

Effects of Curfew Enforcement on Crime Trends and Patterns in Daet, Camarines Norte

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Abstract

This study examined the effects of curfew enforcement on crime trends and patterns in Daet, Camarines Norte, from 2019 to 2024, focusing on information dissemination, police-community relations, crime reduction, and variations in index and non-index crimes. The study was anchored on Social Control Theory, Social Disorganization Theory, and Situational Crime Prevention Theory. It employed descriptive-comparative and exploratory research designs involving 202 respondents composed of 83 Philippine National Police personnel, 104 barangay officials, and 15 Peace and Order Council members selected through probability and non-probability sampling techniques. Data were gathered using a structured questionnaire, key informant interviews, non-participant observation, and documentary analysis of official crime records. Percentage, weighted mean, Analysis of Variance, and Scheffé's test were used for data analysis. Findings showed that curfew enforcement was generally practiced "Often," with information dissemination receiving the highest assessment, followed by police-community relations and crime reduction. No significant differences were found in perceptions of curfew enforcement across respondent groups and enforcement aspects. Crime statistics showed fluctuations from 2019 to 2024, with property-related offenses remaining a significant concern and traffic-related incidents contributing substantially to non-index crimes. Crimes against persons and the major categories of non-index crimes did not significantly differ across the examined periods, whereas property-related index crimes showed significant variations, particularly between 2019 and the succeeding years. The study concludes that curfew enforcement contributed to crime prevention but requires sustained communication, community participation, law enforcement visibility, and coordinated interventions to strengthen long-term public safety. Consequently, the SAFE DAET: Strengthening Action for a Fear-Free Environment in Daet program was proposed to integrate enforcement, community engagement, public awareness, victim support, traffic safety, and monitoring. The study supports SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions by promoting effective local governance, public safety, community participation, and institutional coordination. Its sustainability impact centers on strengthening community, policy and governance, and institutional sustainability through evidence-based and collaborative approaches to long-term peace and order.

Keywords: Crime Prevention; Crime Trends and Patterns; Curfew Enforcement; Non-Index Crimes; Police-Community Relations; Public Safety; SAFE DAET

1. Introduction

Curfew enforcement is widely used as a preventive and regulatory measure to maintain public order, protect vulnerable groups, and reduce opportunities for criminal activity, particularly during nighttime hours. However, evidence regarding its effectiveness remains mixed because crime patterns are influenced by socioeconomic

conditions, community cooperation, governance capacity, mobility, enforcement strategies, and technological factors. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2019) recognizes curfews as mechanisms that may limit exposure to high-risk situations, while the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (2021) emphasizes that their effectiveness depends on consistent enforcement and community cooperation. These differing outcomes indicate that curfew policies must be examined within their specific social and geographic contexts. In Daet, Camarines Norte, curfew implementation is particularly relevant because the municipality has an established ordinance regulating the presence of minors in public places during designated hours. Despite its continuing implementation, limited localized evidence exists regarding its effectiveness in influencing crime incidence and patterns. Consequently, this study examines curfew enforcement through information dissemination, police-community relations, and crime reduction while considering trends in index and non-index crimes.

Crime trends and patterns change according to economic conditions, social environments, law enforcement strategies, mobility, and public policies. Property crimes and juvenile offenses may occur more frequently during periods with reduced guardianship, providing a rationale for nighttime curfews. Nevertheless, curfews do not consistently produce the same outcomes across communities. In some settings, they reduce street offenses, while in others they produce displacement effects in which criminal activities move to other times or locations. Curfew enforcement therefore involves more than restricting mobility. Effective implementation requires understandable policies, reliable information dissemination, police visibility, community participation, and coordination among public institutions. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2019) associates curfews with reducing exposure to high-risk situations, while the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (2021) stresses enforcement consistency and cooperation. At the same time, the international evidence demonstrates that their results remain context-dependent. Locally, the Municipality of Daet implements Municipal Ordinance No. 63, Series of 2002, as amended by Resolution No. 484-2023, regulating minors' presence in public places during designated curfew hours. Its implementation involves the Philippine National Police, barangay officials, and the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (Municipality of Daet, 2015). Despite the ordinance's long implementation, systematic evidence establishing whether it has reduced crime incidence or changed crime patterns remains limited.

