

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND GENDER IN KYRGYZSTAN



NATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMITTEE OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND GENDER

IN KYRGYZSTAN

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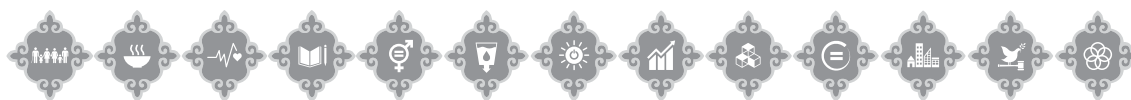


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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

ECOSOC UN Economic and Social Council

HLPF High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

ISSHBW Integrated Sample Survey on the Household Budgets and Workforce

KGS Kyrgyzstani Som

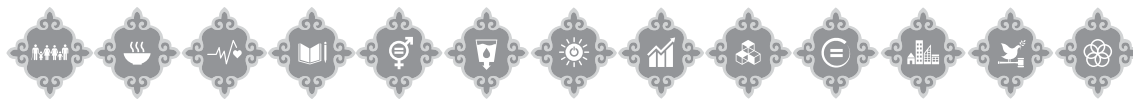
MICS Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

NSC KR National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic

PLHIV People living with HIV

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

UN Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women



FOREWORD

Dear readers,

We are honoured to present the first issue of the Statistical Publication 'Sustainable Development Goals and Gender in Kyrgyzstan' prepared by the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic with the support of UN Women.

Along with other countries, Kyrgyzstan has assumed international obligations under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to nationalize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040, the country will strive to achieve the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

SDG 5 specifically seeks to 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'. At the same time, gender is a cross-cutting issue for all 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda, and the SDGs cannot be fulfilled without achieving gender equality.

The country has also signed a number of international commitments on gender equality, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which oblige us to achieve the respective objectives and implement specific activities.

Gender mainstreaming in key policy documents and their action plans has been identified as essential for the effective promotion of gender equality. In turn, the responsibility for determining indicators used to monitor the implementation of these international commitments lies with our statistical system.

The National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic places special emphasis on the production of gender statistics as the most important tool to assess the country's progress on achieving gender equality.

This publication is intended to inform the public and government officials about the current status and progress towards achieving sustainable development in our country, promote informed policy and management decisions, and help identify further priority steps to achieve the SDGs and women's empowerment.

Sincerely,

Baktybek Kudaibergenov

Chair, National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic



INTRODUCTION

On 25 September 2015, UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to eradicate poverty, conserve the planet's resources and ensure prosperity for all. The 2030 Agenda contains 17 goals, 169 targets and 232 monitoring indicators.

The key message of the 2030 Agenda is to 'Leave No One Behind'. This approach considers inequality in today's world a structural problem that requires vigorous action. Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. This is not just a stand-alone Goal 5, but a cross-cutting approach to other goals. Being a fundamental human right, gender equality is also a pillar of peace, prosperity and sustainable development.

Kyrgyzstan reaffirmed its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the nationalization of the SDGs. The country also ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1996 and adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

One of the main priorities of the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040 is to provide citizens with equal opportunities to realize their abilities, regardless of their wealth, social status, place of residence, ethnicity, gender and other differences, or health status.

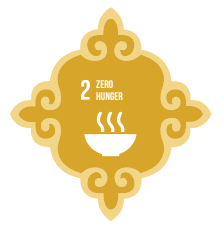
In 2020, Kyrgyzstan presented its first Voluntary National Review of the SDGs at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Based on the structure of this review, this publication focuses on the gender aspects of most of the SDGs. The only exception is SDGs 12–15, which, despite their importance and relevance, do not yet have gender-sensitive indicators in the official set of indicators approved at the global and national levels.

This publication was prepared by the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic with the support of the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia under the framework of the 'Making Every Woman and Girl Count' programme to improve gender data and statistics.

The publication uses official and departmental statistics as well as the results of 2014 and 2018 Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS).

The main emphasis is on the analysis of available indicators disaggregated by sex, age, education and income level, and women's and men's place of residence. The data cover a five-year period, from the adoption of the SDGs through the end of 2021. In some cases, the analysis of long-term trends uses statistical data for 2010.

PEOPLE-FAMILY-SOCIETY





SDG 1. END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

SDG 1 focuses on poverty alleviation and sustainable economic growth. Poverty affects women and men differently. Low incomes, inequal distribution of incomes

and poor people's limited access to public social services reinforce traditional gender roles and stereotypes.

The National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040¹ is aimed at promoting the country's sustainable development and achievement of the SDGs. Its implementation will result in a system that guarantees minimum social protection standards and focuses on socially vulnerable population groups.

The country's National Gender Equality Strategy until 2030² does not focus separately on poverty reduction and its gender aspects, but considers this problem through the prism of women's economic empowerment.

SDG 1.2.1 Reduce poverty in all its forms

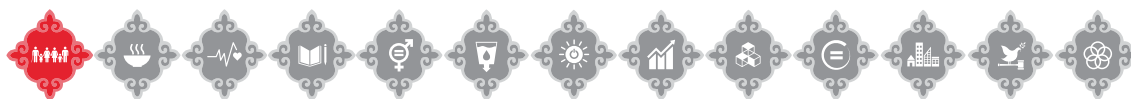
Every third person in Kyrgyzstan lives below the national poverty line. The national poverty rate has decreased significantly in recent years, totaling 20.1 per cent in 2019 (SDG 1.2.1). At the same time, COVID-19 and the subsequent rise in inflation had a negative impact on the population's well-being, with every third Kyrgyzstani living below the national poverty line in 2021.

The poverty rate in both rural and urban areas was 33.3 per cent.

Generally, the gender gap in poverty rates is insignificant. While women accounted for 51.3 per cent of the total poor in 2015, they made up 52.5 per cent in 2021. *Rural women remain one of the most vulnerable categories of the population.* In 2021, rural women accounted for 61.8 per cent of the total number of women living in poverty. By age group, the highest poverty rate was among women aged 25 to 54 (33.4 per cent).

¹ Approved by Presidential Decree UP#221 dated 31 October 2018: <http://www.stat.kg/ru/ukaz-prezidenta-kyrgyzskoj-respubliki-o-nacionalnoj-strategii-razvitiya-kyrgyzskoj-respubliki-na-2018-2040-gody/>

² Approved by Government Decree #513 dated 16 September 2022: National Strategy on Gender Equality till 2030



A special category is the working poor, as having a job does not always guarantee a decent standard of living and 24.7 per cent of the employed population lived below the poverty line in 2021 (SDG 1.2.1.1a). This category includes people with low incomes, those who have several dependents and find it difficult

to provide a minimum level of income for each family member under these conditions. At the same time, the poverty rate is more than 4 percentage points higher among working men, and this gender imbalance has persisted in recent years.

2021: EVERY THIRD PERSON

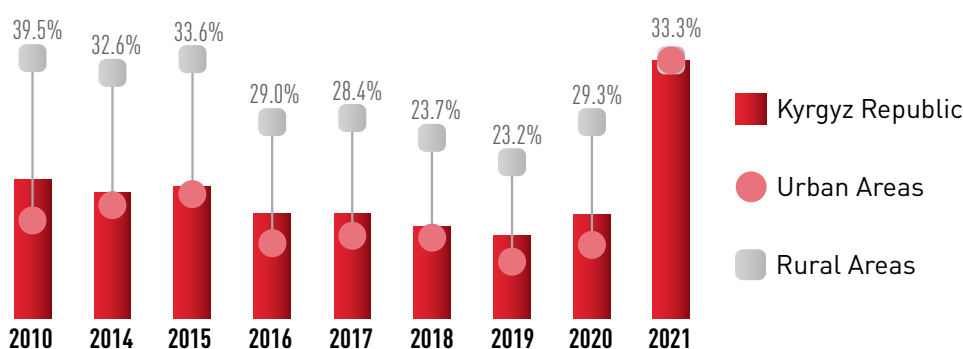
lived below the national poverty line



Chart 1.

Proportion of population living below the national poverty line

(percentage of the population in the respective category)



1 out of 2

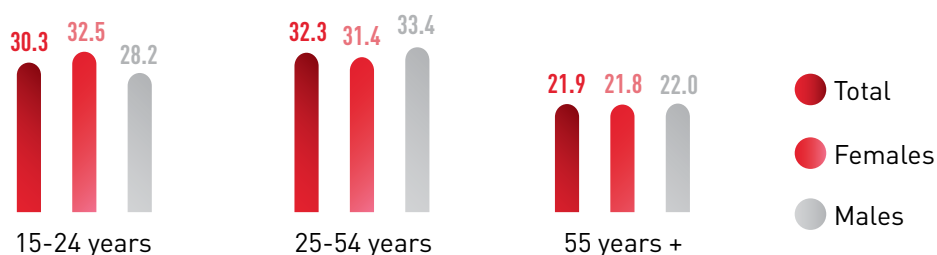
poor are women



About 62% poor women live in rural areas

Chart 2.

National poverty rate, by age, 2021 (per cent)





In 2021, the poverty rate among agricultural workers was 24.3 per cent, compared to 24.8 per cent among non-agricultural workers.

The highest incidence of poverty is among families with many children. Nearly two in three families with five or more children (62.5 per cent) lived in poverty in 2021, down from 84.9 per cent in 2015. Poverty incidence declined annually in large families through 2019, but increased significantly in 2021, amid a general increase in poverty.

Poverty is a multidimensional socioeconomic category. In 2021, the multidimensional poverty rate³ was 48.5 per cent at the national level, and much higher – 52.6 per cent (SDG 1.2.2) – in rural areas. Women and men are equally exposed to the risk of multidimensional poverty. At the same time, the most vulnerable age category is children under 18 years old (58.2 per cent).

SDG 1.3.1 Social protection

The number of old-age pensioners in the country has demonstrated steady growth. Over the past five years, the total number of recipients of old-age pensions has

increased by 12.6 per cent. This is due to population ageing: in 2021, life expectancy was 71.8 years (as compared to 70.6 in 2015), with a gender gap of 8.2 years.

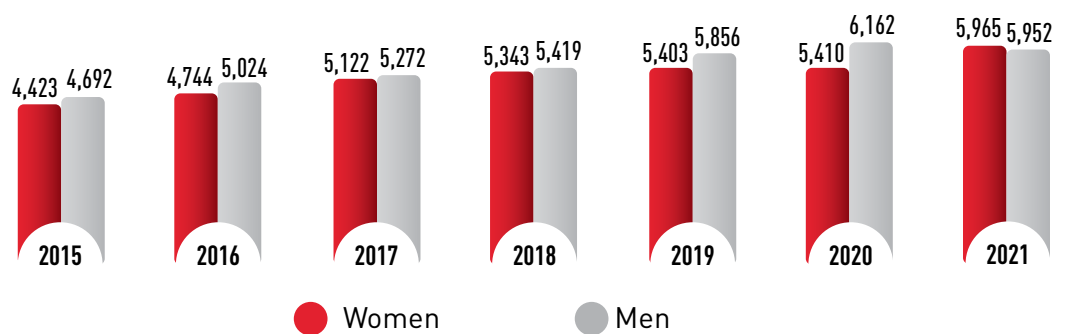
GENDER GAP IN PENSIONS SIZES:

7 out of 10 of old-age pensioners are women

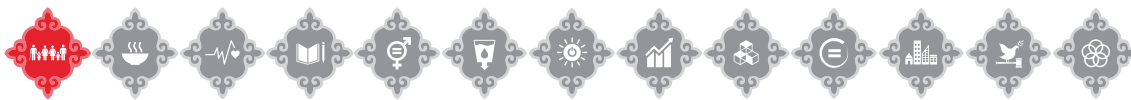


Chart 3.

Average size of pensions, by sex (KGS)



³ Kyrgyzstan has adopted a methodology for calculating multidimensional poverty in five dimensions: monetary poverty, health, housing conditions, food security and education.



More than 69 per cent of pensioners are women and only about 31 per cent are men. According to the national legislation, women become eligible for old-age pensions five years earlier than men. The proportion of pensioned working-aged women was 11.8 per cent, and men 5.2 per cent.

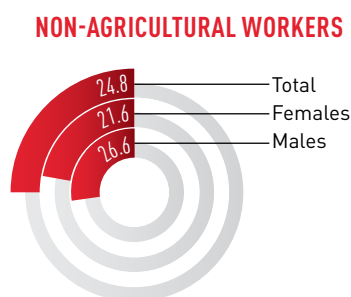
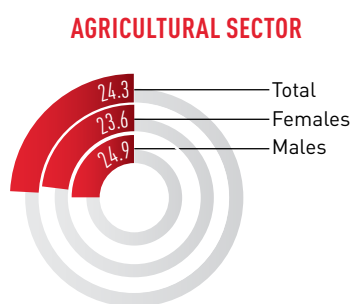
There is no significant difference in the size of pensions between women and men.

The gender gap in the size of pensions was 0.0 per cent in 2021.

Women comprise a higher proportion of the population that receives State monthly social benefits (51.6 per cent) and benefits for low-income families (51.4 per cent). In 2021, 1.2 million people, or 18.0 per cent of the population, received various types of State pensions and benefits.

Chart 4.

Poverty rate, by economic activity, 2021 (%)



UNEMPLOYED AND ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE

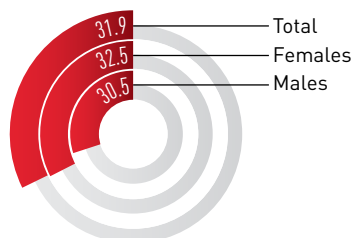
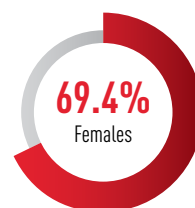


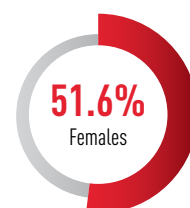
Chart 5.

Recipients of social payments, 2021

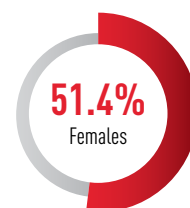
Old-age pensioners 572,373



Recipients of state monthly benefits 99,075



Recipients of monthly benefits for low-income families with children 359,547





SDG 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Food insecurity and malnutrition exacerbate gender inequality. Being at the core of the food production and consumption

processes, women contribute greatly to food security.

The National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040 states that one of the goals of the agro-industrial complex is to increase production volumes and ensure food security in the country. To achieve this goal, the Government promotes a gender-oriented policy for the development of agriculture that does not have a negative impact on the climate.

One of the targets is to halve the proportion of children under the age of 5 whose height is two standard deviations lower from the median for their age according to the Child Growth Development Standards (SDG 2.2.1)³. *The prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age was 11.8 per cent, as opposed to 12.9 per cent in 2014. The indicator was slightly higher among boys (12.5 per cent) than girls (10.9 per cent). The highest number of children with stunting is between the ages of 1.5 and 2 years. The indicator is correlated with the level of a mother's education, being lower in children whose mothers have higher education (10.0 per cent) than in children whose mothers have general education (14.8 per cent). Child development also depends to some extent on family well-being: the proportion of stunted children in the poorest households is 14.0 per cent compared to 9.2 per cent in the richest quintile (SDG 2.2.1).*

The proportion of children with wasting fell from 2.8 per cent in 2014 to 2.0 per cent in 2018 (SDG 2.2.2).

This indicator correlates with the level of mother's education: less malnourished children are more likely to have mothers with complete general and higher education (1.8 per cent). Being overweight among children under 5 years of age is more common than being underweight and is observed in 7 per cent of children. The highest proportion of overweight children was found among children under 1 year of age.

About half of the population of Kyrgyzstan consumes less than 2,100 kilocalories (kcal) per day. At the same time, the prevalence of malnutrition is higher among the urban population, with 52.5 per cent consuming less than 2,100 kcal, which is 9.3 percentage points higher than in rural areas.

Malnutrition, specific food patterns and inadequate access to health care result in a high proportion of pregnant women suffering from anaemia. This trend has persisted for a decade. In 2021, 3 out of 10 pregnant women were anaemic.

³ Root-mean-square deviation from median weight-for-height as per WHO Child Growth Standards, >+2 or <-2

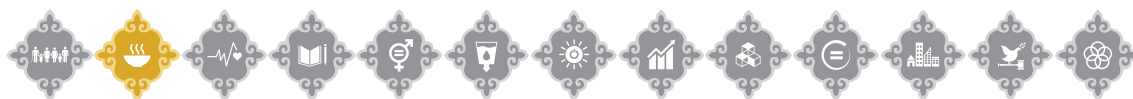


Table 1.

