

Crime Observatory Survey Report

**The Impact of Illicit Alcohol Consumption on Commission of Crime in Central
Kenya (Nyeri, Kiambu & Murangá)**

July- September, 2015

Security Research and Information Centre (SRIC)

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| List of acronyms | iii |
| List of Figures and Tables..... | iv |
| 1.1 Problem Statement | 2 |
| 1.2 Objectives..... | 3 |
| 1.3 Study Methodology | 3 |
| CHAPTER TWO: SURVEY FINDINGS | 5 |
| 2.1. Respondents' Profile | 5 |
| 2.1.1 Sex | 5 |
| 2.1.2 Age of Respondents..... | 5 |
| 2.1.3 Level of Education..... | 6 |
| 2.1.4. Occupation..... | 8 |
| 2.2 Most Common types of crime in Central region..... | 9 |
| 2.2.1 Chances of Falling Victim to Crime..... | 12 |
| 2.2.2 Causes of Crime in Central Region | 13 |
| 2.2.3 Fear of Crime..... | 15 |
| 2. 3 Alcohol Induced Crime Typologies | 16 |
| 2.3.1 Crimes Associated with Alcohol Consumption..... | 17 |
| 2.3.2 Largest Consumers of Alcohol | 19 |
| 2.4 Crime Trends before and After the Presidential Directive in the Country..... | 21 |

| | |
|--|----|
| 2.4.1 Known Strategies put in place to Deal with Alcohol Induced Crime Cases | 21 |
| 2.4.2 Effectiveness of Presidential Directive on Illicit brews | 22 |
| 2.4.3 Impact of presidential decree on illicit alcohol on crime | 23 |
| 2.4.4 Reasons for Crime Reduction..... | 26 |
| 2.4.5 Intervention Strategies | 27 |
| 3. Conclusion | 30 |
| 4. Recommendations | 31 |
| 4.1 To the Government..... | 31 |
| 4.2 To Individuals/Community | 34 |
| References | 35 |

List of acronyms

| | |
|--------|---|
| ACA | Anti-Counterfeit Agencies |
| CAJ | Commission on Administration of Justice |
| CSC | County Security Committee |
| CSP | Community Sensitization Programmes |
| FAC | Facts of Alcohol and Crime |
| IAU | Internal Affairs Unit |
| IPOA | Independent Policing Oversight Authority |
| KEBS | Kenya Bureau of Standards |
| LEAs | Law Enforcement Agencies |
| NACADA | National Campaign against Drug Abuse |
| NCADD | National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence |
| NGOs | Non-Governmental Organizations |
| NIAAA | National Institute on Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse |
| NPS | National Police Service |
| NYS | National Youth Service |
| OCPD | Officer Commanding Police Division |
| OCS | Officer Commanding Station |
| SGBV | Sexually Gender Base Violence |
| SPADP | Stockholm Prevents Alcohol and Drug Problems |
| SRIC | Security Research and Information Centre |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| UN | United Nations |
| USA | United States of America |
| WPA | Witness Protection Act |

List of Figures and Tables

List of Figures

| | |
|---|----|
| Figure 1: Gender distribution | 5 |
| Figure 2: Age distribution | 6 |
| Figure 3: Most common type of crime | 10 |
| Figure 4: Victimhood to crime | 13 |
| Figure 5: Alcohol consumption in relation to crime commission | 17 |
| Figure 6: Whether there are crimes associated with alcohol consumption | 18 |
| Figure 7: Consumption of alcoholic drinks constituting a serious social challenge | 21 |
| Figure 8: Effectiveness of existing strategies to fight alcohol induced crimes | 23 |
| Figure 9: Comparative analysis of crime in central region | 25 |
| Figure 10: Level of crime after the presidential directive on illicit brews | 26 |

List of Tables

| | |
|---|----|
| Table 1: Level of education | 7 |
| Table 2: Occupation of respondents | 8 |
| Table 3: Type of crime experienced in the sampled areas | 11 |
| Table 4: Causes of crime | 14 |
| Table 5: Levels of safety | 15 |
| Table 6: Crime types associated with alcohol consumption | 18 |
| Table 7: Reasons for susceptibility of alcohol abuse | 20 |
| Table 8: Existing strategies put in place by law enforcement agencies to deal with alcohol induced crimes | 22 |
| Table 9: Police crime statistics in Nyeri County | 24 |
| Table 10: Reasons for crime reduction after the presidential directive on illicit brews | 27 |
| Table 11: Means of controlling illegal brewing and excessive consumption of alcohol | 28 |

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Alcohol is one of the most commonly consumed drugs in the larger part of the world¹. According to Marshall and Alam (1997), most people consume alcohol moderately and socially. However, there are those who abuse it by drinking heavily causing psychological, physical and other consequences². Alcohol and other substance abuse have been linked to criminal acts such as robberies, assault, rape, defilement, prostitution, domestic violence among others³. Although it is difficult to directly link alcohol to crime since individuals who commit crimes are not always under the influence of alcohol, there are criminals who use alcohol as a stimulant to commit crime⁴.

Researchers have suggested that alcohol and other drugs reduce an individual's social perception and impair their reasoning capacity⁵. In the UK, statistics revealed that alcohol is a major factor in more than 60% of homicides, 75% of stabbings, 50% of domestic violence and 70% of beatings. Among the offenders, a third had alcohol dependence challenges, half had misused alcohol and the remainder were alcohol dependent. In America, the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence (NCADD) further affirmed that, 40% of violent crimes in America are alcohol related. According to victim reports in 2010 by NCADD 15% of robbery cases, 27% of aggravated assaults, 37% of rape and sexual assaults and 25% of simple assaults were committed while the perpetrators were under the influence of alcohol⁶.

In Ireland a study on Facts of Alcohol and Crime further acknowledged that although most people who drink do not commit offences or get involved in anti social behaviors, consumption of large volumes of alcohol is a risk factor for violence and anti-social behaviors⁷. In yet another

¹ Deehan, A. (1999). USA, Home Office. Alcohol and Crime: Taking Stock. Retrieved from: http://www.popcenter.org/problems/assaultsinbars/PDFs/Deehan_1999.pdf on 3rd September, 2015

² Marshall, E.J. and Alam, F. (1997) 'Psychiatric problems associated with alcohol misuse and dependence', British Journal of Hospital Medicine, Vol.58 (1), 44-46

³Robertson, C. (1990). 'Alcohol - a public health problem. Is there a role for the general practitioner?' Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, Vol. 83, 232-235. Retrieved from: <http://alcoholrehab.com/drug-addiction/crime-and-substance-abuse/> on 3rd September, 2015

⁴ Renzetti, C. (2001). Women, Crime, and Criminal Justice, Los Angeles: Roxbury

⁵See more in National council on alcoholism and drug dependence, Inc. - NCADD Alcohol and Crime. Retrieved from: <https://ncadd.org/learn-about-alcohol/alcohol-and-crime> on 3rd September, 2015

⁶Ibid

⁷Alcohol and Crime: Getting the Facts. Retrieved from: <http://alcoholireland.ie/download/publications/Crime%20Briefing%20Final.pdf> on 10th September, 2015

study done in 1968 by Bartholomew among Victoria Prisoners in Australia, found that 59% of the convicts had consumed alcohol before committing the offences they had been charged with. The same study was repeated in 1983 by Bartholomew and it was found that the rate had increased to 81%⁸.

The study went further to report that, alcohol depresses the body causing a disinhibiting effect on behavior making an individual more likely to commit crimes of violence due to loss of self control as compared to property related crimes. Findings also revealed that assault, homicides, rape, domestic violence, suicides, related crimes were mostly committed by individuals under the influence of alcohol⁹.

1.1 Problem Statement

A report by NACADA in December, 2010 indicated that 30% of adults in Central Kenya consumed alcohol¹⁰. Of these, those between the ages of 18-34 years were males accounting for about 78% while females in the same bracket accounted for 14%. According to a research conducted by clinical psychologists on personality developments in adolescence and early adulthood, that age bracket was considered the most active age among youth that was highly involved in criminal activities¹¹. According to a study conducted by the University of Nairobi in 2012 in Kiharu Division in Murang'a, specific types of crime associated with alcohol consumption included: domestic violence, disorderly behaviors, child neglect, rape and assault. Reports from chiefs and assistant county commissioners indicated that assault was ranked highest followed by disorderly behavior, domestic violence, petty theft and rape.

Various studies done in Kenya have indicated that there exists a link between consumption of alcohol and violent acts. A study done by Mbiti (2013), on "The Psychological and Criminal effects of Alcohol and other Drugs Abuse" found that the rate of crime committed as a result of alcohol and drug abuse was on the increase with incidents of violence ranking the highest. The study further revealed that in Kenyan prisons, majority of the convicts committed crimes while

⁸Ibid

⁹ Gail Mason and Paul R Wilson: Alcohol and Crime; Australian Institute of Criminology Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice.

¹⁰ NACADA (2010)Alcohol Use In Central Province Of Kenya A Baseline Survey on Magnitude, Causes And Effects From The Perspective Of Community Members And Individual Users

¹¹ <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0272735809001378>

under the influence of alcohol and or other drugs¹². Findings from a report done by NACADA in 2010 also showed that Crimes such as sexual violence, assaults, domestic violence were on the increase due to alcohol and or drug use¹³. In June, 2015, the president of Kenya, His Excellency, Uhuru Kenyatta ordered a nation-wide crackdown on all illicit brews - colloquially referred to as ‘second generation drinks’. The need to crack down on illicit brews was informed by the many problems including cases of domestic violence, deaths, impotence, child neglect, disorderly behavior, and many others problems contributing to a retrogressive society¹⁴.

