NIGERIAN POLICE CRIME FIGHTING STRATEGIES AND CRIME CONTROL IN MAKURDI METROPOLIS BENUE STATE-NIGERIA

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Abstract: *The study examined effects of Nigeria Police crime fighting strategies on crime control in Makurdi metropolis, Benue State. The specific objectives were to assess the effect of community partnership, training, intelligence gathering and media strategies on crime control in Makurdi metropolis, Benue State. The study adopted a survey research approach, using questionnaire administration for data generation from 308 respondents of the officers and men of the Nigeria Police and PCRC. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The t-test and p-values from regression analysis (statistical package for social science, version 25.0) was used for test of hypotheses. Findings showed that community partnership strategy (t= 7.88, p= 0.013), training strategy (t= 9.22, p= 0.011), intelligence gathering strategy (t= 7.14, p= 0.001) and media strategy (t= 8.94, p= 0.003) had significant/positive effect on crime control in Makurdi metropolis of Benue State. The study concludes that Nigeria Police crime fighting strategies (community partnership, training, intelligence gathering, and media) are effective and proactive tool for crime control in the study area. The study recommends amongst others that management of Nigeria Police should emphasize a more robust and sustained community partnership this will help project the law enforcement agent in a better image to help prevent, combat and control crime within their domain.*

Keywords: Crime Fighting Strategies, Crime Control, Community Partnership, Intelligence Gathering Strategies and Media.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Crime control is a critical concern for governments and security agencies worldwide. The globalization of crime, coupled with the rise of technologically advanced criminal activities, poses significant threats to national economic development and socio-political stability. This situation necessitates a proactive policing style that combines traditional methods with sophisticated technology to gather holistic intelligence and enhance crime prevention and control. Crime, as an inevitable aspect of human societies, is a universal issue that transcends cultural and social boundaries, requiring specific mechanisms to safeguard societal norms and values. Policing strategies have become essential for navigating the complexities of crime prevention and maintaining societal well-being (Ndubueze et al., 2022; Fomnya et al., 2024; Mohammed et al., 2024). Nigeria has experienced a marked increase in crime rates, including

armed robbery, kidnapping, cybercrime, and insurgency, all of which significantly threaten public safety (Adepoju, 2018; Okoru et al., 2024). These challenges call for strategic and proactive law enforcement measures that incorporate community partnerships, training, intelligence gathering, and media strategies to enhance crime control efforts (Ugwuoke, 2019). The police, as a key security institution, play a pivotal role in maintaining internal safety and security, engaging with the populace to prevent crimes, apprehend offenders, and restore order (Chene, 2019; Friedman, 2022).

Historically, crime control in Nigeria has evolved from the pre-colonial use of palace guards and secret societies to colonial-era policing that prioritized colonial interests, often at the expense of the populace. Post-colonial policing mirrored colonial patterns, favoring governmental interests. However, recent reforms, including the advent of community policing, enhanced training, and intelligence strategies, have led to significant improvements in Nigeria's policing operations (Fomnya et al., 2024). Despite these advancements, the nation continues to grapple with rising crime rates, threatening its sovereignty, security, and development (Innes, 2021; Miachi, 2022). The challenges of crime control are compounded by the emergence of transnational and cybercrimes, which exploit technological advancements and global connectivity. These crimes, ranging from terrorism and environmental crimes to cyberattacks and human trafficking, require innovative policing approaches that integrate modern technology and proactive intelligence gathering (Okuru et al., 2024; UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Justice, 2015). Traditional reactive policing models are no longer sufficient to address these rapidly evolving threats.

Contemporary policing faces additional challenges due to globalization, population growth, and entrenched social issues, which have prompted governments to adopt pluralized policing models. These involve networks of public, private, and community organizations, with public police acting as one node within these structures (Weisburd & Braga, 2017; Bayley & Shearing, 2021). To remain effective, police agencies must redefine their roles and develop innovative, flexible responses to modern crime control issues (Garba & Maigidi, 2020). Against this backdrop, this study examines the effect of Nigeria Police strategies on crime control in Makurdi metropolis, Benue State, addressing the evolving dynamics of crime prevention in the contemporary era.

1.2   Statement of the Problem

Despite the implementation of community policing, training, intelligence-driven policing, and media strategies in Makurdi metropolis, Benue State, criminal activities continue to fluctuate across different areas. While some communities commend these strategies for reducing crime, others still experience significant crime waves, highlighting potential gaps in their optimal utilization or effectiveness. Previous studies (e.g., Okunu et al., 2024; Onyewansia, 2023; Ndubueze et al., 2022) have explored the impact of individual policing strategies on crime control in various locations in Nigeria, but their findings are location-specific and cannot be generalized. This study addresses this gap by examining the combined effect of four critical Nigeria Police strategies community policing, training, intelligence gathering, and media strategy on crime control in Makurdi metropolis.

1.3   Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to examine the effect of the Nigeria Police crime fighting strategies on crime control in Makurdi Metropolis of Benue State. The specific objectives are to;

i.   examine the effect of Nigerian police community partnership strategy on crime control in   Makurdi Metropolis, Benue State,

ii.   ascertain the effect of the Nigeria Police training strategy on crime control in Makurdi Metropolis, Benue State,

iii.   assess the effect of Nigeria Police intelligence gathering strategy on crime control in Makurdi Metropolis, Benue State; and

iv.   determine the effect of Nigeria Police media strategy on crime control in Makurdi Metropolis, Benue State.

1.4   Scope of the Study

This study examines the effect of the Nigeria Police crime fighting strategies on crime control in Makurdi Metropolis of Benue State. The independent variable of Nigeria Police crime fighting strategies is dimensioned using Nigeria Police community partnership strategy, Nigeria Police training strategy, Nigeria Police intelligence gathering strategy and Nigeria Police media strategy; while crime control is measured as crime prevention, crime combating and crime deterrence. Geographically, the study is limited to Makurdi metropolis Area Command of Benue State. The study is further limited to the personnel of the Nigeria Police and Police Community Relations Committee (PCRC) in Makurdi metropolis.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Crime patterns and challenges often vary significantly by region. Makurdi, as a growing urban area in Benue State, faces unique crime dynamics, influenced by socio-economic, cultural, and geographical factors. Understanding the specific strategies used and their effectiveness can inform better policing. Evaluating existing crime-fighting strategies in Makurdi can highlight what works and what doesn't. This evidence can be instrumental in shaping local and national crime control policies, potentially influencing resource allocation and operational reforms. Crime control strategies impact public perception of the police. A study in Makurdi could explore how these strategies affect community trust, cooperation, and willingness to report crimes, which are crucial for long-term security.

