



Anti-drug abuse programs and activities of the PNP in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan

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Abstract

Aim: This study examined the implementation of anti-drug abuse programs and activities of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan, emphasizing stakeholder perceptions and implementation-related challenges.

Methodology: A descriptive-comparative quantitative research design was employed involving 255 respondents comprising PNP personnel, barangay officials, and community members from selected barangays in Urdaneta City. Data were collected using a validated structured questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive statistics, One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), and Tukey's HSD post-hoc tests at a 0.05 level of significance.

Results: The findings indicated that anti-drug abuse programs were implemented; however, perceptions differed significantly across the stakeholder groups. PNP personnel reported higher levels of program implementation than barangay officials and community members. Significant differences were also observed in the perceptions of the seriousness of the problems encountered, revealing a perception gap between the implementers and beneficiaries.

Conclusion: Although anti-drug abuse programs are actively implemented in Urdaneta City, variations in stakeholder perceptions underscore the need to strengthen community engagement, improve communication strategies, and address operational challenges to enhance program effectiveness and sustainability.

Keywords: *Anti-drug abuse programs; Community engagement; Implementation challenges; Philippine National Police (PNP); Stakeholder perceptions; Urdaneta City*

INTRODUCTION

Illicit drug use remains a significant global public health and security challenge, impacting social stability, economic productivity, and community safety worldwide. A notable rise in drug consumption and diversity has been reported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as cited in Gent and Paul (2021), and further supported by recent empirical analyses (Williams et al., 2023). Governments worldwide implement multisectoral anti-drug strategies that incorporate law enforcement, prevention, education, and community interventions to combat drug abuse and trafficking (Heikkilä et al., 2020). Research emphasizes the effectiveness of community-oriented policing and preventive education programs when law enforcement collaborates closely with local stakeholders and communities to enhance public trust and engagement (Mangai et al., 2023; Paez & Dierenfeldt, 2019). However, the international literature highlights varying implementation effectiveness, with gaps often arising between program design and community reception and participation (Tahlil & Aiyub, 2021). These global insights underscore the critical need to evaluate not only the existence of anti-drug programs but also their implementation processes and stakeholders' local perceptions of program effectiveness.

Republic Act No. 9165 mandates the Philippine National Police (PNP) to implement anti-drug programs, reinforcing law enforcement against illegal drugs within the country (Pangalangan, 2022). Beyond enforcement, the PNP's responsibilities have expanded to include preventive education, community outreach, and partnerships with barangays, underscoring a multisectoral approach to drug prevention (Pangalangan, 2022). Philippine research primarily emphasizes crime statistics, policy frameworks, and enforcement outcomes, reflecting the law and order focus

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of national efforts (Pangalangan, 2022). However, there remains a scarcity of quantitative studies exploring stakeholders' perceptions, gaps in implementation, and the varying seriousness of drug problems across social groups, highlighting an area in need of empirical attention (Pangalangan, 2022). Strengthening studies on these aspects could bridge the gap between policy design and community realities, fostering more effective anti-drug strategies within the Philippine framework.

Urdaneta City has been identified as requiring sustained anti-drug interventions, with programs actively implemented in selected barangays to address local drug-related issues (Lan et al., 2022). Preliminary observations indicate perceptual differences among key stakeholders, such as the Philippine National Police (PNP), barangay officials, and community members, regarding the implementation level and severity of drug problems (Lan et al., 2022). Despite active interventions, no known local study has systematically compared these diverse stakeholder perceptions using robust quantitative methods. Specifically, there is an absence of research that tests and investigates the differences in perception between groups (Lan et al., 2022). Moreover, existing studies do not simultaneously assess perceptions of both program implementation and the seriousness of drug problems, signaling a critical gap in empirical evaluation at the local level in the Philippines. Addressing this gap could provide deeper insights for tailoring anti-drug initiatives more effectively in Urdaneta City.

Global studies on community policing and anti-drug programs frequently address program implementation and effectiveness; however, they seldom quantitatively compare the perceptions of multiple stakeholders. Such comparative analyses remain limited, impeding our understanding of diverse viewpoints on program success and challenges. In the Philippine context, the existing literature predominantly centers on policy formulation and enforcement strategies, with minimal emphasis on perception-based evaluative approaches. Notably, no empirical localized study in Urdaneta City has integrated a comprehensive comparison of stakeholder perceptions, including those of the Philippine National Police (PNP), barangay officials, and community members. Moreover, there has been no investigation into the level of program implementation or the perceived seriousness of drug-related problems. Crucially, no study has applied post-hoc tests to identify statistically significant perception gaps among stakeholders. This lack of evidence-based, locally derived data hinders the design and enhancement of targeted anti-drug initiatives that align with the unique community context and stakeholders' experiences. Addressing this gap through statistically rigorous multi-stakeholder evaluations is essential to inform collaborative strategies and improve program effectiveness in Urdaneta City and similar localities.

