

City Residents' Perceptions on Crime and Safety: A case of Port Moresby

By

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Outline of the Study

- Background of the Study
- Definition of Key Terms
- Aim of the Study
- Research Methods
- Analysis and Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- Reference

Background of the Study

- Crime is often considered the predominant urban problem that contributes to decline in quality of life (Jones and Fanek, 1997).
- There is no exception for Port Moresby, which was recently rated as one of the least liveable cities (ranked 168 out of 173 cities) in the world (Economic Intelligence Unit's 2023 Global Liveability Index).
- Comparing past studies on crime and safety by UN Habitat (2004) Boamah and Stanely (2007), Guthrie, Hukula and Laki (2007), Lakhani and Willmanm (2014) and most recent studies by Sali (2018), Putt and Dinnen (2020) and Putt, Milli and Essacu (2021) and Laki (2022) clearly shows that all forms of crime and violence are widespread in PNG.
- Currently, there is a new crime trend in Port Moresby (Post Courier, June 28th 2023, and Loop PNG, July 2020, 2023). This is creating fear among residents of the city and at the bigger scale, poses a significant threat to national security.

Definitions for Key Terms

- **Crime:** is an act that is breach of the law and is punishable by law.
- **Safety:** refers to the state of being protected from crime or danger (Abraham and Ceccato, 2022). In this study we use safe and safety to mean the same.
- **Policing:** refers to the activities carried out by police officers in order to maintain law and order and provide safety and security.

Aim of the Study

- The aim of this study is to explore the perceptions of the residents of Port Moresby on crime, safety and policing.
- The study builds on existing literatures to further explore perception of crime and safety in the context of PNG, in particular Port Moresby city.

Methodology

- **Quantitative Research Approach was used**
- **Measure of the Study**
 - ✓ Survey Questionnaire consist of three (3) sections.
 - 1) Section 1 = Demographic information
 - 2) Section 2 = Crime and Safety (12 items)
 - 3) Section 3 = Policing (12 items)
 - ✓ For section 2 and 3, Likert scale measure was used (1 being not serious and 5 being very serious).
- **Procedure of the Study**
 - ✓ A total of 1300 questionnaires were distributed to the public.
 - ✓ 10 researchers were involved in interviewing and collecting data
 - ✓ The survey was completed in 7 weeks.
 - ✓ 904 questionnaires were completed successfully for analysis (Return rate of 69.5%).
 - ✓ The survey was voluntary and anonymous.
 - ✓ Consent for participation in the study were obtained from those who participated in the study through a signed consent form attached to the questionnaire.

Section A: Demographic Information of the Participants

- **Data Analysis**

Data analyzed using SPSS 16.0

- **Results**

- Presented in descriptive and correlation statistics
- No of participant (N) = 904
- Reliability test (Cronbach alpha) = 0. 677 (12 items for crime and safety and another 12 items for policing)
- The reliability is moderate is acceptable.

Section 1: Demographic Information of the Participants

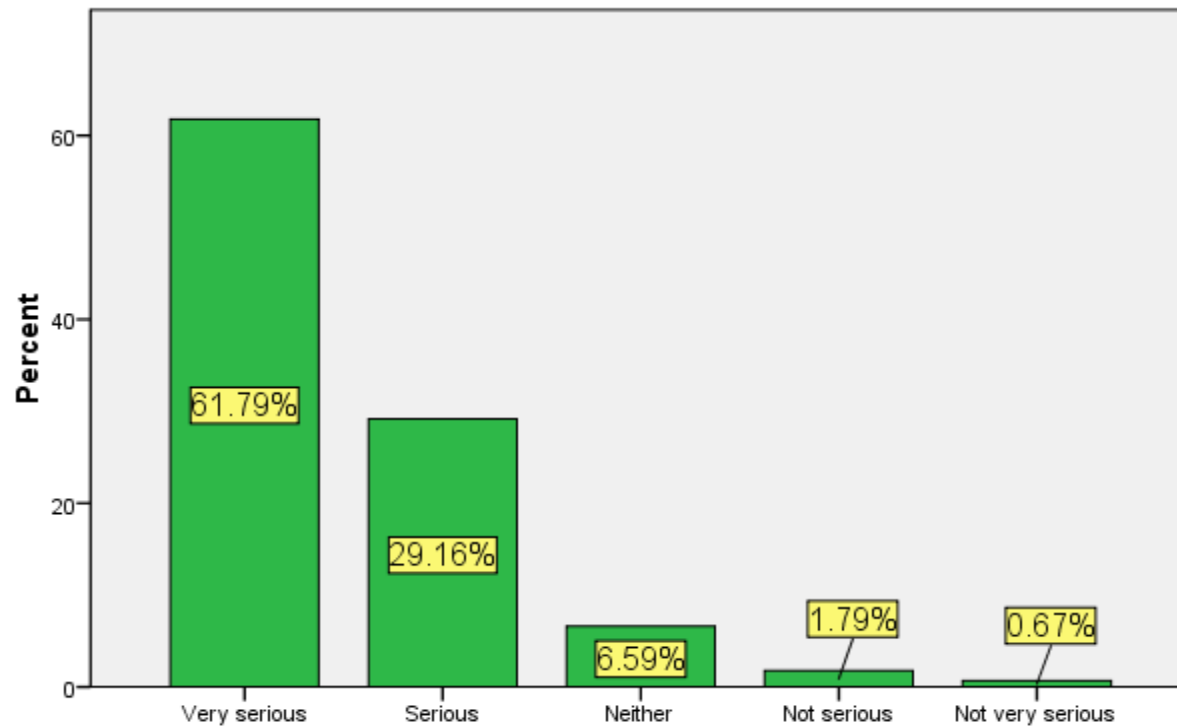
Variables		n	%
Gender	Females	354	39.2
	Males	480	53.1
	Did not indicate gender	16	1.8
	Others	1	0.1
Age Category	18-24 years old	461	51.1
	25-35 years old	239	26.4
	36-44 years old	82	9.1
	45-55 years old	48	5.3
	56 years old and above	33	3.7
Marital Status	Married	196	21.7
	De facto	18	2
	Divorced / seperated	49	5.4
	In a relationship	149	16.5
	Single	429	47.5
	Others	24	2.7
Nationality	Papua New Guineans	803	88.8
	Expatriate	22	2.4

