite: Ethnic diversity; Socio-economic factors; and Community-directed programs?

4. Is there a significant relationship between the profile of the respondents and their perception of the influence of ethnic diversity, socio-economic factors, and community-directed programs on crime in the province of Cavite?
5. After a thorough evaluation of the collected data, what programs and policies may support law enforcement agencies to visualize and address crime incidents?

Hypothesis

There is no significant relationship between the profile of the respondents and their perception of the influence of ethnic diversity, socio-economic factors, and community-directed programs on crime in the province of Cavite.

Scope and Limitation of the Study

This dissertation focused on a comparative analysis of ethnic diversity and crime in the eight (8) cities within the province of Cavite, Region 4-A CALABARZON of the Philippines, specifically examining data that were reported from January 1 to December 31, 2023. The cities included in this study were Bacoor, Carmona, Cavite City, Dasmariñas, General Trias, Imus, Tagaytay, and Trece Martires. These cities were chosen due to their varied levels of ethnic diversity and their representativeness of different urban contexts within the province.

While this research provides valuable insights into the relationship between ethnic diversity and crime, several limitations must be acknowledged. The study relied on available data from government sources, such as census information, especially relevant data, and information from the PNP and the number of PDLs recorded in the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP). There may be limitations in data accuracy, which could influence the results. The research was confined from January 1 to December 31, 2023. As such, it provides a snapshot of the situation within this period but may not account for longer-term trends or changes post-2023. This study was limited to the cities in the province of Cavite and may not be generalizable to other regions and provinces in the Philippines or other countries with different socio-cultural dynamics.

While the study examined ethnic diversity as a factor in crime, it acknowledges that crime is a multifaceted issue influenced by various other factors, including but not limited to economic conditions, law enforcement efficacy, and social policies. The use of quantitative methods, while providing statistical insights, may not capture the qualitative aspects of how ethnic diversity impacts community dynamics and individual experiences concerning crime. This study aimed to contribute to the understanding of ethnic diversity and crimes in urbanized areas of the Philippines, offering a foundation for further research while recognizing the boundaries of its scope and the implications of its limitations.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study used a quantitative and a descriptive type of research method. It is also considered to be a correlational study as it aimed to discover a significant relationship between variables of interest. Methodologies include the survey data to explore relationships among variables, Pearson's correlation coefficient for assessing the relationship between ethnic diversity and crime, and comparative analysis to identify patterns across the selected cities. The focus was on cities within the province of Cavite, Region 4-A CALABARZON, from January 1 to December 31, 2023.

Sampling

The study focused on a diverse sample of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) from the eight BJMP city jails in Cavite, wherein the data span a specific year to provide a contemporary snapshot of the ethnic diversity and crime dynamics in these areas. A stratified random sampling technique was employed to ensure diverse representation across different ethnic groups and socio-economic backgrounds. This method allows for a more accurate reflection of the population and enhances the reliability of the findings. This was done by considering the province/region of origin or the ethnic background of the PDL. In this case, this became the basis for the strata or grouping. Having a diverse set of respondents is the goal and the researcher requested for the data on this prior to the identification of the study respondents. Random sampling was then employed once the PDL were grouped according to their ethnic profile/background. This was done in accordance with the actual

distribution of the ethnic groups in the study population. A larger population percentage means that the sample size percentage will also be higher. This is deemed the suitable method to ensure representation of PDL coming from a different ethnic background.

Data Collection

The research utilized both primary and secondary data. A survey questionnaire was developed to determine the relationship between ethnic diversity and crime among the cities in the province of Cavite in terms of: a) Ethnic diversity; b) Socio-economic factors; and c) Community-directed programs. Table 1 indicates that respondents were equally distributed among the sampled cities in the province of Cavite, with 20 respondents (12.5%) each. This is in order to minimize bias and enhance the generalizability of the findings.

Table 1. Distribution of Frequency and Percentage According to Respondents' City Jails

City	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Trece Martires City	20	12.5	12.5
Bacoor City	20	12.5	25.0
Imus City	20	12.5	37.5
Dasmarinas City	20	12.5	50.0
Carmona City	20	12.5	62.5
Tagaytay City	20	12.5	75.0
General Trias City	20	12.5	87.5
Cavite City	20	12.5	100.0
Total	160	100.0	--

The survey questionnaire was reviewed by the dissertation adviser and was divided into three (3) parts. In particular, the study focused on the following variables: Demographics of Respondents (Profiling Statistics) such as the number and percentage of respondents' age, sex, gender, place of origin, dialect, housing type, length of residency in Cavite, highest educational attainment, employment status; Prevalent Types of Crimes Committed which include the number and percentage of respondents who were detained in a jail facility before living in Cavite and types of crime committed, types of crime committed in the present time; and,

Relationship between Ethnic Diversity and Crime

To provide an overall situation and descriptive statistics on ethnic diversity and crime statistics, the researcher requested data and coordinated with the PNP Cavite Police Provincial Office (PPO), and BJMP.

Data Analysis Techniques

Data gathered were analyzed using frequency and percentage distribution (Descriptive Analysis). For multiple responses, cross-tabulation was applied to generate the frequency distribution of the variable being studied. The study also used Pearson's Correlation Coefficient to measure the strength and direction of the relationship between ethnic diversity and crime among the cities in the province of Cavite in terms of: a) Ethnic diversity; b) Socio-economic factors; and c) Community-directed programs. Furthermore, the researcher used comparative analysis to identify patterns and differences in crime statistics across the selected cities, providing a comprehensive understanding of the regional dynamics.

Validation and Reliability

To ensure the robustness of the findings, the Cronbach's alpha was used to measure internal consistency or reliability. For the study, the fifteen (15) Likert scale items resulted in a Cronbach's alpha of 0.69, which indicates an acceptable level of internal consistency for the specified scale. There has been varying interpretation of the Cronbach Alpha value and there were discussions as to the acceptable threshold of values. A wide range of qualitative descriptors for the computed values are presented in numerous studies. In the study of Taber (2018), the value of 0.67 to 0.87 was regarded as a 'reasonable' value. This suggests that there is no consensus as to the acceptable value. Considering this, the researcher decided to push forward with the study. The Cronbach's alpha can be written as a function of the number of test items and the average inter-correlation among the items. Below, for conceptual purposes, we show the formula for the Cronbach's alpha:

$$\alpha = \frac{N \cdot \bar{c}}{\bar{v} + (N-1) \cdot \bar{c}}$$

where N is equal to the number of items, \bar{c} is the average inter-item covariance among the items and \bar{v} equals the average variance. As for the validation of the data gathering instrument, the research questions together with the questionnaire was submitted to several experts. They were asked to evaluate the survey questionnaire. Their inputs and suggestions were considered for the enhancement of the survey. The study covered the period from January 1 to December 31, 2023. This one-year timeframe allows for the collection of comprehensive and up-to-date data, facilitating accurate analysis and interpretation of the findings.

Data Gathering Procedure

Initially, the researcher conducted a document review and analysis to identify the issues and concerns that were relevant to the subject of the research. The purpose was to organize and identify the various sources of secondary sources of information, such as books, journals, websites, and other pertinent documents, that were pertinent to the subject matter. The researcher subsequently obtained approval and permission from the relevant authorities to conduct the study. Also, the researcher fulfilled all of the required standards established by the Institutional Ethics Review Committee (IERC) of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas by submitting the Edited Research Proposal, Informed Consent Form, and the tools to be used, including guide questions and standardized instruments, to secure ethics approval. The Ethics Review Committee issued a certification on April 5, 2014 with Code No. DERC_23-24_181M, following an extensive scrutiny of the submitted documents. This certification is valid until September 30, 2024. The request letters and the verified sets of questionnaires were sent to the Regional Director of the Bureau of Jail Management Penology (BJMP) - CALABARZON, as well as the Wardens of the eight cities in Cavite - BJMPs. The letters were sent through email and also delivered in hand. Furthermore, a formal letter was personally handed to the Provincial Investigation Detective Management Unit, Cavite-PPO, requesting relevant data for the study. The researcher compiled, organized, and processed the instruments completed by the respondents. The analysis and tabulation of the collected data were provided to her adviser for her perusal. Once the questionnaires were administered and collected, the researcher collected and simplified the data, which was then subjected to statistical analysis under the guidance of her statistician. Finally, the analyzed data and other information were examined, interpreted, and displayed in both tables and written format, taking into account the specific issues and conclusions of the study. Similarly, the researcher provided a dissertation for the final defense.

