

An Analysis of the impact of Gauteng Traffic Wardens (GTWs)

Zola Innocentia Mantenta and Lesedi Dlamini

Gauteng Department of Community Safety

Street Address: 25 Pixley Seme Street Johannesburg, 2001

Corresponding Author: Zola Innocentia Mantenta

ABSTRACT: Crime prevention and law enforcement remain central to ensuring public safety in Gauteng, South Africa (GDSCS, 2024). In response to increasing crime rates, the Gauteng Provincial Government introduced the Gauteng Traffic Wardens (GTWs) initiative in October 2022 (GDSCS, 2024). This article aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the GTWs in enhancing police visibility, reducing crime rates and fostering safety in communities, particularly in Townships, Informal Settlements and Hostels (TISH) areas. Following a mixed-method approach, this study examined the impact of GTWs on detection by analysing SAPS crime statistics before and after their deployment. Additionally, semi-structured interviews were conducted with five cluster heads of the GTW programme to explore its challenges and operational dynamics. Findings indicated that GTWs have significantly improved crime detection rates. However, the initiative faces several challenges, including insufficient resources, inadequate training and community resistance. While GTWs have successfully contributed to crime prevention, crime displacement has been observed, with criminal activities shifting to suburban areas where the GTWs are not deployed. The following recommendations are made to maximise the programme's long-term effectiveness in the province emphasising the expansion of the GTW deployment, providing specialised training and strengthening collaborative engagement.

KEYWORDS: Gauteng Traffic Wardens (GTWs), Crime prevention, Police visibility, Gauteng, South Africa

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I. INTRODUCTION

Public safety remains a critical mandate of the Gauteng Department of Community Safety (GDSCS), which is responsible for monitoring police performance and fostering community partnerships to combat crime (GDSCS, 2022). Since its establishment in 2004, the GDSCS has implemented various strategies to enhance law enforcement capacity, including optimising resource allocation and improving police visibility (GDSCS, 2015). In October 2022, Premier Panyaza Lesufi reaffirmed the province's commitment to fighting crime by launching the Gauteng Traffic Wardens (GTWs) initiative, deploying 7,361 trained recruits to high-crime areas, including townships, informal settlements, and hostels (Kempen, 2023).

Crime prevention efforts in South Africa have long faced challenges such as limited police resources, strained community-police relations and increasing criminal activity in high-risk areas (Minnaar, 2012). Traditional law enforcement, while crucial, has struggled with these issues, necessitating innovative approaches such as GTWs deployment to strengthen crime prevention (NCPS, 1996; WPSS, 1998). Research suggests that targeted police visibility in crime hotspots is more effective than general patrols, as it disrupts criminal activity and enhances public safety (Abt & Winship, 2016). By integrating technology, community partnerships and focused patrols, GTWs aim to complement SAPS efforts and improve crime detection, particularly in drug-related offences, illegal firearm possession and driving under the influence. However, concerns such as resource constraints, training gaps and crime displacement to non-GTW areas have been raised (Lesufi, 2023).

The escalating crime levels in Gauteng have led to the implementation of proactive policing strategies, with the deployment of Gauteng Traffic Wardens (GTWs) as part of a broader crime-fighting strategy by the provincial government (GDSCS, 2023). These wardens play a dual role: ensuring visible policing to deter criminal activity and engaging in crime prevention initiatives such as community education and by-law enforcement (Final Draft Report, 2024). Despite their presence, concerns about their operational effectiveness persist, particularly regarding their jurisdiction, training, and collaboration with SAPS, especially in high-crime areas (GDSCS, 2023). This article aims to assess the impact of the GTWs, the challenges they face and the potential improvements needed in law enforcement strategies within Gauteng.

1.1 The aim of the article

The aim of this article is to assess the impact of the GTWs in Gauteng province.

1.2 Research objectives

This article sought to address the following objectives:

- To measure the impact of GTWs on reducing crime in targeted areas,
- To evaluate the effectiveness of the deployment of GTWs,
- To determine performance monitoring mechanisms for the GTWs,
- To determine the skills and capabilities of the GTWs, and
- To examine the challenges faced by the GTWs.

II. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

While the study provides valuable insights into the deployment and impact of Gauteng Traffic Wardens (GTWs) in crime prevention, several limitations were identified. These limitations were related to data inconsistencies and reporting discrepancies. Some reports submitted to the Premier's Office contained conflicting information whereby the corridor names were not aligned with the corresponding data. For instance, the heading would indicate one corridor (e.g., Northern Corridor) while the data referred to a different corridor (e.g., Eastern Corridor). Moreover, crime categories were ambiguously grouped, such as cases being recorded as "illegal firearm/dagga" with a combined arrest count, making it difficult to disaggregate specific offences which complicated the analysis. Additionally, inconsistencies in the reported deployment of Gauteng Traffic Wardens (GTWs) required researchers to conduct independent calculations. Variations in reporting formats such as arrests being recorded as percentages in some corridors and raw numbers in others further complicated data analysis. Lastly, SAPS crime statistics lacked uniformity, with priority stations data missing for quarter 2, limiting the ability to track the crime trends across all reporting periods.

III. METHODOLOGY

This article adopted a convergent parallel mixed methods research design, which involves the independent collection and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). This approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under investigation by integrating different perspectives and validating findings through multiple data sources (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). By employing this design, the study assessed the impact of GTWs since their deployment in the province. Additionally, the use of both primary and secondary data sources ensured triangulation, enhancing the reliability and depth of the analysis (Hassan, 2024).

In this paper, the qualitative component focused on semi-structured one-on-one interviews with five (5) corridor cluster heads overseeing different corridors, allowing for an in-depth exploration of their experiences and perspectives (Flick, 2015). While the quantitative aspect involved analysing secondary SAPS crime data from the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 financial years, providing measurable insights into crime trends and patterns.

3.2 Data collection

The study utilised semi-structured interviews to gather qualitative data, ensuring a structured yet flexible approach that allowed for deeper engagement with participants (Harrell & Bradley, 2009). A semi-structured interview is a qualitative method of inquiry that combines a predetermined set of questions to explore themes or participants' responses (Flick, 2015). Moreover, purposive sampling was employed to select five (5) Corridor Cluster Heads who possess direct knowledge and experience with GTWs.

