



Domestic Violence in Kyrgyzstan

Police Accountability on Handling
Domestic Violence Cases in
Kyrgyzstan



What is Kyrgyzstan?

Monoethnic country:

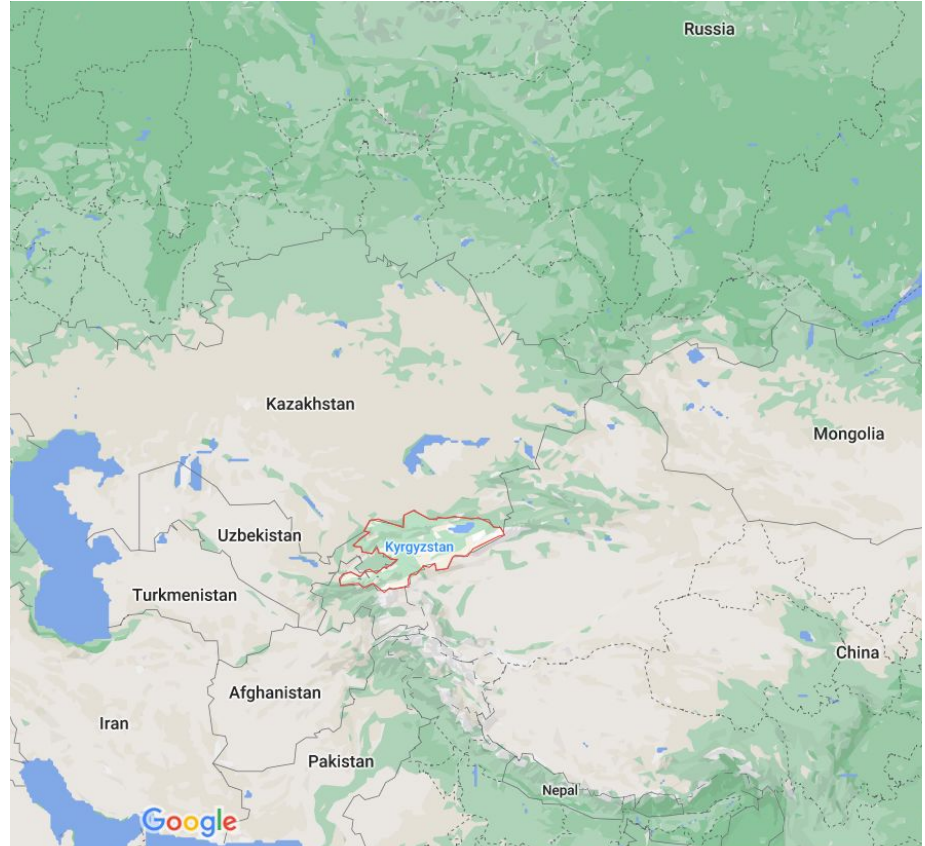
- 73.5% Kyrgyz
- 14.7% Uzbek
- 5.5% Russian

Religion:

90% Islam Sunni Muslims

Economy:

Today the second poorest country in Central Asia



Background: Domestic violence in Kyrgyzstan

“Social barriers include pressure to maintain the family at all costs, stigma and shame, economic dependence, vulnerability and isolation—especially among those in unregistered marriages—and fear of reprisals by abusers.

Other obstacles include lack of services for survivors of domestic violence, particularly shelters, and inaction or hostility on the part of law enforcement and courts”.

[\(Hillary Margolis/ Human Rights Watch, 2015\)](#)

The 2017 change in the legislation requires the police to respond to every report of domestic violence and to issue a restraining order prohibiting the aggressor from approaching his victim. The warrant is valid for three days, but can be extended by a month and used in court.

(Ministry Of Justice Of The Kyrgyz Republic, 2017)

In 2019 the fine for abusers was raised from 2 000 som to 40 000 som.

Overview

The research looks at the following key steps of handling a domestic violence by police before and after adoption of the 2017 legislation:

- registration of a complaint;
- issue of a restraint order;
- opening of an investigation.

