NATIONAL CRIME RESEARCH CENTRE

CRIMINALITY IN KENYA IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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FOREWORD

Crime has far-reaching effects on a country's social, political and economic well-being. Its control and prevention therefore becomes an important priority to the government of Kenya in order to propel the realization of the country's development agenda as defined in Vision 2030 and the Medium-Term Plan 2018-2022 which the Government has prioritized in the Big Four Agenda.

This study aimed to find out: crimes that escalated, forms of gender-based violence that were experienced and witnessed, forms of children rights violations witnessed, forms of girl child disempowerment witnessed, victims and perpetrators of crimes that escalated during the COVID-19 period and came up with their possible interventions.

The study has shown that there was an escalation of certain types of crimes and particularly cases of gender-based violence, girl child disempowerment and violations of children's rights during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. The escalation is projected to increase post COVID-19 uncertainties and predications. Therefore, the Government's response to reverse this trend must be relentless and corresponding to match the magnitude of this challenge. His Excellency, the President pronounced himself on this matter during the ninth State address on the COVID-19 pandemic, delivered on the 6th July, 2020 and called for a probe into the apparent escalation in cases of violence against women and girls, the disempowerment of the girl-child and violations of children's rights.

Gender-based violence, abuse of children rights and disfranchise of girl child are a violation of fundamental rights with respect to dignity, equality and justice. Despite numerous efforts to counter such violence, it remains an extensive and widely under-reported human rights abuse with young women and children being particularly vulnerable. These cases erodes the social fabric that hold the family, community and society, which further pose a threat to the State.

The study findings will provide policy makers with a comprehensive understanding of the situation, make available empirical evidence for sustainable interventions that will strengthen the protection of the Nation. I therefore call upon the concerted efforts of all stakeholders to facilitate implementation of the findings and recommendations of the study.

ACKNOWLEGEDMENTS

OPERATIONAL DEFINATIONS OF TERMS

Criminality: Refer to the tendency or predisposition to engage in criminal or antisocial acts

Emerging Crimes: Referred to crimes that become prominent due to the coming up of COVID 19 pandemic

Escalating crimes: Referred to crimes whose increase could be attributed to the emergency of COVID 19 pandemic

Gender-based Violence: Referred to harmful act perpetrated against a person's will that is based on their gender.

Forms of disempowerment for girl child: Referred to ways in which a girl child is deprived opportunity, power and authority to progress in life and achieve their best

Child rights violations: Referred to the forms of abuse perpetrated against child.

Victims: Referred to categories of individuals or institutions affected directly or indirectly by crimes during COVID period

Perpetrators: Referred to groups and/or categories of individuals who directly or indirectly commits or aids in committing a crime for private gains.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABC News division of Walt Disney Television's ABC broadcast network.

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics

AHTCPU Anti-Human Trafficking and Children Protection Unit

COVID 19 Coronavirus disease is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

CPT Crime Pattern Theory (CPT)

DCI Directorate of Criminal Investigations

FGM Female Genital Mutilation

GBV Gender-based Violence

GI-TOC Global Initiative against Organized Transnational Crimes

GTS General Strain Theory (GST) of Crime.

KHIS Kenya Health Information System

KII Key Informants Interviews

NGAO National Government Administration Officers

NCRC National Crime Research Centre

NPS National Police Services

RAT Routine Activities Theory

USA United States of America

VACS Violence Against Children Survey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Crime poses various consequences to economic and social prosperity of a nation and subsequently at the community and individual level. These effects of crimes are likely to be overshadowing during a pandemic due to uncertainties and unpredictability that comes with it. Reports on emerging and escalating of some types of crimes are alarming, coupled with the challenge of data on crime prevalence during a pandemic. Against this background the study sought to: establish the crimes that had emerged and escalated during the COVID 19 period; establish the forms of gender-based violence during the COVID 19 period; establish the forms of violations of children's rights during the COVID 19 period; establish the forms girls child disempowerment during the COVID 19 period and establish the victims and perpetrators of crimes during COVID 19 period.

This study adopted a mixed-method approach where both quantitative and qualitative data was collected. Sample respondents were drawn from the members of the public, Key informants were sampled purposively and drawn from the following institutions: National Police Service, National Government Administrative Officers, County Government Administration Enforcement Directorates, Probation and After Care, Department of Children Services, Judiciary, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, National Intelligence Service, Kenya Prisons Service, Public Health, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service and Private Security Regulatory Authority/Agencies.

Key findings

Escalating crimes during COVID 19 period
This study established that the major crimes that had escalated during the period were either gender-based violence including violations of children rights and opportunist crimes. The study sought to identify the crimes that escalated due to the outbreak of COVID 19, the study findings shows the following crimes had escalated due to pandemic: The crimes that were mentioned by more than 10% of the respondents were: stealing (32.7%); burglary and house breakings (22.5%); child abuse (17.0%); possession of drugs including illicit brews (16.3%); gender-based violence and defilement both at (15.1%); being drunk and disorderly 13.6%; theft of stock (including cattle rustling)13.4%; robbery (including mugging)10.6%. On the other hand sampled respondents also mentioned crimes that had least escalation in the same period, they include: attempted defilement, attempted suicide, hate speech/incitement, traffic offences and arson. These crimes were mentioned by less than three people of the sampled population. The county analysis shows that escalation of crimes varied across counties, with all the top 3 crimes that had the highest escalation nationally that is - stealing, burglary and house breaking and child abuse stealing - escalating in all the 47 counties. This points out to the need by the government through various security agencies to put preventive mesures in place so as to enhance preparedness in times of an eventuality such as health pandemic.

Forms of Gender-based Violence that were experienced\witnessed during the COVID 19 period

The study findings confirmed that GBV was in deed happening during the period, based on the response rate of experiencing and witnessing of these types of crimes. The most prevalent forms of GBV were: : Assault (65.7%); creating disturbance (41.1%); defilement (29.7%); child neglect (28.5%); grievous bodily harm (22.0%); threatening to kill (18.2%); Rape (17.1%); malicious damage to property (13.5%); robbery with violence (11.6%); sexual communication with a child (11.6%); performing FGM (11.2%) and attempted suicide (10.3%). On the other hand domestic violence (0.9%); gang defilement 1.6%) and trafficking of persons (1.6%) were the least occurring forms of GBV

Forms of violations of children's rights witnessed during the COVID 19 period

The various forms of violations of children's rights that were prominent, during the period include: child pregnancy (72.6%); defilement (42.9%); child marriage (42.0%); drug and substance abuse (40.9%) and child neglect (40.4%); child out of school (36.2%); sexual exploitation and abuse (30.4%); child labor (25.7%); physical abuse/violence (22.6%); emotional Abuse (13.7%); child Abandonment (13.3%) and female Genital Mutilation (13.0%).

Forms of disempowerment for Girl child during the COVID 19 period

The study findings confirmed that forms of disempowerment for girl child were happening in the society during the pandemic period, the most prevalent forms that were highly reported include: child pregnancy (73.6%); child marriage (45.0%); defilement (42.1%); child out of school (41.5%) and child neglect 36.2%; drug and substance abuse (32.9%); sexual exploitation and abuse (30.9%); child labor (21.4%); physical Abuse/violence (19.2%); female Genital Mutilation (13.8%); emotional Abuse (13.0%); child Abandonment (11.0%).

Victims and perpetrators of crimes that had emerged and escalated during the COVID 19 Period

The study findings shows that a majority of crime victims were women (72.6%) followed closely by children at (60.5%).The least affected by crimes were the sick and disabled people at (0.4%) and (0.1%) respectively. Majority perpetrators of crimes were youths at (82.2%), and in terms of gender respondents confirmed that males were the majority (60.2%).On the other hand children and the elderly were the least mentioned as perpetrators of crimes (10.3 %) and (6.1%) respectively.

Key Policy Recommendations

From the findings this study therefore recommends:

i.   Deliberate effort to protect women and children in times of pandemic which can be spearheaded by the office of the women representative at the county level.

ii. Department of gender to fast track provision of rescue centres and safe spaces for victims of GBV and child rights violations to enable them to freely report the crimes, in addition these services should be scaled up in the face of disasters such as a heath pandemic.

iii. Department of Children Services should scale up awareness campaigns to the community to provide access to information on the available protection services for abused children.

iv. There is need for the department of youth affairs, the office of the president, directorate of planning (treasury) to ensure continuity of economic programs targeting youths to ensure sustainabilty .

v. The unique prevalence of crimes in counties calls for county specific crime prevention strategies by the National Security Agencies and a collaboration with county governments to address crime in times of a pandemic.

vi. The National Police Service to expand community policing initiatives, this to increase the presence of community police officers in high-crime areas to build relationships with residents and gather intelligence on criminal activities

vii. The National Crime Research Centre to invest in data-driven approaches, leverage data analytics and technology to identify crime patterns in order to inform crime prevention policies through recommendations to the relevant agencies.

viii. The private sector should be engaged in crime prevention efforts through initiatives like neighborhood watch programs, corporate social responsibility projects, and collaborations to address specific crime challenges

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Globally, countries continue to experience the spread of the novel coronavirus, as it continues to spread across the world, the end affects are felt on the social, economic, security and other sectors. These impacts of the pandemic will continue to be experienced across communities and will in the end affect how society carries out their daily activities. One aspect of society that the pandemic will influence and continue to shape is criminality. The Global Initiative against Trans-National Organized Crimes noted that, how institutions respond to the pandemic will affect criminal networks and how law-enforcement counters these networks.

Kenya, like other countries of the world, is grappling with the problem of coronavirus pandemic since its onset on March, 2020. The developmental threats posed by the COVID-19 disease and especially with the rising number of people testing positive for the disease in the country necessitated unprecedented mitigation measures. The 7.00pm - 5.00am countrywide curfew and restricted movement in and out of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi counties imposed by the Government were intended to flatten the disease's curve within the shortest time possible. However, this necessary move came with its crime-related challenges which therefore calls for proper planning. The restrictions imposed in order to control the COVID-19 disease have majorly had social and economic impacts all of which have a direct and/or indirect influence on crime in the country.

1.1.1 Global context

Around the world COVID 19 continues to impact on crimes and illicit economies such as organized crime, terrorism, street crime, online crime, illegal markets and smuggling, human and wildlife trafficking, slavery, robberies and burglaries. It may have reduced crimes and especially organized crimes but it may also have created an opportunity for other crimes that criminals may exploit.

According to a research carried out by the Australia National University, a survey of 20 dark-web markets showed that criminal actors were selling supposed vaccines and antidotes and other repurposed medicines, in addition they were also giving personal protective equipment, tests and other forms of diagnostic (ABC News, 29 April 2020). In the USA, analysis of crime data by USA TODAY measuring the impact of pandemic on crime showed a decrease in crime incidences in the last two weeks of the month of March 2020 compared to the previous weeks. In addition, there was a decrease in crime incidences in the same year from 19 agencies out of 20 a survey carried out by the same agency. Interestingly there was a surge in domestic disturbances and violence by 20% in the same period.

In Sweden researchers observed that crime dropped by 5.5% in the five weeks after government introduction to restrictions in the country; particularly the crimes that had decreased included; residential burglary, commercial burglary and instances of pickpocketing

(Gerell et al, 2020). Measures such social distancing and lockdowns, impacted on violent street crime, which is often linked to organized criminal activity. For example, in Mexico, murder rates which had been a concern the previous year dramatically decreased from the national average of 81 per day to 54 after the COVID 19 containment measures were put in place (GI-TOC, 2020).

