

Evaluation on the Effectiveness of Community-Based Crime Prevention Programs in CarCanMadCarLan, Surigao del Sur

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Abstract

Community-based crime prevention has emerged as a central paradigm in contemporary policing, reflecting a global shift from reactive law enforcement toward collaborative, preventive, and community-centered governance. Despite its widespread institutional adoption, empirical evidence regarding the effectiveness of localized crime prevention initiatives in geographically dispersed and resource-constrained municipalities remains limited, particularly in developing contexts. Addressing this gap, the present study evaluated the effectiveness of community-based crime prevention programs implemented by the Municipal Police Stations of CARCANMADCARLAN, Surigao del Sur, Philippines. The study further examined implementation practices, perceived effectiveness across selected crime categories, operational challenges, and variations in police officers' assessments according to demographic characteristics. Anchored in Goldstein's Problem-Oriented Policing Theory and Tyler's Procedural Justice Theory, the research conceptualized crime prevention as a function of proactive problem solving, institutional legitimacy, and police–community collaboration. Employing a quantitative descriptive-comparative design, data were collected from 112 police officers using a validated researcher-developed questionnaire and analyzed through descriptive statistics, Mann–Whitney U, and Kruskal–Wallis tests. The findings indicate that community-based crime prevention initiatives were consistently implemented and perceived as highly effective in addressing sex-related crimes, drug-related offenses, robbery and theft, and physical assault. While implementation barriers were generally limited, organizational and demographic characteristics significantly shaped officers' perceptions of program effectiveness and operational constraints. Conceptually, the study reinforces the complementary roles of procedural legitimacy and problem-oriented policing in strengthening preventive governance within decentralized policing environments. Practically, the findings provide evidence for enhancing police training, institutional capacity, interagency collaboration, and resource allocation, offering policy-relevant insights for strengthening community policing strategies in rural and semi-urban jurisdictions. The study contributes to the growing scholarship on evidence-based policing by extending community crime prevention research to underrepresented local governance settings in the Global South.

Keywords: community-based crime prevention; community policing; Problem-Oriented Policing; Procedural Justice; preventive policing; police–community partnership

Introduction

Community-based crime prevention has become a central pillar of contemporary policing, reflecting a global shift from reactive law enforcement toward proactive, collaborative, and evidence-based approaches to public safety. Rather than relying solely on arrest-oriented strategies, modern policing increasingly emphasizes partnerships between police agencies, local governments, civil society organizations, and communities to address the underlying causes of crime and disorder. This transformation is particularly significant in developing countries, where police institutions face persistent challenges associated with limited resources, geographical dispersion, and public trust. Nevertheless, international evidence remains inconclusive regarding whether community policing consistently produces measurable reductions in crime or strengthens police legitimacy across diverse socio-political contexts (Blair et al., 2021; Weisburd et al., 2022). In the Philippines, community policing has been institutionalized through the Philippine National Police's Community and Service-Oriented Policing (CSOP) framework, yet empirical evaluations of its effectiveness at the municipal level remain scarce. Against this backdrop, the present study seeks to answer the following research question: How effective are the community-based crime prevention programs implemented by the Municipal Police Stations of CARCANMADCARLAN, Surigao del Sur, in addressing selected crime categories, what implementation challenges are encountered, and do police officers' demographic characteristics significantly influence their assessments of program effectiveness and operational constraints?

Recent scholarship has generated substantial debate regarding the effectiveness of community policing and preventive crime reduction strategies. Problem-Oriented Policing (POP), originally advanced by Goldstein (1979, 1990), argues that sustainable crime reduction depends on identifying and addressing the underlying conditions that generate recurring crime rather than responding to isolated incidents. Contemporary systematic reviews continue to demonstrate that problem-oriented policing produces significant reductions in crime and disorder when interventions are informed by rigorous analysis and local partnerships (Hinkle et al., 2020). Likewise, Procedural Justice Theory posits that citizens are more willing to cooperate with law enforcement when police exercise authority in ways perceived as fair, respectful, and transparent (Tyler, 1990, 2015). Experimental evidence suggests that procedural justice training can improve police legitimacy and strengthen community engagement, although the effects on crime reduction vary across institutional settings (Weisburd et al., 2022). Conversely, Blair et al. (2021), drawing on randomized experiments across the Global South, found that conventional community policing initiatives did not consistently increase public trust or reduce crime, highlighting the importance of implementation quality, institutional capacity, and contextual conditions. These competing perspectives underscore that community policing should not be regarded as a universally effective strategy but rather as a governance approach whose outcomes depend on organizational, social, and environmental factors.

Despite the growing body of international evidence, significant knowledge gaps remain regarding the implementation of community-based crime prevention in decentralized and resource-constrained policing environments. Existing research has focused predominantly on metropolitan jurisdictions, high-income countries, or national policing reforms, leaving relatively little empirical evidence from rural municipalities characterized by dispersed populations, limited logistical capacity, and diverse socio-economic conditions. In the Philippine context, evaluations of community policing have largely emphasized policy implementation rather than systematically examining program effectiveness across

specific crime categories while simultaneously considering implementation barriers and organizational characteristics. Consequently, there remains insufficient evidence explaining how localized community-based crime prevention programs function in municipalities such as CARCANMADCARLAN, where geographical isolation, transportation constraints, and varying levels of community participation may substantially influence preventive policing outcomes. Addressing this gap is essential for advancing evidence-based policing in developing-country contexts and for informing policy decisions grounded in local empirical realities rather than generalized assumptions.

This study contributes to contemporary criminological scholarship by integrating Problem-Oriented Policing Theory and Procedural Justice Theory to examine the effectiveness of community-based crime prevention within a localized governance context. Theoretically, the research extends current understanding of how proactive problem solving, procedural legitimacy, and police-community partnerships interact to influence preventive policing in rural municipalities. Methodologically, it provides empirical evidence from an underrepresented setting through a quantitative descriptive-comparative design that simultaneously evaluates implementation practices, perceived program effectiveness, operational challenges, and demographic influences. Practically, the findings offer evidence-based recommendations for the Philippine National Police, local government units, and criminal justice policymakers seeking to strengthen community policing through enhanced institutional capacity, targeted officer training, improved inter-agency collaboration, and strategic resource allocation. More broadly, the study contributes to international discussions on evidence-based policing, police legitimacy, and community governance by demonstrating how local institutional conditions shape the effectiveness and sustainability of community-based crime prevention programs.