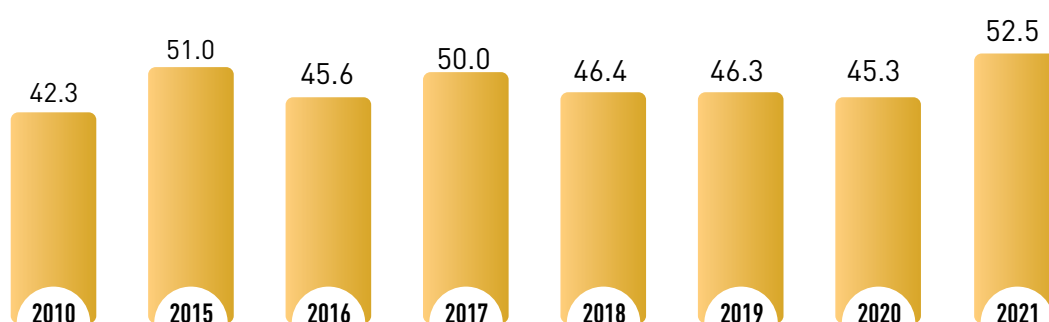
Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting or overweight)² in 2018 (per cent)

	Wasting (-2SD)		Overweight (+2SD)	
	2014	2018	2014	2018
Kyrgyzstan	2.8	2.0	7.0	6.9
Type of area				
Urban	2.6	1.8	8.2	7.0
Rural	2.9	2.1	6.5	6.9
Gender				
Boys	2.8	2.0	7.8	6.8
Girls	2.9	2.1	6.1	7.1

Source: MICS.

Chart 6.

Proportion of population consuming less than 2,100 Kcal (per cent)



Source: ISSHBW

PROPORTION OF PREGNANT WOMEN WITH ANAEMIA



During the whole period under consideration, Kyrgyzstan had very high rates of pregnant women with anaemia. There is a direct correlation between the proportion of children affected by malnutrition and stunting and mother's education.



SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Enhancing the health and well-being of women and men requires a better understanding of the relationship between gender and health. Health indicators

vary by sex: life expectancy, morbidity, reproductive health indicators and causes of mortality differ between women and men.

When it comes to health care, the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040 focuses on the reduction of mortality from cardiovascular and oncological diseases, as well as maternal and infant mortality. The objective is to reduce maternal mortality by 25 per cent, while child and infant mortality rates should not exceed 18 and 12 cases per 1,000 live births, respectively.

The permanent population of Kyrgyzstan was 6.7 million people at the beginning of 2022, including 3.3 million men and 3.4 million women.

The difference in life expectancy between women and men is 8.2 years. In 2021, life expectancy among men was 67.9 years, versus 76.1 years among women. Life expectancy for both genders has increased by an average of 0.7 years over the past five years.

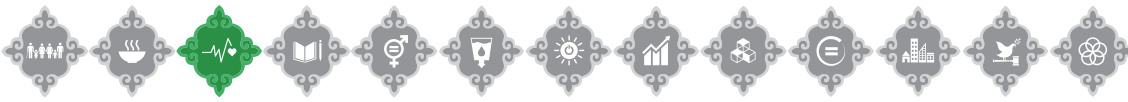
More than 85 per cent of women and men aged 15 and older evaluate their state of health as being good or very good. Men are more positive about their health (88.0 per cent) than women (82.6 per cent).

The incidence of cancer remains high, in particular among women (SDG 3.4.1). This indicator decreased by 4.1 per cent in 2021 compared to 2016: 86.0 cases per 100,000 population. Cancer continues to be one of

the main causes of death, accounting for 10.2 per cent of all deaths. The number of men with cancer in 2021 exceeded that of women in the age groups from 0 to 24 years and 65 years and older. In other age groups, women predominate.

The country sees, on average, about 11 new cases of tuberculosis every day. This indicator dropped from 93.4 cases per 100,000 people in 2016 to 58.1 cases in 2021. At the same time, the incidence of tuberculosis among men is 1.3 times higher than among women.

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) incidence decreases annually among both men and women. There were 1.8 cases of hepatitis B virus per 100,000 population in 2021, with the incidence among men (2.5 cases per 100,000 males), exceeding the incidence among young women (1.1 cases), as in previous years.

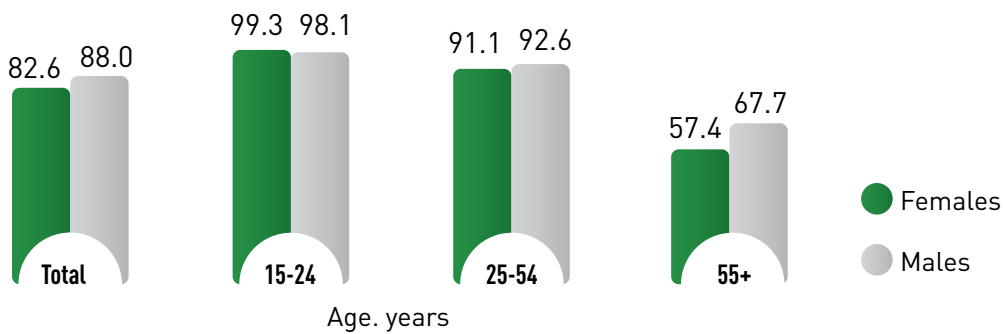


In 2021 there was an increase in HIV incidence (SDG 3.3.1). The steadiest increase in the number of HIV infections was seen in the period from 2015 to 2019. The number of people living with HIV under regular medical check-up has also increased by 60 per cent over the past six years.

Chart 7.

Self-rated health status among the population aged 15 years and older in 2021 – ‘good’ and ‘very good’

(percentage of the population in each respective category)



Source: ISSHBW

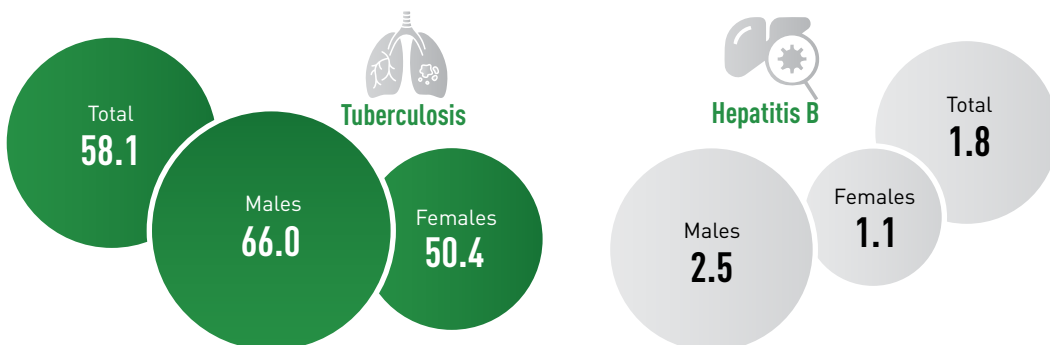
Chart 8.

Life expectancy, 2021 (years)



Chart 9.

Main types of diseases per 100,000 population, 2021 (cases)





Recent years have seen a decrease in the incidence of drug and alcohol addiction. The incidence of alcohol addiction among men has almost halved – down to 26.0 cases per 100,000 population in 2021, exceeding the rate among women by more than 3.5 times. The national average for drug addiction was 2.0 cases per 100,000 population: 3.9 cases per 100,000 males and 0.1 per 100,000 females.

The mortality rate among men is higher than among women. In 2021, the mortality rate was 6.5 cases per 100,000 males, and 5.1 among females.

Cardiovascular diseases cause more than half of deaths annually (51.1 per cent of all deaths in 2021). They are the main cause of deaths among the working-age population (32.4 per cent). The cardiovascular mortality rate was 297.1 cases per 100,000 people in 2021. Traditionally, this indicator is slightly higher among men.

The mortality rate for diabetes is higher among women than men. There has been an increase in the number of deaths from diabetes over the past five years. In 2021, the mortality rate among women and men was 8.3 and 5.8 cases per 100,000 population, respectively.

Table 2.

Mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases per 100,000 population, 2021 (SDG 3.4.1) (cases)

	Total	Women	Men
Cardiovascular diseases	297.1	283.3	311.0
Cancer	59.5	56.4	62.7
Diabetes	7.1	8.3	5.8
Chronic respiratory diseases	14.2	11.2	17.3

Suicide is currently one of the most acute global problems, serving as an indicator of both mental health and social well-being of the population. Despite the marked decrease in suicide mortality in recent years, it remains consistently high among men. In 2021, there were 5.8 suicides per 100,000 people, including 8.8 among men, which is 3.1 times higher than among women (2.8 cases).

Unnatural causes account for a significant proportion of deaths:⁴ 2,843 deaths, or 7.3 per cent of the total number of deaths in 2021. Of these, 29.6 per cent are due to traffic accidents. According to registry offices, traffic accidents caused 841 deaths in 2021. That said, this indicator among men (17.9 cases per 100,000 males) is 2.5 times higher than among women (7.3 cases).

⁴ Injuries, poisoning and some other consequences of unnatural causes.

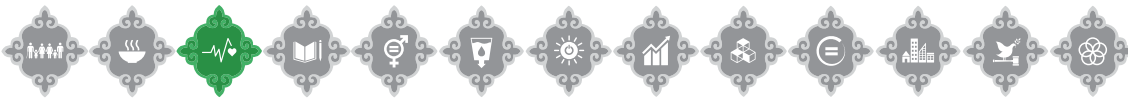


Chart 10.

Incidence of alcohol addiction per 100,000 population (cases)

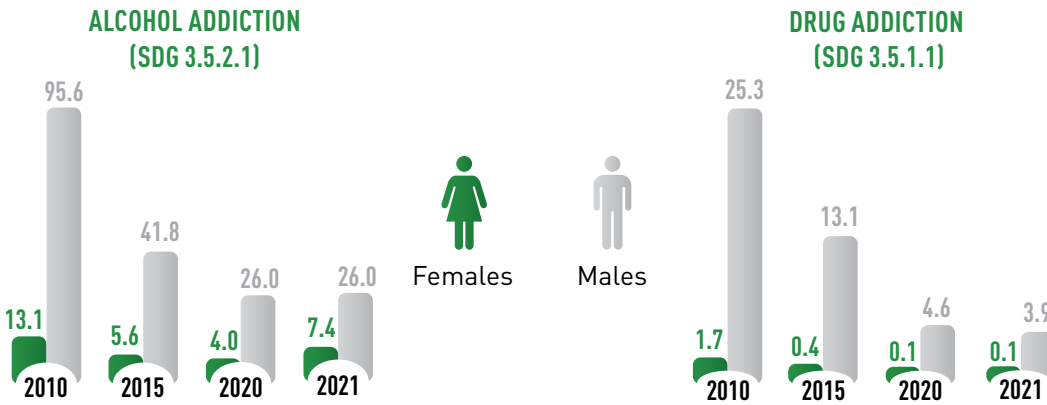
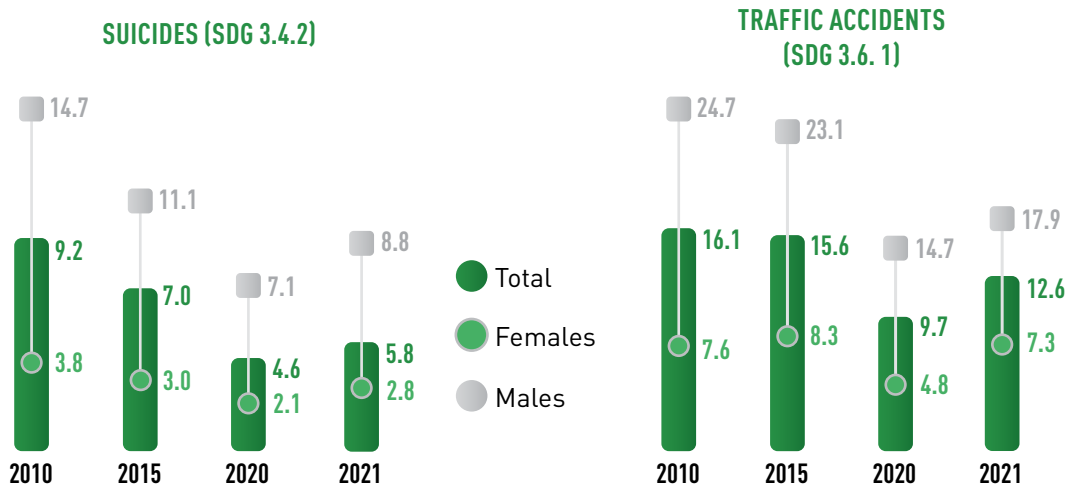


Chart 11.

Deaths from suicides and traffic accidents per 100,000 population (cases)



An important element of sexual and reproductive health is access of women of reproductive age to modern family planning methods (SDG 3.7.1). According to the MICS, the proportion of women using such methods decreased to 67.4 per cent in 2018 (versus 68.7 per cent in 2014). Women aged 30–34 years (76.2 per cent) and 35–39 years (74.5 per cent) who attained higher education (74.3 per cent) and have higher levels of well-being (71.4 per cent in the wealthiest quintile) were more likely to use contraception.

Teenage pregnancy creates significant medical and social challenges. There were 29.7 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 in the country in 2021, as compared to 42.3 births in 2015. This indicator was higher than the national average in urban areas (37.5 births), and lower in rural areas (26.4 births).



The maternal mortality rate remains one of the key sustainable development issues (SDG 3.1.1). Despite the positive dynamics achieved in recent years, maternal mortality in Kyrgyzstan remains high. In 2021, 50 women died from complications related to pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period, which is 33.3 women's deaths per 100,000 live births. For the first time in 2015–2019, the maternal mortality rate in rural areas (22.3 per cent) decreased, compared to urban areas (28.8 per cent). In 2020–2021, however, the situation changed drastically, with maternal mortality in rural areas rising to 49.2 cases per 100,000 live births in 2020 and 39.5 cases in 2021.

More than 99 per cent of births are attended by skilled health personnel (SDG 3.1.2). Cases of women giving birth outside health care facilities are rare, so special attention should be paid not so much to births taking place in health care facilities, but to the qualifications of the health personnel and the extent to which the pregnant woman was monitored throughout the pregnancy. According to the 2018 MICS, 84.2 per cent of pregnant women were under prenatal care from a physician, 15.4 per cent from a nurse or midwife, 0.3 per cent from a paramedic, and 0.2 per cent were not covered by prenatal care.

Chart 12.

Births among adolescents aged 15 to 19 years by type of area
((births per 1,000 women of the respective age group))

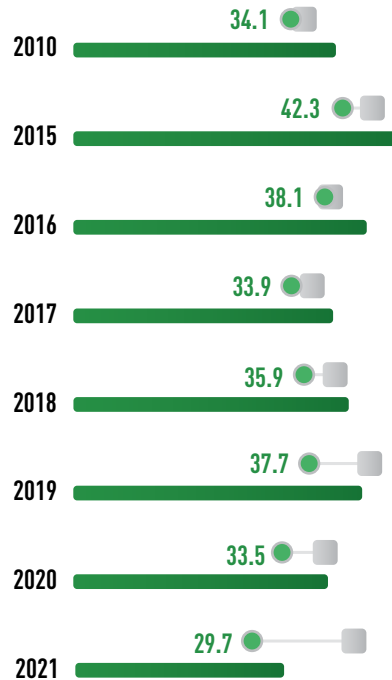
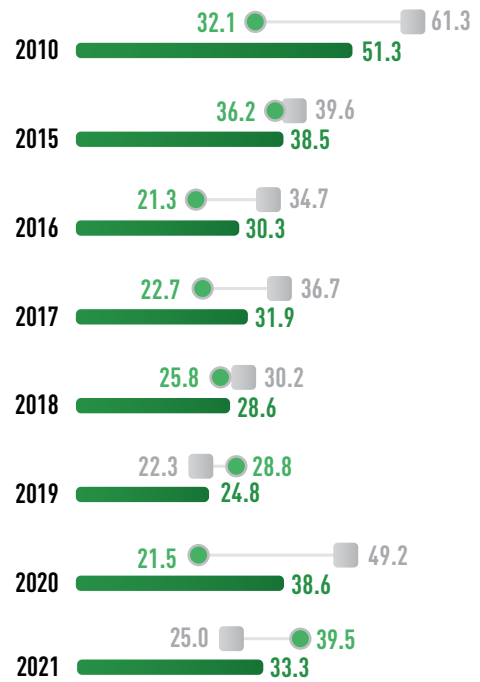
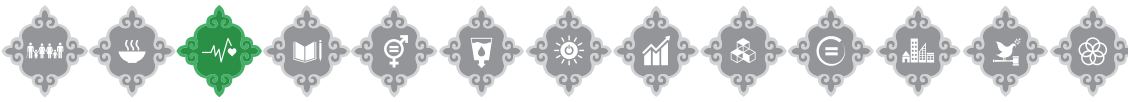


Chart 13.

Maternal mortality rate per 100 000 live births



- Kyrgyz Republic
- Rural Areas
- Urban Areas



The neonatal mortality rate (SDG 3.2.2) decreased significantly: reaching 11.9 cases in 2021, as opposed to 14.0 cases in 2015. At the same time, boys are 2.5 percentage points more likely than girls to die in their first 27 days of life.

The vaccination coverage rate among children exceeds 95 per cent. According to the 2018 MICS, the proportion of children

aged to 12– 23 and 24–35 months-old who are vaccinated against preventable childhood diseases is high: 99.7 per cent of children in surveyed households have a vaccination card. Still, 2.4 per cent of children are not vaccinated, with the proportion of such children being much higher among boys (3.9 per cent) than girls (0.7 per cent).

Chart 14.

