

**THE RISING INCIDENCE OF KIDNAPPING IN EDO NORTH SENATORIAL  
DISTRICT: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**BY**

**Ahmed Tijani MOMOH**

**Mat No-PG/SSC2215831**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY.**

**DECEMBER, 2025.**

**THE RISING INCIDENCE OF KIDNAPPING IN EDO NORTH SENATORIAL  
DISTRICT: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**BY**

**Ahmed Tijani MOMOH**

**Mat No-PG/SSC2215831**

**BEING A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE POST GRADUATE COMMITTEE OF  
SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTERS DEGREE (MSC) IN  
SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY (CRIMINOLOGY)  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,  
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY.**

**DECEMBER, 2025.**

## CERTIFICATION

We the undersigned certify that **Ahmed Tijani Momoh** with matriculation number **PG/SSC2215831** completed the requirement for the research work for the award of Master of Science Degree (Criminology) in Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Prof. A.O. Dokpesi**

**(Project Supervisor)**

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Asso. Prof. G. Igbinomwanhia**

**(Ag. Head of Department)**

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**EXTERNAL EXAMINER**

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this project to God Almighty, whose faithfulness and love had contributed to the success of this work. I also dedicate this project to my wife, Mrs Omoyemhe Momoh and my children, who supported me all through the programme.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First, I give glory, praises, honour and adoration unto God Almighty for his mercies, favour, grace and love which continues to shine in my life and career as a Police Officer. The journey that led to this chapter of my life would not have been possible without the help of God which built my tenacity to overcome the challenges I encountered during this chapter. I return all the glory to him may his name be forever praised.

I would like to thank my supervisor, Prof. A. O. Dokpesi for his invaluable guidance and mentorship, patience, tireless effort and encouragement which have been instrumental in shaping the direction of this project.

My appreciation goes to the Head of Department Asso. Prof. Greg Igbinowanhia, Prof. A.O. Dokpesi, Prof. Obarisiagbon, Prof. Obaro Ogaga, Prof. K. U. Omoyibo, Prof. O. Osunde, Dr. Jude Akaba, Dr. Michael Ndisika, Dr. Omoruyi Lucky Osagie, Dr. Augustine Alenkhe, Dr. Mrs E. Agbontaen and other lecturers in the departments of Sociology and Anthropology, whose teachings and insights and their passion for knowledge and dedication to education have greatly influenced my growth.

I also want to appreciate my dearest wife, Mrs Omoyemhe Momoh, my Children, Emmanuella and Ellen Momoh for their support and contributions during my academic pursuits, I am really grateful to God for putting you people around me during this whole process I really want to say a very big thank you.

I also want to appreciate Miss Esther F. Ekeh, I am also very grateful to my course mates, friends, and others; too numerous to mention for their immense contributions and support towards me during my journey in this school. I am grateful for their shared love and assistance and the experiences we shared. May God bless them abundantly.

Above all, all Glory, Honour, Adoration, Majesty and Praise be unto the Lord God Almighty.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Table of Contents	v
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
Abstract	ix
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	6
1.3 Research Questions	9
1.4 Objectives of the Study	9
1.5 Significance of the Study	10
1.6 Operational Definition of Terms	11
<b>CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK</b>	
2.1 Conceptual Literature Review	13
3.3 Empirical Review	24
4.4 Summary of Literature Review	27
2.5 Theoretical Framework	27
<b>CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODS</b>	
3.1 Research Design	31

3.2 Population of the Study	32
3.3 Sample Size	32
3.4 Sampling Technique	34
3.5 Instrument of Data Collection	36
3.6 Reliability Test	37
3.7 Validity of the Research Instrument	37
3.8 Method of Data Collection	38
3.9 Method of Data Analysis	38
3.10 Ethical Consideration	40
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION</b>	
4.1 Introduction	41
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION</b>	
5.1 Summary of Major Finding	80
5.2. Conclusion	81
5.3. Recommendation	82
References	84

## LIST OF TABLES

4.1.1. Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents (N=513) (A)	41
4.1.2. Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents (N=513) (B)	45
4.1.3: Investigate the root causes of the surge in kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District. (N=513)	49
4.1.4: Investigate if government strategies in combatting the rising incidence of kidnapping are effective. (N=513)	56
4.1.5: Examine the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in responding to kidnapping cases. (N=513)	64
4.1.6: Explore potential solutions and prospects for enhancing law enforcement strategies in the fight against kidnapping in the district	72

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Age of the respondents	42
Figure 2: Educational Qualification	43
Figure 3: Marial Status of the respondent	44
Figure 4: Religious affiliation of the respondent	46
Figure 5: longest time residents lived in Edo north senatorial district	47
Figure 6: Causes of kidnapping in Edo North	50
Figure 7: Strategies adopted in combating kidnapping	58
Figure 8: Significant challenges impending law enforcement agencies in combating kidnapping	66
Figure 9: Plans to improve community engagement in law enforcement effort in combating kidnapping	74

## ABSTRACT

*Crime remains a universal socio-political reality shaped by societal norms, moral values, and legal frameworks. Scholarly perspectives commonly emphasize crime as human conduct deemed harmful to the public and subject to state sanctions. Historically, criminality in Nigeria evolved from individual and group offences in pre-colonial societies to complex contemporary crimes driven by political, economic, and social dynamics. In recent decades, kidnapping has emerged as one of the most pervasive criminal activities, escalating nationwide despite technological advances and state interventions. Edo State, particularly Edo North Senatorial District, has witnessed a disturbing rise in kidnapping, resulting in insecurity, economic losses, and increased psychological distress. Despite government measures, including demolition of criminal hideouts and intensified policing, the menace persists. This study investigates the drivers of kidnapping, the effectiveness of existing counter-measures, and the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies, with a view to informing evidence-based policy responses. Current literature were reviewed. Routine Activity Theory (RAT) and Social Disorganization Theory (SDT). This study adopts a mixed-methods design, combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews to investigate the surge in kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District. A sample of 513 law enforcement and vigilante personnel was selected through multistage sampling. Data collection utilized structured questionnaires and interview schedules, with analysis involving descriptive statistics and thematic content analysis to examine causes, challenges, and potential solutions.*

*Findings show that poverty, unemployment, and economic deprivation significantly contribute to youth involvement in kidnapping, while weak governance, corruption, and inadequate law enforcement capacity further enable criminal activities. Public perceptions of government strategies indicate mixed effectiveness, with respondents emphasizing the need for intelligence-driven policing, improved operational capacity, and stronger community engagement. Structural constraints (including limited resources, inadequate logistics, and low personnel motivation) undermine the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies. Despite the presence of community-based initiatives such as vigilante groups and neighbourhood watch systems, their impact is constrained by poor coordination and communication gaps. The study concludes that reducing kidnapping requires an integrated, multi-sectoral approach combining robust policing, technological enhancement, strengthened institutional accountability, community collaboration, and socio-economic empowerment. Key recommendations include equipping security agencies, fostering community-police dialogue, expanding youth empowerment programs, enforcing anti-corruption measures, and improving police infrastructure for timely response and sustainable security.*

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.2 Background of the Study

Crime is a socioeconomic and political reality that has been with mankind since the formation of the human society (Agba and Zubairu 2021). It is a universal phenomenon across all known human societies, irrespective of their levels of development. In other words, human societies 'experience one form of crime or another, either perpetrated by their citizens or by outsiders or by collusion of the citizens with outsiders' (Agba and Zubairu 2021: 451).

There are different and several definitions of crime as there are many scholars attempting to conceptualize it from the perspectives of their different orientation and/or perception. According to Ross and Jones (1972), a crime can be defined as a legal wrong for which the offender is punished at the instance of the state. For Gledhill (1963), it is a human conduct which the state decides to prevent by threat of punishment and through legal proceedings of a special kind. Relatedly, Isiaka and Okaphor (2018) asserted that crimes are generally acts which have a particularly harmful effect on the public and do more than interfering with mere private rights. In all of these definitions, what seems to be common is the fact that a crime is a human behavior which the state must take very seriously, through the instrumentality of the law, because of its potential effects on individuals and the society.

By the simple fact that crime is a reality in human society its perception, to a great extent, is being determined by the society. As Durkheim (1958) rightly argued, the collective conscience of a people defines crime. In other words, crimes could be determined from

what is collectively considered to be socially undesirable as against what is considered to be socially desirable. Within this context, crime can be seen as a violation of societal cultural norms which is sometimes beyond mere violation of laws. Therefore, in the general study of human behavior, it is suggested that criminology should focus broadly on all anti-social behaviours that can be harmful to society (Sellin, 1938; Isiaka and Okaphor 2018).

Furthermore, from the point of view of the moralists, crimes are mainly immoral acts deserving of punishment. This stems from the belief that in human society, there is a public morality which is an essential part of the bondage which keeps society together; and that it may use the criminal law to preserve anything else that is essential to its existence (Smith, 2007). However, for the Libertarians, self-protection and prevention of harm to others is the only justification for interfering with the liberty of others; and not about morality of an action which is relative as there is a difference between private morality/immorality and public morality/immorality (Molan, 2001). The positivists, on their own part, argued that a crime is whatever act or omission the ruler of the day prescribed by a threat of penal consequences (Chukkol, 1988). In sum therefore, crime is a conduct considered to be harmful to the public, whether moral or immoral, but deserves punishment to be effected by the authorities.

Although in pre-colonial Africa societies there were crimes, the predominant crimes were stealing, adultery, rape, banditry, armed robbery, manslaughter, murder and poisoning (Agba and Zubairu, 2021). In the period of political stability in precolonial times, individual criminality was the dominant mode of crime and the main crime was stealing. Offences of stealing were common and were seen as less severe than the murder cases.

Although depending on what was being stolen, stealing generally attracted mere ridicule or flogging as a deterrent; and offences such as murder, adultery, disrespecting or assaulting a chief attracted severe punishment such as banishment, serious fines or sale into slavery (Karibi-Whyte, 1988; Osifodunrin, 2013).

On the other hand, during the period of crisis in precolonial times there were evidences of group criminality in the pre-colonial societies, and the following four (4) types of group crimes were observed. The first was the usurpation of the power of a monarch. The second category were the presence of armed robbery syndicates, which in the Southwest, especially, were formed by the political elite. This made the imposition of punishment difficult since the elite class was still responsible for enforcing law and order (Karibi-Whyte, 1988). For instance, during the reign of Oba Oluwole who ruled Lagos between 1834 and 1841, 265 Sierra – Leonian immigrants were said to have been robbed on their way to Abeokuta and got to their destination empty-handed. The king was alleged to have been privy to the robbing. The third category were groups of brigands (i.e. youths and jamaa), who we known for creating havoc and discomfort to people. These groups were initially political groups who later became self-serving. During the period of crisis, individuals were dislodged from their homes and means of livelihood. Crime through brigandage was a tool for survival, especially members of the warring class, who were trained in warfare and had been used to raiding and living on booty. The final category were the pirates, known as water hunters, who later became hunters of women, cowries, liquor, arms and ammunitions and other goods on the water way. They abducted, raped and then dumped their preys; and the arms and ammunitions stolen would be resold to soldiers at war at reduced cost (Falola, 1995).

At the threshold of colonialism, one of the fundamental problems that confronted the colonial administration was how to address crime and criminality in the Nigerian colonial territory. By October, 1861 a small police force was put in place by the colonial administration to address the problem of insecurity. By 1863 there was expansion in the size and structure of the police force. Two Police branches were created: i.e. one civil while the other one was semi-military. Whereas the latter was well equipped and armed, and was often used in military engagements outside the Lagos territory even as far as the Gold Coast; while the Civil Police was not as equipped and armed to deal with crimes within the local environment on the island and rural communities of Lagos (Tamuno, 1970). By 1895, accusations of poor work culture and connivance with criminals were already being levelled against the Civil Police. This was attributed to their poor remuneration which was said to have only attracted people of low status and questionable character into the force (Brown, 1964).

In modern times when one would have expected that sophisticated technology would have stemmed the tide of criminality in Nigeria, the situation seems to grow worse as new variants of crimes are currently noticeable in every zone of the Nigerian society. This has perhaps been made worst by the nature of politics in the country.

Following the return to civil rule in May 1999, our body polity has been heavily militarized by some desperate political class members who often armed militias and gangs with weapons during campaigns and on voting days to keep voters away from the voting arena and as a show of power to silent political opponents (Onwudike and Berdwind-Dart, 2010; Angerbrandt, 2018). At the end of a particular election the arms are not retrieved; and in another round of election cycle more arms and ammunitions are again distributed to

these youthful gangs, thereby leading to the proliferation of arms in the country. The gun wielding militias and gangs who in most cases remain jobless at the end of the election season become hungry and hence fall back on any form of violent for survival using the arms at their disposal.

Besides this political angle to the crisis of criminality in Nigeria are the issues of religious radicalism, youths' undignified propensity for wealth and the natural resource curse challenges in the country: all of which have combined to create criminal realities such as Boko Haram insurgency, yahoo-yahoo and ritual killings, banditry and the menace of the Fulani Herdsmen. One thing that seems to be common in the criminal behaviours of the perpetrators of the above violent crimes is kidnapping.

Kidnapping in Nigeria predates modern times. In the slave trade period, for instance, it was the tool for acquiring human beings to be sold as slaves to foreigners. Even after the abolition of slave trade, the act was still being deployed for rituals, acquiring wives and for labour. However, the modern trend in kidnapping in Nigeria places emphasis on kidnapping for ransom. This trend started from the Niger Delta region of Nigeria through the activities of the Niger Delta militants. Although it started with the kidnapping of foreigners, who were employees of the oil firms domiciled in the region, by way of drawing global attention to the oil induced environmental challenges of their region; it later metamorphosed into kidnapping for ransom because of the greed of some of the militants following the wealth attraction of kidnapping. From this region, kidnapping for ransom spread to other parts of the country (Agba and Zubairu, 2021). Even the armed robbers of yesterday and the cultists seem to have all joined the band wagon of kidnapping thereby making it, perhaps, the most common criminal phenomenon in Nigeria today.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Kidnapping has become a serious topical issue of discussion in the modern day Nigerian society. This is so because by virtue of its everyday occurrence and the fact that it has become widespread across the Nigerian society it has become the most common form of criminal behavior in the country. Between May 2023 and April 2024, for instance, approximately 2.2 million people were kidnapped in Nigeria. The total ransom paid for their release was \$1.42 billion (National Human Right Commission, 2024). Another report by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) stated that from January to September 2024, 1,712 kidnapping cases and 1,463 killings were recorded across Nigeria (January, 150 kidnapped, February, 213 kidnapping, March, 499 kidnappings, April 99 kidnappings and May, 360 kidnappings) with 55 killings (January), 106 killings (February) 172 killings (March), 211 killings (April), 298 killings (May) in the same year, 2024. The NHRC attributed the rise in kidnappings and killings to the government's failure to protect its citizens, emphasizing the need for systemic reforms to address these issues (Punch Newspaper, 2024; Vanguard, 2024; Premium Times, 2024).

Just like most other states in Nigeria, Edo State has been grappling with a disturbing wave of kidnapping cases for some years now; and this had prompted the government to take drastic measures in tackling and combating the menace. In a bid to deter potential kidnappers, the Edo State Government has passed a law mandating the demolition of houses used for kidnapping activities. This move is seen as a bold step towards eradicating

kidnapping in the state. As part of this effort, the government has demolished properties belonging to kidnappers, including Oboh's house in Uromi (Premium Times, 2023).

Despite this scape-goat approach of government, kidnapping seems not to be abating. According to recent reports, for instance, the Edo Anti-Kidnapping Task Force arrested several suspected kidnappers, including Odianosen Oboh, who confessed to receiving N800,000 from a kidnapping operation (Vanguard, 2023). More so, in a recent operation the police paraded several suspects arrested for crimes including kidnapping and armed robbery. The suspects include Asene Ogah, 49, Ibhafidon Eric, 29, and Ekpu, whose age is not specified (Daily Trust, 2023). Yet the government is not relenting in its efforts to combat kidnapping in the state, with a focus on dismantling kidnapping networks and providing support to affected communities. As the situation continues to unfold, it remains to be seen whether these measures will be effective in reducing the incidence of kidnapping in the state. In other words, this study is therefore designed to find out if the government strategies in combatting the rising incidence of kidnapping are effective.

The Edo North Senatorial District of Edo State of Nigeria, has been particularly affected by the scourge in kidnapping activities. In spite of the state government's effort, the problem of kidnapping in the district seems to be a pervasive and entrenched issue that has assumed alarming proportion, warranting urgent attention from stakeholders. The scourge of kidnapping activities in the district has not only undermined the sense of security and stability in the area but seems to have also had far-reaching economic, social, and psychological impacts on residents. In other words, as Nwankwo (2020) noted, the rising incidence of kidnappings in Edo North Senatorial District has led to increased insecurity, economic instability, and psychological trauma for residents. The cases of kidnapping have

resulted in the loss of lives, physical harm, and emotional distress for the victims and their families. Moreover, the economic implications of kidnappings are huge, with businesses suffering losses and investments being deterred. The persistent nature of this security challenge has raised concerns about the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in addressing the issue (Igbo & Okoli, 2022). Despite the efforts of law enforcement agencies, including the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies, the incidence of kidnapping persists in the Edo North Senatorial District. This persistence suggests that the current strategies and approaches employed by law enforcement agencies may not be adequate or effective in addressing this scourge. Therefore, there is a need for an in-depth examination of the challenges and prospects for effective law enforcement in addressing the rising incidence of kidnappings in Edo North Senatorial District.

Moreover, the lack of comprehensive data on kidnapping in the area seems to have hindered the development of evidence-based policies and strategies to combat the phenomenon in the district. This study is therefore an attempt at assisting with evidence based data that will investigate the causes of the rising incidence of kidnapping in the Edo North Senatorial District, with specific examination of the socioeconomic and the external factors that drive the scourge as well as the role of security agencies in addressing the issue.

Furthermore, the usual challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in addressing kidnappings in Nigeria, such as inadequate resources, poor intelligence gathering, and corruption, need to be examined in the context of the rising scourge of kidnapping in the Edo North Senatorial District in order to determine the extent to which such factors affect the process of law enforcement with respect to the kidnapping surge in the District.

