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CRIME TRENDS AND SPATIAL PATTERNS IN ISLAMABAD BETWEEN (2019–2024), A TEMPORAL AND ZONAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Urban crime dynamics in rapidly expanding capital cities require systematic temporal and spatial evaluation to inform evidence-based governance strategies. Islamabad, often perceived as comparatively safer than other metropolitan centers in Pakistan, has experienced noticeable fluctuations in crime patterns over recent years. This study examines officially reported crime data from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) between 2019 and 2024 to assess temporal trends, spatial analysis, and demographic characteristics of accused individuals. By using Routine Activity Theory and Social Disorganization Theory, the study identifies a post-pandemic escalation in crime between 2021 and 2023, followed by a moderate decline in 2024. Property-related offenses consistently dominate the crime structure, while violent crimes persist without significant structural reduction. Spatial concentration is evident in commercially active and rapidly urbanizing police zones. The majority of accused individuals fall within the 18–40 age bracket, indicating the role of demographic and socioeconomic pressures. The findings highlight the importance of GIS-based policing, standardized digital reporting mechanisms, and youth-oriented social interventions. By providing a structured longitudinal assessment of Islamabad's crime landscape, the study contributes to empirical urban criminology research in South Asia.

Keywords: *Crime trends, Islamabad, spatial analysis, Routine Activity Theory, urban crime, GIS-mapping*

1. INTRODUCTION

Crime remains a major concern in rapidly urbanizing societies where demographic shifts, economic pressures, and infrastructural expansion reshape opportunity structures for offending. Urban centers in developing countries frequently experience fluctuating crime trends due to governance limitations and socioeconomic instability (Jonathan et al., 2021). Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, has undergone significant demographic growth and spatial expansion during the last decade. Despite being perceived as relatively secure compared to cities such as Karachi and Lahore, recent official reports suggest variability in property and violent crime patterns (OSAC, 2019). However, systematic academic analysis mainly focusing on Islamabad remain limited, as criminological research in Pakistan predominantly centers on larger metropolitan

regions.This study addresses this gap by examining crime trends in Islamabad from 2019 to 2024 through temporal, spatial, and demographic analysis. By integrating criminological theory with official statistics, the research seeks to understand how urban transformation influences crime patterns within the capital territory.

2. Literature Review

Urban crime has been widely examined through structural and situational frameworks. Cross-national analysis demonstrate that governance quality, economic inequality, and demographic pressures significantly influence crime rates (Aboya et al., 2022). Routine Activity Theory posits that crime occurs when motivated offenders converge with suitable targets in the absence of capable guardianship (Cohen & Felson, 1979). Urban environments increase the likelihood of such convergence due to density, mobility, and commercial activity. The Social Disorganization Theory originally proposed by Shaw and McKay (1942) has been consistently validated in global contexts, linking residential instability, poverty, and ethnic heterogeneity to elevated crime rates. In East and Southeast Asian metropolises, similar patterns emerge, where rapid industrial growth and internal migration have contributed to spatialized crime concentrations in peri-urban sectors (Zhang & Chin, 2002). Furthermore, longitudinal studies in Latin America reveal that fluctuations in crime coincide with economic cycles, political transitions, and changes in policing strategies, illustrating the multifaceted and dynamic nature of urban crime trends.

Within the Pakistani context, scholarly attention to crime trends has traditionally focused on megacities such as Karachi and Lahore, leaving a relative dearth of systematic research on other urban centers including Islamabad. Existing studies emphasize that Pakistan's crime landscape is shaped by a combination of socio-economic stressors, legal administrative frameworks, and cultural dynamics. Research indicates that property crimes dominate urban crime statistics, with theft, burglary, and vehicle lifting commonly reported in major cities (Ferooz et al., 2022). Gender-based crimes, particularly violence against women, are significantly underreported due to social stigmas and institutional barriers, further complicating accurate measurement and interpretation (Bugti, Azam, & Zarkoon, 2024).

In Pakistan, the legal categorization of crimes is grounded in the Pakistan Penal Code (1860), supplemented by specialized statutes such as the Anti-Terrorism Act (1997) and the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (2016). These frameworks influence not only how crimes are recorded but also how law enforcement responds to various categories of offenses (Khan & Kanwel, 2023). Studies have highlighted data quality and reporting inconsistencies as significant challenges, with police records often lacking detailed spatial attributes or uniform classification methods, thereby impeding comprehensive trend analysis (Raza & Khan, 2023).

