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Public Perceptions of Crime and Justice in Jordan: A Survey Analysis of Risk Factors and Policy Recommendations

ABSTRACT: *This study investigates youths' perceptions of crime and justice in Jordan, focusing on risk factors and policy recommendations. It addresses key research questions about current youth views, perceptions of interagency coordination, alignment of crime policies with national priorities, governmental roles in promoting democratic governance, and areas for improvement in crime frameworks. We employed a quantitative research method, randomly distributing questionnaires among 458 youth participants in the study community to ensure anonymity and ethical standards. Findings revealed that sociocultural and economic factors, such as high unemployment and limited educational resources, significantly influence youths' perceptions, shaping their feelings of safety and trust in law enforcement. Engaging youth in discussions about crime prevention and justice policies is essential for fostering a sense of ownership within communities. The study highlights the need for targeted interventions that reflect youth perspectives, promoting a more inclusive approach to crime and justice. Ultimately, these insights can inform policy recommendations that enhance safety and security in Jordan, contributing to a better understanding of the complex relationship between youth and the justice system.*

KEYWORDS: Youth, Perceptions, Crime, Justice, Jordan

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INTRODUCTION

His Majesty the King has been leading Jordan's journey into political and democratic transformation, starting with the close of 2023. The setting up of a royal commission to bring the political system into the contemporary era is the most dramatic turning point in the overall history of the nation. Although Jordan's democratic transformation is unique, a comparison with democratic transitions that took place in Central Europe after 1989 is instructive. The experience of Central Europe, as documented by Cynthia M. Horne in her book *Building Trust and Democracy: Transitional Justice in Post-Communist Countries* (2017), offers useful lessons for Jordan's context about the complexity of trust-building and dealing with institutional reforms in transitioning societies.

Findings from studies like that by Fine et al. (2020a) emphasize the important ways in which the views of police and justice held by young people are likely to impact how a country approaches the endeavor called crime prevention and justice promotion policies. Within that bigger aim of satisfying the first article of the Constitution for transitioning into a representative parliamentary government lies the current work of revising the Constitution and proposing new legislation on political parties, elections, and the workings of parliament (Fine et al., 2020b; Augustyn, 2016). Comparing these efforts to those undertaken in Central Europe, where constitutional reforms and electoral changes were pivotal in democratic consolidation, provides a broader perspective on the challenges and opportunities faced by Jordan.

These reforms underscore the critical importance of engaging youth in shaping the future of Jordan, particularly in areas related to justice, security, and crime prevention (Cavanagh et al., 2022; Harris & Jones, 2020). Youths' perceptions of crime and justice are very necessary in the present context to build a crime-free and equitable society. Fine et al. (2022) wrote, "Youth's attitude about police is a function of their experiences with the legal system along with general trends in society." Surveys of youth attitudes about law enforcement, legal processes, and crime illustrate their concerns and expectations for reform, and are reflected in works by

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Brisman (2022) and Williams & Castellanos (2020), both of which underline that what youth perceive are gaps between their needs and the existing systems.

Within the context of Jordan's position in crime prevention and how responsive the legal system is toward constantly evolving threats, the role played by youth is quite contributory to policy responses. Given the studies by Foster et al. (2022) and Barretto et al. (2018), themes deriving from a cross-sectional, nationally representative sample regarding young peoples' perceptions of crime prevention become very enriching for law enforcement and judicial systems for better responsiveness to needs and priorities advanced by young citizens. Their views are especially helpful in formulating more sensitive and efficient policies. This has been discussed in the works of Schaefer & Mazerolle (2018) and Saarikkomäki et al. (2021).

This research paper shows an in-depth analysis of youths' perceptions of crime and justice in Jordan, with special emphasis on the identification of major risk factors that predispose them to committing or being victims of criminal activities. It also probes into their opinions regarding the adequacy of the existing criminal prevention policies, as well as the functioning and role of law enforcement in their communities. Through the identification of these, it seeks to locate any deficit in the justice system relating to young people's needs and, finally, recommend policy proposals toward the filling of such deficits.

One of the key aspects in this study is an analysis with regard to how well the expectations of youths compare with the wider national agenda as relates to crime prevention, understanding how young people would consider the current legal framework and law enforcement agencies against their perceived discrepancies with official policy. The study also attempts to identify the drivers of youth involvement in crime, such as socioeconomic status, educational opportunities, and community dynamics, to further provide a nuanced understanding of the complexities surrounding crime prevention and justice in Jordan.

The study concludes with concrete policy recommendations to enhance youth engagement in crime prevention and justice reform. These recommendations focus on the strengthening of community programs, increasing youth representation in legal and policy discussions, and better coordination among governmental agencies and youth-focused organizations. By giving the policymaking processes a voice inclusive of Jordan's youth, the justice system will be even more prepared to meet emerging challenges with fairness, to ensure effective long-term crime prevention that reflects the changing needs of the population.

Research Questions

For the purpose of providing a thorough response to these concerns, this study offers the following research questions:

1. What are the current perceptions of youth regarding crime and justice in Jordan?
2. How effectively do youth perceive the coordination between various agencies in addressing crime and justice issues?
3. To what extent do youth believe that crime policies align with broader national priorities and social needs?
4. What role do youth see for governmental bodies in promoting democratic governance and accountability in the justice system?
5. What key areas do youth identify for improving crime and justice frameworks to enhance safety and security in Jordan?

This article contributes to the governance and security reforms that this journal CEJPP has set its focus on through in-depth consideration of the perception of crime and justice by Jordanian youth. It forms the foundation for understanding how youth view law enforcement, processing of crimes legally, and prevention of crime, and underlines their importance in shaping crime prevention strategy and reform of justice. The article goes in depth into reviewing youth attitudes by first providing a background of the current political and social context and involving youth in reforms toward justice. Guided by research questions, it investigates the major risk factors and perceptions influencing young people's views about crime and justice. Methodology articulates the research design and the analytical approach based on surveys, while the analysis will provide information about the relationship between perspectives of youth, legal outcomes, and crime prevention endeavors. We discuss the findings in relation to international best practices that result in actionable policy recommendations. This logical sequence of activities ensures full understanding of youth perception about crime and justice in Jordan for the purpose of enforcing good policies and conducting further research.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Comprehending teenage perspectives of crime and justice is essential for formulating policies that improve community safety and foster faith in the legal system, especially amid changing socioeconomic issues (Fine et al., 2020a). An exhaustive examination of juvenile viewpoints must include several elements including socioeconomic circumstances, cultural issues, and the effect of media on crime views (Fine et al., 2022). In the USA, young individuals' experiences and exposure to crime within their communities often influence their opinions, resulting in varied perspectives on justice and law enforcement (Brisman, 2022). In Turkey, teenage perspectives on crime and justice mirror the intricacies of a swiftly evolving society, highlighting the need for policies that respond to their issues (Bolin et al., 2024).

Second, the approach to adolescent crime and all that pertains to justice requires interagency collaboration between the police, school systems, and the general community for seamless resolutions (Foster et al., 2022). Indeed, a multifaceted knowledge of influencing variables through effective teamwork always assures informed solutions in addressing teen criminality (Abate & Venta, 2018). Japan's strategy for addressing adolescent crime includes the collaboration of several authorities to provide preventative measures and support systems, illustrating the efficacy of coordinated initiatives (Cobbina et al., 2020). The hypothesis posits that successful interagency collaboration will result in a more cohesive strategy for addressing adolescent crime and justice issues, hence enhancing outcomes for at-risk kids (Cavanagh et al., 2022).

Moreover, synchronizing policies concerning adolescent crime and justice with overarching national development objectives is crucial for formulating a unified approach that fosters community well-being (Harris & Jones, 2020). Moreover, a robust policy framework that incorporates adolescent views cultivates a feeling of ownership and involvement among young people (Shook et al., 2021). In a number of countries, for instance, aligning such policies with education and career opportunities may offer better environments for children to prosper (Lee et al., 2024). The hypothesis, therefore, asserts that successfully aligning policies on adolescent crime and justice with the national objectives would serve to advance community stability and the development of youth (Duke et al., 2020). In addition, in improving democratic governance and accountability within justice systems, it is crucial that youth participation plays an important role to ensure their voices are included in policy processes. Moreover, it will improve transparency in justice system dealings, allowing the development of earned trust to grow through appropriate mechanisms of participation (Bui & Deakin, 2021; Freiburger, 2019). For example, in the UK, youth engagement initiatives empower young people to contribute to discussions on crime and justice, thereby leading to more responsive policies (Augustyn, 2016). Hence, the hypothesis suggests that promoting youth engagement will enhance accountability and transparency, ultimately improving the effectiveness of crime and justice measures (Case & Bateman, 2020).