According to Global Initiative against Organized Transnational Crimes (GI-TOC, 2020) some of the observable trends during the COVID 19 Pandemic around the globe were: criminals using opportunities created by the disease to scale up their operations as the efforts of police and other policy makers were concerted elsewhere; emergency of cybercrimes which have a possibility of enhancing growth of criminal markets; constraining of some criminals due to social distancing and travel restrictions hence criminals would take time to re-establish; and organized criminal groups exploiting opportunities and especially in the health sector. Other observable trends is in the increase of some forms of violence and especially gender-based violence which has been highlighted by various media reports, for instance in Australia it was observed that victims of domestic violence safety were at risk, this was further compounded by the impact of social distancing which affected victims ability to seek help (Morton, 2020; Nancarrow, 2020; Pfitzner, Fitz-Gibbon & True 2020).

1.1.2 African perspective

Threats to peace, security and development have continued to affect Africa and with the effects of COVID 19 the situation is likely to aggravate. The economic impacts of the pandemic are expected to be severe in African countries and ultimately bring disruption, this is likely to further worsen unemployment, poverty and inequality which would impact on safety and security in the continent. Recently, many countries in Africa are seeing a significant change in crime patterns and criminality, and with a pandemic, organized criminal groups are likely to take advantage of the health crisis and economic repercussion to intensify their criminal networks especially in the field of cybercrimes, corruption in the health sector and human trafficking.

The introduced measures of containing the pandemic that is, social distancing and lockdowns seems to have an immediate effect on reduced opportunity to commit crime in some countries. South Africa is known to be among countries with high crime rates in the world, during the COVID 19 period the crime rate dropped by 40% during the first three months of lockdown compared to the same period last year according to reports by BBC in August 2020, officials in the country attributed it to the ban in alcohol sales. Interestingly, South Africa is one of African countries affected largely by the disease (carries more than half the number of cases reported in Africa). In Nigeria petty crimes had increased which was attributed to lockdown hardship and release of prisoners (Favaro, 2020).

1.1.3 Kenyan Perspective

Crime brings not only insecurity challenges in a country, but also it affects the social, economic and political pillars of development. In Kenya the first case of the virus was

reported in March 2019, and since then the government has put in place measures to combat the virus. Measures that have been put in place by the government include the new guidelines derived from various legislations to try to control and prevent the spread of Corona virus. Just like other parts of public sphere the new laws and guidelines on containment of the virus have disrupted the social scene, the administration of justice, access to legal remedies and dispute resolution.

Measures such as restrictions of movement, curfew, put pressure on National Police officers which presents a likelihood of criminals taking advantage of the situation. This is because they know very well the security apparatus are strained and overwhelmed thus commit run away crimes. Normally, there are business that's operates 24 hours and with the curfew, criminals can take advantage and break into shops. Previous crime reports for instance NCRC (2016, 2018) crime mapping surveys shows that some forms of crimes have been on an increase trend; possession of drugs and/or illicit brew had increased between from 13.3% in 2016 to 17.2% in 2018.There is a likely hood of increase in such crimes during the pandemic period. Previous evidence has shown that the crimes of drug trafficking and especially bhangs have always been disguised with other items. COVID 19 presents an opportunity for such crimes to escalate as there is a possibility of traffickers disguising them in food items especially in areas where police are understaffed or concentrating on curfews and restrictions of movement.

Media reports have painted a picture of increased crimes of gender-based violence especially against women, besides, evidence on women being majority victims of gender-based violence has been overshadowing (ABS, 2017). Nairobi news gave reports on the same, for instance in October a father who was arrested for defiling his 14 years old daughter whom he was living with in Raila slums Langata sub-county (Ndunda, J. August 15th, 2020). Elsewhere, in Membly estate Ruiru sub-county three persons were arrested for defiling a minor and raping a house help before killing her (Kimuyu, H. October 20th, 2020).

According to (NCRC 2016, 2018) the five major drivers of crime include poverty and unemployment, alcohol, drugs and substances abuse, idleness and illiteracy. These drivers push people to engage in crime and especially poverty and employment where people try to earn a living by diverging in criminal activities. With the pandemic, the situation is likely to worsen as the economic implications of the lockdown continue to be experienced. This brings concern on levels of crime in the future. The prediction is that there is a likelihood of escalation of crime and insecurity as poverty and unemployment levels increases.

1.2 Problem Statement

COVID-19 pandemic influenced the overall crime rates in Kenya as there were reports of increasing criminality in the society. Crime rates changed during the pandemic, particularly in relation to different types of crimes, such as property crimes, cybercrime, domestic violence, and others. Media reports on emergence of some types of crimes were alarming. There was an increase in reports of Gender-based Violence and especially where children and women were the main victims, yet, these are the foundation of a stable Kenyan family,

and hence the nation. In addition, data from police showed cases of gender-based violence between January and June 2020 had increased to 92.2% compared to the same period in 2019 (NCRC, 2020). Likewise, the ministry of health data uploaded on Kenya Health Information Systems (KHIS, 2020) documented an increase in cases of teen pregnancies. In the said period, 8,264 cases were recorded for teenagers between the ages of 10-14 and 153,848 cases for teenagers between the ages of 15-19. This was an indication that cases of violations of children's rights were on the rise during the pandemic period.

Crime poses various consequences to economic and social prosperity of a nation and subsequently at the community and individual level. These effects of crimes are likely to be overshadowing during a pandemic due to uncertainties and unpredictability created by it. Law enforcement agencies faced challenges in effectively responding to and preventing crimes during the COVID-19 period. This was due to factors that include; resource limitations, redirection of personnel to pandemic-related tasks, reduced police presence in public spaces, and difficulties in maintaining routine patrols and investigations.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic had presented unique challenges to Kenya's criminal justice system, exacerbating existing issues of criminality and creating new dynamics in the commission of crimes. The country's response to the public health crisis, including lockdowns, restrictions on movement, and socioeconomic disruptions, has had profound implications for crime rates, patterns, and the effectiveness of crime prevention and control strategies. Therefore, it was crucial to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on criminality in Kenya and understand the specific challenges it poses to inform targeted interventions and policy responses. It's from the backdrop that the Centre conducted a comprehensive field-based study in order to: establish the crimes that had escalated; establish the forms of gender-based violence; establish the forms of violations of children's rights; establish the forms girls child disempowerment; establish the victims and perpetrators of these crimes and further recommend crime reduction approaches in the country during the pandemic period

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 Overall objective of the Study

The broad objective of the proposed study was to map and analyze crime incidents and patterns across the country during the COVID 19 pandemic in order to inform crime prevention policies and contribute towards crime data.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

1. To establish the crimes that escalated during the COVID 19 period
2. To establish the forms of gender-based violence experienced and/or witnessed during the COVID 19 period
3. To establish the forms of violations of children's rights witnessed during the COVID 19 period

4. To establish the forms of girl child disempowerment witnessed during the COVID 19 period
5. To identify the victims and perpetrators of crimes that escalated during COVID 19 period

1.4 Justification of the Study

One of the major problems of crimes is that it has impacts on the internal security; it threatens peace and stability which can hamper the socio-economic and political integration of a country. The pandemic has brought unique challenges in the criminal justice agencies as there was reported rise in some home-based crimes and a reduction in other forms crimes across different parts of the country. This study also wanted to give a better understanding of these crime dynamics during the pandemic period through analysis of patterns and trends.

Kenyan government has allocated a lot of resources towards containment of the health pandemic that is affecting the whole world, crime and violence prevention has also gotten it share of resources and there is need to understand the successes in the interventions put in place. Hence the study was also assessing the interventions in crime prevention in a view to coming up with recommendations for future policy directions and especially in a wake of a pandemic or disaster.

1.5 Assumption of the Study

This study made the following assumptions:
1. Respondents would be willing to share experiences and provide relevant information concerning crime in their respective jurisdictions.
2. Criminal justice agencies and other stakeholders will be willing to share information and provide relevant data to assist in crime mapping across the country.

3. There are crime prevention strategies employed across the counties to address crimes.

4. There are crimes committed across the country and perpetrators have different methods of executing criminal activities

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study was a national study commissioned in all the 47 counties within the Republic of Kenya around administrative units sampled from 2019 Kenya population and Housing Census. The study examined crime patterns and trends nationally and by county; Victims and perpetrators of crimes; and recommend crime reduction approaches in the country during the COVID 19 pandemic.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

This study was hinged on two criminological theories, that is, Routine Activities Theory (RAT) and Crime Pattern Theory (CPT).

1.7.1 Routine Activity Theory

The Routine Activity Theory assumes that crime is likely to occur when three essential elements converge in time and space: a likely offender, a suitable target, and the absence of capable guardianship (Cohen & Felson, 1979). According to this theory, offenders and victims – or targets – usually meet during every day non-criminal routine activities (Brantingham & Brantingham, 1993). It is during these interactions that opportunities for crime commission occur. In the context of the COVID-19 period, Routine Activity Theory can help explain how changes in routine activities and the availability of targets and guardians may have influenced crime patterns.

Changes in Routine Activities: Crime pattern theory emphasizes the significance of routine activities, such as work, school, and leisure, in shaping crime patterns. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted these routines significantly, with widespread lockdowns, stay-at-home orders, and remote work arrangements. These changes altered the opportunities for certain types of crimes, such as thefts and burglaries, as there were fewer potential targets available in public spaces and more people at home during typical crime-prone hours.

Availability of Suitable Targets: The pandemic and associated restrictions had impacted the availability of suitable targets for criminals. The closure of non-essential businesses, reduced foot traffic in public spaces, and a greater presence of people at home during typical crime-prone hours may have limited the opportunities for crimes that require physical proximity or access to specific locations. However, certain targets, such as vacant commercial properties or homes left unattended due to travel restrictions, may have become more attractive to offenders. Moreover, the increased demand for certain goods, such as personal protective equipment or COVID-19-related medications, may have led to theft or fraud targeting these specific items.

Absence of Capable Guardians: Routine Activity Theory emphasizes the role of capable guardians in deterring or preventing crimes. During the COVID-19 period, the presence and effectiveness of guardians, such as law enforcement, security personnel, and community members, may have been influenced by various factors. The redirection of law enforcement resources to enforce pandemic-related regulations, reduced police presence in public spaces, and limitations on community engagement due to social distancing measures may have decreased the perceived risk of apprehension among offenders. Moreover, the fear of infection or the focus on personal safety might have deterred potential guardians from engaging in informal surveillance or crime prevention activities.

1.7.2 Crime Pattern Theory

Correspondingly, Crime Pattern Theory tries to explain the distribution of crime across spaces. This theory considers how people's everyday activities influence their awareness spaces and, in the case of offenders, how this influences their spatial decision-making when it comes to offending (Brantingham & Brantingham, 2013). According to this theory, it is where offender awareness spaces overlap with suitable opportunities for crime that they are most expected to engage in crime. Changes in society may increase (or reduce) the number of

potential targets while separating (or uniting) them from (or with) the people who can protect them - handlers, guardians, and managers (Brantingham &Brantingham, 2003).