Review of Related Literature and Studies

Global Context of Drug Abuse and Prevention

Global drug abuse remains a pressing international issue, characterized by complex and evolving trends in illicit substance use. Data from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) World Drug Reports reveal increasing global consumption patterns influenced by various drug types and regional dynamics, with challenges in monitoring addressed by innovative methodologies such as wastewater-based epidemiology for timely surveillance (Baz-Lomba et al., 2025; Yi et al., 2023). Drug abuse profoundly impacts public health through increased morbidity, mortality, and addiction-related disorders and poses serious security threats via drug trafficking and associated crimes (Awuchi et al., 2023; Manning & Kowalska, 2021). Addressing these multifaceted consequences demands multisectoral anti-drug strategies that integrate law enforcement efforts with prevention and educational programs to curtail demand and support harm reduction (Hu et al., 2021; Johnson et al., 2022). Evidence-based prevention initiatives, such as community-oriented and workplace programs, have demonstrated efficacy in reducing substance use and related harms through peer support and health promotion (Gullestrup et al., 2023). Reflecting a paradigm shift from punitive measures to community-based, public health-oriented approaches, many countries have focused on humane, evidence-based interventions emphasizing prevention, treatment, and societal reintegration (Johnson et al., 2022; Theodorakis et al., 2024). These global efforts underscore the critical importance of coordinated anti-drug programs in improving health outcomes and security worldwide.

Community Policing and Anti-Drug Enforcement

Community-oriented policing (COP) frameworks emphasize building positive relationships between the police and communities by prioritizing ongoing engagement and collaboration to address the root causes of crime rather than simply reacting to incidents (Signori et al., 2023). Police-community partnerships are central to COP, facilitating joint efforts in crime prevention and enhancing trust, which is essential for effective law enforcement and safety (Yesberg et al., 2021). Studies show that police visibility and engagement foster trust in police fairness, which subsequently enhances collective efficacy—the willingness of residents to intervene and support one another in solving neighborhood



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problems—leading to crime reduction (J. Yesberg et al., 2021). Trust-building within drug enforcement programs is a critical challenge and strategy. Reforms focus not only on officer behavior and policy changes but also on revisiting laws to ensure that policing fosters legitimacy and community support rather than antagonism (Kammersgaard et al., 2021; Mukherjee & Mathew, 2024). Perceptions of police legitimacy affect cooperation; citizen trust in individual officers' fairness and transparency is more influential for collective efficacy than perceptions of policing institutions at large (J. A. Yesberg et al., 2023; J. A. Yesberg & Bradford, 2021). Overall, COP models that sustain relational continuity and foster trust are vital for effective anti-drug enforcement, guiding policing practices beyond mere public health perspectives toward integrated community-based crime prevention (Signori et al., 2023).

Philippine Anti-Drug Policy Framework

Republic Act No. 9165, known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, provides the primary legal framework for drug prevention, control, and enforcement in the Philippines, establishing the mandates, powers, and duties of government agencies, such as the Philippine National Police (PNP), in combating drug-related offenses (Bautista et al., 2022). The PNP plays a central role in drug law enforcement and prevention activities, implementing strategies aimed at curbing drug production, distribution and abuse. Complementing this national effort are the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (BADACs), grassroots-level bodies tasked with coordinating local anti-drug initiatives through prevention, rehabilitation, and community education programs (Bautista et al., 2022). Among the prominent anti-drug campaigns is the "Oplan Tokhang," which involves police officers visiting communities to encourage voluntary surrender and rehabilitation, alongside other community-based rehabilitation efforts aimed at reintegrating drug users (Pangalangan, 2022). Despite robust legal structures and vigorous enforcement, challenges persist in local policy implementation, including inadequate resources, enforcement inconsistencies, and concerns over human rights and community trust, which complicate effective program delivery at the barangay and municipal levels (Camarillo and Bellotindos, 2021; Zech et al., 2023). These challenges highlight the need for strengthened multisectoral collaboration, capacity building, and evidence-based approaches to enhance the efficacy and sustainability of the Philippine anti-drug policy framework.

Program Implementation Theory

Implementation theory addresses the persistent gap between policy design and actual execution, often termed the policy-execution gap, wherein well-formulated policies face substantial hurdles during implementation owing to varied contextual, organizational, and resource factors (Hossen et al., 2022). Public program implementation faces challenges such as fragmented governance structures, insufficient stakeholder collaboration, and misalignment between top-down directives and local community needs, resulting in partial or uneven outcomes (Hossen et al., 2022; Perera et al., 2022). Resource constraints, particularly in public safety programs, limit the scope and quality of programs by restricting funding, personnel, training, and infrastructure critical for effective delivery (Turner et al., 2023). A major tension in implementation concerns fidelity versus adaptation: fidelity refers to adherence to the original program design, which is crucial for maintaining effectiveness, whereas adaptation involves modifying program components to fit local cultural, social, or operational contexts (Ahmad et al., 2024). Successful implementation balances these factors by preserving core components while allowing context-sensitive adjustments to enhance relevance and uptake (Ahmad et al., 2024). Local governance implementation gaps manifest as variations in capacity, coordination, and accountability at the subnational level, which hampers consistent application and diminishes perceived program effectiveness (Hossen et al., 2022; Xiong et al., 2022). Consequently, although programs may be formally "implemented," stakeholder perceptions of success differ widely because these multilayered challenges affect how implementation translates into local realities and outcomes.

