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THE INFLUENCE OF RESIDENTIAL INSTABILITY ON NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES IN DAVAO CITY, PHILIPPINES

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Abstract:
Crime within the neighborhood has a negative effect on residents' feelings of safety, increasing stress levels, decreasing community engagement, and damaging overall health and wellness. The research employs a quantitative predictive-causation design to explore how residential instability influences crimes in the neighborhoods of Davao City. Three hundred residents who were selected from a given barangay participated in the study. The level of neighborhood crime and residential instability was measured through descriptive statistical means, such as mean and standard deviation. The findings indicated that the most immediate problem with neighborhood crimes was the breakdown of social control. The most common indicator of home instability was voluntary, unforced moves. Individuals who had to stay in poor residential conditions showed a greater association with crime problems than individuals with stable housing, as indicated through multiple regression analysis, which revealed a moderate-to-strong positive predictive relationship between instability in residence and crime. Such results affirm that residential stability is an essential dimension of community safety. A secure city can be obtained by responding to residential instability through enhanced living conditions, additional community security programs, and housing assistance to low-income households. To fight neighborhood violence in Davao City, this study focuses on the importance of government intervention toward enhanced housing security.

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1. Introduction

Crime within neighborhoods significantly impacts residents' general perception of safety, which can, in turn, profoundly affect their health and well-being (Putrik *et al.*, 2019). Social disorder, social deviance, and social disorganization lead to the prevalence of crime (Errol, Madsen, & Moslehi, 2021). Being in an insecure environment is an individual issue and a major public health issue that necessitates immediate attention (España & Nabe, 2023). The increasing neighborhood crime rate is a worldwide issue that grows with time. Solutions must be tailored to counteract this specific peculiarity of every neighborhood (Escriba, Romuar, Sinconiegue, & Gono, 2024). Analyzing the composition of a neighborhood has proven to be a good source of determining the root causes of criminality and other social issues that may occur (Wang, 2021).

One recent study highlighted the case in Queensland, Australia, where one of the most crime-ridden communities likewise recorded a notable decrease in people's mental health (Wang, 2021). In the same vein, the Davao City Police Office in the Philippines indicated an increase in criminal activity from 2019 to 2022. Theft, robbery, and rape were the most frequently reported offenses among the Davao City barangays, with most perpetrators being known to the victims as friends, relatives, or neighbors (Philippine National Police, 2023). Such a trend highlights the pivotal role of interpersonal relationships and community dynamics in crime occurrence. One of the most promising methods for dealing with increasing crime levels is to examine the richness of neighborhood patterns and how they can potentially affect criminality (Putrik *et al.*, 2019). Greater insight into these communities' environmental and social factors could provide informative feedback regarding effective crime prevention measures and public safety enhancements.

Neighborhoods with high resident turnover, simply known as residential instability, tend to experience weakened social ties among the residents. This instability undermines the trust and familiarity that are required for residents to feel a sense of community, which can lower the residents' willingness to work together on goals and projects. Thus, such neighborhoods tend to fail to construct caring environments that promote collective action and community engagement (West, Bishop, Chapman, & Thomson, 2022). Research undertaken in 2021 by Walden University, using secondary data from 26 New York State rural counties, discovered substantial correlations between population turnover and index crime rates. The research implies that higher population turnover leads to rising crime rates and suggests further research into how residential patterns influence community safety and cohesion (Fitzgerald, 2021).

A Missouri study also correlated restricted access to vital community services and economic disparity with elevated homicide and eviction rates. The disorienting impact of eviction was particularly observed in economically depressed neighborhoods.

Missouri's largest two cities, St. Louis and Kansas City, experienced some of the nation's highest gun homicide rates and ranked in the top 25% of the nation for eviction rates, based on data from the Eviction Lab. With more than four evictions for every 100 residents in 2016, Independence recorded the highest eviction rate among the state's large cities, while Kansas City experienced more than ten evictions daily (Gaston, 2021).

A Philadelphia study that analyzed crime trends between 2006 and 2016 discovered that eviction was significantly linked to homicide, robbery, and burglary in fully controlled models. The research also established that neighborhood poverty strongly moderated the relationship between eviction, robbery, and burglary, but not homicide. Researchers concluded that eviction is a destabilizing influence that amplifies economic vulnerability and boosts crime, especially in already distressed communities (Semenza *et al.*, 2021).

Gray and Parker (2023) studied data from 126 big American cities using the merging of information from the Eviction Lab, the U.S. Census, and national crime records. According to their results, the rent burden, the percentage of income used to pay rent, was more strongly linked with increased homicide rates than eviction rates were. This nexus was particularly salient in urban areas that were undergoing high levels of economic hardship, where economic pressure added to heightened community tension and susceptibility to violence. Even though eviction rates were not explicitly connected to crime in their model, rent burden was an important factor in mediating the relationship between economic stress and violent crime (Gray & Parker, 2023). These results imply that chronic housing affordability pressures can result in social instability and public safety issues, even without official displacement.

Comprehending the influence of neighborhood structural conditions on perceptions of crime has also been a focus of global research. In one study, two urban communities were subjected to Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) to examine the impacts of residential instability, family disruption, and social support on residents' perceptions of neighborhood crime. The findings revealed that residential instability and family disruption significantly diminished social support among the community members. This decline in support was also closely linked to increased sensations of crime, suggesting that incoherent and fragmented housing conditions create less cohesive communities and enhance perceptions of insecurity (Opoku Ware *et al.*, 2021).

Knowing the connection between neighborhood crime and whether residents will remain or leave is needed to assess behavioral reactions to perceived safety threats. Crime not only affects residents' perceptions of security, but it also has an impact on housing choices and mobility. People are typically inclined to avoid or move from places that are found to have high crime levels. This answer is strongly associated with willingness to pay (WTP), whereby individuals are willing to pay a premium for housing in safer areas. Therefore, neighborhoods with lower crime levels tend to have higher property prices and rental rates due to a premium on individual safety (Aliyu *et al.*, 2023). It is supported by the research of Aliyu, Okugya, Yakubu, and Alkali (2023), demonstrating a negative

relationship between local crime rates and residential satisfaction. Their data has shown that people are unlikely to live in or invest in high-crime neighborhoods, and most are prepared to pay extra housing costs to obtain safer living conditions.