During the COVID-19 period, crime pattern theory can provide insights into how the pandemic might have affected criminal activity. While the specific impact may vary depending on the region and other local factors, some general patterns and explanations can be considered:

Changes in Crime Patterns: The pandemic's economic, social, and psychological impact may have also influenced the types of crimes committed. For example, increased financial strain due to job losses or economic downturn could have led to an upsurge in property crimes, such as theft and burglary. Additionally, stress, anxiety, and uncertainty caused by the pandemic may have contributed to an increase in domestic violence or other forms of interpersonal conflicts.

Shifts in Target Availability: With the closure of non-essential businesses and reduced foot traffic in commercial areas, criminals may have shifted their focus to alternative targets. For example, there were reports of increased online fraud and cybercrime during the pandemic, as more people relied on remote work, online shopping, and digital communication. Additionally, the scarcity of essential goods, such as hand sanitizers and face masks, led to incidents of theft and price gouging.

Displacement and Diffusion of Crime: Crime pattern theory recognizes that the displacement of crime from one area to another is possible when opportunities or guardianship change. In the context of COVID-19, restrictions in certain areas may have led to the displacement of criminal activity to other locations that were less affected by the pandemic measures. Similarly, as law enforcement focused on enforcing pandemic-related regulations, other types of crimes may have experienced diffusion or spread to areas with less police attention.

CHAPTER TWO: STUDY METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines the study's research design which entails sampling design, sample size and locations of the study; sources of data and data collection methods; data collection tools and management; methods of data analysis and ethical considerations used in the study .

2.2 Research Design

This study was mainly a descriptive research design essentially to help understand and analyze crime in the various sampled areas and generalize at the country level.

2.2.1 Sampling of study areas

The study targeted all 47 counties in Kenya where 50% of the constituencies in each of the county were purposively selected. From the constituencies the wards were randomly selected putting into consideration the urban and rural areas for equal representation. A total of 4854 respondents were interviewed against a target of 5130 which was a 94.6% response rate. Table 2.1 illustrates the distribution of the samples.

Table 2. 1 Distribution of samples based on counties

County	Frequency	Percentage
Nairobi	526	10.8
Kiambu	323	6.7
Nakuru	232	4.8
Machakos	168	3.5
Mombasa	162	3.3
Bungoma	136	2.8
Meru	131	2.7
Murang'a	133	2.7
Kilifi	124	2.6
Uasin Gishu	127	2.6
Kisumu	125	2.6
Kajiado	122	2.5
Kisii	120	2.5
Kakamega	114	2.3
Homa Bay	110	2.3
Siaya	106	2.2
Makueni	96	2.0
Trans Nzoia	96	2.0
Migori	98	2.0
Kericho	87	1.8
Kitui	84	1.7
Nandi	83	1.7
Vihiga	77	1.6
Kwale	73	1.5
Tana River	71	1.5
Taita Taveta	71	1.5
Nyeri	73	1.5

County	Frequency	Percentage
Kirinyaga	74	1.5
Turkana	71	1.5
Narok	72	1.5
Lamu	69	1.4
Samburu	69	1.4
Garissa	62	1.3
Marsabit	63	1.3
Tharaka-Nithi	63	1.3
Nyandarua	64	1.3
West Pokot	61	1.3
Bomet	63	1.3
Nyamira	62	1.3
Wajir	58	1.2
Mandera	60	1.2
Elgeyo Marakwet	60	1.2
Baringo	58	1.2
Busia	60	1.2
Laikipia	50	1.0
Isiolo	41	0.8
Embu	6	0.1
Total	**4854**	**100.0**

2.2.2 Sampling of respondents

Sample respondents were drawn from the members of the public where random sampling was applied to select households in respective sampled study sites. For each sampled household an interview was conducted to any adult member of that household. The target of 5130 sample size was computed using the Kenya National Population and Housing Census 2019 statistics.

The Key informants were sampled purposively and drawn from the following institutions: National Police Service, National Government Administrative Officers, Probation and After Care, Department of Children Services, Judiciary and Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

2.3 Sources of data and data collection

2.3.1 Sources of data

The study utilized both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data was collected from the sample respondents and key informants. Secondary data was mainly collected from the National police Service and Department of Children Services. Literature was reviewed from authoritative materials relevant to the topical issues of the study.

2.3.2 Data collection methods

This study adopted a mixed-method approach where both quantitative and qualitative data was collected. Primary data was gathered using a questionnaire that gathered information directly from individuals or households about their experiences with crime during the period. A key informant guide was used to obtain information from informants knowledgeable in the

topic of study. Secondary data was collected from official records mainly from the National Police Service crime statistics and the Department of Children Services records. The records provided valuable data on the prevalence of crimes. These records provided information on the types of crimes, their frequency, and geographic locations. In addition, the study referred to the findings on a report on "Protecting the family in the time of COVID 19 pandemic: addressing the escalating cases of gender-based violence, girl child disempowerment and violation of children rights in Kenya," that was a precursor to this study.

2.4 Data Collection and management procedures

Data from sample respondents was collected using a comprehensive close ended and opened questionnaire while information from key informant was collected using an open-ended key informant's guide. The instruments of the study were pretested before the actual data collection to establish validity and reliability.

National Crime Research Centre (NCRC) engaged both internal and external researchers in the data collection process. The researchers were trained on the data collection tools and research ethics before the commencement of the actual data collection exercise. Upon completion of training, they were distributed according to the clusters and facilitated with the necessary resources for the fieldwork. Close monitoring and supervision of the data collection by the researchers and quality control of the exercise was undertaken by the cluster supervisors and the study coordinators. Finally, all data collected from the field was organized, cleaned, coded and analyzed at a final report produced.

2.5 Methods of Data Analysis

The study generated both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS version 32, by way of descriptive statistics and the information presented in distribution frequency and percentage tables and figures. Qualitative data was analyzed thematically based on the research objectives.

2.6 Ethical Considerations

The study was guided by the following ethical considerations:

1. Thorough training of researchers to equip them with adequate knowledge needed to conduct the research.
2. Researcher's sought consent from all respondents before the data collection exercise. No respondent was coerced to give out information.
3. Adherence to confidentiality of the data collected in terms of non-disclosure of shared information to non-authorized person.
4. Respect of socio-cultural, economic and political diversity of the respondents throughout the data collection exercise.
5. Use of appropriate language of communication, appropriate dressing and good code of behavior during the study.

6. The authority to collect data was sought from the related institutions before conducting the study.
7. During the whole process of data collection, the protocol of COVID -19 were adhered to.

CHAPTER THREE: RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1 Introduction

This chapter is organized into various sections that is: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of sample respondents, crimes that escalated, forms of gender-based violence that were experienced and witnessed, forms of children rights violations witnessed, forms of girl child disempowerment witnessed, victims and perpetrators of crimes that escalated during the COVID19 period and their possible interventions.

3.2 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Sample respondents

In this study a total of 4854 respondents were interviewed, a majority were males (59.7%), on the age category, majority were between the ages of 35-45 (27.1%), followed by 26-34 (22.3%). The highest level of education obtained by majority respondents who participated in the interviews was secondary education (38.4%) and those with no formal education were only (6.4%). Cumulatively, majority 86.8% of those interviewed had attained high level of education that is, secondary, middle level college and University, this could imply that most of the sampled respondents could understand and respond to the issues being discussed.

The findings of the study also show that majority 67.1% of the respondents had stayed within the areas of study for more than 13 years, this is an indication that the respondents understood the crime dynamics in their locality based on the number of years they had stayed in the study areas. It also shows that respondents could understand changes in crime dynamics brought about by the pandemic.

In terms of religion a majority of the respondents were Christians which is proportionate to the religious dynamics in the country. Kenyan is predominantly a Christian country as Census reports have shown over the years, this is an also indication that the distribution of samples was a representative of the population.

On the economic activities, a majority respondent was not in any formal employment, as 37.5% were business people and 23.3 % were subsistence farmers and they formed the majority. Table 3.1 below shows distribution of the demographic characteristics of the respondents.

Table 3. 1 Demographic characteristics of respondents

Characteristics	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	2893	59.7
	Female	1946	40.2
	Intersex	3	0.1
Age	18-25	474	9.8
	26-34	1072	22.3
	35-45	1303	27.1
	46-55	890	18.5
	56-65	652	13.5

Characteristics	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
	66+	426	8.8
Marital status	Single/Never Married	798	16.6
	Married	3656	75.9
	Separated	144	3.0
	Divorced	40	0.8
	Widowed	181	3.8
Highest level of education attained	None	307	6.4
	Primary	1564	32.4
	Secondary	1854	38.4
	Middle level college	771	16.0
	University	313	6.5
	Adult Literacy	13	0.3
Religion	Christian	4107	85.6
	Islam	692	14.4
	Hindu	1	0.0
Main occupation	Permanent employment-Public sector	160	3.3
	Permanent employment i-Private sector	360	7.5
	Casual/temporary employment in private sector	578	12.0
	Casual/temporary employment in public sector	214	4.5
	Business person	1801	37.5
	Subsistence Farming	1113	23.2
	Unemployed	527	11.0
	Retiree	33	0.7
	Student	9	0.2
	Housewife	3	0.1
Length of stay in the locality	Below one year	101	2.1
	1-3 years	281	5.8
	4-6 years	358	7.4
	7-9 years	325	6.7
	10-12 years	521	10.8
	13 and above	3234	67.1

3.3 Crimes that escalated during COVID 19 period

To study sought to find out if there were crimes that increased during the period, so the respondents of the study were asked to mention the crimes that had escalated during the period within their locality. This helped to analyze data from the areas visited to inform the percentage distribution of crimes across the country hence develop a national prevalence. The crimes that were mentioned by more than 10% of the respondents were: stealing (32.7%); burglary and house breakings (22.5%); child abuse (17.0%); possession of drugs including illicit brews (16.3%); gender-based violence and defilement both at (15.1%); being drunk and disorderly 13.6%; theft of stock (including cattle rustling)13.4%; robbery (including mugging)10.6%. On the other hand, sampled respondents also mentioned crimes that had least escalation in the same period, they include: attempted defilement, attempted suicide, hate speech/incitement, traffic offences and arson. These crimes were mentioned by less than three people of the sampled population. Table 3.2 below shows the results of the findings.

