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Research Article

Perspectives on the Police Use of Force: Basis for Policy Enhancement, Training, and Accountability Mechanism

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ABSTRACT

This study examined stakeholder perspectives on police use of force in Santa Rosa City, Laguna, Philippines, as a basis for policy enhancement, training, and accountability. Using a quantitative descriptive-correlational design, the researcher gathered survey responses from 601 local residents, barangay officials, and Philippine National Police personnel. Five operational contexts were assessed: anti-illegal drug operations, service of arrest and search warrants, civil disturbance management, hot pursuit operations, and apprehension of escaping fugitives. Respondents expressed strong agreement with statements concerning circumstances in which force may be considered during these operations (overall composite mean = 4.48). They also rated the issues and challenges associated with questioned use of force as major (overall composite mean = 4.47), with warrant service receiving the highest average challenge rating (M = 4.49). Tests of group differences generally found no statistically significant variation in perceived challenges across the examined respondent categories and demographic groupings. However, educational attainment was significantly associated with perceptions of challenges in civil disturbance management (reported correlation coefficient = 0.256, p = .001). The findings support context-specific decision-making and de-escalation training, clearer documentation and accountability procedures, and sustained police-community communication. As the study assessed perceptions, its results should not be interpreted as direct measures of actual force incidents or policy effectiveness.

Keywords*: Operational procedures, Police accountability, Police use of force, Santa rosa city, Stakeholder perspectives*

Introduction

The use of force is one of the most consequential powers entrusted to law enforcement. Police officers may encounter situations in which physical intervention is necessary to protect life, prevent immediate harm, or carry out lawful duties. That authority, however, is subject to legal and ethical limits. The United Nations (1990) established that law enforcement officials should employ nonviolent means

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whenever practicable and exercise restraint when force becomes unavoidable. Necessity, proportionality, and respect for human life are therefore central considerations in assessing the legitimacy of police action. Stoughton et al. (2020) further explained that judgments concerning police use of force involve several standards, including the law, agency policy, and community expectations. These standards do not always produce identical assessments, which makes police use of force an enduring concern for public accountability.

International discussions have often centered on high-profile incidents, unequal treatment, and reforms intended to improve officer decision-making and oversight. Such discussions demonstrate that public confidence depends not only on the operational outcome of an encounter but also on the perceived fairness, restraint, and transparency of police conduct. Nevertheless, findings from other jurisdictions cannot automatically be applied to Philippine police organizations, where institutional arrangements, operational procedures, and community conditions differ. A local examination must therefore consider how stakeholders understand the circumstances surrounding force, the concerns raised when force is questioned, and the organizational responses regarded as necessary.

In the Philippines, the Revised Philippine National Police Operational Procedures provide an institutional framework for the lawful application of force. The Philippine National Police (PNP, 2021) requires necessary and reasonable force in the performance of police duties and expressly prohibits excessive force during arrest or immobilization. The manual also describes a force continuum that links police responses to the nature of threats and resistance while emphasizing respect for human rights. These rules establish an important distinction between the existence of police authority and the justification for a particular level of force. Operational urgency alone does not determine whether the force used in an encounter would be appropriate; the specific circumstances and governing standards remain essential.

The present study considers five law enforcement contexts in which decisions concerning force may become especially sensitive. In anti-illegal drug operations, officers may need to assess resistance and immediate threats while preserving the rights of persons involved. During the service of arrest or search warrants, lawful authority must be exercised with attention to procedural safeguards and the circumstances encountered at the location. Civil disturbance management requires the protection of public order alongside the rights of individuals participating in assemblies. Hot pursuit operations place demands on rapid judgment, while the apprehension of escaping fugitives raises questions concerning the degree of intervention reasonably required to prevent harm or effect an arrest. These contexts differ in their operational demands, yet each requires the consistent application of established legal and procedural safeguards (PNP, 2021).

The Philippine setting also demonstrates why the local context matters. In an analysis of fatal police violence in the country, Kreuzer (2024) examined how patterns of deadly force may vary across local jurisdictions and emphasized the relevance of local political conditions. This observation does not establish the prevalence of excessive force in Santa Rosa City. Rather, it reinforces the importance of examining policing in its particular organizational and community setting instead of assuming that nationwide patterns apply uniformly to individual police stations. Local assessments can clarify how institutional practices are understood and where communication, training, or accountability arrangements may require closer consideration.

Santa Rosa City, Laguna, provides a relevant setting for examining these questions. The Philippine Statistics Authority (2021) recorded a population of 414,812 in the city during the 2020 Census of Population and Housing. Santa Rosa comprises 18 barangays and has developed into a major residential, commercial, and industrial center south of Metro Manila (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies [IGES], 2025). Its combination of residential neighborhoods, employment centers, and commercial activity offers a varied setting for police-community interactions. Such characteristics justify the selection of the city for a stake-

holder-based assessment; they do not, in themselves, demonstrate a higher frequency of force-related incidents. The Sta. Rosa City Police Station and the communities it serves therefore provide a specific institutional and social context in which perceptions of operational necessity, lawful restraint, and accountability can be examined.

A review of the literature presented in this study identifies a need for a more focused account of stakeholder perspectives within a single Philippine locality. International scholarship has contributed to understanding the standards used to evaluate force, while Philippine discussions have examined national policy and broader patterns of police violence (Kreuzer, 2024; Stoughton et al., 2020). These approaches provide valuable context but do not answer the particular question addressed in this research: how do local residents, barangay officials, and police personnel assess circumstances associated with police use of force and the challenges arising when such use is questioned across distinct operational settings in Santa Rosa City? Addressing this contextual and stakeholder-level gap is important because the three groups occupy different positions in relation to law enforcement, and their assessments can inform the design of locally relevant institutional responses.