Stakeholder Theory in Public Programs

Stakeholder Theory in governance emphasizes the importance of recognizing and engaging multiple actors who influence or are affected by public programs, highlighting the complex interactions between state and non-state actors to enhance legitimacy and effectiveness (Ecker-Ehrhardt et al., 2025; Moshtari et al., 2023). Public programs often involve multi-actor collaborations that include not only implementers but also beneficiaries and other community stakeholders, reflecting diverse interests and values within governance processes (Cao et al., 2023). Perception differences between implementers, such as police or local officials, and beneficiaries arise due to their distinct roles, responsibilities, and lived experiences, leading to role-based perception bias that can affect trust and cooperation (Evans, 2022; Kassem and Erken, 2024). Community trust and legitimacy in the police are critical for effective law enforcement. Studies indicate that legitimacy is fostered not only by procedural fairness and transparency but also by aligning police actions with community values and expectations (Gold, 2022; Mukherjee & Mathew, 2024; O'Reilly,



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2022). The justification for a comparative study of the Philippine National Police (PNP), Barangay officials, and community members is grounded in these theoretical insights, recognizing that each group embodies distinct stakeholder perspectives essential for a comprehensive understanding of program implementation, trust dynamics, and perceived legitimacy in anti-drug governance.

Implementation Challenges in Anti-Drug

Program implementation challenges in anti-drug initiatives are multifaceted and significantly influence the perceived seriousness of problems encountered during execution. Manpower shortages in policing constrain the effective delivery of drug enforcement and prevention activities, as insufficient personnel limit sustained operations and community outreach efforts (Kassem & Erken, 2024). Empirical evidence from the Philippine policing context further underscores that operational readiness—particularly in terms of manpower adequacy, logistical preparedness, and inter-unit coordination—directly affects enforcement sustainability and program effectiveness (Plata et al., 2026). Complementing this perspective, studies on local governance implementation in highly urbanized Philippine cities reveal that enforcement outcomes are strongly shaped by coordination mechanisms, resource availability, and institutional capacity at the local level (Gile et al., 2025). These findings highlight that implementation gaps are not merely operational but also structural, reflecting governance and administrative constraints. Resource limitations compound these challenges; constrained funding, inadequate training, and insufficient infrastructure weaken both enforcement mechanisms and rehabilitative interventions essential for comprehensive drug control (Trivedi-Bateman & Martingano, 2023). Logistical barriers, including accessibility constraints and coordination gaps, further restrict program reach and delay service delivery, particularly among high-risk populations (Ondocsin et al., 2023). Moreover, community resistance—driven by mistrust, stigma, and sociocultural dynamics—reduces participation and acceptance of interventions, undermining the development of sustainable prevention networks (Theodorakis et al., 2024). Collectively, these structural and relational constraints threaten long-term program viability and underscore the necessity of strengthening operational readiness, governance coordination, resource allocation, and stakeholder engagement to ensure sustained anti-drug program effectiveness (Trivedi-Bateman & Martingano, 2023; Yu et al., 2024).

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored in stakeholder and implementation theories, which collectively elucidate variations in perceptions of the implementation of anti-drug abuse programmes. Stakeholder Theory suggests that public programs involve multiple actors with diverse roles, responsibilities, and interests that influence how programs are perceived and evaluated. In the context of this study, the Philippine National Police (PNP), barangay officials, and community members constitute distinct stakeholder groups whose involvement and exposure to anti-drug initiatives affect their perceptions of the effectiveness of the implementation and operational challenges. Implementation Theory complements this perspective by highlighting the gap between policy intent and actual execution, emphasizing how factors such as resource availability, coordination, community engagement, and operational constraints impact program outcomes. By integrating these theories, this study elucidates why perceptual differences arise among stakeholders and provides a theoretical foundation for examining the implementation gaps and challenges encountered in anti-drug abuse programs in the Philippines.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework of this study delineates the relationship between stakeholder groups and their perceptions of the implementation and challenges of anti-drug abuse programs. The stakeholder group, which includes PNP personnel, barangay officials, and community members, functions as the independent variable influencing two primary dependent variables: the perceived level of implementation of anti-drug abuse programs and the perceived severity of the challenges encountered during their implementation. These differences highlight variations in stakeholders' roles, responsibilities, and experiences. The findings from these assessments offer an empirical foundation for proposing evidence-based and context-specific strategies to enhance program implementation, strengthen stakeholder collaboration, and address the operational challenges. This framework guided the study by systematically linking theory, variables, and outcomes.

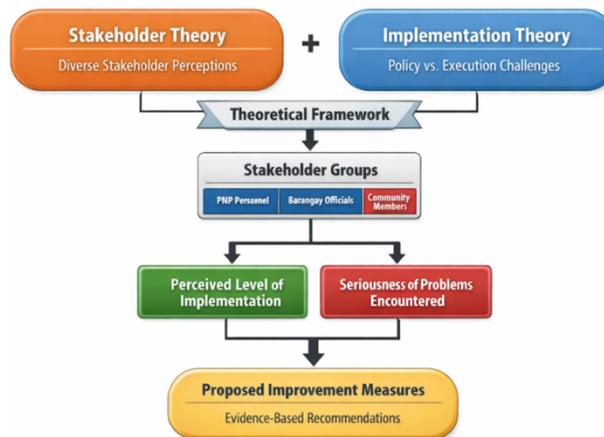


Figure 1. Integrated Theoretical and Conceptual Framework of the Study

Statement of the Problem

Anti-drug abuse programs are a core component of public safety efforts in the Philippines, with the Philippine National Police (PNP) mandated under the Republic Act No. 9165 to implement preventive, educational, and community-based interventions. While these programs are actively conducted at the local level, their effectiveness depends largely on the quality of implementation and the perceptions of key stakeholders, including PNP personnel, barangay officials and community members.

In the Philippine context, existing research has largely focused on policy frameworks, enforcement outcomes, and crime statistics, with limited empirical attention given to stakeholder-based evaluations of the implementation of anti-drug programs. In particular, few quantitative studies have systematically compared stakeholder perceptions of both the level of implementation and the seriousness of problems encountered during program execution using inferential statistical techniques. This gap limits the evidence-based understanding of the implementation's strengths, weaknesses, and coordination challenges at the local level.