By identifying effective methods and exposing gaps in current practices, the study could contribute to reducing crime rates in Makurdi and provide a model for other metropolitan areas in Nigeria. Studies like this add to the body of knowledge on crime and policing in Nigeria, helping researchers, policymakers, and criminology experts develop more refined and locally relevant theories and practices. Crime control is directly linked to economic stability and development. An effective policing strategy reduces insecurity, which in turn encourages investment and socio-economic growth in Makurdi. Benue State is central to issues like communal conflicts and banditry in Nigeria. Insights from Makurdi could provide lessons for addressing broader security challenges in similar regions. This study could serve as a case study for improving law enforcement strategies across urban centers in Nigeria, contributing significantly to both local and national crime control efforts.

In pursuance of the stated objectives, the study is divided into five major parts. Having addressed the first part which is the introduction, part two focuses on review of related literature covering the theoretical, conceptual and related empirical studies. The third part is on methodology used in conducting the research. Part four is on data analysis and part five offers conclusion, recommendations and limitations as well as suggestions for further studies accordingly.

2.0   LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1   Theoretical Framework

This section discussed the underlying theory called the Broken Window Theory, introduced by Wilson and Kelling (1982) and expanded by Adeyemi (2021), itemized that neglecting minor issues, such as a broken window, can lead to broader societal neglect and escalate into more serious crimes. This principle applies to gaps in intelligence gathering and indiscipline among police personnel, particularly in some Third World countries, which can result in catastrophic security consequences. Omenma and Hendricks (2018) highlighted the importance of intelligence-driven policing in preventing crime and combating terrorism, asserting that the criminal justice approach, centered on police intelligence, is more effective than military interventions. Effective policing, particularly through community strategies, depends on active citizen participation and collaboration. Also, Adefisoye (2017) and Rosenbaum (2003) stressed that community involvement allows individuals to influence social and political decisions, while partnership security collaborative efforts between citizens and security forces offered complementary skills and resources essential for public safety and addressing complex crime challenges.

2.2   Conceptual Framework

The concepts that make up the dependent and independent variables of this study are

carefully reviewed. First, the framework showing the dependent and independent variables are related with the sketch below.

Independent Variable   **Dependent Variable**
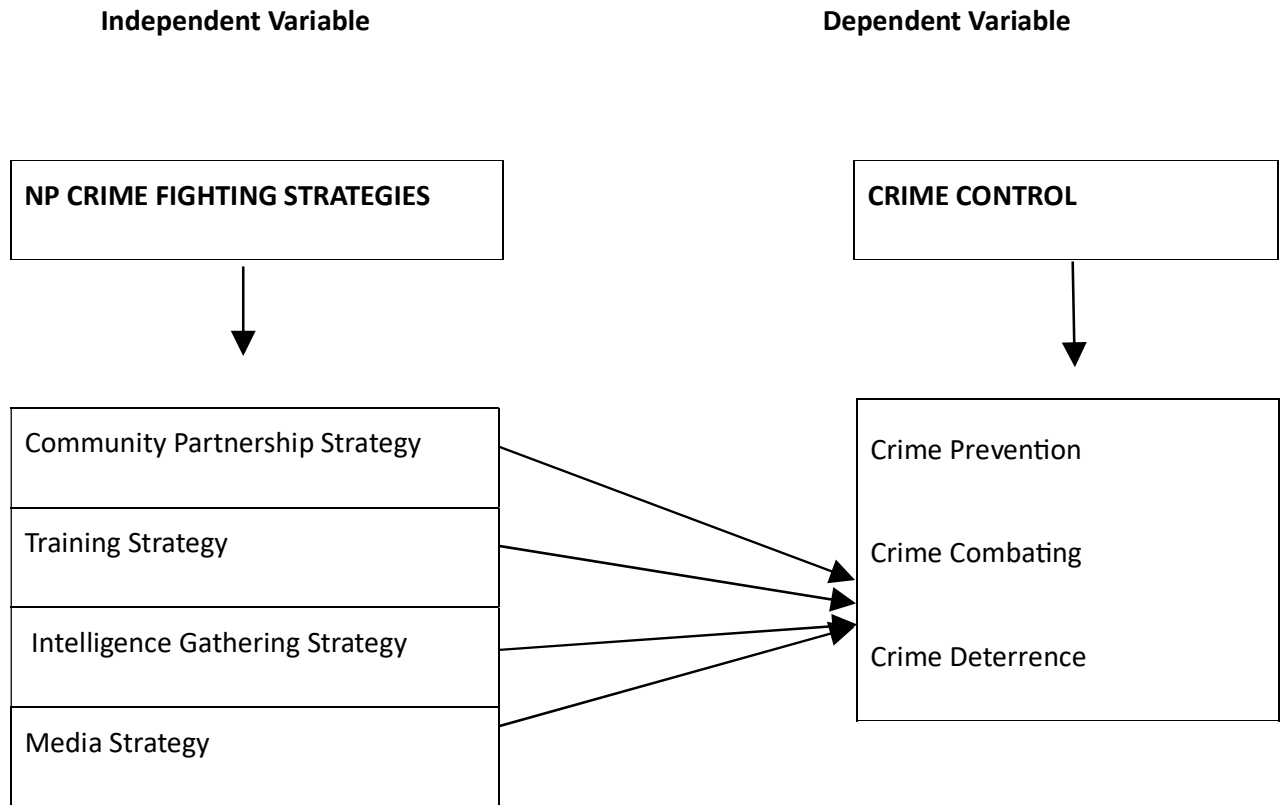
Source: Researcher Conceptualization, (2024)

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

2.2.1   Concept of Nigeria Police Crime Fighting Strategy

The Nigeria Police, as a government agency, is tasked with upholding public order, enforcing the law, and combating crime. According to Odekunle (2020), police officers are often the closest representatives of the government to criminal activity, both in terms of time and location, playing a crucial role in law enforcement and crime prevention. Bradley (2017) emphasizes that crime control organizations are responsible for identifying criminal activities, apprehending offenders, and providing sufficient evidence to ensure convictions. The Nigerian police, described as a socio-political and quasi-legal institution, are empowered to use force when necessary to maintain order, as stipulated by national and international laws (Agbeyi & Osugba, 2021; Ojo, 2019). However, police violence, often perpetuated by oppressive laws and authoritarian administrations, remains a major barrier to their constructive role in social change, with a long-standing history of brutality dating back to colonial rule (Ndukwe, 2018).

