Understanding Gender Disparity in Victimology and Perpetrators of Major Crimes in Jamaica, 2014-2024

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Abstract

Introduction: Gender disparities in crime continue to pose significant challenges to the development of effective crime prevention strategies and justice systems in Jamaica. Globally, men are statistically more likely to commit violent crimes, particularly homicide, while women are often overrepresented as victims of domestic and sexual violence. At the end of November 2024, murders in Jamaica decreased significantly by 19.2% compared to 2023, with the total number of murders declining from 930 to 783. Other major crimes, such as rape, also saw substantial reductions, with a 38% decrease in reports during the first quarter of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. Shootings and robberies dropped by 4% and 17%, respectively, while arrests and charges for major crimes increased by 9%.

Objectives: Evaluating the prevalence of female and male victims of major crimes in Jamaica from January 1, 2014-October 31, 2024; evaluating the prevalence of female and male perpetrators of major crimes in Jamaica from January 1, 2014-October 31, 2024; and evaluating the probability of both sexes being perpetrators of major crimes in Jamaica from January 1, 2014-October 31, 2024.

Methods and Materials: A positivistic methodological research approach (Time Series) was used, with a secondary dataset from the JCF and NCVS, to capture unreported crime statistics and public perceptions, which is essential in understanding the full scope of gender disparities in crime.

Findings: The probability of a male being a victim of major crimes (murder, shooting, aggravated assault, rape, and robbery) is 0.7086 (70.86%) and 0.2914 (29.14%) among females. The probability of a male being a victim of murder is 0.9087 (90.87%) and 0.9997 for females being likely to be raped.

Additionally, the likelihood of a male being shot and robbed is 0.8759 and 0.5689, respectively. The possibility of a female experiencing aggravated assault is 0.2298. Most major crime perpetrators were males (prob. = 0.9686 [96.9%]), with the probability of a female being a perpetrator of murder at 0.0265 or 2.7%.

Conclusion: Despite the positive trends, the data underscores the continued need for community-based interventions, stricter gun control measures, and holistic approaches to addressing the root causes of violence.

Keywords: Aggravated assault, gender disparity, gender victimology, crime offender, female offender, male offender, major crime, murder, rape, robbery, shooting, perpetrators

Introduction

Jamaica's recent epidemiological crime statistics highlight a complex landscape with challenges and improvements. By the end of November 2024, murders in Jamaica decreased significantly by 19.2% compared to 2023, with the total number of murders declining from 930 to 783 (McFarlane,2024). Other major crimes, such as rape, also saw substantial reductions, with a 38% decrease in reports during the first quarter of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. Shootings and robberies dropped by 4% and 17%, respectively, while arrests and charges for major crimes increased by 9%, reflecting proactive law enforcement efforts (Jamaica Constabulary Force, 2024). However, Jamaica's murder rate remains among the highest in the region, influenced by gang activities, aggravated assaults, rape, robbery, shooting, and firearm-related violence.

Crime patterns across the globe often reveal notable gender disparities in both victimisation and perpetration, with men and women experiencing and committing crimes in different ways and frequencies. Jamaica, a country marked by high crime rates and socioeconomic challenges, provides a compelling case for examining these disparities. Over the last decade, crime reports have highlighted significant gender differences in the nature and frequency of crimes, with societal and cultural norms shaping these dynamics.

Globally, men are statistically more likely to commit violent crimes, particularly homicide, while women are often overrepresented as victims of domestic and sexual violence (Heise et al., 2019; WHO, 2021). However, Jamaica's unique socioeconomic environment and its pervasive influence of gang culture, unemployment, and systemic inequalities may paint a more nuanced picture (Harriott, 2016). The question arises: How does gender influence the roles of victims and perpetrators in Jamaica's major crimes over the past decade?

This study seeks to investigate the gender disparity of victimology and criminal behaviour in Jamaica between 2014 and 2024, focusing on major crimes such as homicide, robbery, and sexual assault. By examining police records, court cases, and sociodemographic data, the

research aims to illuminate how gender experiences of crime are influenced by intersecting factors such as socioeconomic status, urbanisation, and cultural norms.

Understanding these dynamics is critical for academic inquiry, the shaping public policy, and crime prevention strategies. An enhanced understanding of gender disparities in criminal behaviour and victimisation can contribute to more effective law enforcement strategies, targeted interventions, and culturally sensitive support systems for victims.

Statement of the Problem

Gender disparities in victimology and perpetration of crimes continue to pose significant challenges to the development of effective crime prevention strategies and justice systems in Jamaica. Over the last decade, national statistics have shown troubling trends in the involvement of men and women as both victims and perpetrators of major crimes such as homicide, sexual violence, and robbery (Planning Institute of Jamaica, 2023). While men are disproportionately represented as perpetrators of violent crimes, women are increasingly being identified as both victims and perpetrators, particularly in emerging crimes such as trafficking and organised criminal activities (UNODC, 2022).