The literature identifies curfew enforcement, community participation, police-community relations, information dissemination, and crime reduction as closely interconnected. Lacerna (2018) emphasized clarity, consistency, police visibility, and interpersonal communication in gaining public cooperation, while Mercurio & Hernandez (2022) demonstrated the potential contribution of open data and geographic information systems to crime monitoring and targeted enforcement. Babista and Callejo (2021) associated curfew implementation with reductions in juvenile delinquency and petty crime but identified manpower and youth resistance as implementation concerns. Carpio (2020) similarly identified unclear guidelines and inconsistent implementation as barriers to compliance. Police-community relations also emerge as a central factor. Dorado (2024) found that communication, police visibility, community programs, and resident feedback supported crime prevention, while Ambrocio (2021) stressed transparency, consultation, responsiveness, and respect for civil liberties. Santos (2023) likewise associated accountability and participatory policing with stronger public cooperation. Araña (2025) reported that stricter enforcement could reduce juvenile offenses during restricted hours but emphasized inter-agency coordination and public communication. International findings demonstrate that the effects of mobility restrictions vary by crime category and social context. Campedelli et al. (2020) reported declines in theft and robbery during COVID-19 restrictions but increases in domestic violence and cybercrime. Carvalho and Guerra (2025) identified crime displacement following targeted enforcement, indicating that enforcement alone may be insufficient without broader community interventions. Community participation was similarly emphasized in (Acabo, 2020), while Tero (2018) described coordinated involvement among police, barangays, social services, parents, and minors. Thomas & Rogers (2023) further associated community involvement and participatory governance with successful crime-reduction strategies. Conversely, Ducharme (2022) questioned the effectiveness and equity of youth curfews, while Taleo (2018) illustrated direct enforcement in establishments frequented by minors. Ray (2019) emphasized transparency, timely dissemination, social media, hotlines, and interactive communication as mechanisms for strengthening public trust. A second major theme concerns information dissemination. Carpio's (2020) study showed that clarity and frequency of communication influenced public awareness and compliance. Redoble et. al. (2018) emphasized collaborative leadership and face-to-face communication, particularly in communities with limited digital access. Albano (2021) found value in combining digital and traditional communication, while Garcia (2020) emphasized coordinated messaging between local government and barangay authorities. Hernandez (2020) similarly recommended dissemination approaches adapted to local technological conditions.

Other studies reinforce the importance of accessible, continuous, and context-sensitive communication. Solis (2020) highlighted clear and empathetic communication; Baconguis (2020) supported combining verbal and visual channels; Miranda (2019) emphasized community profiling and consideration of communication infrastructure; and Soriano (2020) identified social media as an important communication platform. Calamba

(2020) emphasized participatory and two-way communication, while Domingo (2021) stressed continuity and creativity in campaigns. Traditional approaches also remain relevant, including public postings discussed by Coagdan (2018), tarpaulins and posters described by Tamayo (2018), sustained barangay-level campaigns emphasized by Tabac (2018), and establishment-based information drives described by Damian (2018). A third theme concerns the dynamic character of crime trends and patterns. Biehl and Park (2021) questioned the long-term effectiveness and distributive effects of youth curfews, while Muncie and Goldson (2020) emphasized children's rights and alternatives to punitive approaches. Within Philippine local governance, Ocenar (2019) identified inconsistencies in implementation, limited personnel, and inadequate logistical support. De Nadai et al. (2020) demonstrated that crime can also reflect socioeconomic conditions, infrastructure, mobility, and urban environments. Technology and mobility analysis further expand understanding of crime patterns. Kadar et al. (2020) demonstrated that movement flows can help identify crime-prone locations, while Ratul (2020) showed the potential of machine learning in analyzing environmental and temporal crime factors. Yang et al. (2021) demonstrated how major social events affect crime and law enforcement deployment. de la Miyar et al. (2020) found that mobility restrictions affected crime categories differently, reinforcing the need for differentiated strategies. Pandemic-era studies similarly illustrate that crime reductions produced by mobility restrictions may be temporary or uneven. Gerell et al. (2020) found limited overall change in Sweden but differences between public and private offenses. Andresen and Hodgkinson (2020) observed initial reductions followed by crime recovery as restrictions eased. Payne et al. (2022) identified decreases in recorded violent crime while noting potential underreporting, and Nivette (2021) reported cross-national reductions in street crimes alongside concerns regarding domestic violence. Ashby (2020) likewise identified a “U-shaped” recovery pattern, while Dong et al. (2021) demonstrated relationships among neighborhood conditions, enforcement visibility, and crime fluctuations. In the Philippine setting, Barreda (2022) linked differences in local crime trends with policing strategies, community engagement, curfew enforcement, and local ordinances. Collectively, the literature indicates that curfew outcomes cannot be explained by enforcement intensity alone. Communication, police-community cooperation, governance capacity, technological resources, social conditions, mobility, and the specific type of crime all influence outcomes. The reviewed studies therefore support a localized and evidence-based evaluation of curfew implementation.

