

**EFFECT OF PREDICTIVE POLICING AND VICTIMS' REPORTING CRIME CONTROL STRATEGIES ON THE PREVALENCE OF ARMED ROBBERY AND KIDNAPPING: A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN NIGERIA AND GHANA**

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**Abstract**

*Criminologists have identified crime control strategy as a major tool in appraising the effectiveness of police departments in checking the prevalence of crime. Data on the violent crimes of armed robbery and kidnapping between Nigeria and Ghana is worrisome, and this has influenced the effectiveness of the police of these two countries; while it has been observed that the Nigeria Police is faced with fundamental and operational problems in her crime control strategies, Ghana Police have achieved greater result in theirs with lower rate and trend in armed robbery and kidnapping. The aim of this study was to identify and assess the crime control strategies of the police and their effect in checking the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping in a comparative analysis between Nigeria and Ghana, from 2015 to 2018. It adopted a mixed research design of content analysis of crime data obtained from annual police report of Nigeria and Ghana between 2015 and 2018 and interview schedule. 20 respondents from the police headquarters of both countries were selected as sample, using sampling to redundancy technique (saturation) and interviewed as key persons to give insight into the strategies, which have yielded different success rates and the prevalence, rate and trend of armed robbery and kidnapping in both countries. Findings revealed that the Ghana Police Service to a great extent adopt the predictive policing, and have more effective victims survey and citizens who are willing to report crimes to the police with a more robust crime data base than the Nigeria Police Force. It is recommended that Nigeria should enhance more confidence building techniques and reform the police in line with the predominant cultural values of the society.*

**Key Words: Predictive Policing, Victims Crime Report, Armed robbery, Kidnapping, Nigeria, Ghana.**

**Background to the Study**

There is a great emphasis by the United Nations on global benchmark standards and norms to prevent crimes among member states. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which is the guardian of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice have presented two sets of crime prevention or control guidelines which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council, in 1995 and 2002. They include the guidelines for Cooperation and Technical Assistance in the Field of Urban Crime Prevention and Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime ([www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)) together with more recent resolutions, they stress that crime prevention strategies must be established alongside criminal justice reform.

Predictive Policing is a modern crime control strategy of the police that involves the use of mathematical, analytical predictive or hypothetical techniques to identify potential criminal activity with already established data. It involves the predicting of crime, the likely offenders, and identities of perpetrators as well as possible victims of such crime. Predictive policing is a strategy for place-based proactive policing that uses predictive algorithms based on combining different types of data to anticipate where and when crime might occur and to identify patterns among past criminal incidents (Hunt, Saunders and Hollywood, 2014).

Ferguson (2012) defined it as a generic term for any crime fighting approach that includes a reliance on information technology (usually crime mapping data and analysis), criminology theory, predictive algorithms, and the use of this data to improve crime suppression on the streets” Ratcliffe (2014: 4) defined it as the “ use of historical data to create a spatiotemporal forecast of areas of criminality or crime hot spots that will be the basis for police resource allocation decisions with the expectation that having officers at the proposed place and time will deter or detect criminal activity”

However, predictive police method many a times also focus on predicting individuals who may become offenders or on predicting perpetrators identities using regression and classification models that include risk factors, statistical modeling to link crimes, and computer assisted queries and analysis of intelligence and other databases, (Perry et al, 2013) opined.

The argument above infers that predictive policing takes data from disparate sources (both real-time crime and frequently other non-crime data) and identifies patterns in the aggregated data set. Police then use those patterns to anticipate, prevent, and respond more effectively to future crime. Perry (et al., 2013) posited that this approach can be used to predict crime by type, predict offenders, predict perpetrators’ identities, or predict victims of crime. For geospatial prediction of crime activity, many police departments use computer software to generate maps of predicted crime activity. Methods used to identify likely perpetrators of past crimes use available information from crimes scenes, to automatically link suspects to crimes; methods predicting potential victim of crimes identify at-risk groups and individuals such as those in proximity to at-risk locations, individuals at risk victimization, and individuals at risk of domestic violence is the concern of predictive policing (Perry et al.’ 2013) posited. Perry (et al, 2013) argued that it does not end at predicting since it is only a half of the efforts, and that it only takes full effort in carrying out interventions that act on the prediction for predictive policing to be fully implemented. Uchida (2009) reported that police in Richmond, Virginia USA used predictive policing methods to analyze random gun fire incidents and were able to anticipate the time, location, and nature of future incidents.

On the other hand, Criminologists have over the years identified three basic ways of measures of crime, which also forms the basic means of identifying crime data - official crime statistics, victims’ survey and self-report (Reid, 2000). The official crime statistics include crime report to the police by the citizens, detected by the police in their investigation or course of work and the projected figures of crime based on certain variables (Reid, 2000). She argued further that victims survey include data or crime report which have not been recorded by the police and by asking the victims of crimes they were victims of; while self-report include obtaining a more accurate picture of crime by asking people which crimes they themselves have committed (Reid, 2000) concluded.

Citizens’ Crime Report involves the willingness and ability of victims, perpetrators and witnesses of crime to promptly report such victimization, involvement or witnessed incidences to the police with a possible timely response by the police, usually in a documented form due to citizens’ trust and reliance on the compliance ability of the police.

Official statistics, except for data on crimes known to the police are more correctly regarded as measures of crime, because they record a social-control reaction of the criminal justice system to a known offence or offender (Perry et al, 2013). For example, a crime known to the police typically reported to the police by a complainant, and the record of it is evidence of the detection of a crime. It is therefore argued by (Reiss,

2013) that arrest, prosecution, conviction, and disposition statistics as well as administrative book-keeping and accounting data, are best thought of as information of the characteristics, procedures, and processes of crime control. It therefore shows that official statistics of crime which are police statistics are offences known.