Despite the wealth of crime data available, there is a limited understanding of the underlying factors driving these gender differences in victimology and the perpetration of crimes. The sociocultural dynamics in Jamaica-shaped by patriarchal norms, economic inequalities, and exposure to systemic violence-complicate the narratives of gender in crime. Moreover, the role of women in criminal activities has shifted over the years, requiring nuanced analyses of female criminality within the broader socioeconomic and cultural contexts (Harriott, 2016).This lack of comprehensive understanding hinders the creation of targeted interventions and policies aimed at reducing crime rates and addressing gender-based violence. Further complicating the issue is the dearth of research examining trends over an extended period, which would allow for a longitudinal understanding of how gender intersects with criminal activity in Jamaica. Thus, this study aims to address these gaps by investigating the gender dimensions of both victimology and perpetration in major crimes in Jamaica from 2014 to 2024. By exploring these trends and their contributing factors, this research seeks to provide data-driven insights for policymakers, law enforcement, and community organisationsto address gender disparities in crime effectively.

Purpose of the Study

This study aims to explore and analyse the gender disparities in both victimology and perpetration of major crimes in Jamaica from 2014 to 2024. By examining trends in crimes such as homicide, robbery, and sexual assault, the research seeks to understand the extent to which gender influences the likelihood of individuals becoming victims or perpetrators.

Crime statistics have consistently shown that men and women engage in and experience crime differently. Men are often overrepresented as perpetrators of violent crimes, whereas women are more likely to be victims of domestic and sexual violence (Heise et al., 2019).

However, in Jamaica, emerging patterns indicate shifts in these traditional narratives, with women increasingly implicated in certain forms of criminal activity, including gang-related offenses (Harriott, 2016). This evolving landscape necessitates a deeper investigation into how gender intersects with social, cultural, and economic factors to shape these trends.The purpose of this study is not only to document these disparities but also to explore their underlying causes. By analysing crime data alongside socioeconomic variables such as poverty, unemployment, and education levels, the research provides a nuanced understanding of the factors contributing to gender-specific crime patterns. Cultural norms, including those that perpetuate gender stereotypes and influence criminal behaviour, will also be examined.

Beyond its academic contributions, this research is intended to inform policy development and practical interventions. The findings will offer evidence-based insights to support the creation of gender-responsive policies to reduce victimisation, address systemic inequalities, and rehabilitate offenders. Additionally, the study seeks to contribute to the academic discourse on gender and crime, particularly within the Caribbean context, filling a critical gap in longitudinal research. Ultimately, this study aspires to enhance understanding of the complex interplay between gender and crime in Jamaica, providing valuable insights for policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and community organisations working to reduce crime and promote justice.

Significance of the Study

The gender dynamics of crime have long been a focal point of criminological research, with men and women experiencing and participating in crime in significantly different ways. This study contributes to the understanding of these dynamics within the Jamaican context by addressing critical gaps in knowledge about gender disparities in victimology and the perpetration of major crimes. By examining these trends over ten years (2014-2024), the study offers timely and relevant insightsinto addressing the pervasive issue of criminality (victimology and perpetration) in Jamaica.

One of the primary contributions of this research lies in its potential to inform public policy and enhance law enforcement strategies. Gender analyses of crime enable policymakers and law enforcement agencies to develop targeted, evidence-based interventions that account for the unique vulnerabilities and risk factors associated with each gender. For instance, research shows that women are disproportionately affected by domestic violence and sexual crimes, while men are more likely to be perpetrators of violent crimes such as homicides (Heise et al., 2019; UNODC, 2022). Understanding these distinctions allows for tailored prevention and response strategies that address the specific needs of men and women.

In addition, this study is significant for advancing equity within the criminal justice system. Gender-sensitive findings can help inform rehabilitation programmes, victim support initiatives, and sentencing practices, ensuring they are responsive to individuals' unique experiences and challenges based on their gender. Harriott (2016) emphasises that in the Caribbean context, where systemic inequalities and cultural norms influence criminal behaviour, a nuanced understanding of gender disparities is essential for equitable justice outcomes.

The implications of this research extend beyond criminal justice into public health and community development. Victimisation often carries long-term psychological and physical health impacts, particularly among women who experience gender-based violence (WHO, 2021). By identifying risk factors and patterns in victimisation, the study can inform the design of health initiatives and community-based interventions that provide holistic support to victims and prevent future crimes. Moreover, the study contributes to the academic literature on gender and crime, addressing a significant gap in longitudinal research specific to the Jamaican context.

This research can serve as a foundation for future studies and comparative analyses in the Caribbean and beyond, helping to create a more comprehensive understanding of the interplay between gender, culture, and crime.Overall, the study's findings have the potential to influence not only the theoretical knowledge of crime but also the practical measures needed to reduce crime rates, support victims, and foster safer communities in Jamaica.

