

**COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM :STRATEGIES
OF THE YOUTH IN CRIME PREVENTION AT
KWAMASHU**

BY

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DECLARATION

I, Siyanda Aubrey Nxumalo, declare that the work "Community Policing Forum: Strategies of the youth in crime prevention at KwaMashu" is my own, and that all sources quoted have been acknowledged by complete references.



S.A. NXUMALO

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my mother Margaret Nxumalo, my wife Thobile and my twin daughters Amahle and Sbahle.

ABSTRACT

This study is about the Community policing forum of Kwamashu and its strategy of putting the youth at the forefront in the fight against crime.

The study was conducted on crime prevention with more emphasis placed on community participation as is the strategy of the Department of Safety and Security. A sampling technique was used where thirty respondents who reside at Kwamashu were interviewed about community policing and youth involvement in it.

Related literature that focuses on community policing and its effect on the youth was reviewed. Various recommendations have been made based on the findings of the study.

The findings of the study highlighted the need for the community policing forum to market itself to the community. Community members, especially the youth, need to be motivated so that they can be active participants in the fight against crime.

Research findings also indicated that the strategies used were effective but failure to communicate with the community undermined their effectiveness.

NGOKUFINGQIWE

Lolucwaningo luphathelene neqhaza elibanjwe isigungu saKwamashu esihlose ukulwa nobugebengu kusetshenziswa umphakathi futhi kuqhakanjiswa ukubaluleka kweqhaza lentsha kulombhidlango.

Lolucwaningo lubheke kakhulu iqhaza lomphakathi ekulweni nobugebengu njengoba kugcizelelwa wuMnyango weZokuphepha nokuVikelwa komphakathi. Ukuze kutholakale ulwazi umcwaningi ubuze abantu abangamashumi amathathu abakhe nabahlala Kwamashu, lababantu batonyulwe ngokungahlelekile emphakathini.

Izincwadi nemibhalo ebheka ukulwa nobugebengu kusetshenziswa umphakathi nentsha kucutshunguliwe. Emva kokucubungula okunzulu kube nezincomo ezahlukene ezisuselwe emiphumelweni yocwaningo.

Imiphumela yocwaningo iveze ukuthi kunesidingo sokuthi isigungu sokulwa nobugebengu sizidayise/ siziveze emphakathini ngoba asaziwa. Umphakathi, ikakhulukazi intsha kufanele bagquqguzelwe ukuthi bazibandakanye nemizamo yokulwa nobugebengu.

Ucwaningo lubuye lwaveza ukuthi amasu asetshenziswa yisigungu ukulwa nobugebengu ayasebenza kodwa adicilelwa phansi wukwehluleka kwesigungu ukuziveza emphakathini.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

South Africa is a developing country that is in need of economic stability in order to address the needs of its people. Foreign investors view South Africa as a fertile ground for investment however in most cases they are scared away by the alarming crime rate in the country. Tourism industry in South Africa has a great potential to grow as South Africa is also a tourists attraction. It is however vital to note that crime hampers the growth of the tourism industry.

The swelling ranks of the out-of-school youth seem to be the catalyst for the high crime rate. It is therefore apparent that the youth needs to be kept busy and be involved in crime prevention programmes in order for the war against crime to be won.

1.2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The former President of South Africa Mr Nelson Mandela saw the need to use the social structures such as business people, youth organizations, women organizations etc in the fight against crime. In 1997 the youth desk was established with the aim of making the youth to be at the forefront in fighting crime by engaging them in constructive community activities.

1.3 MOTIVATION FOR THE STUDY

The researcher's motivation emanates from being actively involved in monitoring the strategies used by the KwaMashu Police Station in involving the youth in the fight of crime. The area of KwaMashu is notorious for being a crime infested area however since the founding of the youth desk statistics show that there has been a remarkable reduction of crime especially committed by the youth. The essence of the study is to use the KwaMashu Community Policing Forum strategies about the youth of the surrounding areas that are facing the seemingly insurmountable hardship because of crime.

1.4 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

South Africa is facing economic, social as well as educational hardships because of the high crime rate. Juvenile delinquency is increasing and the government is trying by all means to fight crime. The establishment of the Community Policing Forum in 1994 as well as the Youth desk in 1997 is indicative of this. The aim for establishing these structures was to ensure the harmonious working relationship between the police and communities. The other aim was to ensure that the social structures work together with the police in solving problems caused by crime as well as preventing them.

The KwaMashu Community Policing Forum has done an exceptional job in ensuring the involvement of the youth in crime fighting strategies. The surrounding areas of Ntuzuma as well as Inanda however seem to be struggling as far as fighting juvenile delinquency is concerned. The problem

fight crime are not working. Emulating strategies used by the KwaMashu Police Station may help these communities and their police stations.

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To determine the strategies set out by the KwaMashu Police Stations in achieving the desired goal of crime prevention with the youth at the forefront;
- To determine the involvement of the youth in improving their lives; and
- To assess the effectiveness of crime prevention at KwaMashu and to use the strategies to help crime infested areas.

1.6 VALUE OF THE STUDY

The study is valuable because the fight against crime can only be won if the communities are fully involved in it. Victory against crime in turn can help stabilise the economy of the country as well as make communities live without fear. The research will assist Police Stations to be effective and more in touch with the communities they serve. The finding will also assist in improving the relationship between the youth and the police. The value of this study rests on the assumption that the research findings will be disseminated to local residents of Kwamashu through CPF's. The primary aim of informing prospective residents

is to provide them with precautionary measures to adopt in securing their own safety and property to prevent future victimization.

1.7 RESEARCH METHODOGY

The design and methodology of the study is discussed as follows

1.7.1 RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

An interview schedule will be used to probe both verbal and non-verbal cues of the respondents and this will give the interviewer the opportunity to clarify matters where necessary. In this study the researcher will use an interview schedule which will comprise both open and close-ended questions. This interview schedule will be constructed in English and also be translated to IsiZulu. This will be done to ensure that the respondents use the language they are comfortable with which may either be English or IsiZulu.

1.7.2 POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The research population will be the beneficiaries of the crime prevention strategies. In choosing the respondents in the study, the researcher will use the sampling technique where thirty respondents will be chosen from the list of beneficiaries of the crime prevention strategies.

Monnete and Sullivan (1994:34) state that probability sampling technique ensures that each element had an equal chance of being included in the study.

1.7.3 RESEARCH DESIGN

A research design provides the answers to a question, "What are the means to be used to obtain the information needed" (Mckendrick 1987: 256). The researcher will use both the qualitative and quantitative methods researched.

Quantitative research method refers to the collection of data using numbers and measures of things and qualitative research basically involves the use of words, pictures, descriptions or narratives (Neuman 1997: 30) .

In this study the researcher will use the evaluative design because the aim of the study is to find out the effectiveness, importance, meaning an efficiency of involving the youth in prevention strategies to the community. Tripodi in Mcdendrick (1987: 258) defines evaluative research "as the application of research methods to the production of research methods to the production of knowledge that is useful in appraising the effectiveness of technological programmes.

1.8 PROCEDURE FOR DATA COLLECTION

In this study the researcher will use the structured interview and sentence observation of respondents. The researcher will look at the documents like minutes of a meeting, report files; statistics and the formal literature review. The interview schedule that will be used will have fixed response questions and open-ended response questions.

1.9 DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The information gathered will be analysed statistically using graphs and tables in presenting data. The use of data will be to establish frequencies and correlation of findings. The finding will then be presented in the form of descriptive statistics and qualitative discussion of findings.

1.10 DISSEMINATION OF THE STUDY

The findings of the study will be made available to the libraries and journals. The researchers will also make presentations on the study where he is requested.

1.11 OUTLINE OF THE STUDY.

Chapter 1: General Orientation

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

Chapter 4: Analysis and Interpretation of data

Chapter 5: Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations

1.12 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Community Policing: This can be defined as a philosophy or approach to policing which recognizes the interdependence and shared responsibility of the police and the community in making South Africa a safer, more peaceful and more livable country. It aims to establish an active and equal partnership between the police and the public through which crime and community safety issues can jointly be determined and solutions designed and implemented (Volume 2 SAPS)

Forum : This is defined as a meeting or medium for an exchange of views. (Oxford Dictionary).

Strategy : This is defined as a plan designed to achieve a particular long-term aim (Oxford Dictionary).

Youth : The period between childhood and adult age characterized by vigour; freshness; immaturity. (Oxford Dictionary). Any human being between ages 18 and 35

Crime Prevention : Crime prevention can be defined as all those methods and strategies used by the state at central or local level, industries and communities or individuals to prevent, reduce control the onset or continuation of criminal behavior or victimization. Crime prevention can therefore be person-centered; social and community centered, situationally centered or state centered (Glanz 1993: 314)

Community : An aggregation of families and individuals, settled in fairly compact and contiguous geographic area, with significant elements of common life as shown by manners, customs, tradition and models of speech (Dunham 1970 :27)

1.13 SUMMARY

In this chapter the researcher introduced the study. Furthermore the background information of CPF's was reviewed, the motivation for the study stated , the problem stated. The objectives of the study, its value, research methodology, procedure for data collection as well as data analysis and interpretation were mentioned. Lastly, the researcher explains how he will disseminate the study, defines terms and makes a clear outline of the study.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURATRE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The term "Community policing" is a term that has been defined by many researchers. It is a term that is not only South African because in other countries Community Policing is practiced. In this chapter the researcher will review some of the literature that deal with the study. The role of the youth in community policing will also be examined.

2.2 DEFINTION OF COMMUNITY POLICING

The term community policing means different things to different people. It is because of this reason that it is difficult to arrive at one specific definition. Although there are various differing meanings about community policing there are basic principles that are being reaffirmed that everyday community contact is necessary for effective operation policing. Koch and Bennett (1995:2) define community policing as a philosophy or paradigm which specifies a new kind of partnership and relationship between the police and public .The South African Police Services define community policing as:

"A philosophy of or an approach to policing which recognizes the interdependence and shared responsibility of the police and the community in making South Africa a safer, more peaceful and more livable country. Community policing aims to establish an equal and active partnership between the police and the community through which crime and community safety issues can jointly be determined and solutions designed and implemented."

In these two definitions it becomes obvious that in community policing both the police and the community forge a relationship which is aimed at promoting crime prevention thus making the community live in a crime-free and fear-free country. Furthermore the concept of policing is democratized in that the community is actively involved as opposed to being passive recipients of the service rendered. Van Rooyen (1994:61) summarizes this point

"Democratic policing in theory acts as a balance between the rights and needs of citizens as individuals and their responsibilities as members of the community. But to perform the role the modern police officer needs to be not only a lawyer and social worker, but also something of a scientist, marriage counselor, mediator, sex, race, and community relations psychologist and youth worker, together with having some skill as an athlete, accountant and firearms specialist and in dealing with drugs and mental problems. In addition it is necessary to be knowledgeable about politics and current events"

2.3.The South African Background

In South Africa community policing first has to change the perception of the community towards the police. The term community is made with specific reference to blacks or Africans. In the past the police were viewed as the collaborators with the apartheid regime. According to Stevens and Yach (1995:2)

"In South Africa there is still a legacy of mistrust and suspicion of the police, and the public still regard the police as partisan. This perception is reinforced by the fact that the senior level of the South Africa Police Services (SAPS) are by and large unrepresentative of the community they serve which is very problematic"

As a result of this background and the past brutality of the police towards blacks most people do not see need to work in collaboration with the police.

"Further barriers to change include militarized, authoritarian culture and style, the use of extreme force, a lack of accountability to local communities in respect of resources, priorities not in line with community needs, over centralization, bureaucracy and a reactive (as opposed to a proactive) approach. Members also harbour fears of affirmative action" (Steven and Yach 1995:3)

These factors make community policing to be unique from the South African perspective. This perspective differs from the international perspective of community policing which according to Sara Jagwanth (1994:11) aims to replace terms such as foot patrol crime prevention, problem oriented policing, community oriented policing, police-community relation and more.