Despite these challenges, public safety and crime control are essential for fostering economic and political development in any nation. Strategic policing, a proactive and data-driven model, has emerged as a modern alternative to traditional reactive methods. To address these concerns, community engagement is emphasized, fostering trust and shared responsibility for public safety (Mohammed et al., 2024; Bayley & Shearing, 2021). By maintaining peace and enforcing laws in alignment with democratic principles, the police can contribute to public safety, entrepreneurial development, and societal cooperation, as noted in the Nigerian Police Force Annual Report (2017) and Martin (2020).

2.2.2 Dimensions of the Nigeria Police Crime-Fighting Strategy

The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) has adopted various strategies, philosophies, and methods to combat crime effectively. These strategies often overlap, as they are developed to address common challenges, and their goals range from crime prevention to optimal resource utilization and suspect apprehension. These approaches, as highlighted in studies by Okoru et al. (2024), Ndubueze et al. (2022), Garba and Maigida (2020), and Ndukwe (2018), are discussed in detail below.

i. Community Partnership Policing

Community partnership policing, also called citizens' policing, emphasizes collaboration between law enforcement and the community to prevent crime. This proactive strategy fosters trust and builds strong relationships between citizens and law enforcement, enhancing overall community safety (Ndakotsu, 2023; Mohammed et al., 2024). Initiatives like "Ebube Agu," introduced by South East governors in Nigeria, exemplify this strategy. Operationally based in Enugu, this outfit oversees vigilante groups across five eastern states, focusing on intelligence gathering and crime prevention (Abiodun, 2021). Similarly, the "Amotekun" corps, launched in the Southwest in 2020, comprises local hunters tasked with addressing terrorism, kidnappings, and banditry. Both initiatives underscore the importance of community-led solutions to security challenges (PM News, 2020). The essence of community policing lies in fostering mutual cooperation between police and the public. It involves empowering communities to address root causes of social issues while reducing crime and fear (Reid, 2015). However, strained relationships between law enforcement and citizens often hinder its effectiveness, necessitating solutions to rebuild trust and enhance collaboration (Garba and Maigida, 2020).

ii. Training Strategy

Training is an integral aspect of enhancing police effectiveness and professionalism. It involves structured programs designed to improve the knowledge, skills, and behavior of law enforcement personnel (Edet, 2017; Salihu et al., 2022). Training initiatives often include in-service training sessions, specialized courses on procedural justice, evidence-based policing, and de-escalation techniques (Chinowku, 2016). Regular training ensures that officers remain adaptable to changing societal needs and policing challenges (Martin, 2020). Moreover, ongoing training programs incorporate innovative teaching methods such as simulations,

role-play scenarios, and web-based modules to enhance learning outcomes (NASEM, 2022). Specialized programs, like international seminars and workshops, further equip officers with global best practices. This continuous investment in capacity-building fosters professionalism and operational efficiency within the police force (Eke, 2017).

iii. Intelligence Gathering Strategy

Intelligence gathering is a cornerstone of modern policing, focusing on the systematic collection, analysis, and integration of data to inform decision-making (Police Chief, 2021). This strategy enables proactive crime prevention and targeted investigations by leveraging timely and accurate information (Okoru et al., 2024). Intelligence-led policing transforms law enforcement practices from reactive to evidence-driven approaches, enhancing public safety and stability (Ratcliffe, 2016). Effective intelligence gathering involves planning, data collection, analysis, and dissemination. These processes support the development of actionable insights critical for addressing security threats (Benjamin, 2021). This strategy's success depends on robust mechanisms for processing and utilizing intelligence to prevent criminal activities and uphold law and order (Hutton, 2009).

iv. Media Strategy

Media engagement is another vital dimension of crime-fighting strategies. It involves the deliberate use of media channels to foster transparency, disseminate public safety messages, and enhance community engagement (Mawby, 2022). Media strategies also highlight the symbiotic relationship between law enforcement and media outlets. Journalists benefit from exclusive crime-related information, while the police gain a platform to enhance their public image and share critical updates (Peters and Ojedokun, 2019). This collaboration underscores the role of media in fostering an informed and vigilant society, contributing to overall crime reduction efforts (McQuail, 2000).

2.2.3 Measures of Crime Control

Various measures have been identified as critical to crime control by Ojedokun and Adeoti (2022), Ebong (2020), and Onyewansia et al. (2023). These include crime prevention, crime combating, and crime deterrence, which are elaborated below:

i. Crime Prevention

Crime prevention encompasses proactive actions aimed at reducing the likelihood of crime occurring in specific areas or curbing the onset of criminal behavior in individuals (Schneider, 2015). According to Eke et al. (2021), it involves the anticipation, recognition, and evaluation of crime risks, coupled with measures to mitigate or eliminate them. Ndukwu (2018) describes it as an effort to deter crime and criminal activities, particularly through governmental initiatives to enforce the law and maintain justice. The UN guidelines provide a comprehensive perspective, describing it as strategies and interventions that aim to lower the

risk of crimes occurring and mitigate their harmful effects on individuals and society, including alleviating fear of crime (Onyewansia, 2023).

ii. Crime Combating

Crime combating refers to the action of fighting against criminal activities, which can involve armed or unarmed methods. Combat is employed either as a self-defense mechanism or to assert authority (Ebong, 2020). According to Ndulwe (2018), combat effectiveness in crime control depends on the readiness of law enforcement agents to engage in operations, informed by behavioral, operational, and leadership factors. Combat effectiveness gauges the ability of forces to achieve their objectives and forms a critical aspect of operational success.

iii. Crime Deterrence

Crime deterrence revolves around discouraging individuals from committing criminal acts due to fear of punishment (Paternoster, 2010). It is based on the concept that the threat of sanctions can reduce criminal behavior and diminish the likelihood of offenses in society (Ebong, 2020). Deterrence theory posits that criminal penalties not only punish offenders but also serve as a warning to potential violators, dissuading them from engaging in similar acts (Ndukwe, 2018).

