

**IMPACT OF PROPERTY CRIME ON SOCIOECONOMIC  
AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING OF VICTIMS IN  
WUKARI LGA OF TARABA STATE, NIGERIA**

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**ABSTRACT:** Crime has registered its presence across society, thus depositing varying proportions of effects on victims. As crime exerts its toll on socioeconomic and psychological states of victims, it becomes expedient to interrogate its forms; and the level of damage it has caused to victims. This study aimed to assess the effects of property crime victimisation on victims' socioeconomic and psychological conditions in the Wukari LGA of Taraba State. The objectives of the study were to assess the effect of property crime victimization on the socioeconomic condition of victims and to ascertain the effect of property crime victimization on post-traumatic stress disorder of victims. The survey design was adopted for the study. Questionnaires were used to collect primary data. The Cochran sample size determination formula was used to generate 385 samples. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select respondents across clusters of settlements to complete the questionnaire. At the descriptive level, simple frequencies and percentages were used. Additionally, inferential statistics such as Chi-square tests and ANOVA were used to test the research hypotheses. The descriptive review revealed that, burglary crime was the most perpetuated form of property crime. Victims of property crime faced social, economic and psychological challenges. Poverty and financial loss, decreased investment, difficulty in forgetting scenes of attack and the development of intrusive memory, negative thinking and mood were devastating. The chi-square results ( $\chi^2=22.373, 12, P<.05$ ) revealed that; property crime had a significant effect on victims' socioeconomic status. Additionally, the ANOVA results revealed a significant effect of property crime on insomnia [ $F(3, 371) = 3.704, P=0.012$ ] and the loneliness and avoidance attitudes of victims [ $F(3,371) = 2.849, P=0.037$ ]. The study recommended financial and material compensation for victims of property crime, including counselling, improved security of lives and property and institutional measures to reduce unemployment and breach the poverty gap so that perpetrators of property crime would be kept at bay.

**Keywords:** Property Crime, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Victims, Victimisation

## **INTRODUCTION**

Crime victimization has elicited intellectual discourses across the globe. The enormous consequences of crime appeal to criminologists and security experts alike. This highlights the need to uncover the intricacies of crime victimization through different lenses. Attempts may have been made to explore crime victimization in the context of its predisposing factors including its effects on victims since it is no longer a new trend in the current world. Importantly, the forms of damage incurred by victims including types of crime victimization across continents around the globe; remain important to explore.

Crime victims may have been affected by what could best be described as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other socioeconomic endeavors. Victims of crime are at the mercy of social, psychological and economic loss. Depending on the type of crime perpetuated, victims may experience differing degrees of setbacks. One of these setbacks manifests in post traumatic stress disorder. Morrall, Marshall, Pattison and Macdonald (2010) revealed that, during the post victimisation period, a victim's mental health is affected. Cognitive ability comprises a sensitive segment of the human brain. Crime scenes are punctuated with gory pictures and images that could be indelible in the human mind, thereby affecting cognitive functions. Victims' mood and concentration are impaired at the slightest recollection of crime scenes. In addition to cognitive impairment, a number of factors interact to predispose victims to their perpetrators.

Several factors account for crime victimization. When crime is perpetuated, it indicates that victims are created. This could suggest that; the higher the crime rate is, the larger the population of crime victims. A number of factors shape the contours of crime. In some places, socioeconomic and geographic factors such as weak formal and informal social mechanisms, poverty and unemployment facilitate crime victimization. In Los Angeles for example, high temperature and poverty leverage a high incidence of crime (Heilmann, Kahn & Tang, 2021). These findings indicate that, economic factors determine the lethality of high temperatures. A rich neighbourhood may alternatively secure air conditioners to mitigate the fallout of high heat waves; hence, the probability of a crime victimisation could be low. Poverty is sometimes a by-product of institutional and/or systemic decay. A poor neighbourhood is artificially created in some instances following limited allocation of economic and social amenities by those in power. It could be honest to hold that; alternate way-out to a high temperature could have been made accessible to poor neighbourhoods thereby reducing the odds of victimization.

Thus, little attention has been given to what befalls victims of crime. Only a few cases exist to demonstrate the state's concerns about victims' social, economic and psychological welfare, including victims' health needs. Attamirano, Berens and Ley (2020) noted that, in some Latin American and Caribbean countries, crime victimization triggers states to increase welfare services for victims, particularly health-related services. In the United States of America, rather than being compassionate, victims with documented cases of crime are denied financial compensation (Hancock, 2020).

