



# Empirical Assessment of Community Based Policing on Crime Reduction in Kenya: A Case of Ngong Sub-County, 2003-2013



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## Abstract

Community Based Policing (CBP) is a special arrangement between the police and the members of the public upon which localized and participatory community-based collaborative action is used. It aims to better securing neighborhoods and enhancing the general well-being of the country. It was formally adopted and introduced in Kenya in April 2005. Existing literature provides broad information on the influence of CBP on reducing crime and insecurity worldwide. However, there is little evidence of empirical research that has been conducted in Kenya with specific focus on Ngon'g Sub-county. It is on this basis that this paper sort to determine the influence of community based policing on crime reduction in Kenya, a case of Ngon'g sub-County. Simple random sampling and purposive sampling were used to collect primary data. Representative sample of 180 respondents from five main locations in Ngon'g sub-county was drawn. The sample was composed of some residents of the area, some members of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and some members of security agencies. Using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) during analysis, the study employed descriptive and inferential statistics. The study revealed that crime reporting and sharing security information with the police were highly rated by the respondents since the introduction of CBP in 2003. Therefore, CBP is a vital instrument in reducing levels of insecurity and crime in Ngon'g Sub County from 2003 to 2013. For effective functioning of the CBP programs in Ngon'g Sub County, the police and members of the public must cooperate in attempt to create more secure society as well as creating a conducive environment.

**Keywords:** Community based policing; Crime; Ngon'g sub-county; Insecurity; Security agencies

**Abbreviations:** CBP: Community Based Policing; NGOs: Non-Governmental Organizations; SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Sciences

## Introduction

Fleming and O'Reilly [1], contend that, globally, security environment is undergoing dynamics with unique challenges. Therefore, there is need to device new approaches to policing. Derivative practices worldwide show that Community Based Policing (CBP) programs have enhanced interaction of police and community members. This has led to reduced incidences of insecurity, crime and other related social disorders. As opined by Lentz and Chaires [2], community based policing (CBP) dates back to 1829, propounded by Peel. Fundamentally, Peel argument was that, policing is that police are the people and the people are the police. Peel further argued that crime prevention could not be achieved without involving the citizenry. This is the concept around which many law enforcement agencies operate in the fight against crime, world over. According to Sherman and Eck [3], in the context of United States (US), CBP arose from the

crisis of legitimacy after the urban race riots of the 1960s. In the United Kingdom (UK) the desire to have a different community model of policing was conceptualized and embraced in the 1970s (Anderson & Tresidder [4]). Efficient provision of security and enforcement of the law by police service and other related security agencies are essential ingredients in maintaining peace in Kenya. There are however a high number of cases of deterioration of security in the country for the last two decades. Among other things, this has made the institution of police to somehow unable to sufficiently guarantee security to the public and their property (Sarre [5]). Inadequate resources, widespread incompetence among law enforcers and other personnel within the criminal justice system and systemic corruption in the police service have been cited as some of the main factors that contribute towards increase in insecurity incidences in the country.

Arguing alongside Reisig’s, Koch, B and T. Bennett also see community policing from a perspective upon which police work together with members of the public for the purpose of determining operational policy and if possible solving local problems (Bertus [6]). This was also a point that was emphasized and pointed out in the 2015 Kenyan policy paper; *4th Guidelines for Implementation of Community Policing-Nyumba Kumi Usalamawa Msingi* that, “The main goal of Community Policing are: elimination of the fear of crime and social disorder, through joint problem solving; and, prevention of crime(Bertus [6]).

**Statement of the Problem**

Community-based policing (CBP) in Kenya was embraced in 2005 as a crime prevention strategy. The strategy provides a framework that allows community members to participate in securing themselves, their properties and national interests. It entrenches community participation by empowering the citizens in national security issues. However, since the inception of CBP in Kenya, crime levels have still been on the rise. Parts of the country have recently been hit by a wave of violence, with insecurity accounts ranging from organized terror gangs, to violent robbery, abductions, poaching, cattle rustling, terrorism and murders. Ngong Sub-County has also been faced with the challenge of rise in crime levels. A critical look at the existing literature on the CBP program and its nexus with reduction of incidences of insecurity, it is shown that the studies are far from conclusive on the role the program plays in reducing insecurity in various places in Kenya. It is within this context that this study sort to assess the impact of CBP program in insecurity reduction in Ngong sub-county from 2003 to 2013.