2.2.4 Nexus between the Nigeria Police Crime Fighting Strategies and Crime Control
The relationship between the Nigeria Police's crime-fighting strategies and crime control is evident in several interconnected approaches. Community partnerships emphasize collaboration between police and residents to address crime through intelligence sharing and proactive measures, a shift initiated during Nigeria's democratic era to curb increasing crime rates (Cordner, 2016; Santos and Santos, 2020). Furthermore, police training strategies focus on equipping officers with advanced skills in data analysis, technology application, and intelligence interpretation to enable targeted crime prevention (Marx, 2017; Weisburd and Braga, 2008). Intelligence gathering is another crucial strategy, prioritizing resource allocation to high-crime areas, identifying repeat offenders, and adopting intelligence-driven policing methods to anticipate and prevent criminal activities (Police Chief, 2021; Okoru et al., 2024). Despite these concerted efforts, challenges persist due to the increasing sophistication of criminal activities fueled by globalization, highlighting the need for more effective application of intelligence-led policing to manage rising crime rates in Nigeria (Arase, 2015; Okoru et al., 2024).

Drawing from the above commitment, table 1 below is presented to demonstrate police efforts in crime control and disorder in Nigeria's Fourth Republic

Table 1: Police Agenda for Managing Crime and Security in Nigeria's Fourth Republic from 29th May 1999 to 7th April, 2023

S/N	NAME	TENURE	AGENDA
	IGP. M.A.K Smith	1999-2002	6-Points Agenda "Operation Redeeming the Lost Glory"
	IGP. T.A. Balogun	2002-2005	8-Points Agenda "Operation Fire for Fire"
	IGP. S.G. Ehindero	2005-2007	7-Points Agenda "The Paradigm shifts in Police - Operation to serve and to protect with Integrity.
	IGP. M.M. Okiro	2007-2009	9-Ways Test Agenda
	IGP. H. A. Ringim	2010-2012	5-Point Agenda "Operation taking the Force to Greater Heights"
	IGP.M.D. Abubakar	2012-2014	6-Points Agenda "Operation Restore Hope"
	IGP. S. Abba	2014-2015	8-Points Agenda "Operation leading the Force to its Prime"
	IGP. S.E. Arase	2015-2016	8-Strategic Policing Plans "A Wakeup Call to the Nigeria Police Force"
	IGP. I.K. Idris	2016-2019	10-Points Agenda "Police Welfare/War against Crime.
	IGP. A.M. Adamu	2019-2021	Welfare Agenda "Operation Restore the Lost Glory"
	IGP Usman Alkali Baba	2021-2023	12-point agenda: leading to police reformation

Source: Gabriel, 2022

The table highlights key issues with the Nigeria Police under the Fourth Republic. It reveals that eleven Inspectors General of Police each introduced new, often overlapping operational agendas with no continuity, reflecting a crisis in strategy and police welfare. These findings align with Ikuteyijo and Rotimi's (2021) assertion that such agendas often serve as "attention-grabbing gestures" and opportunities for financial mismanagement.

2.3 Review of Related Empirical Studies

The study by Okoru et al. (2024), investigated the relevance of intelligence-driven policing in crime control within Nigeria, using inductive thematic analysis to explore its application and challenges. The research gathers diverse perspectives through interviews, focus groups, and document analysis, identifying key themes such as information integration, technology use, inter-agency collaboration, and community involvement. Preliminary findings suggest that intelligence-driven policing is crucial in adapting to Nigeria's evolving criminal trends. The study contributes to modernizing law enforcement strategies in Nigeria and highlights both

its benefits and challenges. Its scope and methodology differ from the current study, creating a research gap to be addressed.

Fomnya et al. (2024), critically examined community policing in Nigeria, assessing its effectiveness and suggesting solutions to its setbacks. Their study, using non-probability sampling and self-constructed questionnaires, found that while community members maintain good relations with the police, collaboration on crime control is lacking. The study highlights the importance of police-community partnerships and recommends expanding security agency funding, employment, and skill acquisition programs to enhance crime prevention. This study shares similarities with the current one in focusing on crime control strategies, but its geographical scope differs, creating a gap for further exploration.

Ndubueze et al. (2022), explored the role of police media relations in controlling crime in urban Jigawa State from 2014 to 2016. Unlike previous studies that primarily relied on public respondents, this research used primary data collected from both public and police samples across three purposively selected urban areas in the state. The study found that residents were not in the habit of regularly reporting crimes to the police, which impeded the overall effectiveness of law enforcement. However, it also revealed that residents had a relatively positive perception of the police's crime control capabilities, with most respondents rating them as either good or average. The study identified significant challenges to crime control, including inadequate police manpower and a lack of modern equipment. To address these issues, the study emphasizes the need for the police and the National Orientation Agency to engage in more public education campaigns to encourage timely crime reporting. This study shares similarities with the current research, as both focus on crime control measures and use similar strategies involving law enforcement agencies. However, the geographical differences between the two studies create a gap that the current research aims to fill.

Wong and Manning (2022), analyzed how the process of crime detection by frontline and investigative police could be optimized to yield better outcomes with the same policing resources (i.e., police strength). The study applied a pooled frontier analysis method to measure the efficiency of 18 police districts in Hong Kong between 2007 and 2015. The findings revealed that 95 out of 162 decision-making units (DMUs) were inefficient in terms of their crime detection outputs, compared to benchmark districts identified as efficient. The study highlighted that more efficient districts could serve as examples for others, providing insights into how to optimize inputs (police strength) for better crime detection outcomes. The research underscores the importance of improving the efficiency of police districts, which contrasts with the challenges faced by the Nigerian police, such as manpower shortages and lack of modern technology.