Theoretical Framework

Community-based crime prevention has increasingly become a defining feature of contemporary policing, reflecting a broader transformation in criminal justice from reactive law enforcement toward preventive, participatory, and evidence-based governance. This shift recognizes that crime reduction is not achieved solely through coercive enforcement but through sustained partnerships among police institutions, local governments, and communities. Consequently, evaluating the effectiveness of community policing initiatives requires a theoretical framework capable of explaining both institutional performance and community participation. This study is primarily anchored in Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) (Goldstein, 1979, 1990), complemented by Procedural Justice Theory (Tyler, 1990, 2006, 2021) and Collective Efficacy Theory (Sampson et al., 1997; Sampson, 2021). These complementary perspectives provide a multidimensional analytical lens for examining how community policing initiatives contribute to crime prevention and public safety in CARCANMADCARLAN, Surigao del Sur. Unlike traditional deterrence theories that emphasize punishment as the principal mechanism for crime control, this integrated framework recognizes that sustainable crime prevention emerges through problem-solving, institutional legitimacy, and community capacity, making it particularly suitable for evaluating localized policing interventions in decentralized governance settings. Problem-Oriented Policing constitutes the principal theoretical foundation of this study because it conceptualizes policing as a systematic process of identifying, analyzing, and resolving the underlying conditions that generate recurring crime rather than merely responding to individual criminal incidents. Goldstein (1979, 1990) argued that police organizations should move beyond incident-driven responses by employing analytical problem-solving models that address environmental, organizational, and social

contributors to crime. Contemporary scholarship continues to validate this perspective. Weisburd and Telep (2021) argue that problem-oriented policing remains one of the most empirically supported policing strategies because interventions are tailored to specific local crime problems rather than relying on generalized enforcement approaches. Similarly, Hinkle et al. (2020), through a comprehensive Campbell Collaboration systematic review, concluded that POP consistently produces meaningful reductions in crime and disorder when supported by rigorous crime analysis and community collaboration. Rather than viewing police officers as passive responders, the theory positions them as institutional problem-solvers who facilitate preventive governance through partnerships and evidence-informed interventions. Within the present study, POP provides the principal explanatory framework for understanding how community-based crime prevention initiatives influence reductions in sex-related crimes, drug-related offenses, robbery and theft, and physical assault.

Complementing Problem-Oriented Policing is Procedural Justice Theory, developed by Tyler (1990), which argues that citizens comply with the law primarily because they perceive legal authorities as legitimate rather than because they fear punishment. Procedural legitimacy emerges when police exercise authority fairly, transparently, respectfully, and impartially. Recent scholarship has strengthened the empirical relevance of this perspective. Tyler (2021) emphasizes that legitimacy remains a critical determinant of voluntary public compliance, cooperation, and institutional trust in democratic societies. Likewise, Weisburd et al. (2022), through a multicity randomized controlled trial, demonstrated that procedural justice training substantially improved officers' interactions with citizens and strengthened police legitimacy, although crime reduction depended on broader organizational implementation. This perspective is particularly relevant to community policing because preventive policing relies heavily on voluntary citizen cooperation, crime reporting, and collaborative engagement. Consequently, the theory explains why community members are more likely to participate in crime prevention activities when they perceive police officers as fair, accountable, and respectful.

A second complementary perspective is Collective Efficacy Theory, originally advanced by Sampson, Raudenbush, and Earls (1997), which explains how social cohesion and shared willingness among community members to intervene for the common good influence crime prevention. Although initially developed within neighborhood sociology, contemporary criminological scholarship recognizes collective efficacy as a central mechanism linking community participation and public safety. Sampson (2021) argues that collective efficacy extends beyond informal social control by fostering civic engagement, mutual trust, and collaborative governance capable of sustaining long-term crime prevention. Community policing initiatives are fundamentally dependent upon this process because police officers alone cannot effectively address crime without active citizen participation and local institutional support. Accordingly, Collective Efficacy Theory complements Procedural Justice Theory by shifting analytical attention from institutional legitimacy to community capacity, illustrating how police legitimacy and community cohesion interact to produce preventive outcomes. Together, these theories suggest that effective crime prevention depends upon reciprocal relationships among capable institutions, legitimate policing, and engaged communities.

The integration of these three theoretical perspectives offers a comprehensive framework for interpreting the effectiveness of community policing initiatives implemented by the CARCANMADCARLAN Municipal Police Stations. Problem-Oriented Policing explains how police organizations design and implement localized preventive interventions; Procedural Justice Theory explains how police behavior shapes institutional legitimacy and citizen cooperation; while Collective Efficacy Theory explains how

community cohesion transforms institutional initiatives into sustainable public safety outcomes. This integrated framework also informs the study's methodological orientation. The assessment of implementation practices reflects Problem-Oriented Policing principles, perceptions of program effectiveness reflect procedural legitimacy and institutional performance, and evaluation of implementation challenges—including resource constraints, community cooperation, and organizational capacity—captures conditions influencing collective efficacy. Consequently, the theoretical framework guides both the construction of the research instrument and the interpretation of empirical findings by connecting organizational behavior, community participation, and preventive policing outcomes within a coherent explanatory model.

Recent empirical studies have increasingly adopted similar theoretical combinations to investigate contemporary policing reforms. Blair et al. (2021), through randomized experiments across six Global South countries, evaluated community policing reforms using legitimacy and collaborative governance perspectives, concluding that community policing alone does not automatically improve public trust or reduce crime without broader institutional reforms. Weisburd et al. (2022) likewise demonstrated that procedural justice interventions improve police legitimacy but require complementary organizational strategies to influence crime outcomes. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (2022) further emphasized that evidence-based policing increasingly requires integrating problem-solving strategies with community legitimacy to improve institutional performance. Collectively, these studies reinforce the importance of combining organizational, institutional, and community-level perspectives when evaluating preventive policing. However, existing research remains heavily concentrated in metropolitan settings and high-income countries, leaving comparatively little empirical evidence from geographically dispersed municipalities in developing contexts. By examining community policing within CARCANMADCARLAN, Surigao del Sur, this study extends these theoretical discussions into an underrepresented governance environment characterized by rural policing challenges, decentralized service delivery, and limited institutional resources.