Statistical Treatment of Data

The data were analyzed through the following: frequency and percentage distribution, and Pearson's Correlation Coefficient. In this study, the statistical treatment of data involves calculating frequencies and percentages to describe and analyze the distribution of various variables. This method aids in summarizing the data and offering a clear picture of the sample population's characteristics. Frequency indicates how often a specific value or category appears in the dataset, serving as a basic descriptive statistic that reveals the distribution of variables. Pearson's correlation coefficient, denoted as r , was a measure used to determine the strength and direction of the linear relationship between ethnic diversity and crime among the cities in the province of Cavite in terms of: a) Ethnic diversity; b) Socio-economic factors; and c) Community-directed programs. It ranges from -1 to 1. By using Pearson's correlation coefficient, the study aims to quantitatively assess the linear relationship between these variables, providing insights into how ethnic diversity may influence crime in the cities of Cavite, Region 4-A CALABARZON.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section focuses on examining the study's findings, which show a relation between crime and diversity in the Philippines, particularly in the province of Cavite. In addition, this section offers viewpoints on dealing with crime problems in various urban settings. Decision-makers, law enforcement agencies, and community leaders can benefit from this study, which gives them insights to develop policies, programs, and activities, and encourage safer, more cohesive communities.

Figure 2 provides the breakdown of ethnic distribution across selected cities in the province of Cavite gathered from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), from January 1 to December 31, 2023.

ETHNICITY	CARMONA	CAVITE CITY	DASMARINAS	GENERAL TRIAS	IMUS	TAGAYTAY	BACOOR	TRECE	TOTAL
TAGALOG	119	395	993	738	825	99	1022	3963	8154
VISAYAN	2	14	32	1	67	9	31	607	763
BICOLANO	7	13	20	37	24	13	12	443	569
ILONGGO	3	13	25	38	33	3	16	245	376
MARANAO	0	8	81	45	2	0	51	180	367
WARAY	4	12	50	32	6	2	37	200	343
ILOCANO	0	6	18	12	5	4	12	82	139
CEBUANO	1	9	4	47	12	5	2	0	80
MAGUINDANAO	0	0	26	0	0	0	54	0	80
KAPAMPANGAN	1	8	13	2	25	0	15	0	64
MASBATENA	0	0	2	0	58	0	2	0	62
CHABAKANO	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	24	25
TAUSUG	0	0	2	14	0	1	2	0	19
CAVITEÑA	4	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	8
PANGGALATOK	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	8
YBANAG	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	6
MUSLIM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
OTHER NATIONALS	0	1	3	6	0	0	2	0	12
TOTAL	141	479	1278	973	1057	136	1267	5745	11076

Figure 2. Distribution of Frequency According to Ethnicity of Cavite Cities BJMP

The illustration reveals that there are a total of 11,076 PDLs in the urbanized areas of Cavite from January 1 to December 31, 2023. It also reveals that Tagalog is the most dominant ethnic group with 8,154 individuals, representing approximately 73.6% of the total population of PDLs who were detained in the City-BJMPs in the province of Cavite. In particular, Tagalogs are concentrated in Trece Martires with a frequency of 3,963, Dasmariñas has 993 PDLs, and Bacoor with 1,022 PDLs. The Visayan ethnic group is the second largest group with 763 individuals, or 6.9% of the total population, primarily found in Trece Martires with a frequency of 607. Smaller ethnic groups in the data include Ilocano, Cebuano, Maguindanao, Kapampangan, Masbatena, Chabacano, Tausug, Caviteña, Panggalatok, Ybanag, and Muslims, each constituting less than 1% to the total population.

ETHNICITY	THEFT	RAPE	PHYSICAL INJURY	ROBBERY	MURDER	CARNAPPING MOTOR	HOMICIDE	CARNAPPING MV	TOTAL
OTHERS	264	201	1150	183	177	161	231	144	2511
TAGALOG	123	60	1009	42	36	20	90	3	1383
PANGASINAN	1		12						13
BULAKENO	2	1	9				1		13
BATANGUEÑO			10	1					11
BICOL			5	1	1				7
ILONGGO	1		3		1				5
CEBUANO			5						5
ILOKANO		1	3						4
MANGYAN			2	1			1		4
PAMPANGA			3						3
WARAY	2								2
CEBUANO			1						1
WARAY			1						1
CEBUANO	1								1
TOTAL	394	263	2213	228	215	181	323	147	3964

Figure 3. Distribution of Frequency According to Ethnicity and Crime Committed in the Eight Cities in the Province of Cavite.

The data comprises the highest number of crimes committed in the eight cities of the province of Cavite, with a total of 2,628 reported in the Cavite-PNP from January 1 to December 31, 2023. It also reveals that Tagalog is the most prevalent ethnic group, with 1,290 individuals. Also, the Tagalog ethnic group had the highest number of reported physical injuries out of the total number of crimes committed. The PNP issued Letter of Instructions (LOI) 02/09 titled "Unit Crime Periodic Report (UCPER)" to provide a more detailed explanation of the definition of crime, which emphasizes that index crimes are both serious and occur frequently and regularly enough to serve as an indicator of the overall crime situation. The PNP-LOI considered only the crimes of murder, homicide, physical injury (serious and less serious), carnapping, cattle rustling, robbery, theft and rape as index crimes. The PNP improved LOI 02/09 and added the peace and order index (POI) on January 7, 2019 through PNP Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2018-050 with a subject: "Guidelines and Procedures in Report Crime Incidents. The POI sorts crimes into groups that show the real nature of crime and the level of peace and order in a community. It includes both index and non-index crimes. The PNP MC provided additional clarification that non-index crimes include offenses committed in violation of special laws and the revised penal code (RPC), which are not classified as index crimes. It is important to mention that the frustrated and attempted stages of focal crimes, which belong to this category, are not included in the index crime category of the LOI-

UCPER. The aforementioned MC provides for the removal of cattle rustling under LOI 02/09 from the index crime category and its classification as a non-index offense. These developments have been brought about by the advent of various agricultural tools and technological advancements. Furthermore, according to the definition of non-index crimes, the "Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002" will be categorized as such. It is important to note that Figure 3 shows the substantial number of Tagalog speakers in all cities implies that Cavite is culturally and linguistically homogeneous, which could potentially affect local administration, education, and social services. Additionally, the necessity for community policies, programs, and activities that are inclusive and accommodate diverse cultural origins is underscored by the presence of numerous ethnic groups in Trece Martires City, including Visayans, Bicolanos, and Ilonggos. However, the data indicates that the PNP-Cavite neglected to document the other ethnic groups. The researcher is of the opinion that the PNP must improve this aspect in order to provide the most precise information that may assist the PNP in enhancing their strategies for crime prevention and future research. The proper collection of such data will provide a better understanding of the ethnic distribution of the PDLs, which in turn, will lead to insights as to the level of diversity in these jails. Under similar circumstances, a report surfaced from Victoria Police in Australia, challenging the common occurrence of discussions surrounding the involvement of individuals from ethnic communities in criminal activities. However, many of these discussions are based on inadequate and unreliable information. Notably, while trying to explain the connection between ethnicity and crime, only the migrants' country or region of origin is taken into account, without any reference to social and economic conditions. In view thereof, it should be emphasized that any ethnicity and crime data gathering should start at the police level. While police statistics of suspects or those arrested may not provide a comprehensive depiction of crime in a community, they are the most reliable source of data that can be obtained from the crime site. These statistics are more important when compared with offender information gathered from victim or crime and safety surveys. These data do not form part of the research questions (presented in the first chapter of the study) but was provided to give a holistic overview of the available secondary data on the research topic. This section serves as the foundation of the subsequent discussion of results, particularly those that were gathered using direct data collection methodologies. Furthermore, the collection of other demographics, social, and economic statistics for migrant groups is necessary in order to supplement ethnicity and crime statistics. These can be employed to not only comprehend the distinctions among migrant groups but also to elucidate any relationships, if any, between ethnicity and criminality. This is in light of the diverse population in the country and the difficulty of associating backgrounds and statuses to the possibility of being involved in crimes.

