
THE MODERATING EFFECT OF TRUST IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GENDER IDENTIFICATION, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND PAST INTERACTIONS WITH THE POLICE AND CONFIDENCE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AMONG LGBTQ+ MEMBERS IN ANGELES CITY

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ABSTRACT

Heteronormativity prioritizes heterosexual relationships, leading to law enforcement being seen as enforcing norms that discriminate against LGBTQ+ individuals. Through this study, the Intersectional Theory is used as a basis in order to associate the five variables revolving in this study, which are gender identification, economic conditions, past interaction with the police, reluctance to seek help with the police and the degree of trust with the police of the LGBTQ+ members. This current study, which is quantitative and descriptive in design, examines whether the uncovered associations among the variables are true when explored among the members of the LGBTQ+ within the 33 barangays of Angeles City. The study used a convenience sampling in selecting the 558 respondents. The study found that gender identification significantly affects the reluctance of LGBTQ+ individuals in Angeles City to seek help from law enforcement, while economic conditions and past interactions with police have minimal impact, and lower trust in law enforcement strongly correlates with greater reluctance, particularly among those with diverse gender identities. Law enforcement should use gender-inclusive approaches, engage with LGBTQ+ communities, consider identity and socio-economic status, improve interactions, emphasize transparency and accountability, and monitor trust levels to foster positive police-community relationships.

Keywords: Gender Identification, Economic Condition, Past Interaction With The Police, Trust, Reluctance In Help Seeking, Intersectionality, Heteronormativity.

I. INTRODUCTION

Throughout the years, heteronormativity has been prevalent among LGBTQ+ individuals and police officers. Heteronormativity is a viewpoint that places a higher importance on heterosexual relationships and sexual orientations, either through a conscious decision or by the design of societal systems (Owen, 2021, p. 106). As LGBTQ+ individuals strive for acceptance and equality, the law enforcement has been labeled as heteronormative agents (Dwyer, 2011, 2015; Owen, 2021, p. 106). To further elaborate, the current study pertains to the heterosexist-heteronormativity point of view of this ideology. Heterosexist-heteronormativity represents the combined impact of enforcing heterosexuality as the norm while subjecting non-heterosexual individuals to discriminatory practices and violence, shaping societal norms and behaviors (Marchia & Sommer, 2019, p. 21). In another case, law enforcement officers frequently impose additional scrutiny on individuals who identify as transgender or gender nonconforming due to their discordance with traditional gender norms (Goldberg, Mallory, Hasenbush, Stemple & Meyer, 2019, p. 378) which is under the idea of linking heteronormativity and police discrimination specifically in the view of heterosexism. With this, bias and injustice treatment among LGBTQ+ members by law enforcement lies within the context of heteronormativity, that the law enforcement tend to harass and discriminate against these members, which results in the mistrust of the Pride community in the effectiveness of law enforcement. Hence, the mistrust experienced by the LGBTQ+ members, affect their reluctance to seek help from these institutions.

There has been a discernible shift in societal attitudes towards LGBTQ+ rights and inclusion. Heightened awareness, advocacy, and legal reforms have contributed to increased visibility and acceptance of LGBTQ+ individuals. As these changes transpire, it becomes imperative to comprehend the interplay between trust, gender identity, and law enforcement. The manner in which LGBTQ+ members perceive and engage with the

police directly impacts their safety, well-being, and access to justice. Despite advancements, incidents of discrimination, harassment, and violence against LGBTQ+ individuals endure. Globally, reports of hate crimes, bias incidents, and unequal treatment by law enforcement persist. Recent cases underscore the urgency of addressing trust issues between LGBTQ+ communities and the police as hate crimes within the country continues to emerge.

An article recently published by Pilipino Star Ngayon, authored by Mer Layson, detailed an incident on March 1, 2024, involving a transgender individual who was assaulted by two acquaintances during a social gathering. The altercation progressed from a verbal dispute to a physical altercation. Regrettably, the transgender individual succumbed to the injuries sustained a week following the incident as the individual tried to keep to themselves of the altercation that happened. The willingness of LGBTQ+ members to seek assistance is contingent upon the provision of a secure and non-threatening environment. It is imperative to uphold their right to equality by ensuring their safety and well-being.

Angeles City, known for its progressive development, has a thriving LGBTQ+ community with over 2,000 active members participating in various initiatives, including skills training programs like dressmaking in collaboration with the city government. The city has made strides in promoting gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights through advocacy programs and initiatives. However, this study aims to explore potential underlying oppressions and marginalization experienced by LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly in their interactions with law enforcement, to address societal needs more effectively alongside economic development.

The research focuses on understanding the intersection of gender identification, economic conditions, and past interactions with police on LGBTQ+ individuals' reluctance to seek help and their trust in law enforcement. Grounded in an intersectional approach, the study examines how multiple identities and contextual factors contribute to experiences of oppression, discriminatory stereotyping, and marginalization. By exploring these dynamics, the study aims to uncover barriers faced by LGBTQ+ individuals in Angeles City and provide insights for advancing gender equality, improving relationships with law enforcement, and addressing systemic challenges.

Hypotheses Development

Understanding public confidence in law enforcement is particularly critical for marginalized groups like the LGBTQ+ community, who encounter unique challenges in their interactions with the police. This study investigates the influence of gender identification, economic conditions, and past interactions with law enforcement on LGBTQ+ individuals' confidence in the police, proposing trust as a moderating factor in these relationships. Seven hypotheses guide the research, exploring relationships between these variables and key outcomes like reluctance to seek police assistance and the degree of trust in law enforcement, drawing on intersectional and empirical evidence.

The study hypothesizes that gender identification negatively affects both reluctance to seek help and trust in the police (H1, H4), supported by research indicating transgender individuals often face distrust and discriminatory treatment (Pickles, 2019; Girardi, 2022). Economic conditions (H2, H5) and past interactions (H3, H6) are examined as potential influences, with mixed evidence suggesting these factors may intersect with identity rather than operate independently (Fileborn, 2019; Lanham et al., 2018). Notably, trust is proposed as a key determinant, with prior studies showing a strong link between distrust and reluctance to seek assistance (Shields, 2021; Meyer, 2019). This research aims to clarify these associations, using an intersectional lens to uncover how multiple identities and experiences shape LGBTQ+ individuals' relationships with law enforcement.

Background or Context

Historically, individuals from the LGBTQ+ community have been disproportionately targeted and have been subjected to mistreatment by the police. A study conducted by the Williams Institute revealed significant proof that "LGBT people and communities persistently experience profiling, bias, and mistreatment from police officers (Mallory et al., 2015; Shaw, 2020, p. 1). Rewinding back to fifty years ago, the LGBTQ+ community faced severe societal and legal challenges. They were subjected to arrests for simply expressing their gender identity or for associating with other LGBTQ individuals in public spaces (Eskridge, 2009; Nadal, 2020, p. 2).

Homosexuality was erroneously labeled as a psychiatric disorder, leading to inhumane treatments such as electroshock therapies, lobotomies, and castrations (Herek, 2010; Nadal, 2013, 2020, p. 2).