Neonatal mortality (deaths of children aged 0 to 27 days, per 1,000 live births)

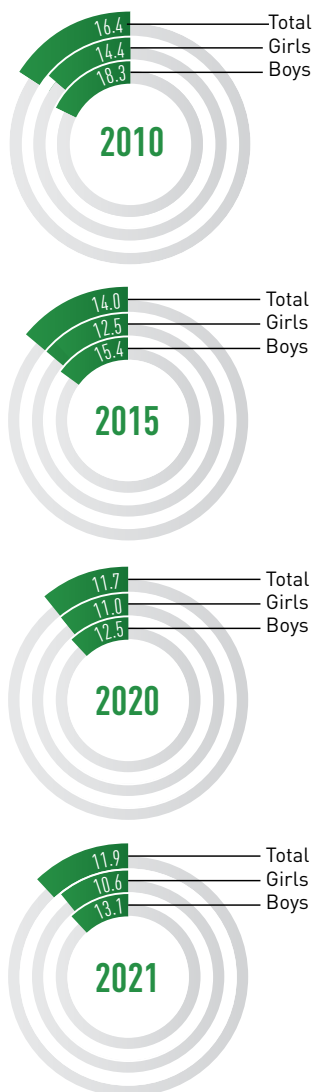
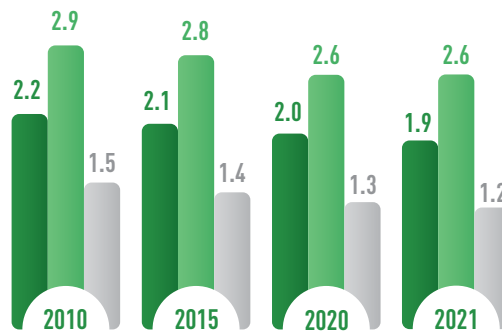


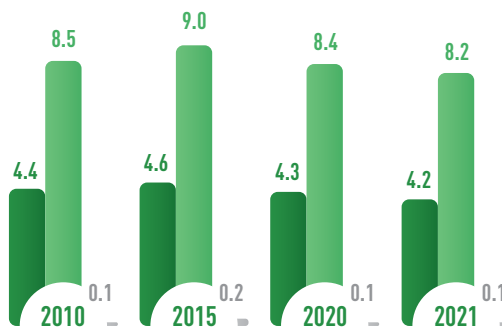
Chart 15.

Health personnel

HEALTH PERSONNEL PER 1,000 POPULATION, BY SEX



OBSTETRIC AND NURSING STAFF PER 1,000 POPULATION, BY SEX



- Total physicians
- Females
- Males



There is a decrease in the density and distribution of health workers (SDG 3.c.1). The number of female doctors in 2021 was twice as high as the number of male doctors, however there was an equal decline in the number of doctors for both genders. The greatest decrease in the number of doctors was observed in Bishkek: 2.1 per 1,000 people in 2021, as opposed to 3.0 doctors per 1,000 people in 2010. At the same time, the number and gender composition of obstetric and nursing staff have remained virtually unchanged in recent years.

Roughly 95.0 per cent of the population is covered by health insurance, with no significant differences between genders. In some cases, people refuse medical services due to financial difficulty. In recent years, however, there has been a decrease in the proportion of people, especially women, who refuse such services. It is mostly people over 55 years of age, both women and men, who experience difficulties.

For SDG 3, maternal and infant mortality rates have decreased. At the same time, cardiovascular mortality rate is still high.



SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



A gender-sensitive education system plays a key role in building equal labour market opportunities for women and men, in expanding the range of their life strategies and reducing economic, social and political inequalities. The National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040 aims to implement a modernizing educational policy aimed at improving the quality of education in the country. Key principles of educational system reform to be considered include accessibility and the quality of education for all citizens.

In Kyrgyzstan, women have a higher level of education than men. According to the Integrated Sample Survey on Household Budgets and the Workforce (ISSHBW), 36 per cent of women have either a higher education or secondary vocational education versus less than 27 per cent of men. Furthermore, there is a large gap in the level of education of women and men depending on whether they live in urban or rural areas.

Progress has been made in recent years in expanding access to all levels of education and in increasing school enrolment rates, particularly among women and girls. *Preschool coverage has also increased significantly, from 10.0 per cent in 2010 to 80.9 per cent in 2021.* Since the launch of a special programme to expand the number of preschool education formats – to include short-term care and preschool facilities – the number of children in preschools has

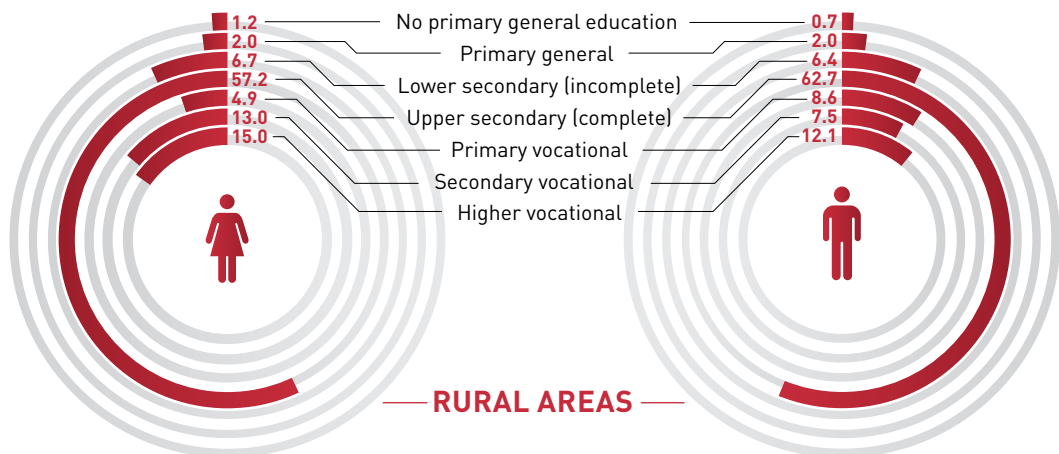
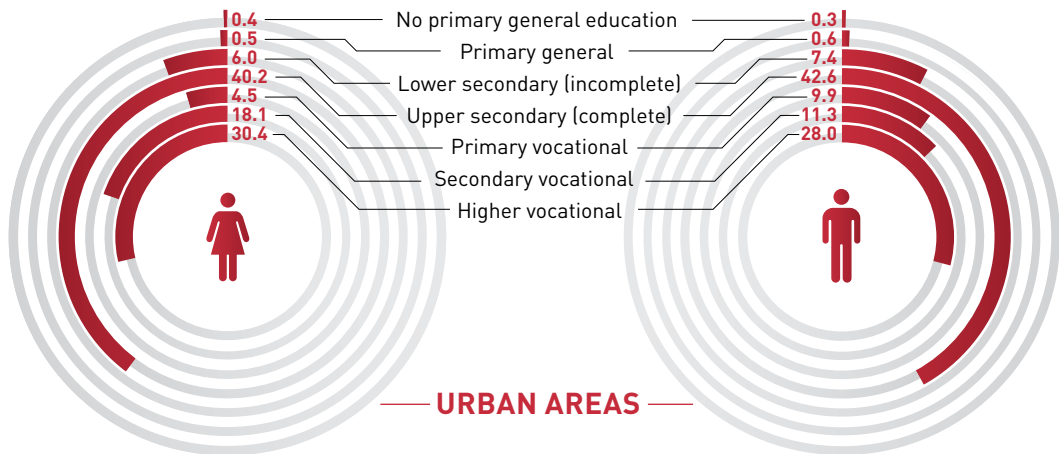
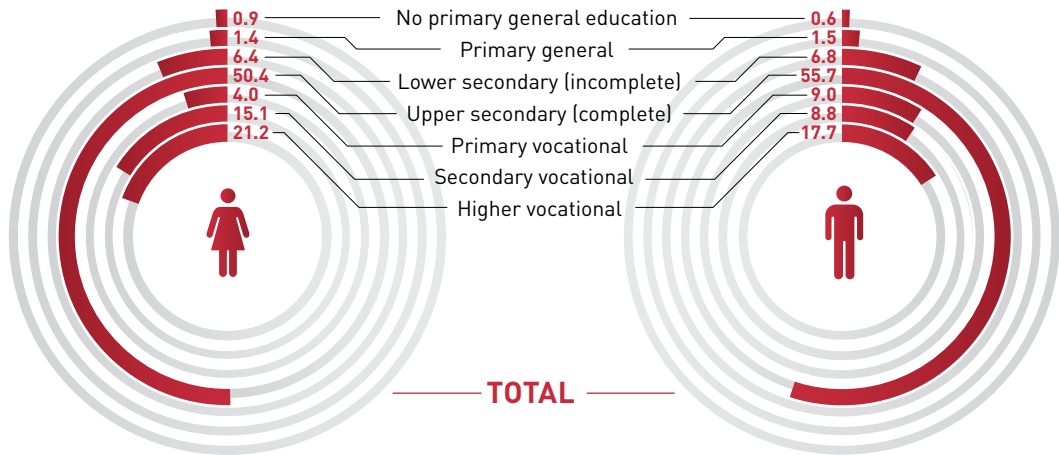
increased by almost 15 per cent – from 174,000 in 2016 to 200,000 in 2021, not only in urban settlements, but also in rural areas.

There is an alarming downward trend in the proportion of children aged 3 to 5 years who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychological well-being (SDG 4.2.1). Nationwide, the proportion of such children dropped to 71.7 per cent in 2018, down from 78.3 per cent in 2014. This indicator decreased by 7.9 and 5.6 per cent among boys and girls, respectively. According to MICS data, this indicator is to some extent dependent on family financial well-being. Specifically, the proportion of children aged 3 to 5 who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychological well-being in the poorest quintile is 72.5 per cent, compared to 78.0 per cent of children in the wealthiest quintile.



Chart 16.

Educational level of the population aged 18 years and older, 2021 (%)



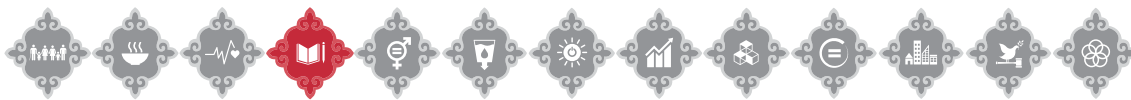


Chart 17.

Preschool enrolment rate (one year before the official school admission age)
(proportion of the resident population at 6 years of age)

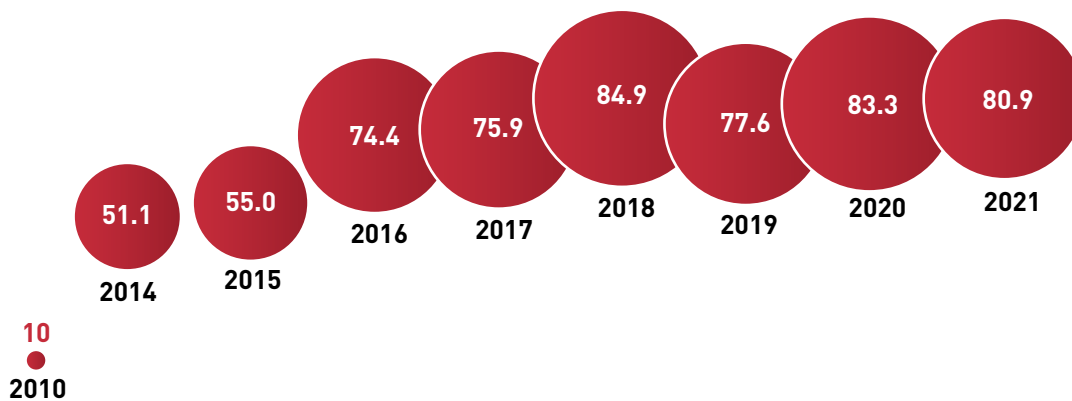
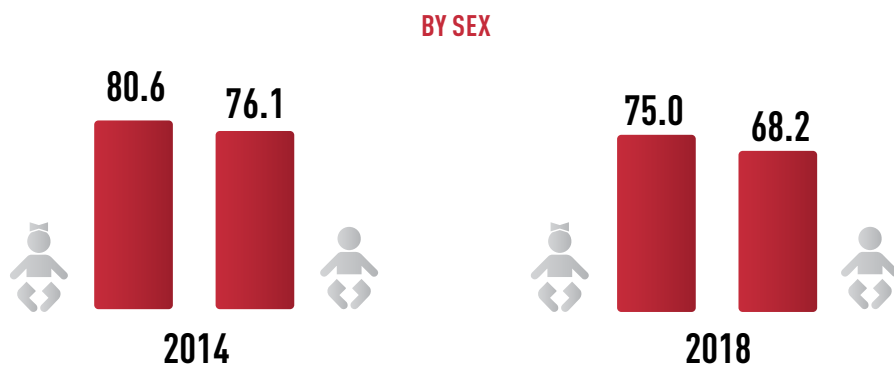
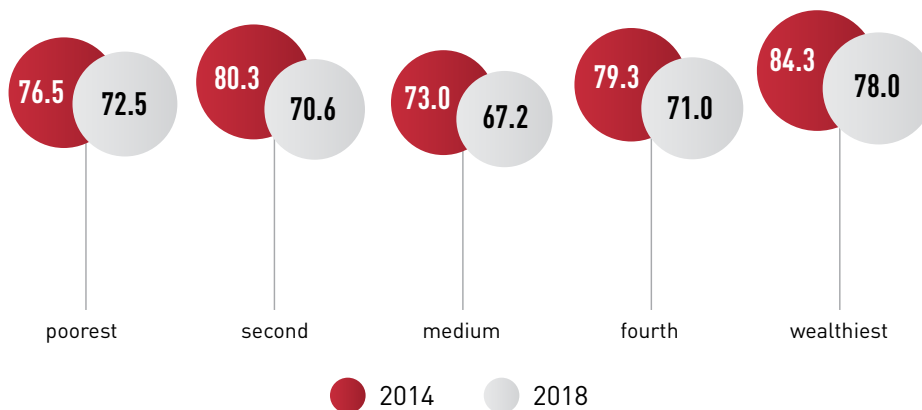


Chart 18.

Children aged 36 to 59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychological well-being *(per cent)*



BY WEALTH INDEX QUINTILE





There are some differences between girls and boys in terms of enrolment. Enrolment in basic general school up to grade 9 does not show a gender imbalance. Gender ratios in primary and basic education show that fewer girls than boys enrol in lower (incomplete) secondary school (grades 1–9). Still, girls are more likely to receive a complete secondary education (grades 10–11), while boys are more likely to drop out after grade 9.

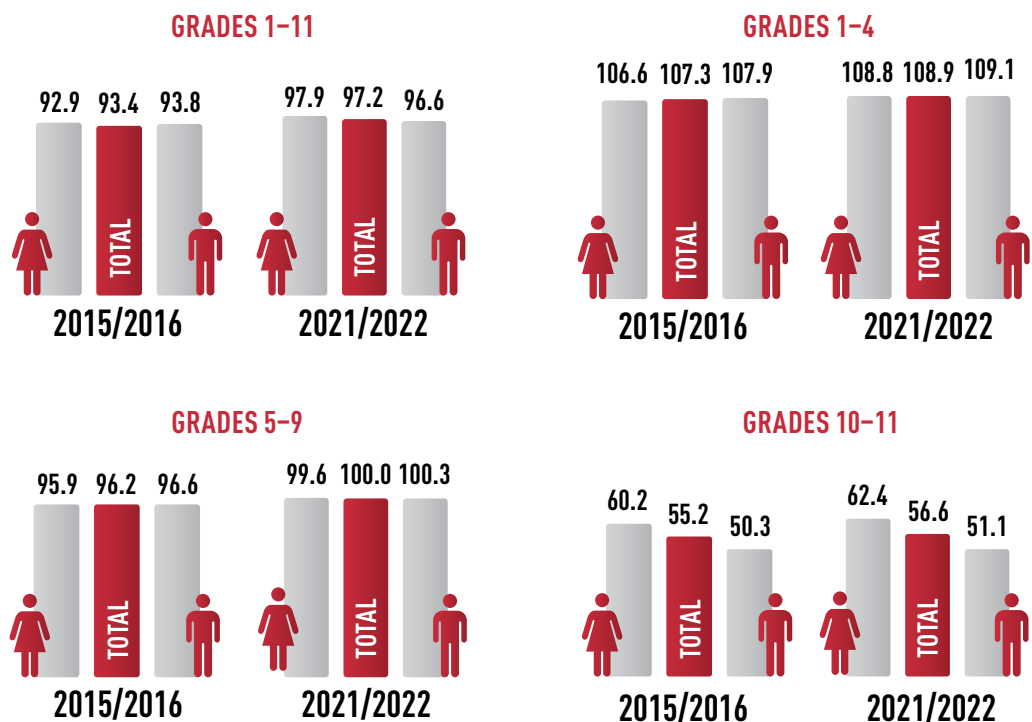
Prior to 2017, there was a decrease in the number of children and adolescents aged 7 to 17 who did not start school was decreasing. This was followed by a rise to 2,834 in 2019. In 2021, 2,495 children were not enrolled in school, including 58.8 per cent of boys. The main reasons for non-attendance were health limitations and family circumstances.

Most out-of-school children as at the beginning of the 2021/2022 school year were from rural areas, twice as many as from urban areas. Almost one in four out-of-school children are from the Osh region.

