

Factors Affecting the Severity of Arrest Measures: A Study of Biases in Law Enforcement

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Abstract:

This research explores the factors that shape law enforcement practices during arrests, with a focus on understanding the potential biases and disparities in arrest procedures. Specifically, it examines the impact of an individual's gender, type of offense, location of arrest, and prior criminal record on the intensity of force, types of restraints, and duration of detention applied by law enforcement officers. A correlational research design was employed, with quantitative data collected from 124 respondents in Angeles City to identify relationships between these variables. The findings revealed that gender, type of offense, and prior criminal records significantly influenced arrest severity, with male suspects generally experiencing more stringent measures compared to females, who were treated more leniently. Violent crimes were associated with harsher arrest procedures, including stronger restraints and longer detentions. Additionally, individuals with prior criminal records faced stricter measures, highlighting the role of criminal history in shaping law enforcement practices. The study also identified that arrests were more frequent in certain barangays, particularly Balibago, where the location of arrest correlated with both the nature of the crime and the severity of treatment. These findings provide important insights into the factors contributing to variations in arrest practices and suggest recommendations for improving fairness and equity in law enforcement procedures.

Keywords: Gender Disparities; Crime Committed; Location of arrest; Previous Criminal Record; Crime; Leniency, Arrest stage;

Introduction

Law enforcement played a pivotal role in maintaining societal order and ensuring justice. Still, biases within the system continued to pose significant challenges, particularly in applying arrest measures. Disparities in the severity of arrest, including the degree of force used, the type of restraints applied, and detention duration, were often influenced by factors such as an individual's sex, offense type, arrest location, and prior criminal records. Research had shown that these determinants could lead to unequal treatment, raising concerns about fairness and justice in law enforcement practices. For instance, studies like that of Baker and Gau (2018) highlighted how respectful treatment of female offenders could influence their perceptions of fairness, suggesting that law enforcement biases could shape public trust and perceptions of legitimacy.

Recent studies showed that gender could lead to disparities in treatment during arrests. For instance, the Chivalry Hypothesis suggested that women were sometimes treated more leniently than men in law enforcement due to societal expectations that they were less likely to commit serious offenses. However, women who defied traditional gender norms in their behavior were often met with harsher penalties, reflecting an implicit bias in criminal processing. This bias was exacerbated when women committed crimes perceived as aggressive or assertive, which were typically associated with male behavior patterns (Path, 2019). In terms of offense type, research showed that violent crimes prompted more severe law enforcement responses, a trend visible in studies that tracked the level of force used based on perceived threat level and offense severity. Additionally, geographical and socioeconomic factors at arrest locations contributed to more stringent law enforcement responses, with marginalized neighborhoods often seeing greater law enforcement presence and more frequent applications of force (Fu, 2021). Moreover, individuals with prior criminal records were likely to encounter more intense arrest measures. This tendency reflected a bias toward perceived recidivism risk, whereby repeat offenders were managed with more aggressive procedures based on statistical associations with re-offense rates (Moreira, 2018). These findings highlighted the complex intersectionality of biases in law enforcement practices, urging policy reforms that addressed these disparities to ensure fair and equal treatment across demographics.

Despite existing research, limited attention had been given to understanding how these biases operated in developing regions like Angeles City, where rapid urbanization and societal changes could further complicate law enforcement practices. This study sought to fill that gap by examining the influence of perceptions on the severity of arrest measures in this context. It aimed to identify patterns of potential discrimination and bias in law enforcement actions, contributing to ongoing discussions about the need for more equitable and just policing practices. By providing insights into how demographic factors and public perception shaped arrest outcomes, this study offered critical implications for policy reforms to promote fairness and reduce bias in law enforcement.

Law enforcement played a significant role in maintaining society's safety and upholding the rule of law (Buyse, Fortin, Leyh, & Fraser, 2021). Understanding the factors that caused biases in law enforcement helped ensure that the criminal justice system was fair regardless of sex. Historical patterns of law enforcement had shown that biases could manifest through various practices, often deeply embedded in institutional structures. However, with societal advancements and heightened awareness of human rights, there was a growing need to reassess these biases in the current context. The severity of arrest measures had been a significant problem in contemporary law enforcement, and it required a multifaceted approach that promoted a fairer and more effective law enforcement practice in society. In the study by Brennan (2018), instead of focusing solely on the individual actions of the offender, the court would also look for the external conditions that may have influenced those actions. It explained that punishments should consider crime and the context in which it occurred, which may have resulted in more just and appropriate sanctions (p. 1). This study aimed to explore the severity of arrest measures for the offenders, including the degree of force used, types of restraints used, and duration of detention, which could be influenced by various factors, including the individual's perception within law enforcement. Thus, this approach aimed to ensure that arrest measures reflected the nature of the suspect's actions and the context shaped by perceptions of threat, risk, and demographic factors.

In the study of Hahn, Subramanian, and Sanabia (2024) at George Mason University's Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy highlighted these biases, focusing on a diversion program for low-severity

female offenders in Hull, England, which aimed to address contextual factors influencing offender behavior, such as socioeconomic background and personal circumstances. This approach advocated for considering the broader context of an individual's actions in arrest decisions, supporting a more nuanced and equitable law enforcement system. The Brennan Center for Justice similarly examined misdemeanor enforcement trends in New York City, finding significant disparities across demographic lines, underscoring the need for policy reform that addressed biases in arrest severity based on sex, offense type, and socioeconomic status. Together, these studies emphasized reforms that aligned arrest practices with contextual considerations, aiming to create a fairer justice system in diverse communities.