Despite some advancements in society, the LGBTQ+ community still experiences significant challenges in today's world. Unfortunately, many members of this community continue to face discrimination, violence, police brutality and harassment (Grant et al., 2011; Herek, 2017; Nadal, 2013, 2020, p. 2) which can further compound the challenges they face. Furthermore, the discrimination faced by the LGBTQ+ community in law enforcement can have far-reaching effects. It can lead to mistrust and fear of law enforcement within the community, this results in individuals being less inclined to report offenses or seek assistance when they become victims of crime. This can further marginalize the LGBTQ+ community and make them more vulnerable to victimization.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this study is to investigate the intricate ties between the LGBTQ+ community and law enforcement, with a particular focus on the factors that influence their reluctance to seek help from the police and their degree of trust in police officers. The study is designed to accomplish the following specific objectives:

1. To determine if there is a significant relationship between gender identification and the reluctance to seek help from the police within the LGBTQ+ community.
2. To examine if there is a significant relationship between the economic condition of LGBTQ+ individuals and their reluctance to seek help from the police.
3. To investigate if there is a significant relationship between past interactions with the police and the reluctance of LGBTQ+ individuals to seek help from the police.
4. To assess if there is a significant relationship between gender identification and the degree of trust with the police among LGBTQ+ individuals.
5. To explore if there is a significant relationship between the economic condition of LGBTQ+ individuals and their degree of trust with the police.
6. To determine if there is a significant relationship between past interactions with the police and the degree of trust with the police among LGBTQ+ individuals.
7. To investigate if there is a significant relationship between the degree of trust with the police and the reluctance to seek help from the police within the LGBTQ+ community.

Scope of the Study

The study explored the relationships between variables such as gender identity, economic conditions, past interactions with police, reluctance to seek police help, and levels of trust and the relationship between the LGBTQ+ community and police authorities. It focused on members of the LGBTQ+ community in Angeles City, including lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender individuals (transmale/transfemale), examining their socioeconomic status, educational attainment, and employment.

The study also investigated the respondents' interactions with law enforcement and highlighted the systemic oppressions faced by the Pride community using an intersectional lens. While offering valuable insights into the unique challenges experienced by LGBTQ+ individuals in this urban setting, the study emphasized the need for better representation and understanding of their relationships with police institutions.

However, the study had notable limitations. It excluded other gender identities and sexual orientations beyond those explicitly listed, acknowledging the complexity of these identities but limiting the scope of representation. The focus on Angeles City, an urban area, also meant rural perspectives were not addressed, which may lead to results that do not generalize to communities with distinct socio-cultural and economic dynamics. Additionally, the exclusion of law enforcement perspectives centered the voices of LGBTQ+ individuals, empowering their narratives but limiting insights into police practices and efforts to improve relations. Future research should address these gaps by incorporating rural perspectives and fostering collaboration with law enforcement to promote inclusivity and develop effective policies for the LGBTQ+ community.

Significance or Importance

This research highlights the substantial difficulties encountered by the LGBTQ+ community in their dealings with the police. These challenges, which include discrimination, harassment, and sometimes violence, have

resulted in an alarming mistrust towards police officers. This mistrust is not only detrimental to the well-being of the LGBTQ+ community but also hinders the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies. In essence, the importance of this research lies in its capacity to contribute to a more inclusive and understanding law enforcement system, ultimately aiming to build trust and improve relations with the LGBTQ+ community. This is a step towards ensuring that all people, irrespective of their gender identity or sexual orientation, can seek help from law enforcement without fear of discrimination or bias. It also aims to foster a more inclusive society where all individuals feel safe and protected. The findings of this study could be instrumental in shaping policies and practices within law enforcement agencies, making them more responsive and sensitive to the needs of the LGBTQ+ community. Ultimately, this research could play a paramount role in promoting social justice and equality for all.

Theoretical Framework

The primary theoretical framework guiding this research is intersectionality theory by Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1991 which provides a lens to examine the complex dynamics influencing the interactions with law enforcement agencies among the members of the LGBTQ+. Intersectionality is a way to understand how different social categories overlap, and heuristic thinking is a simple tool used to address distinct societal issues (Collins, 2020, p. 107).

This theory will be the guiding point in addressing the inequities experienced by LGBTQ+ members, focusing on lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people among law enforcement in Angeles City. Intersectionality, which looks at how things like “race, class, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, age, and ability” are all intertwined, helps grassroots activists and human rights advocates around the world see the connections between local social problems and larger global issues. (Collins, 2020, p. 105; Collins and Bilge 2016, p. 88–113). Oppression among LGBTQ+ individuals is vastly circulating worldwide due to hate crimes, especially between law enforcement and the Pride community.

The theory will shed light on exploring these social processes: gender and economic conditions and the past interaction with the police of LGBTQ+ members, how they perceive their reluctance to seek help from the police and their level of trust in law enforcement. As stated by Ferree (2018), various levels of social structure, gender, class, and race were once seen as separate social processes (p. 127), and these social processes will be looked into as intersecting in exploring societal oppression.

Conceptual Framework

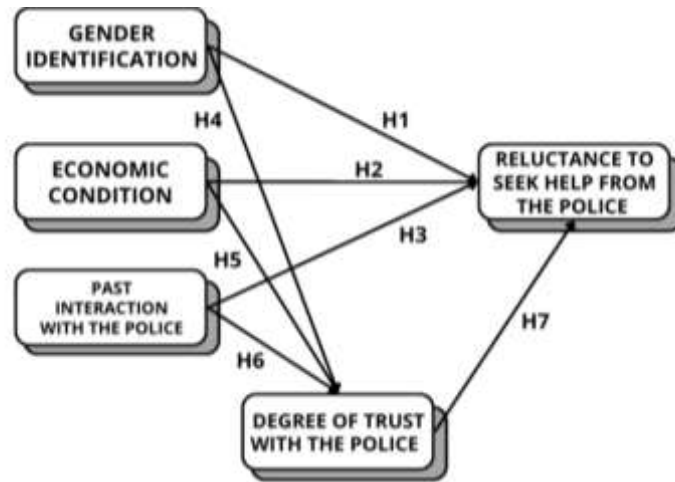
The study pursued this framework in order to test the relationships of the following independent variables:

1. Gender identification,
2. Economic condition
3. Past interaction with the police, to the dependent variables:
4. Degree of trust with the police and
5. Reluctance to seek help from the police among members of the lgbtq+ community focusing on gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people.

The following hypotheses are developed to identify the relationship of the said variables:

1. There is a significant relationship between gender identification and reluctance to seek help from the police
2. There is no relationship between economic condition and reluctance to seek help from the police
3. There is no relationship between past interaction with police and reluctance to seek help from the police
4. There is a significant relationship between gender identification and degree of trust with the police
5. There is no significant relationship between economic condition and degree of trust with the police
6. There is a significant relationship between past interaction with police and degree of trust with the police
7. There is no significant relationship between the degree of trust with the police and reluctance to seek help from the police.