The United States have adopted two sources of measures of crime on offences known to the police and these measures have come to stay as very reliable, where citizens make report of crime victimization against them. They are the Uniform Crime Report, which is annually published by the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Victimization Survey of the United States Bureau of Justice (BJ) statistics ([www.fbi.org](http://www.fbi.org)).

The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) provides statistics on the amount and distribution of crimes known to the police and arrest, with other less complete data on clearances by arrest, average value stolen in variety of property offences, dispositions of offenders charged, number of law enforcement personnel, and officers assaulted or killed. The statistics are based on data submitted monthly by 15,000 Municipal, County, and State law enforcement agents, which have jurisdiction over approximately 98 percent of the U.S population ([www.fbi.org](http://www.fbi.org)).

Researchers on policing are concerned on the varying degree of successes between these two countries police departments. Data obtained from the Nigeria data portal of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) revealed a total of 90, 047 convicted cases of armed robbery that involved both male and female sexes between 2007-2014, while abduction (kidnapping) recorded a total of 12,808 occurrences within the same period. In 2015, a total of 84, 419 offences against property where armed robbery is classified under by the Nigeria Police Force statistics, verified and validated by the National Bureau of Statistics occurred, with Lagos State having the highest occurrence of 29, 321 while offences against persons (that includes kidnapping) occurred 58,695 times. Furthermore, 2016 recorded 65,397 offences against property and 45, 554 offences against persons from the Nigeria Police Force; National Bureau of Statistics verified and validated statistics. However, there was a shift upward in 2017 with a total of 134,663 crime cases with offences against property having the highest number of cases reported at 68,579 and offences against persons recorded at 53, 641. Lagos State also had the highest percentage share of total cases reported at 37.9 percent, followed by Abia and Delta States with 9.2 percent and 5.3 percent cases, respectively. The years 2018 was not an exception in the rate of armed robbery and kidnapping with 101,000 reported and investigated armed robbery cases, some of which involved police officers and numerous kidnapping cases ([bbc.com](http://bbc.com)).

However, these troubling figures were not the same with Ghana who in the year 2015 recorded a total of 186, 434 complaints by the Ghana police out in which 176, 091 were recorded as true cases, while the remaining 10,314 cases were refused as trivial, civil in nature or false and did not warrant police action. Out of the true cases above, 36,138 cases representing 44.5 percent gained conviction, 829 representing 2.3 percent were acquitted ([www.police.gov.gh](http://www.police.gov.gh)). At the close of the year 2015, 19,225 cases representing 53.2 percent of the total number of cases sent to court for prosecutions were awaiting. A total of 37, 262 cases were closed as undetected, while 102, 691 cases representing 58.3 percent of the total number of true cases were under investigation (CID headquarters 2015 crime report – [www.police.gov.gh](http://www.police.gov.gh)). Total established cases of armed robbery in Nigeria in 2015 was 2,241; in 2016 it was 4,082, in 2017 it recorded 4,201 and 3,405 in 2018, respectively and kidnapping recorded 886 in 2015; 630 in 2016; 1,117 in 2017, and 3,901 in 2018.

In the summary of the above background, armed robbery, which the Ghana police categorized as one of the major offences recorded only 1,411 times representing 26.4 percent in the entire Ghana. Kidnapping which is not categorized as a major offence in Ghana was reported to have occurred only six (6) times all through the year 2015.

In 2016, there was a decline in the rate of armed robbery to 1,397 which is a minus of 1.0 percent decrease from the 2015, while only 12 recorded cases of kidnapping occurred in the entire region of Ghana. 2017 recorded a total of 1,742 cases of armed robbery which was a 26.8 percent change from that of 2016 indicating approximately five (5) cases of robbery daily in 2017. The Ghana police arrested a total of two hundred and forty one (241) suspected robbers nationwide as against, two hundred and thirty two (232) in 2016 which included 9 police officers. A total of 26 lives were lost through armed robbery as against 112 in Nigeria in 2017, while 79 lives were lost in 2016 as against over 50 lives in Nigeria in the same year ([www.crimewatch.com](http://www.crimewatch.com)).

Moreover, a total of 54 kidnapping cases representing 3.6 percent from that of 2016 which was (56) occurred in Ghana in 2017, whereas within a space of 14 months, 2016 -2017, Nigeria recorded 1,177 cases of kidnapping and 525 cases were fully prosecuted and 652 cases were still being investigated at the end of 2017 ([www.crimewatch.com](http://www.crimewatch.com)). It is also very disheartening that armed robbery incidence in Ghana on the aggregate in 2018 recorded the highest number as against the four previous years under review with just about 1842 cases of both convicted and under investigation matters. However, in Nigeria over 3,405 cases of armed robbery were recorded with many of such attacks on commercial banks, residential areas, financial institutions and highways ([africanews.com](http://africanews.com))

In a study by Santos (2004) on *the effectiveness of crime analysis for crime reduction: cure or diagnosis*, through a qualitative assessment, he found out that there is a clear pattern that crime analysis based on reported crimes plays, that is significant to effective police approach. He reiterated that crime analysis plays a very limited role in policing approaches that are ineffective. The study concluded that crime report and analysis is a key component in successful crime reduction efforts. The question now is to what extent are citizens of the countries of study ready to report crime or be involved in a victimization survey based on established standardized method of crime report keeping by the police of their countries. This question begs for answers and such answers hopes to make up to fill the gap in our literature.