Islamabad, as the capital city, stands at the intersection of administrative importance and rapid urban expansion. Although official publications occasionally provide headline crime figures, there exists limited peer-reviewed research that systematically examines Islamabad's crime dynamics. Security assessments, such as those by OSAC (2019), generally present the city as relatively safer compared to Pakistan's larger metropolitan centers; however, such assessments often lack analytical depth or year-wise examination of trends. Media reports and internal police statements have recently highlighted fluctuations in both property and violent crime categories, including burglary, homicide, and kidnapping, but these sources tend to be descriptive rather than empirically rigorous (Daily, 2025; News, 2025). The absence of detailed academic exploration underscores a significant research gap in understanding how structural factors such as urban growth, demographic shifts, and economic pressures shape crime in Islamabad's distinct zones.

Emerging research that incorporates geographic information systems (GIS) and temporal trend analysis suggests that crime in Islamabad exhibits spatial clustering, with more economically active and rapidly urbanizing sectors experiencing higher incidences of offenses (Umair, 2019). Such studies align Islamabad with broader global patterns where urban spatial structure and socio-economic conditions interact to produce differentiated

crime risks across neighborhoods. Additionally, some investigations have noted that institutional factors, including policing practices and data documentation standards, influence reported crime figures, leading to questions about data reliability and longitudinal comparability (Ali & Hussain, 2023). These findings highlight the importance of integrating both macro-level structural perspectives and context-specific empirical analysis when studying crime trends in Islamabad.

3. Methodology

This study employs a quantitative descriptive design based on secondary data obtained from Islamabad Capital Police annual crime reports and Comparative Crime Statements for the period 2019–2024. Islamabad Capital Territory is administratively divided into five police zones: I-Area, Rural, Soan, Sadar, and Secretariat. Year-wise crime statistics were compiled to assess temporal trends, while zonal distribution data were analyzed to identify spatial concentration patterns. Demographic characteristics of accused individuals were examined through age and gender breakdowns. GIS-based visualization techniques were utilized to interpret spatial clustering trends across zones.

4. Results

4.1 I-AREA ZONE

SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF CRIMES REPORTED IN VARIOUS POLICE STATIONS OF I-AREA ZONE

Table 1.1 shows gender and age wise crimes reported in various police stations of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Police Stations	Percentage of Various crime categories (%)							Linear regression and chi-square analysis			
	Total Accused	**Male 18–40 (%)**	**Male >40 (%)**	**Female 18–40 (%)**	**Female >40 (%)**	**Juv. Male 5–18 (%)**	**Juv. Female 5–18 (%)**	**Residual**	**Odds Ratio**	**Chi-square**	**p-value**
I/9	33.40	26.90	67.80	43.80	90.00	94.10	0.00	256.0	2.2426	669.9495	< 0.0000
NOON	21.30	23.50	8.10	15.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	-202.0	1.8717		
S0C	14.10	14.10	14.80	11.90	10.00	5.90	0.00	-1467.0	1.0000		
S0MANDI	31.20	35.50	9.40	28.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	1413.0	3.3538		
Grand Total	16249	13456	2418	235	20	17	0	-	-		

4.2 CRIME TYPE REPORTED IN I-AREA

Table 1.2 gives information on the amount of criminal activity within different categories between 2019 and 2024, along with statistics on the ages and genders of the accused. There were 16,249 people accused over this period.

Crime type over 6 years (2019-2024)	Total Accused	Male 18–40	Male >40	Female 18–40	Female >40	Juv. Male 5–18	Juv. Female 5–18
363/364/364A	23	16	2	4	1	0	0
365/365B/496A	145	123	12	9	1	0	0
3650A	13	11	2	0	0	0	0
382/356	462	449	11	2	0	0	0
394(with Hurt)	72	72	0	0	0	0	0
406/408	264	201	60	2	1	0	0
420	236	160	73	2	1	0	0
420/468/471	191	129	61	1	0	0	0
4890F	667	403	245	17	2	0	0
ARMS ORD.	1863	1645	218	0	0	0	0
ATT0 MURDER	378	334	43	1	0	0	0
CAR SNATCHING	13	13	0	0	0	0	0
DACOITY	59	54	3	1	1	0	0
Dacoity/Robbery with Murder	23	22	1	0	0	0	0
DAY BURGLARY	89	80	6	1	2	0	0
F.ACCIDENT	126	97	29	0	0	0	0
FOREIGNER ACT	352	315	37	0	0	0	0
GEN. RECO.	242	196	27	13	1	0	0
GEN. THEFT	715	551	66	33	3	6	0
HOUSE ROBBERY	78	75	3	0	0	0	0
HURT	735	614	111	10	0	0	0
M.CYCLE	256	220	30	0	0	0	0
M/C SNATCHING	238	237	1	0	0	0	0
M/CYCLE THEFT	678	594	54	0	0	10	0
MISC.	5044	4031	920	84	7	0	0
Murder	208	172	32	4	0	0	0
N.F.ACCIDENT	82	65	16	1	0	0	0
NIGHT BURGLARY	152	133	12	7	0	0	0
NOTCOTICE/LIQUR E	1528	1245	239	38	0	0	0
OTHER VEH.SNATCHING	13	13	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER VEH.THEFT	8	8	0	0	0	0	0
RAPE	43	41	2	0	0	0	0
ROBBERY	799	764	31	2	0	0	0
SHOP ROBBERY	38	38	0	0	0	0	0
SODOMY	15	13	1	0	0	1	0
TEMPERED CARS	152	115	31	0	0	0	0