Globally, curfews have been implemented in different legal, social, and public-safety environments, resulting in mixed outcomes. Studies from the United States, Europe, Latin America, Australia, China, and other settings demonstrate that mobility restrictions may decrease particular street crimes while leaving other offenses unchanged or shifting them into different locations or private environments. Campedelli et al. (2020), Carvalho and Guerra (2025), Biehl and Park (2021), De Nadai et al. (2020), Kadar et al. (2020), Yang et al. (2021), de la Miyar et al. (2020), Gerell et al. (2020), Andresen and Hodgkinson (2020), Payne et al. (2022), Nivette (2021), Ashby (2020), and Dong et al. (2021) collectively demonstrate the importance of contextual and differentiated analysis. At the national and local levels, Philippine studies similarly emphasize implementation quality, communication, community involvement, and local governance. Lacerna (2018), Babista and Callejo (2021), Carpio (2020), Dorado (2024), Santos (2023), Araña (2025), Ocenar (2019), and Barreda (2022) illustrate how local enforcement outcomes are conditioned by coordination, available resources, community relations, and governance practices. The Daet context provides a specific setting for examining these relationships. Its curfew ordinance is locally implemented through coordination among government and law enforcement institutions, yet empirical evidence regarding its relationship with crime trends remains limited (Municipality of Daet, 2015). The study therefore examines enforcement practices and crime statistics from 2019 to 2024 to establish a localized understanding of the policy's operation and public-safety implications.

The study is anchored on three criminological theories: Social Control Theory by Burt (2020), Social Disorganization Theory by Kubrin and Weitzer (2021), and Situational Crime Prevention Theory by Clarke and Eck (2020). Social Control Theory explains conformity through strong attachments to social institutions such as the family, school, and community. Within curfew implementation, these bonds support voluntary compliance, collective responsibility, and cooperation between residents and authorities. The theoretical paradigm likewise identifies Social Control Theory (Burt, 2020) as a foundation for understanding rule compliance. Social Disorganization Theory explains that crime becomes more likely when community institutions, cohesion, coordination, and informal social control are weakened (Kubrin & Weitzer, 2021). Applied to the study, limitations in personnel, resources, community cooperation, or governance may affect enforcement consistency and contribute to variations in crime patterns. The theoretical paradigm likewise presents Social Disorganization Theory (Kubrin and Weitzer, 2021) as emphasizing the importance of location and community conditions. Situational Crime Prevention Theory focuses on limiting crime opportunities and increasing perceived risks through surveillance, guardianship, and environmental controls (Clarke & Eck, 2020). Applied to curfew enforcement, restricted nighttime mobility, police visibility, monitoring, and community watch mechanisms may reduce opportunities for index and non-index crimes. Together, the three theories explain how social bonds, community structure, environmental conditions, and enforcement practices interact in influencing compliance and public safety. Conceptually, the study follows an input-process-output orientation. The inputs consist of the level of curfew enforcement in terms of information dissemination, police-community relations, and crime reduction,

together with index and non-index crime statistics. These are examined through data gathering, processing, and analysis, leading to an evidence-based intervention intended to improve curfew implementation, community engagement, and crime prevention. Feedback supports the refinement and validation of the research process and its resulting intervention.

Although previous studies have examined curfew enforcement, information dissemination, policing, mobility, community participation, and crime patterns, much of the evidence originates from broader national, regional, international, or crisis-specific contexts. Existing findings are also inconsistent: some studies report reduced crime, while others identify displacement, temporary effects, implementation inequalities, or limited long-term effectiveness. The principal gap addressed by the study is the limited localized empirical assessment of curfew enforcement in Daet, Camarines Norte. Specifically, previous research has not sufficiently examined the local policy through the combined dimensions of information dissemination, police-community relations, and crime reduction while simultaneously analyzing index and non-index crime patterns. The study addresses this gap by integrating perspectives from enforcement stakeholders with documented crime statistics and using the findings as a basis for context-specific interventions. This localized investigation is necessary because the municipality has implemented a curfew for several years, yet systematic analysis of whether it has influenced crime incidence and patterns remains limited. Examination of enforcement practices and crime statistics from 2019 to 2024 is therefore intended to clarify the role of curfew enforcement in local crime prevention and support evidence-based governance and community protection.

The study is directly aligned with SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, which promotes peaceful and inclusive societies and effective and accountable institutions. The manuscript explicitly connects curfew enforcement with SDG 16 because public-order measures, when properly implemented, involve institutional accountability, crime prevention, community participation, and the protection of vulnerable groups, particularly minors (United Nations, 2015). By evaluating the effectiveness of enforcement practices, police-community relations, information dissemination, and crime patterns, the study can provide evidence for strengthening local public-safety mechanisms and institutional decision-making. Its focus on coordination among law enforcement agencies, barangay authorities, and community stakeholders further supports the broader objective of building responsive and effective local institutions.