### **Problem and Justification of the Study**

The police departments of the countries of Nigeria and Ghana are at the forefront of the basic crime control strategies, and their policing models vary with some degree of success on certain crimes like armed robbery, kidnapping, and other violent crimes (Tankebe, 2010). It is a common scene that in Ghana, the police are not as visibly armed as their counterparts in Nigeria, yet, they seem to be more recognized, respected and supported by their citizens than that of Nigeria. Their police ratio which is about 1:1000 citizens based on their projected population figure of 30.42 million citizens from their (2010) last census exercise and about 30,000 police officers is a far cry from that of Nigeria, which is about 1:486 from the projected population of over 190 million citizens and about 400,000 police officers, based on the United Nations ratio of 1:400. The Ghana police distribution is as uneven as most developing countries of the world, yet the prevalence of serious crimes like armed robbery and kidnapping seems to be higher in Nigeria than in Ghana.

The Nigerian police has been faced with many fundamental and operational problems in her crime control strategies like ineffective citizen's crime report system, otherwise called victims' survey. Owing to lack of confidence and public trust on the police by the citizens, it has been very difficult for the police to rely on information willingly sent in to her by the citizens with regards to crime. In spite of many confidence building techniques like change of the police uniform from time to time, anonymous crime report boxes in public places, creation of social media interactive platforms by the police, increased radio jingles and radio phone-in programmes in many public and private radio and television stations; the citizens are cold feet in the report of crimes either against them, committed or witnessed by themselves to the police. This problem has kept the police in the dark as to the magnitude of crimes involving kidnapping and armed robbery in many communities in Nigeria. There are other contending issues which have been alleged to be major constituents of the problem.

Furthermore, as part of the general proactive policing model, the police in Nigeria on many occasions do not implement the techniques of predictive policing, otherwise, known as intelligence-led policing. This crime control strategy refers to the usage of mathematical, scientific-hypothetical-prediction and other analytical techniques in law enforcement to identify potential criminal activity. It involves the use of data on the times, locations and nature of past crimes to provide insight to police strategists concerning where, and what times, police patrols should patrol, or maintain a stationed presence, in order to make the best use of resources or to have the greatest chance of deterring or preventing future crimes. The strategy also involves police use of data accumulated on shooting and the sounds of gunfire to identify locations of shooting, use of population to map crime statistics to improve monitoring and identify patterns according to (Perry et al, 2013). Rather than adopt this predictive model of police work, it is a common occurrence to see police officers reluctant to even respond to crime scenes or respond to emergency calls or follow-up investigations and this has invariably affected the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping in both countries.

This paper was aimed at ascertaining the effectiveness of *citizens' crime report* (victims' survey) and *predictive (intelligence-led)* policing crime control strategies and their effect on the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping in a comparative analysis between Nigeria and Ghana from 2015 to 2018. The basis for the comparison is premised on the fact that both countries had same colonial experience with similar colonially bequeathed police departments, cultural affinity and semblance, same governance experience – from military to democratic governance, frequent citizens contact, similar challenges facing police and policing, crime challenges in both countries, as well as differences in population and land mass. However, findings from many literatures have not shown combination of the factors especially those that border on effective citizens; crime report (victims survey) and predictive (intelligence-led) policing in assessing the crime control strategy by the police, but rather many of such literatures have singled out the variables of income, working equipment, deviance, training and retraining in assessing the performance of the police in crime prevention, mostly in developing countries of the world.

This study made effort to fill the gap in identifying and comparing the differentials in policing model, combing all the above conceptualized problems of absence of effective citizens willingness to report crimes for police actions and predictive or intelligence led policing, which are indicators of adequate crime control strategies by the police or the criminal justice system between Nigeria and Ghana, who have highly visible differential rates of violent crimes like armed robbery and kidnapping.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This paper is framed on the Culture Conflict Theory propounded by Thorsten Sellin, who theorized that there are numerous social groups which pass complexes of conduct norms which, due to difference in the mode of life and the social values evolved by these groups, appear to set them apart from other groups in many or most respects. And conflicts of cultures are evitable when the norms of one cultural or sub-cultural area or group migrate to or come in contact with those of another (Sellin, 1938).

It is observed from the foregoing that the Culture Conflict Theory is best suited for the explanation of the problem of ineffective citizens' crime report and predictive policing crime control strategies and the increasing phenomenon of armed robbery and kidnapping, which this study addressed, due to the fact that the orientation, trainings and values of the police department expose them to internalize certain norms, and these norms many a times are at variance with the general conduct norms, the police being a sub- culture of the entire general culture.

Adopting this model one can identify that in the Nigeria situation, the police are in most cases in conflict with the citizens who they are policing at various levels. Their cultural values and norms run counter with that of the people. This is demonstrated in their regular alleged corrupt (deviant) behaviors and not holistically interested in enforcing the laws saddled with prevention of crimes in the society. For example the Police establish check- points in most cases with the *guise of preventing crimes like armed robbery and*

*kidnapping from occurring*, and against the directives of the ruling (political) class and expectations of the citizen and use such avenues to make up for whatever income, that would have accrued to them going by the perceived nature of their work. They allege that the political class have appropriated to themselves greater resources of the common wealth and extending a partly sum to control and prevent *the monsters* (armed robbers and kidnapers) which were created by the alleged corrupt and negligent actions of these political class.

The community on their part is not prepared to cooperate with the police whose cultural values, norms and roles are seen as antithetical to the values of the general community. Information about crime is hidden from the knowledge of the police; citizens perceive them as a sub deviant culture that should not be trusted, supported, assisted and allowed a part to play for social control within the community. The police more conscious of their unacceptable presence by the supposedly community hosting them create wider gap by maintaining a *blue wall of silence* (See Reid 2000) in their deviant behaviours against the community, like (extrajudicial killings, illegal arrests and torture, human right abuse, set up and raids), extortions at police check points from the citizens they were meant to protect and serve ; and due to their values prompted by their trainings and philosophy of confidentiality and secrecy, they keep blind eye to the activities of these criminals who unleash terror and mayhem on the citizens.