**Methodology**

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design to establish the influence of community based policing on crime reduction in Ngon’g sub-county. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), descriptive study seeks to obtain information that describes existing phenomenon by asking individuals about perception, values, attitudes and behaviour. The target population comprised of households benefiting from community based policing services in Ngon’g sub-county.

**Data Analysis and Presentation**

Collected data was cleaned through identification of incomplete and in accurate responses that were corrected to improve its quality. The data was then coded and entered in the computer for analysis using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The analysis generated measures of central tendency, percentages and frequencies that were presented by use of pie chart and frequency tables.

**Results and Discussion**

The study sought to examine the influence of Community Based Policing (CBP) on crime reduction in Ngon’g sub-county from 2003 to 2013. From the analysis, it was noted that 81% of

the respondents were young people while only 19% were over 36 years old, see Table 1. Regarding residency, respondents were drawn from Oloolua town (48.99%), Kiserian and Nkaimoronya at 24.4 and 23.3%, respectively. OngataRongai town had the least (3.3%) representation in the survey. Table 2 shows that 26.7 % of the responded confirmed that they first heard about Community Based Policing (CBP) program between 2009 and 2010 while 22.8 and 22.2 % of the respondents heard about the program between 2007-2008 and 2005-2006 while only 7.2% of the respondents confirmed that they heard about the initiatives of the program in 2013.

**Table 1:** Table showing age of respondents.

		Age			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-25	66	36.7	36.7	36.7
	26-35	80	44.4	44.4	81.1
	36-45	22	12.2	12.2	93.3
	46-55	9	5.0	5.0	98.3
	>56	3	1.7	1.7	100.0
	Total	180	100.0	100.0	

**Table 2:** Year that the Community Based Policing Program (CBP) was heard.

		First Heard About Community Based Policing Program			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	2003-2004	19	10.6	10.6	10.6
	2005-2006	40	22.2	22.2	32.8
	2007-2008	41	22.8	22.8	55.6
	2009-2010	48	26.7	26.7	82.2
	2011-2012	19	10.6	10.6	92.8
	2013	13	7.2	7.2	100.0
	Total	180	100.0	100.0	

These trends indicate that the National Police Service (NPS) may have been more focused on the program in 2005 to 2010 while less focus was paid towards in 2013. It can be argued towards this end that there are some years when initiatives from the program were not as robust as the others were.

**Impact of CBP in Ngong Sub-County between 2003 and 2013**

About 73.3 % of the respondents admitted that there was significant impact of CBP on reduction of incidences of crime and insecurity within Ngong Sub County between 2003 and 2013. On the other hand, 26.7% reported that there was no significant impact, see Table 3. It is thus valid to contend that

there was a connection between CBP program and reduction of incidences of insecurity in Ngong Sub County. CBP program was also noted to have had a positive (52.2%) contribution to the level of crime reporting within Ngong Sub County from 2003 to 2013. Nonetheless, 47.8% of the respondents felt that the program had not positively contributed to crime reporting within the area. Concerning the number of years as a residence in Ngong Sub County, most of the respondents (40%) had lived in the area of study for a period of more than four years while only 11% had lived in for period of one year before the questionnaires were administered. Additionally, 42% of the respondents had lived in the area for 2 to 3 years before the questionnaires were administered. From the data, it can be deduced that 53% of the respondents in the study were new residents in Ngong

Town. This phenomenon could be attributed to the fact that as Nairobi experiences burgeoning population due to rural-urban migration, some individuals working in Nairobi migrated to Ngong Sub-county because it is not located far from the city.

**Table 3:** Performance Impacted by Community Based Policing Program.

Performance Impacted by Community Based Policing Program					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	48	26.7	26.7	26.7
	Yes	132	73.3	73.3	100.0
	Total	180	100.0	100.0	

**Factors enhancing implementation of CBP**

**Table 4:** Order of Importance of the Factors that can Boost Security.

Order of Importance					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Public Cooperation	19	10.6	10.6	10.6
	Police Patrols	20	11.1	11.1	21.7
	Enhancing police Communication equipment	84	46.7	46.7	68.3
	Security Firm Involvement	57	31.7	31.7	100.0
	Total	180	100.0	100.0	

Table 4 shows a set of factors that influence implementation of the CBP programs in Ngong Sub-county. It is seen that 46.7% of the respondents would prefer that the communication equipment of police officers be enhanced. This indicated that lack of communication equipment is among the key challenges that the police force was faced with during implementation of the CBP program within the area of study. On the other hand, 31.7% of the respondents stated that they preferred the presence of private security guards, 11.1% of the respondents stated that they appreciated the enhancement of police patrols while only 10.6% thought that the increased cooperation between the police and the civilians enhanced security in the area. This is a pointer to the fact that, some respondents did not appreciate the benefits of police patrols and collaboration with police officers on matters of security. Despite the fact that some respondents did not appreciate the benefits of police-civilian collaboration, 72.8% of the respondents were willing to volunteer information to the police in order to enhance implementation of the CBP program, see Table 5.