This study undertakes an empirical investigation of the socio-economic and psychological conditions of victims in Wukari. Scholars have extensively explored the phenomenon of property crime across the globe but have left a seeming gap. For example, studies by Tavares and Costa (2021) focused on the spatial distribution of property crime in mainland Portugal. Similarly, Kushner, Botchkovar, Antonaccio and Hughes (2021) reported that, crime victims could be predisposed to become offenders. The empirical basis and relevance of these findings are space-specific, time-specific and variable-specific. They were carried out in places other than Wukari, and the variables do not reflect the socio-economic and psychological conditions of victims' post victimisation. Victims could be open to social and economic lose. The socioeconomic effects of crime victimization on victims' reaction and/or behaviour such as post-traumatic stress disorder have not been empirically established in Wukari. Additionally, Wukari is a heterogeneous setting accommodating people from diverse ethnic groups and with varying socioeconomic activities. This may have created the enabling environment for crime to flourish. The craving for studying the contours of crime including

their impacts on individuals and the society is compelling. This may have leveraged a number of studies on crime in the Wukari local government area. For example, Ahmadu (2022), revealed the factors that predisposed victims of property crime in the Wukari local government area. Similarly, Ahmadu and Valentine (2022), revealed the dynamics of property crime victimization in the Wukari local government area. These findings are empirically valid, but did not extend its lenses to the impact of property crime on the socioeconomic and psychological conditions of victims. The negative impacts of property crime may have predisposed victims to their perpetrators. This study shifted from the parameters of the spatial distribution of property crime victimization, the predisposing factors of property crime and the tendency of victims to become offenders to interrogate what victims become in their social, economic and psychological endeavors.

Additionally, the perpetuation of property crime could be driven by social and economic factors in Wukari. Aside from the interplay of genetics, biology and psychology, socioeconomic factors of unemployment and poverty are strong determinants of property crime that needed to be nip in the bud. This is because a nexus between unemployment and crime has long been established (Ahmadu & Valentine, 2022). Protagonists of socioeconomic determinants of crime found weaknesses in the social structure of society as the chief cause of crime and other forms of deviant behaviour. On the other hand, it may be fair to suggest that; victims' routine activities may have exposed them to their perpetrators, especially when there is weak or an absence of guardian and/or security to protect them. The availability of motivated offenders would trigger attacks on victims who may be vulnerable amid weak security. Regardless of the outcome and consequences of an attack on victims, informal and formal interventions and/or compensation are useful. In most cases, victims do not receive financial and material compensation from government or private individuals to compensate for their lost property. Trauma in the aftermath of victimization is not given adequate attention. Victims are often left to manage their post-traumatic stress disorder. Thus, a number of questions must be raised: in what ways does property crime victimisation affect the socioeconomic and psychological states of victims in the Wukari local government area? In contrast, this study investigated the effects of property crime on the socioeconomic and psychological conditions of victims in the Wukari local government area. To achieve this goal, a number of research objectives have been raised.

### **Objectives of the Study**

- i. To determine the effects of property crime on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder of victims in the Wukari local government area.
- ii. To assess the effects of property crime on the socioeconomic conditions of victims in the Wukari Local Government Area.

### **Hypotheses**

Ho: Property crime has no significant effect on the socioeconomic conditions of victims in the Wukari local government area.

Ho: Property Crime has no significant effect on post-traumatic stress disorder of victims in the Wukari Local Government Area.

**Exploring the Impact of Property Crime on the Psychosocial and Economic Well-being of Victims**

Victims of property crime are affected in two contexts: the socioeconomic domain and victims' post-traumatic stress disorder. Victims of property crime are thrown into the pool of impoverished people. In South Asia, victims of acid bath are subjected to chronic poverty (Kamruzzaman & Abdulhakim, 2016). The incapacitation of victims has enormous consequences for their social and economic activities. Victims are left to dissipate time and energy to nurse and heal wounds. This may temporarily or permanently halt activities related to their means of livelihood. When this occurs, sources of income may be negatively affected. This could be more devastating if a victim has no one to serve as a regent. Even in cases where one has a regent, they might not be trustworthy. Additionally, victims could be threatened with sacks or stoppages of salaries because of prolonged absence at work. Victims could become poor, exposing them to another phase of victimization.