Demographic Characteristics and Socio-Economic Backgrounds

The study consists a total of 160 respondents. Table 2 displays the distribution of surveyed Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) categorized by their respective city jails. Presented in this section are the relevant data gathered using the initial section of the survey questionnaire which were administered to the identified and carefully selected participants of the study. The aim is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the profile of the study participants.

Table 2. Distribution of Frequency and Percentage According to Respondents' City Jails

City	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Cavite City	20	12.5	100
General Trias City	20	12.5	87.5
Tagaytay City	20	12.5	75
Carmona City	20	12.5	62.5
Dasmarinas City	20	12.5	50
Imus City	20	12.5	37.5
Bacoor City	20	12.5	25
Trece Martires City	20	12.5	12.5
Total	160	100	

City jail. Table 2 indicates that respondents were equally distributed among the sampled cities in the province of Cavite, with 20 respondents (12.5%) each. This is in order to minimize bias and enhance the generalizability of

the findings. This was carefully planned out prior to actual data gathering to ensure proper representation. This indicates that the population in each city was not considered and the aim was to get the same number of participants from each locality, without any regard to the differences in the number of residents. The concept embodies the first advancement of statistics during the 18th and 19th centuries, with significant contributions from mathematicians' students. Nevertheless, the methodical utilization of such sampling became more prominent in the 20th century due to developments in statistical theory and the broad acceptance of probability sampling procedures. Random sampling was chosen by the researcher since PDL influxes occur in every BJMP. Gathering data from a population is frequently unfeasible or unattainable over the course of performing research, hence the researcher depends on a sample, which is a smaller portion of the population, to make inferences and reach conclusions about the entire population. It aids in ensuring that the model accurately represents individuals, allowing the researcher to make more confident generalizations based on their findings. This sample has the potential to be more efficient and cost-effective compared. Furthermore, it necessitates a reduced amount of time, exertion, and resources compared to extensive sampling. It must also be added that random sampling ensures that every individual has an equal chance of being selected for the sample, making it representative. This suggests that the sample accurately represents the characteristics of the entire population. This also means that there is a strong possibility that the sample generated was not selected using a predetermined criteria and anyone from the list may be chosen.

Table 3. Distribution of Frequency and Percentage According to Respondents' Age

Age	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
25-34 years old	48	30	41.3
35-44 years old	47	29.4	70.6
45-54 years old	38	23.8	94.4
18-24 years old	18	11.3	11.3
55-64 years old	9	5.6	100
Total	160	100	

Age. Table 3 shows the distribution of respondents by age. The data indicates that most of the respondents are aged 25-34 years old with a frequency of 48 respondents (30%), followed by the age bracket of 35-44 years old with 47 respondents (29.4%). Meanwhile, respondents aged 55-64 years old are the least represented, with only 9 respondents or 5.6% of the total sample. The University of Minnesota published an article that elucidates the impact of age on criminal behavior. The rates of offending reach their peak throughout the late teenage years and early twenties and then decrease afterward. Considering that many of these inmates already served a few years in the jails, it is understandable that many of them are in their 20's and 30's at the time of the data gathering. It is explained that there are various elements that appear to contribute to this pattern. During this stage of life, peer relationships are more significant than they are in later stages. Additionally, during this phase, peers are more prone to engaging in criminal behavior themselves. Due to two factors, our peer relationships during adolescence and early adulthood are more prone to involve us in criminal activities compared to our later years. Furthermore, it is more probable for teenagers and young people to be without full-time employment compared to older adults. Thus, they are more inclined to require financial resources and thus engage in criminal activities to get money and other belongings. Furthermore, when we transition from our early twenties to later stages of life, our connections to traditional societal norms get stronger. More so, some research studies concluded that age is a dependable predictor of criminal behavior, both when analyzing groups as a whole and when studying individual cases. Throughout all nations, societies, and time periods, the prevailing consensus suggests that crime, specifically "common" or "street" crime, is primarily perpetrated by young individuals. However, there are strong reasons to question the consistency of the relationship between age and crime, even in a very broad sense. The association between age and crime exhibits varying features based on factors such as the type of crime, the social position of groups, and the historical and cultural circumstances. Regrettably, there is a dearth of information regarding elderly offenders in a comprehensive sense. Without a doubt, the examination of the structure, conduct, and conditions associated with criminal behavior in older individuals presents interesting potential for research in the future. Though, this age group does not comprise a large chunk of the sample size of this study.

Table 4. Distribution of Frequency and Percentage According to Respondents' Sex

Sex	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	84	52.5	52.5
Female	76	47.5	100
Total	160	100	

Sex. Table 4 reveals the distribution of respondents by sex. Survey findings show that more than half of respondents were males with a frequency of 84 or 52.5% while females accounted for 76 respondents or 47.5%. It is evident from the data that men commit crimes at a higher rate than women. The article entitled: "Female fugitives: why is 'pink-collar crime' on the rise?", discussed that men exhibit a higher propensity for criminal behavior compared to women, regardless of cultural differences. Additionally, it was mentioned that in the United States, which has the highest rate of imprisonment globally with over 2 million individuals detained, males make up 93% of the incarcerated population. Males comprise 73% of all arrests and 80% of individuals charged with violent offenses. The United States Sentencing Commission reported that 7,603 female offenders were involved in 57,278 cases during Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. This represents 13.3% of all federal offenders sentenced in FY 2021. So, it is important to acknowledge that females are involved in the commission of crimes, as evidenced by numerous studies and it has serious implications for those who engage in it. They are perceived as having transgressed not only social but also gender norms.

Table 5. Distribution of Frequency and Percentage According to Respondents' Gender

Gender	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	74	46.3	46.3
Female	71	44.4	90.6
Bisexual	12	7.5	98.1
Transgender	3	1.9	100
Total	160	100	

Gender. Table 5 presents the distribution of respondents by gender. For clarity, sex refers to the biological attributes of an individual, such as reproductive organs, chromosomes, among others, to identify as a 'male' or 'female' while gender refers to the roles, behaviors, activities, and societal expectations associated with being male or female. This sub-variable was included (in addition to sex) to have a better understanding of the actual distribution of the study participants. Similar to Table 4, the data indicates that most of the respondents are male, with a frequency of 74 (46.3%), followed by female respondents with 71 individuals (44.4%). There were also transgender respondents with a frequency of 3 or 1.9% of the sample. The data suggests the presence of transgender PDIs in jail facilities in the province of Cavite. They comprise a smaller percentage but they must also be considered when crafting and/or designing policies and programs to be implemented in these jails. It is noteworthy that three respondents acknowledged that they are transgender. Relatedly, in their research study, Mitchell et al. (2022) elucidated that trans and gender diverse (TGD) individuals encounter distinctive vulnerability when engaging with the criminal judicial system. It was noted that there is limited knowledge regarding the experiences of criminalization among TGD individuals in Australia, as well as the techniques employed by TGD individuals and their advocates to negotiate the criminal legal system. Globally, individuals who identify as transgender and gender diverse (TGD) experience lower mental and overall health outcomes in comparison to cisgender populations, which includes individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, and bisexual. Research conducted with transgender and gender diverse (TGD) individuals in Australia has demonstrated a substantial correlation between a reported absence of social support and elevated levels of depression. In contrast, global studies have demonstrated that socially inclusive settings have a profound impact on the health outcomes of transgender and gender diverse individuals. Therefore, additional research is required to examine the experiences of transgender and gender diverse (TGD) individuals inside the criminal justice system.

