

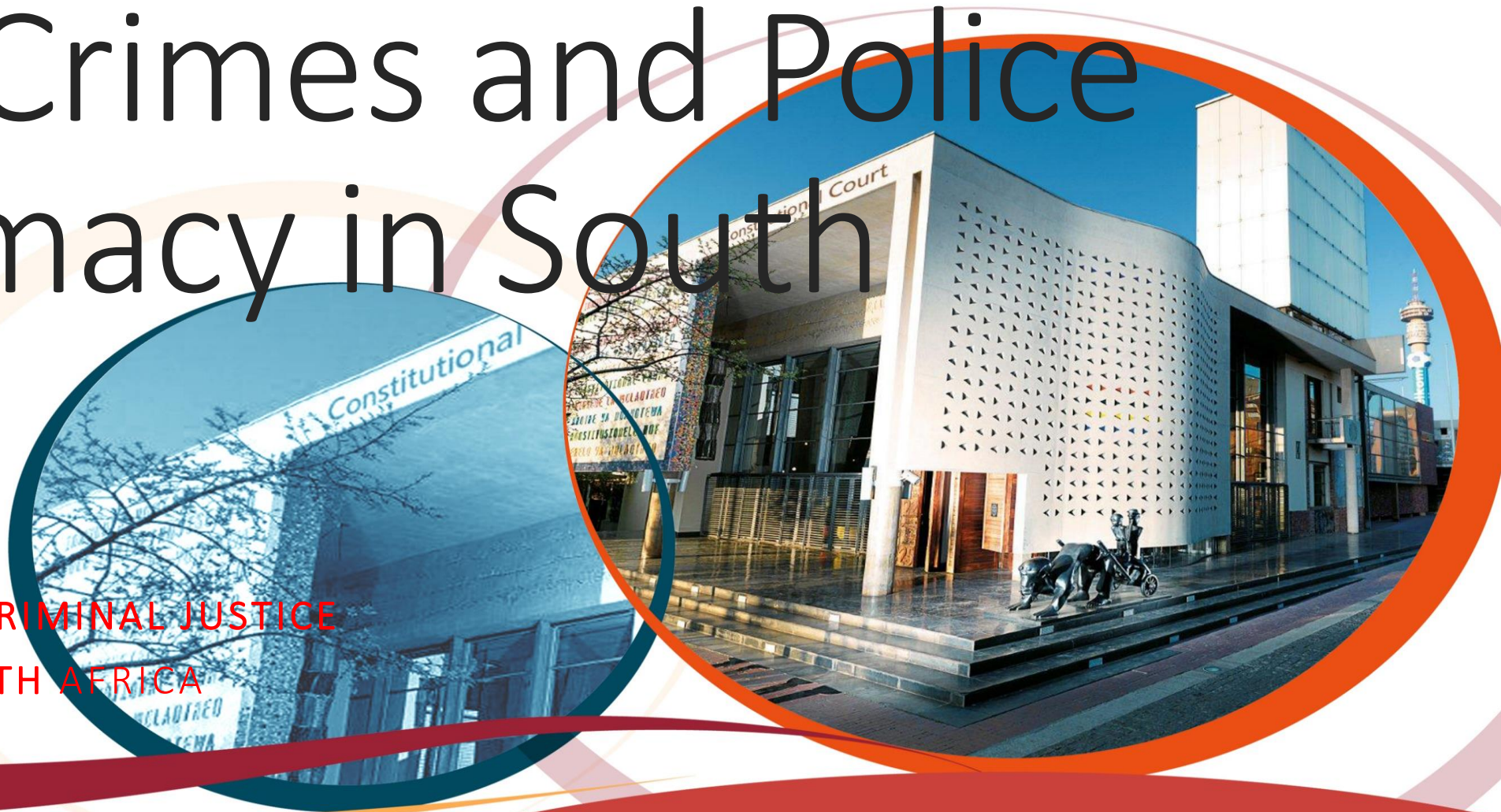
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Rural Crimes and Police Legitimacy in South Africa

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Define tomorrow.

UNISA



Introduction

The presentation deals with a study amongst farmers to determine their satisfaction with the South African Police Service (SAPS) – Legitimacy.

