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Predictors of Fear of Crime among residents in selected communities in Lagos, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study investigated the socio-demographic characteristics, community characteristics, sources of fear of crime, frequency of news of crime, sources of information on crime, length of stay in the community and perception of rate of crime as predictors of fear of crime among residents in selected communities in Lagos, Nigeria. The study used cross-sectional survey to collect data from 800 respondents, who were randomly selected from four purposively selected communities based on the level of perceived level of social disorganisation- Idi-Araba, Idi-Oro, and Mushin and Surulere. The data were analysed at both descriptive and quantitative analyses. The result revealed that the public sector employee account for approximately twice as much as other factors to the prediction of the fear of crime among the participants under reference. Similarly, 'not afraid of becoming a victim of crime' and information about local crime and crime prevention' contributed two times more than other factors to the prediction of observed fear of crime. Frequency of news about crime, are approximately two times more likely to be predictive of fear of crime. The result revealed that sources of information on crime (such as direct experience, interpersonal communication and mass media are approximately three times more likely predictive of fear of crime when not augmented with other predictors of fear of crime. As for the socio-demographic factors, education and religion have decreasing impact on fear of crime whereas marital status hastens fear of crime with housewife being three times more likely predictive of fear of crime. Intervention should be targeted at the vulnerable group such as separated and divorced to alleviate their fear of crime. Also, how information on crime news is disseminated should be reconsidered to reduce fear of crime among the populace. Lastly, the study suggests a complete overhaul of the

general requirements for the standardization and modernization of procedures of policing and involvement of community in crime prevention.

Introduction

A crime is considered as an unlawful act punishable by the state. Crime can generally be seen as an action or omission which constitutes an offence and is punishable by law. According to Mannheim, *"crime"* is, first of all, a legal conception, human behaviour punishable under the criminal law" (Mannheim cited in Wolfgang, 1966). A crime is a behaviour that the law makes punishable as a public offense. The elements of a crime typically come from statutes, but may also be supplied by the common law in states where the criminal common law still carries force. Also, a crime is defined as any act that is contrary to legal code or laws. In other words, crime and legality are social constructs that are fluid and change over time. There are many different types of crimes, from crimes against persons to victimless crimes and violent crimes to white collar crimes.

To some other experts, crime is much more than this; because in the first place the legal term 'crime' is too wide, as it can describe behaviour ranging from murder at one end of the scale, to mere minor infringements of the road traffic, and food and drug regulations at the other. In the second place, it is not always easy to distinguish *crime* from *'civil'* wrongs, or *'torts',* (as they are called in English culture law). Civil offences or torts are defined as wrongs against individuals, in contrast to criminal offences, which are offences against the whole community. Such a distinction has been adjudged unsatisfactory for two reasons. First, a criminal offence can well be both a crime against an individual and against the community (e.g. in the case of a bank robbery involving serious personal injury to bank staff and theft of many customers' money). Second, there is in general no bar to the initiation of civil proceedings by the injured party in cases where the accused have been convicted of and sentenced for the offence under the criminal law. Therefore, it is essentially important to understand that firstly, the term "crime" should be used in technical language only with reference to conduct that is legally "crime". Secondly, such conduct, if fully proved, is crime, regardless of it actually leads to a conviction before a criminal court (Mannheim cited in Wolfgang, 1966). Traditionally, lawyers have divided crimes into three classes*: treasons (i.e. crimes against the sovereign or the state, felonies (i.e. arrest-able crimes, crimes of a serious dimension in which the convict can forfeit properties*, and *misdemeanours (i.e. are lesser crimes or better still non-arrest-able crime, not involving forfeiture*.

It is important to distinguish between crime, delinquency and deviancy for clarity. Many researchers prefer to use the term 'crime' when they are dealing with adult offenders and offences, and reserve the term '*delinquency*' to

describe offences committed by young persons (i.e. juveniles), and of less serious nature. This is simply because delinquency is so broad and involves practically all manifestations of juvenile dysfunctional behaviour: such as, disobedience, stubbornness, lack of respect, being incorrigible, smoking without permission. Deviancy on the other hand is sometimes used as an umbrella term to include such behaviour as crime and delinquency, going by the dictionary definition of the word 'deviation' (i.e. variation from some line or standard reference). Then, what constitutes criminal behaviour? According to Sutherland and Cressey (1966: 12) there are a number of factors that must be present before a piece of behaviour may be labelled as 'criminal'. These factors are best summarized as follows:

- *Established external consequences of 'harm'*: Before a behaviour can be called a crime, there must be certain external consequences of harm. Here the intention to commit crime is not taken for the deed. If the victim changes his or her mind before doing anything about it, then, no crime is committed.
- *The harm is legally forbidden*: That no behaviour is a crime until it is prohibited by law. For example, antisocial behaviour is not a crime unless it is prohibited or forbidden by law.
- *There must be 'conduct'*: There must be an intentional or reckless action or inaction, which brings about harmful consequences.
- *There must be 'mens rea' (criminal intent)*: The issues of intent, liability (at law) for the consequences of one's actions must be clearly established.
- *There must be prescribed punishment*: that is, not only must harm be prescribed by law, but there must be a threat of punishment for the offender.

While crime is generally prominent among men or males in the society, there are certain other crimes that are found to be committed by women more than men. According to Davies, women criminals tend to commit property offences which might be referred to as 'economic crimes. These comprise specific types of thefts including customer theft or shop shoplifting, cheque frauds, forgeries, deceptions, drug related offences and offences related to sex work such as prostitution or soliciting (Davies, 2003). Crime is usually observed as a problem in areas with high poverty levels, unemployment, population density, minority populations, age distribution and school desertion (Bothos and Thomopoulos, 2016). In communities where there are rising cases of crime, the fear of being a victim becomes inevitable.