It is therefore noticeable that community policing in South Africa is much more complicated and difficult and it is not proper to import western democracies strategies into it. Jagwanth (1994:13) argues that in the current South African context community policing must be based on principles which include the acceptance of public oversight and accountability to representative civilian structures, transparency in relation to most aspects of police work and a commitment to operational flexibility on the part of the police.

The need for community policing to facilitate and support organic system of local policing and to recognize the diversity of communities which includes the need for special attempts to be made by the police to address the needs of special interest group which have been or are discriminated against (Van Rooyen, 1994:173). In this study the researcher will ensure that although community policing will be viewed as a broad term, the South African perspective will be taken into deep consideration.

2.4 Principles Of Community Policing.

In order to comprehend the importance of involving the youth (community) in fighting crime the researcher reviewed literature on the principle of community policing. It emerged in the study that several researchers have listed principles which they think are the most basic. It therefore does not surprise that different researchers have different principles. According to Stevens and Yach (1995:7) the following are the principles of community policing ;

- Equity in the distribution of policing service
- Delivery of appropriate services
- Responsiveness to a representative body
- Distribution of power
- Information flow
- Redress and enforcement of state
- Participation of citizens in policy development with police manager

On the other hand Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux (1994:4) List the following ten principles as the basis for community policing.

(a) Philosophy and Organizational strategy. Community policing is both a philosophy (a way of thinking) and an organizational strategy (a way to carry out the philosophy) that allows the police and community to work closely together in a new way to solve problems of crime, illicit drugs fear of crime, physical and social disorder.

(b) Commitment to community empowerment. Community policing organizational strategy first demands that everyone in the police department, including both civilians and sworn personal, must investigate ways to translate the philosophy of power-sharing into practice.

(c) Decentralized and personalized policing. To implement true community policing, police departments must also create and develop a new breed of line officers who acts as a direct link between the police and the people in the community.

(d) Immediate and long term proactive problem solving. The community officers broad role demands continuous, sustained contact with the law-abiding people in the community, so that together they can explore creative new solutions to local concerns with private citizens serving as supporters and volunteers.

(e) With ethic, legality, responsibility, and trust, community policing implies a new contract between the police and the citizens they serve, one that offers hope of overcoming widespread apathy while restraining any impulse of vigilantism.

(f) Expanding the police Mandate community policing adds a vital, proactive element to the traditional reactive role of the police, resulting in full spectrum service.

(g) Helping those with special needs. Community policing stresses exploring new ways to protect and enhance the lives of those who are most vulnerable- juveniles, the elderly, minorities, the poor, the disabled, and the Homeless. It both assimilates and broadens the scope of previous outreach efforts such as crime prevention and police community relation.

(h) Grass-Roots creativity and support community policing promotes the judicious use of technology but it also rests on the belief that nothing surpasses what dedicated human beings, talking and working together can achieve. It invests trust in those who are on the front lines together on the streets, relying on their combined judgement, wisdom, and experience to fashion creative new approaches to contemporary community concerns.

(i) Internal change

community policing must be a fully interpreted approach that involves everyone in the department, with community policing officers serving as generalists who bridge the gap between the police and the people they serve.

(j) Building for the future

community policing provide decentralized personalized police service to the community. It recognizes that the police cannot impose order on the community from the outside, but that people must be encouraged to think of the police as a resource that they can use in helping to solve contemporary concerns

In South African context the South Africa Police Services regards the following as the underlying principles of community policing

- The role of the officer becomes that of peace officer rather than of law enforcement officer involved solely in crime control
- Community policing involves a proactive approach to policing.
- Community policing also tries to break away from the incident-driven of traditional policing by following a more problem oriented approach.
- Another aspect of community policing is that broader police responses to the underlying causes of problems are also introduced.
- Community policing, furthermore, accepts that police agencies cannot solve crime and disorder problems on their own hence police must establish partnership with government officials, citizens, community leaders, business owners, schools, other service providers and other criminal justice agencies.
- In adhering to a police/community partnership the police adopt the key strategy of community consultation. In South Africa the principle of structured consultation between the community and police has been written into section 221 of the constitution. According to section 221 the community policing forums should use the functional powers to,

(a) Improve the delivery of police-service to the community

(b) Strengthen the partnership between the community and their police

(c) Promote joint problem identification and problem solving

(d) Ensure police accountability and transparency, and

(e) Ensure consultation and proper communication between the police and their clients,

- Much of the success of policing depends on how well officers as information managers who engage in "interactive policing" by continuously exchanging information on a reciprocal basis with the community members through formal contacts and informal networks.
- Community policing also requires the development of specific tactics to reduce the unfounded fear of being victimized, particularly among children, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups in society.
- Community policing seeks police officers who are career generalists rather than specialists, in other words, officers who are responsible for and capable of handling a broad range of activities.
- Community policing recognises the need for a decentralization of responsibility and autonomy to "front line" officers. This decentralization of responsibility and autonomy is facilitated by decentralized police management and resource deployment, and the delivery of service based on neighbourhoods rather than shifts.
- Community policing demands drastic changes in the traditional para-military structure and culture of policing service. One of the biggest changes that are called for relates to the empowerment of employees.

- The police need to deliver a user friendly and customer orientated service to its clients.
- Finally, community policing establishes direct accountability between the community and the police at a local level. This form of accountability is a result of the partnership between the public and the police. On the other hand, accountability rests on the transparency of the police and, on the other hand, on the responsibility of the public to assist the police in preventing and combating crime and disorder.

2.5. MISSION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICES

The South African Police Service has its goals, aims and objectives about community policing. These in turn guide the S.A.P.S in setting out to achieve its mission. The revised mission of the S. A. Police Service states that their mission is to contribute actively to public safety and security by:

- (a) Working to prevent any action which may threaten the safety and security of communities.
- (b) Investigating any action which has threatened the safety and security of any community or individual and bringing the perpetrators of such actions to justice.

The South African Police Service will carry out its mission

(a) With law, the constitution, and the needs and fears of the communities as the basis of its approach.

(b) In consultation and cooperation with the community, all levels and branches of government and all other relevant role-players.

(a) By delivering responsible, high quality service and by taking national and international developments into account.

The South African Police Service will be committed to:

(a) Upholding and protecting the fundamental rights of all people.

(b) Impartiality, honest, transparency, and accountability.

(c) Using the powers entrusted to the police in a responsible and controlled manner.

(d) Developing a people-centred personal management approach.

(e) Optimal and cost affective use of resources.

(f) Continous improvement of its service, and

(g) Contributing in every possible way to the success of the reconstruction and development programme (Steven and Yach 1995:8)

2.6. OBJECTIVE OF COMMUNITY POLICING FORUMS

The objective of the South African Police Service are enshrined in the Draft police Bill. The Draft makes provision for the establishment of community police forums as well as their objectives:

To provide for the establishment of the South African Police Service and matters connected therewith.

2.6.1. OBJECTIVE OF COMMUNITY POLICE FORUMS AND BOARDS

(1) The service shall in order to achieve the objectives contemplated in section 215 of the constitution, liaise with the community through community- police forums, area and provincial community- police boards, as provided for in section 19,20 and 21 with a view to:

- (a) Establishing and maintaining a partnership between the community and the service.
- (b) Promoting communication between the service and the community
- (c) Promoting co-operation between the service and the community in addressing the needs of the community regarding policing.
- (d) Improving the rendering of police services to the community at national, provincial, area and local level.
- (e) Improving transparency in the service to the community and accountability of the service to the community and.
- (f) Promoting joint problem identification and problem- solving by the service and community.

(2) This section joint shall not preclude liason by the service with the community by means other than through community- police forums or boards (SAPS VOLUME 2,1994:16)

2.6.2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY POLICE FORUMS

(1) A provincial commissioner shall, subject to the directions of member of executive council concerned, be responsible for establishing community police stations which shall, as far as possible, be representative of the local community.

(2) A community- police forum may establish community –police sub forums.

(3) The station commissioner concerned and members designated by him or her from time to time for that purpose shall be members of the community-police forum and sub forum established at the police station concerned.

2.6.3. ESTABLISHMENT OF AREA COMMUNITY POLICE BOARDS

(1) A provincial commissioner shall, subject to the directions of the member of executive council concerned, be responsible for establishing in all areas within the province, area community- police boards.

(2) An area community – police board shall comprise of representatives of community- police forums in the area concerned designated for that purpose by such community- police forums.

(3) The area commissioner concerned and members designated by him or her from time to time for that purpose, shall be members of the area community- police board concerned (SAPS VOLUME 2 (1994:16))

2.6.4. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY POLICE BOARDS

(1) A provincial commissioner shall, subject to the directions of the member of executive council concerned, be responsible for establishing a provincial community- police board.

(3) A provincial community – police board shall comprise of representatives of area community, police board in that province designated for that purpose by area community- police board.

(4) The provincial commissioner concerned and member designated by him or her from time to time for that purpose, shall be members of the provincial community board concerned.

2.6.5. FUNCTIONS OF COMMUNITY POLICE FORUMS AND BOARDS

(1) A provincial and area community- police and community- police forum and sub-forum shall perform the functions it deems necessary and appropriate to achieve the objective provided for in section 18, which may include the functions provided for in section 212 (2) of the constitution.

(2) The Minister may make regulations to ensure the efficient functioning of community- police forums and sub-forums and community- police boards.

2.6.6. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- (1) Every provincial or area community- police board and community- police forum or sub-forums shall.
 - (a) Elect one of its members as chairperson and another one as vice-chairperson.
 - (b) Determine the number of members to be designated by the provincial, area or station commissioner concerned to serve as members of the board, forums or sub-forums concerned: Provided that this number shall not be less than one addition to the provincial, area or station commissioner concerned.
 - (c) Determine its own procedure and cause minutes to be kept of its proceedings; and.
 - (d) Where it deems it necessary, co-opt other members or experts or *community leaders on the board or forum.*
- (2) The majority of the members of the board forum or sub-forum concerned shall constitute a quorum at a meeting thereof.
- (3) If the chairperson is absent from a meeting, the vice chairperson shall act as chairperson and if both the chairperson and vice-chairperson are absent, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside at the meeting (Stevens and Yach 1995:68).

2.7. COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTION

The South African government values the issue of community- policing highly. This is because the present democratic government has made provision of community policing in its constitution. This in turn means that community policing is entrenched in the South African Constitution, which places emphasis on the need for community consultation (Yach and Stevens 1995: 36).

The constitution provides that consultation will be facilitated by introduction of community – police forums in every police station area. These forums present the formal structure through which the police will be able to communicate with representatives of the total community.

This development lends official recognition to the fact that the success of community policing depends on active participation by the communities who need to be directly involved in and responsible for their own safety and security. Morgan argues that the community need to be active partners in the community – police partnership, which includes the police service; local authorities with their responsibilities for such local functions as housing, social welfare, education, youth services, highways, land use planning, economic development, the probation service, non – governmental organizations (NGOs); and businesses(Morgan 1989:58).

This acknowledges that, while the police are an important element in community safety and to be effective their work and priorities need to be shaped by community concerns. It also recognizes that a multifaceted

response is necessary in view of the increasing complexity of modern society.

However, it will require that the police themselves focus their resources on preventive policing rather than "fire -brigade" policing (Stevens and Yach 1995;36). These authors argue that this style of policing in turn requires an increased level of community co-operation and information, which means here the police are required to become more proactive or play a part in educational; social and physical planning in order to promote a safer environment. (1995:36).