The impact of residential instability on community crime is amply described under Social Disorganization Theory, which was formulated by Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay (1942). According to the theory, crime is likely to escalate in areas that suffer from structural disadvantages like poverty, ethnic diversity, and, above all, residential instability. Repeated population migration undermines the social networks that serve as the basis for informal social control. When people repeatedly move in and out of a neighborhood, trust and involvement decrease, making it more difficult for residents to keep an eye on behavior and police norms and react as a group to crime. This instability interferes with forming strong neighborhood bonds, which are crucial for creating a cohesive and secure environment. As these informal controls deteriorate over time, crime can become normalized within the social fabric and may be passed from generation to generation, even as new residents move in. Residential instability is not merely a sign of social disorder here but a root cause of persistent neighborhood crime. It is an essential variable to consider in studying urban safety dynamics.

Recent studies validate the pivotal position of residential instability in disintegrating collective efficacy at the neighborhood level and increasing crime. For example, Danielsson (2021) points out that when neighborhoods have high turnover, social cohesion and informal controls that are vital to crime prevention break down. They describe how "*denser social networks, particularly in disadvantaged neighborhoods, may weaken the regulatory efficiency of collective efficacy*" (Danielsson, 2019). A study in Richmond, VA, discovered that some types of instability, such as resident turnover regularly, were robust predictors of interpersonal violence in support of the long-standing theoretical argument (West *et al.*, 2022).

The relationship between residential mobility and crime continues to exist because repeated turnover undermines opportunities for creating stable social connections and shared norms, key elements of collective efficacy. Danielsson (2021) adds that in the absence of familiarity and continuity, neighborhoods no longer possess the ability for informal social regulation. Similarly, the Richmond study indicates that low-residential stability areas have poor social bonds among neighbors, which can lead to little willingness to work together, reducing violence prevention (West *et al.*, 2022).

These results offer modern empirical support for Shaw and McKay's (1942) contention that residential turnover is a structural force behind crime. By undermining the social structure that makes collective efficacy possible, residential turnover facilitates the types of settings in which crime can thrive undeterred, illustrating the ongoing applicability of Social Disorganization Theory to describing urban crime patterns today.

Figure 1 illustrates the conceptual framework of the research. Residential instability is defined by the high mobility of individuals or households within a neighborhood, measured by three primary factors: turnover rate, number of moves, and length of residence. The turnover rate measures the percentage of households that turn

over in a designated time frame and captures the extent of transience in the population. The mobility rate refers to the number of times people or households change residence in a particular period. At the same time, the length of stay describes the typical duration of residents in a particular neighborhood. These factors are critical because large turnover rates, frequent moves, and short residences can destabilize social networks and prevent the formation of strong, cohesive communities. When residents constantly move in and out of an area, it reduces the likelihood of developing close neighborhood relationships and social control structures, like neighborhood watch schemes, that help deter crime. Consequently, areas with high residential instability are more prone to criminality because of reduced collective efficacy and social cohesion.

Conversely, community crime, the dependent variable, is defined by the community's prevalence and types of criminal acts. It is measured through crime rates, offenses, and how safe residents feel. The crime rate totals the reported criminal occurrences in a given area or population, providing a quantifiable measure of criminal behavior. Offense types describe specific criminal offenses, i.e., theft, vandalism, violence, and narcotics offending, which reveal the nature and prevalence of crime in the location. Perceived safety is a subjective indicator, indicating how safe citizens perceive their environment to be, usually accessed from surveys. The connection between neighborhood residential instability and crime relies on the fact that more unstable areas tend to have less social cohesion and informal social control. This lack of community involvement and regulation allows criminal behavior to flourish, leading to higher crime rates and lower feelings of safety for inhabitants. Studies have all confirmed this connection, with places of high residential instability typically facing increased crime as a result of compromised social cohesion and decreased collective efficacy. Lee *et al.* (2019) and Sampson *et al.* (2019) offer examples of work showing the key function of social cohesion in preventing crime, where residential instability acts as a disrupting element that raises both actual crime rates as well as residents' fear of safety.

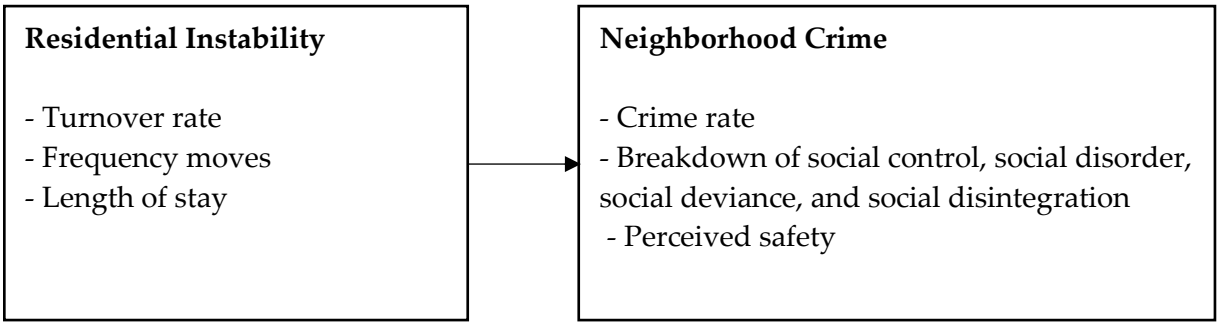

Figure 1: The Conceptual Framework of the Study

Although previous studies have analyzed numerous factors that impact neighborhood crime, a significant gap remains in the comprehensive analysis of the complex effects of residential instability. Most research conducted today involves general socioeconomic variables or crime rates without analyzing how changes in resident

turnover specifically add to crime patterns. Furthermore, available research overlooks the mediating influence of contextual variables like income inequality, relative deprivation, and especially social cohesion and community engagement about residential instability and crime. The lack highlights the imperative for specialized research that quantitatively measures the effect of residential instability on criminality rates and explores the underlying mechanisms and contextual determinants likely to heighten or dampen this causal link. Knowledge of these dynamics may offer insight to policymakers and community leaders seeking to create better crime prevention policies.

Identifying the extensive influence of residential instability on Davao City's neighborhood crimes was the major objective of this research. The research aimed to provide data and empirical studies regarding the relationship between local neighborhood crime and residential instability in a quantitative analysis. The research also intended to generate a framework showing the level of home instability and its connection to local crime. To achieve this, the researchers aimed to know how unstable respondents' residences were, how many crimes they witnessed or endured in their neighborhoods, if a substantial relationship existed between residential instability and neighborhood crime, and if residential instability significantly affected the number of neighborhood crimes among respondents. Based on these objectives, the following hypotheses were tested at a 0.05 significance level: (1) Neighborhood crime and residential instability did not significantly relate, and (2) Residential instability could not predict the level of neighborhood crimes.