In view of the previous findings and the association of alcohol to crime rate in Kenya, this study seeks to examine the current status of crime in relation to illicit brews in Central Kenya, the effectiveness of the existing strategies put in place to curb the challenge and to generate recommendations for the law enforcement agencies, members of the public and the government at both the national and County levels.

1.2 Objectives

1. To establish the most common types of crime in Central Kenya.
2. To establish the various alcohol-induced crime typologies.
3. To examine how the presidential directive on illicit consumption of alcohol impact on crime commission.

1.3 Study Methodology

The study targeted Kiambu, Nyeri and Murangá counties. The research process made use of both secondary and primary means of collecting data. In secondary data collection, previous reports of crime conducted in Nairobi by various researchers and organizations were reviewed.

Literature from other stakeholders like government agencies, the UN, (I) NGOs, both print and digital media; The Standard, The Star, The Nairobiian and The Nation newspapers, and individual researchers were consulted to enrich the scope of the research. The study also collected statistics on alcohol-induced types of crime from the NPS in order to establish existing trends across the

¹² Dr. Augustus Nzioki Mbiti (2013) The Psychological and Criminal Effects of Alcohol and Other Drugs Abuse

¹³NACADA (2010)Alcohol Use In Central Province Of Kenya A Baseline Survey on Magnitude, Causes And Effects From The Perspective Of Community Members And Individual Users

¹⁴ Alcohol Abuse and the Family: A Case Study of the Nandi Community of Kenya: Retrieved on 21st September, 2015 at: http://www.ijhssnet.com/journals/Vol_3_No_15_August_2013/16.pdf.

three counties. The survey employed the following methods of collecting primary data to meet the study objectives:

Key informant interviews

A total of 12 key informant interviews were carried out in the three counties. The interviews targeted OCDP/OCS and Chiefs who on account of their positions are believed to possess expert knowledge and statistics on crime and general security.

Questionnaires

The study administered 300 questionnaires (100 questionnaires per county) targeting members of the public. The respondents were randomly selected to ensure everyone (over 18 years) stood an equal chance of being selected for the survey. The sample was considered as the minimum recommended sample size for the study. Also in the letter and spirit of the new constitution, gender balance was taken into account during the administration of the questionnaires and the survey at large.

Study Location

The selection of the study location was done on the basis of the rampancy of the reported crimes by both the media, pressure groups and government agencies, including NACADA, local administrators and the police. Based on these criteria, Kiambu, Murang'a and Nyeri Counties were selected. The study was precisely done in Kiharu and Maragua sub-counties of Muranga, Nyeri municipality and Murwe-ini sub-counties of Nyeri and Kikuyu (Kikuyu town and Nderi) and Kiambu (town and Ndumburi) of Kiambu County.

CHAPTER TWO: SURVEY FINDINGS

2.1. Respondents' Profile

The need to profile respondents was informed by the fact that responses were likely to vary with variation of sex, age, education and even occupation. For instance, in the study area, media reports captured by SRIC indicate that women were more aggressive against illicit alcohol consumption than men. Based on this, women were likely to be opposed to most of the things touching on alcohol. Further, fear of crime has a bearing with ones occupation with those at 'lower ends' more vulnerable. One's occupation would therefore affect responses on crime. The respondents' profile was as shown below.

2.1.1 Sex

Majority of respondents were male, 56%, while 44% were females. The study was interested in understanding the gender perspectives of crime and therefore a deliberate attempt to involve as many female respondents as possible. More women would have been desirable but there were challenges; majority of them were not keen on interview on security related matters.

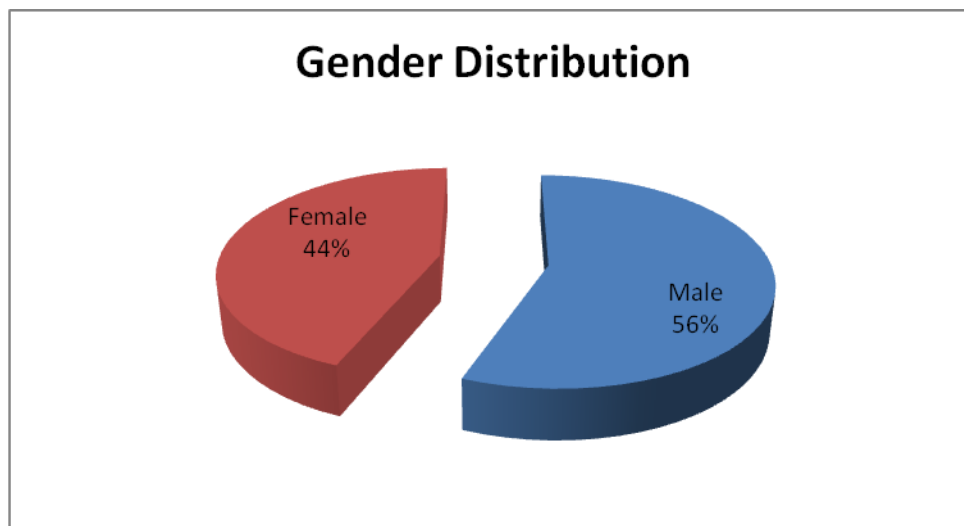


Figure 1: Gender Distribution

2.1.2 Age of Respondents

Respondent age was also considered crucial in the study since previous studies have consistently shown that the youth (mostly between 18 – 35 years) comprise the largest age bracket of both

crime perpetrators and victims. In this study, questionnaire analysis indicated that majority of respondents, 36.33% were aged 26-35 years. This was followed by those aged between 18-25 years at 24%. Cumulatively the youth bracket constituted majority of the respondents with a combined percentage of 60.33% of all the sampled respondents. Other groups involved in the study included individuals aged between 36-45 (23%), 46-55 (11.33%). The fewest of the sampled age groups were individuals aged over 56 years. This represents a true picture of the Kenyan population structure which tapers markedly upwards representing a youthful generation¹⁵. The structure means that a quick sample of any population in Kenya would result to more youthful representation.

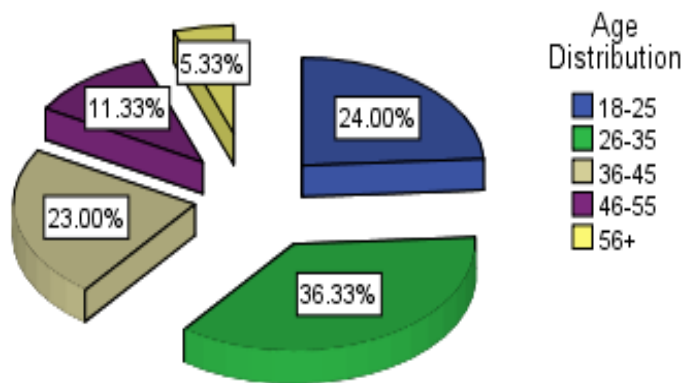


Figure 2: Age Distribution

2.1.3 Level of Education

The aim of establishing the level of education of respondents was to determine the correlation between the standard of education, consumption of illicit alcohol and crime commission. The analysis on the table below shows that, majority of respondents 47% had attained secondary level of education. This was followed by those whose highest level of education was primary school, 25%. College and university education accounted for 16% and 4% respectively. It suffices to note that the survey was carried out in largely rural areas where majority of the population were small scale business people and unemployed youth hence low levels of

¹⁵Population structure. Population pyramids Kenya, United States and Italy. Retrieved from: <http://www.geographylwc.org.uk/A/AS/ASpopulation/structure.htm> on 3rd October, 2015

education of respondents. The low levels of people with college and university education could be attributed to rural-urban migration where most educated people believe that rural areas are for the uneducated and the old and also that job opportunities can only be found in the urban centres¹⁶.

| Level of Education | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| None | 24 | 8.0 |
| Primary Level | 74 | 24.7 |
| Secondary Level | 140 | 46.7 |
| College Level | 48 | 16.0 |
| University Level | 14 | 4.7 |
| Total | 300 | 100.0 |

Table 1: Level of education

There seemed to be a direct correlation between the level of education and types of crime people were exposed to. People with primary and secondary level of education seemed to be more exposed to a concoction of crime cases with the majority being exposed to theft, mugging and assaults. People with college and university education seemed to be more exposed to burglaries and robbery incidents. Assault cases seemed to reduce with the level of education. The cases were higher among the primary level of education holders and almost negligible among people with university education.

This could be explained as a function of people's residence. People with relatively higher levels of education tended to live either in middle or high end areas where policing is considered more strict. The policing translates to less commission of crime especially the alcohol induced crime cases. People who live in low end areas, especially informal settlements were at a higher risk of exposure to crime and violence¹⁷.

¹⁶ See more responses in Kenyaplex. Rural to urban migration in Kenya. Retrieved from: <https://www.kenyaplex.com/resources/8699-rural-to-urban-migration-in-kenya.aspx> on 3rd October, 2015

¹⁷ Pangaea. *Street Children—Community Children*. Available at: http://pangaea.org/street_children/kids.htm. Accessed online 10th September, 2015.