More so, in spite of the menace of kidnapping activities in the Edo North Senatorial District in recent years, and most especially the surge in the cases of kidnapping incidence recently in the district, no empirical study has been conducted to examine the entire Senatorial District as a bed of kidnapping activities. This study therefore aims to fill this knowledge gap by exploring the rising incidence of kidnapping, challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in addressing kidnapping in the Edo North Senatorial District and identifying potential solutions and prospects for enhancing their effectiveness. By examining the complexities of kidnapping in the area, this study seeks to contribute to the development of informed policies and strategies that can help mitigate the scourge of kidnapping and promote security and stability in the district.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The following research questions are raised to guide this study: i.e.

1. What are the underlying causes of the rising incidence of kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District?
2. Do the government strategies in combating rising kidnapping cases in the state effective?
3. What are the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in combating kidnapping incidences in the district?
4. What prospects exist for improving law enforcement strategies to tackle kidnappings cases in the district?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this study is to examine the Challenges and Prospects for Law Enforcement in curbing the rising incidence of kidnappings in Edo North Senatorial District: However, the specific objectives are to:

1. Investigate the root causes of the surge in kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District.
2. Find out if the government strategies in combatting the rising incidence of kidnapping are effective.
3. Examine the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in responding to kidnapping cases.
4. Explore potential solutions and prospects for enhancing law enforcement strategies in the fight against kidnapping in the district.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study is significant in the following ways; first it will contribute to the understanding of the complex issue of kidnappings in the Edo North Senatorial District. The findings of the study will inform policy decisions and strategies for law enforcement agencies, community leaders, and other stakeholders. The study will also contribute to the existing body of knowledge on kidnappings and security challenges in Nigeria. However, this study will also be significant:

**To Students:** This study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on security challenges in Nigeria, particularly in the Edo North Senatorial District. Students of criminology, sociology, and related fields will benefit from the findings and recommendations, which can inform future research and academic pursuits. The study's

methodology and analysis can also serve as a model for students conducting similar research.

**To Society:** The study's findings will provide insights into the root causes of kidnappings in the Edo North Senatorial District, enabling community leaders and residents to develop targeted strategies for prevention and mitigation. By understanding the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies, the community can collaborate with security forces to improve response mechanisms and enhance public safety.

**To Government:** The study's recommendations will inform policy decisions and strategies for law enforcement agencies, enabling the government to develop effective solutions to address kidnappings. Policymakers can use the findings to allocate resources, design training programs, and implement policies that enhance security and stability in the region.

**To the General Public:** The study's results will raise awareness about the complexities of kidnappings in the Edo North Senatorial District, dispelling myths and misconceptions. By understanding the challenges and prospects for law enforcement, the general public can provide informed support to security agencies and demand accountability from government officials. Ultimately, the study's findings can contribute to a safer and more secure environment for residents, businesses, and visitors.

By examining the rising incidence of kidnappings in the Edo North Senatorial District, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and prospects for law enforcement. The findings and recommendations will have far-reaching implications for students, society, government, and the general public, contributing to a more secure and stable future for the region.

## 1.6 Operational Definition of Terms

These operational definitions will provide a clear understanding of the key terms used in the study, ensuring consistency and accuracy in data collection, analysis, and interpretation.

**Kidnapping:** The act of unlawfully seizing, detaining, or carrying away a person against their will, often with the intention of demanding ransom or exploiting the victim for personal or political gain.

**Law Enforcement:** The agencies and personnel responsible for enforcing laws, maintaining order, and protecting citizens, including the Nigeria Police Force, other security agencies, and local law enforcement authorities.

**Challenges:** The obstacles, difficulties, or limitations that hinder law enforcement agencies from effectively preventing, investigating, or responding to kidnappings in the Edo North Senatorial District.

**Prospects:** The potential opportunities, strategies, or solutions that can enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in preventing, investigating, or responding to kidnappings in the Edo North Senatorial District.

**Security:** The state of being free from threats, risks, or harm, including the protection of lives, property, and human rights.

**Insecurity:** The presence of threats, risks, or harm that compromise the safety and well-being of individuals, communities, or societies.

**Edo North Senatorial District:** A geographic area comprising three local government areas in Edo State, Nigeria, namely Etsako East, Etsako West, and Etsako Central.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This section provides an overview of the existing literature on kidnapping, with a focus on the conceptual, theoretical, and empirical aspects. This section is organized into four parts: conceptual literature review, empirical review, summary of literature review and theoretical framework.

#### **2.1 Conceptual Literature Review**

##### **Kidnapping**

Kidnapping is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has been defined and conceptualized in various ways by different scholars and researchers. According to the United Nations (2000), kidnapping is "the act of seizing, detaining, or carrying away a person against their will, often for ransom or other illicit purposes." The Turkish scholar, Ünal Üstün (2015) "Kidnapping is the act of taking a person away against their will, often for ransom, political leverage, or other illicit purposes." While the American criminologist, Dr. Louis Schlesinger (2009): "Kidnapping is a form of abduction where an individual or group seizes and detains another person, often with the intent to extort ransom or make demands. British scholar, Clive Harfield (2012) "Kidnapping is the unlawful seizure, transportation, and detention of a person against their will, often for financial gain, political leverage, or other motives." Nigerian scholar, Etannibi Alemika (2013)

"Kidnapping is a serious crime that involves the unlawful detention of a person, often for ransom, and it has become a major security challenge in many parts of the world." And the International law expert, Cherif Bassiouni (2011): "Kidnapping is a grave human rights violation that involves the deprivation of liberty, and it can be considered a form of torture or cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. These definitions highlight the complexities of kidnapping, including the various motives, methods, and consequences involved.

Kidnapping has become a persistent security challenge that has significant economic, social, and psychological impacts on individuals, communities, and societies. The literature on kidnapping suggests that it is a complex phenomenon with multiple causes and consequences. Studies have shown that kidnapping is often motivated by financial gain, political leverage, or personal vendettas (Alemika, 2020; Igbo & Okoli, 2022). The rise of kidnapping in Nigeria has been attributed to various factors, including poverty, unemployment, corruption, and weak law enforcement (Okoli & Igbo, 2020; Smith, 2019) and the impact of kidnapping on victims and their families can be severe, leading to physical harm, emotional trauma, and financial strain (Ezegwu, 2021; Nwankwo, 2020). Moreover, kidnapping can also have broader social and economic consequences, including disrupting economic activity, undermining trust in government, and creating a culture of fear (Alemika, 2020; Okoli & Igbo, 2020).

### **Root causes of kidnappings in Nigeria**

Kidnapping has become a pervasive and complex security challenge in Nigeria, particularly in Edo State. To develop effective strategies for addressing this issue, it is

essential to understand the root causes of kidnappings in the state. This study aims to explore the underlying factors contributing to kidnappings in Edo State, Nigeria.

**Poverty and Unemployment:** Poverty and unemployment are significant contributing factors to kidnappings in Edo State. The lack of economic opportunities and high unemployment rates has led many young people to engage in criminal activities, including kidnapping, as a means of survival (Alemika, 2013). The state's economy is largely dependent on agriculture, and the absence of industrialization has limited job opportunities, leaving many youths with limited options.

**Corruption and Weak Governance:** Corruption and weak governance are also major root causes of kidnappings in Edo State. The state's security agencies are often perceived as corrupt and ineffective, which has emboldened kidnappers to operate with impunity (Smith, 2016). The lack of accountability and transparency in governance has created an environment conducive to criminal activities.

**Social Inequality and Marginalization:** Social inequality and marginalization are also significant factors contributing to kidnappings in Edo State. The state's diverse population has led to social and economic disparities, with some groups feeling marginalized and excluded from power and resources (Osaghae, 2015). This has created tensions and grievances that can be exploited by kidnappers.

**Influence of Organized Crime:** The influence of organized crime groups is another root cause of kidnappings in Edo State. These groups often have networks and resources that enable them to carry out complex kidnappings (Clutterbuck, 2013). The state's porous

borders and weak law enforcement agencies have made it easy for organized crime groups to operate in the state.

**Lack of Effective Security Measures:** The lack of effective security measures is also a significant contributing factor to kidnappings in Edo State. The state's security agencies often lack the necessary resources, training, and equipment to respond effectively to kidnappings (Alemika, 2013). This has created an environment where kidnappers can operate with relative ease.

These root causes of kidnappings in Edo State are complex and multifaceted. Addressing these underlying factors will require a comprehensive approach that involves economic development, security reforms, and social interventions. By understanding the root causes of kidnappings, policymakers and security agencies can develop effective strategies to prevent and respond to kidnappings in the state. The rising incidence of kidnapping in Nigeria is a complex issue that can be understood through various schools of thought. Economic theories, such as strain theory and rational choice theory, provide valuable insights into the motivations behind kidnapping.

According to strain theory, kidnapping is often a result of the strain between desired goals and the means to achieve them (Agnew, 2001). In Nigeria, poverty and unemployment create strain, leading individuals to engage in crime, including kidnapping, as a means to achieve their goals. For instance, a study by Alemika (2013) found that poverty and unemployment are significant contributing factors to kidnapping in Nigeria.

Rational choice theory posits that kidnapping is a rational decision made by individuals who weigh the benefits against the costs (Clarke, 2005). In Nigeria, the perceived benefits

of kidnapping, such as financial gain, outweigh the costs, leading individuals to engage in this activity. As noted by Smith (2016), the financial rewards of kidnapping can be substantial, making it an attractive option for some individuals.

Sociological theories, such as social learning theory and frustration-aggression theory, also provide valuable insights into the causes of kidnapping. Social learning theory suggests that kidnapping is learned through observing and imitating others (Bandura, 1977). The prevalence of kidnapping in Nigeria creates a culture where others are encouraged to engage in similar activities. Frustration-aggression theory posits that frustration, often resulting from unemployment, poverty, and social inequality, can lead to aggression and violent behavior, including kidnapping (Dollard et al., 1939).

Other factors contributing to the rising incidence of kidnapping in Nigeria include parental neglect, poor skill acquisition, easy access to arms, and weak law enforcement. According to a study by Okoli (2019), parental neglect can lead to youth involvement in crime, including kidnapping. Additionally, the availability of firearms can facilitate kidnapping, while weak law enforcement can embolden kidnappers.

On the other hand, Karl Marx's view on kidnapping is somewhat radical in nature. According to Marx; crime is often a result of the contradictions and inequalities inherent in capitalist societies (Marx, 1844). In Nigeria, the capitalist system has created significant economic inequalities, with a small elite controlling a large portion of the country's wealth; breeding attitudes of self-alienation. Alienation according to Marx refers to the disconnection and disaffection that individuals may feel when they are excluded from the means of production and are unable to meet their basic needs (Marx, 1844). In Nigeria,

many individuals feel alienated from the economic and political systems, leading to feelings of frustration, anger, and desperation that can manifest in violent behavior, including kidnapping. Furthermore, Marx's idea of "class struggle" can help explain the motivations behind kidnapping in Nigeria. According to Marx, class struggle arises from the conflicting interests of different social classes, with the ruling class exploiting the working class (Marx, 1848). In Nigeria, the ruling elite's corruption and mismanagement of resources have created significant economic inequalities, leading to resentment and anger among the masses. Kidnapping can be seen as a form of class struggle, where individuals or groups target the wealthy and powerful as a way to redistribute resources and challenge the status quo.

Marx's views on crime and deviance highlight the need to address the underlying social and economic conditions that contribute to kidnapping in Nigeria. By addressing issues of poverty, inequality, and alienation, policymakers can work to reduce the incidence of kidnapping and promote more equitable and just societies.

### **Type of Kidnapping**

**Political Kidnapping:** This type involves abducting individuals to draw attention to specific issues or demands, often targeting government officials, foreigners, or influential people. For instance, Niger Delta militants kidnapped expatriates working with multinational oil companies to force them to carry out community development projects (Okoli, 2019).

**Commercial Kidnapping:** Kidnapping for ransom is a common type, where abductors demand money in exchange for the victim's release. This type of kidnapping has become

increasingly prevalent, with kidnappers targeting high-net-worth individuals and their families (Agba et al, 2019)

**Ritual Kidnapping:** This type involves abducting individuals for ritual purposes, often linked to traditional or cultural beliefs (Onyeozili, 2018)

**Express Kidnapping:** A type of kidnapping where victims are abducted and forced to withdraw money from ATMs or perform other financial transactions (Smith, 2020).

**Child Abduction:** Kidnapping of children, often by parents or relatives, due to custody disputes or other reasons (Agba & Okeke, 2018).

**Insurgent Kidnapping:** Terrorist groups like Boko Haram have carried out mass kidnappings to further their agendas, recruit fighters, and instill fear. A notable example is the 2014 Chibok schoolgirls' kidnapping (Onuoha, 2014).

**Fake Kidnapping:** In some cases, individuals have staged their own kidnappings to extort money from family members or for other reasons (Vanguard, 2020)

**Road Kidnapping:** Kidnappers often target victims while they are traveling, especially on highways with weak security presence (Okoli, 2020).

### **Strategies of the Edo state government in Combatting Rising cases of Kidnapping**

The Edo State government has implemented various strategies to combat the rising cases of kidnapping in the state. According to Okeke (2020), these strategies include:

1. **Community Policing:** The government has established community policing initiatives, which involve collaboration between security agencies and local communities to gather intelligence and prevent kidnappings.
2. **Intelligence-Led Policing:** The government has also adopted intelligence-led policing, which involves using intelligence gathering and analysis to identify and track kidnappers.
3. **Capacity Building:** The government has provided training and capacity building programs for security agencies to enhance their skills and knowledge in combating kidnapping.
4. **Collaboration with Security Agencies:** The government has collaborated with security agencies, including the police and military, to enhance security and prevent kidnappings.

According to a study by Agba et al. (2019), the Edo State government has also implemented economic empowerment programmes to reduce poverty and unemployment, which are seen as contributing factors to kidnapping. These programs include:

1. **Job Creation:** The government has implemented job creation initiatives to provide employment opportunities for youths and reduce the likelihood of them engaging in kidnapping.
2. **Microfinance Programmes:** The government has also implemented microfinance programs to provide financial support to small business owners and entrepreneurs.

In addition, the Edo State House of Assembly has urged the state government to deploy security personnel to comb the bushes and mount surveillance in affected areas to prevent further kidnappings (Vanguard, 2022). The government has also been urged to procure drones for surveillance of troubled areas to check the menace of kidnapping. Overall, the Edo State government's strategies to combat kidnapping are multifaceted and involve a combination of security, economic, and social initiatives.

### **Effectiveness of the Edo state government strategies in combatting the rising incidence of kidnapping**

However, the effectiveness of these strategies in combating kidnapping in Edo State can be evaluated based on various factors, including:

1. **Reduction in Kidnapping Incidents:** According to recent statistics, there has been a notable decrease in kidnapping incidents in Edo State, suggesting that the strategies implemented by the government are yielding positive results (Vanguard, 2022).
2. **Increased Security Presence:** The deployment of security personnel and surveillance equipment has enhanced security presence in the state, making it more difficult for kidnappers to operate.
3. **Improved Intelligence Gathering:** The government's efforts to improve intelligence gathering and sharing among security agencies have led to the arrest and prosecution of several kidnappers.

4. Community Engagement: Community engagement initiatives have helped to build trust between the government and local communities, leading to increased cooperation and intelligence sharing.

However, despite these efforts, kidnapping remains a significant challenge in Edo State.

Some of the challenges facing the government's strategies include:

- Limited Resources: The government's efforts are often hampered by limited resources, including inadequate funding, equipment, and personnel.
- Corruption: Corruption within the security agencies and government can undermine the effectiveness of anti-kidnapping efforts.
- Socio-Economic Factors: Kidnapping is often linked to socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality. Addressing these underlying issues is crucial to reducing kidnapping.

To improve the effectiveness of anti-kidnapping strategies, the government could consider:

- Increasing Funding: Allocating more resources to security agencies and community development programs could enhance the government's ability to combat kidnapping.
- Improving Accountability: Strengthening accountability mechanisms within the government and security agencies could help to reduce corruption and improve the effectiveness of anti-kidnapping efforts.
- Addressing Socio-Economic Factors: Implementing policies and programs that address poverty, unemployment, and inequality could help to reduce the root causes of kidnapping.

Overall, while the government's strategies have shown some promise, more needs to be done to address the complex and multifaceted nature of kidnapping in Edo State.

### **Challenges faced by Law Enforcement Agencies in responding to Kidnappings.**

Law enforcement agencies face numerous challenges in responding to kidnappings. One of the primary challenges is the limited resources available to investigate and respond to kidnappings. According to a study by Smith (2018), budget cuts and personnel reductions can hinder the effectiveness of law enforcement responses to kidnappings.

Another challenge is the use of technology by kidnappers. Kidnappers often use advanced technologies such as encryption and secure communication methods to evade detection. As noted by Clarke (2019), law enforcement agencies must keep up with the latest technologies to effectively track and apprehend kidnappers.

International cooperation is also a significant challenge in responding to kidnappings. Kidnappings often involve cross-border operations, requiring law enforcement agencies to work with foreign partners and navigate different legal frameworks. According to a report by Interpol (2020), international cooperation is critical in combating kidnappings, but it can be challenging due to differences in laws, policies, and procedures.

Furthermore, law enforcement agencies must balance the need for effective investigations with the need to protect individual rights and freedoms. The use of advanced technologies such as surveillance and DNA analysis raises concerns about privacy and civil liberties. As noted by Jones (2020), law enforcement agencies must navigate these issues while using these technologies to gather evidence and track suspects.

In addition to these challenges, law enforcement agencies require specialized training and capacity building to effectively respond to kidnappings. This includes training on negotiation techniques, tactical operations, and intelligence gathering. According to a study by Johnson (2019), specialized training can improve the effectiveness of law enforcement responses to kidnappings.

Finally, building trust with local communities is crucial in preventing kidnappings. Law enforcement agencies must engage with communities, gather intelligence, and respond to concerns to prevent kidnappings. As noted by Tyler (2019), community engagement is critical in building trust and preventing crime.

Law enforcement agencies face numerous challenges in responding to kidnappings, including limited resources, technological limitations, international cooperation, privacy concerns, and the need for specialized training and community engagement. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach that includes investing in technology, building partnerships, and developing effective training programs.

### **3.3 Empirical Review**

This section is explained in twofold: (victims of kidnapping and Rising incidences of kidnapping)

#### **Victims of Kidnapping**

- Ohunyon Ernest: Kidnapped in November 2011 by Evans' gang and paid N85 million in ransoms.