VEHICLE THEFT	249	207	39	3	0	0	0
Grand Total	16249	13456	2418	235	20	17	0

4.3 TEMPORAL DYNAMICS OF OVERALL CRIME AND AGE-GENDER ANALYSIS IN I-AREA

Table 1.3 shows the distribution of accused criminal individuals over the years from 2019 up to 2024 by age, gender, and ethnicity, along with findings from linear regression and chi-square analyses. In the six years under investigation, the police accused 16,249 people of crimes.

Yearwise	Percentage of Various crime categories (%)							Linear regression and chi-square analysis			
	Total Accused	**Male 18–40 (%)**	**Male >40 (%)**	**Female 18–40 (%)**	**Female >40 (%)**	**Juv. Male 5–18 (%)**	**Juv. Female 5–18 (%)**	**Residual**	**Odds Ratio**	**Chi-square**	**p-value**
2019	1959	79.3	18.7	2.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	12.64	16.66	89.94	0.0000
2020	2488	81.2	17.2	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	13.56	20.79		
2021	2522	80.9	17.8	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.74	19.56		
2022	2838	84.4	12.5	1.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	-12.91	37.87		
2023	3395	82.4	14.0	1.2	0.1	0.03	0.0	-58.56	28.76		
2024	3047	86.8	11.4	1.0	0.3	0.4	0.0	13.56	51.11		
Grand Total	16249	13456	2418	235	20	17	0	-	-		

4.2. RURAL ZONE

4.2.1 RURAL ZONE DEMOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CRIME REPORTED IN VARIOUS POLICE STATIONS

As shown in Table 2.1, out of the total number of accused individuals across the six police areas, B. Gala, B. Kahu, Nilore, P. Gran, S. Town, and Zone, there are 37,790 individuals in the sample.

Police Stations	Percentage of Various crime categories (%)							Linear regression and chi-square analysis			
	Total Accused	**Male 18–40 (%)**	**Male >40 (%)**	**Female 18–40 (%)**	**Female >40 (%)**	**Juv. Male 5–18 (%)**	**Juv. Female 5–18 (%)**	**Residual**	**Odds Ratio**	**Chi-square**	**p-value**
B.Gala	3817	82.70	16.20	0.70	0.20	0.00	0.00	1.10	5.10	72.34	<0.0001
B.Kahu	5769	71.80	27.60	0.50	0.10	0.00	0.00	-1.85	2.60		
Nilore	3532	90.20	9.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.22	9.49		
P. Gran	1153	81.10	18.30	0.40	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.75	4.43		

S.Town	4624	80.80	12.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.95	6.73
Zone	18895	80.20	17.60	0.60	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.60	4.56
Grand Total	37790	80.20	17.60	0.60	0.10	0.00	0.00	-	-

4.2.2 RURAL ZONE DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF CRIME TYPES AND ACCUSED INDIVIDUALS

Table 2.2 .This table properly outlines the many crime types and details the ages and genders of the offenders

Crime type	Total Accused	Male 18–40	Male >40	Female 18–40	Female >40	Juv. Male 5–18	Juv. Female 5–18
420	552	320	218	0	0	0	0
363/364/364A	50	46	0	4	0	0	0
365/365B/496A	602	480	114	6	2	0	0
365-A	18	18	0	0	0	0	0
382/356	66	66	0	0	0	0	0
382/357	206	188	18	0	0	0	0
394(with Hurt)	92	90	2	0	0	0	0
406/408	200	138	58	0	0	0	0
406/409	234	184	48	0	2	0	0
420/468/471	182	77	99	0	0	0	0
420/468/472	134	91	37	0	0	0	0
489-F	954	624	320	0	0	0	0
ARMS ORD.	3692	3346	368	0	0	0	0
ATT- MURDER	2536	1918	610	4	0	0	0
CAR SNATCHING	50	50	0	0	0	0	0
DACOITY	190	170	6	0	0	0	0
Dacoity/Robbery with Murder	128	106	20	2	0	0	0
DAY BURGLARY	222	214	6	0	0	0	0
F.ACCIDENT	118	56	62	0	0	0	0
FOREIGNER ACT	280	136	122	0	0	0	0
GEN. RECO.	322	250	26	2	0	0	0
GEN. THEFT	1902	1584	242	60	2	0	0
HOUSE ROBBERY	92	86	6	0	0	0	0
HURT	2486	1768	624	44	2	0	0
M.CYCLE	158	146	2	0	0	0	0
M/C SNATCHING	304	302	2	0	0	0	0
M/CYCLE THEFT	1264	1126	106	0	0	0	0
MISC.	13334	10430	2592	54	4	2	0
Murder	1246	900	304	36	6	0	0
N.F. ACCIDENT	74	36	32	0	0	0	0
NIGHT BURGLARY	792	724	42	2	2	0	0