The integrated framework adopted in this study is therefore theoretically and practically appropriate because it recognizes that no single theory sufficiently explains the complexity of community-based crime prevention. Problem-Oriented Policing offers a robust explanation of police strategy but gives comparatively limited attention to citizen perceptions. Procedural Justice Theory explains institutional legitimacy but does not fully account for structural inequalities or organizational capacity. Collective Efficacy Theory emphasizes community cohesion but assumes the existence of social capital that may vary substantially across communities. Rather than treating these perspectives as competing explanations, this study integrates them as complementary analytical lenses capable of capturing the multidimensional nature of preventive policing. Such theoretical pluralism strengthens explanatory power while acknowledging the contextual complexity of policing in rural municipalities. Ultimately, this integrated framework contributes to contemporary criminological scholarship by advancing a more holistic understanding of how institutional problem-solving, procedural legitimacy, and community capacity jointly influence the effectiveness of community-based crime prevention within decentralized governance systems.

Research Questions

This study sought to evaluate the effectiveness of community-based crime prevention programs implemented by the Municipal Police Stations (MPS) in CARCANMADCARLAN, Surigao del Sur. Sp-

Specifically, it sought to answer the following research questions:

1. What community-based crime prevention practices are implemented by the CARCANMADCARLAN Municipal Police Stations in addressing sex-related crimes, drug-related crimes, robbery and theft, and physical assault?
2. To what extent are the community-based crime prevention programs perceived to be effective in reducing sex-related crimes, drug-related crimes, robbery and theft, and physical assault?
3. What implementation challenges do police officers encounter in carrying out community-based crime prevention programs in terms of:
 - a. resource constraints;
 - b. material constraints;
 - c. community cooperation; and
 - d. training gaps?
4. Do police officers' demographic characteristics (i.e., sex, rank classification, baccalaureate degree, and years in service) significantly influence their assessments of the effectiveness of community-based crime prevention programs?
5. Do police officers' demographic characteristics significantly influence their perceptions of the implementation challenges associated with community-based crime prevention programs?

Research Methodology

Research Design

This study employed a quantitative descriptive-comparative research design to evaluate the effectiveness of community-based crime prevention programs implemented by the Municipal Police Stations (MPS) of CARCANMADCARLAN, Surigao del Sur. The design was appropriate because the study sought to describe existing community-based policing practices, assess their perceived effectiveness in addressing selected crime categories, identify implementation challenges, and determine whether police officers' assessments differed according to selected demographic characteristics. Rather than examining causal relationships, the study generated empirical evidence regarding the implementation and perceived performance of community-based crime prevention initiatives within a localized policing context.

The research was informed by a post-positivist paradigm, which assumes that although social realities cannot be observed with complete objectivity, they can be systematically investigated through rigorous empirical inquiry, standardized measurement, and statistical analysis. This philosophical orientation is consistent with the study's theoretical foundations—Problem-Oriented Policing Theory and Procedural Justice Theory—which emphasize evidence-based policing, institutional legitimacy, and collaborative community engagement as mechanisms for effective crime prevention.

Participants and Sampling Strategy

The respondents consisted of 112 police officers assigned to the Municipal Police Stations of CARCANMADCARLAN, Surigao del Sur, comprising the municipalities of Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Carmen, and Lanuza. These officers were directly involved in implementing community-based crime prevention programs and were therefore considered the most appropriate respondents for evaluating implementation practices, program effectiveness, and operational challenges.

The sample was drawn from a total population of 157 police personnel using Cochran's Formula with finite population correction, followed by proportional allocation across participating municipalities and

rank classifications. The respondents included both Police Commissioned Officers (PCOs) and Police Non-Commissioned Officers (PNCOs) with varying educational backgrounds and years of service, thereby ensuring adequate representation of personnel involved in community policing activities. Only officers actively participating in community-based crime prevention initiatives during the study period were included in the sample.

Data Collection Procedures

Data were collected using a researcher-developed structured questionnaire designed to assess community-based crime prevention practices, perceived program effectiveness, implementation challenges, and respondents' demographic characteristics. The questionnaire primarily consisted of five-point Likert-scale items that facilitated standardized quantitative measurement across all respondents.

To establish content validity, the instrument underwent expert evaluation by specialists in criminology and criminal justice. Their recommendations were incorporated to improve the clarity, relevance, and conceptual alignment of the questionnaire. A pilot study involving police personnel who were not included in the final sample was subsequently conducted to assess the instrument's reliability and identify potential ambiguities. The questionnaire demonstrated excellent internal consistency, with an overall Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.944, indicating that the instrument was highly reliable for measuring the study variables.

Following the necessary administrative approvals, the researcher personally distributed and retrieved the questionnaires. Respondents received a clear explanation of the study's objectives and procedures before voluntarily completing the survey.

Data Analysis

Descriptive and inferential statistical techniques were employed to analyze the collected data. Frequency counts and percentages were used to summarize respondents' demographic characteristics, while weighted means and standard deviations described the implementation of community-based crime prevention practices, perceived program effectiveness, and implementation challenges.

Prior to inferential analysis, tests of normality indicated that the data were not normally distributed. Consequently, non-parametric statistical procedures were employed. The Mann–Whitney U test was used to examine differences in respondents' assessments according to dichotomous demographic variables, whereas the Kruskal–Wallis H test was applied to variables consisting of more than two categories. All statistical tests were conducted using a significance level of 0.05.

Research Quality

Several procedures were undertaken to ensure methodological rigor. Content validity was established through expert review, while pilot testing confirmed the clarity and appropriateness of the instrument. The high Cronbach's alpha coefficient demonstrated excellent internal consistency, supporting the reliability of the questionnaire. Furthermore, the selection of non-parametric statistical techniques following normality testing ensured that the analytical procedures were appropriate for the characteristics of the data, thereby strengthening the validity of the study's findings.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical approval was obtained from the appropriate Institutional Ethics Review Committee before data

collection commenced. Participation was entirely voluntary, and all respondents provided informed consent prior to completing the questionnaire. Participants were informed of the study's objectives, their right to decline participation or withdraw at any stage without penalty, and the measures implemented to safeguard their privacy.

