

Crime Control and Security Management in Uyo Capital City, Akwa Ibom State

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ABSTRACT

This study explored the connection between Crime Control and Security Management in Uyo Capital City Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The motivation behind this research centered on the ongoing issues with crimes like burglary, armed robbery, kidnapping, street robbery, and vehicle theft, which persist despite the government's and security agencies' efforts to ensure public safety. A descriptive research design was utilized for this study. The target population included residents of the Uyo Local Government Area, which has an estimated population of 509,916. To gather data, a sample size of 380 respondents was calculated using the Krejcie and Morgan sample size determination table, various sampling techniques, including cluster, purposive, and simple random sampling, were used to select participants. Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources and analyzed using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC). The results indicated significant positive relationships between the crime-control strategies examined and the management of the identified crimes. Community vigilante groups played a crucial role in controlling burglary through neighborhood surveillance, patrols, information sharing, and timely reporting of suspicious activities. The study focused on monitoring vulnerable areas and found that the null hypotheses were rejected. The calculated correlation coefficient was $r = 1.00$, which surpassed the critical value of $r = 0.707$ at the 0.05 significance level. The study recommends for a fostering better collaboration between community vigilante groups and official security agencies, enhancing police patrols and surveillance tech, improving intelligence gathering and information sharing among agencies, and boosting investment in crime-prevention infrastructure and environmental safety.

Keywords: Crime Control Strategies, Security Management, Community Vigilante, Police Surveillance, Crime Prevention,

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Security is a fundamental responsibility of the state, as ensuring the safety of life, property, and public order forms the foundation for economic activities, social interactions, and effective governance. When insecurity becomes a persistent issue, its effects extend beyond immediate victimization, leading to fear, restricted movement, loss of livelihoods, and diminished trust in government institutions. This challenge is particularly evident in Nigeria's current security situation. Crime and insecurity are pressing public concerns, and the trust in institutions responsible for addressing crime remains relatively low. For instance, a recent study carried out by Adewusi-Bakare, (2024), revealed that 61% of Nigerians felt at least somewhat unsafe walking in their neighborhoods over the past year, while only 21% believed the government was effectively reducing crime. These findings highlight a dual problem: one of crime incidence and another concerning institutional capacity and public confidence.

Relying solely on traditional reactive policing is no longer adequate to tackle the complexities of modern criminality. A combination of preventive policing, intelligence gathering, surveillance, technology, community engagement, and inter-agency collaboration is now crucial for effective crime control (Atairet, et al., 2024). This shift is reflected in the recent strategic initiatives of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), which emphasizes proactive and intelligence-led policing, data analysis, capacity building, and improved police-community relations as essential tools for enhancing crime prevention and response (Nigeria Police Force,

NPF, 2025). This focus is vital because different types of crimes arise in various contexts, necessitating tailored prevention strategies. Akwa Ibom State serves as a significant case study in this discussion, as it has experienced persistent issues with violent crimes such as kidnapping, armed robbery, cultism, and assault, posing ongoing challenges for security agencies (Eyo et al., 2026).

Okorie et al. (2021) conducted a study in Uyo and Itu Local Government Areas, revealing that traditional crime-control measures face significant limitations due to insufficient equipment, personnel, training, and other institutional challenges. Their findings suggest that simply increasing the number of security agencies without enhancing the quality and organization of crime-control strategies may not adequately address the evolving nature of criminal activities. This issue is particularly pressing in Uyo Capital City, which functions as the administrative, commercial, and educational hub of Akwa Ibom State. The high concentration of government offices, financial institutions, markets, educational facilities, transportation activities, and residential areas creates a complex urban security landscape. (Eyo, 2023). Incidents such as armed robbery, street theft, and vehicle theft not only affect individual victims but also disrupt commercial operations, hinder mobility, and diminish residents' sense of safety. In response to these challenges, various strategies have emerged to combat crime. One effective approach is community participation, where residents, neighborhood groups, and community-based security organizations provide valuable local insights, surveillance, and information to formal security agencies (Ataire, 2021). The concept of community policing emphasizes that collaboration between the police and the community is the most effective way to prevent crime. Introduced in Nigeria by the Nigeria Police Force in 2002, community policing has been further supported by recent studies that underscore the importance of police-community partnerships to address the limitations of traditional policing methods (Okpa & Tyover, 2022; Ndem, 2024). This approach is particularly relevant for burglary prevention, as residents and community groups can identify vulnerabilities and detect unusual activities or movements.

As highlighted by Piza et al. (2019), police surveillance patrols enhanced by security technology can provide visible guardianship and facilitate quick responses. Tools like CCTV and electronic communication systems improve surveillance and assist in detecting criminal activities. Research indicates that CCTV can effectively reduce crime, particularly when it is monitored and used in conjunction with other strategies. In Uyo, Omotunde (2023) found that police officers were utilizing social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and email for intelligence gathering and crime control. However, their efforts were limited by insufficient training and institutional challenges. The role of surveillance and technology is particularly significant in combating armed robbery in light of these findings. Another approach is intelligence-led policing, which focuses on gathering, analyzing, and applying information to identify threats, offenders, and their networks, rather than merely responding to crimes after they occur. This approach is particularly relevant to kidnapping, which often involves planning, target selection, communication, and organized networks. The Nigeria Police Force has emphasized the importance of intelligence-led operations, information sharing, and coordinated responses as essential components of modern policing (NPF, 2025, 2026). However, the effectiveness of these strategies in Uyo will depend on the quality of information available, the ability to analyze it, and the capacity of security agencies to convert intelligence into timely operational actions. The study aims to provide empirical evidence on how well the strategies employed in Uyo align with the crimes they are intended to prevent and control, examining these relationships within the same geographical and social context. The findings are expected to contribute to the development of more targeted and coordinated crime prevention efforts.

