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## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF CRIME RATES IN SELECTED BARANGAYS IN LEGAZPI CITY

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### ABSTRACT

This study examined crime rates and barangay profiles in selected urban communities of Legazpi City, Albay, to assess implications for public safety and community-based interventions. Specifically, it investigated the status of Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, and Vehicular Crimes, described the socio-demographic characteristics of the barangays, and analyzed the relationship between barangay profile and crime incidence. Employing a descriptive-comparative research design, the study utilized Philippine National Police and barangay records from 2020 to 2025, supplemented by surveys and key informant interviews. Data were analyzed using frequency counts, Chi-square tests, and Kendall's Coefficient of Concordance. Findings revealed that urban and densely populated barangays exhibited higher crime rates, particularly in rape, theft, and vehicular property damage. Socio-economic status, population size, and urban classification significantly influenced crime patterns, with moderate agreement observed among respondents regarding crime-prone

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barangays. The study highlights the need for coordinated and context-specific crime prevention strategies, including enhanced barangay–police collaboration, community policing, infrastructure improvements, and socio-economic support. These findings provide practical guidance for local government units and law enforcement agencies in promoting public safety through evidence-based interventions.

**Keywords:** *Crime rates, barangay profile, Legazpi City, crime prevention, public safety*

## INTRODUCTION

Crime remains a pressing social issue that threatens public safety, undermines institutional trust, and disrupts community well-being. Violent and property-related offenses, in particular, cause loss of life, economic disruption, and heightened insecurity in urban communities and schools. Research underscores the importance of data-driven and geospatial crime analysis to identify high-risk areas and guide targeted prevention strategies (Paje, 2025). Effective crime reduction also relies on multi-sectoral collaboration, ethical law enforcement, and active community engagement (Dela Cruz & Santos, 2023).

International studies link crime to poverty, unemployment, and social inequality, with urban centers facing challenges in reporting and controlling violent incidents (FBI, 2023; BJS, 2023). In the Philippines, new forms of crime, including cybercrime, have intensified due to high social media use and limited cybersecurity, as illustrated by the Comelec data breach and

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online sexual exploitation cases (Caballero, 2019; DICT, 2021; International Justice Mission, 2020).

In Legazpi City, Albay, violent incidents involving students and teachers highlight the need for localized crime analysis. As a growing urban center, the city’s socio-economic and environmental factors influence crime patterns. This study aims to provide a comparative assessment of crime rates and barangay profiles, using statistical and geospatial methods to inform evidence-based policies, improve resource allocation, and strengthen community-based crime prevention efforts.

### Statement of the Problem

This study aimed to conduct a comparative analysis of crime rates and barangay profiles in Legazpi City, Albay, with implications for public safety and community-based interventions.

Specifically, it sought to answer the following sub-problems:

1. What was the status of crime rates in the four barangays of Legazpi City in terms of the following crime categories:
  - a. Crimes Against Persons
  - b. Crimes Against Property
  - c. Vehicular Incidents
2. What was the profile of Barangays in terms of:
  - a. Classification

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- b. Socio-economic characteristics
  - c. Population
3. Was there a significant relationship between the barangay profile and the status of crime rates as perceived by the four groups of respondents?
  4. Was there a significant agreement among the ranks of the respondents regarding the above-mentioned variables?
  5. What intervention programs can be proposed to improve public safety and reduce criminal activity in the selected barangays?

### Hypothesis

1. That there is no Significant Relationship Between the Barangay Classification and the Status of Crime Rates
2. That there is no Significant Relationship Between the Socio-Economic Status of the Barangay and the Status of Crime Rates
3. That there is no Significant Relationship Between the Barangay Population the Status of Crime Rates
4. There is no significant Agreement Among the ranks on Barangays Crime Rates and the Classification, Socio-Economic Status, and Population

### Scope and Delimitation

This study focused on a comparative analysis of crime rates in four selected barangays of Legazpi City, Albay—Barangay 25 (Lapu-Lapu), Barangay 27 (Victory Village South),

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Barangay 28 (Victory Village North), and Barangay 24 (Rizal Street)—using officially recorded data from 2020 to 2025. It examined Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, and Vehicular Incidents, alongside barangay socio-demographic profiles and their relationship to crime incidence, as well as the level of agreement among respondent groups. The study was limited to these barangays and relied on official records and key informant interviews, excluding unreported crimes, other barangays, and comparisons with regional or national data. As a result, the findings were context-specific and not intended for broad generalization, but they provided a focused and in-depth understanding of local crime patterns to support targeted and evidence-based crime prevention and public safety interventions.