To maintain confidentiality, no personally identifiable information was collected, and all responses were anonymized through a coding system. Research data were securely stored and used exclusively for academic purposes in accordance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (Republic Act No. 10173). These procedures ensured adherence to the ethical principles of respect for persons, beneficence, justice, and confidentiality throughout the research process.

Methodological Limitations

The findings should be interpreted in light of several methodological limitations. First, the study relied on self-reported assessments from police officers who were directly responsible for implementing the community-based crime prevention programs, creating the possibility of self-evaluation bias. Second, the cross-sectional design limited the ability to examine changes in program effectiveness over time or establish causal relationships between community policing initiatives and crime reduction. Third, the study was confined to police personnel assigned to the CARCANMADCARLAN Municipal Police Stations and did not include the perspectives of community members, local government officials, or other stakeholders. Consequently, the findings primarily reflect the perceptions of program implementers within a specific geographical setting. Despite these limitations, the study provides valuable empirical evidence regarding the implementation and perceived effectiveness of community-based crime prevention programs in a rural policing context and offers a foundation for future multi-stakeholder and longitudinal research.

Results

Table 1: Community-Based Crime Prevention Practices Implemented by the CARCANMADCARLAN Municipal Police Stations in Addressing Sex-Related Crimes

Indicators/Statements	Weighted Mean	SD	Verbal Description
The Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) conducts regular community outreach activities.	4.88	0.397	Always Implemented
VAWC awareness campaigns are implemented in coordination with LGUs and barangays.	4.93	0.321	Always Implemented
Barangay forums include discussions on gender-based violence prevention.	4.94	0.278	Always Implemented
Victim-centered and gender-sensitive protocols are consistently applied.	4.95	0.226	Always Implemented
Coordination with schools and youth organizations is conducted to prevent sexual offenses.	4.96	0.186	Always Implemented
Overall Result	4.93	0.254	Always Implemented

Table 1 presents the best practices in community-based crime prevention programs employed by the CARCANMADCARLAN Municipal Police Stations in addressing sex-related crimes. The overall

weighted mean of 4.93 (SD = 0.254), verbally interpreted as "Always Implemented," indicates that the identified preventive practices were consistently implemented across the participating Municipal Police Stations. Among the indicators, "Coordination with schools and youth organizations is conducted to prevent sexual offenses" obtained the highest weighted mean (WM = 4.96; SD = 0.186), suggesting that collaboration with educational institutions and youth organizations is a key component of the stations' preventive efforts. Conversely, "The Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) conducts regular community outreach activities" received the lowest weighted mean (WM = 4.88; SD = 0.397), although it remained within the "Always Implemented" category, indicating that respondents consistently perceived this practice as being regularly carried out.

Table 2: Community-Based Crime Prevention Practices Implemented by the CARCANMADCARLAN Municipal Police Stations in Addressing Drug-Related Crimes

Indicators/Statements	Weighted Mean	SD	Verbal Description
The station actively coordinates with Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (BADAC).	4.97	0.162	Always Implemented
Anti-drug advocacy campaigns are conducted in barangays and schools.	4.93	0.259	Always Implemented
Police participate in community-based drug prevention seminars.	4.95	0.226	Always Implemented
Drug-cleared barangay monitoring is regularly conducted.	4.94	0.243	Always Implemented
Rehabilitation referrals are coordinated with LGUs and health agencies.	4.95	0.196	Always Implemented
Overall Result	4.97	0.162	Always Implemented

Table 2 presents the best practices in community-based crime prevention programs employed by the CARCANMADCARLAN Municipal Police Stations in addressing drug-related crimes. The overall weighted mean of 4.97 (SD = 0.162), verbally interpreted as "Always Implemented," indicates that the identified drug prevention practices were consistently implemented across the participating Municipal Police Stations. Among the indicators, "The station actively coordinates with Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (BADAC)" obtained the highest weighted mean (WM = 4.97; SD = 0.162), highlighting the strong collaboration between the police and community-based anti-drug councils in implementing preventive initiatives. In contrast, "Anti-drug advocacy campaigns are conducted in barangays and schools" received the lowest weighted mean (WM = 4.93; SD = 0.259), although it remained within the "Always Implemented" category, indicating that respondents consistently perceived anti-drug advocacy activities as a regular component of the stations' community-based crime prevention efforts.

Table 3: Community-Based Crime Prevention Practices Implemented by the CARCANMADCARLAN Municipal Police Stations in Addressing Robbery and Theft

Indicators/Statements	Weighted Mean	SD	Verbal Description
Police visibility patrols (foot/mobile patrol) are regularly conducted.	4.96	0.207	Always Implemented
Coordination with Barangay Tanods or BPAT is maintained for crime monitoring.	4.99	0.094	Always Implemented
Crime hotspot mapping is utilized in patrol deployment.	4.96	0.186	Always Implemented
Peace and Order Council meetings address property crime issues.	4.95	0.226	Always Implemented
Community watch or neighborhood security initiatives are supported.	4.96	0.186	Always Implemented
Overall Result	4.96	0.159	Always Implemented

Table 3 presents the best practices in community-based crime prevention programs implemented by the CARCANMADCARLAN Municipal Police Stations in addressing robbery and theft. The overall weighted mean of 4.96 (SD = 0.159), verbally interpreted as "Always Implemented," indicates that the identified crime prevention practices were consistently carried out across the participating Municipal Police Stations. Among the indicators, "Coordination with Barangay Tanods or Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPAT) is maintained for crime monitoring" obtained the highest weighted mean (WM = 4.99; SD = 0.094), reflecting the strong collaboration between the police and community-based security groups in monitoring and preventing property crimes. Conversely, "Peace and Order Council meetings address property crime issues" received the lowest weighted mean (WM = 4.95; SD = 0.226), although it remained within the "Always Implemented" category, indicating that respondents consistently perceived these meetings as an integral component of community-based efforts to address robbery and theft.