2.1.4. Occupation

The need to capture respondent “main occupation” was informed by previous SRIC findings that showed some correlation between poverty and crime. At another level, it was found prudent to interrogate the extent to which absence of or meagre employment opportunities for the youth influenced the level of crime.

The survey established that majority of respondents were business people, 49.6% followed by casual labourers, 14.6%, farmers 7%, students, 7%, and professionals such as lawyers, nurses, doctors, accountants and so on comprising of 5% of the sampled population. Others included civil servants, 4.6% and the unemployed who constituted 4% of the sample population. It can thus be concluded that majority of people in the three counties were business people - mostly dealing with farm products-, casual labourers working in various business entities (including working in numerous quarry sites) and construction sites and also farmers.

| Occupation | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| No response | 13 | 4% |
| Business Person | 149 | 49.6% |
| House Wife | 14 | 4.6% |
| Unemployed | 12 | 4% |
| Casual Laborer | 43 | 14.6% |
| Student | 20 | 7% |
| Civil Sevant | 14 | 4.6% |
| Farmer | 20 | 7% |
| Professional | 15 | 5% |

Table 2: Occupation of respondents

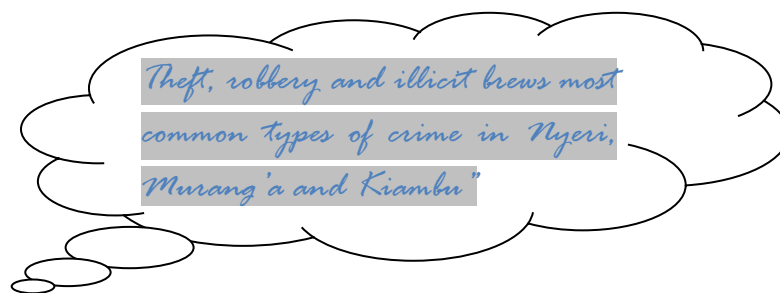
There existed a direct correlation between an individual’s occupation and the types of crime one seemed to be exposed to. Business people seemed to be more exposed to robbery, murder, break-ins/ burglaries and theft. Housewives reported to be more exposed to domestic violence while students and the unemployed people seemed to be more exposed to assault incidents. Farmers were more exposed to mugging incidents. Casual labourers reported to be more exposed to

murder incidents and mugging. It was interesting to note that professionals seemed to be more exposed to cases of domestic violence, carjacking and mugging incidents. This phenomenon could be explained on the assumption that professional were more exposed and aware of their rights to an extent that they will proactive measures to report such crimes to the authorities as opposed to the less educated cohorts.

2.2 Most Common Types of Crime in Central Region

In order to understand the most prevalent types of crime in the sampled areas, the study first sought to establish whether people were concerned about security issues. Asked whether or not they were concerned about insecurity, 72% of respondents said they were concerned, adding that crime was a big challenge in the area. The study found that of the mentioned crimes, theft, robbery and illegal brewing of alcohol were the most common types in all the three counties - Murangá, Nyeri and Kiambu. These types of crime were reported to be more common in the town centres. Other types of crime mentioned included break-ins/ burglary (7%), rape (4.667%) and Domestic violence (4%). Drug trafficking, livestock theft, murder, carjacking and assault cases were reported to be very minimal.

These findings corroborate observations from another study done on economic crimes which established that theft and robbery were the most common types of crime in most part of the country. The report further observes that property related crime cases were more common within informal settlements and served as a means of subsistence¹⁸. The findings could be interpreted to mean that most of criminal cases reported were driven by poverty related factors or other factors such as excessive consumption of alcohol and drug abuse.



¹⁸Musoi, K., Muthama, T. & Kibor, J. (2014). Nairobi Metropolitan Area: Annual Crime Observatory Report 2012/2013. Retrieved from: <http://srickenya.org/images/publications/Annual%20NCO%20Report%202012-2013.pdf> on 3rd October, 2015.

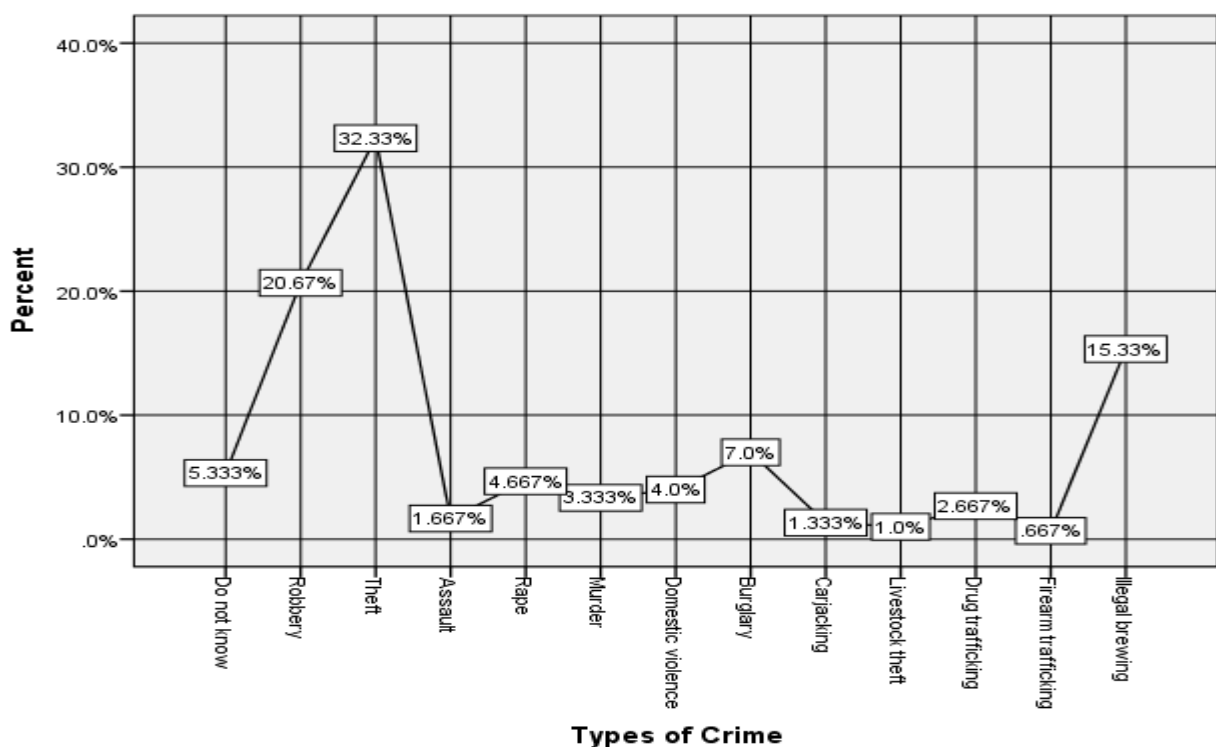


Figure 3: Most common type of crime

The survey went further to analyse the type of crime mostly committed within the sampled sub-counties in the three counties. It was noted that in Kiharu Sub-County of Murang'a, the three most common types of crime were theft (34.6%), brewing of illegal alcohol (19.2%) and robbery (13.5%), all accounting for close to three-quarters of all crime cases reported in the area. Maragua recorded similar findings with theft being mentioned as the most common type of crime by 52.2% of the respondents. Illegal brewing of alcohol and robbery were mentioned as second and third most common types of crime accounting for 21.7% and 6.5% respectively.

In Nyeri Municipality, respondents indicated theft as the most common type of crime at 52.9% followed by robbery at 31.4%. Illegal brewing of alcohol and domestic violence were third both tied at 3.9%. Mukurwe-ini too recorded a similar trend with theft being the most common type of crime accounting for 32.7% of the respondents, followed by robbery at 30.6% then burglary and illegal brewing of alcohol at 10.2% and 8.2% respectively. The findings were confirmed by key informants interviewed in the course of the study who felt that theft- especially from Mpesa shops and also motorbikes, robbery, mugging and break-ins/burglary were more common in the town centres.

In Kiambaa Sub County, residents reported that robbery incidents were the most common (24.5%), followed by illegal brewing of alcohol and theft accounting for 17%, and 13.2% respectively. The area security administrators mentioned that break-ins/ burglary, assaults and murder cases were also common in the area. One of the key informant interviewed for the study observed that:

*Crime is often high during the holidays. The school going kids are also involved in crime either to raise some pocket money or to meet targets set by gang leaders*¹⁹.

In Kikuyu, 22.4% of the residents felt that illegal brewing of alcohol was the most common type of crime, followed by burglary and robbery at 18.4%, and 16.3% respectively. According to the area administration, security situation had greatly improved in Kikuyu compared to a few years ago when theft and robbery incidents were almost a daily occurrence. A key informant in Kikuyu commented that:

*“Crime has greatly reduced in this area, though there are several incidents of break-ins, theft, sodomy and domestic violence reported every once in a while. Crime in this area is not solely linked to alcohol/drug abuse but the presidential directive on illicit alcohol and brewing has helped a lot in the general reduction of crime”*²⁰.

The findings revealed that most crime incidences were committed in town centres with theft being the most common. In rural areas, reports indicated that motor bikes were the commonly targeted item in both robbery and theft incidences. The findings were consistent with the social disorganization theory which identifies rapid population and/or economic growth, urbanization, high levels of unemployment, persistent poverty, diffusion of urban culture and values in rural settings²¹ and a variety of other structural-level social and economic conditions as factors which threaten social cohesion within communities²². These factors seemed to be in play since most of the formerly known rural areas were being infiltrated by urbanization brought about by the establishment of county governments which were slowly transforming the once quiet rural town centres to very busy pseudo urban centres.

