

ABSTRACT

Crime is a social problem that can disrupt social stability, public safety, and the process of regional economic development. North Sumatra Province is one of the provinces with high crime rates in Indonesia. This study aims to analyze the effects of average years of schooling, internet usage, per capita GRDP, population density, and a gini ratio dummy variable on crime rates in regencies and cities in North Sumatra Province.

This study employs secondary data in the form of panel data covering 33 regencies and municipalities in North Sumatra Province during the period 2020–2024. The data were obtained from publications of Statistics Indonesia (BPS) and other supporting sources. The analytical method used is panel data regression with the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) approach. Crime rate is measured as the number of crimes per 100,000 population, while the independent variables consist of mean years of schooling, internet usage, GRDP per capita, population density, and a gini ratio dummy variable.

The results of the study show that GRDP per capita has a positive and significant effect on crime rates in the regencies and cities of North Sumatra Province. Meanwhile, average years of schooling, population density, and internet usage have a negative effect on crime rates, though this effect is not statistically significant. The Gini ratio dummy variable has a positive effect on crime rates, but this effect is also not statistically significant. These findings indicate that increased economic activity is not always accompanied by a decrease in crime rates; therefore, policies are needed to promote more inclusive and equitable economic growth, as well as crime management strategies tailored to the characteristics of each region.

Keywords: *Crime Rate, Mean Years of Schooling, Internet Usage, GRDP per Capita, Population Density, Panel Data.*