The research on the impact of residential instability on neighborhood crime rates is of great utility in many fields. For police, it gave them vital information regarding how frequent mobility and a changing population produce greater crime levels to help develop targeted patrol strategies and community policing policies. Urban planners and housing authorities learned how unstable housing undermines neighborhood cohesion, allowing them to design more stable and inclusive communities that foster long-term residence. Policymakers received evidence to push for the creation of housing and social policies aimed at reducing turnover, enhancing community engagement, and increasing stability. Social service agencies used the findings to identify communities needing support services such as tenant assistance, mental health services, and relocation services and ultimately helped to strengthen neighborhood relationships. Educational and research institutions recognized the significance of this study in advancing the knowledge of social disorganization theory, neighborhood interaction, and crime patterns, thus informing future studies and evidence-based policymaking. Furthermore, educational and youth service agencies could use these findings to understand how instability affects young people, leading to school-based programs and family support systems that minimize risks associated with residential instability. This research provided a comprehensive framework for building safer, more cohesive communities through collaborative endeavors among different sectors.

Several limitations and delimitations to this study dictated its scope. One limitation was using self-reported information through survey questionnaires, which

might have been influenced by social desirability bias or poor recall of personal experience with crime or residential mobility. The sample also came from Davao City's chosen areas, which might limit the study's generalizability to other locations. Moreover, Other factors that could influence crime, i.e., economic environment, education, or law enforcement, were not examined directly. Conversely, the research was restricted to examining residential instability, defined using turnover rate, frequency of moves, and duration of stay as the independent variable, and neighborhood crime, defined using crime rates, crime types, and perceived safety as the dependent variable. It ignored other causes of crime and failed to use qualitative approaches, focusing on quantitative evidence instead.

2. Methods

2.1 Study Participants

This research aimed to examine adult residents of Davao City's experiences and attitudes regarding local crime and residential stability. The Davao City population is diverse and has a high proportion of working-age people. Participants were selected based on specific inclusion and exclusion criteria to ensure the validity and usefulness of the findings. In order to qualify, an individual must be at least eighteen years of age, have been residing in their neighborhood for at least two months, be capable of understanding and completing the questionnaire, and provide voluntary informed consent. The research excluded potential participants aged below 18, temporary residents, those present in the country for less than two months, and individuals who declined or withdrew their consent. The final sample consisted of 300 adult citizens, selected to represent the city's demographic makeup to allow results to be extrapolated to the population at large.

The research utilized a purposive sampling method, where the respondents were intentionally chosen according to predetermined inclusion and exclusion criteria. This non-probability sampling strategy was utilized to guarantee that the participants were well familiar with their immediate neighborhood, especially concerning matters involving residential instability and neighborhood crime. By focusing on individuals with certain qualifications, the research sought to capture relevant and credible data from knowledgeable participants. Purposive sampling is suitable when the researcher wants to choose participants with certain characteristics or information essential to the study's purpose, particularly in targeted quantitative research (Etikan, Musa, and Alkassim, 2019). It enabled the researchers to gather in-depth information from people with firsthand knowledge of the studied phenomena.

2.2 Materials and Instrument

The research used a modified survey questionnaire as the main research tool. The questionnaire contained items for measuring residential instability and neighborhood crime. The researchers used a modified questionnaire on neighborhood crime by España and Nabe (2023), which is "*A Scale Development on Neighborhood Crime in Davao City: An*

Exploratory Factor Analysis," and for residential instability, we used Sampson, Raudenbush, and Earls (1997) items from their research "*Neighborhoods and Violent Crime: A Multilevel Study of Collective Efficacy*." From Desmond, M., Gershenson, C., & Kiviat, B. (2015). "*Force relocation and residential instability among urban renters.*"

The questionnaire adopted a five-point Likert scale structured questionnaire with closed-ended questions. The closed-ended questionnaire contains items that assess significant housing and mobility variables, like length of residence, number of moves, affordability, satisfaction, and perceived risk of homelessness. As multiple-choice and binary "Yes" or "No" responses, all the questions provided the respondents with pre-specified responses that enabled uniformity and ease of statistical comparison. The questionnaire was revised and validated according to relevant literature and expert opinions to ensure it is clear, consistent, and relevant. Moreover, neighborhood crime and residential instability are utilized to examine the independent and dependent variables. Participants responded to each question on a five-point agreement scale. Researchers instructed respondents to give instructions on the date, procedure, and mode of distributing and retrieving the questionnaires in a way that would facilitate ease of data collection. Respondents were initially instructed on how to complete the questionnaire to ensure understanding and correctness. Later, the surveys were completed and arranged systematically.

The mean score interpretation on the five-point Likert scale offered significant information on respondents' perceived levels of residential instability and neighborhood crime. A mean score between 4.51 and 5.00, which falls under Very Strong, showed a very high level of the measured variable, meaning that the respondents often encountered or saw the condition intensely. Scores between 3.51 and 4.50, rated as Strong, indicated a high degree where the variable was consistently present. Scores between 2.51 and 3.50, rated Moderate, indicated a moderately high frequency, with the variable occurring at a usual frequency or effect. Scores between 1.51 and 2.50, identified as Weak, signified a low degree of occurrence or impact.

In contrast, scores between 1.00 and 1.50, classified as Very Weak, reflected a very low degree, implying that the variable was hardly ever seen or had little impact. These mean scores permitted unambiguous, standardized measurement of the prevalence and severity of residential instability and neighborhood crime perceived by the participants to support data-based conclusions. Systematic validation and reliability testing were carried out to provide valid and reliable survey instruments. The questionnaires were construct-validated and reviewed by two expert reviewers in law enforcement and organizational psychology, whose comments were used to revise the instrument. Pilot testing on a sample of 30 residents of Davao City who were not covered under the main study was done to confirm the reliability of the items in the questionnaire before final administration. The pilot data were then compared using SPSS version 20, and a Cronbach's Alpha test was performed for internal consistency, with anything above 0.70 being considered acceptable according to Cronbach's (1951) criterion. Finally, the

university's data processor performed a final reliability check, and the outcomes of the internal consistency tests were tabulated in a report.

2.3 Design and Procedure

The current research utilized a quantitative design, using the predictive-correlational design. The predictive-correlational design helps investigate relations between the same variables across distinct populations or groups (Curtis *et al.*, 2016). It also elucidates the degree of a criterion behavior pattern (Jenkins, 2015) and forecasts the variance of one or more variables, given the variance of another variable (Sousa *et al.*, 2007). The research process is structured into three broad phases: pre-study, during study conduct, and post-study.