   Durkeheim (1972) suggested that in communities where standards and restraints were weakening, a condition of 'normlessness' would occur and that this could account for increases in crime and forms of social deviance. Merton (1957) has earlier elaborated upon Durkheim's concept of anomie, suggesting that if culturally prescribed goals were un-attainable (as in the case of many working and lower-class young people), then there would be discrepancy between what was held out to be ideal and what was attainable. Merton suggested further that this discrepancy could result in frustration and

subsequently rebelliousness, in the form of deviant, delinquent and criminal behaviours. Communities where these discrepancies have become almost the norm ultimately witness rising cases of crime, and the fear of being a victim continues to rise. People live in constant fear of criminal activities, this has become a regular experience in many parts of Lagos and many other big cities and towns of Nigeria in recent times.

The fear of crime was a recurrent theme in criminology during the 1970s and 1980s in the United States of America and the United Kingdom, respectively (Farrall, Gray & Jones, 2021). Although the variables are not different, there exists little literature on the fear of crime in the African setting. Characteristically, fear of crime is a significant phenomenon. Studies have shown that fear of crime could compel lifestyles, affect behaviour by escalating anxiety or decrease social engagement, which in turn can increase the cost of criminal justice and affect security measures (Pleggenkuhle & Schafer, 2018; Köseoglu, 2021). Fear of crime can be analysed either at the individual or contextual level (Vauclair & Bratanova, 2017). At the individual-level, predictors and consequences of the fear of crime as argued by D'Ambrosio, Acampora and Grabka, 2021) and these have socio-demographic characteristics which include age, gender, physical disability, ethnicity, or socio-economic status predict the fear of crime. At contextual analysis, it refers to the individuals' wider social context to insecurity and concerns about crime emanating from the neighbourhood and local community (D'Ambrosio, Acampora & Grabka, 2021).

Fear of crime could affect one's emotional state; that is, regarding the cognitive state of the perceived risk of victims, this impacts the quality of mental distress (Bolger and Bolger, 2018; Burt *et al.,* 2021). Research shows that age, gender, ethnicity, physical strength, income, location of residence, and all known socio-demographic variables are related variables to the fear of crime (Farrall, Gray & Jones, 2021; Köseoglu, 2021). Also, variables such as awareness of local crime rates, perceptions of the police, the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, victimization, and feelings of control over the local environment equally contribute to the fear of crime (Farrall, Gray & Jones 2021).

Furthermore, studies show that risk and protective factors for fear of specific violent crimes might be different from those of fear of specific property crimes (Pleggenkuhle & Schafer, 2018; Lee *et al.*, 2020; Doyle, 2021). Few studies did identify religion, police patrol, lighting, membership/support of vigilantes, and the use of joint community responses as possible responses to the fear of crime (Farodoye *et al.*, 2021; Braga & Weisburd, 2022). There exists a paucity of data in Nigeria on fear of crime- the fear of being a victim of crime as opposed to experiencing being an actual victim. This is important as people most people are fearful of being victim of different forms of crime that occur on almost on daily basis in the country. Some of the crimes include kidnapping, abduction, arm robbery, burglary, banditry and ritual killings among others. This study addresses the socio-

demographic characteristics, community characteristics, sources of fear of crime, frequency of news of crime, sources of information on crime, length of stay in the community and perception of rate of crime that serve as variables of influence on the fear of crime. This is a contribution to knowledge on the discussion of fear of crime in Nigeria.

Methods
The cross-sectional survey design was deployed to select 800 respondents from the four communities. The quantitative data were generated using the questionnaire as instrument for collecting information. The probability sampling technique, specifically stratified sampling technique was used to select 800 respondents comprising residents in the four selected communities namely Idi-Araba, Idi-Oro, and Mushin and Surulere. However, 779 instruments were returned and used for the analysis given that the remaining 21 copies of the questionnaire were incomplete. The four communities purposively selected are densely populated neighbourhoods except for Surulere which is a medium density neighbourhood. Different categories of human features can be identified within the study area which include markets, motor parks, banks, health and educational institutions, filling stations, religious centers, canals, dumpsites, restaurants, bars, casino, nightclub, betting shops and so on. The identified human activities are mainly informal in nature and can be found in the northern section of the study area. This northern section which comprises Idi-Araba, Idi-Oro, Olosha and Mushin is very unorganized with most of the features unregulated compared to the southern part. The method of data analyses is in the next section.

Analytical model and estimation strategy
Concerning the analytical model used, this study specifies fear of crime as a function of socio-demographic features, community characteristics, sources of fear of crime, frequency of news of crime, sources of information of crime, length of stay in the community and perception of rate of crime, all in vector form to ease the effects of omitted variables. In a functional form, the model is stated as:

$$fc_i = f(sdc_i, cmc_i, sfc_i, fnc_i, sic_i, lsc_i, prc_i) \qquad (1)$$

In the above equation, *fc* represents a vector of fear of crime measured by people that are not fearful of: being approached on the street by a beggar or homeless person, being cheated or conned out of your money, having someone break into your house when not at home, having someone break into your house while you are at home, being attacked by someone with a weapon, having your car or property stolen, being robbed or mugged on the street, having your property damaged by vandals, having someone loiter near your home at night, and having a group of juveniles disturb the peace near your home. Socio-demographic characteristics (*sdc*) in a vector form are measured