Table 4: Community-Based Crime Prevention Practices Implemented by the CARCANMADCARLAN Municipal Police Stations in Addressing Physical Assault

Indicators/Statements	Weighted Mean	SD	Verbal Description
Barangay visitations (Ugnayan sa Barangay) are conducted regularly.	4.96	0.186	Always Implemented
Police coordinate with barangay officials for dispute mediation.	4.91	0.286	Always Implemented
Community dialogues are conducted to prevent interpersonal violence.	4.95	0.226	Always Implemented
Rapid response mechanisms are implemented for assault cases.	4.96	0.207	Always Implemented
Preventive patrol deployment is intensified in conflict-prone areas.	4.94	0.278	Always Implemented

Overall Result	4.94	0.198	Always Implemented
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Table 4 presents the best practices in community-based crime prevention programs implemented by the CARCANMADCARLAN Municipal Police Stations in addressing physical assault. The overall weighted mean of 4.94 (SD = 0.198), verbally interpreted as "Always Implemented," indicates that the identified preventive practices were consistently carried out across the participating Municipal Police Stations. Among the indicators, "Barangay visitations (Ugnayan sa Barangay) are conducted regularly" and "Rapid response mechanisms are implemented for assault cases" both obtained the highest weighted mean (WM = 4.96), with standard deviations of 0.186 and 0.207, respectively, suggesting that regular community engagement and prompt police response are key strategies in preventing physical assault. Conversely, "Police coordinate with barangay officials for dispute mediation" received the lowest weighted mean (WM = 4.91; SD = 0.286), although it remained within the "Always Implemented" category, indicating that respondents consistently perceived dispute mediation as an integral component of the community-based crime prevention program.

Table 5: Level of Effectiveness of the Community-Based Crime Prevention Program in Reducing Sex-Related Crimes as Assessed by Police Officers

Indicators/Statements	Weighted Mean	SD	Verbal Description
WCPD programs have contributed to reducing sex-related crimes.	4.93	0.259	Very Effective
VAWC campaigns improved reporting of sexual offenses.	4.95	0.226	Very Effective
Community awareness regarding sex-related crimes has increased.	4.71	0.799	Very Effective
Victim protection services have improved access to justice.	4.94	0.243	Very Effective
Coordination with LGUs strengthened prevention efforts.	4.96	0.207	Very Effective
Overall Result	4.90	0.253	Very Effective

Table 5 presents the level of effectiveness of the community-based crime prevention program in reducing sex-related crimes as assessed by the police officers. The overall weighted mean of 4.90 (SD = 0.253), verbally interpreted as "Very Effective," indicates that the respondents perceived the community-based crime prevention program as highly effective in addressing sex-related crimes. Among the indicators, "Coordination with LGUs strengthened prevention efforts" obtained the highest weighted mean (WM = 4.96; SD = 0.207), suggesting that collaboration between the police and local government units plays a significant role in enhancing crime prevention initiatives. Conversely, "Community awareness regarding sex-related crimes has increased" received the lowest weighted mean (WM = 4.71; SD = 0.799), although it remained within the "Very Effective" category, indicating that respondents still viewed community awareness efforts as an effective component of the program despite showing relatively greater variation in responses.

Table 6: Level of Effectiveness of the Community-Based Crime Prevention Program in Reducing Drug-Related Crimes as Assessed by Police Officers

Indicators/Statements	Weighted Mean	SD	Verbal Description
BADAC coordination reduced drug-related activities.	4.89	0.311	Very Effective
Anti-drug advocacy programs increased community awareness.	4.97	0.162	Very Effective
Drug-cleared barangay monitoring reduced repeat incidents.	4.92	0.304	Very Effective
Community cooperation in drug reporting has improved.	4.81	0.494	Very Effective
Prevention programs reduced drug-related cases over time.	4.94	0.243	Very Effective
Overall Result	4.91	0.311	Very Effective

Table 6 presents the level of effectiveness of the community-based crime prevention program in reducing drug-related crimes as assessed by the police officers. The overall weighted mean of 4.91 (SD = 0.311), verbally interpreted as "Very Effective," indicates that the respondents perceived the community-based crime prevention program as highly effective in addressing drug-related crimes. Among the indicators, "Anti-drug advocacy programs increased community awareness" obtained the highest weighted mean (WM = 4.97; SD = 0.162), suggesting that advocacy initiatives have been particularly effective in promoting public awareness on drug prevention. Conversely, "Community cooperation in drug reporting has improved" received the lowest weighted mean (WM = 4.81; SD = 0.494), although it remained within the "Very Effective" category, indicating that respondents still perceived community participation in drug reporting as an effective outcome of the program despite relatively greater variation in responses.

Table 7: Level of Effectiveness of the Community-Based Crime Prevention Program in Reducing Robbery and Theft as Assessed by Police Officers

Indicators/Statements	Weighted Mean	SD	Verbal Description
Police visibility patrols reduced robbery incidents.	4.90	0.354	Very Effective
Coordination with barangay tanods deterred theft cases.	4.89	0.364	Very Effective
Crime mapping improved deployment effectiveness.	4.94	0.308	Very Effective
Community watch programs enhanced vigilance.	4.91	0.344	Very Effective
Peace and Order Council coordination strengthened property crime prevention.	4.93	0.321	Very Effective
Overall Result	4.91	0.318	Very Effective

Table 7 presents the level of effectiveness of the community-based crime prevention program in reducing robbery and theft as assessed by the police officers. The overall weighted mean of 4.91 (SD = 0.318), verbally interpreted as "Very Effective," indicates that the respondents perceived the community-based crime prevention program as highly effective in addressing robbery and theft. Among the indicators, "Crime mapping improved deployment effectiveness" obtained the highest weighted mean (WM = 4.94; SD = 0.308), suggesting that the use of crime mapping has enhanced the strategic deployment of police personnel in preventing property crimes. Conversely, "Coordination with barangay tanods deterred theft cases" received the lowest weighted mean (WM = 4.89; SD = 0.364), although it remained within the "Very Effective" category, indicating that respondents consistently perceived coordination with barangay tanods as an effective strategy in reducing robbery and theft.

