

# Public perspectives of interventions aimed at building confidence in the Nigerian police: a systematic review



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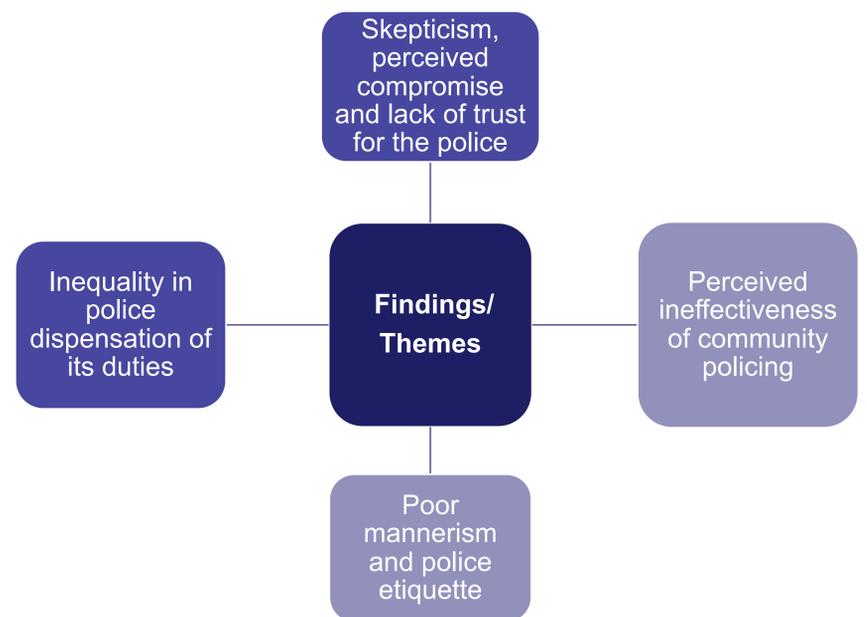
## Introduction

- Police-public relations in Nigeria has been marred by issues of distrust, torture and violence.
- This study adopts a systematic review to fill a gap on the interventions relied on to improve public trust for the police in Nigeria and public perspectives of these interventions.
- Research question: What are public perspectives of interventions aimed at improving public trust and confidence in the Nigerian police?



## Analysis

- A conceptual framework of analysis was adopted in the review (Torraco, 2005). Identified literature was subject to critical evaluation, and analyses using the synthesis matrix to collate their major themes, weakness(es), strength(s) and notable gaps.
- Synthesis including (i) relevant literature searches; (ii) identification of key elements and ideas; (iii) organisations of findings to develop new recommendations to improve police-public relations in Nigeria.



## Methods

The systematic review synthesis followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses.

Inclusion criteria:

- Studies that explored the factors limiting the efficacy of interventions aimed at improving public trust for the police in Nigeria;
- Studies that reported the use of any interventions to improve the public trust for the police in Nigeria;
- Qualitative studies which explored the views of victims, and/or law enforcement agencies of the perceived interventions aimed at trust building;

**Database searched:** Applied Social Science Index and Abstracts (ASSIA), EBSCO, Web of Science (WoS), Proquest, Scopus, the International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS) and ERIC.S

**Studies meeting inclusion criteria:** 11 studies met the criteria of the 519 studies screened

## Conclusion

Public confidence in the police are integral to effective policing Most of the studies suggested a growing concern on the perceived inefficacy of community policing interventions (Akintayo, 2019; Audu, 2016; Ayodele & Aderinto, 2014; John, 2017;

- A practical implication of this review for policy makers is that the growing body of research highlights widespread alienation of the Nigerian public from the police.
- 'Trust' and a perceived sense of 'corruption' pose major limitations which serve to exacerbate the growing divide between the public and the police
- Socio-economic factors, including poverty were construed as a barrier limiting the service provided by the police
- The community felt that people from a low socio-economic background were less likely to be fairly treated by the police( Ayodele & Aderinto, 2014; John, 2017)

Hence the recommendation for a community-informed intervention to improve public confidence in the police

## Selected References

- ✓ Ayodele, J. O., & Aderinto, A. A. (2014). Public confidence in the police and crime reporting practices of victims in Iagos. Nigeria: A Mixed Methods Study. *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*, 9.
- ✓ John, M. D. (2017). Public perception of police activities in Okada, Edo State Nigeria. *Covenant Journal of Business and Social Science*,s, 8, 29–42.

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