



## THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG STRATEGIES OF A CITY POLICE OFFICE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Dr. Filibert Patrick F. Tad-awan

School of Criminal Justice and Public Safety

University of Baguio, Baguio City, Philippines

Corresponding Author: [patricktadawan@gmail.com](mailto:patricktadawan@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT

The war on illegal drugs is far from realization thus, the need to improve the implementation of a comprehensive and balanced approach to drug demand and drug supply reduction. The study assessed the implementation of the anti-illegal drug strategy of the Baguio City Police Office the significant relationship between the levels of implementation of the anti-illegal drug supply reduction and anti-illegal drug demand reduction strategies. A total of 147 respondents consisting of 92 punong barangay and 55 police officers of the Baguio City Police Office-Drug Enforcement Unit participated in the study. Quantitative descriptive - survey research design with the aid of a validated and reliability tested questionnaire was used to collect the data which were analyzed and interpreted correspondingly. Findings showed, that the anti-illegal drug supply and demand reduction strategies Baguio City Police office were "moderately implemented" and that there is a significant difference in the level of implementation as perceived by the respondents. Furthermore, the findings of the study revealed that there is a significant relationship between the anti-illegal drug supply reductions strategies and the anti-illegal drug demand reduction strategies of the Baguio City Police Office. Finally, the results of the study revealed that the anti-illegal drug supply and demand reduction strategies of the Baguio City Police Office have not reached the peak of its full implementation. The result of the study will serve to enhance the anti-illegal drug strategies of the Baguio City Police Office

**Keywords:** illegal drug, supply reduction, demand reduction, Strategy, Implementation

### INTRODUCTION

The problem of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking is one that has devastating consequences which causes an upsurge in crime, violence, and corruption; the destruction of individuals, families, and communities (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2016). The abuse of drugs has an adverse impact, not only on the individual abuser but also on the economy and society of a country as a whole. In principle, the use of drugs can cause or promote crime, and in turn, criminality may reinforce drug use Furtos (2017). In the Philippines, the drug-related concerns confronting the communities or barangays in the country are alarming. Data from the PDEA showed that 24,424 barangays or 58.10 percent of the country's villages are still affected by drugs (PDEA Annual Accomplishment Report, 2017). The past and present drug policies that substantially impact how the "war on drugs" is waged from the three explanatory

models that encompass the drug-crime relationship, drug use leads to crime, crime leads to drug use and the drug-crime relationship is explained by other causes Furtos (2017).

International publications also highlight the rise of illegal drug trafficking in the Philippines by organized criminal groups. Many news media highlight the use of Darknet for criminal activities (Chandran 2015; Farrell 2017; McGoogan 2016; Moloney 2016; Samson 2017; Weissman 2015). The trading of illegal drugs, in fact, is the most prevalent activity on the Darknet (Dolliver 2015; Owen and Savage 2015). These crypto-drug markets are serious concerns of law enforcement agencies and require them to innovate strategies and improve their capabilities in terms of technology to catch them (Horton-Eddison and Di Cristofaro 2017). The growth of the Darknet markets is enabled due to anonymity and privacy

A drug war that focuses disproportionately on supply reduction tends to strengthen and enrich – rather than weaken and impoverish – the operations of drug suppliers (Mason & Bucke, 2002). Indeed, just like any market, the market for illegal drugs follows the laws of supply and demand and whatever solution may work better to reduce drug use and its ill effects on society remains a question (Mason & Bucke, 2002). Investing in both drug supply and drug demand reduction programs will pay dividends for the next generation and will dramatically transform the landscape of Philippine security (Philippine Anti-Illegal Drug Strategy, 2017).

The underlying philosophies and framework are a moralistic 'tough on drugs' philosophy which stress zero tolerance, law enforcement, and abstinence. Illegal drug Supply and demand must be attacked simultaneously with commitment and conviction (Costigan, Crofts, & Reid, 2003).