¹⁹Assertions by a key informant in Kiambu County. Interview held in October, 2015

²⁰A remark by a key informant in Kikuyu while commenting about the general reduction of crime in the area.

²¹Wilkinson, Kenneth P. 1984a. “Rurality and Patterns of Social Disruption.” Rural Sociology 48(1): 23-36

²²Fischer, Claude S. 1980. “The Spread of Violence Crime from City to Countryside, 1955 to 1975.” Rural Sociology 45(3): 416-434.

The findings also agreed with similar ones from the UK (2012/2013) which showed that the rate of recorded crime was higher in urban areas than rural areas for crimes such as robbery, domestic violence, burglary, sexual offences and vehicle offences (theft of, theft from or vehicle interference).²³

| Sample Area | Do not know | Robbery | Theft | Assault | Rape | Murder | Domestic violence | Burglary | Carjacking | Drug trafficking | Illegal brewing | Total |
|--------------------|-------------|---------|-------|---------|------|--------|-------------------|----------|------------|------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Kiharu | 4 | 7 | 18 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 52 |
| Maragua | 3 | 4 | 24 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 46 |
| Nyeri Municipality | 0 | 16 | 29 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 51 |
| Mukurweini | 2 | 16 | 16 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 49 |
| Kiambaa | 2 | 13 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 53 |
| Kikuyu | 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 49 |
| Total | 16 | 64 | 97 | 5 | 14 | 10 | 12 | 21 | 4 | 8 | 46 | 300 |
| Percentage Total | 5.3 | 21.34 | 32.33 | 1.67 | 4.67 | 3.33 | 4.00 | 7.00 | 1.33 | 2.67 | 15.33 | |

Table 3: Type of crime experienced in the sampled areas

2.2.1 Chances of Falling Victim to Crime

In order to measure the frequency and types of crime, the study sought to establish whether the respondents had ever witnessed or fallen victim to crime. As shown in the chart below, 44% were affirmative that they had either witnessed or fell victim to crime while 52% were on the contrary. This can be interpreted to mean that residents of the sampled areas were at a risk of falling or witnessing crime. Indeed the findings could be inferred to mean that out of every 100 people in the sampled areas, 44% had at some point witnessed or fallen victim to crime.

²³Crime in the United Kingdom (2012/2013). Retrieved from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/227013/Crime_Aug_2013.pdf on 3rd October, 2015.

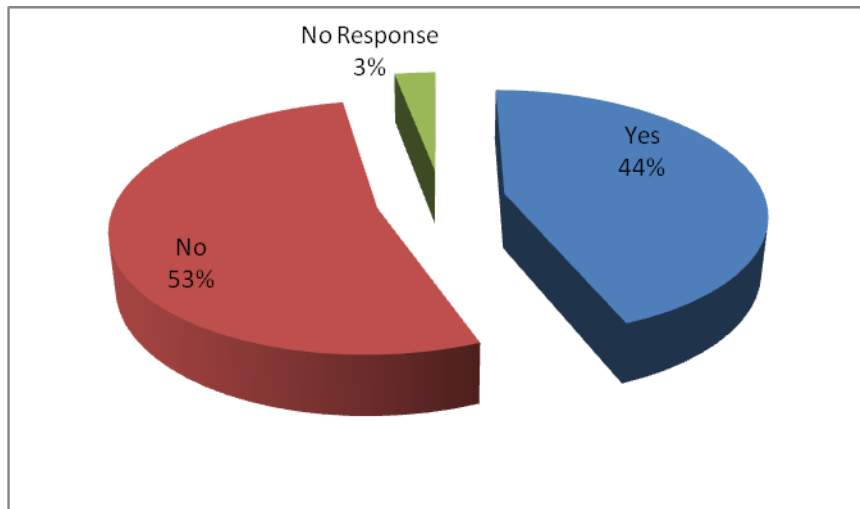
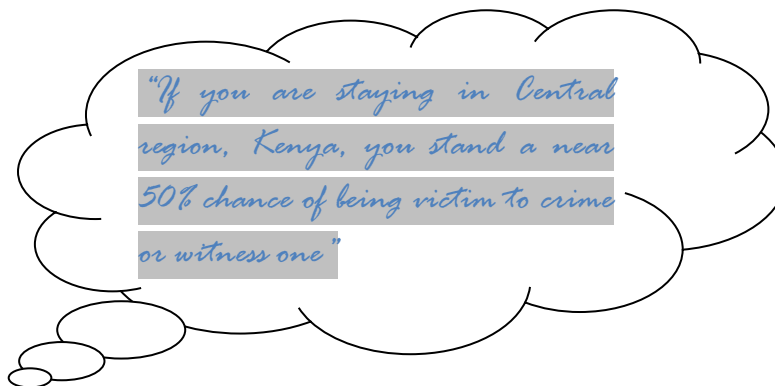


Figure 4: Victimhood to crime

Asked the type of crime fallen into, 27% of the respondents indicated theft, 22% mentioned break-in/ burglary, 17% stated robbery while 11% feared assaults. The findings were understood to indicate the types of crime residents had witnessed or fallen victims to. The findings also confirm that theft was the most common type of crime across the four sampled areas.



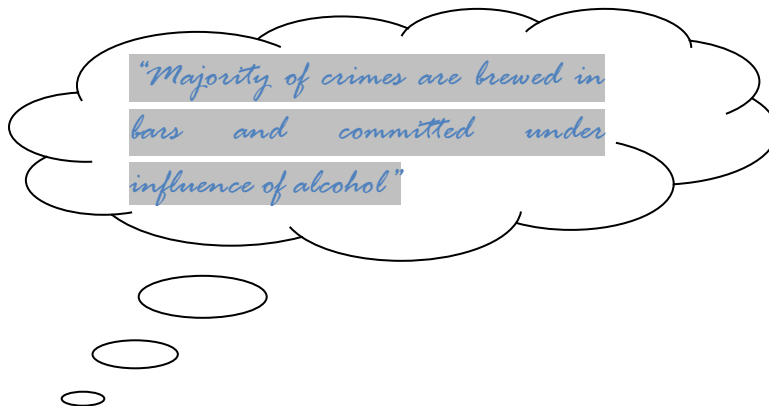
2.2.2 Causes of Crime in Central Region

The survey found that there was no single cause of crime rather a multiplicity of factors. Key among these factors was found to be unemployment. Indeed, majority of respondents (59%) felt that unemployment or idleness was the main cause of crime, followed by poverty (39%) and indulgence in illicit brews/ drug abuse (28%). These three factors seemed to be related as observed by a key informant in Murangá, who commented that:

“Majority of the youth involved in crime are idle/ unemployed. Every time we arrest these young people consuming alcohol beyond/before the stipulated time they always decry poverty and frustration as a result of limited job opportunities. In the past the same youth were easy targets for recruitment into outlawed groups but I am glad we have been able to reduce the presence of these groups. We are hopeful that the NYS project will help us ensure the youth are in one way or another engaged to reduce idleness.”²⁴

Law enforcement officers interviewed across the three counties seemed to agree that most of the people arrested for minor criminal offenses were intoxicated at the point of committing respective crimes. It was also evident that most of these criminal cases were planned from social places such as the bars and other entertainment joints. This was confirmed by one of the key informant who commented that:

“Majority of the people we arrest for involvement in criminal acts are always under influence of alcohol or other substances. Sometimes even the victims were drunk at the point of crime commission. We have reasons to believe that profiling of would be targets is mostly done in the bars and other entertainment joints”²⁵



Other factors mentioned included peer pressure (14%), limited crime control by the police and the community (12%), presence of organized criminal gangs (10%), easy availability of firearms (6%) and divisive politics (3%).

²⁴A remark by a key informant in Murangá County on causes of crime in the area. Interview held on 8th October, 2015.

²⁵Assertions by a key informant in Nyeri County. Interview held on 9th October, 2015.

| Cause of crime | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|------------|------------|
| No response | 11 | 3.7 |
| Unemployment/ Idleness | 177 | 59 |
| Poverty | 39 | 13 |
| Indulgence in illicit brews / drug abuse | 28 | 9.3 |
| Availability of small arms | 6 | 2 |
| Peer pressure | 14 | 4.7 |
| Divisive politics | 3 | 1 |
| Limited crime control by the police and community | 12 | 4 |
| Presence of organized criminal gangs | 10 | 3.3 |
| Total | 300 | 100 |

Table 4: Causes of crime

2.2.3 Fear of Crime

The fear of crime broadly refers to the dread of being a victim rather than the actual probability of being a victim²⁶. It is simply a feeling, thoughts and behaviours about the personal risk of criminal victimization. The study sought to establish how people felt against falling victim of crime. Table 5 shows that the fear of crime was higher in Nyeri, 53.6% than in Kiambu, 37% and Murang'a, 9.4%. Moreover, the people of Murang'a felt safer, 46.3% than those in Kiambu, 38.8% and Nyeri, 14.9%.