NOTCOTICE/LIQUURE	3380	2922	348	0	2	0	0
OTHER VEH.SNATCHING	4	2	2	0	0	0	0
OTHER VEH.THEFT	16	12	4	0	0	0	0
RAPE	128	122	8	0	0	0	0
ROBBERY	1130	1064	62	4	0	0	0
SHOP ROBBERY	162	156	6	0	0	0	0
SODOMY	146	142	4	0	0	0	0
TEMPERED CARS	140	66	74	0	0	0	0
VEHICLE THEFT	204	156	40	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	37790	30312	6634	218	22	2	0

4.2.3 RURAL ZONE- TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF CRIME ACCUSED DEMOGRAPHICS

Table 2.3, which details the number of accused by crime type for each year, grouped by age and gender, with various statistical methods such as residuals, odds ratios, chi-square, and p-values.

Yearwise	Percentage of Various crime categories (%)							Linear regression and chi-square analysis			
	Total Accused	**Male 18–40 (%)**	**Male >40 (%)**	**Female 18–40 (%)**	**Female >40 (%)**	**Juv. Male 5–18 (%)**	**Juv. Female 5–18 (%)**	**Residual**	**Odds Ratio**	**Chi-square**	**p-value**
2019	4402	71.6	27.0	1.3	0.14	0.0	0.0	-2.15	2.65	472.63	<0.0001
2020	5740	75.8	23.2	0.9	0.07	0.0	0.0	-1.50	3.27		
2021	5688	77.7	22.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.95	3.50		
2022	6460	82.9	16.8	0.37	0.03	0.0	0.0	0.80	4.93		
2023	7734	85.7	13.7	0.52	0.05	0.0	0.0	1.45	6.25		
2024	7164	89.5	9.9	0.47	0.08	0.03	0.0	2.25	9.04		
Total	37,188	81.5	17.8	0.59	0.06	0.005	0.0	-	-		

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4.3 SOAN ZONE

4.3.1 SOAN ZONE WISE DEMOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CRIME REPORTED

There were 12,359 cases at Koral, which reported the highest number of accused individuals, followed by Khanna (6,172) and Sihala (5,205). The data shows that most accused individuals were males aged 18–40, and only 7.7% were males over 40.

Police Stations	Percentage of Various crime categories (%)							Linear regression and chi-square analysis			
	Total Accused	**Male 18–40 (%)**	**Male >40 (%)**	**Female 18–40 (%)**	**Female >40 (%)**	**Juv. Male 5–18 (%)**	**Juv. Female 5–18 (%)**	**Residual**	**Odds Ratio**	**Chi-square**	**p-value**
Humak	1272	78.4	19.2	1.1	0.16	1.1	0.0	-1.05	4.08	377.43	< 0.0001
Khanna	6172	74.1	24.6	0.11	1.18	0.0	0.0	-1.72	3.01		
Kirpa	1370	92.2	7.2	0.66	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.25	12.81		
Koral	12359	99.8	0.0	0.097	0.057	0.0	0.0	3.30	—		
L.Bher	4346	91.7	3.9	4.3	0.02	0.0	0.0	2.45	23.51		
Sihala	5205	92.1	6.5	1.25	0.02	0.13	0.0	2.10	14.17		
Zone	30724	91.0	7.7	0.96	0.27	0.07	0.0	—	11.82		
Grand Total	61448	91.0	7.7	0.96	0.27	0.07	0.0	-	-		

4.3.2 TEMPORAL DYNAMICS OF CRIME ACCUSATIONS IN AGE-GENDER ASPECT

Table 3.2 describe that there were 61,448 people accused of various crimes over the six years. For every one of the years examined, males aged 18–40 have made up over 89% of the cases.