Supply reduction strategies are directed toward enforcing the prohibition of illegal drugs and regulating and enforcing access to legal drugs and substances (Bean, 2008). Reducing the supply of drugs requires the collaborative participation of the government and the community (Llamas, 2009). Drug enforcement and supply-reduction efforts will fail because they cannot succeed in meaningfully raising the price or reducing the availability of drugs (Braga, 2001). For the War on Drugs Campaign to receive strong and perpetual support, promoting public understanding to key issues surrounding the Drug War Campaign and clear responses to the controversies on the strategies being enforced should be the main thrust (Tomaro, 2018).

The Drug Demand Reduction is geared towards reducing the consumer's demand for drugs and other substances. This is done through programs on Preventive Education, Treatment and Rehabilitation, and Research (Costigan et al., 2003). Demand reduction is a useful tool in supply reduction because when the number of drug users falls, drug supply falls correspondingly as the market for illegal drugs shrinks. (Weatherburn et al., 2000).

Therefore, Strategy implementation is recognized as a critical challenge (Dobni, 2003). However, despite this claimed importance, enforcement is difficult (Noble, 1999). It is long argued that well-planned strategies lead to superior performance, only when they are successfully implemented (Li, Guohuil, & Eppler, 2010). Effective implementation proves difficult due to the need for coordinated efforts of individuals across firms (Olson, Slater, & Hult, 2005). This is, arguably, because of the lack of enough knowledge about strategy implementation. This gap between strategic planning and the implementation of planned strategies is sometimes referred to as the execution gap (Bossidy & Charan, 2002).

The Philippine National Police has challenges in its anti-illegal drug strategy which comprises Supply Reduction, Demand Reduction, Internal Cleansing, Legal Offensive and International Cooperation (Command Memorandum Circular No. 16, 2016).

Despite the presence and implementation of the anti-illegal drug plans and strategies of the government and law enforcement agencies, illegal drugs still proliferate within the country. In Baguio City, the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) had been implementing several anti-drug-supply and demand reduction strategies to include among others the conduct of intensified police operations and Intelligence operations.

The Baguio City Police Office was awarded as one of the top police offices in the country, and Baguio City as one of the safest cities in the Philippines. However, the problem of illegal drugs still lingers within the mainstream of the city. Notwithstanding the implementations of the anti-illegal drug strategies by the BCPO, a concerning issue arises where 19 barangays were drug-re-affected and 26 drug-affected barangays. The number of drugs surrenderees increased from 99 in 2017 to 106 in 2018. In like manner, the persistent proliferation of illegal drugs in the city is alarming.

Thus, the researcher chose Baguio as the locale of the study to conduct an assessment on the level of implementation of anti-illegal drug supply and demand reduction strategies of the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO).

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

The researcher made use of a Quantitative descriptive - survey research design. This design served to analyze the data gathered on the current status of the anti-illegal drug supply and demand reduction strategies of the Baguio City Police Office in the Philippines.

### **Population and Locale of the Study**

The respondents in the study were members of the Baguio City Police Office-Drug Enforcement Unit (BCPO-DEU), and Punong Barangay of Baguio City. Total enumeration was used for the Police Officers and Punong Barangay as the method of determining the number of respondents. However, only 55 questionnaires were retrieved and answered by the BCPO-DEU and other stations, and only 92 were retrieved from the Punong Barangay, thereby reflecting a total of 147 respondents.

### **Data Gathering Tool/s**

A questionnaire checklist was utilized to arrive at the accurate data needed. The questionnaire was based on the PNP-BCPO anti-illegal drug supply and demand reductions strategies, the existing National Anti-Drug Plan Action (NADPA) 2015-2020 and the Philippine anti-illegal Drug strategy of 2017.

The questionnaire has undergone validation and was approved by the tool validator. Likewise, the questionnaire was subjected for reliability test and processed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS 19) from the Research and Development Center with a Cronbach's alpha value of .894 and .799 therefore, the tool is deemed reliable. Additionally, an informal interview was also used to verify and supplement the information derived from the respondents.