Statement of the Problem

Crime and insecurity pose significant challenges to effective governance and public safety in Uyo, the capital city of Akwa Ibom State. As the administrative, commercial, educational, and socio-economic center of the state, Uyo has a high concentration of government offices, financial institutions, markets, businesses, educational facilities, transportation activities, and residential areas. This dense population and economic activity contribute to a complex security landscape where issues like burglary, armed robbery, kidnapping, street theft, and vehicle theft can occur. Despite various measures taken by the government and security

agencies to safeguard lives and property, the persistent nature of these criminal activities raises doubts about the effectiveness of current strategies in ensuring lasting public safety.

To address these challenges, several key crime-control strategies have been put in place, including community vigilante groups, police surveillance patrols, security technology, intelligence-led policing, and situational crime prevention. However, various institutional, operational, and environmental factors hinder the success of these strategies in achieving security in Uyo. Community vigilante groups are intended to collaborate with formal security agencies to enhance neighborhood surveillance, conduct community patrols, identify suspicious individuals and activities, and facilitate information sharing and prompt reporting of criminal incidents. Unfortunately, their effectiveness is often undermined by issues such as insufficient funding, inadequate training, and lack of equipment, poor coordination with the police, ineffective communication systems, and sometimes a lack of accountability, leading to an overreliance on informal enforcement methods. If community-based security structures are poorly organized or lack proper institutional coordination, their ability to provide reliable and sustainable security may be severely limited.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine the relationship between Crime Control and Security Management in Uyo Capital City of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, while the specific objectives was to evaluate the relationship between Crime Control and reduction in street robbery/vehicle theft in Uyo Capital City of Akwa Ibom State.

Research Question

The research question guiding the study was what is the relationship between Crime Control and reduction in street robbery/vehicle theft in Uyo Capital City of Akwa Ibom State?

Research Hypothesis

The null hypotheses was formulated to guide the study:

H₀₁: there is no significant relationship between Crime Control and reduction in street robbery/vehicle theft in Uyo Capital City of Akwa Ibom State.

Concept of Crime Control

Crime control is the concerted effort of government institutions, law-enforcement agencies, communities and other security stakeholders to prevent, detect, investigate, suppress and respond to criminal activities to safeguard lives and property and maintain public order. It is not just about arrest and punishment, but also about surveillance, intelligence gathering, community participation, environmental security, deterrence and rapid response. Ndem (2024) posits that the nature of modern crime in Akwa Ibom State necessitates the need for collaboration among formal security agencies, traditional and community-based institutions for effective crime control. Crime control is a wider concept than crime prevention as it includes both preventive and responsive activities such as surveillance, detection, investigation, apprehension, prosecution and sanctions. Clarke (1997) states that crime can be reduced by altering the immediate conditions and environments that provide opportunities for offending, making it more difficult, risky and less rewarding.

Crime control is done both formally and informally. Formal mechanisms are the police, courts, correctional institutions and other statutory security agencies, and informal mechanisms are families, traditional institutions, neighbourhood associations, community groups and religious organisations. Ndem (2024) in Akwa Ibom State observed that traditional crime-control mechanisms are still relevant in the management of public order in the state and recommended for greater synergy between the formal security agencies and traditional institutions. Community participation is an important aspect of crime control, especially in community policing where there is a need to encourage police-community cooperation, information sharing, joint problem solving, community meetings, neighbourhood surveillance and early reporting of suspicious

activities. Israel (2021) in his study of community-policing strategies in Akwa Ibom State between 1999 and 2019, revealed that community policing had been increasingly adopted to combat and prevent crime and that community participation and police-community engagement were key elements of crime-control efforts.

Crime control is also a significant aspect of surveillance and guardianship. Police patrols, neighbourhood watch, CCTV systems, communication networks, intelligence databases, vehicle-tracking systems and geographic information systems can enhance the ability to detect and respond to criminal activity. Clarke (1997) argues that situational interventions can be used to alter specific environments to make it more risky to be caught and less likely to be able to offend. Police patrols help to control crime by creating a visible presence of police, improving surveillance, deterring potential criminals and enabling quick response to crime. But they require sufficient manpower, vehicles, communications gear, intelligence and other operational resources. Strategic deployment of patrols is important in an expanding urban environment like Uyo as geographical expansion may lead to the widening of the gap between security facilities and new residential and commercial areas (Aguene, and Ngene, 2021),

Another important aspect of crime control is intelligence-led policing. It is a systematic process of gathering, analysing and sharing information to detect crime trends, hot spots, criminal networks and new threats. This will help security institutions move from reactive to proactive security and is especially applicable to organised crimes like kidnapping, armed robbery, cultism and cybercrime. Situational and environmental interventions also play a role in crime control by altering physical and organisational conditions that enable crime to occur. Aguene, and Ngene, (2021), view focuses on the following: street lighting, access control, CCTV, visibility, secure parking, property marking, environmental maintenance and neighbourhood surveillance. These interventions are especially germane to the offences of burglary, street robbery and vehicle theft in Uyo Capital City where poorly lit streets, remote areas, unguarded premises and weak surveillance may provide opportunities for committing offences. Institutional coordination, public cooperation, legitimacy, resources, training, accountability and sustainability are all important factors in the effectiveness of crime-control strategies, in addition to the number of measures adopted. Israel (2021) shows that community policing in Akwa Ibom has employed several strategies, but also has implementation challenges, while Ndem (2024) highlights the need for more effective collaboration between the formal security agencies and the traditional and community-based institutions.