Variables		n	%
Highest Level of Education	Post Graduate	47	5.2
	University/College degree	353	39
	Trade certificate or diploma	109	12.1
	Completed secondary school	198	21.9
	Completed high school	97	10.7
	Completed primary school	64	7.1
	Never been to school	7	0.8
Employment Status	Working full-time	183	20.2
	Working part-time	62	6.9
	Unemployed and seeking work	72	8
	Student	489	54.1
	Home duties	35	3.9
	Retired	10	1.1
	Self-employed	36	4.0
Location of Residence	Port Moresby South District	180	20
	Port Moresby North West District	428	47.3
	Port Moresby North East	277	30.8
No of Years Lived in Port Moresby	Less than 5 years	385	42.6
	6-15 years	238	26.3
	16-35 years	87	9.6
	More than 36 years	31	3.4
	Lived all my life	152	16.8

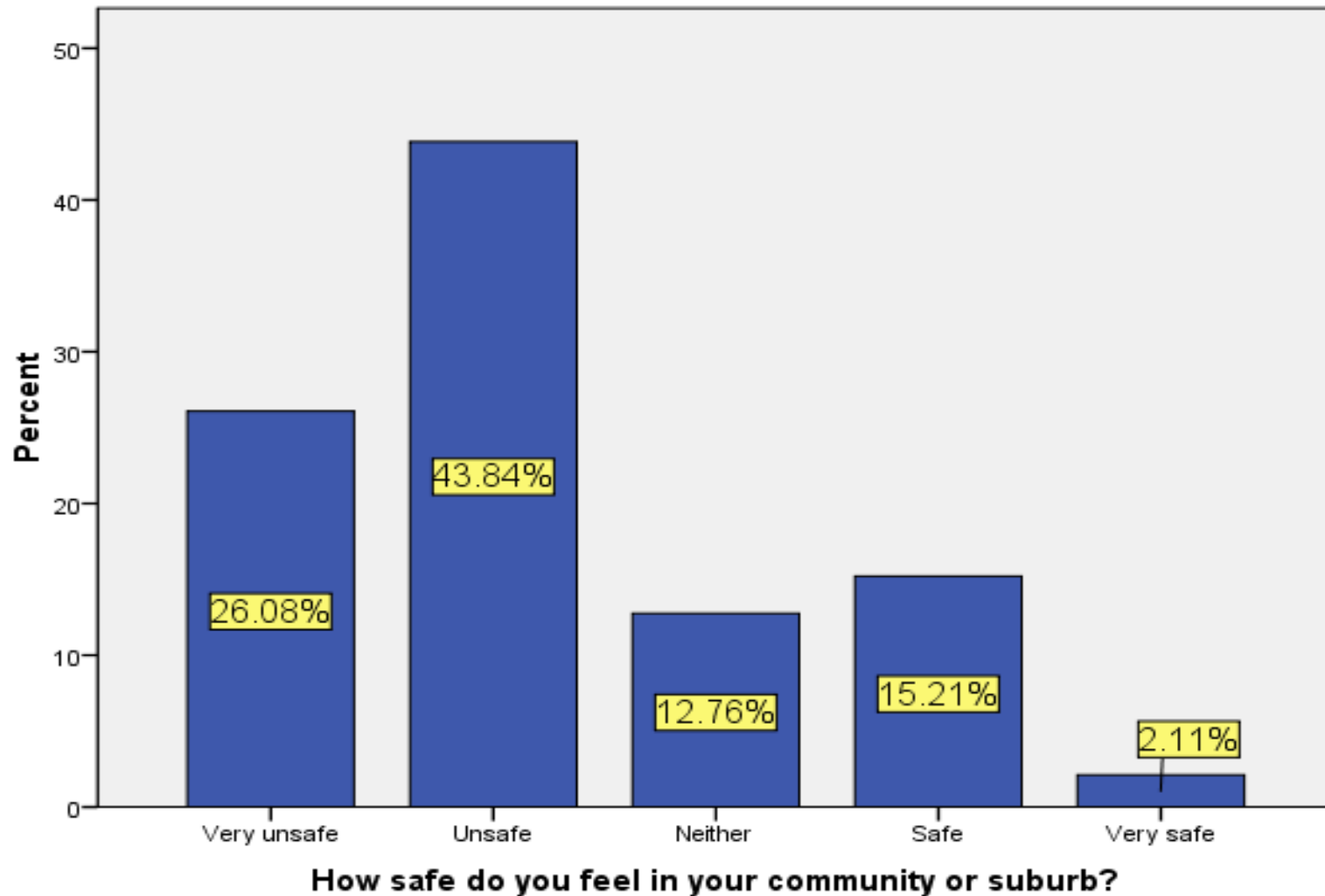
Section 2. Crime and Safety

2.1. Level of crime rate in Port Moresby

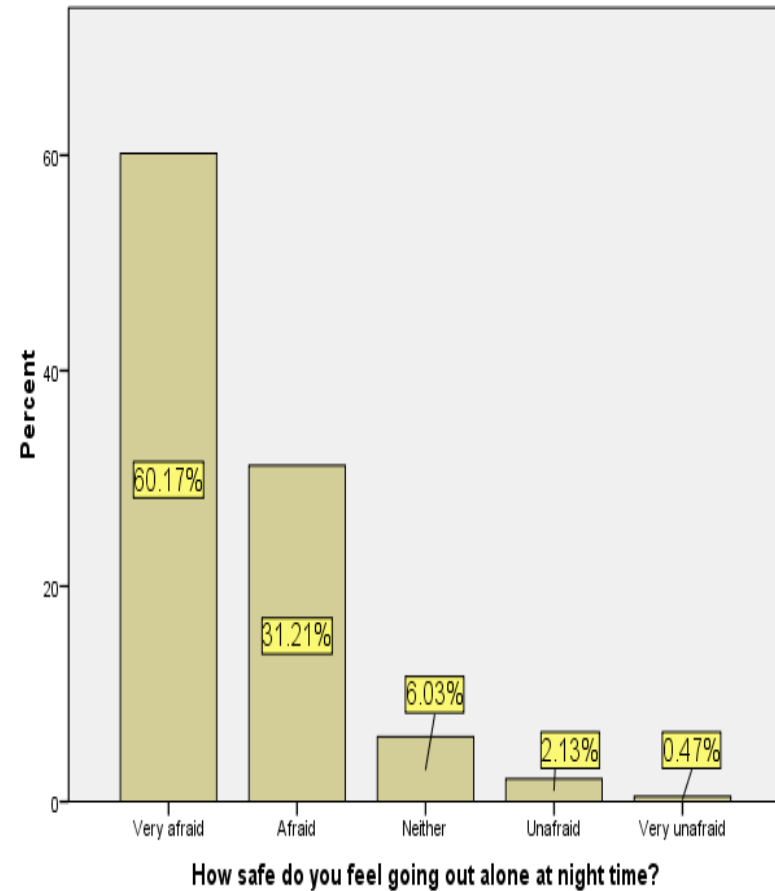
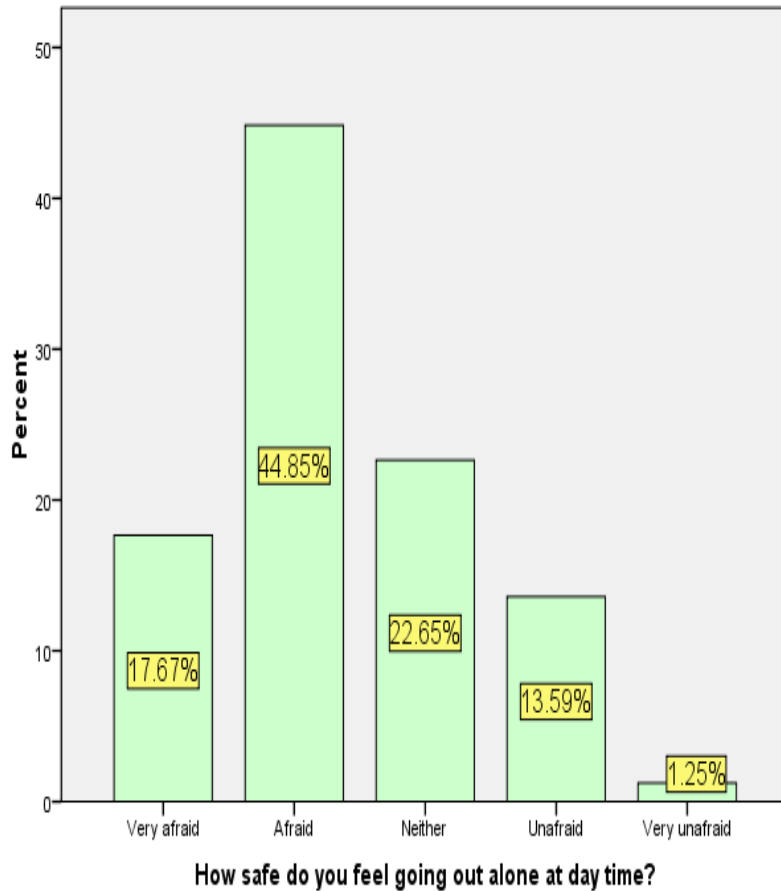
Please rate how serious you feel the level of crime in Port Moresby