### **Data Gathering Procedures**

The researcher prepared the letters as approved by the panel members and school authorities addressed to the City Director of Baguio City Police Office for the approval to float the questionnaire and gather data from the Baguio City Police Office-Drug Enforcement unit (BCPO-DEU) and the President of the Association of Barangay Captains of Baguio City.

The researcher after identifying the respondents approached and informed them of the research agenda. The data gathering commenced after the respondent voluntarily and wilfully agreed to give their consent. Before the data gathering, the researchers made sure that the informants are fully aware of the ethics of social research and their rights as informants of the study. That there are no foreseeable risks associated with the study. However, if they are uncomfortable answering any questions, they can withdraw from the survey at any point and the result of the study shall be treated with utmost confidentiality and anonymity.

Furthermore, in the presentation of data and discussion, pseudonyms such as single letters “A,” “B,” “C,” “D,” “E” “F” for police officers and double letters such as “AA” or “BB” for community were used to conceal the informants’ identity to ensure their anonymity.

### Treatment of the Data

The data gathered were collated, analyzed and interpreted using the following:  
**Weighted mean.** This was utilized to determine the level of implementation of the anti-illegal drug supply and demand reduction strategies of the Baguio City Police Office. The mean values were interpreted as follows:

Arbitrary Value	Range	Description	Interpretation
4	3.26-4.00	Very Much Implemented	The strategy is exceptionally implemented.
3	2.51-3.25	Moderately Implemented	The strategy is followed with most aspects observed to have been done or effected.
2	1.76-2.50	Slightly Implemented	The strategy is followed but many aspects are not observed to have been done or effected.
1	1.76-2.50	Not Implemented	The strategy is not followed or is not observed to have been done or effected

Likewise, a t-test for independent samples was used to determine if there is a significant difference in the level of implementation of the anti-illegal drug supply and demand reduction strategies of the Baguio City Police Office according to the group. Lastly, the Pearson moment correlation was utilized to determine if there is a significant relationship between the level of implementation of the anti-illegal drug strategies of the supply reduction and strategies on demand reduction.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Level of Implementation of the Anti-Illegal Drug Supply Reduction Strategies of Baguio City Police Office.

The overall level of implementation of the anti-illegal drug supply reduction strategies of the Baguio City Police office has an overall mean of 3.08 interpreted as moderately implemented. This means that the Baguio City Police Office Drug Enforcement Unit has continuously implemented much of the anti-illegal drug supply reduction strategies in its effort to cut-off or to lessen the supply of drugs in Baguio City but have not achieved its full implementation.

Table 1. *Level of Implementation of the Anti-Illegal Drug Supply Reduction Strategies of Baguio City Police Office (N=147)*

Out of 25 Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Indicators with highest Mean			
1. Conduct intensified buy-bust operations	3.47	.66809	VMI

2. Conduct validation with Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) to account and identify all drug groups pushers/users in each barangay	3.24	.70764	MI
3. Strengthen the capacity of manpower resources that shall handle anti-drug operations.	3.23	.68314	MI
<b>Indicators with lowest Mean</b>			
4. Enhance inter-agency collaboration for effective anti-drug operations.	2.85	.75514	MI
5. Conduct of undercover operations.	2.94	.82116	MI
<b>OVERALL MEAN</b>	<b>3.08</b>		<b>MI</b>

Interpretation: VMI-Very Much Implemented, MI-Moderately Implemented, SI-Slightly Implemented, NI-Not Implemented

Out of the 25 indicators, the conduct of intensified buy-bust operations was perceived to be the top strategy being implemented with a mean of 3.47 interpreted as very much implemented. This implies the strategy is an effective way used by the BCPO-DEU to reduce the supply of illegal drugs leading to entrap and arrest dealers and pushers of illegal drugs who usually operate discreetly. As Rengert, G. F. (2018) stress that enforcement is effective and difficult at the upper levels of the drug distribution organization and once the drugs are pass to the street dealers, anti-drug strategies become easier because sales may become more open, thus tactics such as "buy and bust" operations are more practical. This strategy requires the police agent's disguising as a buyer of illegal drugs and undertaking sales transaction with a seller by using mark money. Moreover, Chaiken, et. Al (1990) mentioned that one type of drug enforcement strategy is case-oriented drug law enforcement which is reactive and seeks enough evidence to arrest, prosecute, and convict drug dealers. On the other hand, Willis, K., Anderson, J., & Homel, P. (2011) stated that offenses relating to illicit drugs are far more likely to be detected by law enforcement agencies than reported to them.