Table 3. 2 Crimes that escalated during COVID 19

Crimes that escalated during COVID 19	Responses	Percentage
Stealing	1393	32.7%
Burglary and House Breaking	959	22.5%
Child Abuse (including child neglect)	724	17.0%
Possession of drugs (including illicit brews)	695	16.3%
Gender-Based Violence (Including Domestic Violence)	645	15.1%
Defilement	643	15.1%
Being Drunk and Disorderly	580	13.6%
Theft of stock (including cattle rustling	571	13.4%
Robbery (Including mugging)	453	10.6%
Possession of narcotic drugs	295	6.9%
Robbery with Violence	267	6.3%
Theft of Farm Produce	248	5.8%
Rape	178	4.2%
Murder	85	2.0%
Drug Trafficking/Smuggling	66	1.5%
Loitering for prostitution (including child prostitution)	32	0.8%
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	29	0.7%
Creating Disturbance	24	0.6%
Corruption (soliciting for a bribe, receiving bribes, receiving gifts,)	24	0.6%
Attempted murder	21	0.5%
Fraud	16	0.4%
Violation of COVID 19 19 protocols	14	0.3%
Theft of motorcycle/ theft of motorcycle spare parts	11	0.3%
Attempted Rape	10	0.2%
Manslaughter	7	0.2%
Other offences against morality (including Homosexuality, Incest, Bestiality)	7	0.2%
Forgery	6	0.1%
Carjacking/hijacking	6	0.1%
Kidnapping and Abduction	6	0.1%
Gambling without license	6	0.1%
Attempted Robbery	5	0.1%
Illegal abortion	5	0.1%
Human Trafficking (Including Child trafficking)	4	0.1%
Cyber Crime	4	0.1%
Threatening to Kill	4	0.1%
Environment pollution and destruction	4	0.1%
Malicious damage to property	3	0.1%
Obtaining by false pretense	2	0.0%
Terrorism	2	0.0%
Poaching	2	0.0%
Destruction of Forest Produce (Logging)	2	0.0%
Infanticide	2	0.0%
Motor vehicle theft/ theft of motor vehicle parts)	2	0.0%
Trespass upon private land	2	0.0%
Handling stolen property/goods	2	0.0%
Attempted Defilement	1	0.0%

Crimes that escalated during COVID 19	Responses	Percentage
Attempted Suicide	1	0.0%
Hate Speech/incitement	1	0.0%
Traffic offences	1	0.0%
Arson	1	0.0%

3.3.1 County analysis of crimes that escalated during the COVID 19 period

To help understand the extent of crimes escalation in specify counties, a county-specific analysis of crimes was done. The analysis looked at the top three most escalated crimes nationally that is: stealing, burglary and house breaking and child abuse (including child neglect). The crime of stealing had the highest escalation in the following counties: Lamu (73.5%); Kilifi (57.0%); (Mombasa (49.5%); Machakos (43.5%); Makueni (50.0%); Mandera (44.1%); Bomet (55.9%); Narok (55.4%); Kisumu (41.1%) and Elgeyo Marakwet (37.3%).

The crime of burglary and breakings ranked second nationally and the top ten counties which had the highest escalation were: Embu (60.0%); Bomet (50.8%); Uasin Gishu (40.7%); Siaya (34.7%); Muranga (34.9%); Mombasa (37.5%); Nandi (33.3%); Baringo (32.1%); Narok (33.8%) and Kisumu (33.0%).

Child abuse ranked third escalating crime nationally, the top ten counties which had the highest escalation of child abuse include: West Pokot (70.3%); Taita Taveta (48.3%); Mombasa (47.4%); Tana River (38.2%); Turkana (34.5%); Lamu (32.4%); Migori (37.0%); Narok (36.9%); Elgeyo Marakwet (31.5%) and Trans-nzoia (40.2%).

Similarly, the findings capture crimes that had the highest escalation for each individual county. Of the three crimes with highest escalation. Gender-based Violence had the highest escalation in Mombasa County 55.3%, stealing had the highest escalation in Lamu 70.3% and child abuse including child neglect had the highest escalation in West Pokot 70.3%. Table 3.3 below illustrates the crimes that had the highest escalation in each county as shaded by a different color.

Table 3. 3 County analysis of crimes that escalated during the COVID 19 period

Crimes	Percentage responses of crimes that escalated in counties																							
	Mombasa	Kwale	Kilifi	Tana River	Lamu	Taita Taveta	Garissa	Wajir	Mandera	Marsabit	Isiolo	Meru	Tharaka-Nithi	Embu	Kitui	Machakos	Makueni	Nyandarua	Nyeri	Kirinyaga	Murang'a	Kiambu	Turkana	West Pokot
Gender-Based Violence(Including Domestic Violence)	55.3	8.8	12.4	2.9	7.4	3.2	32.3	0.0	5.9	5.3	3.7	29.8	23.3	0.0	26.7	7.8	2.2	11.5	7.5	5.6	4.7	12.8	10.3	5.4
Stealing	49.3	36.8	57.0	47.1	73.5	16.1	30.6	27.8	44.1	15.8	25.9	35.5	15.0	20.0	25.3	43.5	50.0	13.5	35.8	27.8	19.8	29.9	19.0	21.6
Child Abuse (including child neglect)	47.4	5.3	22.3	38.2	32.4	48.4	1.6	19.4	20.6	5.3	0.0	28.2	28.3	0.0	12.0	3.9	3.3	15.4	5.7	5.6	12.3	12.4	34.5	70.3
Robbery(Including mugging)	39.5	8.8	7.4	2.9	2.9	0.0	24.2	5.6	0.0	5.3	3.7	5.6	3.3	20.0	5.3	9.1	3.3	5.8	7.5	1.9	7.5	22.8	0.0	0.0
Burglary and House Breaking	37.5	29.8	9.1	14.7	8.8	6.5	16.1	11.1	2.9	0.0	7.4	29.0	21.7	60.0	14.7	24.7	13.0	7.7	17.0	16.7	34.9	31.9	1.7	5.4
Possession of drugs (including illicit brews)	17.1	10.5	11.6	7.4	5.9	12.9	8.1	13.9	2.9	5.3	3.7	26.6	23.3	20.0	18.7	10.4	10.9	3.8	13.2	18.5	21.7	19.5	5.2	2.7
Loitering for prostitution (including child prostitution)	11.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0
Possession of narcotic drugs	10.5	7.0	2.5	1.5	0.0	25.8	0.0	2.8	17.6	5.3	0.0	3.2	1.7	0.0	2.7	3.9	4.3	0.0	1.9	0.0	13.2	23.2	0.0	0.0
Rape	9.9	24.6	1.7	8.8	1.5	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	1.7	0.0	12.0	1.9	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	3.4	0.0
Drug Trafficking/Smuggling	6.6	0.0	2.5	1.5	0.0	3.2	0.0	8.3	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	1.9	1.9	0.9	1.7	0.0	0.0
Robbery with Violence	3.9	1.8	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	20.0	0.0	3.2	1.1	3.8	0.0	1.9	4.7	22.5	0.0	0.0
Being Drunk and Disorderly	3.9	1.8	8.3	7.4	5.9	29.0	3.2	2.8	2.9	26.3	7.4	25.8	40.0	20.0	16.0	13.0	6.5	25.0	26.4	14.8	16.0	6.4	6.9	8.1
Murder	2.6	1.8	2.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	12.9	0.0	5.9	15.8	7.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.9	3.4	0.0	2.7
Attempted murder	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Defilement	1.3	10.5	19.8	7.4	17.6	0.0	12.9	2.8	8.8	0.0	3.7	16.1	41.7	0.0	9.3	9.7	8.7	21.2	11.3	1.9	13.2	16.8	34.5	16.2
Theft of stock(including cattle rustling	0.7	0.0	6.6	7.4	11.8	3.2	0.0	8.3	5.9	47.4	70.4	15.3	5.0	0.0	12.0	12.3	14.1	13.5	9.4	5.6	43.4	15.1	36.2	0.0
Malicious damage to property	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Threatening to Kill	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Violation of COVID 19 19 protocols	0.7	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0
Manslaughter	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Attempted Rape	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Attempted Defilement	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Theft of Farm Produce	0.0	0.0	5.8	4.4	0.0	12.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.7	4.0	1.9	3.3	30.8	17.0	37.0	16.0	3.7	1.7	0.0
Forgery	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.8	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.0
Fraud	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.9	1.0	0.0	0.0
Creating Disturbance	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Crimes	Mombasa	Kwale	Kilifi	Tana River	Lamu	Taita Taveta	Garissa	Wajir	Mandera	Marsabit	Isiolo	Meru	Tharaka-Nithi	Embu	Kitui	Machakos	Makueni	Nyandarua	Nyeri	Kirinyaga	Murang'a	Kiambu	Turkana	West Pokot
Percentage responses of crimes that escalated in counties																								
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	5.6	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Illegal abortion	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Obtaining by false pretense	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Corruption	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0
Carjacking/hijacking	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0
Kidnapping and Abduction	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
Terrorism	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Attempted Suicide	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gambling without license	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hate Speech/incitement	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poaching	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Traffic offences	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Human Trafficking (Including Child trafficking)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Destruction of Forest Produce (Logging)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Infanticide	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cyber Crime	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other offences against morality (including Homosexuality, Incest and Bestiality)	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Motor vehicle theft/ theft of motor vehicle parts)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Arson	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Theft of motorcycle/ theft of motorcycle spare parts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
Trespass upon private land	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Environment pollution and destruction	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Handling stolen property/goods	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Cont' Table 3.3 County analysis of crimes that escalated during the COVID 19 period

Crimes	Percentage responses of crimes that escalated in counties																						
	Samburu	Trans Nzoia	Uasin Gishu	Elgeyo Marakwet	Nandi	Baringo	Laikipia	Nakuru	Narok	Kajiado	Kericho	Bomet	Kakamega	Vihiga	Bungoma	Busia	Siaya	Kisumu	Homa Bay	Migori	Kisii	Nyamira	Nairobi
Gender-Based Violence(Including Domestic Violence)	8.5	27.6	9.	5.6	2.	3.3	2.	1.2	1.5	7.2	1.8	3.4	1.9	1.3	8.3	2.3	6.	1.5	1.	2.7	1.	4.0	2.5
Stealing	10.6	17.2	37	16.7	33	23.2	18	24.1	55.4	32	41.5	55.9	36.4	21.2	19.7	9.1	29.6	41	30	9.8	30	18.6	36.9
Child Abuse (including child neglect)	4.3	40.2	16.	31.5	2.5	14.3	6.8	22.7	36.9	6.3	28.0	20.3	1.9	12.1	6.8	20.5	2.0	1.8	1.9	37.	12.9	25.4	13.7
Robbery(Including mugging)	4.3	0.0	1	3.7	1	5.4	4.5	3.7	4.6	7.2	4.9	1.0	0.9	6.1	6.1	0.0	6.	8.9	0.0	4.5	1.2	2.2	1.7
Burglary and House Breaking	19.	1.1	40.	3.7	33.	32.1	6.8	16.2	33.8	19.8	7.3	50.8	28.	19.7	25.0	27.	34.7	33.0	19.4	14.	23.	18.6	24.7
Possession of drugs (including illicit brews)	4.3	10.3	11.	25.9	11.	69.6	4.5	23.1	10.8	4.5	13.4	18.6	1.9	7.6	6.1	15.	25.5	13.4	32.	29.2	27.	28.8	18.2
Loitering for prostitution (including child prostitution)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Possession of narcotic drugs	2.1	0.0	9.	3.7	2.	8.9	0.	6.0	1.5	3.6	3.7	1.7	1.9	7.6	0.0	0.	1.0	1.8	3.7	1.5	3.	3.4	1.6
Rape	0.0	0.0	5.	1.9	3.	1.8	1	3.2	6.2	0.9	0.	1.1	0.	3.0	7.6	0.	2.	4.5	6.5	1	5.1	2.3	4.3
Drug Trafficking/Smuggling	0.0	0.0	5.	0.0	0	0.0	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	6.1	0.0	0.	0.8	0.	0.	1.8	0.	0.	0.	0.	1.1	3.9
Robbery with Violence	2.	0.0	1	0.0	3	0.	2.	0.0	4.6	2.7	0.	1.0	0.	3.0	1.5	0.	2.	3.6	0.	8.7	6.	1.7	2.1
Being Drunk and Disorderly	1.9	1.1	9.	1.4	1	4.8	2.	3.3	9.2	7.2	4	2.3	2.8	6.1	6.1	1.3	4.	2.7	0.	2.6	1.	1.	1.8
Murder	0.	0.0	1.	0.0	0	0.	0.	1.4	1.5	0.	0.	3.4	0.	3.0	1.5	2.	1.	0.	1	1.1	3.	0.	2.1
Attempted murder	0.	0.0	0.	0.0	0	0.	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	0.	0.0	0.	1.5	0.0	0.	0.	0.	0.	1.	0.	5.	1.7
Defilement	0.0	18.4	39.	50.0	16.	0.0	4.5	16.2	7.7	11.7	12.	25.4	10.3	36.4	34.8	56.8	4.1	2.7	10.	38.	12.8	37.3	4.1
Theft of stock(including cattle rustling	4.	3.4	0.	18	2.	0.	4	8.3	2.3	1.	1	1.7	3.	7.6	3.7	9.	4.	0.9	1.	2.	2.	5.7	0.6
Malicious damage to property	0.	0.0	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.5	0.0	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.9	0.	0.	0.0
Threatening to Kill	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.0	0.	1.6	0.0	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.0
Manslaughter	0.	0.	0.8	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	1.	0.	0.	0.4