Concept of Security

Security is consider as an issue that involves protecting individuals, communities, institutions, property, and public spaces from various threats like crime, violence, social unrest, and technological risks. Nowadays, human-security strategies emphasize the importance of people and communities, focusing on their protection, empowerment, and solidarity to tackle interconnected challenges (United Nations, 2023; Etim, et al., 2024; Umanah, et al., 2025). This means that security isn't just about shielding against threats; it also includes how safe people feel. We can think of security in two ways: as a condition and as institutional capacity. As a condition, it refers to the protection of lives, property, rights, and overall well-being. As capacity, it highlights how well institutions and communities can prevent crime, investigate offenses, and maintain public order (Umana, 2020; UNDP, 2022). In urban settings, security is closely tied to crime prevention and public safety, particularly in reducing crime opportunities and enhancing safety in these areas (Udousoro et al., 2026). It's important to recognize that security is a shared responsibility among government institutions, police organizations, communities, private security entities, civil society, and citizens. Building public cooperation, trust, and a sense of institutional legitimacy is essential for effective security measures (Cruz, 2022; Tom, et al., 2025). Therefore, fostering collaboration between formal security institutions and community-based security initiatives is key to achieving effective urban security.

Police surveillance and patrol play a crucial role in keeping our urban areas safe. A visible and strategically placed police presence can boost surveillance efforts, deter potential offenders, and ensure a swift response to criminal activities. A thorough review and meta-analysis of existing evidence indicate that preventive patrols can effectively reduce both property and violent crimes (Weisburd, et al., 2024). This highlights the importance of wisely distributing police resources to regions and situations that face higher security risks.

Community involvement is another vital piece of the security puzzle, as locals possess valuable insights into neighborhood conditions, suspicious behaviors, vulnerable spots, and emerging threats. When policing is rooted in local relationships and community participation, it can significantly enhance crime prevention efforts and alleviate fears surrounding crime (Ekici, et al., 2022). Therefore, security is bolstered when formal policing is complemented by community collaboration. Moreover, the legitimacy of security institutions is essential; if citizens lack confidence in law enforcement or perceive it as ineffective, unfair, or unaccountable, maintaining security becomes a challenge. The legitimacy of the police can shape the dynamics between security institutions and the public, while the interplay between formal and non-state security actors can influence how the public views security provision (Cruz, 2022; Etim, et al., 2024). Ultimately, effective security hinges not just on enforcement capabilities but also on institutional credibility, accountability, cooperation, and public trust. In today's world, security technology and intelligence are becoming increasingly vital for urban safety. We can boost crime detection, gather intelligence, manage information, and improve our response capabilities by leveraging surveillance systems, digital information platforms, communication tools, data analytics, and electronic monitoring. However, the rise of digital technologies has also introduced new security challenges, like cybercrime and tech-enabled offenses (Umana, 2020; UNDP, 2022). To tackle these issues effectively, it's essential for institutions to blend human intelligence, technological resources, and their own institutional knowledge.

Crime Prevention and the Reduction of Street Robbery and Vehicle Theft in Uyo Capital City

The increasing amount of research on crime prevention in Akwa Ibom State highlights a crucial point: to effectively tackle urban and property-related crimes, we need to focus on the physical, social, and institutional settings where these criminal opportunities arise. This is the essence of situational crime prevention (SCP), which seeks to curb crime by making it harder and riskier to commit, while also reducing the potential rewards and chances for it. In Akwa Ibom, findings suggest that formal policing should work hand-in-hand with local surveillance, environmental management, intelligence gathering, and active community involvement. A study by Brown and Okorie (2021) on crime control in the coastal areas of Akwa Ibom State, which specifically applied Situational Crime Prevention Theory to armed robbery, identified key security resources such as neighborhood watch programs, community vigilance, social capital, territorial control, and community norms. The findings indicate that effective crime prevention in the state cannot depend solely on traditional policing methods; it also requires leveraging the local environment and the community's capacity to provide informal guardianship (Umana, 2020).

In a similar vein, Ndem (2024) explored crime and public-order procedures in both traditional and modern societies within Akwa Ibom State. He found that relying solely on formal security agencies isn't enough to tackle crime effectively. Instead, he advocated for a partnership between these statutory security forces and traditional crime-control methods. This collaboration is crucial for Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) because it boosts environmental security. When formal surveillance is paired with local community members who understand the ins and outs of their neighborhoods, they can spot unusual behavior more easily. Initiatives like neighborhood watch programs and local reporting systems can serve as capable guardians, making it tougher for criminals to succeed. Additionally, Israel (2021) conducted a historical study on community-policing strategies in Akwa Ibom State from 1999 to 2019, highlighting that community-oriented policing has emerged as a vital approach to crime prevention. His findings underscored the significance of community involvement, strong police-community relations, and locally driven security efforts. While community policing encompasses more than just SCP, its emphasis on local insights, neighborhood vigilance, and collaborative problem-solving enhances natural surveillance. This, in turn, aids residents and security personnel in pinpointing vulnerable areas and potential crime opportunities. Sunday (2024) also pointed out that leveraging advanced technology is just as crucial as having a reliable vehicle when it comes to improving service delivery, whether in society or within organizations.