**Table 5:** Volunteering Information to Police.

Volunteering of Information to Police					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	131	72.8	72.8	72.8
	No	49	27.2	27.2	100.0
	Total	180	100.0	100.0	

On the other hand, 27.2 % of the respondents were not willing to share security related information with the police. Nonetheless, from the information presented, it can be observed that a majority of the respondents were more than willing to share information with the police since implementation of the CBP program in the area. It can perhaps be deduced here that those people who were not willing to share information were probably afraid or ignorant of the benefits of the exchange of information between the police and members of the public.

**Police-Public Relationship**

Only 4.4% of the respondents believed that the relationship between the police and community members was “much better off,” 12.8% rated the relationship as “better off while 25% of the respondents believed that the status quo had been maintained and the relationship was just “about the same”, see Table 6. Such ratings of the police-public relationship posed a challenge to the police because CBP program was partly based on the relationship between police and members of the public. According to the respondents, the availability of CBP initiatives in Ngong Sub-County had contributed to a decrease in almost all major forms of crime rates in the area. About 74.4% of the respondents were in agreement with this fact while 25.6% disagreed. The most prevalent forms of crime in the area were rape and murder at 46.1 and 34.4%, respectively. Carjacking cases were at 6.1% while other crimes not specified were at 13.3%. The results indicated that CBP program had contributed to the decline in carjacking cases; nonetheless, rape and murder were still highly prevalent despite the introduction of the initiatives.

**Table 6:** Rating of the police-Public relationship.

Police-Public Relationship					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Much Better off	8	4.4	4.4	4.4
	Better off	23	12.8	12.8	17.2
	About the same	45	25.0	25.0	42.2
	Worse off	29	16.1	16.1	58.3
	Much worse off	28	15.6	15.6	73.9
	Refused to answer	36	20.0	20.0	93.9
	Do not know	11	6.1	6.1	100.0
	Total	180	100.0	100.0	

**Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)**

To establish the association between gender, place of residence and crime reporting, two-way ANOVA test was used. The results are depicted in Tables 7-12. It was observed that there was a significant association between gender and place of residence as illustrated by  $p = 0.038$ ,  $F(1, 171) = 2.861$ ,  $R^2 = 0.103$ , see Table 7. Between the five towns selected for the study, it was observed that the highest crime reporting due to Community Based Policing initiatives was observed in Oloolua followed by Kiseria and Nkaimoronya, Ngong Town and finally OngataRongai. Figure 1 illustrates the mean plot of the association between increased crime reporting and gender. From the trends depicted in the figure, it can be observed that the number of female respondents who confirmed that there was an increase in crime reporting was constantly higher across all sampled towns except Nkaimoronya town. On the other hand, the male respondents reported an increase in crime reporting in the places where they lived with the exception of Nkaimoronya where men reported an increase in crime reporting in comparison to the women.

**Table 7:** Test of between subject effects crime reporting.

Tests of Between-Subjects Effects					
Dependent Variable: Increased Crime Reporting					
Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	11.994 <sup>a</sup>	8	1.499	2.460	.015
Intercept	193.144	1	193.144	316.961	.000
Gender	2.931	1	2.931	4.810	.030
Residence	2.113	4	.528	.867	.485
Gender * Residence	5.230	3	1.743	2.861	.038
Error	104.201	171	.609		
Total	633.000	180			
Corrected Total	116.194	179			

a. R Squared = .103 (Adjusted R Squared = .061)

**Table 8:** Gender and Residence versus Crime Reporting.

3. Gender * Residence					
Dependent Variable: Increased Crime Reporting					
Gender	Residence	Mean	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval	
				Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Female	Ngong Town	1.909	.166	1.581	2.238
	Oloolua	1.537	.106	1.327	1.747
	Nkaimoronya	1.571	.148	1.280	1.863
	Kiserian	2.121	.136	1.853	2.389
	OngataRongai	1.500	.319	.871	2.129
Male	Ngong Town	1.000	.390	.230	1.770
	Oloolua	1.500	.276	.955	2.045
	Nkaimoronya	1.786	.209	1.374	2.198
	Kiserian	1.455	.235	.990	1.919
	OngataRongai	. <sup>a</sup>	.	.	.

a. This level combination of factors is not observed, thus the corresponding population marginal mean is not estimable.