- Dan Odiete: Kidnapped in Benin City in 2013 by Evans' gang and paid N100 million for his release.
- Owner of Uyi Technical: Kidnapped in Benin City in 2013 by Evans' gang and paid N100 million.
- Tom: Kidnapped in Benin in 2012 by Evans' gang and paid N100 million.
- Owner of Kings Paint: Kidnapped in Benin City in 2010 by Evans' gang and paid N40 million.
- Mr. Randeki: Kidnapped in 2010 by Evans' gang and paid N30 million.
- Iguobazuwa Kidnapping: Seven individuals were kidnapped and spent about a week in captivity before being rescued by a joint operation team of police officers in Ovia South West Local Government area of Edo State.
- Edo Train Attack: Families of 12 supposed rescued victims paid N2 million each for their release, while two last released victims, the station manager and booking clerk, also paid ransom

**Notorious Kidnapper:** Chukwudidumeme Onuamadike (alias Evans): A notorious kidnapper who was arrested in Lagos with six members of his gang. He confessed to kidnapping several individuals in Edo and Lagos states, collecting ransoms ranging from N15 million to N100 million.

### **Rising Incidence of Kidnapping**

Kidnapping is a pervasive problem in Nigeria, with various states experiencing high rates of kidnapping. According to a report by the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (2022), 19 states in Nigeria are battling kidnap-for-ransom cases, with cities and roads being the most affected areas. Specifically, states such as Kaduna, Sokoto, Zamfara, Benue, Ebonyi, Imo, Anambra, Kogi, Abia, Kwara, Ondo, Katsina, Niger, Edo, Oyo, Rivers, Osun, and Ekiti have been identified as hotspots for kidnapping.

In Edo State, research has shown that Akoko-Edo LGA is a hotspot for kidnapping, particularly along Auchi-Igarra – Ibillo Road and Lampese-Ososo Road (Okeke, 2020). Similarly, in Benue State, the Makurdi-Naka-Otukpo road and Ugbokolo-Otukpa-Orokam Road have been identified as prone to kidnapping (Nwanegbo et al., 2018). Empirical studies have investigated the causes and consequences of kidnapping in Nigeria. Research has shown that kidnapping is often linked to socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality (Alemika, 2013; Okoli, 2019). For instance, a study by Agba et al. (2019) found that poverty and unemployment were significant predictors of kidnapping in Edo State. Other studies have examined the impact of kidnapping on individuals and communities. For example, research by Nwanegbo et al. (2018) found that kidnapping can lead to psychological trauma, economic hardship, and social dislocation. Additionally, a study by Smith (2020) found that kidnapping can also have a negative impact on business and economic development in affected areas.

Kidnappers in Nigeria often demand significant ransoms, with amounts ranging from N2 million to N700 million (Agba et al., 2019). According to a report by the Premium Times (2023), over N300 million was paid as ransom in Nigeria between July 2022 and June

2023. In some states, about N200 million has been paid as ransom since January 2024 (Vanguard, 2024).

The impact of kidnapping on individuals and communities is significant. Kidnapping victims often experience psychological trauma, and families of victims are left traumatized over the fate of their loved ones and the agony of raising funds for ransom payments (Nwanegbo et al., 2018). Additionally, kidnapping has a negative impact on the economy, with businesses and investors being deterred from operating in affected areas (Smith, 2020).

To combat kidnapping, various security measures have been implemented. The Nigerian military has stepped up its offensives against terrorists and kidnappers in some states, such as Kaduna (This Day, 2023). Some state governments, like the Abia State government, have implemented security measures, such as Operation Crush, to combat kidnapping (Vanguard, 2023). Kidnapping is a complex problem in Nigeria that requires a multifaceted approach to solve. Understanding the empirical evidence on kidnapping hotspots, ransom demands, and impact can inform effective security measures and policy interventions.

#### **4.4 Summary of Literature Review**

The literature review highlights the complexity of kidnapping in Nigeria, particularly in Edo State. Theoretical frameworks such as Routine Activity Theory and Social Disorganization Theory provide insights into the causes of kidnapping. Empirical studies have identified socio-economic factors, poor governance, and lack of security as

contributing factors to kidnapping. The review also highlights the devastating impact of kidnapping on individuals, communities, and the economy. Key findings include:

- Kidnapping is a significant problem in Edo State, with far-reaching consequences for individuals and communities.
- Socio-economic factors, such as poverty and unemployment, contribute to the prevalence of kidnapping.
- Poor governance and lack of security exacerbate the problem of kidnapping.
- Theoretical frameworks, such as Routine Activity Theory and Social Disorganization Theory, provide valuable insights into the causes of kidnapping.

The literature review provides a foundation for understanding the complexities of kidnapping in Edo State and informs the development of effective strategies to prevent and respond to kidnappings.

## **2.5 Theoretical Framework**

The following two theories are found useful in explaining rising incidence of kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District, Edo state.

### **Routine Activity Theory**

Routine Activity Theory (RAT) posits that crime occurs when there is a convergence of three essential elements: motivated offenders, suitable targets, and a lack of capable guardianship (Cohen & Felson, 1979). According to RAT, kidnappers are motivated

offenders who seek to exploit vulnerable targets, often in situations where there is a lack of effective guardianship or security measures.

RAT has been applied to various forms of crime, including property crime, violent crime, and cybercrime (Holt & Bossler, 2016; Reyns, 2013). In the context of kidnapping, RAT suggests that motivated offenders may target individuals or groups who are perceived as vulnerable or valuable, particularly in situations where there is a lack of effective security or guardianship.

### **Social Disorganization Theory**

Social Disorganization Theory (SDT) posits that community structure and social cohesion play a significant role in shaping crime rates (Shaw & McKay, 1942). According to SDT, communities with high levels of social disorganization, including poverty, residential instability, and family disruption, are more likely to experience higher crime rates.

SDT has been applied to various forms of crime, including violent crime, property crime, and gang violence (Sampson & Groves, 1989; Shaw & McKay, 1942). In the context of kidnapping, SDT suggests that communities with high levels of social disorganization may be more vulnerable to kidnapping due to the presence of motivated offenders, lack of social cohesion, and inadequate community resources.

### **Application of theories to this Study**

The rising incidence of kidnapping in Edo State can be understood through the lens of two criminological theories: Routine Activity Theory (RAT) and Social Disorganization Theory (SDT).

RAT posits that crime occurs when three elements converge: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and a lack of capable guardianship. In the context of kidnapping in Edo State, this theory suggests that:

- **Motivated Offenders:** Individuals or groups motivated by financial gain, revenge, or other factors may target vulnerable individuals or groups.
- **Suitable Targets:** Potential victims may include wealthy individuals, business owners, or those with high-profile positions.
- **Lack of Capable Guardianship:** Inadequate security measures, poor law enforcement, or lack of community vigilance may create opportunities for kidnappers.

SDT suggests that crime is more likely to occur in areas with weak social structures, poor community organization, and inadequate social control. In Edo State, social disorganization may contribute to the rise in kidnappings due to:

- **Weak Social Structures:** Poverty, unemployment, and lack of opportunities may create an environment conducive to crime.
- **Poor Community Organization:** Lack of community cohesion, trust, and cooperation with law enforcement may hinder efforts to prevent kidnappings.
- **Inadequate Social Control:** Ineffective law enforcement, corruption, or inadequate resources may embolden kidnappers.

By combining these theories, we can better understand the complex factors contributing to kidnapping in Edo State. For instance:

- Neighborhood Characteristics: Areas with high crime rates, poor lighting, and lack of security measures may create opportunities for kidnappers.
- Individual Behavior: Potential victims' daily routines, such as traveling alone or at night, may increase their vulnerability to kidnapping.

To address the rising incidence of kidnapping in Edo State, potential solutions could include <sup>1</sup>:

- Community Engagement: Building trust between law enforcement and local communities through outreach programs and neighborhood watches.
- Intelligence-Led Policing: Gathering and analyzing intelligence to identify patterns and trends in kidnapping incidents.
- Improved Security Measures: Enhancing security infrastructure, such as lighting and surveillance systems, in high-risk areas.
- Economic Empowerment: Addressing poverty and unemployment through job creation and economic development programs.

### **CHAPTER THREE**

#### **RESEARCH METHODS**

This section of the study contains the several research methods that the research will employ to ensure that the objectives for which the study is designed are realized. To

achieve this, the section will be sub-divided into sub-headings such as Research Design; Population of the Study; Sample Size and Sampling Techniques; Instruments of Data Collection; Validity of Research Instrument; Reliability of Research Instrument; Method of Data Collection; Methods of Data Analysis as well as the Ethical Consideration of the Study.

### **3.1 Research Design**

The study is designed to collect the required information through a combination of both the quantitative and qualitative methods. The essence is to collect information from various categories of the respondents and interviewees at specific point in time across different socio-demographic characteristics. Whereas the quantitative approach will be employed to address such objectives as the investigation of the root causes of the surge in kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District, the effectiveness of the government strategies in combatting the rising incidence of kidnapping within the target district, the examination of the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in responding to kidnapping cases as well as the determination of the potential solutions and prospects for enhancing law enforcement strategies in the fight against kidnapping in the district; the qualitative approach will be engaged in probing further the above objectives in order to get in-depth knowledge of the issues surrounding the kidnapping phenomenon in the district.

Therefore, the reason for the combination of the quantitative and qualitative instruments is that the former will only provide mono-syllabic responses that may not capture the nuanced experiences of kidnapping in the target district as well as the potential solutions and prospects for enhancing law enforcement strategies in the fight against kidnapping in

the district. The qualitative component of the study will be needed to provide richer and contextual insights that are very necessary in understanding, in great details, the effectiveness of the present strategies in combating kidnapping in the district and what can be done in improving on the existing strategies.

### **3.2 Population of the Study**

The population of this study comprises all the police personnel in the 17 police divisions spread across the entire Edo North Senatorial District of Edo State, which include: South Ibie, Jattu, Agbede, Iyamho, Auchu, Afuze, Sabogida-Ora, Ibillo, Otuo, Sobe, Igarra, Ososo, Agenebode, Okpella, Fugar, Ogbona, and Uzanu divisions; as well as members of the local vigilante groups within this district. This is irrespective of their ranks, sex, socioeconomic status, age, educational attainment, religious affiliation as well as their ethnic affiliation. The emphasis on the Nigeria Police personnel and members of the local vigilante groups is based on the idea that, apart from the fact that they also live within these communities they have knowledge, experiences and expertise relating to crime and criminality within the target senatorial district as well as the challenges and prospects of law enforcement.

### **3.3 Sample Size**

The sample size for the quantitative survey is designed using the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula for finite population. The sample size formula is;

$$S = \frac{X^2 NP(1-P)}{d^2 (N-1) + X^2 P(1-P)}$$

*Where: S = Required Sample size*

*X = Z value (e.g. 1.96 for 99% confidence level)*

*N = Population Size*

*P = Population proportion (expressed as decimal) (assumed to be 0.5 (50%))*

*d = Degree of accuracy (5%), expressed as a proportion (.05); It is margin of error*

P = estimated number of persons is 1502 (this constitutes the total select population) (NPC, 2016).

The study employs Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) sample size determination method for the known population of approximately 1502 residents. In sample size table values for a 99% confidence level and 5% margin of error justifies this choice (Appendix iii). Following this method, a sample size of 460 is derived. To accommodate a 11.5% attrition rate, an additional 53 respondents (11% of the 1502) are added, resulting in a proposed total sample size of 513 respondents for the quantitative data collection process.

### **Qualitative Data:**

For the qualitative data collection process, twelve (12) interviewees will be needed to be engaged in 12 different interview sessions. This will include three (3) police officers across the three (3) Police Commands in the Edo North Senatorial District, and nine (9) Vigilante Officers across the entire Senatorial District.

### **3.4 Sampling Technique**

The study will adopt a multi-stage sampling approach in the process of selecting the needed 513 quantitative samples for the study. First and foremost, with the employment of the Cluster Sampling Method the entire Edo North Senatorial District will be grouped into three (3) clusters in line with the existing three (3) Police Commands: i.e. the Auchi Area Command; the Igarra Area Command and the Agenebode Area Command. For the sake of emphasis, each of these commands stands as a cluster for the study. At this stage, the necessity for Cluster Sampling is hinged on the fact that the police personnel, who are the targets of this study, are scattered in different locations across the Edo North Senatorial District; and there is need for them to be compartmentalized into clusters for ease of the sampling process.

In each of these Area Commands so clustered, three (3) Police Divisions will be selected for the study through the use of a Simple Random Sampling Method. The police divisions in each Area Command will be identified, and their names will be written and put in a dip (a sack) from where three (3) names will be randomly picked as divisions that will represent the Area Command in the research process. Therefore, for each Area Command three (3) divisions are selected; while for the three (3) Area Commands in the Edo North Senatorial District, a total of nine (9) divisions will be selected for the entire study. The need to employ the Simple Random Sampling Method at this stage of the sampling process is based on the fact that, the names of the police divisions in each of the Area Command are known and the total number of police divisions in each of the Area Command is sizeable. Therefore, with the assistance of an existing sampling frame, nine (9) police divisions can easily be selected from the available seventeen (17) police divisions in Edo North Senatorial District through the Simple Random Sampling Method.

In each of the nine (9) police divisions that will be selected for the study, fifty-seven (57) respondents will be selected through the Systematic Random Sampling Method. This requires that with the use of the division's staff register, police personnel will be selected at certain Kth interval until the 57<sup>th</sup> police personnel is eventually selected for the study. In all, if fifty-seven (57) respondents will be selected in each police division, then 513 respondents will be selected, across the nine (9) police divisions, as samples in the quantitative data collection process for the study.

For the qualitative data collection process, twelve (12) interviewees will be selected using the Purposive Sampling Method. This will be distributed in the following order: one (1) Police personnel will be purposively selected from each of the three (3) Police Commands in the Edo North Senatorial District, making a total of three (3) police personnel for the In-depth Interviews. In addition, one (1) vigilante member from each of the nine (9) selected police divisions for the study will be purposively selected, making a total of nine (9) vigilante members for the In-depth Interviews. Therefore, three (3) police personnel and nine (9) members of the vigilante will make a total of twelve (12) In-depth Interview sessions. Whereas the head of the anti-kidnapping unit in each of the three (3) Area Commands in Edo North Senatorial District will be purposively selected for the study because of their leadership positions within these units; the leader of the vigilante groups in each of the nine (9) communities selected for the study will be purposively selected for engagement in the study because of their leadership positions. This method is necessary because it affords the study the opportunity of engaging those who have the wealth of experience in the issues surrounding kidnapping in the target district.

### **3.5 Instrument of Data Collection**

The study will utilize a questionnaire as the primary instrument for data collection. The questionnaire is designed to gather comprehensive information on kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District from the perspectives of law enforcement officials. Sections of the questionnaire are:

Section A: Demographic Information: This section will collect data on the demographic characteristics of the respondents, such as age, gender, occupation, educational level etc.

Section B: Kidnapping Incidents: This section will gather information on the prevalence and nature of kidnapping incidents in the area, including frequency, locations, and types of kidnapping.

- Section C: Causes of Kidnapping: This section will explore the perceived causes of kidnapping in the area, including social, economic, and political factors.

- Section D: Challenges Faced by Law Enforcement: This section will examine the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in combating kidnapping, including resource constraints, lack of cooperation from the public and inadequate training.

- Section E: Potential Solutions: This section will solicit suggestions from respondents on potential solutions to address kidnapping in the area, including community-based initiatives and policy interventions

- Section F: Prospects for Law Enforcement: This section will assess the prospects for law enforcement agencies in combating kidnapping, including opportunities for collaboration with other stakeholders and potential areas for improvement.

The questionnaire will be designed to ensure that the data collected is reliable, valid, and relevant to the research objectives. The use of a structured questionnaire will also facilitate data analysis and interpretation. The questionnaire will be carefully designed to capture relevant information on the research variables, ensuring that the data collected is reliable, valid, and relevant to the study objectives. To ensure a representative sample, the copies of the questionnaire will be administered by the research assistance. A team of trained research assistants will be responsible for distributing and collecting the questionnaires, ensuring that the data collection process is rigorous and thorough.

For the Qualitative data collection process, In-depth Interview schedule will be used to engage the interviewees from both the Nigeria Police Force and the existing vigilante network in Edo North Senatorial District.

### **3.6 Reliability Test**

The reliability of the questionnaire will be tested using the Cronbach Alpha coefficient. A pilot study will be conducted with 20 respondents to test the reliability of the instrument.

### **3.7 Validity of the Research Instrument**

The validity of the research instrument will be ensured through:

- Face Validity: The questionnaire and interview schedule will be reviewed by experts in the field to ensure that they measure what they are supposed to measure.
- Content Validity: The instruments will be designed to cover all aspects of the research questions.

### **3.8 Method of Data Collection**

This study will employ a survey research method to collect data from law enforcement officials and the vigilante group members in Edo North Senatorial District. Specifically, the One-Time Survey Method will be employed for the study. This method is necessary because it enables the study to collect information from a representative sample of the population, once and for all without having to go back again for further information.

This approach will enable the collection of quantitative and qualitative data, providing a comprehensive understanding of kidnapping in the region. The survey method offers several advantages, including the ability to collect data from a large sample size, flexibility in data collection, and cost-effectiveness. However, the research team acknowledges the potential limitations of this approach, including response bias and limited depth of insights. To mitigate these limitations, the questionnaire will be carefully designed, and the data collection process will be closely monitored to ensure accuracy and thoroughness. By employing a survey research method and utilizing a structured questionnaire, this study aims to gather comprehensive and reliable data on kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District, providing valuable insights into the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to this complex issue.

### **3.9 Method of Data Analysis**

This study will employ descriptive statistics to analyze the quantitative data collected from the survey. Specifically, frequency counts, percentages, and means will be utilized to summarize and describe the data. This analytical approach will enable the researcher to identify patterns, trends, and correlations within the data, providing a comprehensive understanding of the rising incidence of kidnappings in Edo North Senatorial District.

The use of descriptive statistics will facilitate the presentation of complex data in a clear and concise manner, allowing for easy interpretation and comparison of results. Frequency counts and percentages will be used to analyze categorical data, while means will be used to analyze continuous data. This approach will provide a robust foundation for understanding the challenges and prospects for law enforcement in addressing kidnapping in the region. The results of the descriptive statistical analysis will be presented in tables, charts, and graphs, facilitating easy interpretation and understanding of the findings. This will contribute to a deeper understanding of the research problem and inform evidence-based recommendations for policy and practice.