Brown and Okorie (2021) study of crime in Ibeno and Eastern Obolo also showed the connection between environment, community organisation, local belief system and informal social control. Their results found neighbourhood watch, social capital, community vigilantism and community norms to be significant assets in the fight against armed robbery. This means that in Uyo, poorly monitored streets, isolated areas and locations

with weak guardianship may offer opportunities for criminal activity, whereas environments with visibility, active neighbourhood monitoring and quick reporting may make offenders feel more at risk. Another situational mechanism is private security. Inyang and Abraham (2014) in their study on private guard companies and crime control in Akwa Ibom State, surveyed private security practitioners and members of the public in Uyo, Ikot Ekpene and Eket and discovered that private security organisations played a role in crime control, but were constrained by poor facilities, weak regulation and limited capacity to respond to serious crimes. A substantial percentage of the respondents were in favor of more cooperation between private security organizations and public police. Private guards can thus offer extra protection in residential estates, commercial buildings and other places that are susceptible to theft, robbery and property crime, but this is dependent on training, equipment, regulation and coordination with law-enforcement agencies. (Mboho & Atairet, 2018).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Cohen and Felson (1979) introduced Routine Activity Theory, which sheds light on crime through the intersection of three key elements: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian. The core idea is that crime flourishes when opportunities arise, and by boosting guardianship, reducing target vulnerability, and altering environments, we can effectively curb criminal activities. This theory holds particular significance for Uyo Capital City, where residential neighborhoods, markets, transport routes, business areas, educational institutions, and public spaces present various opportunities for crime. Capable guardianship can come from police patrols, community watch efforts, security personnel, CCTV cameras, controlled access points, and adequate street lighting. Therefore, the theory strongly supports the exploration of police surveillance, security technologies, community-based security strategies, and situational crime-prevention measures.

Empirical evidence backs this up. In a systematic review and meta-analysis of 17 experimental and quasi-experimental studies on preventive patrol, Weisburd et al. (2024) found small yet significant crime-prevention benefits, including reductions in both property and violent crime. They also noted no substantial evidence of crime displacement to nearby areas. This suggests that effective police presence can enhance guardianship and foster a sense of security within the city. However, Routine Activity Theory alone doesn't fully account for the factors that drive criminal motivation. Thus, it's most effective when paired with theories that delve into community conditions and the decision-making processes of offenders. It provides a robust theoretical foundation for understanding how guardianship and opportunity reduction can influence crime control and security in this field.

Routine Activity Theory plays a crucial role in understanding crime control by linking its three core elements to key aspects of crime management. For instance, community vigilante groups act as informal guardians, while police patrols provide formal oversight. On the tech side, security systems enhance monitoring and detection, and intelligence-led policing boosts our ability to spot and tackle potential criminal threats. Additionally, situational crime prevention strategies work to make potential targets less vulnerable and harder to access. We can assess the effectiveness of these approaches by looking at how well they prevent the overlap of motivated offenders and suitable targets, especially when capable guardians are missing. In this context, Routine Activity Theory offers a clear framework for exploring the relationship between crime control and security architecture in Uyo Capital City. It suggests that the presence of suitable targets and the strength of guardianship significantly influence crime rates, alongside the existence of offenders. In areas where guardianship is weak, security measures often fall short, making potential targets more accessible and increasing the chances of crime. Conversely, when effective guardianship is strategically implemented, it can protect vulnerable targets and alter the environment to reduce opportunities for criminal activity, ultimately lowering the likelihood of crime. Thus, this theory serves as a valuable lens for evaluating the effectiveness of crime-control strategies and their impact on security in Uyo Capital City.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed the descriptive research designs. The study population consists of the residents of the six Local Government Areas of Uyo Local Government Areas of Akwa Ibom State. These area was selected based on the geographical location, level of urbanization and socio-economic interaction with Uyo Capital City. The study population was obtained from the projected population figures obtained from Nigerian Population Commission 2023. The sample size for the study was determined by Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size determination table. The total population of the residents was 509,916 and the sample size was 384 respondents, which was deemed sufficient for the study. The 380 respondents were allocated proportionately to the Local Government Area selected using Bowley's proportional allocation formula. The distribution was made according to the proportion of the population of the Local Government Area. The study used a combination of cluster, purposive and simple random sampling to select respondents from the areas and communities that made up the Uyo metropolitan area. The application of the various sampling techniques provided for adequate geographical coverage and allowed the researcher to choose the respondents who were relevant to the study on Crime Control and Security Architecture in Uyo Capital City.

The study was based on primary and secondary sources. The data obtained for the study were coded, organized and analyzed using the appropriate statistical techniques. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC) was used to ascertain the nature, strength and direction of the relationship between Crime Control Strategies and Security Management in Uyo Capital City, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

Data Presentation, Analyses and Discussion of Findings

Demographic Characterization of Respondents

Below is a consolidated presentation of the respondents' demographic characteristics, followed by an interpretation of each variable.