Rationale for the Study

Crime has long been a significant challenge in Jamaica, with alarming rates of major crimes such as homicide, robbery, and sexual violence influencing communities nationwide. While crime statistics are regularly reported, there remains a critical gap in understanding the gender dimensions of crime-specifically, the roles of men and women as victims and perpetrators. This study addresses this gap by examining gender disparities in the perpetration and victimisation of major crimes in Jamaica in 2014-2024, a decade marked by socioeconomic transitions and changes in crime trends(Heise et al., 2019; WHO, 2021).

Globally, research has demonstrated that men are more likely to engage in violent criminal activities, whereas women are often victims of interpersonal violence and sexual crimes (Heise et al., 2019; WHO, 2021). However, the Jamaican context introduces unique dynamics shaped by factors such as economic inequality, gang violence, and deeply entrenched cultural norms. For example, women in Jamaica are increasingly implicated in organised crime and gang-related activities, a trend that challenges traditional gender stereotypes of criminality (Harriott, 2016). This evolving dynamic underscores the need for a detailed investigation of how gender influences both victimology and perpetration in major crimes.

The rationale for this study also lies in its potential to inform gender-sensitive policies and interventions. Current crime prevention and justice initiatives in Jamaica often adopt a generalised approach that may fail to address the specific needs of men and women. By exploring gender crime trends, this research can provide critical insights to guide the development of targeted policies aimed at reducing crime rates, supporting victims, and addressing systemic factors that contribute to gender crime patterns.

Furthermore, the study seeks to contribute to a broader understanding of how socioeconomic and cultural factors interact with gender to shape crime trends in Jamaica. As the country continues to grapple with economic disparities, youth unemployment, and urbanisation, these factors intersect with gender to influence both victimisation and perpetration. Examining

these intersections offers valuable insights into the root causes of crime, thereby providing more effective and sustainable solutions (Heise et al., 2019).

This study is of academic significance in addition to its practical implications. While considerable research has been conducted on crime in Jamaica, few studies have explicitly focused on gender disparities in crime over an extended period. This research aims to fill this gap, providing a comprehensive analysis that enhances academic understanding and as a foundation for future studies on gender and crime in the Caribbean region.

Ultimately, this study is driven by the belief that understanding the gender dimensions of crime is essential to creating a safer, more equitable society in Jamaica. By shedding light on these dynamics, the research aims to empower policymakers, law enforcement, and community leaders to take informed action against crime and its gender impacts(Harriott, 2016).

Definition of Terms

Gender disparity: This is differences in the crimes committed and perpetrated by the genders.

Murder/Intentional Homicide: Murder or intentional homicide in Jamaican law is defined as the unlawful killing of a person with intent or malice aforethought. This matter means that the perpetrator had the specific intent to cause the victim's death or acted with reckless disregard for human life.

Rape: The United Nations defined rape as "Rape Penetration - even if slightly - penetration of the anal or genital opening of a person's body by the penis and does not give consent to the invasion of their genital or anal opening or body part "(p. 6).

Robbery: Under Jamaican law, robbery is the unlawful taking of property from another person by force or threat of force.

Sexual Violence: Sexual violence in the United Nations (2016) opined, "Sexual Violence Acts of a sexual nature against one or multiple persons or that influence such person or persons to enter into an act of a sexual nature by force, threat or coercion; Sexual violence is attributable to the trepidation of incarceration, violence, intimidation, consternation, psychological oppression or debasement, or by capitalising on a person's inability to give genuine consent. Forms of sexual violence include rape, attempted rape, forced prostitution, sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking for sexual exploitation, child pornography, child prostitution, sexual slavery, forced marriage, forced pregnancy, forced public nudity, forced virginity testing, etc. (p. 8 & 9).

Shooting: Shooting in Jamaican law is the act of discharging a firearm with the intent to harm another person or property. Shooting may be charged as an offence under various Jamaican statutes such as the Firearms Act or the Offences against the Person Act.

Violent/Major Crime: Violent/major crime in Jamaican law refers to criminal offences that involve physical harm or threat of damage to a person or property. This issue includes

offences such as murder, robbery, rape, assault, and battery. These crimes are considered serious offences in Jamaica and carry significant penalties.

General Objectives

The following research objectives guided this study:

1. Evaluating the prevalence of female and male victims of major crimes in Jamaica from January 1, 2014, to October 31, 2024.
2. Evaluating the prevalence of female and male perpetrators of major crimes in Jamaica from January 1, 2014, to October 31, 2024.
3. Evaluating the probability of both sexes being perpetrators of major crimes in Jamaica from January 1, 2014, to October 31, 2024.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework for this study on gender disparity in victimology and perpetration of major crimes in Jamaica draws on several key criminological theories to explain the gender differences in crime in Jamaica. These include the Social Learning Theory, Strain Theory, and Feminist Criminology.

Social Learning Theory

Developed by Albert Bandura, Social Learning Theory posits that behaviours, including criminal activity, are learned through interactions, particularly within close social groups such as families, peers, and communities. The Theory suggests that individuals may adopt violent or criminal behaviour patterns by observing others, especially when those behaviours are reinforced or rewarded within their environment (Akers, 2017). This Theory is relevant in understanding how gender norms and behaviours are learned in Jamaican society, where social expectations for masculinity and femininity may influence individuals' engagement in criminal activities.