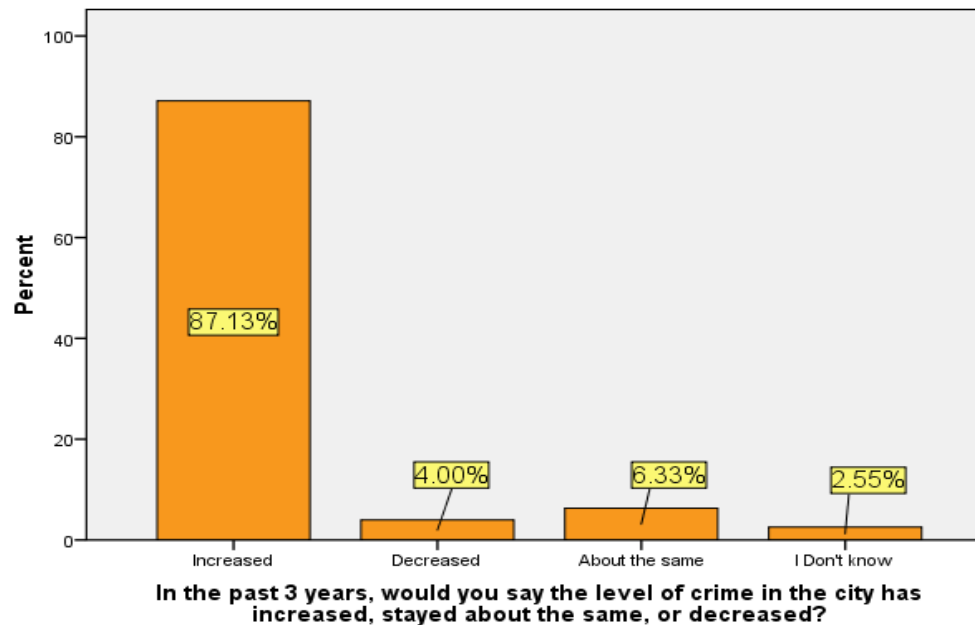
2.2. Safety



2.3. Safe at Night/Daytime



2.4. Level of crime over the last 3 years



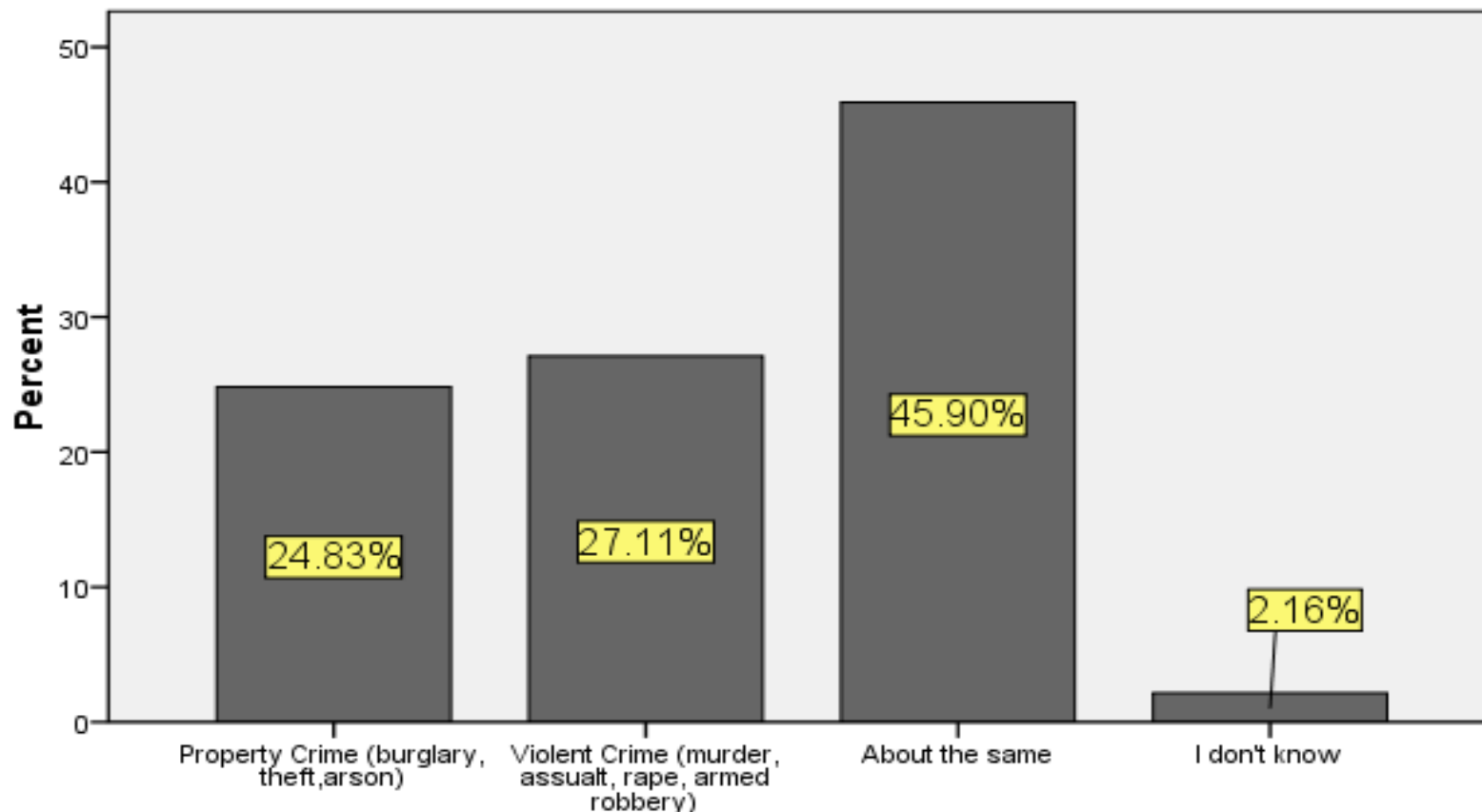
In the past 3 years, have you been a victim of crime in your community?

- Yes = 466 (51.5%)
- No = 411 (45.5%)

How many times have you been a victim of a crime in the last 3 years?