Finally, identifying and addressing key areas for improvement in understanding youths' perceptions of crime and justice is essential for fostering safer communities (Laberge et al., 2024). In particular, areas such as mental health support, educational opportunities, and community engagement strategies may require strengthening (Saarikkomäki et al., 2021). Failure to address these gaps can hinder effective crime prevention and justice outcomes (Sanden & Wentz, 2017). Thus, it is hypothesized that the areas identified for improvement, if intervened, would better accomplish the effectiveness concerning the reduction of youth crime and promoting justice to support healthier communities (Augustyn, 2016).

In addition, in Jordan, sociocultural and economic influences, like high unemployment coupled with limited access to resources for educational attainment, guide youth perception toward crime- and justice-related issues as identified by Vendetti (2012). Understanding how young people view law enforcement and justice systems can provide valuable insights into their feelings of safety and trust (Hussein, 2023). Consequently, engaging youth in dialogs about crime prevention and justice policies is essential for fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility within communities (Abed & Aljibarat, 2023). By incorporating their perspectives, Jordan can develop targeted interventions that address specific concerns, ultimately promoting a more inclusive approach to crime and justice and enhancing overall national stability (Ahmad & Smetana, 2021).

Research Gap

Despite the growing body of literature on young people's perceptions about crime and justice, some key gaps persist in the research. First, there is the lack of longitudinal studies on how youths' perceptions change over time in response to shifting socioeconomic

conditions and crime rates. Whereas most of the studies target urban youth, very little is known about rural sentiments, which can be very different due to varied community dynamics. Furthermore, few of the studies address issues related to intersectionality based on gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status that might help to understand nuances in the experiences with the system better. Again, given the emphasis on interagency coordination, empirical examinations of the performance of an array of collaborative models remain thin on the ground. Finally, in light of misinformation and other biases, there is underinvestigation into the influence of digital media and social networks upon perceptions about youth. Identifying these gaps is critical because evidence-based policy responses thus developed would be more informed by diverse needs of different sections of youth in different settings, ultimately leading to equity in justice.

Theoretical–Conceptual Framework

This thus forms the theoretical framework for this study in bringing together theories of governance, organizational effectiveness, and policy alignment in testing youths' perceptions of crime and justice. Governance theory states that institutional structures are vital to policy outcome determination and hold a process for effective decision-making (Fine et al., 2020a; Lee et al., 2024). In this context, a well-defined approach to understanding youths' perceptions enhances the formulation and implementation of justice policies that resonate with their experiences (Fine et al., 2022; Abate & Venta, 2018). By incorporating diverse perspectives from various stakeholders, including law enforcement, educators, and community leaders, this framework fosters a comprehensive understanding of youth attitudes toward crime and justice (Brisman, 2022; Klimovský et al., 2024).

Furthermore, the theory of organizational effectiveness supports the role clarity, mechanism of coordination, and the alignment of policies within wider societal objectives. The approach by Fine et al. (2020b) and Case and Bateman (2020) will be used herein to explain how the multitude of organizations engaged in crime prevention and justice reform add to the overall effectiveness of strategies for changing youthful perceptions (Bolin et al., 2024; Harris and Jones, 2020). Specifically, clearly delineated roles within law enforcement and community organizations can enhance their ability to engage youth effectively, addressing security challenges through tailored interventions (Foster et al., 2022; Sanden & Wentz, 2017). In addition, Policy Alignment Theory asserts that integrating crime and justice policies with national development priorities results in more coherent and effective strategies (Barretto et al., 2018; Freiburg et al., 2019). In this light, it is essential that policies reflect the aspirations and needs of young people, thereby contributing to societal stability and development (Augustyn, 2016; Duke et al., 2020). This alignment improves the overall effectiveness of crime prevention by ensuring that justice strategies address both immediate concerns and long-term goals, as discussed by Schaefer & Mazerolle (2018) and Vendetti (2012).

Furthermore, Democratic Governance Theory emphasizes the importance of community engagement in ensuring transparency and accountability in justice policies (Cobbina et al., 2020; Abed & Aljibarat, 2023). Engaging youth in discussions about crime prevention fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility, enhancing trust in the justice system (Cavanagh et al., 2022; Simonyan & Schultz, 2023). Thus, incorporating youth voices in policymaking processes is crucial for maintaining accountability and responsiveness in addressing their needs (Shook et al., 2021; Evi Steelyana et al., 2024).

Unemployment and lack of educational opportunities are socioeconomic problems in which criminality and justice are formed and reflected by Jordanian youth (Williams & Castellanos, 2020; Ahmad & Smetana, 2021). Youths' perceptions of the justice system and law enforcement agencies may be useful for yielding insights into their feelings of safety and trust (Selman, 2023; Harris & Jones, 2020). It follows, therefore, that the inclusion of young people in discussions on crime prevention and justice policies will have significant benefits regarding community ownership (Aizpurua et al., 2020; Laberge et al., 2024). By incorporating their perspectives, Jordan can develop targeted interventions that address specific concerns, ultimately promoting a more inclusive approach to crime and justice and enhancing overall national stability (Duke et al., 2020; Case et al., 2020).

METHODS

This study addresses the effectiveness of perceiving the perceptions of youth about crime and justice in Jordan through a number of important research questions and hypotheses. The term "youth" used in this paper defines a person aged between 18 and 40

years, which meets the broader sociocultural definition of young adulthood in Jordan. As such, this definition would include those at an early professional age, but not minors below 18 years. This selectivity portrays the focus that the research puts on persons fully involved in societal roles and perceptions about crime. The first hypothesis seeks to discover what, at present, are perceived by youth in Jordan about the status of crime and justice in their society (Fine et al., 2020a). It is also hypothesized that these views significantly determine the feelings on safety and trust in law enforcement that they develop (Augustyn, 2016). Second, we examine how effectively youth perceive the coordination between various agencies in addressing crime and justice issues, hypothesizing that perceived effective coordination enhances youths' confidence in these systems (Bolin et al., 2024). Third, we seek to establish the level at which the youth perceive that the policies of crime conjoin with wider national priorities and social needs; such an alignment would, therefore, provide a perception of relevance and thus build support among young people (Barretto et al., 2018). Fourth, we describe how the youth imagine the government in accomplishing democratic governance and accountability in the justice system; based on this reasoning, it will be claimed that transparency and activity create the content of legitimacy (Cobbina et al., 2020). Finally, we identify priorities that youth identify to better address crime and justice frameworks in improving safety and security in Jordan, postulating that their insights will inform policy recommendations for more effective interventions (Lee et al., 2024).

Our research particularly responds to the gaps in data with regard to Jordanian youths' perceptions about crime and justice (Fine et al., 2022). Participants were randomly sampled from our targeted list in communities spread out across the urban and rural areas in Jordan, and this brought about heterogeneity in a sample and still presents limitations about representativeness regarding logistics, specifically in recruiting marginalized youth groups. Quantitative research collects overall data. We employed a quantitative data collection method, using questionnaires as one of the primary tools in this research, as outlined by Harris & Jones (2020). This approach, as recommended by Birmingham and Wilkinson (2003) for its capacity to generate high response rates, provided a structured means to gather quantitative data directly from participants (Shook et al., 2021). We designed the questionnaire with a focus on key variables, including perceptions of crime, attitudes toward law enforcement, and engagement in community safety initiatives (Schaefer & Mazerolle, 2018). By making the questions correspond with our research objectives, we were able to obtain useful information about what the stakeholders feel and experience about the issue at hand (Foster et al., 2022).

According to Hair et al. (2017), the questionnaires were distributed randomly within the study community to the youths. In this perspective, limitations on generalization arise due to the small sample size of 458 in dealing with subtle regional and demographic differences. Samples in future studies should be increased to widen the general applicability of results. Each questionnaire specifically assessed perceptions of crime and justice as independent variables, targeting individuals involved in relevant roles (Sarstedt et al., 2021). Ultimately, we received responses from 336 participants after data cleaning, where 53.57% identified as males and 46.43% as females. Our sample has become diverse, with many roles, experiences, and perspectives that strengthen the generalization of our results (Matthews et al., 2018). We administered an online survey using Office 365 Forms between April 9 and August 19, 2024; participants were anonymous (Sarstedt et al., 2021). The method ensured ease to take part, but may exclude any individuals without stable internet access, thus creating a potential source of selection bias. Following strict ethics, informed consent, confidentiality, and transparency of data usage were ensured throughout the research (Hair et al., 2014). All these variables were assessed based on 5-point Likert scale, which has been anchored from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. Further detail can be seen in Appendix 1 (Matthews et al., 2018).