This study sought to explore from this theory such conflicts arising between legal and non-legal conduct norms of the police, which is contrary to the expectation of the citizens who have oriented and internalized values and conduct norms that is different from the police agency generally. This culture conflict where the citizens perceive every policeman as a probable corrupt, non-friendly deviant, accomplice to criminals, abuser of citizens' rights, fraudulent oriented and different from the generality of the culture has been alleged to contribute to ineffective citizens' crime report and predictive (intelligence-led) policing crime control strategies, and this has invariably discouraged the citizens from either reporting incidences of armed robbery against them or kidnapping and choose to pay ransom in many of the unreported kidnapped cases.

In sum, the culture of the police and the citizens are in constant conflict which have created adequate environment for violent crimes like armed robbery and kidnapping to thrive. This culture peculiarity of the police has in most cases alienated the police from the community and created a deep in-group and out-group consciousness between the policed and police departments. This is a fundamental theoretical explanation on the inability of the police of one of the countries to initiate a standardized crime control strategy, against the other whose police cultural values seems to be in tandem with greater part of the citizens, hence, the varying prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping and differentials in the success rates of their crime control strategies.

### **Methodology**

The study adopted a combination of both qualitative descriptive and quantitative survey (*mixed research design*), to provide an assessment of the citizens' crime report and predictive policing as they affect the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping phenomena. It involved a content analysis of police crime report on armed robbery and kidnapping from 2015-2018 in Nigeria and Ghana, and other secondary sources like (newspapers, magazines and online reports) within the period under review, as well as structured interview of a purposely sampled research subject in the respective police headquarters of both countries.

The universe population of the study comprises of officers and men of the Nigeria Police Force distributed across the 36 States of Nigeria and its Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, 12 Zonal Commands, 10 specialized sections of (Ports Authority, Railway, Airport, DOps, Logistics & Supply, FCID, FHQ, NP Medicals, Police Press and Band) totaling 341, 231 and the sworn and unsworn officers of the Ghana Police Service distributed in the 12 Regional Commands and 84 Divisions and other specialized police units in the country totaling, 31,001.

The Police Annual Crime Reports of 2015-2018 for Nigeria and Ghana were purposely used for the content analysis. Furthermore twenty (20) senior management police officers were also purposively sampled from the police headquarters of the two countries. This set of officers served as key persons in the interview schedule. Following the technique of sampling to redundancy, “saturation” (see Durrheim (1999), the twenty (20) management and senior police officers sampled were presumed to be sufficient to provide the relevant information deemed necessary and adequate for the purpose of this study. The primary instrument used in the collection of data was the key persons structured interview schedule, KPIS, while the secondary data were the content analysis of the statistics on Police Annual Crime Reports of Nigeria and Ghana to ascertain the trend, prevalence rates of armed robbery and kidnapping published in the 4years period of 2015-2018. The data from this study were presented and interpreted using simple percentage and descriptive statistics such as bar and pie charts, while the trend, rates, scale of armed robbery and kidnapping were employed as measures to answer the research questions from the specific objectives. The in-depth interview were presented with verbatim transcription and analyzed using the Deductive Thematic Analysis for Interview Transcripts Software - QDA Miner for qualitative data.

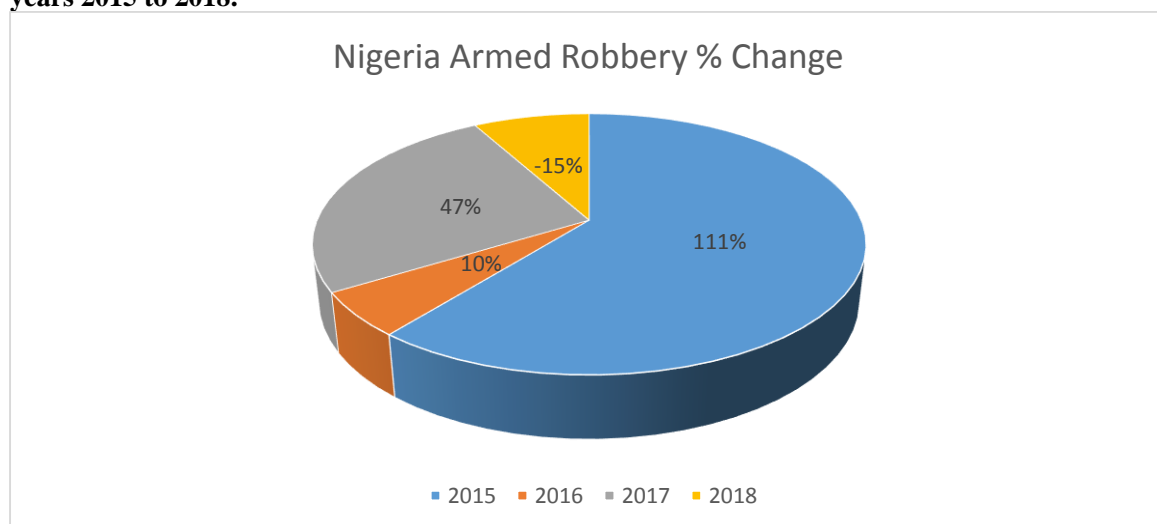
**Results and Discussion of Findings**

Table 1 shows the total number cases of armed robbery and kidnapping in Nigeria for the years 2015 to 2018

<b>Nigeria</b>					
<b>Crime</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Total</b>
Armed Robbery	2,129	2,342	3,436	2,928	10,835
% Change (Armed Robbery)	111%	10.0%	46.7%	-43.9%	
Kidnapping	1,019	1,123	1,133	1,660	4,935
% Change (Kidnapping)	138%	10.2%	0.9%	-41.7%	

Source: NPF Headquarters, Abuja.