The study contributes primarily to community, socio-economic, policy and governance, and institutional sustainability through its focus on long-term public safety and evidence-based local governance. Community sustainability is supported by examining mechanisms intended to maintain peace and order, protect vulnerable populations, strengthen public awareness, and encourage cooperation between residents and authorities. Policy and governance sustainability is reflected in the generation of localized evidence that may guide the review and improvement of curfew implementation rather than relying solely on generalized assumptions regarding its effectiveness. Institutional sustainability is also relevant because effective curfew implementation requires continuing coordination among the Philippine National Police, local government, barangay authorities, social welfare institutions, peace and order bodies, and community stakeholders. The literature demonstrates that sustainable crime prevention requires more than temporary restrictions; it depends on reliable communication, community trust, consistent enforcement, institutional capacity, and adaptive, evidence-based strategies. Accordingly, the study provides a multidisciplinary perspective linking criminology, public administration, local governance, communication, community engagement, and public safety toward more sustainable peace and order in Daet, Camarines Norte.

2. Material and methods

2.1 Research Design

The study used descriptive-comparative and exploratory research methods. The descriptive-comparative approach assessed curfew enforcement in terms of information dissemination, police-community relations, and crime reduction and compared reported index and non-index crimes across different periods. The exploratory approach supplemented the quantitative analysis through unstructured interviews with selected Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel, barangay officials, and Peace and Order Council members, allowing qualitative information to validate and explain issues not fully captured by the quantitative data.

2.2 Locale of the Study

The study was conducted in Daet, Camarines Norte, where curfew implementation and local crime trends were examined. Data were obtained from PNP personnel assigned to different precincts, barangay officials representing urban and semi-urban communities, Peace and Order Council members, and official local records relevant to curfew enforcement and crime incidence.

2.3 Respondents of the Study

The study involved 202 respondents who were directly involved in the implementation and coordination of curfew policies in Daet, Camarines Norte. They consisted of 83 PNP personnel, representing 41.1% of the respondents; 104 barangay officials, representing 51.5%; and 15 Peace and Order Council members, representing 7.4%. These groups were selected because of their roles in curfew implementation, local governance, policy oversight, and peace and order activities.

2.4 Sample and Sampling Procedure

A combination of probability and non-probability sampling techniques was employed. PNP personnel were selected through simple random sampling using official rosters to provide officers from different shifts and operational areas an equal chance of participation. Barangay officials were selected through stratified random sampling, with barangays classified as urban and semi-urban before barangay captains and kagawads were proportionately selected. The 15 Peace and Order Council members were chosen through purposive sampling because of their direct involvement in curfew policy formulation, implementation oversight, and peacekeeping initiatives and their representation of sectors such as education, social welfare, and local governance.

2.5 Research Instrument

The study used a structured survey questionnaire, key informant interview (KII), non-participant observation, and documentary analysis to facilitate data triangulation. The structured questionnaire consisted of four parts aligned with the statements of the problem. Its items were developed from relevant literature and conceptual frameworks and submitted to the research adviser for validation. Recommended revisions were incorporated to strengthen content validity, followed by pilot testing among respondents who were not included in the actual study. Cronbach's alpha was used to assess internal consistency before the final questionnaire was administered to the selected respondents. Non-participant observation was conducted in public areas and checkpoints to obtain contextual and behavioral information concerning the actual enforcement of curfew policies. Observations were documented through field notes and cross-checked with survey and interview information. Documentary analysis was also used to obtain index and non-index crime statistics from official police records, barangay reports, and local archives.

2.6 Data Gathering Procedure

The research process began with the preparation and defense of the proposal, during which the objectives, scope, methodology, and significance of the study were reviewed. After approval, formal permission was obtained through written requests addressed to the Chief of Police and the Chairman of the Peace and Order Council of Daet, Camarines Norte, permitting access to respondents and relevant records. The researcher personally visited the selected PNP personnel, barangay officials, and Peace and Order Council members. The purpose of the study was explained before the questionnaires were administered, and respondents were given sufficient time to answer. All questionnaires were retrieved on the same day, resulting in a 100% retrieval rate. Documentary information on index and non-index crimes was simultaneously collected from official police records, barangay reports, and local archives. Quantitative responses were organized and statistically analyzed, while qualitative interview responses were summarized and used to triangulate the quantitative findings.

2.7 Data Analysis Techniques

The study used percentage technique and weighted mean for descriptive analysis. Percentage was applied to determine the distribution and frequency of responses and to describe respondent characteristics, crime categories, and yearly crime trends. Weighted mean was used to determine the average assessment of curfew enforcement in terms of information dissemination, police-community relations, and crime reduction, as well as perceived internal and external factors affecting implementation. One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was employed to determine whether significant differences existed among respondent groups and crime statistics across periods, particularly in relation to curfew enforcement and index and non-index crime trends. When significant differences were identified, Scheffé's test was applied to determine the specific groups or periods that differed while adjusting for multiple comparisons and minimizing Type I error.