Strain Theory

Robert Merton's Strain Theory asserts that crime results from societal pressures, particularly when individuals cannot achieve socially accepted goals through legitimate means. Merton proposed that this strain leads individuals to adopt deviant behaviour like crime. This Theory is critical in understanding how socioeconomic pressures, such as poverty, unemployment, and limited access to education, might disproportionately affect men and women in Jamaica, leading to gender patterns in crime (Agnew, 2018). Strain in marginalised communities can exacerbate feelings of frustration and alienation, driving both male and female individuals toward criminal behaviour or victimisation.

Feminist Criminology

Feminist criminology focuses on how gender inequality influences both the perpetration of and victimization of crime. It argues that traditional criminological theories often overlook the gender nature of crime and victimisation. This Theory helps to understand the increasing

involvement of women in violent crime in Jamaica, as well as the disproportionate victimisation of women in intimate partner violence and sexual crimes. Feminist scholars suggest that patriarchy and gender-based power imbalances in society contribute to these patterns, reinforcing men's dominance and women's subjugation in both criminal acts and victimisation (Daly & Chesney-Lind, 2018).

These theories guided the analysis of gender differences in the types of crimes committed, the socioeconomic factors influencing crime involvement, and the unique experiences of men and women as victims of crime in Jamaica. The combined insights from Social Learning Theory, Strain Theory, and Feminist Criminology allowed a deeper exploration of the intersections between gender and crime in the Jamaican context.

Methods and Materials

This study employed apositivistic methodological research design to explore gender disparities in victimology and the perpetration of major crimes in Jamaica from January 1, 2014, to October 31, 2024. The research utilized secondary and primary data sources to understand crime patterns and their gender dimensions comprehensively. Secondary data were collected from official crime records provided by the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), which maintains extensive crime statistics, including demographic breakdowns of victims and perpetrators. These reports will offer insights into trends in major crimes such as homicide, sexual assault, robbery, and other violent crimes, with specific attention given to gender patterns of victimisation and criminal involvement (JCF, 2024).

Additionally, data from National Crime Victimization Surveys (NCVS) wasanalysed to capture unreported crime statistics and public perceptions, essential in understanding the full scope of gender disparities in crime (Akers, 2017). Further, court records provided additional information on crime charges, convictions, and demographic data of offenders. Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)was used for data cleaning and statistical analysis, effectively handling large datasets and inferential analysis.The literature and the current data aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of gender disparity in victimology and perpetrators of major crimes in Jamaica 2014-2024.

Research Design

This study employed a Time Series Research Design using a cross-sectional approach. By analysing secondary data on female participation in major crimes in Jamaica from January 1, 2014, to October 31, 2024, the research aims to explore trends and patterns in crime participation. The data were gathered from police records, crime databases, and governmental reports. Statistical analysis, such as regression and chi-square tests, helped identify factors influencing female criminal participation, including socioeconomic status and psychological factors. The data were recorded, stored, and retrieved using the SPSS Version 29 and Microsoft Excel. The significance level used to determine statistical significance was 5% (0.05) at the 2-tailed significance level. The data were analysed using percentages, probability, annual percentage change, cross-tabulations, and analysis of variance. The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) has instituted a robust surveillance system that tracks,

monitors, records and validates major crimes committed and arrests made in Jamaica. The JCF surveillance system is constantly assessed and updated daily to ensure that major crimes are accurately recorded and accounted for. The purpose of this dataset is for national planning and record keeping to monitor this phenomenon.

Population and Sampling Design

The population for this study consisted of malesand females involved in major crimes in Jamaica from January 1, 2014, to October 31, 2024. This matter included people arrested or charged for serious criminal offences and those involved in organised crime and trafficking. Secondary data from police records, judicial files, and crime reports was used toanalyse the dataand provide a representative sample of offenders across various crime categories.

Results Analysis

For this study, data analysis involved descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Descriptive statistics provided an overview of female participation in different crime categories, such as murder, rape, robbery, shooting, violent/major crimes, organised gang activities, and drug-related offences. Inferential statistics, including chi-square tests and regression analysis, examined female participation in major/serious crimes in Jamaica from January 1, 2014, to October 31, 2024. Trends over the 2014-2024 period were evaluated to identify significant changes in female participation in major crimes. Results were presented in tables, graphs, and narrative summaries to highlight key findings. Probabilities were calculated for all the major crimes. The likelihood of female participation in murder in 2014 is the number of females who were arrested in 2014 divided by the total number of arrests made for the same year. The probability of murder and shooting, murder and robbery, aggravated assault and robbery is the probability of murders for period t by the likelihood of shooting for period t, and so forth. Despite the positive trends, the data underscores the continued need for community-based interventions, stricter gun control measures, and holistic approaches to addressing the root causes of violence.