On the other hand, to gather quantitative data, the study used secondary data from SAPS crime statistics (2022/2023 and 2023/2024) to assess the impact of GTWs on crime detection, reviewed presentations made to the Premier's office, examined the progress and impact of GTW deployment since its inception.

3.3 Data analysis

The qualitative data was analysed using thematic analysis, where interview transcripts were coded to identify key themes related to the implementation and effectiveness of the GTWs (Sarantakos, 1998; Caulfield, 2019). The quantitative data was examined through comparative analysis, focusing on how the crimes detected because of police action fluctuated across quarters in 2022 and 2023, before and after deployment of the GTWs.

This study adopted a convergent parallel mixed methods design, collecting and analysing qualitative and quantitative data independently to provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of Gauteng Traffic Wardens (GTWs) in the province (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). Qualitative data was obtained through semi-structured interviews with five purposively selected corridor cluster heads which enabled an in-depth exploration of their experiences and perspectives (Flick, 2015). While quantitative data comprised secondary SAPS crime statistics from the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 financial years, along with official government presentations related to GTW deployment, progress and impact, to assess changes in crime detection before and after GTW deployment.

Moreover, thematic analysis was used to identify key themes in the qualitative data (Sarantakos, 1998; Caulfield, 2019), while comparative analysis examined fluctuations in crimes detected through police action across quarters in 2022 and 2023, before and after deployment of the GTWs. Ethical considerations included informed consent, participant confidentiality, and adherence to the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), 2013.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Qualitative findings

This section presents the qualitative findings derived from semi-structured interviews conducted with participants involved in the programme, highlighting key themes that emerged through thematic analysis. The findings provided insights into the programme's implementation, the roles and experiences of GTWs, the programme's impact, required skills, factors influencing its effectiveness and the challenges they encounter.

4.1.1 Programme Implementation

The participants indicated that the Gauteng Traffic Police (GTP) are responsible for managing the GTW programme, utilising their skills to supervise, deploy and monitor wardens in TISH areas that previously lacked adequate policing. According to participants, wardens are deployed in their own communities. They also mentioned that GTP officials convene daily parades, allocate vehicles efficiently and handle administrative tasks. Participants further highlighted that the implementation of the programme also involves providing guidance, sharing expertise and conducting continuous performance monitoring.

4.1.2 The relationship between the GTWs and the targeted communities

Participants emphasised that the programme is effectively implemented within the intended communities, largely due to targeted deployment in TISH areas. They reported that community members generally respond positively to the presence of GTWs, expressing gratitude and a sense of safety. Some participants noted that the GTWs have inspired local residents, with some even aspiring to join the programme. According to participants, the community appears to trust the GTWs more than the SAPS. This is demonstrated by the sensitive information communities share with GTWs, such as the whereabouts of drug dealers and illegal firearms.

The participants added that while some community members cooperate closely with GTWs, others have shown hostility including incidents of stone-throwing and violence. One participant recalled a serious incident in Sedibeng where community members hurled stones at GTWs during a patrol, resulting in a Warden being injured and hospitalised. Consequently, participants expressed the view that the same communities who value the GTWs can also become a source of threats.

4.1.3 Role and responsibilities of the GTWs

Participants revealed that GTWs are unable to perform their duties because they are yet to be certified as peace officers. Although the official recruitment advert outlined responsibilities such as crime prevention, arrests, attending to complaints, maintaining law and order, and traffic control (GDCS, 2023), participants noted that these duties are not yet fully carried out.

Participants also reported that GTWs assist SAPS during Operation Shanyela through activities such as roadblocks and stop-and-search procedures. Participants also mentioned that GTWs increase visibility in TISH areas through foot patrols and perform point duty, including helping children cross the roads during peak hours, for instance, from 07:00 am to 08:00 am.

Additionally, participants stated that GTWs are deployed to public spaces such as malls and during social grant collection periods to ensure the safety of vulnerable groups. While they cannot effect an arrest as peace officers, participants noted that GTWs may conduct citizen's arrests under Section 42(1)(a) of the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977, which permits any person to arrest someone they reasonably suspect of committing a Schedule 1 offence, such as murder, robbery, assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, or the possession of an unlicensed firearm. In such cases, the GTW's role would be to detain the suspect until SAPS officers arrive to take over the matter in accordance with legislative procedures. The participants added they also assist SAPS in taking statements, appear as witnesses in court and help with cell inspections by searching inmates for dangerous items.

4.1.4 Required skills for Gauteng Traffic Wardens

Participants noted that GTWs possess the necessary skills to carry out their duties and are supported by competent supervisors from the GTP and South African Police Service (SAPS). However, they emphasised the need for continuous training to keep abreast of evolving crime trends. Participants highlighted specific training needs such as advanced training for operating high powered vehicles, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), firearm handling, crowd management and improved knowledge of policies and legislation to avoid civil lawsuits.

Additionally, participants emphasised the importance of drone operation training for both GTWs and their supervisors, as current knowledge gaps hinder effective oversight.

Some participants raised concerns about inconsistent professionalism among cohorts. They noted that earlier groups often displayed poor discipline, such as arriving late for parades and not adhering to dress code standards. In contrast, the third cohort was viewed more positively due to the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) training.

4.1.5 Factors enhancing implementation and effects of the programme

Participants highlighted several factors that have strengthened the implementation of the GTWs programme. Collaboration with Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and other stakeholders, including SAPS and GTP plays a key role in the programme's effectiveness. They mentioned that ongoing engagement between agencies has strengthened the implementation process. According to participants, GTWs have become an essential force multiplier for SAPS. Moreover, participants noted that crime rates have declined and communities feel safer since the GTWs' involvement. It was alluded that local municipalities, such as Emfuleni in the Southern Corridor, actively request GTW support during events such as the Sharpeville Human Rights Day Celebration. The GTWs assist in maintaining peace and order, hence, no incidents were reported at such events. Additionally, the change from a day shift to a 24-hour system was seen as a major improvement, increasing the wardens' visibility at night and helping the community feel safer during vulnerable hours as noted by the participants.

On the other hand, participants identified two main effects of the programme, noting that it has contributed towards reducing unemployment and addressing crime. Participants noted that the initiative has provided jobs to many previously unemployed young people in Gauteng, helping them support their families while contributing to crime prevention efforts.