2.8 Ethical Considerations

The study observed ethical standards intended to protect the dignity and rights of the participants. Informed consent was obtained before data collection, and respondents were informed of the study's purpose, the voluntary nature of participation, and their right to withdraw at any stage without repercussions. Anonymity and confidentiality were maintained by excluding personally identifiable information and using responses solely for academic purposes. Participants were neither coerced nor misled, and the survey and interview questions were designed to avoid sensitive or harmful content. Research data were securely stored and were to be properly disposed of after completion of the study. Necessary approval and coordination with relevant local authorities and institutions were also secured to ensure compliance with applicable legal and institutional ethical guidelines.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Level of Curfew Enforcement

3.1.1 Information Dissemination

The overall level of curfew enforcement in terms of information dissemination was rated “Often,” with an overall mean of 3.12. Announcing the curfew ordinance through local radio stations received the highest average weighted mean of 3.21, while conducting house-to-house dissemination received the lowest at 3.01. Among respondent groups, the PNP obtained the highest mean of 3.56, interpreted as “Always,” followed by barangay officials at 3.07 and the Peace and Order Council at 2.74, both interpreted as “Often.” These results indicate that mass communication channels were more consistently used than personalized dissemination approaches. The findings indicate that broad communication approaches provide greater reach, whereas house-to-house dissemination requires more personnel and resources. The results are consistent with Lacerna (2018), who emphasized that effective dissemination depends not only on communication frequency but also on the accessibility and appropriateness of the methods used. The findings therefore support combining mass communication with localized approaches to strengthen awareness, trust, and compliance.

3.1.2 Police-Community Relations

Police-community relations obtained an overall mean of 3.00, interpreted as “Often.” Providing services and soliciting suggestions to improve police-community activities received the highest average weighted mean of 3.03, while collecting information about residents received the lowest at 2.97. Barangay officials obtained the highest group mean of 3.03, followed by the PNP at 2.99 and the Peace and Order Council at 2.98. Across groups, direct contact, community-needs assessment, house visits, and information collection were generally practiced but did not reach the “Always” level. The findings suggest that curfew enforcement benefits from both strategic police planning and direct interpersonal engagement by local officials. However, the comparatively lower ratings for house visits and resident information gathering indicate limitations in grassroots interaction. This is consistent with Dorado (2024), who emphasized that sustained communication, community-oriented strategies, and systematic information gathering strengthen trust, cooperation, and crime-prevention efforts.

3.1.3 Crime Reduction

Curfew enforcement in terms of crime reduction obtained an overall mean of 2.82, interpreted as “Often.” The highest-rated indicator was “Increase in domestic violence cases” at 2.90, while “Reducing gang-related complaints due to decreased nighttime youth gathering” received the lowest mean of 2.73. Barangay officials recorded the highest group mean of 2.98, followed by the Peace and Order Council at 2.78 and the PNP at 2.71. Overall, the findings indicate moderate implementation of crime-reduction measures, with lower ratings for gang-related complaints and illegal drug activities. The results suggest that curfews may be more applicable to visible and opportunity-based nighttime offenses than to organized or concealed criminal activities. Araña (2025) similarly found that juvenile curfew enforcement could reduce nighttime crime while also being associated with unintended social consequences such as increased domestic disputes. Thus, the findings indicate the importance of combining enforcement with social interventions and community support rather than relying exclusively on mobility restrictions.

3.1.4 Overall Level of Curfew Enforcement

Across all dimensions, curfew enforcement obtained an overall mean of 2.98, interpreted as “Often.” Information dissemination ranked highest at 3.12, followed by public community relations at 3.00 and crime reduction at 2.82. The PNP obtained the highest overall mean of 3.08, followed by barangay officials at 3.02 and the Peace and Order Council at 2.83. The findings show that dissemination was the strongest component, while crime reduction remained the least developed. The findings imply that public information alone does not automatically translate into stronger community relations or measurable crime reduction. Campedelli et al. (2020) similarly demonstrated that the effects of curfews and related restrictions vary according to community engagement and law enforcement strategies. Effective enforcement therefore requires communication, community partnership, and targeted crime-prevention measures to operate together.

3.2 Crime Trends and Patterns in Daet, Camarines Norte

3.2.1 Index Crimes Against Persons

A total of 150 index crimes against persons were recorded from 2019 to 2024. Rape was the most prevalent with 97 cases or 64.7%, followed by physical injury with 42 cases or 28.0%, murder with 10 cases or 6.7%, and homicide with one case or 0.7%. The highest annual totals occurred in 2019 and 2024 with 33 incidents each, while 2022 recorded the lowest with 15. The decline during the pandemic period and the subsequent increase as normal activities resumed suggest that mobility and social interaction influenced opportunities for interpersonal offenses. However, the continued prevalence of rape indicates that these crimes cannot be explained solely by mobility restrictions. Ocenar (2019) similarly emphasized that inconsistent enforcement and limited institutional resources can weaken crime prevention, supporting the need for sustained community education, inter-agency coordination, victim support, and long-term social interventions.