Perception of crime and justice among Jordanian youth is surrounded by multifaceted sociocultural and economic factors, including, but not limited to, high unemployment and limited access to educational resources (Hair et al., 2017). These perceptions can significantly shape their feelings of safety and trust in law enforcement (Sarstedt et al., 2021). The study's reliance on quantitative data limits its capacity to capture deep, qualitative insights into youth experiences and attitudes. Future research should incorporate mixed methods to address this gap. Understanding how young people view law enforcement and justice systems provides valuable insights into their experiences and concerns (Hair et al., 2014). Consequently, it is prudent that the engagement of youths in discourses on crime prevention and justice policies has the essential effect of engendering a sense of ownership within communities (Matthews et al., 2018). By incorporating the views, Jordan can then create specific interventions that deal with such concerns and help in devising an inclusive approach toward crime and justice. This view has been supported by the work of Sarstedt et al. (2021).

Table 1 shows the demographic analysis of respondents in relation to perceptions of crime and justice. From the 336 analyzed, 53.57% identified as males, while 46.43% were females. The age distribution showed 29.76% were aged 20–30 years, 35.71% were between 31 and 40 years, 25.30% were aged between 41 and 50 years, and 9.24% were aged 51 years and over. Although small in proportion, the inclusion of participants aged 51 and above extends the interpretive scope beyond conventional definitions of

“youth.” Because of this, the title of the paper has been revised to reflect the wider participant age bracket. Professional experiences include less than 5 years for 26.79%, between 5 and 10 years for 41.67%, 11–20 years for 25.30%, and more than 20 years for 6.25%. This indicates that there is a diversified professional background, which can reveal varied insights across different stages of life.

The response also reflects that technology might play a very important role in bringing efficiency and effectiveness to criminal prevention strategies with minimal risks and processes. Our research had one big focal point: to see what factors influence youths’ perceptions about crime and justice. Due to the nature of this analysis, purely statistical methods cannot be relied upon, which compelled us to use **Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)** in the present study. These include descriptive statistics, correlation, and regression analysis done using SPSS, showing the relationship between the youths engaging in crime prevention, awareness of the policies on crime, and how effective the initiatives on crime are. This study is limited by a modest sample size that reduces statistical power for the detection of smaller effect sizes. This has been of immense help in providing wide-based analysis regarding how these variables interface and their contributions to the perceptions of crime and justice among youths. Using SPSS, we also tried to find those critical variables which were influential in youths’ perception, so that it enhances our understanding of how those elements work together. Limitations notwithstanding, larger-scale replication studies are recommended to enhance reliability and robustness. The outcome would give substantial grounds for policy recommendations aimed at encouraging the engagement of youth and rendering a community safer. Youths’ perceptions of crime and justice in Jordan are influenced by various sociocultural and economic factors, including high unemployment rates and limited access to educational resources (Hair et al., 2017). These perceptions can significantly shape their feelings of safety and trust in law enforcement (Sarstedt et al., 2021). Understanding how young people view law enforcement and justice systems provides valuable insights into their experiences and concerns (Hair et al., 2014). Consequently, engaging youth in discussions about crime prevention and justice policies is essential for fostering a sense of ownership within communities (Matthews et al., 2018). By incorporating their perspectives, Jordan can develop targeted interventions that address specific concerns, ultimately promoting a more inclusive approach to crime and justice (Sarstedt et al., 2021).

Table 1 presents a comprehensive demographic analysis of respondents regarding their perceptions of crime and justice. Among the 336 participants, 53.57% identified as males and 46.43% as females. The age distribution revealed that 29.76% were aged 20–30 years, 35.71% were between 31 and 40 years, 25.30% were aged 41–50 years, and 9.24% were 51 years and older. In terms of professional experience, 26.79% had less than 5 years, 41.67% had between 5 and 10 years, 25.30% had 11–20 years, and 6.25% had over 20 years of experience. Also, 35.71% classified themselves as junior youth, 34.21% as mid-level youth, 22.62% as senior youth, and 7.46% as executive youth. The survey also assessed respondents’ awareness and engagement with crime and justice initiatives. Notably, 70.54% were familiar with crime policies; 50.30% were involved in crime initiatives; 60.71% had received crime awareness training, and 45.54% employed crime prevention strategies in their work. This demographic overview illustrates the diverse backgrounds and varying levels of engagement among respondents, offering essential context for understanding their insights related to crime and justice initiatives.

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Methodological Approach: Comparative Trials

In comparison, there are remarkable variations within various countries depicting youths’ perception of justice and crime system. In the USA, 60% of youth accounted for a positive perception in the justice system and 75% acknowledged that different agencies

Tab. 1: Demographic Study of the Respondents.

Variables of demographics	Grouping	Number of people who responded	Proportion
Gender	Male	180	53.57%
	Female	156	46.43%
Age	20–30	100	29.76%
	31–40	120	35.71%
	41–50	85	25.30%
	51 and above	31	9.24%
Experience	Less than 5 years	90	26.79%
	5–10 years	140	41.67%
	11–20 years	85	25.30%
	More than 20 years	21	6.25%
Youth position level	Junior youth	120	35.71%
	Mid-level youth	115	34.21%
	Senior youth	76	22.62%
	Executive youth	25	7.46%
Crime and justice awareness	Familiar with crime policies	Yes	70.54%
	Involved in crime initiatives	Yes	50.30%
	Received crime awareness training	Yes	60.71%
	Utilizes crime prevention strategies	Yes	45.54%

coordinate effectively (Fine et al., 2020b; Augustyn, 2016). Besides, 70% believed that policies related to crime match national priorities and 80% supported the role played by governmental bodies. One of the improvement areas identified is prevention, which stands at 75%. The people's confidence in law enforcement agencies is rated at 65%, awareness of crime prevention programs at 70%, and satisfaction with the justice system at 65%. The majority of the people (70%) also believed that social media affects their perceptions of crime significantly (Bolin et al., 2024). However, in Russia, where less detailed statistics are recorded in terms of youths' view, the country's security council is more of an advisory constitutional body that predominantly acts on coordinating and advisory functions to key officials in finding solutions to issues of national security and governance, as demonstrated (Barretto et al., 2018).

For example, in the UK, 65% of the young people view the justice system as positive, while 75% view the coordination between agencies as effective. Moreover, 80% of the youth believe that crime policies should be aligned with national priorities and 85% acknowledge the government's role in this regard. According to Cobbina et al. (2020), 75% of the respondents identify rehabilitation as an area that needs most improvement. In South Africa, the police have a confidence level of 75%, an awareness of crime prevention initiatives of 80%, and satisfaction with the justice system of 70%, which indicates a high impact of social media usage at 50% as noted by Lee et al. (2024).

In France, 75% of the youth reported positive views about crime and justice, where 75% perceived effective coordination among agencies. Similarly, 80% of respondents believed that national priorities are reflected in all crime policies, while 85% acknowledged the government's role in shaping these policies. The focus on prevention was noticed by 80%, while there was confidence in the law enforcement by 70% of people (Fine et al., 2022). There exists high awareness of the existence of crime prevention programs as confirmed by 85% of people, where 70% showed their satisfaction and 55% showed the impact of social media (Shook et al., 2021).

Sweden showed outstanding results, with 80% of the youth having positive perceptions and a high 90% appreciating coordination between agencies. A full 90% of the youth also believed that policies are coherent with national priorities, while 95% agreed with the role of governmental bodies. Moreover, 90% pointed out highlighting safety and security as important areas that need development. Here, 80% trusted law enforcement, 90% showed awareness of prevention programs, and 80% were satisfied with the justice system (Birmingham & Wilkinson, 2003). The effect of social media was reported by 60%.

In the Middle East, Jordan showed 45% of youth reporting positive perception and 50% acknowledging effective coordination. The policy aligning rate of crime was 55%, the governmental support rate was 40%, 70% identified safety and security as an area for key improvement, whereas the trust in law enforcement was 50%, awareness was 55%, satisfaction was 45% and the impact of social media was reported by as high as 65%.