**Table 9:** Residence area and Crime Reporting.

Increased Crime Reporting		
Tukey HSD <sup>a,b,c</sup>		
Residence	N	Subset
		1
OngataRongai	6	1.50
Oloolua	62	1.53
Nkaimoronya	42	1.64
Ngong Town	26	1.77
Kiserian	44	1.95
Sig.		.389
Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed.		
Based on observed means.		
The error term is Mean Square (Error) = .609.		
a. Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 18.671.		
b. The group sizes are unequal. The harmonic mean of the group sizes is used. Type I error levels are not guaranteed.		
c. Alpha = .05.		

**Table 10:** Descriptive Statistics ANOVA (type of Crime and Residence).

Descriptive Statistics				
Dependent Variable: Decrease in Crime				
Type of Crime	Residence	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Carjacking	Oloolua	1.00	.000	3
	Nkaimoronya	1.60	.548	5
	Kiserian	1.00	.000	3
	Total	1.27	.467	11
Murder	Ngong Town	1.80	.447	5
	Oloolua	1.70	.470	20
	Nkaimoronya	1.76	.437	17
	Kiserian	1.94	.243	17
	OngataRongai	2.00	.000	3
	Total	1.81	.398	62
Rape	Ngong Town	1.44	.511	18
	Oloolua	1.97	.171	34
	Nkaimoronya	1.80	.414	15
	Kiserian	1.80	.414	15
	OngataRongai	2.00	.	1
	Total	1.80	.40	83
Other	Ngong Town	1.67	.577	3
	Oloolua	1.60	.548	5
	Nkaimoronya	1.80	.447	5
	Kiserian	1.67	.500	9
	OngataRongai	1.00	.000	2
	Total	1.63	.495	24

Total	Ngong Town	1.54	.508	26
	Oloolua	1.81	.398	62
	Nkaimoronya	1.76	.431	42
	Kiserian	1.77	.424	44
	OngataRongai	1.67	.516	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1.74</b>	<b>.437</b>	<b>180</b>

**Table 11:** Test of between Subject Effects Type of Crime and Decrease in Crime.

Tests of Between-Subjects Effects					
Dependent Variable: Decrease in Crime					
Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	9.163 <sup>a</sup>	17	.539	3.481	.000
Intercept	158.792	1	158.792	1025.621	.000
Type of Crime	4.664	3	1.555	10.041	.000
Residence	.788	4	.197	1.273	.283
Type of Crime * Residence	4.025	10	.402	2.600	.006
Error	25.082	162	.155		
Total	582.000	180			
Corrected Total	34.244	179			
a. R Squared = .268 (Adjusted R Squared = .191)					

**Table 12:** Residence and Decrease in Crime.

2. Residence				
Dependent Variable: Decrease in Crime				
Residence	Mean	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Ngong Town	1.637 <sup>a</sup>	.101	1.438	1.836
Oloolua	1.568	.077	1.416	1.720
Nkaimoronya	1.741	.071	1.600	1.882
Kiserian	1.602	.074	1.455	1.749
OngataRongai	1.667 <sup>a</sup>	.178	1.316	2.017
a. Based on modified population marginal mean.				

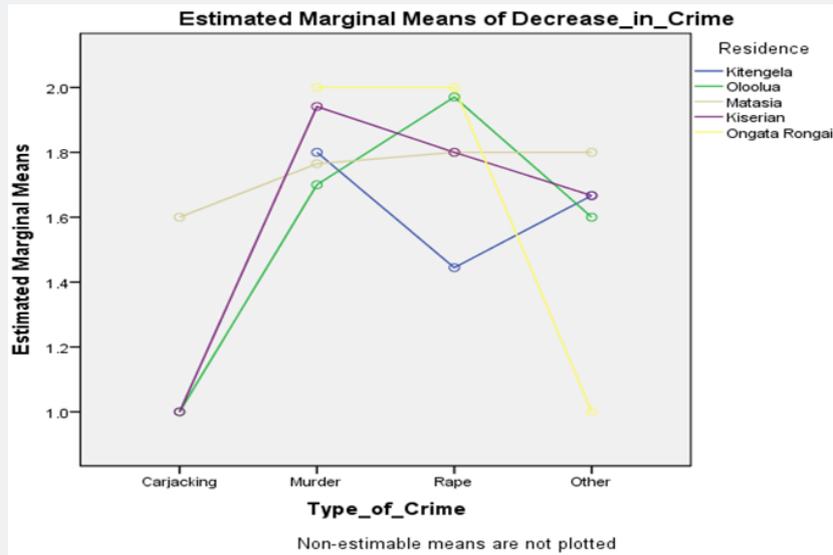


Figure 1: Residence and Crime Reporting among Genders.