Similarly, Salihu et al. (2022), tested the impact of the Nigeria Police's knowledge of psychology on crime control. Using a survey design with structured self-report questionnaires, the study involved 54 police participants from the Abuja Municipal Area Council. The results indicated that an increase in the police's psychological knowledge significantly improved crime control efforts, public trust in the police, and the effectiveness of their work. The study also found that there was a notable difference in psychological knowledge between graduate

and non-graduate police officers, with graduates demonstrating more knowledge in crime control. This study shares a similarity with the current research in terms of the focus on training (specifically, psychological knowledge) as a key factor in effective crime control. However, it differs in terms of geographical scope, with this study being based in Abuja, which creates a gap for the current study to address.

Furthermore, Ebony (2020), examined the Nigeria Police Force's role in crime prevention, identifying various challenges that hinder its effectiveness. These challenges included poor welfare, inadequate logistics, corruption, and a lack of public trust. The study also pointed out that increased crime rates in society exacerbated these issues, undermining the police's ability to effectively prevent and control crime. Ebony suggested that alternative mechanisms, such as job creation, improving the education system, and providing basic social amenities, could help reduce crime rates and relieve some of the pressure on the police. This study highlights similar issues related to resource constraints and public trust, which are also key challenges faced by the Nigeria Police in other studies.

Kabiru and Sale (2020), investigated the effectiveness of community policing in crime prevention and control in Bauchi Local Government Area, using the Broken Windows Theory (BWT) as a theoretical framework. The research found that community-police partnerships, including vigilante night patrols, local mediation (Zauren Sulhu), and the Yan Committee volunteers who apprehended suspects, had been effective in preventing and controlling crime. The study emphasized the importance of community involvement in crime prevention, which aligns with the broader theme of collaborative policing seen in other studies. The findings suggest that community engagement can complement police efforts and help address some of the systemic challenges the police face in Nigeria.

Peters and Ojedokun (2019), focused on the use of social media for policing and crime prevention in Lagos. The study found that although police officers were generally supportive of using social media for policing, 47% of respondents indicated that intelligence gathering was the primary use of social media platforms. However, the majority of officers (77.2%) reported that they had not received any training on how to effectively use social media for policing. This study shares similarities with the current research in terms of the use of media for crime prevention but differs geographically, being based in Lagos. It underscores the need for improved training and strategic use of technology in crime control.

Adebayor (2019), examined the challenges faced by the Nigeria Police Force in Jos, including corruption, political influence, manpower shortages, and the lack of modern equipment. Despite these challenges, the study acknowledged the police's efforts in crime control but emphasized that these obstacles significantly limited their effectiveness. Adebayor's study highlighted that addressing these challenges is critical for improving the police's crime control capabilities. However, the study also noted that the police had not effectively addressed these issues, which remains a significant concern for law enforcement in Nigeria.

3.0   METHODOLOGY

The research adopts a survey research design, specifically a cross-sectional approach, to examine the impact of Nigeria Police crime-fighting strategies on crime control in Makurdi metropolis, Benue State. The study uses quantitative methods, collecting data through questionnaires administered to police officers and members of the Police Community Relations Committee (PCRC) in Makurdi. The survey focuses on four main crime-fighting strategies: community partnership, training, intelligence gathering, and media strategy, which are examined in relation to crime prevention, combating, and deterrence. Sample size was determined using Taro Yamane's formula, with a sample size of 337 participants, proportionally allocated between the Nigeria Police (96 respondents) and the PCRC (241 respondents). The study employs a purposeful sampling technique, ensuring that only individuals directly involved with the police strategies in Makurdi are included in the survey.

Table 2: Display of the Population of the Study

S/N	Population	Population Size
1	Nigeria Police Area Command Makurdi	608
2	PCRC Makurdi Metropolis	1520
	Total	2128

Source: Establishment unit   SHQ NPF Makurdi

To ensure the validity of the research instrument, the questionnaire was validated by experts in public administration and police officers and the reliability was tested using Cronbach's alpha, with values exceeding 0.70, indicating high reliability. Additionally, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure and Bartlett's test of sphericity confirmed the adequacy of the sample for factor analysis, supporting the use of this statistical technique for data analysis. The reliability of the instruments for each variable was also found to be acceptable, ranging from 0.786 to 0.829.

Table 3: KMO and Barlett test

Kaiser-Mayer Olkin Measurement of sampling adequacy		.799
Barlett test of Sphericity	Approximate chi square	.19975
	Df	4
	Sig	.002

Source: SPSS (version 25.0) printout, 2024.

Model Specification

In this study, crime control is a function of Nigeria Police crime fighting Strategies. In view of this, the implicit form of the regression model is specified thus:

CC = f (PS)   …………………………………………..(3)

The model for this research is given as

CC   = f (PS) = (CP, TR, IG, MD)….......................(4)

Where:

CC = Crime Control

PS = Nigeria Police crime fighting Strategies

CP = Community Partnership Strategy

TR = Training Strategy

IG = Intelligence Gathering Strategy

MD = Media Strategy

The regression model, thus is given as

$CC = x + \beta_1 CP + \beta_2 TR + \beta_3 IG + \beta_4 MD + e$ ……… (5)

Where:

X = Intercept of the regression

$\beta_1 - \beta_4$ = Parameter estimates

e = error term

Data analysis involves descriptive statistics, factor analysis, and regression analysis to test the relationships between the police crime-fighting strategies and crime control. The regression model is structured to assess the impact of four strategies (community partnership, training, intelligence gathering, and media) on crime control, with the hypothesis tested using t-tests and p-values. A decision rule is applied: the null hypothesis is rejected if the t-calculated value exceeds the t-tabulated value of 1.96 and the p-value is less than 0.05. This approach ensures that the findings accurately reflect the effectiveness of police strategies in controlling crime in Makurdi.

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the data analysis, test of hypotheses and discussion of findings based on the objectives of the study, the corresponding research questions and hypotheses that guided the study.

4.1 Data Presentation

A total of three hundred and thirty-seven (337) copies of questionnaire were distributed to respondents in the study area, out of which three hundred and eight (308) were successfully filled and returned.

4.1.1: Response Rate

The Table 5 shows information on the response rate of questionnaire distribution and returned.

