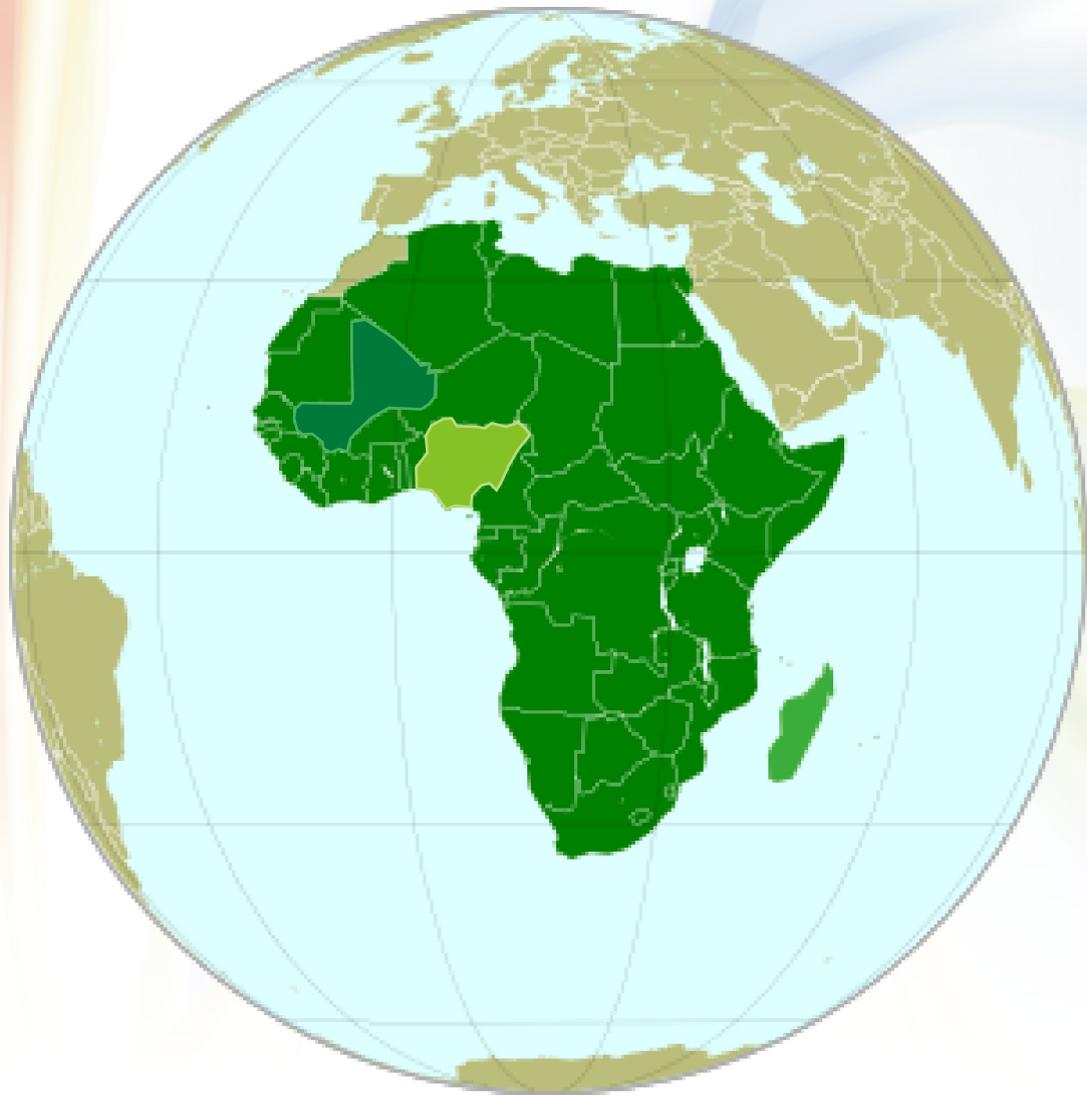


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## CONTENTS

<b>LEARNED HELPLESSNESS: A THEORETICAL REVIEW</b> Alex Igundunasse & Johnson Sanmi Ibidapo	1-12
<b>EVALUATION OF ADHERENCE OF JOURNALISTS TO THE CODES OF JOURNALISM PRACTICE IN ENUGU STATE</b> Chima Alexander Onyebuchi, Paul Martins Obayi, Chidera M Udorah & Benjamine Onwukwaluonye	13-37
<b>REFORMING THE NIGERIAN CIVIL SERVICE PERCEPTION SURVEY ON: ISSUES IN SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION</b> Umar Elems Mahmud & Yusuf Abdullahi Ogwuzebe	38-53
<b>OCCUPATIONAL STRESS, TRANSFER AND AGE AS PREDICTORS OF JOB SATISFACTION AMONG IMO ANGLICAN CLERGYMEN</b> Ann Ukachi Madukwe, Ethelbert C Njoku & Charles Chidubem Dinneya	54-69
<b>PEACE BUILDING: A PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE TOWARDS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b> Samuel Laraba Baba, Shafa A Yunus & Sani A Oshishepo	70-76
<b>THE IMPACT OF WORKFORCE DIVERSITY ON ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: A CASE OF ABIA STATE POLYTECHNIC (2012 - 2017)</b> Michael Chinazam Ihemadu & Chinyere Odiche Atasie	77-95
<b>EXAMINING PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORIES OF KIDNAPPING IN NIGERIA</b> Ruwan Felix Ignatius Ibrahim & Andrew E Zamani	96-111
<b>HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY: AN EXPOSITORY APPROACH</b> Paschal I O Igboeche	113-121
<b>INFLUENCE OF LOCUS OF CONTROL AND FAMILY BACKGROUND ON CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR</b> Hadiza Ibrahim Dahiru & Sani A Oshishepo	122-132
<b>ASSESSING THE PREVALENCE OF CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY AND CULPABLE HOMICIDE IN KADUNA STATE OF NIGERIA FROM 2014-2017</b> Ruwan Felix Ignatius Ibrahim, Faith Monday Ajodo & Andrew E Zamani	133-149
<b>BORDER SECURITY AND THE OPERATIONS OF BOKO HARAM TERRORISM IN NIGERIA -</b> Emmanuel N Iheanacho & Eudora U Ohazurike	150-160
<b>POVERTY: THE BANE OF WOMEN DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA</b> George I Okoroafor & Chiaka Umoh	161-175
<b>CHALLENGES OF REGIONAL PEACEKEEPING: A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF AFRICAN UNION'S ROLES IN BURUNDI AND DARFUR</b> Chidi P Anene, Chinonyerem U Njoku & Dennis U Ashara	176-188
<b>TREASURY SINGLE ACCOUNT POLICY: AN INSTRUMENT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY OF THE BUHARI'S ADMINISTRATION (2015-PRESENT)</b> George I Okoroafor & Ihuoma C Bernard	189-206

**ASSESSING THE PREVALENCE OF CRIMINAL  
CONSPIRACY AND CULPABLE HOMICIDE IN KADUNA  
STATE OF NIGERIA FROM 2014-2017**

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**ABSTRACT:** This paper brings to light the prevalence rate of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Using an ex post facto research design the records of 702 offenders (582 males and 120 females) within the age range of 18 to 60 years with mean age of 36.7 and SD of 6.012 were systematically extracted from crime statistics book at the Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department (CIID) of the Nigerian Police Kaduna, Nigeria with the assistance of two police officers. Three hypotheses were stated and tested using Chi-Square test. The results indicated the prevalence of 