Findings

Research Objective 1

Evaluate the prevalence of female and male victims of major crimes in Jamaica from January 1, 2014, to October 31, 2024.

Table 1 presents the probabilities of female and male victims of major/serious Crimes in Jamaica from January 1, 2014, to October 31, 2024. For the studied period, the probability of a male being a victim of major crimes (murder, shooting, aggravated assault, rape, and robbery) is 0.7086 (70.86%) and 0.2914 (29.14%) among females. The probability of a male being a victim of murder is 0.9087 (90.87%) and 0.9997 for females being likely to be raped. Additionally, the likelihood of a male being shot and robbed is 0.8759 and 0.5689, respectively. The possibility of a female experiencing aggravated assault is 0.2298.

Table 1: Probabilities of Female and Male Victims of Major/Serious Crimes in Jamaica, January 1, 2014-October 31, 2024

YEAR	Murder		Shooting		Aggravated Assault		Robbery		Serious & Violent Total	
	Prob. (Female)	Prob. (Male)	Prob. (Female)	Prob. (Male)	Prob. (Female)	Prob. (Male)	Prob. (Female)	Prob. (Male)	Prob. (Female)	Prob. (Male)
2014	0.1004	0.8996	0.120172	0.8798	0.228933	0.7711	0.466266	0.5337	0.365616	0.6344
2015	0.0959	0.9041	0.112048	0.8880	0.232899	0.7671	0.451677	0.5483	0.334490	0.6655
2016	0.0996	0.9004	0.120823	0.8792	0.224066	0.7759	0.423002	0.5770	0.297323	0.7027
2017	0.0971	0.9029	0.134037	0.8660	0.235698	0.7643	0.425993	0.5740	0.271526	0.7285
2018	0.0999	0.9001	0.129450	0.8706	0.262338	0.7377	0.454608	0.5454	0.303555	0.6964
2019	0.0955	0.9045	0.127043	0.8730	0.253807	0.7462	0.426752	0.5732	0.296867	0.7031
2020	0.0848	0.9152	0.113900	0.8861	0.225420	0.7746	0.419090	0.5809	0.273458	0.7265
2021	0.0900	0.9100	0.139284	0.8607	0.202817	0.7972	0.384848	0.6152	0.255779	0.7442
2022	0.0832	0.9168	0.140052	0.8599	0.192982	0.8070	0.400641	0.5994	0.266151	0.7338
2023	0.0849	0.9151	0.104437	0.8956	0.225714	0.7743	0.381883	0.6181	0.250911	0.7491
2024	0.0702	0.9298	0.116971	0.8830	0.237589	0.7624	0.424863	0.5751	0.245736	0.7543
TOTAL	**0.0913**	**0.9087**	**0.1241**	**0.8759**	**0.2298**	**0.7702**	**0.5689**	**0.5689**	**0.2914**	**0.7086**

YEAR	Rape	
	Prob. (Female)	Prob. (Male)
2014	1.0000	0.0000
2015	1.0000	0.0000
2016	1.0000	0.0000
2017	1.0000	0.0000
2018	1.0000	0.0000
2019	1.0000	0.0000
2020	1.0000	0.0000
2021	1.0000	0.0000
2022	0.9981	0.0019
2023	1.0000	0.0000
2024	0.9967	0.0033
TOTAL	**0.9997**	**0.0003**

Research Objective 2

Evaluate the prevalence of female and male perpetrators of major crimes in Jamaica from January 1, 2014, to October 31, 2024. For this study, major/serious crimes refer to murder, shooting, aggravated assault, robbery, and rape. For the study period (January 1, 2014 to October 31, 2024), most major crime perpetrators were males (prob. = 0.9686[96.9%]), with the probability of a female being a perpetrator of murder at 0.0265 (2.7%).

Table 2: Probabilities of Female and Male Perpetrators of Major/Serious Crimes in Jamaica, January 1, 2014-October 31, 2024