Year wise	Percentage of Various crime categories (%)							Linear regression and chi-square analysis			
	Total Accused	**Male 18–40 (%)**	**Male >40 (%)**	**Female 18–40 (%)**	**Female >40 (%)**	**Juv. Male 5–18 (%)**	**Juv. Female 5–18 (%)**	**Residual**	**Odds Ratio**	**Chi-square**	**p-value**
2019	6174	91.0	7.4	1.3	0.32	0.0	0.0	1.22	12.30	367.8	< 0.0005
2020	7864	91.3	7.6	0.56	0.33	0.18	0.0	1.18	12.01		
2021	11054	94.3	5.3	0.42	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.40	17.79		
2022	12974	91.2	6.9	1.71	0.17	0.0	0.0	1.10	13.22		

2023	12094	89.1	9.6	0.84	0.33	0.10	0.0	0.88	9.28
2024	11288	89.2	9.3	0.83	0.53	0.14	0.0	0.89	9.59
Grand Total	61448	91.0	7.7	0.96	0.27	0.07	0.0	-	-

4.3.3 CRIME TYPE-WISE DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF ACCUSED INDIVIDUALS IN SOAN ZONE

The table 3.3 gives a detailed description of 61,448 cases, separating the accused by their gender and the age group they belong to. The information reveals repeated ways in which individuals become involved in crimes.

Crime type	Total Accused	Male 18–40	Male >40	Female 18–40	Female >40	Juv. Male 5–18	Juv. Female 5–18
420	1802	1670	126	6	0	0	0
363/364/364A	216	204	6	4	4	0	0
365/365B/496A	1058	892	114	32	20	0	0
365-A	18	12	4	0	2	0	0
382/356	2364	2294	48	2	0	2	0
394(with Hurt)	148	146	2	0	0	0	0
406/408	2212	2084	124	4	0	0	0
420/468/471	3066	2982	78	6	6	0	0
489-F	2204	1984	216	4	0	0	0
ARMS ORD.	5044	4822	218	0	0	4	0
ATT- MURDER	1988	1786	196	2	0	0	0
CAR SNATCHING	122	114	0	8	0	0	0
DACOITY	460	438	14	8	0	0	0
Dacoity/Robbery with Murder	48	42	4	2	0	0	0
DAY BURGLARY	430	406	18	4	0	0	0
F.ACCIDENT	438	388	46	6	0	0	0
FOREIGNER ACT	244	158	66	0	0	0	0
GEN. RECO.	484	442	30	0	0	0	0
GEN. THEFT	3372	3114	170	80	10	0	0
HOUSE ROBBERY	576	550	8	0	0	0	0
HURT	4174	3598	490	58	30	8	0
M.CYCLE	300	282	18	0	0	0	0
M/C SNATCHING	840	794	44	2	0	0	0
M/CYCLE THEFT	3960	3830	130	0	0	0	0
MISC.	13440	11190	1886	290	70	22	0
Murder	1210	1056	104	48	2	0	0
N.F.ACCIDENT	232	204	20	4	4	0	0
NIGHT BURGLARY	1864	1764	88	12	8	0	0
NOTCOTICE/LIQURE	3950	3646	288	6	10	0	0

OTHER VEH.SNATCHING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER VEH.THEFT	36	36	0	0	0	0	0
RAPE	260	242	18	0	2	0	0
ROBBERY	3390	3266	120	0	0	0	0
SHOP ROBBERY	466	488	6	0	0	0	0
SODOMY	106	98	2	0	0	6	0
TEMPERED CARS	106	94	12	0	0	0	0
VEHICLE THEFT	820	796	24	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	61448	55912	4738	588	168	42	0

4.4 SADAR ZONE

4.4.1 DEMOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CRIME SADDAR ZONE

Table 4.1 showing the age, religious affiliation and gender of people charged with crimes in six police stations Golra Sharief, Ramna, Sangjani, Shalimar, Sumbal and Tarnol together with figures from statistical analysis. All the stations together show a total of 30,111 accused.

Police Stations	Percentage of Various crime categories (%)							Linear regression and chi-square analysis			
	Total Accused	**Male 18–40 (%)**	**Male >40 (%)**	**Female 18–40 (%)**	**Female >40 (%)**	**Juv. Male 5–18 (%)**	**Juv. Female 5–18 (%)**	**Residual**	**Odds Ratio**	**Chi-square**	**p-value**
Golra Sharief	5811	75.7	22.9	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.01	3.31	307.65	< 0.0001
Ramna	7977	96.1	3.4	0.39	0.11	0.04	0.0	1.29	28.26		
Sangjani	2958	87.7	12.2	0.07	0.07	0.0	0.0	0.93	7.19		
Shalimar	4842	45.5	47.3	4.2	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.51	0.96		
Sumbal	1680	88.4	7.3	3.9	0.12	0.3	0.0	1.11	12.10		
Tarnol	6843	69.7	29.0	0.5	0.8	0.03	0.0	0.84	2.40		
Grand Total	30111	76.8	21.1	1.4	0.7	0.03	0.0	-	-		

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4.4.2 TEMPORAL DYNAMICS OF CRIMES REPORTED IN SADDAR ZONE

Table 4.2 is a six-year review (from 2019 to 2024) of people charged with crimes, sorted by their demographic details and based on statistical analyses involving linear regression residuals, odds ratios, chi-square values and p-values. There are a total of 30,111 accused people in the dataset.