**Figure 1 below shows the percentage change of armed robbery and Kidnapping in Nigeria for the years 2015 to 2018.**



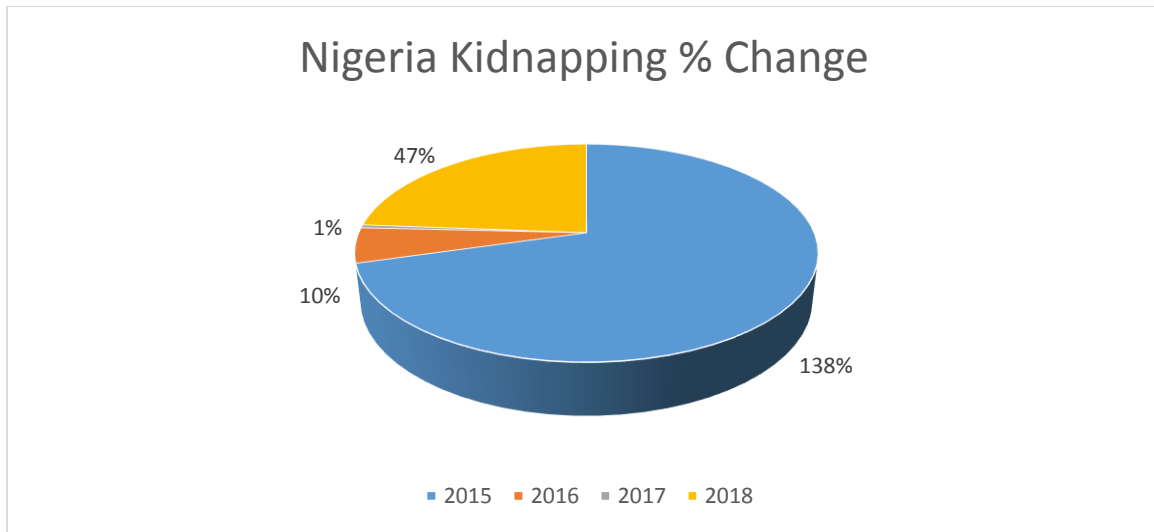


Figure 2 below shows the trends of armed robbery and Kidnapping in Nigeria for the years 2015 to 2018.