YEAR	Murder		Shooting		Aggravated Assault		Robbery		Rape		Serious & Violent (Total)	
	Prob. (Female)	Prob. (Male)	Prob. (Female)	Prob. (Male)	Prob. (Female)	Prob. (Male)	Prob. (Female)	Prob. (Male)	Prob. (Female)	Prob. (Male)	Prob. (Female)	Prob. (Male)
2014	0.0210	0.9790	0.0046	0.9954	0.1065	0.8935	0.0098	0.9902	0.0000	1.0000	0.0314	0.9686
2015	0.0428	0.9572	0.0040	0.9960	0.1155	0.8845	0.0187	0.9813	0.0000	1.0000	0.0365	0.9635
2016	0.0217	0.9783	0.0075	0.9925	0.1310	0.8690	0.0145	0.9855	0.0000	1.0000	0.0309	0.9691
2017	0.0211	0.9789	0.0017	0.9983	0.1347	0.8653	0.0189	0.9811	0.0000	1.0000	0.0299	0.9701
2018	0.0265	0.9735	0.0000	1.0000	0.1103	0.8897	0.0297	0.9703	0.0000	1.0000	0.0271	0.9729
2019	0.0221	0.9779	0.0140	0.9860	0.1271	0.8729	0.0168	0.9832	0.0030	0.9970	0.0309	0.9691
2020	0.0280	0.9720	0.0146	0.9854	0.1089	0.8911	0.0250	0.9750	0.0028	0.9972	0.0327	0.9673
2021	0.0236	0.9764	0.0146	0.9854	0.1115	0.8885	0.0515	0.9485	0.0000	1.0000	0.0331	0.9669
2022	0.0267	0.9733	0.0040	0.9960	0.1111	0.8889	0.0267	0.9733	0.0000	1.0000	0.0269	0.9731
2023	0.0275	0.9725	0.0085	0.9915	0.1326	0.8674	0.0265	0.9735	0.0000	1.0000	0.0319	0.9681
2024	0.0293	0.9707	0.0042	0.9958	0.1417	0.8583	0.0278	0.9722	0.0000	0.3109	0.0331	0.9669
TOTAL	**0.0265**	**0.9735**	**0.0070**	**0.9930**	**0.1198**	**0.8802**	**0.0215**	**0.9785**	**0.0005**	**0.8369**	**0.0314**	**0.9686**

Research Objective 3

Evaluate the probability of both sexes being perpetrators of major crimes in Jamaica from January 1, 2014, to October 31, 2024.

Table 3 presents the probability of both sexes being perpetrators of major crimes in Jamaica from January 1, 2014, to October 31, 2024. The findings revealed that the likelihood of both sexes being arrested for perpetrating major crimes in Jamaica is 0.0304 (3.04%), with the probabilities of both sexes perpetrating murder and robberies being 0.025798 and 0.021038, respectively. Additionally, the current findings revealed that the probabilities of both sexes being perpetrators of aggravated assault and rape were 0.00005 and 0.000418, respectively.

Table 3: Probabilities of Both Sexes Perpetrating Major/Serious Crimes in Jamaica, January 1, 2014-October 31, 2024

YEAR	Murder	Shooting	Aggravated Assault	Robbery	Rape	Major crimes
	Both sexes	Both sexes	Both sexes	Both sexes	Both sexes	Both sexes
2014	0.020559	0.00457884	0	0.009704	0	0.030414
2015	0.040968	0.00398400	0	0.018350	0	0.035168
2016	0.021229	0.00744375	0	0.014290	0	0.029945
2017	0.020655	0.00169711	0	0.018543	0	0.029006
2018	0.025798	0.00000000	0	0.028818	0	0.026366
2019	0.021612	0.01380400	0.000381	0.016518	0.002991	0.029945
2020	0.027216	0.01438684	0.000305	0.024375	0.002792	0.031631
2021	0.023043	0.01438684	0	0.048848	0	0.032004
2022	0.025987	0.00398400	0	0.025987	0	0.026176
2023	0.026744	0.00842775	0	0.025798	0	0.030882
2024	0.028442	0.00418236	0	0.027027	0	0.032004
TOTAL	**0.025798**	**0.006951**	**0.00005**	**0.021038**	**0.000418**	**0.030414**

Both sexes constitute two independent probabilities multiplied to produce the joint probabilities. Hence, the prob. of both sexes equals the prob (female$_{ij}$) x prob (male$_{ij}$)], where i represents the probability of each major crime for year j.

Discussion

Crime literature has widely discussed victims and perpetrators because of the relationship between the phenomena (DeLong & Reichert, 2019). This perspective provides a better understanding of crime, particularly concerning punishment and intervention strategies (Puscher, 2024). The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice, University of Strathclyde (2023) opined, "Unfortunately, this dichotomy comes with problems that have implications both for the way we support those harmed by crime and the way we deliver justice and prevention to those committing it." The current study reviewed the crime literature in the Caribbean and, despite the high crime statistics in Jamaica, found that it is

mainly researched from the perspective of the perpetrators or offenders (Bourne et al., 2023a, 2023b, 2023c; Harriott, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004a, 2004b, 2004c, 2008, 2009;Harriott & Jones, 2016; Harris, 2010; Headley, 1994). Since there is a high rate of crime in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as many developing nations, particularly intentional homicide (Statista, 2023; World Population Review, 2024), this fact is the justification for the plethora of studies on crime offenders because of wanting to find solutions to the matter. Although the previously mentioned issue is genuine, criminal offenders are creating victims, and so the matter must be studied from a dual perspective. Despite the dual nature of the crime, a review of the crime literature revealed few studies that have simultaneously examined victims and perpetrators (Park & Kim, 2019;Pavez et al., 2022; Puscher, 2024; Roman et al., 2016; Schedler, 2016); but none emerged from Jamaica despite the murder epidemic. The current study fills the gap in the literature by providing a detailed time series analysis of victims and perpetrators of major crimes in Jamaica from 2014 to 2024.