Conceivably the biggest influence on fear of crime is peoples' concern about neighbourhood disorder, social cohesion and collective efficacy and is associated with problems of social stability, moral consensus, and the collective informal control processes. Furthermore, the study found the biggest slum among the sampled areas was Majengo in Nyeri Municipality where young boys and girls were observed idling around and blaming lack of jobs for their behaviour. According to Hale, aimless hanging around reduces levels of trust and produce information about

26 Hale, C. (1996). Fear of crime: A review of the literature. *International Review of Victimology*, 4, 79-150.

risk and generate a sense of unease, insecurity and distrust²⁷. Moreover, many people express their fear of crime through some broader concerns about neighbourhood breakdown, the loss of moral authority, and the crumbling of civility and social capital.²⁸ The table below shows the findings:

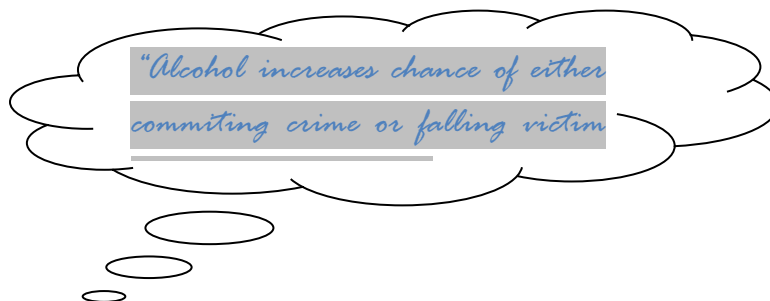
| County | Not safe | Not Sure | Safe |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Murangá | 9.4% | 44.3% | 46.3% |
| Nyeri | 53.6% | 26.0% | 14.9% |
| Kiambu | 37.0% | 29.7% | 38.8% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Table 5: Levels of safety

2. 3 Alcohol Induced Crime Typologies

It can be deduced from Figure 5 (in page 17) that there exists a strong correlation between consumption of alcohol and the consumer's propensity to engage or fall victim to crime. In this regard, an overwhelming majority of the interviewees, 80.0% qualified the alcohol-crime association as being either 'absolutely' or 'somehow' related.

It was however worth noting that a significant segment of the respondents, 17.7%, did not find any association 'at all' between crime and alcohol consumption. Based on this finding, it can be surmised that alcoholism constitutes a major crime inducer in the three sampled counties in particular and by extension the entire country, with varying degrees of association based on context.



²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Lee, M. (1999). The fear of crime and self-governance: Towards a genealogy. The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology, 32, 227-246.

Numerous key informants interviewed confirmed that there existed a strong relation between alcohol use and crime commission in the three counties. One of the key informant in Nyeri summed up by observing that:

“Alcohol consumption contributes to commission of crime. Majority of the victims are normally intoxicated. When someone is intoxicated they become vulnerable and most of the time they lose their rational judgment. Most cases of domestic violence and complains we receive here are from women who report that their men wasted money on alcohol and when confronted they picked up a fight. Most of the murder cases we are dealing with can partly be blamed on alcohol”²⁹

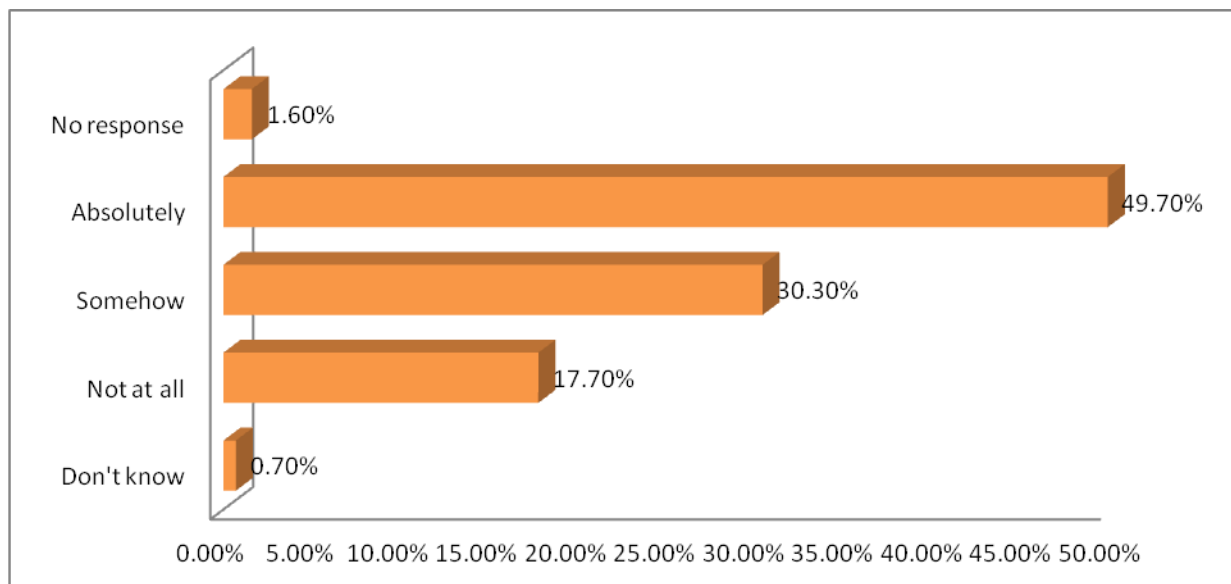


Figure 5: Alcohol consumption in relation to crime commission

2.3.1 Crimes Associated with Alcohol Consumption

On whether there were some types of crime which could be associated with alcoholism, a majority of 70% were affirmative while 27% had a contrary opinion and a further 3% of the respondents were unaware of any types of crime which could be associated with alcohol consumption.

²⁹A comment by a key informant in Nyeri when commenting on alcohol induced crime cases. Interview conducted on 3rd October, 2015.

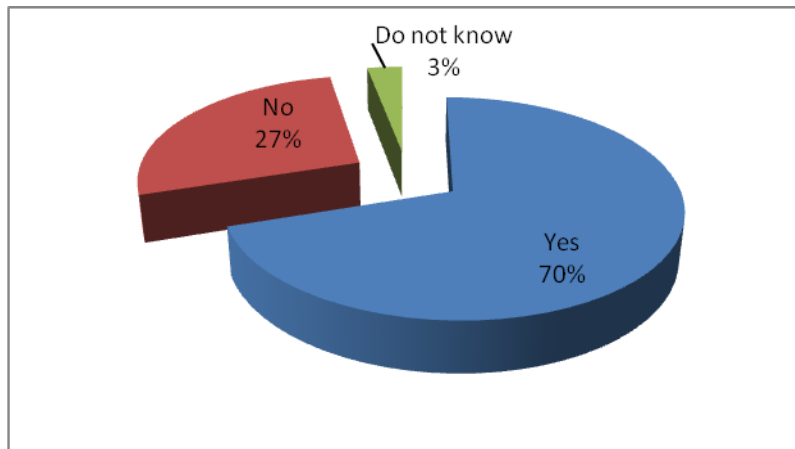


Figure 6: Whether there are crimes associated with alcohol consumption

On the types of crime which could be associated with alcohol consumption, a majority mentioned domestic violence (35%), followed by robbery (20%), theft (16%) and assault (11%). This finding is in tandem with similar findings by Campbell who found that there existed a correlation between overindulgence in alcohol and cases of domestic violence³⁰. According to Campbell, drug abuse or serious alcohol abuse also tends to increase the risk of a spouse being violated by the other through battering, threats to kill, extreme jealousy and in some cases even lead to marital rape³¹. A different study by Gmael and Rehm in 1997 suggested that alcohol contributed indirectly to increased aggression by causing cognitive, emotional, and psychological changes that may reduce self-awareness or result in inaccurate assessment of risks³². He went on to report that domestic violence was the most common type of crime associated with excessive consumption of alcohol³³.

Taft and Ingrid (2015) also reported that excessive consumption of alcohol increased the risk of domestic violence and that the victims' injuries were bound to be more severe in those instances, even sometimes resulting to murder³⁴. In most cases also, domestic and spousal quarrels and fights could be attributed to issues such as non-productivity of the family bread winner,

³⁰ Campbell, *et. al* (1988). Assessing risk factors for intimate partner homicide. Retrieved from: <http://www.fcadv.org/sites/default/files/Campbell%2020032.pdf> on 3rd Oct., 2015

³¹ Ibid

³²Gmael, G. Rehm, J. (2003). Alcohol related morbidity and mortality. National institute on alcohol and alcohol abuse. Retrieved from: <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/arh27-1/39-51.htm> on 3rd October, 2015.

³³ibid

³⁴Taft. A & Ingrid .W. (2015). Alcohol's role in domestic violence. Retrieved from: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/news/articles/2015/opinion/alcohols-role-in-domestic-violence> on 3rd October, 2015.

irresponsibility and defence mechanism which invariably leads to a propensity on the part of the “accused” partner resorting to aggressive physical and emotional abuse³⁵.

| Type of Crime | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| No response | 76 | 25.3 |
| Domestic violence | 84 | 28.0 |
| SGBV | 10 | 3.3 |
| Assault | 33 | 11.0 |
| Murder | 6 | 2.0 |
| Robbery | 49 | 16.3 |
| Theft | 39 | 13.0 |
| All | 3 | 1.0 |
| Total | 300 | 100.0 |

Table 6: Crime types associated with alcohol consumption

2.3.2 Largest Consumers of Alcohol

The study sought to also establish the most affected groups within the population in terms of alcohol consumption. As shown in the figure below, male youth were found to be by far the largest population group that consumes alcoholic in all the three study sites at 77%. This demographic predisposition could be a function and consequence of communal/societal value systems and socialization which tends to bestow some form of preferential treatment towards the boy child. Conversely, society largely frowns and strongly disapproves of females who consume alcoholic drinks³⁶. This is particularly well pronounced in rural areas where cultural practices are still relatively intact and keenly enforced, as opposed to urban areas where these set of values are being largely eroded or altogether discarded, thanks to urbanization. This huge age and gender-based behaviour differential is also a reflection of the patriarchal set up of communities, which are the building blocks of Kenyan society.