Crimes	Percentage responses of crimes that escalated in counties																						
	Samburu	Trans Nzoia	Uasin Gishu	Elgeyo Marakwet	Nandi	Baringo	Laikipia	Nakuru	Narok	Kajiado	Kericho	Bomet	Kakamega	Vihiga	Bungoma	Busia	Siaya	Kisumu	Homa Bay	Migori	Kisii	Nyamira	Nairobi
Attempted Robbery	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.2
Attempted Rape	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Theft of Farm Produce	0.0	1.0	2.5	3.7	6.3	1.8	9.1	8.2	1.5	3.6	7.3	1.7	1.3	2.8	6.1	4.5	1.0	9.8	0.0	3.2	1.7	8.5	0.0
Fraud	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Creating Disturbance	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	3.1	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.6	4.5	3.7	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.4	0.0	3.4	0.0
Illegal abortion	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	1.7	0.0
Obtaining by false pretense	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Corruption	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	0.0	1.3	3.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Carjacking/hijacking	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kidnapping and Abduction	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gambling without license	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0
Hate Speech/incitement	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
Poaching	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Human Trafficking (Including Child trafficking)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Destruction of Forest Produce (Logging)	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cyber Crime	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other offences against morality (including Homosexuality, Incest and Bestiality)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Motor vehicle theft/ theft of motor vehicle parts)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Theft of motorcycle/ theft of motorcycle spare parts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	1.7	0.0
Trespass upon private land	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Environment pollution and destruction	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0
Handling stolen property/goods	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

To compare data reported to other agencies in the same period, an analysis of crime data from National Police Service sources was done, the data shows similar patterns with the study findings, in relations to the crimes that were reported to the police. The National Police Services data on reported crimes between January and April, 2020 showed a similar trend in reporting of certain types of crimes just before the onset and during the pandemic period. This data shows similarity with the study findings on the escalation of certain types of crimes during the COVID 19 period. Table 3.4 illustrates the findings of some the crimes from a total of 22,748 cases that were reported between January to April, 2020.

Table 3. 4 Crimes reports from NPS

Crimes category	Number of cases	Percentage
Offences Against persons	5951	26.2
Stealing	3221	14.2
Offences against morality	2531	11.1
Other penal code offences	2169	9.5
Defilement	1987	8.7
Dangerous drugs	1886	8.3
Total number of crimes		

Source National Police Service

Data from the NPS for the same period equally captured the crimes reported for different counties, the statistics shows the counties which recorded high number of crimes (over 800 cases) were: Nairobi (2103), Kiambu (1605), Meru (1221), Nakuru (1190), Mombasa (944), Machakos (811) and Nakuru (806). These counties are largely urban counties which shows that people in urban areas were highly affected by the pandemic and thus high prevalence of crimes. The pandemic's economic impact, such as job losses, reduced income, and business closures, could have led to increased poverty and desperation among some individuals. Economic hardships are often associated with an increased likelihood of property crimes, theft, and other forms of criminal activities.

The results from the quantitative findings were supported by qualitative findings from the key informants from across the counties. According to the key informants' escalation of crimes varied across counties where majority of the counties were reporting an escalation in certain types of crimes. In Kajiado County for instance, the key informants said there was an increase in certain types of crimes such as GBV, child abuse and Female Gentile Mutilation (FGM). This is also evident from the national prevalence data where Kajiado had a 4.5% prevalence against a national prevalence of 0.7%.

One key informant in Kajiado County from NGAO observed that:

" Child prostitution happens here and children are coming all the way from Rombo area and Ilisat to come here in Kimana and engage in prostitution. This is because Kimana is a more developed and the cash flow here is high. On gender-based violence, defilement during this period has increased in a very rampant rate, child neglect, attempted defilement and FGM. It is worrying to note that parents take their girls to Tanzania where FGM is carried out and then later when they heal they cross over to the country. This is done in a very secret manner and thus hard to detect."

In Taita Taveta County, a key informant from the National Government Administration Office noted that:

"The crime that we are fighting here are gender-based violence, rape and defilement; it's a county that has experienced most of these indecent acts, including few cases of sodomy. We are talking about GBV, rape and defilement because people have been confined, people have lost jobs; people are in the houses, they are not used to each other; naturally, it will affect the peace in that house."

According to key informants COVID 19 had presented economic challenges to many people but also an opportunity for criminals to exploit. In Nairobi an informant from NGAO observed that:

"Of course, joblessness, closure of schools has rendered the young boys and girls idle and they have been lured into crime. COVID 19 has affected the financial capabilities of people and their dependents hence they have engaged in criminal activities."

Similar observations were made on the increase of child abuse, one key informant from the National Police Service in Isiolo County observed this:

"Child neglect is common during this period, the negligence is there because schools are closed and they have been playing a great role to children, but the children are now out of school thus parents unable to take care."

Another key informant from NGAO in Marsabit County observed:

"Cases of defilement are high during this COVID 19 period and mainly because girls are out of school and pedophiles are prying on them."

The quantitative findings confirm that, in deed counties were differently affected by crimes. The trend indicates that counties that are urban reported high incidences of crimes. This is equally captured by the study qualitative findings where key informants noted the different ways in which counties were affected by crimes. The plausible explanation is that people in urban settings overwhelmingly rely on employment for their livelihood, which was highly affected by COVID-19. Unemployment in Kenya is relatively high and especially for youths who are unfavorably affected. The rate of youth unemployment in the country was at 26.21% in 2017 (Statista, 2017). Projections from the Ministry of Labor showed that about one

million Kenyans had lost their jobs as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic between March and May, 2020. In the same way, International Labor Organization had predicted towards 59% loss of employment by employed Kenyans by close of year 2020 as a result of the pandemic.

The study findings equally analyzed crimes reported through NCRC mobile app platform (13th March, to 15th May, 2020). The analysis showed that stealing was among the most reported crimes during the pandemic. This is consistent with the study findings on crimes escalation where stealing 32.7% was ranked as the most escalated crime in the country. The crime with the highest reporting through the mobile app was online fraud. This could be explained by the necessity of virtual working and use of cashless modes of payment to reduce the spread of the virus. The study findings show prevalence of fraud was 0.8% nationally thus not among the top prevalent crimes maybe because people do not report fraud since its commissioning does not involve identifiable perpetrators.

Since the onset of the pandemic the government through the Ministry of health had outlined measures to curb the spread of the diseases. Some of these measures have disrupted the normal way of lives for many Kenyans and especially at the onset of the health pandemic when the measures were duly followed. Some of the expected outcomes from the measures were the changes in crime dynamics in the country. To help understand these changing aspects of criminality in the country, the study sought to find out if there were crimes that became prominent in the country and the findings of the study confirmed this assumption.

The escalation of opportunist crimes such as stealing and burglary and breakings could point to the hardship faced by many people due to the interruptions in the normal functioning of the economy. Prior to the study, a rapid assessment of the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on crime and security in Kenya by NCRC predicted that poverty and unemployment levels will escalate and continue to be the main contributors of crime and insecurity in the country during the post-Covid-19 period. On the other hand escalation of crimes such as gender-based violence, child abuse and defilement (which are home based crimes) in many parts of the country can be attributed to closure of schools and other containment measures such as, lock down and curfews. These measures curtailed movement of people thus making most people remain indoors where most forms of GBV happens.

The escalation of Gender-based violence brought about by the vulnerability caused by the pandemic affected women more thus making them prone to abuse since studies have often shown that women are adversely affected by GBV. According to Kenya Demographic Health Survey, around 4 out of 10 women in Kenya experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of a spouse or intimate partner and often this is tolerated and normalized (KDHS, 2014). Child abuse and defilement escalation could be attributed to closure of schools, this was then exacerbated by the limited access to protection and reporting since children services were not listed as essential service at the onset of COVID 19. Going forward, there is the need for government to include children services as essential in the wake of any pandemic or disaster.

3.4 Forms of Gender-based violence (GBV) experienced and/or witnessed during COVID 19 period

The study sought to understand the prevalence of GBV cases during the pandemic. Respondents were asked if they had experienced and/or witnessed any form/s of the crime. In responding to the to the question, a majority 74.1% of the sampled respondents confirmed that they had witnessed and/or experienced one or more forms of GBV in their locality, this shows that this crime was prevalent during the period. Further respondents were asked to list the forms of GBV that were most common, the responses are demonstrated by table 3.5 below. Findings of the study shows the commonly occurring forms of GBV mentioned by more than 10% of the respondents were: Assault (65.7%); creating disturbance (41.1%); defilement (29.7%); child neglect (28.5%); grievous bodily harm (22.0%); threatening to kill (18.2%); Rape (17.1%); malicious damage to property (13.5%); robbery with violence (11.6%); sexual communication with a child (11.6%); performing FGM (11.2%) and attempted suicide (10.3%). On the other hand, domestic violence (0.9%); gang defilement 1.6%) and trafficking of persons (1.6%) were the least occurring forms of GBV as mentioned by the respondents.

Table 3. 5 Forms of GBV experienced and or\Witnessed during COVID 19 period

Forms of GBV	Responses	Percentage
Assault	2310	65.7
Creating Disturbance	1444	41.1
Defilement	1043	29.7
Child Neglect	1002	28.5
Grievous bodily harm	774	22.0
Threatening to kill	638	18.2
Rape	601	17.1
Malicious damage to property	476	13.5
Robbery with Violence	409	11.6
Sexual communication with a child	407	11.6
Performing FGM	395	11.2
Attempted Suicide	361	10.3
Murder	345	9.8
Attempted Defilement	294	8.4
Subjecting children to torture	285	8.1
Incest	187	5.3
Child Stealing	129	3.7
Attempted Murder	124	3.5
Maiming	111	3.2
Gang Rape	77	2.2
Arson	76	2.2
Forms of GBV	**Responses**	**Percentage**
Attempted murder	65	1.8
Trafficking in persons	57	1.6
Gang Defilement	55	1.6
Domestic Violence	32	0.9

The findings from the quantitative data were similarly echoed by the findings from the qualitative data by the key informants across the counties. For instance, a key informant from the National Police Service in Migori County said:

"What we are experiencing during this period in terms of Gender Violence based are crimes such as; Assault, domestic violence, creating disturbance, threatening to harm and this mainly because people have become vulnerable."
Another senior informant from NGAO in Kilifi County observed:
"Domestic violence is common in the area, another problem we are experiencing is teenage pregnancies, which are high in this locality thus making girls mothers at a very early age, this may be linked to child neglect that we are also experiencing as most of the times these young mothers cannot properly take care of these children. Child labor is also very common which is an abuse to the rights of a child but his could be because children ae out of school."