by sex, education, employment status, marital status, and ethnic group, types of marriage, religion, and period of stay in the neighborhood. The vector form of community characteristic (*cmc*) is measured by how safe individuals are from crimes in the neighborhood, safety while walking alone at night/daytime, chances of not becoming a victim of crime, old building, decaying building, abandoned houses, litter and un-kept refuse dumps, alcohol shops, people taking hard drugs, and area boys residing in the vicinity. *sfc* denotes a vector of sources of fear of crime measured as people having information about local crime and crime prevention, the presence of social disorder and physical deterioration in communities, quality contacts with the police and perception about neighbours; *fnc* represents frequency of news of crime in respondents' localty i.e. daily, at least twice a week, weekly, monthly and never; *sic* denotes sources of information on crime through direct experience, interpersonal communication, mass media, social media and others; *lsc* stands for length of stay in the community i.e. less than 1 year, 1–5 years, 5–10 years, 10–15 years, 15–20 years and above 20 years; *prc* represents perception of rate of crime as increasing, decreasing, can't say and no crime in my area, and indifference; and *i* indicates respondents. Mathematically, the model is stated as:

$$fc_i = \pi + \varphi sdc_i + \theta cmc_i + \vartheta sfc_i + \varpi fnc_i + \rho sic_i + \psi lsc_i + \phi prc_i + \varepsilon_i \qquad (2)$$

In equation (2), the explanation of variables remained as earlier discussed while $\pi, \varphi, \theta, \vartheta, \varpi, \rho, \psi, \phi$ are vector of parameters, and ε is stochastic term.

An index of fear of crime is created from ten respective questions which form part of the contents of the questionnaires administered to the respondents. The questions relate to people that are not fearful of: being approached on the street by a beggar or homeless person, being cheated or conned out of one's money, having someone break into one's house when not at home, having someone break into one's house while one is at home, being attacked by someone with a weapon, having one's car or property stolen, being robbed or mugged on the street, having one's property damaged by vandals, having someone loiter near one's home at night, and having a group of juveniles disturb the peace near one's home. To get more clarification on these questions, the perceptions of respondents regarding the questions are explained in descriptive statistics (see Table 2). Table 1 shows the findings of the principal component for the index of fear of crime which includes those ten questions. In Table 1, the result shows that the index created from the first principal components of the variables of fear of crime explain a sizeable percentage of the observed total variance of fear of crime.

Table 1: Principal component analysis

Components		Eigenvalues	Proportion (%)	Cumulative (%)
Fear of Crime	1	6.1944	0.6194	0.6194
	2	1.0816	0.1082	0.7276
	3	0.6768	0.0677	0.7953
	4	0.5328	0.0533	0.8486
	5	0.4119	0.0412	0.8897
	6	0.2973	0.0297	0.9195
	7	0.2632	0.0263	0.9458
	8	0.2151	0.0215	0.9673
	9	0.1690	0.0169	0.9842
	10	0.1578	0.0158	1.0000

Source: *Author's computation (2021)*

In Table 1, the reported findings of the principal component analysis indicate that only the first component of eigenvalues was high with 6.1944 for fear of crime. Correspondingly, the component accounted for 61.94% of the total variance in the original data of fear of crime. In addition, the screen plots of the eigenvalues after principal component analysis is presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Scree Plot of Eigenvalues after PCA for Fear of Crime (Not Fearful)
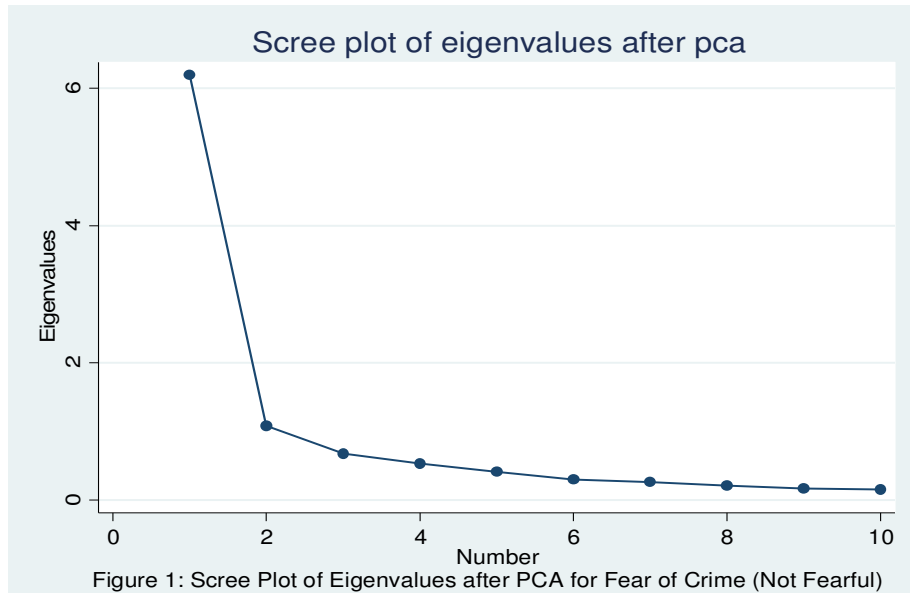
As the outcome variable is an index and a cross-section study with values ranging from -5 (not fearful) to 5 (fearful), this study utilized the ordinary least square (OLS) method to estimate the parameters of the variables in equation (2). Specifying a multiple linear regression model, equation (2) is re-written in a simple form as:

$$y_i = x_i\beta + \varepsilon_i \qquad \text{where} \quad i = 1,..., I \qquad (3)$$

Where: y represents the outcome variable relating to $1 \times M$ vector of regressor x_i that includes the constant and stochastic term ε; and β indicates $M \times 1$ coefficient of variables of interest. Most importantly, the OLS estimator used in this study assumes that the regressors x_i are not correlated with the stochastic term ε, $E(x_i'\varepsilon_i) = 0$ since the standard errors of parameters are in a robust form.