For the data on the qualitative process of the study, responses from interviews will be transcribed verbatim and analyzed using thematic analysis. This method tries to identify, organize, and interpret patterns within the data. Thus, the data from the in-depth interview will be analyzed with the use of content analysis. Qualitative data from the interviewees will start with interpretation of the raw data by listening over and over again to the tapes so as to ensure proper transcription. It follows by reading over the transcripts, studying notes and listing the themes that are recurrent. The theme will be coded after identifying them and analyze using manual thematic and content analysis.

### **3.10 Ethical Consideration**

With respect to ethical issue of the study, enough consideration will be given to research ethics during the course of administration of the copies of the questionnaire and conducting

the in-depth interview sessions. In other words, a letter of introduction will be obtained from the Department and delivered to the appropriate quarters within the police Area Commands and the vigilante groups and seek approval to engage the above personnel in the study areas before questionnaire and in-depth interview schedule will be commenced. In the informal consent, the respondents and the participants will be informed of their relevance to be part of the study and they could as well choose not to be part. The shall ensure that the participants understand the purpose, nature, and the potential benefits of the study. This is particularly crucial given the sensitive nature of the topic and the potential vulnerability of the participants. The information provided by the respondents shall be safeguarded in terms of confidentiality of participants. They will also be informed that their identities would not be mentioned during the presentation of the study results. This is to ensure genuine information and to avoid discouragement from the participants while in the field.

The study shall demonstrate cultural sensitivity and competence by recognizing and respecting interviewees' cultural backgrounds, beliefs, and practices. Interventions shall be adapted to accommodate cultural differences and preferences, and efforts shall be made to engage with them in a culturally appropriate manner.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

## 4.1 Introduction

This section explains the responses from respondents as it seeks to describe the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents as well as explain the finding of the study in line with the study objectives in tables, chart and graph where necessary. A total of 513 copies of the questionnaires were administered and same copies were retrieved using a one-time survey method.

### 4.1.1. Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents (N=513) (A)

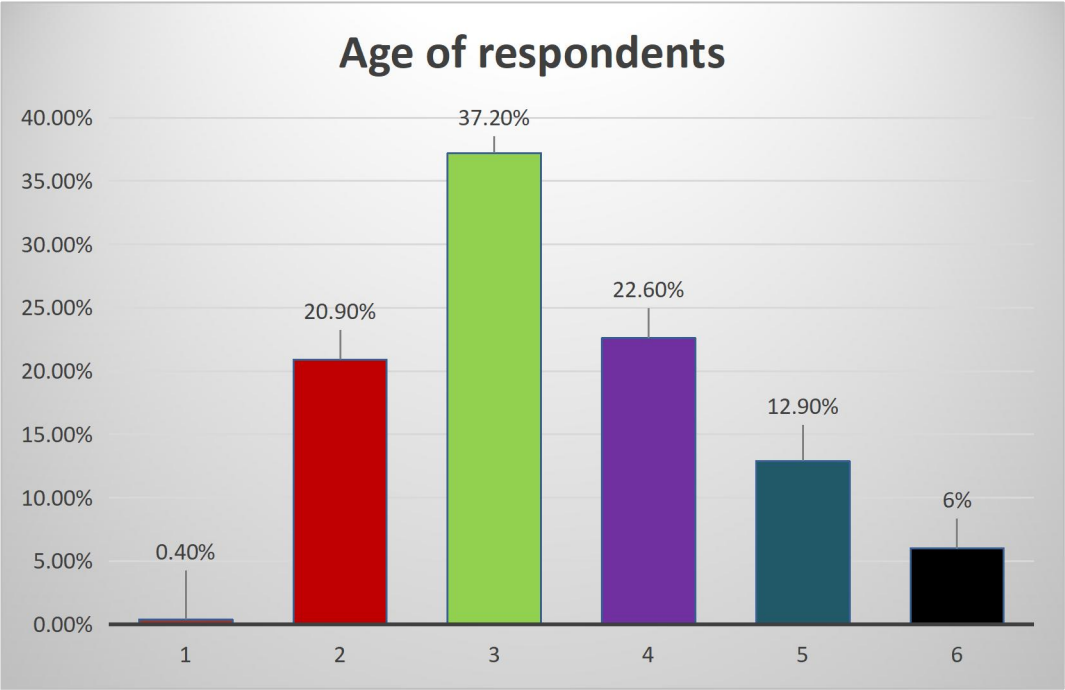
Age	Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
	25-30 years	02	0.4
	31-35 years	107	20.9
	36-40 years	191	37.2
	41-45 years	116	22.6
	46-50 years	66	12.9
	51-55 years	31	6.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>100</b>
Educational qualification	SSCE	120	23.4
	HND	49	9.6
	BSC	316	61.6
	MSC	10	1.9
	Others	18	3.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>100</b>
Social status	Public servant	140	27.3
	Business man/woman	81	15.8
	Upper class	213	41.5
	Middle class	79	15.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>100</b>
Ethnic group	Bini	65	12.7
	Owan/Afemai	176	34.3
	Igbo	89	17.3
	Esan	39	7.6
	Urhobo	100	19.5
	Yoruba	43	8.4
	Akoko Edo	01	0.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>100</b>
Marital Status	Single	76	14.8
	Married	437	85.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>100</b>

### Fieldwork, 2025

The socio-demographic characteristics presented in the table provide a comprehensive overview of the respondents in the study area, revealing a mature, educated, economically

active, and ethnically heterogeneous population largely composed of married adults. In sequential terms, the age distribution demonstrates that the sample was dominated by individuals within their prime productive years. The highest proportion of respondents (37.2%) fell within the 36–40-year category, followed by those aged 41–45 years (22.6%) and 31–35 years (20.9%). Only a negligible proportion (0.4%) was below 30 years. This pattern indicates that the participants were predominantly mature adults whose accumulated life experiences may enhance the depth, reliability, and contextual relevance of the information they provided. In terms of educational attainment, the findings show a considerably educated population.

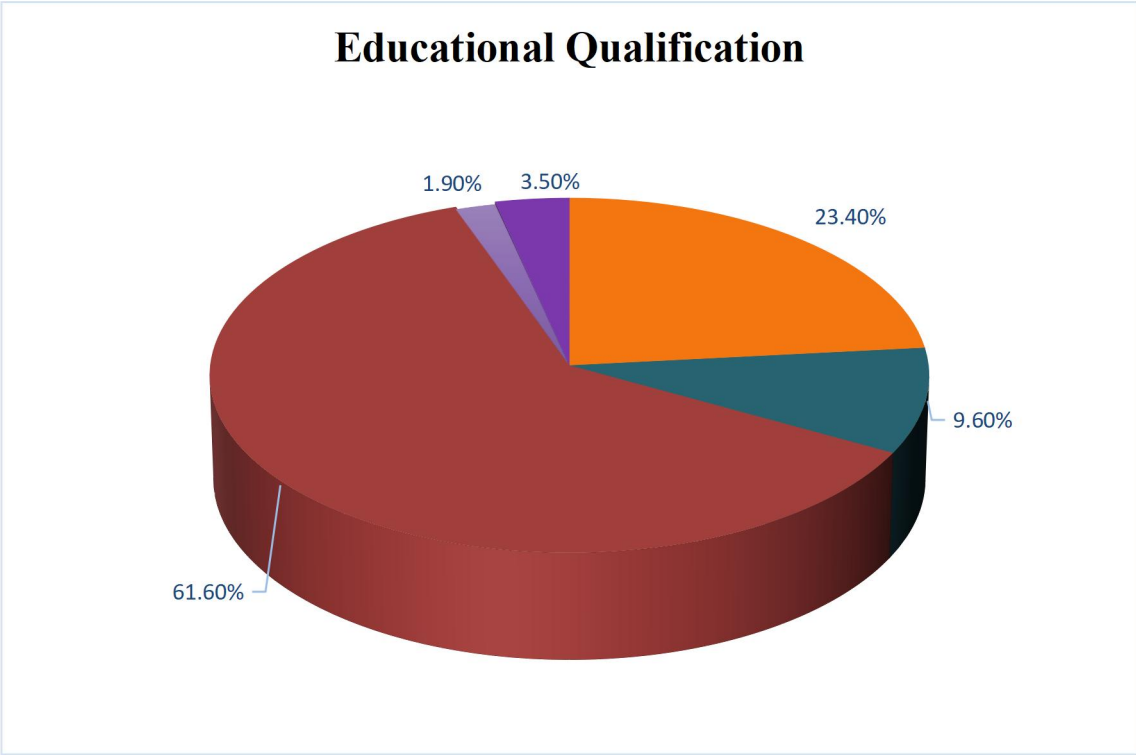
**Figure 1: Age of the respondents**



A majority (61.6%) possessed a Bachelor’s degree, while another 23.4% held a Senior Secondary School Certificate (SSCE). A small proportion had postgraduate qualifications (1.9%), and 3.5% reported other educational backgrounds. This high concentration of

individuals with formal tertiary education suggests that the respondents were well-positioned to comprehend and appropriately interpret the research questions, thereby contributing to data quality. The distribution of social status further illustrates an economically stable and socially influential sample. A substantial share (41.5%) identified as upper class, while public servants accounted for 27.3%. Business owners (15.8%) and middle-class respondents (15.4%) comprised the remaining categories. This indicates representation from groups with stable livelihoods and socio-economic influence within the community.

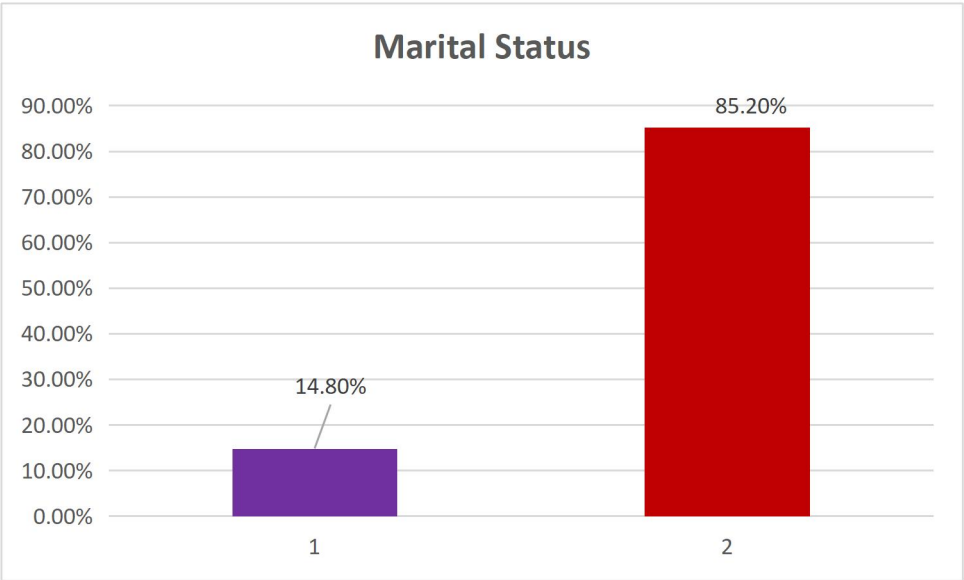
**Figure 2: Educational Qualification**



Ethnic composition revealed a diverse but uneven distribution. Owan/Afemai respondents constituted the largest group (34.3%), followed by Urhobo (19.5%), Igbo (17.3%), and Bini (12.7%). Smaller proportions included Yoruba (8.4%), Esan (7.6%), and Akoko Edo

(0.2%). This diversity underscores the multi-ethnic character of the study population, providing a broad cultural perspective. Marital status analysis shows that the overwhelming majority of respondents were married (85.2%), with only 14.8% reporting being single. The dominance of married individuals implies the presence of respondents with substantial family and community responsibilities, which may importantly shape their perceptions and attitudes toward local socio-economic and security issues.

**Figure 3: Marial Status of the respondent**



**4.1.2. Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents (N=513) (B)**

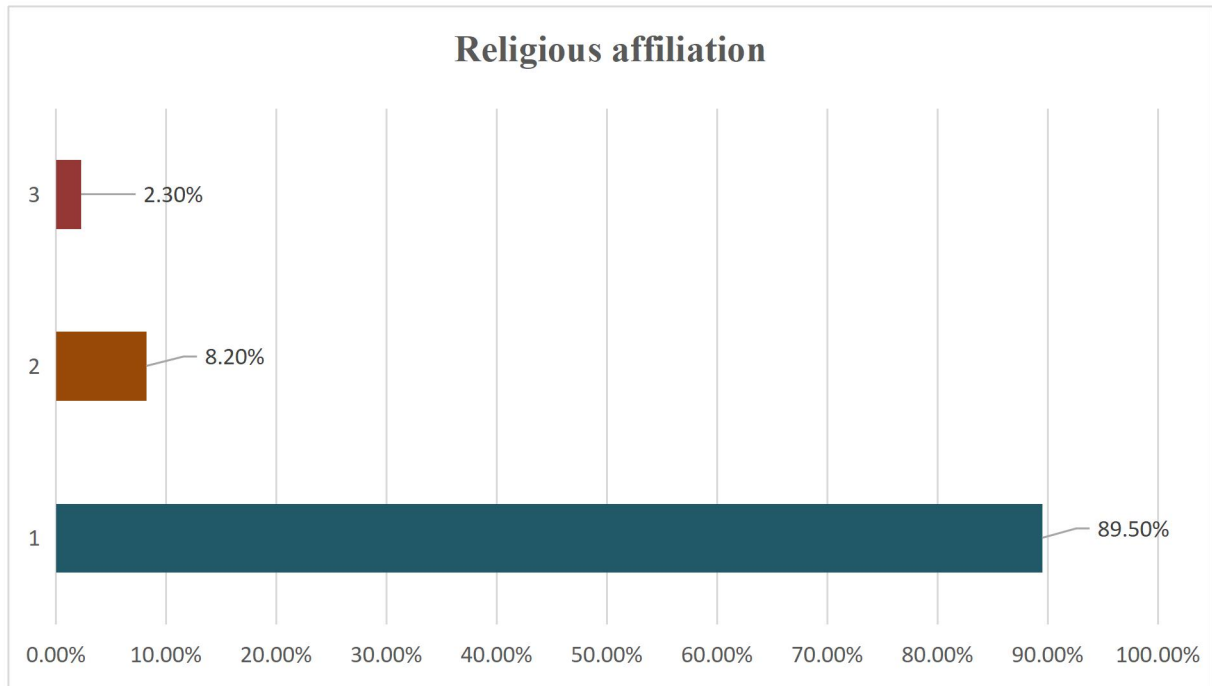
Religious affiliation	Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
	Christianity	459	89.5
	Islam	42	8.2
	Others	12	2.3

	<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>100</b>
Monthly income	50000-150000	209	40.7
	150000-250000	139	27.1
	250000-350000	117	22.8
	350000-500000	48	9.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>100</b>
How long have you lived in Edo North Senatorial District	Less than 5 years	25	4.9
	6-10 years	242	47.2
	10-15 years	164	32.0
	15-25 years	42	8.2
	25-35 years	09	1.8
	35 years +	31	6.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>100</b>

### **Fieldwork, 2025**

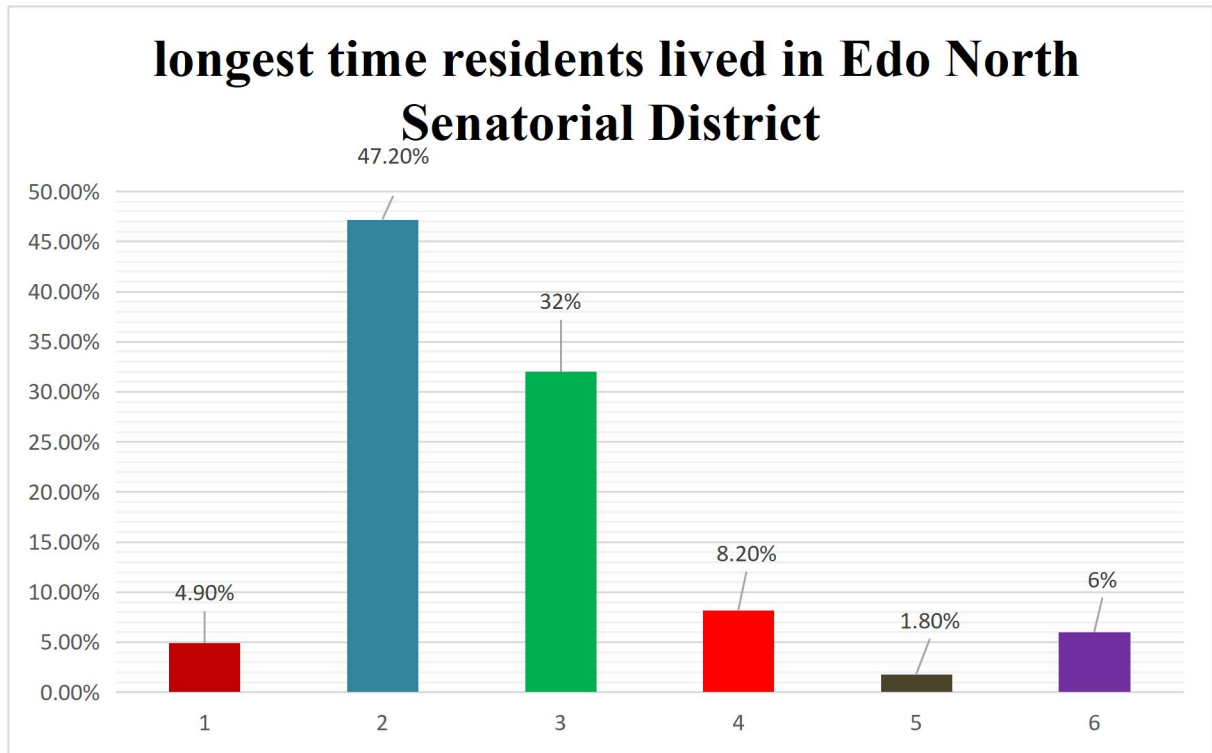
From the above table, the analysis of religious affiliation indicates that the majority of respondents identified as Christians, accounting for 89.5% of the sample. This overwhelming dominance reflects the strong Christian presence in the study area and suggests a relatively homogeneous religious landscape. Islam represented 8.2%, while the least represented group was the “Others” category at 2.3%, indicating minimal participation from adherents of traditional or alternative faiths. Overall, the data demonstrate that Christianity is the most influential religious identity among the respondents.