Chronic poverty has negative implications for victims. A high level of poverty can predispose victims to indulge in property crime (Obioha & Thakhisi, 2013). The nexus between poverty and crime has been established. Kushner, Botchkovar, Antanaccio and Hughes (2021) reported that crime victims could be influenced by peers and contemporaneous emotions to become offenders. Shifting from the domain of poverty, victims may consider relocating from the environment that precipitated their victimization. Kutateladze (2022) reported that anti-Queer hate crime has caused victims to change housing and striped ties with queer venues and friends.

A number of socioeconomic implications of crime include the dwindling of socio-economic growth and the investment potentials of victims (Jonathan, Olusola, Bernadin & Inoussa, 2021). A rising crime rate is not crucial for achieving sustainable economic growth and the development of victims. Countries crawling against the backdrop of a high rate of crime are highly predisposed to economic stagnation and retrogression. In some instances, crime induces disparities in economic growth in infested countries. A crime-free society may not be feasible to establish given the presumption that crime is inevitable. The likely presence of crime in almost all societies has elicited the drive for theorizing its manifest and latent consequences. Functionalists' position on the positive impact of crime in the context of providing jobs for police and law enforcement officers, including military personnel is overwhelmingly upheld. On the global stage, the arms business arguably shapes the contours of global insecurity. Protagonists of this line of thought accusing fingers to developed nations for not wanting to broker peace because disorderliness offers a lucrative market for the arms business. On this note, developed economies with a comparative advantage in the production and sale of military equipment would always experience economic growth and development.

However, domestic trade and investment could be adversely affected, particularly in an economy with low foreign trade relations. Remeikiene, Ligita, Fedajev, Raistenskis and Krivins (2022) revealed reduced domestic and foreign investment as well as high-level businesses in countries affected by crime. In terms of domestic investment, local investors shy away from areas that are infamous for crime and other forms of notorieties. The latent implication of a truncated domestic trade may be noticeable in the form of a reduction in the free flow of goods and services. Access to schools and medical services among other services, is adversely affected. In some cases, income and revenue accruable to private

individuals and the government could either stagnate or decrease because of a decline in domestic investment. Both domestic and foreign investments are relevant in determining capital inflows to a local economy. An environment with a low rate of victimization would attract foreign investors in numbers. A case in point was the relocation of traders from Maiduguri following a high rate of heinous attacks by Boko Haram terrorists (Sikhalm, 2012). To induce investment, crime should be efficiently managed (Boamah, Ofori-Yeboah, & Owusu-Ansah, 2023).

Moreover, crime victims suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In general, crime victims experience stress (Avery, Hermsen & Towne, 2020). Not only is stress a psychological problem, as it is always presented, victims are predisposed to social and economic stress in the post victimization period. However, PTSD is often used to convey emotional damage to victims as a result of crime victimization.

## **Theoretical Framework**

### **Routine activity theory**

Routine activity theory is an opportunity theory of crime that conceptualizes crime as a situation-based phenomenon. It is credited to Marcus Felson and Lawrence E. Cohen. The theory ignores the social factors of crime such as poverty, unemployment, overcrowding and social inequality. This has elicited debate among sociologists who are interested in establishing the relationship between social factors and crime.

The interplay of three factors: - namely, the absence of a guardian, a motivated offender, and target vulnerability predispose people to victimization. Motivated offenders are mere individuals who are driven to perpetuate criminal activity. Suitable targets are persons seen by offenders as vulnerable and attractive. Where security is minimal and/or completely absent, victims are left to the mercy of attacks. The likelihood of victimization increases when victims are suitable targets. In some cases, victims are vulnerable given their socioeconomic and demographic characteristics. Older people, children, women and even men may be vulnerable to attack. Therefore, the tripod of the absence of guardian, the suitability of target and the motivated offender predispose victims to their perpetrators. This theoretical orientation holds that; victimization is situational. It does not offer insightful review of the aftermaths of victimization to victims. Social impact theory offers a clear explanation of the consequences of property crime victimization for victims.