In terms of crime reduction, participants stated that GTWs have helped create safer communities, particularly in TISH areas. They mentioned that crimes that previously took SAPS years to solve are now resolved more quickly due to the visibility and presence of the Wardens. Some participants noted that even vulnerable groups now feel safer moving around, and criminals tend to avoid areas where GTWs are stationed. However, participants also pointed out a displacement of crime, with incidents shifting from TISH areas to suburban areas, which are largely covered by private security rather than GTWs.

4.1.6 Tracking of programme performance

Participants stipulated that several tools are used to monitor the GTWs' performance. These includes the station's Occurrence Book (OB), Wardens' pocketbooks and feedback forms that highlight the successes of each shift. They also mentioned that supervisors conduct daily visits to assess wardens' performance and conduct.

Additionally, participants mentioned the use of Push To Talk (PTT) radios to verify that wardens are stationed where deployed. They indicated that achievements and updates on the GTWs' performance are presented weekly during District Crime Combating Forum (DCCF) meetings, where deployment strategies and crime statistics are also discussed.

4.1.7 The challenges faced by the GTWs

Participants identified several challenges that hinder the effectiveness of the GTWs. One major concern is the shortage of vehicles, which makes it difficult to transport Wardens to deployment sites. For instance, they highlighted that only 300 of the 500 wardens requested for Human Rights Day were deployed due to limitations with transport.

Participants also noted a shortage of supervisors to manage the GTWs. Additionally, participants highlighted that supervisors currently rely on personal devices and data for operational communication via WhatsApp, which creates difficulties in coordinating activities effectively". Uniform shortages were raised, whereby some wardens received the wrong sizes and others have only one set, making it difficult to maintain cleanliness across shifts.

Moreover, inconsistent and delays in stipend payments were also reported as a major issue. Another concern noted by the participants was inadequate training in areas such as SWAT, crowd management, pepper spray use and general professionalism which affects their operational effectiveness.

Confusion around the GTWs role was also raised by the participants, stating initially they were called Crime Prevention Wardens (CPWs) which made it clear to them that they focused on crime prevention. However, the name change to GTWs created ambiguity, raising questions as to whether their primary responsibility should be crime prevention or road safety posing a challenge regarding clear task allocation.

Participants highlighted that the initial resistance from SAPS officers to work with the GTWs also posed challenges, for instance, in the Western Corridor, the Cluster Head had to report the situation to the District Commander because tensions between SAPS and GTWs were becoming unmanageable. However, with time and engagement from leadership, SAPS officers began to acknowledge the GTWs' contributions and started working

collaboratively. Moreover, it was mentioned that the delays in issuing peace officer certificates have further limited the wardens' ability to operate fully.

Lastly, concerns about professionalism were observed, with participants reporting a lot of incidents on misconduct, including assault, tardiness, misuse of blue lights, and reckless driving. Additionally, relationships with communities were described as inconsistent, with periods of both support and rejection of the wardens.

4.2 Quantitative findings

This section presents the quantitative findings derived from a comparative analysis of crime statistics at Gauteng's priority stations. The analysis focused on evaluating the impact of the GTWs by examining crime statistics before and after their deployment, as well as arrests made with their assistance across different corridors. The findings aim to quantify the programme's influence on crimes detected as a result of police action. Notably, the data revealed a positive trend in crime reduction and increased arrests across the three quarters following the deployment of GTWs, indicating the programme's potential contribution to enhanced law enforcement outcomes.

4.2.1 The deployment of GTWs across corridors

Figure 1 below illustrates the distribution of GTWs across different police stations within each corridor.

Figure 1: Deployment of GTWs across different corridors

EASTERN CORRIDOR				SOUTHERN CORRIDOR			
SAPS Policing Precinct	First Cohort	Second Cohort	Total	SAPS Policing Precinct	First Cohort	Second Cohort	Total
Daveyton	211	124	335	Sebokeng	127	76	203
Crystal Park	34	0	34	Vanderbijlpark Bophelong	28	15	43
Actonville	47	15	62	Sharpville	73	12	85
Kwatsaduza	189	83	272	Boipaong	28	10	38
Katlehong	117	56	173	Ratanda	16	26	42
Tokoza	64	0	64	Evaton	104	68	172
Vosloorus	138	65	203	Meyerton	10	6	16
Tembisa South	60	24	84	De-Deur	30	20	50
Tembisa North	60	20	80	Vereeniging	31	6	37
Germiston	50	24	74	Heidelberg	8	3	11
Ivory Park	08	11	19	Kliprivier	2	0	2
Boksburg	24	0	24	Orange Farms	33	5	38
Primrose	24	0	24	Vaal Marina	0	0	0
Nigel	7	0	7	Barrage	0	2	2
Dunnottar	9	0	9		490	249	739
Devon	0	3	3				
Kempton Park	0	20	20				
	1042	445	1487				

WESTERN CORRIDOR				CENTRAL CORRIDOR			
SAPS Policing Precinct	First Cohort	Second Cohort	Total	SAPS Policing Precinct	First Cohort	Second Cohort	Total
Bekkersdal	85	22	107	Orlando	17	20	37
Carletonville	13	2	15	Protea Glen	54	43	97
Fochville	13	3	16	Lenasia	18	14	32
Hekpoort	1	2	3	Lenasia South	08	12	20
Kagiso	79	33	112	Langlaagte	05	07	12

Khutsong	8	4	12	Ennerdale	17	15	32
Krugersdorp	21	5	26	Jabulani	9	12	21
Magaliesburg	12	6	18	Doomkop	09	14	23
Muldersdrift	3	1	4	Cosmo City	11	16	27
Randfontein	93	21	114	Meadowlands	24	20	44
Tarlton	3	3	6	Dobsonville	21	22	43
Wedela	1	0	1	Moffatview	02	0	2
Westonaria Police Station	93	5	98	Naledi	15	21	36
Mohlakeng	0	0	49	Roodepoort	14	25	39
	425	107	532	Moroka	43	56	99
NORTHERN CORRIDOR				Diepkloof	18	20	38
SAPS Precinct	First Cohort	Second Cohort	Total	Booysens	02	02	4
Metsweding	67	15	82	Johannesburg Central	15	15	30
Mamelodi	120	29	149	Alexandra	22	26	48
Atteridgeville	82	39	121	Kliptown	14	18	32
Mawiga	105	20	125	Mondeor	04	0	4
Soshanguve	170	29	199	Honeydew	03	10	13
Hammanskraal	102	30	132	Brixton	02	07	9
Olievenhoutbosch	39	15	54	Sophiatown	02	18	20
Inner City	145	0	145	Diepsloot	16	21	37
	830	177	1007		365	434	799