3.2.2 Index Crimes Against Property

The manuscript identifies theft as the dominant property crime, with 113 cases, followed by robbery with 41 and motorcycle carnapping with 12. It reports 2024 as the year with the highest incidence at 46 cases and 2022 as the lowest with 14. The source contains an internal numerical inconsistency: the narrative reports 168 total incidents, while the displayed total is 186 and the listed category counts sum differently. These figures are therefore retained as originally reported rather than reconciled. Despite this numerical inconsistency, the reported trend shows a reduction during periods of restricted mobility followed by increased property crime as economic and social activities resumed. Carvalho and Guerra (2025) similarly emphasized that intensified enforcement and mobility restrictions may temporarily suppress offenses but do not necessarily produce sustainable reductions. The findings therefore indicate that long-term property-crime prevention requires continued policing, community vigilance, and interventions addressing opportunities and underlying socioeconomic conditions.

3.2.3 Non-Index Crimes Under Penal Laws

A total of 294 non-index crimes under penal laws were recorded from 2019 to 2024. Acts of lasciviousness were most prevalent with 67 cases or 22.79%, followed by alarm and scandals with 52 or 17.69%, resistance and disobedience with 42 or 14.29%, and swindling with 39 or 13.27%. The highest annual total was recorded in 2020 with 56 cases, while 2019 recorded the lowest with 33. The pattern indicates that many non-index offenses were associated with interpersonal misconduct, public disturbance, authority relations, and socioeconomic pressures rather than organized criminality. Barreda (2022) similarly found that local crime patterns are influenced by enforcement effectiveness and community engagement. The findings therefore emphasize the importance of consistent policing, community participation, education, and socioeconomic support in reducing recurring non-index offenses.

3.2.4 Traffic-Related Non-Index Crimes

Traffic-related offenses totaled 2,036 incidents from 2019 to 2024. Reckless Imprudence Resulting in Damage to Property accounted for 1,186 cases or 58.25%, followed by Reckless Imprudence Resulting in Physical Injury with 823 or 40.42%, while Reckless Imprudence Resulting in Homicide accounted for 27 or 1.33%. Annual totals decreased from 347 in 2019 to 277 in 2020, remained relatively stable in 2021 and 2022, then increased to 377 in 2023 and 474 in 2024. The decline during restricted-mobility periods and subsequent increase as movement resumed indicate that exposure, road discipline, and traffic conditions contributed to the pattern. Dorado (2024) emphasized that police visibility and community engagement can improve compliance with public-safety measures, while Binan et al. (2024) identified compliance issues, enforcement gaps, and public discipline as limitations to crime-prevention efforts. The results therefore support integrated traffic-law enforcement, road-safety education, infrastructure improvement, and citizen responsibility.

3.2.5 Non-Index Crimes Under Special Laws

The initial descriptive profile reports 639 violations of special laws. RA 9165, the Dangerous Drugs Act, accounted for 293 cases or 46.00%, followed by RA 9262, Violence Against Women and Children, with 133 cases or 20.88%, and RA 7610, Child Abuse, with 69 cases or 10.83%. Recorded incidents peaked at 146 in 2020, declined to 52 in 2023, and increased again to 90 in 2024. These findings indicate that drug-related offenses and violations involving vulnerable women and children comprise the major concerns under special laws. Dizon and Yabut (2020) emphasized the interaction of socioeconomic transitions and enforcement intensity in explaining changes in crime incidence. The observed decline followed by resurgence similarly indicates that temporary enforcement gains may not be sustained without continued community-based interventions, social support, and focused protection mechanisms.

3.3 Differences in Curfew Enforcement Among Respondents and Aspects

The two-way ANOVA showed no statistically significant differences in curfew enforcement according to enforcement aspect or respondent group. Information dissemination, police-community relations, and crime reduction produced an F-value of 0.989 with $p = 0.448$, while differences among PNP personnel, barangay officials, and Peace and Order Council members produced an F-value of 0.762 with $p = 0.524$. The adjusted R^2 of -0.066 further indicated that the model explained little meaningful variation in perceptions. The findings indicate relatively uniform perceptions of curfew enforcement among stakeholder groups and across enforcement dimensions. Nivette et al. (2021) similarly emphasized how broader structural and public-policy factors may shape crime and enforcement outcomes more strongly than localized differences. The consistency observed in Daet may therefore indicate common implementation standards, although aggregate similarity may conceal issues not directly reflected in general enforcement assessments.