The BCPO-DEU utilized buy-bust since drug dealers will most likely find a way to market and sell their product discreetly to buyers or clients not only in one instance but repeated transaction with them just as what an undercover agent does when transacting with the drug dealers. Similarly, it is considered to be more convenient than going to the process of securing a warrant in court to catch the subject in flagrante delicto where he may be lawfully arrested even without a warrant of arrest. Conversely, Willis, K., Anderson, J., & Homel, P. (2011) mentioned that the lack of seizures and arrests put the police open to significant criticism for failing to address the drug problem. Moreover, Mejía, D., & Restrepo, P. (2016) revealed that a large scale intervention aimed at reducing the supply of drugs, policies aimed at targeting the initial stages of illicit drug production are ineffective when compared to policies targeted at higher stages.

This finding is supported by the statement of "B" in an informal interview, where he said that "Baguio City achieved a decrease in drug sales, through a combination of street surveillance where buy-bust operations rely upon." However, according to police officer "C" in an informal interview, they found that sellers adopted new strategies on drug dealing.

However, buy-bust is moderately implemented because it is quite challenging as it poses a threat to the lives of the operatives where the subjects are mostly armed and dangerous and armed encounters could happen. The operatives fears being charged criminally and administratively after the operations which could lead to their dismissal from the service where there is an issue on extra-judicial killing or violation of human rights. Other than that, the BCPO-DEU has inadequate logistics and insufficient funds for paid assets where most of the information usually comes from.

On the other hand, as gleaned in Table 1, the indicators, conduct validation with Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) to account and identify all drug groups, pushers/users in each barangay ranked second with a mean of 3.24 interpreted as moderately implemented.

This finding implies that some of the successful neutralization of the drug personalities is due to the continued support of the BADAC in supplying the BCPO-DEU with the necessary information regarding drug personalities in their barangay. Before the BCPO-DEU conducts buy-bust operations, they first collect information and performs validation and re-validation with the BADAC if the subject/s are indeed drug personalities in the barangay, do a test-buy using marked money and document the evidence obtained. After this, an actual entrapment operation will be performed on the identified subject.

According to Respondent "A," in an informal interview, the Police officers have to conduct validation to the BADAC to update their list. The best way to do this is to coordinate with BADAC since this is one of their primary functions as provided under the DILG's mandate on Barangays to conduct an inventory of drug personalities. Mendoza, R. U., Yusingco, M. H., & Gamboa, J. (2018) reiterated that one of the duties of the police is to Conduct validation with BADACs to account for and identify all drug groups pushers/users in each barangays. Likewise, Respondent "D" in an informal interview, said that validation of drug personalities list is critical since it is one way for the police to really identify the users, their suppliers and the primary source which could lead to reducing or cutting off the supply of illegal drugs by neutralizing them in anti-illegal drug operations. This is supported by Meyers, M. A. (2000) which states that for law enforcers to reduce street-level dealing, there is a need for the target list of dealers. Similarly, Neilson et al., in 2008, states that a community-led anti-drug is effective in having a good working relationship with the community as the grass-roots of the problem.

It is noted, however, that some Barangays have an existing BADAC, but it is not fully functional and some barangays do not maintain a list and inventory of the drug personalities in their area, so the conduct of validation is not fully implemented. Atun, J., Mendoza, R., David, C., Cossid, & Soriano, R. (2019), in their study reveals the importance of policy adjustments that need to be made, including the role that local governments play in drug policy implementation.