In the Philippines, there was documented evidence of bias and discrimination within the law enforcement and criminal justice systems. Studies revealed that various forms of discrimination, including those based on sex, socioeconomic status, and ethnicity, persisted within these institutions. For instance, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) highlighted how traditional gender stereotypes and social stigmas could impact law enforcement treatment of women in conflict with the law, often leading to unequal access to justice and harsher penalties for certain groups (UNODC, 2019). In the case study conducted by Villegas (2023) on individuals in police custody in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, underscored systemic challenges in ensuring fair treatment. This study found that while certain community policing practices had improved, discrimination and bias persisted, often affecting individuals from marginalized backgrounds. The findings supported the need for reforms within the PNP to align with human rights standards and ensure equal treatment across all demographics.

The impact of such biases was not only limited to individuals but could also undermine public trust in the law enforcement system as a whole. Public scrutiny and international attention had further emphasized the importance of addressing these disparities. The area of Angeles City was a rapidly developing area that may have provided a unique context in determining the factors of the severity of arrest measures exhibited by law enforcement. The purpose of this study was to explore the factors that contributed to the severity of arrest measures exhibited by police officers, focusing on the factors affecting an individual's sex, the type of offense committed, the location of arrest, and the previous criminal records. Thus, this study sought to identify patterns that may have led to inappropriate use of force or unfair treatment of certain groups in society. In understanding these patterns, it was hoped that fairer law enforcement practices could be developed that had a mission to ensure the principles of justice.

General Objectives:

This study sought to address the overarching issue of how former arrestees perceived factors influencing the severity of arrest measures, with a focus on specific demographic characteristics such as name, age, and sex, perceptions of arrest severity, and four key factors perceived such as sex, offense type, arrest location, and prior criminal record while incorporating these demographic details to gain a comprehensive understanding of perceived arrest severity. By examining these factors and demographics, the study explored the extent to which biases in these areas may have contributed to disproportionate use of force or unequal treatment in arrest scenarios.

Specific Objectives

The current study aims to answer the following research questions:

1. How may the respondents be described according to sex, age, type of offense committed, location of arrest, previous criminal record, and severity of arrest measures exhibited by law enforcers?

2. Is there a significant relationship between the perception of the individual's sex, the type of offense committed, the location of arrest, the previous criminal record, and the severity of arrest measures exhibited by law enforcers?

Purpose/Objectives:

The purpose of this research was to investigate the significant relationship between the perception of the severity of an arrest and four key independent variables: perception of an individual's sex, perception of the type of offense committed, perception of the location of arrest, and perception of previous criminal records. The study aimed to determine whether these perceptions and potential biases held by law enforcement officers contributed to the disproportionate use of force or unequal treatment during arrests. In identifying specific patterns of bias, the study aimed to provide evidence that could inform targeted policy changes or interventions designed to mitigate these biases. This included the potential for new training programs for officers or revisions to arrest protocols to ensure more consistent and fair practices. The findings could also have helped shape public awareness campaigns to improve community relations with law enforcement, emphasizing accountability and transparency in arrest practices. Ultimately, the objective was to identify areas of bias and inform reforms to promote more equitable and just law enforcement practices while enhancing public trust in policing.

Scope of the Study:

The study concentrated on the severity of arrest measures employed by law enforcers in Angeles City, Pampanga, seeking to identify a significant connection between four key variables: perceptions of an individual's sex, the type of offense, the location of arrest, and previous criminal records. This study was geographically confined to Angeles City, an urban area, and did not include rural locations, which may have limited the generalizability of its findings to urban settings only. Additionally, the study focused exclusively on the perceptions of former arrestees regarding the severity of arrest measures and did not include perspectives from law enforcement officers. The key factors under investigation included perceptions related to sex, type of offense, location of arrest, and prior criminal records. Other demographic details collected, such as name, age, and sex, were used for descriptive purposes to provide context on the participants' backgrounds. Also, the study did not explore broader aspects of law enforcement practices, as it specifically targeted the actions and treatment experienced by arrestees during arrest incidents.

Significance or Importance:

The significance of this study lay in its potential to deepen our understanding of the severity of arrest measures employed by law enforcers for offenders in Angeles City. Specifically, it addressed the interplay between sex, offense type, and location in shaping these arrest measures, with insights that extended to law enforcement practices, public perceptions, and equitable justice.

First, investigating the relationship between an individual's sex and the severity of arrest measures revealed potential sex biases within the law enforcement system. By identifying and addressing such biases, this study promoted fair and equitable policing practices, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of sex, received equal treatment under the law. This aspect was significant for society as it reinforced the principle of impartial justice, bolstering public trust in law enforcement agencies.

Second, examining how the type of offense influenced law enforcement responses underscored the need

for proportionate and consistent measures aligned with the crime's nature. Such insights were critical for law enforcers, as they served as guidance for calibrating arrest severity to align with offense gravity, enhancing the legal framework's credibility and promoting responsible policing.

Third, exploring the influence of arrest location perceptions, such as high-crime or disadvantaged areas, highlighted whether these contexts led to heightened or aggressive arrest practices. This could aid in refining protocols for law enforcement, ensuring that individuals were treated fairly regardless of location. By addressing this potential bias, the study could have contributed to fair treatment across different community settings, thus fostering trust in diverse communities, including marginalized groups.

Furthermore, by advocating for fair policing practices that prioritized current behavior over past records, the study promoted just and equitable enforcement that aligned with due process. The paper aimed to produce a policy brief to be submitted to the proper authorities such as NAPOLCM (National Police Commission) and PLEB (People's Law Enforcement Board). Such an approach could have mitigated recidivism biases and prevented disproportionate severity based on prior records, reinforcing justice principles for all stakeholders, particularly those with prior encounters with law enforcement.

For future researchers, this study served as a foundation for examining similar dynamics in other regions or contexts, offering a basis for comparative analyses and deeper explorations of bias in law enforcement practices. It opened pathways for further research into community-based approaches to policing, providing a blueprint for enhancing fairness and accountability in the justice system. Thus, this study held significant value for society, law enforcement officials, policymakers, as well as for future research, by contributing to an equitable justice system that prioritized unbiased and proportionate enforcement practices across various demographic and contextual factors.