The process started with securing formal approval from the university's academic and ethical review boards so that the research was aligned with all institutional guidelines and ethical standards. After that, an official letter was written to the community leader of a barangay in Davao City, asking permission to enter and engage residents in the research. The letter specified the study's objectives, importance, and research methods. At the same time, a letter of intent was submitted to the Dean of the College to inform them about the purpose of the research and request their cooperation and assistance in conducting the research.

After obtaining the required approvals, the researcher distributed the validated and pilot-tested questionnaires to selected Davao City residents through Google Forms. Data gathering involved the administration of the questionnaires and the provision of support to participants to resolve any issues or queries that might come up. The researcher will closely follow up on the data-gathering process to ensure compliance with the research protocol and resolve any issues.

The following statistical measures were employed to assess and interpret the data efficiently: Frequency and percentage distributions were used to investigate categorical variables concerning residential instability to help identify the prevalence of particular housing-related conditions among the respondents (Salkind, 2017). The mean was employed as a central tendency measure to evaluate residential instability and neighborhood crime levels. In contrast, the standard deviation was utilized to check how the data spread around the mean, providing information on variability in respondents' perceptions (Sykes, Gani, & Vally, 2016; Bhandari, 2020; Hargrave, 2021). Pearson's r (Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient) was employed to ascertain the strength and direction of the relationship between variables, establishing possible associations between residential instability and neighborhood crime (Nickolas, 2021). Multiple linear regression was employed to uncover the predictors of neighborhood crime by examining the effect of multiple independent variables, like residential instability, on crime outcomes, showing both the extent and character of their effect (Devault, 2020; Beers, 2021). Finally, independent samples t-tests were employed to examine if differences in perceived neighborhood crime were significant between groups with different housing

stability levels (e.g., "Yes" vs. "No" answers), thereby allowing it to be concluded if crime perception was impacted by housing stability (McLeod, 2019).

2.4 Ethical Considerations

By guaranteeing that participation was completely voluntary and obtaining informed consent from each respondent, the researchers adhered to stringent ethical guidelines. By preventing the gathering of identifying information and properly safeguarding all data, anonymity and confidentiality were preserved. The academic and ethical review bodies at the university provided ethical approval in order to guarantee adherence to institutional policies. The goal, methods, and possible risks and advantages of the study were all explained in detail to the participants. In addition, the researchers performed the study with integrity, openness, and respect for all participants, and they pledged to use the data only for scholarly purposes.

3. Results and Discussions

This section closely examines the study's results, focusing on the relationship between residential instability and crime at the neighborhood level. By looking at trends in residential mobility and how they affect local crime rates, this section hopes to better understand how constant turnover in the neighborhood can explain differences in crime rates. The research also examines the more general social and environmental forces mediating this relationship, including community cohesion, local economic conditions, and policing efficacy. Examining these dynamics closely, this section aims to clarify the intricate relationship between residential instability and crime, highlighting the possible solutions to enhancing neighborhood stability and safety.

3.1 Housing and Residential Instability Factors

3.1.1 Duration of Residence in Current Neighborhood

The outcome provided in Table 1 reports on the neighborhood residence length. Most of the population has long-term relationships with the place, as shown by the highest number of respondents, 169 individuals, or 57.7 percent, have lived in the neighborhood for more than five years. It suggests a high degree of stability and continuity in the community, as reported by Keller *et al.* (2020), who attribute long-term residence to good social networks and greater closeness to the local environment.

Additionally, 16.7% (49 respondents) have been in the neighborhood for one to three years. While this is a smaller number, it remains a strong category of more recent migrants, which could portend some degree of economic growth or neighborhood reorganization. An additional 7.8% (23 respondents) have been in the area for less than six months, and 9.6% (28 respondents) have been residents for six to twelve months.

Table 1: Housing and Residential Instability Factors

Housing and Residential Instability Factors	Frequency	Percent (%)
Duration of Residence in Current Neighborhood		
Less than 6 months	23	7.8
6 months - 1 year	28	9.6
1 - 3 years	49	16.7
3 - 5 years	22	7.5
More than 5 years	169	57.7
No Response	2	0.7
Total	214	73.0
Experience of Living in Unwanted Housing in the Last 6 Months		
No	214	73.0
Yes	79	27.0
Total	293	100.0
Expectations for Housing Stability in the Next 6 Months		
No	67	22.9
Yes	224	76.5
No Response	2	0.7
Total	293	100.0
Experience of Homelessness or Living with Others to Avoid Homelessness in the Last 6 Months		
Yes	71	24.2
No Response	1	0.3
Total	293	100.0
Difficulty Paying for Housing in the Last 6 Months		
Yes	67	22.9
No Response	2	0.7
Total	293	100.0
Difficulty Securing Housing in the Last 6 Months		
No	238	81.2
Yes	53	18.1
No Response	2	0.7
Total	293	100.0
Frequency of Moves in the Last 6 Months		
0-2 moves	257	87.7
3 or more moves	33	11.3
No Response	3	1.0
Total	293	100.0
Likelihood of Being Able to Pay for Housing in the Current Month		
Likely	185	63.1
Unlikely	104	35.5
No Response	4	1.4
Total	293	100.0

These residents are likely newer to the neighborhood, possibly drawn by unique opportunities or personal developments, as Baker *et al.* (2020) suggested. The sample also includes a middle segment of residents who have lived in the neighborhood for three to five years, representing 7.5% (22 respondents) of the sample. Interestingly, only two individuals, or 0.7% of the respondents, declined to answer how long they had resided

there. Overall, the neighborhood can be described as largely a long-term residential area, with over half of the respondents having lived there for more than five years. However, the significant number of residents who have been in the area for one to three years or less confirms the presence of newer, younger members in the community, highlighting that the neighborhood is constantly changing and growing. This dynamic nature underscores the need for neighborhood stability, essential for its continued growth and development.

3.1.2 Experience of Living in Unwanted Housing in the Last 6 Months

A significant majority of the respondents were successful in being able to keep their desired living arrangements for the past six months. Even 73% of the respondents (214) said they had never had to reside elsewhere but in their desired home. It indicates strong housing stability and satisfaction for most of the participants, showing that most people could remain in their preferred type of residence without the fullness of disruptions or the necessity to relocate because of external factors.

Nonetheless, 79 respondents, or 7% of the sample population, shared that they had lived in an undesirable place within the same timeframe. It highlights the overarching issue of housing instability or the associated problems regarding having a home, which may include, but are not limited to, financial hardships, eviction, or temporary living arrangements. Other studies suggest that housing insecurity is known to create significant stress, which in turn affects one's physical and mental health (Hernandez & Artiga, 2019). Such frequent dislocation into undesirable living circumstances due to shifting family situations, employment uncertainty, or underfunding has dire consequences (Hernandez & Artiga, 2019).