Paradigm of the Study



III. METHODS

Study Design

The blueprint of the study was a descriptive survey. The current study used this type of study design as it showcased the objectives of the study and helped in answering the research questions, as this type of research design identified trends and relationships (Aggarwal, 2008; Parajillo-Aquino, 2018, p. 82). A descriptive survey design served as a methodical approach to comprehensively capture the experiences and viewpoints of LGBTQ+ individuals in Angeles City. According to Zheng, et al. (2020), a descriptive survey represented a suitable methodology in cases where the understanding of a phenomenon was not significantly underdeveloped. This approach was particularly applicable when detailed descriptions of variables and context were feasible, and the primary objective was to comprehend the extent to which a specific relationship existed (p. 7). Moreover, Tabuena, Hilario, and Buenaflor (2021) explained that the purpose of a descriptive survey was to provide systematic information about a phenomenon (p. 157).

The present study deems the utilization of a descriptive survey as appropriate, given its objective to comprehend the phenomena or oppressions experienced by LGBTQ+ members in their interactions with law enforcement in Angeles City. Aligned with the research questions of the study, the aim is to explore the interrelationships between social issues and the deficiencies that necessitate attention for the betterment of individuals within the LGBTQ+ community.

Locale of the Study

The study concentrated on 33 barangays within Angeles City to gain a comprehensive understanding of LGBTQ+ experiences. Each barangay likely held distinct socio-cultural factors that shaped the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals. This research aimed to capture the nuances and complexities of LGBTQ+ life in Angeles City. Additionally, the decision to focus on Angeles City was based on the availability of data provided by the LGBTQ+ Federation of Angeles City, ensuring a strong sampling framework and facilitating community engagement and collaboration.

Study Participants

This research set out to gain insights into the experiences and viewpoints of members of the LGBTQ+ community living in Angeles City. Respondents were thoughtfully chosen and classified according to their sexual orientations, which included categories such as lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders, and others (to include identities not specifically listed). The study drew its respondents from the population gathered by the LGBTQ+ Federation of Angeles City, which served as safe spaces for the community. LGBTQ+ individuals in Angeles City face unique challenges that hinder their participation in surveys. Societal, cultural, and institutional discrimination lead to underrepresentation in research findings. Key barriers include stigma and discrimination, privacy concerns, cultural sensitivities, and a lack of awareness about the survey. Fear of judgment, insufficient legal protections, and worries about data confidentiality deter participation. Negative

cultural perceptions and skepticism about the survey's intentions and benefits also contribute to low engagement.

Sample Size

The sample size of the study was 558 respondents. The sample size was gathered by computing the total population, which was 2,106 based on the last 2023 census conducted by the LGBTQ+ Federation of Angeles City, using the Raosoft sample size calculator as seen in the table below. The sampling used was convenience sampling, categorized as a non-probability sampling technique that afforded researchers the advantage of cost and time efficiency (Dag, Aksoy & Arslantas, 2021, p. 5; Patton, 1990). Moreover, convenience sampling was a cost-effective and straightforward approach for the selection of readily accessible subjects (Ergene, 2019, p. 298), which was appropriate for selecting respondents, mainly the members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Respondents	Population	Computed Sample
LGBTQ+ Members	2106	558

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria

The respondents were chosen based from the following criteria:

- a. The respondent is 18 years old and above.
- b. The respondent is residing in Angeles City.
- c. The respondent is a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

Exclusion Criteria

The respondents were excluded from participation if the respondent is currently confused about their sexual orientation and gender identity.

The study wanted to achieve genuine sociodemographics about the respondents' identity to prevent inaccurate identification of the groups mentioned in the preceding sections. In a 2021 global survey conducted by Ipsos across 27 countries, 11% of the previous survey respondents did not know or would not say their gender identity or sexual orientation. The study wanted to limit the respondents in a manner excluding those who did not know their identity as a whole to justify the identity classifications further.

Research Instruments

The study employed a quantitative research approach to examine the relationships between gender identification, economic conditions, past police interactions, reluctance to seek police help, and trust in law enforcement among LGBTQ+ individuals. Data were collected using a 13-question survey adapted from prior studies and validated tools. The survey included instruments from the University of California - Santa Cruz to measure gender identity and sexual orientation and from Lee and Santiago (2022) to assess economic conditions, living arrangements, educational attainment, and employment status. Respondents were also asked about their past interactions with law enforcement, including incarceration history, using binary indicators. Reluctance to seek police assistance was measured using a 5-point Likert scale, while trust in law enforcement was assessed with a similar scale adapted from Miles-Johnson (2013).

The study adhered to rigorous ethical standards, ensuring participants' rights, anonymity, and data confidentiality. Informed consent was obtained, allowing respondents to withdraw at any time. Survey responses were securely stored, and personally identifiable information was separated to maintain anonymity. Ethical use of research tools was ensured through the careful adaptation of validated instruments. This commitment to ethical practices safeguarded participant welfare and enhanced the reliability of the study's findings, offering meaningful insights into the dynamics between LGBTQ+ individuals and law enforcement.

Specific Procedures Based on Study Objectives

The current study used a quantitative research approach in measuring the relationship between gender identification, economic condition, past interaction with the police, reluctance to seek help from the police, and the degree of trust with the police among LGBTQ+ members towards law enforcement. The research employed

a quantitative approach, and data were collected using a 13-question survey questionnaire. The questionnaire comprised adapted research tools from prior studies and websites.

For the purpose of gathering data on the gender identification of respondents, the study used a survey questionnaire template from the University of California - Santa Cruz. This template consisted of two sets of questions with multiple choices regarding the respondent's "gender identity" and "sexual orientation."

Additionally, the study used a research instrument from the study by Lee and Santiago (2022) to obtain data on the economic condition of the respondents, their past interactions with the police, and their reluctance to seek help from the police. To determine the economic condition of the respondents, the survey asked for their total household income with 14 different choices ranging from less than 10,000 to more than 200,000. The survey also asked about their current living arrangement, with "1" denoting a lack of stability in living arrangements and "0" indicating a stable living arrangement.

Also, the highest level of educational attainment was asked by providing choices from "less than high school to graduate or professional." Furthermore, the survey asked about the respondents' level of educational attainment, with 11 different options, and their employment status, with "1" indicating full-time employment and "0" indicating otherwise. The survey also looked into the respondents' past interactions with police officers, including whether they had had any interaction with the police and whether they had ever been incarcerated, with "1" indicating "yes" and "0" indicating "no."

In addition, the survey used a 5-point Likert Scale to gather information on the respondents' reluctance to seek help from the police. Respondents were asked, "As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, how comfortable do you feel seeking help from the police?" and could choose from "very comfortable (1)," "somewhat comfortable (2)," "neutral (3)," "somewhat uncomfortable (4)," or "very uncomfortable (5)."

Lastly, to determine the degree of trust of LGBTQ+ members in law enforcement, the study used a 5-point Likert scale instrument from Miles-Johnson (2013). Respondents were asked questions such as "During contact with police officers in their professional capacity, how likely is it that you would not trust the police?" and "Do you believe that most members of the police would respect you as a person?" The respondents chose from a scale of 1 to 5, with "1" indicating "extremely likely" to "5" indicating "extremely unlikely."