Besides, ANOVA was used to elucidate the crime prevalence in the selected towns in Ngong Sub-County. For instance, it was observed that the number of respondents who mentioned carjacking in Nkaimoronya, Oloolua, and Kiserian was 5, 3, and 3, respectively. This indicated that OngataRongai and Kiserian did not experience any form of carjacking. On the other hand, respondents in Ngong Town, Oloolua, Nkaimoronya, Kiserian, and OngataRongai reported 5, 20, 17, 17, and 3 murders respectively. From this information, it can be observed that murder cases are the highest in Oloolua followed by Nkaimoronya and Kiserian. Ngong Town and OngataRongai have the least number of murders according to the information provided by respondents. Therefore, the Community Bases Policing initiative should strive to address this issue before it gets out of hand.

Respondents in Oloolua reported the highest number of rape cases at 34, followed by Ngong Town at 18, Kiserian, and Nkaimoronya at 15. From the murder and rape cases, it can be observed that in both cases the Oloolua was leading while Kiserian and Nkaimoronya had an identical number of criminal cases reported by the respondents. According to the significance value depicted in Table 11, it can be observed that there was a significant association between the type of crime and place of residence. Therefore, the town of residence significantly influenced the general perception that the respondents had towards Community Based Policing program based on the frequency of crime in their locality. The significance value  $p = 0.006$ ,  $F(1, 17) = 2.6$ ,  $R^2 = 0.268$ .

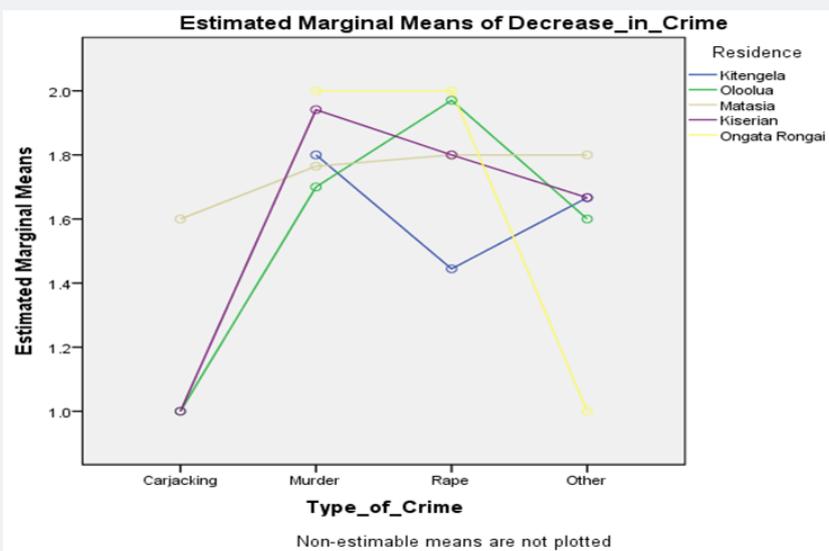


Figure 2: Type of crime and residency.

In Ngong Sub County, the town with the highest decrease in crime due to implementation of Community Based Policing (CBP) program was Nkaimoronya followed by OngataRongai, Ngong Town, Kiserian and lastly Oloolua as depicted in Table 12. From these trends, it can be deduced that CBP initiatives were most productive in Nkaimoronya, OngataRongai, and Ngong Town. Oloolua, on the other hand, had the least decrease in crime and the highest rates of murder and rape as illustrated in Table 12 and (Figure 2).

### Conclusion

The study underscored the need to bridge the glaring mistrust between members of the public and the police. This enhances mutual cooperation and creates more secure society. Introduction of Community based policing program was instrumental in reducing levels of insecurity and crime in Ngong Sub County from 2003 to 2013.

### Recommendation

The study recommends full adoption of community based policing program throughout the country. This will provide a

broader forum upon which police and public will cooperate in fight against insecurity in the society.

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