The South African constitution has ensured that crime prevention is placed in both the police and community's hands. This in turn means that if crime levels are not reduced the community cannot blame the police because it has a responsibility too.

2.8. A FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPING COMMUNITY POLICING IN SOUTH AFRICA

The concept of community policing is a relatively new concept in South Africa. This makes its purpose to service. The constitution has entrenched this concept and a framework for its development which has been worked out by the South African Police Service.

2.8.1. Background

The community policing approach is entrenched in the constitution, section 214 (1) of which provides for the establishment of community- police forum (C P F s) at all police stations. These forums will enable:

(a) Increased accountability of the service to local communities and improved cooperation of police with the service

(b) Communities to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the service

(c) Communities to advise the police regarding local policing priorities

(d) Joint evaluation of the provision of visible policing service

(e) Community representatives to request enquiries into policing matters in the local areas

2.8.2. Section 212 of the Constitution Act 200 of 1993: Local Policing

1. The Act referred to in section 214(1) (new police act) shall provide for the establishment of community-police forums in respect of police stations.

2. The functions of community-police forums referred to in subsection 1 may include

- i. The promotion of accountability of the service to local communities and co-operation of communities with the service,
- ii. The monitoring of the effectiveness and efficiency of the service,
- iii. Advising the service regarding local policing priorities

- iv. The evaluation of the provision of visible police services, including :
 1. the provision, siting, and staffing of police stations,
 2. the reception and processing of complaints and charges,
 3. the provision of protective services at gatherings,
 4. the patrolling of residential and business areas and
 5. the prosecution of offenders.

- v. Requesting enquiries into policing matters in the locality concerned (S.A.P.S. 1994:18).

Stevens and Yach (1995:65) argue that an effective way to structure the community-police forums is to establish sub-committees to address every problem or specific need of the community concerned. Examples of such sub-committees could include the following:

- **Family violence:** to address the problem of violence in the family. People such as social workers, ministers of religion, psychologists and medical personnel could serve on a sub-committee together with the police in order to address not only the symptoms but also the causes

- **Training:** to address the needs for expertise which are identified in the police and the community with available means in the community

- **Crime:** to plan and advise the police regarding specific crime problems, eg. Gangsterism

- **Recruiting:** to use research methods which enable the police supplement the manpower requirements of the police station area.
- **Community visitor system:** to co-ordinate the visits of the community members to police cells.
- **Finances:** to investigate the possibilities of obtaining and administering funds for the community-police forum.

2.9.THE FUNCTIONS OF COMMUNITY POLICE FORUMS

The constitution of South Africa has a provision for the establishment of the community-police forums. It is therefore vital for the community-police forums to know their functions. This will help the community not to interfere with the work of the police but to work within its parameters. According to the South African Police Service Volume 2 the functions of the forums may include:

- (a) The promotion of accountability of the Service to local communities and co-operation of communities within the service,
- (b) The monitoring of the effectiveness and efficiency of the Service;
- (c) Advising the Service regarding local policing priorities;
- (d) The evaluation of the provision of visible policing services include:

1. The provision, sitting and staffing of police stations;
2. The reception and processing of complaints and charges;
3. The provision of protective services at gatherings;
4. The patrolling of residential and business areas;
5. The prosecution of offenders and
6. Requesting enquiries into policing matters in the locality concerned (SAPS VOLUME 2, 1994:170)

Glanz (1993:13) argues that the development of community policing liason forums at local levels is further facilitated by the fact that local government is empowered to provide security . Since the establishment of forums it has become a fundamental feature of the world, they have and will continue to become an intergral part of the South African policing scenario. Furthermore the values of these initiatives, which are often police initiated, police administered and police controlled, must be examined in terms of South Africa's political and social culture.

2.10. CHANGES NECESSARY FOR SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY POLICING

The concept of community-police forums is a shift from the traditional view that the safety of the community lies in the hands of the police only. For community policing to be a success certain changes must occur within the police organization. According to SAPS VOLUME 2(1994:8) these changes include change in the structure, strategy and management in the SAPS.

2.10.1. CHANGES IN SAPS STRUCTURE

Jagwanth (1994:8) maintains that changes in structure should focus on the way the police organization is designed and managed in order to reach its goals. She argues that community policing demands a change. The table below illustrates this change.

Table 2.1: CHANGES IN THE SAPS STRUCTURE

From	To
A centralized structure	A decentralized structure (the aim is to bring the police closer to the community)
Excessive specialization	A balance between versatility and specialization
Standardization and uniformity	Flexibility and diversity
An autocratic "command and control" style of management	A participative and consultative style of management
Operational management of status quo	Strategic leadership of change
A focus on short term strategies	A focus on the long term impact of strategies
A narrow definition of the duties of a patrol officer-their role is limited to attending to complaints and the must always act according to "book"	An extension of the duties of the patrol officer-he becomes a generalist responsible for attending complaints, solving problems, activating the community, preventing crime, and undertaking preliminary crime investigations
A narrow training emphasis on fitness, self defense and knowledge of the law	A broader training focus with, in addition to fitness, self defense and knowledge of the law, including knowledge of crime prevention, problem solving and community participation
Head office as a source of orders,	Head office as a source of support

rules and regulations	and the disseminator of values
The measurement of performance based on number of arrests	Performance based on achievements of community goals

2.10.2 CHANGES IN SAPS CULTURE

The South African Police Service is in dire need of changing its culture. These changes in culture should involve changes in attitude, values and norms of behaviour. Jagwanth (1994:9) argues that the goal of cultural change is to modify old patterns of behaviour towards the public so that they conform with the principles of community policing. Table 2 below illustrates this change.

TABLE 2.2 : CHANGES IN SAPS STRUCTURE

FROM	TO
An emphasis of hierarchy rank and authority	An emphasis on participation, creativity and adaptability
An emphasis on existing practices and procedure	A balance between the old and the new- this implies the willingness to question existing rules, procedures and strategies in order to achieve optimal effectiveness and ensure the best possible rendering of service
Slavish compliance with rules and procedures	An emphasis on the development of discretion
Prescriptiveness	Adaptability and flexibility
Closed system- lack of accountability towards the community	Openness, communication, recognition of results.

2.10.3.CHANGES IN SAPS STRATEGY

In order for the SAPS to be efficient and effective in serving the community needs it needs to change its strategy.Jagwanth (1994:9) maintains that changes in strategy involves redefining the police’s relationship to its clients, and strategic change is to rethink “what businesses we are in” and to reposition the police for success in future .The illustration of this change is portrayed in the structure below.

Table 2.3 :CHANGES IN SAPS STRATEGY

FROM	TO
A narrow focus on crime control (law enforcement) as the primary responsibility of the police.	A broader focus which includes crime control, service to the community, crime prevention and the solution to community problems.
An almost exclusive emphasis on serious crimes.	An emphasis on community problem solving according to the priorities of the community
An essentially reactive approach to the problems of crime and violence.	A balance between reactive and proactive activities.
Rapid response to all calls for service	Variable response depending on need
Dealing with incidents in a fragmented way.	The identification of tendencies, patterns and “hot spots” and trying to address the causes thereof.
Policing which is impersonal and removed from the community	Consultation and personal liason with the community through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Community- police forums (b) High contact patrol (c) Satelite stations

	(d) Mobile reporting points
Policing which is technology driven.	Policing which is needs-driven with technology as an aid.
Arrest and prosecution as the primary answers to a problem	Arrest and prosecution as two possible instruments from a larger collection.
Seeing the police as the sole agency responsible for preventing and combating crime.	Accentuating co-operation between the police, the public, governmental institutions and private agencies.
An emphasis on efficiency "doing things right"	An emphasis on effectiveness- "doing the right things"

2.10.4. CHANGES IN SAPS MANAGEMENT

There is a great need to change the attitudes of the SAPS management if the community-police forums will succeed. The SAPS (1994:10) state that if the police was to change and if the community-policing is to work, there is a need of police leaders who have the ability to adapt themselves and to foster change in their sub-ordinates. It is the responsibility of the leaders to foster and encourage change and adaptation. These are illustrated in the following structure.

Table 2.4 : CHANGES IN SAPS MANAGEMENT

From	To
<i>Bureaucratic management</i>	<i>Strategic management</i>
Administrative management	People management
Maintenance management	Management of change

Jagwanth (1994:10) explained that bureaucratic managers often tend to place the interests of the instruction before those of its clients whereas

strategic managers are willing to adapt the organization according to the needs and priorities of their clients. A strategic manager has the following characteristics:

- He has a proper, first hand knowledge of the problems and needs of the community he serves,
- He tries to keep his ear to the ground.
- He listens to and communicates with a large segment of his clients and sub-ordinates as possible.
- He is seen and not just heard.
- He uses his knowledge and insight of the community and the internal workings of his organization to proactively identify and solve problems.
- He strives to be a true partner for the community and a true leader for his sub-ordinates.

As it has been tabulated the SAPS needs a change from administrative to people management. This is because administrative managers are overly concerned with planning, organizing, budgeting and control therefore they often see people especially personnel, as cogs in a giant machine. People managers, on the other hand, realize that people are an organization's greatest asset and use their time to motivate, develop, empower and co-ordinate their sub-ordinates (Jagwanth 1994:11).

Lastly in order for a management to change from status quo management to management of change, the leaders need the following skills:

- They must be able to envisage the new from the old, in other words, they must know where they are and where they are going.
- They must be able to recognize both opportunities and stumbling blocks and must be able to effectively manage both.
- They must be willing to critically question existing practice and must also be willing to experiment with new ways.
- They must realize that change begins with oneself and must, therefore, set the example.
- They must realize that success is a group effort, in other words they must be able to participate in and promote teamwork.(Jagwanth 1994:11).

2.11 Youth Participation in Crime Prevention

Community participation in combating crime has translated itself into community-police forums. Penderis (1996:127) provides the following definition for participation, "An active process by which beneficiary client groups influence the direction and execution of a development project with a view to enhancing their well-being in terms of income, personal growth, self reliance or other values they cherish,"(Penderis 1996:127).

Community participation is nevertheless not adequate if the youth is not placed at the forefront in the fight against crime. This is because the youth is affected by crime either as perpetrators or victims.

Before investigating how the youth can help prevent crime it is necessary to assess the effect of crime on the youth.

2.11.1 The Youth And Crime

The youth is the most susceptible to crime. This may be because of peer pressure, drug abuse, frustration of out-of school youth, unemployment etc. Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux (1994:81) refers, to this category as "at-risk youths" . Crime and violence by the youth play a large part in everyday life in South Africa-these restrict people's lives and dominate conversations as well as media, both in South Africa and abroad.

In a study on the youth conducted by Community Agency for Social Enquiry in 2000 in South Africa, twenty four percent of the respondents thought the crime and safety were one of the most important problems government ought to take care of in their community, while 14% of youth identified crime as the key problem, which worried them as a young person (CASE 2000:10).

Further findings in the study show that about one-fifth of the youth had been victims of crime and violence. This view is further explained by Slabbert et al (1994:53) who argue "the youth group under discussion grew up in a society that steadily become prone to violence. One can only speculate about the psychological and behavioural effects on young people"

To show how the youth is used to crime it is argued that given what we know about rates of crime and violence in various parts of South Africa some discrepancies may stem from the different definitions of crime and violence, in which "petty" crimes may go unnoticed in a high crime area" (CASE 2000:80).

In trying to evaluate crime rate in South Africa, Slabbert (1994:61) argue that crime, both violent and related to property is at very high level and rising and political violence continues to be a scourge (1994"60). In the CASE 2000 survey, off the 21% of claimants who had been victims of crime, more than half (54%)

of them said they personally knew someone who had committed a crime at some stage (2000:80). It has also emerged that the youth is irked by crime because in the survey it was concluded that "even though some young people in the focus group blamed the police for doing nothing about crime, other participants felt that the society has a responsibility to report perpetrators and help the police to combat crime" (2000:80).