The prevalence of economic crimes in the various provinces in South Africa and the impact on the farming community.



Literature review

- Urban
 - **Tyler, Tom R. 1988.** What is procedural justice? Criteria used by citizens to assess the fairness of legal procedures. 1990. Why People Obey the Law. 2003. Procedural justice, legitimacy, and the effective rule of law.
 - **Reisig, Michael D.,** Jason Bratton, and Marc Gertz. 2007. The construct validity and refinement of process-based policing measure. Criminal Justice and Behaviour.
 - **Tankebe Justice** 2012 Viewing Things Differently: The Dimensions Of Public Perceptions Of Police Legitimacy
 - **Sun, I, Li, & Wu, Y & Hu, Rong** 2018 Police Legitimacy and Citizen Cooperation in China: Testing an Alternative Model
- Rural
 - Relationships in Australia (Harkness and Larkins, 2019)

- Neglect of rural crime - but today it is researched around the world – International Society for the Study of Rural Crimes, AgriSA study in 2018 Agricultural statistics 2017 (2021), Clack – Unisa, Dooreward – Unisa, Maluleke - Limpopo
- Definitions of rural Crime (porn) In South Africa many different definitions from various different departments (Lalpersad, 2013) – confusing
- Linguistic challenges e.g. Farm Attacks (Stuijt, 2003), Scopus, Web of Science
- Division of the crimes
 - Extra ordinary crime (Crime that does not occur frequently)
 - Ordinary crimes (Economic crimes occurring frequently) (Donnermeyer, 2018)
- Components of Rural Crime
 - Agricultural Crime
 - Environmental Crimes
 - Violent Crimes
 - Corruption (Grote and Neubauer)

Definition Police Public Relations

- According to [Radelet](#), police-public relations mean,
- *“the reciprocal attitude of the police and the public to the expected and performed tasks of the police, and to involve general public relations, community services, and community participation.*

Trust and confidence in police

- Ensuring trust and confidence in the police is vital, leading to greater citizen participation in setting priorities, more locally accountable and responsive public bodies, enhanced cooperation with police and compliance with the law (Jackson and Bradford, 2010, p. 241)

Features of rural communities and rural policing

- Rural areas in South Africa are characterised by remoteness and greater distances between properties compared with capital and provincial cities, with populations that are smaller and less dense than urbanised settlements.
- The challenge of the three categories of police stations - Urban (250), **Rural-Urban (484)**, and Rural (421).
- Victimisation against farmers is difficult to accurately measure, and underreporting leads to a 'dark figure of crime'
- There is scant anonymity for police working in smaller rural locations where they know their families interact with others at schools, churches and other gathering places (Anderson & McCall, 2005, p. 31)

- These four key features of rural communities and rural policing impact the style of policing best adopted in rural communities. There exists a symbiotic relationship between rural police and their own local community and remembering
- Sir Robert Peel's principle that 'the police are the public and that the public is the police, a community-focused policing style based on a partnership approach and the formation of collaborative relationships is not only desirable but also essential.

Methodology

- Questionnaire – qualitative and quantitative
- Distribution – email and WhatsApp
- Snowball sampling via different agriculture structures

Context of current study

Province	Frequency	Percentage	Farming Units
Free State	68	9,3%	6937
Gauteng	100	13,7%	2291
KwaZulu-Natal	51	7%	3103
Limpopo	75	10,3%	3054
Mpumalanga	61	8,4%	2823
North West	201	27,5%	4920
Western Cape	44	6%	6937
Northern Cape	91	12,5%	4829
Eastern Cape	39	5,3%	4214
Total	N= 730	100%	40122

Victimisation

Have you or someone on your farm, ever been a victim of crime or offence on the farm?