Lastly, the third indicator that has obtained the highest mean as gleaned from Table 4 is strengthening the capacity of human resources that shall handle anti-drug operations with a mean of 3.23 interpreted as moderately implemented. This result implies that the BCPO-DEU continuously enhances and upgrades the capability of their men in handling anti-drug operations however, there is a lack of specific anti-drug specialization training courses offered. This implies that the PNP training services do not offer a specialization course for drug operatives which is needed for the drug enforcement unit operatives to enhance further their skills and knowledge beyond what is already provided under usual investigation and intelligence course. This was supported by the statement of the Police officer "A" and "D" that a special training course is absent specifically for drug operatives, unlike investigation and intelligence.

The indicator which has obtained the lowest mean as gleaned from Table 4 is the enhancement of inter-agency collaboration for effective anti-drug operations with a mean of 2.85 interpreted as moderately implemented. This result implies that some of the anti-illegal drug operations of BCPO-DEU are coordinated with other agencies, but it is limited. The findings could further imply that the BCPO-DEU had been ensuring the secrecy of intelligence information, the protection of the plan for the actual operations and the safety of the operatives and the civilian in the place. The operations performed therefore by the BCPO-DEU had not been done in partnership with other agencies involved in drug-related problems. They work in their capacity and capability relying mostly on their comrades and their assets in the Drug Enforcement Unit in most of their anti-illegal drug operations.

This situation could be attributed to the presence of some drug operations that are too sensitive and dangerous that giving information to other people or other agencies could lead to failure in its effective implementation. This could even lead to the death of the operatives and their assets during operation.

Similarly, Police officer "E" mentioned in an informal interview that they are limiting the information relative to drug operation considering its nature and the possibility that some could leak the information to the subject or another individual which can lead to botched operations and even loss of life among those in the operatives. This is supported by the statement of Hambrick and Cannella in 1989, which states that "the determination of strategic decisions in implementation needs a thorough analysis of the obstacles and internal and external risks the organization may face when implementing the strategy".

The second least implemented is on the conduct of undercover operations with a mean of 2.94 interpreted as moderately implemented. These findings imply that the BCPO-DEU makes use of undercover operations but not too often since it poses a significant threat to the safety of the personnel. The use of an undercover agent is the last resort because it is too dangerous and could place the life of the police officer at stake.

Given the unique characteristics of undercover work such as secrecy, prevention, temptation, immersion in criminal worlds, and entrapment, the tactic should generally be one of last resort. According to a retired be-medalled Police General, sacrificing your men in police operations is worthless even if the operation was successful. If there are casualties in operation, even one, then the operation is considered as a failure.

### **Comparison of the Level of Implementation of the Anti-Illegal Drug Supply Reduction Strategies of Baguio City Police Office According to Group.**

The comparison of the level of implementation of the anti-illegal drug supply reduction strategies of Baguio City Police Office according to the group shows that Since  $t(145) = -2.834$ ,  $p(.005) < .05$  then t-test for independent samples revealed that there is a significant difference in the level of implementation of the anti-illegal drug supply reduction strategies of Baguio City Police Office between the community and police. Specifically, the police officers gave a higher mean ( $M=3.26$ ) than the community ( $M=2.98$ ).

Table 2. *Comparison of the Level of Implementation of the Anti-Illegal Drug Supply Reduction Strategies of Baguio City Police Office According to Group*

Independent Samples Test										
		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Supply Reduction Strategies	Equal variances assumed	7.089	.009	-2.834	145	.005	-.27920	.09850	-.47388	-.08452

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Supply Reduction Strategies	Equal variances assumed	7.089	.009	-2.834	145	.005	-.27920	.09850	-.47388	-.08452
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.032	136.535	.003	-.27920	.09209	-.46130	-.09709

The result implies that the group of respondents has different perceptions regarding the implementation of the anti-illegal drug supply reduction strategies. This is because the police are the ones who are directly implementing the strategy while the community acts only as a support.