Table 6: Distribution and Research Returns of Questionnaire

Respondents	Questionnaire Distributed	Percentage Distributed	No of Successfully Filled and Returned	No of Unsuccessfully Filled and Not Returned	Percentage Returned
Police Personnel and PCRC	337	100%	308	29	91.4 %
Total	337	100%	308	29	91.4 %

Source: Authors' Computation, 2024

Out of the total of three hundred and thirty-seven (337) copies of questionnaire distributed to respondents in the study area, three hundred and eight (308) were successfully filled and returned representing 91.4 %. However, 29 copies of the questionnaire representing 8.6% were not returned. Analyses was based on the questionnaire that were dully filed and returned during the field survey.

Table 7: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Respondents	Character	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	216	70.1
	Female	92	29.9
	Total	308	100.0
Age (years)	18-27	17	5.5
	28-37	104	33.8
	38-47	94	30.5
	48 and above	93	30.2
	Total	308	100.0
Educational Qualification	SSCE/WASCE	61	19.8
	OND/NCE	94	30.5
	HND/BSC	102	33.1
	Postgraduate	51	16.6
	Total	308	100.0
Marital Status	Married	256	83.1
	Single	52	16.9
	Total	308	100.0

Source: Authors Computation, 2024

Table 6 shows that the majority of respondents in the policing strategic team in Makurdi metropolis are male (70.1%) and aged between 38-47 years (30.5%). Most respondents hold an HND/B.Sc. (33.1%) and are married (83.1%). These demographics suggest a predominantly male, educated, and married team, which may contribute positively to crime control efforts. The presence of younger, energetic individuals in the team is also highlighted as an advantage.

4.2   Summary of Respondents view on the Measures/Dimensions of the Nigeria Police Crime Strategies and Crime Control

4.2.1 Respondents view on community partnership strategy

Table 8: Respondents View on Community Partnership Strategy

Questions	SA No. (%)	A No. (%)	UD No. (%)	D No. (%)	SD No. (%)	Total
Collaborating with neighborhood watch enhances security	144 (46.8 %)	131 (42.5 %)	15 (4.9 %)	09 (2.9 %)	09 (2.9 %)	**308**
Partnering with community members is proactive	153 (49.7 %)	134 (43.5 %)	08 (2.6 %)	09 (2.9 %)	04 (1.3 %)	**308**
Collaborations with community security outfits are cordial	155 (50.3 %)	133 (43.2 %)	08 (2.6 %)	08 (2.6 %)	04 (1.3 %)	**308**
Police relationship with the community aids reforms for better policing	173 (56.2 %)	134 (43.5 %)	NIL	01 (0.3 %)		**308**

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 7 shows that a majority of respondents (46.8% strongly agreed, 42.5% agreed) believe collaborating with neighborhood watch enhances security. Most respondents (49.7% strongly agreed, 43.5% agreed) also view partnering with community members as proactive. Additionally, 50.3% strongly agreed and 43.2% agreed that their collaborations with community security outfits are cordial. Furthermore, 56.2% strongly agreed and 43.5% agreed that police-community relationships support reforms for better policing. These responses

indicate strong support for collaboration with communities to enhance security and policing efforts.

4.2.3 Respondents view on training strategy.

Table 9: Respondents View on Training Strategy

Questions	SA No. (%)	A No. (%)	UD No. (%)	D No. (%)	SD No. (%)	Total
There is continuous development and enhancement of knowledge	159 (51.6 %)	132 (42.9 %)	08 (2.6 %)	06 (1.9 %)	03 (1.0 %)	**308**
Training aids planning of goals and resources to deliver	166 (53.9 %)	131 (42.5 %)	04 (1.3 %)	05 (1.6 %)	02 (0.7 %)	**308**
Training help improves performance and work behavior	158 (51.3 %)	143 (46.4 %)	07 (2.3 %)	NIL	NIL	**308**
It aids sensitivity to diverse communities for effective policing	153 (49.7 %)	138 (44.8 %)	03 (1.0 %)	08 (2.6 %)	06 (1.9 %)	**308**

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 8 shows that 51.6% of respondents strongly agreed and 42.9% agreed that there is continuous development and enhancement of knowledge, with a small percentage undecided (2.6%) or disagreeing (1.9%). Additionally, 53.9% strongly agreed and 42.5% agreed that training helps with planning goals and resources, while a few (3%) disagreed. Furthermore, 51.3% strongly agreed and 46.4% agreed that training improves performance and work behavior. Lastly, 49.7% strongly agreed and 44.8% agreed that training aids sensitivity to diverse communities for effective policing, indicating strong support for training's role in enhancing policing effectiveness.

4.2.4 Respondents view on intelligence gathering strategy

Table 10: Respondents View on Intelligence Gathering Strategy

Questions	SA No. (%)	A No. (%)	UD No. (%)	D No. (%)	SD No. (%)	Total
There is regular acquiring of information for effective policing	161 (52.3 %)	123 (39.9 %)	08 (2.6 %)	08 (2.6 %)	08 (2.6 %)	**308**
There is collection, evaluation and analysis of all available information	157 (51.0 %)	131 (42.5 %)	08 (2.6 %)	08 (2.6 %)	04 (1.3 %)	**308**
Emphasis on collection and utilization of information is timely and accurate	176 (57.1 %)	125 (40.6 %)	07 (2.3 %)	NIL	NIL	**308**
There is integration of data and information for investigation that targets criminal activities	159 (51.6 %)	136 (44.2 %)	08 (2.6 %)	05 (1.6 %)	NIL	**308**

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 9 reveals that 52.3% of respondents strongly agreed and 39.9% agreed that there is regular acquisition of information for effective policing, with a small percentage undecided (2.6%) or disagreeing (5.2%). Furthermore, 51.0% strongly agreed and 42.5% agreed that there is collection, evaluation, and analysis of available information, with some respondents undecided (2.6%) or disagreeing (3.9%). Additionally, 57.1% strongly agreed and 40.6% agreed that the emphasis on collecting and utilizing information is timely and accurate, while a few were undecided (2.3%). Finally, 51.6% strongly agreed and 44.2% agreed that there is integration of data for investigations targeting criminal activities, with only a small percentage undecided (2.6%) or disagreeing (1.6%).