Figure 1 illustrates the deployment of GTWs across five corridors. The highest numbers were in the Eastern Corridor (1487), particularly in Daveyton (335), Kwatsaduza (272) and Vosloorus (203). The Northern Corridor followed with 1007 GTWs, mainly in Soshanguve (199) and Mamelodi (149). The Central Corridor had 799 GTW with notable deployments in Moroka (99) and Protea Glen (97), while the Southern and Western Corridors had 739 and 532 GTWs respectively, with noteworthy deployments in Sebokeng (203), Evaton (172), Randfontein (114), and Kagiso (112).

4.2.2 Analysis of crime statistics at Gauteng's priority stations and impact of GTWs' deployment

This section compares 2022 and 2023 crime statistics at Gauteng's priority stations, highlighting the impact of GTWs. Their 2023 deployment aimed to boost visible policing and crime detection, particularly in TISH areas. The data shows that increase in crimes detected through police action indicate improved policing outcomes, with GTWs contributing significantly across all corridors.

Table 1: Quarter 1 Priority Stations
Crimes detected as a result of police action category

Provincial Position	Station	April 2022 to June 2022	April 2023 to June 2023	Count Difference	% Change
1	JHB Central	447	493	46	10,3%
2	Krugersdorp	339	446	107	31,6%
3	Germiston	274	359	85	31,0%
4	Tembisa	220	350	130	59,1%
5	Sunnyside	238	345	107	45,0%
6	Randfontein	242	286	44	18,2%
7	Ivory Park	211	275	64	30,3%
8	Tsakane	226	265	39	17,3%
9	Tokoza	248	253	5	2,0%
10	Dobsonville	206	251	45	21,8%
11	Orange Farms	220	247	27	12,3%
12	Sophiatown	236	241	5	2,1%
13	Evaton	143	234	91	63,6%
14	Mamelodi East	187	230	43	23,0%
15	Midrand	254	223	-31	-12,2%
16	Katlehong	178	217	39	21,9%
17	Moroka	176	214	38	21,6%
18	Pretoria Central	159	211	52	32,7%
19	Booyens	108	207	99	91,7%
20	Vosloorus	173	207	34	19,7%
21	Benoni	164	205	41	25,0%
22	Kempton Park	193	201	8	4,1%
23	Brakpan	157	201	44	28,0%
24	Diepkloof	40	201	161	402,5%
25	Vanderbijlpark	166	200	34	20,5%
26	Springs	219	196	-23	-10,5%
27	Temba	158	195	37	23,4%
28	Hillbrow	198	184	-14	-7,1%
29	Kagiso	231	178	-53	-22,9%
30	Eldorado Park	162	176	14	8,6%

Table 1 highlights a change in reported crimes detected through police action across priority stations. JHB Central led with a 10.3% increase, supported by 30 GTWs. Krugersdorp and Germiston also saw significant increases of 31.6% and 31.0%, respectively, reflecting the positive impact of GTW deployment. In contrast, areas like Kagiso (-22.9%), Midrand (-12.2%), Springs (-10.5%), and Hillbrow (-7.1%) recorded declines, suggesting reduced police action possibly due to limited GTW presence. Meanwhile, Evaton (63.6%), Tembisa (59.1%), and Diepkloof (402.5%) showed major increases, aligning with strategic GTW deployment. These results underline the role of GTWs in enhancing visibility, proactive policing and overall crime detection.

Table 2: Quarter 3 Priority Stations
Crimes detected as a result of police action category

Provincial Position	Station	October 2022 to December 2022	October 2023 to December 2023	Count Difference	% Change
1	JHB Central	564	583	19	3,4%
2	Dobsonville	337	399	62	18,4%
3	Sophiatown	392	371	-21	-5,4%
4	Krugersdorp	370	369	-1	-0,3%
5	Mamelodi East	293	361	68	23,2%
6	Orange Farms	293	317	24	8,2%
7	Germiston	299	315	16	5,4%
8	Midrand	245	314	69	28,2%
9	Vosloorus	272	307	35	12,9%
10	Moroka	230	306	76	33,0%
11	Evaton	264	302	38	14,4%
12	Vanderbijlpark	263	298	35	13,3%
13	Ivory Park	275	290	15	5,5%
14	Sunnyside	201	263	62	30,8%
15	Atteridgeville	213	251	38	17,8%
16	Tembisa	224	250	26	11,6%
17	Diepkloof	102	248	146	143,1%
18	Tsakane	200	243	43	21,5%
19	Roodepoort	210	241	31	14,8%
20	De Deur	250	226	-24	-9,6%
21	Springs	246	220	-26	-10,6%
22	Hillbrow	203	214	11	5,4%
23	Eldorado Park	208	207	-1	-0,5%
24	Katlehong	132	205	73	55,3%
25	Orlando	151	205	54	35,8%
26	Kliptown	152	205	53	34,9%
27	Pretoria Central	181	200	19	10,5%
28	Meadowlands	142	199	57	40,1%
29	Kempton Park	139	198	59	42,4%
30	Sebokeng	200	197	-3	-1,5%

In quarter 3, JHB Central remained the top contributor to crime, with a 3.4% increase in cases, supported by the deployment of 30 GTWs. Dobsonville followed with an 18.4% rise, reflecting the positive influence of 43 GTWs. Sophiatown, despite 20 deployed GTWs, experienced a -5.4% decline, suggesting ongoing crime challenges. Some stations, including Springs (-10.6%), De Deur (-9.6%), and Sebokeng (-1.5%), saw declines despite GTW deployment, while others like Eldorado Park and Krugersdorp showed only slight decreases. Conversely, stations such as Diepkloof (143.1%), Katlehong (55.3%), and Kempton Park (42.4%) reported significant increases in crimes detected due to police action, indicating effective GTW deployment and improved police visibility.

