URBAN CRIME IN NIGERIA
TRENDS, COSTS AND POLICY CONSIDERATION
Outline

1) Cities as Complex Systems

2) Inter-City Comparative Analysis of Urban Crime

3) Data and Techniques

4) Findings and Implications

5) Some Recommendations
Major Transformative Forces of Human Development Since the 18th Century

- Interconnected & interdependent
- Industrialisation – breeds urbanisation
- Urbanisation lubricates globalisation
- Urbanisation the conduit between the other two forces
Early Recognition of the Complex Nature of Urbanisation
Urbanisation – A Complex Process

- Complex systems
- Complex structures
- Complex opportunities
- Complex challenges (e.g. crime)

Urban Crime Challenge in Nigeria: Contemporary Knowledge Gaps

- Spatial and temporal configuration of traditional forms of urban crime
- Contemporary centrifugal and centripetal forces that stimulate urban crime
- Cost of urban crime
- Coping strategies and their effectiveness
- The possible future prospects of urban communities with respect to crime
- No recent comprehensive places different cities on a rigorous empirical comparative framework
Thirty Six Case Study Cities
A Battery of Comparative Measures

- Prevalence
- Concentration
- Intensity of Fear
- Specialisation
- Temporal Rhythms
- Drivers

Dimensions
Multiple Data Signals

- Seven years worth of crime victimisation statistics 2005 to 2011 [CLEEN Foundation]
- The Global Rural-Urban Mapping Project (GRUMP)
- The Nigerian Geodemographic Classification System (NIGECS)
- 5 in 10 urban dwellers were victims of crime
- Heightened risk of crime is greatest within Port Harcourt (7 in 10 residents)
- Prevalence of crime in Port Harcourt is more than treble that of Damaturu where risk is at its lowest
Concentration of Urban Crime (2005 to 2011)

- Indicates repeat victimisation
- Profiling of repeat victims may present a distinctive opportunity to mitigate urban crime rates
- Mean number of crime incidents per urban victim in Nigeria is 2.2
- With the exception of Nnewi, all the other 9 cities combine high concentration of crime with higher than average prevalence rates

\[
\text{Concentration} = \frac{\text{Number of victimisations}}{\text{Number of victims}}
\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement Hierarchy</th>
<th>Concentration of Crime</th>
<th>Rate per 1000 people (All Crimes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benin City</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Harcourt</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nnewi</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sokoto</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>554</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uyo</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>598</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yola</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>672</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gombe</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilorin</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jos</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maiduguri</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>509</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Intensity of Fear of Urban Crime (2005 to 2011)

- Composite measure from the weighted prevalence of different echelons of fear
- Fear of crime does not always translate into risk of victimisation
- In majority of urban centres (81%) fear of crime is expressed at levels higher than the actual prevalence
Specialisation of Violent Crimes (2005 to 2011)

\[ LQ = \frac{c_{in} / c_{tn}}{\sum_{n=1}^{N} c_{in} / \sum_{n=1}^{N} c_{tn}} \]

**Murder**

**Specialisation of Murder**
- **Location Quotient**
  - Very Underrepresented (Less than 0.8)
  - Moderately Underrepresented (0.8 - 0.9)
  - Averagely Represented (1.0 - 1.1)
  - Moderately Overrepresented (1.2 - 1.3)
  - Very Overrepresented (Greater than 1.3)
- **Settlement Hierarchy**
  - Small City (Less than 300,000 People)
  - Medium Sized City (300,000 - 499,999 People)
  - Large City ($500,000 - 1 Million People)
  - Metropolis (Over 1 Million People)

**Robbery**

**Specialisation of Robbery**
- **Location Quotient**
  - Very Underrepresented (Less than 0.8)
  - Moderately Underrepresented (0.8 - 0.9)
  - Averagely Represented (1.0 - 1.1)
  - Moderately Overrepresented (1.2 - 1.3)
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  - Metropolis (Over 1 Million People)
Specialisation of Violent Crimes (2005 to 2011)

**Physical Assault**

**Domestic Violence**

Specialisation of Physical Assault
- Location Quotient:
  - Very Underrepresented (Less than 0.8)
  - Moderately Underrepresented (0.8 - 0.9)
  - Averagely Represented (1.0 - 1.1)
  - Moderately Overrepresented (1.2 - 1.3)
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Settlement Hierarchy:
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Geopolitical Zones
- Lake Chad
Specialisation of Property Crimes (2005 to 2011)
Specialisation of Property Crimes (2005 to 2011)