Accordingly, the study examined stakeholder assessments of factors associated with police use of force during anti-illegal drug operations, warrant service, civil disturbance management, hot pursuit operations, and fugitive apprehension. It also assessed perceived issues and challenges related to questioned use of force and tested whether these assessments differed or were associated with selected respondent characteristics. The investigation used survey-based measurements of perceptions rather than incident-level records or determinations of whether specific police actions were lawful. Its findings therefore provide a basis for identifying perceived policy, training, and accountability priorities, not for establishing the actual incidence of excessive force or the causal effectiveness of reforms.

The study is intended to inform the Sta. Rosa City Police Station, local government and barangay officials, and other criminal justice stakeholders. A clearer understanding of the areas in which perceptions converge or diverge may support more focused training on operational judgment and de-escalation, improvements in documentation and supervisory review, and opportunities for informed police-community dialogue. At the policy level, the findings may help identify provisions and practices that warrant examination against existing PNP procedures and human rights standards. In this manner, the study contributes localized evidence to discussions of lawful, accountable, and community-responsive policing.

Theoretical Framework of the Study

This study is grounded in the organizational perspective on police misconduct, which emphasizes the influence of institutional policies, organizational practices, training, supervision, and accountability mechanisms on police conduct. Sherman (1978) explained that misconduct within law enforcement organizations cannot be understood exclusively through individual behavior, as organizational structures, leadership practices, and institutional conditions may also influence the conduct of police personnel. This perspective recognizes that organizational arrangements play an important role in promoting professional standards, maintaining discipline, and addressing practices that may compromise public accountability.

The organizational perspective is further supported by Stoughton et al. (2020), who examined police use of force in relation to legal standards, administrative regulations, operational considerations, and community expectations. Their discussion emphasizes the importance of evaluating police actions according to the circumstances surrounding an encounter and the standards governing the appropriate exercise of police authority. Within this context, the assessment of police use of force requires consideration of operational necessity, legal justification, proportionality, and accountability.

In relation to the present study, this perspective provides a theoretical foundation for examining stakeholder perceptions of police use of force across five law enforcement intervention operations: anti-illegal drug operations, service of warrants of arrest and search warrants, civil disturbance management, hot

pursuit operations, and the apprehension of escaping fugitives. These operations involve different operational demands and circumstances that may influence how police actions are perceived and evaluated. The organizational perspective allows these perceptions to be examined in relation to the institutional responsibilities of law enforcement agencies, particularly concerning policy implementation, training adequacy, operational procedures, and accountability mechanisms.

The framework also recognizes that concerns regarding police use of force extend beyond the actions of individual officers. Questions concerning the necessity and appropriateness of force may reflect broader issues involving institutional procedures, supervisory practices, public expectations, and the implementation of established operational standards. Accordingly, examining the perspectives of police personnel, local government officials, and community residents provides an opportunity to identify areas where institutional practices may require further assessment and improvement.

Figure 1 presents the theoretical framework of the study, illustrating the relationship among police intervention operations, organizational factors, assessment, and proposed organizational enhancements. The framework identifies the five intervention operations as the principal contexts in which police use of force is examined. Organizational factors, particularly policies, training, and accountability mechanisms, provide the institutional context for understanding the concerns associated with these operations.

The framework also acknowledges misconduct as a potential concern arising when police actions do not conform to applicable legal, ethical, or operational standards. However, the present study does not independently establish the occurrence of misconduct. Rather, it examines respondents' perceptions of the circumstances surrounding police use of force and the issues and challenges associated with these operations.

Assessment serves as the central component connecting the identified operational concerns with potential institutional improvements. Through the examination of stakeholder perspectives, areas requiring policy clarification, training enhancement, and stronger accountability practices may be identified. The proposed organizational enhancements represent recommendations informed by the findings rather than interventions whose effectiveness has already been established.

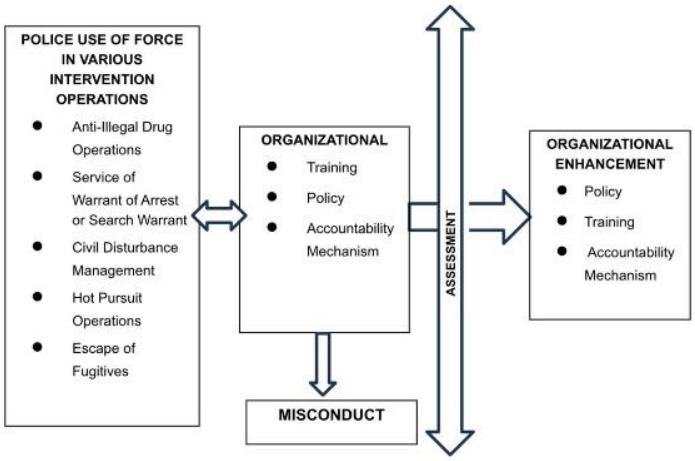

Figure 1. Research Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework illustrates how the assessment of stakeholder perspectives concerning police use of force may inform institutional improvements within law enforcement organizations. It emphasizes the importance of examining operational concerns alongside existing policies, training practices, and accountability mechanisms. This approach supports the development of recommendations intended to strengthen professional conduct, procedural compliance, and institutional responsiveness.

Overall, the organizational perspective provides an appropriate foundation for interpreting the findings of the study and developing recommendations for policy enhancement, training improvement, and accountability mechanisms. It reinforces the importance of institutional responsibility in promoting lawful and proportionate police action while recognizing the need to balance operational effectiveness, public safety, and the protection of individual rights.

Statement of the Problem

Generally, the study aims to investigated the perspectives on the police use of force as a basis for policy enhancement, training, and accountability mechanisms.

Specifically, it aims sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the demographic profile in terms of:
   a) Age;
   b) Sex
   c) Civil Status
   d) Highest educational attainment; and
   e) Length of service
2. What factors contribute to the police use of force in the following law enforcement intervention operations in terms;
   a) Anti-Illegal Drug Operations;
   b) Service of Warrant of Arrest or Search Warrant;
   c) Civil Disturbance Management (CDM);
   d) Escape of Fugitives.
3. What issues and challenges do did the police encountered encounter in operations when the use of police force is questioned based on the aforementioned variables?
4. Is there a significant difference in the respondents' perceptions of the issues and challenges regarding police use of force when grouped according to their profiles?
5. Is there a significant relationship between respondents' perceptions of the issues and challenges regarding police use of force and their demographic profiles?