According to the 2018 MICS, just over half of children aged 7–14 have minimum literacy (57.9 per cent), while 51.3 per cent have basic mathematics skills (SDG 4.1.1). Girls' reading and mathematics skills are, on average, 4 per cent higher than boys'. Urban children have 12.9 per cent higher reading skills than rural children. The difference between urban and rural boys is even greater (14.6 per cent). The average difference in mathematics skills is slightly lower (7.4 per cent), with this difference being greater among boys (by 7.8 per cent) than among girls (by 4.5 per cent).

Chart 19.

Education coverage rate (per cent)



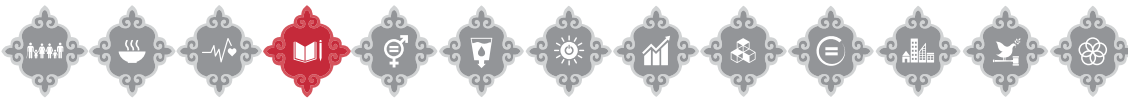


Chart 20.

Children and adolescents aged 7 to 17 years (grades 1–11) who did not start general education, by reason and gender, 2021 *(proportion of the total)*

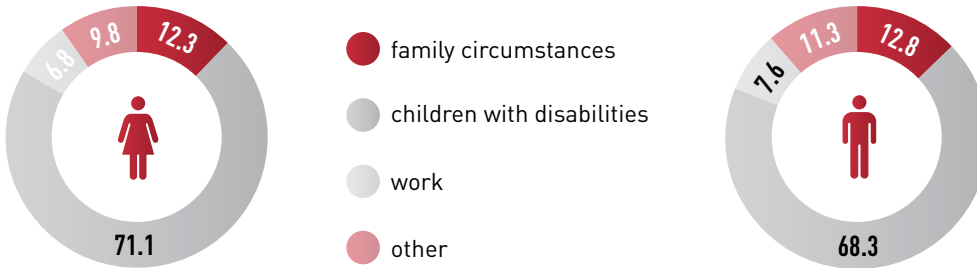
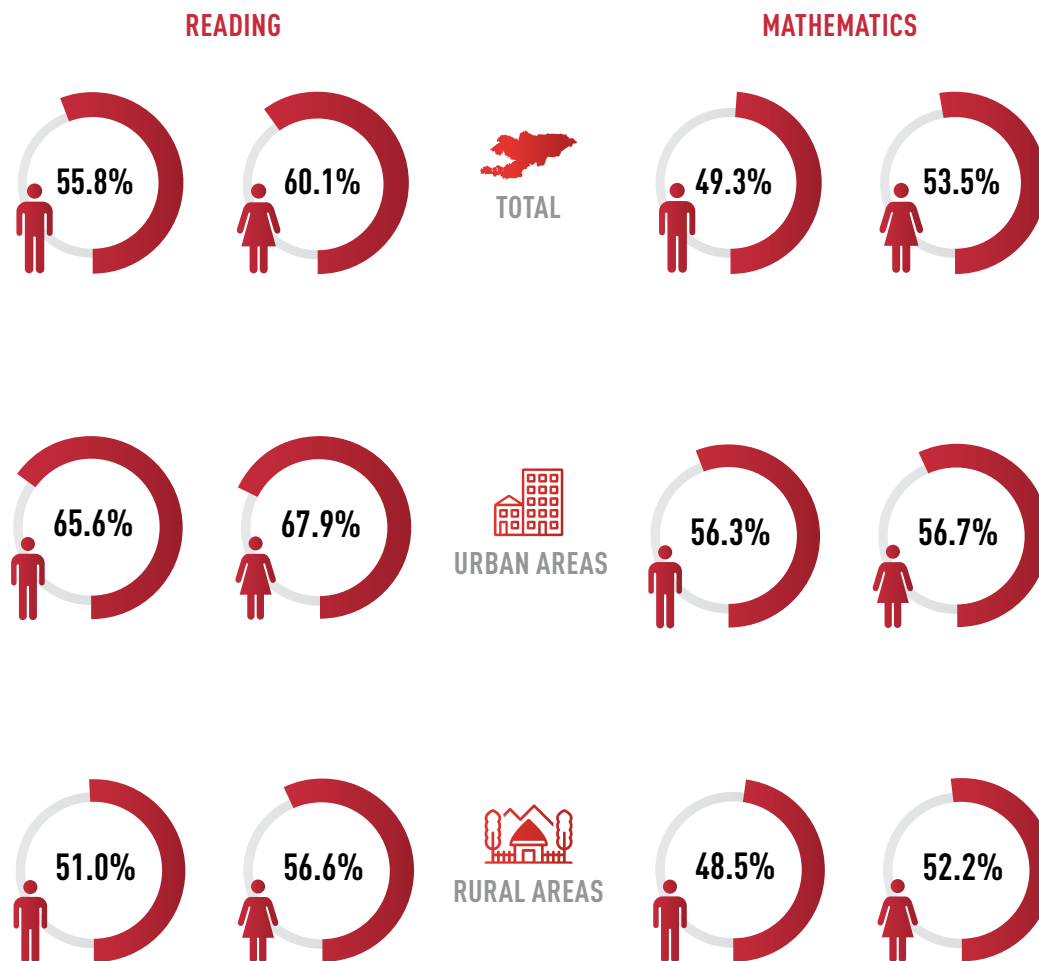


Chart 21.

Children aged 7 to 14 years who successfully completed the three assignments, 2018





The vast majority of schoolteachers are women, which is a result of professional segregation in education, with 89 per cent choosing teaching professions. In the 2021/2022 school year, the proportion of women of the total number of teachers in daytime general education institutions was 85.9 per cent, as opposed to 14.1 per cent

men. Male teachers are, however, more likely to hold managerial and higher-paid positions.

The gradual reduction in the number of men in high school has persisted in vocational education: 40.0 per cent of males are enrolled in secondary vocational education and 44.5 per cent in higher education.

Chart 22.

Teachers of daytime general educational organizations (without part-time workers), by sex

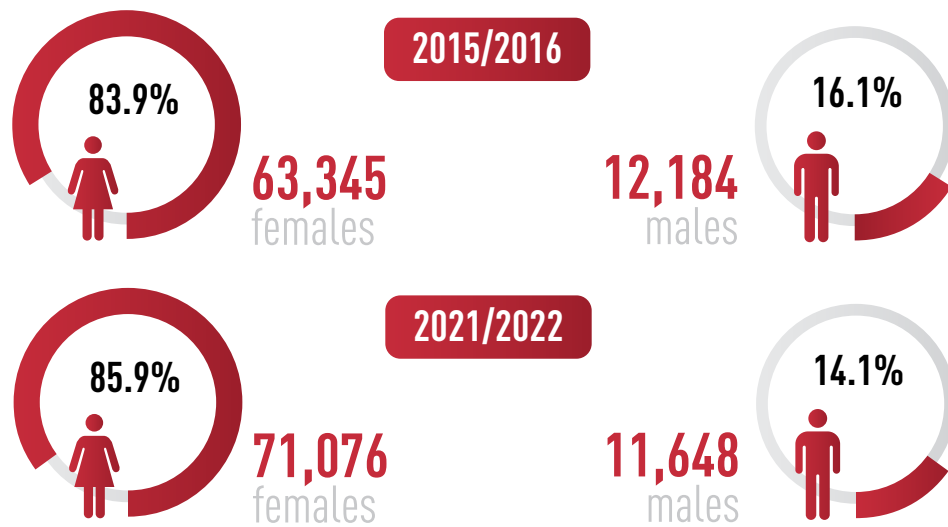


Chart 23.

Graduates of educational organizations, by sex

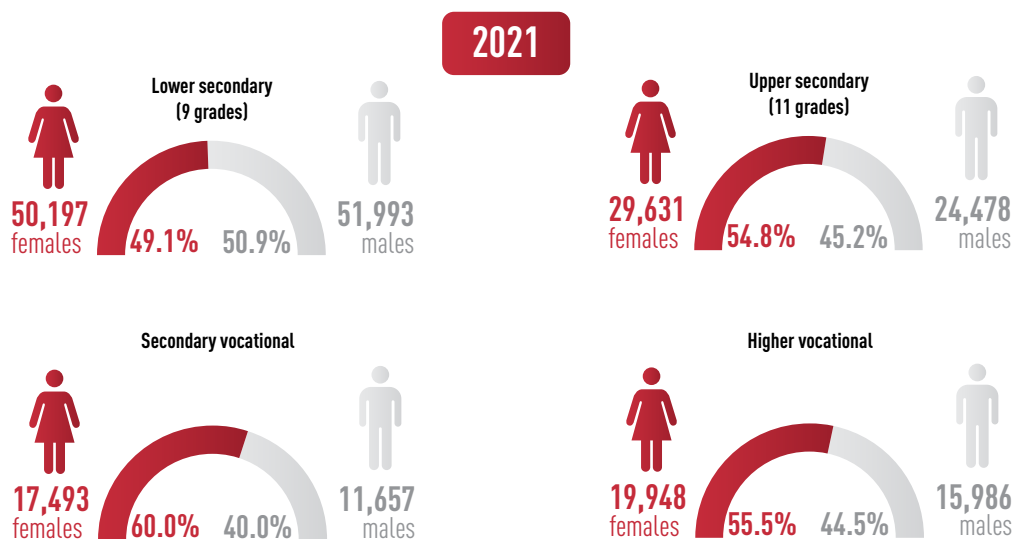
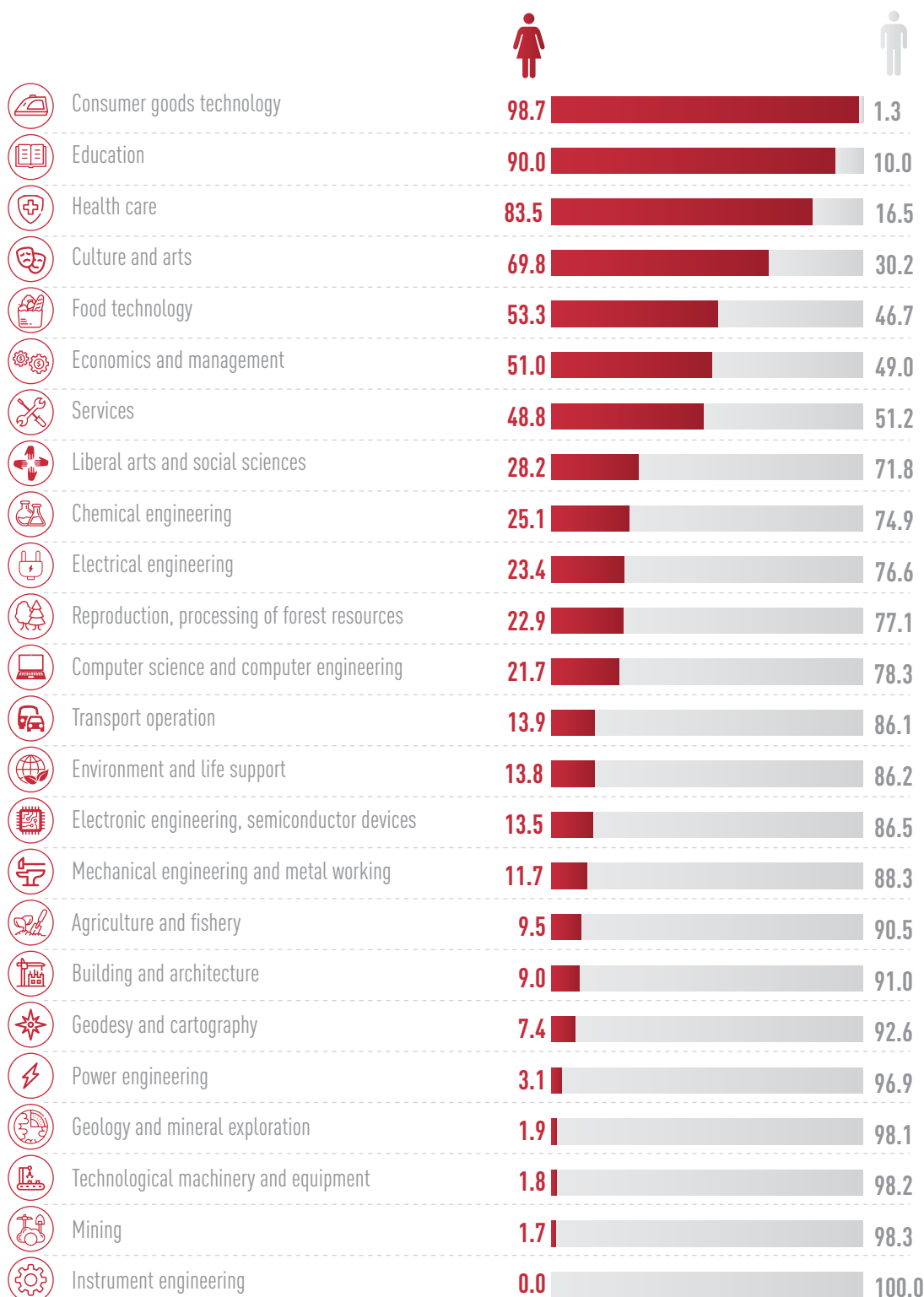




Chart 24.

Students of secondary vocational institutions, by profession and gender
(at the beginning of the 2021/2022 academic year, per cent)





Gender segregation persists when it comes to choice of profession. Women make up most of the students of secondary vocational education institutions in the areas of: 'Education' (90.0 per cent), 'Consumer goods technology' (98.7 per cent), 'Health care' (83.5 per cent), 'Culture and art' (69.8 per cent), and 'Economics and management' (51.0 per cent). When examining the most popular areas of vocational study, 82.4 per cent of female students preferred the following three areas: 'Education and pedagogical sciences' (41.5 per cent), 'Health care' (27.3 per cent) and 'Economics and management' (13.6 per cent). However, male students tend to receive more versatile educations, with the top three areas concentrating only 44.6 per cent of all students: 'Economics and management' (16.6 per cent), 'Computer science' (15.2 per cent) and 'Liberal arts and social sciences' (12.7 per cent).

Gender segregation is also observed in higher education institutions. As of the beginning of the 2021/2022 school year, women made up 51.0 per cent of university students. There is a traditionally high proportion of women among students studying 'Education and pedagogical sciences' (88.0 per cent), 'Health and medical sciences' (37.9 per cent), and 'Economics and management'

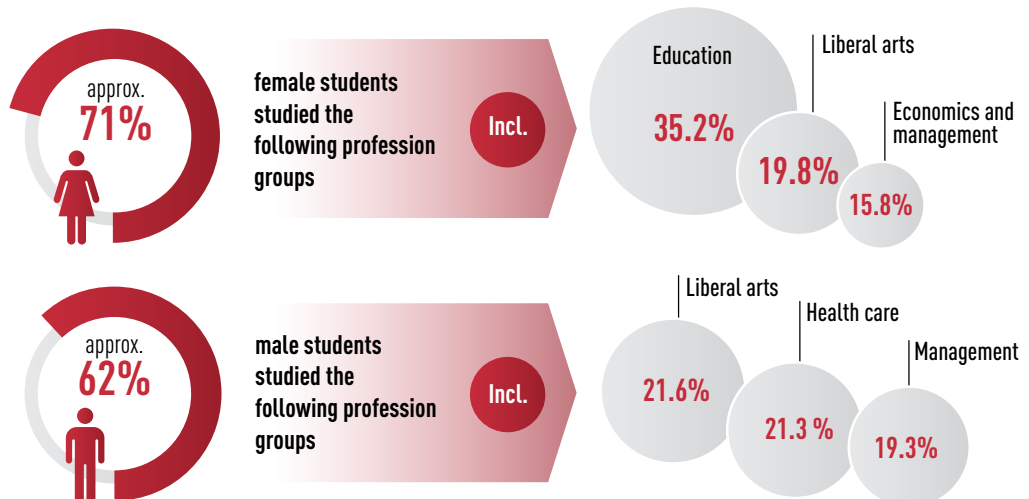
(46.3 per cent). At the same time, men prevail among students studying 'Technical sciences' (83.8 per cent) 'Agricultural sciences' (75.0 per cent), and 'Health care' (62.1 per cent).

Women comprise the majority of postgraduate and doctoral students. The proportion of women of the total number of graduate students changed slightly, from 58.5 per cent in 2016 to 58.7 per cent in 2021. Among doctoral students, however, their proportion increased from 59.6 per cent to 65.2 per cent over the same period (5.6 percentage points). Whereas the number of women in doctoral studies exceeded the number of men by 1.5 times six years ago, in 2021 this had increased to 1.9 times.

Although there is no longer a gender gap between girls and boys in primary education in Kyrgyzstan, the number of boys in upper secondary schools and higher education is decreasing. This trend, if it persists, may result in a significant gap between more educated women and girls and men and boys dropping out of the education system, which will have negative demographic and social impacts. Furthermore, persistent gender segregation in vocational education leads to limited economic opportunities for women.

Chart 25.

Most popular areas of study in higher education institutions, 2021/2022



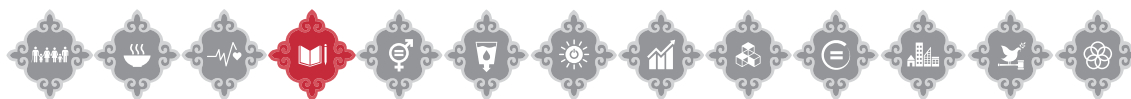


Chart 26.