The study meticulously adhered to ethical guidelines throughout its survey administration process, ensuring the protection of participants' rights and the integrity of the research. Informed consent was obtained from all respondents, who were given detailed information regarding the study's objectives, procedures, and their rights, with the option to withdraw at any time. Confidentiality was rigorously maintained through secure data storage and the separation of personally identifiable information from survey responses to safeguard anonymity. Ethical use of research instruments was ensured through careful selection and adaptation from validated sources, with respect for participants' autonomy emphasized throughout. By upholding these ethical principles, the study aimed to maintain the trust and welfare of its participants while producing reliable research outcomes.

Ethical Considerations

The study ensured ethical conduct and participant protection through informed consent, confidentiality, equitable treatment, and transparency. Respondents were presented with informed consent detailing their rights, including the option to withdraw at any point, and were assured their data would be securely stored and confidentially handled. Physical questionnaires were transferred to secured electronic storage, accessible only to researchers. To minimize discomfort, surveys were conducted in comfortable environments, with participants offered refreshments and continuous emotional support. Respondents were also assured of the study's potential benefits, such as contributing to improved policies or practices for the LGBTQ+ community, and were kept informed about the research's progress and outcomes.

The research adhered to standardized procedures to maintain equity and reliability. Inclusion and exclusion criteria were established to ensure valid results, with participants selected randomly to avoid bias. Researchers minimized personal interactions with respondents to maintain objectivity and monitored the data collection process promptly to address potential issues. A clear schedule and time frame for completing the survey further ensured an organized and ethical approach. This comprehensive framework highlighted the study's

commitment to ethical practices, transparency, and respect for participants, ensuring that the research was both reliable and impactful for the LGBTQ+ community and broader policy discussions.

Statistical Analysis of Data

The Pearson Moment Correlation Coefficient served as a crucial statistical tool for analyzing the relationships between the variables of interest in the study: gender identification, economic condition, past interactions with the police, reluctance to seek help from the police, and degree of trust in the police among LGBTQ+ members. With a significance level of 0.05, the correlation analysis determined the strength and direction of associations between these variables. A correlation coefficient approaching +1 signifies a robust positive correlation, indicating that as one variable experiences an increase, there is a tendency for the other variable to also increase. In contrast, a coefficient close to -1 denotes a strong negative correlation, indicating that as one variable increases, the other tends to decrease. A coefficient near 0 signifies a lack of correlation. Interpretation of the correlation findings provided insights into the hypotheses and research questions posed in the study. For instance, if a notable positive correlation was identified between economic condition and reluctance to seek help from the police, it suggested that individuals with lower economic status were more hesitant to seek assistance from law enforcement. Similarly, a negative correlation between past interactions with the police and trust in law enforcement indicated that negative experiences with the police were associated with lower levels of trust among LGBTQ+ individuals. By contextualizing the statistical findings within the study's hypotheses and research questions, the correlation analysis offered valuable insights into the dynamics between these variables and their implications for trust in law enforcement within the LGBTQ+ community.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Gender Identification

Table 1:

Gender Identity of the Respondents

Gender Identity of the Respondents	Frequency	Percent
Trans Male/ Trans Man	74	13.3
Trans Female/ Trans Woman	172	30.8
Different Identity	312	55.9
Total	558	100.0

The data reveals a rich diversity of gender identities among respondents, highlighting the importance of recognizing and respecting individual experiences. Transgender identities, represented by Trans Male/Trans Man and Trans Female/Trans Woman categories, make up 44.1% of respondents, emphasizing the visibility of transgender individuals. Meanwhile, the Different Identity category, encompassing non-binary and other identities, constitutes 55.9%, underscoring the complexity beyond binary classifications.

Table 2:

Assigned Sex at Birth of the Respondents

Assigned Sex at Birth of the Respondents	Frequency	Percent
Male	288	51.6
Female	270	48.4
Total	558	100.0

The data indicates a nearly equal distribution of assigned sex at birth among the surveyed individuals, with 51.6% being assigned male and 48.4% being assigned female. It is imperative to recognize that assigned sex at birth may not consistently correspond with an individual's gender identity. This data transcends mere demographic categorization, underscoring the significance of honoring individuals' gender identities irrespective of their assigned sex at birth.

Table 3:

Sexual Orientation of the Respondents

Sexual Orientation of the Respondents	Frequency	Percent
Gay	232	41.6
Lesbian	114	20.4
Bisexual	170	30.5
Not Listed	42	7.5
Total	558	100.0

The data indicates a diverse spectrum of sexual orientations among the respondents, with substantial proportions identifying as Gay (41.6%), Lesbian (20.4%), Bisexual (30.5%), and a smaller fraction falling into the "Not Listed" category (7.5%). This diversity underscores the significance of acknowledging and respecting individual experiences and expressions of sexual orientation beyond conventional heterosexual norms. The presence of individuals identifying as Gay and Lesbian underscores a substantial portion of the LGBTQ+ community, emphasizing the necessity for recognition to validate experiences and address societal challenges associated with acceptance and discrimination.

Economic Condition

Table 4:

Total Household Income of the Respondents

Total Household Income of the Respondents	Frequency	Percent
Less than 10,000	4	.7
10,000 to 19,999	58	10.4
20,000 to 29,999	64	11.5
30,000 to 39,999	118	21.1
40,000 to 49,999	110	19.7
50,000 to 59,999	60	10.8
60,000 to 69,999	36	6.5
70,000 to 79,999	18	3.2
80,000 to 89,999	54	9.7
90,000 to 99,999	16	2.9
100,000 to 149,999	12	2.2
150,000 to 199,999	2	.4
200,000 to 249,999	2	.4
More than 250,000	4	.7
Total	558	100.0

The data presents a detailed breakdown of total household income among survey respondents, revealing a varied distribution across different income brackets. Notably, a substantial proportion of participants are situated within the moderate to lower-middle income strata. Specifically, 10.4% report incomes ranging from 10,000 to 19,999 pesos, while 11.5% fall within the 20,000 to 29,999 pesos bracket. Furthermore, 21.1% report incomes between 30,000 and 39,999 pesos, with 19.7% falling within the 40,000 to 49,999 pesos range. These findings suggest a significant segment of the sample facing financial constraints.

Conversely, there is representation in higher income brackets, albeit to a lesser extent. For example, 6.5% report incomes between 60,000 and 69,999 pesos, while 9.7% fall within the 80,000 to 89,999 pesos bracket.

Additionally, a small percentage of participants report higher incomes, with 2.2% falling within the 100,000 to 149,999 pesos range and 0.7% reporting incomes exceeding 250,000 pesos. While these higher income brackets represent a minority within the sample, they signify a level of financial stability and affluence.

Table 5:

Highest Level of Educational Attainment of the Respondents

Highest Level of Educational Attainment of the Respondents	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	8	1.4
High school grad	346	62.0
Some college	68	12.2
College degree	112	20.1
Graduate or professional	24	4.3
Total	558	100.0

The data regarding the highest level of educational attainment among respondents offers a comprehensive overview of the educational landscape within the sample population, encompassing various educational levels from less than high school to graduate or professional degrees. The majority of respondents, constituting 62.0% of the total sample, reported the completion of high school, signifying a foundational level of education crucial for workforce participation and societal engagement. It is imperative to recognize that high school completion marks the commencement of the educational journey, with potential challenges that may impede further education.