33.3% for criminal conspiracy and 66.7% for culpable homicide between 2014 and 2017. Also, the results reveal high prevalence of 49.6% for males and 17.1% for females on culpable homicide while 33.3% males for criminal conspiracy. The study found high prevalence rate of 34.3% for middle adults and 30.12% for older adults on culpable homicide while young adults have 28.2% on criminal conspiracy and 2.3% on culpable homicide. Hypothetically, gender and age indicated a significant difference in the prevalence rate as [ $\chi^2(1) = 72.371, P < 0.05$ ] and [ $\chi^2(2) = 494.437, P < 0.01$ ] respectively. Therefore, the study concluded that there is a high prevalence rate of crime among younger males than females in criminal conspiracy while older adults are found more in culpable homicide. We recommended advocacy against criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide through seminars, symposium and media adverts. While individual arrested should undergo psychological intervention. Also, primary data should be employed in future study.

**Keywords:** Prevalence, Criminal conspiracy, culpable homicide and Kaduna

## **INTRODUCTION**

Criminal Conspiracy is a generic reference in the field of crime that deals with crimes unlawfully committed by the agreement of personages that commit any crime. The term denotes an agreement between two or more people to work together to do something criminal or illegal against the law (Reuters, 2018). According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2012) the most important element of the crime of conspiracy are the Physical elements which is the act (act us Reus) agreeing with one or more other persons to commit a serious crime (action) and the mental element which is the state of mind (Mens

rea) agreement was entered into intentionally and the agreement was made for a purpose related directly or indirectly to obtaining a financial or other material benefit.

The criminal law and procedure code (2016) of Kaduna State on criminal conspiracy states that as an offence, ‘conspiracy is the agreement by two or more persons to do or cause to be done an illegal act or a legal act by illegal means and that the actual agreement alone constitute the offence of criminal conspiracy and it is unnecessary to prove that the act has in fact been committed’ The offence of conspiracy is complete once a concluded agreement exists between two or more persons that share a common criminal purpose. It is immaterial that the persons have not met each other, and concluded but such agreement can be inferred by what each person does or does not do in furtherance of the offence. Conspiracy to commit an offence is separate and distinct offence and it is independent of the actual commission of the offence to which the conspiracy is related. It is based on common intent and purpose and once there is such evidence to commit the substantive offence, it does not matter what any of the conspirator did. It is trite that in a charge of conspiracy, proof of actual agreement is not always easy to come by and thus a trial court can infer conspiracy and convict on it if it is satisfied that the actual persons pursued, by their acts, the same object one performing so as to complete their unlawful design.