Results and discussions
The descriptive statistics of the survey data is presented in Table 2. Regarding the outcome variables, the result showed that about 68% of the total respondents are not at all fearful, only when they are being approached on the street by a beggar or homeless person. Similarly, about 43.5% of the respondents are not fearful of being cheated or conned out of their money. However, other measurements of fear of crime showed that the respondents are fearful as the percentage of those that are not fearful fall below 40%. Specifically, only 29.5% are not at all fearful of someone breaking into their house while not at home, 26.8% are not at all fearful of breaking into their home while they are at home, 23.8% are not at all fearful of being attacked by someone with a weapon, 31.1% are not at all fearful of car or property being stolen, 27.8% are not at all fearful of being robbed or mugged on the street, 30.8% are not at all fearful of having their property being damaged by vandals, 35.6% are not at all fearful of someone loitering around their house at night, and 38.8% are not at all fearful of a group of juveniles disturbing the peace near their home. The remaining percentage indicates those slightly fearful, very fearful and extremely fearful.

Table 2: Summary statistics: Fear of crime

Variables/Measurements	%age	Percentiles	Kurtosis	Skewness	Obs.
Outcome Variable: Fear of Crime					
Being approached on the street by a beggar or homeless person (% of people not at all fearful) (fc1)	68.0	46.7	-1.409	-0.771	746
Being cheated or conned out of your money (% of people not at all fearful) (fc2)	43.5	49.6	-1.937	0.261	744
Having someone break into your house while you are not at home (% of people not at all fearful) (fc3)	29.5	45.6	-1.193	0.900	742
Having someone break into your house while you are at home (% of people not at all fearful) (fc4)12	26.8	44.3	-0.906	1.047	745
Being attacked by someone with a weapon (% of people not at all fearful) (fc5)	23.8	42.6	-0.480	1.234	744
Having your car or property stolen (% of people not at all fearful) (fc6)	31.1	46.3	-1.337	0.817	742
Being robbed or mugged on the street (% of people not at all fearful) (fc7)	27.8	44.9	-1.022	0.991	747
Having your property damaged by vandals (% of people not at all fearful) (fc8)	30.8	46.2	-1.311	0.832	743
Having someone loiter near your home at night (% of people not at all fearful) (fc9)	35.6	47.9	-1.640	0.604	745
Having a group of juveniles disturb the peace near your home (% of people not at all fearful) (fc10)	38.8	48.8	-1.794	0.459	744

Table 3: Summary statistics: Socio-demographic characteristics

Socio-Demographic Characteristics						
Sex	Male(male)	53.1	49.9	-1.990	-0.124	759
	Female	46.9	49.9	-1.990	0.124	759
Education	No formal education(nfe)	3.5	18.4	23.86	5.079	745
	Primary education(pry)	11.4	31.8	3.928	2.433	745
	Secondary education(sec)	52.2	50.0	-1.997	-0.089	745
	Undergraduate(ugrad)	10.9	31.2	4.357	2.519	745
	Graduate(grad)	16.2	36.9	1.368	1.834	745
	Post-graduate(pgrad)	1.3	11.5	69.99	8.474	745
	Others(edoth)	4.4	20.6	17.75	4.439	745
Employment status	Public sector employee(pusw)	3.4	18.2	24.49	5.140	732
	Private sector employee(prsw)	12.7	33.3	3.045	2.244	732
	Self employed(semp)	72.5	44.7	-0.978	-1.012	732
	House wife(hwfe)	0.011	10.4	87.11	9.427	732
	Full time student(fts)	5.7	23.3	12.58	3.814	732
	Part time student(pts)	2.7	16.3	31.85	5.811	732
	Retired(rtd)	1.8	13.2	51.69	7.318	732
Marital Status	Married(mard)	54.7	49.8	-1.969	-0.191	769
	Separated(sepd)	0.9	9.5	105.6	10.36	769
	Divorced(divd)	1.0	10.2	91.74	9.670	769
	Widowed(widd)	2.9	16.7	30.19	5.666	769
	Single(sing)	40.4	49.1	-1.853	0.390	769

Socio-Demographic Characteristics						
Ethnic group	Yoruba(yor)	64.8	47.8	-1.617	-0.623	765
	Igbo(igbo)	20.7	40.5	0.111	1.453	765
	ausa(haus)	8.6	28.1	6.737	2.953	765
	Others(etoth)	5.9	23.5	12.15	3.757	765
Type of marriage	Monogamy(mono)	89.1	31.2	4.367	-2.519	413
	Polygamy(poly)	10.9	31.2	4.367	2.519	413
Religion	Christianity(chrst)	57.5	49.5	-1.912	-0.306	756
	Islam(islam)	42.2	49.4	-1.905	0.317	756
	African traditional religion(aftr)	0.3	5.1	375.5	19.40	756
Periods of stay in the neighbourhood	Less than 1 year(hlln1)	5.2	22.2	14.42	4.047	751
	1-5 years(hlln2)	23.4	42.4	-0.422	1.257	751
	5-10 years(hlln3)	17.3	37.9	1.001	1.732	751
	10-15 years(hlln4)	12.8	0.334	2.997	2.234	751
	15-20 years(hlln5)	0.123	32.8	3.333	2.307	751
	Above 20 years(hlln6)	29.0	45.4	-1.146	0.926	751