It is important that the social structures should value the contribution of the youth. This is because in the fight against crime the youth can provide the much needed energy . Slabbert (1994:62) provide the following reason for youth participating in society.

- (a) Youth has a right to participate fully in all sectors of society, ie. the social, educational, economic and political life of South Africa.
- (b) The youth have demonstrated its insistence on being involved and having a say in political and other matters that affect them often by radical means. They should never again be forced to resort to violence and other forms of anti-social behavior because they are marginalized by persons in power. Measures are needed to ensure their involvement, representation and co-responsibility in all arrears of society.
- (c) Societal institutions such as government, the private sector, churches and communities should institute measures to equip young people to become integrated members of society and be represented whenever their interests are at stake (Slabbert,1994:179)

In order to rehabilitate young offenders, Glanz (1993:13) argue that the society should ask itself: What do we want to achieve with this person? Some may say we want to punish him or her and teach him or her a lesson, he or she must pay. No matter how popular this view may be, it is set to fail . She

maintains that when working with young people who have committed a crime the society's primary aim should be prevention and this include asking: What do we do with this person so that they never commit another crime . It is in such cases that the community-police forums play a vital role as one of their goals is crime prevention.

2.11.2 The Relationship Between The Youth And Police

Involving the youth in crime prevention require a harmonious working relationship between the youth and police. The apartheid regime caused distrust between the youth and the police. The police were viewed as the perpetrators of violence and collaborators with the government.

The police on the other hand viewed the youth as foes who could not be trusted. Brasswell and Miller (1993:40) conducted a research which focused on the youth's view on the police officers and the police officer's view on the youth.

(A) The Youth View of Police Officers

The police officers have one vital negative barrier to overcome even before contact is made with a juvenile. Brasswell and Miller (1993:65) argue that to most juveniles, a police officer is the symbol of bad experiences with other authority figures including fathers, mothers and teachers . This creates a negative attitude from the beginning.

This is because if most youth are approached by a police officer, in the presence of his or her peer group he or she may react in a disrespectful "tough" manner. Brasswell and Miller (1993:65) argue that norms of a juvenile's peer group can create a view of the police as

This is because if most youth are approached by a police officer, in the presence of his or her peer group he or she may react in a disrespectful "tough" manner. Brasswell and Miller (1993:65) argue that norms of a juvenile's peer group can create a view of the police as foes and disrespect may be demonstrated by refusing to be "shoved around" or "clamming up" when police officers ask questions .

In human relations and police work the authors advise that it is important that police officers recognize that any relationship formed with a juvenile will, to a large extent, be dependent upon the officer's manner of approach, the officer's ability to communicate, and the impact of peers present at the interaction . It is therefore obvious that if the police officer approaches a juvenile in a negative manner there will be a negative response. The police officers should avoid adopting overbearing attitudes and excessive authority because to the youth that is a sign of disrespect and may make it difficult for them to gain the trust or confidence of the youth in question (Brasswell and Miller,1993:66).

Besides apartheid the police officers' negative attitude towards the youth plays a pivotal role in the youth not trusting them. It can therefore be deduced that a positive attitude displayed by the police towards the youth can result to a positive response.

In South Africa most of the police do not trust the youth. This according to Brasswell and Miller (1993:3) is because police officers have traditionally been trained to be suspicious of all persons for the practical purpose of self-preservation . This attitude reinforced by the youth's attitudes the police can enhance the separation between the police and the youth. Gray and Skolnick (1975 :34)) are quoted saying, "The police officers possess personality traits unlike that of other professions. The combination of authority with danger as inherent elements of the police can isolate the police from the community.

Such isolation allows the police to come together as a fraternal group with an "us against them" attitude, (Brasswell and Miller (1993:3).

The police officers are always anticipating potential violence hence they develop a perception of those who are potentially dangerous. This cause the police officers to stereotype certain individuals in a society as symbolically dangerous. Brasswell and Miller (1993:4) state, "Police officers may view suspiciously all persons unfamiliar to them, since their well-being may depend on such evaluation"

The community-police forums play a role in that the positive interaction between the police and the youth may minimize the existing distrust.

Furthermore such a relationship may forge a close relationship between the two and create a mentality that they need each other.

2.12 STRATEGIES TO INVOLVE YOUTH IN COMMUNITY POLICING FORUMS

The police officers need to be alert if they want the youth to be active participants in the community-police forums. This is because the youth, although it belongs to the community has different interests to those of adults. In order for the youth to be fully involved in community-police forums ,Bucqueroux and Trojanowicz (1994:18) suggest the following activities for the police:

- Organize activities/ classes designed to instill self esteem.
- Work with recreation personnel and volunteers to expand after-school and summer sport activities
- Recruit volunteers for tutoring and post a list in the community-based office.
- Encourage schools to stay open late, and recruit volunteers- so that youngsters have a place to socialize other than the streets.
- Educate youth on their legal rights and responsibilities.
- Initiate conversation about child abuse to uncover hidden problems. Be alert for signs of abuse. Organize classes for parents on dealing with stress.
- Encourage schools/ churches to provide "quiet rooms" where youngsters can do their homework.
- Involve parents in enforcing curfew.
- Work with area businesses/ residents on providing safer havens for children.

- Encourage churches to develop an exchange program so that urban youth can visit rural/ suburban areas and vice versa.
- Enlist university arts/ literature departments to establish classes so that youngsters can express themselves

Slabbert (1994:66) provide the following strategies which can help in engaging the youth in crime prevention.

- Acknowledging violence and crime as a national problem.
- Public counseling and educational programs on violence and crime.
- Specially designed rehabilitation programs for those who have been involved in violence and crime (as perpetrators and victims)
- Appropriate mechanisms for re-integration into the education system of those young people of school going age who are not in school and might resort to crime.
- Special employment (also skills training) programs for unemployed youth as an alternative to income gained by criminal means.

- The government and other organizations should institute a range of measures and approaches to combat violence and crime.
- It is vital to note that the strategies mentioned are not a panacea or all community-police forums but just recommendations. It is therefore vital for each community-police forum to work out its own strategies for engaging the youth.

2.13. Advantages Of Community Policing

Community-police plays a vital role in community development. This happens in the form of community participation, skills transfer as well as community empowerment. As a result of involving the youth in community-police there are/should be measurable advantages. Van Rooyen (1994:33) categorizes these advantages into two: namely advantages for the community and advantages for the police.

Crime prevention is the first advantage of community policing. This helps the community to live a safer community life. This is achieved because community policing emphasizes proactive policing and heightens police visibility. Van Rooyen (1994:33) state "Attempts to ensure that the police are ever present and to promote relations with local residents on a more personal level. Bring policing closer to the community it serves- thus sending out the message that the police care and are interested"

Another advantage of community policing to the community is transparency as it offers an opportunity to subject police practice to public scrutiny.

Van Rooyen (1994:33) emphasizes that openness implies greater visibility of internal processes and simultaneously increases support from outside the police service. Transparency makes the community to have a better understanding of the police work thus eliminating alienating them.

2.13.2 Advantages For The Police

Community policing advantages are not one sided towards the community only. The police have many benefits from such a relationship and this makes their job easier and more controllable. According to Van Rooyen (1994) such benefits include.

(a) Increased Support And Public Acceptance Of The Police

Once the community becomes an active partner in the police process, an immediate increase in respect and trust for the police are experienced. As the community and police learn more about each other they develop a greater understanding and insight into each other's problems, limited abilities and responsibilities.

(b) Job Satisfaction

Successful problem solving offers visible results. It offers greater job satisfaction and police officers experience the pleasure of their success. Effective community policing requires that the lower ranks accept more initiative and responsibility. This makes the police role more challenging.

(C) Internal Relations

A joint focus on problem solving between the various police components stimulates the exchange of information and promotes internal communication

(d) Police Morale

Community policing increases the morale of the police involved. It multiplies the number of positive contacts that the police make with those who support them and welcome their presence. Traditionally policing was mainly aimed at "difficult" people-criminals, the mental disturbed and often demanding complainants.

(e) Professional Stature

Community policing demands more of the police than the minimum physical abilities. They must be analytical, empathetic, flexible and able to communicate. Community-police, therefore, really does increase the professional status of the police.

2.14. Summary

In this chapter the researcher reviewed various literature on community policing as well as on the strategies involving the youth in fighting crime. It is however important to note that the "community" involves the youth, therefore, terms community and youth are intertwined.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the researcher discusses the major components of the methodology of the study. This includes the research design and methodology, the sampling procedure, the tools of data collection, the research instrument and data analysis.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

In this study the researcher used the evaluative design because the study aimed at finding out the effectiveness, importance and the benefits of using the youth in crime prevention strategies, the beneficiaries which is the community as a whole.

According to Babbie (1992:89)

"a research design attires the planning of scientific inquiry-
designing a strategy for finding out something"

For this study the researcher used both the qualitative as well as the quantitative type of research.

According to Neuman (1997:30)

" The qualitative data method refers to the collection of data
using numbers, counts, and measures of things and the qualitative
research basically involves the use of words, pictures, description
and narratives"

Tripodi and Mckendrick (1987:228), also emphasizes that

"evaluative research refers to a research purpose rather than a specific research method. Its special purpose is to evaluate the impact of social intervention .The evaluative research is also a process of determining whether the intended results were produced"

The qualitative method helped the researcher to access the beneficiaries' attitudes, values, beliefs and their perceptions towards using the youth in crime prevention strategies .Qualitative research method also helped the researcher to gain more insight and understanding in the problems experienced by the beneficiaries .The quantitative method helped the researcher to use figures to present data collected easily.

3.3. THE SAMPLING PROCEDURE

In the selection for a sampling technique, the researcher ensured that each element had an equal chance of being included in the study. The researcher used the probability sampling procedure.

3.4. THE POPULATION

The research population comprised the beneficiaries of the crime prevention strategies of the Kwamashu Community policing forum .In choosing the respondents in the study the researcher used the sampling technique where thirty respondents were chosen from the list of beneficiaries of crime prevention strategies. The respondents were randomly selected.

3.5. RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

The type of measuring instrument used in this study for collection of data comprised an interview schedule. The interview schedule was constructed in English and then translated to Isizulu. The interview was administered in both Isizulu and English. This was done to ensure that the respondents use the language they are comfortable in.

An interview schedule was used which enabled the researcher to probe the verbal and non-verbal cues of the respondents and in order for the interviewer to give clarity where necessary.

In this study the researcher used an interview schedule which consisted of both close and open-ended questions. Face to face interviews were conducted through semi structured questionnaires to ensure flexibility and at the same time the researcher was able to observe and use his own clarification where necessary.

The researcher consulted some sources with past information about the crimes committed by the youth at Kwamashu. The researcher read police files, documents and crime statistic reports for the July-December 2003 conducted by the Kwamashu Police Station. This information formed the background where the researcher was able to interpret and gain insight in some of the issues like youth involvement in combating crime, minutes of previous meetings and successes achieved.

Different committees working with the Kwamashu police station were also consulted. These included the Kwamashu Youth Desk, Department of Arts and Culture and the Department of Local Government were also used as the key informants for the study.

3.6. DATA ANALYSIS

Analysis was seen partly as an ongoing process that commenced at the beginning of the research project. Each stage of the study provided valuable data that influenced the subsequent stage of research.

The information gathered during the collection of data was analyzed in the form of statistics and presented in tables, graphs and coding of data. Data analysis was designed to establish frequencies and correlation of findings.

Quantitative data contained in the questionnaire were analyzed by making use of the spread sheets. Qualitative data generated by the semi structured interviews and face to face interviews were analyzed through a process of coding and categorizing. The findings were presented in the descriptive statistics and discussions of findings.