Table 6. Distribution of Frequency and Percentage According to Respondents' Place of Origin

Place of Origin	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Native Caviteño	61	38.1	38.1
Native National Capital Region	33	20.6	58.7
Native Visayas Region	19	11.9	70.6
Native Mindanao Region	16	10.0	80.6
Native North Region	11	6.9	87.5
Native Bicol Region	9	5.6	93.1
Native South Region	8	5.0	98.1
Native MIMAROPA	3	1.9	100.0
Total	160	100.0	

Place of origin. Table 6 shows the distribution of respondents by their place of origin. Most respondents were originally from Cavite or are native Caviteños, with a frequency of 61, or 38.1%. The next group of respondents were from the National Capital Region (NCR), totaling 33 respondents, or 20.6%. Meanwhile, the least number of respondents were from the Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan (MIMAROPA) Region with a frequency of 3 or 1.9%. This illustrates the varied representation of the regions. As mentioned earlier, the Household Population by Ethnicity, Region, Province, and Highly Urbanized City: Philippines, 2020, conducted by the PSA, indicates that Caviteños comprise 464,298 households out of the 268 ethnic groups in Cavite, which collectively have a household population of 4,318,663. The presence of more Caviteños in these jails could be partly attributed to the difficulty and challenges in transferring PDLs from one location to another. It must also be added that the proximity of the facilities to the place of origin or residence could also prove to be beneficial to the family members of the PDLs, who wish to visit them. Companies in Cavite that choose to locate in PEZA benefit from multiple incentives, including ease of doing business and one-stop transactions due to the presence of various government offices. The industrialization in this province could also be partly linked to the occurrence of certain types or categories of crimes.

Table 7. Distribution of Frequency and Percentage According to Respondents' Dialect

Dialect	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Tagalog	110	68.8	68.8
Bikol	9	5.6	74.4
Waray	8	5	79.4
Ilocano	8	5	84.4
Bisaya	7	4.4	88.8
Ilonggo	5	3.1	91.9
Maranao	3	1.9	93.8
Cebuano	3	1.9	95.7
Maguindanaon	2	1.3	97.0
Iranon	2	1.3	98.3
Others	1	0.6	98.9
Kapangpangan	1	0.6	99.5
Hiligaynon	1	0.6	100
Total	160	100	

Dialect. According to a study from Ramos (2022), the most commonly spoken dialects in the Philippines include Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon, Bicolano, Waray, Pampango, and Pangasinense. Similarly, survey findings reveal that the majority of respondents are Tagalog speakers, with a frequency of 110 or 68.8% as shown in Table 7. Moreover, the sample also has Bikol speakers with 9 respondents (5.6%), Ilocano and Waray speakers

with 8 respondents each (5.0%), and Bisaya speakers with 7 respondents (4.4%). Meanwhile, there was only one respondent for Kapampangan, Hiligaynon, and other specified dialects, amounting to 0.6% each of the sample. It is evident from the results that Tagalog is the most widely spoken dialect among the respondents, reflecting its widespread use. The study also includes respondents who spoke other dialects, showing the linguistic richness and cultural diversity of the country. Results for this section could be linked to the place of origin of the participants. This also partly reflects the population distribution in the province.

Table 8. Distribution of Frequency and Percentage According to Respondents' Housing Type

Housing Type	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Owns a house	68	42.5	42.5
Lives with family	48	30.0	72.5
Rents a house	32	20.0	92.5
Lives with boss	6	3.8	96.3
Lives with friends	5	3.1	99.4
I prefer not to answer	1	.6	100.0
Total	160	100.0	

Housing type. Table 8 presents the distribution of respondents by their house type. The data indicates that most respondents have their own house, with a frequency of 68 (42.5%). This is followed by the group of respondents living with their family (48 respondents, 30%), and those respondents who rent for their housing (32 respondents, 20%). Considering that almost half of the sample lives in their own home, indicates that a high proportion of respondents have attained a certain degree of financial stability or possess the means to finance their own homes. Living with family suggests that another portion of respondents live with their parents, siblings, or other family members, which is common in the Philippines. This also represents strong support networks across the community as well as strong family relationships. Furthermore, the existence of renters from the sample emphasizes the variety of types of housing by respondents, capturing the range of living conditions among respondents. Although the majority of respondents report that they reside in their own homes, certain studies indicate that an increase in homeownership has been perceived as a means of providing communities with advantages, including reduced crime rates, increased civic engagement, and enhanced child development (Disney et al., 2023). This is predicated on the notion that the incentives of public housing tenants are altered as they experience the positive private returns of crime-reducing investments when they assume possession of their properties. In relation to the data gathered in this study, the researcher suggests that it is necessary to prove a causal relationship between homeownership and crime, which is not easily determined. Understanding the effect of homeownership on crime reduction is a fundamental research inquiry in the field of criminal economics. While, some researcher explained that a rise in the percentage of rental homes could lead to an increase in criminal activity. Relatedly, some similarities become apparent when the three categories of criminal incidents—disturbances, assaults, and drug-related incidents—that residents often see as affecting the quality of life in their communities are examined closely. It was further elaborated that there is a clear correlation between property ownership and management attributes, such as the close proximity of the owner to their properties, and the recorded incidence of criminal activity. Due to the fact that these owners frequently exhibit poor management and have no personal stake in keeping the neighborhood peaceful; hence, the researcher suggests that further study may be undertaken to ensure that homeowners will be selective in the choice of tenants, more accommodating of behavior and lifestyles.

Table 9. Distribution of Frequency and Percentage According to Respondents' Length of Residency in Cavite

Length of Residency in Cavite	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
More than 5 years	75	46.9	80
Since birth	53	33.1	33.1
Less than 1 year, but more than 6 months	22	13.8	100

Less than 5 years, but more than a year	10	6.3	86.3
Total	160	100	

Length of residency in Cavite. According to Table 9, the respondents in Cavite were distributed according to their length of residency. The data reveals that 75 participants or 46.9% have stayed in Cavite for more than five years. There are fifty-three (53) respondents which indicates that 33.1% of the sample population was born in Cavite itself. It can be inferred from these data that there exists a significant proportion of people who have resided in Cavite for quite some time and this means that it is a stable community with numerous economic activities and social programs offered within its premises. In light of this, the researcher finds that the length of time the respondents have lived in Cavite is due to the province's rapid economic development, which has created significant opportunities for both direct and indirect employment. This indicates that the employment opportunities in the province and its proximity to the country's capital could help in attracting people who wished to be employed in the different sectors. The article "Cavite Ecological Profile 2020," published that Cavite has become an influential entity in the country, making a substantial contribution to its development in recent years. Cavite is recognized as one of the provinces exhibiting the most significant increase in population and having the largest population size. Over the past few decades, there has been a significant surge in the population of the province. Also, informal settlers have been relocated to designated resettlement zones. Moreover, the article discussed that based on the Philippine Standard Geographic Code and the 2015 Census of Population, 37.03% or 307 barangays in Cavite are categorized as urban barangays. Furthermore, Cavite consists of a grand total of 522 rural barangays, making up 62.97% of the overall count. As discussed in the study conducted by the University of Minnesota, it has been explained that the location of our residence also plays a role in determining the probability of engaging in criminal activities. As previously observed, urban areas have significantly elevated rates of homicide compared to rural communities. This trend is present in both violent crime and property crime in a broader sense. Urban areas exhibit elevated crime rates due, in part, to their impoverished conditions. However, it is important to note that poverty alone does not entirely account for the disparity in crime rates between urban and rural areas, as many rural regions also experience challenges. There are other factors that could have contributed to this. The higher crime rates in urban areas can be attributed to their increased population density. Closeness among individuals leads to an increased frequency of interactions between people. This fact suggests that teenagers and young adults have a larger social circle that can exert influence on them to engage in criminal behavior. Additionally, it indicates that potential criminals have a greater number of individuals and residences to target for their unlawful actions. Urban environments are characterized by a significant concentration of bars, convenience stores, and other establishments that may be tempting to potential criminals as potential targets. Moreover, bars, pubs, and other drinking places can naturally transform into environments where tensions escalate and physical aggression occurs.