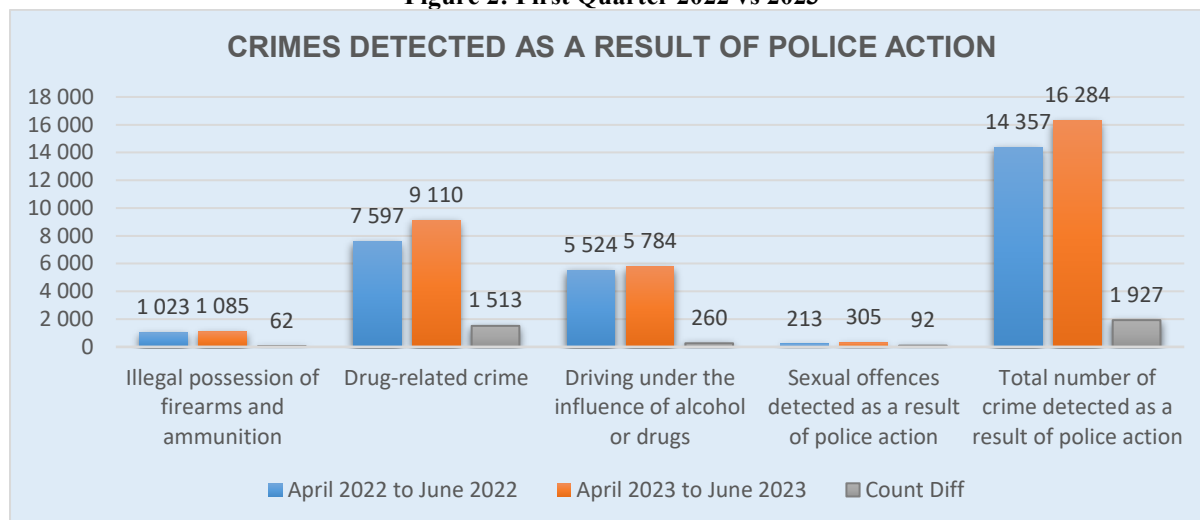
4.2.3 Quarterly analysis of crime detection rates

This section presents a detailed comparison of crime detection rates resulting from police action across different quarters. The focus is on identifying trends and shifts by analysing quarterly data to uncover meaningful patterns.

a) Comparative analysis of quarters: Q1 2022 vs Q1 2023

The analysis compares the first quarters of 2022 (before the deployment of GTWs) and 2023 (after their deployment). The goal is to determine the impact of GTWs by evaluating changes in crime statistics and enforcement efforts between the two periods.

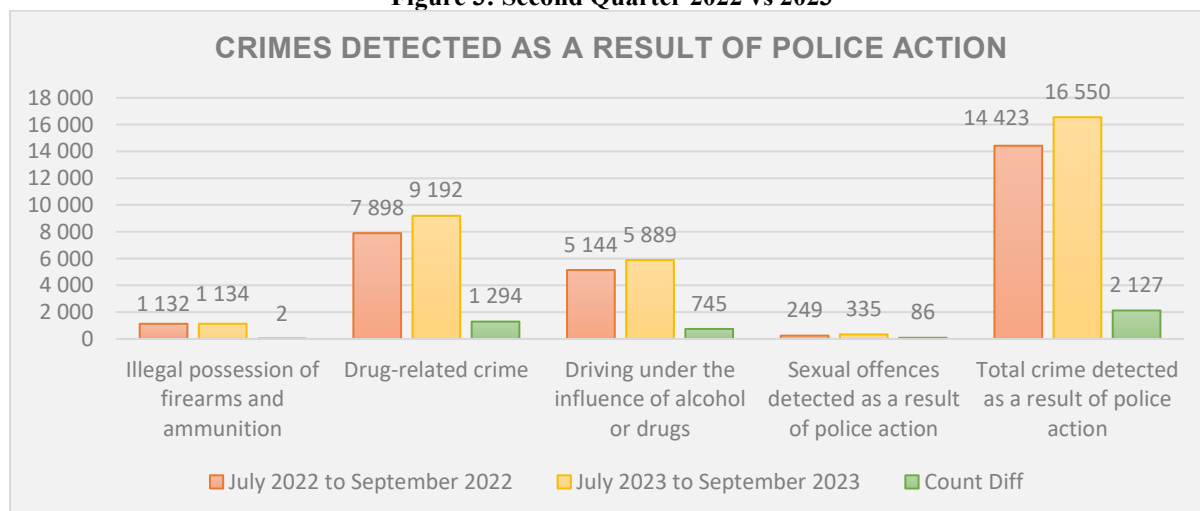
Figure 2: First Quarter 2022 vs 2023



Based on the crime statistics obtained from SAPS, figure 2 above illustrates that during the observed quarter from April to June 2023, there was an increase in all categories of crimes detected as a result of police action. For example, illegal possession of firearms and ammunition cases rose from 1,023 in 2022 to 1,085 cases in 2023, showing a 6.1% increase. Drug-related offenses surged from 7,597 to 9,110 cases, reflecting a significant 1.9% increase. Additionally, the crime statistics further reflected that, instances of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs increased by 4.7% from 5,524 in 2022 to 5,784 cases in 2023 with 260 more cases reported in 2023. Furthermore, sexual offences detected by police action saw a substantial spike from 213 cases in 2022 to 305 in 2023, showing a 43.2% increase. Overall, the total number of recorded cases as a result of police action up ticked from 14,357 in 2022 to 16,284 in 2023, reflecting a notable 13.4% escalation (SAPS, 2023).

b) Comparative analysis of quarters: Q2 2022 vs Q2 2023

Figure 3: Second Quarter 2022 vs 2023



Based on SAPS crime statistics, figure 3 shows that during quarter 2 (from July to September 2023), the incidence of illegal possession of firearms and ammunition exhibited a slight increase of 0.2% from 1,132 in 2022 to 1,134 cases in 2023. Drug-related crimes rose significantly by 16.4%, from 7,898 in 2022 to 9,192 cases in 2023. It is also worth noting that there was a significant increase (14.5%) of reported cases for drunken driving from 5,144 in 2022 to 5,889 in 2023. Sexual offences detected by police action escalated by 34.5% from 249 to 335 cases over the observed period. Overall, all crimes detected by police action increased by 14.7% from 14,423 in 2022 to 16,550 cases in 2023.