Additionally, the data underscores the significance of post-secondary education, with 12.2% of respondents completing some college education without a degree and 20.1% earning a college degree. This highlights the importance of specialized skills and knowledge in today's job market. Furthermore, 4.3% of respondents reported achieving a graduate or professional degree, indicating advanced education beyond the undergraduate level, often leading to heightened earning potential and specialized career paths in fields such as medicine, law, academia, and research.

Table 6:

Current Living Arrangement of the Respondents

Current Living Arrangement of the Respondents	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Std. Deviation	Variance	Average
What is your current living arrangement?	1.8746	Stable Living Arrangement	.33152	.110	0.7720

The data provided offers valuable insights into the current living arrangements of the respondents. With a mean value of 1.8746, it is evident that, on average, the respondents have stable living situations. However, the standard deviation of 0.33152 and a variance of 0.110 indicate a degree of variability or spread of responses around the mean. This variability implies that while the majority of respondents reported stable living arrangements, there exists some diversity among the responses. In conclusion, the data suggests that the majority of respondents have stable living arrangements, as indicated by the verbal interpretation "Stable Living Arrangement."

Table 7:

Full-time Work Schedule of the Respondents

Full-time Work Schedule of the Respondents	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Std. Deviation	Variance	Average
Do you work full-time?	1.4946	Otherwise	.50042	.250	0.7485

The data shows that a significant number of respondents are not engaged in full-time work, with a mean value of 1.4946 and a standard deviation of 0.50042, indicating clustering around the "Otherwise" category regarding full-time employment. This has wide-ranging implications across economic and societal domains.

Economically, a high proportion of respondents not in full-time employment may signal challenges in the job market, potentially indicating issues like a shortage of full-time opportunities, underemployment, or a shift towards non-traditional work arrangements. Concerns regarding income stability, financial security, and overall economic growth may arise, as full-time employment typically offers more stable incomes and benefits.

Moreover, the variance of 0.250 suggests some variability within the data, potentially stemming from demographic, industry, geographic, or individual differences. Further analysis could uncover patterns and trends within specific subgroups of the population, allowing for targeted interventions to address employment-related challenges.

Past Interaction with the Police

Table 8:

Past Interaction with the Police of the Respondents

Past Interaction with the Police of the Respondents	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Std. Deviation	Variance	Average
I have had an interaction with the police as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.	1.4301	Otherwise	.49554	.246	0.7237

The data presents insights into the historical interactions between LGBTQ+ individuals and law enforcement, revealing a propensity towards a lower frequency of reported incidents. The mean value of 1.43 suggests that a majority of respondents reported no interactions, indicating a prevailing trend. This tendency is further corroborated by the qualitative analysis, leaning towards a negative implication, signifying limited encounters based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

These findings hold substantial implications for both LGBTQ+ individuals and law enforcement agencies. The diminished prevalence of reported interactions may signify advancements in fostering more comprehensive and respectful engagements. Furthermore, it may potentially indicate a reduction in discriminatory policing practices targeting LGBTQ+ individuals.

Table 9:

Jail Experience of the Respondents

Jail Experience of the Respondents	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Std. Deviation	Variance	Average
I have been sent to jail or prison for any reason.	1.8817	No	.32323	.104	0.7698

The data provided offers insights into respondents' experiences with incarceration, specifically whether they have been sent to jail or prison for any reason. With a mean value of 1.88, it indicates that, on average, respondents are more inclined to answer "No" to this question. This suggests that the majority of individuals surveyed have not been incarcerated. The verbal interpretation aligns with this, reinforcing that the trend leans towards "No," implying that most respondents have not experienced jail or prison time.

Interpreting this data carries significant implications for analyzing the dynamics between individuals and the criminal justice system. The occurrence of "No" responses may indicate several possibilities. It could reflect lower rates of involvement in criminal activities among the surveyed population, suggesting potentially positive trends in terms of law-abiding behavior or access to resources and support systems that help individuals avoid incarceration.

Reluctance to seek help from the police

Table 10:

Reluctance to Seek Help from the Police of the Respondents

Reluctance to seek help from the police of the Respondents	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Std. Deviation	Variance	Average
As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, how comfortable do you feel seeking help from the police?	3.7849	Somewhat uncomfortable	1.24127	1.541	2.1890

The data indicates that LGBTQ+ individuals generally express a level of discomfort when seeking assistance from the police, as evidenced by a mean value of 3.78. This average suggests a prevailing unease within this demographic regarding interactions with law enforcement, likely attributable to historical experiences of discrimination and violence.

The verbal interpretation aligns with the mean, indicating that the majority of LGBTQ+ respondents harbor some degree of unease when considering seeking police assistance. This sentiment reflects a pervasive sense of mistrust and apprehension toward law enforcement, likely stemming from past negative experiences.

Although the average sentiment leans toward discomfort, the standard deviation of 1.24 denotes variability in responses, emphasizing diverse perceptions within the LGBTQ+ community regarding police interactions. Recognizing these differences is crucial for designing targeted interventions to address issues and enhance relations between law enforcement and the LGBTQ+ community.

Degree of Trust with the police

Table 11:

Likelihood of Not Trusting the Police of the Respondents

Likelihood of Not Trusting the Police of the Respondents	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Std. Deviation	Variance	Average
During contact with police officers in their professional capacity, how likely is it that you would not trust the police?	1.9104	Likely	1.24367	1.547	1.5669

The data yields valuable insights regarding respondents' trust in the police during professional interactions, with a mean value of 1.91 indicating a pervasive lack of trust within the surveyed population. This discovery holds significant implications for comprehending the dynamics between law enforcement and the community. The verbal interpretation reinforces the likelihood that a majority of respondents do not trust the police during professional encounters, likely stemming from past experiences of discrimination or perceived inadequacies in police responses. Despite the prevailing sentiment of distrust, the standard deviation underscores the variability in responses, highlighting diverse perceptions within the population.

Table 12:

Likelihood of Equal Treatment of Police of the Respondents

Likelihood of Equal Treatment of Police of the Respondents	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Std. Deviation	Variance	Average
During contact with police officers in their professional capacity, how likely is it that you would be treated equally or with	3.77	Unlikely	1.16	1.35	2.10

fairness?					
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The data elucidates respondents' perceptions of fair and equitable treatment by police officers during professional interactions, with a mean score of 3.77 signifying unlikelihood. This indicates a prevailing sentiment of skepticism or mistrust towards the impartiality of law enforcement among the respondents. The standard deviation of 1.16 denotes moderate variability in perceptions, with the majority of respondents sharing the belief that equal treatment is improbable, yet some diversity in opinions persists. However, the overall inclination leans towards skepticism regarding fair treatment by police.