	Frequency	Percent
Once	273	30.2
Twice	166	18.4
3 times	62	6.9
4 times	32	3.5
More than 5 times	60	6.6
None	297	32.9

2.5. Types of Crimes



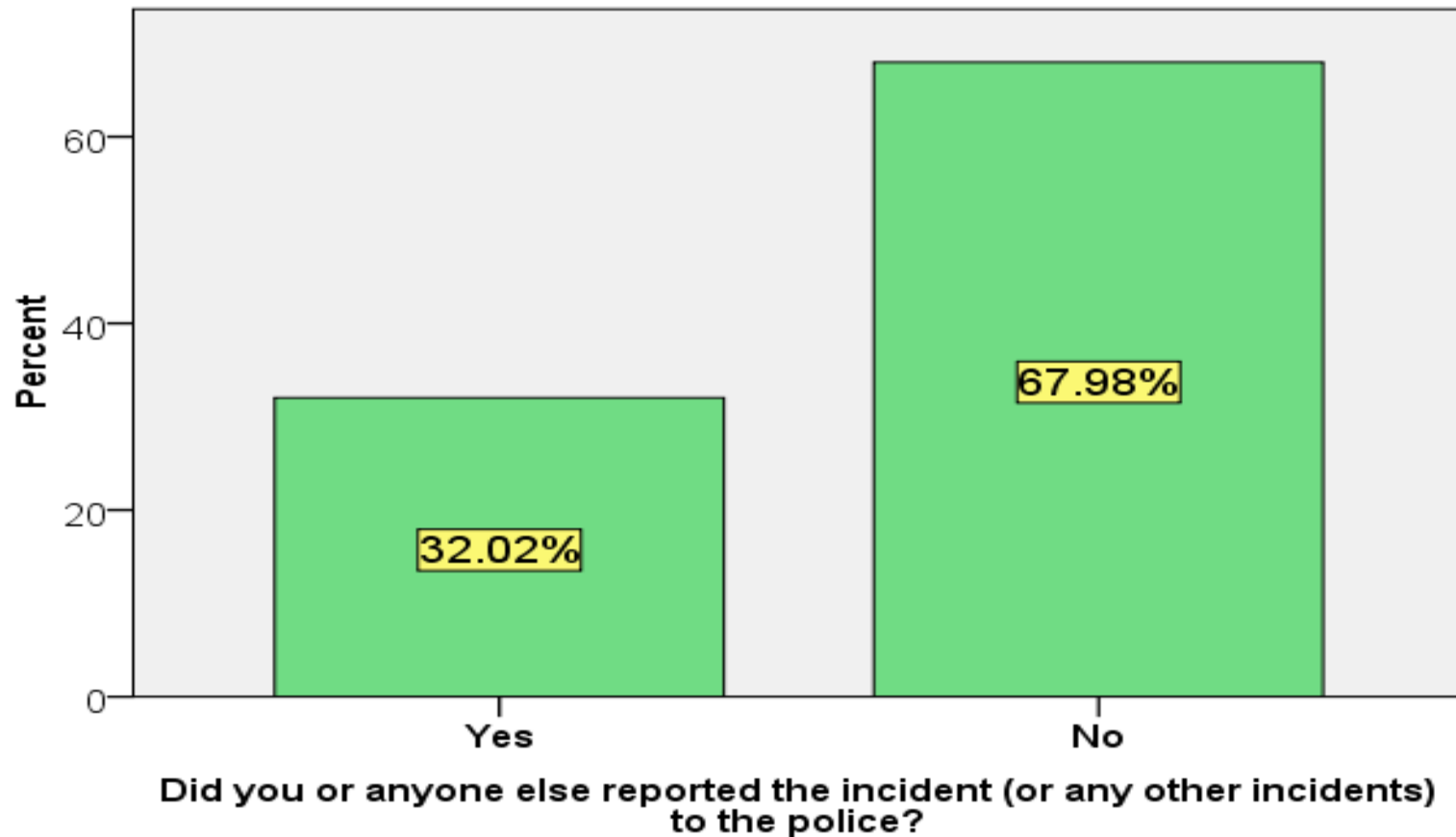
What type of crime do you feel is more of a problem in your community: property crimes [i.e. burglary, theft, arson], violent crimes [murder, assault, rape, armed robbery] or are they about the same?

Violent & Property Crimes

		Very Often	Often	Neither	Not often	Not very often
Violent Crimes	Robbery	29.4	33.2	11.5	14.6	8.2
	Killing (Murder)	18.9	21	11	22.3	22.7
	Rape	9.6	21.8	19.8	24.3	18.9
	Sexual Assault	19.5	30	13.2	21.6	11
	Harassment	36.7	32.1	7.6	10.4	9.3
		<u>Very Often</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Not often</u>	<u>Not very often</u>
Property Crimes	Burglary	22.5	33.1	17.9	16.2	7.3
	Stealing	61.9	23.8	5.1	4.5	2.4
	Car Hijacking	20.8	28.7	14.6	20.8	11.1
	Arson	9.8	20.1	16.9	29.3	19

Note: Results in percentage (%)