4.2.5 Respondents view on media strategy

Table 11: Respondents View on Media Strategy

Questions	SA No. (%)	A No. (%)	UD No. (%)	D No. (%)	SD No. (%)	Total
There is frequent engagement with the media on security happenings	158 (51.3 %)	126 (40.9 %)	10 (3.2 %)	07 (2.3 %)	07 (2.3 %)	**308**
There is built mutual beneficial relationship to share messages/happenings	164 (53.2 %)	139 (45.1 %)	02 (0.7 %)	02 (0.7 %)	01 (0.3 %)	**308**
There is a reach to wide range of audience to spread security awareness via several channels	170 (55.2 %)	127 (41.2 %)	04 (1.3 %)	07 (2.3 %)	NIL	**308**
There is coordination of communication to achieve mutually beneficial results	154 (50.0 %)	135 (43.8 %)	08 (2.6 %)	07 (2.3 %)	04 (1.3 %)	**308**

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 10 shows that 51.3% of respondents strongly agreed and 40.9% agreed that there is frequent engagement with the media on security issues, with a small percentage undecided (3.2%) or disagreeing (4.6%). Furthermore, 53.2% strongly agreed and 45.1% agreed that there is a mutually beneficial relationship to share security messages, with only 0.7% undecided or disagreeing. Additionally, 55.2% strongly agreed and 41.2% agreed that a wide range of audiences is reached to spread security awareness through various channels, with a small percentage undecided (1.3%) or disagreeing (2.3%). Finally, 50.0% strongly agreed and 43.8% agreed that there is coordination of communication to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes, with a few respondents undecided (2.6%) or disagreeing (3.6%).

4.2.6 Respondents view on crime control

Table 12: Respondents View on Crime Control

Questions	SA No. (%)	A No. (%)	UD No. (%)	D No. (%)	SD No. (%)	Total
Partnering with community members aids prevention of crime	161 (52.3 %)	141 (45.8 %)	06 (1.9 %)	NIL	NIL	**308**
Well-articulated training helps combating crime in a civilized manner	168 (54.5 %)	129 (41.9 %)	09 (2.9 %)	02 (0.7 %)	NIL	**308**
Structured intelligence gathering trace source of specific types of criminal activities	156 (50.7 %)	139 (45.1 %)	06 (1.9 %)	05 (1.6 %)	02 (0.7 %)	**308**
Synergy and or collaborations between the police and communities in enforcement helps maintain law and order	160 (52.0 %)	138 (44.8 %)	05 (1.6 %)	04 (1.3 %)	01 (0.3 %)	**308**
Through media relations, we discourage people from committing similar offenses	171 (55.5 %)	128 (41.6 %)	06 (1.9 %)	03 (1.0 %)	NIL	**308**
We adopt measures that inhibits criminal activities	166 (53.9 %)	135 (43.8 %)	04 (1.3 %)	02 (0.7 %)	01 (0.3 %)	**308**

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 11 reveals that 52.3% of respondents strongly agreed and 45.8% agreed that partnering with community members aids in crime prevention, with only 1.9% undecided. Regarding

well-articulated training to combat crime in a civilized manner, 54.5% strongly agreed and 41.9% agreed, while 2.9% were undecided and 0.7% disagreed. Additionally, 50.7% strongly agreed and 45.1% agreed that structured intelligence gathering helps trace the source of specific criminal activities, with a small percentage undecided (1.9%) or disagreeing (2.3%). Furthermore, 52.0% strongly agreed and 44.8% agreed that collaboration between the police and communities aids in maintaining law and order, with 1.6% undecided and 1.6% disagreeing. Lastly, 55.5% strongly agreed and 41.6% agreed that media relations help discourage people from committing similar offenses, while 1.9% were undecided and 1.0% disagreed. Also, 166 respondents representing 53.9 % and 135 respondents representing 43.8 % strongly agreed and agreed that they adopt measures that inhibits criminal activities. While 4 respondents representing 1.3 % were undecided, 2 respondents representing 0.7 % and 1 respondent representing 0.3 % disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

Diagnostic Tests
Test of normality
test for normality was examined using the graphical method approach as shown in the results in the figure indicate that the residuals are normally distributed. Further, Skewness/Kurtosis used to check for normality tests. Results of the tests are presented in Table 12.

Table 13: Test for Normality using Skewness/Kurtosis

Variable	Obs	Pr(Skewness)	Pr(Kurtosis)	adj chi2(2)	Prob>chi2
C. C.	307	0.3119	0.6655	1.95	0.2819
C. P.	307	0.3428	0.8014	2.01	0.3128
TR.	307	0.4237	0.7003	1.99	0.3455
I.G.	307	0.3986	0.7602	2.02	0.3448
MD.	307	0.4535	0.6751	1.93	0.4139

Source: Author's Computation from SPSS print out, 2024

Considering regression analysis was the principal inferential statistics to show the causal relationship between selected factors and crime control, normality test was paramount owing to that regression analysis is based on normality of variables under investigation. According to Creswell and Creswell (2018), the data is normally distributed if the p value is greater than 0.05 otherwise there is some departure from normality. Results revealed that all the variables were normally distributed.

Test for Multicollinearity Using Tolerance and Variance Inflation Factor

Creswell and Creswell (2018) define multicollinearity as the correlation between predictor variables, which can cause issues in regression analysis. In extreme cases, perfect correlations can prevent a unique least squares solution from being calculated. Multicollinearity inflates standard errors and confidence intervals, leading to unstable coefficient estimates. This study assessed multicollinearity using variance inflation factors (VIF). VIF values greater than 10 or

tolerance values below 0.2 indicate the presence of multicollinearity (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

Table 14: Test for Multicolonearity using Tolerance and Variance Inflation

Variable	Tolerance	VIF
Comm. Partnership	0.534	3.982
Training Strategy	0.785	4.793
Intelligence. Gathering	0.693	4.124
Media Strategy	0.782	3.902

Source: Authors' Computation, from SPSS printout, 2024.

Results in Table 13 shows that all the tolerance values were above 0.2 and VIF less than 10 and thus, there were no collinearity among the independent variables.

Regression Analysis

The model used to test the hypotheses designed for this study, explores the effect of Nigeria Police crime fighting strategies on crime control in Makurdi metropolis of Benue State.