Yearwise	Percentage of Various crime categories (%)							Linear regression and chi-square analysis			
	Total Accused	**Male 18–40 (%)**	**Male >40 (%)**	**Female 18–40 (%)**	**Female >40 (%)**	**Juv. Male 5–18 (%)**	**Juv. Female 5–18 (%)**	**Residual**	**Odds Ratio**	**Chi-square**	**p-value**
2019	3072	69.9	27.6	1.8	0.75	0.0	0.0	-0.92	0.83	367.8	< 0.0001
2020	3621	73.5	25.6	0.66	0.19	0.0	0.0	-0.45	0.91		
2021	4193	76.8	21.3	1.36	0.69	0.02	0.0	0.21	1.14		
2022	4923	74.9	22.7	1.69	0.77	0.0	0.0	-0.12	1.03		
2023	7118	78.0	19.6	1.69	0.87	0.0	0.0	0.64	1.25		
2024	7184	81.5	16.4	1.34	0.72	0.13	0.0	1.02	1.58		
Grand Total	30111	76.8	21.1	1.4	0.7	0.03	0.0	-	-		

4.4.3 CRIME TYPE DISTRIBUTION IN SADDAR ZONE

This table(4.3) counts how many people have been accused of each type of crime and also indicates the accused's age, gender and status as juvenile.

Crime type	Total Accused	Male 18–40	Male >40	Female 18–40	Female >40	Juv. Male 5–18	Juv. Female 5–18
420	594	365	226	0	3	0	0
363/364/364A	73	56	15	1	1	0	0
365/365B/496A	377	305	63	4	3	2	0
365-A	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
382/356	756	653	100	0	3	0	0
394(with Hurt)	76	64	12	0	0	0	0
406/408	590	360	232	0	1	0	0
420/468/471	445	304	141	0	0	0	0
489-F	1752	1083	665	0	5	0	0
ARMS ORD.	1997	1670	326	0	0	1	0
ATT- MURDER	1175	930	245	0	1	0	0
CAR SNATCHING	30	24	6	0	0	0	0
DACOITY	184	143	38	3	0	0	0
Dacoity/Robbery with Murder	23	20	3	0	0	0	0
DAY BURGLARY	202	179	23	2	0	0	0
F.ACCIDENT	143	100	42	0	1	0	0

FOREIGNER ACT	395	323	72	0	0	0	0
GEN. RECO.	279	220	59	0	0	0	0
GEN. THEFT	1596	1225	241	88	41	1	0
HOUSE ROBBERY	137	113	23	1	0	0	0
HURT	1694	1379	296	15	3	1	0
M.CYCLE	172	148	24	0	0	0	0
M/C SNATCHING	205	198	7	0	0	0	0
M/CYCLE THEFT	1275	1172	110	0	0	0	0
MISC.	9599	6973	2236	284	104	2	0
Murder	476	368	84	16	7	1	0
N.F.ACCIDENT	108	79	28	0	1	0	0
NIGHT BURGLARY	440	375	63	2	0	0	0
NOTCOTICE/LIQURE	2576	1889	647	17	34	0	0
OTHER VEH.SNATCHING	27	24	3	0	0	0	0
OTHER VEH.THEFT	17	16	1	0	0	0	0
RAPE	165	109	53	0	3	0	0
ROBBERY	1655	1507	148	0	0	0	0
SHOP ROBBERY	92	87	5	0	0	0	0
SODOMY	76	61	13	0	0	2	0
TEMPERED CARS	167	110	55	0	0	0	0
VEHICLE THEFT	540	489	50	1	0	0	0
Grand Total	30111	23123	6356	434	211	10	0

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4.5 SECRETARIAT ZONE

4.5.1 CRIME DISTRIBUTION IN VARIOUS POLICE STATIONS OF SECRETARIAT ZONE

Table 5.1 includes how many people faced charges for crimes at each police station, the proportions of different populations involved in crimes and the outcomes obtained from linear regression and chi-square analyses. A total of 22,362 people were accused at these police stations.