In Urdaneta City, Pangasinan, anti-drug abuse programs are continuously implemented across selected barangays in Urdaneta City. However, preliminary observations suggest varying stakeholder perceptions of program delivery and operational challenges. Without systematic evaluation, these perception gaps may hinder community engagement, weaken coordination, and undermine the sustainability of programs. Thus, there is a need for a localized, evidence-based assessment that examines stakeholders' perceptions of anti-drug program implementation and implementation-related problems to inform targeted improvements and strengthen collaborative anti-drug efforts.

General Objective

To systematically evaluate the implementation of anti-drug abuse programs and activities of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan, with particular emphasis on stakeholder perceptions, implementation gaps, and operational challenges, as bases for evidence-based program enhancement.

Specific Objectives

1. To determine and compare the level of implementation of anti-drug abuse programs and activities of the PNP as perceived by PNP personnel, barangay officials, and community members.
2. To examine whether statistically significant differences exist in the perceptions of PNP personnel, barangay officials, and community members regarding the level of implementation of anti-drug abuse programs.
3. To assess the degree of seriousness of the problems encountered in the implementation of anti-drug abuse programs and activities across the three respondent groups.



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4. To determine whether statistically significant differences exist in the perceptions of PNP personnel, barangay officials, and community members regarding the seriousness of implementation-related problems and to identify which groups differ significantly.
5. To formulate context-specific and evidence-based measures to address the identified implementation gaps and operational challenges in anti-drug abuse programs and activities.

Research Questions

1. What is the level of implementation of the anti-drug abuse programs and activities of the PNP in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan, as perceived by:
 - 1.1. PNP personnel,
 - 1.2. barangay officials, and
 - 1.3. community members?
2. Are there statistically significant differences in the perceptions of PNP personnel, barangay officials, and community members regarding the level of implementation of anti-drug abuse programs and activities?
3. What is the degree of seriousness of the problems encountered in the implementation of anti-drug abuse programs and activities, as perceived by the three respondent groups?
4. Do the perceptions of PNP personnel, barangay officials, and community members differ significantly with respect to the seriousness of the problems encountered, and which groups exhibit the greatest differences?
5. What measures can be proposed based on empirical findings to strengthen program implementation, address operational challenges, and reduce perception gaps among stakeholders?

Hypothesis of the Study

- H_{01} : There is no significant difference in the mean perceived level of implementation of anti-drug abuse programs and activities among PNP personnel, barangay officials, and community members.
- H_{02} : There is no significant difference in the mean perceived seriousness of problems encountered in the implementation of anti-drug abuse programs and activities among PNP personnel, barangay officials, and community members.

METHODS

Research Design

This study employed a descriptive-comparative quantitative research design to evaluate the implementation of anti-drug abuse programs and activities of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan. The design focused on the systematic collection and analysis of numerical data to describe current implementation practices, assess the seriousness of implementation-related problems, and compare perceptions across key stakeholder groups. A quantitative approach was deemed appropriate because it enabled the objective measurement of perceptions, identification of patterns, and statistical comparison among groups using inferential techniques. The inclusion of a comparative component allowed the study to examine perceptual differences among PNP personnel, barangay officials, and community members, thereby addressing the study's objectives of stakeholder-based evaluations.

Population and Sampling

The study involved 255 respondents drawn from four selected barangays in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan—Camanang, Bayaoas, San Vicente, and Pauridow—which were identified as priority areas due to relatively high drug surrender rates based on official records from the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the respective barangay offices. The respondents comprised three stakeholder groups: 55 PNP personnel directly involved in anti-drug operations, 100 barangay officials (including barangay captains, kagawad, and tanod), and 100 community members residing in the selected barangays.

Purposive sampling was employed for PNP personnel and barangay officials to ensure the inclusion of respondents with direct roles and responsibilities in the planning, coordination, and implementation of anti-drug programs in the Philippines. Stratified random sampling was used for community members, with each of the four barangays serving as distinct strata. Proportional allocation was applied to distribute respondents across barangays according to their relative population sizes, based on barangay records. Within each stratum, respondents were selected through simple random procedures using available household listings to minimize selection bias and enhance representativeness. Barangay officials were treated as a single analytical group because of their shared governance

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functions and collaborative roles in the program's implementation. This multi-stage sampling strategy ensured balanced representation across key stakeholder groups and strengthened the validity of comparative statistical analyses.

Instruments

The researchers-made questionnaire consisted of two main scales measuring (1) the level of implementation of anti-drug abuse programs and (2) the degree of seriousness of the problems encountered during implementation. The implementation scale comprised 15 items, while the problem scale consisted of 13 items, yielding a total of 28 substantive items, excluding the demographic section. All items were measured using a five-point Likert scale, with anchors ranging from 1 = Not Implemented / Not Serious to 5 = Very Much Implemented / Very Much Serious, enabling the quantification of respondents' perceptions for descriptive and inferential analyses.

Prior to full-scale administration, the instrument underwent content validation by subject matter experts in criminology and public safety to ensure clarity, relevance, and alignment with the study objectives. A pilot test was conducted among respondents from barangays not included in the final sample to assess the internal consistency. Reliability analysis yielded satisfactory Cronbach's alpha coefficients, with $\alpha = 0.91$ for the implementation scale and $\alpha = 0.88$ for the problems scale, indicating high internal consistency and confirming the instrument's reliability for use in the main study.