Hypothesis of the Study

1. There is no significant difference in the respondents' perceptions of the issues and challenges regarding police use of force when grouped according to their profiles.
2. There is no significant relationship between respondents' perceptions of the issues and challenges regarding police use of force and their demographic profiles.

Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study examined stakeholder perspectives on police use of force in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna, Philippines, as a basis for proposing enhancements to law enforcement policies, training programs, and accountability mechanisms. Specifically, it focused on five police intervention operations: anti-illegal drug operations, service of warrants of arrest and search warrants, civil disturbance management (CDM), hot pursuit operations, and the apprehension of escaping fugitives. The study covered the period from August 2024 to August 2025 and was confined to the operational context of the Sta. Rosa City Police Station.

The study involved 601 respondents comprising local residents, barangay officials, and personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP). These stakeholder groups were included to obtain different perspectives concerning the circumstances associated with police use of force and the issues and challenges encountered during law enforcement operations. The demographic characteristics of the respondents were also examined to determine whether significant differences and relationships existed between their profiles and their assessments of police use of force.

A quantitative descriptive-correlational research design was employed, utilizing structured survey questionnaires as the primary data collection instrument. The descriptive component assessed respondents' perceptions of the factors associated with police use of force and the challenges encountered during the identified intervention operations. The correlational component examined the statistical relationships between selected demographic characteristics and respondents' perceptions. The findings provided an empirical basis for identifying areas of concern and formulating recommendations concerning operational policies, training development, and institutional accountability.

The study was subject to several limitations. First, its geographical coverage was re-

stricted to Sta. Rosa City, Laguna, and the findings may not fully represent policing conditions, organizational practices, or community perspectives in other localities. Second, the investigation was limited to the five identified intervention operations and did not encompass all law enforcement activities in which police use of force may occur. Consequently, the findings should be interpreted within the operational contexts examined in the study.

Furthermore, the data were obtained through self-reported assessments, which may be influenced by respondents' personal experiences, knowledge of police procedures, and individual perceptions of law enforcement practices. The study did not independently verify actual incidents involving police use of force, establish the occurrence of police misconduct, or directly measure the effectiveness of existing operational policies and accountability mechanisms. Accordingly, the results reflect stakeholder assessments rather than independently established operational outcomes.

Finally, the descriptive-correlational nature of the research limited the interpretation of statistical relationships to associations among the variables examined. The findings could not establish causal relationships between respondents' demographic characteristics and their perceptions of police use of force. Nevertheless, the study provided localized empirical evidence that may inform the review of operational procedures, the development of context-specific training programs, and the strengthening of accountability mechanisms within the Sta. Rosa City Police Station.

Methodology

This section presents the methodological procedures employed in examining stakeholder perspectives on police use of force in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna. It describes the research design, research locale, research instrument, instrument validation, and population and sampling techniques. These procedures provided the basis for collecting and analyzing quantitative data concerning the factors associated with police use of force, the challenges encountered during law enforcement operations, and the relationships between respondents' demographic characteristics and their assessments.

Research Design

This study employed a quantitative descriptive-correlational research design to examine stakeholder perspectives on police use of force within the operational context of the Sta. Rosa City Police Station. This design was appropriate because the investigation sought to describe respondents' assessments of police intervention operations and examine statistical differences and relationships involving their demographic characteristics and perceptions of law enforcement practices.

The descriptive component focused on assessing respondents' perceptions of the factors associated with police use of force across five intervention operations: anti-illegal drug operations, service of warrants of arrest and search warrants, civil disturbance management, hot pursuit operations, and the apprehension of escaping fugitives. It also examined the perceived issues and challenges encountered when the application of police force was questioned. Through descriptive statistical analysis, the study identified patterns in respondents' assessments across the specified operational areas.

The correlational component examined the relationships between selected demographic characteristics and respondents' perceptions of the issues and challenges associated with police use of force. Inferential statistical procedures were also employed to determine whether significant differences existed in respondents' assessments when grouped according to their demographic profiles. These analyses provided a basis for understanding variations and associations within the collected data without establishing causal relationships.

The descriptive-correlational approach was appropriate for the study because it enabled the systematic examination of stakeholder perceptions using measurable indicators. The findings served as an empirical basis for formulating recommendations concerning policy enhancement, professional training, and institutional accountability. However, the research design did not involve direct observation of police operations or independent verification of actual use-of-force incidents.

Research Locale

The study was conducted in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna, Philippines, within the jurisdiction of the Sta. Rosa City Police Station. Sta. Rosa City is a highly urbanized economic and residential center in the province of Laguna, characterized by expanding commercial and industrial activities, established residential communities, and diverse socioeconomic conditions. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (2020), the city recorded a population of 414,812 residents. Administratively, the city comprises 18 barangays.

The selection of Sta. Rosa City as the research locale was considered appropriate because its urban environment provided a relevant setting for examining stakeholder perspectives on police use of force. The coexistence of residential communities, commercial establishments, and industrial activities presents varied public safety and law enforcement concerns. These characteristics provided a contextual basis for examining perceptions of police intervention operations and the institutional challenges associated with the application of police authority.

The Sta. Rosa City Police Station served as the institutional setting of the investigation. The study focused on stakeholder assessments of five categories of police intervention operations, namely anti-illegal drug operations, service of warrants, civil disturbance management, hot pursuit operations, and the apprehension of escaping fugitives. These operational categories were examined in relation to perceived circumstances surrounding police use of force and the issues that may arise when police actions are subjected to public or institutional scrutiny.

Furthermore, the inclusion of local residents, barangay officials, and Philippine National Police personnel allowed the investigation to consider perspectives from community members, local governance representatives, and law enforcement practitioners. This stakeholder composition provided an opportunity to examine how individuals with different institutional responsibilities and community experiences assessed police use of force.