The variance, at 1.35, corroborates the dispersion of responses around the mean, signifying that while there is some spread in the data, the majority of responses converge around the average score. This reinforces the notion that the general sentiment among respondents is one of skepticism regarding the likelihood of receiving fair treatment from police. The disparity between the provided mean values necessitates clarification for a precise comprehension of the data's interpretation. If the mean of 3.77 is accurate, it underscores the imperative for police departments to address public concerns about fairness and equality in their interactions.

Table 13:

Likelihood of Polite Treatment of Police of the Respondents

Likelihood of Polite Treatment of Police of the Respondents	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Std. Deviation	Variance	Average
During contact with police officers in their professional capacity, how unlikely is it that the police will treat you politely?	3.79	Unlikely	1.30	1.69	2.26

The data provides insights into how individuals perceive and expect to be treated during encounters with police officers in a professional capacity. With an average score of 3.79, respondents generally anticipate that they are unlikely to be treated politely by police officers during such interactions. This indicates a significant gap between the desired level of courteous treatment and the expected reality, highlighting a potential area of concern in police-community relations.

The use of the word "unlikely" further emphasizes the prevailing sentiment among respondents, showing their reservations about encountering polite behavior from police officers. This finding underscores the need for efforts to bridge the gap between public expectations and actual experiences during police encounters, in order to improve trust and cooperation.

The moderate degree of variability as reflected by the standard deviation of 1.30 suggests diverse individual opinions regarding the likelihood of receiving polite treatment from police officers. This underscores the complexity of attitudes toward law enforcement, influenced by various factors such as personal experiences and societal attitudes.

A variance of 1.69 further highlights the dispersion of data points around the mean, highlighting the extent to which responses diverge from the average perception. This variance underscores the importance of understanding the multifaceted nature of attitudes toward police behavior, in order to inform targeted interventions and policies aimed at improving police-community relations and fostering trust.

Table 14:

Respect of Police to the Respondents

Respect of Police to the Respondents	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Std. Deviation	Variance	Average
Do you believe that most members of the police would respect you as a person?	1.55	No	.496	.247	0.767

The data reveals insights into individuals' perceptions regarding the level of respect they anticipate receiving from police officers. With a mean score of 1.55, respondents generally express skepticism or doubt regarding whether most members of the police force would respect them as individuals. This suggests a significant gap between desired treatment and expectations individuals hold regarding interactions with law enforcement.

The verbal interpretation of "No" further emphasizes the prevailing sentiment among respondents, implying widespread belief that most members of the police force would not show respect towards individuals. This underscores potential issues surrounding trust and confidence in law enforcement agencies, indicating a need for efforts to address concerns and rebuild trust within communities.

The moderate level of variability indicated by the standard deviation of 0.49694 suggests diverse individual opinions regarding the level of respect they anticipate receiving from police officers, highlighting the complex nature of attitudes toward law enforcement influenced by various factors.

The lower variance of 0.24 indicates opinions are relatively concentrated around the average perception of lack of respect from police officers. Overall, the data underscores the importance of addressing perceptions of police behavior and the need for law enforcement agencies to prioritize respectful interactions with the public to foster stronger relationships and promote a sense of safety within communities

Table 15:

Relationship between Gender Identification and Reluctance to Seek Help from the Police

Correlations					
		Gender Identity	Sex Assigned at Birth	Sexual Orientation	Reluctance to seek help from the police
Gender Identity	Pearson Correlation	1	0.05	.23**	-.09*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.19	0	0.02
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	284.48	10.83	94.61	-46.81
	Covariance	0.51	0.01	0.17	-0.08
	N	558	558	558	558

The findings from the data regarding the relationship between gender identification and reluctance to seek help from the police indicate a statistically significant negative correlation ($r = -.095, p < .05$). This negative correlation, although weak, suggests that individuals with more diverse or varied gender identities are slightly less reluctant to seek help from the police. Similarly in the study of Lee and Santiago (2022), transgender women are less reluctant to seek help from the police (p. 26). This implies that gender identity may have a nuanced impact on individuals' perceptions and willingness to engage with law enforcement. Those with diverse gender identities might feel marginally more inclined to seek police assistance compared to others. Overall, the data indicates a slight tendency for individuals with diverse gender identities to be less hesitant about seeking help from the police.

The findings regarding the relationship between gender identification and reluctance to seek help from the police reveal a nuanced interplay between gender identity and attitudes towards law enforcement. While the negative correlation is statistically significant, its strength is modest, indicating that individuals with more diverse gender identities exhibit slightly less reluctance to seek police assistance. This suggests a potential trend where those with diverse gender identities may feel marginally more inclined to engage with law enforcement compared to others. Moreover, the specific mention of transgender women being less reluctant to seek help from the police highlights a subgroup within diverse gender identities that may have distinct attitudes towards law enforcement. Further exploration is necessary to understand the underlying factors influencing this correlation, including past experiences, societal attitudes, and perceptions of law enforcement.

Law enforcement agencies and support services could benefit from these findings by tailoring their approaches to accommodate the needs and perceptions of individuals with diverse gender identities, fostering inclusive environments that encourage help-seeking behavior and build community trust. Continued research in this area is essential to deepen our understanding and inform more effective policies and practices that serve all members of the community equitably, regardless of gender identity.

Table 16:

Relationship between Economic Conditions and Reluctance to Seek Help from the Police

		Correlations				
		Reluctance to seek help from the police	Total Household income	Level of Education	Current Living Arrangement	Job Schedule
Reluctance to seek help from the police	Pearson Correlation	1	.002	-.12**	.11**	-.01
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.96	.002	.005	.65
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	858.19	3.57	-85.44	26.94	-6.64
	Covariance	1.54	.006	-.15	.048	-.012
	N	558	558	558	558	558

The findings from the data above indicate that there is no significant relationship between economic conditions, as measured by total household income, and reluctance to seek help from the police. In line with the study of Fileborn (2019), stating that economic conditions must be intersected with race, class and gender in order to significantly relate to their reluctance in seeking help with the police (p. 16). Moreover, Steele, Collier, and Sumerau (2018) agrees that economic condition has no significant relationship with reluctance to seek help from the police (p. 17). The Pearson correlation coefficient between Reluctance to Seek Help from the Police and Total Household Income is very close to zero and not statistically significant ($r = .002$, $p = .961$). This suggests that individuals' income levels do not meaningfully influence their willingness to seek help from law enforcement. Additionally, the correlation between reluctance to seek help from the police and job schedule, another potential indicator of economic stability, is also non-significant ($r = -.019$, $p = .651$), further reinforcing the conclusion that economic conditions do not significantly impact reluctance to seek police assistance.

The findings suggest that the relationship between economic conditions, as measured by total household income, and reluctance to seek help from the police is not statistically significant. This implies that individuals' income levels do not significantly influence their willingness to seek assistance from law enforcement. Moreover, the study underscores the significance of applying an intersectional perspective when analyzing the effects of economic conditions on help-seeking behavior. Research, such as Fileborn (2019) and Steele et al. (2018), suggests that economic conditions must be analyzed alongside factors like race, class, and gender to understand their combined effect on reluctance to seek police help. The agreement among these studies reinforces the notion that economic stability alone does not dictate individuals' propensity to engage with law enforcement agencies. Therefore, future investigations should adopt a more comprehensive approach, considering multiple dimensions of identity and socio-economic status. Policymakers and law enforcement agencies should consider these findings when developing interventions targeted at fostering community engagement and trust. While economic factors may not directly influence help-seeking behavior, other aspects such as trust in law enforcement and past experiences may play significant roles. Additional research is needed to investigate these factors further and formulate more effective strategies for promoting positive interactions between communities and the police.