Genealogically, ‘Homicide’ is derived from the Latin word ‘Homo’ which means ‘Man’ and ‘Caedere’ which means to cut or kill. Thus homicide means the killing of a human being by a human being. It is pertinent to state here that not all cases of homicide are culpable as all systems of law do distinguish between lawful and unlawful homicides, for instance killing in self-defense or in pursuance of a lawful authority or by reason of mistake or fact is not culpable. Likewise if death is caused by accident or misfortune or while doing an act in good faith and without any criminal intention for the benefit of the person killed, the individual is excused from the criminal responsibility of homicide. Further, in some cases the accused may be punished for lesser offences (for example, hurt) even though death has resulted, if the injury resulting in death though voluntarily caused was not likely to cause death, For example Mr. John gives Mr. Peter a blow and Peter who suffers from an enlarged spleen of which John was not aware, dies as a result. John is not guilty of culpable homicide as his intention was merely to cause injury that was not likely to cause death (Kanwar, 2018).

Consequently, for the offence of culpable homicide punishable with death, the prosecution must establish beyond reasonable doubt the cumulative ingredients of the following offence:

- i. that the deceased died;
- ii. that the death of the deceased resulted from the act of the defendant;
- iii. that the defendant caused the death of the deceased intentionally or with knowledge that the death or grievous bodily harm was its probable consequences.
- iv. the onus on the prosecution to prove the cumulative presence of the ingredients cannot be compromised in any respect.
- v. the onus does not shift at all as it rest squarely on the prosecution throughout the case and where the prosecution fails to prove any of the ingredients, the offence of

culpable homicide punishable with death would not have been established beyond reasonable doubt and the accused person would be entitled to be discharged and acquitted (Kaduna State Criminal Procedure Code, 2016).

This study will concentrate on unlawful homicide (manslaughter) which is referred to as “unlawful death purposefully inflicted on a person by another person” (UNODC, 2013) and which does not amount to murder and is usually classified as either voluntary or involuntary. Voluntary is when a person intentionally kills another but the offence is reduced to manslaughter because of provocation. Conversely, involuntary manslaughter occurs where death is caused under such circumstances that the accused did not intend to kill and did not foresee death as a possible consequence of his conduct but there is and some blame worthiness in his conduct in which death is the result of an unlawful act that involves the risk of harm to another.

According to Section 310 of the Nigeria Criminal Code, homicide also involves cause of death by threats. As such “a person who, by threats or intimidation or any deceit causes another person to do an act or make omission which results in death of that other person, is deemed to have killed him.” Wrong drug prescription which may cause the death of the patient who he/she is expected to preserve, this act of omission would be considered manslaughter. Section 343 of Nigeria criminal code specifies other acts of negligence and recklessness which brings the death of a person can be considered as manslaughter.

In a study undertaken by the Geneva Declaration on Armed violence and Development, it was estimated that there were approximately 490,000 intentional homicides in 2004. The study estimated that the global rate was 7.6 intentional homicides per 100,000 inhabitants for 2004. UNODC (2013), reported a global average intentional homicides rate of 6.2 per 100,000 population for 2012 in their report titled “Global study on Homicide 2013 and indicated a rate of 6.9 in 2010.

According to Lemahieu (2014) some 437,000 people murdered worldwide in 2012 are as a result of intentional homicides with the highest murder rates logged in the Americas and Africa and the lowest in Europe, Asia and Oceania, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reports that globally, Men represent some 80% of homicide victims and 95% of perpetrators while almost 15% of all homicides stem from domestic violence (63,600), more than two thirds of domestic violence fatalities are women (43,600, almost 70%)

Home can be the most dangerous place for a woman deplored adding that it is particularly heart-breaking when those who should be protecting their loved ones are the very people responsible for their death. Over half of all homicide victims are under 30 years of age with children under the age of 15 accounting for just over 8% of all homicides (36,000). UNODC (2013) also, spotlight that almost 750 million people live in countries with the highest homicide rates mostly in Americas and Africa, meaning that almost half of all murders occur in countries that are home to just 11% of the earth’s population. UNODC (2013) revealed that globally, the male homicides rates is almost four times higher than for females (9.7

versus 2.7 per 100,000) especially in the Americas (29.3 per 100,000 males) where it is almost seven times higher than Asia, Europe and Oceania (all under 4.5 per 100,000 males).