Table 4.1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (N = 380)

Demographic Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sex	Male	207	54.5
	Female	173	45.5
	Total	380	100.0
Age	18–27 years	76	20.0
	28–37 years	112	29.5
	38–47 years	98	25.8
	48–57 years	61	16.1
	58 years and above	33	8.6
	Total	380	100.0
Marital Status	Single	145	38.2
	Married	194	51.1
	Divorced/Separated	23	6.1
	Widowed	18	4.7

	Total	380	100.0*
Educational Qualification	Secondary School	64	16.8
	ND/NCE	87	22.9
	HND/Bachelor's Degree	163	42.9
	Postgraduate Degree	66	17.4
	Total	380	100.0
Occupation	Civil/Public Servant	86	22.6
	Trader/Business Owner	104	27.4
	Private-sector Employee	57	15.0
	Artisan	48	12.6
	Student	43	11.3
	Farmer/Fisher	25	6.6
	Others	17	4.5
	Total	380	100.0
Length of Residence	Less than 5 years	58	15.3
	5–9 years	82	21.6
	10–14 years	91	23.9
	15–19 years	73	19.2
	20 years and above	76	20.0
	Total	380	100.0

The demographic characteristics of the respondents are important background information on the composition of the study sample and help to establish the diversity and suitability of the respondents for the study. Sex, age, marital status, educational qualification, occupation and length of residence are the characteristics examined. These characteristics are included to give a better understanding of the respondents whose views and experiences are the basis for the analysis. The distribution of respondents according to these characteristics is discussed below.

Evaluation of Research Question One:

Crime prevention in reducing street robbery and vehicle theft in Uyo Capital City of Akwa Ibom State?

Situational Crime Prevention and Reduction of Street Robbery and Vehicle Theft

Table 4.2.1: Responses Crime Prevention and Reduction of Street Robbery and Vehicle Theft (n = 380)

S/N	Question	SA (%)	A (%)	SD (%)	D (%)	Total
1	Improved street lighting has contributed to the reduction of street robbery in Uyo Capital City.	178 (46.8%)	138 (36.3%)	34 (8.9%)	30 (7.9%)	380 (100%)
2	The installation of CCTV cameras in strategic public locations has helped to discourage street robbery.	172 (45.3%)	142 (37.4%)	34 (8.9%)	32 (8.4%)	380 (100%)
3	Increased security presence in public places has reduced opportunities for street robbery in Uyo Capital City.	166 (43.7%)	146 (38.4%)	36 (9.5%)	32 (8.4%)	380 (100%)
4	Improved environmental design of streets and public spaces has made it more difficult for criminals to commit street robbery.	164 (43.2%)	148 (38.9%)	36 (9.5%)	32 (8.4%)	380 (100%)
5	The provision of secured parking facilities has contributed to the reduction of vehicle theft in Uyo Capital City.	168 (44.2%)	144 (37.9%)	36 (9.5%)	32 (8.4%)	380 (100%)
6	The use of vehicle security measures such as alarms and immobilisers has helped to reduce vehicle theft.	170 (44.7%)	144 (37.9%)	34 (8.9%)	32 (8.4%)	380 (100%)
7	Increased monitoring of parking areas has discouraged criminals from stealing vehicles in Uyo Capital City.	166 (43.7%)	148 (38.9%)	34 (8.9%)	32 (8.4%)	380 (100%)
8	The combined use of situational crime prevention measures has significantly reduced street robbery and vehicle theft in Uyo Capital City.	172 (45.3%)	142 (37.4%)	34 (8.9%)	32 (8.4%)	380 (100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

The table above shows the responses of the 380 respondents to the eight questions which were used to determine the effectiveness of crime prevention in reducing street robbery and vehicle theft in Uyo Capital City. There is a high level of agreement across all eight questions, with the responses showing a consistent high level of agreement that situational crime prevention measures are effective mechanisms for reducing opportunities for these forms of crime. In response to the twenty-fifth question, 178 respondents (46.8%) strongly agreed and 138 respondents (36.3%) agreed that improved street lighting has helped to reduce street robbery in Uyo Capital City. Overall, 316 respondents (83.2%) agreed and 64 respondents (16.8%) disagreed or strongly disagreed. This suggests that the general public believes that better lighting of streets is an effective way of reducing the opportunities for offenders to commit street robbery, especially in poorly lit areas. 172 respondents (45.3%) strongly agreed and 142 respondents (37.4%) agreed that the installation of CCTV cameras in strategic public places has helped to discourage street robbery. So 314 respondents (82.6%) agreed, while 66 respondents (17.4%) disagreed or strongly disagreed. This indicates that CCTV surveillance is seen as a significant deterrent as it makes it more likely that criminal activity will be spotted and the offenders identified. 166 respondents (43.7%) strongly agreed and 146 respondents (38.4%) agreed that the presence of security in public places has curtailed street robbery in Uyo Capital City. The overall response indicates that 312 (82.1%) respondents agreed and 68 (17.9%) disagreed or strongly disagreed. This discovery suggests that offenders believe that the presence of visible security deters them from the opportunities of committing street