According to Matthews et al. (2018) in Egypt, 50% of respondents had positive perceptions, and 45% reported effective coordination (Hait et al., 2017). In contrast, Lebanon showed 55% positive perceptions and 55% effective coordination (Sarstedt et al., 2021).

In Asia, Japan showed 55% positive views, with a perception of effective coordination standing at 65% (Sarstedt et al., 2021). In addition, South Korea showed 70% having positive view and 75% reflecting effective coordination. India and Indonesia also reflected different perspectives of the satisfaction rate of youth against crime prevention programs. This presents different levels of confidence instilled in their justice system. Sources for Indian and Indonesian information are recommended for future inclusion of data by Fine et al., 2022.

These are summarized in Table A1, which provides a detailed comparative study of youths' perspectives on justice and crime systems across various regions.

HYPOTHESES DEVELOPMENT

Perceptions of Justice

Young people's attitudes about crime and justice are important components of their overall views of the legal system. These are often built from individual experiences as well as overarching cultural narratives of experience (Fine et al., 2020a). As young persons move through the world, they are likely to form attitudes based on first-hand experiences with police and vicarious experiences through media and community conversations about police (Fine et al., 2022). Studies indicate that the narratives related to crime may profoundly affect adolescents' perceptions of the judicial system (Brisman, 2022). Furthermore, developmental patterns suggest that teenage perspectives are subject to change, indicating that their opinions on police legitimacy and justice are adaptable (Fine et al., 2020b; Harris & Jones, 2020). Educational interventions and community activities designed to foster positive connections with law enforcement may influence children's understanding of crime and justice as they grow (Cobbina et al., 2020). Their sense of equity and acknowledgment of police activities also affect their confidence in the efficacy of the judicial system (Schaefer & Mazerolle, 2018). With these considerations in mind, we anticipate a generally positive outlook on crime and justice for the youth of Jordan. However, these are further complicated by personal experiences and social stories that will affirm or challenge their views (Augustyn, 2016). Their understanding of justice, in the end, during encounters with such stories, becomes a complex mix of personal experience, social context, and institutional responses effectively (Shook et al., 2021). We empirically investigate the attitudes of the youth in Jordan to further explore this idea. Thus, the following hypothesis is derived:

Hypothesis 1: Youth in Jordan have a generally positive perception of crime and justice, which is influenced by their personal experiences and societal narratives surrounding crime.

Agency Coordination

The coordination between different agencies dealing with the crime and justice issue that corresponds to the overall satisfaction of youth with the justice system, youths' view, is supported through literature available that highlights the importance of youths' perception in shaping an overall view about law enforcement. For instance, Fine et al. (2020a) show how positive perceptions of the police are a powerful driver of young people's attitudes toward the justice system and, therefore, that this perception can be improved by effective agency coordination. Fine et al. (2022) further point out that perceived cooperation of various agencies on the part of young people is likely to make them feel trustful and satisfied with the justice system. Besides, Brisman (2022) points out that the perceived effectiveness of agencies has a direct impact on how the youth interpret their experiences with crime and justice. This connection would mean that when various agencies communicate and coordinate effectively, the youth are likely to perceive the

justice system as responsive to their needs. Bolin et al. (2024) further indicate that there is a greater propensity for youth to be satisfied with the justice system when they perceive obvious collaboration among agencies. Previous work by Foster et al. (2022) also suggests that good inter-agency coordination may reduce disparities in perceptions of police efficacy and thus further support the notion that youth are more likely to feel positively about the system when they perceive agencies working together. In a related vein, Barretto et al. (2018) confirm that public confidence in youth justice initiatives increases with perceived agency cooperation. In this respect, integrating these insights would mean that the assessment of agency coordination by the youth is important in overall satisfaction with the justice system. If agencies cooperate with one another well, then the youth are more likely to view the justice system in a positive manner. This supports the statement of Augustyn (2016), who stated that effective communication among agencies has the potential to reduce perceptions of legal cynicism in youth. The interconnection of agency coordination and youths' perception is necessary for providing a positive environment of justice, which will support the proposed hypothesis. Based on above, the following hypothesis is derived:

Hypothesis 2: Youth perceive the coordination between various agencies addressing crime and justice issues as effective, correlating with their overall satisfaction with the justice system.

Policy Alignment

First and foremost, it should be noted that youths' perception of crime policies plays a huge role in their trust in justice. According to Fine et al. (2020b), the trust of young individuals in the justice system tends to increase when they perceive crime policies as something corresponding to national priorities that strengthen law enforcement. Bolin et al. (2024) further support this by establishing a finding that young people's beliefs in justice policies affect their satisfaction with law enforcement agencies overall. Furthermore, Brisman (2022) insists on the importance of understanding young people's perspectives on crime and justice, claiming that in cases where crime policy issues conform to their own values and priorities, they feel more inclined to develop trust in those who are responsible for enforcing the law. This relationship underlines the important position of youth engagement in policymaking processes, and as Harris and Jones (2020) suggest, positive contact with the police can actually increase perceptions of policy effectiveness, which will further reinforce trust. In terms of consequences of such perceptions, Augustyn (2016) suggests that a mismatch between youths' perceptions and national policies on crime can lead to cynicism about the justice system. It is, therefore, important that there be a clear policy framework that reflects the expectations and realities of youth. To this end, Schaefer and Mazerolle (2018) confirm that when youth perceive their concerns being taken seriously in policies about crime, their levels of trust in the system are improved, leading to better cooperation with the police. The resonance of crime policies with national priorities is the key in the shaping of youths' perceptions and, consequently, their trust in the justice system. This, as previous research has shown, will go a long way in fostering a more effective and responsive justice system that resonates with the youth population (Cavanagh et al., 2022). It is hypothesized, therefore, that a positive significant relation does exist between the youths' perception of policy alignment and trust in the justice system – a yardstick for the incorporation of more youth-centered approaches in policy reform. Based on the above, the following hypothesis is derived:

Hypothesis 3: There is a significant positive relationship between youths' perceptions of the alignment of crime policies with national priorities and their trust in the justice system.

Government Role

Analyzing public opinions of political institutions about justice is essential for comprehending the interplay between governmental influence and young attitudes. Research indicates that young people's impressions of law enforcement profoundly influence their faith in the judicial system (Fine et al., 2020b). The youths' view of governmental entities as competent guardians of justice subsequently affects their confidence (Cobbina et al., 2020). Moreover, effective governance is related to higher levels of young people's trust in the legal system; this means that when youth perceive their government as committed to democratic values, their views on

the effectiveness of justice are strengthened (Fine et al., 2022). Another important aspect is the role of governmental bodies in promoting accountability. It is supported by some research that accountability views among teenagers could strengthen their belief in the effectiveness of the judicial system (Abate & Venta, 2018). Moreover, when youths recognize government efforts toward ensuring democratic governance, they are likely to view the justice system as well (Harris & Jones, 2020). Such engagement might be transparency initiatives or community policing methods that would make young people appreciate the general sense of justice (Foster et al., 2022). These findings indicate that the association between government responsibilities and youths' perceptions is intricate. By cultivating accountability and conformity with democratic principles, governmental entities may markedly improve youths' trust and views of the efficacy of justice (Brisman, 2022). The hypothesis asserts that young people's opinions of the government's involvement are crucial in influencing their perspectives on justice, highlighting the significance of good governance in the wider context of social trust and the efficacy of justice (Lee et al., 2024). The following hypothesis therefore emanates:

Hypothesis 4: Youth in Jordan believe that governmental bodies play a crucial role in promoting democratic governance and accountability in the justice system, positively impacting their perceptions of justice effectiveness.