In terms of reasons why the male youth seemed to be more susceptible to alcoholics, availability of easy money sourced from parents and guardians was mentioned by an overwhelming majority

³⁵Frustration Aggression Theory where unexpected occurrence of frustration increases the likelihood of aggression.

³⁶Freeman, D. & Freeman, J. (Saturday, July, 2013). What drives women to drink? Retrieved from: http://www.salon.com/2013/07/13/what_drives_women_to_drink/. On 3rd Oct., 2015

(77%) with ‘easy availability of [cheap] alcohol posting a combined total of a lowly 15.3%. Remarkably related causes such as frustration, lack of guidance and peer pressure were virtually negligible. Availability of easy money was related to failure by the modern male youth to take up responsibilities.

This finding corroborates a string of previous findings on the cause-effects of crime and source of income, which have consistently found a seemingly intertwined correlation between the two phenomena in which pursuit of latter invariably leads to the commission of crime. By the same token, male youths are daily bombarded by the vagaries of youth and adolescent angst in which trendy and flashy lifestyles that are easily accessed through various mass media platforms are glorified and romanticized as the “in-thing”. This includes the tendency to associate sportsmanship, success and romance with drinking.

| Population Group | Reasons for susceptibility to alcohol abuse |
|-------------------------|---|
| Male Youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of easy money • Lack of guidance/ mentorship. • Idleness/unemployment • Peer pressure • Easy availability of alcohol |
| Female Youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer pressure. • Lack of guidance/ mentorship • Easy availability of alcohol |
| Older Men | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce frustration • Peer pressure • Availability of easy money |
| Older women | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce frustration • Peer pressure |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| School going kids | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer pressure • Easy availability of money from parents |
|-------------------|--|

Table 7: Reasons for susceptibility of alcohol abuse

2.4 Crime Trends before and After the Presidential Directive in the Country

On whether consumption of alcohol constituted a serious social challenge in the community, residents were unanimous that it was indeed a challenge as indicated by 91.67% of the respondents. Only a paltry 6.67% of the respondents had a contrary opinion. The gist of this question was to determine the role of excessive alcohol consumption in driving and exacerbating crime as well as social discord in communities in central Kenya. It is therefore evident that, on the whole, a state of drunkenness severely predisposes a person to commit crime or otherwise engage in other forms of anti-social behaviour.

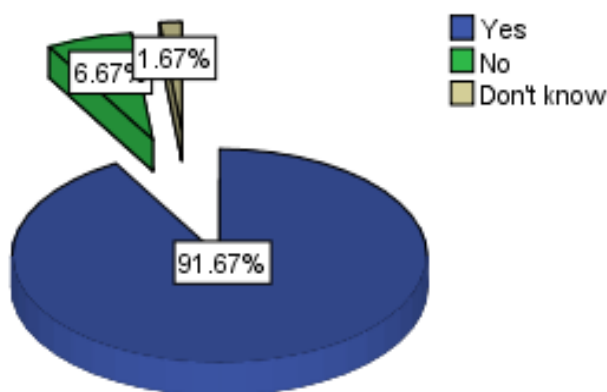


Figure 7: Consumption of alcoholic drinks constituting a serious social challenge

2.4.1 Known Strategies put in place to Deal with Alcohol Induced Crime Cases

The study sought to generate feedback from respondents on how they rated the degree of effectiveness of the raft of intervention measures that the authorities were - or considering - taking to control and ultimately eradicate the illicit alcohol in the area. The responses are depicted table 9 below. At 46.3%, strict observance of 'alcohol drinking hours' as prescribed by NACADA Act was seen to be the most efficacious means, followed closely by the imposition of heavy fines and – by implication, lengthy jail terms – so as to act as deterrent to binge drinking (29.7%). Though lying a distant third, enforcement of the prohibition or outlawing alcohol drinking joints or outlets in close proximity to schools was vouched by a comparatively smaller

portion (8%). The latter case could be construed to have been informed in measure by the need to “insulate” the new generation from getting lured into alcoholism. Other responses included establishment of rehabilitation centres and community policing as mentioned by 3.3% and 0.3% of the espondents respectively.

| Existing Strategies | Frequency | Percent |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Don't know | 38 | 12.7 |
| Heavy fines to illicit brewers | 89 | 29.7 |
| Ensuring alcohol drinking hours are observed | 139 | 46.3 |
| Closing bars near schools | 23 | 7.7 |
| Establishment of rehabilitation centres | 10 | 3.3 |
| Community policing | 1 | .3 |
| Total | 300 | 100.0 |

Table 8: Existing strategies put in place by law enforcement agencies to deal with alcohol induced crimes

2.4.2 Effectiveness of Presidential Directive on Illicit brews

The study took note of the presidential decree to crack down on illicit brewing and consumption of alcohol especially within Nairobi and the adjacent central Kenya region, where the menace was reportedly most rampant. Within hours of that decree, local political leaders, to whom the dictum had been directed, set out with unprecedented gusto to raid and ransack hundreds of suspected alcoholic ‘dens’ , and proceeded to destroy assortments of the offending drinks. Based on this the study undertook to establish the effectiveness of the crack down. It was found that the majority of respondents felt the exercise was effective. In fact, 21% reckoned that the strategy was ‘very effective’ and a further 57% felt that the strategy was somehow effective.

It is therefore reasonable to surmise that the “freshness” of the order and [perceived] degree of compliance was instrumental in shaping the opinion of the respondents. Whether this represents an enduring change in mindset is a matter of conjecture. Remarkably, 18% thought that the current measures were ‘not effective’ at all, an observation that tended to be premised by a caution that their efficacy will be known in the fullness of time.

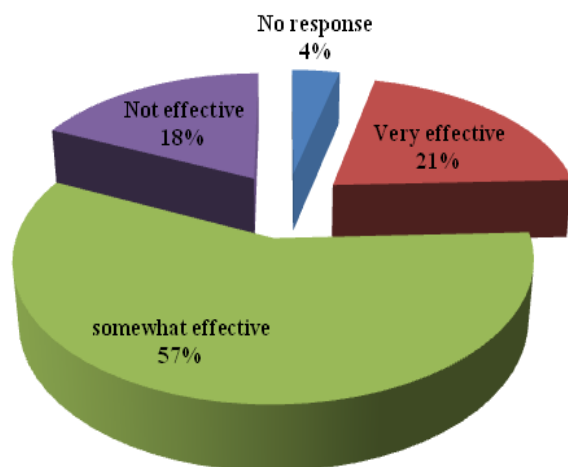
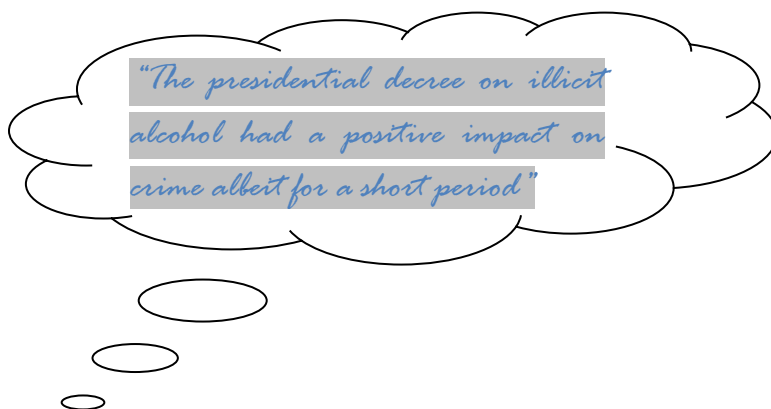


Figure 8: Effectiveness of existing strategies to fight alcohol induced crimes

2.4.3 Impact of presidential decree on illicit alcohol on crime

The use of alcohol can negatively affect all aspects of a person's life, impact on family, friends and community, and place an enormous burden on society.³⁷ Perhaps this is probably why His Excellency the president of Kenya issued a decree in June, 2015 to crack down on the “second generation” alcohol. Because alcohol use is legal, it plays a particularly strong role in the relationship to crime and other social problems including murder, rape, assault, child and spousal abuse. Furthermore, majority of respondents (73%) in this study felt that as a consequence to the presidential decree on illicit brews, crime levels had reduced. Based on earlier findings that crime constituted a serious challenge in the area, some people may not have felt the impact of crime reduction and hence the 18% of respondents who felt that crime levels had remained the same and a further 4% who stated that crime levels had actually increased. However, the police statistics indicated that the presidential decree had a positive impact on crime in all the three Counties.