A Prison Officer in Nairobi said:
We have experienced a lot of violence form married couples...I think because of men being indoors. You know men when you are in the house, you can pick up a fight on small issues like a remote and also the stress of that disease (Covid 19). Poverty levels, because most people lost their jobs and therefore paying rent and food provision becomes an issue for example teachers were really affected. Unapata kazi imeisha [you get them unemployed] ...in fact people would joke that pilots have become more useless that piki piki [motorbike] riders.

The findings of the study on escalating crimes had shown that Gender-based Violence related crimes were prevalent during the COVID 19 period. For instance, child abuse, GBV including domestic violence and defilement were among the top escalating crimes with during the period. These findings are consistent with the findings on experiencing and witnessing of GBV. An overwhelming majority (74.1%) of the respondents confirmed they had either witnessed or experienced one or more forms of gender-based violence within their locality.

GBV manifest itself in different forms in the society, various studies have established the various manifestation. For instance, NCRC (2014) study on gender-based violence in Kenya established that the common occurring forms of GBV were: inflicting bodily harm which was the highest; domestic conflict; use of abusive language and rape. The findings conquer with the findings of this study that identify similar patterns in the forms of GBV that were prevalent during the COVID 19 period, (Assault, creating disturbance, defilement, child neglect, and grievous bodily harm).

The findings of the study allude that physical violence is more prominent as compared to sexual violence; of the five top forms of GBV reported four (assault, creating disturbance, grievous bodily harm and child neglect) were physical and one (defilement) was sexual violence. A comparison of the study findings with other research findings shows similar patterns in GBV manifestation, for instance findings from Kenya Demographical Health

Survey of 2014 indicates that, approximately 38 percent of ever married women aged 15 to 49 have ever experienced physical violence committed by their husband/partner. The study likewise demonstrates how women are more likely than men to experience physical violence committed by their spouse/partner. In addition, it shows that physical violence is more prevalent compared to sexual violence.

Gender-based violence has adverse effects on the social, mental and physical wellbeing of the survivors. GBV inflicts high costs to the survivors and their families; cost of medical-related expenses; reporting costs; productivity loss from minor injuries; and productivity loss from premature mortality. The total loss from all these costs could amounts to KES 46 billion, this translates to around 1.1 percent of Kenya's gross domestic product (NGEC, 2016).

3.5 Forms of children rights violations witnessed during COVID 19 pandemic

Majority 72.7% of the sampled respondents affirmed that they had witnessed one or more forms of children rights violations in their locality during the COVID 19 period. Further when asked which forms of violations they had witnessed, the respondent mentioned various forms as illustrated by table 3.6 below. The forms of violations mentioned by at least I of 10 respondents were: child pregnancy (72.6%); defilement (42.9%); child marriage (42.0%); drug and substance abuse (40.9%) and child neglect (40.4%); child out of school (36.2%); sexual exploitation and abuse (30.4%); child labor (25.7%); physical abuse/violence (22.6%); emotional Abuse (13.7%); child Abandonment (13.3%) and female Genital Mutilation (13.0%).

Table 3. 6 Forms of violations of children's rights witnessed during COVID 19 period

Forms of children rights violations	Responses	Percentage
Child pregnancy	2567	72.6
Defilement	1515	42.9
Child marriage	1483	42.0
Drug and substance abuse	1445	40.9
Child neglect	1427	40.4
Child out of school	1279	36.2
Sexual exploitation and abuse	1073	30.4
Child labor	910	25.7
Physical Abuse/violence	798	22.6
Emotional Abuse	483	13.7
Child Abandonment	462	13.1
Female Genital Mutilation	461	13.0
Child –headed household	233	6.6
Incest	193	5.5
Disputed paternity	171	4.8
Online Abuse	165	4.7
Child Radicalization	134	3.8
Other harmful cultural practices	118	3.3
Sodomy	107	3.0

Forms of children rights violations	Responses	Percentage
Parental abduction	86	2.4
Child custody	70	2.0
Unlawful confinement	64	1.8
Abduction	60	1.7
Refugee children	34	1.0
Trafficked child	34	1.0
Internally displaced child	34	1.0
Domestic Violence	3	0.1

The study findings confirm that forms of child rights violations were happening during the pandemic period. Other sources of data for instance, the department of children services (DCS) showed a pattern of increase in violations of child rights, in a period of three years from 2017 to 2020 there was a 205.6% increase in child violations (NCRC, 2020) the violations that were mainly reported to the department between January 2017 and June 2020 include; child neglect, child custody and child abandonment.

Similarly, Data from the Anti-Human Trafficking and Children Protection Unit (AHTCPU) at the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) showed an upward trajectory in the number of cases of child abuse being reported in a period of three years for instance in 2018, 23 cases were reported, in 2019, 49 cases were reported and in 2020 the cases doubled to 102. These forms of violations and abuses reached their pick towards the period of COVID 19 which can be partly attributed to children being out of school and the containment measures that limited the movement of people constraining them indoors thus opening up opportunities for child abuse.

The country has made several strides towards safeguarding children such as; reviewing of the Children's Act and the formulation of the Anti-FGM Act, operationalization of National Children Policy guidelines and also ratifying key international documents in order to protect children from abuse. Despites all these efforts forms of child rights violations continue to be reported as the study findings shows. This therefore points the need for deliberate efforts by state and non-state actors in collaborations with the local community to protect the children so as to safeguard the future of the nation.

3.6 Forms of Girl child disempowerment witnessed during COVID 19 pandemic

The study findings established that, a majority 74.3% of the respondents interviewed during the study had witnessed some form of girl child disempowerment within their locality during the COVID 19 period. The forms of disempowerment for girl child that were highly reported by more than 10% of the respondents were: child pregnancy (73.6%); child marriage (45.0%); defilement (42.1%); child out of school (41.5%) and child neglect 36.2%; drug and substance abuse (32.9%); sexual exploitation and abuse (30.9%); child labor (21.4%); physical Abuse/violence (19.2%); female Genital Mutilation (13.8%); emotional Abuse (13.0%); child Abandonment (11.0%).These findings are illustrated by table 3.7 below. The

findings on girl child disempowerment are consistent with the findings of the study on experience and/or witnessed violations of children's rights as the various forms are mentioned in the same findings. The both forms of violations have similar manifestations.

Table 3. 7 Forms of disempowerment for girl child witnessed during COVID 19 period

Forms girl child disempowerment	Responses	Percentage
Child pregnancy	2563	73.6
Child marriage	1567	45.0
Defilement	1465	42.1
Child out of school	1445	41.5
Child neglect	1261	36.2
Drug and substance abuse	1146	32.9
Sexual exploitation and abuse	1074	30.9
Child labor	744	21.4
Physical Abuse/violence	670	19.2
Female Genital Mutilation	479	13.8
Emotional Abuse	452	13.0
Child Abandonment	383	11.0
Child –headed household	196	5.6
Online Abuse	196	5.6
Incest	187	5.4
Disputed paternity	184	5.3
Other harmful cultural practices	142	4.1
Child Radicalization	133	3.8
Parental abduction	78	2.2
Abduction	58	1.7
Child custody	54	1.6
Unlawful confinement	47	1.4
Trafficked child	46	1.3
Sodomy	41	1.2
Refugee children	37	1.1
Internally displaced child	36	1.0
Domestic Violence	5	0.1

The study findings indicate that forms of girl child disempowerment were happening during the pandemic period. At the onset of the pandemic, government of Kenya outlined measures to mitigate the spread of the virus, and it obvious the measures had consequences on the security situation in the country. NCRC predictions through a rapid assessment on the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on crime and security alluded to increase in forms of disfranchise for girl child. Prior to the pandemic cases of juvenile delinquency and teen pregnancies were common in Kenya especially during school holidays. The pandemic caused a prolonged stay at home for school-going children which may have resulted to cases of children engaging in misbehavior. Cases of teen pregnancies (usually from child sexual exploits and defilements) increased, for instance child pregnancy (73.6%) was the most prevalent form of disempowerment mentioned by the respondents. These disempowerments are likely to have

effects such as school drop-out and increased drug and substance abuse post and during the COVID 19 period.

The study findings on prevalent crimes in the country showed child marriage (45.0%) was ranking second most prevalent crime which shows that the crime a major problem in the country. Statistics have shown that 26% of girls in Kenya are still getting marriage before the age of 18 (this is the minimum age of marriage according to the laws of Kenya). Child marriage prevents girls from finishing their education, thus a downhill spiral of disempowerment. Similarly, evidence on how women suffers from violence at an early age exist, various studies have demonstrated this supposition. For instance, Violence Against Children Survey (VACS, 2019) findings shows that, 45.9 per cent females have ever experienced violence as children in Kenya.

The overwhelming mentioning of child pregnancy (73.6%) as the most prevalent form of girl child disempowerment, relates to the data on child pregnancy from Kenya Demographic Health Information System (KDHIS, 2020). Data from the system shows a pattern of increase in teenage pregnancy since the onset of the pandemic. The documented cases of teen pregnancies, between the ages of 10-14 cases were 8,264 and 153,848 cases between the ages of 15-19. These forms of disempowerment of girl child are at times aggravated by retrogressive cultural and traditional practices such as Female Genital Mutilation, early child marriage and disfranchisement of girls' rights in preference to boy child. These forms of retrogressive culture were also prevalent during the pandemic period as shown by the results of the study (child married 45.0%, FGM 13.8%).

These forms of disempowerment for girl child have devastating consequences, which include; physical injuries, sexually transmitted diseases and especially HIV\Aids and unwanted pregnancies which pose a great risk to maternal mortality. These consequences come against a background where Kenya has experienced a rapid increase in HIV infections among adolescents and young people, according to HIV estimates of 2020. This therefore calls for concerted efforts to eradicate forms of girl child disempowerment that largely contribute to sexual violence against girl child so as not to lose the gain against HIV\Aids fight. The country has taken steps to increase women's equality through legislative frameworks and policies, including the 2015 Protection Against Domestic Violence Act and the 2019 National Policy for the Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation. This points to the government commitment to ends forms of disempowerment for the women but, despite all these efforts these forms of disenfranchise for the girl child continues to exist. Here in need for accelerated campaign against FGM to make sure the vice is not finding its roots back to the community so as not to lose the gains made towards its eradication. The campaigns should also involve message for empowerment of the girl child.