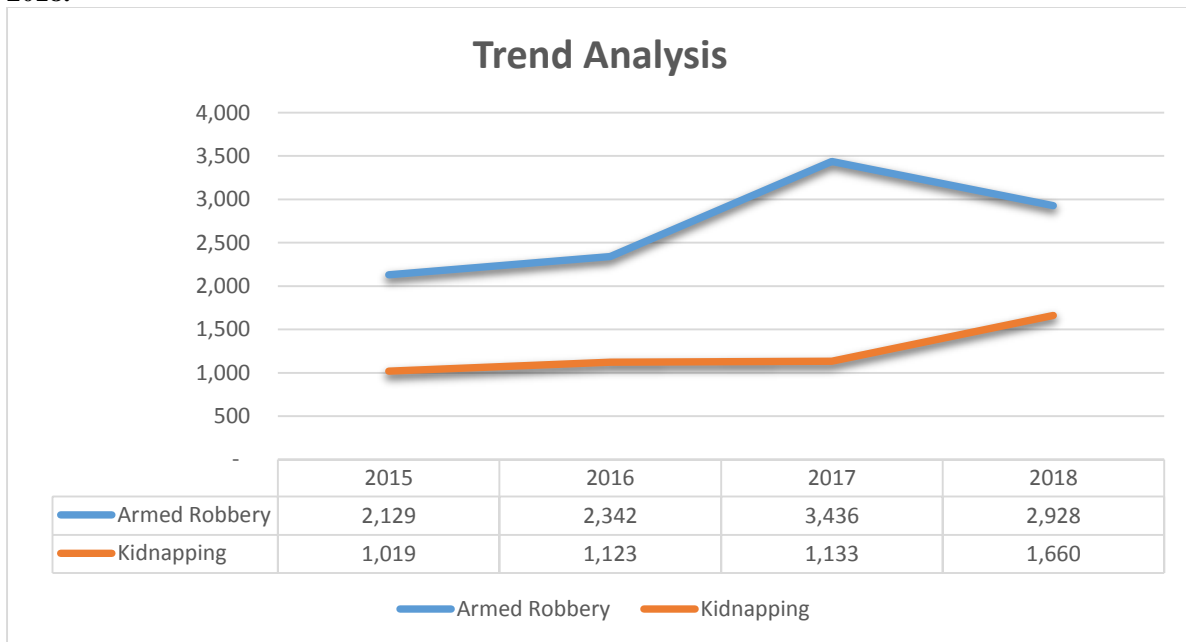


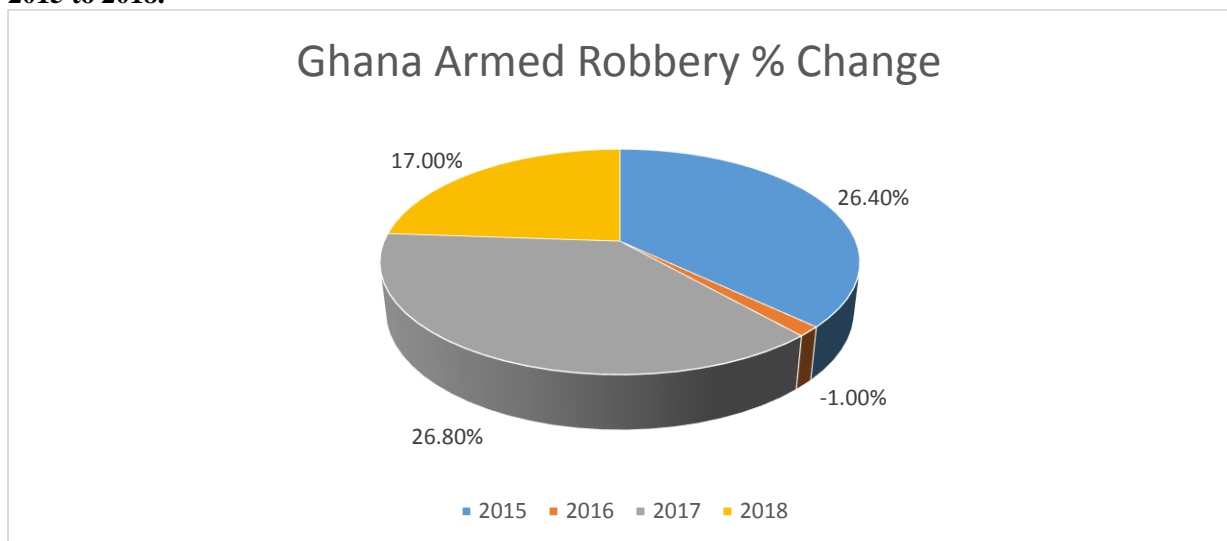


Table 2 shows the total number cases of armed robbery and kidnapping in Ghana for the years 2015 to 2018

Ghana					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Armed Robbery	1,411	1,397	1,772	2,074	6,654
% Change (Armed Robbery)	26.4%	-1.0%	26.8%	17.0%	
Kidnapping	43	56	54	59	212
% Change (Kidnapping)	-47.6%	30.2%	-3.6%	9.3%	

Source: Ghana Police Service, Annual Crime Report.

Figure 3 below shows the percentage change of armed robbery and Kidnapping in Ghana for the years 2015 to 2018.



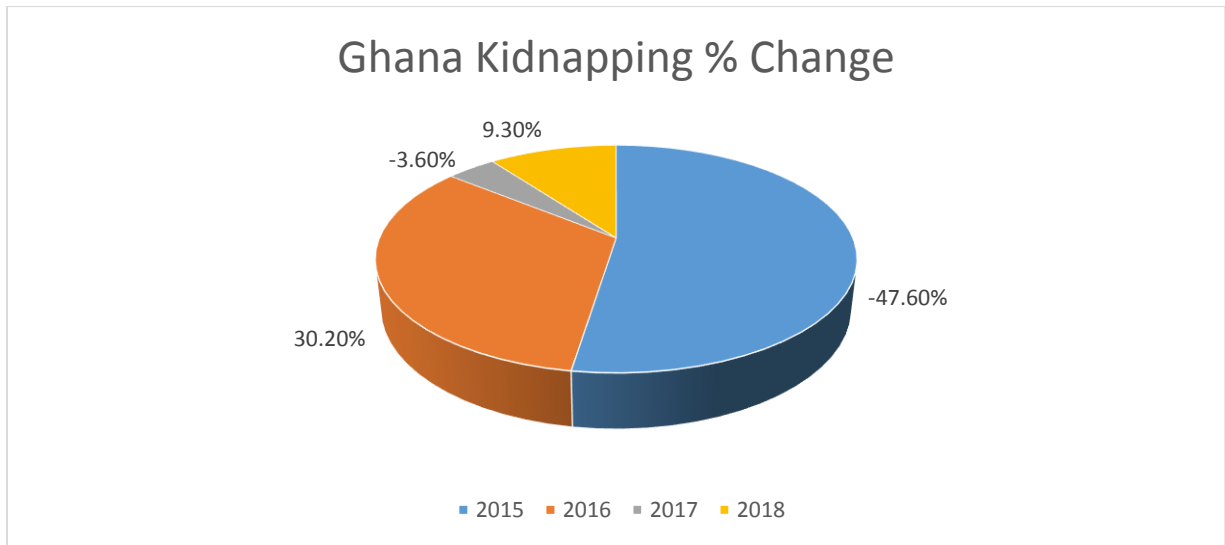


Figure 4 below shows the trend of armed robbery and Kidnapping in Ghana for the years 2015 to 2018.