³⁷ <https://ncadd.org/about-addiction/alcohol-drugs-and-crime>



In Nyeri County for instance, police statics below show that after the presidential directive, the number of alcohol related crime cases reduced from 363 to 354.

| S/no | CRIME | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept |
|------|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. | Assaults | 17 | 30 | 20 | 21 | 18 | 25 |
| 2. | Robberies | 3 | 6 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 4 |
| 3. | Rape | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| 4. | Defilement | 12 | 2 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 2 |
| 5. | Homicides | 9 | 6 | 16 | 7 | 15 | 9 |
| 6. | Breakings | 10 | 13 | 10 | 16 | 8 | 20 |
| 7. | Stealing | 34 | 25 | 33 | 14 | 11 | 29 |
| 8. | Domestic Violence | 14 | 22 | 7 | 17 | 13 | 7 |
| 9. | Other alcohol/drugs induced offences | 16 | 14 | 29 | 36 | 18 | 29 |
| | Total | 102 | 119 | 142 | 130 | 99 | 125 |

Table 9: Police crime statistics in Nyeri County

Although the reduction is 2.5%, it confirms the findings that one is likely to commit or fall victim to crime under the influence of alcohol. Moreover crime commission was highest in June, 19.8% when the directive was issued and lowest in August, 13.8%. It suffices to opine that implementation of the directive was at peak in August. Kiambu County indicated the same trend as Nyeri. However, changes in crime reduction in Murang'a may not be entirely attributed to the presidential directive since there was a remarkable reduction in the month of May.

The study noted that crime reduction in Nyeri and Kiambu lasted for only one month. The change could be attributed to a number of factors including; reduced pressure, normalization, change of tact by brewers and campaign fatigue. Figure 6 below shows the findings of the crime change, before and after the presidential directive in central region.

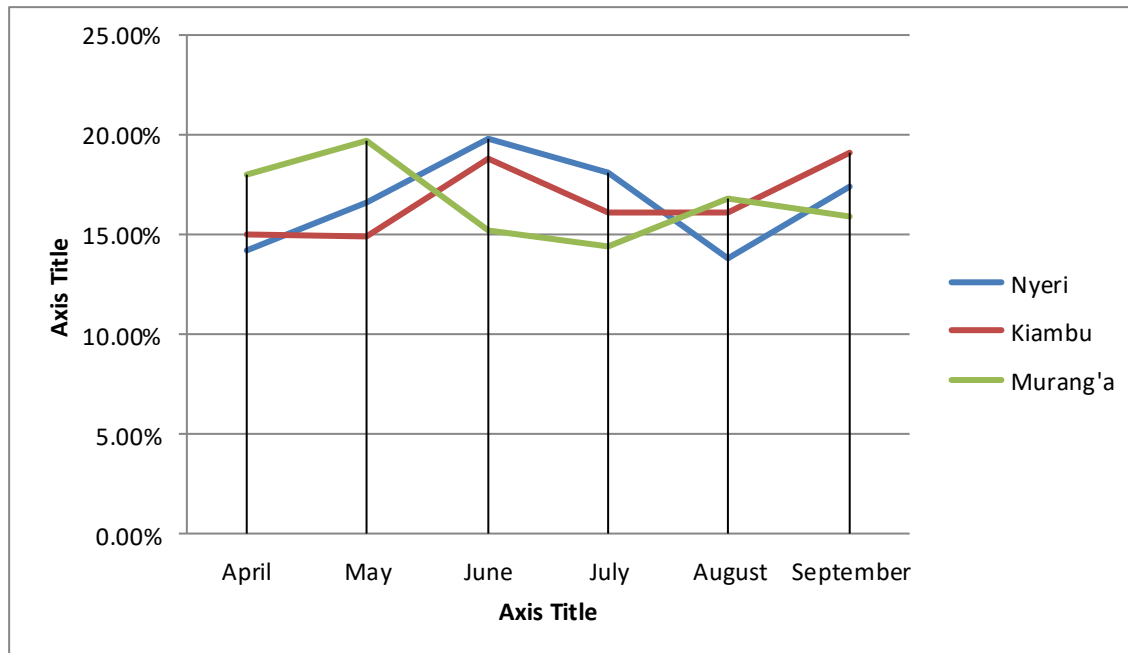


Figure 9: Comparative analysis of crime in central region

The findings are consistent with empirical evidence on alcohol consumption reduction and crime levels. According to a study by WHO on preventing violence by reducing the availability and harmful use of alcohol, countries which have put measures to reduce alcohol consumption have recorded low numbers of reported crime cases³⁸. The study found that in Sweden, the Stockholm Prevents Alcohol and Drug Problems partnership implemented measures such as responsible training for bar staff, training of door supervisors in conflict management and increased enforcement of licensing legislation and subsequent evaluations showed that it reduced violent crimes by 29%³⁹.

Other countries covered in the study also included Australia, where restrictions on day-time sales of alcohol have been used in Aboriginal communities to reduce harm linked to alcohol. For example, in the town of Halls Creek all sales of packaged alcohol were banned prior to midday and specific regulations were applied to cask wine, which could only be sold between 16:00 and

³⁸WHO (2009). Violence prevention the evidence. Preventing violence by reducing the availability and harmful use of alcohol. Retrieved from: http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/alcohol.pdf on 3rd October, 2015

³⁹ibid

18.00, with purchases limited to one case per person per day⁴⁰. The study found that these measures were associated with decreased alcohol consumption over two years following implementation of the restrictions, and with lower levels of crime and emergency evacuations for injury⁴¹. In Norway also, increased density of alcohol outlets (number of public drinking premises per 10,000 inhabitants) between 1960 and 1995 was found to be associated with higher numbers of violent crimes investigated by police⁴². An increase of one alcohol outlet seemed to correspond to an increase of 0.9 assaults investigated each year⁴³.

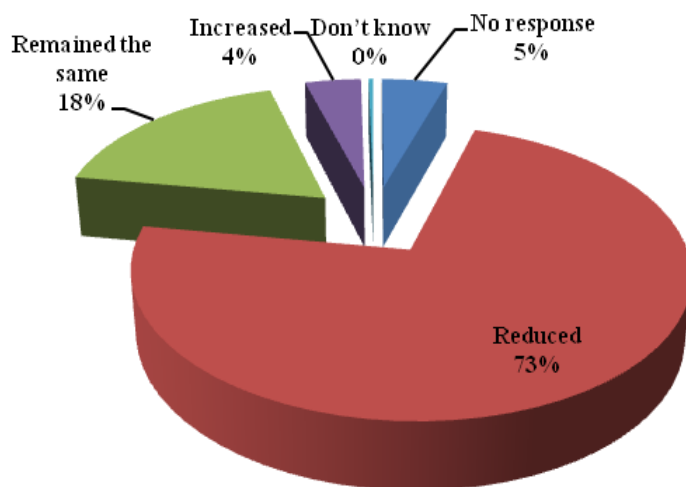


Figure 10: Level of crime after the presidential directive on illicit brews

2.4.4 Reasons for Crime Reduction

On the reasons for crime reduction following the presidential directive, majority of respondents (19%) posited that alcohol outlets had reduced thus reducing on opportunities for crime planning and profiling. Another group (15.3%) felt that cheap alcohol was no-longer available and therefore most of them were unable to afford other types of alcohol available in the market and finally, 13.3% of respondents reported that police were more vibrant in enforcing laws on drinking hours and arresting sellers and consumers of “second generation” alcohol. The few alcohol outlets and the lack of money to buy the perceived expensive alcohol pointed to reduced

⁴⁰ Douglas M. Restriction of the hours of sale of alcohol in a small community: a beneficial impact. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 1998, 22:714–719

⁴¹Ibid

⁴²Norstrom T. Outlet density and criminal violence in Norway, 1960–1995. Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 2000; 61:907–911.

⁴³Ibid

opportunities for planning and execution of crime and also the few-would-otherwise-be victims since most people would not drink beyond the stipulated time.

The police vibrancy was attributed to the presidential directive. The directive seemed to have stirred police to work harder, especially on enforcement. This particular finding however arouses particular interest, since it points to the existence of some degree of a combination of complicity, compromise or sloppiness on the part of the security officers to enforce the law to the letter. According to key informant interviews conducted across the three counties, cases of some police officers enforcing laws discriminatingly were mentioned in a situation where some illegal merchants would be spared and allowed to operate beyond stipulated drinking hours. This was properly captured by a law enforcement officer in Kiambu who pointed out that:

“Cases of police officers being “pocketed” by merchants/traders in the prohibited substances or even allowing them to operate beyond the legally allowed drinking hours are very common but we are doing our best to control the menace”⁴⁴

| Reasons for crime reduction after presidential directive on illicit brews | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Do not know | 10 | 3.3% |
| Not applicable/ no response | 147 | 49% |
| Few alcohol outlets | 57 | 19% |
| Police vibrancy (enforcement of laws on drinking hours) | 40 | 13.3% |
| Lack of money to buy expensive alcohol | 46 | 15.3% |
| Total | 300 | 100% |

Table 10: Reasons for crime reduction after the presidential directive on illicit brews

2.4.5 Intervention Strategies

On what more the area leadership could do to control illegal brewing and excessive consumption of alcohol, an overwhelming majority felt that there was need to enact sufficient legislations and

⁴⁴Remark by a key informant in Kiambu county while commenting on the perceived police laxity to enforce laws on drinking hours and illegal merchants/ traders

ensure enforcement of the same. Other measures mentioned included empowerment of LEAs with sufficient resources to be able to conduct swoops and patrols as deterrent measures (6%), to stop taking or giving bribes (4%) and also finding means of engaging the youth (5%).