### **Social impact theory**

Social impact theory was coined by Latane Bibb (1981). The theory suggests that an individual's thought; feelings or behaviour are leveraged by the actions of others (persons, social institutions, and phenomena). The theory conceives and predicts the social situation and its outcomes. The extent of the impact on individuals and institutions could be ascertained by interrogating the workings of the social situation. The relationship among three factors namely: the strength of the source of impact, the immediacy of the event, and the number of sources exerting the impact determine the direction of social impact theory. Strength includes aggregating individual factors such as the numbers of the perpetrators of property crime, their logistics in terms of weapons used, intelligent gathering, and the location of the event. Immediacy shows the timing of the attack, how recent it is and the



interplay of intervening variables and/or factors. The number of sources includes the number of sources of influence and/or effect. Social impact theory holds that, depending on the strength of crime victimization, the outcomes are dehumanizing. Property crime is conceived as an unacceptable social event, situation and perpetration with dire social, economic and psychological consequences for victims.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted in Wukari LGA of Taraba State. It is dubbed the ancestral home of the Jukun nation. It is an administrative, commercial and economic center with an estimated mid-year population of 373,645 by 2021. Wukari was selected as the study area because it is the most viable commercial and economic centre in Taraba South Senatorial District. Additionally, the local government area is infamous for incessant communal conflicts. This may have provoked the selection of the study area probably because of the magnitude of impact the age-old crisis may have had on the perpetuation of property crime. The survey design was adopted since it allows the collection of information from a fraction of the population. The information collected through the survey describes the striking characteristics of the study population including the study area. The study population included residents who were either victims of property crime or guidance/parents and/or relatives of victims of property crime with first-hand information on the status of crime victims both before and after victimization. These categories of residents were drawn from the circles of civil servants, traders and farmers, artisans and unemployed individuals. Close-ended questionnaires were administered to the sampled population. Three hundred samples were selected using the Cochran's sample size determination formula. 
$$n = \frac{Z^2 Pq}{e^2} = \frac{(1.96)^2 \times (0.05)(0.05)}{(0.05)^2} = \frac{3.8416(0.05)(0.05)}{0.0025} = 385$$
 Therefore, a sample size of 385 was determined. A multi stage sampling technique was used to select the respondents across clusters of settlements in the study area. Having secured the right to participate, the questionnaires were taken to the field by research assistants drawn from the 2021/2022 final year class of the Department of Sociology, Federal University Wukari designated for an elective course: Sociology of Deviant Behaviour. After thorough editing, out of 385 questionnaires sent to the field, only 375 were found to be useable. This represents a 97.4% return rate. Both descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage, mean ratings and inferential statistics such as ANOVA and chi-square tests were used for data analysis.

## **DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

**Table 1: Sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Sex</b>		
Female	149	39.7
Male	226	60.3
<b>Age</b>		
Below 30	138	36.8
30-39	119	31.7
40-49	82	21.9
50 above	36	9.6
<b>Marital status</b>		

Married	150	40.0
Single	180	48.0
Divorced	25	6.7
Widow/Widower	20	5.3
<b>Education</b>		
Primary	37	9.87
Secondary	151	40.27
Tertiary	187	49.87
<b>Occupation</b>		
Farming	61	16.3
Trading	130	34.7
Civil/Public Servant	88	23.5
Artisan	48	12.8
Unemployed	48	12.8

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 1 shows the sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents. In terms of sex, the male population accounted for 60.3% (n=226), whereas the female population accounted for 39.7% (n=149). Males were more accessible than females in the course of the administration of the research instrument. The age distribution of the respondents revealed that, most of the respondents were younger than 30 constituting 36.8% (n=138). This is succeeded by the age bracket 30-39 at 31.7% n=119. The percentage of respondents within the age brackets (40-49) and those above 50 years were 21.9% (n=82) and 9.6% (n=36) respectively. This implies that, the data for the study was generated from a working population. The level of education suggested a well-informed population representing 40.3% (n=151) and a preponderate population of 49.9% (n=187) with secondary and tertiary education respectively. Only 16.3% (n=61) had primary education however, respondents with no formal education were not represented in the study. The import of accessing this informed segment of the population is that, it allows for the collection of rich data for the study. As indicated earlier in the age distribution, most of the respondents were drawn from the active segment of the population. This is corroborated by the occupational distribution of the respondents. With a farming population of 16.3% (n=61), trading 34.7% (n=130), civil/public servant 23.5% (n=88), and artisan 12.8% (n=48), most of the respondents had something to do to earn a living. Only 12.8% (n=48) are unemployed. This is negligible compared to the overall occupational status of the respondents across other professions.