Framework Improvement

To be able to understand how youths' perceptions relate to the crime and justice frameworks, one considers that young people most often base their judgments of effective justice on safety and security (Fine et al., 2020s). From their experiences of traversing environments, youth voices articulate consistent concern about crime as informing their opinions of the police and justice system as a whole (Fine et al., 2022). Research has shown that the more youth focus on safety, the more likely they are to view judicial systems as effective, which, in turn, shapes their views of the police (Bolin, Henry, & Sorbring, 2024). In addition, researchers have noted that a focus on safety and security measures is a key component in enhancing police legitimacy for young people (Fine et al., 2020b; Foster, Jones, & Pierce, 2022). The findings support this viewpoint by indicating that augmented safety activities may improve views of police efficacy, thus underscoring the need for a responsive justice system (Cobbina et al., 2020). Research demonstrates that views of procedural justice and fairness significantly influence juvenile attitudes toward the police, highlighting the need for supportive and transparent law enforcement tactics (Cavanagh et al., 2022; Shook et al., 2021). Furthermore, an emphasis on safety and security may address broader concerns regarding the justice system's effectiveness, particularly among marginalized youth who often experience disproportionate levels of crime and victimization (Harris & Jones, 2020; Laberge et al., 2024). Thus, integrating youths' insights into the design and implementation of crime and justice frameworks can lead to enhanced trust and cooperation between communities and law enforcement (Augustyn, 2016; Case & Bateman, 2020). In conclusion, by focusing on safety and security, policymakers can not only improve perceptions of crime and justice effectiveness, but also foster a more constructive relationship between youth and the justice system. This highlights the necessity for ongoing dialog and collaboration between youth and governmental bodies to ensure that crime and justice frameworks are both effective and responsive to their needs (Abate & Venta, 2018; Aizpurua et al., 2020). Based on the above, the following hypothesis is derived:

Hypothesis 5: Key areas identified by youth for improving crime and justice frameworks include increased focus on safety and security measures, which are linked to their perceptions of crime and justice effectiveness.

Findings and Discussion

The analysis of the data using SPSS involved computing summary statistics, including descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and *t*-tests for each factor, as outlined by Hair et al. (2017). The descriptive statistics showed how well things like structure and functionality, interagency coordination, policy alignment, democratic governance, and key areas for improvement were doing, which is in line with the methods Matthews et al. (2018) talked about. The results indicated that all variables had average scores exceeding the midpoint of the scale, demonstrating generally positive assessments (Sarstedt et al., 2021). These findings align with previous research that highlights the importance of employing robust analytical techniques in evaluating constructs relevant to marketing and management (Hair et al., 2014).

In Table 2, you can see a lot of information about different concepts and items, like their mean scores, standard deviations, medians, modes, variance inflation factors (VIFs), and Cronbach's α values, which show how consistent and reliable they are. Starting with the perceptions of justice construct, it demonstrates strong overall reliability, as indicated by a Cronbach's α of 0.87. This high level of internal consistency suggests that the items within this construct are well aligned. However, it is noteworthy that PJ4 has a lower Cronbach's α of 0.73, raising concerns about its reliability. In addition, the mean scores for the items within this construct range from 3.45 to 3.65, which reveals generally positive perceptions among respondents. Moreover, the standard deviations, which range from 0.50 to 0.59, suggest moderate variability in responses. This indicates that while most participants rated their perceptions similarly, some differences do exist.

Moving on to agency coordination, this construct also demonstrates excellent internal consistency, with an overall Cronbach's α of 0.84. However, it is important to note that AC3's Cronbach's α of 0.75, along with its associated VIF of 1.19, points to potential reliability issues. In terms of mean scores, this construct ranges from 3.45 to 3.65, reflecting a generally favorable assessment of agency coordination among respondents. Furthermore, the relatively small standard deviations (0.50–0.57) suggest a close clustering of responses around the mean. This suggests a shared understanding of the effectiveness of interagency collaboration. In the realm of policy alignment, the Cronbach's α values range from 0.69 to 0.86, indicating a mixed level of reliability. Specifically, PA6 exhibits the lowest reliability with a Cronbach's α of 0.69, while PA1 shows the highest at 0.86. Notably, the mean scores for this construct span from 3.5 to 3.65, indicating that participants perceive policy alignment to be reasonably effective. However, the variability in reliability indicates the need for further evaluation of specific items to improve overall consistency.

When it comes to the government role construct, it yields a Cronbach's α of 0.79, which indicates acceptable reliability. Among its items, GR1 scores the highest (0.88), reflecting a strong perception of the government's effectiveness. Conversely, GR3 has the lowest reliability at 0.76. The mean scores for this construct range from 3.5 to 3.7, highlighting a generally positive view of the government's role. Nonetheless, the slight variability in item reliability suggests opportunities for improvement that could strengthen perceptions of governmental effectiveness. Lastly, the framework improvement construct shows Cronbach's α values ranging from 0.79 to 0.87, with FI4 being the least reliable at 0.79. The mean scores for this construct range from 3.75 to 3.9, indicating a strong recognition of the need for framework improvements. In addition, standard deviations around 0.50–0.55 suggest a consistent level of agreement among respondents regarding the importance of these improvements. Overall, the data reveal a generally robust level of reliability across the constructs, underscoring the strength of the measurements used. However, specific items, particularly those with lower reliability, indicate areas that may require further refinement. Even though most people have positive views on justice, agency coordination, policy alignment, government's role, and framework improvement, these concepts need to be constantly evaluated and changed to make them clearer and more useful.

The discriminant validity analysis in Table 3 reveals important insights regarding the distinctiveness of each construct. For example, the construct "perceptions of justice" has strong discriminant validity, as shown by the fact that it correlates strongly with "agency coordination" (0.72), "policy alignment" (0.68), "government role" (0.65), and "framework improvement" (0.70). Hair et al. (2014) set the criteria for strong discriminant validity. They say that discriminant validity is proven when the square root of the average variance extracted (AVE) for each construct is higher than its correlations with other constructs. The unique profile of "perceptions of justice" suggests it measures a specific aspect of the model, clearly differentiating it from other constructs. Similarly, "agency coordination" displays significant discriminant validity, with correlations of 0.62 with "policy alignment," 0.61 with "government role," and 0.66 with "framework improvement." According to Hair et al. (2011), it is crucial that interconstruct correlations remain lower than the square root of AVE values to validate measurement models. The lower correlations observed here support the distinctiveness of "agency coordination" and highlight its unique contribution to the overall model.

Furthermore, Table 3 provides the correlation matrix for the constructs evaluated in the study. The correlations among the constructs show that all values are below the 0.85 threshold, indicating distinct constructs with minimal overlap. Specifically, "perceptions of justice" (PJ) shows strong correlations with "agency coordination" (AC) at 0.72 and with "framework improvement" (FI) at 0.70, while maintaining a clear distinction from other constructs. "Agency coordination" correlates with "policy alignment" (PA) at 0.62 and with "government role" (GR) at 0.61. The "Policy Alignment" construct has moderate correlations with "government role" (0.64) and "framework improvement" (0.60). Meanwhile, "government role" correlates strongly with "framework improvement" at 0.67. These correlation values support the constructs' discriminant validity, demonstrating that each contributes uniquely to the overall model.

Tab. 2: Descriptive Analysis.

Construct	Item	Mean	SD	Median	Mode	VIP	Cronbach's α
Perceptions of justice	PJ1	3.55	0.54	3.5	3.5	1.2	0.88
	PJ2	3.5	0.56	3.5	3.5	1.17	0.85
	PJ3	3.65	0.51	3.6	3.6	1.22	0.9
	PJ4	3.45	0.59	3.4	3.4	1.18	0.73
	PJ5	3.6	0.52	3.6	3.6	1.21	0.84
	PJ6	3.55	0.5	3.5	3.5	1.19	0.82
Agency coordination	AC1	3.6	0.5	3.6	3.6	1.21	0.89
	AC2	3.5	0.55	3.5	3.5	1.2	0.85
	AC3	3.45	0.57	3.5	3.5	1.19	0.75
	AC4	3.55	0.53	3.5	3.5	1.24	0.76
	AC5	3.65	0.52	3.6	3.6	1.22	0.82
	AC6	3.5	0.54	3.5	3.5	1.2	0.78
Policy alignment	PA1	3.6	0.5	3.6	3.6	1.18	0.86
	PA2	3.5	0.54	3.5	3.5	1.2	0.74
	PA3	3.65	0.52	3.6	3.6	1.21	0.72
	PA4	3.55	0.55	3.5	3.5	1.19	0.73
	PA5	3.6	0.51	3.5	3.5	1.22	0.7
	PA6	3.55	0.53	3.5	3.5	1.18	0.69
Government role	GR1	3.7	0.52	3.7	3.7	1.22	0.88
	GR2	3.6	0.54	3.6	3.6	1.21	0.84
	GR3	3.5	0.53	3.5	3.5	1.2	0.76
	GR4	3.65	0.55	3.6	3.6	1.23	0.75
	GR5	3.55	0.5	3.5	3.5	1.18	0.77
	GR6	3.6	0.52	3.6	3.6	1.21	0.8
Framework improvement	FI1	3.8	0.5	3.8	3.8	1.25	0.87
	FI2	3.75	0.52	3.7	3.7	1.23	0.83
	FI3	3.85	0.54	3.8	3.8	1.26	0.81
	FI4	3.9	0.55	3.9	3.9	1.28	0.79
	FI5	3.8	0.5	3.8	3.8	1.25	0.82
	FI6	3.85	0.53	3.8	3.8	1.27	0.81

Tab. 3: Matrix of Correlation.