Table 10. Distribution of Frequency and Percentage According to Respondents' Highest Educational Attainment

Highest Educational Attainment	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Junior high school, no diploma	33	20.6	48.8
Elementary diploma	30	18.8	28.1
Junior high school diploma	23	14.4	63.1
College, no diploma	20	12.5	93.1
Senior high school diploma	18	11.3	80.6
No formal education	15	9.4	9.4
Senior high school, no diploma	10	6.3	69.4
Vocational degree	8	5	98.1
Bachelor's degree	3	1.9	100
Total	160	100	

Highest educational attainment. Table 10 shows that out of all respondents, there were 33 (20.6%) who had reached junior high school but not graduated while 30 (18.8%) finished elementary school. The smallest group is those respondents who have a bachelor's degree and this accounts for only three of them (1.9%). It indicates that most

of the people in the sample have lower levels of education than others. Such data may indicate sociological obstacles, such as low incomes, lack of access to education, or personal reasons inhibiting academic success. The low numbers associated with those holding Bachelor's degrees make it clear that there are inequalities in education opportunities available to people here, which may be suggestive of pervasive systemic issues confronting the sector of education or specific community-related problems. One of the studies which was conducted in relation to the effect of education on crime, highlighted the significant impact of educational opportunities on crime reduction. They found that higher levels of education correlate with lower crime rates, underscoring the importance of investing in education, particularly for marginalized groups. Education and crime provide the context that it is quite challenging to dispute the notion that investing in education could lead to significant savings on the social costs of crime. Empirical research consistently confirms the theory that as a person's level of education increases, the probability of them engaging in criminal behavior decreases. However, research has also discovered that for certain types of acts, such as tax fraud and embezzlement, the likelihood of committing them actually increases with higher levels of education. Also, it elaborated that individuals with higher levels of education tend to exhibit more lenient views and societal norms towards criminal behavior. One potential explanation for this phenomenon is that individuals in this particular group encounter criminal activities less frequently, resulting in a lower likelihood of being victims of violent crimes. It is an established fact that communities with a lower level of education tend to have higher rates of criminal activity. Another possible explanation for the increasing acceptance of criminal behavior could be attributed to the fact that those with higher levels of education tend to hold more progressive beliefs and values. It is well acknowledged that individuals with greater levels of education tend to have higher incomes compared to those with lower levels of education, resulting in a higher quality of living that is also more secure. Further, the potential advantages and availability of specific forms of unlawful conduct escalate proportionally with one's income growth. Activities such as money laundering and insider trading typically do not worry those who own minimal or no financial resources. Another possible explanation is that individuals with higher levels of education possess greater information and awareness regarding the potential methods and opportunities for engaging in specific forms of white-collar offenses. Therefore, criminologists frequently emphasize that the primary factor contributing to white-collar or upper-class criminal conduct is the ability to obtain access (such as to financial resources or confidential information). Said article also explained that the above-mentioned contribution also applies to criminal activities commonly associated with working-class individuals, such as shoplifting, graffiti, and violent street crimes. Evidence from research has substantiated the understanding that these types of behaviors are predominantly perpetrated by individuals with lower educational attainment. One possible explanation is that individuals with lower levels of education exhibit a greater propensity for temporal discounting, perceiving and evaluating the future in a distinct manner compared to those with higher levels of education. In addition, individuals with lower levels of education frequently give less consideration to the potential long-term effects of their acts, such as punishment and sentencing, compared to those who are more highly educated. Taking into account the aforementioned circumstances, the researcher of this study expressed the view that both the quality of schools and the type of schools attended by learners also have an impact on criminal behavior. Therefore, additional research might be undertaken to directly evaluate the impact of measured school quality on crime. No generalization was made and this could also become the start of a more in-depth research that would look into the education aspect and criminal behavior and/or involvement in specific types of crimes. This would require more data which is not part of this study. Though, it must also be noted that there are relevant programs offered by BJMP in partnership with educational institutions so that PDL could gain education and/or technical skills while they are in prisons. Additionally, this stresses the need for focused interventions aimed at increasing educational participation and achievements. There should be more programs supporting students through higher education completion by enhancing their learning experiences with scholarships, coaching as well as mentor programs targeting minority groups. On top of that, addressing the economic factors preventing further learning remains essential to ensure that every child has access to quality education. This can be achieved through poverty eradication initiatives, financial aid for schooling, and local support networks.

Table 11. Distribution of Frequency and Percentage According to Respondents' Employment Status

Nature of Employment	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Employed full-time	60	37.5	37.5

Unemployed	48	30	99.4
Employed part-time	47	29.4	66.9
Student	4	2.5	69.4
Business Owner	1	0.6	100
Total	160	100	

Employment status. Table 11 illustrates that 60 (37.5%) respondents have full-time employment while 47 (29.4%) have part-time jobs. A substantial number of the participants are jobless with 48 (30%). Also, out of the respondents, there is one business owner and four students. It is speculated that unemployment encourages people to commit crimes in order to support themselves financially, as well as unemployment heightens anguish that leads to criminal activity among the unemployed.

It has been stressed in different findings that crime rates tend to rise during times of low unemployment. Additionally, it has been observed that a significant number of crimes are committed by individuals who are working or of school age. Therefore, unemployment is not considered to be a prominent factor influencing crime. There is some evidence indicating a connection between unemployment and crime. However, this relationship seems to be intertwined with other factors of economic disadvantage or social struggles in a complex manner. Likewise, the above data supports the study regarding the relationship between employment and crime which concluded that there is a negative correlation between employment and crime. The impact of criminal activity on the duration of employment and weekly earnings is minimal and lacks statistical significance. On one hand, full-time employment prevails in this area, and high rates of unemployment as well as part-time work coupled with low representation of business owners and students indicates that employment and educational support strategies are necessary to be implemented by concerned authorities. Job fairs, skills training, and employment support programs can be initiated among other initiatives to address the high unemployment rate. Furthermore, these programs can also help improve job security and benefits for part-time workers so that they have access to the same resources and protections as full-timers do. Local economic growth can be stimulated through the provision of resources, training, and financial support for aspiring business owners therefore creating new jobs. Long-term economic stability and personal development may benefit from increasing support for students such as scholarships, mentorship programs, and higher learning opportunities. Consequently, this paper would claim that addressing these issues will lead to improve economic conditions as well as enhanced quality of life for PDLs in Cavite.

Table 12. Distribution of Frequency and Percentage According to Respondents' Detention in a Jail Facility Prior Present Detention or Before Deciding to Live in Cavite

Detained in a Jail Facility Prior to Living in Cavite	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	129	80.6	100
Yes	31	19.4	19.4
Total	160	100	--

Detention data prior to respondents' detention or decision to live in Cavite. Table 12 gives the distribution of respondents based on whether they were detained in a jail facility before deciding to live in Cavite. It showed that the majority of the respondents, representing 131 (80.6%) had no record of being held in a jail facility before moving to Cavite. Nevertheless, there is a smaller subgroup, amounting to 31 (19.4%), who have been imprisoned before moving to Cavite. Consequently, 80.6% of the participants who had no prior experience of being incarcerated stated that most persons in the survey sample had not engaged in any illegal activities before it is probable that this particular demographic consists of individuals with fewer obstacles or legal disenfranchisements to community reintegration efforts. At the same time, 19.4% of respondents having been detained before transferring to Cavite represented a substantial minority which may be associated with contacts with the Criminal Justice System (CJS). The aforementioned demographic data gives empirical support for various research on

crime prevention, which has shown that criminals are individuals who systematically assess the potential advantages, costs, and risks before engaging in criminal activities. Moreover, the existence of an "opportunity" plays a pivotal role in their decision-making process. The researcher strongly opined that crime prevention should prioritize the reduction of opportunities and the increase of costs associated with committing a crime, in relation to its benefits. Yet, to comprehend social interactions and address the specific support needs of residents with a history of incarceration, this category necessitates attention and further inquiry. The presence of repeat offenders is worrisome because this could reflect the situation in our country, wherein the system becomes a cycle of crime and detention. Results of the study indicated that many of the respondents have no prior criminal records and this led to the possibility of successful reintegration once they serve their sentences. This could become the starting point for the creation of relevant programs that will aid the PDLs once they are already outside these facilities. This is in line with the developmental function of BJMP wherein they are also expected to provide opportunities for easy transition to life outside of jails. Though, it must also be noted that those with previous records should not be totally neglected. They may also be included in these programs and chances of reintegration into society is not entirely impossible.