		Frequency	Percent
Missing	No	130	17.8
	Yes	600	82.2
	Total	730	100.0

Australia
(Victoria)

31,86
68,4

Have you or someone on your farm been a victim of crime on you farm

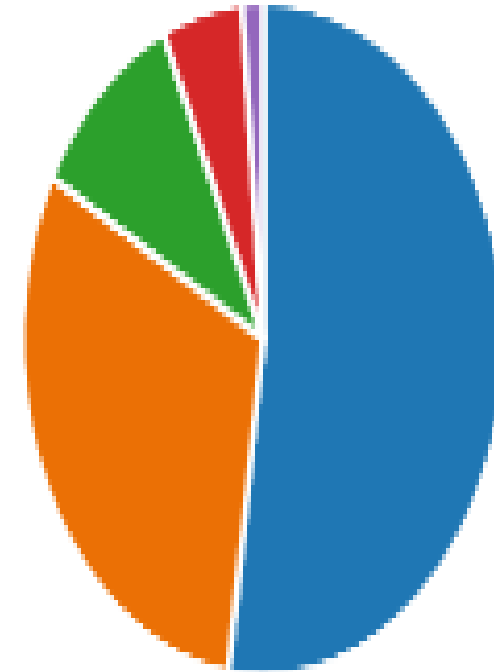
Province	No	Yes
Eastern Cape	15,4%	84,6%
Free State	17,6%	82,4%
Gauteng	7%	93%
Kwazulu Natal	3,9%	96,1%
Limpopo	16%	84%
Mpumalanga	6,6%	93,4%
North West	24,4%	75,6%
Northern Cape	30,8%	69,2%
Western Cape	22,7%	77,3%

Comparative studies Victimisation

	AgriSA (2018) =n 1392	Agricultural Sensus 2017 (2021) n = not published	Current study N=730
Victimisation	70%	29%	82%

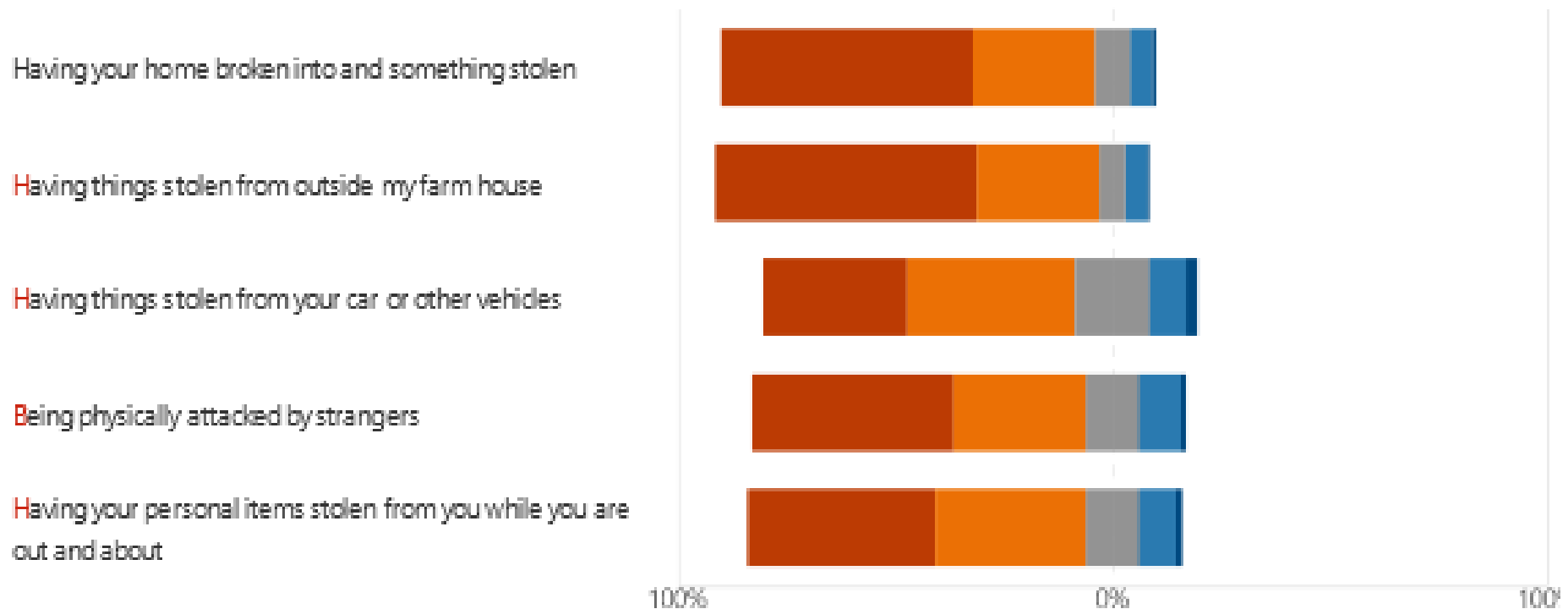
How would you classify crime in your area