The geographical scope was confined to Sta. Rosa City, Laguna, and the findings were interpreted within its local policing context. Accordingly, the study did not assume that the perspectives obtained were representative of all police stations or communities in the Philippines.

Population and Sampling Technique

The study adopted a stratified sampling approach to obtain perspectives from three stakeholder groups within Sta. Rosa City, Laguna: local residents, barangay officials, and Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel. These groups were identified based on their respective roles and involvement in community safety and law enforcement activities. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (2020), Sta. Rosa City recorded a population of 414,812 residents. This demographic information provided the population context for the investigation.

The study involved a total of 601 respondents, comprising 398 local residents, 147 barangay officials, and 56 PNP personnel. The original sampling plan identified Slovin's formula, using a 5% margin of error, as the basis for estimating the required number of respondents. The three stakeholder categories were treated as separate strata to obtain assessments from individuals with different experiences, responsibilities, and levels of involvement in police operations.

Local residents represented the community perspective concerning police use of force and its implications for public safety and police-community relations. Barangay officials provided assessments informed by their responsibilities in local governance and community-level peace and order initiatives. Meanwhile, PNP personnel contributed perspectives associated with law enforcement responsibilities, operational procedures, and institutional accountability.

The sampling framework was intended to facilitate the examination of stakeholder perceptions across the identified police intervention operations. The inclusion of distinct respondent categories also supported comparative statistical analyses and the examination of relationships between demographic characteristics and respondents' assessments of police use of force.

The interpretation of the findings was confined to the respondents included in the investigation and the geographical context of Sta. Rosa City, Laguna. Accordingly, the extent to which the results represent the broader populations of residents, barangay officials, and police personnel depends on the adequacy of the sampling frames and the procedures employed in selecting respondents.

Table 1. Profile of the Selected Respondents in terms of Age

Age	Local residents n (%)	Local officials n (%)	PNP personnel n (%)	Total n (%)
21–25 years old	126 (21.00%)	65 (10.80%)	19 (3.20%)	210 (34.90%)
26–30 years old	63 (10.50%)	20 (3.30%)	10 (1.70%)	93 (15.50%)
31–35 years old	73 (12.10%)	58 (9.70%)	11 (1.80%)	107 (17.80%)
36–40 years old	23 (3.80%)	16 (2.70%)	7 (1.20%)	81 (13.50%)
More than 40 years old	78 (13.00%)	23 (3.80%)	9 (1.50%)	110 (18.30%)

Table 1 presents the age distribution of the 601 respondents, categorized into local residents, local officials, and Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel. The largest proportion of respondents belonged to the 21–25 age group, accounting for 210 individuals (34.90%), comprising 126 local residents, 65 local officials, and 19 PNP personnel. This was followed by respondents aged 31–35 years, with 142 individuals (23.63%), and those older than 40 years, with 110 individuals (18.30%). Meanwhile, the 26–30 age group accounted for 93 respondents (15.47%), while the 36–40 age group had the lowest representation, with 46 respondents (7.65%). Across all age categories, local residents consistently constituted the largest respondent group, followed by local officials and PNP personnel. The findings indicate that the sample included respondents from different age groups, with greater representation among younger adults, particularly those aged 21–25 years.

Table 2 presents the distribution of the 601 respondents according to sex across three stakeholder groups: local residents, local officials, and Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel. Based on the subgroup frequencies, male respondents constituted the larger proportion of the sample, accounting for 401 individuals (66.70%), while female respondents comprised 200 individuals (33.30%). Among local residents, 266 were male (44.30%) and 132 were female (22.00%). Similarly, local officials consisted of 95 males (15.80%) and 52 females (8.70%), while PNP personnel included 40 males (6.70%) and 16 females (2.70%). The percentages presented were calculated relative to the total sample of 601 respondents. Overall, male respondents outnumbered female respondents across all three stakeholder groups, indicating greater male representation in the study. This distribution describes the sex composition of the sample and provides demographic context for interpreting respondents' assessments of police use of force.

Table 2. Profile of the Selected Respondents in Terms of Sex

Sex	Local Residents n (%)	Local Officials n (%)	PNP Personnel n (%)	Total n (%)
Male	266 (44.30%)	95 (15.80%)	40 (6.70%)	200 (33.30%)
Female	132 (22.00%)	52 (8.70%)	16 (2.70%)	401 (66.70%)

Table 3 presents the civil status distribution of the 601 respondents, categorized into local residents, local officials, and Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel. Based on the subgroup frequencies, married respondents constituted the larger proportion of the sample, accounting for 328 individuals (54.60%), while single respondents comprised 273 individuals

(45.40%). Among local residents, 204 were married (33.90%) and 194 were single (32.30%). Similarly, local officials consisted of 89 married respondents (14.80%) and 58 single respondents (9.70%). Among PNP personnel, 35 were married (5.80%), while 21 were single (3.50%). The findings indicate that married individuals represented the larger proportion across all three stakeholder groups. This distribution provides demographic context for understanding the composition of the respondents and serves as a basis for examining potential differences in their perceptions of police use of force according to civil status.

Table 3. Profile of the Selected Respondents in Terms of Civil Status

Category	Local Residents n (%)	Local Officials n (%)	PNP Personnel n (%)	Total n (%)
Single	194 (32.30%)	58 (9.70%)	21 (3.50%)	328 (54.60%)
Married	204 (33.90%)	89 (14.80%)	35 (5.80%)	273 (45.40%)

Table 4 presents the distribution of the 601 respondents according to their highest educational attainment across three stakeholder groups: local residents, local officials, and Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel. Based on the subgroup frequencies, respondents who attained a bachelor's degree constituted the largest proportion of the sample, accounting for 325 individuals (54.10%), comprising 176 local residents, 93 local officials, and 56 PNP personnel. This was followed by respondents who completed high school education, with 154 individuals (25.60%), consisting of 134 local residents and 20 local officials. Meanwhile, 109 respondents (18.10%) had completed vocational training, including 75 local residents and 34 local officials. Elementary education represented the smallest proportion, with 13 respondents (2.20%), all of whom were local residents. Notably, all PNP personnel included in the study held bachelor's degrees, while a substantial proportion of local officials and residents also reported completing college education. The findings indicate that bachelor's degree holders constituted the predominant educational group among the respondents, reflecting varied levels of educational attainment across the three stakeholder categories. This distribution provides relevant demographic information for examining potential differences and relationships between educational attainment and respondents' perceptions of police use of force.