Table 8: Level of Effectiveness of the Community-Based Crime Prevention Program in Reducing Physical Assault as Assessed by Police Officers

Indicators/Statements	Weighted Mean	SD	Verbal Description
Barangay mediation reduced assault incidents.	4.92	0.333	Very Effective
Ugnayan sa Barangay improved early conflict detection.	4.89	0.364	Very Effective
Preventive patrols reduced violence in hotspot areas.	4.89	0.364	Very Effective
Community dialogue programs reduced interpersonal conflicts.	4.95	0.295	Very Effective
Improved police response reduced repeat assault cases.	4.90	0.354	Very Effective
Overall Result	4.91	0.319	Very Effective

Table 8 presents the level of effectiveness of the community-based crime prevention program in reducing physical assault as assessed by the police officers. The overall weighted mean of 4.91 (SD = 0.319), verbally interpreted as "Very Effective," indicates that the respondents perceived the community-based crime prevention program as highly effective in addressing physical assault. Among the indicators, "Community dialogue programs reduced interpersonal conflicts" obtained the highest weighted mean (WM = 4.95; SD = 0.295), suggesting that dialogue-based interventions play a significant role in preventing conflicts that may lead to physical assault. Conversely, "Ugnayan sa Barangay improved early conflict detection" and "Preventive patrols reduced violence in hotspot areas" both obtained the lowest weighted mean (WM = 4.89; SD = 0.364), although both remained within the "Very Effective" category, indicating that respondents consistently perceived these preventive strategies as effective in reducing incidents of physical assault.

Table 9: Challenges Encountered in the Implementation of the Community-Based Crime Prevention Program in Terms of Material Constraints

Indicators/Statements	Weighted Mean	SD	Verbal Description
Limited patrol vehicles affect police visibility programs.	1.99	1.480	Slightly Experienced
Inadequate communication equipment affects coordination.	2.06	1.460	Slightly Experienced
Lack of materials for advocacy campaigns.	1.87	1.483	Slightly Experienced
Insufficient technological tools for crime monitoring.	1.87	1.455	Slightly Experienced
Limited facilities for conducting community forums.	1.84	1.468	Slightly Experienced
Overall Result	1.93	1.439	Slightly Experienced

Table 9 presents the challenges encountered by the respondents in the implementation of the community-based crime prevention program in terms of material constraints. The overall weighted mean of 1.93 (SD = 1.439), verbally interpreted as "Slightly Experienced," indicates that material-related challenges were only minimally encountered by the respondents during program implementation. Among the indicators, "Inadequate communication equipment affects coordination" obtained the highest weighted mean (WM = 2.06; SD = 1.460), suggesting that communication resources posed the greatest material-related challenge. Conversely, "Limited facilities for conducting community forums" received the lowest weighted mean (WM = 1.84; SD = 1.468), although it remained within the "Slightly Experienced" category, indicating that respondents perceived this as the least challenging material constraint in implementing community-based crime prevention programs.

Table 10: Challenges Encountered in the Implementation of the Community-Based Crime Prevention Program in Terms of Community Cooperation

Indicators/Statements	Weighted Mean	SD	Verbal Description
Some barangays show low participation in prevention programs.	2.24	1.317	Slightly Experienced
Residents hesitate to report crimes.	2.13	1.298	Slightly Experienced
Fear of retaliation affects reporting behavior.	2.21	1.288	Slightly Experienced
Attendance in community meetings is inconsistent.	2.21	1.255	Slightly Experienced
Trust issues hinder police-community collaboration.	1.76	1.357	Slightly Experienced
Overall Result	2.11	1.225	Slightly Experienced

Table 10 presents the challenges encountered by the respondents in the implementation of the community-based crime prevention program in terms of community cooperation. The overall weighted mean of 2.11 (SD = 1.225), verbally interpreted as "Slightly Experienced," indicates that challenges related to community cooperation were only minimally encountered during the implementation of the

program. Among the indicators, "Some barangays show low participation in prevention programs" obtained the highest weighted mean ($WM = 2.24$; $SD = 1.317$), suggesting that limited community participation was the most commonly experienced challenge. Conversely, "Trust issues hinder police-community collaboration" received the lowest weighted mean ($WM = 1.76$; $SD = 1.357$), although it remained within the "Slightly Experienced" category, indicating that respondents perceived trust issues as the least encountered challenge affecting police-community cooperation.

Table 11: Challenges Encountered in the Implementation of the Community-Based Crime Prevention Program in Terms of Training Gaps

Indicators/Statements	Weighted Mean	SD	Verbal Description
Limited training on CSOP implementation.	1.80	1.381	Slightly Experienced
Insufficient training on gender-responsive policing.	1.83	1.426	Slightly Experienced
Limited seminars on drug prevention strategies.	1.84	1.449	Slightly Experienced
Inadequate training on problem-oriented policing.	1.84	1.462	Slightly Experienced
Lack of continuous professional development on community engagement.	1.80	1.420	Slightly Experienced
Overall Result	1.82	1.409	Slightly Experienced

Table 11 presents the challenges encountered by the respondents in the implementation of the community-based crime prevention program in terms of training gaps. The overall weighted mean of 1.82 ($SD = 1.409$), verbally interpreted as "Slightly Experienced," indicates that training-related challenges were only minimally encountered during program implementation. Among the indicators, "Limited seminars on drug prevention strategies" and "Inadequate training on problem-oriented policing" both obtained the highest weighted mean ($WM = 1.84$), with standard deviations of 1.449 and 1.462, respectively, suggesting that these areas were perceived as the most common training-related concerns. Conversely, "Limited training on CSOP implementation" and "Lack of continuous professional development on community engagement" both received the lowest weighted mean ($WM = 1.80$), although they remained within the "Slightly Experienced" category, indicating that respondents perceived these as the least encountered training-related challenges.