To ensure the validity and reliability of the findings the researcher used the Ntuzuma and Inanda police stations. These police stations were chosen because they have youth desks and community policing forums. The policemen also formed the key informants for the study. Key informants are believed to be reliable because they have experience in detaining the youth and were involved during the assessment of crime statistics in 2003.

The researcher used a combination of semi structured questionnaires supplemented by crime statistics .He also observed their attitudes and beliefs towards using the youth in crime combating.

3.7. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Limitations within the study were noted during various levels and can be summarized as follows:

- The research only focused on the Kwamashu community policing forum, therefore the findings cannot be generalized to all community policing forums in Durban and in Kwazulu Natal.
- The cultural and belief system also limited the respondents to be open to express their feelings.
- Some of the respondents were oblivious of the existence of the Kwamashu community policing forum.

3.8. SUMMARY

In this chapter the researcher explains and has endeavored to discuss the methods employed in the collection of data. The study was an evaluative design and the data analyzed was qualitative and quantitative. Semi structured interviews were used for the collection of data.

The following chapter outlines the findings of the study.

CHAPTER 4

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter research findings are presented and discussed. The findings are presented according to the interview schedule used in collecting data of the study. The interview schedule is attached as APPENDIX A.

During the research it emerged that the rampant crimes at KwaMashu fall under two categories. These crimes are contact crimes as well as non- contact crimes. Contact crimes are defined as those crimes where the perpetrator comes into direct and physical contact with the victim. Non- contact crimes on the other hand are those crimes in which the perpetrator and the victim do not come into direct contact thus confrontation is avoided.

In table 4.1 are top ten contact crimes that were rampant at KwaMashu in the year 2003. These crimes are listed in the order of their frequency. It can also be noted that these crimes show no level of decrease and some of them were not reported. Only the reported crimes have been listed.

Table 4.1: TOP TEN CONTACT CRIMES

Position	Crime	%
1	Assault with the purpose to inflict grievous bodily damage	13,03
2	Robbery with firearm	10,89
3	Common assault	9,66
4	Common robbery	4,59
5	House robbery	4,36
6	Attempted murder	3,63
7	Murder	2,94
8	Carjacking	1,07
9	Attempted rape	0,26
10	Attempted robbery	0,19

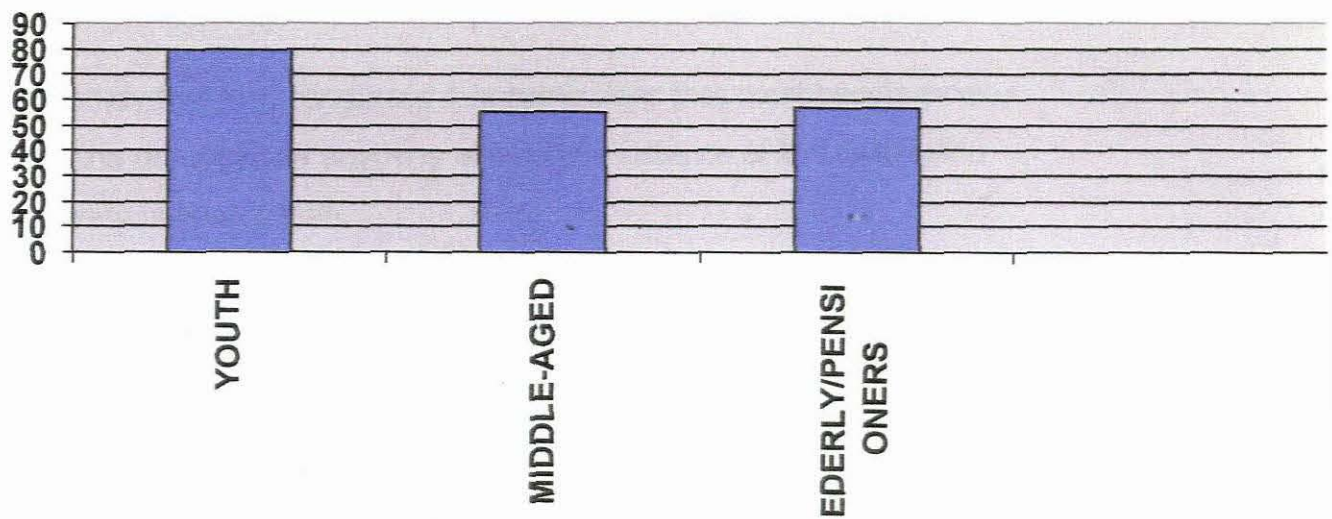
The most common non-contact crimes are presented in the table below. They are presented in order of frequency from one to ten. It can be noted that assault with the purpose to inflict grievous bodily harm is the most frequent of all the crimes that are committed. The presence of illegal firearms results in robbery with firearm being the second most frequent non contact crime. It can be noted that attempted rape and attempted robbery are at the bottom of the list.

Table 4.2 :TOP TEN NON-CONTACT CRIMES

Position	Crime	%
1	Theft General	10,83
2	Burglary at residential premises	10,51
3	Malicious damage to property (common or statutory law)	5,58
4	Driving offences	2,22
5	Unlawful possession of firearm	1,32
6	Theft of motor vehicle and motor cycle	1,25
7	Offences under the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act.	0,86
8	Shoplifting	0,82
9	Theft from a motor vehicle	0,57
10	Fraud	0,29

The study shows that crime is committed by all age groups but it is more rampant among the juveniles. The statistics on perpetrators revealed the following pattern. Most of the crimes are committed by the youth. Middle aged men do crime more frequently after the youth. It can also be noted that some pensioners are also involved in doing crime.

Figure 4.1 :FIGURE OF CRIME PERPETRATORS



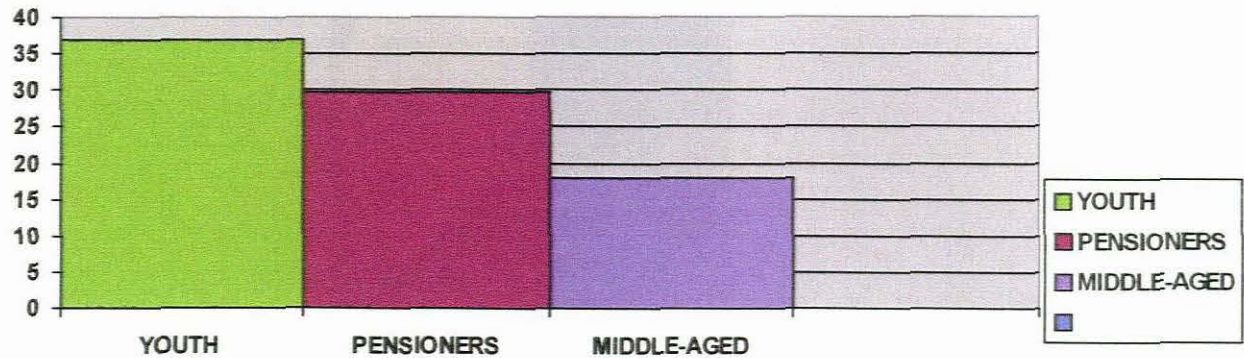
It should be noted that in the graph above middle aged refer to individuals between the ages 36 to 55.

According to figure 4.2 it is clear that the youth are in the majority in committing crimes. More importantly there is a growing tendency of committing crime amongst the school leavers who are unemployed.

4.2 PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE KWAMASHU COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

In the study that was conducted it became clear that most people from KwaMashu do not know anything about the existence of the KwaMashu community policing forum.

Figure 4.2. :FIGURE OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE CPF AT KWAMASHU

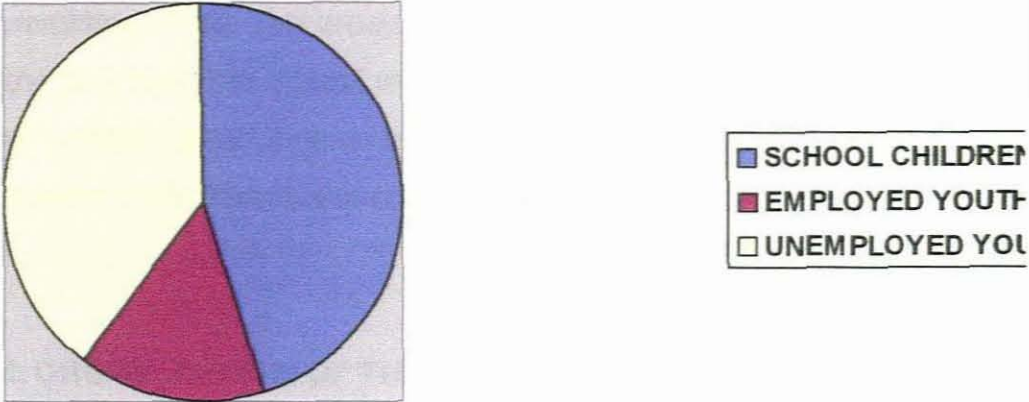


In figure 4.2 it is evident that in the community of KwaMashu the youth (37%) know about the existence of the community policing forum in the area. Pensioners (30%) also have shown knowledge of the KwaMashu community policing forum. This is partly because during their payday the members of the community policing forum come to address them as they are most vulnerable to criminals during such days. Among the middle aged the knowledge about the Kwamashu community policing forum is very minimal (18%). This can be attributed to the assumption that most of them are at work during the operations of the kwamashu community policing forum.

The study aims to focus on the strategies used by the KwaMashu community policing forum on the youth to combat crime.

It therefore becomes vital to focus on the youth and the knowledge about the community policing forum among them.

Figure 4.3 :KNOWLEDGE OF THE CPF AT KWAMASHU



In figure 4.3 15% of the employed youth who were respondents showed knowledge about the existence of the Kwamashu community policing forum .It should be emphasized that most of the employed youth are at work during the activities of the community policing forum. This is also due to the fact that most of the of the activities of the cpf take place during the day and mostly during the school holidays.

45% of the respondents among school children knew about the existence of the KwaMashu community policing forum. The respondents in this group have come into contact with the cpf during its school visits. The KwaMashu community policing forum has taken an initiative to introduce itself to the local schools. This is done in the form of teaching school children about the dangers of drug abuse, crime and so on.

40% of the respondents among unemployed youth know about the existence and functions of the KwaMashu community policing forum. This group is instrumental in the activities of the KwaMashu community policing forum. This is because the KwaMashu police station uses them during school visits and in motivational speeches as well as warning the youth and community in general about the dangers of committing crime. This group is the most susceptible to crime because most of the time they idle around with nothing to do. It should be noted however that some of them spend their time looking for employment thus do not engage in the activities of the KwaMashu community policing forum

4.3 THE STRUCTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE KWAMASHU COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

The study revealed that the structural organization of the Kwamashu community policing forum is representative of all the existing community bodies in the area. These include business organizations, youth organizations, pastors organizations, political organizations, Non Governmental organizations, traditional healers organization, social workers as well as the sector crime forum.

The responsibilities of the afore mentioned organizations will be adequately explained below.

4.3.1 THE BUSINESSMEN ORGANIZATION

The Kwamashu community policing forum has the business people as the essential component of the cpf. The business organization representatives get elected to join the cpf executive committee. The responsibility of business people is to inject finances to the cpf.

Furthermore the business people help in imparting entrepreneurial skills to the community ,more especially the youth. This makes their contribution a double pronged one because in the process of fighting crime they also provide job opportunities as well as entrepreneurial skills.

A respondent from business explained.

“ We as business aim to make a visible transformation to the KwaMashu community which is known for all the wrong reasons. We aim to empower the youth through providing them with temporary jobs during school holidays as well as conducting workshops where the youth are taught how to start their own businesses”

The study also revealed that businesses was the most affected by crime before the launch of the community policing forum in the area. Since the establishment of the cpf crime against business has drastically dropped.