Table 1: Reliability Statistics of the Research Instrument

Scale	Number of Items	Cronbach's Alpha (α)	Interpretation
Level of Implementation	15	0.91	Excellent
Seriousness of Problems	13	0.88	Good
Overall Instrument	28	0.90	Excellent

Data Collection

Data collection was conducted over three weeks following approval from the appropriate institutional and local authorities. The researchers personally distributed the questionnaires to respondents at designated locations, including police stations and barangay halls, to ensure accessibility and proper survey administration. Prior to distribution, the purpose of the study and instructions for completing the questionnaire were clearly explained to all the participants. Respondents were given sufficient time to complete the instrument, after which the completed questionnaires were retrieved by the researchers. Each questionnaire was reviewed for completeness and consistency before being encoded for analysis. Coordination with barangay officials and PNP units facilitated smooth data collection and ensured a high retrieval rate of questionnaires.

Treatment of Data

The collected data were encoded and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted means, were used to summarize the respondents' perceptions of program implementation and the seriousness of problems encountered. These descriptive measures provided an overall assessment of anti-drug abuse program implementation across stakeholder groups. To determine whether significant differences existed among the perceptions of PNP personnel, barangay officials, and community members, a One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was employed at a 0.05 level of significance. When ANOVA results indicated statistically significant differences, a Tukey Honestly Significant Difference (HSD) post-hoc test was conducted to identify which specific groups differed significantly from one another. This analytical approach ensured a robust comparison of stakeholder perceptions and directly addressed the study's objectives.

Ethical Considerations

This study strictly adhered to the ethical standards established for research involving human participants. Informed consent was obtained from all respondents after explaining the purpose, procedures, and voluntary nature of participation. Participants were assured that their responses would be treated with strict confidentiality and anonymity, and no personally identifiable information was collected. Respondents were informed of their right to withdraw from the study at any stage without penalty. All collected data were securely stored and accessed only by researchers for academic use. Prior to data collection, the researchers obtained the necessary ethical clearance and permissions from the university and relevant local authorities, including the barangay and police officials.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

Table 2 Perceptions of PNP Personnel, Barangay Officials, and Community Members on the Level of Implementation of Anti-Drug Abuse Programs and Activities

No.	Indicators	PNP (n=55) Mean	DE	Barangay Officials (n=100) Mean	DE	Community Members (n=100) Mean	DE	Overall Weighted Mean (n=255)	DE
1	Conduct anti-drug abuse seminars and lectures	4.89	VMI	4.27	MI	3.46	I	4.20	MI
2	Distribution of leaflets/fliers	4.25	MI	3.77	MI	2.63	I	3.55	MI
3	Posting of anti-drug posters in conspicuous areas	3.98	MI	3.83	MI	2.70	I	3.50	MI
4	Conduct school visitations	4.16	MI	3.93	MI	3.07	I	3.72	MI
5	Conduct house visitations	4.22	MI	3.71	MI	3.21	I	3.71	MI
6	Visitation to establishments	4.16	MI	3.74	MI	3.15	I	3.68	MI
7	Conduct community dialogues	4.27	MI	3.70	MI	3.30	I	3.76	MI
8	Monitoring of drug surrenders	4.18	MI	4.07	MI	3.39	I	3.88	MI
9	Recreational activities	4.20	MI	4.26	MI	3.12	I	3.86	MI
10	Medical missions	3.80	MI	3.15	I	2.35	SI	3.10	I
11	Clean-up drives and environmental activities	4.49	MI	3.87	MI	3.08	I	3.81	MI
12	Consultation schedules	4.39	MI	4.07	MI	3.25	I	3.90	MI
13	Literacy and arts programs	4.36	MI	3.71	MI	3.51	MI	3.86	MI
14	Support to CSOs	4.51	VMI	4.12	MI	3.82	MI	4.15	MI
15	Moral recovery programs	4.49	MI	3.73	MI	3.53	MI	3.92	MI
	Overall Mean	4.29	MI	3.86	MI	3.17	I	3.77	MI

Legend: VMI – Very Much Implemented; MI – Much Implemented; I – Implemented; SI – Slightly Implemented

Table 2 indicates that anti-drug abuse programs in Urdaneta City are generally **“Much Implemented”** (M = 3.77), suggesting consistent institutional delivery of preventive and outreach initiatives to combat drug abuse. However, significant perceptual variations emerged across stakeholder groups. PNP personnel reported the highest implementation level (M = 4.29), followed by barangay officials (M = 3.86), while community members provided comparatively lower ratings (M = 3.17). This divergence suggests an implementation–perception gap between program deliverers and beneficiaries of the program.

Higher ratings from PNP personnel may reflect an institutional performance perspective anchored in operational compliance and activity completion, consistent with the mandates of Republic Act No. 9165 (Pangalangan, 2022). Community policing literature similarly notes that law enforcement agencies often evaluate effectiveness based on program delivery and enforcement output (Signori et al., 2023). In contrast, community members assess initiatives

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based on accessibility, visibility, and experiential impact, which may explain the lower ratings for activities such as leaflet distribution and medical missions.