2.6. Reporting of Crimes to Police



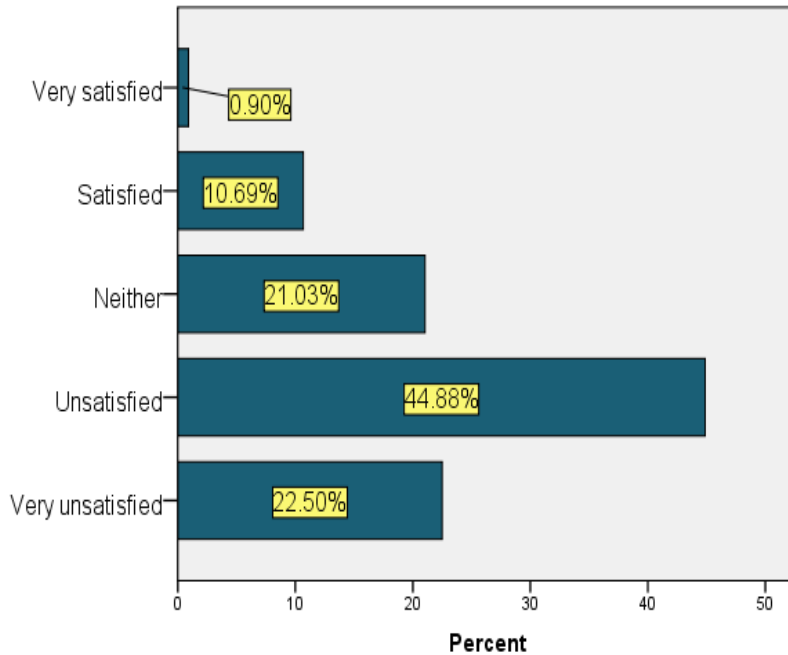
2.7. Reasons for not reporting crimes to local police

No	The reason(s) why people do not report incidents to their local police	%
1	You did not want to get involved with the police or the courts	90.1
2	You dealt with it in another way	78
3	The incident was too minor or it was not important enough	65.3
4	Fear of revenge by the offender	46.3
5	Did not think that the police could do anything about the incident	42.3
6	You did not want the person involved to be arrested or jailed	41.6
7	Nothing was taken or the items were recovered	41.2
8	Family member(s) put pressure on you not to contact the police	39.5
9	The police would not help	30
10	The incident was a personal matter and did not concern the police	23.7
11	You did not want anyone to find out about the incident	15

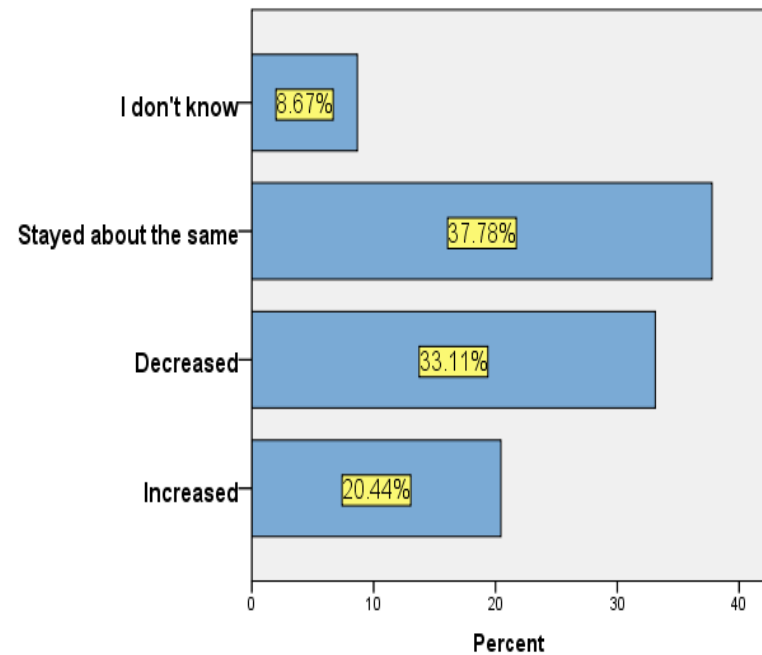
Section 3: Policing

3.1. Level of Satisfaction with Police Response

In general, how satisfied were you (or they) with the local police response?



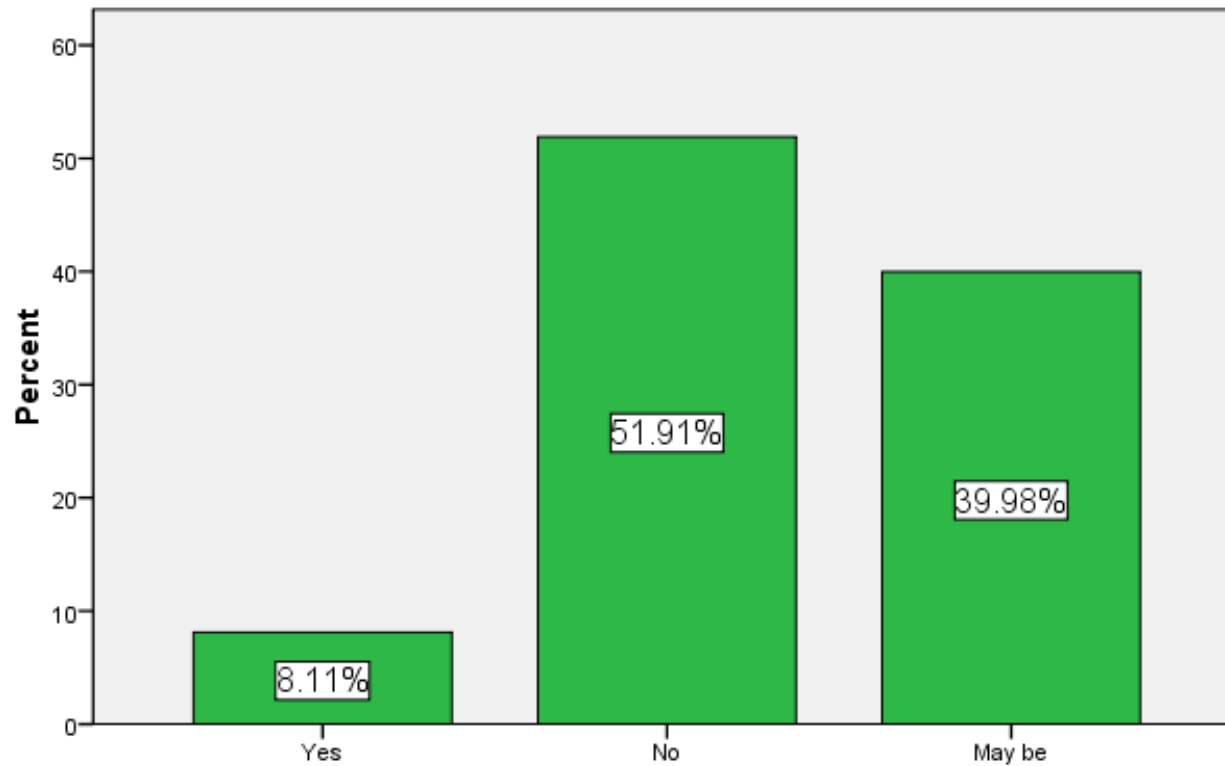
Would you say the level of police protection in the city (Port Moresby) has increased, stayed about the same, or decreased over the past three years?