Table 3 above shows the results on socio-demographic characteristics, the result of gender classification showed that 53.1% are male and 46.9% are female. Among the 779 respondents, only 3.5% have no formal education whereas about 11.4% have primary school education. A large percentage of the respondents, amounting to 52.2%, have secondary education, while 10.9% are undergraduates and 16.2% are graduates. In addition, 1.3% are running their post-graduate programmes and 4.4% have other educational qualifications. Regarding employment status characteristic, 72.5% of the total respondents are self-employed, 3.4% are in the public sector, and 12.7% are working in private organizations. Also, 1.1% are fulltime house wives while 5.7%, 2.7% and 1.8% represent respondents that are full-time students, part-time students and retired from working respectively. The ethnic group results showed that a large percentage of the respondents are Yoruba (64.8%), followed by Igbo (20.7%), Hausa (8.6%) and others (5.9%). The descriptive statistics revealed that many of the interviewees are in the monogamy type of marriage (89.1%) while 10.9% are in polygamy. As regards the religious practices of the respondents, a higher percentage practiced Christianity (57.5%), afterwards came Islam with 42.2% and a few practiced African traditional religion (0.26%). The question relating to period of stay in their neighborhood showed that 29.0% stayed for more than 20 years, followed by 1-5 years (23.4%), 5-10 years (17.3%), 10-15 years (12.8%), and 15-20 years (12.3%) respectively.

Table 4: Summary statistics: Community characteristics

Community Characteristics

How safe is your neighbourhood from crime? (snc1)	Safe	74.7	43.5	-0.709	-1.137	766
	Unsafe	25.3	43.5	-0.709	1.137	766
How safe do you feel walking alone in your neighbourhood at night/daytime? (snc2)	Safe	72.4	44.8	-0.999	-1.002	767
	Unsafe	27.6	44.8	-0.999	1.002	767
How afraid are you of becoming a victim of crime in this environment? (snc3)	Safe	53.0	49.9	-1.991	-0.119	757
	Unsafe	47.0	49.9	-1.991	0.119	757
Are buildings in this area old? (cc1)	Yes	69.6	46.0	-1.276	-0.853	756
	No	30.4	46.0	-1.276	0.853	756
Are the buildings decaying? (cc2)	Yes	36.1	48.1	-1.666	0.582	757
	No	63.9	48.1	-1.666	-0.582	757
Are there abandoned houses in this area? (cc3)	Yes	20.5	40.4	0.138	1.462	755
	No	79.5	40.4	0.138	-1.462	755
Do you have litter, un-kept refuse dump in this area? (cc4)	Yes	36.1	48.1	-1.666	0.582	757
	No	63.9	48.1	-1.666	-0.582	757
Do you have places for drinking alcohol in this area? (cc5)	Yes	84.2	36.5	1.531	-1.878	759
	No	15.8	36.5	1.531	1.878	759
Do some people take hard drugs in this area? (cc6)	Yes	59.0	49.2	-1.872	-0.365	748
	No	41.0	49.2	-1.872	0.365	748
Do you have area boys in this area? (cc7)	Yes	75.9	42.8	-0.530	-1.213	759
	No	24.1	42.8	-0.530	1.213	759

Furthermore, Tables 4 presents the summary statistics of variables relating to community characteristics. From the result, 74.7% opined their neighbourhood safe from crime; 72.4% noted that they felt safe while walking alone in the neighbourhood, and 53.0% are not afraid of becoming a victim of crime in their environment. Also, 69.6%, 36.1%, and 20.5% noted that buildings in their area are old, decaying and abandoned respectively. Likewise, about 36.1% reported that they have litter and un-kept refuse dumps in their areas, 75.9% have area boys in their vicinity while 84.2% and 59.0% have places for alcoholic drinks and hard drugs in their areas respectively. Regarding the sources of fear of crime.

Table 5: Summary statistics: Sources of fear of crime

Sources of Fear of Crime							
How often do you have information about local crime and crime prevention in this community? (% of people that selected sometime, often, always etc.) (sfc1)			74.7	4.35	-0.711	-1.136	742
How much of the presence of social disorder and physical deterioration do you have in this community? (% of people that selected Almost none) (sfc2)			20.0	40.0	0.266	1.505	741
Do you think the public has quality contacts with the police?		Yes	48.5	50.0	-2.002	0.058	723
		No	51.5	50.0	-2.002	0.058	723
How do you see your neighbor?		As stranger (sfc4a)	5.7	23.2	12.77	3.839	740
		As friend (sfc4b)	81.6	38.8	0.679	-1.636	740
		As a trustworthy person (sfc4c)	5.5	22.9	13.20	3.895	740
		As someone you cannot trust (sfc4d)	5.7	23.2	12.77	3.839	740
		Others	1.4	11.6	69.49	8.444	740
Do you see yourself as being physically distanced from the police?		Yes	58.4	49.3	-1.889	-0.341	764
		No	41.6	49.3	-1.889	0.341	764
Do you feel comfortable reporting issues to the police?		Yes	43.6	49.6	-1.938	0.258	759
		No	56.4	49.6	-1.938	-0.258	759
Do you listen to news in the media about crime in the city?		Yes	72.8	44.5	-0.948	-1.027	761
		No	27.2	44.5	-0.948	1.027	761
Frequency of News of Crime							
How often do you hear of crime committed in this location (area)?		Daily(fnc1)	9.2	28.9	6.039	2.832	642
		At least twice a week (fnc2)	7.8	26.8	7.996	3.158	642
		Weekly(fnc3)	26.5	44.2	-0.861	1.069	642
		Monthly(fnc4)	29.0	45.4	-1.140	0.929	642
		Never(fnc5)	27.5	44.7	-0.986	1.009	643
Sources of Information on Crime							
How did you know about crime in this community?		Direct experience as a victim or witness (sic1)	51.5	50.0	-2.002	-0.059	676
		Interpersonal communication (sic2)	41.6	49.3	-1.888	0.343	676
		In the mass media (sic3)	3.3	17.8	25.96	5.281	676
		In the social media (sic4)	2.5	15.7	35.06	6.079	676
		Others (sic5)	1.2	10.8	80.11	9.048	676
Length of Stay in the Community							
How long have you been living in this neighborhood?		Less than 1 year (lsc1)	5.2	22.2	14.41	4.047	751
		1-5 years (lsc2)	23.4	42.4	-0.422	1.257	751
		5-10 years (lsc3)	17.3	37.9	1.001	1.732	751
		10-15 years (lsc4)	12.8	33.4	2.997	2.234	751
		15-20 years (lsc5)	12.3	32.8	3.333	2.307	751
		Above 20 years (lsc6)	29.0	45.4	-1.146	0.926	751
Perception of Rate of Crime							
In the recent times, how would you describe the rate of crime in your area?		Increasing (prc1)	18.2	38.6	0.721	1.649	735
		Decreasing (prc2)	69.8	45.9	-1.257	-0.864	735
		Can`t say (prc3)	9.0	28.6	6.286	2.876	735
		No Crime in my Area Indifference (prc4)	3.0	17.1	28.64	5.529	735