Consequently, in a study of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide conducted in Nigeria between June 2006 and September 2015, findings indicated that armed robbery contributed 50%, cultism 28%, assassination 8%, kidnapping 5%, and rape 2% (Nwankwo, 2015). Furthermore, crime fatality from selected state in Nigeria involving criminal conspiracy in 2015 recorded the following cases:

**Table 1: Criminal Conspiracy 2015 from Selected State in Nigeria**

S/N	State	Robbery	Cultism	Kidnapping	Rape	Assassination
1	Delta	946	212	55	07	32
2	Anambra	225	64	36	04	09
3	Edo	109	306	15	10	12
4	Lagos	819	323	40	35	172

In 2011, the percentage of male and female homicide victims and male and female convicted of intentional homicide by regions included global region, 5% female and 95% male were convicted while 21% female and 79% male were victims. Europe recorded 8% female and 92% male conviction with 28% female and 72% male victims. Asia had 5% female and 95% male convictions with 29% female and 71% male victims. America registered 4% female and 96% male convictions with 22% female and 88% male victims (UNODC, 2013).

The statistics of persons involved in criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide in Kaduna state indicated armed robbery 7.6%, murder 2.8%, assault 13.7%, theft 19.3%, rape 3.1%, forgery 6.9%, burglary 13.3%, suicide 1.4%, cheating 14.7%, hurting/fighting 16.9%, and kidnapping 0.46% (Ayuba, Mugu, Tanko, & Bulus, 2015).

### **Conceptual and Theoretical Explanation of Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide**

#### **1. Social Learning Theory of Violent Crime as it relates to Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide**

The Proponent of the Social Learning Theory is Albert Bandura (1997) he posits that people learn from one another through observation, imitation and modeling. The theory is often called a bridge between behaviorist and cognitive learning theorists because it encompasses attention, memory and motivation. The Social Learning Theory of Criminology States that people learn from the community around them, this can happen in two ways:

- i. Differential Association: this deals with the idea that people learn values and behaviours associated with crime.
- ii. Differential Reinforcement: this implies that rewards and punishment shape our behaviour.

Bandura (1997) proposed Social Learning Theory of Aggression. He argued that we acquire aggression by watching others act and noting the consequences. Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide is a behaviour which can be learned through observation and imitation especially when the behaviour is been reinforced positively. The social learning theory therefore views present aggression to committing crime of Culpable Homicide as a learned behaviour. Social learning theory of violent crime as it relates to Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide can be viewed from the perspective of the family interaction, a child can learn to be violent based on what he sees his parents do to each other. Harsh words and assault can be learned.

## **2 Cognitive Theory of Aggression of Violent Crime as it relates to Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide**

The proponent of the Cognitive school of thought is Wilhelm Wundt (1832-1920). The Cognitive Theory of Aggression as it relates to Criminal and Culpable Homicide states that people's beliefs, strongly influence the likelihood that they will commit violence or engage in killing or participate in violent crime of Culpable Homicide.

According to Bushman and others (2007); Eidelson & Eidelson (2003) people believed that they are superior to another group for religious, racial or other reason which can make it easier to contemplate killing the supposedly "inferior" people. Conspirators, who can be very erratic, have been found to engage in the criminality for several complex motives ranging from, vengeance, a superior cult attacking an inferior cult gang and most times get killed.

The experimental literature of Cognitive Theory clearly suggests that perception, of intent affect aggression. Moreover, there are internal and external factors that can affect ones perception of provocation or intent. According to Dodge and Schwartz (1997) there are two common cognitive/processing deficits among people who are highly aggressive they are thus:

- I. An inability to generate non aggressive solutions to conflict (and lack of confidence in their ability to use them successfully)
- II. A perceptual hypersensitivity to hostile aggressive ones in the environment, particularly interpersonal ones. The principle of social cognition applies both to Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide and is based on a subjective interpretation of the world rather than objective reality. Perceptions of the political and social environment are filtered through beliefs attitudes that reflect experiences and memories (Creshaw, 1998).

If the political and social environment is infiltrated with negative beliefs and attitudes of criminal tendencies, violence and killings and has been painted to look like the normal norm of society, then it begins to imprint on our cognition and psyche and becomes a social value which eventually reflects on our behavior as tendencies of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide.

### **3. Biological/Genetic Theory of Aggression of Violent Crime as it relates to Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide**

The Proponent of the Lombroso's Theory is Cesare who was an Italian criminologist (1836-1909). He rejected the Classical School, which believed that crime was a characteristic of human nature and instead believed that criminality was inherited. From this belief, he developed a theory of deviance in which a person's bodily constitution indicates whether or not an individual is a "born criminal." These "born criminals" are a throwback to an earlier stage of human evolution with the physical makeup, mental capabilities, and instincts of primitive man.