**Figure 4: Religious affiliation of the respondent**



Monthly income distribution shows a clear concentration within the lower–middle income bracket. Most respondents, representing 40.7%, earned between ₦50,000 and ₦150,000, highlighting the predominance of modest income levels. This is followed by 27.1% who earned ₦150,000–₦250,000, and 22.8% who fell within the ₦250,000–₦350,000 range. These figures collectively suggest that a substantial proportion of the population maintains relatively stable but moderate economic livelihoods. Only 9.4% reported monthly earnings between ₦350,000 and ₦500,000, making this the least common income category. The overall pattern reveals a socio-economic profile dominated by individuals in the lower–middle and middle-income groups, which has implications for their purchasing power, welfare needs, and livelihood strategies.

**Figure 5: longest time residents lived in Edo north senatorial district**



Regarding length of residence in Edo North Senatorial District, the data reflect a population with substantial local experience. The largest proportion, representing 47.2%, had lived in the district for 6–10 years, indicating medium-term settlement. This is followed by 32.0% who had resided in the area for 10–15 years, suggesting long-term familiarity with community dynamics. Smaller percentages had lived there for 15–25 years (8.2%), more than 35 years (6.0%), and 25–35 years (1.8%). The least proportion, 4.9%, had stayed for less than five years. Collectively, the data show that most respondents are long-term residents, enhancing the credibility of their insights regarding local socio-economic and security issues.

**Section B: The Rising Incidence of Kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District:  
Challenges and Prospects For Law Enforcement.**

This section of the study findings will investigate The Rising Incidence of Kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District: Challenges and Prospects for Law Enforcement. It analyze the findings based on the study objectives from which the study was drawn.

**4.1.3: Investigate the root causes of the surge in kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District. (N=513)**

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Do you agree that the prevalence of kidnapping in Edo north is on the rise	Yes	383	74.7
	No	48	9.3
	Maybe	82	16.0
Do you agree that Poverty is a major factor of kidnapping	Strongly agree	179	34.9
	Neutral	228	44.4
	Disagree	66	12.9
	Strongly agree	40	7.8
Reason for the response above	Poverty makes people steal	160	31.2
	With poverty evil thought prevail	120	23.4
	Poverty like others are of the mind	233	45.4
Do you think unemployment is significant in the surge of kidnapping activities	Very significant	216	42.1
	Significant	260	50.7
	Not very significant	33	6.4
	Never significant	04	0.8
Which of the following accounting for the surge in kidnapping in Edo North	Poverty	197	38.4
	Unemployment	238	46.4
	Corruption	76	14.8
	Lack of effective law enforcement	02	0.4
What is your thought on the primary motivation for kidnappers in this area	Financial gain	438	85.4
	Revenge	33	6.4
	Political leverage	35	6.8
	Others	07	1.4
Do you think proximity to North Central heightens kidnappings Edo North's	Yes	276	53.8
	No	199	38.8
	Maybe	38	7.4

Fieldwork, 2025

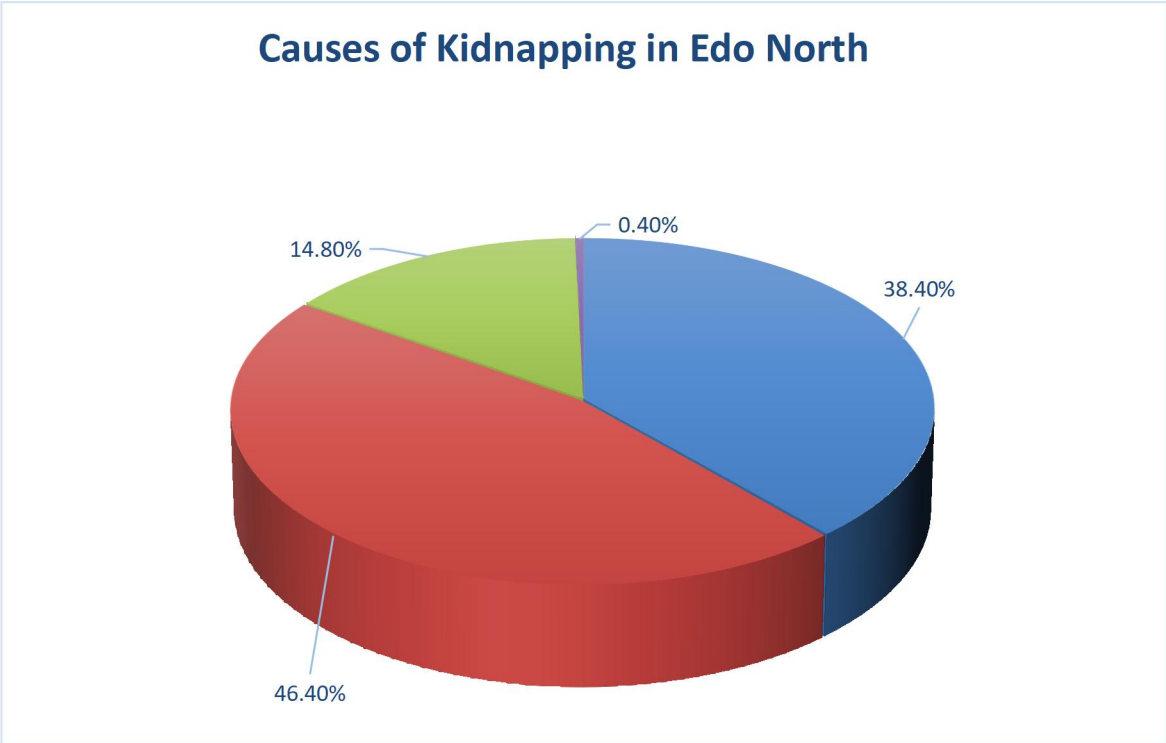
The findings presented in the table indicate that the surge in kidnapping in Edo North is driven by a combination of interconnected structural and socio-economic factors. Overall, the majority of respondents believe that kidnapping has intensified in the region. Specifically, 74.7% agree that the prevalence of kidnapping is increasing, reflecting broad community concern and heightened awareness. In contrast, only a small minority (9.3%) disagree, while 16.0% remain undecided, suggesting that uncertainty exists but is comparatively limited.

Poverty is widely recognized as an influential factor, although opinions differ in intensity. While 34.9% strongly agree that poverty contributes to kidnapping and the majority (44.4%) maintain a neutral position, the qualitative responses provide deeper insights. A significant proportion (31.2%) believe poverty pushes individuals toward criminal behaviour such as theft and kidnapping. Another group (23.4%) attributes this trend to the psychological and emotional pressures associated with economic hardship. The largest share (45.4%) emphasizes that poverty interacts with personal mindset and moral values, suggesting that material deprivation alone is insufficient to fully account for criminal actions. These variations highlight the complex and multidimensional ways in which poverty influences insecurity.

Unemployment emerges as the most prominent driver of kidnapping, with an overwhelming majority (92.8%) rating it as either very significant or significant. This reinforces the understanding that joblessness increases vulnerability to recruitment into criminal networks. This perception is further supported by rankings of causal factors, where unemployment (46.4%) appears as the leading contributor, followed by poverty (38.4%), while corruption (14.8%) and ineffective law enforcement (0.4%) are rated least

important. Although weak law enforcement receives minimal acknowledgment, this may reflect an internalized acceptance of institutional weaknesses rather than an absence of their influence.

**Figure 6: Causes of kidnapping in Edo North**



When examining motivations, most respondents (85.4%) identify financial gain as the primary reason for kidnapping, far outweighing revenge (6.4%), political leverage (6.8%), and other factors (1.4%). This demonstrates that economic incentives remain central to the crime’s escalation. Furthermore, more than half (53.8%) believe that Edo North’s proximity to North Central Nigeria exacerbates kidnapping, pointing to cross-regional criminal mobility and spillover dynamics. However, a considerable minority (38.8%) disagree, indicating that while geography matters, socio-economic realities within Edo North remain the most decisive factors shaping the kidnapping crisis. On the qualitative

section, there were many responses that support the quantitative data. One of the respondents said:

There are many root causes of the upsurge of kidnapping, although there are limitless, but many among them are; unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, corruption on the part of political leaders in different district. These factors can also be factored into education, cultural and religious discrimination, unemployment, income level and disparity and poor parenting (**IDI-Male-2025**)

The respondent's narrative highlights kidnapping as a multidimensional problem driven by interconnected structural, socio-economic, and governance-related factors. According to the view expressed, unemployment and poverty stand out as primary motivators, reflecting widespread economic hardship that makes criminal activities appear as viable survival strategies. Illiteracy is also emphasized, suggesting that limited access to education reduces opportunities for legitimate income and weakens awareness of legal and moral boundaries. Furthermore, the respondent points to corruption among political leaders across various districts as a critical enabling condition for the escalation of kidnapping. This perspective implies that weak governance, lack of accountability, and compromised security institutions create an environment where criminal networks can operate with minimal deterrence. The mention of educational, cultural, and religious discrimination indicates that social exclusion and inequality may further heighten vulnerability, pushing marginalized individuals toward deviant behaviour.

In addition, income disparity and poor parenting are identified as contributing factors, suggesting that both structural inequality and household-level deficiencies shape behavioural outcomes. Poor parenting reflects inadequate socialization and weak moral guidance, which may predispose young individuals to criminal influences. Altogether, the

respondent's insights paint kidnapping as a product of layered socio-economic pressures and governance failures, reinforced by cultural and family-level dynamics. Another respondent said:

The major factors responsible for the high rate of crime such as kidnapping in Edo North is as a result of unemployment, poverty, corruption, and injustice. Although the socioeconomic instigating factors maybe similar, however, factors such as religious discrimination, ignorance, underemployment and unemployment are vital point of concern. **(IDI-Male-2025)**

The respondent identifies multiple interrelated drivers of kidnapping in Edo North, emphasizing that the issue is rooted in both structural and socio-economic deficiencies. Unemployment and poverty are highlighted as the most significant contributors, underscoring the role of economic deprivation in pushing individuals toward criminal activities as alternative means of survival. This aligns with broader empirical findings showing that limited access to stable livelihoods often correlates with increased crime rates. Corruption and injustice are also noted as major catalysts, suggesting a deep mistrust in public institutions and the perception that the justice system is either compromised or ineffective. Such governance failures create an enabling environment where criminal acts, including kidnapping, can thrive due to weak deterrence and lack of accountability.

Although the respondent acknowledges that many socio-economic risk factors overlap, he further points to religious discrimination, ignorance, and underemployment as additional layers of vulnerability. These factors reflect social exclusion and limited access to education or opportunities, which may heighten grievances and predispose individuals to deviant behaviour. Underemployment, in particular, speaks to the quality of available jobs,

indicating that even those who are employed may still experience economic frustration and instability. Similarly, a respondent said:

The major drivers of current surge in kidnapping in Edo North senatorial district are Unemployment, Poverty, Corruption on the part of government, Illiteracy, Ignorance, Poverty in northern Nigeria, reduced security presence. Other causes are poor parenting, underemployment, low-income level, lack of education, cultural and religious discrimination and many others. **(IDI-Male-2025)**

The respondent provides a multidimensional explanation of the escalating kidnapping trend in Edo North, identifying a combination of structural, socio-economic, and institutional drivers. Foremost among these are unemployment and poverty, which are presented as central push factors that create economic desperation and widen susceptibility to criminal activities. The emphasis on poverty—both locally and in northern Nigeria—suggests an understanding of kidnapping as part of broader national economic inequalities and migration-linked pressures. Corruption within government is highlighted as a critical enabling factor, reflecting perceived failures in governance, accountability, and the delivery of security services. This aligns with widely documented associations between institutional decay and rising insecurity, where weak state capacity allows criminal networks to operate with relative impunity.

The respondent also notes illiteracy, ignorance, and limited educational access as deeper social determinants. These conditions reinforce vulnerability by constraining legitimate opportunities and weakening civic awareness. Reduced security presence is another key

driver, signaling gaps in surveillance, deterrence, and rapid response mechanisms—all of which embolden perpetrators. In addition to structural and institutional issues, the respondent identifies family-level and socio-cultural contributors such as poor parenting, cultural and religious discrimination, underemployment, and low-income levels. These factors point to the socialization dimension of crime, where inadequate family support, social exclusion, and limited economic mobility heighten the likelihood of deviant behaviour.

Another respondents gave his opinion, by saying:

Like the conventional crime been perpetuated in Edo North senatorial district, kidnapping upsurge has its root cause which includes lack of state commitment to end kidnapping, poor zeal to combat kidnapping, general lack of funding security operatives, and many others **(IDI-Male-2025)**

The respondent's statement frames the rise of kidnapping in Edo North as a governance- and capacity-related security challenge rooted primarily in state-level institutional weaknesses. According to this perspective, the lack of genuine state commitment to addressing kidnapping forms the central driver of the crisis. This perceived absence of political will suggests that authorities may not prioritize kidnapping as an urgent security threat, thereby creating an enabling environment where perpetrators operate with minimal fear of consequences. The respondent also highlights a “poor zeal to combat kidnapping,” indicating a broader institutional lethargy within security agencies. This implies not only inadequate motivation among operatives but also weak coordination, slow response rates, and limited proactive engagement with affected communities. Closely linked to these concerns is the reported lack of adequate funding for security personnel. Insufficient

resourcing (whether in terms of logistics, equipment, welfare, or training) significantly reduces operational effectiveness and undermines deterrence capacity.

Together, these factors portray kidnapping as a failure of state capacity rather than merely a socio-economic problem. The respondent's view aligns with security governance literature, which argues that when institutions lack will, resources, and strategic coherence, criminal networks exploit the gaps, resulting in increased incidence of violent crimes such as kidnapping. Finally, a respondents said:

Causes such as poverty, unemployment, ignorance, illiteracy, corruption on the part of both the citizen and the government, greed and the desire to get rich quickly, unemployment and underemployment are pivotal to upsurge of kidnapping in Edo North senatorial district. Others include access to weapon and organized crime, breakdown of traditional social control, eroded social values and glamourization of wealth and economic inequality **(IDI-Male-2025)**

The respondent provides a comprehensive, multidimensional explanation for the rise in kidnapping in Edo North, situating the problem within broader socio-economic, institutional, and cultural dynamics. Central to the respondent's argument is the role of poverty, unemployment, underemployment, and illiteracy, which together create conditions of economic desperation and limited access to legitimate livelihood opportunities. These structural deficiencies increase individuals' susceptibility to criminal activities as alternative survival strategies. Corruption (identified on the part of both citizens and government) further compounds the problem by weakening public trust, undermining law enforcement capacity, and allowing criminal networks to operate with impunity. The respondent also highlights greed and the growing desire for quick wealth,

pointing to shifting societal values where material success is increasingly prioritized, sometimes irrespective of ethical considerations.

The mention of access to weapons and organized crime underscores the operational dimension of kidnapping, suggesting that improved availability of arms and the presence of coordinated criminal groups enhance the scale and sophistication of such activities. Additionally, the breakdown of traditional social control systems, erosion of moral values, and the societal glamorization of wealth are viewed as reinforcing deviant behaviour. Overall, the response frames kidnapping as a product of intertwined economic hardship, weak governance, social decay, and expanding criminal networks.

**4.1.4: Investigate if government strategies in combatting the rising incidence of kidnapping are effective. (N=513)**

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Do you think the present strategies are effective in curbing kidnapping	Yes	196	38.2
	No	181	35.3
	Maybe	136	28.5
In what ways do you explain that.	You can't just destroy people	100	28.6
	There should be more engagement	118	33.7
	It lacks meaningful employment	110	31.4
	Others	22	06.3
Do you agree that the government has provided adequate support to law enforcement in combating kidnapping	Strongly agree	93	18.1
	agree	154	30.0
	Neutral	82	16.0
	Disagree	120	23.4
	Strongly agree	64	12.5
Which strategies do you think will be more effective in combatting kidnapping	Increase police presence	153	29.8
	Intelligence-led police	210	40.9
	Community engagement	102	19.9
	others	48	09.4
Are there better strategies that the government could employ to improve its response to crime	Yes	385	75.0
	No	89	17.3
	Don't know	39	7.6
What are the strategies	Increased Policing	189	46.1
	Empowerment	64	15.6

	Youth engagement	100	24.4
	Implementation of strict penalty	36	08.7
	Provision of jobs	21	05.2

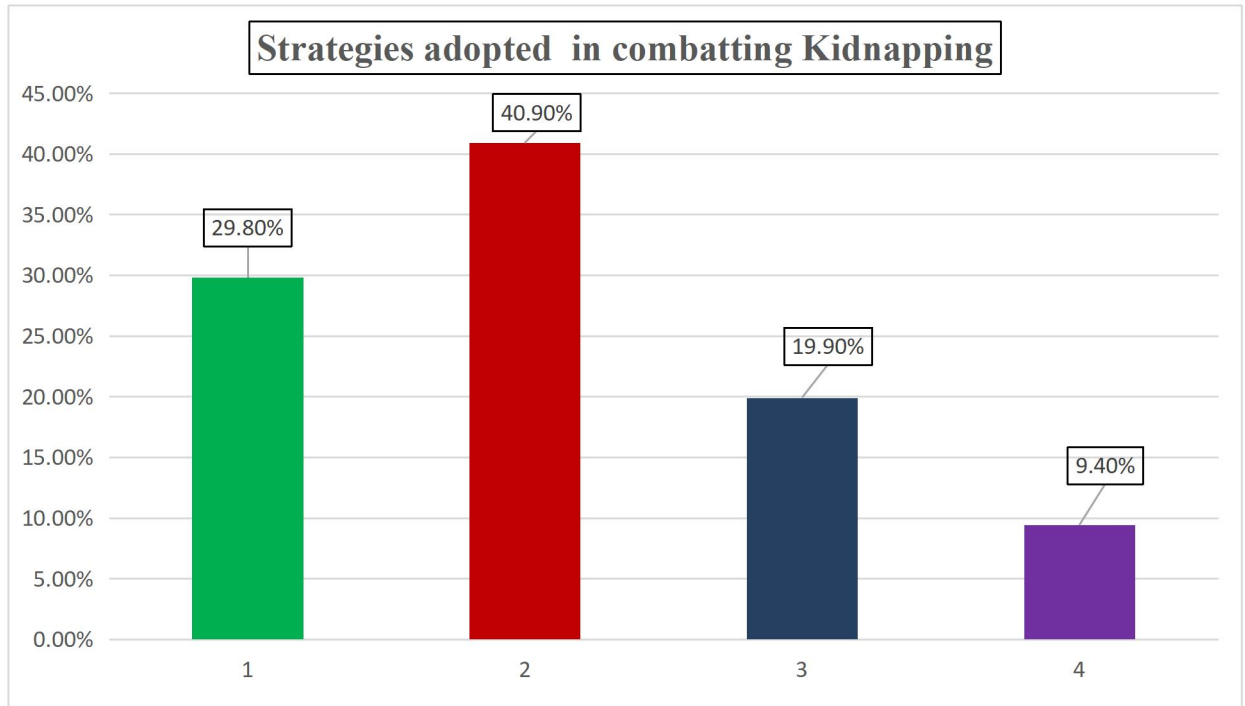
Fieldwork, 2025

The data from the above table reveal divergent public perceptions regarding the effectiveness of existing government strategies in addressing the rising incidence of kidnapping across the study area. Overall, the responses demonstrate that while public views on current security approaches are mixed, most respondents advocate for intelligence-driven security operations, stronger law enforcement capacity, and deeper community and youth engagement as sustainable pathways to reducing kidnapping. The results indicate that a considerable proportion of respondents (38.2%) believe that current strategies are effective in curbing kidnapping. However, a slightly lower proportion (35.3%) disagree, suggesting substantial ambivalence within the population. In addition, 28.5% remain uncertain (“maybe”), which underscores the fact that many residents do not perceive the existing security interventions as sufficiently clear, comprehensive, or impactful in addressing the root causes and operational patterns of kidnapping.