Findings from this study revealed that males are most likely to be victims of major crimes (murder, shooting, aggravated assault, rape, and robbery), with a probability of 0.7086 (70.86%) and 0.2914 (29.14%) among females. The likelihood of a male being a victim of murder is 0.9087 (90.87%) and 0.9997 for females being likely to be raped. Additionally, the probability of a male being shot and robbed is 0.8759 and 0.5689, respectively. The possibility of a female experiencing aggravated assault is 0.2298. However, globally, 80% of homicides are committed against males (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2023, 2024), which means that there is a gender disparity in the killing of males, including young boys. Statistics from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2024) revealed that Jamaica has the highest gender disparity in committed homicide, and the current study finds that this lies between 88% and 93% for 2014 to 2024. While the gender disparity in committed murderis vast across the globe as well as in Jamaica (71%), the current study found that this is equally the case across all major crimes in Jamaica.

The mass killing of males in Jamaica is creating a social dilemma as society struggles to combat a high rate of absentee fathers, unsupervised young males, and perpetrators of major crimes. The current study found that for the studied period, on average, 97% of the perpetrators of major crimes in Jamaica are males. The question that must be answered here is, why? Gary Becker explains people's involvement in crimes in a seminal workentitled "Crime and Punishment: An Economic Approach."Becker (1968) found an association between committing and fighting crime—providing a framework for designing an optimal law enforcement strategy. This study ventures into a discourse on the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement policy and its contribution to social welfare, examining the pull and push factors and the perpetrators of crime.

Becker's seminal work established a Utility Maximisation Framework that determines factors that influence an individual's choice in crime. The economic cost of criminal involvement is embedded in Gary Becker's study, which denotes that the supply of crime is an economic phenomenon. The utility maximisation crime framework expresses crime as a function of many variables. The function is:

$$y = f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7)\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots[1]$$

Where:

y = Hours spent in criminal activities

x_1 = Wage for an hour spent in criminal activity

x_2 = Hourly Wage in legal employment

x_3 = Income other than from crime or employment

x_4 = Probability of getting caught

x_5 = Probability of being convicted if caught

x_6 = Expected sentence if convicted

x_7 = Age.

Jamaica has a legal system that punishes crimes, but the nation is among the top 10 leading in murder (Becker, 1968). Becker's work was based on the perspective of economics and law enforcement, not the psychosocial elements of criminals or victims. There is no denying that economic factors such as employment, Income, and wages play a role in crime participation, but why, even when perpetrators are highly likely to be caught? Some offenders have served their sentences, yet they become repeat offenders. The matter, therefore, goes beyond economics to the social psychology of crime. Becker's model, thus, should not be used to design law enforcement strategies for Jamaica because the evidence shows it is inefficient and ineffective in addressing the crime epidemic, particularly murders.

Robert Merton's 'Strain Theory' asserts that crime results from societal pressures, particularly when individuals cannot achieve socially accepted goals through legitimate means. Therefore, it is not the economic issues that drive the perpetrators of crimes in Jamaica; it is the social psychology purported by the Strain Theory. Additionally, Merton proposed that this strain leads individuals to adapt to deviant behaviour like crime. Participation in crime is the outcome of society's socially offensive nature, the psychological expectations of the individual, and the lived social reality. Strain Theory is critical in understanding how socioeconomic pressures, such as frustration, unemployment, and limited access to education, might disproportionately affect men and women in Jamaica, leading to gender patterns in crime (Agnew, 2018). Strain in marginalised communities can exacerbate feelings of frustration and alienation, driving both male and female individuals toward criminal behaviour or victimisation. Marginalised communities are framing the cognitive perspective of criminals as people are socialised in an oppressive social system, including witnessing criminal acts and experiencing bereavement because of the loss of loved ones.

Social Learning Theory posits that behaviours, including criminal activity, are learned through interactions, particularly within close social groups such as families, peers, and communities. With the high rates of major crimes in Jamaica, particularly the reality of

having a loved one murdered, the victim is sometimes framed as a perpetrator. Social Learning Theory suggests that individuals may adopt violent or criminal behaviour patterns by observing others, especially when those behaviours are reinforced or rewarded within their environment (Akers, 2017). Such a reality is outside of economic factors, and the punishment of crimes becomes secondary to the socialisation and the psychology of the socialisation and the lived events. This Theory is relevant in understanding how gender norms and behaviours are learned in Jamaican society, where social expectations for masculinity and femininity may influence individuals' engagement in criminal activities. Law enforcement must be designed around the reality of the social psychology of offenders and victims.

Like Social Learning and Strain Theories, the feminist approach to criminology explainscrime perpetrators and victims in Jamaica. Feminist criminology argues that traditional criminological theories often overlook the gender nature of crime and victimisation, which was also missing in Becker's work. Feminist scholars suggest that patriarchy and gender-based power imbalances in society contribute to these patterns, reinforcing men's dominance and women's subjugation in both criminal acts and victimisation (Daly & Chesney-Lind, 2018).While the feminist scholars' perspective explains gender victimology and offenders, the reality in Jamaica goes beyond gender power imbalances to the social psychology of living in Jamaica, particularly in marginalised communities. The current study concurs that those theories guided the analysis of gender differences in the types of crimes committed, the socioeconomic factors influencing crime involvement, and the unique experiences of men and women as victims of crime in Jamaica. Those theories stop short of including the sociopsychological perspective of the lived environment of the perpetrators and the victims of crimes.