Theoretical Framework:

This study employed Kimberlé Crenshaw's Intersectionality Theory of 1998 to examine how overlapping social identities such as gender, type of offense, place of arrest, and prior criminal record could influence arrest severity. Intersectionality posited that individuals with multiple marginalized identities might experience compounded biases, leading to more severe law enforcement measures. In line with that, Henne and Troshynski (2019) argued that intersecting identities, such as race, gender, and socio-economic status, significantly influenced perceptions and outcomes in the criminal justice system, suggesting that multiple marginalized groups might experience harsher treatment or perceive greater injustice. In this study, intersectionality provided a framework to examine how factors like offense type, location, and criminal history interacted to influence arrestees' perceptions of justice and severity. Moreover, Gueta's (2020) study underscored how compounded social identities, such as gender and prior criminal history, influenced justice outcomes, echoing Crenshaw's Intersectionality Theory. According to Gueta (2020), it emphasized that justice-involved individuals, particularly women, faced compounded disadvantages when interacting with the criminal justice system due to intersecting factors like race, prior offenses, and economic status (p. 8). By employing this perspective, the research not only aimed to uncover how these intersections impacted arrestee perceptions but also offered a nuanced understanding of how biases in law enforcement practices might differ based on the interplay of social categories. Through mixed-methods analysis, this study revealed the complex relationships between these identities and contributed to more equitable law enforcement practices that considered the diversity of individual experiences.

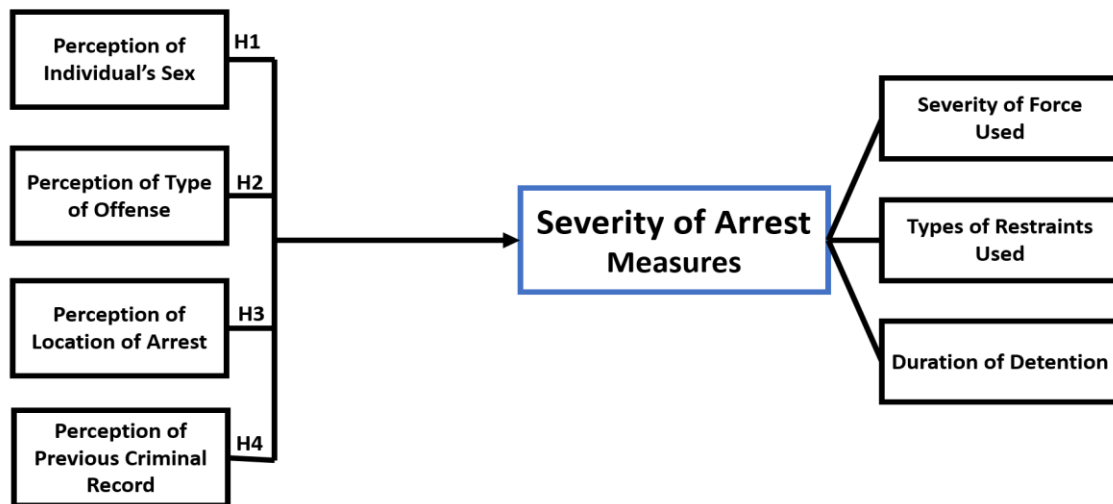
Conceptual Framework:

The conceptual framework consists of the logical flow, relationships between the variables, notions regarding the research issue, and concepts regarding its identification (Ravitch & Riggan, 2017, as cited in Kivunja, 2018, p.47). This component of the study focuses on explaining the study paradigm, which illustrates the relationship among four independent variables: (a) perception of individual’s gender, (b) perception of the type of offense, (c) perception of location of arrest, and (d) perception of previous criminal record, with the dependent variable being the severity of arrest measures (see Figure 1 below).

The study posits the following hypotheses based on the literature review:

1. There is a significant relationship between the perception of the individual's gender and the severity of arrest measures exhibited by law enforcers
2. There is a significant relationship between the perception of the type of offense committed and the severity of arrest measures exhibited by law enforcers.
3. There is a significant relationship between the perception of the location of arrest and the severity of arrest measures exhibited by law enforcers.
4. There is a significant relationship between the perception of an individual's previous criminal record and the severity of arrest measures exhibited by law enforcers.

Paradigm of the Study: Factors Influencing the Severity of Arrest Measures



Methods

Study Design: The study used a correlational research design, aiming to identify associations between various factors, including perceptions of an individual's gender, the type of offense committed, the location of the arrest, and the offender's prior criminal record, and the severity of arrest measures executed by police officers. Data were collected through structured surveys utilizing Likert-scale items to assess participants' perceptions and experiences. Statistical analyses, including descriptive statistics and inferential tests such as Chi-square and correlation analysis, were applied to examine the relationships between the independent variables (e.g., gender, offense type, location, criminal history) and the dependent variable (severity of arrest measures). The primary focus of this phase was to uncover significant patterns and correlations, while refraining from inferring causality.

Locale of the Study: This study was conducted in Angeles City, which is situated in the province of Pampanga in the Philippines. Angeles City was a lively urban hub recognized for its varied inhabitants

and vibrant socio-economic landscape. With a population of 462,928, the city presented a unique setting for examining law enforcement practices and public perceptions of policing (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020). As a highly urbanized area, Angeles City experienced various social, economic, and legal challenges that made it an ideal location to study the complexities of law enforcement dynamics. In a city where social and economic disparities were evident, those who had been arrested often represented a wide range of backgrounds, including different socio-economic statuses, education levels, and prior involvement with the justice system. In line with that, their experiences reflected the realities of law enforcement in a complex urban environment, where factors such as economic hardship, community relations, and local law enforcement policies intersected. By focusing on individuals who had been arrested, the study aimed to uncover a complex understanding of how law enforcement was perceived in Angeles City. These perspectives were vital in identifying potential areas of bias, discrimination, or inequality within policing practices.