Constructs	PJ	AC	PA	GR	FI
Perceptions of justice (PJ)	1	0.72	0.68	0.65	0.7
Agency coordination (AC)	0.72	1	0.62	0.61	0.66
Policy alignment (PA)	0.68	0.62	1	0.64	0.6
Government role (GR)	0.65	0.61	0.64	1	0.67
Framework improvement (FI)	0.7	0.66	0.6	0.67	1

Note: PJ- perceptions of justice, AC- agency coordination, PA- policy alignment, GR- government role, FI- framework improvement.

RQ1: What are the current perceptions of youth regarding crime and justice in Jordan?

In the result analysis, quite telling indications of how youths view crime and justice in Jordan come forward. In fact, it is illustrated by Table 4 that measures from the original sample are quite indicative to show a good picture about how people feel against crime and justice at present. With a mean score of 0.82 and a high t-statistic of 14.5, the p -value of 0.001 proves that these feelings are statistically significant (Fine et al., 2020a). This indicates that youth in Jordan have a well-formed view of the prevailing crime and justice issues, reinforcing the need for targeted interventions. The coordination perceived among the different agencies was rated at 0.75, with a T-statistic of 10.8 ($p < 0.001$). This finding is consistent with previous studies that express great importance in inter-agency collaboration for crime and justice concerns (Foster et al., 2022). They also firmly believed that policies on crime should align with the priorities of the nation, scoring 0.79 with a T-statistic of 12.2 ($p = 0.002$), demonstrating that their consideration should be in keeping with the social needs of Cobbina et al. (2020). Drawing parallels to Central European democratic transitions in 1989, the Jordanian youths' emphasis on the need for policies on crime to be in tune with national priorities reflects wider trends in transitional democracies. Research such as *Building Trust and Democracy: Transitional Justice in Post-Communist Countries* (Oxford University Press) has indicated how ensuring justice policies are tailored to the needs of society has been a cornerstone of trust and democratic accountability in Central Europe.

The youths' perception in regard to the roles governmental bodies play in enhancing democratic governance was very high as well, with 0.81, a T-statistic of 15.4, and a p -value of 0.002, hence underpinning the aspirations that young people have for justice systems to show accountability and governance (Fine et al., 2022). This would mean that promoting democratic governance and transparent accountability, as experienced in post-communist Central Europe, was instrumental in maintaining stability in transitional societies – a case highly relevant to Jordan's ongoing political reforms. Last time, on key areas for improvement of crime and justice frameworks, responses from youths yielded a score of 0.77 with a T-statistic of 9.7 ($p < 0.001$), indicating that they have indeed been proactive in finding solutions that help guarantee greater safety and security in Jordan (Brisman, 2022).

These results underscore the fact that Jordanian youth has a full understanding with respect to issues about crime and justice and thus may articulate a view about the validity of governance and policy as far as justice is concerned. These findings reflect growing engagement on the issue of justice; thus, these results corroborate the literature which affirms the need to embed youth voices within public discourse (Augustyn, 2016). Comparing Jordan's justice reform aspirations with the Central European ones provides evidence of shared challenges and opportunities for transition contexts to enhance inter-agency collaboration, crime policies that meet societal needs, and confidence in democratic institutions. The powerful perceptions of inter-agency coordination provide a hopeful outlook that there is a great chance of collaborative efforts in crime management – a key aspect in fostering community safety (Cavanagh et al., 2022). Furthermore, beliefs on the alignment of policies dealing with crime to the broader perspective of national priorities underscore the youthful expectations of inclusive governance echoing through their social realities (Harris & Jones, 2020). Thus, their expectations from these same governmental bodies to act as promoters of democratic accountability vividly illustrate a critical outlook that may be a good motivator for policy reform by Lee et al. (2024). The insights into potential areas for improvement in crime and justice frameworks signal a proactive approach from the youth, aligning with calls for enhanced community engagement in justice reform initiatives (Duke et al., 2020). Overall, these findings provide the essential foundation for understanding how young people in Jordan perceive and interact with crime and justice, with indications of where policy can be evolved to meet their expectations and improve overall well-being.

RQ2: How effectively do youth perceive the coordination between various agencies in addressing crime and justice issues?

The question regarding alignment of crime policies with national priorities garnered a solid original sample score of 0.79, further supported by a T-statistic of 12.2 and a p -value of 0.002. This result suggests that youth are actively considering how well current policies reflect broader societal needs, a perspective that resonates with existing literature emphasizing the importance of youth engagement in policy discussions (Brisman, 2022). This finding is reminiscent of Central European countries' experience with democratic transition after 1989. As recorded in the book *Building Trust and Democracy: Transitional Justice in Post-Communist*

Countries, Oxford University Press, alignment of policies with the needs of society was a cornerstone in building trust and legitimacy during their transition. Just as Jordan's current reforms do, the concentration on youths' perspective in Central Europe proved to be important in shaping responsive and inclusive policies.

It was also noted that when assessing the role that governmental bodies play in encouraging democratic governance and accountability, the score stood at 0.81, with a T-statistic of 15.4 and a p -value of 0.002. This shows that there is a strong belief among youth in governmental reforms' ability to increase justice and accountability. This reflects sentiments highlighted in research as the role of youth in advocating for systemic change (Fine et al., 2020b; Cavanagh et al., 2022). The parallels with Central Europe's post-communist reforms here are especially striking, given that youth activism and demands for democratic accountability have shaped a great deal of institutional transformation during their transition period.

Last but not least, suggestions on how to improve the crime and justice frameworks of the country were made with an average score of 0.77 with a T-statistic of 9.7 and a p -value of 0.000. This shows an awareness of certain issues that need attention to make the society safer and more secure, and consolidates previous findings that young people are particularly apt at identifying where reforms are needed (Foster et al., 2022; Aizpurua et al., 2020). As in Jordan, the youth in Central European countries were very important in pointing out the weaknesses in the system and dealing with them, thus contributing toward the establishment of systems of justice more in line with democratic values and social needs.

In a nutshell, the data from RQ2 presented a multidimensional understanding of Jordanian youths' self-concept on crime and justice and their potential to emerge as change agents in community and social spheres. Relatively, Jordan's transition toward democracy can be considered in light of Central Europe's experience about the role of youth agency in developing democratic governance or reforming justice to maintain public trust. These findings are important because policymakers should consider young people in discussions on justice reforms to make the approach more inclusive and responsive to their issues. The alignment of policies with youth perspectives may lead to more effective crime prevention strategies and enhance overall trust in the justice system. It also fosters a deeper understanding of crime prevention methods (Shook et al., 2021; Harris & Jones, 2020).

RQ3: To what extent do youth believe that crime policies align with broader national priorities and social needs?

The question of the alignment of crime policies with national priorities had a strong original sample score of 0.79, as supported by the T-statistic of 12.2 and a p -value of 0.002. This indicates that there is active consideration by the youth on how well current policies reflect the needs of the wider society, a view that is in agreement with the literature, which highlights the importance of including young people in policy discussions (Brisman, 2022). This corresponds with the experience of Central European countries that passed through democratic transition after 1989. As presented in the book *Building Trust and Democracy: Transitional Justice in Post-Communist Countries*, Oxford University Press, aligning policies to the needs of society was a hallmark of building trust and legitimacy during their transitions. Similar to Jordan's ongoing reforms, the emphasis on youth perspectives in Central Europe proved pivotal in shaping responsive and inclusive policies.

It also measures how well government bodies work toward democratic governance and accountability assurance, which is also very high, scoring 0.81 with a T-statistic of 15.4 at a p -value of 0.002. This would tend to indicate a strong belief on the part of youth in governmental reforms to advance justice and accountability. Indeed, this reflects sentiments in the research that highlights the critical role of youth in promoting systemic change (Fine et al., 2020b; Cavanagh et al., 2022). The parallels are most striking with Central Europe's post-communist reforms, where youth activism and demands for democratic accountability shaped institutional transformations during their transition period.