4.3.2 YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

In the research conducted it emerged that all youth organizations are represented in the KwaMashu community forum. These organizations include sports organizations, political organizations as well as cultural organizations. Each of these youth organizations have two members in the cpf executive committee. The KwaMashu Youth Desk has also been established to unify the youth. The Youth Desk is the structure in which all concerns of the youth are discussed and addressed. It was furthermore revealed in the study that the Youth Desk has played a unifying role to the youth that was once at loggerheads because of their different political affiliations.

One respondent explained

"The community policing forum has helped us the youth of KwaMashu and Lindelani to brush aside our political differences. Our vision now is to live in a society where the rights of an individual to choose are respected. Furthermore we have seen the positive results in the fight against crime as we keep the youth involved in the activities of the policing forum"

It has been revealed moreover that some of the active participants in the Youth Desk were notorious criminals and their involvement in it has played a rehabilitative role.

4.3.3 PASTORS ORGANIZATION

The pastors organization is composed of pastors from all religious structures in the area. The pastors also have two representatives in the executive committee of the KwaMashu community policing forum. Their role as spiritual people is to provide spiritual guidance to the community of KwaMashu through the auspices of the community policing forum. The pastors or ministers forum also organizes prayer rallies, peace marches, visit schools. Prayer rallies are also organized at KwaMashu police station and these rallies are open to the whole community and also seek spiritual solutions to problems in the area, more especially crime including the killing of police officers.

4.3.4 NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The NGO,s are also represented in the KwaMashu community policing forum. Organizations which are the most active and influential in the area are NICRO and APEC. All the NGO's at KwaMashu have two representatives in the executive committee of the CPF.

They also play an important role in empowering the youth of KwaMashu with life skills. The NGO'S also train the youth with communication skills, problem solving skills as well as entrepreneurial skills as well as technological skills. The study also revealed that after training, the youth are credited with certificates and in most cases end up being employed by these Non Governmental Organizations.

A respondent from NICRO stated

"Our primary objective is to minimize and ultimately end crime in kwaMashu. Our secondary objective is to empower the youth through skills transfer and capacity building. We can reveal that so far the goals we set for ourselves from the start are gradually being realized"

The Non Governmental Organizations also provide the financial muscle during the activities of the KwaMashu policing forum that require funding.

4.3.5 POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

The political organizations that are prominent in the area of KwaMashu are the African National Congress, Inkatha Freedom Party, Pan Africanist Congress, United Democratic Movement, African Christian Democratic Party, Democratic Alliance as well as Azanian Peoples Organization. All these political organizations have one representative each in the executive committee of the KwaMashu community policing forum. The area of KwaMashu was notorious for political turbulence emanating from political intolerance.

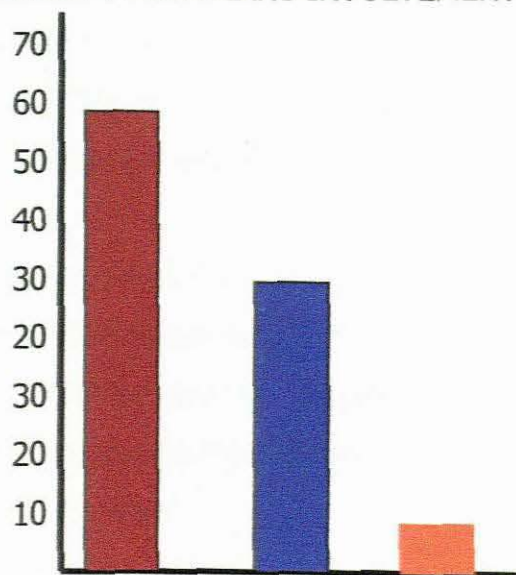
Besides the against crime, political representatives within the KwaMashu Community Policing Forum also serve to ensure that political tempers do not flare more especially in the times leading to elections.

A respondent from a political organization stated:

“Our people are tired of crime and political violence. Our vision in the Community Policing Forum is to ensure that social and political peace and stability is maintained at KwaMashu. If we have to ensure our progress we are slowly moving towards realizing our objective”

60% of respondents from the community also revealed that the role of political organizations in minimizing crime and political intolerance is a positive one. The figure below sums up the views of the public about the role of political organizations in the CPF.

Figure 4.4 :VIEWS ABOUT POLITITIANS INVOLVEMENT IN THE CPF



As figure 4.4. suggests 60% of the respondents believe that the involvement of political organizations in the KwaMashu Community Policing Forum plays a

positive role in reducing crime and maintaining political stability. 30% are against the involvement of politicians in the initiatives of the cpf since they believe that it aggravates the situation. 10% of the respondents are unsure about the role of the political organizations in the fight against crime.

4.3.6 The Traditional Healers Organization.

The traditional healers in the area of KwaMashu have formed an organization that will address their concerns in the Community Policing Forum. As with all other organizations traditional healers have two representatives in the executive committee. The aim of the traditional healers is to provide spiritual guidance to the forum and the community at large.

4.3.7. THE SAPS ROLE IN THE CPF

The police officers from the KwaMashu police station are also represented in the community policing forum.

The police aim to provide quality service to the community, hence their involvement to the cpf. They provide guidance and training to the members of the cpf. A respondent from the cpf explained

“Our responsibility as the police officers is to ensure that we work harmoniously with the community. We do this by working with the community structures and we ensure that after every three months we keep the community informed about the latest crime statistics in the area”

The study also revealed that the police officers have not relinquished their job as a result of the community policing forum but on the contrary are doing their job with renewed vigour since they know that the community is on their side and provide moral support in the fight against crime.

4.3.8. THE SECTOR CRIME FORUM

The area of KwaMashu has been divided into sectors. In each sector there is a sector manager. The study highlighted that all the sections in the area are fully represented in the sector crime forum. The community appoint a committee which in turn is under the supervision of the sector manager. The sector crime forum adopts a hands on approach in the fight against crime. One respondent explained

“As a sector crime forum we identify those areas where crime is rampant. With the help of the community and ‘mpimpa’ hotline we identify criminals and cascade the information to the sector manager. The sector manager cascades the information to the police officers, who are called sector team and they carry out their responsibility of making arrests”

It was also explained that the sector crime forum and the sector manager provide the masses with the latest crime statistics after every three months. In that meeting the community also raise its concerns about its safety and provide suggestions on measures to be taken.

4.4 THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE KWAMASHU COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

The community policing forums have as their main aim the maximum participation of the community in crime prevention initiatives.

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- Training of the subcommittees by the executive committee.
- Training of the community members about their responsibilities in fighting crime.

4.5. TRAINING

This information was sought to determine the training needs for the KwaMashu community policing forum members.

The study revealed that forum members needed training in communication skills, motivational skills, as well as technological skills. Furthermore they needed training to know which borders they needed not to cross since they are not police officers.

The findings indicated that there were committee members that needed training in capacity building and skills transfer. The training that they have already received proved to be insufficient.

4.5.1 AVAILABILITY OF SKILLS AMONG COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The study has indicated that some respondents have acquired skills like peoples skills, creative thinking and public speaking skills.

Ongoing training by the coordinators of community policing forum is necessary for the sustainability of the programme. Some members of the forum have developed skills like conflict management and mediation skills.

4.5.2 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TRAINING

The majority of the respondents mentioned self employment strategies as the best training among all other forms of training.

One respondent explained

"self employment strategies have become important training in the forums because we get to start employment opportunities and how to use the income generated profitably. By such training we have been enabled to employ other individuals and imparting on them the skills needed for them to start their own businesses"

In most cases African communities believed to be jovial recipients of handouts however, contrary to popular belief they expressed the desire to acquire more self help skills. This, they explained will help them to sustain them and help generate income for their families.

4.5.3. STRATEGIES USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND SECURITY IN MONITORING THE KWAMASHU COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

In the study conducted, the findings revealed that most of the respondents (60%) were not happy with the way the Department of Safety and Security in South Africa monitor the KwaMashu community policing forum.

One sector manager summed it up as follows:

“It seems like the Department of Safety and Security has shunned its responsibility of constantly monitoring the community policing forums. This has led to some members of the KwaMashu policing forum secretly forming vigilante groups”

The other respondents (35%) revealed that they believe the Department of Safety and Security is doing enough to ensure the monitoring of the KwaMashu community policing forum.

A group of respondents stated

“It is impossible for the National Minister and National Commissioner to monitor all community policing forums. It is therefore realistic that Minister Nqakula communicates with the KwaZulu Natal MEC for Safety and Security Bheki Cele, who in turn entrusts the responsibility to the provincial commissioner Hamilton Ngidi. The Commissioner in turn communicates with the co-ordinators of community Policing forums. This is the decentralization of policing and the structures below report to the ones above them up to the National Minister of Safety and Security”

It can therefore be deduced that the community of KwaMashu hold two contrasting views as far as the monitoring of its community forum is concerned.

4.6.THE STRATEGIES OF THE KWAMASHU COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM IN CRIME PREVENTION

The KwaMashu community policing forum has adopted different strategies to involve the community in the fight against crime. The study revealed that most of their strategies involve the youth. This is because the youth is more vulnerable to crime. Furthermore the statistical findings showed that most crimes are committed by the youth. It should ,however be noted that the middle aged as well as pensioners are also aided by the KwaMashu community policing forum to blow the whistle on crime.

4.7.THE YOUTH STRATEGIES IN CRIME PREVENTION

The Kwamashu community policing forum has designed a detailed plan on how to keep the youth off the streets. This plan involves the organizing of sports, school visits, entertainment, motivational speeches, visits to prisons, winter classes, competitions, and skills transfer. The study has shown that most of the youth in the area has benefited from such activities.

4.7.1. SPORTS

In the research conducted it emerged that the most effective strategy in helping the youth from falling victims to crime is sport. The Kwamashu community policing forum has ensured that at least once after every three months sports activities are organized for the youth.

In order to ensure that maximum participation by the youth is achieved all sporting codes are catered for. These include soccer, netball, basketball, cricket, volleyball, athletics, swimming and boxing. These sporting activities are planned during the school holidays so that the youth does not idle at home. The youth organizes itself according to their sections and form different teams for all sport codes. The coordinator of the Kwamashu community policing forum explained:

“ During the sporting activities we ensure that the youth know about the presence of professionals and coaches in the stadia. These talent scouts identify raw talent and in some cases such activities have produced household names in the professional ranks”

Business and Non Governmental Organizations in the area of KwaMashu play a pivotal role in the funding of such sporting activities. Winners are awarded trophies and cash prizes. Local business people help those who have won to invest their winnings in order to make profit. In order to keep the youth motivated all participants in sport activities are given medals as incentives for their participation. Besides the awards sport also help the youth to have healthy bodies which leads to healthy minds. Healthy minds ultimately help the youth to make sound and wise decisions which keep them off criminal activities.

4.7.2. SCHOOL VISITS

Another strategy that the community policing forum of KwaMashu use in order to fight crime is to organize school visits. The study showed that most of the participants are the out of school youth and Social Workers. During such school visits the youth are taught / educated about dangers of doing crime, drug abuse and are also taught life skills.

The youth and more especially girls are taught by professional officers how to defend themselves from rapists. This is done because rape is one of the rampant crimes at KwaMashu. During the school visits the educators are also taught how to identify learners that are doing and are addicted to drugs and refer them to the Social Workers. The Social Workers in return offer advise and counseling to the drug addicted youth and form support groups.

4.7.3. ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment plays a pivotal role in keeping the youth occupied. The study indicated that the Youth Desk uses entertainment as an important tool against crime.