Very serious	292
A little bit serious	171
Neutral	57
Not very serious	30
Not at all serious	8



How worried are you about specific crime types

Very worried Fairly worried Neutral Not very worried Not at all worried



Crime reporting (all categories)

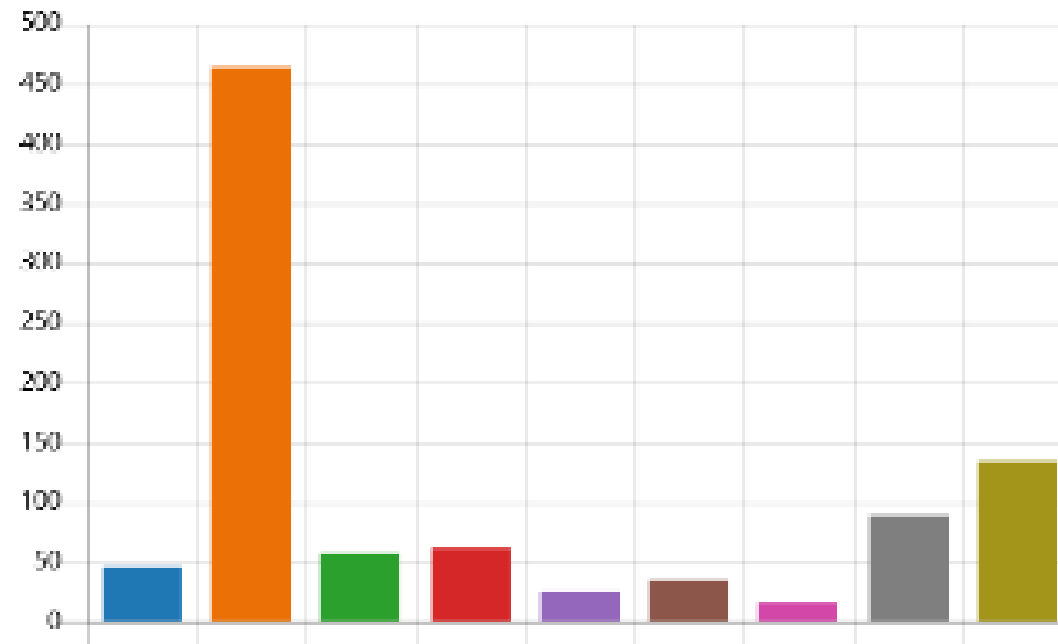
All the time	209	38%
Quite often	141	28%
Occasionally	155	28%
Never	44	8%

Beyond murder figures, police crime statistics are limited as a measure of actual crime levels. For crimes in the economic category crimes such as motor vehicle theft or hijacking are reported at higher rates than offences like house or street robbery. This is not because vehicle crimes are more important or traumatic. Instead, it's because the minority of South Africans who own vehicles are likely to have their property insured and so have a financial incentive to report (Fault 2022). Livestock Theft is the only rural crime that can be distinguished from current crime statistics – This argument is as present in jeopardy as livestock is nowadays farmed in urban areas. . Livestock in SA is 99.9% not insured. Current Statistics are dated as of 2018 the VOCS indicated a 78% non-reporting.

Why may you be reluctant to report a theft from your farm?