In developing his theory, Lombroso observed the physical characteristics of Italian prisoners and compared them to those of Italian soldiers. He concluded that the criminals were physically different. The physical characteristics that he used to identify prisoners included an asymmetry of the face or head, large monkey-like ears, large lips, a twisted nose, excessive cheekbones, long arms, and excessive wrinkles on the skin. Lombroso declared that males with five or more of these characteristics could be marked as born criminals and could possibly engage in violent Crime of Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide.. Females, on the other hand, only needed as few as three of these characteristics to be born criminals and possibly be predisposed to violent Crime of Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide.. Furthermore, he added that tattoos were markings of born criminals because they stood as evidence of both immortality and insensitivity to physical pain.

The concern of this study is to investigate the Prevalence of Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide between the years 2014 to 2017 in Kaduna State and to find out the prevalence rate between male and female and also, between young adults, middle adults and older adults.

#### **Statement of the Problem**

According to the Global study on Homicide (2013) which indicated that there has been a global increase in homicides and it caused over 500,000 deaths per year worldwide. Studies also revealed that nearly half a million people were intentionally murdered in 2012 and killings were largely concentrated in two regions: the Americas and Africa. Also, Trent online statistics (2015) reports revealed that between 2013 and 2015 the total homicide rate in Africa account for 135,000 deaths.

A study conducted by Nwankwo (2015) results showed that an overall 8516 deaths were recorded in 3840 fatal incidents between June 2006 and September 2015. The Study also

observed an alarming rate of crime of Culpable Homicide which indicated that armed robbery contributed 50% cultism 28% assassination 8% kidnapping 5% and rape 2%.

The Kaduna State as at 22/04/2016 had asked a Kaduna State High Court to sentence Shiite members accused of Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide (Godwin, 2016). In another development, the Kaduna State Police Command as at July 2016 arraigned 115 street gang members before various courts in the State for charges of Criminal Conspiracy, Culpable Homicide and terrorism (Zubairu, 2016). Consequently, the Commissioner of Police Kaduna State noted that operatives of Zonkwa Division arrested one Omar Mohammed and Abdul-Aziz Mohammed both of Ladduga Tampol village adding that the suspect called one Abdulahi Goska Zonkwa through a strange phone and threatened and instructed them to drop the sum of two Million Naira. He added that seven suspected kidnapers were also arrested along Jangwan village along Kaduna express way (Zubairu, 2016).

Another case of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide was observed between one Musa Ahmedu of Janjala Community in Kagarko Local Government area of Kaduna State where he ccattacked and beat one Rammatu Musa and later armed himself with dangerous weapons (stick and cutlass) and attacked one US man Ibrahim which later sustained various injuries and rushed to Abuth Shika in Zaria for treatment but later died (David, 2017).

A case was also observed in AGAKIRA KAKURI community in Kaduna metropolis where one Aliyu Umar stabbed his younger brother Suleiman Aliyu with car key on his face and the victim was rushed to the hospital for treatment but later died (David, 2017).

According to Oshafa (2017) in a Crime Scene report revealed that one Augustine Emmanuel engaged in a fight with one Friday Dauda used a kitchen knife and stabbed him to death and that a newly married couple in Sabo Tasha just had a misunderstanding, according to the husband he did not know what pushed him to use his hand on his wife, who just fell and died. The case of a 14 year old bride accused of killing her husband and three of his friends by poisoning their food using rat poison in April 2017 have been charged by the Kano state government with Culpable Homicide punishable by death (Dan, 2014).

A chief magistrate court in Kaduna on Thursday 15/03/2018 Kaduna ordered the remand 63 persons charged with unlawful assembly and culpable homicide in Kasuwan Magani in Chikun Local government Council. He said the offence contravened the provisions of section 59, 67, 190 and 78 of the Kaduna state penal code, 2017 (Ibrahim, 2018).

On the 4<sup>th</sup> /02/2016 in Kaduna police arrest 6 suspects over culpable homicide in connection with the alleged killing of a 22 year old man, Aliyu Yusuf who was stabbed to death at about 1pm close to Kaduna Capital School in Malali area of Kaduna State (Zubairu, 2016).

On 19/10/2009 three people Adekole Echoche (24 years), Muhammed Aliyu (20yrs), and Halilu Dahiru have been sentenced to death by hanging by a Kaduna High Court for Conspiracy, armed robbery and Culpable Homicide (Emeka, 2009).

It is pertinent to state that the increased perception of unlawful agreement among individuals to commit crime is worrisome. In fact all over the world the events of crime have clearly illustrated that no nation however politically powerful and infrastructural endowed may be immune to crime (Townesley, 2014).

This study intends to investigate the Prevalence rate of Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide between the years 2014 and 2017 and to also examine the trend as it affect Gender and Age.

