

Exploring the challenges that the South African police services encounter when responding to Residential burglary

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Abstract

Burglary at residential premises is a global and growing problem. Thus, the Newlands East Policing Precinct of Durban, is no exception to this problem. This study aimed at exploring the challenges that the South African Police Services (SAPS) in the Newlands East Policing Precinct experience in responding to burglaries at residential premises. The motivation behind this study was based on safety within the selected community, mainly focusing on burglary at residential premises because this crime has been the highest reported property-related crime in the area for the past five years (2015-2019). It was also underpinned by the National Developmental Plan (NDP) of attempting to build safer communities by 2030. In ensuring that the aim of this paper was achieved, a qualitative research approach was used, which enabled the researchers to explore the attitudes, opinions, perceptions and views of the selected SAPS officials on the challenges that they experience in responding to residential burglary. Semi-structured interviews were used to collect data from ten (10) participants who were purposively selected. The challenges that the participants perceived included lack of community participation, resources, trust and community tolerance to crime as hindrances to responding to residential burglary. Collectively, these findings suggest that more effort is needed from the government, police, and community members to fight this crime.

Keywords: housebreaking/burglary at residential premises, South African Police Services.

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