**Mobile Phone Theft**

**Theft from Car**

**Specialisation of Mobile Phone Theft**
- Location Quotient:
  - Very Underrepresented (Less than 0.8)
  - Moderately Underrepresented (0.8 - 0.9)
  - Approximately Represented (1.0 - 1.1)
  - Moderately Overrepresented (1.2 - 1.3)
  - Very Overrepresented (Greater than 1.3)

**Specialisation of Theft from Car**
- Location Quotient:
  - Very Underrepresented (Less than 0.8)
  - Moderately Underrepresented (0.8 - 0.9)
  - Approximately Represented (1.0 - 1.1)
  - Moderately Overrepresented (1.2 - 1.3)
  - Very Overrepresented (Greater than 1.3)

**Settlement Hierarchy**
- Small City (Less than 300,000 People)
- Medium Sized City (300,000 - 499,999 People)
- Large City (500,000 - 1 Million People)
- Metropolitan (Over 1 Million People)

**Geopolitical Zones**
- Lake Chad
Specialisation of Serious Sexual Offences (2005 to 2011)

Rape

Attempted Rape

Location Quotient
- Very Underrepresented (Less than 0.8)
- Moderately Underrepresented (0.8 - 0.9)
- Averagely Represented (1.0 - 1.1)
- Moderately Overrepresented (1.2 - 1.3)
- Very Overrepresented (Greater than 1.3)

Settlement Hierarchy
- Small City (Less than 300,000 People)
- Medium Sized City (300,000 - 499,999 People)
- Large City (500,000 - 1 Million People)
- Metropolis (Over 1 Million People)
Specialisation of Urban Crime: Selected Findings

- In general, cities within the South East and South South appear to specialise in violent crimes.

- However, it is worth mentioning that key cities of the North Central and North East also specialise in murder.

- An interesting revelation is the high level of representation of domestic violence across cities of the North East and North West.

- There seems to be an endemic problem of theft (mobile phones, money and from car) within cities of the South West geopolitical zone.

- Results show relatively higher representations of serious sexual offences within cities in the South East and South South.
Temporal Regimes of Urban Crime (2005 to 2011)
Temporal Regimes of Urban Crime: Selected Findings

- Urban crime rose from the middle of the first decade of the current millennium and peaked at the end of the decade.
- Approximately half of urban murders take place at night time.
- However, murders in the metropolitan centres (1 million or more residents) are much more sporadic than the other settlement hierarchies.
- In metropolitan centres, the majority of rape incidents occur in the evening.
- However, it is striking that 42% of rapes in small cities (less than 300,000 inhabitants) take place in broad day light.
Drivers: Bivariate Analysis of Social Polarisation & Deprivation

Murder vs Risk Factors

Robbery vs Risk Factors
Drivers: Selected Findings

- Cities with high levels of relative deprivation tend to have higher levels of murder and burglaries.

- Cities with higher life expectancy indices also experience lower levels of murders, robberies and burglaries.

- Urban centres with high levels of economic inequality also experience high levels of murder, robbery, physical assault and rape.

- Cities with higher levels of educational attainment experience lower levels of murder, robberies and burglary.
Urban Crime Harm Index: A Different Approach to Evaluating the Repercussions of Crime

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>Death</td>
<td>Death</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted Murder</td>
<td>Life imprisonment</td>
<td>Life imprisonment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>21 years</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted Robbery</td>
<td>14 years</td>
<td>7 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>Life imprisonment</td>
<td>Life imprisonment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted Rape</td>
<td>14 years</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kidnapping</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Attempted Kidnapping</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Motorcycle Theft</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Assault</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Theft</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>14 years</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft of Money</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from Car</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Crime Severity Score = \( P_i w_i + P_j w_j + \ldots + P_n w_n \)*

\[
\frac{x_i - X_{med}}{X_{90th} - X_{10th}}
\]

- The Northern Urban Crime Harm Index (NUCHI) subsumes interpretations from the Penal Code Act and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act
- The Southern Urban Crime Harm Index (SUCHI) subsumes interpretations from the Criminal Code Act and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act
Northern and Southern Urban Crime Harm Indices

Northern Urban Crime Harm Index (NUCHI)

Southern Urban Crime Harm Index (SUCHI)
Some Recommendations

- **Integrated multiagency** strategic and operational responses

- Nuanced strategies that would reduce inequalities, bolster community resilience for crime prevention and improve opportunities for economic livelihood

- Limit access to small and light weapons

- Imperative to strengthen data infrastructure and the capacity of law enforcement institutions

- Speedy prosecution of criminal trials is imperative for the dispensation of justice in the law courts of urban centres
THANK YOU

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