Although these findings suggest that the majority of residents are content with their living arrangements, a significant minority appears to have some challenges in either obtaining or retaining their preferred accommodation. It underscores the persistent issue of housing instability for a specific portion of the population and the increased necessity for targeted policies and programs designed to address the underlying factors of housing instability.

3.1.3 Expectations for Housing Stability in the Next 6 Months

The respondents' expectations regarding their housing situation in the next six months are reflected in variable 3. An astonishing 76.5% of the respondents, representing 224 participants, reported that they anticipate being in the same housing condition during the period, projecting a sense of safety and stability in their homes. Housing stability has been linked to stronger community connections, stable employment, and better mental health (Hernandez & Artiga, 2019). Thus, the more individuals anticipate remaining in their present residence, the more vitality housing security optimism acquires.

However, 22.9% (67 interviewees) responded that they did not anticipate residing in their present home for the ensuing six months. The members of this group can face uncertainty in their housing due to limited financial means, shifts in occupation, and/or

other life situations and circumstances that can lead them to leave their current abode (Baker *et al.*, 2020). This substantial minority lends some validity to the theory that a sizeable proportion of society is moving or in danger of losing their home, which has some potentially severe implications for their health.

Just 0.7% of the sample (2 respondents) failed to respond to this question. Therefore, although most expectations lean towards staying in their present residence, 22.9% of detractors highlight the persistent challenges housing instability faces. It highlights the imperative need for legislation and support initiatives to stabilize housing situations and meet the needs of displaced people.

3.1.4 Experience of Homelessness or Living with Others to Avoid Homelessness in the Last 6 Months

Variable 4 indicates the number of times in the previous six months the respondents have slept in temporary accommodation or been homeless. An overwhelming majority of three-fourths of the respondents (221 persons) said they had never been homeless or had slept at a friend's or relative's house to prevent becoming homeless. For these respondents, this is testimony to high levels of housing stability, meaning that most could enjoy safe and stable accommodation over the period examined.

However, 24.2% of the respondents, 71 people, said they had experienced some type of housing instability over the period. It meant either homelessness at some point or staying temporarily with family or friends to prevent homelessness. This large minority indicates the ongoing difficulties some parts of the population experience regarding housing insecurity. These data imply an urgent need for efficient intervention mechanisms and supportive systems to prevent homelessness and advocate for stable living conditions.

Moreover, only a very minor segment of the sample, 0.3% or one of the respondents, declined to answer the question. All in all, the results indicate serious issues concerning housing instability and vulnerability to homelessness among specific groups. Although the information indicates that numerous respondents continue to grapple with housing problems that might affect their health and well-being, the greater majority claimed stable living arrangements throughout the study.

3.1.5 Difficulty Paying for Housing in the Last 6 Months

Variable 5 captures an overview of the last six months' housing payments from respondents. The great majority of respondents (76.5%, n=224) did not have any problems with housing payments. Yet, a significant minority (22.9%, n=67) had some problem or had not made any housing payments over the past six months. Few respondents (0.7%, n=2) were reluctant to respond.

The results indicate that respondents have had no issues sustaining their housing payments, but a proportionate number have experienced difficulties paying for their accommodation. Increasing concern over housing affordability is being witnessed on the local and international levels. The fact that 22.9% of them have had difficulty with

housing payments indicates increased economic pressures on housing affordability (Cheung & Xu, 2021). The finding allows policymakers to continue addressing this acute financial instability problem, especially regarding housing, to increase affordability and help those burdened with housing costs.

3.1.6 Difficulty Securing Housing in the Last 6 Months

Variable 6 looks at the respondents' experience acquiring houses over the last six months. Most of the respondents, 81.2% (n=238), said they had no issues finding houses. However, 18.1% (n=53) of the respondents said they encountered difficulty finding a house. A mere 0.7% (n=2) of the respondents did not respond.

The findings indicate that while many respondents reported finding it fairly easy to acquire housing, a substantial minority struggled. It echoes what has been demonstrated more generally in housing research: obstacles to secure housing may stem from discrimination, supply-side constraints, or unaffordability (Desmond, 2016; Been *et al.*, 2019). The identification that one-fifth of the sample has faced difficulties that could be better addressed to eliminate barriers to housing access, especially disadvantaged subgroups, indicates there remains a need to maintain close attention to housing policy.

3.1.7 Frequency of Moves in the Last 6 Months

Variable 7 yielded specific data regarding the number of times, if any, respondents had moved in the previous six months. Most participants, representing 87.7% (n=257), indicated that they had moved two or fewer times, indicating a quite stable housing situation for most responders. It suggests that most people had minimal disruption in their place of residence, which could indicate a feeling of permanence and security in their place of residence.

In contrast, 11.3% (n=33) of the respondents reported having relocated thrice over the past six months. This comparatively smaller number of respondents might be experiencing higher volatility in their housing circumstances. Frequent moves can indicate underlying issues such as unstable housing conditions, limited access to long-term rental options, or the necessity of relocating due to external factors like temporary housing arrangements, job demands, or family circumstances. This higher frequency of movement may suggest that these individuals face more transient and uncertain living situations, possibly related to financial difficulties or the lack of affordable housing.

A minimal percentage of the respondents, 1% (n=3), did not respond to the question. Although this rate of non-response is very small, it could reflect a feeling of doubtfulness or reluctance to provide information about one's housing. Nevertheless, this minimal population segment does not greatly change the overall trends evident in the survey.

In combination, these results indicate that although the majority of survey respondents had relatively constant living situations, there is a significant minority who have changed living situations more recently in the last six months. This more frequent mobility may indicate more severe and structural problems regarding housing security,

e.g., a lack of affordable housing, housing instability, or temporary dwelling needs. These findings highlight the heterogeneity of housing experience across the respondent sample and suggest the possible problems that face relatively more mobile individuals whose circumstances are outside their control.

3.1.8 Likelihood of Being Able to Pay for Housing in the Current Month

Variable 8 sets out the respondents' expectations about their capacity to pay for housing (mortgage or rent) this month. One hundred eighty-five individuals (63.1% of the sample) of 293 respondents said they were likely to pay for their accommodation. Most respondents indicated that their financial position is fairly stable, which suggests that most of the sample can afford to pay their monthly housing costs.

Nevertheless, 104 respondents (35.5%) have expressed uncertainty, meaning they will most likely not pay for their housing. The said number represents the figure of their actual resident individuals experiencing housing financial insecurity, many due to unforeseen cash difficulties, irregular income sources, and unmanageable living expenses. As emphasized in their study, Baker *et al.* (2020) associated insecurity with housing finances with various adverse outcomes, including stress, mental illness, and housing instability or homelessness in the worst-case scenario. Furthermore, a very limited sample-4 participants (1.4%) failed to answer the question.