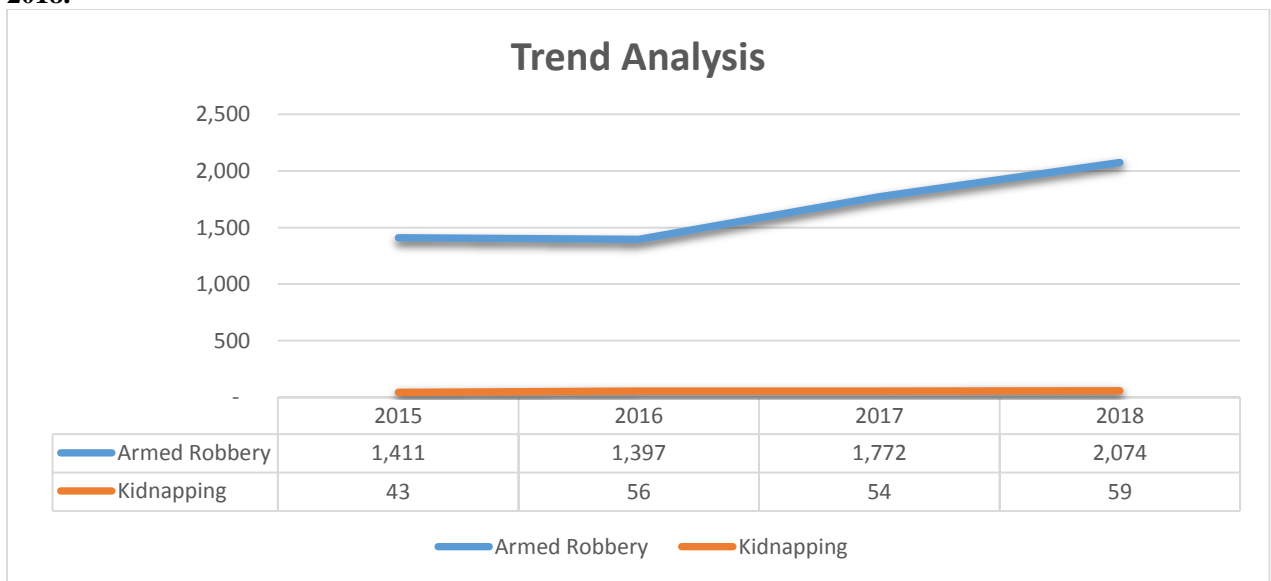


Table 3 below shows the comparison of total number cases of armed robbery and kidnapping in Nigeria and Ghana for the years 2015 to 2018

Nigeria Vs Ghana								
Crime	2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Nigeria	Ghana	Nigeria	Ghana	Nigeria	Ghana	Nigeria	Ghana
Armed Robbery	2,129	1,411	2,342	1,397	3,436	1,772	2,928	2,074
% Change (Armed Robbery)	110.8%	26.4%	10.0%	-1.0%	46.7%	26.8%	-43.9%	17.0%
Kidnapping	1,019	43	1,123	56	1,133	54	1,660	59
% Change (Kidnapping)	138%	-	10.2%	30.2%	0.9%	-3.6%	-41.7%	9.3%

Figure 5 below shows a comparison of the trend of armed robbery and kidnapping in Nigeria and Ghana for the years 2015 to 2018

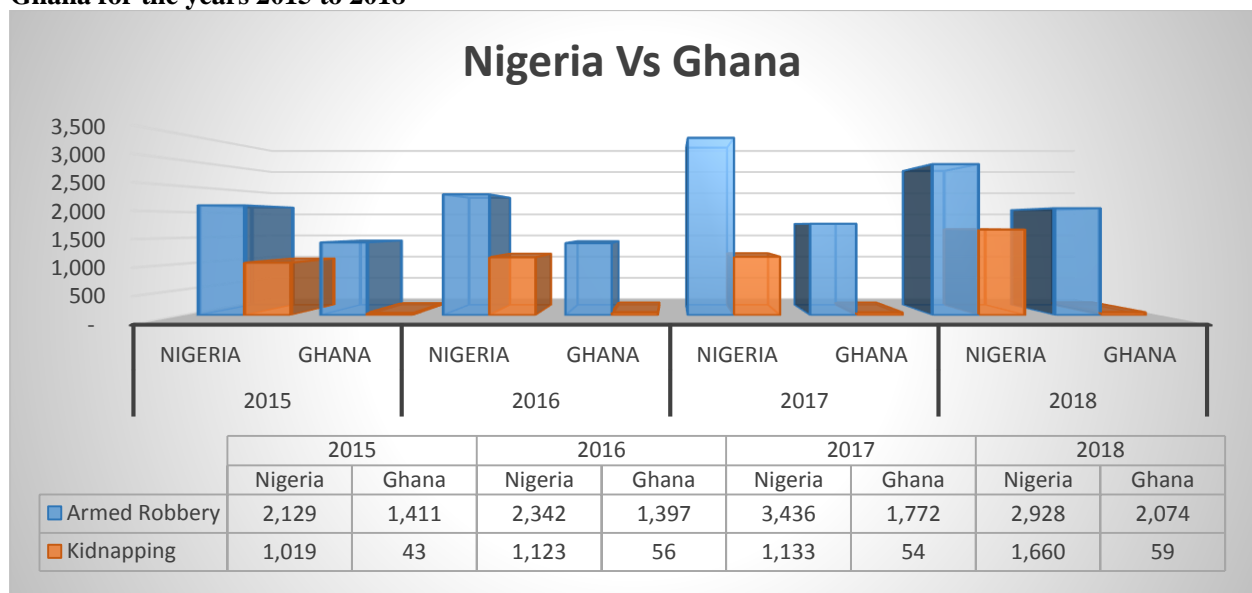


Table 3 below shows the summary interview response from key persons who served as the respondents from Nigeria and Ghana.

S/N	Item	Nigeria		Ghana	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1	Willingness of the victims and witnesses to report to police when they are victimized or involved or witness crime?		x	X	
2	Use of data for crime prevention policy formulation/legislation	x		X	
	2a. Use of hypothetical prediction and analytical tools to prevent crime occurrences	X		X	
	2b. Reliability and public knowledge of the data		X	X	
3	Police have good relationship with the community in which they are	X		X	
<b>Policing mindset:</b>					
4	Proactive mindset	X		X	
	Reactive (traditional) mindset	X		X	
<b>Motivation of personnel:</b>					
5	Adequate remuneration		X	X	
	Adequate working equipment		X		X
	Promotions at when due	X		X	
	Training/retraining of personnel	X		X	
	Recognition for extra jobs	X		X	
	Compensation due to loss	X		X	
6	Do the strategies deployed by the police effective on prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping	X		X	

Findings from the comparative content analysis revealed that a total 10,835 armed robbery cases were recorded by the Nigeria Police for the four years period under study, while kidnapping had a record of 6,654 occurrences under the same period, whereas in Ghana armed robbery had 4,935 recorded cases while kidnapping only occurred 212 times from the Ghana Police records. The trend also showed an average 38% increase in armed robbery and 49% increase in kidnapping for the four years period, while Ghana had average increase of 17.3% in armed robbery with an average decrease of 2.9% in kidnapping within the same four year period. The findings clearly shows that the two police departments, Nigeria Police Force and Ghana Police Services adopt the same crime control strategies but at different rates, in checking the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping in their respective countries. While Ghana to a great extent deploy citizens' crime report and predictive policing crime control strategies are successful, Nigeria to a very low extent adopt such strategies as well and have been unsuccessful in the control of the prevalence of the crimes of armed robbery and kidnapping.