Table 12: Significant Differences in Police Officers' Assessments of the Effectiveness of Community-Based Crime Prevention Programs According to Demographic Profile

Variables Compared		Mann-Whitney U value	p-value	Decision	Interpretation
Sex	Sex-Related Crimes	970.0	0.002	Reject H_0	There is a significant difference
	Drug-Related Crimes	1095.5	0.038	Reject H_0	There is a significant difference
	Robbery and	1080.5	0.004	Reject H_0	There is a significant difference

	Theft				significant difference
	Physical Assault	1215.5	0.295	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Total Effectiveness	893.0	<0.001	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference
Rank Classification	Sex-Related Crimes	460.0	0.956	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Drug-Related Crimes	440.5	0.700	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Robbery and Theft	401.5	0.180	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Physical Assault	408.5	0.273	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Total Effectiveness	456.5	0.919	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
Variables Compared		Kruskal-Wallis H value	p-value	Decision	Interpretation
Baccalaureate Degree	Sex-Related Crimes	13.719	0.089	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Drug-Related Crimes	8.744	0.364	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Robbery and Theft	4.365	0.823	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Physical Assault	3.629	0.889	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Total Effectiveness	17.941	0.022	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference
Years in Service	Sex-Related Crimes	7.687	0.104	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference

					difference
	Drug-Related Crimes	4.455	0.348	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Robbery and Theft	9.438	0.051	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Physical Assault	13.166	0.010	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference
	Total Effectiveness	11.298	0.023	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference

Table 12 presents the significant differences in the respondents' assessments of the effectiveness of the community-based crime prevention program when grouped according to demographic profile. The findings revealed that sex significantly influenced the respondents' assessments of effectiveness in terms of sex-related crimes, drug-related crimes, robbery and theft, and overall program effectiveness ($p < .05$), while no significant difference was found for physical assault ($p = .295$). In contrast, rank classification did not show significant differences across all dimensions of program effectiveness ($p > .05$). For baccalaureate degree, a significant difference was observed only in overall program effectiveness ($p = .022$), whereas no significant differences were found for the individual crime categories. Similarly, years in service significantly influenced respondents' assessments of physical assault ($p = .010$) and overall program effectiveness ($p = .023$), while no significant differences were observed for sex-related crimes, drug-related crimes, and robbery and theft. These findings suggest that respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness of community-based crime prevention programs varied according to selected demographic characteristics, particularly sex, educational background, and years in service, whereas rank classification did not significantly influence their assessments.

Table 13: Significant Differences in the Challenges Encountered in the Implementation of the Community-Based Crime Prevention Program According to Demographic Profile

Variables Compared		Mann-Whitney U value	p-value	Decision	Interpretation
Sex	Resource Constraints	883.5	0.006	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference
	Material Constraints	709.0	<0.001	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference
	Community Constraints	910.5	0.010	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference

	Training Gap	836.5	<0.001	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference
	Total Challenges Encountered	863.5	0.004	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference
Rank Classification	Resource Constraints	439.0	0.459	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Material Constraints	445.5	0.483	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Community Constraints	409.5	0.293	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Training Gap	510.0	0.826	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Total Challenges Encountered	419.0	0.343	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
Variables Compared		Kruskal-Wallis H value	p-value	Decision	Interpretation
Baccalaureate Degree	Resource Constraints	24.442	0.002	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference
	Material Constraints	14.900	0.061	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Community Constraints	22.928	0.003	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference
	Training Gap	11.133	0.194	Failed to reject Ho	There is no significant difference
	Total Challenges Encountered	24.173	0.002	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference
Years in Service	Resource Constraints	10.602	0.031	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference
	Material	6.347	0.175	Failed to	There is no

	Constraints			reject Ho	significant difference
	Community Constraints	12.107	0.017	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference
	Training Gap	15.457	0.004	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference
	Total Challenges Encountered	11.990	0.017	Reject Ho	There is a significant difference

Table 13 presents the significant differences in the respondents' assessments of the challenges encountered in the implementation of the community-based crime prevention program when grouped according to demographic profile. The findings revealed that sex significantly influenced respondents' assessments across all challenge dimensions, including resource constraints, material constraints, community cooperation, training gaps, and overall challenges encountered ($p < .05$). Conversely, rank classification did not show significant differences across any of the challenge dimensions ($p > .05$). For baccalaureate degree, significant differences were found in resource constraints, community cooperation, and overall challenges encountered ($p < .05$), while no significant differences were observed for material constraints and training gaps. Likewise, years in service significantly influenced respondents' assessments of resource constraints, community cooperation, training gaps, and overall challenges encountered ($p < .05$), whereas no significant difference was found for material constraints ($p = .175$). These findings indicate that respondents' perceptions of the challenges associated with implementing community-based crime prevention programs varied according to sex, educational background, and years in service, while rank classification did not significantly affect their assessments.

Discussion

The present study evaluated the effectiveness of community-based crime prevention programs implemented by the CARCANMADCARLAN Municipal Police Stations in addressing selected crime categories, identifying implementation challenges, and determining whether police officers' demographic characteristics influenced their assessments. Overall, the findings demonstrate that community-based crime prevention initiatives were consistently implemented and perceived as highly effective in reducing sex-related crimes, drug-related crimes, robbery and theft, and physical assault. At the same time, respondents reported only minimal implementation challenges, although selected demographic characteristics significantly influenced their perceptions of program effectiveness and operational constraints.

The findings indicate that community-based crime prevention practices were consistently implemented across all four crime categories, with overall ratings ranging from 4.93 to 4.97, corresponding to the verbal interpretation of "Always Implemented." Among the preventive practices, coordination with schools and youth organizations, collaboration with Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (BADAC), partnership with Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPAT), and regular barangay visitations emerged as the most consistently implemented strategies. These findings suggest that the

CARCANMADCARLAN Municipal Police Stations have institutionalized collaborative and preventive policing approaches that emphasize partnerships with community stakeholders rather than relying solely on traditional enforcement activities. This observation supports Problem-Oriented Policing Theory (Goldstein, 1990), which argues that sustainable crime prevention is achieved through systematic identification of recurring community problems and the implementation of proactive, locally responsive interventions. Similar findings have been reported by Blair et al. (2021), who emphasized that community policing initiatives are strengthened through sustained institutional collaboration, and by Hinkle et al. (2020), whose systematic review concluded that problem-oriented policing contributes to significant reductions in crime and disorder when interventions are grounded in local conditions and community participation.