More Details

● It may be difficult to tell if a crim...	46
● A belief that the police would do...	464
● A belief that it is not serious end...	56
● I have resolved the issue without...	62
● I do not hold insurance	24
● The perpetrator is known to me	35
● The cost of loss is less than the i...	17
● Fear of revenge or retaliation by...	88
● A belief there is not enough evid...	134



Legitimacy- Measurement of Confidence and Trust

Police legitimacy – trust and obedience - is embodied in four aspects: procedural justice, distributive justice, effectiveness, and lawfulness (Tankebe 2013a). Briefly, these four aspects can be described as follows:

- Procedural justice
- Distributive Justice
- Police effectiveness
- Lawfulness

Procedural Justice

- Procedural justice speaks to the idea of fair processes and how people's perception of fairness is strongly impacted by the quality of their experiences and not only the result of these experiences (Sun, Li, Wu & Hu 2018). The four views of Procedural Justice include:
 - Voice (Listen)
 - Neutrality (Be fair)
 - Respectful treatment (Be respectful)
 - Trustworthiness (Trying to do what's best for the people) (Ramsey & Robinson 2015)

Procedural justice evaluation

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	A combination of Strongly disagree and disagree
The South African Police Service is an organisation with integrity	43,7	35,4	16,6	3,8	0,4	79,1
The police treat you with respect if you have contact with them for any reason	10	22,1	32,7	32,3	2,9	32,1

Procedural justice evaluation

The police treat people with respect	13,2	25,4	34,3	25,7	1,4	38,6
The police treat people fairly	21,8	31,4	29,6	15,9	1,3	53,2
The police show care and concern for the welfare of the citizens they deal with	16,8	33,6	33,4	15,4	0,9	50,4
The police respect people's rights	15,5	29,6	33,9	20	0,9	45,1

Procedural justice evaluation

The police make decisions based on facts	19,5	35,2	30,5	14,1	0,7	54,7
The police generally have the same sense of right and wrong as I do	28,9	33,9	25,9	10,2	1,1	62,8
The police explain their decisions to the people they deal with	18,4	35	32,1	14,1	0,4	53,4
The police can be relied on to be there when you need them	45	33,9	13,9	6,4	0,7	78,9
The police address citizens in a respectful manner and appropriate tone	12	24,6	31,8	29,8	1,8	36,6

Distributive justice

- Distributive justice is concerned with the fair distribution of the burdens and benefits of social cooperation among diverse persons with competing needs and claims (Kaufmann 2012).
- South Africa does have a challenge in diversity, and research consistently shows that minorities are more likely to view law enforcement with suspicion and distrust. Minorities frequently report that the police disproportionately single them out because of their race or ethnicity. This perception of the lawfulness and legitimacy of law enforcement is an essential criterion for judging policing in a democratic society (Ramsey & Robinson 2015). This study did not measure this variable.

Distributive justice

	1	2e	2	4	5	A combination of 1 = 2
The police treat everyone fairly, regardless of who they are	25,4	36,4	27,7	10	0,5	61,8
The police treat everyone equally	25,4	40,9	24,3	8,8	0,7	66,3
The police provide the same quality of service to all citizens	27,3	44,1	20	8,2	0,4	71,4

Distributive justice (continue)

The police enforce the law consistently when dealing with people	25,9	44,6	22,3	6,8	0,4	70,5
The police are dealing with the things that matter to people in this community	22,5	41,8	26,8	8,2	0,7	64,3
The Local Police [is/are] an open and transparent organisation	32,1	33,4	25,2	8,2	1,1	65,5

Police effectiveness and lawfulness

- Police effectiveness refers to the extent to which policing achieves officially sanctioned goals.
- Consideration of police effectiveness turns out to be quite complicated for several reasons, including
 - the police have multiple goals, making their bottom line multi-dimensional;
 - the relative priority of police goals is subject to discussion and debate among the public and within the police field; and
- Lawfulness means that police comply with constitutional, statutory, and professional norms.

Effective and Lawfulness

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	A combination of Strongly disagree and disagree
The police are sensitive to the needs of different cultures	25,2	30	33,9	10,2	0,7	55,2
I generally support how the police usually act	21,3	36,6	25,5	16,1	0,5	57,9
The police know how to carry out their official duties properly	32,1	40,5	18,2	8,4	0,7	72,6
The police understand the issues that affect this community	21,3	35,5	26,6	15,2	1,4	56,8

Obedience of the law (police)

- These four aspects affect people's obligation to obey the law, which eventually influences their willingness to cooperate with the police and confluence with the concept of trust.
- South Africa's overall trust in the police is 27%, according to the latest Governance, Public Safety, and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2020/21 (Faull 2022).
- The encounters between police and citizens are dynamic in nature. Therefore, different dimensions of legitimacy tend to have other effects across societies and among social groups within the same society (Tankebe 2013a).

