

effective and visible. Lastly, community relations recorded the lowest mean of 3.42 (High), although still within a positive range, suggesting that while police engagement with the community is evident, it may be slightly less emphasized compared to operational and intelligence functions. The findings reflect that police omnipresence in Barangay Roxas is strongly observed, particularly in enforcement and intelligence-related activities.

Assessment on the Level of Public Trust in the Police among the Residents of Barangay Roxas

Table 2 presents the respondents' assessment of the level of public trust in the police, grouped into general trust in the police, fairness and integrity, confidence in police actions, and effectiveness of police services among the residents of Barangay Roxas, Solano, which the respondents assessed as High, with an overall mean of 3.46.

Table 2

Summary of the Perceived Level of Public Trust in the Police in Barangay Roxas

Public Trust	Mean	Interpretation
General Trust in Police	3.48	High
Fairness and Integrity	3.44	High
Confidence in Police Actions	3.46	High
Effectiveness of Police Services	3.48	High
Overall Mean	3.46	HIGH

Among the indicators, general trust in police and effectiveness of police services both obtained the highest mean of 3.48, interpreted as High, suggesting that respondents believe the police are dependable and capable of maintaining peace and order in the community. Confidence in police actions followed, with a mean of 3.46 (High), indicating that residents trust the police to respond to situations and make appropriate decisions. Meanwhile, fairness and integrity recorded the lowest mean of 3.44 (High), although still within a positive range, suggesting that while respondents generally perceive the police as fair and ethical, there may still be slight room for improvement in this aspect. The findings reflect that public trust in the police in Barangay Roxas is consistently high across all dimensions.

Differences in the Respondents' Assessment of Police Omnipresence when grouped according to their Profile Variables

The results show no significant differences across all profile variables, as all p-values are greater than the 0.05 level of significance. When grouped according to age, respondents aged above 56 years old obtained the highest mean (3.72), followed by those aged 36–45 years old (3.62), 26–35 years old (3.56), and both 46–55 years old and below 25 years old with a mean of 3.48. However, the computed value ($F = 1.505$, $p = 0.200$) indicates that the differences are not statistically significant, suggesting that age does not influence perceptions of police omnipresence. For sex, males had a slightly higher mean (3.58) than females (3.52), but the difference was not significant ($t = 0.901$, $p = 0.343$), indicating similar perceptions between male and female respondents. For employment status, employed respondents ($M = 3.60$) scored slightly higher than unemployed respondents ($M = 3.51$), yet the difference remains not significant ($t = 0.708$, $p = 0.401$). Lastly, when grouped according to years of residency, respondents who have lived in the barangay for more than 21 years obtained the highest mean (3.59), while those with 11–20 years and 1–10 years both recorded a mean of 3.48; however, this difference is also not significant ($F = 1.282$, $p = 0.279$). Overall, the findings indicate that respondents' perceptions of police omnipresence are consistent regardless of their demographic profile.

Differences in the Respondents' Assessment of Public Trust when grouped according to their Profile Variables

The results show a significant difference only in employment status ($t = 3.988$, $p = 0.047$), while all other profile variables show no significant differences. When grouped by age, respondents aged 36–45 years had the highest mean (3.68), followed by those aged 56 years and older (3.67), while those aged 26–35 years recorded the lowest mean (3.53). However, the computed value ($F = 0.822$, $p = 0.498$) indicates that the differences are not statistically significant, suggesting that age does not influence public trust in the police. For sex, males had a slightly higher mean (3.61) than females (3.56), but the difference was not significant ($t = 2.399$, $p = 0.122$), indicating similar levels of trust between male and female respondents. In contrast, employment status shows a significant difference: employed respondents ($M = 3.64$) reported higher trust than unemployed respondents ($M = 3.52$), indicating that employment status influences public trust in the police. Lastly, when grouped by years of residency, respondents who have lived in the barangay for more than 21 years reported the highest mean (3.61), followed by those with 1–10 years (3.58), while those with 11–20 years recorded the lowest mean (3.44). However, the difference is not significant ($F = 0.872$, $p = 0.419$). Overall, the findings indicate that public trust in the police is generally consistent across demographic groups, except for employment status, which significantly influences respondents' level of trust.

Relationship between the Respondents' Assessment on Police Omnipresence and Public Trust

Table 3 reveals a very strong and statistically significant relationship between police omnipresence and public trust in Barangay Roxas, Solano.