Table 17:

Relationship between Past Interactions with the Police and Reluctance to Seek Help from the Police

Correlations				
		Reluctance to seek help with the Police	Past interaction with the police.	Jail Experience
Reluctance to seek help with the Police	Pearson Correlation	1	-.013	-.010
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.763	.817
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	858.19	-4.38	-2.19
	Covariance	1.541	-.008	-.004
	N	558	558	558

The major finding from the data regarding the relationship between past interaction with the police and reluctance to seek help from the police is that there is no significant correlation between these two variables ($r = -.013, p = .763$). This suggests that the frequency or nature of past interactions with law enforcement does not meaningfully influence individuals' reluctance to seek police assistance. This shows alignment with the findings of Lee and Santiago (2022) wherein past interaction with the police is not significantly related to reluctance to seek help from the police. This implies that other factors, such as the perceived quality of these interactions, community norms, personal experiences with police misconduct, or broader socio-cultural attitudes toward law enforcement, might play a more crucial role in shaping individuals' willingness to engage with police services. The finding that there is no significant correlation between past interactions with the police and reluctance to seek help from the police ($r = -.013, p = .763$) implies that other factors, such as the perceived quality of interactions, community norms, and experiences with police misconduct, play a more crucial role in individuals' willingness to seek police assistance. This suggests that police departments should focus on improving the quality of interactions through enhanced training in communication, cultural competence, and de-escalation techniques. Additionally, broader contextual factors like media portrayals, historical tensions, and societal attitudes toward law enforcement must be addressed through public campaigns, education, and reforms to improve the police's overall image and accountability. Aligning with findings by Lee and Santiago (2022), these insights emphasize the need for comprehensive strategies that prioritize community involvement, transparency, and accountability over merely increasing the frequency of positive interactions.

Table 18:

Relationship between Gender Identification and Degree of Trust with the Police

Correlations								
		Gender Identity	Sex Assigned at Birth	Sexual Orientation	Likelihood of Not Trusting the Police	Likelihood of Equal Treatment of Police	Likelihood of Polite Treatment of Police	Respect of Police
Gender Identity	Pearson Correlation	1	.054	.235**	.083*	-.084*	-.003	-.127**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.199	.000	.049	.047	.950	.003
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	284.48	10.83	94.61	41.32	-39.11	-1.37	-25.07
	Covariance	.51	.019	.170	.074	-.070	-.002	-.045

	N	558	558	558	558	558	558	558
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The major finding from the data regarding the relationship between past interaction with the police and reluctance to seek help from the police is that there is no significant correlation between these two variables ($r = -.013, p = .763$). This suggests that the frequency or nature of past interactions with law enforcement does not meaningfully influence individuals' reluctance to seek police assistance. This shows alignment with the findings of Lee and Santiago (2022) wherein past interaction with the police is not significantly related to reluctance to seek help from the police. This implies that other factors, such as the perceived quality of these interactions, community norms, personal experiences with police misconduct, or broader socio-cultural attitudes toward law enforcement, might play a more crucial role in shaping individuals' willingness to engage with police services. The finding that there is no significant correlation between past interactions with the police and reluctance to seek help from the police ($r = -.013, p = .763$) implies that other factors, such as the perceived quality of interactions, community norms, and experiences with police misconduct, play a more crucial role in individuals' willingness to seek police assistance. This suggests that police departments should focus on improving the quality of interactions through enhanced training in communication, cultural competence, and de-escalation techniques. Additionally, broader contextual factors like media portrayals, historical tensions, and societal attitudes toward law enforcement must be addressed through public campaigns, education, and reforms to improve the police's overall image and accountability. Aligning with findings by Lee and Santiago (2022), these insights emphasize the need for comprehensive strategies that prioritize community involvement, transparency, and accountability over merely increasing the frequency of positive interactions.

Table 19:

Relationship between Economic Conditions and Degree of Trust with the Police

Correlations									
		Likeliho od of Not Trusting the Police	Likeliho od of Equal Treatme nt of Police	Likeliho od of Polite Treatme nt of Police	Respe ct of Police	Total Househo ld income	Level of Educati on	Current Living Arrangeme nt	Job Schedu le
Likeliho od of Not Trusting the Police	Pearson Correlati on	1	-.388**	-.207**	-.250**	-.032	.078	-.071	.025
	Sig. (2- tailed)		.000	.000	.000	.452	.065	.095	.553
	Sum of Squares and Cross- products	861.52	-313.11	-186.21	-86.04	-55.51	51.90	-16.27	8.73
	Covarian ce	1.54	-.562	-.334	-.154	-.100	.093	-.029	.016
	N	558	558	558	558	558	558	558	558

Based on the available data, it is evident that there is no statistically significant relationship between economic conditions, as indicated by total household income, and the degree of trust with the police. This finding is consistent with the initial hypothesis of the study, suggesting that economic status does not exert a significant impact on the degree of trust in the police.

It suggests that efforts to build trust in the police should not be overly focused on economic factors, as these do not appear to influence trust levels significantly. Instead, resources and strategies should be directed toward

other factors that might play a more crucial role in shaping public trust, such as the quality of police interactions, transparency, accountability, and community engagement. Trust-building initiatives should be inclusive and broad-based, addressing diverse community needs and concerns rather than targeting specific economic groups. Policy and training development should focus on areas like cultural competence, communication skills, and procedural justice to improve overall trust in the police. Engaging with various community groups to understand their specific issues and concerns can help in designing more effective trust-building measures. Ongoing research should be conducted to identify other significant factors that influence trust in the police, allowing for continuous refinement and improvement of strategies. Consequently, resources should be allocated to initiatives that have a proven impact on building trust, such as community policing, transparency measures, and accountability mechanisms, rather than focusing on economic interventions. This approach can help develop more effective strategies to enhance public trust in law enforcement.

Table 20:

Relationship between Past Interaction with the Police and Degree of Trust with the Police

		Correlations					
		Past Interaction with the Police	Jail Experience	Likelihood of Not Trusting the Police	Likelihood of Equal Treatment of Police	Likelihood of Polite Treatment of Police	Respect of Police
Past Interaction with the Police	Pearson Correlation	1	.251**	.057	-.114**	-.053	-.089*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.180	.007	.213	.036
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	136.774	22.387	19.505	-36.667	-18.968	-12.194
	Covariance	.246	.040	.035	-.066	-.034	-.022
	N	558	558	558	558	558	558

There is a weak positive correlation between past interactions with the police and the likelihood of not trusting the police ($r = 0.057$, significant at the 0.05 level). Although modest, this correlation suggests that individuals with frequent police interactions may develop some level of distrust, potentially due to negative experiences or perceived injustices during these encounters. Identically, Feddes and Jonas (2020) stated that due to the hate crime experiences of the LGBTQ+ members, which indicates their past interactions with the police, the level of their trust among law enforcement is perceived as low (p.1). By the same token, Meyer (2019) found that past interactions with the police among LGBTQ+ members is associated with their distrust of police (p.15).