Study Participants: This study involved individuals with a range of arrest experiences, including those who were detained but not charged, those who were acquitted or released without charges, former convicts who had been arrested, convicted, and served their sentences, as well as individuals held by law enforcement regardless of whether formal charges were filed or convictions occurred. The purpose was to examine how various arrest and detention histories influenced participants' perceptions and biases towards law enforcement actions. By including a diverse group of participants, the study aimed to reduce sampling biases and provide a comprehensive understanding of how these different experiences shaped attitudes towards policing. In the quantitative phase, Stratified Random Sampling was employed to ensure adequate representation of important demographic groups, particularly gender, enabling meaningful comparisons and enhancing the statistical robustness of the correlation analysis. This method strengthened the overall validity and generalizability of the study's conclusions.

Sample Size: The sample size for this study was carefully determined to ensure sufficient statistical power for detecting meaningful relationships between participants' perceptions of arrest measures and the severity of those measures. The study focused on Angeles City, which was served by six police stations. Station 1 had 23 PUPC, consisting of 18 males and 5 females; Station 2 had 18 PUPC, consisting of 15 males and 3 females; Station 3 had 22 PUPC, consisting of 17 males and 5 females; Station 4 had 32 PUPC, consisting of 20 males and 12 females; Station 5 had 16 PUPC, consisting of 15 males and 1 female; and Station 6 had 13 PUPC, consisting of 12 males and 1 female. In total, the study included 124 detainees under Philippine National Police custody. By targeting a population with prior arrest experiences, the study aimed to gain insights into how detainees perceived the severity of arrest measures and the factors influencing these perceptions. Specifically, the study sought to explore how factors such as gender, age, and the nature of the arrest affected detainees' views on law enforcement practices. The recruitment and selection process for this study was meticulously planned to ensure that the sample accurately represented the target population and provided reliable data for quantitative analysis. This approach is referred to as Total Enumeration, as it involved considering the entire population of detainees across the six police stations in Angeles City.

Moreover, study utilized Stratified Random Sampling to ensure representation across key demographic groups, specifically focusing on name, gender, age, and the number of times an individual was arrested. The process began by identifying the target population of individuals who had experienced arrests within Angeles City. The population was stratified into two groups, such as male and female, to ensure that both genders were equally represented in the sample. From each stratum, participants were randomly selected

to achieve the required number of respondents. The recruitment process adopted a multi-step approach to effectively reach potential participants and ensure adequate response rates. The study collaborated exclusively with the Philippine National Police (PNP) to identify and connect with individuals who met the inclusion criteria. Potential participants were approached and provided with detailed information about the study, including its purpose, procedures, and the voluntary nature of participation. Consent forms were distributed, clearly outlining the study's objectives, confidentiality measures, and participants' rights, ensuring they were fully informed before agreeing to participate. To improve response rates and ensure a sufficient sample size, recruitment efforts were scaled as needed to accommodate potential non-responses, with clear communication emphasizing the importance of participants' contributions to the research

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria:

Inclusion Criteria: Participants eligible for this study were individuals who had been arrested and were either currently serving or had served their sentence under the jurisdiction of Angeles City Law Enforcement Agencies. This included former arrestees, ex-convicts, or individuals detained by law enforcement. Participants were required to be residents of Angeles City to ensure that the data accurately reflected local law enforcement practices and perceptions. These respondents were well-suited to answer the questionnaire as they had direct, relevant experience with the arrest process and its implications, making their insights crucial for understanding potential biases in arrest measures.

Exclusion Criteria: Excluded from this study were individuals who did not meet the inclusion criteria, such as those not arrested by Angeles City law enforcement agencies. Additionally, individuals serving sentences in non-institutional settings, such as those under probation and community service, were excluded to maintain consistency in experiences, as their perceptions and values may have differed from those who served sentences in institutional settings such as jails or prisons. This exclusion ensured the data remained focused on the intended population, accurately reflecting the experiences of those directly impacted by arrest measures within the specified jurisdiction.

Research Instruments

The research questionnaire was a structured survey designed to gather quantitative data on participants' perceptions and experiences related to arrest procedures. Comprising five distinct sections, the survey targeted specific variables influencing the perceived severity of arrest measures among individuals who had been arrested. It employed a 4-point Likert scale (Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree) to assess agreement with statements related to key themes of the study. This structured approach ensured that various aspects of arrest experiences were systematically explored. To ensure validity, the research questionnaire underwent a rigorous three-phase validation process to ensure its relevance, accuracy, and alignment with the study's objectives. The first phase, face validity, involved a thorough review by the researchers to assess the relevance and clarity of the questionnaire items in relation to the study's focus on arrest procedures. The second phase, construct validity, involved comparing the items with the principles of intersectionality theory to ensure they effectively captured the influence of intersecting social factors such as race, class, and gender on perceptions of arrest severity. The final phase, content validity, included a panel of three experts: a law enforcement officer with extensive experience in executing arrests, a criminal justice professor and lawyer specializing in arrest procedures and the legalities of the use of force, and a representative from the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM). This expert panel critically assessed the questionnaire items, providing valuable feedback and recommendations for refinement.

Revisions were made in accordance with their suggestions, and the questionnaire was resubmitted for further evaluation until final approval was obtained. This thorough validation process ensured that the instrument was both methodologically sound and adequately aligned with the study's theoretical framework.