Table 5 shows that 74.7% have information about local crime and crime prevention in their community varying from sometime, often, always and very often. About 20% selected almost none with respect to respondents having presence of social disorder and physical deteriorating structure in their community. A higher percentage of the respondents (51.5%) believed that the public do not have quality contacts with the police. Also, a larger percentage (81.6%) view their neighbours as friends; while 5.7%, 5.5% and 5.7% considered their neighbours as strangers, trustworthy persons, and un-trusted persons respectively. Also, 58.4% are physically distant from the police, 43.6%

do not feel comfortable reporting issues to the police, and 72.8% listen to news in the media about crime.

In addition, regarding the frequency of news of crime, about 9.2%, 7.8%, 26.5%, and 29.0% hear about the crimes committed in their community daily basis, at least twice a week, weekly and monthly, while 27.5% never heard of any crime. For sources of information about crime, about 51.5%, 41.6%, 3.3% and 2.5% are aware of crime through direct experience as a victim/witness, interpersonal communication, mass media and social media respectively and 1.2% picked from other forms. As regards the length of stay in the community, 29.0% have been living in the neighbourhood for over 20 years, followed by 1–5 years (23.4%), 5–10 (17.3%), 10–15 years (12.8%), 15–20 years (12.3%) and less than a year (5.2%) respectively. With regard to perception of rate of crime, 69.8% described the rate of crime in their community as decreasing, followed by 18.2% as increasing, 9.0% as can't say and 3.0% as no crime in my area (indifference). The correlation coefficients of the variables revealing the chances of not having multicollinearity problem are presented in Appendix 1–3.

Table 6a: Summary of multivariate logistic regression analysis of independent predictors of fear of crime

	Dependent Variables: Fear of Crime						
Variables	**1** Exp.[B] Coef.[B]	**2** Exp.[B] Coef.[B]	**3** Exp.[B] Coef.[B]	**4** Exp.[B] Coef.[B]	**5** Exp.[B] Coef.[B]	**6** Exp.[B] Coef.[B]	**7** Exp.[B] Coef.[B]
Sex: Male	-0.570***(0.203)						
Education:							
no formal	-2.026***(0.696)					-1.597**(0.640)	-1.440**(0.696)
Primary	-0.613(0.479)					-0.591(0.462)	-0.556(0.472)
Secondary	-1.040**(0.405)					-1.054***(0.396)	-1.237***(0.410)
Undergraduate	-0.759(0.494)					-0.863(0.506)	-1.148**(0.548)
Graduate	-0.993**(0.458)					-0.884*(0.454)	-0.881*(0.468)
Post-graduate	-2.030*(1.054)					-2.795***(0.938)	-2.071*(1.150)
Employment Status:							
Public sector	1.543*(0.793)					0.985(0.742)	1.504(0.955)
Private sector	0.803(0.761)					0.378(0.703)	0.939(0.902)
Self employed	0.697(0.700)					0.336(0.657)	0.990(0.861)
House wife	1.560*(0.911)					1.623(1.044)	1.263(1.034)
Part-time student	0.825(0.961)					0.553(0.895)	1.382(1.070)
Full-time student	0.786(0.795)					0.574(0.777)	1.247(0.956)
Marital Status:							
Married	-0.398*(0.225)						
Separated	1.544***(0.494)						
Divorced	1.744***(0.404)						
Widowed	0.768*(0.392)						
Ethnicity:							
Yoruba	0.149(0.740)						
Igbo	-0.354(0.776)						
Hausa	0.356(0.972)						
Marriage Type:							
Monogamy	0.623(0.484)						
Religion:							
Christianity	-1.713**(0.41)						
Islam	-1.892**(0.39)						
Period of Stay in Neigh.:							
1–5 yrs	-0.290(0.811)						
5 – 10 yrs	-0.515(0.799)						
10 – 15 yrs	-0.228(0.836)						
15 – 20 yrs	0.572(0.781)						
Above 20 yrs	-0.707(0.768)						
Community Characteristics							
Neighborhood safe from crime			-0.508*(0.272)		-0.544*(0.28)	-0.574**(0.290)	
Felt safe while walking alone in the neighborhood			0.297(0.267)		0.393(0.275)	0.190(0.281)	
Not afraid of becoming a victim of crime			1.839**(0.191)		1.436**(0.21)	1.815***(0.201)	
Old building			0.013(0.223)		0.269(0.230)	0.111(0.235)	
Decaying building			0.051(0.223)		-0.092(0.234)	-0.052(0.226)	
Abandoned houses			0.358(0.258)		0.324(0.271)	0.505*(0.261)	
Areas with litter and un-kept refuse dump			-0.706**(0.22)		-0.697**(0.23)	-0.766***(0.228)	
Areas that have alcohol drinking places			0.220(0.278)		0.143(0.285)	0.037(0.294)	
Areas that have people taking hard drugs			-0.119(0.217)		-0.202(0.229)	-0.204(0.229)	
Areas with area boys			0.433*(0.253)		0.523**(0.262)	0.502*(0.267)	
Sources of Fear of Crime							
Information about local crime and crime prevention							
Absence of social disorder and physical deterioration				1.420**(0.25)	1.115**(0.25)		1.282***(0.27)
Public having quality contacts with the police				-0.229(0.256)	0.228(0.277)		-0.239(0.272)
Perception about neighbor: As Strangers				0.056(0.197)	-0.069(0.197)		0.035(0.207)
As friend				0.592(0.868)	0.212(0.657)		0.394(0.939)
As a trustworthy person				0.211(0.812)	-0.075(0.597)		0.097(0.878)
As an untrustworthy person				-0.703(0.909)	-0.851(0.720)		-0.915(0.974)
person				0.262(0.900)	-0.377(0.699)		0.085(0.968)
Physically distanced from the police				0.684**(0.21)	0.522*(0.21)		0.688***(0.223)
Felt comfortable reporting issues to the police				0.308(0.219)	0.447**(0.21)		0.220(0.235)
Listen to news in the media about crime				-0.295(0.223)	-0.405*(0.22)		-0.380(0.236)