These findings underscore the multifaceted nature of the relationship between past interactions with the police and trust in law enforcement. The data highlights the importance of fostering positive and respectful interactions between law enforcement officers and the public. To build trust, promote procedural justice, and enhance perceptions of fairness, police departments should focus on equitable and courteous treatment during all interactions. This approach can contribute significantly to breaking negative cycles and improving overall attitudes towards law enforcement within the community.

Table 21:

Relationship between Degree of Trust with the Police and Reluctance to seek help with the Police

Correlations					
	Likelihood of Not	Likelihood of Equal	Likelihood of Polite	Respect of Police	Reluctance to seek help

		Trusting the Police	Treatment of Police	Treatment of Police		from the police
Likelihood of Not Trusting the Police	Pearson Correlation	1	-.388**	-.207**	-.250**	-.468**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000	.000
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	861.520	-313.111	-186.215	-86.043	-402.753
	Covariance	1.547	-.562	-.334	-.154	-.723
	N	558	558	558	558	558

The data analysis revealed a statistically significant strong negative correlation ($r = -0.468, p < 0.01$) between the degree of trust in law enforcement and the propensity to seek assistance from the police. This indicates that individuals with reduced trust in law enforcement are markedly more inclined to avoid seeking help from them, even in circumstances where police intervention is necessary. This underscores the substantial influence of trust on the decision to engage with law enforcement. As a result, this finding challenges the initial hypothesis put forward by the study.

It highlights that individuals with reduced trust in law enforcement significantly increases the likelihood of avoiding seeking assistance, even when police intervention is necessary. This underscores the critical role that trust plays in the decision to engage with law enforcement, challenging the initial hypothesis of the study. Building and maintaining trust in law enforcement should be a central focus of police reform efforts, with departments prioritizing actions that enhance trust among the communities they serve. To increase the likelihood that individuals will seek help from the police, departments need to work on improving their relationships with the community through outreach programs, transparency initiatives, and efforts to demonstrate accountability. Police training programs should include components that emphasize building trust, such as effective communication, cultural competence, and de-escalation techniques, helping officers understand the importance of trust and how their actions can impact public perception.

V. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS

The study reveals key relationships between gender identity, economic conditions, past interactions with police, trust in law enforcement, and reluctance to seek police help. A statistically significant negative correlation ($r = -0.095, p < .05$) indicates that individuals with diverse gender identities are slightly less reluctant to seek police assistance, aligning with studies like Lee and Santiago (2022), which highlight differences in willingness to engage based on gender identity. However, individuals with diverse gender identities exhibit lower trust in law enforcement, as evidenced by a positive correlation with distrust ($r = .083, p < .05$) and negative correlations with perceptions of equal treatment ($r = -0.084, p < .05$) and respect ($r = -0.127, p < .01$). This supports findings by Girardi (2022), suggesting that LGBTQ+ individuals often avoid police due to fear and mistrust. Building trust requires targeted training on gender diversity, equality policies, and active community engagement to foster inclusivity and improve perceptions of law enforcement.

Economic conditions and past interactions with police show no significant relationship with either reluctance to seek help or trust in police, suggesting these factors alone do not strongly influence engagement or perceptions. However, a weak positive correlation ($r = 0.057, p < .05$) between past interactions and distrust highlights the potential impact of negative experiences, consistent with research by Feddes and Jonas (2020). Trust in law enforcement emerged as a critical factor, with a strong negative correlation ($r = -0.468, p < 0.01$) indicating that lower trust correlates with greater reluctance to seek help. These findings emphasize the need for law enforcement agencies to prioritize building trust through transparency, accountability, community outreach, and respectful, positive interactions to encourage help-seeking behavior and improve relationships with LGBTQ+ communities.

Synthesis

The study highlights a connection between gender identity and LGBTQ+ individuals' reluctance to seek police assistance in Angeles City, emphasizing the need for law enforcement to adopt inclusive approaches tailored to diverse gender identities. Trust, rather than economic status or past interactions with police, emerges as a critical factor influencing willingness to engage with law enforcement. The findings reveal a troubling pattern of reduced trust in law enforcement among individuals with diverse gender identities, underscoring the importance of fostering positive interactions and promoting procedural justice to rebuild confidence and encourage help-seeking behavior.

Trust is identified serving as a critical moderating factor in the association between gender identity, economic conditions, and past interactions with confidence in law enforcement. While the study does not explicitly analyze the moderating effects, it underscores trust's central role in shaping perceptions and engagements with police. This highlights the urgent need for initiatives that build trust within LGBTQ+ communities, such as transparency, community outreach, and respectful, inclusive practices, to reduce apprehension and promote constructive relationships between law enforcement and marginalized groups.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

The summary of findings leads to several recommendations. Firstly, law enforcement agencies should adopt gender-inclusive approaches to accommodate the needs and perceptions of individuals with diverse gender identities. This may involve targeted training on gender diversity, reviewing policies for equality and non-discrimination, and actively engaging with LGBTQ+ communities to build trust. Secondly, interventions aimed at addressing reluctance to seek help from the police should consider multiple dimensions of identity and socio-economic status. Efforts should encompass trust-building initiatives, past experiences, and broader social factors, rather than solely focusing on economic conditions. Prioritizing the improvement of the quality of interactions between law enforcement and communities is essential. This includes fostering positive, respectful interactions and addressing broader socio-cultural attitudes and media portrayals to build trust and encourage help-seeking behavior.

Additionally, trust-building initiatives should emphasize transparency, accountability, and community engagement, being broad-based and inclusive to address the diverse needs of communities and promote procedural justice. Lastly, implementing continuous monitoring and evaluation of trust levels and public perception can help identify areas for improvement and inform strategies to foster positive police-community relationships. By integrating these recommendations, law enforcement agencies can work towards creating more inclusive environments, building trust within communities, and ultimately encouraging individuals to seek assistance when needed.

VII. CONCLUSION

In summary, the findings elucidate the intricate dynamics between various factors and individuals' interactions with law enforcement. Economic conditions do not appear to directly impact the reluctance to seek police help, while gender identity and past interactions with the police do influence this reluctance. Specifically, individuals with diverse gender identities display a slightly lower reluctance to seek police assistance, and past interactions do not significantly affect the willingness to seek help. However, trust in the police emerges as a pivotal factor, with lower trust strongly correlating with greater reluctance to seek assistance. Moreover, gender identity, economic conditions, and past interactions all play roles in shaping trust levels, underscoring the interconnected nature of these variables. To cultivate positive police-community relationships and promote help-seeking behavior, law enforcement agencies should prioritize tailored approaches that address the needs and perceptions of diverse communities, emphasize trust-building initiatives through community engagement, transparency, and accountability, and continually assess and enhance their practices.

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