When respondents were asked to justify their views on the effectiveness of current strategies, the largest proportion (33.7%) emphasized the need for greater engagement between government, security agencies, and local communities. This suggests that many citizens view collaboration and grassroots participation as central to achieving sustainable security. This is closely followed by 31.4% who attribute the perceived ineffectiveness of current measures to the lack of meaningful employment opportunities, thereby highlighting the influence of structural socio-economic conditions in fueling kidnapping activities. The

least cited explanation (6.3%) falls under “others,” implying that only a small minority hold alternative opinions outside the listed categories.

**Figure 7: Strategies adopted in combating kidnapping**



Regarding government support for law enforcement agencies, responses remain mixed. Nearly half of the respondents (48.1%)—comprising 18.1% who strongly agree and 30.0% who agree—believe that the government provides adequate support to law enforcement officers in combating kidnapping. Conversely, 35.9% (23.4% disagree; 12.5% strongly

disagree) feel that government support remains inadequate. The remaining 16.0% maintain a neutral stance, further reflecting the perception of uneven or inconsistent state investment in security. On the question of preferred strategies for combating kidnapping, intelligence-led policing emerges as the most widely supported option (40.9%). This underscores growing recognition of the importance of surveillance, technology, and data-driven operations in modern crime prevention. This is followed by increased police presence (29.8%) and community engagement (19.9%), while “others” represent the least proportion (9.4%).

A substantial majority (75.0%) also believe that there are better strategies beyond current efforts, signifying general dissatisfaction with existing approaches. When asked to specify such alternatives, increased policing ranks highest (46.1%), followed by youth engagement (24.4%), reflecting recognition of youth-centered interventions in mitigating crime. Empowerment programs constitute 15.6%, while strict penalties (8.7%) and provision of jobs (5.2%) are the least mentioned, though they remain relevant in addressing broader socio-economic drivers of kidnapping.

On the qualitative dimension, many of the respondents gave divergent opinion of the government strategies in combatting the rise of kidnapping. From the respondent’s opinion, a respondents said:

The current strategies in fighting kidnapping in Edo state by the government are establishing of tougher laws and harsh punishment, enforcement operations and taskforces, capacity building and equipment provision of violators, arms and ammunition equipment to security agents. Others include community engagement, legislative overall and many others (**IDI-Male-2025**)

The respondent outlines a range of government strategies aimed at combating kidnapping in Edo State, highlighting both legislative and operational approaches. According to the response, the establishment of tougher laws and the imposition of harsher punishments represent a key government tactic. This reflects a deterrence-oriented strategy grounded in the belief that increasing legal consequences will discourage potential offenders. The mention of enforcement operations and taskforces underscores the state's reliance on specialized security units to respond more swiftly and effectively to kidnapping incidents. Capacity building and the provision of equipment, particularly arms and ammunition for security agents, suggest a recognition of the need to strengthen operational readiness. These measures aim to enhance the competence, confidence, and tactical capabilities of security personnel who confront well-armed criminal groups.

The respondent further identifies community engagement as an important complementary strategy, emphasizing collaboration between residents and security agencies. Such participatory approaches are consistent with contemporary security models that rely on shared intelligence and community vigilance. Legislative overhaul is also mentioned, indicating ongoing reforms intended to address gaps within the legal and institutional frameworks governing security. Overall, the respondent's perspective portrays government strategies as multifaceted, combining punitive measures, institutional strengthening, operational support, and community involvement to address the complex challenge of kidnapping in the state. In similar vein, another respondents said:

The strategies of government in combating or fighting kidnapping effectively in recent times ranges from; creating stiffer punishment to offenders and convicted persons, demolition of houses where kidnapping victims were kept, seizing properties linked to kidnapers. However, government can do more, like in the area of

job creation, making available conducive environment for business to thrive and closing the gap on economic stratification between the rich and the poor. **(IDI-Male-2025)**

The respondent presents a dual assessment of government strategies for combating kidnapping in Edo State, emphasising both punitive approaches and the need for broader socio-economic interventions. According to the response, current efforts are heavily anchored in deterrence-based measures such as imposing stiffer punishments on offenders, demolishing structures used to harbour victims, and confiscating properties linked to kidnappers. These strategies reflect a strong focus on criminal justice responses aimed at disrupting criminal operations, instilling fear of legal consequences, and dismantling the physical and economic infrastructure that enables kidnapping activities. However, the respondent also underscores that punitive actions alone are insufficient to address the root causes of the crime. By calling for job creation and improved business environments, the respondent highlights the importance of addressing underlying socio-economic vulnerabilities that often push individuals into criminality. The mention of reducing economic stratification between the rich and the poor further reflects an understanding that inequality and limited opportunities can exacerbate insecurity.

Overall, the respondent frames effective anti-kidnapping efforts as requiring a balanced approach (one that integrates strong law-enforcement mechanisms with sustained investments in economic development and social welfare). This perspective aligns with contemporary security scholarship, which argues that long-term crime reduction hinges on tackling both immediate criminal threats and their structural drivers. A respondents said:

The current strategies of government at all level in combating kidnapping in Edo state includes; Police partnering with other

security agencies of government by a way of sharing intelligence to tackle and prevent kidnapping in the area as well as stiffer punishment for the offenders also the poverty alleviation programme to engage the teeming youth and population. Empowering the less privileges in the society and many more. All these are the strategies that the government employed in combatting the upsurge of kidnapping **(IDI-Male-2025)**

The respondent highlights a combination of security-driven and socio-economic strategies adopted by government at various levels to address kidnapping in Edo State. Central to the response is the emphasis on inter-agency collaboration, particularly the partnership between the police and other security bodies through intelligence sharing. This reflects contemporary security practice, where coordinated information exchange enhances surveillance, early warning, and rapid response to kidnapping threats. The respondent also notes the use of stiffer punishment as a deterrent mechanism, indicating government reliance on punitive legal frameworks to discourage criminal activities. Beyond security measures, the respondent acknowledges the role of socio-economic interventions such as poverty alleviation programmes aimed at engaging unemployed youth. The mention of empowering vulnerable groups underscores efforts to reduce economic pressures that may push individuals toward criminality. This respondent was specific, by saying:

One of the strategies of Governor Monday Okpebholo in combatting the upsurge of kidnapping includes: pulling down structures used in high profile kidnapping task, he also sign into law the kidnapping prohibition (Amendment) law of 2025, introducing stricter measures against perpetrators and lastly seizure of properties liked to kidnapping group and their sponsors. **(IDI-Male-2025)**.

The respondent highlights a series of decisive and punitive strategies adopted by Governor Monday Okpebholo to counter the rising incidents of kidnapping in Edo State, particularly measures targeting the operational infrastructure of kidnapping networks. A central

component of the governor's approach is the demolition of structures used in high-profile kidnapping operations, a tactic intended to disrupt criminal bases, deter future offenders, and signal the government's intolerance for spaces that facilitate criminal activities.

The respondent also notes the enactment of the Kidnapping Prohibition (Amendment) Law of 2025, which introduces stricter legal provisions against perpetrators. This legislative action reflects a shift toward more robust punitive frameworks aimed at strengthening deterrence, ensuring harsher sentencing, and closing legal loopholes previously exploited by offenders. Additionally, the seizure of properties linked to kidnapping groups and their sponsors is highlighted as a strategic effort to weaken the financial capacity of criminal networks. By targeting the economic incentives underlying kidnapping, the government aims to dismantle the profitability of the crime. Overall, the respondent portrays Governor Okpebholo's strategy as one that integrates legal reform, property-focused sanctions, and aggressive operational measures. This approach aligns with broader counter-crime frameworks that emphasize deterrence, asset disruption, and structural incapacitation of criminal groups.

**4.1.5: Examine the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in responding to kidnapping cases. (N=513)**

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
What are the challenges facing government in implementing effective strategies in combating kidnapping in Edo North	Limited resources	105	20.6
	Corruption	273	53.2
	Lack of political will	69	13.5
	Lack of community trust	66	12.9
Do you see collaboration between law enforcement agencies and community members	Yes	402	78.4
	No	88	17.2
	Maybe	23	04.5
Reason for the response	Community members knew them	25	4.9
	Government is yet to address the issues	242	47.2
	Poor cordial relationship	164	32.0
	Timely intervention	42	8.2
	Regular meeting is constant	40	7.8
What are the most significant challenges impending law enforcement agencies in combating kidnapping	Inadequate information	93	18.1
	Lack of motivation	154	30.0
	Job security and low morale	82	16.0
	Lack of logistics	120	23.4
	others	64	12.5
How will you rate the level of resources available to law enforcement in response to kidnapping	Very adequate	97	18.9
	Adequate	139	27.1
	Somewhat adequate	81	15.8
	inadequate	198	39.2
To what extent do you agree that corruption within the law enforcement agencies is a serious challenge	Strongly agree	185	36.1
	Agree	91	17.7
	Neutral	59	11.5
	Disagree	131	25.5
	Strongly disagree	47	09.2
Which of the following challenges do you think is significant in kidnapping cases response	Limited resources	183	35.7
	Lack of community cooperation	184	35.9
	Inadequate intelligence	93	18.1
	Corruption	53	10.3
What are the biggest obstacle in investigating kidnapping cases	Lack of evidence	229	44.6
	Difficulty in tracking suspects	188	36.6
	Limited forensic capability	73	14.2
	Others	23	4.5

Fieldwork, 2025

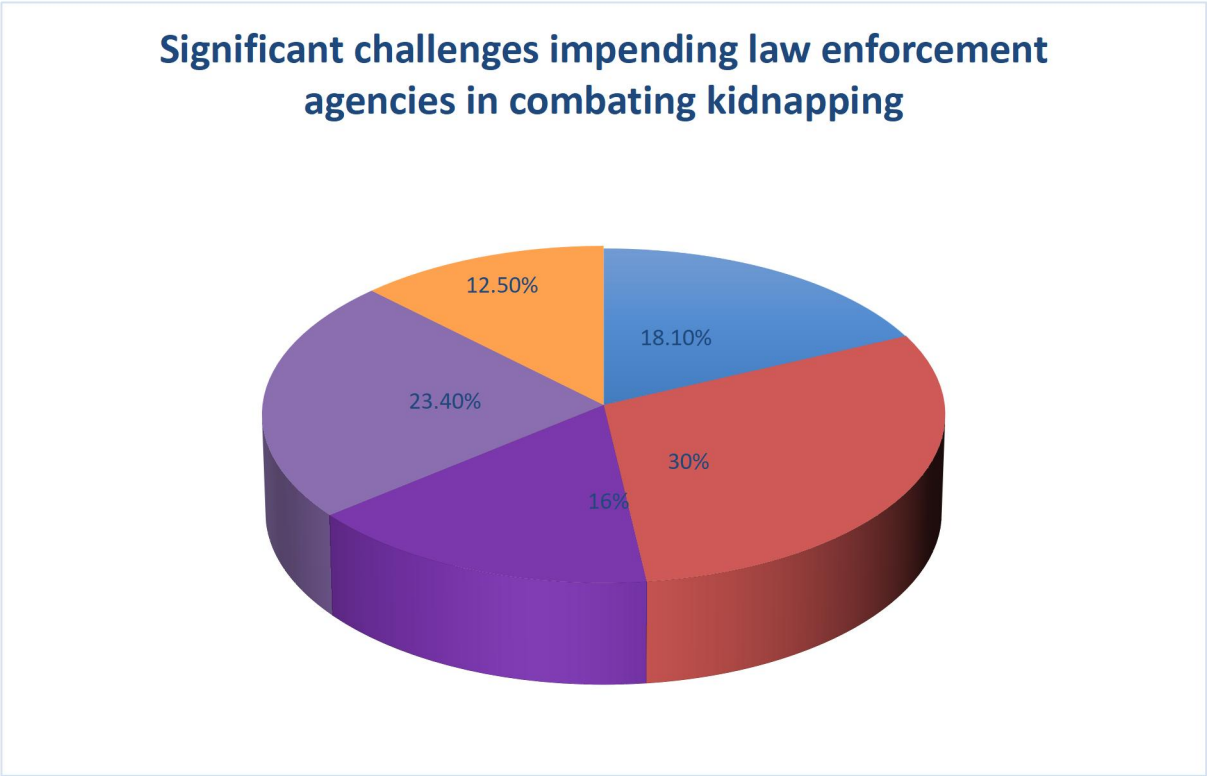
The data from the above table reveal significant structural and institutional constraints affecting the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in combating kidnapping in Edo North. When respondents were asked about the key challenges facing government in implementing effective anti-kidnapping strategies, corruption clearly emerged as the most dominant concern, identified by 53.2% of participants. This represents the majority and underscores widespread public perception that weak institutional integrity and compromised governance structures critically undermine security efforts. Limited resources, cited by 20.6%, rank second and reflect the chronic underfunding of security operations. Meanwhile, lack of political will (13.5%) and lack of community trust (12.9%) were the least acknowledged factors, although they still highlight important systemic and relational deficits.

With regard to collaboration between law enforcement agencies and community members, a large majority (78.4%) agreed that such collaboration exists. However, deeper analysis reveals mixed sentiments about the quality and effectiveness of this partnership. While a small proportion (4.9%) attribute cooperation to familiarity within communities, nearly half (47.2%) argue that the government has not adequately addressed underlying issues that could enhance collaboration. Additionally, 32.0% cite poor cordial relationships between both parties, reflecting persistent mistrust and weak communication channels. Reports of timely intervention (8.2%) and regular meetings (7.8%) were the least endorsed, suggesting limited institutional engagement mechanisms.

Assessment of internal challenges faced by law enforcement agencies shows that lack of motivation is the most significant constraint, identified by 30.0% of respondents. This is followed by lack of logistics (23.4%) and inadequate information (18.1%), both pointing to

critical operational gaps. Job security and low morale (16.0%) and other unspecified issues (12.5%) were the least reported but nonetheless reveal underlying human resource and organizational weaknesses. Perceptions of resource adequacy further reinforce these concerns. A plurality (39.2%) rated available resources as inadequate, suggesting substantial operational limitations. Only a minority rated resources as very adequate (18.9%) or adequate (27.1%), while 15.8% described them as somewhat adequate, indicating that most respondents view resource availability as insufficient for effective kidnapping response.

**Figure 8: Significant challenges impending law enforcement agencies in combating kidnapping**



Corruption within law enforcement agencies also features prominently as a hindrance to effective security operations. A combined majority of 53.8% (strongly agree and agree) believe it is a serious challenge, while 25.5% disagree and 9.2% strongly disagree, representing the least supportive views yet demonstrating that scepticism exists among a notable minority.

When respondents identified challenges affecting kidnapping response, lack of community cooperation (35.9%) and limited resources (35.7%) emerged as the top concerns. Inadequate intelligence (18.1%) and corruption (10.3%) ranked lower but remain relevant operational issues. Finally, the obstacles to investigating kidnapping cases are substantial. The majority (44.6%) identified lack of evidence as the biggest challenge, followed by difficulty in tracking suspects (36.6%). Limited forensic capability (14.2%) and other minor constraints (4.5%) constituted the least cited concerns, indicating enduring technological and methodological shortcomings. Overall, the data illustrate multifaceted systemic, logistical, and institutional barriers that significantly hamper effective law enforcement response to kidnapping in Edo North.

On the qualitative dimension in looking at the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in responding to kidnapping cases, while corroborating on the quantitative data, the respondents gave their various opinion. To this end a respondents said;

Some of the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in responding to kidnapping cases includes, due process and human right concerns, infrastructure weakness, institutional constraints including judicial capacity gaps, poor equipment and communication gadgets (like tracking gadgets). **(IDI-Male-2025)**.

The respondent identifies a range of structural, institutional, and ethical challenges that shape the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in responding to kidnapping cases in Edo State. His reference to due process and human rights concerns highlights the tension between security imperatives and adherence to legal standards. This underscores a broader dilemma in policing where efforts to combat violent crime must be balanced with constitutional protections, often slowing investigative processes and limiting operational flexibility.

The respondent further points to infrastructure weaknesses, suggesting that inadequate physical facilities, poor logistics, and limited mobility undermine rapid response efforts. These gaps reduce the ability of security agencies to conduct sustained operations or respond promptly to distress calls. In addition, the mention of institutional constraints (particularly judicial capacity gaps) illustrates systemic bottlenecks within the criminal justice system. Inadequate prosecutorial efficiency, delays in court processes, and weak evidence-handling mechanisms often lead to low conviction rates, thereby emboldening perpetrators.

Finally, the respondent highlights deficits in equipment and communication gadgets, especially tracking technologies. Such technological limitations significantly hamper intelligence gathering, surveillance, and real-time monitoring of kidnappers' activities. Collectively, these challenges reflect deep-seated structural problems that require comprehensive reform to enhance anti-kidnapping effectiveness. Similarly, another respondent said:

There have been very few successes and a plethora of challenges, and some of the challenges are lack of synergy between security

agencies, community involvements and failure of the government to address the root cause of the problem of kidnapping in Edo state in general with references to Edo North senatorial district. **(IDI-Male-2025)**).