Sense of obligation to obey the laws

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	A combination of agree and Strongly agree
I would report suspicious activities to the police	5,4	13	18,8	50,7	12,1	62.8
I would call the police for assistance	6,4	12	21,4	52,3	7,9	60.1
I feel a moral duty to follow police orders	5,5	12,3	31,4	47	3,8	50.8
I would call the police to report a crime	4,3	5,4	14,6	65	10,7	75.7
I would help the police if asked	2,9	2,7	10,4	66,4	17,7	84.1
I would help the police by giving evidence in court	2,9	2	15	63	17,1	80.1

Why are there poor relations

A people that values its privileges (human rights) above its principles soon loses both. Dwight D. Eisenhower

Socialization of children by parents to fear/distrust the police

Hostility toward the police – minority/majority - majority/minority

Confidence in police ability has decreased

Less contact by police with citizens

Bad cops (rude, corrupt, violent)

Some veteran officers would rather not deal with the community

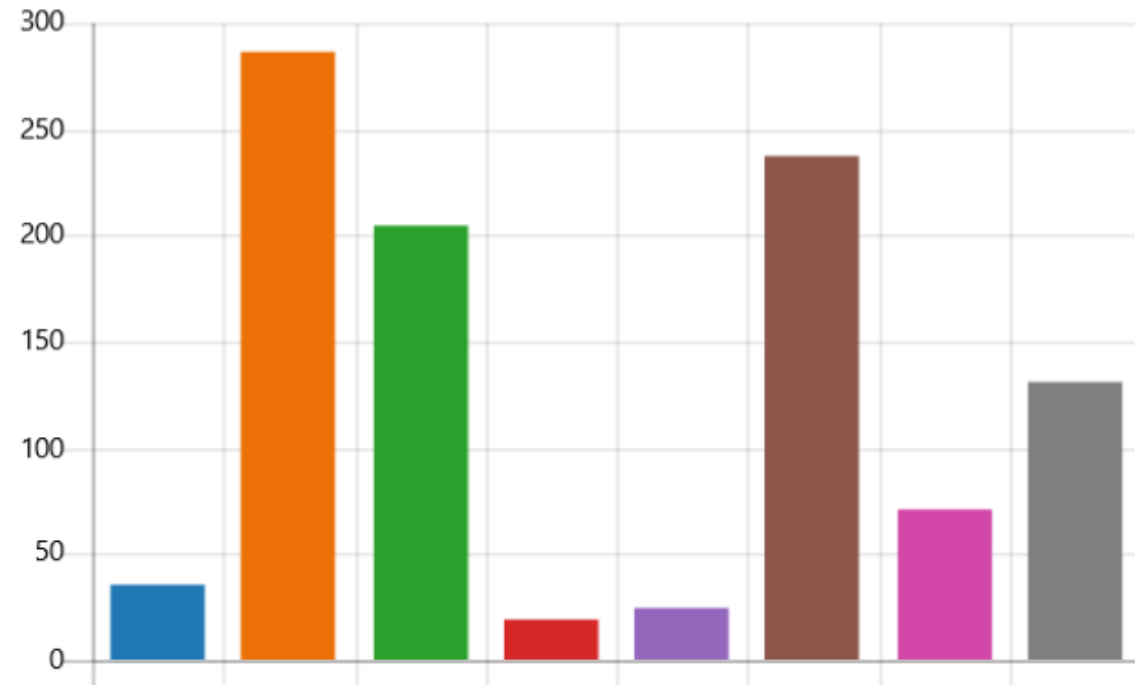
Police are not the best communicators

Police and citizens have different perspectives on how crime is caused and how to respond to it



Exposure to specific Crimes

● Machinery (that is a registered...	35
● Livestock	286
● Farm supplies and inputs (suc...	205
● Firearms	19
● Registered vehicle	25
● Equipment and tools (not me...	237
● Theft of money personal items	71
● Farm produce	131



Farm Produce Victimisation

	N	Percent
Eastern Cape	6	15.4%
Free State	13	19.1%
Gauteng	21	21.0%
Kwazulu	18	35.3%
Limpopo	35	46.7%
Mpumalanga	17	27.9%
North West	36	17.9%
Northern Cape	9	9.9%
Western Cape	9	20.5%

Machinery (that is a registered vehicle such as a tractor, harvester, etc.)