The sociopsychological realities of marginalised communities are high pull factors into crimes for males and so high risk for their victimisation. The current study found that males are 2.7 times more likely to be victims of major crimes in Jamaica, except for rape. In Jamaica, for the current study, females have a high prevalence of rape (prob.= 0.9997); but the latter marks a single crime for the six major crimes examined in the current findings. While there is a clear case for the examination of sexual violence against women (World Health Organization [WHO], (2024), 72.6% of all major crimes in Jamaica are committed against males. In the US, the figure is 51% (Zandt, 2024). The sociopsychological environment in society is a high social cost to society and a pull factor in crime for males than females, which concurs with the current literature in criminology (Cruz et al., 2023). Females commit all of the major crimes and collaborate with men on some of them despite what Smart (1995) indicated: that they commit less serious crimes. The disparity is not the type of crime but the gender, the sociopsychological realities that are embedded in the social system that pulls and pushes males into criminality. Therefore, the psychology of criminal conduct is important in understanding criminal behaviour (Singh et al., 2021) and "through the ethical and human application of systematic empirical methods of investigation and the construction of rational explanatory systems" (Andrews &Bonta, 1994 p. 4).

Conclusion

Criminal engagement and victimisation are synonymous with both genders, and understanding crime in Jamaica must bring into the discourse gender, gender socialisation, the environment, and biological, social and psychological factors. Becker's Theory focuses on economic factors, and while these offer some explanations, law enforcement cannot be designed solely on this paradigm. There is empirical evidence that crimes continue to spiral out of control in Jamaica-as well as in many nations across the globe-despite the current law enforcement design that was developed around the theory of cost and punishment of crime, developed by Gary Becker in the 1960s. The findings from this study suggest a need for a new paradigm in law enforcement, as the current fight paradigm is ineffective in addressing the global crime pandemic.

The social psychology of crime must be the new paradigm in crime solutions. Sathyanarayana Rao (2007) opined, "The psychological or psychiatric criminology has to look beyond the individuals who have reached the final stage of the legal process to understand the 'criminal mind'" (Sathyanarayana Rao, 2007, p. 5), which is where studies are needed to understand the gender crime phenomenon. The new focus in criminology must be the social psychology of criminal conduct, and law enforcement should be designed around this new paradigm.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the current study on gender disparities in victimology and perpetrators of major crimes in Jamaica between 2014 and 2024, targeted gender-sensitive interventions are needed to address the disparities in victimology and perpetration of major crimes in Jamaica. Community-based programmes should be developed to mitigate socioeconomic and cultural factors predisposing individuals, particularly males and females in vulnerable populations, to engage in or fall victim to criminal activities. These programmes must focus on improving education and employment opportunities while addressing the root causes of crime, such as poverty and social inequality. Gender-sensitive initiatives, such as trauma-informed support services for victims of domestic violence and specialised rehabilitation programmes for female offenders, are crucial for addressing these disparities comprehensively.

To further combat gender disparities in crime, law enforcement and judicial systems need to adopt measures that ensure equitable treatment of all individuals. Police training programmes should incorporate gender-sensitive practices to improve interactions with victims and suspects, particularly in cases involving domestic or sexual violence. Additionally, judicial reforms are necessary to address potential biases that may lead to differential treatment of male and female offenders during sentencing. Public awareness campaigns should also be prioritised to dismantle harmful gender norms that normalise violence or stigmatise female offenders. Nationwide campaigns can challenge stereotypes and educate the public on the societal implications of crime and gender disparities. Increasing awareness of available

resources, such as shelters and counselling services, would encourage victims to seek help and report crimes without fear of judgment or retaliation.

From a policy perspective, stronger gun control measures are recommended to address the disproportionate use of firearms in violent crimes, which predominantly influence men as both perpetrators and victims. Advocacy for restorative justice approaches is equally critical, particularly in cases involving female offenders who may have been coerced or influenced into criminal behaviour due to gender-based vulnerabilities. Continuous research is necessary to inform and evaluate crime prevention strategies. Establishing a centralised database for gender-specific crime statistics would facilitate evidence-based policymaking. Furthermore, longitudinal studies could provide deeper insights into the evolving dynamics of crime and gender, ensuring that interventions remain relevant and effective over time.

Finally, partnerships with community leaders, NGOs, and international organisations are essential for successfully implementing these recommendations. Collaborative efforts can foster trust, enhance community resilience, and support sustainable crime reduction initiatives across Jamaica. By addressing the socioeconomic, cultural, and systemic drivers of crime through these recommendations, policymakers and stakeholders can work toward creating a safer and more equitable society.

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