Table 13. Distribution of Frequency and Percentage According to Respondents' Involvement in Crime Before Detention or Decision to Live in Cavite

Crime Type	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No crime committed before	73	45.6	45.6
Possession of illegal drugs	31	19.4	65
Selling of illegal drugs	20	12.5	77.5
Theft	11	6.9	84.4
Sex crimes	6	3.8	91.9
Selling and possession of illegal drugs	6	3.8	88.1
Robbery	5	3.1	95
Others	3	1.9	100
Possession of illegal weapon	3	1.9	96.9
Robbery and possession of illegal drugs	1	0.6	98.1
Murder	1	0.6	97.5
Total	160	100	

Previous crime prior to their detention or decision to live in Cavite.

Table 13 presents the types of crimes that respondents were involved in and the reasons why they were detained before deciding to live in Cavite. The majority of the respondents (45.6%) said they never committed a crime at all before they decided to live in Cavite. A total combination of 57 respondents, which comprises 35.7%, was involved in drug-related offenses such as the possession and selling of illegal drugs. Other crimes include theft (6.9%), sex crimes (3.8%), and robbery (3.1%), which are relatively low in frequency but still significant. Murder is relatively rare, with a rate of 0.6%, and combined offenses of robbery and possession of illegal drugs, also at 0.6%. Before deciding to transfer to Cavite, a significant portion of the respondents were law-abiding residents, demonstrating the growing global popularity of community participation in crime prevention efforts. Citizens' involvement in crime prevention is widely considered an ideal approach to crime prevention and crime reduction. In this setting, local government units and law enforcers should actively organize and integrate communities into crime prevention programs to foster strong partnerships between law enforcement and the community. It should be noted that the majority of drug issues among the previously incarcerated population suggests that this may be a point of concern and may have to be intervened in targeted ways. The fact that the crimes committed show such divergence means different factors and situations drive people to the commission of crimes. Severe crimes or multiple offenses are taken as those persons requiring intensive rehabilitation. This is also an indication of the prevalence of drug-related crimes.

Table 14. Distribution of Frequency and Percentage According to Respondents' Involvement in Crime and Reason for Detention

Crime Type	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Possession of illegal drugs	67	41.9	41.9
Selling of illegal drugs	39	24.4	66.3

Others	15	9.4	99.4
Homicide	7	4.4	75
Sex crimes	7	4.4	70.6
Theft	5	3.1	78.1
Robbery	4	2.5	80.6
Possession of illegal weapons	3	1.9	84.4
Murder	3	1.9	82.5
Murder and possession of illegal weapons	2	1.3	89.4
Illegal recruitment	2	1.3	88.1
Frustrated/explosive	2	1.3	86.9
Scam/estafa	2	1.3	85.6
Not applicable	1	0.6	100
Selling and possession of illegal drugs	1	0.6	90
Total	160	100	

Types of crimes and reason for detention in the facility.

Table 14 provides a detailed breakdown of the types of crimes committed by respondents. The highest frequency is for possession of illegal drugs, with 67 respondents (41.9%). Followed by 39 respondents (24.4%) detained for selling illegal drugs. Combining these figures shows that 106 respondents (66.3%) were involved in drug-related crimes, which highlights a significant issue with drug possession within the respondents. Both sex crimes and homicide have a frequency of 7 respondents (4.4%) each. Theft and robbery are relatively lower in frequency, with 5 respondents (3.1%) detained for theft and 4 respondents (2.5%) for robbery. Less common crimes include murder and possession of illegal weapons with 3 respondents (1.9%) each, and scam/estafa, frustrated/explosive, and illegal recruitment with 2 respondents (1.3%) each. Only two (2) respondents (1.3%) were detained for the combination of murder and possession of illegal weapons. Only 1 respondent (0.6%) was detained for both selling and possession of illegal drugs. While drug-related crimes are predominant, the presence of other crimes like sex crimes, homicide, and theft suggests that a multifaceted approach to crime prevention is necessary. This could involve specialized units within law enforcement and tailored community support programs. This indicates that the types of crimes committed by offenders are also diverse and include both index and non-index crimes. The Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), the government office in charge of developing policy on illegal drugs in the Philippines, claims that the country has 1.8 million current drug users and 4.8 million Filipinos who have used illegal drugs at least once in their lives. More than three-quarters of drug users are adults (91%), males (87%), and high school graduates (80%). Employers hire more than two-thirds (67%) of drug users. In the Philippines, the most commonly used drug is shabu, a type of methamphetamine known as "poor man's cocaine." Correspondingly, some reports in the year 2019 revealed that drug-related offenses and crimes against persons are the most prevalent criminal activities in England and Wales, irrespective of gender. Additionally, in Italy, as in England and Wales, the most common criminal offenses for those who are incarcerated for criminal activities are drug offenses and theft, which include the handling of stolen products. The high percentage of respondents (in this study) detained for drug-related offenses indicates a need for targeted drug prevention and rehabilitation programs. Policies and community efforts should address the root causes of drug abuse and trafficking. Given the variety of crimes, rehabilitation programs should be comprehensive, addressing not only substance abuse but also providing support for those involved in violent or property crimes. Effective reintegration strategies can help reduce recidivism and support ex-offenders in becoming productive members of society.

Perceived Influence of Ethnic Diversity, Socio-Economic Factors, and Community-Directed Programs on Crimes in the Province of Cavite

Understanding the complex connection between ethnic diversity and crime rates in cities is crucial for social science research. This study aimed to investigate this relationship in the selected cities of Cavite province in the Philippines. Cavite is a rapidly developing area with a diverse mix of ethnicities, making it an interesting case to study the impact of diversity on committing crimes. The diverse population in the province can be linked to its proximity to the country's capital as well as the rapid urbanization and massive developments in this province. It must also be noted that socio-economic factors and community-directed programs were also included as variables for this section of the discussion, but these are also in the context of ethnic diversity. This section of the

discussion generally reflects the data gathered to satisfy the second research question. Complicated statistical analysis was foregone by ensuring that the statements used in the survey questionnaire are meant to measure and analyze the influence of the variables to crime in the chosen province. In this case, a high mean score denotes a high level of perceived influence. It must also be noted that ethnic diversity is not seen as a mediating or intervening variable but as a factor that could influence crime. The statements are presented according to their mean score and not based on the sequence they were presented in the survey questionnaire utilized for this study.

Table 15 Perceived Influence of Ethnic Diversity on Crimes in Cavite

Statements	Mean	SD	VI	Rank
You experienced or witnessed a crime involving multiple ethnic groups in your neighborhood.	3.56	1.014	Agree	1
You feel that people from different ethnic groups in your neighborhood get along well.	3.53	1.069	Agree	2
You are comfortable living in an ethnically diverse neighborhood.	3.12	0.609	Neutral	3
You believe that ethnic diversity in your neighborhood affects crime rates.	2.96	1.214	Neutral	4
There is visible tension between different ethnic groups in your community.	2.60	1.208	Disagree	5
Overall Mean and Standard Deviation	2.94	1.299	Neutral	--

Legend: *Strongly Agree (4.21-5.00); Agree (3.41-4.20); Neutral (2.61-3.40); Disagree (1.81-2.60); Strongly Disagree (1.00-1.80)*