Table 4. Profile of the Selected Respondents in Terms of Highest Educational Attainment

Category	Local Residents n (%)	Local Officials n (%)	PNP Personnel n (%)	Total n (%)
Elementary	13 (2.20%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	325 (54.10%)
High School	134 (22.30%)	20 (3.30%)	0 (0.00%)	13 (2.20%)
Vocational Training	75 (12.50%)	34 (5.70%)	0 (0.00%)	109 (18.10%)
Bachelor's Degree	176 (29.30%)	93 (15.50%)	56 (9.30%)	154 (25.60%)

Table 5 presents the distribution of the 601 respondents according to their reported length of service across three stakeholder groups: local residents, local officials, and Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel. The largest proportion consisted of respondents with less than one year of service, accounting for 151 individuals (25.10%), comprising 103 local residents, 38 local officials, and 10 PNP personnel. This was followed by respondents with 11–15 years of service, representing 121 individuals (20.10%), and those with 6–10 years of service, comprising 113 respondents (18.80%). Meanwhile, 97 respondents (16.10%) reported more than 15 years of service, while 63 individuals (10.50%) belonged to the 1–5 years category. Additionally, 56 respondents (9.30%) were classified as unemployed, consisting of 31 local residents and 25 local officials. The findings indicate considerable variation in the reported

length of service, with respondents representing both shorter and longer periods of employment or institutional involvement. This distribution provides demographic context for examining potential differences and relationships between respondents' backgrounds and their perceptions of police use of force.

Table 5. Profile of the Selected Respondents in Terms of Length of Service

Category	Local Residents n (%)	Local Officials n (%)	PNP Personnel n (%)	Total n (%)
Less than a year	103 (17.10%)	38 (6.30%)	10 (1.70%)	151 (25.10%)
1–5 years	50 (8.30%)	5 (0.80%)	8 (1.30%)	63 (10.50%)
6–10 years	81 (13.50%)	18 (3.00%)	14 (2.30%)	113 (18.80%)
11–15 years	71 (11.80%)	35 (5.80%)	15 (2.50%)	121 (20.10%)
More than 15 years	62 (10.30%)	26 (4.30%)	9 (1.50%)	97 (16.10%)
Unemployed	31 (5.20%)	25 (4.20%)	0 (0.00%)	56 (9.30%)

Research Instrument

The study utilized a structured survey questionnaire as the primary instrument for collecting quantitative data from local residents, barangay officials, and Philippine National Police personnel. The questionnaire was designed to obtain measurable responses concerning stakeholder perceptions of police use of force and the issues and challenges associated with selected law enforcement intervention operations.

The instrument included items concerning respondents' demographic characteristics and their assessments of police use of force across five operational categories: anti-illegal drug operations, service of warrants of arrest and search warrants, civil disturbance management, hot pursuit operations, and the apprehension of escaping fugitives.

Structured response items and Likert-type statements were employed to assess the extent of respondents' agreement with statements concerning the circumstances associated with police use of force and the challenges encountered during law enforcement operations. The standardized questionnaire format facilitated the organization, comparison, and statistical analysis of responses across stakeholder groups.

The instrument was intended to measure respondents' perceptions rather than independently establish the occurrence of excessive force, operational misconduct, or violations of police procedures. Consequently, the responses were interpreted as stakeholder assessments of the identified operational circumstances and institutional concerns.

Validation of the Instrument

The research instrument underwent expert evaluation to assess the relevance, clarity, and appropriateness of its items in relation to the objectives of the study. The validation process involved individuals with professional and academic knowledge of law enforcement operations and research methodology.

The validators included the Chief of Police of the Santa Rosa City Component Police Station in Laguna and a faculty member and researcher affiliated with De La Salle University–Dasmariñas. Their professional and academic expertise provided a basis for evaluating the questionnaire's relevance to police operational practices and its alignment with the variables examined in the investigation.

The questionnaire also underwent pilot testing before its administration to the study respondents. The pilot test was intended to identify potential difficulties in understanding the questionnaire items and assess the consistency of responses. This procedure provided a preliminary basis for evaluating the suitability of the instrument for quantitative data collection.

The internal consistency of the questionnaire was assessed using Cronbach's alpha. The manuscript reported a reliability coefficient of 0.89, indicating good internal consistency among the items included in the reliability analysis. This result suggested that the

evaluated items demonstrated an acceptable degree of consistency in measuring their intended constructs.

The expert evaluation and reliability assessment supported the use of the questionnaire for collecting stakeholder perceptions. Nevertheless, internal consistency reliability was distinguished from content validity, as a satisfactory Cronbach's alpha coefficient alone does not establish that an instrument comprehensively measures all aspects of the constructs under investigation.

Data Gathering Procedure

The study followed a systematic data-gathering procedure to ensure the orderly collection, organization, and analysis of information concerning stakeholder perspectives on police use of force in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna.

First, the researcher conducted a comprehensive review of relevant literature and documentary sources to establish the conceptual and empirical foundations of the investigation. Academic books, peer-reviewed research articles, policy documents, official publications, and other relevant materials were examined to obtain information concerning police use of force, operational procedures, professional training, and institutional accountability. The review also provided a basis for identifying the variables examined and developing the research instrument.

Second, the researcher sought and obtained the necessary administrative permissions from the concerned authorities, including local government offices and the Philippine National Police. These permissions facilitated coordination with the institutions and stakeholders involved in the study and established the administrative requirements for conducting the investigation within the selected research locale.