Stakeholder Theory provides a useful lens for interpreting these differences, emphasizing that actors' roles and degrees of involvement shape their evaluations of public programs (Moshtari et al., 2023). Furthermore, research on police legitimacy suggests that community perceptions are strongly influenced by trust, transparency, and meaningful engagement, rather than institutional effort alone (Yesberg & Bradford, 2021; Gold, 2022). From an implementation perspective, such discrepancies indicate that fidelity in program execution does not automatically translate into perceived effectiveness at the grassroots level (Hossen et al. 2022).

Overall, while structural implementation appears robust, strengthening participatory engagement and communication strategies may enhance community-level recognition and impact, thereby improving the alignment between institutional performance and stakeholder experience.

Table 3. One-Way ANOVA on the Level of Implementation of Anti-Drug Abuse Programs

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	50.836	2	25.418	141.005	.000
Within Groups	45.426	252	0.180		
Total	96.263	254			

Table 3 presents the One-Way ANOVA results examining differences in perceived levels of implementation of anti-drug abuse programs among PNP personnel, barangay officials, and community members. The analysis revealed a statistically significant difference among the groups ($F = 141.005, p < .001$), indicating that stakeholder perceptions of implementation vary substantially. The between-group variance exceeded the within-group variance, confirming that the observed differences were systematic rather than random.

This finding reinforces the perceptual divergence observed in Table 2 and highlights the implementation-perception gap. From a stakeholder perspective, differences are expected because actors evaluate public programs based on their institutional roles and degree of involvement (Moshtari et al. 2023). PNP personnel, as primary implementers, are directly engaged in planning and operational execution, which may contribute to higher program implementation assessments. In contrast, community members assess programs based on lived experience, accessibility, and visible impact. The community policing literature similarly notes that institutional performance metrics often differ from community-based evaluations of effectiveness (Signori et al., 2023). Perceptions of police legitimacy and trust further shape how public safety initiatives are evaluated, particularly among beneficiaries (Yesberg and Bradford, 2021). From an implementation theory standpoint, the significant ANOVA result suggests that program fidelity at the organizational level may not uniformly translate into perceived effectiveness at the community level (Hossen et al., 2022). Overall, the statistically significant variation underscores the need for enhanced participatory mechanisms and communication strategies to align institutional implementation efforts with community expectations and experiences of the program.

Table 4. Perceptions on the Degree of Seriousness of Problems Encountered in Anti-Drug Abuse Programs

Problems Encountered	PNP Mean	DE	Barangay Officials Mean	DE	Community Members Mean	DE	Overall Weighted Mean	DE
Indifference of participants	4.89	VMS	4.27	MS	3.46	S	4.20	MS
Inflexibility of leaflets	4.25	MS	3.77	MS	2.63	S	3.55	MS
Ineffective posters	3.98	MS	3.83	MS	2.70	S	3.50	MS
Psychological trauma in schools	4.16	MS	3.93	MS	3.07	S	3.72	MS
Hostile community perception	4.22	MS	3.71	MS	3.21	S	3.71	MS
Misunderstanding during dialogues	4.16	MS	3.74	MS	3.15	S	3.68	MS

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Lack of monitoring personnel	4.27	MS	3.70	MS	3.30	S	3.75	MS
Insufficient medical mission resources	4.18	MS	4.07	MS	3.39	S	3.88	MS
Unsustainable programs	4.20	MS	4.26	MS	3.12	S	3.86	MS
Insufficient visitation personnel	3.80	MS	3.15	S	2.35	SS	3.10	S
Lack of equipment	4.49	MS	3.87	MS	3.08	S	3.81	MS
Unengaging speakers	4.38	MS	4.07	MS	3.25	S	3.90	MS
Unconducive venues	4.36	MS	3.71	MS	3.51	MS	3.86	MS
Overall Mean	4.26	MS	3.85	MS	2.68	S	3.59	MS

Legend: VMS – Very Moderately Serious; MS – Moderately Serious; S – Serious; SS – Slightly Serious

Table 4 presents the stakeholders' perceptions regarding the seriousness of the problems encountered in the implementation of anti-drug abuse programs. Overall, the problems were assessed as "Moderately Serious" (M = 3.59), indicating the presence of operational and engagement-related constraints that may affect the program's sustainability. However, perceptual differences were evident across the groups. PNP personnel rated the problems as more serious (M = 4.26) than barangay officials (M = 3.85) and community members (M = 2.68).

Higher seriousness ratings among PNP personnel may reflect their direct exposure to operational challenges, such as manpower shortages, logistical constraints, and resource limitations. Studies on contemporary policing emphasize that frontline officers often encounter structural barriers that are less visible to community members (Kassem and Erken, 2024). Similarly, implementation theory suggests that gaps between policy intent and actual delivery frequently emerge because of limited resources, coordination issues, and contextual constraints (Hossen et al., 2022).

In contrast, community members perceived the problems as less severe, which may indicate lower awareness of internal operational difficulties or limited involvement in program management. Stakeholder theory explains such differences by highlighting how role-based perspectives shape program evaluations (Moshtari et al., 2023). Research on police legitimacy further demonstrates that community assessments are influenced more by relational experiences and perceived fairness than by institutional constraints (Yesberg and Bradford, 2021).

The findings suggest that while implementers internally recognize operational challenges, these issues may not be fully communicated or visible at the community level. Addressing this perceptual gap requires improved transparency, stakeholder engagement, and collaborative problem-solving mechanisms to enhance program sustainability and public trust.