89.9% of the participants feel there need to be more police patrols in their community, neighborhood or suburb.

3.2. Level of Trust

Generally, do you trust your local police?



3.3. Level of satisfaction on the professionalism and conduct of police

		Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neither	Unsatisfied	Very unsatisfied
1	The level of competency in solving crimes	35	143	215	300	187
2	The number of officers patrolling the streets or suburbs	6.1	11.9	20.7	36.7	21.9
3	The ability of the officers (police) to communicate with the public	8.7	12.6	16.2	37.4	22.2
4	The ability of the officers (police) to prevent crimes	3.9	15.8	23.8	33.2	20.7
5	The professionalisms of the police officers	4.3	8.5	18.1	29.3	36.8

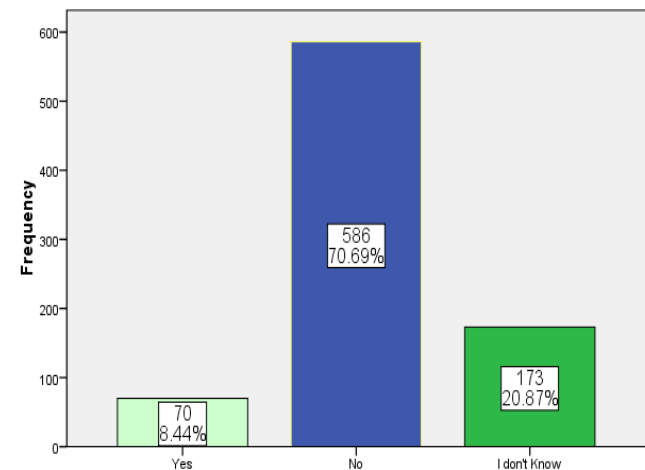
Note: All scores are in percentage (%)

3.4. Measures taken to protect themselves (or family) from crime

No	Measures to protect your self/family	Respondents Rate (%)
1	Engaged relatives (males) to provide security	95.1
2	Fence erected	93.4
3	Own a dog	60
4	Engaged a local security contractor	30.3
5	Installed CCTV	10
6	Purchased a gun	8.2

Neighbourhood watch

Does your community have a neighborhood crime watch program?



3.5. Perceptions on causes of crime

No	Most likely causes to the least likely causes	%
1	Unemployment	88.1
2	Poverty	78.4
3	Drugs	67
4	Lenient sentencing	63.3
5	Alcohol	29.42
6	Lack of parental supervision of minors	20

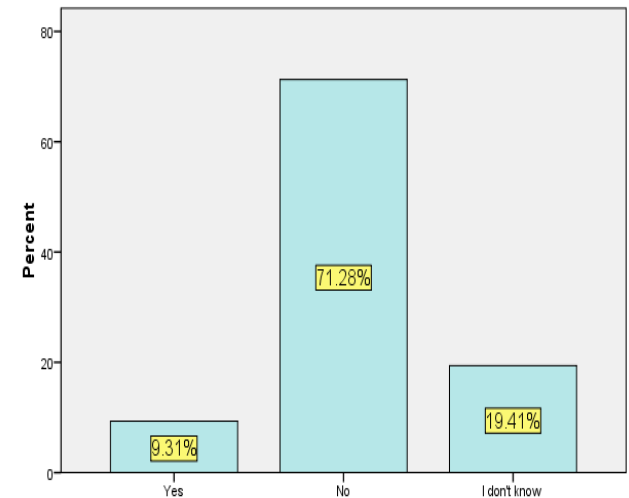
Please **RANK** what you feel are the most important causes of crime with 1 being most likely to cause crime and 6 being least likely to cause crime. NOTE: EACH ROW REQUIRES ONLY 1 RESPONSE (Tick)

3.6. Perceptions on crime prevention strategies

No	Crime reducing measures	%
1	Strong prosecution and sentencing	80
2	Introducing poverty reduction initiatives	93.2
3	Increase police patrol and conduct safety awareness	68.3
4	Increase security measures (CCTV)	30
5	Form neighborhood watch	29
6	Enforce curfew for juveniles	42
7	Strong parental supervision of minors	36.5