3.7 Victims of crimes that escalated during the COVID 19 Period

The study sought to establish the victims of crimes that had escalated during the COVID 19 period, the results shows that a majority of crime victims were women 72.6% followed

closely by children at 60.5%. The least affected were the sick and disabled people at 0.4% and 0.1% respectively as illustrated by figure 1 below.
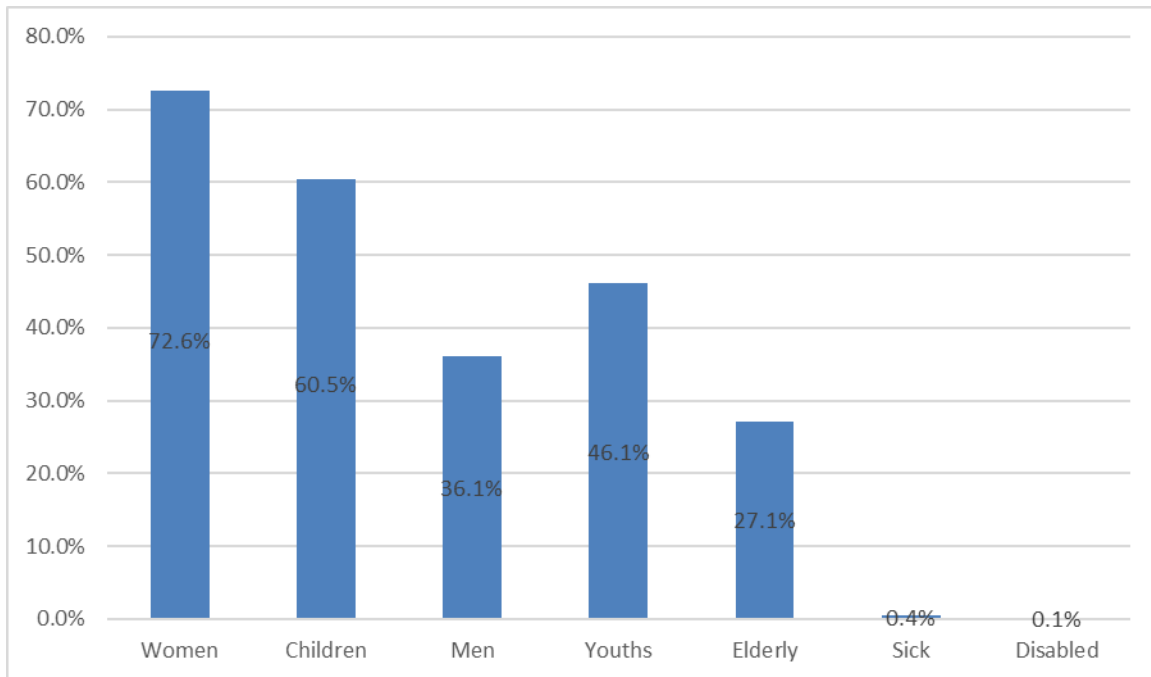

Figure 1 Victims of crimes that escalated during COVID 19 period

The study findings on escalation of crimes demonstrated how gender-based violence was predominant during the pandemic period, it was ranked fifth ranking (15.1%) crime nationwide. Equally, a majority 74.1% of sampled respondents had either experienced or witnessed one or more forms of GBV within their locality during the pandemic period. This may possibly explain why majority of victims of crimes were women as evidence has often shown women are negatively affected by GBV. Closely following women as victims of crimes are children, which also confirms the findings on escalating crimes that shows defilement 15.1% and child abuse 17.1% were equally high, raking fifth and third respectively in national prevalence. Women were adversely affected by GBV during the pandemic period as they formed an overwhelming majority (72.6%) of the victims of crimes. Even though men and boys are also affected by GBV as studies have shown, women are the ones that are unfavorably affected by it due to unequal power gender dynamics in relationship. The findings of the study points to the need of concerted efforts of protecting women and children especially in times of emergencies such as a health pandemic, this can be done by ways of creating awareness at the community level through collaborative efforts by both state and non-state actors.

In Kenya, there are various ways in which victims of crimes are taken care of to ensure their well-being and support their recovery. The Victim Protection Act plays a crucial role in ensuring the rights and well-being of crime victims. It provides a legal framework for the protection and support of victims, including provisions for access to justice, compensation, restitution, and the establishment of victim support programs. However, the Act does not

come clear in delegating specific duties to relevant agencies in maters ensuring that the victims are adequately protected and their needs catered. Kenya also has a witness protection program in place that ensures the safety and well-being of victims and witnesses by providing them with necessary security measures, relocation assistance, and support during court proceedings. There is need to raise awareness for the general public on the existence of these programs and their provisions as a way of addressing crimes and especially the problem of gender-based violence and child rights violations that were predominant during the pandemic period.

3.8 Perpetrators of crimes that escalated crimes during COVID 19 period

The study established that a majority perpetrator of crimes were youths (82.2%), and in terms of gender, respondents confirmed that males were the majority at (60.5%). The least mentioned categories of crime perpetrators were the elderly (6.1%) and children (10.3%). The findings can therefore allude that the youth males were the primary perpetrators of crimes during the pandemic period. Figure 2 below indicates the findings.
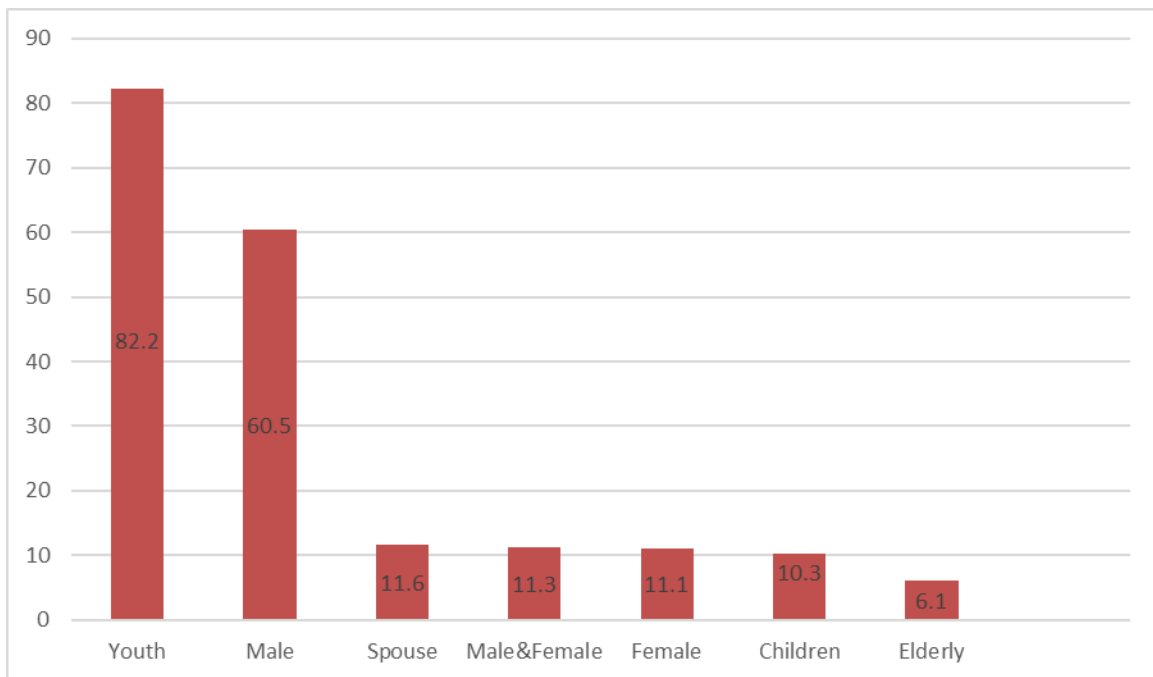

Figure 2 Perpetrators of crimes that escalated during COVID 19 period

There are various reasons that can explain these findings, for instance youths are often in conflict with law due to their predisposition, and besides youth forms the majority of the population. According to the population census 2019 youths are 75.5% of the total population so the likely hood of being involved in crime is high compared to the rest of the population. The study findings equally show that the gender that was majorly perpetrating crimes were males 60.5%, thus it's evident from the findings that the youth's males are engaging in crimes at a high rate.

Youths engage in crime with several motives but the major driving force is to get money (UN Habitat, 2011). The same study on youth in conflict with law by UN Habitat similarly points out the kind of crimes youths engage in, they include crimes such as: theft, assault, drug possession, mugging and manslaughter. This agrees with the findings of this study which shows that stealing is the top most emerging and escalating crime. Other study findings equally point out that youths are greatly affected by crime, findings from the Institute of Economic Affairs Youth Compendium (2011) shows that 57% of all the reported crimes to the police are committed by youths. NCRC (2016, 2018) Crime mapping reports similarly shows that youths are the majority perpetrators of crimes.

CHAPTER FOUR: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS,CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter summarizes the major findings of the study, the main findings are in three major thematic areas that is: Escalating crimes; forms of gender-based violence, violations of childrens rights, disempowerment for girl child and finally the perpetrators and victims of emerging and escalating crimes during the COVID 19 period.

4.2 Summary of major findings

4.2.1 Escalating crimes during the COVID 19 period

The study sought to identify the crimes that escalated due to the outbreak of COVID 19, the study findings shows the following crimes had escalated due to pendamic: The crimes that were mentioned by more than 10% of the respondents were: stealing (32.7%); burglary and house breakings (22.5%); child abuse (17.0%); possession of drugs including illicit brews (16.3%); gender-based violence and defilement both at (15.1%); being drunk and disorderly 13.6%; theft of stock (including cattle rustling)13.4%; robbery (including mugging)10.6%. On the other hand, sampled respondents also mentioned crimes that had least escalation in the same period, they include: attempted defilement, attempted suicide, hate speech/incitement, traffic offences and arson. These crimes were mentioned by less than three people of the sampled population. The county analysis shows that escalation of crimes varied across counties, with all the top 3 crimes that had the highest escalation nationally that is - stealing, burglary and house breaking and child abuse stealing - escalating in all the 47 counties.

4.2.2 Forms of Gender-based Violence that were witnessed during the COVID 19 period

Findings of the study shows that GBV is prevalent in the society as an overwhelming majority (74.1%) of the respondents confirmed. The findings similarly show that forms of physical violence were more prevalent compared sexual violence during the pandemic period. Manifestation of GBV takes several forms as the study findings confirmed, during the same period these forms commonly occurring forms of GBV mentioned by more than 10% of the respondents were: Assault (65.7%); creating disturbance (41.1%); defilement (29.7%); child neglect (28.5%); grievous bodily harm (22.0%); threatening to kill (18.2%); Rape (17.1%); malicious damage to property (13.5%); robbery with violence (11.6%); sexual communication with a child (11.6%); performing FGM (11.2%) and attempted suicide (10.3%). On the other hand, domestic violence (0.9%); gang defilement 1.6%) and trafficking of persons (1.6%) were the least occurring forms of GBV.

4.2.3 Forms of violations of children's rights witnessed during the COVID 19 period

The study sought to identify the forms violations of children that were happening during the period considering that children were at home as schools were closed. The study findings confirmed that these violations were actually happening as a majority 72.7% interviewed people said. The identified forms of violations of children's rights that were prominent

include: child pregnancy (72.6%); defilement (42.9%); child marriage (42.0%); drug and substance abuse (40.9%) and child neglect (40.4%); child out of school (36.2%); sexual exploitation and abuse (30.4%); child labor (25.7%); physical abuse/violence (22.6%); emotional Abuse (13.7%); child Abandonment (13.3%) and female Genital Mutilation (13.0%).

4.2.4 Forms of disempowerment for Girl child during the COVID 19 period

Findings of the study confirmed that forms of disempowerment for girl child were happening in the society as a majority (73.3%) of the respondents indicated. The forms of disempowerment that were majorly mentioned by the sampled respondents include: child pregnancy (73.6%); child marriage (45.0%); defilement (42.1%); child out of school (41.5%) and child neglect 36.2%; drug and substance abuse (32.9%); sexual exploitation and abuse (30.9%); child labor (21.4%); physical Abuse/violence (19.2%); female Genital Mutilation (13.8%); emotional Abuse (13.0%); child Abandonment (11.0%).