Table 3

Significant Relationship between the Respondents' Assessment on Police Omnipresence and Public Trust

Variables	Computed r-value	Critical Value	Remarks
Police Omnipresence Vs Public Trust	0.710	0.000*	Very Significant

The computed correlation coefficient ($r = 0.710$) indicates a strong positive relationship between the two variables, meaning that as perceived police omnipresence increases, public trust in the police also increases. The coefficient of determination (50.41%) suggests that police omnipresence explains more than half of the variation in public trust. Furthermore, the computed p-value (0.000) is below the 0.01 level of significance, confirming that the relationship is highly significant. This means that the observed association between police omnipresence and public trust is not due to chance but reflects a real and meaningful relationship within the study population.

DISCUSSION

Demographic Profile of the Respondents

The distribution of respondents shows that the majority are young (below 25 years old, 32.20%), male (56.90%), employed (54.60%), and long-term residents (70.30% residing for more than 21 years). This profile suggests that the study largely reflects the perspectives of individuals who are both socially active and deeply rooted in the community. Younger respondents may be more exposed to current social issues and digital information, which can shape more critical or informed perceptions of police presence. The predominance of males may also indicate a group that is more likely to have direct or indirect interactions with law enforcement, influencing their perceptions of safety and police visibility. Meanwhile, the slight majority of employed individuals suggests a more economically engaged population, which may contribute to structured daily routines and increased exposure to public safety measures. Furthermore, the large proportion of long-term residents implies that many respondents have accumulated experiences and observations of police performance over time, leading to more stable, experience-based perceptions. Research shows that younger individuals tend to have more dynamic and sometimes critical views of law enforcement, influenced by media exposure and societal discourse (Pew Research Center, (2022)). In terms of gender, studies indicate that males are more likely to report direct encounters with police, which can significantly influence their perceptions of police presence and effectiveness (Hinds & Murphy, (2021)). Employment status has also been identified as a key factor, where employed individuals tend to exhibit higher institutional trust due to economic stability and greater social integration (Devine et al., (2021); Helliwell et al., (2022)). Additionally, length of residency is strongly associated with community attachment and trust, as long-term residents are more likely to develop familiarity with local institutions and form stable perceptions based on repeated experiences (Jackson et al., (2022); OECD, (2024)). In the Philippine context, studies by (Aguilar et al., 2024) and (Uy 2024) highlight that community engagement and sustained exposure to police services significantly influence trust and perception among barangay residents.

Respondents' Perceived Level of Police Omnipresence in Barangay Roxas, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya

The results imply that police presence in Barangay Roxas is strongly perceived by residents, particularly in terms of operational activities such as checkpoints, patrols, and immediate crime response. The consistently high ratings across all indicators suggest that the community recognizes the police as actively engaged in maintaining peace and order. This level of perceived omnipresence may contribute to a sense of safety and deterrence, as visible law enforcement is often associated with reduced fear of crime and increased public confidence in security measures. However, the slightly lower mean in community relations suggests that while police operations and enforcement activities are highly visible, engagement with the community may not be as strongly felt. This indicates a potential gap between enforcement-oriented presence and relationship-building efforts. Strengthening community relations through regular dialogue, outreach programs, and participatory policing may further enhance public perception and trust. A correlational study conducted in the Philippines (Marzan et al. (2026)) found that police omnipresence has a strong positive relationship with perceived public safety and crime deterrence, highlighting those frequent patrols and visible operations enhance community confidence in law enforcement effectiveness. Similarly, Hsieh et al. (2025) and Lee et al. (2025)] emphasized that both police-initiated and citizen-initiated encounters influence perceptions of procedural justice, which is a key determinant of trust in police institutions. In addition, Wise et al. (2025) highlighted that trust in police is multidimensional and is strengthened when citizens consistently observe responsive and transparent policing practices, reinforcing the importance of operational visibility in building legitimacy.

Assessment on the Level of Public Trust in the Police among the Residents of Barangay Roxas

The findings imply that residents of Barangay Roxas generally have a positive and trusting perception of the police across multiple dimensions of service delivery. The high level of trust suggests that police presence, responsiveness, and visibility are effectively contributing to a sense of safety and security within the community. The particularly high ratings in crime prevention and visibility indicate that residents strongly associate active police presence with reduced fear of crime and improved peace and order. However, the slightly lower ratings in fairness and integrity suggest that while trust is generally high, there are still areas that may require strengthening, particularly in ensuring consistent impartiality and equitable treatment of all citizens. This implies that trust is not only built on visibility and responsiveness but also on how fairly and respectfully police officers interact with the public. Strengthening procedural justice, transparency, and community engagement may further enhance trust levels and sustain positive perceptions of police legitimacy in Barangay Roxas. Lee et al. (2025) found that police legitimacy is strongly influenced by procedural justice, where fairness and respectful treatment significantly enhance institutional trust. Similarly, Hsieh et al. (2025) highlighted that both direct and indirect police encounters shape public trust, particularly when citizens perceive fairness and responsiveness in police actions. Wise et al. (2025) also emphasized that trust in police is strengthened when law enforcement is perceived as both effective and ethically grounded, reinforcing the importance of integrity and competence in public perceptions.