The fear of crime relating to socio-demographic factors, community characteristics, sources of fear of crime, frequency of news of crime, sources of information on crime, length of stay in the community and perception of rate of crime as investigated are presented in Table 6a-b. In Table 6a, the first two columns presented the findings relating to the relationship between socio-demographic factors and the fear of crime. The result clearly revealed that the public sector (Exp.[B] = 1.54), house wife (Exp.[B]= 1.56), Separated (Exp.[B]

= 1.54) and Divorced (Exp.[B] = 1.74) account for approximately twice as much as other factors to the prediction of the fear of crime among the participants under reference. Column 3 is a report of the results relating to the association between community characteristics and the fear of crime, while the findings of sources of fear of crime impacted on fear of crime are presented in column 4. Similarly, 'not afraid of becoming a victim of crime' (Exp.[B] = 1.83) and 'information about local crime and crime prevention' (Exp.[B] = 1.42) contributed two times more than other factors to the prediction of observed fear of crime. The last three columns presented the results of how the augmented covariates (socio-demographic, community characteristics and sources of fear of crime) impacted on fear of crime.

Furthermore, in Table 6b, columns 1, 2, 3 and 4 reports the outcome of how the frequency of news of crime, sources of information of crime, length of stay in the community and perception of rate of crime impacted on the fear of crime. The last three columns presented the augmented results with socio-demographic factors i.e. education and employment. From the results of the sources of fear of crime presented in Table 6a, it is evident that people that are physically distant from the police have fear of crime. This does not really agree with Alda *et al*. suggestion that fear of crime in developing countries can be mediated by increasing the community's confidence in their law enforcement agency. Although they admitted that former victims and those in minority groups had less confidence in the police and a greater fear of crime (Alda *et al*., 2016). Similarly, people with information about local crime and crime prevention have an indirect and significant impact on fear of crime. Equally, those that listen to the news in the media about crime also have a less significant impact on fear of crime, albeit significant at a 10% level. However, the study found that people that felt comfortable reporting issues to the police still have fear of crime. Other factors like the absence of social disorder and physical deteriorating structure, the public having quality contact with the police, and perception about neighbours have no significant impact on the fear of crime.

Also, the community characteristics showed that residing in neighbourhoods safe from crime have a less significant impact on the fear of crime. As well, residing in areas with litter and un-kept refuse dumps have a negative effect on fear of crime. Thus, in line with Meško submission that physical and social disorder is considered as pointer of a neighbourhood's disorder, the cause of crime, and increased fear of crime (Meško, 2014). However, those that are not afraid of becoming a victim of crime have a high considerable impact on fear of crime. The study also showed that areas with area boys have high fear of crime in a neighbourhood. Areas with abandoned houses also indicate an increase in fear of crime but only the coefficient is found to be significant at 10% level. However, factors such as people feeling safe while walking alone in the neighbourhood, areas with old houses, areas with decaying houses, areas that have alcohol drinking places and

areas that have people taking hard drugs have no significant relationship with fear of crime.

Table 6b: Summary of multivariate logistic regression analysis of independent predictors of fear of crime