## METHODOLOGY

**Research Design.** The study employed a mixed-methods research design that combined quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a comprehensive analysis of crime rates in selected barangays of Legazpi City. This design allowed numerical crime data to be supported and explained by qualitative insights from key informants. The integration of both approaches strengthened data validity through triangulation.

**Population and Sampling.** The population consisted of selected barangays in Legazpi City with varying crime incidence, chosen based on data availability, classification, population size, and socio-economic conditions. Purposive sampling was used to deliberately select barangays with credible and complete crime records. This approach ensured that the

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data gathered were directly relevant to the research objectives rather than statistically generalizable.

**Research Instruments.** A researcher-developed document analysis guide was used to systematically review police blotters, barangay records, and socio-economic profiles. This instrument ensured consistency, accuracy, and objectivity in extracting crime-related data. Semi-structured interviews were also utilized to capture contextual explanations and community perspectives on crime prevention.

**Data Gathering Procedure.** Data collection followed a step-by-step process that began with securing formal permissions from concerned authorities. Official documents were gathered, verified, coded, and organized using recording sheets and thematic categories. Triangulation across multiple sources was conducted to enhance data reliability and credibility.

**Ethical Considerations.** Ethical standards were strictly observed by obtaining informed consent and securing approval from relevant authorities. Confidentiality was ensured by coding barangays and withholding the identities of all interview participants. All collected data were used solely for academic purposes and handled with care to prevent misuse.

**Statistical and Analytical Tools.** Document and thematic analysis were applied to address descriptive research questions on crime status and barangay profiles. The Chi-square test was used to determine significant relationships between crime incidence and barangay characteristics, while Kendall's coefficient of concordance measured agreement among respondent rankings. Qualitative interview data were analyzed thematically to support the formulation of evidence-based recommendations.

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## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**I. Status of Crime Rates in Selected Barangays.** Crime remained a significant concern in the four barangays of Legazpi City, affecting community safety and quality of life. From 2020 to 2025, official records revealed distinct patterns across crimes against persons, crimes against property, and vehicular incidents, reflecting both urban density and socio-economic factors.

**a. Crimes Against Persons.** A total of 22 cases of crimes against persons were recorded, including rape, physical injuries, murder, and homicide, with Barangays B and C (urban areas) recording the highest incidences (7 cases each), followed by Barangay D (6 cases) and Barangay A (2 cases). Rape was the most frequent offense, highlighting ongoing concerns over sexual violence in urban communities, while physical injuries indicated recurrent interpersonal conflicts potentially linked to population density and socio-economic stress (Maxwell, 2019). Temporal trends showed a peak in 2024 and a decline in 2025, possibly due to improved law enforcement or underreporting. These findings suggest the need for gender-sensitive education, victim support, and strengthened barangay monitoring (Barreda, 2022).

**b. Crimes Against Property.** From 2020 to 2025, 67 property-related crimes were recorded, with Barangay D experiencing the highest incidence (21 cases), followed by Barangay A (19 cases), Barangay B (15 cases), and Barangay C (12 cases). Theft was the most prevalent offense, followed by robbery and violations under the Anti-Carnapping Act, highlighting the vulnerability of residential and commercial areas (Galabin et al., 2021; Sarcena, 2021). The peak in 2023 suggested increased property crime, emphasizing the need

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for enhanced police patrols, community watch programs, and public awareness campaigns on property protection (Caba-ong et al., 2015).

**c. Vehicular Incidents.** A total of 262 vehicular incidents were reported, with Barangay D recording the highest number (120 cases), followed by Barangay A (56), Barangay B (45), and Barangay C (41). Damage to property was the most frequent, followed by physical injuries, while vehicular homicides were minimal. The rising trend from 2020 to 2024 and slight decline in 2025 indicated the influence of traffic enforcement and public safety initiatives (**Panao et al., 2022; Dio et al., 2021**). The findings underscore the need for stricter traffic law enforcement, improved road infrastructure, driver education, and community-based reporting to enhance road safety (Bantigue et al., 2025).

**II. Profile of Selected Barangays.** The socio-demographic characteristics of Barangays Lapu-Lapu, Victory Village South, Victory Village North, and Rizal provided critical context for understanding crime patterns and guiding intervention strategies. The data, obtained from official barangay records, highlighted variations in classification, socio-economic standing, and population that influence public safety and community resilience.