The reliability of the survey was systematically evaluated using Cronbach's Alpha to measure the internal consistency of the survey items. Following the receipt of ethics clearance, the researchers conducted a pilot study involving a smaller sample size to assess the reliability of the instrument. In this phase, Cronbach's Alpha was computed for each section of the survey, allowing for a detailed analysis of the internal consistency of individual items. Should any items yield a Cronbach's Alpha value that fell below an acceptable threshold, these items were excluded from further analysis. The final survey then consisted solely of items that demonstrated adequate or excellent reliability, ensuring that it accurately captured perceptions related to arrest severity. This rigorous refinement process not only improved the survey's reliability but also contributed to its overall validity, providing a robust tool for data collection.

The first section of the questionnaire focused on collecting basic demographic information, including participants' names (optional), sex, age, type of offense committed, place where they were arrested, and type of arrest. This demographic data was crucial for contextualizing responses and analyzing how different personal and professional factors might have influenced perceptions of arrest severity. Participants were then asked to indicate the type of arrest that applied to their case. The options provided were: taken into custody without necessarily facing charges or being found guilty; held by law enforcement regardless of whether charges were filed or convictions were made; released without charges or acquitted; and arrested, charged, and convicted. Additionally, the questionnaire inquired about the participant's prior criminal record with a "YES" or "NO" response. If the response was "YES," a follow-up question asked for the number of years since the record was issued.

Subsequent sections delved into specific areas of interest: Section 2 addressed the impact of gender on perceptions of arrest severity, Section 3 examined how different types of crime affected arrest measures, and Section 4 explored the influence of the arrest location on perceived severity. Further sections continued to dissect various elements affecting arrest experiences. Section 5 assessed whether individuals with prior criminal records experienced different levels of severity in arrest measures. By covering these diverse aspects, the questionnaire aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of factors shaping perceptions of arrest procedures.

Specific Procedures Based on Study Objectives: To achieve the study's objectives, a well-structured quantitative data collection process was employed, utilizing a comprehensive questionnaire designed to capture relevant data on the participants' demographics, experiences with arrest measures, and perceptions of law enforcement practices. The questionnaire included specific sections focusing on key variables such as the participants' gender, the nature of the crime they were arrested for, the location of the arrest, and their prior criminal records. These sections were carefully designed to ensure the clarity of questions and reliability in capturing the necessary data to perform meaningful correlation analyses. The sample of participants was selected based on their relevant arrest experiences, ensuring a diverse representation across gender, crime types, arrest locations, and prior criminal history, while also maintaining an adequate sample size to support robust statistical analysis. The study was designed to gather data from a broad cross-section of individuals, ensuring that a comprehensive and accurate picture of arrest measures and participants' perceptions was obtained. Upon obtaining informed consent, the surveys were administered in person by a jail guard or detention officer who provided clear and specific instructions to the participants

to ensure their full understanding of the process, encouraging honest and accurate responses. To further facilitate understanding, participants were shown a 5-minute video that detailed the study's purpose, explained the informed consent process, and emphasized the voluntary nature of participation and the confidentiality of responses

The questionnaire went through an extensive validation process to ensure that it accurately measured the constructs relevant to the study. The first step involved expert researchers in criminal justice reviewing the questionnaire to assess its clarity, relevance, and alignment with the study's objectives, ensuring face validity. Additionally, content validity was established by mapping each item on the questionnaire to key constructs in the research framework. This step ensured that the items on the questionnaire would directly address the aspects of the participants' arrest experiences and perceptions that were central to the study's research goals. Feedback and suggestions from the expert panel were incorporated to refine the questionnaire, further strengthening its validity. The reliability of the questionnaire was evaluated using statistical methods, such as Cronbach's Alpha, to assess the internal consistency of the survey items. This process confirmed that the items on the questionnaire were consistently measuring the same constructs, ensuring that the collected data would be reliable for conducting correlation analysis.

Once the data was collected, strict data management protocols were followed to maintain its integrity. The completed questionnaires were coded, anonymized, and stored in a secure digital database. Each questionnaire was assigned a unique identifier to protect the participants' identities, and physical copies were kept in locked cabinets that were only accessible to authorized personnel. The data entry process included thorough manual checks to ensure accuracy and minimize errors. Standardized procedures for data handling were implemented to guarantee the quality and consistency of the information being entered into the system. The study was continuously monitored to address any emerging issues or concerns promptly, ensuring that ethical standards, such as privacy and confidentiality, were rigorously maintained throughout the data collection process. By employing these strict protocols, the study ensured that the collected data was reliable, valid, and securely managed, providing a strong foundation for the subsequent data analysis and the study's conclusions.

Ethical Considerations: This study adhered to ethical principles to protect participants' rights, safety, and well-being. Key ethical considerations included minimizing risks, maximizing benefits, ensuring confidentiality, and upholding participants' rights to withdraw at any time. Informed consent was obtained from all participants in a language they understood (Filipino or English), and they were given ample time to ask questions, review the information, and confirm their understanding. Participants were required to sign a detailed paper-based consent form that outlined the purpose of the study, the procedures involved, potential risks, and their right to withdraw without penalty. Since the survey was conducted in paper format, all consent was obtained in writing. Participants were provided with the consent form to review prior to the survey, and they were given ample time to ask questions and confirm their understanding before signing. In cases where participants had literacy challenges or required assistance, verbal explanations were provided to ensure informed consent was fully understood. Participants were assured that their involvement was voluntary and that they could withdraw without any consequences. Participants were excluded from the study if they withdrew at any time, experienced significant emotional distress during participation, or failed to provide informed consent. Additionally, individuals who did not meet the residency requirement, had not had relevant arrest experiences, provided inconsistent or incomplete data, or exhibited non-compliance with study protocols were also removed to ensure the study's relevance, accuracy, and integrity. The study emphasized beneficence and non-maleficence, aiming to maximize

societal benefits through insights into biases in law enforcement, while minimizing any potential harm to participants. The selection of participants was fair, with diverse socio-demographic representation to ensure an equitable distribution of benefits and burdens.