Students of higher vocational education institutions, by area of study and gender (at the beginning of the 2021/2022 school year, per cent)





SDG 5.

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Kyrgyzstan's Constitution proclaims non-discrimination, including on the basis of gender, such that men and women not only have equal rights, but also equal opportunities for their realization. The 2008 "Law on equal rights and equal

opportunities for men and women" defines gender equality mechanisms and the responsibilities of State authorities. In 2017, the country adopted the revised "Law on the protection from domestic violence" (SDG 5.11).

The National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040 emphasizes that Kyrgyzstan shall ensure women's full and equal participation in all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. State programmes aimed at achieving gender equality and eliminating the imbalance between men's and women's opportunities are being implemented.

The National Gender Equality Strategy until 2030 identifies the following priorities: (i) economic empowerment of women, (ii) cultural policy and functional education, (iii) reduction of gender violence, and (iv) promotion of gender parity in decision-making and development of women's political participation.

SDG 5.2-5.3

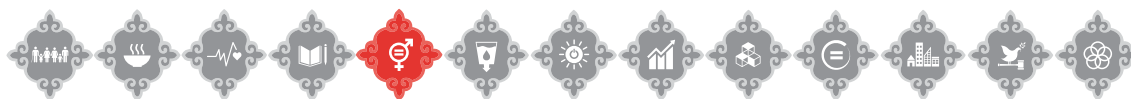
Domestic violence and discrimination against women and girls⁵

Reports to State authorities regarding family (domestic) violence are monitored by designated bodies. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the number of victims of domestic violence increased by 5.1 times in 2021 compared to 2010. This is due in part to measures taken in 2017 to introduce a temporary restraining order, including the expansion of law enforcement obligations to respond to incoming domestic violence reports. Most

victims of domestic violence (95.0 per cent) are women. Three per cent of victims are children and adolescents.

In 2021, 9,038 restraining orders were issued due to domestic violence, the majority of which accounted for Bishkek (3,518), Chui (2,337), Jalal-Abad (649) and Osh (649) Osh regions (573). Most domestic violence episodes (over 95 per cent) were committed by men. Far fewer episodes (about 5 per cent) were attributed to women.

⁵ The extent of physical, sexual and psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner (SDG 5.2.1) against women will be revealed by specialized surveys to be conducted between 2023 and 2024.

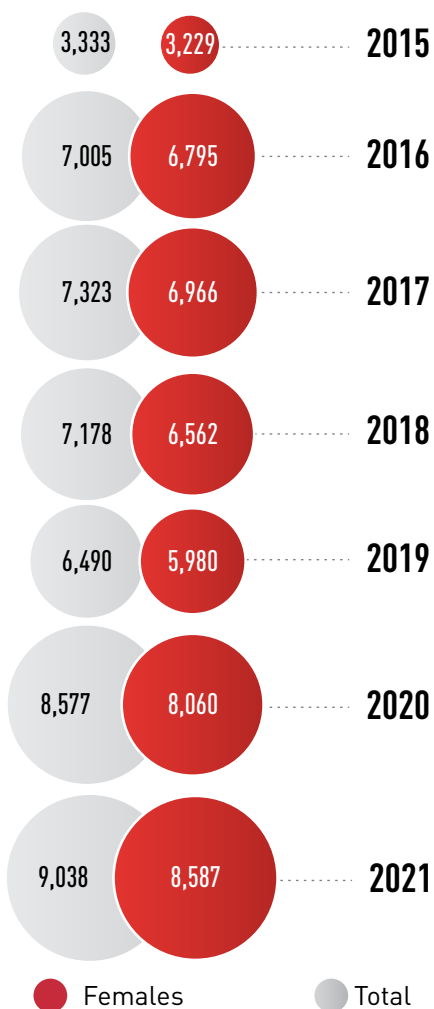


Prosecutions for domestic violence in 2021 increased by 17.4 per cent, while the number of domestic violence homicides also grew from 4 to 28 cases, an increase of almost 7 times, compared to 2017.

In 2021, the largest number of complaints (1,860) about domestic violence to health authorities were addressed to forensic medicine departments.

Chart 27.

Victims of domestic violence (number)

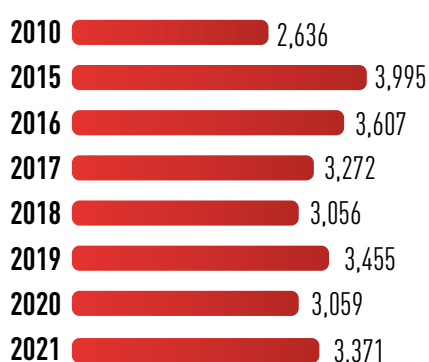


Proportion of victims of family violence, 2021

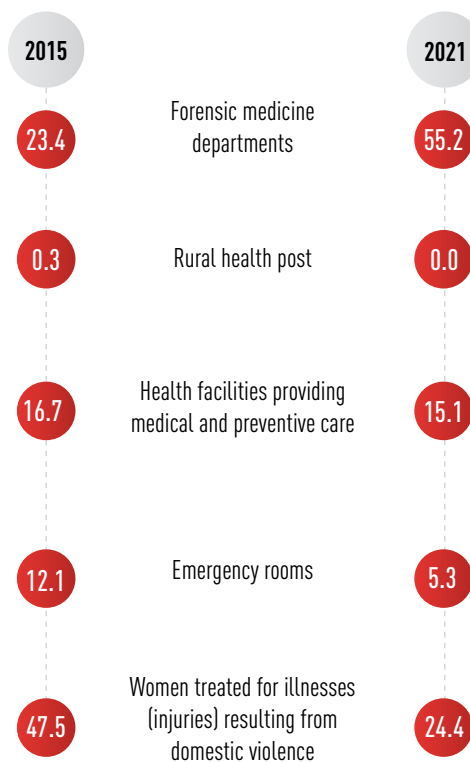


Chart 28.

Women's complaints about domestic violence to health authorities



Distribution of women's complaints about domestic violence to health authorities (percentage of the





Such crimes as early and forced marriages are monitored based on the official data on discriminatory marriage practices in Kyrgyzstan. According to the 2018 MICS, 12.9 per cent of women were married before the

age of majority (18 years) and 0.3 per cent – before the age of 15 (SDG 5.3.1).

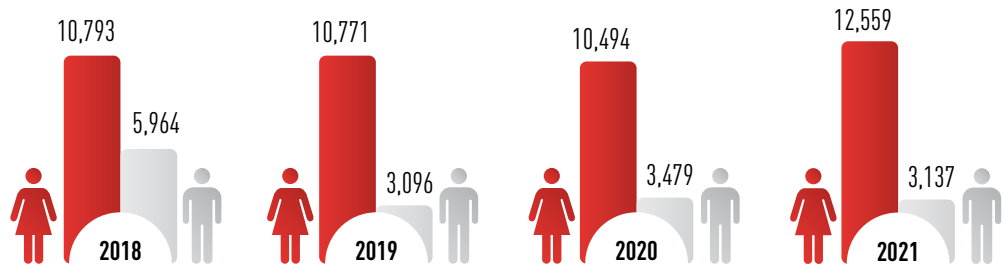
In 2018, the birth rate for girls aged 15 to 17 was 5.0 cases per 1,000 women, up from 6.4 cases in 2015.

8 out of 10 of those who contacted crisis centres and institutions were women

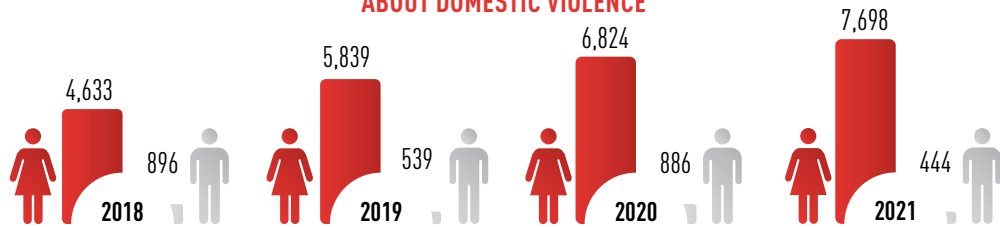


Chart 29.

People who contacted crisis centres and institutions providing social and psychological assistance about violence



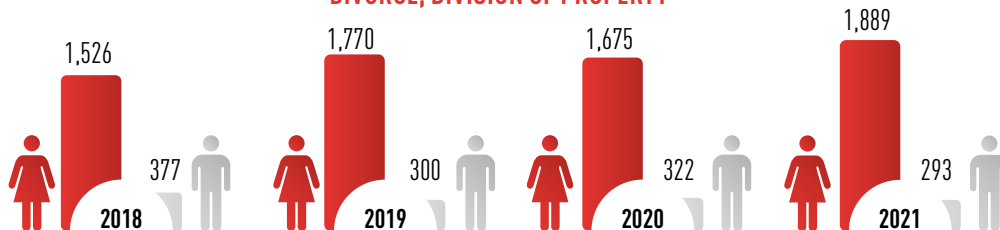
INCLUDING ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



FORCED MARRIAGE, ABDUCTION FOR MARRIAGE, UNDERAGE MARRIAGE, POLYGAMY



DIVORCE, DIVISION OF PROPERTY





The highest birth rates among girls aged 15 to 17 years were registered in Chui (12.0 cases) and Talas (8.2 cases) regions, where the rate exceeded the national average by 1.6–2.4 times.

According to the 2018 MICS, 99.7 per cent of married women and sexually active unmarried women aged 15–49 are aware of modern contraceptive methods.

When it comes to the marriage of minors, forced abduction of girls is still a common practice. Despite the 2013 amendments to the Criminal Code, which toughened the penalties for these crimes, the latter are still registered. Of the total number of women who approached crisis centres in 2021 (12,559), 264 complaints were about forced marriage, abduction for marriage, child marriage, and polygamy, which is 11 per cent higher than in the previous year.

Map 1.

Proportion of those married (in a union) before age 18, 2018

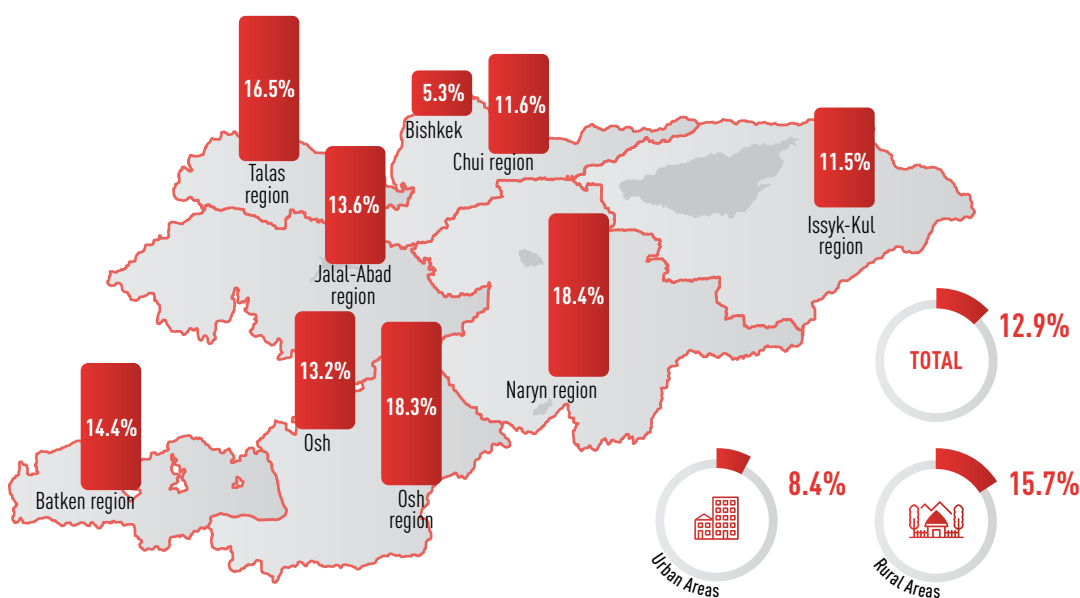
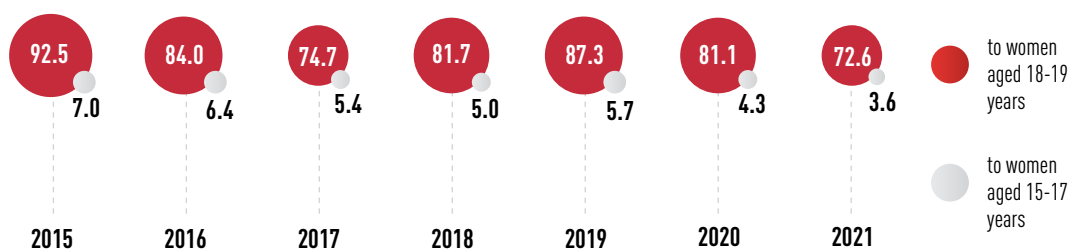


Chart 30.

Children born to women aged 15-19 years
(per 1,000 women of the corresponding age)





SDG 5.4

Unpaid care and domestic work

Women and girls devote much more time than men to unpaid domestic work and family care. The unequal distribution of the heavy burden of unpaid work prevents women from participating more widely in the labour force, which affects labour productivity, economic growth and poverty-reduction efforts.

According to the 2020 Household Time-Use Survey, women devote an average of 4 hours and 20 minutes a day to domestic work, compared to 55 minutes for men. On average, women spend 18.1 per cent of their daily time on unpaid domestic work, while men spend 3.9 per cent.

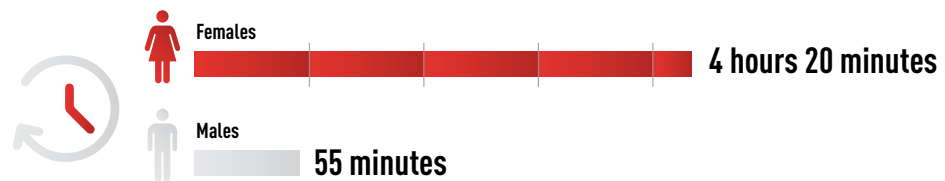
The amount of time spent on unpaid domestic work varies significantly depending on the presence of children in the family. Women in households with children under 16 years devote 4 hours and 28 minutes to housework, which is 32 minutes longer compared to women in households without children.

Working women in rural areas spend 1.3 times more time on domestic work than women from urban areas. Specifically, women in rural areas spend, on average, 5 hours and 25 minutes on domestic work per day, while their peers in urban areas spend 4 hours. For working men, the difference in time between those living in rural and urban areas is not as great, amounting to an average of 45 minutes.

Raising children and caring for household members is primarily women's responsibility. Women spend on average 40 minutes a day on this unpaid work, while men spend only 17 minutes. Working women devote more than five hours a week to childcare, while men spend about an hour and a half. At the same time, women in rural areas devote more time to childcare (about 5 hours and 43 minutes per week) than women in urban areas (4 hours and 26 minutes per week).

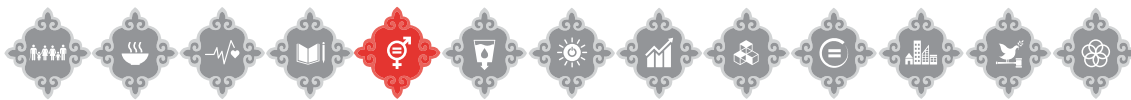
Chart 31.