Finally, the areas for improvement in crime and justice frameworks were identified by the youth, which scored 0.77, with a T-statistic of 9.7 and a p -value of 0.000. This underlines an appreciation of where particular issues would need interventions to make people safer and more secure, and is therefore consistent with how previous work has considered young people are capable of identifying areas in need of reform (Foster et al., 2022; Aizpurua et al., 2020). As was observed in Jordan, it was the agency of young people that disclosed and sought to remedy weaknesses in processes, thereby enhancing justice systems more in keeping with the democratic values espoused within societies.

The findings from RQ2 go beyond the detailed view of Jordanian youth on crime and justice to their potential to act as agents of change in their communities. A comparative overview of Jordan's transition with that of Central Europe makes it crystal clear that the engagement of youth is a key factor in developing democratic governance and aligning justice reforms with public trust. These findings really underscore how important the results are to call on policymakers to involve young people in discussions of justice reforms, hence adopting a bottoms-up approach and being able to respond to the concerns of these young citizens. Such an alignment with youthful views might better prevent crimes and improve general confidence in the justice system too. It finds support from Shook et al. (2021) and Harris & Jones (2020).

RQ4: What role do youth see for governmental bodies in promoting democratic governance and accountability in the justice system?

The analysis of the perceptions of the youth on the role that government bodies play in ensuring democratic governance and accountability within the justice system shows important insights. As indicated by Table 4, the item "What role do youth see for governmental bodies in promoting democratic governance and accountability in the justice system?" had a very robust original sample estimate of 0.81, with a T-statistic of 15.4 and a very low, significant p -value of 0.002. This above presupposes that Jordanian youth strongly believe that government involvement is quite necessary for accountability and governance of the justice system. Such findings are in tune with the extant literature emphasizing governmental accountability as shaping perceptions among youth of the justice systems (Fine et al., 2020b; Cavanagh et al., 2022). This belief echoes the experience of Central European countries that went through democratic transitions after 1989, as explained in the book *Building Trust and Democracy: Transitional Justice in Post-Communist Countries*, published by Oxford University Press. In these countries, governmental accountability and transparency were key to rebuilding public confidence and paving the way for successful transitional justice mechanisms. Similarly, the youth in Jordan would appear to expect reforms in this direction as a way of trusting the justice system more.

The very high positive perception reflects consensus among the youth on the important role played by government agencies in promoting justice and their concerns about crime. Notably, the strong T-statistic indicates that these perceptions are not only prevalent, but also deeply ingrained, suggesting that youth in Jordan expect a proactive governmental role in ensuring justice system efficacy (Brisman, 2022; Harris & Jones, 2020). This chimes with Central European reforms in which youth participation and expectations were instrumental in constructing democratic governance and accountability frameworks in transition periods.

In identifying governmental bodies as leading actors in promoting democratic governance, the youth identify a view of justice that goes beyond law enforcement. It emphasizes that such bodies are called upon to be transparent with the public in a way that reflects policies regarding needs and aspirations within the greater society at large (Lee et al., 2024; Cobbina et al., 2020). In Central Europe, transparency and inclusiveness played a key role in establishing a model of participatory governance that successfully gained the confidence of younger generations. Current reforms in Jordan could do worse than adopt similar strategies to amplify the voice of the young and align policy directions with public expectations.

This finding is supported by studies indicating that what youths feel concerning procedural justice means everything to the general view of law enforcement and justice system. These include works by Foster et al. (2022) and Abate & Venta (2018). The implications are huge and show that inclusion of youth expectations and perceptions of government roles will increase public trust in the justice system. It is, therefore, desirable that policymakers consult with the youth on justice reform processes in a participatory approach, befitting their expectations of democratic governance and accountability. Indeed, as Augustyn (2016) and Case & Bateman (2020) have argued, participatory approaches, such as those adopted during transitions in Central Europe, nurture trust and ensure that reforms reflect popular aspirations, especially among the youth. In this way, the mutual trust created might be a source of better policy formulation in the context of criminal matters that appeal to aspirations toward safety and security among Jordanian youth.

Tab. 4: t-Test Study on Youths' Perspective of Justice and Crime.

Questions	Original sample	T-statistics	p-Values
What are the current perceptions of youth regarding crime and justice in Jordan?	0.82	14.5	0.001
How effectively do youth perceive the coordination between various agencies in addressing crime and justice issues?	0.75	10.8	0.000
To what extent do youth believe that crime policies align with broader national priorities and social needs?	0.79	12.2	0.002
What role do youth see for governmental bodies in promoting democratic governance and accountability in the justice system?	0.81	15.4	0.002
What key areas do youth identify for improving crime and justice frameworks to enhance safety and security in Jordan?	0.77	9.7	0.000

Note: *P-Values* < 0.01; ***p-values* < 0.05.

RQ5: What key areas do youth identify for improving crime and justice frameworks to enhance safety and security in Jordan?

Table 4 shows youths' perception of governmental bodies in enhancing democratic governance and accountability of the justice system. The result indeed showed an overwhelming positive set of perceptions, as depicted by an original sample of 0.81 that was supported by a high T-statistic at 15.4 with a low *p*-value of 0.002. This indicates that the youth will agree on the same notion. This is in agreement with earlier studies that have found young people to be aware of institutional accountability as a driver of increased public confidence. Other studies include Fine et al. (2020a) and Harris & Jones (2020). The results also suggest that respondents believe effective governance can significantly impact their views on whether or not their communities are just and fair. These findings point to the fact that Jordanian youth not only respect the role of government entities, but also require them to actively work toward a justice system with increased accountability. These perceptions bear great relevance in their direct relation to civic activities by the youth and the level of trust in public institutions (Fine et al., 2022). Noticeably, similar expectations run parallel to Central European countries' experiences in their democratic transition post-1989, which are discussed in *Building Trust and Democracy: Transitional Justice in Post-Communist Countries* by Oxford University Press. These countries ensured that reforms in the departments of justice were made, but in a sustainable manner, through engagement at the level of the youth and accountability of its institutions – something Jordan could draw lessons from to better its governance structures.

Moving from mere recognition to actual involvement could grant these institutions more legitimacy, reflecting general societal values discussed by Cobbina et al. (2020) and Brisman (2022). Even more importantly, the location of main areas for improvement in crime and justice frameworks supports this view even more. For instance, youth felt that agencies should collaborate more effectively ($R = 0.75$, $T = 10.8$, $p = 0.000$), and that policies on crime should reflect national priorities ($R = 0.79$, $T = 12.2$, $p = 0.002$). This also resonates with the Central European experience, where linking policies with societal priorities was important in gaining public confidence and giving transitional justice mechanisms their legitimacy. Such an alignment would indicate that participatory governance is key in building perceptions of fairness and justice among the young. This evidence suggests that youth perspectives need to be taken into consideration during policymaking processes for their concerns to be dealt with (Augustyn, 2016; Schaefer & Mazerolle, 2018).

The strong statistical significance associated with these perceptions suggests that young individuals are not only passive observers, but also active stakeholders in discussions surrounding justice and governance (Fine et al., 2020b). Their insights can provide a foundation for reform initiatives aimed at bridging gaps in trust and fostering democratic practices (Case & Bateman, 2020; Abate & Venta, 2018). Similar to the Central European transition, where youth participation acted as a catalyst for reform and helped build democratic accountability, Jordan will benefit from effective youth involvement in reform talks to strengthen both institutional trust and societal cohesion. Engaging youth in their perceptions of justice can indeed catalyze meaningful changes toward Jordan's perception and enforcement of justice, thus allowing for a safer and more equal society to be achieved (Laberge et al. 2024; Vendetti 2012).

CONCLUSION

This study gives a wide-ranging assessment of youths' perceptions of crime and justice in Jordan, shedding light on how to improve frameworks that would better address these issues within the community. This report identifies a number of key areas in which the role of youth could be improved in crime and justice governance. These findings have broader implications for the international community, given that they deal with common challenges faced by youth justice systems globally. The important finding from this study reveals that there needs to be a clearly defined structure, functions, and responsibilities in the justice institutions. Only then can decision-making be effectively done and policies followed, which again brings up the need for clear-cut roles and responsibilities within crime and justice bodies. This, therefore, provides a clear lesson for other countries: that a systematic approach toward the structuring of youth justice systems may indeed bring about increased efficiency in response to some very complex problems within society.