Third, the researcher prepared and submitted the required documents to the Institutional Ethics Review Committee (IERC), including the research proposal, informed consent forms, and survey questionnaire. The ethics review process was undertaken to ensure that the proposed data collection procedures complied with applicable research ethics requirements, particularly those concerning informed consent, confidentiality, and the protection of participants' rights.

Fourth, the research instrument underwent expert validation and pilot testing before its administration. Following the necessary approvals, the researcher coordinated with police personnel, local government representatives, and community leaders to facilitate the distribution and retrieval of the questionnaires. These activities were carried out through appropriate institutional and community channels to obtain responses from the identified stakeholder groups.

Fifth, the completed questionnaires were collected, organized, and reviewed to prepare the responses for statistical analysis. The researcher examined the collected forms, classified the responses according to the relevant variables, and tabulated the data. The organized data were subsequently submitted to the research adviser for review and verification.

Sixth, the collected responses were consolidated and subjected to descriptive and inferential statistical analyses with the assistance of a statistician. The statistical procedures were selected according to the objectives of the study and the nature of the variables examined. These analyses provided the basis for describing stakeholder assessments and examining differences and relationships involving respondents' demographic characteristics and perceptions of police use of force.

Finally, the statistical results were interpreted and presented in tabular and narrative forms according to the research questions and hypotheses. The findings were examined to identify relevant patterns, differences, and associations among the variables. The results subsequently served as the basis for formulating recommendations concerning policy enhancement, professional training, and accountability mechanisms within the Sta. Rosa City Police Station.

The investigation covered the period from August 2024 to August 2025, encompassing the research activities undertaken within the defined study period. The findings were interpreted according to the study's quantitative descriptive-correlational design and the limitations associated with self-reported stakeholder assessments.

Statistical Treatment of Data

The data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques to address the research objectives and test the study hypotheses. Frequency and percentage distributions were employed to describe the respondents' demographic characteristics, while weighted means and standard deviations were used to summarize their assessments of police use of force and the associated operational challenges. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was employed to determine significant differences in mean assessments across three or more independent groups, whereas the independent-samples t-test was used for comparisons involving two groups. Statistical significance was evaluated at the 0.05 level, with p-values below 0.05 considered statistically significant. The findings were interpreted within the descriptive-correlational nature of the study, recognizing that statistical differences and associations do not establish causal relationships. The results provided an empirical basis for recommending improvements in police operational policies, professional training, and accountability mechanisms.

Results and Discussions

Sub-problem No. 1. Factors Associated with Police Use of Force Across Law Enforcement Intervention Operations

Table 6 presents the assessments of three stakeholder groups concerning factors associated with police use of force across five law enforcement intervention operations. The findings indicate consistently high levels of agreement, with an overall composite mean of 4.48 (SD = 0.24). Hot pursuit operations received the highest rating (WM = 4.49), followed by the service of arrest and search warrants and the apprehension of escaping fugitives (WM = 4.48 each). Civil disturbance management recorded the lowest rating (WM = 4.46). The narrow variation in weighted means suggests that respondents perceived the conditions associated with police use of force as relevant across different operational settings, rather than identifying one intervention as substantially more demanding than the others.

Table 6. Stakeholder Assessments of Factors Associated with Police Use of Force Across Law Enforcement Operations

Police Intervention Operation	Local Residents WM (SD)	Local Officials WM (SD)	PNP Personnel WM (SD)	Overall WM (SD)	Rank
Anti-illegal drug operations	4.47 (0.36)	4.47 (0.40)	4.48 (0.55)	4.47 (0.39)	4
Service of arrest/search warrants	4.48 (0.36)	4.48 (0.38)	4.46 (0.55)	4.48 (0.39)	2.5
Civil disturbance management	4.46 (0.38)	4.46 (0.39)	4.48 (0.55)	4.46 (0.40)	5
Hot pursuit operations	4.48 (0.36)	4.46 (0.40)	4.57 (0.44)	4.49 (0.38)	1
Apprehension of escaping fugitives	4.46 (0.35)	4.49 (0.35)	4.57 (0.46)	4.48 (0.36)	2.5
Overall Composite	**4.47 (0.19)**	**4.47 (0.24)**	**4.51 (0.45)**	**4.48 (0.24)**	**—**

Across stakeholder groups, PNP personnel reported a slightly higher composite mean (4.51) than local residents and local officials (4.47 each). Although these differences were minimal, the findings suggest generally comparable assessments of circumstances involving operational risks, public safety, and the perceived necessity of police intervention. The relatively consistent ratings indicate that respondents recognized the potential role of force in law enforcement operations. However, agreement with these statements should not be interpreted as evidence that force was legally justified or appropriately applied in actual police encounters.

The findings have implications for police operational governance, particularly in situations requiring immediate decisions and careful assessment of potential threats. The higher rating for hot pursuit operations highlights the importance of examining decision-making under time-sensitive conditions, while the consistently high assessments across other interventions reinforce the need for operational guidelines appropriate to each enforcement context. Consistent with the organizational perspective adopted in this study, these results support recommendations for scenario-based training, clear use-of-force protocols, effective supervision, and accountability mechanisms. Such measures may help strengthen procedural compliance and ensure that operational responses remain consistent with the principles of necessity, proportionality, and public safety.

Sub-problem No. 2. Perceived Operational Challenges Associated with Police Use of Force

Table 7 presents the respondents' assessments of operational challenges associated with questioned police use of force across five law enforcement intervention operations. All categories were classified as major challenges, with an overall composite mean of 4.47 (SD = 0.22). The service of arrest and search warrants received the highest rating (WM = 4.49), followed by hot pursuit operations (WM = 4.47). Anti-illegal drug operations, civil disturbance management, and the apprehension of escaping fugitives recorded identical means of 4.46. The narrow differences among these ratings indicate that respondents perceived substantial challenges across all operational categories, with warrant execution receiving slightly greater emphasis.