Province	Yes	No
Eastern Cape	2.6%	97.4%
Free State	10.3%	89.7%
Gauteng	12.0%	88.0%
Kwazulu	3.9%	96.1%
Limpopo	13.3%	86.7%
Mpumalanga	6.6%	93.4%
North West	8.0%	92.0%
Northern Cape	5.5%	94.5%

Livestock

Eastern Cape	69.2%	30.8%
Free State	52.9%	47.1%
Gauteng	46.0%	54.0%
Kwazulu	56.9%	43.1%
Limpopo	28.0%	72.0%
Mpumalanga	52.5%	47.5%
North West	45.3%	54.7%
Northern Cape	46.2%	53.8%
Western Cape	29.5%	70.5%

Farm supplies and inputs (such a fuel chemicals, fencing supplies, livestock feeds, vet supplies, seeds etc.)

	Yes	No
Eastern Cape	20.5%	79.5%
Free State	33.8%	66.2%
Gauteng	40.0%	60.0%
Kwazulu	45.1%	54.9%
Limpopo	25.3%	74.7%
Mpumalanga	54.1%	45.9%
North West	28.9%	71.1%
Northern Cape	26.4%	73.6%
Western Cape	34.1%	65.9%

Firearms

Province		Number	Yes	No
Free State	Firearms	1	1.5%	98.5%
Gauteng	Firearms	8	8.0%	92.0%
Limpopo	Firearms	3	4.0%	96.0%
Mpumalanga	Firearms	3	4.9%	95.1%
North West	Firearms	11	5.5%	94.5%
Northern Cape	Firearms	1	1.1%	98.9%
Western Cape	Firearms	1	2.3%	97.7%

Equipment and tools

Eastern Cape	35.9%	64.1%
Free State	41.2%	58.8%
Gauteng	59.0%	41.0%
Kwazulu	31.4%	68.6%
Limpopo	33.3%	66.7%
Mpumalanga	32.8%	67.2%
North West	31.8%	68.2%
Northern Cape	28.6%	71.4%
Western Cape	43.2%	56.8%

Theft of Money and personal items

Eastern Cape	2.6%	97.4%
Free State	16.2%	83.8%
Gauteng	16.0%	84.0%
Kwazulu	3.9%	96.1%
Limpopo	6.7%	93.3%
Mpumalanga	13.1%	86.9%
North West	10.4%	89.6%
Northern Cape	9.9%	90.1%
Western Cape	6.8%	93.2%

Comparisons with previous studies.

Crime category	AgrisSA 2018	StatsSA 2017 (2021)	Current Study
Machinery			6%
Livestock	39,70%	36%	51%
Farm supplies and inputs		25%	37%
Firearms			3%
Registered vehicle			4%
Equipment and tools	34,7		42%
Theft of money personal items			13%
Farm produce		26%	23%
Game and Illegal hunting	28,50%		
Burglary	25,10%		
Violent crimes		5%	
Other Crimes		8%	

Conclusion

- South African rural police should adhere to Sir Robert Peel's principle that 'the police are the public and that the public is the police, a community-focused policing style based on a partnership approach and the formation of collaborative relationships is not only desirable but also essential.
- However, there is no trust in the police - Ensuring trust and confidence in the police is vital, leading to greater citizen participation in setting priorities, more locally accountable and responsive public bodies, enhanced cooperation with police and compliance with the law
- Robert Kennedy Every society gets the kind of criminal it deserves. What is equally true is that every community gets the kind of law enforcement it insists on.



Thank YOU!!!!!!