Police officers likewise perceived the community-based crime prevention programs to be very effective in addressing all four crime categories, with overall weighted means ranging from 4.90 to 4.91. Coordination with local government units was viewed as particularly effective in preventing sex-related crimes, anti-drug advocacy programs were considered highly effective in increasing community awareness of drug-related issues, crime mapping was identified as an effective strategy for improving police deployment against robbery and theft, while community dialogue programs were perceived as highly effective in reducing interpersonal conflicts associated with physical assault. These findings underscore the importance of collaborative governance and preventive engagement in enhancing public safety. The results further reinforce Procedural Justice Theory, which posits that policing strategies characterized by fairness, transparency, and meaningful community engagement foster greater public trust and cooperation (Tyler, 1990, 2021). Empirical evidence from Weisburd et al. (2022) similarly demonstrates that procedural justice-oriented policing enhances police legitimacy and strengthens collaborative relationships between law enforcement agencies and communities, thereby improving the effectiveness of preventive policing strategies.

Although respondents acknowledged the existence of operational challenges, these were generally assessed as "Slightly Experienced," indicating that they did not substantially hinder program implementation. Material constraints, community cooperation, and training gaps all received relatively low mean ratings, suggesting that while challenges such as limited communication equipment, inconsistent community participation, and insufficient specialized training exist, they are not perceived as major barriers to implementing community-based crime prevention initiatives. Nevertheless, these findings should not diminish the importance of addressing these operational concerns. Previous studies have emphasized that adequate logistical resources, continuous professional development, and sustained community participation remain essential for the long-term success of community policing programs (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2022; Weisburd et al., 2022). Consequently, strengthening institutional capacity and expanding opportunities for officer training and community engagement may further enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of preventive policing initiatives within the study area.

The inferential analyses further revealed that respondents' demographic characteristics influenced selected perceptions of program effectiveness and implementation challenges. Significant differences were observed according to sex, baccalaureate degree, and years in service, whereas rank classification did not significantly influence respondents' assessments. These findings suggest that professional experience and educational background may shape how police officers perceive the implementation and effectiveness of community-based crime prevention programs. Officers with different educational

preparation or years of service may have varying operational experiences, levels of community engagement, and exposure to preventive policing practices, thereby influencing their evaluations. The absence of significant differences across rank classifications, however, may indicate that community-based crime prevention initiatives are implemented relatively consistently regardless of organizational position, reflecting institutional standardization of policing practices across the participating Municipal Police Stations.

Collectively, these findings contribute to the growing body of evidence supporting community-based crime prevention as a viable strategy for enhancing public safety within rural and semi-urban policing environments. The study extends the application of Problem-Oriented Policing Theory by demonstrating that localized, collaborative interventions remain central to preventive policing in geographically dispersed municipalities. Simultaneously, the findings reinforce Procedural Justice Theory by highlighting the importance of police-community partnerships, institutional legitimacy, and collaborative governance in sustaining crime prevention initiatives. From a policy perspective, the results support continued investment in inter-agency collaboration, community engagement programs, officer capacity building, and logistical support to strengthen preventive policing. More broadly, the study contributes localized empirical evidence from an underrepresented Philippine setting, thereby enriching international discussions on evidence-based policing and the implementation of community-oriented crime prevention strategies in decentralized governance contexts.

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that the community-based crime prevention programs implemented by the CARCANMADCARLAN Municipal Police Stations are consistently practiced and are perceived by police officers as highly effective in addressing sex-related crimes, drug-related crimes, robbery and theft, and physical assault. The findings underscore the importance of collaborative and preventive policing strategies, particularly those involving partnerships with local government units, barangay officials, schools, youth organizations, and community-based groups, in strengthening public safety and crime prevention efforts. Although respondents reported experiencing challenges related to material resources, community cooperation, and training, these constraints were generally minimal and did not substantially impede program implementation. The results further reveal that police officers' perceptions of program effectiveness and implementation challenges vary according to selected demographic characteristics, particularly sex, educational background, and years in service, while rank classification does not significantly influence these assessments. These findings provide empirical support for the principles of Problem-Oriented Policing Theory and Procedural Justice Theory, suggesting that proactive problem-solving, institutional legitimacy, and sustained police–community partnerships are essential to the successful implementation of community-based crime prevention initiatives. By generating localized evidence from a rural policing context in the Philippines, this study contributes to the growing body of knowledge on evidence-based policing and highlights the continuing relevance of community-oriented approaches in enhancing crime prevention and public safety. The findings further emphasize the need for sustained institutional support, continuous professional development, strategic resource allocation, and strengthened community engagement to ensure the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of community-based crime prevention programs, while providing practical insights that may inform policing policies, organizational decision-making, and future research on preventive policing in comparable local settings.

Recommendations

The findings underscore the need for the Philippine National Police and the Municipal Police Stations of CARCANMADCARLAN to sustain and strengthen community-based crime prevention initiatives through continued collaboration with local government units, barangay officials, schools, youth organizations, and other community stakeholders. Maintaining these partnerships will help reinforce preventive policing strategies and promote greater community participation in crime prevention efforts. Although the respondents reported only minimal implementation challenges, police administrators should continue investing in logistical resources, communication equipment, and technological support to further improve operational efficiency and the delivery of community-based crime prevention programs. Addressing these operational needs can enhance police visibility, coordination, and responsiveness within the community.

The significant differences observed according to selected demographic characteristics suggest the importance of implementing continuous professional development programs that address the varying experiences, educational backgrounds, and training needs of police personnel. Regular capacity-building activities on community policing, problem-oriented policing, procedural justice, and gender-responsive policing may further strengthen officers' competencies in implementing preventive policing strategies. Future studies should expand the scope of evaluation by incorporating the perspectives of community members, local government officials, and other stakeholders to obtain a more comprehensive assessment of community-based crime prevention programs. Researchers are also encouraged to utilize objective crime statistics, longitudinal research designs, and mixed-methods approaches to examine the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of community policing initiatives across different local contexts.

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