Overall, one-third of the sample indicated uncertainty regarding housing payment, while the rest were confident of paying for housing within the month. There is a need to regularly examine activity around financial aid programs, housing affordability, and policy to ensure that individuals can more effectively maintain stable homes. Stress levels, well-being, and susceptibility to home instability may all rise due to financial uncertainty. Addressing these issues with focused actions can prevent possible relocation, and long-term home security can be enhanced.

3.2 Level of Neighborhood Crimes

Table 2 shows the opinions of respondents regarding neighborhood violence from various standpoints. Perception of social problems in the neighborhood varies with evidence. From the table. The "Breakdown of Social Control" was scored with an average of 3.47 (SD = 0.84) and reflected the highest concern, scoring fairly high by most respondents. It implies that most individuals are likely to think that broken social control mechanisms exist in the neighborhood or disintegration of community cohesion.

Conversely, within 3.07, 3.12, and 3.20, respectively, the Social Disorder, Social Deviance, and Social Disintegration instances appear average. The results about the three Social breakdown factors indicate moderate levels of perceived quality with slightly greater standard deviations (from 1.03 to 1.10), unrest, abnormality, and disintegration of social institutions in neighborhoods. None of these impressions overwhelms but indicates a deeper sense of disturbance. It pertains to the social dynamics of the neighborhood.

Table 2: Level of Neighborhood Crimes

Neighborhood Crimes	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Breakdown of Social Control	3.47	0.84	High
Social Disorder	3.07	1.05	Average
Social Deviance	3.12	1.10	Average
Social Disintegration	3.20	1.03	Average
Overall Mean	**3.21**	**0.88**	**Average**

Respondents would think that their area makes some average judgments regarding crime and social disintegration, as indicated by the standard deviation of 0.88 and the mean score of 3.21 for all respondents. In contrast to open dysfunction, the general would be on limited instability, with presumed emergent problems about social control and certain facets of local life. This data demonstrates that although locals generally believe that crime and disorder are not major problems in their neighborhoods, real issues nevertheless exist that undermine a sense of safety and eventually lead to a general lack of well-being in the community.

The findings, which indicate a moderate level of social disorder, deviance, and neighborhood disintegration, are in line with recent research that has demonstrated the significant role that social disorder plays in promoting community well-being. According to a study by Magalhães *et al.* (2023), urban residents' health and well-being are significantly impacted by their views of neighborhood disorder, including security concerns and physical degradation. Furthermore, it was demonstrated by Esiaka and Luth (2023) that neighborhood disorder is linked to cognitive impairment through a disruption in social cohesion, which gives instability and social control issues more weight. Furthermore, a high level of neighborhood disorder reduces social cohesion, increasing loneliness, particularly among older persons, according to Massihzadegan and Stokes (2023). These studies support the claim that present problems continue to erode people's sense of safety, social connections, and overall community resilience, even in neighborhoods that are not at a critical level of disorder. Reducing the negative effects of social disorder and improving group well-being can be achieved by mitigating these problems through initiatives that support local social infrastructure and foster social cohesiveness.

3.3 Level of Residential Instability

Table 3 shows the perceived level of residential instability with categories of different types of moves made by respondents. Forced Moves received the lowest mean rating (2.47 with a standard deviation of 1.25), suggesting that respondents perceive forced moves, for example, due to eviction or economic reasons, as not having existed in their residence. Forced moves are not an important concern for most respondents.

Table 3: Level of Residential Instability

Residential Instability	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Forced Moves	2.47	1.25	Low
Unforced Moved-Responsive	2.66	1.22	Average
Unforced Moves-Voluntary	3.02	1.16	Average
Overall Mean	**2.72**	**1.10**	**Average**

The common range, including Unforced Moves-Voluntary ($\bar{x}$ = 3.02, SD = 1.16) and Unforced Moves-Responsive ($\bar{x}$ = 2.66, SD = 1.22), indicates things one does on one's own accord, partly as a response to external stimulation. Average scores attached to these two types of things indicate an average degree of neighborhood mobility due to personal preference and external factors.

This measure yields a mean of about 2.72 with a standard deviation of 1.10 for the region. it means that even when forced moves are not common, the nature of responsive and voluntary moves still totals considerably, implying most participants are in motion but very lightly. This score provides a mean of approximately 2.72 with a standard deviation of 1.10 for the region. It indicates that even when forced moves don't seem prevalent, the character of responsive and voluntary moves still results in a moderate degree, so most participants move lightly.

Whereas forced relocations by external circumstances did not appear as frequently on these tables, the data from this questionnaire appeared to indicate that voluntary and responsive relocations have been responsible for moderate residential instability within the region. Findings indicate that forced relocations are not a dominant reason, but voluntary and responsive moves generate moderate residential instability. The mean scores for Unforced Moves-Voluntary (3.02) and Unforced Moves-Responsive (2.66) suggest that most residents move on personal volition or because of external conditions, although not against their will. It is in keeping with new research highlighting how neighborhood mobility, even when voluntary, may still affect social cohesion and stability. According to Mleczko (2024), residential mobility trends in U.S. metropolitan areas have shown that even moderate relocation rates affect social capital and neighborhood integration (Mleczko, 2024).

Additionally, Magalhães *et al.* (2023) found that neighborhood disorder and instability contribute to changes in residential patterns, often driven by external influences such as safety concerns and economic factors (Magalhães *et al.*, 2023). These results indicate that although the neighborhood studied does not have extreme forced relocations, the moderate intensity of responsive and voluntary movements continues to influence the neighborhood dynamics. As mobility continues to affect community stability, policies reinforcing social networks and increasing local support systems may reduce the disruptive impact of residential turnover.

3.3 Relationship between Residential Instability and Neighborhood Crimes

The findings in Table 4 reveal a significant association between residential instability and other social and community-level problems, such as neighborhood crimes. All the

variables, Breakdown of Social Control, Social Disorder, Social Deviance, and Social Disintegration, correlate statistically significantly with different residential mobility types (Forced Moves, Unforced Moves-Responsive, and Unforced Moves-Voluntary). Of these, Social Disorder (r=.597, p<.01r = .597, p < .01r=.597, p<.01) and Neighborhood Crimes (r=.623, p<.01r = .623, p < .01r=.623, p<.01) have the highest correlations with Residential Instability, further reinforcing the importance of unstable housing conditions in promoting community disorganization and crime levels.