3.4 Differences in Crime Statistics Across Periods

3.4.1 Overall Index and Non-Index Crime Patterns

The comparative analysis showed that index crimes had a mean of 56.00 across six periods, with a t-critical value of 2.228 and a t-statistic of -15.95, reported as significant. Non-index crimes had a substantially higher mean of 496.67. Thus, non-index crimes occurred much more frequently, while index crimes showed statistically

significant variation across periods. The findings demonstrate the dual challenge of addressing less frequent but more serious index crimes while simultaneously managing the substantially greater volume of non-index offenses. Dong et al. (2021) emphasized that socioeconomic conditions and law enforcement visibility influence crime distribution and demonstrated the value of predictive approaches in understanding crime fluctuations. The present findings similarly support data-driven resource allocation and differentiated crime-prevention strategies.

3.4.2 Non-Index Crimes Under Penal Laws Across Periods

The comparative presentation of penal-law offenses recorded 294 incidents over six years. Annual totals ranged from 33 cases in 2019 to 56 in 2020, while acts of lasciviousness, alarm and scandals, and resistance and disobedience remained among the most prevalent offenses. The pattern reflects recurring crimes associated with personal behavior, public disturbances, and defiance of authority. The findings indicate that these offenses remained embedded in routine social interactions and therefore may be resistant to deterrence alone. Barreda (2022) likewise emphasized that persistent non-index crimes can reflect underlying social and behavioral conditions. Consequently, effective prevention requires policing to be supported by social services, community-based programs, moral recovery initiatives, and preventive education.

3.4.3 Traffic Accidents Across Periods

Traffic-related incidents demonstrated an overall increasing pattern, with 347 cases in 2019, 277 in 2020, 281 in 2021, 280 in 2022, 377 in 2023, and 474 in 2024. Damage to property accounted for 58.3% of the 2,036 incidents, physical injury for 40.4%, and homicide for 1.3%. The increasing number of non-fatal but disruptive traffic incidents suggests continuing concerns involving road safety, traffic management, driver discipline, and enforcement. Binan et al. (2024) similarly highlighted compliance and enforcement limitations in crime-prevention strategies. The results indicate that institutional enforcement must be accompanied by citizen cooperation, road-safety education, and appropriate traffic-management interventions.

3.4.4 Special Law Violations Across Periods

In a later comparative presentation, the manuscript reports 2,980 special-law incidents from 2019 to 2024, with annual totals ranging from 428 in 2022 to 614 in 2024. It again identifies RA 9165, RA 9262, and RA 7610 among the leading categories. This reported total differs from the earlier descriptive profile of 639 cases; because the source does not reconcile the discrepancy, both values are retained as presented in their respective sections. The pattern indicates that special-law violations fluctuate according to changing social and enforcement conditions. Linning et al. (2017) similarly emphasized that crime patterns change over time according to temporal, environmental, and situational opportunities. The results therefore support adaptive prevention strategies that integrate enforcement with social programs, public awareness, and attention to changing community conditions.

3.4.5 Differences in Index Crimes Against Persons

The one-way ANOVA for crimes against persons produced an F-value of 0.256 and $p = 0.931$, indicating no statistically significant differences across the examined years. The results therefore show that annual variations in crimes against persons were not sufficiently large to establish meaningful statistical differences. The relative stability suggests that crimes against persons may be influenced by enduring behavioral and community-level conditions rather than short-term changes in enforcement. Kadar et al. (2020) similarly explained that crime patterns may be shaped by stable mobility flows and routine activities. The findings therefore support long-term prevention, community education, conflict-resolution mechanisms, continuous monitoring, and sustained law enforcement visibility.

3.4.6 Differences in Index Crimes Against Property

The one-way ANOVA for crimes against property produced an F-value of 17.892 with $p = 0.000$, indicating a very highly significant difference across the examined periods. This demonstrates that fluctuations in property-related crimes were substantial rather than attributable to random variation. The result suggests that property crime is more responsive to situational, environmental, economic, and enforcement-related conditions than crimes against persons. Biehl and Park (2021) likewise found that curfew enforcement can influence opportunity-driven property crime patterns. The findings support adaptive crime-prevention measures involving surveillance, consistent enforcement, community participation, and reduction of opportunities for property offenses.

3.4.7 Specific Differences in Property Crime Across Periods

Scheffé's test showed a highly significant difference between 2019 and 2020 ($MD = 15.33$, $p\text{-value} = 0.002$) and a very highly significant difference between 2019 and 2021 ($MD = 20.17$, $p\text{-value} = 0.000$). In contrast, the difference between 2020 and 2021 was not significant ($MD = 4.83$, $p\text{-value} = 0.412$). Thus, property crimes were substantially higher in 2019, followed by a decline and relative stabilization during 2020 and 2021. The pattern suggests that enforcement measures and reduced opportunities may have contributed to the initial decline, although maintaining lower levels requires sustained interventions. Muncie and Goldson (2020) similarly emphasized that curfew and youth-control measures may produce short-term reductions but are limited without

continuing social interventions. The results therefore support combining enforcement with broader community and structural strategies to sustain crime reduction.