This result implies that there are things that the BCPO-DEU do which the community is not aware of since most of the anti-illegal drug supply reduction strategies involve police operation where the community cannot participate. Further, some information relative to the implementation of the strategy cannot always be relayed to the community considering the nature of operations.

The need for collaboration of the external and internal factors is pointed out by Llamas in 2009, states that *“Reducing the supply of drugs requires the collaborative participation of all levels of government including law enforcement, community and the health sector, industry and regulatory.”*

### **Level of Implementation of the Anti-Illegal Drug Demand Reduction Strategies of Baguio City Police Office**

The overall level of implementation of the anti-illegal drug demand reduction strategies of BCPO-DEU is moderately implemented with an overall weighted mean of 2.68.

The result implies that the BCPO-DEU had been aggressive in the implementation of strategies to reduce and cut-off the demand of drugs in the city by ensuring that people will not want to get in touch with illegal drugs. This aggressiveness can be attributed to the very basic purpose of drug reduction strategies which is to take people away from the lure of drug abuse.

*Table 3. Level of Implementation of the Anti-Illegal Drug Demand Reduction Strategies of Baguio City Police Office (N=147)*

Out of 25 Indicators	N	Mean	SD	Interpretation
<b>Indicators with highest Mean</b>				
1. Conduct sustained drug awareness activities through the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program.	147	3.05	.65515	MI



2. Conduct sustained drug abuse prevention advocacies in the community.	146	3.07	.70130	MI
3. Institute drug prevention measures/programs to ensure drug-free workplaces in all offices/units under the respective Area of Responsibility (AOR).	147	3.00	.73092	MI
<b>Indicator with lowest Mean</b>				
4. Enhance collaboration with concerned authorities on the impact of cyber-technology on trafficking in dangerous drugs and Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals (CPEC).	147	2.38	.98852	MI
<b>OVERALL MEAN</b>		<b>2.68</b>		<b>MI</b>

Interpretation: VMI-Very Much Implemented, MI-Moderately Implemented, SI-Slightly Implemented, NI-Not Implemented

As gleaned from Table 3, the anti-illegal drug demand reduction strategy that has obtained the highest mean is the conduct sustained drug abuse prevention advocacies in the community with a mean of 3.07 which is interpreted as moderately implemented followed by the conduct sustained drug awareness activities through the DARE program with a mean of 3.05 interpreted also as moderately implemented.

The result implies that the BCPO-DEU has conducted most of the sustained drug abuse prevention advocacies in the community. It means further that the BCPO-DEU, therefore, is committed to ensuring that the society is informed of the adverse effects and consequences of using, dealing and trafficking illegal drugs. The study of Tomaro, Q, & Mutiarin, D. (2018) reveals that the Philippine Government must capitalize on avenues to promote a sustainable and community-based Anti-Drug Campaign.

The DARE program is a joint effort between PNP, DEP Ed and members of the DARE. The BCPO adopted and reactivated the DARE program and have introduced reforms, operational set-up, policies, systems and priorities that will make the program be institutionalized for the protection of the youth against the scourge of illegal drugs in compliance with the demand reduction strategy of the BCPO. Tomaro, Q. P. V. (2018) reveals in his study that the respondents are willing to support the drug war in all levels of participation: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate, and Empower.

In a statement given by police officer "F," in an informal interview, they have been conducting regular drug abuse prevention advocacies in the community thru the use of tri-media, Facebook and posting of info-graphics relative to anti-illegal drugs but it is falling short of reaching all the public or the community as a whole.

According to Police officer "A," the BCPO has been aggressive in conducting series of seminars, training and information dissemination on the ill-effects of drugs to different schools from the barangay up to the higher educational institutions but still not all sectors of the society have been reached.

The importance of the information campaign is highlighted by Bean's (2008) that "media campaigns are an interesting preventive tool since it can reach large numbers of people." Coggans and Watsons (1995) in their study states that "*Drug reduction involves the provision of factual information and the development of attitude change to show the effects of drug use*".