Table 7. Stakeholder Assessments of Perceived Operational Challenges When Police Use of Force Is Questioned

Police Intervention Operations	Local Residents WM (SD)	Local Officials WM (SD)	PNP Personnel WM (SD)	Overall WM (SD)	Rank
Anti-Illegal Drug Operations	4.46 (0.34)	4.46 (0.32)	4.43 (0.50)	4.46 (0.35)	4
Service of Arrest and Search Warrants	4.48 (0.35)	4.49 (0.37)	4.54 (0.48)	4.49 (0.37)	1
Civil Disturbance Management	4.47 (0.35)	4.46 (0.35)	4.39 (0.52)	4.46 (0.37)	4
Hot Pursuit Operations	4.48 (0.35)	4.45 (0.35)	4.40 (0.52)	4.47 (0.37)	2
Apprehension of Escaping Fugitives	4.45 (0.35)	4.47 (0.38)	4.48 (0.45)	4.46 (0.37)	4
Overall Composite	**4.47 (0.19)**	**4.46 (0.20)**	**4.45 (0.40)**	**4.47 (0.22)**	**—**

The higher assessment of challenges during warrant execution draws attention to the importance of procedural compliance, legal safeguards, and operational coordination when implementing judicial orders. Similarly, the rating for hot pursuit operations highlights concerns associated with time-sensitive decisions, officer safety, and the appropriate application of force. Across stakeholder groups, local residents (WM = 4.47), local officials (WM = 4.46), and PNP personnel (WM = 4.45) reported comparable assessments, suggesting broadly consistent perceptions of the difficulties surrounding police use of force. However, these descriptive similarities do not establish the absence of statistically significant differences or confirm the occurrence of specific operational deficiencies.

From an organizational perspective, the findings emphasize the importance of institutional mechanisms in addressing concerns surrounding police use of force. The consistently high ratings across intervention operations suggest the need to review existing procedures,

strengthen scenario-based training, improve supervisory oversight, and reinforce accountability practices. Particular attention may be directed toward warrant execution and hot pursuit operations, where procedural accuracy and operational judgment are especially relevant. These recommendations reflect the need to balance effective law enforcement with legal compliance, public safety, and the protection of individual rights. Nevertheless, the findings represent stakeholder assessments rather than independently verified operational incidents or documented misconduct.

Sub-problem No. 3. Test of Significant difference in the challenges encountered in operations when the use of police force when grouped according to demographic profile.

Table 8 presents the differences in respondents' assessments of operational challenges associated with police use of force across five law enforcement intervention operations. The findings revealed no statistically significant differences when respondents were classified according to stakeholder category, age, sex, civil status, and educational attainment (all $p > .05$). The lowest probability value was recorded for educational attainment in hot pursuit operations ($F = 2.53$, $p = .07$), although it did not meet the established significance threshold. These results indicate insufficient statistical evidence to establish differences in perceived operational challenges across the demographic groups examined.

Table 8. Tests of Differences in Perceived Operational Challenges by Respondent Characteristics

Police Intervention Operations	Respondent Category F (p)	Age F (p)	Sex t (p)	Civil Status t (p)	Education F (p)
Anti-Illegal Drug Operations	0.10 (0.91)	1.63 (0.17)	0.342 (0.73)	1.23 (0.22)	0.20 (0.90)
Service of Arrest and Search Warrants	0.35 (0.71)	0.45 (0.78)	0.393 (0.470)	0.64 (0.52)	0.68 (0.57)
Civil Disturbance Management	0.79 (0.46)	0.29 (0.89)	1.13 (0.26)	0.82 (0.42)	0.52 (0.67)
Hot Pursuit Operations	0.94 (0.40)	1.09 (0.36)	0.31 (0.75)	0.27 (0.78)	2.53 (0.07)
Apprehension of Escaping Fugitives	0.25 (0.78)	0.42 (0.80)	0.22 (0.83)	0.42 (0.67)	0.34 (0.80)

The findings suggest that concerns regarding police use of force were not substantially differentiated by the respondent characteristics examined in the statistical analyses. Nevertheless, the absence of significant differences does not necessarily imply identical perceptions across groups. From an organizational perspective, these results provide a basis for considering institutional measures that address concerns relevant to different stakeholders. Strengthening operational guidelines, scenario-based training, supervisory oversight, and accountability mechanisms may promote consistent procedural standards across law enforcement operations. Such measures are particularly relevant to ensuring that police responses remain consistent with legal requirements, operational necessity, proportionality, and the protection of individual rights.

Sub-problem No. 4. Significant relationship between respondents' perceptions of the issues and challenges regarding police use of force and their demographic profiles.

Table 9 presents the relationships between respondents' demographic characteristics and their perceptions of operational challenges associated with police use of force across five law enforcement intervention operations. Of the 25 statistical comparisons, only educational attainment demonstrated a statistically significant association with perceptions concerning civil disturbance management ($p = .001$; re-

ported coefficient = .256). The remaining relationships were not statistically significant (p > .05), indicating insufficient evidence of associations involving the other demographic characteristics and operational categories examined.

Table 9. Relationships Between Demographic Characteristics and Perceived Operational Challenges Across Police Intervention Operations

Police Intervention Operations	Age (p)	Sex (p)	Civil Status (p)	Education (p)	Length of Service (p)
Anti-Illegal Drug Operations	.691	.555	.546	.303	.764
Service of Arrest and Search Warrants	.321	.473	.513	.297	.316
Civil Disturbance Management	.648	.171	.362	**.001***	.851
Hot Pursuit Operations	.666	.641	.875	.330	.605
Apprehension of Escaping Fugitives	.897	.744	.946	.650	.407

The significant finding suggests that educational attainment may be associated with how respondents evaluate operational challenges during civil disturbance management. Differences in educational background may correspond to variations in awareness and understanding of police procedures, public assembly rights, and accountability requirements. However, these possible explanations were not directly tested in the study. Moreover, the reported coefficient of .256 indicates a relatively weak positive association under conventional correlation interpretations, suggesting that statistical significance should not be interpreted as evidence of a strong relationship or substantial practical influence.