Table 15: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adj.R Square	Std. Error of Estimate	Durbin Watson
1	.879a	.773	.770	0.8020	2.01

a: Predictors (constant), Community Partnership Strategy, Training Strategy, Intelligence Gathering Strategy, Media Strategy
b. Dependent variable: Crime Control

Source: SPSS printout (Version 25.0 for windows output), 2024

Table 16: Regression Coefficient Result

Model	Beta	T	Sig
1 (Constant)	1.101	12.09	.000
Com. Partnership	.855	7.88	.013
Training	.835	9.22	.011
Intel. Gathering	.811	7.14	.001
Media Strategy	.817	8.94	.003

 Dependent variable: Crime Control
Source: SPSS regression print out (version 25.0 for windows output), 2024.

Table 17: ANOVA[b] for the overall significance of the model

Model	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig
Regression	160.004	4	40.101	16.13	.001[∂]
Residual	145.743	303	0.4810		
Total	305.747	307			

a. Predictors: (constant); Community Partnership Strategy, Training Strategy, Intelligence Gathering Strategy, Media Strategy.
Dependent variable: Crime Control

Source: SPSS regression print out (version 25.0 for windows output), 2024.

4.3 Hypothesis Testing

The data collected from the field was thoroughly analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 25.0). The following null hypotheses, outlined in Chapter One, were tested using multiple regression analysis:

Ho1: Community partnership strategy has no significant effect on crime control in Makurdi metropolis, Benue State. The study aimed to assess whether community partnership strategy significantly impacts crime control in Makurdi metropolis, Benue State. The results presented in Table 15 revealed that the t-value for community partnership strategy (CP) was 7.88, which is greater than the critical value of 1.96, and the p-value was 0.013, less than 0.05. Since the p-value fell within the rejection region, we reject the null hypothesis (Ho1) and accept that community partnership strategy significantly affects crime control in Makurdi metropolis.

Ho2: Training strategy has no significant effect on crime control in Makurdi metropolis, Benue State. This hypothesis tested whether the training strategy has a significant effect on crime control in Makurdi metropolis. The regression results indicated that the t-value for the training strategy (TS) was 9.22, exceeding the critical value of 1.96, with a p-value of 0.011, which is also less than 0.05. Since the p-value falls in the rejection region, we reject the second null hypothesis (Ho2) and conclude that the training strategy significantly influences crime control in Makurdi metropolis.

Ho3: Intelligence gathering strategy has no significant effect on crime control in Makurdi metropolis, Benue State. The study further examined whether intelligence gathering strategy has a significant effect on crime control in Makurdi metropolis. The regression results showed a t-value of 7.14 for intelligence gathering strategy (IG), which was greater than the critical value of 1.96, and the p-value was 0.001, well below 0.05. Therefore, we reject the third null hypothesis (Ho3) and accept that intelligence gathering strategy significantly affects crime control in Makurdi metropolis.

Ho4: Media strategy has no significant effect on crime control in Makurdi metropolis, Benue State.
The final hypothesis investigated whether media strategy significantly influences crime

control in Makurdi metropolis. The regression results revealed a t-value of 8.94 for media strategy (MS), which is greater than the critical value of 1.96, and the p-value was 0.003, which is less than 0.05. Given that the p-value falls within the rejection region, we reject the null hypothesis (Ho4) and conclude that media strategy has a significant effect on crime control in Makurdi metropolis.

4.4   Discussion of Findings

The study found that all four strategies community partnership, training, intelligence gathering, and media have significant positive effects on crime control in Makurdi metropolis, Benue State. The regression results revealed strong support for the impact of each strategy, with R^2 values indicating a high level of effectiveness. Community partnership (beta = 0.855, p = 0.013), training (beta = 0.835, p = 0.011), intelligence gathering (beta = 0.811, p = 0.001), and media (beta = 0.817, p = 0.003) all showed significant positive relationships with crime control, aligning with the findings of previous studies by Fomnya et al. (2024), Salihu et al. (2024), Okoru et al. (2024), and Onyewansia (2023). These results emphasize the importance of a multi-faceted, proactive approach to crime prevention, where community involvement, continuous training, intelligence-driven policing, and media engagement work together to enhance overall crime control efforts.

5.0   SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section presents the summary, conclusion, recommendations, limitations of the study and suggestion for further studies.

5.1   Conclusion

This study contributes to the understanding of the impact of Nigeria Police crime-fighting strategies on crime control in Makurdi metropolis, Benue State. It demonstrates that there are significant relationships between crime control and the Nigeria Police strategies, including community partnership, training, intelligence gathering, and media involvement. These strategies are identified as crucial factors in effectively controlling crime by preventing, combating, and deterring criminal activities. The findings suggest that these strategies enhance crime control by fostering a robust surveillance system, building public confidence in law enforcement, and ensuring proactive crime prevention. Ultimately, the study concludes that the Nigeria Police crime-fighting strategies have a positive and significant impact on crime control in Makurdi metropolis, helping to secure the region and reduce crime.

5.2   Recommendations
Based on the findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are made:

1. The Nigeria Police should strengthen community partnerships to build sustained trust and confidence, enhancing collaboration and improving crime prevention and control.
2. The Nigeria Police should prioritize the development and skill enhancement of their personnel, equipping them with advanced tools to combat modern security threats, especially those linked to technology.

3. The Nigeria Police should improve their capacity to leverage modern information technology for efficient intelligence gathering, enabling informed crime control decisions and boosting public confidence in their effectiveness.
4. The Nigeria Police should enhance media relations to publicize their efforts in crime control, highlighting successful operations and campaigns against crimes such as cultism, drug abuse, and rape.

5.3 Limitations of the Study

Like all research, this study has inherent limitations. Firstly, the use of primary data presented challenges such as the loss of questionnaires and uncertain responses. However, these challenges were mitigated by engaging research assistants to manage data collection. Secondly, some respondents were hesitant to share sensitive information, but the researcher used persuasion to gather necessary data.

5.4 Suggested Areas for Further Studies

Future research could explore the impact of additional dimensions of Nigeria Police crime strategies on crime control in different regions. Additionally, similar studies could be conducted on other law enforcement agencies to provide a broader understanding of crime control strategies.

5.5 Contributions to Knowledge

This study found that intelligence gathering, with a p-value of 0.001, has the most significant positive impact on crime control in Makurdi metropolis. It outperformed other strategies such as community partnership, training, and media strategies, which had p-values of 0.013, 0.011, and 0.003, respectively.

<div align="center">REFERENCES</div>

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