4.2.5 Victims of crimes that escalated during the COVID 19 Period
The study findings show that a majority of crime victims were women (72.6%) followed closely by children (60.5%). The least affected by crimes were the sick and disabled people at (0.4%) and (0.1%) respectively.

4.2.6 Perpetrators of crimes that escalated crimes during COVID 19 period
Majority perpetrators of crimes were youths (82.2%), and in terms of gender respondents confirmed that males were the majority (60.2%). On the other hand, children and the elderly were the least mentioned as perpetrators of crimes, (10.3 %) and (6.1%) respectively. From the findings one can decipher that the youth males were the ones that committed most crimes during the pandemic season.

4.3 Conclusion
Most countries are still grappling with the containment of COVID 19 outbreak with minimal level of preparedness considering it is the first time in so many years such a health pandemic is being experienced. The pandemic has paralysed economies thus affecting peoples ways of life, one of the ways that it has affected countries is the change in level of criminality within the society. In Kenya, the government introduced containment measures to reduce the effects of the pandemic.The study findings shows changes in the level of criminality during the period that varied across counties. In addition, the findings shows a pattern in terms of crimes that had escalated during the health pandemic.Gender-based violence and opportunists crimes highly escalated during this period. This points out to the need by the government through various agencies to put specific preventive mesures place, in specific counties so as to enhance preparedness in times of an eventuality such as a health pandemic. The study findings equally paints a picture of the young male (boy child) highly engaging in crime.This calls for awereness creation among the young male population towards towards protecting the girl child from disempowerment. Likewise there is need to find sustainable economic programmes that will work towards deterring the boy child from engaging in crime.

4.4 Recommendations

4.4.1 Key Policy Recommendations

Addressing crimes in the wake of COVID-19 in Kenya requires a multi-faceted approach that combines preventive measures, community engagement, and effective law enforcement. It is important to note that these recommendations should be adapted and tailored to the specific needs and context of different counties. Collaboration among government agencies, civil society organizations, and the public is crucial for their successful implementation.

From the findings, this study therefore recommends:

1. The office of the women representative at the county level in collaboration with county governments and other relevant stake holders (both government and non-government) to strengthen community engagement. This will foster strong partnerships between law enforcement agencies and communities to create a network of support and trust especially for women and children who are adversly affected by crimes. This will also encourage community members to report suspicious activities and share information about crime happenings. The study established that, the most affected category of people by crimes are women followed closely by children which therefore calls for deliberate effort to protect women and children in times of pandemic.

2. Department of gender and the Victims Protection Board to fast track establishent of rescue centres and safe spaces for victims of GBV and child rights violations to enable them to freely report these crimes.This can be realised through a collaboration between non-state actors that provide these services. The efforts should be scaled up in the face of disasters such as a health pandemic.The Victims Protection Board also need to create awareness on the existence of the Victims Protection Act that majorly protects the victims and give ways of providing restorative justice to the victims of crimes. The findings from the study has shown that escalation of some types of crimes was high in the wake of the pandemic, this is evedince that there were victims of crimes.

3. The state Department of Children Services to scale up awareness campaigns to the community on children rights, and also to include offences and crimes that can lead to prosecutions. Enhanced public awareness should involve conducting public campaigns to raise awareness about emerging crime trends and preventive measures. They should also utilize various communication channels, such as radio, television, social media, and community meetings, to disseminate information. This will provide information on how to access the available protection services for abused children and also inform communicaties of the importance of protecting the child as the future of a nation.The findings of the study established there were increasing forms of violations of children rights and girl child disempowerment as reported by a majority of the respondents in the study.

4. The is a need for the department for youths affairs, the office of the president, the planning directorate at the treasury and other relevant agencies to establish economic programmes for youths that are continous to ensure sustainability. The study findings identified the male youths as the majority perpetrators of the crimes that escalated during the COVID 19 period.

5. The Ministry of Interior and coordination of Nation Government should spearhead formation of response teams that shoul be ready to counter insecurity in times of disasters. The ministry should also lead National Security Agencies to collaborate with county governments to address crime in times of pandemics. The study findings indicated that each county was affected differently by various types of crimes during the COVID 19 period. This unique prevalence of crimes across counties calls for county specific crime prevention strategies by agencies within the National Security Sector for each individual county.

6. The National Police Service to expand community policing initiatives, this to increase the presence of community police officers in high-crime areas to build relationships with residents and gather intelligence on criminal activities. They should also encourage regular dialogues between law enforcement agencies and community leaders to address specific concerns and develop localized strategies. There was escalation of some types of crimes that during Covid 19 especially homebased crimes as the study established. Addressing such kind of crimes require community based initiatives.

7. The National Crime Research Centre to invest in data-driven approaches, leverage data analytics and technology to identify crime patterns, allocate resources effectively, and develop evidence-based strategies to inform policies through recommendations to the relevant agencies. The Centre should also implement a centralized crime reporting system to facilitate efficient data and information sharing among agencies in the criminal justice sector.

8. The private sector should be encourage to participate in the dialogue through public-private partnerships: The private sector should be engaged in crime prevention efforts through initiatives like neighborhood watch programs, corporate social responsibility projects, and collaborations to address specific crime challenges.

4.4.2 Recommendations for further Research

While the Centre conducted an extensive research on various aspects of crime during the pandemic, that is; crime patterns, victims and perpetrators, there are still several areas that could benefit from further investigation.

Here are some areas for further research on crimes during the pandemic:

Impact of lockdowns and restrictions on different types of crimes: Analyze the effect of lockdown measures on specific types of crimes, such as domestic violence, cybercrime, property crime, and drug-related offenses. The study should examine how changes in mobility and social interactions during the pandemic have influenced the prevalence and patterns of these crimes.

Psychological factors and crime: Investigate the psychological factors that may contribute to an increase or change in criminal behavior during times of crisis, such as stress, anxiety, economic insecurity, and social isolation. Explore the relationship between mental health issues and crime rates during the pandemic.

Cybercrime and digital fraud: Explore the escalation of cybercrime activities during the pandemic, including phishing, online scams, ransomware attacks, and identity theft. Examine the vulnerabilities in digital infrastructure and identify effective strategies to mitigate cyber threats.

Domestic violence and gender-based violence: Study the prevalence and dynamics of domestic violence. Analyze the factors contributing to the increase in such crimes and explore the effectiveness of support services and interventions.

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APPENDICES

A STUDY ON CRIMINALITY IN KENYA IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID 19 PANDEMIC

Appendix 1: Interview schedule for members of the public

Name of County _____

Name of Sub- County _____

Name of Division _____

Name of Location _____

Name of Sub- Location _____

Name of Specific Area/Village_____

Date of Interview: _____

INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is _____

The National Crime Research Centre (NCRC) is conducting a study on National Crime Mapping in Kenya for the year 2020. This study aims to: examine the prevalence and typologies of crimes by county; establish the factors contributing to crimes in the country; Identify the perpetrators of crimes in the country; examine the mode of operation, map and analyze crime hot spots across the country; establish the consequences in the country; identify and evaluate crime prevention strategies, and recommend crime reduction approaches in the country. You are, therefore, requested to participate in the exercise by providing relevant information on the subject. Your participation is critical in making this study a success, and all information shared will be treated with high confidentiality.

Thank you in advance

Signature of Interviewer……………………….. Date………………………

(Yes) Respondent Agree   (No) Respondent does not agree

Section A: Respondent's Background Information

1. Sex
    1. Male

2. Female
3. Intersex
2. Age of Respondent in years.
    1. 18-25
    2. 26-34
    4. 35-45
    5. 46-55
    6. 56-65
    7. 66+
3. Marital Status:
    1. Single/Never Married
    2. Married
    3. Separated
    4. Divorced
    5. Widowed
4. Highest Level of Education attained:
    1. None
    2. Primary
    3. Secondary
    4. Middle-level college
    5. University
    6. Adult Literacy
    7. Other (Specify)_____
5. Religion:
    1. Hindu
    2. Christian
    3. Islam
    4. Other (Specify) _____
6. Main Occupation
    1. Permanent employment – Private Sector
    2. Permanent employment – Public Sector
    3. Casual/temporary employment- Private Sector
    4. Casual/temporary employment- Public Sector
    5. Businessperson
    6. Subsistence farming
    7. Other (specify-e.g unemployed)_____
7. Length of stay in the locality (study site)
    1. Below a year
    2. 2-5 years
    3. 6-10 years
    4. 11 years and above

Section B: Specific Information on Crime Patterns and Trends

8. List the crimes which escalated during COVID-19 period.

S/No.	Crimes which escalated during Covid-19 period
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Section C: Victims and perpetrators of crimes

9. Main victims of perceived and witnessed crimes in the locality.

S/No.	Victims of crimes in the locality	Victims of crimes which escalated during COVID-19 period (Tick all that apply)
1.	Women	
2.	Children	
3.	Men	
4.	Youths	
5.	Elderly persons	
6.	Others (Specify)	

10. Main perpetrators of perceived, experienced and witnessed crimes in the locality.

S/No.	Perpetrators of crimes in the year 2020	Main perpetrators of crimes which escalated during COVID-19 period (Tick all that apply)
1.	Male	
2.	Female	
3.	Male and female	
4.	Youth	
5.	Elderly	
6.	Spouse/Partner	
7.	Children	
8.	Others Specify	

11. Did you experience or witness Gender-Based Violence during COVID-19 pandemic in this locality?
   1. Yes
   2. No

11 (b) List the forms of Gender-Based Violence experienced or witnessed during COVID-19 pandemic in this locality?

12. Did you witness Girl child disempowerment during COVID-19 pandemic in this locality?
    1. Yes
    2. No

12 (b) List the forms of violations of children rights witnessed during COVID-19 pandemic in this locality?

13. Did you witness a violation of children rights during COVID-19 pandemic in this locality?
    1. Yes
    2. No

13 (b) List the forms of Girl child disempowerment witnessed during COVID-19 pandemic in this locality?

Thank you for participating and stay safe.

Appendix 2: Key Informant Guide

Name of County _____

Name of Sub- County _____

Name of Division _____

Date of Interview: _____

INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is ……………………………………., and I am working for the National Crime Research Centre (NCRC) which is a State Corporation established by the National Crime Research Centre Act (CAP, 62 L.o.K).

The Centre is conducting a survey on National Crime Mapping in Kenya for the year 2020. This study aims to: examine the prevalence and typologies of crimes by county; establish factors contributing to crimes in the country; perpetrators of crimes and the mode of operation; map and analyze crime hot spots across the country; identify the consequences of crimes in the country; identify and evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies, and recommend crime reduction approaches in the country. As a stakeholder in crime prevention, we would therefore request you to participate in this exercise by providing information on the subject. The information shared will be treated with a high level of confidentiality without disclosing your identity.

Thank you

1. Which crimes (s) have escalated during the current COVID 19 pandemic in the locality?
2. What are the forms of Gender-Based Violence experienced or witnessed during COVID-19 pandemic in this locality?
3. What are the forms of violations of children rights witnessed during COVID 19 pandemic in this locality?
4. What are the forms of Girl child disempowerment witnessed during COVID 19 pandemic in this locality?

Thank you for participating and stay safe