The respondent's reflection underscores the limited success of anti-kidnapping efforts in Edo North and highlights multiple systemic challenges that continue to undermine security interventions. His emphasis on the lack of synergy between security agencies points to persistent fragmentation in the state's security framework. Poor coordination and inadequate information sharing among agencies weaken operational efficiency, resulting in delayed response, duplicated efforts, and missed opportunities for preventive action. This aligns with broader scholarly observations that inter-agency rivalry and communication gaps significantly hinder crime-control outcomes.

The respondent also draws attention to insufficient community involvement, suggesting that the security architecture lacks strong grassroots engagement. Since effective intelligence gathering relies heavily on community trust and collaboration, weak relationships between residents and security operatives limit the flow of actionable information. This contributes to an environment where kidnappers operate with relative ease and reduced risk of detection. Furthermore, the respondent attributes persistent kidnapping to the government's failure to address underlying socio-economic and structural drivers, such as unemployment, poverty, and weakened rural governance. By highlighting these root causes, he suggests that current strategies remain largely reactive rather than preventive. His perspective illustrates the need for a holistic, multi-layered approach to sustainably reduce kidnapping in Edo North. Consequently, a respondent said:

The prevailing concern of kidnapping activities in Edo North has created concern, as its challenges could be traced to lack of synergy between government security agencies, poor mapping system, limited and inadequate tracking gadgets and many others. If attended to this will go a long way to reducing if not eliminating the incidence of kidnapping in the state. **(IDI-Male-2025)**.

The respondent's account highlights key structural and operational weaknesses that shape the persistence of kidnapping in Edo North. His emphasis on the lack of synergy among government security agencies reflects a broader challenge of fragmented security architecture, where poor inter-agency collaboration undermines coordinated response efforts. Without seamless communication, joint operations, and intelligence-sharing mechanisms, security agencies struggle to mount timely and effective interventions. The respondent also identifies deficiencies in geographic mapping systems, which suggests inadequate spatial intelligence for tracking criminal movements and identifying high-risk zones. Effective crime prevention increasingly depends on accurate terrain analysis and digital mapping, and its absence limits strategic planning and rapid deployment.

Similarly, the mention of limited and inadequate tracking gadgets underscores technological gaps within law enforcement institutions. Modern kidnapping operations often require advanced surveillance tools, communication intercept technologies, and real-time tracking devices, all of which are essential for tracing perpetrators and rescuing victims. Overall, the respondent argues that addressing these structural and technological shortcomings would significantly strengthen the state's capacity to reduce, and potentially eradicate, kidnapping incidents. Furthermore, a respondent said:

The challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in responding to kidnapping cases in Edo North are insufficient resource in handling kidnapping cases and situation, limited coordination

between agencies and communities, hoarding of information, trust deficits in some communities and many more. I know there are still some unmentioned challenges but this are the few I know. thanks **(IDI-Male-2025)**.

The respondent's perspective highlights critical institutional and relational constraints that undermine the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in addressing kidnapping in Edo North. His mention of insufficient resources underscores a longstanding structural challenge, where security operatives often lack the logistical capacity, equipment, and manpower needed for timely and efficient response. This limitation weakens operational readiness and contributes to delayed interventions. The respondent also identifies poor coordination between agencies and communities, reflecting fragmented security governance and the absence of integrated intelligence-sharing frameworks. Such gaps create operational silos that impede coherent anti-kidnapping strategies.

Furthermore, the reference to information hoarding points to systemic communication failures within security networks and between stakeholders, which can obstruct early warning processes and compromise crime-fighting outcomes. The respondent's observation of trust deficits in some communities highlights the erosion of police-citizen relations, often shaped by past grievances, perceptions of corruption, or fear of reprisals. These relational barriers discourage community members from providing timely intelligence, thereby reducing the effectiveness of investigative efforts. Although the respondent acknowledges the existence of additional unmentioned challenges, the issues identified reflect common structural and socio-institutional barriers documented in security governance literature.



#### 4.1.6: Explore potential solutions and prospects for enhancing law enforcement strategies in the fight against kidnapping in the district

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Are there any community-based initiative that helps support Law enforcement agencies in combating kidnapping	Yes	368	71.7
	No	97	18.9
	Don't know	48	09.4
Reason for the response	Constant education of members	120	28.6
	Public awareness programmes	85	20.2
	Neighbourhood watch	55	13.1
	Vigilante group	78	18.6
	Mass advocacy	82	19.5
Are there plans to improve community engagement in law enforcement effort in combating kidnapping	Yes	213	41.5
	No	136	26.5
	Don't know	164	32.0
If yes what are the plans	Build Police station	72	33.8
	Neighbourhood watch groups	61	28.6
	Economic opportunities	34	15.9
	Mobile police base	40	18.7
What is the most important factor in improving law enforcement response to kidnapping	Better training for officers	228	44.4
	Increase resources	141	27.5
	Improved community engagement	121	23.6
	Others	23	04.5
Are there any policies that can support law enforcement effort in combating kidnapping	Yes	285	55.6
	No	174	33.9
	Don't know	54	10.5
If yes, what policies	Implementing national standards	73	25.6
	Strict punishment for offenders	81	28.4
	Recruitment and training of staff	60	21.1
	Others	71	24.9

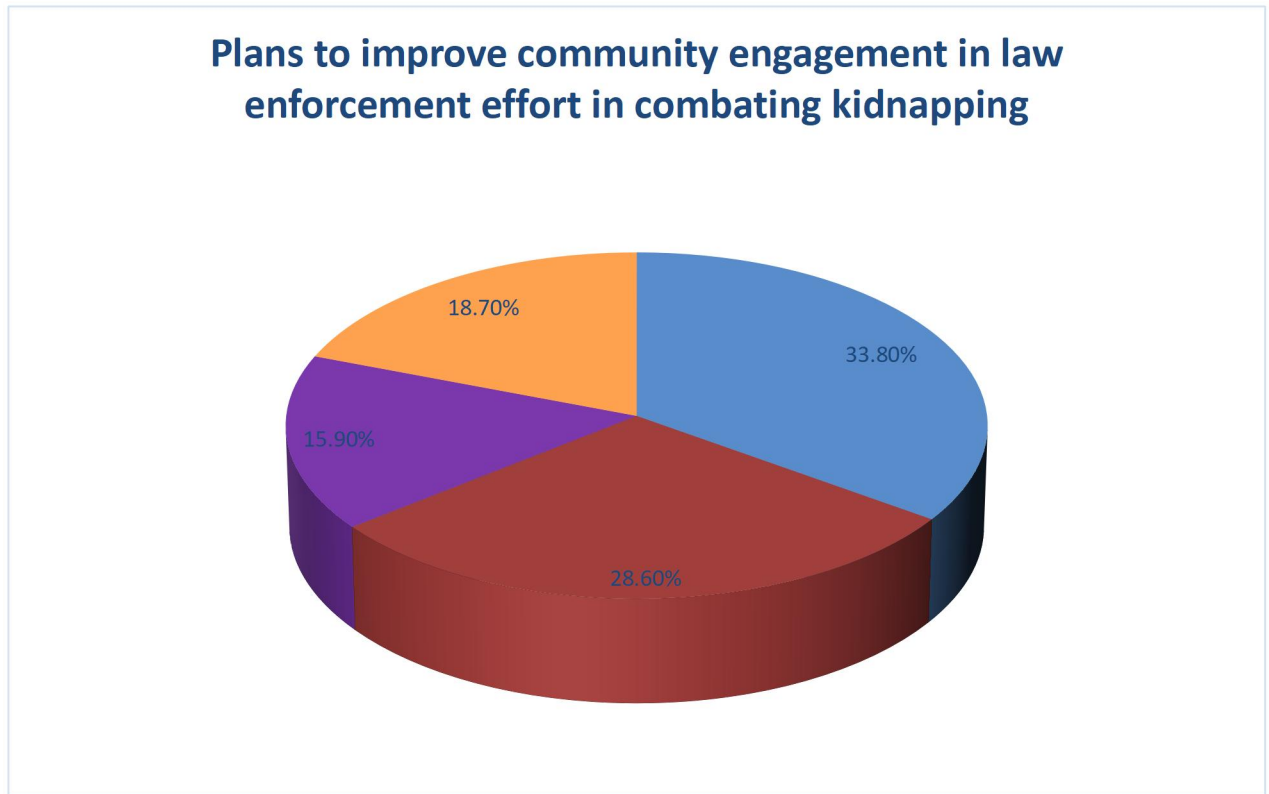
#### Fieldwork, 2025

The data presented in Section 4.1.4 indicate strong community endorsement of collaborative strategies aimed at combating kidnapping within the district. A substantial majority of respondents (71.7%) acknowledge the presence of community-based initiatives that actively support law enforcement agencies. In contrast, only 18.9% state that no such initiatives exist, while a further 9.4% remain uncertain. This distribution suggests that most

residents are aware of community-led mechanisms and perceive them as crucial complements to the formal security apparatus. The high level of awareness reflects an environment where community involvement is increasingly recognized as indispensable in addressing rising insecurity.

In terms of the nature of these initiatives, respondents highlight a range of interventions geared toward strengthening local security. The most frequently mentioned initiative is the constant education of community members (28.6%), indicating a strong emphasis on sensitization, preventive awareness, and information-sharing. Public awareness programmes (20.2%) and mass advocacy (19.5%) follow closely, underscoring the significance of collective mobilization and the dissemination of security-related messages. Vigilante groups (18.6%) and neighbourhood watch structures (13.1%) also appear as key components of community security architecture. Although neighbourhood watch systems are the least cited among the options, their presence reflects the continued relevance of grassroots surveillance in crime prevention.

**Figure 9: Plans to improve community engagement in law enforcement effort in combating kidnapping**



When examining prospects for improved community engagement in law enforcement efforts, the responses reveal some degree of uncertainty. Only a plurality of respondents (41.5%) believe that plans exist to enhance community–police collaboration. Meanwhile, 26.5% do not perceive the existence of such plans, and a notable 32.0% are unsure. This pattern suggests potential communication gaps or limited public dissemination of strategic security initiatives. Among those who acknowledge the existence of improvement plans, building a police station emerges as the most prominent proposal (33.8%), highlighting the perceived importance of establishing a stronger physical law enforcement presence.

The creation of neighbourhood watch groups (28.6%) and the deployment of mobile police bases (18.7%) are also regarded as viable approaches for strengthening security

responsiveness. Economic opportunities (15.9%) are the least cited strategy, indicating that respondents place higher priority on direct security interventions over long-term socioeconomic empowerment. Concerning factors that could most improve law enforcement response to kidnapping, better training for officers stands out clearly, cited by 44.4% of respondents. This suggests strong public perception of gaps in police competence and preparedness. Increased resources (27.5%) and improved community engagement (23.6%) are also emphasized, reflecting balanced support for structural improvements and collaborative partnerships.

Finally, perceptions of policy support for law enforcement show that a majority (55.6%) believe relevant policies exist. Among those identifying specific policies, strict punishment for offenders (28.4%) is the most frequently cited, pointing to a desire for deterrence-based measures. Implementing national standards (25.6%) and enhanced recruitment and training (21.1%) are also regarded as essential. Other policy suggestions (24.9%) indicate diverse but less widespread perspectives on institutional reform.

### **Discussion Of Major Finding**

On objective one, the findings strongly align with existing scholarly literature, indicating close agreement between community perceptions in Edo North and academic explanations of kidnapping in Nigeria. Respondents' view that kidnapping is increasing supports Alemika's (2013) argument that worsening socio-economic conditions intensify criminal behaviour. Poverty and unemployment were identified as major drivers, reflecting Alemika's assertion that economic hardship and joblessness push individuals toward criminal networks. Although corruption and ineffective law enforcement were less

emphasized, these concerns correspond with Smith's (2016) position that weak governance enables kidnappers to operate with limited deterrence. The finding that financial gain motivates most kidnapping cases aligns with Clutterbuck's (2013) argument that organized criminal groups exploit economic vulnerabilities for profit. Overall, both findings and literature show that kidnapping is shaped by socio-economic pressures, governance weaknesses, and organized criminal influences.

The findings from objective two indicate mixed public perceptions regarding the effectiveness of government strategies in addressing kidnapping in Edo North, aligning closely with existing literature. While some respondents perceive current measures as effective, many emphasize the need for intelligence-driven policing, stronger law enforcement capacity, and deeper community engagement. This corresponds with Okeke's (2020) observation that community policing, intelligence-led operations, and collaboration with security agencies are central strategies adopted by the government to prevent kidnappings. The study's identification of grassroots participation as critical mirrors Okeke's emphasis on local collaboration for effective intelligence gathering and crime prevention.

Respondents also highlighted socio-economic factors, particularly unemployment, as influencing the perceived effectiveness of current strategies. This supports Agba et al.'s (2019) assertion that economic empowerment programs, including job creation and microfinance initiatives, are essential in addressing structural drivers of crime and reducing youth involvement in kidnapping. The preference for youth engagement and empowerment programs in the study underscores the importance of socio-economic interventions as complementary measures to policing. The findings and literature collectively suggest that

sustainable reduction in kidnapping requires a combination of intelligence-led operations, strengthened security capacity, community participation, and socio-economic empowerment. Both empirical data and scholarly studies highlight the interplay between security interventions and structural socio-economic factors in shaping public perceptions of government effectiveness.

The findings from objective three reveal that law enforcement agencies in Edo North face multiple structural and institutional constraints that hinder effective responses to kidnapping. Corruption emerged as the most prominent challenge, echoing Smith's (2018) observation that compromised governance and weak institutional integrity undermine security operations. Similarly, limited resources and logistical gaps align with Smith's assertion that budgetary and personnel constraints significantly reduce operational effectiveness. Internal human resource challenges, such as low motivation and morale, further exacerbate these limitations, highlighting organizational weaknesses that impede consistent law enforcement performance.

The study also underscores the importance of community collaboration, with a majority acknowledging its existence but emphasizing mistrust and poor communication. This finding supports Tyler's (2019) argument that community engagement is critical in building trust, facilitating intelligence sharing, and enhancing crime prevention. Additionally, respondents' concerns about inadequate intelligence, lack of evidence, and limited forensic capacity resonate with Jones' (2020) emphasis on technological and methodological limitations in tracking suspects and gathering admissible evidence. Johnson's (2019) assertion that specialized training can improve operational effectiveness is indirectly supported, as operational gaps suggest skills deficits among personnel.

However, a point of divergence emerges regarding corruption's perceived magnitude. While respondents highlight it as the most significant obstacle, other operational issues, such as lack of community cooperation and insufficient intelligence, were ranked variably, suggesting that systemic and relational factors also critically influence outcomes. Overall, the findings and literature collectively demonstrate that effective kidnapping response requires integrated approaches addressing institutional, operational, and community-based challenges.

The findings from objective four reveal strong community endorsement of collaborative strategies in addressing kidnapping within the district, with the majority of respondents recognizing community-based initiatives as vital complements to formal law enforcement. Awareness of these initiatives is high, reflecting the growing importance of grassroots involvement in enhancing security. Key community interventions include continuous education of residents, public awareness programs, mass advocacy, vigilante groups, and neighbourhood watch structures, highlighting the focus on preventive sensitization, information-sharing, and local surveillance.

Despite widespread engagement, there is uncertainty regarding plans to strengthen community-police collaboration, as only a plurality of respondents perceives existing improvement strategies. Among proposed measures, building a police station, establishing neighbourhood watch groups, and deploying mobile police units are prioritized, indicating a preference for direct security infrastructure over long-term socio-economic interventions.

Respondents also emphasize the need for better training of law enforcement officers, reflecting public concerns over competence and preparedness. Increased resources and

enhanced community engagement are additionally cited as important measures to improve responsiveness. Regarding policy support, most respondents believe relevant frameworks exist, with strict punishment for offenders, implementation of national standards, and expanded recruitment and training highlighted as key priorities. Overall, the findings underscore a public perception that sustainable reduction in kidnapping requires a combination of community participation, structural support, capacity-building, and effective policy implementation.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 5.1 Summary of Major Finding

Findings from across the four objectives highlight the complex interplay of socio-economic, institutional, and community factors shaping kidnapping dynamics and responses in Edo North. Regarding the first objective, respondents perceive kidnapping as increasing, emphasizing poverty and unemployment as major drivers. Economic deprivation and lack of employment opportunities are seen as pushing individuals toward criminal networks. While corruption and weak law enforcement were less emphasized, these challenges are recognized as enabling kidnappers to operate with minimal deterrence. Financial motives dominate among perpetrators, reflecting the role of organized criminal groups exploiting economic vulnerabilities, and underscoring the intertwined nature of economic pressures and criminal activity.

Findings from the second objective reveal mixed public perceptions regarding the effectiveness of government strategies. While some respondents view current measures as effective, many advocate for intelligence-led policing, strengthened law enforcement capacity, and deeper community engagement. Respondents also highlight socio-economic factors, particularly unemployment, as influencing the effectiveness of current strategies, suggesting that economic empowerment programs, including job creation and financial support initiatives, are essential in reducing youth involvement in crime. Overall, sustainable reduction in kidnapping requires integrated security interventions combined with socio-economic support.

The third objective highlights significant structural and institutional constraints facing law enforcement. Corruption, limited resources, low motivation, inadequate logistics, and skills deficits undermine operational effectiveness. Community collaboration exists but is weakened by mistrust and poor communication, indicating that relational and institutional factors both influence outcomes. The findings point to the need for holistic approaches addressing operational, institutional, and community-based challenges.

Finally, the fourth objective emphasizes strong community endorsement of collaborative security strategies. Key interventions include continuous education, public awareness campaigns, mass advocacy, vigilante groups, and neighbourhood watch systems. Respondents advocate for improved police infrastructure, enhanced training, and better resource allocation, reflecting preferences for direct security measures alongside structural and policy support. Overall, the findings indicate that effective reduction of kidnapping in Edo North requires a combination of community participation, law enforcement capacity strengthening, policy implementation, and socio-economic empowerment, highlighting the need for integrated, multi-faceted approaches to sustainable security.

## **5.2. Conclusion**

The study concludes that kidnapping in Edo North is a complex issue shaped by interconnected socio-economic, institutional, and structural factors. Poverty and unemployment are primary drivers, compelling vulnerable individuals, especially youths, to engage in criminal activities for financial gain. Weak governance, corruption, and limited law enforcement capacity exacerbate the problem by allowing perpetrators to operate with relative impunity. Although government strategies, including intelligence-led

operations, community policing, and capacity-building initiatives, are acknowledged, public perceptions indicate mixed effectiveness. Respondents highlight the need for stronger police presence, improved training, and enhanced community engagement, revealing gaps in operational readiness and trust between security agencies and local communities.