### **Research Questions**

- (a) What is the change in the Prevalence rate of Criminal Conspiracy between the years 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State?
- (b) What is the change in the Prevalence rate of Culpable Homicide between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State?
- (c) What is the Prevalence rate between male and female in the Crime of Criminal Conspiracy between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State?
- (d) What is the Prevalence rate between male and female in the Crime of Culpable Homicide between 2014 and 2017?
- (e) What is the change in the Prevalence rate between Younger Adults, Middle Adults and Older Adults in the Crime of Criminal Conspiracy between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State?
- (f) What is the change in the Prevalence rate between Younger Adults, Middle Adults and Older Adults in the Crime of Culpable Homicide between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State?

### **Objectives of the Study**

- (a) To investigate the change in the Prevalence rate of Criminal Conspiracy between 2014-2017 in Kaduna State.
- (b) To investigate the change in the Prevalence rate of Culpable Homicide between 2014-2017 in Kaduna State.
- (c) To examine the Prevalence rate between male and female in the Crime of Criminal Conspiracy between the years 2014-2017 in Kaduna State.
- (d) To examine the Prevalence rate between male and female in the Crime of Culpable Homicide between the years 2014-2017 in Kaduna State.
- (e) To find out the change in the Prevalence rate between younger adults, middle adults and older adults in the Crime of Criminal Conspiracy between the years 2014-2017 in Kaduna State.
- (f) To find out the change in the prevalence rate between younger adults, middle adults and older adults in the Crime of Culpable Homicide between the years 2014-2017 in Kaduna State.

### **Hypotheses**

- (i) There will be no change in prevalence rate in the crime of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State.
- (ii) There will be a prevalence difference between male and female in the crime of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State.
- (iii) There will be a change in prevalence rate between young, middle and older adults in the crime of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State.

### **METHOD**

This study adopted Ex-post Facto research design where crime records were extracted from the Crime Statistics Book (Homicide Department) with the Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department (CIID), Police Headquarters Kaduna. These records were sorted and analyzed to provide descriptive explanation for the research objectives and hypotheses.

### **Participants**

The population used in this study is the reported crime cases in crime statistic book (Homicide Department) with the Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department (CIID), Police Headquarters Kaduna. The book provided crime records in Kaduna State. A total of 2046 offenders were recorded within the year 2014 – 2017 on Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable homicide offences. This study sample 702 offenders records where males are 582 (82.9%) and females 120 (17.1%), age ranged between 18 – 60 years with mean age of 36.91 and standard deviation of 6.075. The records were sampled from the crime statistics book using a systematic sampling technique where every 3<sup>rd</sup> crime on the list were selected and used for the study.

### **Instrument**

The study used the institutional record book called the Crime Statistics Book. This book contains records of all the crime reported in the state from various stations. The record is domiciled with the CIID, Police Headquarters Kaduna, Nigeria. The components of this instrument provides information on the demographic data of offenders such as sex, age, marital status, state, religious affiliation, educational level, occupation, home address, type of crimes and offences.

The instrument was found valid and reliable to measure the number of discrete offenders as they are recorded in the crime statistics book of the state. Also, the study aimed at measuring the prevalence of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide as recorded but not the recidivism of offenders. Therefore, the researchers found the instrument valid and reliable to measure the variables of study.

### Procedure

A letter of introduction was written to the Police Headquarters, Kaduna by the researchers, after which an official permission was granted to assess the records. Two police officers from the CIID were assigned to assist in the study. They were used as research assistant and were duly briefed on the purpose of the study and the role to play. The research assistants helped in locating and sorting the records from the crime statistics books for the year 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 at the Homicide Unit of the CIID, Police Headquarters Kaduna. After which records of Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide were sorted out as it is on the record book by using a systematic sampling technique every 3<sup>rd</sup> records on Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable homicide were selected for the study and analyzed using Software Program for Social Sciences (SPSS) V20.

### Statistics

Descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages were used to provide descriptive explanation of the prevalence of Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide while the Chi-Square test was used to establish the significance difference of the prevalence rate between the variables of study. Also, the choice of Chi-Square test was based on the fact that the records were measured nominally as 1 or 2 where 1 = Criminal Conspiracy and 2 = Culpable Homicide. Therefore, Chi-Square test described phenomena in terms of frequencies, percentages and generates statistical significant results for hypothetical testing.

### Ethical Consideration

Authors of every material used for the study were properly acknowledged. The researchers obtained appropriate permission from the CIID, Police Headquarters Kaduna. The Homicide Unit of the CIID and the two police officers assigned as research assistant were briefed and adequately informed about the purpose of the research and were assured of confidentiality of data collected and that the data was for the purposes of research only. They were properly debriefed after the research.