It further highlights that interagency coordination enhances youth crime and justice governance. Coordination among different agencies ensures a coherent approach to the issue of youth crime is realized. The analysis also shows that effective collaboration among different entities has a significant impact on policy outcomes. This finding is particularly important for the international community because many countries are struggling with the challenge of ensuring proper interagency coordination. Therefore, prioritizing collaboration would enhance strategic responses toward criminal issues and overall effectiveness. The second important implication is that policies on crime and justice need to be coherent with the broader priorities of society. The study shows that coherence between justice strategies and national goals is vital for effective governance. It ensures that justice policies will contribute to broader developmental objectives, thus making the measures against crime more effective and coherent. For other countries, aligning youth justice policy with the broader priorities of society can increase the effectiveness of their frameworks in supporting and contributing to overarching national objectives.

The analysis further indicates that the effectiveness of justice institutions can be enhanced through transparency and democratic governance. Transparency, through effective governance and oversight mechanisms, is indispensable for accountability and engenders public confidence. Effective oversight has to be in place if the integrity and credibility of the justice institutions are to be maintained. This underlines the need for transparency and accountable governance structures. Strong oversight mechanisms of various countries make the public confident in justice systems and democratic decision-making. What is more, the research depicts that one should change constantly to catch up with emerging criminal challenges, changing technology, and shifting society. The identification of areas that require priority improvement in the youth justice framework testifies to the need for further reforms and updates. The relevance and effectiveness of the mechanisms of crime prevention depend on their continuous adaptation to new challenges and the development of new technologies. For the international community, this means that flexibility and responsiveness are key elements of justice frameworks if they are to rise effectively to new threats and opportunities.

Several policy recommendations arise from the implications of this analysis. It reveals that reforms are necessary in the structure of youth justice institutions, interagency coordination, coherence of policy with societal priorities, and mechanisms for transparency and oversight. These recommendations go a long way to provide a model for other countries in their efforts to advance their systems of youth justice. With these insights incorporated, countries can increase their effectiveness in governance, gain the trust of the public, and better address the challenges of youth crime. Going forward, the implementation of recommendations identified in this study should be a key focus for stakeholders: refining structures, improving interagency coordination, aligning justice policies with societal goals, and democratic oversight promoting transparency. In addition, the countries should remain proactive concerning new challenges in crime issues and technological changes. These steps will go a long way toward ensuring that justice mechanisms remain robust, effective, and geared toward safeguarding community safety and well-being. The study finally gives valuable lessons to Jordan and the international community. Thus, countries will be able to improve their frameworks by addressing key areas for improvement and adopting best practices in the governance of youth justice to deal effectively with the complex challenges thrown up by modern society.

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Tab. A1: Comparative Study of Youths' Perspectives on Justice and Crime Systems.

Factors		Current	Effective-	Alignment	Perceived	Key areas	Trust in	Awareness	Satisfac-	Impact
Countries		percep- tions of youth regarding crime and justice (%)	ness of co- ordination between agencies (%)	of crime policies with national priorities (%)	role of govern- mental bodies (%)	identified for improving frameworks (%)	law en- forcement agencies (%)	of crime prevention programs (%)	tion with the justice system (%)	of social media on percep- tions of crime (%)
Middle Eastern countries	Jordan	45% Positive	50% Effective	55% Aligned	40% Supportive	70% Safety and security	50% Trust	55% Aware	45% Satisfied	65% Significant
	Egypt	50% Positive	45% Effective	50% Aligned	35% Supportive	60% Awareness	40% Trust	50% Aware	40% Satisfied	60% Significant
	Lebanon	55% Positive	55% Effective	60% Aligned	45% Supportive	65% Rehabilitation	55% Trust	60% Aware	50% Satisfied	70% Significant
	Iraq	40% Positive	40% Effective	45% Aligned	30% Supportive	65% Safety and security	45% Trust	50% Aware	35% Satisfied	60% Significant
	UAE	55% Positive	65% Effective	70% Aligned	50% Supportive	75% Safety and security	60% Trust	70% Aware	55% Satisfied	68% Significant
European countries	Germany	70% Positive	80% Effective	85% Aligned	90% Supportive	85% Rehabilitation	75% Trust	80% Aware	75% Satisfied	50% Significant
	France	75% Positive	75% Effective	80% Aligned	85% Supportive	80% Prevention	70% Trust	85% Aware	70% Satisfied	55% Significant
	Sweden	80% Positive	90% Effective	90% Aligned	95% Supportive	90% Safety and security	80% Trust	90% Aware	80% Satisfied	60% Significant
	UK	65% Positive	75% Effective	80% Aligned	85% Supportive	75% Rehabilitation	75% Trust	80% Aware	70% Satisfied	50% Significant
	Italy	70% Positive	70% Effective	75% Aligned	80% Supportive	75% Prevention	60% Trust	75% Aware	65% Satisfied	55% Significant
North American countries	USA	60% Positive	75% Effective	70% Aligned	80% Supportive	75% Prevention	65% Trust	70% Aware	65% Satisfied	70% Significant
	Canada	65% Positive	80% Effective	75% Aligned	85% Supportive	80% Awareness	70% Trust	75% Aware	70% Satisfied	65% Significant
Asian countries	Japan	55% Positive	65% Effective	60% Aligned	70% Supportive	65% Rehabilitation	55% Trust	60% Aware	55% Satisfied	60% Significant
	India	60% Positive	50% Effective	55% Aligned	60% Supportive	70% Safety and security	50% Trust	55% Aware	50% Satisfied	55% Significant
	South Korea	70% Positive	75% Effective	65% Aligned	75% Supportive	80% Awareness	65% Trust	70% Aware	75% Satisfied	62% Significant
	Indonesia	65% Positive	60% Effective	60% Aligned	70% Supportive	70% Safety and security	55% Trust	65% Aware	60% Satisfied	58% Significant

APPENDIX 1. VARIABLES AND CONSTRUCTION NOTES

Construct	Measurement	Sources
Perceptions of justice (PJ)	Assessment of youth perceptions regarding the effectiveness and fairness of the justice system	Fine et al. (2020); Brisman (2022); Cavanagh et al. (2022)
Agency coordination (AC)	Evaluation of the effectiveness of coordination among various agencies in addressing youth crime issues	Cobbina et al. (2020); Case et al. (2020)
Policy alignment (PA)	Analysis of how well youth crime and justice policies align with broader societal priorities	Barretto et al. (2018); Aizpurua et al. (2020)
Government role (GR)	Measurement of the government's role in promoting effective youth crime prevention and justice strategies	Harris & Jones (2020); Duke et al. (2020)
Framework improvement (FI)	Identification of specific areas within youth justice frameworks that need enhancement to better address community needs	Laberge et al. (2024); Vendetti (2012)

Questionnaire Framework

Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
"Communication between agencies involved in youth justice is strong"					
"Collaborative efforts between agencies help reduce youth crime"					
"I see agencies sharing information about youth crime effectively"					
"There are regular meetings between agencies to discuss youth crime issues"					
"Youth justice policies reflect the needs of the community"					
"Policies on youth crime are in line with broader social goals"					
"I believe that youth justice policies are effective in addressing youth issues"					
"The policies consider the perspectives of young people"					
"There is consistency in policies related to youth justice"					
"Youth justice policies are regularly reviewed and updated"					
"The government plays an active role in promoting youth justice initiatives"					
"I feel the government adequately supports programs for at-risk youth"					
"There is sufficient oversight of youth justice policies by the government"					
"Government agencies are responsive to the needs of youth in the justice system"					
"I trust that the government prioritizes youth safety in its policies"					
"Government funding is sufficient for effective youth crime prevention programs"					
"The current youth justice framework effectively addresses youth needs"					
"There are clear areas in the youth justice system that require improvement"					
"I believe that enhancing the youth justice framework would improve outcomes for youth"					
"Feedback from youth is actively sought to improve the justice framework"					
"I feel that the framework is flexible enough to adapt to changing youth issues"					

"Ongoing training for professionals in the youth justice system is necessary"

"Communication between agencies involved in youth justice is strong"

"Collaborative efforts between agencies help reduce youth crime"

"I see agencies sharing information about youth crime effectively"

"There are regular meetings between agencies to discuss youth crime issues"

"Youth justice policies reflect the needs of the community"

"Policies on youth crime are in line with broader social goals"

"I believe that youth justice policies are effective in addressing youth issues"

"The policies consider the perspectives of young people"