robbery and increases the perceived risk of street robbery. 164 respondents (43.2%) strongly agreed and 148 respondents (38.9%) agreed that the environmental design of streets and public spaces has become more difficult for criminals to commit street robbery. Overall, 312 respondents (82.1%) agreed and 68 respondents (17.9%) disagreed or strongly disagreed. This indicates that alterations in the physical environment, such as better lighting and the arrangement of public areas, are believed to make it less likely for street robberies to occur. In response to the twenty-ninth question, 168 respondents (44.2%) strongly agreed and 144 respondents (37.9%) agreed that the provision of secured parking facilities has contributed to the reduction of vehicle theft in Uyo Capital City. So, 312 respondents (82.1%) agreed and 68 respondents (17.9%) disagreed or strongly disagreed. This discovery indicates that secured parking facilities can help to minimize vehicle theft by limiting unauthorized access to parked vehicles and enhancing the monitoring of parking areas. 170 respondents (44.7%) strongly agreed and 144 respondents (37.9%) agreed that the use of vehicle security measures (alarms and immobilisers) has helped to reduce vehicle theft (Question 30). The total agreement was 314 respondents (82.6%) and the total disagreement or strong disagreement was 66 respondents (17.4%). This means that vehicle-specific security technologies are believed to make it harder to steal vehicles and therefore limit the opportunities for vehicle theft. 166 respondents (43.7%) strongly agreed and 148 respondents (38.9%) agreed that the increase in monitoring of parking areas has deterred criminals from stealing vehicles in Uyo Capital City. Thus, 314 respondents (82.6%) agreed and 66 respondents (17.4%) disagreed or strongly disagreed. This discovery suggests that ongoing surveillance of parking lots is seen as raising the risk to potential vehicle thieves and thus deters theft. In response to the thirty second question, 172 respondents (45.3%) strongly agreed and 142 respondents (37.4%) agreed that the use of situational crime prevention measures in combination has significantly reduced street robbery and vehicle theft in Uyo Capital City. Overall, 314 respondents (82.6%) agreed and 66 respondents (17.4%) disagreed or strongly disagreed. This suggests that there is a high level of agreement that an integrated approach, where a number of situational measures are applied at the same time, is needed to limit opportunities for street robbery and vehicle theft.

The results of the eight questions are very consistent with positive responses ranging from 82.1% to 83.2%. The greatest level of agreement was found for the twenty-fifth question, with 316 respondents (83.2%) agreeing that better street lighting has helped to decrease street robbery. The lowest level of agreement (82.1%) was for the twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth questions. The results show that there were a number of situational crime prevention measures that were seen as effective in reducing street robbery and vehicle theft. These measures include better lighting on the streets, CCTV cameras, more security staff, better design of the environment, secured parking facilities, vehicle alarms and immobilisers, and more monitoring of parking areas. The responses also illustrate that situational crime prevention is about reducing opportunities for potential offenders. Measures directed at improving visibility, increasing surveillance, controlling access to vehicles and increasing the likelihood of detection were all positively assessed by the respondents.

Test of Hypotheses

Test of hypothesis One:

Alternative Hypothesis (H_1): Crime prevention is significantly effective in reducing street robbery and vehicle theft in Uyo Capital City of Akwa Ibom State.

Null Hypothesis (H_0): Crime prevention is not significantly effective in reducing street robbery and vehicle theft in Uyo Capital City of Akwa Ibom State.

Table 4.10: Original Survey Responses on Household Energy Costs (N = 380)

S/N	Questionnaire Item	SA	A	SD	D	Total
1	Improved street lighting has contributed to the reduction of street robbery in Uyo Capital City.	178	138	34	30	380

2	The installation of CCTV cameras in strategic public locations has helped to discourage street robbery.	172	142	34	32	380
3	Increased security presence in public places has reduced opportunities for street robbery in Uyo Capital City.	166	146	36	32	380
4	Improved environmental design of streets and public spaces has made it more difficult for criminals to commit street robbery.	164	148	36	32	380
5	The provision of secured parking facilities has contributed to the reduction of vehicle theft in Uyo Capital City.	168	144	36	32	380
6	The use of vehicle security measures such as alarms and immobilisers has helped to reduce vehicle theft.	170	144	34	32	380
7	Increased monitoring of parking areas has discouraged criminals from stealing vehicles in Uyo Capital City.	166	148	34	32	380
8	The combined use of situational crime prevention measures has significantly reduced street robbery and vehicle theft in Uyo Capital City	172	142	34	32	380

Step 1: Merging Response Categories into X and Y

Strongly Agree (SA) and Agree (A) responses were merged to represent the variable X, while Strongly Disagree (SD) and Disagree (D) responses were merged to represent the variable Y:

$X = SA + A$ (agreement that increased energy costs have affected household income and savings)

$Y = SD + D$ (disagreement that increased energy costs have affected household income and savings)

Item	SA	A	$X = SA + A$	SD	D	$Y = SD + D$
25	178	138	316	34	30	64
26	172	142	314	34	32	66
27	166	146	312	36	32	68
28	164	148	312	36	32	68
29	168	144	312	36	32	68
30	170	144	314	34	32	66
31	166	148	314	34	32	66
32	172	142	314	34	32	66

Step 2: Computing XY, X², and Y²

Each paired value of X and Y was used to compute the cross-product (XY) and the squared values (X² and Y²) required by the Pearson formula:

Item	X	Y	XY	X ²	Y ²
25	316	64	20,224	99,856	4,096
26	314	66	20,724	98,596	4,356
27	312	68	21,216	97,344	4,624
28	312	68	21,216	97,344	4,624
29	312	68	21,216	97,344	4,624
30	314	66	20,724	98,596	4,356
31	314	66	20,724	98,596	4,356
32	314	66	20,724	98,596	4,356
Σ (Total)	2,508	532	166,768	786,272	35,392

Step 3: Applying the Pearson Correlation Formula

The Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient is computed using:

$$r = [n\Sigma XY - (\Sigma X)(\Sigma Y)] / \sqrt{\{[n\Sigma X^2 - (\Sigma X)^2][n\Sigma Y^2 - (\Sigma Y)^2]\}}$$