**Table 2: Types of Property Crime in Wukari LGA N=375**

Types of Property Crime	Frequency	Percentage
Arson	65	17.3
Burglary	152	40.5
Car theft	48	12.8
Larceny	110	29.3

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 2 shows the various types of property crimes in Wukari local government area. Burglary crime was more prevalent (40.5%), n=152). This was succeeded by larceny (29.3%)n=110. Arson and car theft were also perpetuated representing (17.3%), n=65) and

(12.8%), n=48) respectively. The perpetuation of property crime in Wukari poses serious concern to properties, particularly the perpetuation of burglary crime.

**Table 3: Effects of Property Crime on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Socioeconomic Conditions of Victims in Wukari LGA N=375**

PTSD	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	Standard Dev.
Victims flash back & find it difficult to forget scene of event	80	247	10	27	11	3.95	.890
Victims suffer from insomnia	65	233	30	25	22	3.78	1.002
Loneliness & voidance attitudes	53	236	30	40	16	3.72	.978
Victims develop intrusive memories, negative thinking & mood	51	251	34	25	14	3.80	.890
Victims experience changes in physical and emotional reactions	58	245	25	23	24	3.77	.997
<b>Socioeconomic Conditions</b>					<b>Frequency</b>		<b>Percentage</b>
Poverty/hardship due to financial loss					171		45.6%
Victims distance themselves from social & economic environment					51		13.6%
Victims migrate/relocate from the environment					62		16.5%
Discourage investment					74		19.7%
Victims develop antisocial behaviour like drinking, gambling and theft					17		4.5%
<b>Total</b>					<b>375</b>		<b>100%</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 3 shows the mean ratings of the effects of property crime on victims' posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Given an average mean of (2.50), property crime victimization is said to have affected victims' PTSD. Victims flashback and find it difficult to forget scenes of events/attack (mean=3.95; STD=.890) and insomnia (mean=3.78; STD=1.002) makes invaluable marks on victims' PTSD, although the latter had more divergent opinions than the former as indicated by the standard deviation. Loneliness and avoidance attitudes, intrusive memories and negative thinking/mood had a fair share of influence (mean=3.72; STD=.978; and mean=3.80; STD=.890), respectively). Changes in physical and emotional reactions (mean=3.77; STD=.997) were also affected. However, victims' difficulty in forgetting scenes of events will continue to worsen if property crime victimization continues to leverage insomnia and intrusive memories, negative thinking and the mood of crime victims amongst other factors.

In the context of socioeconomic conditions, most victims of property crime (45.6%), (n=171) were subjected to poverty and hardship due to financial loss. On other occasions, (13.6%), (n=51) of the victims distanced themselves from the social and economic environment. The number of victims who migrated and/or relocated from the environment was (16.5%), (n=62). A good number (19.7%) n=74 were discouraged from investing in crime-prone areas. Only (4.5%) (n=17) victims developed antisocial behavior such as drinking, gambling and theft, as one of the fallouts of victimization. Therefore, if the perpetuation of property crime remains unabated, the consequences could be devastating, especially given that society is battling the scourge of poverty and unemployment.



**Table 4: Chi-square Test of the Property Crime and Socioeconomic Conditions of Victims**

	Value	df	Asym. Sig (2-sided)
Pearson Chisquare	22.373	12	.034
Likelihood ratio	23.995	12	.020
Linear-by-Linear Association	.058	1	.810
N of Valid cases	375		

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Given the test statistics ( $X^2(12) = 22.373$ ,  $P < .05$ ), the null hypothesis is rejected. This affirms a significant effect of property crime on socioeconomic conditions of victims. The perpetuation of property crimes such as arson, burglary, car theft and larceny had considerable impacts on victims' financial status which could lead to poverty and misery. However, it has led to a reduction in investment, pressurized victims to relocate from crime-prone environments and lures victims into antisocial behavior such as gambling, drinking and theft in Wukari.

**Table 5: ANOVA Test of Property Crime and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder of Victims**

		Sum of square	df	Mean	F	Sig.
Flash back/difficulty to forget scene of attack	Between Groups	3.012	3	1.004	1.270	.284
	Within Group	293.218	371	.790		
	Total	296.229	374			
Insomnia	Between Groups	10.920	3	3.640	3.704	.012
	Within Group	364.584	371	.983		
	Total	375.504	374			
Loneliness and avoidance	Between Groups	8.053	3	2.684	2.849	.037
	Within Group	349.547	371	.942		
	Total	357.600	374			
Intrusive memories and negative thinking	Between Groups	1.222	3	.407	.512	.674
	Within Group	294.778	371	.795		
	Total	296.000	374			
Changes in physical mood and emotion	Between Groups	6.025	3	2.008	2.037	.108
	Within Group	365.708	371	.986		
	Total	371.733	374			