**a. Classification.** All four barangays were classified as urban, reflecting higher population density, economic activity, and access to public services. This urban environment contributed to both development opportunities and potential crime risks, such as property offenses, interpersonal conflicts, and vehicular incidents. The urban setting underscores the

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need for structured safety measures, including active police presence, traffic management, and community-based crime prevention programs (Tamayo et al., 2022).

**b. Socio-economic Status.** Economic capacity varied among the barangays, with Barangay D having the highest resources (₱5 million), followed by Barangay C (₱4 million), Barangay B (₱3.7 million), and Barangay A (₱3.4 million). Higher socio-economic standing enabled better funding for security measures, infrastructure, and community programs, while lower resources may limit crime prevention capacity. These findings are consistent with international evidence showing that stronger economic conditions correlate with lower crime rates and greater public safety (UNODC, 2023; World Population Review, 2023; Inter-American Development Bank, 2024; Truelock, 2023).

**c. Population.** Population size differed across the barangays, with Barangay A being the most populous (3,835 residents) and Barangay B the least (1,284 residents), while Barangays C and D had moderate populations. Larger populations increased interaction and potential crime opportunities, requiring intensified law enforcement and community engagement, whereas smaller populations faced challenges related to limited resources. These observations align with studies emphasizing the impact of population density on crime clustering and the need for targeted interventions in high-density urban areas (Eurostat, 2023; Kebede et al., 2024; Chen et al., 2021).

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### III. Relationship Between Barangay Profile and Crime Rates

Chi-square analysis revealed significant relationships between barangay characteristics and crime rates (Tables 5–7). Urban classification, socio-economic status, and population size all showed statistically significant correlations with Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, and Vehicular Incidents.

**Barangay Classification.** Highly significant relationship with all crime categories (Brgy. B & C urban;  $\chi^2 > 7.815$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), indicating urban areas face higher crime exposure (BJS, 2020; Orrenius & Coronado, 2017).

**Socio-Economic Status.** Significant relationship with crime rates; barangays with higher economic resources (Brgy. D) exhibited better capacity to mitigate crimes, while lower-income areas (Brgy. A) were more vulnerable.

**Population Size.** Highly significant relationship; larger populations (Brgy. A) experienced higher crime rates across all categories due to density, mobility, and social interactions (Sarcena, 2021; Caba-ong et al., 2015; Panoa et al., 2022).

Table 1. Chi-Square Analysis: Barangay Classification and Crime Rates

Table 2. Chi-Square Analysis: Socio-Economic Status and Crime Rates

Table 3. Chi-Square Analysis: Population Size and Crime Rates

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**IV. Significant Agreement Among the Ranks of Four Groups of Respondents on Crime Rates and Barangay Profile**

The degree of consensus among the four groups of respondents regarding crime rates and the socio-demographic profile of Barangays Lapu-Lapu (Brgy. A), Victory Village South (Brgy. B), Victory Village North (Brgy. C), and Barangay Rizal (Brgy. D) was assessed using **Kendall's Coefficient of Concordance (W)**. The computed coefficient, **W = 0.55**, indicates a moderate level of agreement among respondents concerning the ranking of barangays based on crime type, socio-economic status, and population size (Table 8).

A moderate concordance suggests that respondents generally share similar perceptions of which barangays are more or less crime-prone, although notable differences exist. These differences may be influenced by professional roles, personal experience, and access to official crime data. Despite some variation, the level of agreement indicates that respondents are sufficiently consistent in recognizing trends and patterns in crime rates across the selected barangays (Mojica et al., 2019; Maxwell, 2019).

The observed moderate agreement highlights the importance of integrating **standardized, data-driven approaches** in crime assessment. Law enforcement and local government agencies may enhance consistency by implementing uniform reporting systems, conducting collaborative analyses, and disseminating regular official crime statistics. Aligning perceptions with empirical data can improve consensus among stakeholders, facilitating more effective resource allocation, community interventions, and policy formulation to address crime in the barangays (Mojica et al., 2019; Maxwell, 2019).