Ethnic diversity and crime. Survey findings reveal the perception of respondents on how ethnic diversity influences crime rates in Cavite as shown in Table 15 Statement 3 ranked first, obtaining a mean score of 3.56 and a standard deviation of 1.014. The respondents generally concur that they have seen or observed criminal activities involving multiple ethnic groups, indicating a notable level of awareness or prevalence of such instances in their areas. Statement 2 ranked second with a mean score of 3.53 and a standard deviation of 1.069. This indicates that respondents generally agree that people from different ethnic groups in their community get along well. This study is significant as it reveals that despite the presence of ethnic diversity, there is a sense of social harmony, for better implementation of crime prevention and social integration programs and initiatives. Statement 1 ranked third and obtained a mean score of 3.12 and a standard deviation of 0.609. Respondents had mixed reactions about their comfort in living in an ethnically diverse neighborhood. Statement 4 ranked fifth and last among the indicators, with a mean score of 2.60 and a standard deviation of 1.208. Respondents generally disagree that there is tension between ethnic groups in their community, similar to the finding presented above. The overall mean of 2.94 with a verbal interpretation of "Neutral" denotes that the respondents had mixed views on the influence of ethnic diversity on crime rates. While there is agreement on the existence of crimes involving ethnic groups, there was neutrality about the influence of ethnic diversity on crime rates in their community. This indicates that other factors may also be significant. This reflects the complexities of crimes and the understanding that diversity is not the primary contributor to the occurrence of crimes in a community. Criminal behavior cannot be fully attributed to one's ethnicity and it cannot be affirmed that diverse communities have higher crime incidence. The influx of different ethnic groups in the province of Cavite is not the sole reason for the occurrence of criminal behavior. Though there are evident differences in language and beliefs, there are existing mechanisms to resolve conflict which could also aid in crime prevention. It is worthwhile to look into this in a much larger sample considering that there is a need to consider a whole lot of variables and factors. Relatedly, Frederick (2022) completed a study to examine the correlation between the characterization of victims and offenders in true crime podcasts and the demographic patterns observed in American crime statistics. The study also aimed to identify emerging themes pertaining to race, gender, and sexuality in these podcasts. The researcher employed critical racism and feminism theories to examine real crime podcasts. This study examined the presentation of racial, gender, and sexual stereotypes in real crime podcasts in order to discover a potential correlation between crime statistics and podcast content. The study offers valuable insights into the real crime genre, highlighting its remarkable adaptability in addressing various incidents and issues related to the criminal justice system and

society. However, it emphasizes the importance of discussing race openly only when it is directly relevant to the podcast's subject matter or the crime under discussion. Although true crime podcasts enable more comprehensive and in-depth conversations about significant topics, more research on race ought to be done to the fullest extent possible. The diverse population in the study locale provided insights on this genre and this could serve as the starting point in understanding how ethnicity and diversity could help in predicting the prevalence of crime incidents.

Table 16. Perceived Influence of Socio-Economic Factors on Crimes in Cavite

Statements	Mean	SD	VI	Rank
Facing economic hardships is common among different ethnic groups in your community.	3.60	1.193	Agree	1
Improving socioeconomic conditions would reduce crime rates in your neighborhood.	3.48	1.138	Agree	2
Unemployment is not an issue in your neighborhood.	3.45	1.191	Agree	3
Differences in income levels among different ethnic groups in your area are a significant factor in committing theft.	2.89	1.221	Neutral	4
Socio-economic challenges in your neighborhood have a significant influence on crime rates.	2.81	1.204	Neutral	5
Overall Mean and Standard Deviation	3.25	.762	Neutral	--

Legend: *Strongly Agree (4.21-5.00); Agree (3.41-4.20); Neutral (2.61-3.40); Disagree (1.81-2.60); Strongly Disagree (1.00-1.80)*

Socio-economic factors and crime. Table 16 presents the respondents' perceptions regarding the influence of socio-economic factors on crime rates within ethnically diverse neighborhoods in Cavite. Statement 5 ranked first, garnering a mean score of 3.60 and a standard deviation of 1.193, which indicates that economic challenges are prevalent across different ethnicities, potentially influencing crime rates. Various research consistently shows that socio-economic disparities, such as income inequality, unemployment, and lack of access to quality education and healthcare, are closely linked to higher crime rates. For instance, a relevant study found that neighborhoods with strong collective efficacy tend to have lower crime rates, suggesting that socioeconomic support and community solidarity are essential for crime prevention. Similarly, other researchers argued that socioeconomic isolation of inner-city residents leads to a breakdown in social organization, contributing to higher crime rates. Moreover, the World Bank's World Development Report on Conflict, Security, and Development pointed out that societies characterized by high levels of inequality and social exclusion are more prone to violence and crime. This highlights that addressing socio-economic inequalities and providing targeted support to marginalized communities are key solutions to mitigating criminality and fostering social cohesion. Effective policies should focus on reducing economic disparities, enhancing educational access, and strengthening community networks to create safer and more inclusive urban environments. Statement 3 ranked second and obtained a mean score of 3.48 and a standard deviation of 1.138, which means that respondents agree that better socio-economic conditions lead to reduced crime rates similarly emphasized in the previous statement. Statement 4 ranked third, with a mean score of 3.45 and a standard deviation of 1.191, which denotes that respondents agree that unemployment is not a significant issue in their neighborhood. This is reflected in the province's high employment rate, at 95.2% as of February 2023 according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. The province being situated near Metro Manila has fostered economic growth and development. This provided for a high level of connectivity and ease of access to various job opportunities, thus decreasing unemployment pressures within the province itself (Camella Homes, 2022). Industries in the province are also varied – from manufacturing to retail, and services. The existence of economic zones and industrial parks supports a steady demand for labor (Berto, 2022). Moreover, the local government has also provided for various programs to enhance employment

opportunities and economic development. These include support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), infrastructure development, and investment in education and skills training programs (PSA). In summary, the socio-economic factors that influence the relationship between ethnic diversity and crime rates among the selected cities and municipalities in Cavite have obtained a mean score of 3.25, a standard deviation of 7.62, and a verbal interpretation of neutral. Respondents had mixed views regarding the influence of socioeconomic factors on the relationship between ethnic diversity and crime rates. While respondents agree that the prevalence of economic hardships and improving conditions is seen as beneficial, there is neutrality on the direct influence of socio-economic challenges on criminality. Thus, other approaches to crime reduction are needed alongside other factors.

Table 17. Perceived Influence of Community-Directed Programs on Crimes in Cavite

Statements	Mean	SD	VI	Rank
The educational and/or training programs are effective in promoting ethnic harmony in your area.	3.79	1.042	Agree	1
Health care caters equally to all ethnic groups in your community.	3.69	1.105	Agree	2
There are community support programs in your neighborhood that cater to various ethnic groups.	3.58	1.256	Agree	3
You lived in a community group that includes multiple ethnicities.	3.48	1.154	Agree	4
The government is doing enough to focus on multicultural awareness in your community.	3.28	1.265	Agree	5
Overall Mean and Standard Deviation	3.56	.766	Neutral	

Legend: *Strongly Agree (4.21-5.00); Agree (3.41-4.20); Neutral (2.61-3.40); Disagree (1.81-2.60); Strongly Disagree (1.00-1.80)*

Community-directed programs and crime. Table 17 shows the perception of respondents on the influence of community-directed programs on the crime rates in the ethnically-diverse cities in Cavite. Survey findings revealed that Statement 3 ranked first, garnering a mean score of 3.79 and a standard deviation of 1.042. Respondents agree that educational and training programs are effective in promoting ethnic harmony. The findings highlight the importance of investing in educational initiatives as a means of fostering understanding, tolerance, and social cohesion among diverse ethnic groups (UNESCO). Statement 4 ranked second with a mean score of 3.69 and a standard deviation of 1.105, which denotes that respondents agree that healthcare services are accessible and equitable across ethnic groups. Statement 2 ranked third which obtained a mean score of 3.58 and a standard deviation of 1.256, which indicates that respondents acknowledged the presence of community support programs that cater to various ethnic groups. Statement 5 ranked fifth and obtained a mean score of 3.28 and a standard deviation of 1.265, presenting that the respondents recognized the government's efforts to promote multicultural awareness in their community. with a verbal interpretation of agree. This indicates that residents in the province of Cavite generally perceive the government as adequately focusing on multicultural awareness within their communities. In general, the influence of community-directed programs on crime rates among the cities in Cavite has obtained a mean score of 3.56, a standard deviation of 0.766, and a verbal interpretation of "Neutral". This indicates that, on average, respondents have mixed to positive views on the said influence. The overall positive response to community and educational programs underscores their importance in fostering ethnic harmony and potentially reducing and eliminating crime rates. In relation to this, Lochner (2020) discussed that the incidence of the majority of criminal activity is negatively correlated with the level of education attained. Empirical evidence indicates that a greater level of education results in a significant reduction in both violent and property offenses, which in turn provides significant social benefits. A limited number of studies have identified significant reductions in crime as a result of such changes; however, the evidence regarding the impact of school quality improvements on crime is not definitive. At the same time, it should be noted that respondents agreed that the government plays a crucial role in crime prevention which can be carried out through various programs that mitigate the occurrence of crime. Nevertheless, the researcher proposes that the conventional method of crime prevention, which involves identifying the psychological and social factors

contributing to crime and addressing these shortcomings by providing treatment to individual offenders and developing specialized educational and recreational programs for specific groups, should be improved.