Source: Field Survey 2022

Table five shows the effects of property crime on posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The test statistics suggested that, the number of victims who flash back and recall scenes of attack was not significantly different ( $F(3,374) = 1.270$ ,  $P = .284$ ). This was followed by victims who developed intrusive memories, negative thinking and mood ( $F(3,374) = .512$ ,  $P = .674$ ), and changes in physical and emotional reactions among victims ( $F(3,374) = 2.037$ ,  $P = .108$ ). The test statistics ( $F(3,374) = 3.704$ ,  $P = .012$  and ( $F(3,374) = 2.849$ ,  $P = .037$ ), indicated a significant mean difference between property crime, and insomnia and victims' loneliness and avoidance attitudes.

## **DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

Property crime affects victims in several ways. At different points in time, victims have suffered from arson, burglary, car theft and larceny. This has not gone unnoticed given that it has imposed poverty and hardship on victims among other challenges. As victims lose their property and means of livelihood, there is a high probability that their impoverished condition and hardship will deteriorate further. In some instances, victims lose their start-up capital and/or inventory that sustain their businesses. Since crime defiles the environment, victims consider relocation and desist from investing in such crime-infested environments. This similar fate befalls victim of Boko Haram insurgency in Borno State. Skikalm, (2012) revealed that businesses, investments and markets were closed and that some investors relocated from the volatile Maiduguri as a result of violent assault by Boko Haram terrorists. Additionally, victims of hate crime were found to have changed housing and dissociated from their friends. The case of Wukari may further be exacerbated by perennial communal conflicts if property crime is not contained. The development of antisocial behavior such as drinking, gambling and theft, among victims of property crime, added to the woes of socioeconomic challenges. Victims may have resorted to these antisocial behaviors to cushion against the trauma following the perpetuation of property crime. When victims are given to a high level of proclivity, probably because of their impoverished condition, they are likely to indulge in property crime (Thakhisi, 2013).

However, the effects of property crime on posttraumatic stress disorder of victims are of concern. This is because crime victims experience stress (Avery, Hermesen & Towne, 2020). The most devastating among other related forms of stress was victims' posttraumatic stress disorder. Victims were predisposed to flash back, and they found it difficult to forget scenes of attacks and/or events. Victims' inability to sleep, intrusive memories, negative thinking and mood and changes in physical and emotional reactions may be worsened if victims continue to flash back and find it difficult to forget scenes of attacks and/or events.

More so, the study uncovers the types of property crimes in the Wukari local government area. This has expanded the frontiers of previous studies on the predisposing factors of property crime victimisation by Ahmadu (2022), and the dynamics of property crime victimisation reporting by Ahmadu and Valentine (2022). These findings suggest that, the routine activities of victims amid poor guardian predisposed them to their perpetrators and the economic and social costs of reporting crime discouraged them from reporting their victimization to the appropriate authorities in Wukari. This study has complemented the studies on property crime by uncovering the socioeconomic and psychological impacts of property crime victimization on victims in the Wukari local government area.

## **Conclusion**

Property crime has registered its presence in the Wukari Local Government Area with varying magnitudes of effects on victims' social, economic and psychological states. The socioeconomic and psychological conditions of victims are strongly affected following attacks on their property. Poverty and hardship are the two most devastating conditions suffered by victims of property crime. Additionally, victims were made to dissociate themselves from the environment, migrate and relocate to a new environment, discourage investment and expose victims to antisocial behavior. Victims suffer major posttraumatic stress disorder such as flashing back, finding it difficult to forget scenes of events, and

developing negative thinking and moods. The chi-square results revealed a significant effect of property crime victimization on victims' socioeconomic endeavors ( $X^2=22.373$ , 12,  $P<.05$ ). The ANOVA results revealed a significant mean difference between property crime and insomnia [ $F(3, 371) = 3.704$ ,  $P=0.012$ ] and loneliness and avoidance attitudes [ $F(3,371) = 2.849$ ,  $P=0.037$ ].

### Recommendations

- i. Financial and material compensation should be given to victims of property crime.
- ii. There is a need for counselling victims of property crime to keep posttraumatic stress disorder of victims at bay.
- iii. The improved security of lives and property, including institutional frameworks can reduce unemployment and breach the poverty gap so that perpetrators of property crime can be kept at bay.

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