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Table 8. Kendall's Coefficient of Concordance (W) for Respondent Agreement on Barangay

Crime Rankings

## V. Intervention programs to improve public safety and reduce criminal activity in the selected barangays

Based on the findings of this study, several intervention programs can be proposed to improve public safety and reduce criminal activity in the selected barangays of Legazpi City. Strengthening coordination between barangay officials and the Philippine National Police (PNP) can enhance crime monitoring, information sharing, and rapid response, while intensified community policing through foot patrols and barangay visits fosters trust, early threat detection, and shared responsibility among residents. Environmental improvements such as adequate street lighting, cleared pathways, and public space enhancement using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles can reduce criminal opportunities, while capacity-building programs for barangay tanods ensure effective patrols and incident reporting. Engaging at-risk youth in sports, skills training, and educational support addresses behavioral risk factors and promotes social responsibility, and public awareness campaigns increase vigilance and cooperation with authorities. Additionally, the strategic use of CCTV surveillance, socio-economic interventions such as livelihood programs, and accessible reporting mechanisms strengthen preventive and responsive measures. Collectively, these multi-dimensional, data-informed, and community-centered strategies address both structural and behavioral determinants of crime, providing a comprehensive

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approach to enhancing public safety, fostering community resilience, and reducing crime incidence in urban barangays (Tamayo et al., 2022; Choi, 2022; UNODC, 2023; Mojica et al., 2019; P1–P8).

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of crime rates, barangay profiles, and respondent perceptions in Barangays A, B, C, and D in Legazpi City, it can be concluded that crime remains a persistent concern, with urbanized, densely populated, and socio-economically diverse barangays experiencing higher incidences of offenses such as rape, theft, and vehicular property damage. The study highlights that barangay classification, population size, and economic capacity significantly influence crime patterns, while moderate agreement among respondents indicates shared but not uniform recognition of crime-prone areas. These findings emphasize the need for coordinated, multi-faceted interventions—including strengthened police–barangay collaboration, community policing, infrastructure and surveillance improvements, youth engagement, socio-economic support, and accessible reporting systems—to address both immediate and underlying factors contributing to criminal activity, ultimately promoting safer and more resilient communities.

## RECOMMENDATION

Based on the study’s conclusions, it is recommended that Barangay Captains and the Philippine National Police (PNP) strengthen coordination through regular meetings, joint planning, and information-sharing to ensure timely responses to crime. Community policing

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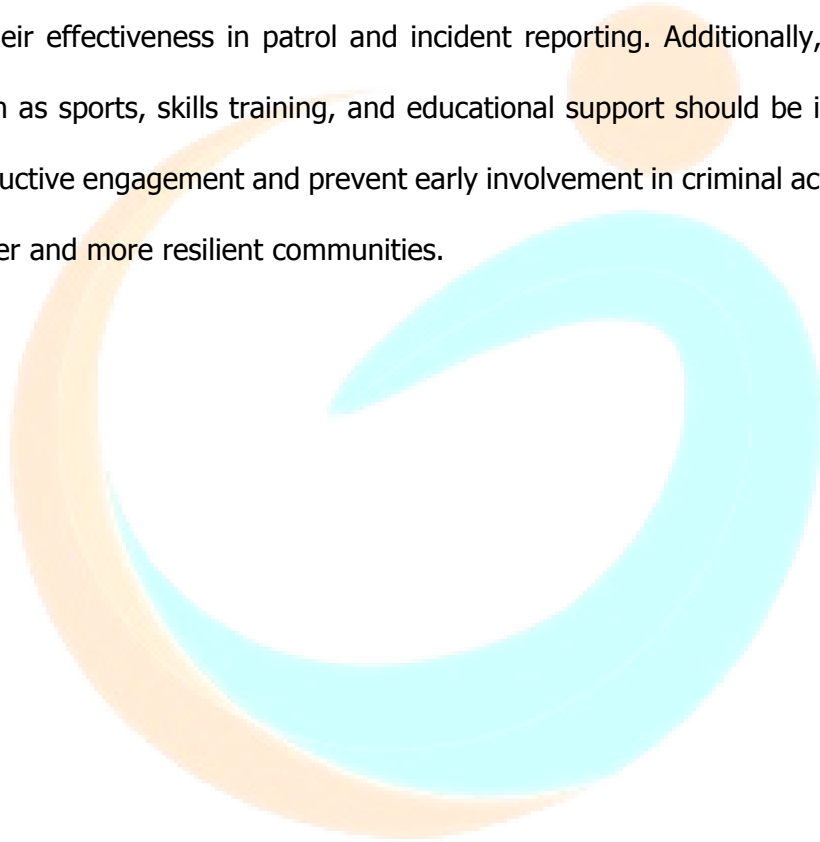
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should be intensified with foot patrols, barangay visits, and resident engagement to foster trust and proactive participation. Infrastructure improvements, including street lighting, cleared pathways, and enhanced public spaces following Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, should be prioritized to reduce crime opportunities. Continuous training, adequate equipment, and incentives for barangay tanods are essential to enhance their effectiveness in patrol and incident reporting. Additionally, youth-focused programs such as sports, skills training, and educational support should be implemented to provide constructive engagement and prevent early involvement in criminal activities, thereby promoting safer and more resilient communities.