Community-based initiatives, such as awareness campaigns, vigilante groups, and neighbourhood watch systems, are recognized as valuable complements to formal security measures, though their impact is limited by communication gaps and poor strategic integration. Overall, sustainable reduction in kidnapping requires a holistic approach combining robust policing, technological and structural support, community collaboration, and socio-economic empowerment to address both immediate security challenges and underlying drivers of crime.

### **5.3 Recommendation**

Based on the summary of findings and conclusion, the study advocate that:

1. Government should Equip security agencies with modern surveillance technologies, tracking gadgets, and sufficient operational resources, while providing continuous training for personnel.
2. Edo State Ministry of Interior in collaboration with local government councils and community leaders Should establish structured mechanisms for regular community–police dialogue, including neighbourhood watch groups, community forums, and public awareness campaigns on security issues.

3. Government should develop job creation schemes, skills acquisition programs, and microfinance support for unemployed youths to reduce their vulnerability to criminal recruitment.
4. Ministry of Justice and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) should Strengthen internal accountability, conduct regular audits, and enforce anti-corruption policies to enhance integrity and public trust in law enforcement.
5. Government in collaboration with the Nigeria Police Force should establish strategically located police stations, mobile units, and forensic facilities to ensure timely response to kidnapping cases.

## REFERENCES

- Agba, A. M., Nwanegbo, C. J., & Okeke, R. C. (2019). Economic empowerment and youth unemployment in Nigeria: A study of the Edo State government's initiatives. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 10(2), 1-12.51 - 470
- Agba, T.P. and Zubairu, U. (2021). Violent Crimes and Criminality: Implications on Human Development in Nigeria. *Port Harcourt Journal of History and Diplomatic Studies*. Vol 8 (3) Pp. 41 – 63
- Agnew, R. (2017). A general strain theory of terrorism. *Journal of Criminological Research*, 15(2), 131-145. doi: 10.1080/13624806.2017.1311354
- Agnew, R. (2017). A general theory of crime and delinquency. In *The Oxford Handbook of Criminological Theory* (pp. 241-257). Oxford University Press.
- Alemika, E. E. O. (2013). Kidnapping in Nigeria: An overview. *Journal of Law and Conflict Resolution*, 5(1), 1-11.
- Alemika, E. E. O. (2020). Kidnapping and ransom in Nigeria: An analysis of the trends and patterns. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 38(1), 45-61. doi: 10.1080/02589001.2020.1736643
- Angerbrandt, H. (2018). “Deadly Elections; post –election violence in Nigeria”, *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, Vol. 56 (1). Pp. 106 -123
- Babbie, E. R. (2010). *The practice of social research*. Wadsworth Cengage
- Bandura, A. (1977). *Social learning theory*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Bassiouni, M. C. (2011). International human rights law. In M. C. Bassiouni (Ed.), *The human rights of women: International instruments and African experiences* (pp. 1-24). Ardsley, NY: Transnational Publishers.
- Brown, S.H. (1964), *A History of the Peoples of Lagos, 1852-1886*, Ph.D. Thesis, Northwestern University.
- Chukkol, K. S. (1988). *The Law of Crimes in Nigeria*, ABU Press Ltd, Zaria
- Clarke, R. V. (2019). Using technology to prevent kidnapping. *Journal of Criminological Research*, 16(1), 1-12.
- Clutterbuck, L. (2013). Kidnapping for ransom in the 21st century. *Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism*, 8(1), 34-47
- Cohen, L. E., & Felson, M. (2017). Social change and crime rate trends: A routine activity approach. *American Sociological Review*, 44(4), 588-608. doi: 10.2307/2094526

- Dollard, J., Doob, L. W., Miller, N. E., Mowrer, O. H., & Sears, R. R. (1939). *Frustration and aggression*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Durkheim, E. (1958). *Rules of Sociological Method*. The Free Press, Illinois.
- Ezegwu, E. C. (2021). The psychological impact of kidnapping on victims and their families. *Journal of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences*, 9(1), 1-9.
- Finkelhor, D. (2005). The victimization of children and youth: A comprehensive overview. In K. Kendall-Tackett & S. Giacomoni (Eds.), *Child victimization* (pp. 1-14). Kingston, NJ: Civic Research Institute.
- Falola, T. (1995), "Brigandage and Piracy in Nineteenth Century Yorubaland", *Journal of the Historical Society of Nigeria*, vol. X11, Nos. 1 and 2, pp. 83-100
- GLendhill, A. (1963). *The Penal Code of Northern Nigeria and the Sudan*. London: JBT Press
- Harfield, C. (2012). Kidnapping: A critical perspective. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, 6(2), 143-153.
- Holt, T. J., & Bossler, A. M. (2016). *Cybercrime in progress: Theory and prevention of technology-enabled offenses*. Routledge.
- Igbo, H. U., & Okoli, A. C. (2022). Kidnapping in Nigeria: An examination of the causes and consequences. *Journal of Criminology*, 1-11. doi: 10.1155/2022/6651111
- Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (2022). *Kidnapping in Nigeria: Trends, patterns, and policy implications*.
- Interpol (2020). *Kidnapping: A global threat*. Interpol Report.
- Isiaka, A.A. & Okaphor, E. F. (2018). Concept of Crime in the Administration of Penal Justice in Nigeria: An Appraisal. *NAU JIL J vOL* 9(1) Pp. 246 -251
- Johnson, K. (2019). Specialized training for law enforcement responses to kidnapping. *Journal of Law Enforcement Training*, 31(2), 1-10.
- Jones, J. (2020). Balancing security and liberty: The use of surveillance technology in kidnapping investigations. *Journal of Law and Technology*, 20(1), 1-15.
- Karibi-Whyte. A.G (1988). *Criminal Policy: Traditional and Modern Trends*. Lagos. Nigerian Law Publications, pp. 10-16
- Marx, K. (1844). Economic and philosophical manuscripts. In K. Marx & F. Engels, *Collected works* (Vol. 3, pp. 229-346). New York: International Publishers.
- Marx, K. (1848). *The Communist Manifesto*. In K. Marx & F. Engels, *Collected works* (Vol. 6, pp. 477-519). New York: International Publishers.

- Molan, M. T. (2001). *Criminal Law*, Old Bailey Press, London
- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). (2024). Report on Kidnapping and Killings in Nigeria.
- Nwanegbo, C. J., Agba, A. M., & Okeke, R. C. (2018). The impact of kidnapping on individuals and communities in Nigeria. *Journal of Criminology*, 2018, 1-9.
- Nwankwo, U. C. (2020). The economic impact of kidnapping in Nigeria. *Journal of Economics and Finance*, 11(1), 1-10.
- Okeke, R. C. (2020). Combating kidnapping in Nigeria: A review of the Edo State government's strategies. *Journal of Security Studies*, 19(1), 1-15.
- Okeke, R. C. (2020). Kidnapping in Edo State: Causes, consequences, and solutions. *Journal of Criminology*, 2020, 1-9.
- Okoli, A. C., & Igbo, H. U. (2020). The challenges of policing kidnappings in Nigeria. *Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism*, 15(1), 45-61. doi: 10.1080/18335330.2020.1736644
- Okoli, A. C. (2019). Kidnapping in Nigeria: Causes, consequences, and solutions. *Journal of Criminology*, 2019, 1-9.
- Onyeozili, E. C. (2018). Ritual kidnapping in Nigeria: An examination of the causes and consequences. *Journal of Criminology*, 2018, 1-9.
- Onuoha, F. C. (2014). Why Boko Haram kidnaps women and children. Institute for Security Studies.
- Onwudike, E. and Berdwind-Dart. C. (2010). Breaking the Circle of Electoral Violence since 1999. Special Report 263 (Washington DC., United States Institute for Peace).
- Osaghae, E. E. (2015). Ethnicity and democracy in Nigeria: The Benue experience. *Journal of African Studies*, 14(1), 1-15.
- Osifodunrin, P. (2013). Escapée Criminals and Crime Control in Colonial Southwestern Nigeria, 1861 – 1945. IFRA Special Research Vol 1. IFRA - Nigeria
- Reyns, B. W. (2013). Online routines and identity theft victimization: Further applications of routine activity theory. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 50(2), 216-238.
- Ross, R. and Jones, R.A. (1972). *An Introduction to Criminal Law*, Butterworths, London
- Sampson, R. J., & Groves, W. B. (1989). *Community*
- SBM Intelligence. (2023). Kidnapping Trends in Nigeria.

- Schlesinger, L. B. (2009). Kidnapping: A review of the literature. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 14(5), 343-353.
- Sellin, T. (1938). *Culture, Conflict and Crime*, New York Social Science Research Council Bulletin 41.
- Smith, J. C. (2007). *Smith and Hogan Criminal Law*. Butterworth, Bath
- Smith, C. M., & Papachristos, A. V. (2016). The social structure of gang violence. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 32(2), 263-285.
- Smith, D. J. (2016). Corruption and governance in Nigeria. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 34(2), 249-264.
- Smith, D. J. (2018). The challenges of responding to kidnapping: A review of the literature. *Journal of Criminology*, 51(2), 1-12.
- Smith, D. J. (2020). The economic impact of kidnapping on business in Nigeria. *Journal of Business and Economics*, 11(1), 1-12.
- Tamuno, T. (1970), *The Police in Modern Nigeria, 1861-1965: Origins, Development and Role*, Ibadan: University Press
- Tyler, T. R. (2019). Community engagement and trust in law enforcement: A review of the literature. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 47(1), 1-15.
- United Nations (2000). *Convention against transnational organized crime*. Adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000
- Üstün, Ü. (2015). Kidnapping: A criminological perspective. *Journal of Criminology*, 2015, 1-9.

### **Newspapers**

- Daily Trust (2023). Police parade suspects arrested for kidnapping and armed robbery.
- Premium Times (2023). Edo govt passes law to demolish houses used for kidnapping.
- Premium Times (2023). Nigeria: Over N300 million paid as ransom to kidnappers in one year.
- Premium Times. (2024). EU Commits to Supporting Nigeria in Addressing Security Challenges.
- Punch Newspaper. (2024). NHRC Reports 1,712 Kidnapping Cases, 1,463 Killings in 9 Months.

The Guardian (2023). 16 hunters mobbed and killed in Uromi.

This Day (2023). Military steps up offensives against terrorists, kidnappers in Kaduna.

Vanguard (2022). Edo Assembly urges govt to deploy security personnel to combat kidnapping. Vanguard Newspaper, February 10.

Vanguard (2023). Abia govt launches Operation Crush to combat kidnapping.

Vanguard (2023). Edo govt demolishes kidnapper's house in Uromi.

Vanguard (2024). N200 million paid as ransom to kidnappers in Nigeria since January.

Vanguard Newspaper. (2024). Kidnapping: NHRC Sounds Alarm Over Rising Cases in Nigeria.

## APPENDIX 1

### QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent,

I am Tijani Momoh, a postgraduate student of the Department of sociology & Anthropology, University of Benin, Benin City. I am requesting you to please participate in this research project that focuses on **The Rising Incidence of Kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District: Challenges and Prospects For Law Enforcement**. Your participation will contribute to knowledge base in the area of the research theme. I will be grateful if you could take out time to assist in completing the attached questionnaire. Please be assured that, the information provided will be treated with utmost confidentiality and shall be used strictly for the academic purpose of research. Kindly tick or make comments, where necessary, to assist me in the completion of this academic exercise as a prerequisite for graduation.

Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation.

Instruction: Tick ( ) where appropriate

#### Section A: Demographic Information

1. What is your age? .....
2. What is your socioeconomic status? .....
3. What is your level of education? .....
4. What is your ethnic background? -----
5. What                    is                    your                    Marital                    Status?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is your Religious Affiliation? -----
7. What is your approximate earning per month? -----

8. How long have you lived in Edo North Senatorial District? .....

**Section B: Kidnapping Incidents**

9a. To what extent do you agree that poverty is a major factor of kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District? Strongly Agree [ ] Agree [ ] Neutral [ ] Disagree [ ] Strongly Disagree [ ]

9b. Why do you think so? -----  
-----

10a. How significant do you think unemployment role is in the surge of kidnapping activities in the area? Very Significant [ ] Significant [ ] Not very Significant [ ] Not at all significant [ ]

10b. Give reason(s) for your response above -----  
-----  
-

11a. Which of the following do you think is the most significant factor accounting for the surge in kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District? Poverty [ ] Unemployment [ ] Corruption [ ] Lack of effective law enforcement [ ] other specify -----

11b. Give reason(s) for your response -----  
-----  
-----  
-----

12a. What do you think is the primary motivation for kidnappers in this area? Financial Gains [ ]

Revenge [ ] Political leverage [ ] others specify -----  
-

12b. Why do you think so? -----  
-----

13a. Do you think that the proximity of Edo North Senatorial District to the North Central Nigeria has implication for the recent surge in kidnapping activities in Edo North?

Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't Know [ ]

13b. Give reason(s) for your response -----  
-----  
-----  
-

14a. Do you think that the present strategies of the state government are effective in curbing kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District? Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't Know [ ]

14b. Why do you think so? -----  
-----

15a. To what extent do you agree that the government has provided adequate resources to support law enforcement efforts in combating kidnapping in the target area?

Strongly Agree [ ] Agree [ ] Neutral [ ] Disagree [ ] Strongly Disagree [ ]

15b. Why? -----  
-----  
-----  
-

16a. Which of the following strategies do you think will be more effective in combating kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District? Increased Police Presence [ ] Intelligence-led Police [ ] Community Engagement [ ] Other(s) Specify -----  
----

16b. Why do you think so? -----  
-----  
-----

17a. What do you think is the biggest challenge facing government in implementing effective strategies in combating kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District?

Limited resources [ ] Corruption [ ] Lack of Political Will [ ] Lack of Community trust [ ]

other(s) Specify -----

-

17b. Why do you think so? -----

-----

18a. Do you think that there is adequate collaboration between law enforcement agencies and community members in addressing kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District?

Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't Know [ ]

18b. Give reason(s) for your response -----

-----

-

19a. Are there better strategies that you think the government could employ to improve its response to the surge in kidnapping? Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't Know [ ]

19b. If yes, what are these strategies? -----

-----

-----

20. What are the most significant challenges that you face as law enforcement officer in responding to kidnapping cases in Edo North Senatorial District? -----

-----

-----

-----

-

21. How would you rate the level of resources available to law enforcement agencies as they respond to kidnapping cases in Edo North Senatorial District? Very Adequate [ ] Adequate [ ] Somewhat adequate [ ] Inadequate [ ]

22a. To what extent do you agree that corruption within the law enforcement agencies is a serious challenge in responding to kidnapping cases in the district? Strongly Agree [ ] Agree [ ] Neutral [ ] Disagree [ ] Strongly Disagree [ ]

22b. Why? -----  
-----  
-----  
-

23a. Which of the following challenges do you think is the most significant in responding to kidnapping cases in Edo North Senatorial District? Limited Resources [ ] Lack of Community Cooperation [ ] Inadequate Intelligence [ ] Corruption [ ] Other(s) Specify --  
-

23b. Why do you think so? -----  
-----  
-----

24a. What do you think is the biggest obstacle in investigating kidnapping cases? Lack of Evidence [ ] Difficulty Tracking suspects [ ] limited forensic capability [ ] other(s) Specify [ ]

24b. Why do you think so? -----  
-----

25a. Are there any community-based initiatives or programmes that you think could help support law enforcement efforts to combat kidnapping? Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't Know [ ]

25b. If Yes, list them -----  
-----

-----  
-  
26a. Are there any plans to improve community engagement and trust in law enforcement efforts to combat kidnapping in the target area? Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't Know [ ]

26b. If Yes, what plans? -----  
-----  
-----

-  
27. What do you think is the most important factor in improving law enforcement response to kidnapping cases? Better Training for Officers [ ] Increased Resources [ ] Improved Community engagement [ ] Other(s) Specify -----

28a. Are there any policies or legislative changes that you think could support law enforcement efforts in combating kidnapping in the target area? Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't Know [ ]

28b. If Yes, what policies? -----  
-----  
-----  
-----

## APPENDX 11

### INTERVIEW GUIDE

Good morning Sir/ma.

I am Tijani Momoh, a postgraduate student of the Department of sociology & Anthropology, University of Benin, Benin City. The aim of this interview is to assess **The Rising Incidence of Kidnapping in Edo North Senatorial District: Challenges and Prospects for Law Enforcement**. Be assured that, the information provided will be treated with utmost confidentiality and shall be used strictly for the academic purpose of research. Please I need your express permission to commence the interview process and to put it on record. Proceed [ ] Don't Proceed [ ]

1. Gender -----
2. Religious Affiliation: -----  
-----
3. Marital Status -----  
-
5. Age -----
6. Education -----
7. Approximate monthly earnings -----

8. What do you think are the major drivers of the current surge in kidnapping activities in Edo North Senatorial District of Edo State?

9. Can you discuss any social, economic and cultural factors that you think may be responsible for the rise in kidnapping incidence in Edo North Senatorial District?

10. What impact do you think the proximity of the Edo North Senatorial District to the North Central Nigeria has on the recent surge in kidnapping activities in the area?

11. What do you think about the current strategies of government in combating kidnapping activities in Edo North?

12. Can you kindly discuss any successes or challenges that you have noticed in the implementation of government strategies to combat kidnapping in the target area?
13. Are there any areas where you think the government could improve its approach to addressing kidnapping activities in the target area?
14. What do you think is the biggest challenge confronting the government in implementing effective strategies in combating kidnapping and why do you think so?
15. Do you think that there is adequate collaboration between the law enforcement agencies and the community members in combating kidnapping; and why do you think so?
16. Are there better strategies that you think that government could deploy to improve its response to kidnapping in the target area? If Yes, can you discuss them?
  
17. What are the most significant challenges that you often encounter, as a law enforcement officer, in responding to kidnapping cases in Edo North Senatorial District?
18. How do you rate the level of the resources available to law enforcement officers as they respond to kidnapping cases in Edo North Senatorial District; and why?
19. In what ways do you think that corruption hinders law enforcement agencies in responding to kidnapping cases?
20. What do you think is the biggest obstacle in investigating kidnapping cases in Edo North Senatorial District; and why do you think so?
21. Are there any community-based initiatives or programmes that you think could help support law enforcement efforts to combat kidnapping? / if Yes, what are they?
22. In what ways do you think that the resources available for allocation could be prioritized to combat kidnapping for kidnapping cases?
23. Are there any plans to improve Community engagement and trust in law enforcement efforts ? / If yes, throw mor light on such plans.