The third anti-illegal drug demand reduction strategy that had obtained the highest mean is the indicator on institute drug prevention measures/programs to ensure drug-free workplaces in all offices/units under respective Area of Responsibility (AOR) with a mean of 3.00 interpreted as moderately implemented.

This means that the BCPO has prevention measures/programs instituted in offices within their area of responsibility. They conduct visitations, seminars, and forums to the different

workplaces reiterating them on the importance of sustained implementations of the policies on drug-free workplaces and that no member of the police force and other people will be involved in illegal activities.

The moderate implementation of the strategy as perceived by the respondents can be attributed to the mere fact that the other units mostly do the institution of measures/program for a drug-free workplace and that the role of the drug enforcement unit is on information sharing and recommendations on the possible measures/programs to the office.

The necessity of and substance of a drug-free workplace is described by Ed Poole, President OHS Health & Safety Services, Inc. According to him, " *Drug-Free Workplace Programs are about preventing employee drug-use in the workplace.* (Poole, n.d.).

The strategy that has obtained the lowest mean of 2.38 is the indicator-Enhance collaboration with concerned authorities on the impact of cyber-technology on trafficking in dangerous drugs and Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals (CPEC) interpreted as moderately implemented.

This implies that the BCPO-DEU is not that keen on collaborating with concerned authorities on the impact of cyber-technology on trafficking in dangerous drugs and CPEC. The BCPO-DEU, therefore, has challenges and problems in using cyber technology relative to cyber drug trafficking. The result further implies that the BCPO-DEU had not been coordinating with other units who can intercept the use of cyber technology in drug trafficking by the drug personalities who could do the link analysis on arrested individuals to different drug personalities.

This finding is because the BCPO-DEU has no assigned and trained Information Technology Expert at their unit and that the BCPO does not have a special unit to deal with the impact of cyber technology on drug trafficking. Relatively, the anti-cybercrime unit of the PNP was established only this year as a special unit to investigate and prosecute cyber-crimes.

As gathered during the interview with Police Officer "A", he said that "*the BCPO-DEU has been monitoring the suspected and arrested person profiles using the social media and most often, drug suspects have their networks or group chat using Facebook and other social media.*"

This statement is supported by the report made by BCPO-DEU, that most of the arrested persons on illegal drugs are transients in the city, renting rooms and moving from one hotel to another and that most of their transactions are through facebook, messenger, text messages and other social media.

Buxton and Bingham, 2015 revealed that previous academic research has heightened the perception that darknet drives criminality, depicting it as a haven for criminals to engage in criminal activities like the anonymous trading of illegal drugs via cryptocurrencies. Likewise, Horton-Edisson and Di Cristofaro in 2017 stated that these crypto-drug markets are serious concerns of law enforcement agencies in the world and they need to equip themselves to catch them. Similarly, Dolliver in 2015, and Owen and Savage in 2015 revealed that trading of illegal drugs is the most prevalent activity on the darknet.

### **Comparison of the Level of Implementation of the Anti-Illegal Drug Demand Reduction Strategies of Baguio City Police Office According to Group.**

#### **Independent Samples Test**

	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances	t-test for Equality of Means
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		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Differen ce	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Demand Reduction Strategies	Equal variances assumed	22.914	.000	2.036	145	.044	.24499	.12031	.00720	.48278
	Equal variances not assumed			2.259	143.979	.025	.24499	.10847	.03059	.45939

Since the statistical computations reflect that  $t(145) = 2.036$ ,  $p(.044) < .05$ , then there is a significant difference in the level of implementation of the anti-illegal drug demand reduction strategies of Baguio City Police Office-Drug Enforcement Unit as perceived by the police and the community. Specifically, the community members gave a higher mean ( $M=2.77$ ) than the police officers ( $M=2.52$ ).

The result means that the community and the police have different insights, and a gap is observed in the implementation of the anti-illegal drug demand reduction strategies of BCPO which need to be addressed. Although the overall mean is the same in its verbal interpretation as moderately implemented, there is a different perception mostly in the enhanced collaboration with concerned authorities on the nature and impact of cyber-technology on the trafficking of dangerous drugs and controlled precursors and essential chemicals.