Differences on the Respondents' Assessment on Police Omnipresence when grouped according to their Profile Variables

The findings imply that perceptions of police omnipresence in Barangay Roxas are generally uniform across different demographic groups. This means that factors such as age, sex, employment status, and length of residency do not significantly shape how residents perceive the visibility and presence of the police in their community. The lack of significant differences suggests that police operations, visibility, and engagement are experienced similarly by different groups, indicating a consistent implementation of law enforcement activities within the barangay. This also implies that police omnipresence is broadly recognized and accepted by the community regardless of demographic

background. Such consistency may indicate effective and widespread police visibility strategies that reach all sectors of the population. However, it also suggests that improvements or gaps in police presence are similarly felt across groups, meaning that any enhancement in policing strategies would likely benefit the entire community rather than specific demographic sectors. Wise et al. (2025) noted that trust and perception of police effectiveness are largely shaped by collective experiences of visibility and procedural fairness rather than individual demographic characteristics. Similarly, (Hsieh et al. 2025) found that consistent police encounters and shared community exposure reduce variability in trust and perception across demographic groups. In the Philippine, Ibañez et al. (2025) found that satisfaction with police services and perceived safety are generally consistent across demographic profiles when police visibility is regularly experienced in barangays. Aguilar et al. (2024) similarly reported no significant variation in trust levels across demographic groups when transparency and accountability practices are consistently observed. Sernicula and Calva (2024) emphasized that human rights-based and professional policing practices contribute to standardized perceptions of police effectiveness among community members. Uy (2024) and Tamayo (2025) also highlighted that sustained police presence and engagement in Philippine barangays lead to generally uniform perceptions of safety and trust across residents. Supporting this, OECD (2024) noted that institutional trust becomes more consistent across demographic groups when public services are delivered equitably and predictably. Additional studies Bradford and Jackson (2023), Jackson et al. (2022), Chen et al. (2022), and (Nix et al. 2021) further reinforce that trust in police is more strongly influenced by procedural justice, visibility, and overall service quality rather than demographic characteristics.

Differences on the Respondents' Assessment on Public Trust when grouped according to their Profile Variables

The significant difference in employment status implies that economic condition plays a key role in shaping public trust in the police. Employed individuals tend to have higher trust compared to unemployed respondents, suggesting that financial stability and social participation may enhance confidence in law enforcement. Employment may also increase exposure to structured environments where police presence is associated with order, safety, and protection, thereby strengthening trust. Devine et al. (2021) and Helliwell et al. (2022) emphasized that economic stability increases institutional trust, while unemployment is associated with reduced life satisfaction and weaker confidence in governance. Medve-Bálint (2022) further explained that economic insecurity and inequality can reduce trust in institutions by fostering feelings of exclusion and unfairness. OECD (2024) confirmed that employment status is a key determinant of institutional trust across countries, including trust in public services such as law enforcement. In the Philippine, the study of (Aguilar et al. 2024) reported that trust in police is strongly influenced by perceived service quality and community engagement. Sernicula and Calva (2024) highlighted that professionalism and human rights-based policing significantly increase public confidence in law enforcement. Uy (2024) and Tamayo (2025) found that socioeconomic conditions, including employment, affect how citizens evaluate police legitimacy and responsiveness in Philippine barangays. Meanwhile, (Ibañez et al. 2025) noted that satisfaction with police services is closely linked to perceived safety and accessibility of law enforcement. These findings reinforce that employment status significantly shapes public trust, as economically stable individuals tend to view police institutions more positively.

Relationship between the Respondents' Assessment on Police Omnipresence and Public Trust