## RESULTS

**Table 2: Descriptive Statistics**

VARIABLES		FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGES
Gender	Male	582	82.9
	Female	120	17.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>100%</b>
Age	18-35Years	214	30.5
	36-54 Years	277	39.5
	55 year Above	211	30.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 2 shows that there were 702 offenders of which males were 582 (82.9%) and females 120 (17.1%). The record also revealed that 214 (30.5%) were between age 18 to 35 years, 277 (39.5%) between age 36 to 54 years and 211 (30.1%) were between age 55 years above and mean age of 36.91 and SD of 6.075. The data collated were further subjected to analysis and interpretation to provide statistical explanation on the stated objectives and hypotheses in the study.

### Hypothesis 1

There will be no change in prevalence rate in the crime of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State. This hypothesis was tested with Chi-square test in table 3.

**Table 3: Prevalence Rate of Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide between the year 2014 to 2017 in Kaduna State**

		Offenses		Total	
		Criminal Conspiracy	Culpable Homicide		
Years	2014	Frequency	20	39	59
		% of Total	2.8%	5.6%	8.4%
	2015	Frequency	67	124	191
		% of Total	9.5%	17.7%	27.2%
	2016	Frequency	58	127	185
		% of Total	8.3%	18.1%	26.4%
	2017	Frequency	89	178	267
		% of Total	12.7%	25.4%	38.0%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>702</b>
		<b>% of Total</b>	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

$\chi^2(3) = 0.597, P > 0.05$

Table 3 shows the prevalence rate between criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide in Kaduna State between the years 2014 to 2017. The result revealed that the rate of crime increased progressively from 2014 with 8.4% to 27.2% and at 2016 the crime rate fall back to 26.4% prevalence rate and could not be sustained in 2017 where the prevalence rate drastically rose to 38%. Also, the result indicated a steady increase in the rate of crime, as the year progresses more people are getting involved in offences. Furthermore, the result indicated that within the period of four years criminal conspiracy recorded a prevalence rate of 33.3% while culpable homicide recorded a prevalence rate of 66.7% in Kaduna state. This implies that individuals' involvements in crime drastically increased on yearly basis particularly culpable homicide. However, the Chi-Square result revealed a no statistically significant, [ $\chi^2(3) = 0.597, P > 0.05$ ] change in the prevalence rate across the years between both crimes. In other words, the hypothesis was not confirmed in the study. Therefore, we

reject the hypothesis and affirmed that there is a change in prevalence rate in the crime of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State.

### Hypothesis 2

There will be a prevalence difference between male and female in the crime of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State. The hypothesis was tested with Chi-square test in table 4.

**Table 4: Prevalence Rate of Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide between Males and Females in Kaduna State**

		Offenses			
		Criminal Conspiracy	Culpable Homicide	Total	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Males</b>	Frequency	234	348	582
		% of Total	33.3%	49.6%	82.9%
	<b>Females</b>	Frequency	0	120	120
		% of Total	0.0%	17.1%	17.1%
<b>Total</b>		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>702</b>
		<b>% of Total</b>	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

$X^2(1) = 72.371, P < 0.05$

Table 4 presents the prevalence rate of crime in Kaduna State where the result revealed that males have 82.9% prevalence rate for crime compare to females with 17.1% prevalence rate. The result also revealed that males have 49.6% prevalence rate for culpable homicide compare to the female who have 17.1% prevalence rate. Based on the records, only male offenders committed the crime of criminal conspiracy. Further analysis with Chi-square test revealed a statistically significant [ $X^2(1) = 72.371, P < 0.05$ ] sex difference in the prevalence of both crime between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State. In other words, the hypothesis was confirmed in the study. Therefore, the researchers reject the null-hypothesis and affirmed that there is a prevalence difference between male and female in the crime of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide in Kaduna state.

### Hypothesis 3

There will be a change in prevalence rate between young, middle and older adults in the crime of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State. The hypothesis was tested with Chi-square test in table 5.

**Table 5: Prevalence Rate of Criminal Conspiracy and Culpable Homicide Cross Age Brackets in Kaduna State**

		Offenses		Total	
		Criminal Conspiracy	Culpable Homicide		
<b>Age</b>	<b>Young Adults</b>	Frequency	198	16	214
	<b>(18-35 years)</b>	% of Total	28.2%	2.3%	30.5%
	<b>Middle Adults</b>	Frequency	36	241	277
	<b>(36-54 years)</b>	% of Total	5.1%	34.3%	39.5%
	<b>Older Adults</b>	Frequency	0	211	211
	<b>(55 Above)</b>	% of Total	0.0%	30.1%	30.1%
<b>Total</b>		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>702</b>
		<b>% of Total</b>	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

$X^2(2) = 494.437, P < 0.01$

Table 5 shows the prevalence rate of crime committed in Kaduna state according to age categories. The results indicated that the middle adults have a highest prevalence rate of 39.5% for crime and also the highest prevalence rate for culpable homicide (34.3%) follows by the younger adults with 30.5% prevalence rate for both crime and indicates 28.2% for criminal conspiracy. The older adults have a prevalence rate of 30.1% for crime of culpable homicide with no records on criminal conspiracy. Further analysis with Chi-square test revealed a statistically significant [ $X^2(2) = 494.437, P < 0.01$ ] difference in the prevalence rate across the age categories. In other words, the hypothesis was confirmed in the study. Therefore, the researchers reject the null-hypothesis and concluded that there is a change in the prevalence rate between young, middle and order adults in the crime of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide.