Data sources:

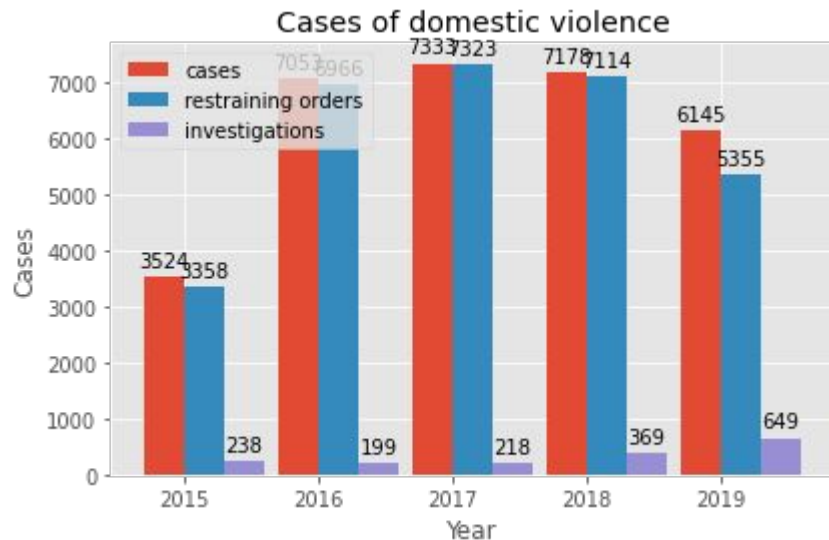
Ministry of Internal Affairs

National Statistical Committee

Scraped data from news websites based on the state offices' press releases
(MIA, Attorney General's Office)

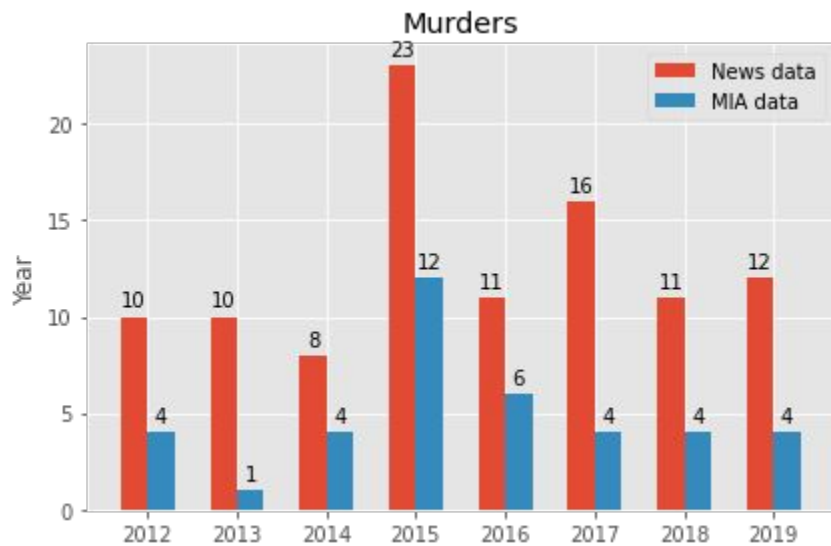
The number of open investigations far from being close to the number of registered cases

Although the legislation on domestic violence in Kyrgyzstan has been significantly improved three years ago and considers to be the most progressive in Central Asia, it still in majority of the cases sees domestic violence as a civil misdemeanor rather than a criminal case. This allows to stop the investigation / prosecution of an abuser if a victim pulls out their complaint. This happens very often due to a cultural stigma, pressure and threats from in-laws and victim's relatives, and social shaming.



Number of the murders in MIA's press releases is three times higher than the number of murder investigations

Often if a victim dies a few days later in a hospital, the abuser gets prosecuted under laws on serious and minor injury, and the cause of death for the victim gets written off as 'due to natural causes' (S.Hasanova, A.Kapushenko, 2020).



Hypothesis Testing

Based on the Pearson's Correlation Coefficient testing the data from the MIA's press releases 82% is not correlated to the statistical data given by MIA with 99% probability.

Skewtest: Scraped_data is SkewtestResult(statistic=2.3172849161911784, pvalue=0.0204882164278674)

Skewtest: MIA_data is SkewtestResult(statistic=2.340003059764638, pvalue=0.01928358190599283)

Pearson's Correlation Coefficient
(0.8231731878606967, 0.012054126149862877)

NormaltestResult(statistic=10.666296199450358, pvalue=0.004828844375260977)

Ttest_indResult(statistic=0.2887988257180071, pvalue=0.776967432720306)