3.4.8 Differences in Non-Index Crimes

The one-way ANOVA found no statistically significant differences across years for any of the three non-index crime categories. Penal-law offenses produced $F = 0.235$ and $p = 0.947$, traffic accidents produced $F = 0.188$ and $p = 0.961$, and special-law violations produced $F = 0.402$ and $p = 0.847$. These results indicate that despite yearly fluctuations in raw frequencies, the variations were not statistically significant. The absence of significant differences suggests that non-index crimes may reflect persistent behavioral, environmental, and community-level conditions that are less responsive to short-term interventions. Vomfell et al. (2020) similarly emphasized that non-index crime patterns may be difficult to explain through isolated policy interventions and are strongly shaped by broader environmental factors and routine behaviors. The findings therefore support sustained, data-driven, community-based approaches rather than temporary enforcement measures.

3.5 Proposed SAFE DAET Intervention Program

Based on the findings, the study proposed SAFE DAET: Strengthening Action for a Fear-Free Environment in Daet, a three-year renewable intervention led by the PNP–Daet Municipal Police Station and the Local Government Unit, with participation from DILG, DSWD, DepEd, DOH, barangay councils, and civil society organizations. The program was developed in response to the observed reduction in some crimes during periods of stricter mobility restrictions, the subsequent resurgence of property and non-index offenses, and continuing concerns involving traffic incidents, drug offenses, violence against women and children, and child abuse. The intervention integrates enhanced crime enforcement, regular crime mapping, community watch activities, police-community dialogues, public-awareness and school-based education, victim-support services, traffic-safety initiatives, and continuous monitoring and evaluation. Its monitoring framework includes crime reduction, community participation, inter-agency coordination, public-awareness activities, victim assistance, and traffic safety. The proposed annual budget is PHP 1,900,000, equivalent to PHP 5,700,000 for three years. Overall, SAFE DAET translates the study findings into coordinated enforcement, prevention, education, community participation, victim support, and evidence-based monitoring intended to promote sustained peace and order in Daet.

4. Conclusion & Recommendations

The study concludes that curfew enforcement in Daet, Camarines Norte was generally practiced “Often” in terms of information dissemination, police-community relations, and crime reduction, with information dissemination emerging as the strongest aspect and crime reduction as the least emphasized. Crime statistics from 2019 to 2024 showed fluctuations in both index and non-index crimes, with property-related offenses remaining a major concern and traffic-related incidents substantially contributing to non-index crimes. No significant differences were found in perceived curfew enforcement across respondent groups and enforcement aspects, while property-related index crimes significantly declined from 2019 to 2021 and subsequently stabilized. These findings indicate that curfew enforcement contributed to crime prevention, particularly during its initial implementation, but sustained public safety requires coordinated and continuing efforts among law enforcement agencies, local government, and community stakeholders.

The study recommends strengthening curfew implementation through improved information dissemination, community engagement, law enforcement visibility, and targeted crime-prevention initiatives. Barangay officials and concerned agencies should strengthen community-level dissemination and youth-centered programs, while the PNP and Peace and Order Councils should improve community profiling, communication, patrol visibility, and coordination. The LGU, PNP, traffic-management agencies, and other partners should reinforce surveillance in property-crime hotspots, road-safety enforcement, public education, and community-based monitoring. These interventions may be integrated through SAFE DAET: Strengthening Action for a Fear-Free Environment in Daet, which emphasizes coordinated communication, community monitoring, police-community engagement, rehabilitation-oriented interventions, and multi-sectoral collaboration to promote sustained peace and order.

The study was limited to the core dimensions of curfew enforcement, particularly information dissemination, police-community relations, and crime reduction, and involved only PNP personnel, barangay officials, and Peace and Order Council members directly involved in curfew implementation. General community residents and variables concerning the economic, educational, and psychological impacts of curfew were excluded. The manuscript also states that curfews implemented during periods of national emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, were outside the study’s coverage.

5. Compliance with ethical standards

The study was conducted in accordance with accepted ethical principles for research involving human participants. Prior to data collection, informed consent was obtained from all respondents, who were informed of the purpose of the study, the voluntary nature of their participation, and their right to withdraw at any stage without consequence. Anonymity and confidentiality were maintained by excluding personally identifiable information and using the collected responses solely for academic purposes. The researcher ensured that no participant was coerced or misled, and the survey and interview questions were designed to avoid sensitive or harmful content. All research data were securely stored and were subject to proper disposal upon completion of the study. Necessary approvals and coordination with relevant local authorities and institutions in Daet, Camarines Norte were also secured before the administration of the research instruments and access to official crime records.

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