Domestic work, 2020 (per day)



HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN UNDER AGE 16, 2020 (PER DAY)

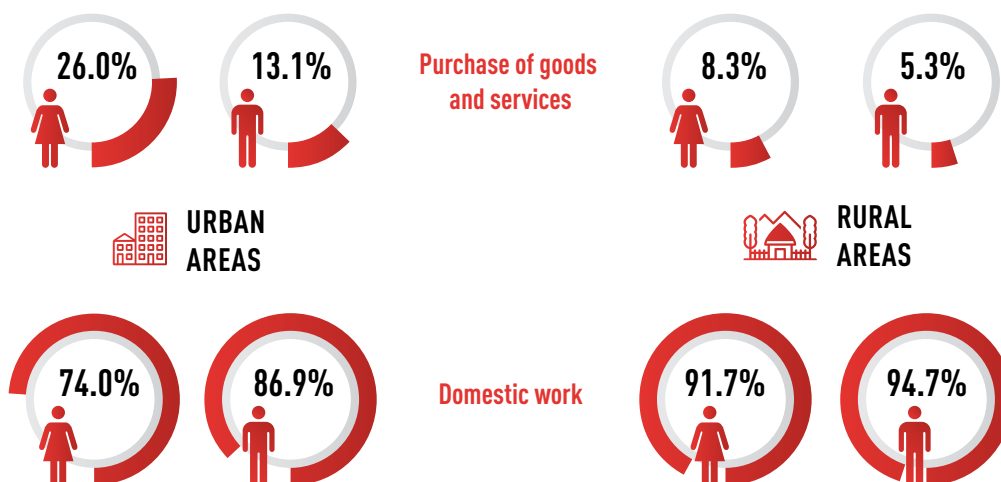




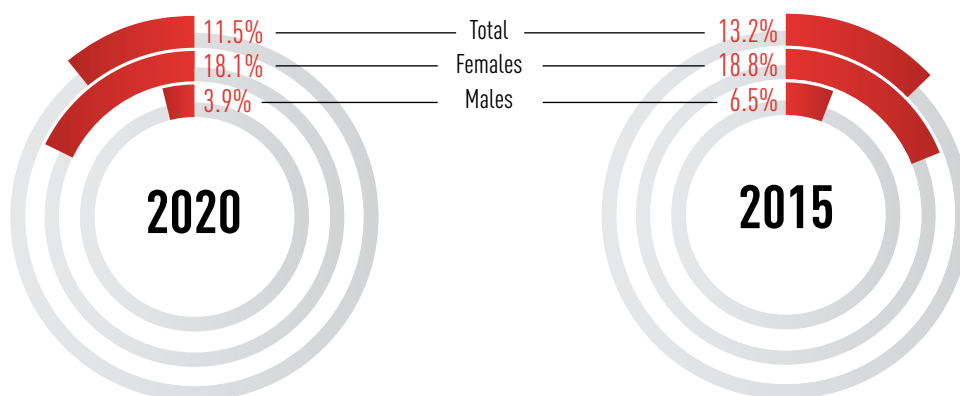
HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN UNDER AGE 16, 2020 (PER DAY)



DISTRIBUTION OF TIME SPENT ON DOMESTIC WORK BY WORKING PERSONS, BY TYPE, 2020



TIME SPENT ON UPAID DOMESTIC WORK AND CARE, BY SEX





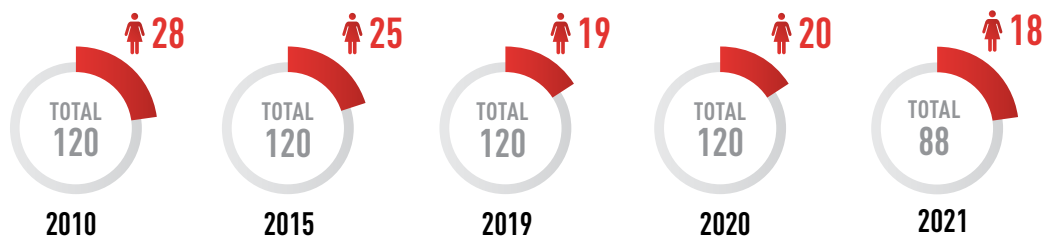
SDG 5.5

Women’s participation at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

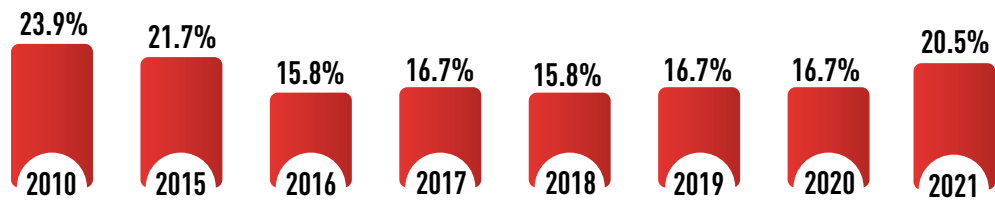
Kyrgyzstan has been implementing special legislative measures to ensure the representation of women in some State bodies, including the Supreme Council (Jogorku Kenesh). Following the introduction of these measures, women’s representation in Parliament (SDG 5.5.1) increased, but then decreased again over time.

The number of female parliamentarians in Kyrgyzstan continues to drop, year after year. In 2020, a provision of the electoral legislation came into force, stipulating that when a deputy leaves a parliamentary group, his/her mandate can only be transferred to a deputy of the same gender.

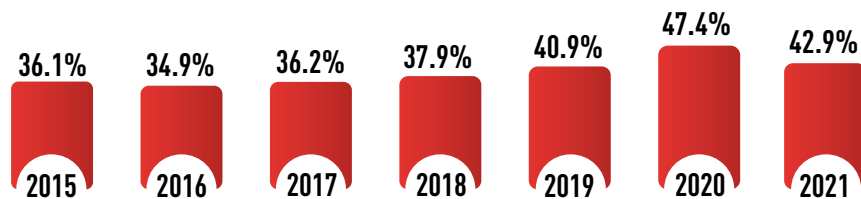
FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE JOGORKU KENESH, BY ELECTION YEAR



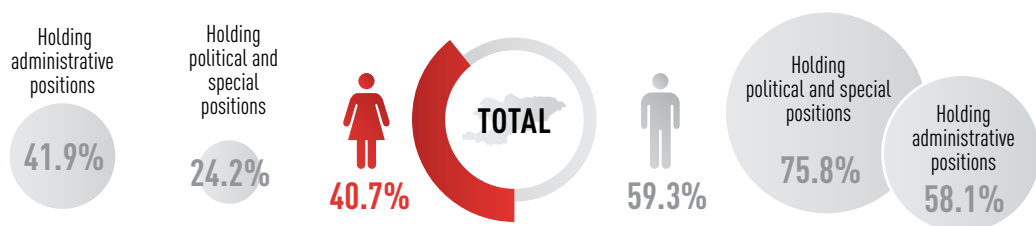
SEATS HELD BY WOMEN IN THE PARLIAMENT

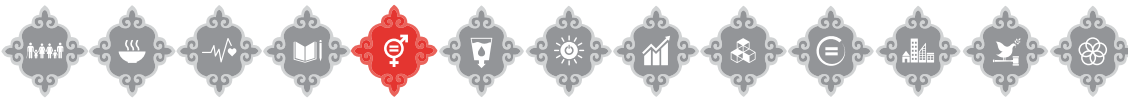


PROPORTION OF WOMEN IN MANAGERIAL POSITIONS



**PUBLIC SERVANTS HOLDING PUBLIC OFFICE, BY SEX
(as of January 1, 2022, percentage of the total)**





Women's participation in governance at the decision-making level is key to incorporating the needs and demands of women and girls into development policies and programmes. The proportion of women in managerial positions was 42.9 per cent in 2021 (SDG 5.5.2).

At the same time, the public service tends to be male dominated (59.3 per cent), with the largest gender imbalance being observed at the level of political and in special positions, where the proportion of women was only 24.2 per cent.

Chart 32.

Managers of active business entities

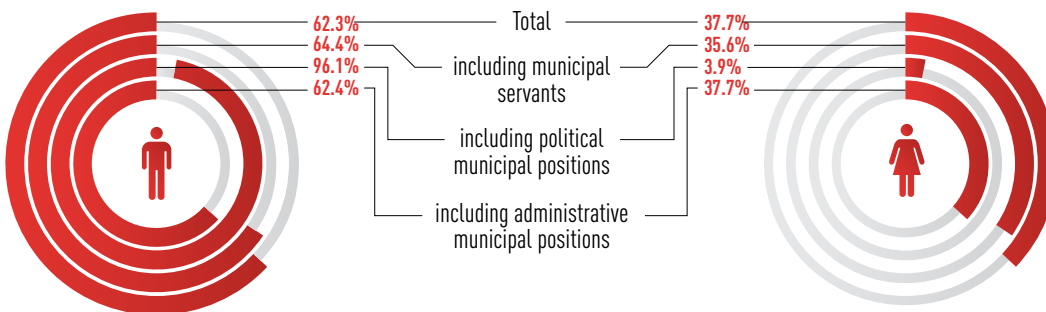
(as of 1 January 2022)



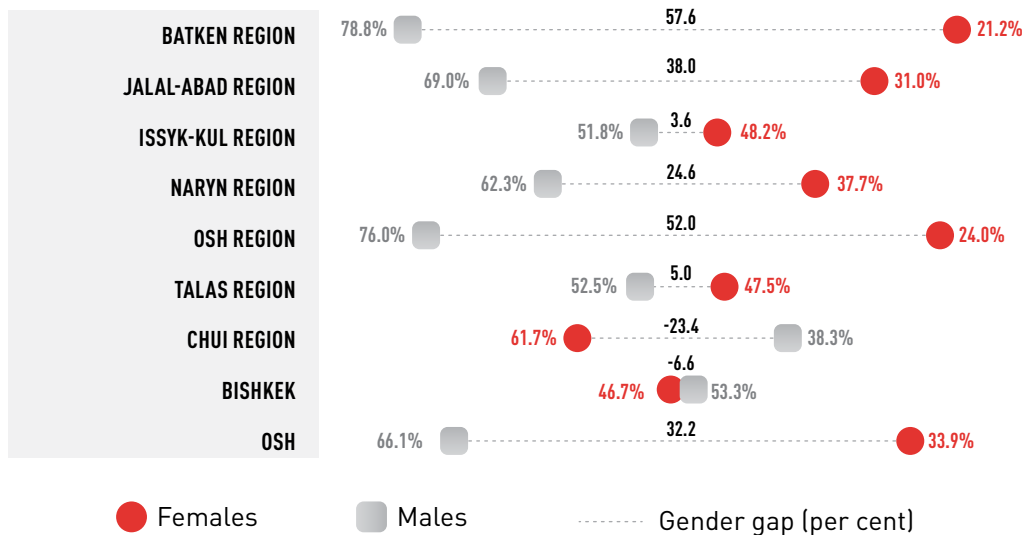
Chart 33.

Employees of local self-government authorities

(as of 1 January 2022)



ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES





Men also dominate in municipal services and in operating business entities. At the beginning of 2022, there were 8,477 municipal employees, one third of whom were women. As for managers of economic entities, the proportion of women managers was 28.2 per cent. Men were more likely to work in political municipal positions in all regions than women. When it comes to administrative positions, the gender gap ranges from 21 to 79 per cent.

Women's access to modern information, communication and digital technologies contributes to their economic empowerment and reduces discrimination and violence. Ninety-two per cent of women aged 15 years and over own a mobile telephone, with this indicator being somewhat higher among men of the same age: 94.1 per cent (SDG

5.b.1). It is also higher among urban women (96.0 per cent) and men (97.7 per cent) than among rural dwellers (89.4 per cent versus 92.1 per cent, respectively).

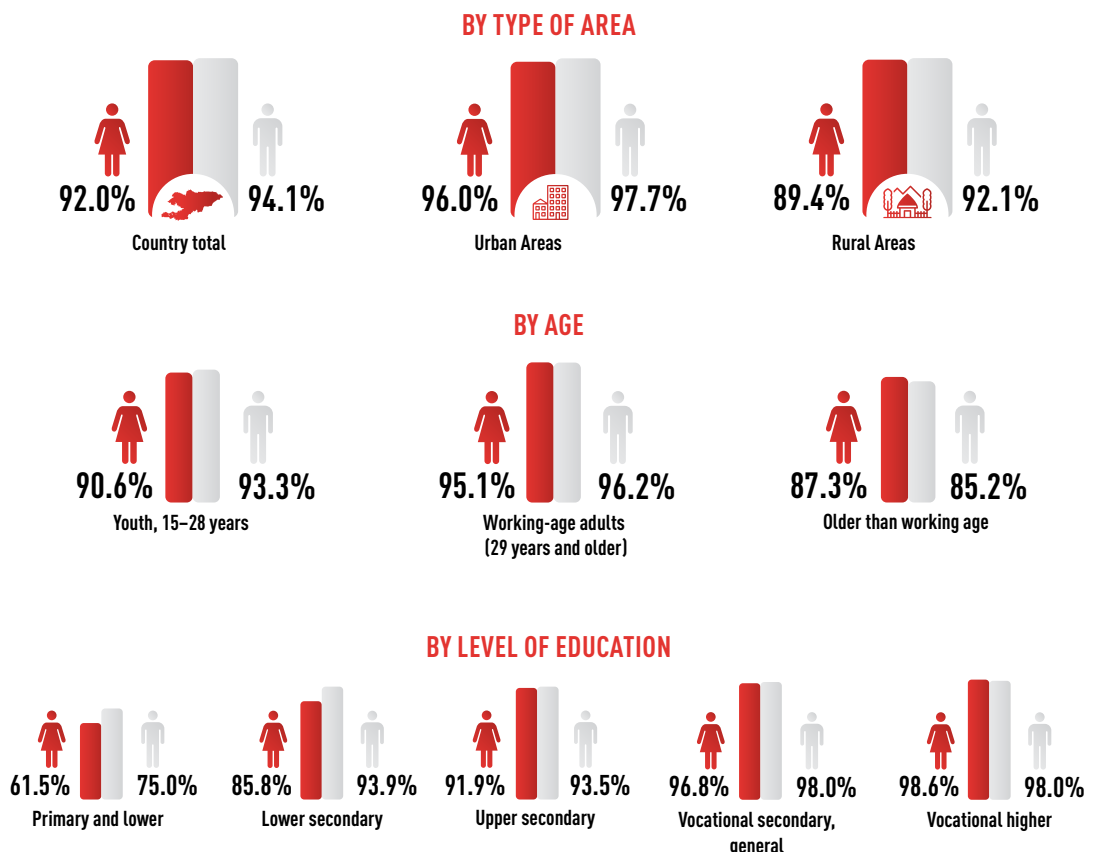
The largest gender gap can be seen in the urban population, among young people and the population with a lower-than-average level of education.

In summary, SDG 5 data show that the scale of gender-based violence in the country remains alarming. Early marriages and crimes such as women's abduction for marriage continue to be a pressing social issue. The number of women in managerial positions is increasing, but in the political arena progress has been very slow despite special legislative measures in the country's legislation.

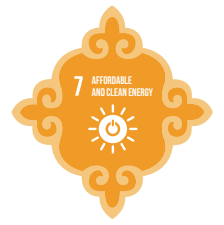
Chart 34.

People who own a mobile telephone, 2021

(percentage of the total population aged 15 years and older)



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING





SDG 6.

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Access to water is essential for both women and men. At the same time, their traditional gender roles determine various degrees of

dependence on the availability and quality of water resources.

The National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040 prioritizes the use of modern autonomous water treatment systems in conjunction with combined small hydro/solar/wind power plants, which will make it possible to provide any settlements or areas with clean energy and clean water regardless of the availability of main power grids and water pipelines.

The proportion of the population with access to safely managed drinking water services (SDG 6.1.1) was 95.1 per cent in 2021. It is higher in urban areas, reaching 99.7 per cent, compared to 92.4 per cent in rural areas. Slightly higher values are observed among women (95.3 per cent) compared to men (94.9 per cent). Public access to safely managed drinking water sources varies greatly by region. In particular, people in Batken (88.2 per cent) and Osh (90.2 per cent) regions have limited access to safely managed drinking water sources.

Every second woman aged 15 years and over provides water for her household (56.8 per cent). An important indicator is the distance they must travel to the source of their drinking water. The farther the source, the greater the burden of water delivery on household members. According to the 2018 MICS, 69.7 per cent of households in rural areas have a source of drinking water within the territory of their household (compared to 62.6 per cent in 2014). The more than 30 per cent of the rural population who do not have a water source within their territory spend more than 30 minutes per day to fetch water. This is usually done by women and girls (67 per cent).

The situation is exacerbated by limited access to sanitation and a lack of infrastructure to arrange for safe and comfortable sanitation facilities in households and social institutions. Population with access to sanitation averages 40.0 nationally, an increase of 11.4 per cent compared to 2015. The lowest level of access to these services is registered in Batken region (5.7 per cent).

Most of the toilets in rural areas (85.3 per cent) are pit latrines with decking, which are not heated and have no hygienic facilities. According to the 2018 MICS, 93.3 per cent of women can wash and change clothes at home in privacy; but 7 per cent did not attend social events, educational institutions or work during their most recent menstruation.

Limited access to clean water and poor sanitary conditions have a special aggravating effect on the situation of rural women by disproportionately increasing their domestic workload, which ultimately has a negative impact on their health and employability.

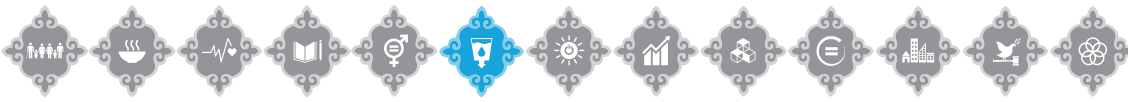


Chart 35.

Population using safely managed drinking water services
(per cent)

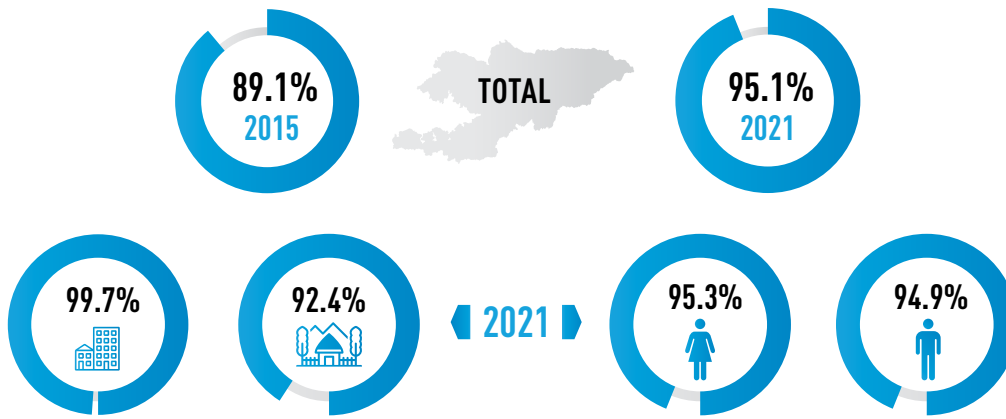


Chart 36.