Interview responses from key persons on the objective that addressed effective citizen's crime report showed that Nigeria citizens hardly come forward as witnesses to crimes especially for armed robbery and kidnapping, but willingly come when they are victimized through bodily harm, harm to property, threat to life, whereas respondents in Ghana clearly indicated that the citizens freely approach the Ghana Police to tell them all they witness in any crime scene including armed robbery. According to a respondent in Nigeria:

*Aah aah! Victims of crime report of such victimization in all our stations across Nigeria, even as we speak now someone somewhere in*

*any of our police stations is making an entry of an offence committed against him or her. But they hardly stand as witnesses in the law courts.*

A respondent in Ghana indicated that:

*Our citizens who are victims of crime timely report such incidences to us and we ensure that they are protected with our quick intervention to save the situation.*

On what constitutes their crime data the respondents also revealed that all police records within a period constitute the data and that the police rely on such data to prevent crime.

According to the respondents in Nigeria Police Force:

*Our crime data is the aggregate of all crime reported and recorded at all police stations across the country. Yes, we use the data to follow-up the trend of crimes. We make available the data to the government and even legislators especially when there is any investigative hearing, but it is not meant for public use because they are classified information.*

According to the respondents in Ghana Police Services:

*Crime data are recorded weekly, monthly and yearly gathered from all police stations across the country. Without these data the Ghana police services could not have been able to attend the success they have achieved, it is a necessary tool in preventing crime.*

Other respondents posited thus:

*Our crime data is useful for all police operations and has helped in both policy formulation, legislative activities and it is available for the public to assess.*

The implication of this findings is anchored on the premise that while citizens in Nigeria report victimization to the police especially when threatened, they are so reluctant to report crime scene witnesses to the police because of police secrecy in handling records and data about criminality in the country, such approach erodes public support and confidence on the ability of the police to address issues of crime like armed robbery and kidnapping in Nigeria, whereas in Ghana the police seems to have the support, cooperation and total confidence of the citizens because their crime data is open for all to see, hence the more successes of the Ghana Police Service than the Nigeria Police Force in checking the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping through the strategy of victims crime report (victims survey).

Interview findings to ascertain the extent to which predictive policing, otherwise, intelligence-led policing crime control strategy affects the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping in Nigeria and Ghana shows that both countries police departments are very conversant with predictive policing and adopt the techniques of analytical tools, hypotheses formulation and mathematical predictions which are key components of predictive policing in their policing approach to address the menace of armed robbery and kidnapping.

A respondent from Nigeria stressed thus:

*Of course without intelligence led policing which is the current best practice all our policemen will be regularly felled by the bullets of the criminals and we cannot achieve anything.*

Other respondents corroborated his view with emphasis on intelligence led policing as their major approach to help save police enormous resources involved in crime control. A designated officer in charge of this section asserted thus:

*We are a police that's saddled with internal security of the country, crime bursting involves high level of intelligence gathering, which include crime prediction, neutralization or elimination of possible suspects who have been identified as confirmed offenders and a whole lots of other proactive policing styles.*

Respondents from Ghana also confirmed their adoption of the predictive policing model in the policing of their country in the interview session.

*Ghana is not just a country the police do things in a haphazard manner, most of our activities are based on credible intelligence gathered over a long period of time on a particular crime we are monitoring. So greater part of what we do as a police agency is intelligence informed.*

Both police departments attributed their success to predictive policing but the rate of their success also varies due to the trend, rate and prevalence of the incidences of armed robbery and kidnapping in both countries. While that of Ghana may be seen to be very successful, the Nigeria Police can be seen to be partially successful.

### **Conclusion**

The findings of this paper have revealed that citizens' crime reporting system helps the police in building a robust data crime base in any society and through these data the police is able to make objective analysis on the rate, trend and nature of crime, hypothetical predictions of possible offenders and victims, and can proactively nib such crime in the nub before its occurrence. In other words, for predictive (intelligence-led) policing crime control strategy to be effective they must be full citizens' participation through the process assisting the police with crime reporting system and this can only be effective if there is no apathy against police and policing model. These factors occur at varying rates based on the qualitative data obtained from the documents analyzed from both Nigeria and Ghana police departments, respectively. That of Ghana showed a fully successful strategy with its corresponding low rate of armed robbery and kidnapping that of Nigeria showed partially successful strategy with its attendant high rate of the above mentioned crimes under study.

### **Recommendations**

1. Crime data should not be highly classified as it obtains in Nigeria, the data on crime should be made easily accessible and available for anyone who has need for it and should also be published periodically, that way criminal elements will know that their activities are under the knowledge of the police and this can also help in initiating policies that addresses criminality.
2. Police departments in the sub-region especially that of Ghana and Nigeria should embrace total research-based approach in her intelligence-led policing as obtains in the developed countries, that way, accurate scientific postulations, predictions and analysis can be made in curbing incidences of crime through intelligence.
3. More confidence building efforts and initiatives should be adopted by the police to earn citizens support and cooperation especially in Nigeria, while that of Ghana has to be intensified to achieve full citizens participation in policing their communities.
4. The police has to be encouraged through public support to build offenders self-report crime data building system so as to cover the dark side of crime data that are not captured in crime management system.

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