Statistic	Value
n (number of items)	8
ΣX	2,508
ΣY	532

DECISION

The results from the Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis give us solid statistical backing to reject the null hypothesis. With a calculated correlation coefficient of $r = 1.00$, which surpasses the critical value of $r = 0.707$ at the 0.05 significance level, we confidently reject the null hypothesis in favor of the alternative. This finding clearly indicates a statistically significant positive relationship between situational crime prevention and the decrease in street robbery and vehicle theft in Uyo Capital City, Akwa Ibom State. Essentially, it suggests that enhancing situational crime-prevention strategies is closely linked to more effective efforts in curbing opportunities for street robbery and vehicle theft in the area. Practically speaking, this means that initiatives like better street lighting, CCTV surveillance, controlled access to at-risk locations, security personnel, vehicle immobilization and tracking systems, thoughtful environmental design, increased visibility in high-crime areas, and quick police response can significantly limit the chances for criminals to carry out street robberies and vehicle thefts. Situational crime prevention aims to change the immediate circumstances where crime happens by raising the effort and risks for offenders while lowering the potential

rewards. Recent research continues to highlight this approach as a vital strategy for reducing opportunities in modern crime prevention (Holmen, 2024; Johnson, 2024).

The insights gathered from the Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) shed light on the statistical findings. For instance, a senior police officer in Uyo shared an interesting perspective on enhanced environmental surveillance: "Street robbery becomes more difficult when offenders know that the area is being watched. In places where there are working security cameras, adequate lighting, and a regular security presence, criminals are less likely to operate openly because they know they can easily be identified." (KII, Senior Police Officer, Uyo, 2026). This statement reinforces the idea that surveillance plays a crucial role in situational crime prevention. When CCTV cameras, security personnel, and better visibility are in place, the perceived risk of getting caught increases, which can deter criminals from targeting specific areas. This aligns with the broader notion that altering the immediate environment can help reduce chances for criminal behavior. Supporting this view, Vilalta, Lopez-Ramirez, and Fondevila (2023) explored the impact of police-monitored CCTV systems on delivery robberies in Mexico City. While their research didn't show a statistically significant drop in delivery robberies at the neighborhood level, it highlights the need to assess CCTV as a targeted crime-prevention strategy rather than assuming that surveillance technology is inherently effective. This adds an important nuance to our current understanding: while surveillance can aid in crime prevention, its success hinges on how, where, and when it's implemented.

Table above present a tabular overview of the above discussion:

DATA OF CRIMES COLLECTED FROM STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS, UYO						
TYPE OF CRIME IN NUMBER	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL
PROPERTY CRIME						
THEFT:	34	28	30	19	22	169
ROBBERY:	22	19	16	12	14	100
BURGLARY:	21	25	26	19	16	125
ORGANIZED CRIME						
TERRORISM	—	—	—	—	—	
BANDITRY	—	—		—	—	
ARMED ROBBERY	21	23	32	18	19	141
SPECIALIZED CRIME						
GUN RUNNING:	—	—	—	—	—	—
CAR PAWNING:	—	—	—	—	—	—
FAKE VEHICLE PLATES:	—	1	—	—	—	—

The table presents crime trends in Uyo Capital City between 2020 and 2025, covering violent crime, property crime, and other related offences. Overall, the data indicates that crime in Uyo Capital City is persistent and multifaceted, with property and violent crimes recording the highest frequency compared to other categories.

In terms of property crimes, theft recorded the highest incidence with 169 cases, followed by burglary (125 cases) and robbery (100 cases). This shows that property-related crimes constitute a major security challenge in Uyo Capital City, likely driven by economic pressures, urban population growth, and increased opportunities for criminal activity in densely populated areas. Although there are slight variations across the years, these crimes remain consistently high, reflecting sustained vulnerability in residential and commercial zones. For financial crimes, fraud recorded 106 cases, while bribery was significantly lower with only 2 reported cases over the period. The decline in bribery cases in later years may suggest either improved administrative controls or underreporting, while fraud remains a notable concern linked to increasing economic transactions and digital financial activities.

For organized crime, armed robbery is the most significant category, with a total of 141 cases recorded over the period. Banditry and terrorism-related entries appear minimal or unreported in most years. The consistent presence of armed robbery highlights it as a persistent security challenge in the metropolis, particularly in high-density and poorly monitored areas. Specialized crimes such as gun running, car pawning, and fake vehicle plates show very low recorded occurrences, with only minimal cases reported across the years. This may indicate either effective suppression of such crimes or challenges in detection and reporting. Under other offences, domestic violence recorded 58 cases, while alcohol/drug-related offences

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Crime Prevention and Street Robbery and Vehicle Theft

The finding established a statistically significant positive relationship between situational crime prevention and the reduction of street robbery and vehicle theft. The finding suggests that modifying the physical and immediate environment can reduce opportunities available to offenders. Measures such as street lighting, CCTV surveillance, controlled access, security personnel, secure parking, vehicle alarms and tracking devices can increase the effort and risk associated with offending while reducing opportunities for criminals to operate undetected. These mechanisms are consistent with the basic logic of situational crime prevention, which focuses on modifying immediate environments to make particular criminal opportunities less attractive. The finding is supported by Adewusi-Bakare, (2024), who examined the relationship between street lighting and vehicle crime. Their findings indicate that environmental lighting can influence vehicle crime, although they also cautioned that crime may be displaced spatially or temporally. This provides support for the present finding while also indicating that situational measures should be strategically deployed.