The community policing forum in the area organize beauty contests for the youth. In such contests celebrities are usually invited to be programme directors, judges and motivational speakers. Issues like crime ,drugs etc are discouraged and the message gets across easily to the youth because the celebrities are their role models. In December the KwaMashu community policing forum organized free trips for the youth to the beach. Furthermore local recording artists with the help of the community policing forum hold free concerts whose aim is to address the youth about dangers of crime.

4.7.4. THE MOTIVATIONAL SPEECHES

In order to keep the youth visionary and goal oriented about the future the community policing forum organize motivational speakers to address the youth. The motivational speakers advise the youth to stay focused on their goals and they also help to answer questions that the youth have pertaining to careers, employment opportunities, positive attitude and self esteem.

4.7.5 PRISON VISITS

The kwaMashu community policing forum occasionally organizes trips to the nearby Westville prison. The aim of these trips is to organize one on one and open discussions between the youth and prisoners. Prisoners also tell the youth about life in prison and how they started doing crime. They also share with the youth about conditions in prison. Since conditions in prison are unfavorable the youth get warnings about prison life which emanate from criminal activities. Prison visits also help the youth to make new friends with prisoners, and this helps the prisoners who sometimes have no relatives to visit them to socialize with the youth.

4.7.6. WINTER CLASSES

The study revealed that most crimes that the youth commit are mostly committed during school holidays. This is because when schools are closed the youth have nothing to do or keep them busy. The KwaMashu community policing forum in conjunction with schools and local educators decided to organize winter classes.

In these classes educators volunteer their services and time hence do not get paid. Grade ten, eleven and twelve learners are invited in these classes. Three centers are chosen for these grades and 'expert' educators from different schools specialize in teaching those subjects.

Winter classes help to keep the youth busy during holidays hence their minds are focused on their school work. Furthermore, besides keeping the youth busy, the winter classes help in improving the youth with their school performance. Local tertiary institutions like the University of KwaZulu Natal and the Durban Institute of Technology also offer help during the winter classes by motivating the youth and empowering them with study skills, career choices as well as preparing them for life after matriculation.

4.7.7. COMPETITIONS

The KwaMashu community policing forum also organizes competitions for the youth. These include music competitions between groups. The KwaMashu community policing forum organizes music producers who adjudicate during the gospel music competitions. In most cases the winning group is rewarded with cash and a recording contract.

4.7.8. OTHER STRATEGIES

Other strategies that the KwaMashu community policing forum has employed to stop the spread of crime among the youth include the following:

- Involving parents in enforcing curfews.
- Working with area businesses/residents on providing safe havens for homeless children.
- Organizing activities designed to instill self esteem.
- Educating youth on their legal rights and responsibilities.
- Empowering the youth on how to start their own businesses

4.8. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE KWAMASHU COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM IN CRIME PREVENTION

In order to assess the effectiveness of the community policing forum in the fight against crime the researcher requested crime statistics for the period 2000 to 2003. The reason for this specific period is because the community policing forum had been functional for a longer period since it was established in 1996.

The researcher studied the crime statistics and analyzed them. To interpret data the researcher chose top four contact crimes and non contact crimes.

4.8.1 CONTACT CRIMES

Table 4.3. :ASSAULT WITH THE PURPOSE TO INFLICT GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM

Period	Total	%
2000	1268	13,85
2001	1389	14,72
2002	1182	12,04
2003	1255	13,03

Table 4.3 indicates that 2002 is the year in which assault was low (12,04%) whereas in 2001 the crime was at its height (14,72%). It can also be observed that in 2003 the assault offence was at (13,03%). In the statistics above there is no specific pattern in the reduction of assault instead the figures are fluctuating.

Figure 4.5 : ROBBERY WITH FIREARM

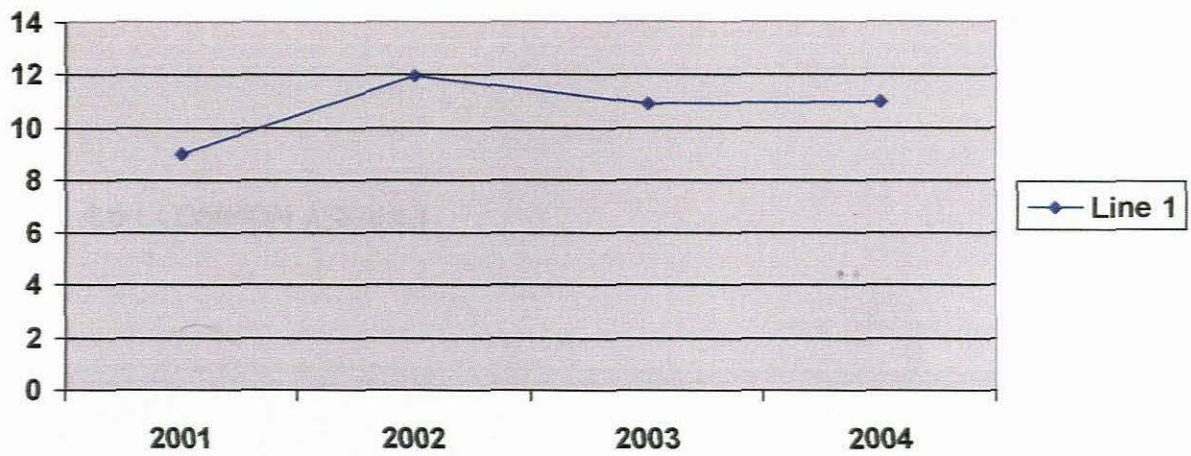
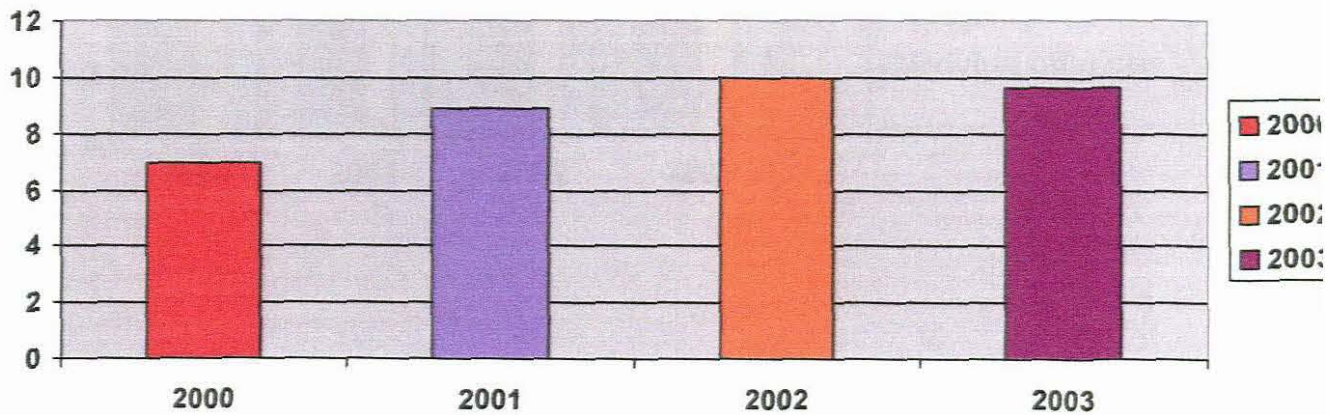


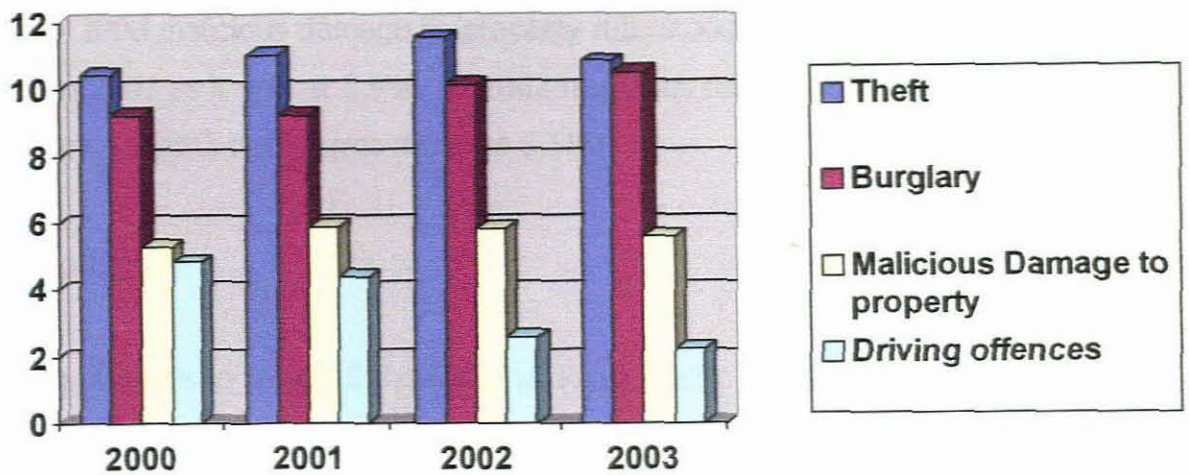
Figure 4.5 indicates that since year 2002 there has been an increase in robbery with firearms. The only period where armed robbery decreased is between 2002 (11,95%) and 2003 (10,89%). In the years 2000 and 2001 there was a 2.04% increase in armed robbery as the figures moved from 5.55% to 7.39%.

Figure 4.6 : COMMON ASSAULT



In figure 4.6 the bar graph shows that there has been an increase in the common assault cases. In year 2000 there was 6.96% of assault cases but in 2001 these cases increased by 1.93% and reached 8.89%. in 2002 the statistics show 10.01% of common assault. It was only in 2003 that there has been a decrease in assault cases. The statistics reveal that 9.66% of common assault cases were reported in 2003.

Figure 4.7



a). Theft

According to figure 4.7 in 2000 the theft rate stood at 10,4% whereas in the year 2001 it increased by 0,59% and reached 11,05%. In the year 2002 theft figures stood at 11,55% and in the year 2003 they dropped to 10,83%. It can therefore be deduced that although the crime rate has been increasing over the years since 2000 it decreased in the year 2003.

b) Burglary

As far as burglary at residential premises is concerned the year 2000 had 9,24% and the findings revealed that in 2001 burglary rate stood at 9,23%. In year 2002 the burglary rate increased and reached 10.15% whereas in 2003 it reached a high of 10,51%.

c) Malicious damage to property

In the year 2000 malicious damage to property rate stood at 5,26% and increased in 2001 as it was at 5,9%. In 2002 malicious damage to property was at 5,82% and in 2003 the figures stood at 5,58%

b) Driving offences

The driving offences in terms of the National Road Traffic Act showed the following findings ;

In 2000 driving offences were 4,83% and in 2001 they were 4,37%. In 2002 these rates dropped and reached 2,56%. In the year 2003 the driving offences reached an all time low and recorded to be 2,22%.

4.8.3 THE USE OF FIREARMS

The crime statistics between the period 2000 and 2003 have shown very little difference. It can also be deduced from the statistics that most of the crimes were committed with a firearm as an instrument. It is however encouraging for the Kwamashu Community Policing Forum to notice a drastic drop in the use of firearms as an instrument of criminal activity. In the year 2000 the firearm as an instrument of criminal activity was used 253 times. In the year 2001 the statistics reveal that it dropped to 202. In 2002 however there was an increase in the use of firearms as the figures went up to 235 reported cases. The year 2003 showed that the vision of a gun-free KwaMashu is starting to bear fruit. This is because in 2003 the use of a pistol / revolver reached an all time low of 198.

4.9.SUMMARY

In this chapter it was revealed that although the KwaMashu Community Policing Forum has been functional since 1996 most people of the KwaMashu community do not know about it. The youth is engaged in the activities of the KCPF and their strategies are useful. However, this hard work is undermined by the lack of proper marketing by the KCPF. The crime rates are fluctuating and the use of firearms is sharply decreasing.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the researcher presents the findings of the study, draws conclusions and makes recommendations. The objectives and hypothesis of the study are also restated.