Police stations	Percentage of Various crime categories (%)							Linear regression and chi-square analysis			
	Total Accused	**Male 18–40 (%)**	**Male >40 (%)**	**Female 18–40 (%)**	**Female >40 (%)**	**Juv. Male 5–18 (%)**	**Juv. Female 5–18 (%)**	**Residual**	**Odds Ratio**	**Chi-square**	**p-value**
Aabpara	4537	79.4	17.5	1.9	0.6	0.7	0.0	-0.24	1.04	355.78	< 0.0001
K. Company	6062	84.9	13.8	1.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.87	1.75		
Kohsar	5255	70.1	28.2	0.6	1.0	0.1	0.0	-1.92	0.62		
Margalla	2150	78.6	19.0	2.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	-0.01	0.99		
Sectt	3565	95.3	2.0	2.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	4.32	11.67		

WOMEN	793	7.9	5.5	82.3	4.2	0.0	0.0	-15.07	0.03
Grand Total	**22362**	78.6	16.2	4.3	0.7	0.2	0.0		

4.5.2 TEMPORAL DYNAMICS OF CRIME REPORTED IN VARIOUS POLICE STATIONS OF SECRETARIAT ZONE

Table 5.2 analyzed the each year's data on accused individuals is grouped by category and group and the information is analyzed using linear regression and chi-square statistics. There was an increase from 2,575 accused in 2019 to 5,529 in 2024, showing that the number of crime cases continued to go up. Between 2018 and 2024, males aged 18–40 made up the most of those charged, varying from 73.8% in 2021 to as high as 81.9% in 2019 and 81.6% in 2024.

Year wise	Percentage of Various crime categories (%)							Linear regression and chi-square analysis			
	Total Accused	**Male 18–40 (%)**	**Male >40 (%)**	**Female 18–40 (%)**	**Female >40 (%)**	**Juv. Male 5–18 (%)**	**Juv. Female 5–18 (%)**	**Residual**	**Odds Ratio**	**Chi-square**	**p-value**
2019	2575	81.9	13.7	4.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.82	1.10	327.4	< 0.0001
2020	2937	77.3	16.5	5.2	1.0	0.0	0.0	-0.38	0.92		
2021	3582	73.8	17.2	8.4	0.6	0.1	0.0	-1.45	0.80		
2022	3377	76.5	17.8	5.2	0.4	0.2	0.0	-0.55	0.89		
2023	4362	79.5	17.8	1.8	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.35	1.05		
2024	5529	81.6	14.5	2.7	0.9	0.3	0.0	1.03	1.23		
Grand Total	22362	78.6	16.2	4.3	0.7	0.2	0.0	-	-		

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4.5.3 CRIME TYPE DISTRIBUTION IN SECRETARIAT ZONE

The table 5.3 organizes information about the accused by dividing them by age and gender in different crime categories. The number of accused for different crimes is 22,362.

Crime type	Total Accused	Male 18–40	Male >40	Female 18–40	Female >40	Juv. Male 5–18	Juv. Female 5–18
420	549	398	138	12	0	0	0
363/364/364A	18	14	0	1	1	2	0
365/365B/496A	197	168	16	12	1	0	0
3650A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
382/356	405	377	25	1	0	2	0
394(with Hurt)	40	38	2	0	0	0	0
406/408	509	345	151	13	0	0	0
420/468/471	410	299	89	19	3	0	0
4890F	2174	1429	661	71	14	0	0
ARMS ORD.	1097	1017	75	2	0	2	0
ATT0 MURDER	442	369	66	6	0	1	0
CAR SNATCHING	26	25	1	0	0	0	0
DACOITY	13	12	0	1	0	0	0
Dacoity/Robbery with Murder	10	10	0	0	0	0	0
DAY BURGLARY	32	29	3	0	0	0	0
F.ACCIDENT	121	103	19	2	0	0	0
FOREIGNER ACT	128	103	22	3	0	0	0
GEN. RECO.	249	217	27	1	4	0	0
GEN. THEFT	1302	1009	112	165	15	1	0
HOUSE ROBBERY	31	30	0	0	0	0	0
HURT	650	507	105	27	8	2	0
M.CYCLE	100	93	7	0	0	0	0
M/C SNATCHING	83	78	5	0	0	0	0
M/CYCLE THEFT	1120	1016	88	0	0	16	0
MISC.	8578	6254	1639	581	95	9	0
Murder	157	115	37	10	1	0	0
N.F.ACCIDENT	118	98	17	1	1	0	0
NIGHT BURGLARY	169	148	17	4	0	0	0
NOTCOTICE/LIQUR E	2167	1963	171	28	5	0	0
OTHER VEH.SNATCHING	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER VEH.THEFT	11	10	1	0	0	0	0
RAPE	42	36	2	3	1	0	0
ROBBERY	802	746	51	2	0	3	0
SHOP ROBBERY	27	24	3	0	0	0	0
SODOMY	27	27	0	0	0	0	0