Table 5. One-Way ANOVA on the Degree of Seriousness of Problems Encountered

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	8.859	2	4.429	15.011	.000
Within Groups	74.361	252	0.295		
Total	83.220	254			

Table 5 presents the One-Way ANOVA results examining differences in stakeholder perceptions regarding the seriousness of problems encountered in anti-drug abuse program implementation. The analysis revealed a statistically significant difference among the groups (F = 15.011, p < .001), indicating that perceptions of problem severity varied systematically across PNP personnel, barangay officials, and community members. The between-group variance exceeded the within-group variance, confirming that these differences were not attributable to random fluctuations but reflected meaningful perceptual divergence.

This finding reinforces the role-based interpretation advanced in the earlier tables. From the stakeholder theory perspective, actors' institutional positions shape how program challenges are experienced and evaluated (Moshtari et al., 2023). PNP personnel directly engaged in operational planning and field execution are more likely to perceive manpower shortages, logistical barriers, and coordination issues as serious constraints. Contemporary policing research supports this pattern, noting that frontline officers often encounter structural and resource-related challenges that are less visible to external stakeholders (Kassem and Erken, 2024).

In contrast, community members may evaluate the seriousness of a problem primarily through observable outcomes and personal experiences rather than internal administrative difficulties. Research on police legitimacy

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suggests that public evaluations of law enforcement initiatives are influenced more by relational engagement and perceived fairness than by institutional constraints (Yesberg and Bradford, 2021). From an implementation theory perspective, such perceptual variation reflects the complexity of translating policy mandates into locally experienced outcomes (Hossen et al., 2022).

The statistically significant variation underscores the importance of enhancing transparency, communication, and participatory mechanisms to ensure a shared understanding of implementation challenges and foster collaborative solutions across stakeholder groups.

Table 6. Tukey HSD Post-Hoc Test on the Level of Implementation of Anti-Drug Abuse Programs
Dependent Variable: Level of Implementation $\alpha = 0.05$

Comparison Groups	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	Interpretation
PNP vs. Barangay Officials	0.43	0.06	.000	Significant
PNP vs. Community Members	1.12	0.06	.000	Significant
Barangay Officials vs. Community Members	0.69	0.06	.000	Significant

Table 6 presents the Tukey HSD post-hoc analysis conducted following the significant ANOVA result on the level of implementation of anti-drug abuse programs in the three groups. The findings indicate statistically significant pairwise differences among all the stakeholder groups ($p < .001$). Specifically, PNP personnel reported significantly higher implementation levels than barangay officials and community members, while the latter rated implementation significantly higher than community members. The largest mean difference was observed between PNP personnel and community members, confirming a substantial perceptual gap between the implementers and beneficiaries.

These results provide more granular evidence of the implementation-perception divergence identified in previous analyses. From the stakeholder theory perspective, such differences are expected, as actors evaluate public programs through the lens of their institutional roles and responsibilities (Moshtari et al., 2023). PNP personnel directly involved in program planning and operational delivery may assess implementation based on procedural compliance and activity completion. In contrast, community members evaluate effectiveness based on accessibility, visibility, and perceived impact within their local contexts.

Community policing scholarship further suggests that institutional measures of performance often differ from community-based assessments of their effectiveness (Signori et al., 2023). Perceptions of legitimacy and trust also influence the interpretation of public safety initiatives, particularly among community beneficiaries (Yesberg & Bradford, 2021). The significant pairwise differences therefore highlight not only statistical variation but also structural differences in program experience.

Overall, the post-hoc findings underscore the need to strengthen participatory engagement, improve communication channels, and enhance program visibility to reduce perceptual disparities and align institutional implementation efforts with community expectations.

Table 7. Tukey HSD Post-Hoc Test on the Degree of Seriousness of Problems Encountered in Anti-Drug Abuse Programs
Dependent Variable: Degree of Seriousness of Problems $\alpha = 0.05$

Comparison Groups	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	Interpretation
PNP vs. Barangay Officials	0.41	0.07	.000	Significant
PNP vs. Community Members	1.58	0.07	.000	Significant
Barangay Officials vs. Community Members	1.17	0.07	.000	Significant

Table 7 presents the Tukey HSD post-hoc analysis conducted following the significant ANOVA result on the perceived seriousness of problems encountered in anti-drug abuse program implementation. The results indicate statistically significant pairwise differences among all the stakeholder groups ($p < .001$). The largest mean difference was observed between PNP personnel and community members, followed by the difference between barangay officials and community members. A smaller yet significant difference was found between PNP personnel and barangay officials. These findings confirm that perceptions of problem severity systematically differ across stakeholder groups.

The pronounced difference between implementers (PNP personnel) and beneficiaries (community members) reinforces the role-based divergence identified in previous analyses. From the stakeholder theory perspective, actors' institutional positions shape their exposure to and interpretation of operational constraints (Moshtari et al., 2023). PNP personnel who directly manage enforcement operations and logistical coordination are more likely to perceive

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manpower shortages, resource limitations, and sustainability concerns as serious barriers. Contemporary policing research supports this pattern, emphasizing that frontline officers frequently confront structural and organizational challenges that are not fully visible to external stakeholders (Kassem & Erken, 2024).

In contrast, community members primarily evaluate seriousness through observable outcomes and personal engagement experiences. Research on police legitimacy suggests that public assessments of law enforcement initiatives are more strongly influenced by relational trust and perceived fairness than by internal administrative constraints (Yesberg and Bradford, 2021).

Overall, the significant pairwise differences underscore the need for improved transparency, communication, and collaborative problem-solving mechanisms to foster a shared understanding of implementation challenges and strengthen multi-stakeholder coordination in anti-drug initiatives.