According to the key informant interviews, the ongoing NYS engagement could be a great means of getting youths involved in development activities. This was well captured by a key informant from Kiambu who commented that:

“Our youth are involved in most of crime incidences and consumption of illicit brews even sometimes beyond the stipulated drinking hours. We are grateful to the government for the NYS project which kept most youth occupied for some period of time, especially in Ndumberi. It is our wish that the same project is extended to cover other areas within Kiambu so as to keep youth busy, reduce idleness and hence crime”⁴⁵

It was interesting to note that there were some respondents who felt that the existing mechanisms were sufficient in controlling illegal brewing and excessive consumption of alcohol as indicated by 6% of the sampled respondents. This could be understood to mean that the presidential directive on illicit brew and subsequent activities by law enforcement officers and some politicians in cracking down illicit brew was somehow effective. In some cases however, some politicians were found to be involved in some kind of conspiracy to hide and protect some individuals who reportedly enjoyed immunity during the recently concluded crackdown.

| Means of controlling illegal brewing and excessive alcohol consumption | Frequency | Percentage |
|--|-----------|------------|
| The existing mechanisms are sufficient | 17 | 6 |
| Punitive action on law breakers | 127 | 42 |
| Enforce <i>Mututho</i> laws to the letter | 112 | 37 |
| LEA to be empowered | 18 | 6 |
| Stop giving/ taking bribes | 12 | 4 |

⁴⁵Assertions by a key informant in Kiambu County. Interview held on 2nd October, 2015

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Find means of engaging the youth | 14 | 5 |
| Total | 300 | 100 |

Table 11: Means of controlling illegal brewing and excessive consumption of alcohol

3. Conclusion

The study sought to establish the impact of alcohol consumption on crime commission in central Kenya and targeted Kiambu, Nyeri and Murangá counties. It was premised on three objectives which were: to establish crime situation in the counties, determine alcohol induced types of crime and finally establish whether the presidential directive on alcohol consumption has had an impact on the levels of crime in these areas.

The study concludes that crime was a security concern in the three counties. The most common types of crime were found to be theft, robbery, illegal brewing of alcohol, break-ins (mainly in the town centres), rape/sodomy and cases of domestic violence. In terms of alcohol induced crime cases, it was clear that alcohol contributed to most of the crime cases reported. Domestic violence was reported to be the most common induced criminal offense, followed by theft and assault. These findings tended to imply that alcohol abuse increased chances of a spouse being violent. The findings also seemed to agree with many other studies conducted in different countries on influence of alcohol consumption on crime commission. It is therefore imperative to note that any measure or strategy put in place to regulate alcohol consumption will mostly likely translate to reduced crime cases, not only in central region of Kenya but across the country.

According to reports from key informants interviewed in the duration of the study, it was clear that majority of people serving terms in prisons and in remands awaiting trial committed various offenses while under influence of alcohol or other forms of drugs. It was also clear that drinking of alcohol exposes people to crime and also that most of crime cases were planned and even sometimes executed from bars and other entertainment joints.

On whether the presidential directive had an impact on crime levels, an overwhelming majority of respondents reported that crime cases had actually reduced and alcohol consumption reduced considerably. This finding was further reinforced by statistics from NPS which showed a reduction of crime cases between June and September, 2015 following the presidential directive. The reduction was attributed to reduced alcohol dispensing outlets, reduced supply of the “second generation” alcohol and lack of money to buy expensive alcohol and police vibrancy in enforcing laws governing alcohol supply and consumption in the sampled areas.

4. Recommendations

In order to ensure appropriate action, this study adopted a sector based recommendations as presented here-below.

4.1 To the Government

1. Empower chiefs and other LEAs with resources to effectively control supply, consumption and commission of crime: This includes increasing patrol vehicles or motor bikes and fuel to match with the geographic coverage, nature of the local terrain, settlement patterns and other demographical considerations. Residents expressed well-founded reservations that fight against the drinking phenomenon was likely to falter unless the police and other LEAs maintained vigilance round the clock, including conducting beats and patrols within their areas of jurisdiction. In this regard, police physical visibility was thought to have a huge impact in controlling the menace, especially when they resulted in culprits being apprehended, prosecuted and, where proven guilty, convicted or otherwise punished.
2. Addressing corruption: This study takes cognizance of the government commitment to vet and weed up corrupt police officers. The exercise has already been concluded for the senior cadre and recommends speedy cascading of the exercise to the lower ranks. The study also recommends that chiefs also be subjected to vetting and performance contracting which in sync with the current government policy to enhance productivity and accountability.
3. Improve working co-ordination among LEAs: The survey revealed the existence of glaring gaps in information-sharing between and among LEAs in the three study sites. Safe for the routine monthly county security committee (CSC) forums, there was no evidence of the existence of a structured horizontal intelligence sharing among them. This study reckons that these communication gaps were being exploited by the illicit dealers to promote their nefarious activities and businesses, and as such must be sealed as a matter of urgency by establishing an inter-agency communications framework complete with a robust command and control structure.

4. Impartial enforcement of the relevant laws: It has been posited in countless crime reports that the degree to which laws and regulations are enforced regardless of the alleged offender's social, political or economic standing in effect determines the effectiveness of the law to act as a deterrent. This recommendation is in sync with the theory that deterrence of a criminal activity depends on the most part on the culprit's conviction that their actions will definitely attract inevitable, immediate, certain punishment.
5. NACADA should be strengthened including ensuring they have presence in all the counties. As the old adage goes - prevention is better and cheaper than cure; increasing the presence of NACADA in many different counties would make it easy for the authority to reach out to bigger masses in providing preventive education, raising public awareness, equipping the youth with desirable/ survival life skills, treatment, rehabilitation and psycho-social support.
6. Response to public complaints to IAU and other statutory oversight agencies (IPOA) and CAJ: There was a perception that reporting crime or complaints to LEAs, including police amounted to an exercise in futility, since such pro-active actions hardly resulted in corrective action being taken by the relevant authorities. To cure this "weak link", it is recommended that oversight statutory agencies, principally IPOA and the Commission on Administration of Justice (CAJ) – otherwise known as the office of the Ombudsman, be decentralized to at least county levels to enable citizens to lodge their complaints within reasonable timelines.
7. Stop unwarranted and indiscriminate harassment of youth: Young males complained that they were being unfairly and routinely targeted and rounded up by police and other LEAs whenever a criminal activity was reported. This breeds an attitude of bitterness and negative profiling, and is bound to entrench an anti-establishment mind-set within the aggrieved social group. One way to overcome this challenge is to adopt an intelligence-led policing devoid of stereotyping or prejudice.
8. Initiate thorough investigations on alleged cases of police officers collaborating with /protecting criminals elements: A stream of allegations were made by the respondents

against the police and other LEAs to the effect that the officers would sometimes ‘turn a blind eye’ to persons who are known to be criminals in exchange for kickbacks, otherwise referred to as “protection fees”. It was reasoned that such a dalliance militated against the preservation of law and order, besides breeding impunity and exposing whistle blowers to possible reprisals.

9. Sustain crack down on “second generation” alcohol. The study noted a remarkable reduction of crime incidences immediately after the presidential directive. This is a clear indication that the crackdown had a positive effective on crime. It was also noted that the gains were quickly being lost with September showing sudden increase in crime. This calls for sustainability of efforts put in place during the month of June when the directive was issued.
10. Increasing the number of police officers and rationalizing their deployment to match local security imperatives could lead to the improvement in the efficiency or even response time to reported crime. All the law enforcement officers/ agents interviewed in the study decried of the police shortage in terms of effectively policing their respective areas of jurisdiction.
11. Community Sensitization programmes: Awareness should be created on the impact of alcohol abuse, security issues, importance of community policing (including *Nyumba kumi* initiative) on the family and society at large. This can be done through barazas, workshops and seminars. This should be a joint effort between the church, administrators, youth groups and women groups. Such civic education programming should of necessity be designed and delivered in a manner that links security directly to communities’ own welfare and overall development – and not a distant, abstract concept.
12. The existing laws on illicit liquor have not deterred people from abusing it. The laws should be revised and penalties on those who abuse alcohol, brew illicit alcohol and even people found to engage in criminal behaviours’ to be made more punitive.

4.2 To Individuals/Community

1. Report crimes: it is imperative for the public to cultivate a culture of reporting all forms of crime to the police and share all information leading to apprehension of law breakers and other suspicious individuals and also ensure they follow all the reported cases to conclusion. The Witness Protection Act which was recently enacted has sufficient provisions to insulate whistle blowers to share information in confidence.
2. Report strangers and form neighbourhood watch groups: Considering the nature of settlement patterns and the fact that there are strong social and kinship ties, it is relatively tenable that neighbourhood watch groups are formed to help strengthen public-police partnership in fighting crime.
3. Learn martial arts/ self-defence techniques for personal security. Individuals should learn some tips on how to protect themselves from possible attacks as a means of ensuring or boosting individual security.
4. Repair relations with significant others – including relatives, friends, family, spouse and so on. This will ensure re-integration of ex-convicts or recovering drunkards back into the society.
5. Faith based organizations to spearhead promotion of good morals, positive values and integrity especially among the youth. Negative peer pressure seemed to play a big part in leading the youth to excessive drinking which seemed to have impact on commission of crime. To counter this there is need to ensure that faith based organizations play their role in imparting good morals and values to the youth.
6. Join social support groups. It is assumed that, this will help alcohol addicts and ex-convicts in the recovery and re-integration processes – especially moral support and encouragement in cases of relapses.

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