c) Comparative analysis of quarters: Q3 2022 vs Q3 2023

Figure 4: Third quarter 2022 vs 2023

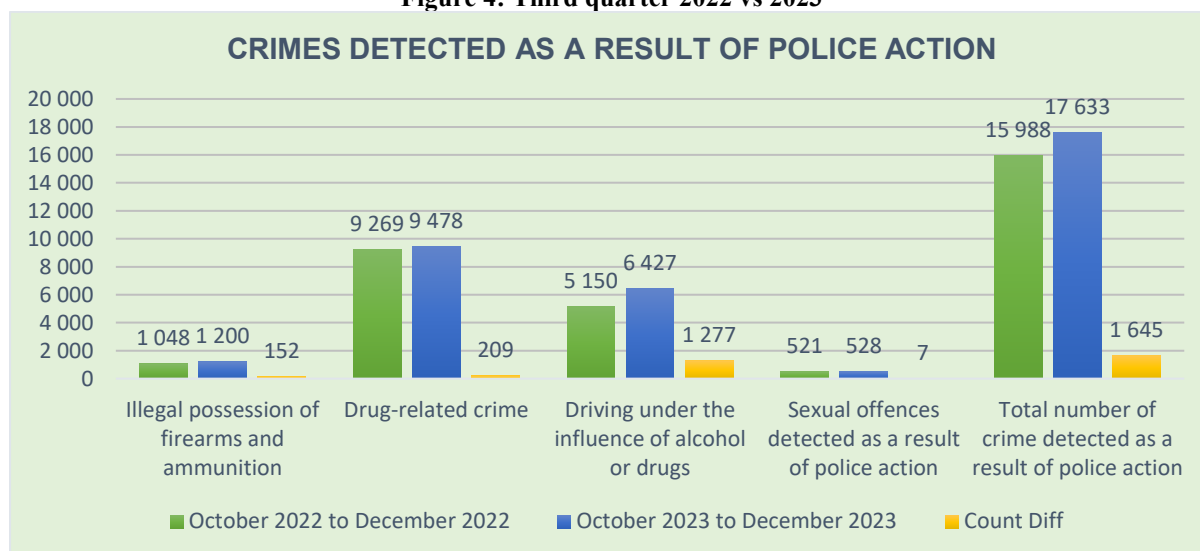


Figure 4 reveals that during the period between October to December 2023, illegal possession of firearms and ammunition cases rose from 1,048 in 2022 to 1,200 in 2023, showing a 14.5% increase. Secondly, drug-related crimes increased slightly by 2.3%, from 9,269 in 2022 to 9,478 cases in 2023. Instances of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs surged by 24.8% from 5,150 in 2022 to 6,427 cases in 2023. Sexual offences detected by police action rose marginally by 1.3% from 521 in 2022 to 528 cases in 2023. In summary, the total number of crimes detected by police action increased by 10.3% from 15,988 to 17,633 cases.

4.2.4 The contribution of GTW

This section outlines the contributions of the GTWs across various corridors since their deployment in 2023. It is important to note that while the GTWs did not directly carry out arrests, they provided critical support to SAPS in effecting them. The analysis specifically focused on arrests related to crimes detected as a result of police action, namely, illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, drug-related offences, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and sexual offences identified through proactive policing efforts.

Figure 5: Arrests Assisted by GTWS in collaboration with SAPS - Eastern Corridor

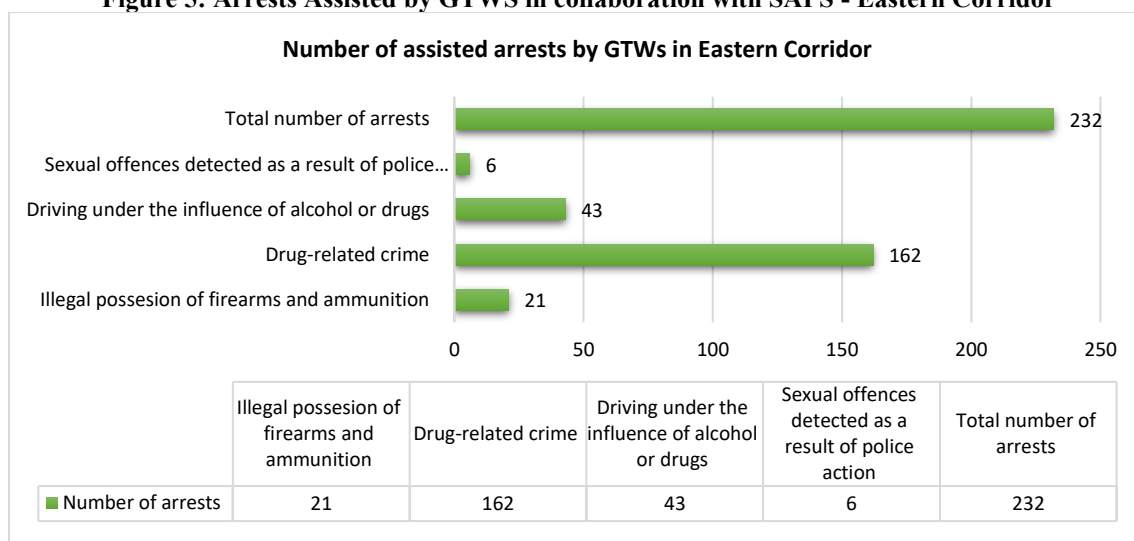


Figure 5 highlights the Eastern Corridor GTWs' active role in supporting SAPS across a range of offences. Their most notable contribution has been in drug-related cases, with 162 arrests. Additionally, they assisted in 21 arrests related to illegal firearm possession, 43 arrests for driving under the influence, and 6 arrests for sexual offences detected through police action. These figures reflect the GTWs impact on strengthening law enforcement efforts and promoting public safety within the corridor.