TEMPERED CARS	114	83	30	1	0	0	0
VEHICLE THEFT	441	390	52	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	22362	17583	3632	966	149	38	0

5. Discussion and Conclusion

The present study provides a longitudinal and spatial examination of crime patterns in Islamabad Capital Territory between 2019 and 2024. The findings reveal that crime trends in Islamabad are neither random nor episodic but structurally embedded within broader processes of urban expansion, demographic concentration, and socioeconomic transformation. By integrating Routine Activity Theory and Social Disorganization Theory, the results demonstrate how opportunity structures and weakened social cohesion interact to shape crime distribution across zones.A noticeable decline in crime in 2020 corresponds with the COVID-19 pandemic period, during which mobility restrictions, reduced commercial activity, and enhanced state surveillance likely constrained opportunities for offending. This pattern aligns with Routine Activity Theory, which posits that crime occurs when motivated offenders converge with suitable targets in the absence of capable guardianship (Cohen & Felson, 1979). The reduction in public movement and increased guardianship during lockdown conditions likely disrupted this convergence. However, the subsequent increase in crime from 2021 to 2023 suggests that once restrictions were lifted, opportunity structures re-emerged, particularly in commercially active and rapidly urbanizing zones such as Soan and Rural areas.

The dominance of property-related offenses especially theft, robbery, motorcycle theft, and Arms Ordinance violations across all zones indicates that acquisitive crime remains the primary challenge within Islamabad. This finding is consistent with broader urban crime patterns observed in developing metropolitan contexts, where economic pressures and unemployment contribute to financially motivated offenses. While violent crimes such as murder and attempted murder persist, their proportional structure has not significantly transformed during the study period, suggesting relative stability in serious violent crime compared to fluctuations in property crime.

Spatial analysis further reveals clustering of accused individuals in peri-urban and commercially dense police jurisdictions. Soan Zone, for example, recorded the highest number of accused individuals across the six-year period. Rapid urban expansion, population inflow, and infrastructural development in these areas may weaken informal social controls, consistent with Social Disorganization Theory (Shaw & McKay, 1942). Areas characterized by residential instability, heterogeneous populations, and economic transition may lack cohesive community networks capable of informal guardianship.

Demographic findings strongly indicate that males aged 18–40 constitute the overwhelming majority of accused individuals across all zones and years. This pattern reflects well-established criminological evidence linking crime involvement with youth and early adulthood. The concentration of offending within this demographic cohort may reflect labor market instability, limited economic opportunities, and social strain. Female and juvenile involvement remains comparatively low; however, the gradual presence of women in certain crime categories particularly fraud-related and miscellaneous offenses suggests evolving participation patterns that warrant further exploration.The observed decline in 2024 may indicate enhanced policing strategies, improved surveillance mechanisms, or administrative reforms in crime reporting. However, without structural socioeconomic interventions, enforcement-led reductions may prove temporary. Sustainable crime prevention in Islamabad requires an integrated strategy that combines data-driven policing, urban planning, youth employment programs, and community-based interventions.

Overall, this study contributes to urban criminology literature in South Asia by providing systematic empirical evidence from Pakistan's

capital city. While previous research has predominantly focused on megacities such as Karachi and Lahore, Islamabad presents a distinct model of planned urban development intersecting with rapid demographic growth. The findings underscore the importance of incorporating spatial analytics, demographic assessment, and theoretical integration when examining crime trends in emerging metropolitan contexts.Future research should incorporate micro-level neighborhood data, qualitative community perspectives, and GIS-based hot-spot mapping to further refine understanding of spatial concentration patterns. Additionally, exploring socioeconomic indicators such as unemployment rates, migration patterns, and income inequality may deepen insight into the structural determinants of crime in Islamabad.

Declarations

Ethical Approval

Not applicable. The study is based on publicly available secondary crime data and did not involve human participants.

Consent to Participate

Not applicable.

Consent to Publish

All authors have read and approved the final manuscript and consent to its publication in the *Asian Journal of Criminology*.

Data Availability Statement

The data that support the findings of this study are derived from National Police Bureau Islamabad Capital Territory (2019–2024). Data are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request and subject to institutional permissions.

Authors' Individual Contributions

Rozeena Kauser: Conceptualization, Data Collection, Data Analysis, Manuscript Writing, Preparation of Tables and Figures. Dr. Imran Sabir: Supervision,and Critical Review. Sardar Muhammad Zeeshan Ali Khan : Literature review support, data verification, table formatting, proofreading, and final manuscript review.

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Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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