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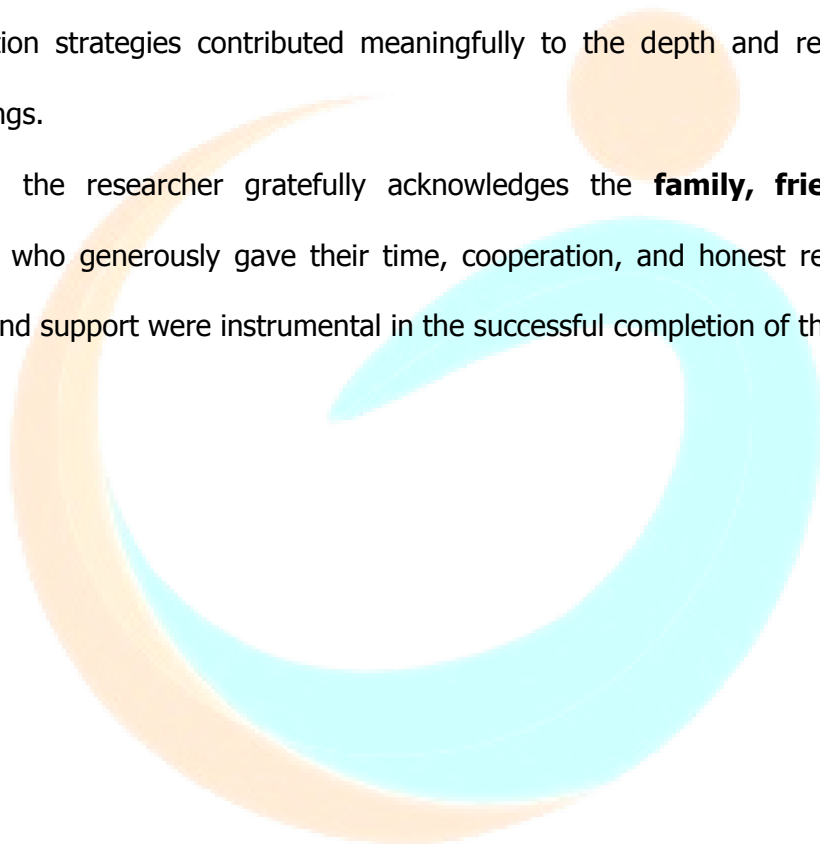


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**Table 1**

**Chi-Square Analysis on the Relationship Between Crime Categories and Barangay Classification**

Variable 1	Variable 2	Computed Value	Critical Value (Chi-Square)	Level of Significance
Crimes Against Persons	Urbanization	13.40	7.815	Highly Significant
Crimes Against Property	Urbanization	15.10	7.815	Highly Significant
Vehicular Incidents	Urbanization	12.60	7.815	Highly Significant

**Table 2**

**Chi-Square Analysis on the Relationship Between Crime Categories and Socio-Economic Status of the Barangay**

Variable 1	Variable 2	Computed Value	Critical Value (Chi-Square)	Level of Significance
Crimes Against Persons	Socio-Economic Status	10.50	7.815	Significant
Crimes Against Property	Socio-Economic Status	11.20	7.815	Significant
Vehicular Incidents	Socio-Economic Status	9.80	7.815	Significant

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**Table 3**

**Chi-Square Analysis on the Relationship Between Crime Categories and Barangay Population**

Variable 1	Variable 2	Computed Value	Critical Value (Chi-Square)	Level of Significance
Crimes Against Persons	Population	14.25	7.815	Highly Significant
Crimes Against Property	Population	16.80	7.815	Highly Significant
Vehicular Incidents	Population	12.90	7.815	Highly Significant

**Table 4**

**Agreement Among the ranks on Barangays Crime Rates Using Kendall's Coefficient of Concordance (W) Based on Classification, Socio-Economic Status, and Population**

Crime Category	Brgy. A			Brgy. B			Brgy. C			Brgy. D			Sums of Ranks
	Classification	Socio-Economic	Population	Classification	Socio-Economic	Population	Classification	Socio-Economic	Population	Classification	Socio-Economic	Population	
Crimes Against Persons	2			1			1			3			7
Crimes Against Property	2			1			1			3			7
Vehicular Crimes	2			1			1			3			7
<b>Total</b>	6			3			3			9			21

*W = 0.55 (Moderate agreement among the groups of respondents on the rankings of barangays in terms of crime categories)*

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