Recommended measures were formulated based on the study's statistically significant findings to address the implementation gaps and operational challenges identified among key stakeholders.

These recommended measures were formulated to improve and optimize the observance of Anti-Drug Abuse Programs and Activities in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan. This also presents actions that will enable the PNP, Barangay Officials, and community members practice enhancing anti-drug abuse programs and activities in Urdaneta City, specifically the four selected barangays in the study.

Table 8. Recommended Measures for Problems Encountered during Anti-Drug Abuse Programs and Activities

Identified Problem	Proposed Measures	Specific Objectives	Target Participants	Measurable Success Indicators
1. Inadequate anti-drug educational materials and uncondusive venues	a) Conduct seminars in well-lit, well-ventilated, and adequately spaced venues. b) Simplifying educational materials (leaflets and posters) using clear language and visuals. c) Post materials in highly visible and strategic community locations.	To improve the clarity, accessibility, and effectiveness of anti-drug information delivery.	PNP personnel Barangay officials Community members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 80% of participants rated venues and materials as "effective" or higher. • Increase in attendance by at least 20% for each activity cycle.
2. Low engagement and attention of participants during activities	a) Integrate interactive strategies such as simulations, group discussions, games, and role-playing activities b) Apply learner-centered approaches and warm-up activities prior to lectures.	To enhance participant engagement and active learning during anti-drug programs,	PNP personnel Community members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved participant engagement scores (mean \geq 3.50). • Increased active participation was observed during the sessions. • Positive post-activity feedback from the participants.
3. Weak coordination and unclear communication between implementers and participants	a) Clearly communicate program goals, procedures, and expected outcomes prior to each activity) b) Develop a structured activity roadmap to ensure continuity and sustainability/s) c) Collect and document participant feedback to guide future program planning.	To strengthen the coordination, clarity, and sustainability of anti-drug abuse programs.	PNP personnel Barangay officials Community members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular coordination meetings were conducted. • Documented feedback reports were generated after each activity. • Improved coordination ratings (mean \geq 3.50) in follow-up evaluations.



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Conclusions

This study examined the implementation of anti-drug abuse programs and activities of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan, emphasizing stakeholder perceptions and implementation-related challenges. The findings indicate that anti-drug abuse programs are generally implemented, reflecting the active delivery of preventive, educational, and community-based initiatives in the region. However, perceptions of implementation varied significantly across stakeholder groups, with PNP personnel reporting higher levels of implementation than barangay officials and community members.

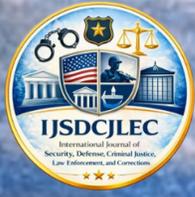
Further statistical analyses revealed significant differences in the perceptions of the seriousness of the problems encountered, highlighting a clear perception gap between program implementers and beneficiaries. These differences may be attributed to variations in stakeholder roles, levels of involvement, and awareness of operational constraints such as manpower limitations, resource availability, and program sustainability. While implementers generally perceived these challenges as moderately serious, community members viewed them as less so.

Overall, the findings suggest that although anti-drug abuse programs are operational and sustained at the local level, the alignment between institutional implementation and community experience remains limited. Therefore, strengthening stakeholder engagement, improving communication strategies, and enhancing collaborative mechanisms are essential for bridging perception gaps and improving the effectiveness and sustainability of community-based anti-drug abuse programs in the Philippines.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are proposed to enhance the implementation and effectiveness of anti-drug abuse programs and activities of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan:

- 1. Strengthen Community Engagement Strategies.**
Given the lower implementation ratings provided by community members, the PNP and barangay officials may intensify participatory approaches such as regular community dialogues, interactive forums, and youth-focused activities. Strengthening grassroots involvement can improve program visibility, relevance, and perceived impact among community beneficiaries.
- 2. Improve Information Dissemination and Communication Channels.**
The relatively low ratings for passive strategies such as leaflets, posters, and medical missions indicate the need to enhance communication methods. The PNP may adopt more engaging and accessible platforms, including barangay assemblies, school-based campaigns, and digital or social media initiatives, to ensure that anti-drug messages reach a wider audience effectively.
- 3. Address Operational and Resource Constraints.**
Since implementers perceived implementation-related problems as moderately serious, local authorities and partner agencies may prioritize addressing manpower shortages, logistical limitations, and resource allocation. Additional training, equipment support, and inter-agency coordination could help mitigate operational challenges and improve program consistency in the future.
- 4. Enhance Capacity-Building and Training of Implementers.**
Regular capacity-building activities may be conducted for PNP personnel and barangay officials to strengthen skills in community engagement, preventive education, and program monitoring. Standardized training can reduce variations in program delivery and improve coordination across stakeholder groups.
- 5. Institutionalize Stakeholder Feedback Mechanisms.**
To bridge perception gaps identified in the study, feedback systems such as periodic surveys, community consultations, and joint evaluation meetings may be institutionalized. These mechanisms allow implementers to incorporate community insights into program planning and adjustments.
- 6. Conduct Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation.**
The PNP, in collaboration with barangay officials and local government units, may establish a regular monitoring and evaluation framework to assess program implementation and emerging challenges. Data-driven evaluations support evidence-based decision-making and enhance the sustainability of programs.
- 7. Future Research Directions.**
Future studies may include qualitative approaches to explore in-depth stakeholder experiences and perceptions, expand the scope to other cities or provinces, or examine the long-term impact of anti-drug abuse programs on community behavior and outcomes.



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