The results imply that increasing police visibility and operational presence in the community is strongly associated with higher levels of public trust. When residents frequently observe police activities such as patrols, checkpoints, crime prevention initiatives, and community engagement, they are more likely to feel secure and develop confidence in law enforcement. This suggests that police omnipresence is not only a deterrent to crime but also a key factor in strengthening the public's perception of safety and institutional reliability. Moreover, the strong relationship indicates that improving police visibility and accessibility can significantly enhance community trust. However, since only 50.41% of public trust is explained by police omnipresence, it also implies that other factors such as fairness, integrity, communication, and socioeconomic conditions, may also influence trust levels. Therefore, while police presence is a major driver of trust, a holistic approach that includes community relations and ethical policing is essential for sustaining and further strengthening public confidence. Wise et al. (2025) emphasized that frequent and visible policing contributes to stronger public trust by reinforcing feelings of security and responsiveness. Similarly, Hsieh et al. (2025) found that repeated police-community interactions significantly improve perceptions of procedural justice and institutional legitimacy, which are key foundations of trust. Lee et al. (2025) further explained that trust in police is strengthened when citizens consistently observe fair, visible, and responsive policing practices, highlighting the importance of operational presence in shaping public perceptions. In the Philippine, (Ibañez et al. 2025) found that higher levels of police visibility and responsiveness are associated with greater citizen satisfaction and trust in law enforcement. Aguilar et al. (2024) reported that transparency, accountability, and consistent police presence in barangays significantly improve public confidence in police services. Sernicula and Calva (2024) emphasized that human rights-based policing and professional competence strengthen trust, particularly when supported by visible and proactive law enforcement activities. Uy (2024) and Tamayo (2025) also highlighted that sustained police presence in communities enhances perceived safety and legitimacy of police institutions. Furthermore, OECD (2024) noted that trust in public institutions increases when citizens experience consistent and accessible government services, including law enforcement.

Conclusion & Recommendations

The study revealed that the respondents are predominantly young, male, employed, and long-term residents of Barangay Roxas, Solano, indicating that the data largely reflect the perspectives of socially active and community-rooted individuals. The perceived level of police omnipresence in the community was rated high, particularly in terms of operations and intelligence functions, suggesting that police visibility and activities are strongly observed by the residents. Furthermore, public trust in the police was also rated high, indicating that the respondents have confidence in the police's effectiveness, fairness, and responsiveness in maintaining peace and order. The results also showed that there were no significant differences in police omnipresence across profile variables, while public trust showed a significant difference only in terms of employment status, where employed respondents demonstrated higher levels of trust. A very strong and significant relationship was found between police omnipresence and public trust, indicating that increased police visibility contributes to higher levels of trust among residents.

In light of these results, the following recommendations were proposed:

1. The Philippine National Police (PNP) and barangay officials are encouraged to strengthen youth-centered and employment-responsive community engagement initiatives by designing more inclusive programs that actively involve younger residents and working individuals. This may include the regular conduct of information drives, seminars, leadership training, and digital awareness campaigns that focus on crime prevention, community safety, and responsible citizenship. Strengthening participation from these groups can help ensure that law enforcement programs remain relevant, participatory, and responsive to the needs and perspectives of the majority population in Barangay Roxas.
2. The PNP are encouraged to maintain and further enhance the visibility of police presence in the community through sustained and strategic operational activities. Regular patrols by providing additional patrol vehicles, intensified monitoring in identified hotspot

areas and to expand community police box, periodic checkpoints, and consistent implementation of crime prevention measures should be prioritized. In addition, strengthening coordination with barangay officials and community leaders can further improve the efficiency of policing activities. Sustaining this level of visibility will help reinforce residents' sense of safety and confidence in the capability of the police to maintain peace and order.

3. To further strengthen public trust, the police are encouraged to continuously promote transparency, accountability, and strong community relations. This may be achieved through regular community dialogues, open forums, and consultation meetings that allow residents to express concerns and provide feedback on police services. Establishing more accessible communication channels, including social media platforms and reporting mechanisms, can also enhance public confidence. Consistent demonstration of professionalism, fairness, and responsiveness in all police actions will further reinforce the trust already established within the community.
4. Special attention should be given to unemployed residents through the implementation of targeted and inclusive trust-building interventions. These may include community outreach programs that directly engage unemployed individuals, information campaigns that strengthen awareness of police services, and coordination with local government units and relevant agencies for possible livelihood assistance and support services like involvement of TESDA for skill development. By addressing both social and economic concerns, law enforcement agencies can help ensure that all community members, regardless of employment status, feel equally protected, valued, and included in public safety initiatives.
5. Police authorities and local government units are strongly encouraged to continuously enhance and sustain police omnipresence within Barangay Roxas, Solano, given its strong relationship with public trust. This may be achieved by institutionalizing regular patrol schedules, strengthening crime deterrence strategies, and expanding community-based policing programs that promote consistent interaction between police officers and residents. By ensuring that police presence remains visible, proactive, and community-oriented, public trust is likely to be further strengthened, contributing to a safer and more secure community environment.
6. PNP are strongly encouraged to conduct bench marking in areas with recognition aligned with the area of police omnipresence and police community relations. In order for them to inspire other stations and to share with them the strategies and actions made to improve police omnipresence, public and trust and the overall police- community relations.

AI DECLARATION STATEMENT

AI-supported tools helped with grammar and structure in creating this article. No AI tools were used to collect, analyze, or interpret data; all authors are credited for their academic contributions.

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