Figure 6: Arrests Assisted by GTWs in collaboration with SAPS - Western Corridor

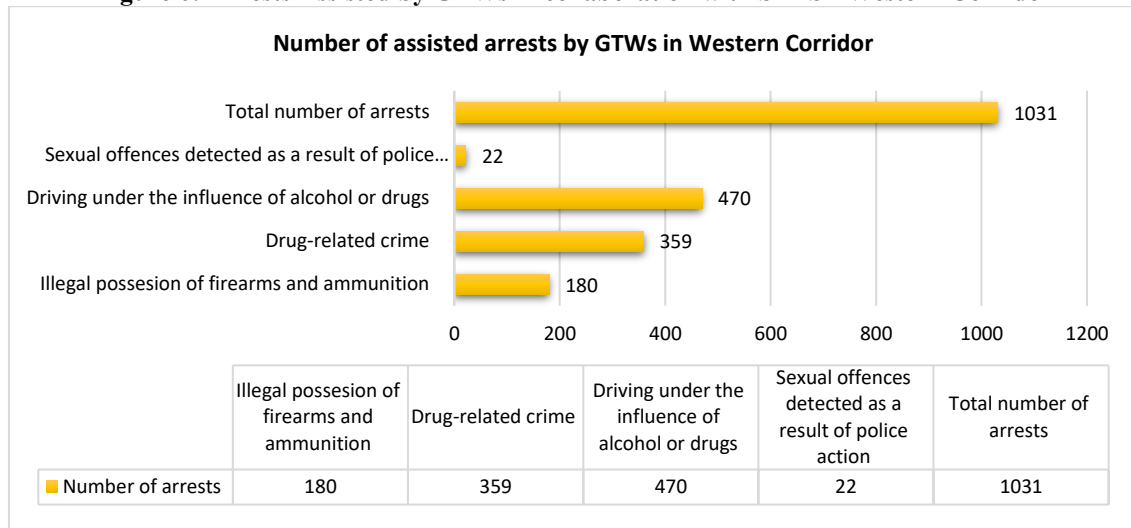


Figure 6 demonstrates the significant role GTWs have played in supporting SAPS operations within the Western Corridor. Their efforts have led to 470 arrests for driving under the influence, emphasising their contribution to road safety. Additionally, they assisted in 180 arrests for illegal possession of firearms, 359 drug-related arrests, and 22 arrests for sexual offences detected through police action. These figures reflect the GTWs' continued impact on reducing crime and enhancing community safety.

Figure 7: Arrests Assisted by GTWs in collaboration with SAPS - Southern Corridor

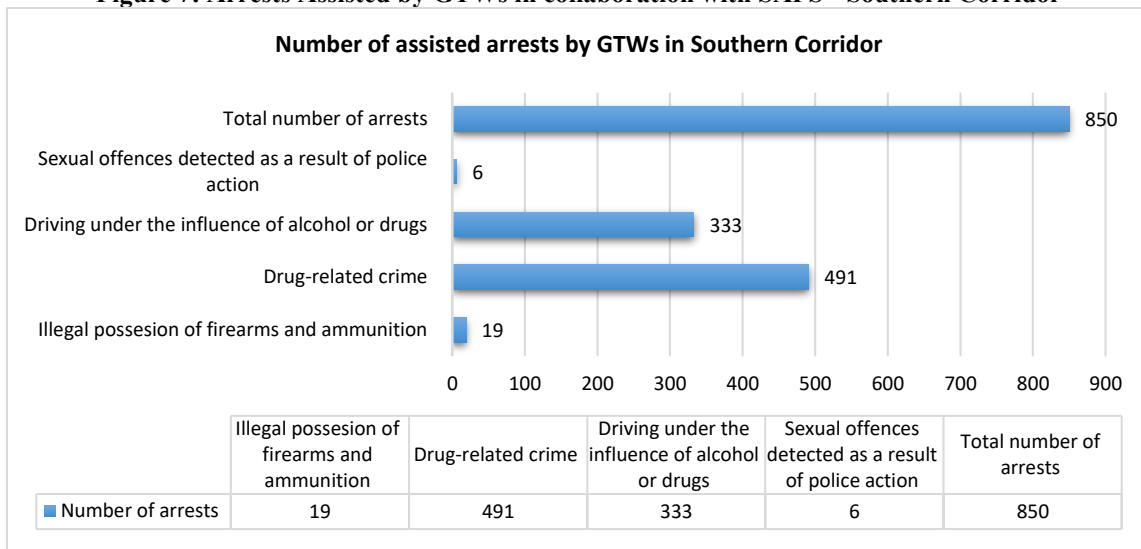


Figure 7 highlights the proactive role of GTWs in the Southern Corridor in supporting crime prevention efforts. Their involvement has led to 333 arrests for driving under the influence, emphasizing their role in promoting road safety. They also assisted in 491 drug-related arrests, 19 arrests for illegal possession of firearms, and 6 arrests for sexual offences detected through police action. These contributions reflect their ongoing commitment to enhancing safety and addressing various crime categories within the corridor.

Figure 8: Arrests Assisted by GTWs in collaboration with SAPS - Northern Corridor

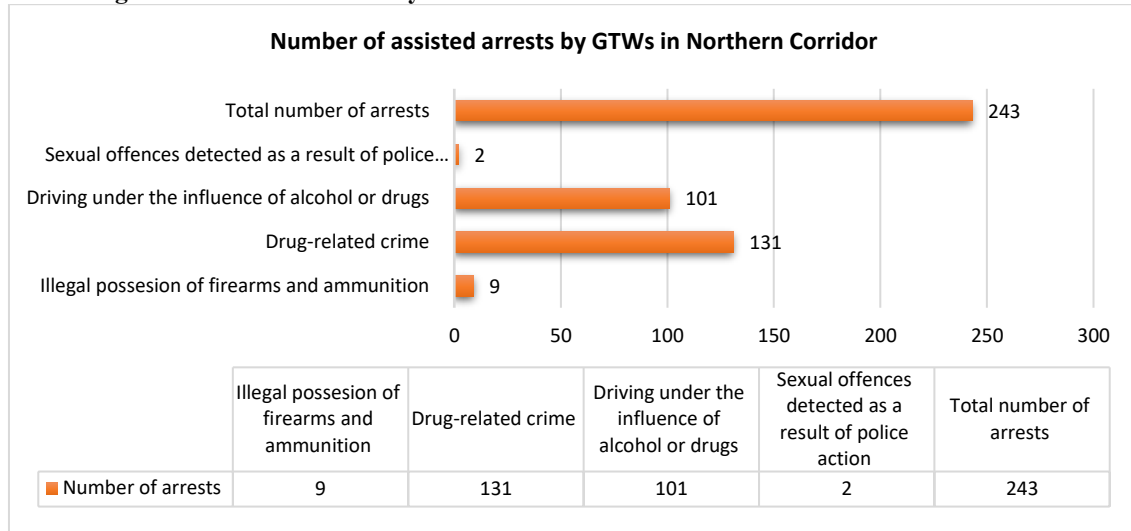


Figure 8 illustrates the involvement of GTWs in strengthening public safety within the Northern Corridor. Their support has led to 131 arrests for drug-related offences and 101 arrests for driving under the influence, reinforcing efforts in both crime prevention and road safety. Additionally, 9 arrests were made for illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, while 2 arrests were linked to sexual offences detected through police action. In total, GTWs contributed to 243 arrests, highlighting their role in supporting law enforcement in the corridor.