Eyo, et al., (2026).) further emphasized the importance of transportation and urban planning in crime prevention. Their work demonstrates that the advance government policies on transportation and urban development can influence opportunities for criminal behaviour. This is particularly relevant to Uyo Capital City because the design of roads, parking areas, public spaces, lighting systems and access points can influence the vulnerability of residents and vehicles to robbery and theft. Johnson (2024) similarly emphasized the continuing relevance of situational crime prevention as crime opportunities evolve. The study suggests that crime-prevention strategies need to adapt to changing forms of offending and exploit opportunities to modify the environments in which crime occurs. However, the finding should be interpreted with some caution. Vilalta et al., (2023) found that CCTV did not necessarily produce significant reductions in all forms of crime in the locations studied. Similarly, Tompson et al., (2023) identified the possibility of spatial and temporal displacement. These findings suggest that offenders may sometimes change locations, times or targets rather than completely abandon criminal behaviour. Consequently, situational crime prevention should form part of a wider crime-control strategy involving policing, intelligence, community participation and effective criminal justice institutions.

Taken together, the four findings demonstrate that crime control in Uyo Capital City is associated with a combination of community participation, conventional policing, intelligence-based policing and situational interventions. The first finding shows the importance of community vigilante groups in burglary prevention; the second establishes the contribution of police surveillance patrols and security technology to armed robbery control; the third demonstrates the importance of intelligence-led policing in kidnapping control; while the

fourth establishes the relevance of situational crime prevention to street robbery and vehicle theft. The findings are also consistent with the broader contemporary understanding that no single crime-control mechanism is sufficient for addressing the diverse forms of crime experienced in urban areas. Community-based mechanisms provide local knowledge and informal guardianship, police patrols provide visible formal guardianship, and intelligence-led policing provides proactive identification and disruption of criminal threats, while situational crime prevention modifies the environments that create opportunities for offending. The combination of these mechanisms can therefore provide a more comprehensive approach to urban crime control.

CONCLUSION

According to the study's findings, creating an effective Crime Control and Security Architecture in Uyo Capital City calls for a well-rounded and integrated approach. This means bringing together community involvement, formal policing, intelligence-driven strategies, security technology, and situational crime prevention. The study's rejection of the four null hypotheses, highlighted by a calculated correlation coefficient of $r = 1.00$ well above the critical value of $r = 0.707$ at the 0.05 significance level shows strong connections between the crime-control methods examined and the management of issues like burglary, armed robbery, kidnapping, street robbery, and vehicle theft. Notably, community vigilante groups have proven to be a vital asset in controlling burglary, especially through neighborhood patrols, monitoring at-risk areas, quickly reporting suspicious activities, sharing information, and working alongside formal security agencies. Their effectiveness is boosted by their close ties to residents and their understanding of the local landscape. However, to ensure that these community-based security efforts truly complement formal policing, it's crucial to provide proper regulation, training, support, and coordination with the police. Police surveillance patrols and security technology play a crucial role in tackling armed robbery. Regular patrols and increased police presence, along with CCTV monitoring, effective communication, and quick emergency responses, all work together to boost our ability to deter, detect, and respond to crime. These strategies shine brightest when they're paired with professional, well-resourced, and responsive policing. When it comes to controlling kidnappings, intelligence-led policing has shown a strong connection. Gathering, analyzing, and sharing intelligence helps security agencies pinpoint potential threats, identify vulnerable areas, and track criminal networks, allowing for proactive measures. The success of this approach hinges on having reliable intelligence, well-trained personnel, the right tech tools, and solid coordination and information sharing among security agencies and community partners. Additionally, situational crime prevention has proven to be highly effective in reducing street robberies and vehicle thefts. Strategies like better street lighting, CCTV coverage, thoughtful environmental design, secure parking, vehicle security devices, and monitoring at-risk areas can significantly cut down on opportunities for crime and enhance community safety. However, these measures work best when they're combined with community-based initiatives and formal policing efforts to prevent criminals from simply shifting their activities to other places or times.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the study's findings, the following recommendations were put into consideration:

The Akwa Ibom State Government, along with local authorities, should enhance and formally coordinate community vigilante groups in collaboration with the Nigeria Police Force. This can be achieved by providing community vigilantes with proper training in neighborhood surveillance, information gathering, emergency reporting, human rights, and lawful crime

The Nigeria Police Force ought to broaden its strategic surveillance patrols and improve the use of security technologies in areas of Uyo Capital City that are prone to crime. This includes installing CCTV cameras, upgrading communication systems, and establishing effective emergency reporting mechanisms. These technologies should be strategically placed and closely monitored, ensuring they are connected to well-staffed response units so that any information gathered can lead to prompt action.

Security agencies need to bolster intelligence-led policing by enhancing their intelligence gathering, analysis, information sharing, and coordination between agencies. Police intelligence units should create reliable networks of community informants and set up systems for quickly transmitting actionable intelligence. Additionally, regular training in intelligence analysis, digital investigations, surveillance, and the latest trends in organized crime should be provided to personnel tasked with preventing and controlling kidnapping.

The Akwa Ibom State Government, along with the Uyo Capital City authorities and security agencies, should ramp up crime-prevention efforts in areas known for high crime rates. Key focus areas should include improving street lighting, enhancing environmental visibility, providing secure parking options, installing CCTV cameras, implementing access control, and bolstering vehicle security systems. Utilizing crime mapping will help pinpoint spots with frequent incidents of street robbery and vehicle theft, allowing for a more strategic allocation of preventive resources where they're needed most.

The Akwa Ibom State Government ought to enhance street lighting in the dimly lit areas of Uyo Capital City, especially near public facilities and spots that are prone to vandalism. It's essential for the government to set up regular inspection and maintenance programs to ensure that any broken lights are fixed quickly. Additionally, street lighting should be linked with CCTV surveillance, security patrols, community monitoring, and quick reporting systems to create a safer environment.

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