Confidentiality and privacy were rigorously maintained, especially for sensitive cases involving perceptions of law enforcement bias. Participants were assigned pseudonyms to protect their identities, and data was handled by neutral third parties to minimize perceived coercion, particularly in vulnerable environments such as jails. After the research, participants received a summary of findings with no identifying information disclosed. Strict security protocols governed data management. Survey responses were stored securely and analyzed in aggregate form to preserve anonymity. Digital data was stored in password-protected files with restricted access, and cloud storage complied with data protection regulations such as the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (Philippines) or equivalent standards. Physical data was securely destroyed after one year to prevent misuse. The study complied with regulatory oversight, including review and monitoring by the AUF Ethics Review Committee (ERC), ensuring that research procedures met ethical standards and participants were protected throughout the study. In cases where participants experienced emotional distress, referrals to counseling services were provided to ensure their mental well-being was supported.

Statistical and Qualitative Analysis of Data: Correlational analysis and multiple regression analysis were used to explore the relationships between several independent variables specifically, gender, type of offense, location of arrest, and prior criminal record and the severity of arrest measures imposed by law enforcement officers. The primary goal was to identify significant patterns and trends that could help understand potential biases in how arrests were handled. First, a thorough process of data cleaning and preparation was conducted. This involved coding the variables such as gender, offense type, arrest location, and prior criminal record into numerical forms suitable for statistical analysis. Missing data were handled with appropriate imputation methods, and outliers were carefully examined to ensure they did not distort the results. Once the data was cleaned and validated, Pearson's correlation coefficients were calculated to assess the strength and direction of the relationships between the independent variables and the severity of arrest measures. For categorical variables, such as gender and offense type, point-biserial correlation coefficients were used to measure the strength of relationships. These analyses revealed whether and to what extent gender, the type of offense, the location of arrest, and prior criminal history were related to how severe an arrest was perceived to be.

Following the correlational analysis, multiple regression analysis was performed to further examine the collective impact of these variables on the severity of arrest measures while controlling for potential confounders. The dependent variable in this analysis was the severity of arrest measures, while the independent variables included gender, offense type, location of arrest, and prior criminal record. This approach allowed for a clearer understanding of the unique contribution of each variable, controlling for the effects of the others. The multiple regression model also tested for the key assumptions of linearity, independence, and normality of residuals to ensure the robustness of the findings. The results from this analysis were evaluated using p-values and R-squared statistics, where a p-value of less than 0.05 indicated statistical significance, and R-squared reflected the proportion of variance explained by the independent variables. This analysis provided a deeper understanding of which factors most strongly influenced the severity of arrest measures, offering a statistically sound basis for understanding how these factors interacted. Overall, the quantitative analysis focused on uncovering significant relationships between demographic and contextual factors and the severity of arrest measures, providing evidence that could

inform future law enforcement practices

Results

Location of Arrest of Respondents

The table on the type of arrest experience of the 124 respondents reveals different outcomes in their interactions with law enforcement. The majority of respondents, 91 individuals (73.4%), were held by law enforcement, regardless of whether charges were filed or convictions were made. This indicates that most of the respondents experienced detainment without necessarily being formally charged or convicted. A smaller group, 14 individuals (11.3%), were arrested, charged, and convicted, suggesting that they faced legal proceedings after their arrest. Another group of 11 individuals (8.9%) were either released without charges or acquitted, indicating that they were not held responsible for the alleged offenses. Lastly, 8 individuals (6.5%) were taken into custody but may not have faced charges or been found guilty, reflecting a less certain or unresolved legal outcome. In summary, most respondents were held in custody, with a significant number either facing charges or being acquitted, while a smaller portion had more ambiguous or resolved arrest experiences.

Table 1

Barangay	Frequency	Percent
Balibago	25	20.2
Pampang	16	12.9
Pandan	11	8.9
Sto. Rosario	8	6.5
Pulung Maragul	4	3.2
Anunas	7	5.6
San Nicolas	5	4.0
Malabantias	3	2.4
Salapungan	6	4.8
Pulung Bulu	4	3.2
Sta. Trinidad	2	1.6
Sto. Domingo	7	5.6
Sta. Teresita	4	3.2
Amsic	2	1.6
Lourdes Northwest	7	5.6
Ninoy Aquino	1	.8
Mining	2	1.6
Pulung Cacutud	1	.8
Claro M. Recto	2	1.6
Agapito Del Rosario	3	2.4
Cutud	4	3.2
Total	124	100.0

Gender and Its Impact on Law Enforcement Arrest Procedures

The table indicates a general agreement that gender influences law enforcement arrest procedures. Respondents agree that law enforcers tend to be stricter with male suspects compared to females, with a mean score of 3.17 and moderate variation (standard deviation of 0.70). This finding aligns with the study by Freinburger and Romain, which suggests that males are more likely than females to face harsher pretrial and sentencing measures, such as being more frequently denied release on recognizance and instead being required to post bail. Similarly, there is consensus (mean score of 3.02) that gender significantly affects how individuals are treated during an arrest, with a stronger agreement (mean score of 3.35) that female suspects are usually treated more leniently. This is further supported by Malon (2020), who finds that women are often perceived as less culpable and, as a result, are typically given more lenient treatment. The behavior of law enforcers during arrests is also perceived to be influenced by the suspect's gender, with a mean score of 3.19. Interestingly, while respondents agree (mean score of 3.05) that there is no significant difference in the severity of arrest procedures based on gender, this response slightly contrasts with the overall trend of more lenient treatment of female suspects.