#### **Relationship Between the Levels of Implementation of the Anti-Illegal Drug Supply Reduction Strategies on Supply and Anti-Illegal Drug Demand Reductions.**

The relationship between the levels of implementation of the anti-illegal drug supply reduction strategies on supply and anti-illegal drug demand reductions.

Since the computation reflect  $r=0.724$  and  $p(0.000) < .05$  there is a significant and positive relationship between the level of implementation of the anti-illegal drug supply reduction strategies and anti-illegal drug demand reduction according to the group.

Table 4. *Relationship Between the Levels of Implementation of the Anti-Illegal Drug Supply Reduction Strategies on Supply and Anti-Illegal Drug Demand Reductions.*

Correlations		
		Supply Demand Reduction Strategies
Supply Reduction Strategies	Pearson Correlation	.724
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	44.614
	Covariance	.306
	N	147
Demand Reduction Strategies	Pearson Correlation	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	74.313
	Covariance	.509
	N	147

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The findings as reflected by the computed values implies that anti-illegal drug supply reduction strategies and anti-illegal drug demand reduction strategies have a direct correlation and they affect each other. The more the anti-illegal drug supply reduction strategy is implemented well, the more the anti-illegal drug demand reduction strategies will also improve. It further implies that if the BCPO-DEU will intensify the implementation of the anti-illegal drug supply reduction strategies, the anti-illegal drug demand reductions strategies must also be strengthened. This means that anti-illegal drug supply reduction and demand reduction strategies supply reduction is implemented well, it tends to decrease drug sales and weaken suppliers, while demand reduction tends to reduce the wants and use of drugs. Degenhardt, L., Conroy, E., Day, C., Gilmour, S., & Hall, W. (2005) reveal that Supply and demand reduction measures, when both are implemented successfully, may be complementary. On the other hand, Meyers, M. A. (2000), states that *one strategy alone cannot eradicate street-level drug dealing and that, there is a need to develop a new strategy*. Relatively, Robelo, D. (2012) suggested *Alternative anti-illegal drug strategies to include Demand Redirections and Supply Regulation*. Moreover, Mason & Bucke in 2002 stated that a drug war that focuses disproportionately on supply reduction and demand reduction tends to strengthen and enrich rather than weaken the operations of drug syndicates. Greenfield, V. A., & Paoli, L. (2012) mentioned that *supply-oriented policy interventions are not just ineffective, but, in focusing almost exclusively on supply reduction produce unintended adverse consequences*.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Conclusion

The result of the study shows that since there is a positive gap in the perceptions of the respondents, the anti-illegal drug strategies of the Baguio City Police Office were not met. Hence, the peak of implementation has not been reached. That, increasing the rate of implementation decreases the gaps which in turn leads to improvement of performance. Intensifying the implementation of the anti-illegal drug supply reduction strategies will also improve the anti-illegal drug demand reduction strategies.

Relatively, the result of the study revealed that there is a need to address the pressing issues on the implementation of the inter-agency collaboration for effective anti-drug operations and the collaboration with concerned authorities on the nature and impact of cyber-technology on the trafficking of drugs and controlled precursors and essential elements.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings study, the researcher recommends the BCPO-DEU to have an assigned or trained Information Technology specialist at the BCPO-DEU must be assigned to conduct a link analysis on drug personalities and focus on the illegal activities of suspects who use Cyber technology and dark web in drug trafficking and illegal drug transactions. The PNP Training Service must establish a mandatory specialize training course specifically for Drug enforcement Unit Operatives. Lastly, an enhanced, balance and holistic implementation of the anti-illegal drug supply and demand reduction strategies having proper coordination with the PNP-CIDG Cyber Crime Unit, community, the private sector, the PDEA, NBI, and the Cybercrime Investigation and Coordination Center and Cyber Security Bureau of the Department of Information and Communication.

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