Variables	1 Exp.[B] Coef. [B]	2 Exp.[B] Coef.[B]	3 Exp.[B] Coef.[B]	4 Exp [B] Coef.[B]	5 Exp.[B] Coef.[B]	6 Exp.[B] Coef.[B]	7 Exp.[B] Coef.[B]
Frequency of News of Crime							
Daily							
At least twice a	1.552***(0.330)				1.426***(0.387)	1.233***(0.378)	
week	1.162***(0.403)				1.000**(0.437)	0.722(0.472)	
Weekly	1.942***(0.251)				1.628***(0.300)	1.573***(0.305)	
Monthly	0.579**(0.281)				0.520(0.328)	0.212(0.332)	
Sources of Information on Crime							
Direct experience							
Interpersonal		2.589***(0.89)			1.183(0.956)	1.173(1.003)	
communication		2.733***(0.89)			1.622*(0.956)	1.621(0.993)	
Mass media		2.712***(1.01)			0.880(1.102)	1.215(1.103)	
Social media		2.256**(1.05)			0.921(1.119)	0.824(1.150)	
Socio-demographic characteristics							
Education: No formal education						-2.053***(0.78)	-1.628**(0.67)
Primary education						-0.532(0.505)	-0.453(0.446)
Secondary education						-1.078**(0.450)	-1.098**(0.38)
Undergraduate						-0.879(0.533)	-0.997**(0.49)
Graduate						-1.126**(0.502)	-0.894**(0.44)
Post-graduate						-1.346(0.890)	-2.672**(0.94)
Employment: Public sector						1.483(0.924)	1.376*(0.742)
Private sector						0.915(0.915)	0.327(0.752)
Self employed						0.760(0.857)	0.200(0.688)
House wife						2.396**(0.937)	1.182(0.944)
Part time student						1.084(1.067)	0.424(0.915)
Full time student						1.036(0.970)	0.342(0.817)
Length of Stay in the Community							
1-5 years			-0.516(0.409)		-0.806*(0.475)		-0.480(0.397)
5-10 years			-0.561(0.418)		-0.911*(0.505)		-0.511(0.413)
10-15 years			-0.489(0.435)		-0.643(0.484)		-0.591(0.421)
15-20 years			0.034(0.424)		-0.168(0.483)		0.126(0.403)
Above 20 years			-0.983**(0.39)		-1.246***(0.472)		-1.057**(0.39)
Perception of Rate of Crime							
Rate of crime: Increasing				2.815***(0.576)	0.453(0.928)		2.715***(0.64)
Decreasing				2.329***(0.556)	0.480(0.896)		2.107***(0.61)
Can't say				1.608**(0.652)	0.093(0.994)		1.311*(0.718)

In Table 6b, findings showed that the frequency of news, (Exp.[B] =1.55), weekly (Exp.[B] =1.92), are approximately two times more likely to be predictive of increases in the fear of crime. The extent of news of crime resulted to an increase in the fear in crime. It is evident in the estimated coefficients which were statistically significant at 5% level. Similarly, perception of rate of crime has an increasing impact on fear of crime. It showed that people with an increasing perception in the rate of crime have higher fear of crime than those with a decreasing perception in the rate of crime and those that can't say. Also, the result revealed that sources of information on crime (such as direct experience (Exp.[B] = 2.58), interpersonal communication (Exp.[B] = 2.73), mass media (Exp.[B] = 2.71) are approximately three times more likely predictive of fear of crime when not augmented with other predictors of fear of crime. As for the socio-demographic factors, education

and religion have decreasing impact on fear of crime whereas marital status hastens fear of crime with house wife (Exp.[B] = 2.39) being three times more a likely predictive of fear of crime. Similarly, When the perception of rate of crime is increasing, fear of crime increases almost three times than usual (Exp.[B] = 2.81). However, when the perception of rate of crime decreases there is a corresponding decrease in the fear of crime almost two times than the usual (Exp.[B] = 2.32.). Indeed, research shows that age, gender, ethnicity, physical strength, income, location of residence, and all known socio-demographic variables are related to fear of crime (Farrall, Gray & Jones, 2021; Koseoglu, 2021).

Limitation
Although, some study affirmed that gender disparity shows that females have a higher degree of fear of crime compared to males (Britto, Stoddart, and Ugwu, 2018); some studies show that male hegemony, such as the patriarchal system, and socialization processes for gender roles could predispose the female folks to experience fear of crime and expose them to be vulnerable to sexual assault (Chih-Ping, 2018; Pleggenkuhle and Schafer, 2018; Williams, Ghimire and Snedker, 2018). The study, however, did not take into consideration the gender-specificity of those affected with fear of crime and also did not delve into the control of the fear of crime. Further studies may investigate within the social context of the environment.

Conclusion and recommendations
The range of behaviours, conditions or factors that precipitate fear of crime is vast and complex. This study without disparaging the influence of certain physical, emotional, and mental states on people's predispositions to crime examined the fear of crime as a function of socio-demographic characteristics, community characteristics, sources of fear of crime, frequency of news of crime, sources of information of crime, length of stay in the community and perception of rate of crime. Sociological studies have alerted us to the social, political and economic pressures that abound and the ways in which they impinge upon individuals. Such studies provide materials which indicate that there may be the need for quite drastic changes in the social structure and environment if criminal behaviours in modern day Lagos are to be eliminated or controlled. In doing so, uncomfortable ethical questions about justice, about the fundamental nature of the society, about welfare, and about the distribution of wealth should be raised. Given the alarming spate of criminality and its associated consequences on public safety, the study suggests a complete overhaul of the general requirements for the standardization and modernization of procedures of securing the communities and thereby reducing the fear of crime, which could negatively impact on the health of individuals in the society.

Community participation in crime control appears to be seemingly inevitably expedient going by the findings of this present study. Hence, we

recommend that government should intervene through effective censorship of media information on local crime via appropriate legislation. Government should galvanize the society with religious institutions (Churches and Mosques) and Community Development Associations (CDAs) for disseminating information on local crime to stem the spate of the prevailing fear of crime, as all these has been established to negatively influence the fear of crime in the communities under investigation. Moreover, vigilante units should be encouraged via appropriate government legislations and properly organized in self-defense mechanism– particularly in places where many households (separated, divorced and married people with their children) are living and the problem of crime is prevalent. Community participation in law enforcement with liaison offices should be established within the CDAs (Community Development Associations) which can as a link to give information to the police divisions in charge of the locality. Re-orientation and public campaigns to ensure greater security consciousness can serve control measures designed to make crime vulnerable areas more live-able and minimize or eliminate the fear of crime among people in the society.

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Data access: The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author, [SOA], upon reasonable request.

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