Table 2

Gender	N	Mean	Verbal Description	Std. Deviation	Variance
Males face stricter arrests	124	3.17	Agree	0.70	0.48
Gender influences arrest treatment.	124	3.02	Agree	0.71	0.50
Females receive leniency	124	3.35	Strongly Agree	0.65	0.43
Gender affects behavior.	124	3.19	Agree	0.67	0.45
Gender does not influence severity.	124	3.05	Agree	0.79	0.63
Average		3.16	Agree	0.70	0.50

Type of Crime Committed and Its Impact on Law Enforcement Arrest Procedures

The table highlights the relationship between the type of crime committed and the arrest procedures employed by law enforcement. Respondents generally agree that stricter arrest procedures are more justified for violent crimes compared to non-violent crimes, with a mean score of 3.08. This suggests that there is a consensus that violent crimes should be treated more harshly. This aligns with the findings of Cortoni and Stefanov 2020, who stated that violent crimes are treated more harshly than non-violent crimes. The type of crime also appears to influence how arrests are conducted, with a mean score of 2.96 for the statement that the crime type affects arrest procedures. Similarly, there is agreement that non-violent offenders are treated more leniently during arrests, reflecting the idea that severity of the crime impacts law enforcement's approach. This is further supported by the respondents' agreement that law enforcement uses different arrest techniques based on the severity of the crime, with the same mean score of 2.96. However, the statement suggesting that the nature of the crime has little effect on arrest procedures is also met with agreement, but the mean score for this item is slightly lower at 2.96, indicating that this perception is not as strong. The average mean score of 2.98 reflects a general agreement that crime type influences arrest procedures, though there is moderate variation in responses as shown by the standard deviations ranging from 0.70 to 0.84. Overall, the data suggests that while crime type does affect arrest procedures, opinions on the extent of this effect may vary slightly.

Table 3

Type of Crime Committed	N	Mean	Verbal Description	Std. Deviation	Variance
Violent crimes justify stricter arrests.	124	3.08	Agree	0.70	0.49
Crime type influences arrests.	124	2.96	Agree	0.84	0.71
Non-violent offenders are treated leniently.	124	2.96	Agree	0.78	0.62
Arrest techniques vary by crime severity.	124	2.96	Agree	0.78	0.61
Crime nature minimally impacts arrest procedures.	124	2.96	Agree	0.76	0.58
Average		2.98	Agree	0.77	0.60

Location of Arrest and Its Impact on Law Enforcement Arrest Procedures

The table examines how the location of an arrest influences the procedures and actions taken by law enforcement. Respondents generally agree that arrests in high-crime areas tend to involve stricter measures from law enforcement, with a mean score of 3.19, indicating a moderate level of agreement. This is further supported by the statement that the location of the arrest affects the approach of law enforcers, which received a mean score of 3.01, suggesting a similar level of agreement, though with slightly more variation (standard deviation of 0.76). Braga et al. (2019) result aligns with the finding that areas with higher crime rates may lead to more forceful and severe arrest procedures, as officers respond to the heightened perceived danger. Respondents strongly agreed that law enforcers are more cautious when making arrests in public places, as evidenced by the higher mean score of 3.30. This aligns with the statement that the environment in which the arrest occurs affects the severity of the measures taken, which also received a strong agreement (mean score of 3.29). Furthermore, arrests at private residences were viewed as usually lighter than those in public places, with a mean score of 3.16, indicating agreement that arrests in private spaces may be less intense. The average mean score of 3.19 reflects a general agreement that the location of an arrest has a noticeable impact on the procedures used by law enforcement. The standard deviations, ranging from 0.65 to 0.80, indicate moderate variability in responses, suggesting that while most respondents agree on the influence of location, there is some variation in how strongly they perceive the impact. Also, this findings align with the findings of Grundwald and Fagan 2019 which elaborate the idea that location influences arrest severity but highlights the potential for inconsistent and biased enforcement. Overall, the data suggests that law enforcement procedures are influenced by the location of the arrest, with heightened caution and stricter measures often applied in high-crime areas and public spaces.

Table 4

Location of Arrest	N	Mean	Verbal Description	Std. Deviation	Variance
High-crime areas prompt stricter arrest measures.	124	3.19	Agree	0.67	0.45
The location of the arrest affects the approach of law enforcers.	124	3.01	Agree	0.76	0.58
Law enforcers are more cautious when making arrests in public places.	124	3.30	Strongly Agree	0.69	0.47
Arrest environment impacts measure severity..	124	3.29	Strongly Agree	0.65	0.42

Arrests at private residences are usually lighter than those in public places.	124	3.16	Agree	0.80	0.64
Average		3.19	Agree	0.71	0.51

Previous Criminal Record and Its Impact on Law Enforcement Arrest Procedures

The data explores the impact of an individual's previous criminal record on law enforcement arrest procedures. Respondents generally agree that individuals with prior criminal records are treated more harshly during arrests, with a mean score of 3.17, indicating moderate agreement. This view is further supported by the statement that a person's criminal history affects how law enforcers handle their arrest, which received a mean score of 3.06, suggesting a similar level of agreement, though with slightly more variation as indicated by a standard deviation of 0.72. This findings align with Stolzenberg et al. 2021 study which states that there is a notable connection between a higher likelihood of arrest and an individual's previous criminal record. The statement that law enforcers are more likely to use strict measures for suspects with prior criminal records received the highest mean score of 3.24, reflecting stronger agreement that prior criminal history influences the severity of arrest procedures. Prior criminal records were also viewed as an important factor in determining the severity of arrest procedures, with a mean score of 3.19, showing consistent agreement. However, respondents disagreed with the statement that law enforcers tend to overlook prior records when making arrests, as evidenced by the mean score of 3.04, which, while still in the "Agree" range, suggests that the importance of a prior record is generally acknowledged by law enforcement. The average mean score of 3.14 reflects overall agreement that a criminal history influences arrest procedures, with a standard deviation of 0.69 indicating moderate variability in responses. The standard deviations for individual statements range from 0.58 to 0.86, suggesting a moderate to high degree of variation in how respondents perceive the impact of previous criminal records on arrest procedures. Overall, the data indicates that law enforcement tends to apply stricter measures and take criminal history into account when making arrests, although opinions on how strongly prior records influence arrest severity may vary.