Relationship Between Profile of the Respondents and Perception of Influence of Factors Affecting Crime

This section relies mostly on the test of relationship and data from the first and second research question were considered. It provides an understanding of the relationship between the study variables and results could help in the process of designing appropriate programs.

Table 18. Result of the Test of Relationship between the Profile Variables and Perceived Influence of Various Factors on Crimes in Cavite

PROFILE		Ethnic Diversity	Socio-Economic Factors	Community-Directed Programs
City jail	Pearson Correlation	-.132	-.247**	-.240**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.097	.002	.002
	N	160	160	160
Age	Pearson Correlation	.038	.117	-.036
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.630	.140	.649
	N	160	160	160
Sex	Pearson Correlation	-.174*	.008	.009
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.028	.920	.909
	N	160	160	160
Gender	Pearson Correlation	-.157*	-.057	.053
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.047	.478	.502
	N	160	160	160
Place of origin	Pearson Correlation	-.053	-.041	.071
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.507	.604	.371
	N	160	160	160
Dialect	Pearson Correlation	-.053	-.111	.071
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.507	.160	.374
	N	160	160	160
Housing type	Pearson Correlation	-.136	.006	.019
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.085	.939	.811
	N	160	160	160
Length of residency in Cavite	Pearson Correlation	.024	-.007	.115
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.761	.928	.148
	N	160	160	160
Highest educational attainment	Pearson Correlation	.056	.068	.033
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.479	.393	.678
	N	160	160	160
Employment status	Pearson Correlation	-.041	-.110	-.141
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.604	.168	.075
	N	160	160	160

PROFILE		Ethnic Diversity	Socio-Economic Factors	Community-Directed Programs
Detention data prior to respondents' detention or decision to live in Cavite before you decided to live in Cavite	Pearson Correlation	-.292**	-.107	-.073
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.176	.359
	N	160	160	160

PROFILE		Ethnic Diversity	Socio-Economic Factors	Community-Directed Programs
Previous crime prior to their detention or decision to live in Cavite	Pearson Correlation	.034	.129	-.025
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.666	.105	.750
Types of crimes and reason for detention in the facility	Pearson Correlation	-.109	.128	.063
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.169	.106	.428
	N	160	160	160

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

Table 18 shows the results of Pearson Correlation test to identify the significant relationship between profile variables and the different factors (ethnic diversity, socio-economic factors, and community-directed programs) influencing the occurrence of crime in the cities in the province of Cavite. The table includes Pearson correlation coefficients and significance levels (2-tailed) for each variable. Data came from self-reported assessments of the respondents and caution must be observed when interpreting the results since it reflects their perception and their responses may be influenced by other uncontrollable factors or variables. The data presented in the previous table are collated and it is imperative to separate the results indicating the presence of a relationship. In this case, the negative correlations were taken and presented separately for better discussion of the findings. Three (3) profile variables were considered to have a significant relationship with ethnic diversity using the Pearson Correlation Coefficient, as follows:

Table 19. Variables with Computed Significant Relationship to Ethnic Diversity

Variable	Pearson Correlation Coefficient	p-value	Direction
Sex	-.174*	.028	negative
Gender	-.157*	.047	negative
Detainment history	-.292**	.000	negative

As shown in Table 19, there is a significant negative correlation between sex and ethnic diversity, indicating that one's sex may be more prevalent in ethnically diverse areas. Further, having a negative correlation with gender denotes that gender preference may vary with levels of ethnic diversity. This suggests the creation of inclusive policies aimed at promoting gender equality in ethnically diverse areas. This can also involve legal protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Moreover, community programs (e.g., counseling and safe spaces) can be established that focus on gender inclusivity and awareness, to reduce and eliminate gender inequality. There is also a strong significant negative correlation with detainment history, suggesting those detained in their province of origin before moving to Cavite tend to come from less ethnically diverse backgrounds. This is an opportunity to conduct further research to understand the dynamics and relationship between ethnic diversity and detainment history. Furthermore, both socioeconomic and community-directed programs have a significant negative correlation with the city/municipality, as shown below:

Table 20. Variables with Computed Significant Relationship to Socio-Economic Factors and Community-Directed Programs

PROFILE		Socio-Economic Factors	Community-Directed Programs
City jail	Pearson Correlation	-.247**	-.240**

PROFILE	Socio-Economic Factors	Community-Directed Programs
Sig. (2-tailed)	.002	.002
N	160	160

This then suggests enhancing socioeconomic conditions by implementing development programs and increasing social welfare support for low-income families in ethnically diverse communities. In addition, community and education programs shall also be strengthened. These can be through increasing funding for schools in ethnically diverse areas to ensure that resources (e.g., hiring qualified teachers, providing up-to-date learning materials, and maintaining school facilities) are provided. Social cohesion can also be improved by providing cultural competency training for officials of local government units, educators, and community leaders to identify and address the needs of ethnically diverse communities. Moreover, the local government should continuously collect and analyze data on the socioeconomic and educational conditions of cities/municipalities to effectively monitor the implementation of programs and to advocate for policies.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study looked at the relationship between ethnic diversity and crime in Cavite, which is one of the most culturally diverse areas in the Philippines due to migration and rapid urbanization. The findings yielded several significant revelations. Initially, it was found that respondents exhibited a range of characteristics, with the dominant ethnic groups displaying trends similar to those observed in the nation's statistics. Second, opinions about the relationship between ethnic diversity and crime rates were found to be neutral, suggesting that there is still uncertainty and that other factors may be at play. Third, there was a negative correlation between ethnic diversity and sex, indicating that gender dynamics shift in more diverse communities. The importance of context-specific approaches to crime prevention that consider socioeconomic and cultural factors was emphasized in the study's conclusion.

Given these results, several recommendations are made:

Policymakers should embrace evidence-based, situation-specific crime prevention programs that address the socioeconomic factors that contribute to crime, such as poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion. Organizations in charge of housing, health, education, and labor must include crime prevention in their policies to promote inclusive development.

Community Involvement and Social Cohesion

Active citizen participation should be added to traditional policing. Investments in education, skill development, and intercultural initiatives are recommended to enhance interethnic harmony, reduce prejudice, and build more cohesive communities.

Law Enforcement and Institutional Reforms

The Philippine National Police (PNP) and the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) should place a high premium on training officers in ethnic diversity and cultural sensitivity. These programs would enhance community relations with the police, reduce tensions in multicultural areas, and increase public trust in law enforcement.

Preventing Crimes Associated with Drugs

Drug possession and distribution have grown to be serious crime problems, so solutions must go beyond severe penalties. Initiatives for rehabilitation, reintegration, and socioeconomic support should be carried out alongside law enforcement to address the root causes of drug abuse and criminality.

Methods That Consider Gender

Gender dynamics require targeted interventions. Policies should incorporate gender-sensitive approaches to crime prevention, and government agencies such as the Philippine Commission on Women should support programs for the rehabilitation and reintegration of female offenders.

Rehabilitating and Reintegrating

Second-chance jobs and community-based rehabilitation programs must be expanded. Partnerships between government agencies, local governments, non-profits, and the private sector can reduce recidivism by helping ex-offenders find employment, improve their skills, and reintegrate into society.

Future Research

More research is needed to determine how ethnic diversity affects crime and social dynamics over the long run. If research is extended to other provinces and qualitative methods are employed, the results will be more widely applicable and provide deeper insights.

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