5.2. RESTATEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study were as follows:

- To determine the strategies set out by the KwaMashu police station in achieving the desired goal of crime prevention with the youth at the forefront.
- To determine the involvement of the youth in improving their lives
- To assess the effectiveness of crime prevention at KwaMashu and to use the strategies to help crime infested areas.

5.3 RESTATEMENT OF THE HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

- The effectiveness of the KwaMashu Community Policing Forum depends on the full participation and involvement of beneficiaries (community) in promoting their own social welfare.
- The full involvement of beneficiaries in the crime prevention process results in the improvement of local leadership and community empowerment.
- The strategies set by the department of safety and security have a tendency to achieve the goals of a crime free South Africa.

5.4 FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The following were the findings of the study based on information obtained from the respondents.

- The findings revealed that 37%, the majority of the respondents in the KwaMashu Community Policing Forum, were the youth. This was one of the strategies of the policing forum where it targets the youth and other vulnerable groups in the community.
- The study revealed that there is an increase in the statistics of out of school youth. It further stated that there is a gradual increase of criminal activities from this group as most of them are unemployed, have no tertiary education and lack skills to start self-employment.

- The study also revealed that 63% of the KwaMashu community have no or little knowledge about the existence and the activities of the KwaMashu Community Policing Forum. This makes the CPF of KwaMashu to be less effective.
- One of the findings of the study is that the communication lines between the KwaMashu community and the KwaMashu Community Policing Forum are not properly open. The KCPF has not done enough to market itself.
- The starting of the sector crime forums is gradually helping the KwaMashu community to be active participants in crime prevention. In the sector crime forums there are sector teams of police officers as well as detectives who are assigned to a particular sector.
- The study also revealed that the responsibility of crime prevention in a particular sector lies with the strategies of the sector manager / coordinator. It emerged that the sector manager is closer to the community than the executive committee of the KCPF.
- The study also revealed that 20% of the out of school youth have been empowered with different skills. As a result some of the youth have found employment with some NGO's like NICRO and APEC.

- The study revealed that most of the community structures are involved in crime prevention strategies. These structures include Non-Governmental Organization, local businessmen, Political organizations, youth organizations, pastors' organizations and traditional healers' organizations.
- The study further indicates that since the establishment of the KCPF in 1996 it has been effective but to a limited degree. Furthermore, since the establishment of sector crime forums the effectiveness of the policing forum is evidently increasing.
- It emerged that in most of the crimes that were committed the instrument for criminal activity was a fire-arm, however, the findings show that the use of a fire-arm is decreasing and that can be attributed to a 'gun free South Africa' campaign.
- The findings show that although the community structures participate in the KwaMashu community policing forum they are also involved in crime prevention outside the community policing forum.

- The community policing in the area is involved in creating crime awareness to the pensioners as most of them are usually victims of crime during pension days.
- The schools in the area of KwaMashu are currently going through a tough time. In most schools children smoke drugs, are victims of rape and some learners and educators have died in the school premises, however the community policing forum do make school visits to better the situation. The out of school youth help in trying to curb crime in schools.
- The study further revealed that most of the criminal activities take place during the school holidays and that is the time when most of the youth are idling at home and become the victims of crime or become involved in committing crimes.
- It emerged during the study that as a result of CPF sport activities, some of the KwaMashu youth have been identified by talent scouts. This has led to some of them becoming professionals and joining local schools.

- The study revealed that parents have been involved in minimizing criminal activities among the youth. This is because the KCPF have taught them on how to be effective in doing the following:
 1. to collaborate with the police officers to enforce curfews,
 2. to report any signs of drug addiction amongst their children to the police officers, and
 3. to handle wild youth who have an abusive streak.
- It emerged during the study that beside sporting activities, asking sentenced prisoners to address the youth about crime and life inside the prison was the most effective strategy of the KCPF.
- The findings showed that the establishment of the KwaMashu Youth Desk has been instrumental in uniting the youth. Furthermore the youth in this structure have been empowered through capacity building, skills transfer and organizational skills and abilities.
- The establishment of the KwaMashu Youth Desk has played a major role in educating the youth about political tolerance. This is due to the fact that all political parties like the African National Congress, Inkatha Freedom Party, Pan Africanist Congress, Democratic Alliance, and United Democratic Front have encouraged the youth affiliated to them to join the Youth Desk.

- The involvement of the Pastors organization in the KCPF has contributed positively towards moral regeneration in the area. This has made the youth to see the relevance of religion and spirituality.
- The study revealed that for the community to participate actively in the policing forum they need to be made aware about its importance. This view is further supported by Penderis (1996:27) who describes community participation as

“an active process by which beneficiary client groups influence the direction and execution of a development project with a view to enhancing their well being in terms of income, personal growth, self reliance or other values that they cherish.”

- The study has revealed that the high unemployment rate has contributed negatively to the non-contact crime of theft.
- The findings show that the training that the youth have received from the KCPF has empowered them with public speaking skills, motivational skills, communication skills, conflict management, mediation skills as well as self-employment strategies.
- The findings further indicated that most participants in the KCPF know that the police officers have the main responsibility to tackle crime head on. The members of the community policing forum play an active role in supporting the police officers.

- It emerged during the research that most of the "hot spots" or areas where most criminal activities take place have been identified through the help of sector crime forum. This has helped the police or sector teams to make arrests thus minimizing and in some cases stopping criminal activities.
- Although the Department of Safety and Security offer monitoring to the community police forums it does not offer the necessary support that will make the public in general aware of its objectives.

5.5. RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the stated findings the researcher recommends the following.

- That the constitution of the Safety and Security Ministry about policing forums be made available to the forum members. This will empower them to work in line with the constitution.
- That forum members be empowered with skills to identify and establish their needs. This would enable them to implement activities with a clear expected outcome.

- That the community policing forum of KwaMashu adopt a strategy that will make it easier for the whole community to know it and identify with its activities. This will help it to be more effective in carrying out its objectives.
- That the sector crime forums be established on a smaller scale ie. each section should have its sector forum, sector manager, sector team and sector detectives. This would help all sections in the area to be competitive and this would make the sector system more effective as it will be closer to the community.
- That more Non Governmental Organizations be encouraged to be actively involved in the activities of the policing forum. Furthermore the NGO's should empower the youth with skills that would help the youth in the future
- That the local police station forge a close working relationship with the regional and district education offices. This would help in the eradication of drugs, murder, theft, vandalism and all criminal activities that take place within school premises.

- That the KwaMashu police station in conjunction with the community of KwaMashu identify areas where CCTV cameras will be installed. This would enable the police officers to easily identify criminals and make arrests.
- That the 'gun free South Africa campaign' be continued and driven with vigour because its effects are positive. This is because the use of the fire-arm in criminal activities shows a steady decrease.
- That all stakeholders in the community policing forum should be involved in initiating the work of the forum as well as assessing the ongoing process. The management and participants should monitor activities and provide progress in the forum activities.
- That the police station work with the Tourist Junction since tourism is adversely affected by crime. Furthermore the local youth should be employed to show tourists around as this would provide safety for the tourists and employment for the youth.

- That the networking and intersectoral collaboration become the important strategy that all the government officials should practice in order to achieve the goals of crime prevention.
- That the local leadership be active participants in ensuring that the youth is involved in constructive community activities that will ensure their self development hence minimize times of committing crime.
- That the activities of the KwaMashu community policing forum be staged at times where the whole community would be involved. Public holidays are recommended for such activities as most of employed individuals can attend.
- That in the school programmes the local schools ensure that the negative effects of crime are included in Life Orientation.
- That local business allow the youth to volunteer their services to them. This would help the youth to acquire work experience as well as skills that would help them in the future.

- That the victims of crime be encouraged to report cases to the police stations. This is because most of the cases are not reported hence perpetrators continue doing crime without any fear.
- That the Justice system of the country become more accountable and responsible. This is because the community feels like their work is in vain if the criminals they reported to the police roam the streets freely after they had been arrested.
- That the community policing forum updates itself with the activities that capture the interests of the youth and use those activities to warn the youth about crime and dangers of getting involved in it.

5.6. CONCLUSION

The study was based on community policing forums and its strategies of putting the youth in the forefront of crime prevention as is the initiative of the Department of Safety and Security. The scope of the study was the area of KwaMashu.

A number of recommendations were made where it became clear that the community policing forum of KwaMashu has shortcomings. The efforts made by stakeholders and the Department of Safety and Security are not enough for achieving objectives of involving the youth in crime prevention.

The youth have been empowered with skills such as communication skills, people's skills, entrepreneurial skills as well as leadership skills. The youth has developed leadership skills in the form of the Youth Desk which has taught them to be independent. The training provided to the youth has helped them to acquire skills.

Lack of proper marketing, publicity and communication by the community policing forum made it less effective as most of the community members do not know about its existence, aims and activities.

The department of Safety and Security as well as the South African Police Service have an efficient strategy and constitution but the lack of monitoring by the ministry makes the community policing forum less effective than it should be.

On the basis of the research findings, some implications were made which further enabled the researcher to make some recommendations. It is hoped therefore that the aforementioned recommendations if implemented could bring measurable improvement on the KwaMashu community policing forum and its strategies of keeping the youth at the forefront in crime prevention. This will also help other police stations, the province and the country as a whole. The recommendations will also, hopefully, assist policy makers in implementing different policies relating to crime prevention by the communities.

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APPENDIX A

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM: STRATEGIES OF THE YOUTH IN CRIME PREVENTION AT KWAMASHU

1. INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

1.1 Do you know anything about the KwaMashu Community Policing Forum?

Y
N

1.2 Do you know the aims of the KwaMashu Community Policing Forum?

Y
N

1.3 Have you been involved in any crime prevention initiative by the KCPF?

Y
N

1.4 Do you think the Community can play a role in combating crime?

Y
N

1.5 Do you think the youth can play a role in combating crime?

Y
N

2. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN KWAMASHU COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM.

2.1 How often do you participate in crime combating?

I DON'T	
SOMETIMES	
ALWAYS	

2.2 How often do you attend open meetings by the KCPF?

I DON'T	
SOMETIMES	
ALWAYS	

2.3 How often are you updated about crime statistics in your area?

I DON'T	
SOMETIMES	
ALWAYS	

3. COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE ABOUT KCPF

3.1 Which is the target group of the KCPF?

(a) Youth	
(b) School learners	
(c) Adults	
(d) Pensioners	
(e) People living with disability	
(f) Other (Specify)	

3.2 How long has the KCPF existed?

- (a) 1 – 2 years**
- (b) 2 – 3 years**
- (c) 3 – 4 years**
- (d) 4 – 5 years**

(e) 5 years and above

4. YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN THE KWAMASHU COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM.

4.1 Does the KwaMashu Community Policing Forum use the youth to combat crime. If they do, explain why?

4.2 If the KwaMashu Community Policing Forum uses the youth explain what strategies do they use?

4.3 Is the KwaMashu Community Policing Forum successful in using the youth in crime prevention? Please explain your answer.

4.4 What are the problems encountered by the KwaMashu Community Policing Forum in recruiting the Youth? List some of them?

5. SKILLS AND TRAINING

5.1 What training do you need to participate in the KwaMashu Community Policing Forum?

5.2 Do you think that you have enough skills to participate in the crime prevention?

5.3 If you have acquired skills in crime prevention, which is the most beneficial to you and why?

5.4 Are you satisfied with the monitoring carried out by the Department of Safety and Security in the KwaMashu Policing Forum? Please explain.

5.5 Have you benefited from the KCPF?

5.6 Do you think the youth participation of the youth is sustainable in the KCPF?

THANK YOU