From an organizational perspective, the findings highlight the importance of strengthening public understanding of police operational procedures, particularly those involving crowd management and the protection of individual rights. Police agencies may consider developing accessible community information programs, reinforcing human rights education, and providing continuous training on lawful and proportionate use of force.

These measures may address differences in stakeholder understanding while promoting transparency and institutional accountability. Nevertheless, the findings remain limited to statistical associations and do not establish causal relationships between educational attainment and perceptions of police use of force.

Sub-problem No. 5. Action Plan for Policy Enhancement, Training, and Accountability Mechanism on Police Use of Force.

Table 10 presents the proposed action plan developed from the identified operational challenges and stakeholder assessments concerning police use of force across five law enforcement intervention operations. The consistently high ratings of perceived challenges emphasize the need for institutional measures addressing procedural compliance, professional training, operational coordination, and accountability. The proposed interventions prioritize improved reporting and oversight mechanisms in anti-illegal drug operations, standardized procedures and legal training during warrant execution, de-escalation practices in civil disturbance management, strengthened operational judgment during hot pursuit operations, and enhanced custody procedures in fugitive apprehension.

Table 10. Proposed Policy, Training, and Accountability Action Plan

Focal Area	Proposed Interventions	Responsible Agencies	Timeline	Monitoring Indicators
Anti-Illegal Drug Operations	Strengthen use-of-force reporting, accountability reviews, and evidence-handling procedures.	PNP, IAS; coordination with DILG and CHR	6–12 months	Reporting completeness, case reviews, and resolution rates
Service of Arrest and Search Warrants	Conduct legal refresher training, adopt operational checklists, and strengthen procedural compliance.	PNP, DOJ, legal-training partners	3–6 months	Training completion and documented procedural compliance
Civil Disturbance Management	Strengthen de-escalation training, review proportionality safeguards, and provide accessible public information.	PNP, LGUs, CHR consultation	3–6 months	Training completion, after-action reviews, and community participation
Hot Pursuit Operations	Reinforce lawful warrantless-arrest procedures, scenario-based training, and operational coordination.	PNP, DOJ, legal-training partners	3–6 months	Training completion and documented compliance reviews
Apprehension of Escaping Fugitives	Standardize custody procedures, strengthen personnel training, and improve incident monitoring.	PNP, DILG, relevant LGUs	6–12 months	Custody documentation, training completion, and incident monitoring

The action plan also considers the significant relationship between educational attainment and perceptions of challenges in civil disturbance management ($p = .001$). This finding provides a basis for recommending accessible public information initiatives concerning crowd management, individual rights, and police accountability. Across the identified operational areas, the proposed measures emphasize continuous professional development, clear operational guidelines, and coordinated institutional monitoring to address stakeholder concerns while maintaining compliance with applicable legal and ethical standards.

Consistent with the organizational perspective adopted in the study, the proposed action plan recognizes that responsible police conduct requires institutional support through effective policies, supervision, training, and accountability mechanisms. The inclusion of implementation timelines, responsible agencies, and measurable monitoring indicators provides a framework for evaluating the proposed interventions. Nevertheless, these recommendations were derived from stakeholder perceptions rather than independently verified operational deficiencies. Their effectiveness would therefore require subsequent implementation, systematic monitoring, and empirical evaluation. Overall, the proposed action plan provides a practical basis for strengthening organizational accountability, procedural compliance, and public confidence in law enforcement.

Conclusions

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. The findings indicate consistently high stakeholder agreement regarding the perceived necessity of police use of force across the five law enforcement intervention operations, particularly during hot

pursuit and fugitive apprehension. These assessments emphasize the importance of operational necessity, public safety, and adherence to established procedures. However, favorable perceptions do not independently establish the legality or appropriateness of force in actual police encounters.

2. Respondents identified substantial operational challenges associated with police use of force, particularly during the service of arrest and search warrants and hot pursuit operations. These findings highlight concerns involving procedural compliance, operational decision-making, public scrutiny, and institutional accountability, emphasizing the need for clear operational guidelines, continuous professional training, and effective supervisory mechanisms.
3. No, statistically significant differences were observed in respondents' assessments of operational challenges when grouped according to stakeholder category, age, sex, civil status, and educational attainment. These findings indicate insufficient evidence of demographic differences in the perceptions examined, although they do not necessarily establish identical assessments across respondent groups.
4. Educational attainment demonstrated a statistically significant but relatively weak positive association with perceptions of operational challenges in civil disturbance management ($p = .001$; reported coefficient = .256), while the remaining demographic relationships were not statistically significant. This finding suggests the relevance of educational background in understanding stakeholder assessments of crowd management operations. Collectively, the results provide an empirical basis for proposing improvements in police operational policies, professional training, community engagement, and institutional accountability.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Strengthen context-specific police training and operational procedures. The Philippine National Police (PNP) should enhance scenario-based training across law enforcement intervention operations, particularly warrant execution, hot pursuit, and fugitive apprehension. Training programs should emphasize legal compliance, threat assessment, de-escalation, proportionality, and appropriate decision-making to reinforce the lawful and responsible application of police force.
2. Enhance institutional oversight and accountability mechanisms. The PNP, in coordination with relevant oversight agencies, should strengthen existing procedures for reporting, reviewing, and investigating use-of-force incidents. Regular operational assessments, transparent complaint-handling processes, and effective supervisory monitoring are recommended to address stakeholder concerns regarding procedural compliance, human rights protection, and institutional accountability.
3. Promote inclusive community engagement and public awareness. Police agencies and local government units should conduct regular community-police dialogues and educational initiatives concerning lawful police procedures, individual rights, and accountability mechanisms. Particular attention should be given to communicating civil disturbance management procedures in accessible formats, considering the significant association between educational attainment and stakeholder perceptions in this operational area. These initiatives should promote informed public participation, mutual understanding, and constructive police-community relations.

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