Sources of drinking water
(per cent)

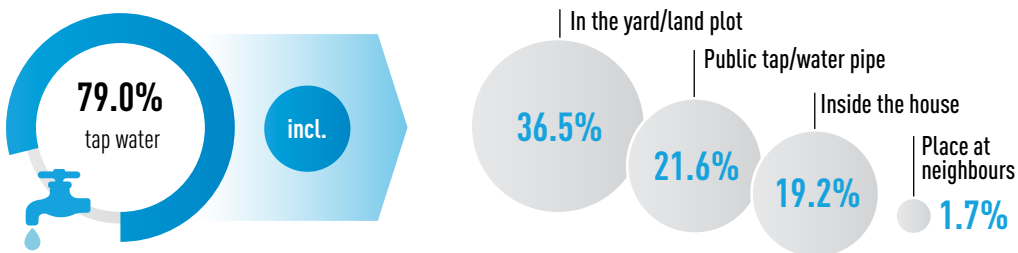
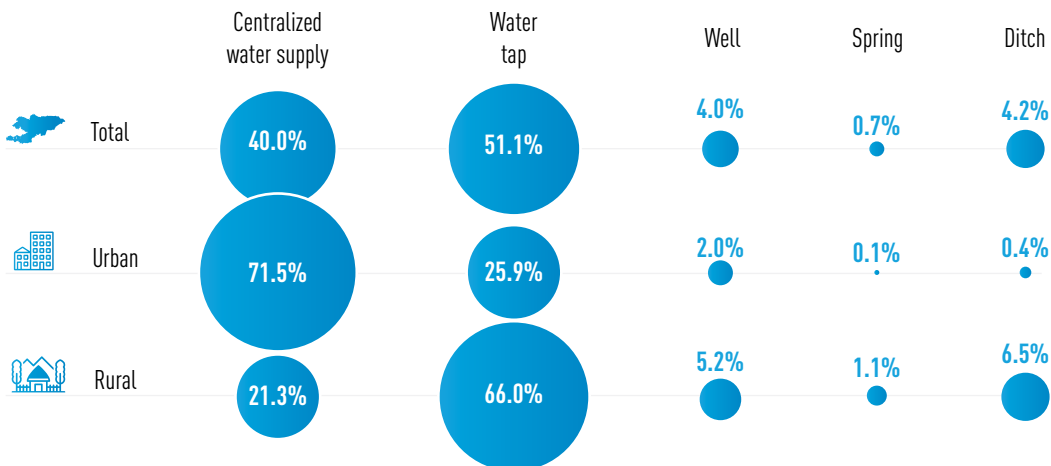


Chart 37.

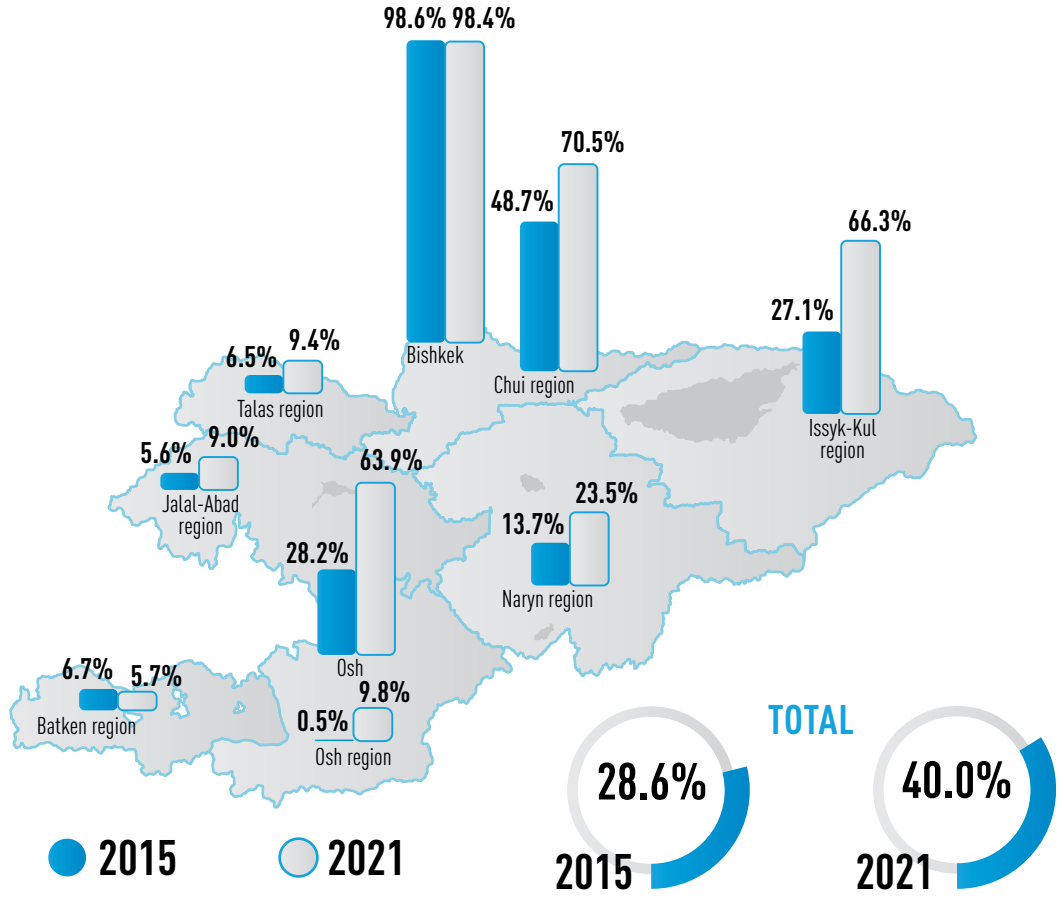
Sources of drinking water, by type of area, 2021





Map 2.

Population using safely managed sanitation





SDG 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



SDG 7 aims to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy by 2030. Expanding access for vulnerable populations, including

rural women, is important for lightening the burden of unpaid domestic work and improving their economic opportunities.

The National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040 prioritizes the use of modern autonomous water treatment systems in conjunction with combined small hydro/solar/wind power plants, which will make it possible to provide any settlements or areas with clean energy and clean water regardless of the availability of main power grids and water pipelines. It also defines the transition to high-quality fuel along with the wider use of alternative energy sources as a priority. The development of local energy systems and the use of solar, wind, water and subsurface energy will help achieve greater energy independence.

Electricity is the only utility that covers the entire country. According to the ISSHBW, almost all households are connected to electricity. At the same time, a connection to an electric grid does not imply stable access (i.e., a reliable uninterrupted supply of electricity with an acceptable frequency of outages per year).

On average, about 71 per cent of the population enjoys stable access to electricity, although this drops to 62 per cent in rural areas (SDG 7.1.1). The indicator is slightly higher for women (71.6 per cent) than for men (70.0 per cent). The lowest values were registered in Batken (53.5 per cent), Issyk-Kul (53.8 per cent), Jalal-Abad (54.3 per cent) and Talas regions (54.4 per cent). *In 2021, only 11.2 per cent of households reported an uninterrupted supply of electricity,*

with 59.7 per cent reporting outages several times a year, but none experiencing daily outages. Electricity supply interruptions also impact the sustainability of water services, especially in rural areas. Rural women are the most affected by electricity and water outages, which increase their domestic workload and burden of care for children and older family members.

According to the 2018 MICS, 74.9 per cent of households in the country use 'clean'⁶ fuels for cooking: 92.8 per cent in urban areas and 64.7 per cent in rural areas (SDG 7.2.1). At the same time, 43.5 per cent of households in urban areas use a stove connected to a centralized natural gas supply system. The majority of the population, however, uses an electric stove – 42.1 per cent in urban areas and 56.5 per cent in rural areas.

⁶ 'Clean' fuels include using electric stoves, solar stoves, liquefied petroleum gas or natural gas, biogas or liquid fuels that combust ethanol and alcohol.



Every fifth Kyrgyzstani lives in a household that uses primarily clean fuels and technologies for cooking and heating. According to the 2018 MICS, 70.3 per cent of the population used coal as their primary fuel, 6.3 per cent used firewood and charcoal, and 3.7 per cent used dung.

Typically, dung and small firewood are mostly collected by women and children. One popular strategy for saving on heating is to heat part of the house or just one room, which significantly reduces the living space, causing particular inconvenience to young women and girls.

Chart 38.

Proportion of population with access to electricity

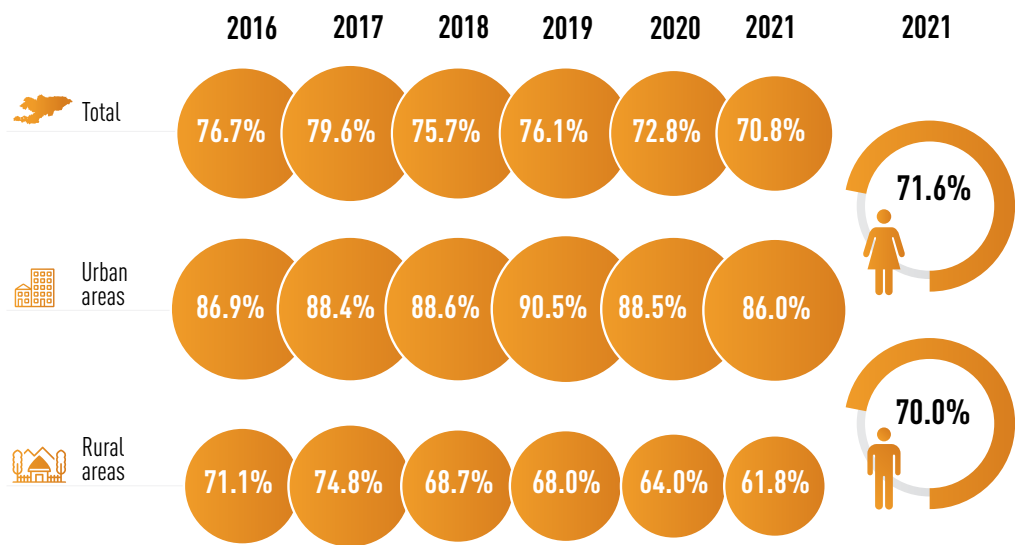
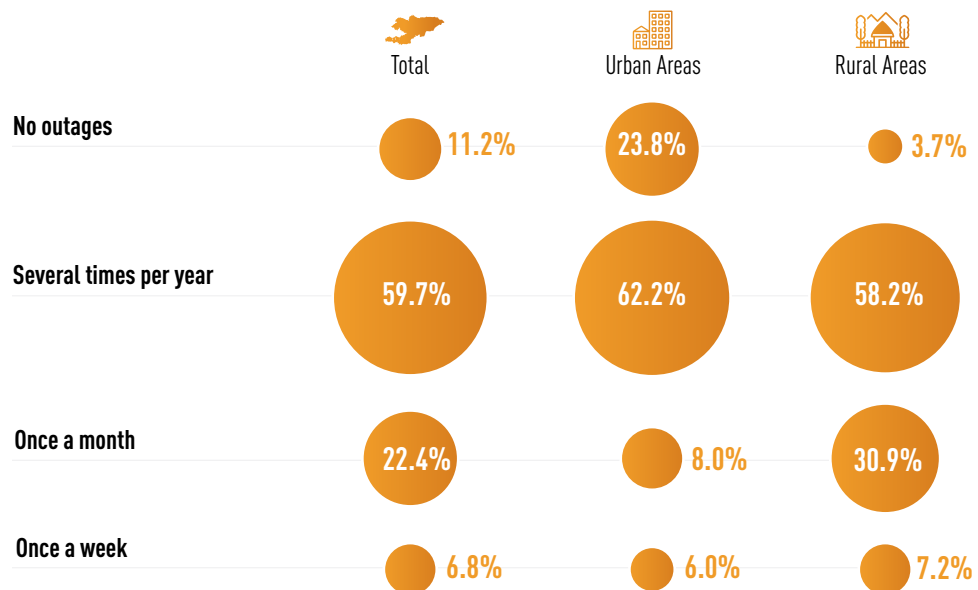


Chart 39.

Frequency of electricity outages, by type of area, 2021





SDG 8.

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



A decreased proportion of economically active women, underemployment and increased number of unemployed indicate a deterioration in women's economic opportunities, exacerbating gender inequality and contributing to increases in gender-based violence.

The National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040 places emphasis on the radical reform of the employment and pension system with a focus on a high standard of living in working age and a decent quality of life in old age.

The National Gender Equality Strategy until 2030 prioritizes the economic empowerment of women as an area of strategic development. This includes the recognition of women's economic contribution to social production and development, the creation of working conditions sensitive to the needs of male and female workers, and the reduction of wage gaps and segregation in the labour market.

Low economic activity among women is one of the main labour market challenges in Kyrgyzstan. There is a significant gap in the employment rate of women (42.4 per cent) and men (72.5 per cent). Whereas the employment rate of men is equal in urban and rural areas, the employment rate of urban women exceeds the employment rate of rural women by 7.3 per cent.

The employment rate among men is higher in all age groups, with the most significant gap being observed in the age range from 20 to 39 years. At this age, women are more likely to leave their jobs due to childbirth. After the age of 40, women's labour activity reaches its peak, as women of this age usually have grown-up children and can return to work. After the age of 50, women's employment rates fall once again.

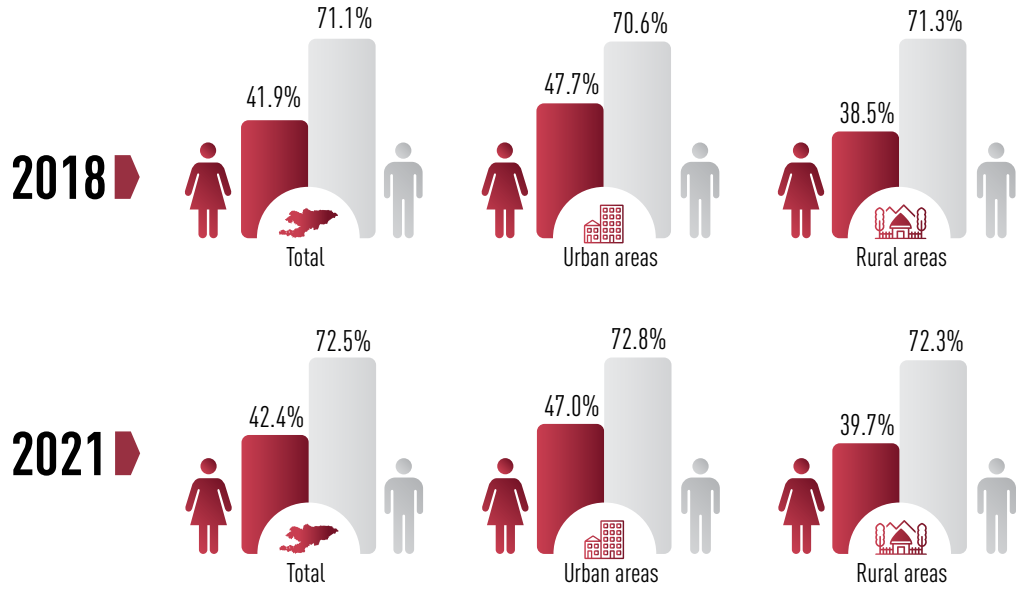
The number of women in the labour force varies from year to year within one per cent. In 2021, the proportion of women in the labour force was 38.4 per cent, a drop of 0.8 per cent compared to 2020 and down from 40.2 per cent in 2016. Men's labour force participation rate (employed and unemployed) is much higher: at 76.0 per cent compared to 45.3 per cent for women.

There have been fewer women among the unemployed in recent years against the reduction in the number of women in the labour force and in women's employment (SDG 8.5.2). The overall unemployment rate has decreased from 8.6 per cent in 2010 to 5.3 per cent in 2021. That being said, the unemployment rate among women is 1.6 per cent higher than the same indicator among men.

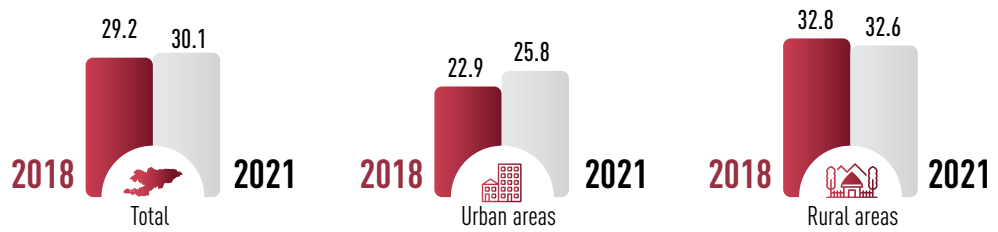


Chart 40.