## DISCUSSION

Hypothesis 1 stated that there will be no change in prevalence rate in the crime of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State. This hypothesis was not statistically significant in the analysis in table 3. Meanwhile, this finding supported the view by Brayam (2014) that killing of one person by another, and criminal homicide as the act of purposely knowing, recklessly or negligently causing the death of another human being are become overwhelming today. Also, UNODC (2013) and Lemahuieu (2014) reports on global average intentional homicide rate in 2010, 2012 and 2013 indicated a steady increase in the prevalence of criminal conspiracy and homicide in American and Africa. The findings further supported Nwankwo (2015) views on criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide in Nigeria between 2006 and 2015 pointed out armed robbery, cultism, assassination, kidnapping and rape as fatal crimes across Nigeria. The implication of this finding is that crime rate is increasing on daily basis across the north-central in particular Kaduna state. The change in the rate of crime indicated high vulnerability for culpable homicide. The plausible explanation that could be given for this finding is in line with the

view of Bandura (1997) that proposed the Social Learning Theory of Aggression: he argued that we acquire aggression by watching others act and noting the consequences as such criminal behavior have been reinforced positively rather than being punished over the years. Also Berkowitz (1989) posited that aversion frustration could lead to aggression and further progresses to violence and possibly homicide. Again various reported criminal behavior goes unpunished in the state (Punch Newspaper, 2017; David, 2017).

Hypothesis 2 stated that there will be a prevalence difference between male and female in the crime of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State. This hypothesis was confirmed to be statistically significant in table 4. This finding supported Lemahieu (2014) who reported males as having high rate of criminal conspiracy and homicide involvement. Also, the finding supported Nwankwo (2015) global report of male homicide rate to be almost four times higher than for female homicide rate; in American it is seven times higher than Asia. Ayuba, Mugu, Tanko and Bulus (2015) reported criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide rates to be higher in Kaduna. The implication of this study is that gender has a significant influence on individual interaction especially the male type which is vulnerable to all kind of criminal behaviors. The finding indicated that males have higher rate for both criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide compare to the female counterparts. The explanation that could be given in this finding is in line with the view of Bandura (1997) that individuals are influence into crime by their peer group as they interacted they learn certain behavior that are criminal. Also, the Lombroso's theory explains the influence of physical characteristics of the male over the female. These physical features influence the males into having high tendency for criminal behavior than the female.

Hypothesis 3 stated that there will be a change in prevalence rate between young, middle and older adults in the crime of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide between 2014 and 2017 in Kaduna State. This hypothesis was confirmed to be statistically significant in table 5. The findings presented in this study is very peculiar that it emphasis gray area on assessing the prevalence of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide according to age categories. The results indicated high prevalence of criminal conspiracy among the young adults while older adults indicated high prevalence rate in culpable homicide. The implication of this finding is that age play a significant role in the kind of crime committed just as noted in this study that older adults get involved in homicide. The plausible explanation in this finding could be given to the cognitive perspective that related human behavior and beliefs to their thought process. Violence engagements are developed gradually by conspiring for group benefit to a point of individual collective benefit such as homicide. These informed that fate that in some cases age is a considerable factor in getting involved in criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide in Kaduna state

## **Conclusion**

Criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide are yet serious crimes that have recorded a lot of violence killing across the federation in particular Kaduna State. Therefore assessing records to gain direction on how to combat this killing behavior warrant the insight on the

prevalence rate of these crimes. The findings in this study indicated the prevalence rate of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide as 33.3% and 66.7% respectively between 2014 and 2017. It also indicated that males have significantly high prevalence rate than female on both crimes. Furthermore, the findings confirmed a significantly high prevalence rate for younger adults on criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide while older adults indicated culpable homicide. It can, therefore, be concluded that there is high prevalence rate of crime among younger males in Kaduna state compare to their female counterparts.

### **Recommendations**

In this present study we recommended stakeholders from public and private agencies should advocate against criminal behavior especially criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide. This advocacy should come in form of seminar, symposium, media adverts, and campaign against crime at all levels. Young and old, parents/guardians and significant figure should be carried along in any intervention programs setup to address criminal behavior in Kaduna State and beyond. For the arrested individuals a psychological intervention program should be setup to restructure their mentality before releasing them to the society. Other researchers should expand in this area by engaging other local station for records and also use primary data to buttress their findings.

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