Figure 9: Arrests Assisted by GTWs in collaboration with SAPS - Central Corridor

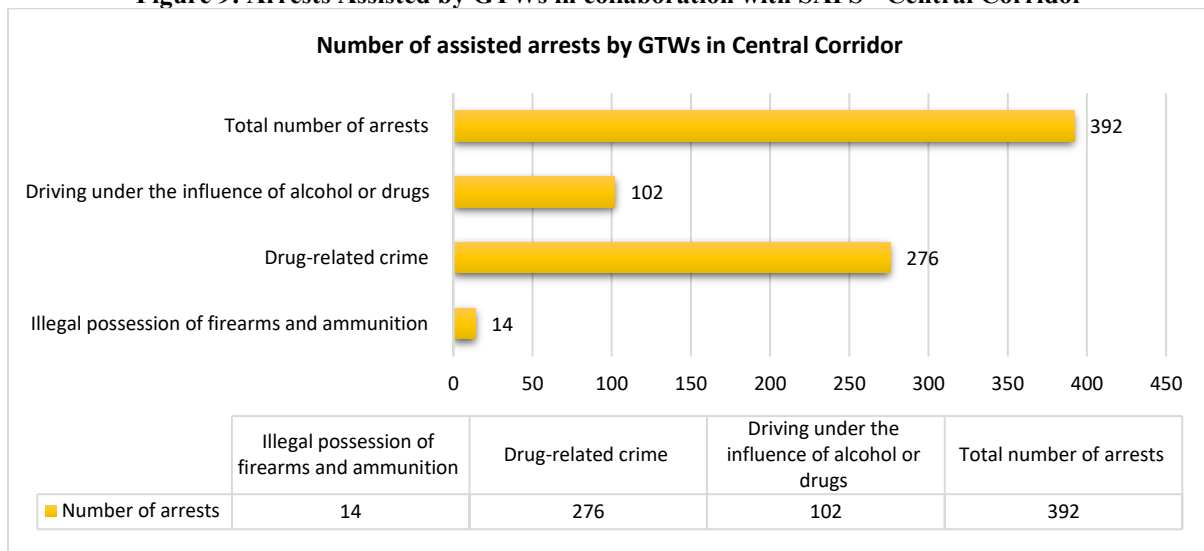


Figure 9 highlights the proactive role of GTWs in bolstering public safety within the Central Corridor. Their efforts have led to 276 arrests for drug-related offences and 102 arrests for driving under the influence, contributing significantly to crime reduction and road safety. Additionally, 14 arrests were made for the illegal possession of firearms and ammunition. Altogether, GTWs assisted in 392 arrests, demonstrating their vital support in promoting public safety in the corridor.

Summary of findings across three quarters and the impact of GTWs deployment

An analysis of SAPS crime statistics over three quarters revealed a notable rise in drug-related offences, with GTWs playing a vital role in assisting with arrests and supporting police operations. Their involvement has also contributed to efforts against the illegal possession of firearms, reinforcing their impact in curbing weapon related crime.

The increase in arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs aligns with GTWs ongoing efforts to promote road safety across corridors. Furthermore, their role in identifying and responding to sexual offences highlights their commitment to addressing serious public safety concerns.

Therefore, the data demonstrates that GTWs have had a meaningful effect on reducing various forms of crime through their visible presence and collaboration with SAPS. Their deployment has significantly bolstered law enforcement operations, helping to maintain order and improve community safety within Gauteng's high-priority areas.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

The study offers several key recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the GTWs programme:

5.1 Consultation

The GDSCS should ensure proper consultation with all relevant stakeholders for coordinated planning, legislative clarity, and formal recognition of GTWs as peace officers.

5.2 Training

GTWs need comprehensive initial and ongoing training in areas such as advanced driving, SWAT and crowd management. Supervisors also require adequate training to enable them to oversee wardens.

5.2 Crime displacement

GTWs should be deployed beyond TISH areas into suburban zones to prevent crime displacement to under-policed areas. Additionally, implementing a collaborative strategy that involves community policing and increased surveillance in suburban areas can further address this challenge effectively.

5.4 Physical fitness

Regular monitoring of GTWs physical fitness is necessary, as their duties such as foot patrols require mobility and endurance.

5.5 Proper supervision

The ratio of supervisors to wardens must be improved to ensure effective oversight and leadership.

5.6 Command and control

Wardens should be educated on ethics, policies, and operational standards through parades, regular workshops and professional development courses.

5.7 Role definition

Some participants expressed confusion about the GTWs' roles, noting that the change from "CPWs" to "GTWs" created uncertainty about whether their focus should be on crime prevention or road safety, this calls for clearer role definition.

5.8 Corridors reporting

All corridors should adopt a standardised reporting approach to avoid inconsistencies and discrepancies.

VI. CONCLUSION

This study found that the deployment of GTWs has significantly improved police visibility, especially in TISH areas, and contributed positively to crime prevention and road safety in Gauteng. Both qualitative and quantitative data confirm the value of optimising policing resources at the local level. GTWs serve as force multipliers in law enforcement efforts. However, there is some confusion about their legal status as peace officers. While some participants believed GTWs were not yet certified peace officers, official sources, including a May 2024 government article and a presentation from the Premier's Office confirmed that GTWs have been proclaimed peace officers and SAPS is working with the Department of Community Safety to issue certificates.

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