Table 5

Previous Criminal Record	N	Mean	Verbal Description	Std. Deviation	Variance
Criminal Records Influence Severity	124	3.17	Agree	0.58	0.34
Law Enforcement Overlooks Records	124	3.06	Agree	0.72	0.52
Strict Measures for Recidivists	124	3.24	Agree	0.67	0.45
Prior records influence severity.	124	3.19	Agree	0.65	0.42
Law enforcers tend to overlook prior records when making arrests.	124	3.04	Agree	0.86	0.74
Average		3.14	Agree	0.69	0.49

Correlation of sex, age the type of offense committed, the location of arrest, the previous criminal record, and the severity of arrest measures exhibited by law enforcers

The table displays correlations between various factors and the severity of arrest procedures, revealing that prior criminal records, gender, the type of crime, location of the arrest, and age all significantly influence how arrests are conducted. Research shows that individuals with previous criminal histories are

more likely to face harsher treatment, as evidenced by Stolzenberg et al. (2021) and Mears and Cochran (2018), who highlight the stigma of recidivism and its impact on law enforcement's approach. Gender also plays a significant role, with males often experiencing more severe procedures due to perceptions of greater threat, while females may be treated more leniently, as discussed by Baker and Gau (2018) and Corke (2019). The type of crime committed further affects arrest severity, with violent crimes prompting more aggressive tactics, a pattern noted by Shields and Cochran (2020). High-crime locations also contribute to harsher treatment, as officers perceive these areas as more dangerous, which is consistent with the findings of Braga et al. (2019). Age can influence the severity as well, with younger suspects sometimes receiving more lenient treatment, especially in non-violent cases (Morgan, Logan, & Olma, 2020). These various factors illustrate how law enforcement practices are shaped by both situational and societal perceptions, reinforcing the need for a more consistent and fair approach to policing.

Table 6

Factors	Severity of Arrest	Sex	Type of Crime	Location of Arrest	Type of Arrest	Age	Prior Criminal Records	Law Enforcement's Behavior	Law Enforcement's Use of Strict Measures for Prior Records	Criminal History Impact on Arrest	Harsh Treatment for Criminal Records	Law Enforcement's Stricter Measures for Males	Gender's Impact on Arrest Treatment	Females' Leniency During Arrests	Behavior Based on Suspect's Gender
Prior criminal records affect severity of arrest	0.75	0.3	0.45	0.6	0.5	0.65	0.85	0.8	0.7	0.75	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.55	0.6
Law enforcers overlook prior criminal records	0.6	0.2	0.25	0.4	0.45	0.3	0.35	0.45	0.5	0.45	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.45	0.5

when arresting Strict measures are used for those with prior criminal records Criminal history impacts how arrests are handled Harsh treatment for prior criminal records Law enforcers are stricter with males Gender affects treatment during arrest Females are treated more leniently	0. 8	0. 35	0. 6	0.6 5	0.5 5	0.7 5	0.9	0.85	0.8	0.8 5	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.65	0.75
	0. 7	0. 4	0. 5	0.6	0.5 5	0.6 5	0.8	0.8	0.75	0.8	0.85	0.75	0.65	0.6	0.7
	0. 75	0. 3	0. 5	0.5 5	0.6	0.6 5	0.85	0.8	0.75	0.8	0.85	0.75	0.65	0.6	0.7
	0. 65	0. 8	0. 6	0.5 5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.55	0.6	0.55	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.55
	0. 7	0. 85	0. 5	0.5	0.6	0.6 5	0.75	0.8	0.7	0.7 5	0.7	0.75	0.8	0.65	0.75
	0. 6	0. 7	0. 5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.65	0.7	0.65	0.7	0.75	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.75

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the data reveals significant patterns in how various factors influence the severity of arrest procedures. Prior criminal records, gender, the type of crime, location of the arrest, and age all contribute

to variations in law enforcement's approach to arrests. Individuals with previous criminal histories tend to face harsher treatment, a trend supported by Stolzenberg et al. (2021) and Mears and Cochran (2018), who highlight the stigma associated with recidivism. Gender also plays a pivotal role, with male suspects generally subjected to more severe procedures, while females are often treated more leniently, a finding consistent with the studies of Baker and Gau (2018) and Corke (2019). The type of crime committed further shapes arrest severity, with violent crimes triggering more stringent measures compared to non-violent offenses, as noted by Shields and Cochran (2020). The location of the arrest is another key factor, with higher-crime areas and public spaces leading to stricter measures, while arrests in private locations tend to be less severe. This finding is supported by Braga et al. (2019) and Grundwald and Fagan (2019), who indicate that high-crime locations lead to more forceful responses from law enforcement. Age, though less impactful than other factors, still influences arrest procedures, with younger individuals sometimes receiving more lenient treatment, particularly in non-violent cases, as noted by Morgan, Logan, and Olma (2020).

Overall, these findings highlight the multifaceted nature of arrest procedures and the need for more consistent, fair, and evidence-based approaches to law enforcement, ensuring that factors like criminal history, gender, and crime type are accounted for without bias or undue influence. Further research is needed to explore the complexities of these dynamics and to develop more standardized practices that promote fairness and equity in policing. Moreover, these results suggest a potential gender bias in arrest procedures, with male suspects generally receiving harsher treatment, which aligns with Freinburger and Romain's findings on stricter pretrial measures for men. Similarly, the data reflects that women are often perceived as less culpable, leading to more lenient handling by law enforcement, as Malon (2020) noted. This indicates the need for law enforcement agencies to implement training programs focused on recognizing and mitigating biases, alongside developing more transparent and standardized procedures to ensure fairness and equity for all suspects, regardless of gender or criminal history. Addressing these disparities will help reduce the influence of stereotypes in policing, fostering a more just and impartial justice system.

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