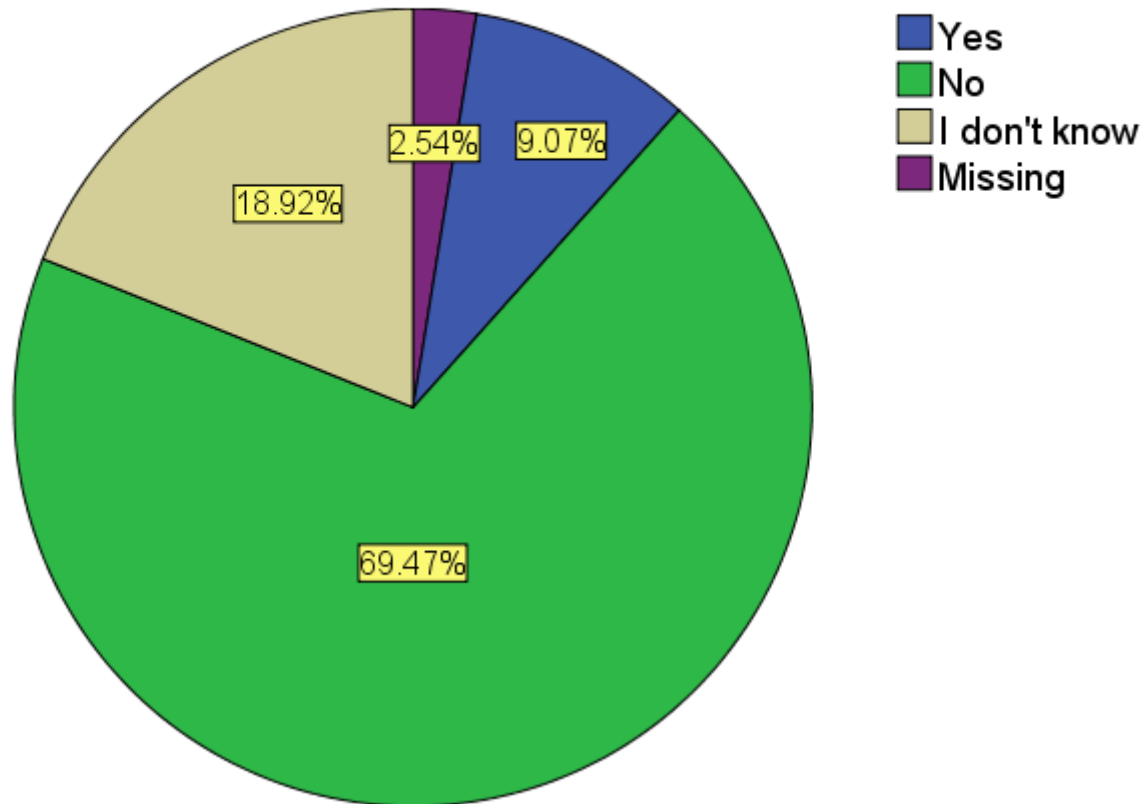
Is the National Government and National Capital District Commission (NCDC) doing enough to prevent crimes and protect the residents of Port Moresby? YES | NO | DON'T KNOW

Is the National Government and National Capital District Commission (NCDC) doing enough to prevent crimes and protect the residents of Port Moresby?



3.7. Perceptions on national government in addressing crime

Is the National Government and National Capital District Commission (NCDC) doing enough to prevent crimes and protect the residents of Port Moresby?



Correlation

- Perceived level of safety positively correlated with marital status ($r = .148$, $p < .05$, 2 tailed).
- Perceived level of safety positively correlated with number of years people lived in Port Moresby ($r = .072$, $p < .05$, 2 tailed).
- Perceived level of crime positively correlated with employment status ($r = .094$, $p < .01$, 2 tailed).
- Perceived level of safety negatively correlated with age ($r = -.081$, $p < .05$, 2 tailed).
- Perceived level of safety negatively correlated with nationality ($r = -.080$, $p < .05$, 2 tailed).
- Perceived level of safety negatively correlated with satisfaction level of local police response ($r = -.180$, $p < .01$, 2 tailed).
- Perceived level of trust for local police negatively correlated with age ($r = -.152$, $p < .01$, 2 tailed).
- Perceived level of trust for local police negatively correlated with number of years people lived in Port Moresby ($r = -.071$, $p < .05$, 2 tailed).
- Other correlations among demographics and level of crime, safety and policing were not statistically significant.

Discussion

On the basis of the results obtained, it is shows that:

- Crime level in Port Moresby is very serious and is increasing.
- Majority of the people live in fear or feel unsafe.
- All forms of crimes are prevalent in Port Moresby.
- Many people do not trust local police. This leads to less reporting of crimes to police.
- Less reporting results in application of “***community jungle justice***” (Marai and Assa, 2023).
- The government is not doing enough to address crimes in the urban area.
- Main cause of crime includes lack of employment, poverty and drugs.

Conclusion

- The trend of the findings is consistent with the past studies conducted in PNG.
- Crime rate in Port Moresby is increasing.
- People do not trust local police as a result they do not report crimes to the police.
- Poverty reduction initiatives must be undertaken by the government and other sectors to address crime.
- Street patrolling by police needs to be increased significantly.
- Police professionalism needs to be enhanced to build confidence and trust among residents in the city so they can report crimes to police.
- The law and justice sector needs to apply strong prosecution and sentencing.
- Relevant government institutions need to develop appropriate strategies to make urban environment safe, inclusive and resilient by addressing the multi-casual factors of crime, violence and insecurity (United Nation – Urban Safety Governance Initiative, 2023).

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