Table 4: Significant Relationship between Residential Instability and Neighborhood Crimes

	Forced Moves	**Unforced Moved-Responsive**	**Unforced Moves-Voluntary**	**Residential Instability**
Breakdown of Social Control	.494**	.462**	.347**	.480**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Disorder	.586**	.569**	.470**	.597**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Deviance	.489**	.497**	.392**	.505**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Disintegration	.567**	.585**	.504**	.605**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Neighborhood Crimes	.606**	.605**	.490**	.623**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

These findings are consistent with the contention that residential instability upsets social networks, erodes informal social control, and encourages settings conducive to disorder and crime. Studies show that residential instability is strongly linked with lower social support in the neighborhood and higher fears of crime (Opoku-Ware *et al.*, 2021). The strong relationships suggest that mobility in forced or voluntary movement erodes neighborhood cohesion, and communities struggle to control behavior and ensure safety (Hardyns *et al.*, 2022). Research also continues to show that residential instability, combined with socioeconomic disadvantage, is the most significant predictor of crime rates since unstable neighborhoods lack the necessary informal social control (McDowell & Reinhard, 2022).

The noted correlations confirm the social disorganization theory that suggests unstable residential patterns undermine collective efficacy, thus permitting crime and deviant acts (Kubrin & Mioduszewski, 2019). Recent evidence indicates that elevated residential mobility worsens community disorganization by decreasing trust and raising crime-prone settings (Cwick & Williams, 2024). Neighborhood typology research also shows that high levels of instability, poverty, and racial/ethnic diversity are associated with structural conditions within areas that generate higher crime rates (Kubrin *et al.*, 2021).

3.4 Multiple Regression Analysis on Neighborhood Crimes as Predicted by Residential Instability

Multiple regression analysis of neighborhood crimes, as explained by residential instability, has significant results. The model overall is significant ($F = 62.442$, $p < 0.001$)

and explains 39.7% ($R^2 = 0.397$) of the variance in crime, showing a moderate-to-strong relationship between crime and residential instability. Of the predictors, forced moves (B = 0.238, p = 0.001) are most strongly linked to crime rates, indicating that communities with higher rates of involuntary relocations, for instance, evictions or dislocation because of financial instability, are more prone to greater crime. It is consistent with social disorganization theory, which argues that high levels of residential mobility undermine social cohesion, decrease informal social control, and create environments in which disorder and crime can flourish (Kubrin & Mioduszewski, 2019).

Table 5: Multiple Regression Analysis on
Neighborhood Crimes as Predicted by Residential Instability

	B	**SE**	***B***	**t**	**Sig.**
(Constant)	1.922	0.115		16.773	0
Forced Moves	0.238	0.068	0.336	3.499	0.001
Unforced Moved-Responsive	0.162	0.079	0.223	2.047	0.042
Unforced Moves-Voluntary	0.091	0.051	0.119	1.784	0.075
R2 = 0.397					
F-value = 62.442					
p-value = 0.00					

Moreover, unforced relocations due to outside pressures (B = 0.162, p = 0.042) are also statistically significant, further substantiating the notion that those moving because of financial difficulties or home problems help to increase crime rates. However, voluntary, unforced movements (B = 0.091, p = 0.075) are not statistically significant, which implies relocations motivated for good reasons, such as job prospects or lifestyle reasons, have a weaker or no effect on crime. It supports earlier research that pointed out that forced displacement interferes with social networks, making it challenging for dwellers to ensure community order (Hardyns *et al.*, 2022).

Empirical research also confirms that areas with high rates of forced mobility are disadvantaged by lower collective efficacy, contributing to higher crime rates (McDowell & Reinhard, 2022). Experiments have revealed that residential instability undermines community structures, lowers the potency of informal social control mechanisms, and raises susceptibility to criminal action (Opoku-Ware *et al.*, 2021). Additionally, studies indicate that economically disadvantaged high-mobility neighborhoods are vulnerable to crime because of their compromised capacity to create and impose social norms (Cwick & Williams, 2024). The results of the multiple regression analysis underscore the significance of residential stability in maintaining neighborhood safety. The high correlation between forced displacement and increased crime indicates that housing instability, particularly forced displacement caused by evictions or economic difficulties, has a direct impact on undermining social order. It means that eviction prevention programs, tenant protection policies, and affordable housing initiatives, which are policy responses designed to reduce forced displacements, could be key to reducing local crime. Also, the observation that voluntary, uncoerced mobility has a lesser effect proves that

not everything that moves does so adversely; instead, populations destabilize because of instability produced by adversity. These results emphasize the need to reduce housing instability as a crime prevention strategy and have implications for social service practices, law enforcement strategies, and urban design. Rebuilding social cohesion, growing collective efficacy, and promoting long-term residence can all be part of developing safer, more resilient communities.

3.5 Impact of Housing Stability and Residential Instability on Neighborhood Crimes

The significant difference test of the effect of housing stability and residential instability on neighborhood crimes indicates significant correlations between different housing instability variables and crime association.

Table 6: Impact of Housing Stability and Residential Instability on Neighborhood Crimes

	Yes		**No**		**t-value**	**p-value**
	Mean	**SD**	**Mean**	**SD**		
In the last 6 months, have you had to live somewhere that you did not want to live?	3.4	0.79	3.11	0.88	-3.41	0.001
Do you expect to stay in your current housing for the next 6 months?	3.14	0.88	3.44	0.86	2.5	0.013
In the last 6 months, have you been homeless or had to live with family or friends to avoid homelessness?	3.44	0.91	3.12	0.85	-2.7	0.000
In the last 6 months, have you had difficulty paying (or were you unable to) for housing?	3.5	0.88	3.12	0.86	-3.09	0.002
In the last 6 months, have you had trouble getting housing?	3.46	0.85	3.15	0.87	-2.31	0.02
How many times have you moved in the last 6 months?	**0-2 moves**		**3 or more**		**t-value**	**p-value**
	Mean	**SD**	**Mean**	**SD**		
	3.16	0.87	3.63	0.82	2.899	0.004
How likely is it that you think that you will be able to pay for your housing (e.g., rent/mortgage) this month?	**Unlikely**		**Likely**		**t-value**	**p-value**
	Mean	**SD**	**Mean**	**SD**		
	3.18	0.78	3.22	0.92	-3.66	0.715

The results indicate that individuals who were displaced against their will to live in a location they did not want to ($\bar{x}$ = 3.4, SD = 0.79) had significantly higher crime association than individuals who were not displaced by force ($\bar{x}$ = 3.11, SD = 0.88; t = -3.41, p = 0.001), which suggests that forced residential displacement breaks social networks and weakens informal social controls. Similarly, individuals who were once homeless or lived with family or friends because they were afraid of being homeless ($\bar{x}$ = 3.44, SD = 0.91) scored higher on the crime association measure than those who never experienced homelessness ($\bar{x}$ = 3.12, SD = 0.85; t = -2.7, p = 0.000), supporting the precept that housing instability places one in a more vulnerable position to criminality. Moreover, the respondents who reported that they could not afford to pay for housing ($\bar{x}$ = 3.5, SD = 0.88) were more strongly linked to crime than their counterparts who were not financially stressed ($\bar{x}$ = 3.12, SD = 0.86; t = -3.09, p = 0.002), as attested by previous literature that financial

pressures and economic adversity lead to higher exposure to crime-exposure opportunities.

Conversely, housing stability seems to operate as a crime protective factor. Those who intended to stay in the same residence for the next six months ($\bar{x}$ = 3.44, SD = 0.86) had lower crime association scores compared to those who had no idea if they would be staying ($\bar{x}$ = 3.14, SD = 0.88; t = 2.5, p = 0.013). It is evidence of the significance of long-term housing stability in social cohesion and crime reduction. Additionally, those who indicated that they found it difficult to acquire housing ($\bar{x}$ = 3.46, SD = 0.85) scored significantly higher on their crime association scores than those who were not experiencing such challenges ($\bar{x}$ = 3.15, SD = 0.87; t = -2.31, p = 0.02), showing that difficulties in securing stable housing are factors in crime exposure. More frequent movers were also more criminous, as the respondents who moved three or more times during the last six months ($\bar{x}$ = 3.63, SD = 0.82) had significantly greater crime association compared to the respondents who moved less frequently ($\bar{x}$ = 3.16, SD = 0.87; t = 2.899, p = 0.004). It aligns with the contention that frequent residential mobility erodes social ties, lowers social control, and enhances disorder. Yet the capacity to pay for housing this month was not significantly related to crime association (p = 0.715), indicating that short-term financial ability does not directly affect crime involvement, though general housing instability does.

These findings align with social disorganization theory, which suggests that residential instability weakens neighborhood cohesiveness and informal social controls, leading to increased levels of crime (Kubrin & Mioduszewski, 2019). Previous studies affirm that forced displacement and housing insecurity erode social networks, rendering it harder for communities to govern behavior and keep crime at bay (Opoku-Ware *et al.*, 2021). Additionally, economic pressure and homelessness are correlated with high levels of crime because individuals experiencing financial distress might be acting out of desperation or be pushed into dangerous living environments (McDowell & Reinhard, 2022). Experiments also suggest that high residential mobility erodes collective efficacy, reducing the ability of a community to inhibit crime through mutual norms and unofficial mechanisms of control (Kubrin *et al.*, 2021).

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

This study examines the impact of Residential Instability on people's perceptions of safety in their neighborhood. Results reveal a complex relationship between residential instability and concern over neighborhood crime among Davao City residents. Overall, neighborhood crime perception is relatively high, and "Breakdown of Social Control" is the most prominent concern. It would suggest that the residents experience a loss of control and cohesion of the community, resulting in a general perception of crime in their neighborhood. The other characteristics of crime, "Social Disorder," "Social Deviance," and "Social Disintegration," were rated as average, suggesting that while worries about crime are pervasive, they are not always experienced by each resident.

Based on residential instability, the survey represents moderate instability among respondents, with forced relocations particularly low (mean = 2.47). However, unforced relocations, responsive to external factors or voluntary, have average ratings (2.66 and 3.02, respectively). It implies that, whereas most residents experience some degree of residential instability, it does not always destabilize the broader community.

The analysis also reveals a high correspondence between residential instability and perceptions of crime in neighborhoods. Because of outside pressures or voluntary decisions, forced and voluntary residential moves strongly predict heightened perceived crime in the neighborhood. It reinforces the notion that residential instability, because of forced displacement or voluntary move, can heighten safety and social control issues in communities in Davao City.

Moreover, people who have had undesirable housing conditions, i.e., having to stay in undesirable conditions, homelessness, or affordability issues with housing, report higher rates of perceived crime in their neighborhood. Such respondents also report stronger perceptions of social disintegration and disorder, suggesting that housing instability affects not only individual conditions but also bears testimony to residents' overall sense of the safety of neighborhoods.

Further, the individuals who have changed residences more frequently in the past six months have been seen to perceive more crime prevalence, thereby validating that residential instability is strongly linked with a heightened perception of insecurity. The study emphasizes that housing instability significantly impacts neighborhood crime perceptions among residents in Davao City. Measures to reduce residential instability would result in increased perceptions of safety and improved social coherence, ultimately enhancing the quality of life in Davao City communities.

Based on the outcome of this research, it can be inferred that addressing residential instability will significantly reduce fear related to neighborhood crime in Davao City. Further, these recommendations are meant to address issues of concern at their core while ensuring a greater and more secure community.

For instance, housing projects for financially vulnerable sectors should be one of the initial priorities. Since residential mobility is a key issue, particularly for low-income households, having a permanent housing plan will substantially reduce their fear of crime. It helps to avoid unintended moving, which drives displacement insecurities. With these programs, low-income households can be relieved from the economic cost imposed by subsidized housing, rental support, or low-interest loans. This absence of affordable housing at the bottom of the market will cause families to stay in stable homes, lessening parents' stress concerning the housing and, in turn, enhancing their sense of safety within the neighborhoods.

Another concern that needs to be addressed is enhancing the "Social Control Mechanism" at the community level. The research indicates concern regarding the deficiency of social responsibility within the region, something they termed the "Breakdown of Social Control." The resources and energies of local government and community NGOs should be channeled toward programs fostering social action and

enhancing the community's sense of community. Initiatives such as volunteer watch groups, community safety meetings, and neighborhood-initiated projects can restore confidence among the residents and push them to engage in defending their spaces. Developing channels for the residents to express their concerns and actively fight crime will address safety requirements and promote social integration among the population.
In addition, financing should be scaled up to enhance living conditions for vulnerable populations. Most residents in the community, particularly those with previous experiences of homelessness or poor living conditions, are in greater fear of crime. In return, local governments ought to introduce policies designed to enhance housing conditions through emergency housing, home rehabilitation programs, or resettlement of affected individuals. By ensuring that residents are not compelled to reside in poorly built, overcrowded, and inappropriate housing, some of their tension towards their safety and neighborhoods can be removed.

Lastly, urban design must focus on creating well-balanced neighborhoods with a complete range of services. Local government must invest in residential growth by neighboring current schools, medical facilities, and transport facilities to enhance public satisfaction with the area and a sense of belonging.

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