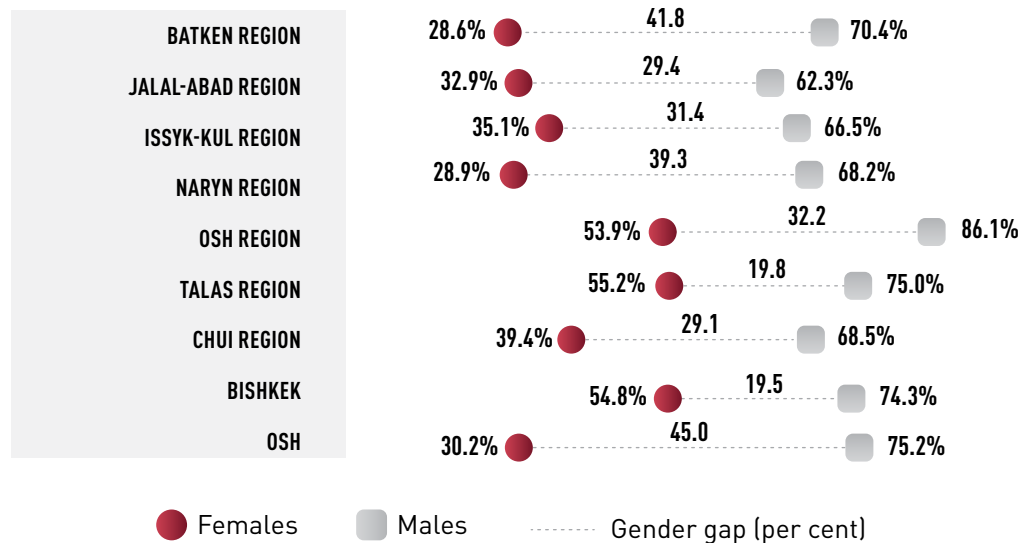
Employment rate, by sex and type of area



GENDER GAP IN EMPLOYMENT RATE (PER CENT)



EMPLOYMENT RATE, BY SEX AND REGION



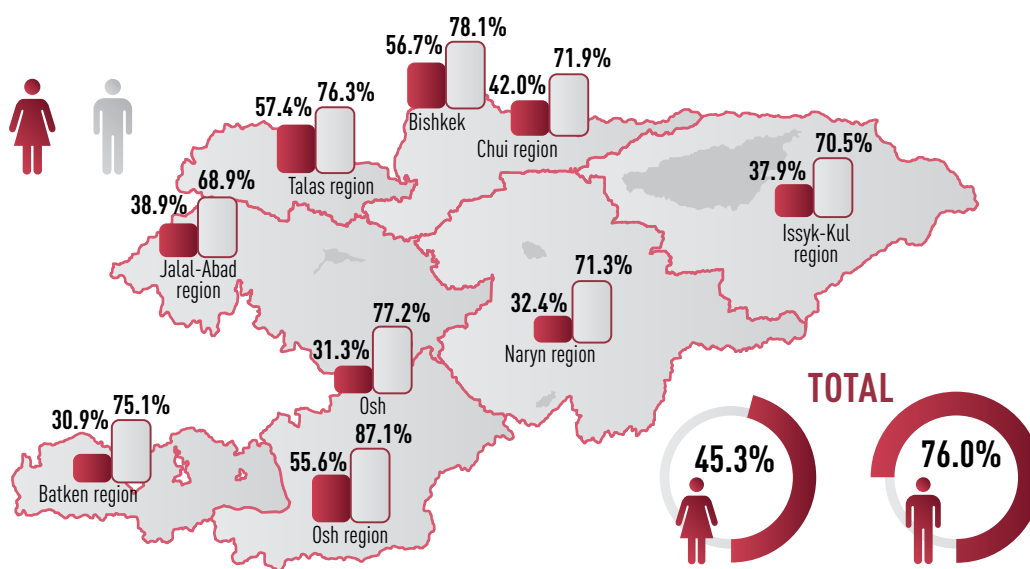


The labour market in Kyrgyzstan shows sharp gender segregation by type of economic activity. The proportion of women is highest in activities such as real estate operations (100.0 per cent), education (77.3 per cent),

health care and social services (77.5 per cent). Conversely, men are more likely to be employed in construction (98.8 per cent), mining (95.0 per cent) and transport (96.5 per cent).

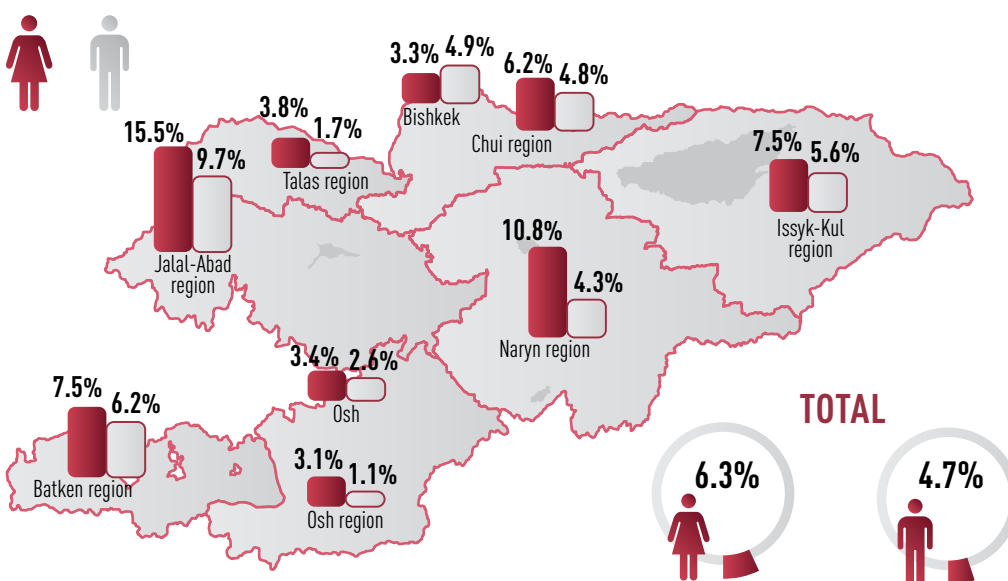
Map 3.

Labour force participation rates, 2021



Map 4.

Unemployment rates, 2021



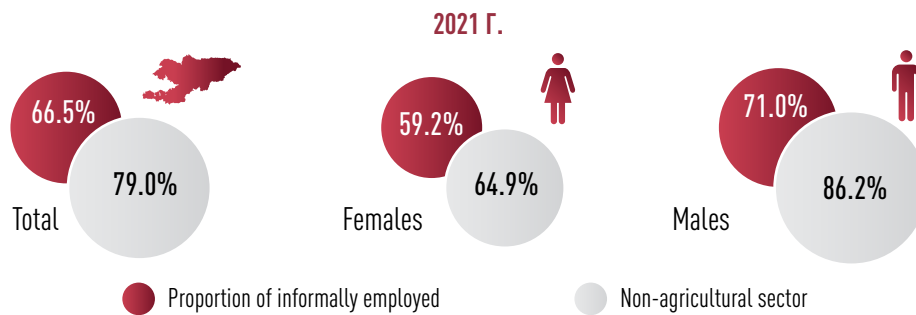
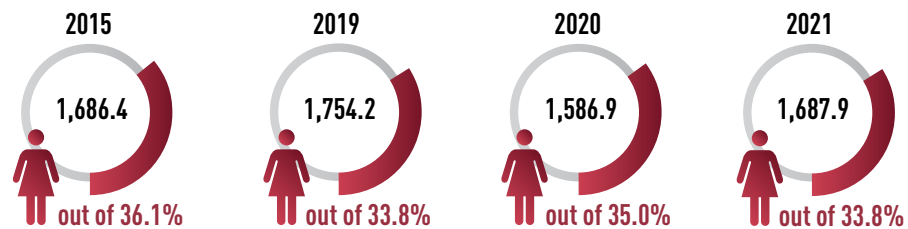


Employment in the informal sector reaches 66.5 per cent, with two-thirds being men. Non-agricultural employment averages 79.0 per cent nationally and 86.2 per cent among men. The proportion of rural residents in the total number of those employed in the informal sector (1,687,900) in 2021 was 65.8 per cent. Most people employed in the informal sector are between the ages of 25 and 34 (for both men and women).

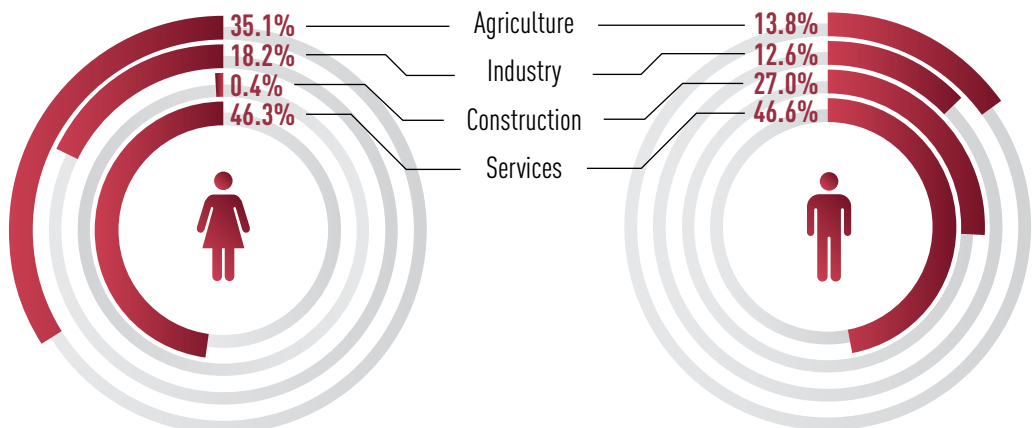
One in three informally employed women works in agriculture (35.1 per cent) and nearly one in two work in services (46.2 per cent). Men also predominate in the service sector (46.8 per cent); one in four is informally employed in construction (27.0 per cent); and only 13.8 per cent of men work in agriculture.

Chart 41.

Women's informal employment (thousand people)



INFORMALLY EMPLOYED, BY TYPE OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, 2021





There has been a significant reduction in occupational injury rates over the past decade (SDG 8.8.1). In 2021, there were 38.0 injuries per 100,000 workers, much improved compared to 90.1 in 2010. However, the gender gap for this indicator continues to grow. Men are far more likely to experience occupational injuries: 71.4 cases per 100,000 workers in 2021, compared to 8.2 for women.

According to the MICS, 33.6 per cent of boys and 19.0 per cent of girls were involved in the workforce in 2018. Nationwide, the proportion of working children (aged 5 to 17) is 26.7 per cent. Child labour is three times more common in rural areas (33.6 per cent) than in urban ones (11.9 per cent). This indicator is strongly correlated with family financial well-being: working children make up 30 per cent in all quintiles, except the richest, where the proportion of working children is only 6.1 per cent. At the same time, the proportion of children

engaged in hazardous forms of child labour decreased by 3.2 per cent (SDG 8.7.1).

There has been an increase in the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training, particularly among young women (SDG 8.6.2). In 2021, every fifth young person was not in employment or education (19.1 per cent), up from 18.3 per cent in 2010. This indicator among girls is 2.4 times higher than among boys.

The average salary of women in Kyrgyzstan is 75.1 per cent of the average salary of men. This is the result of two steady trends: gender segregation in the labour market by economic sectors and a smaller number of women in managerial positions. Women's average monthly salary was KGS 16,500 in 2021, which is 1.3 times less than the average for men (KGS 22,000). The nominal average wages of women and men have increased 1.3 times in the past five years.

Chart 42.

Proportion of children aged 5 to 17 years engaged in child labour, by type of area, sex and age, 2018

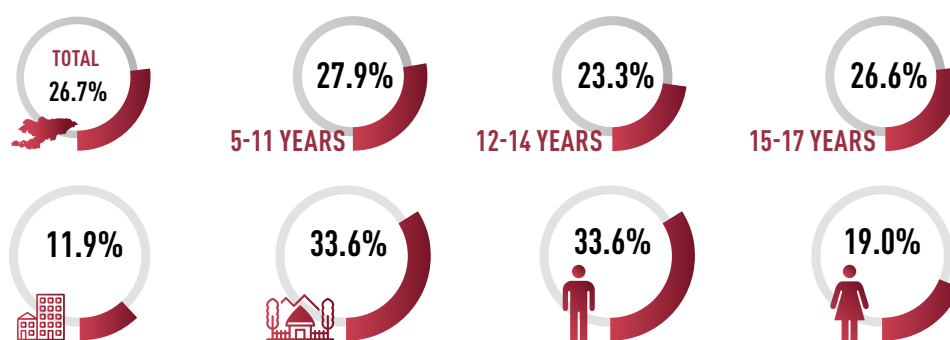
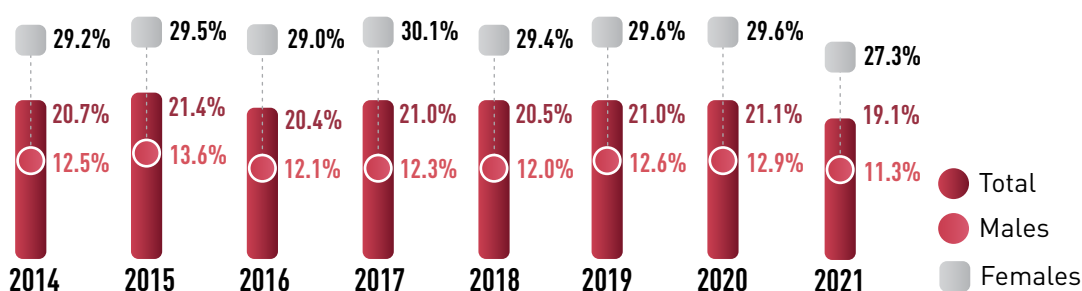


Chart 43.

Proportion of youth aged 15 to 24 years not in employment, education or training



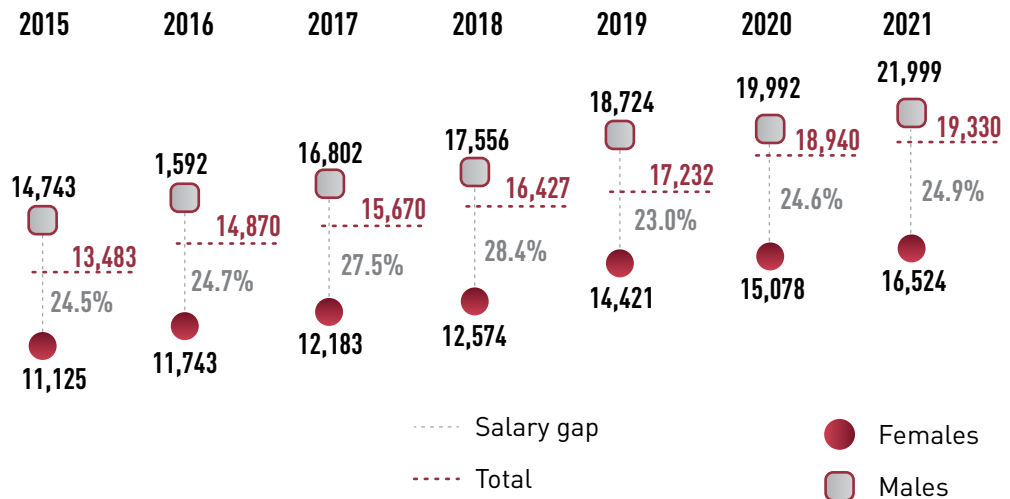


More than a third of the population aged 15 years and older has an account at a bank or other financial institution. Women have higher access to financial services (38.5 per cent) than men (33.9 per cent), which is certainly key to women's economic empowerment. The proportion of women among microcredit recipients has averaged 56 per cent in the past five years. However, women's preponderance among microcredit recipients used to be much stronger: 73.4 per cent in 2010.

Gender analysis of the labour market and employment in recent years shows a steady decline in women's employment rate and economic activity. Strong professional and gender segregation in the labour market and a significant gap between women's and men's average wages have persisted. The proportion of children working in economic activity and young people who are not in employment, education or training, especially girls, remains high, with a very slow decline.

Chart 44.

Average monthly salary, by sex (KGS)



Map 5.

Wage gap, by region, 2021

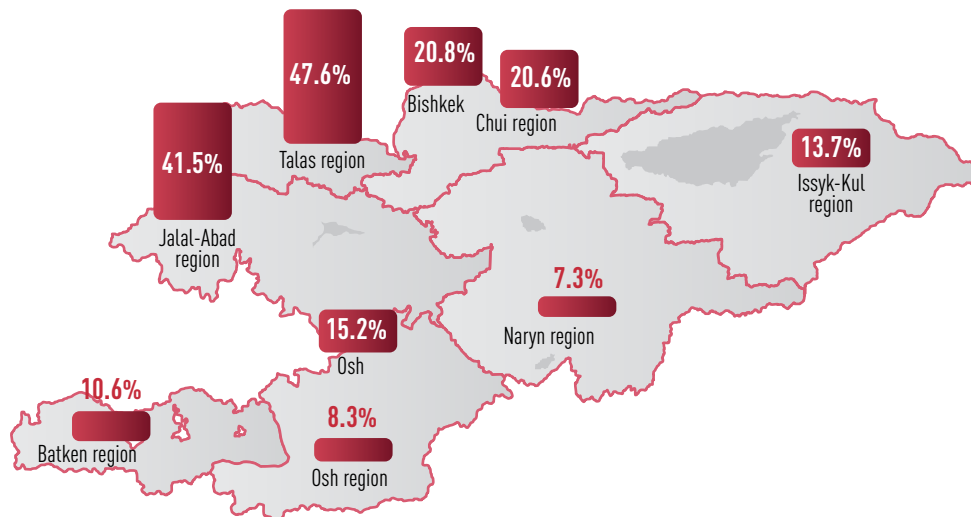
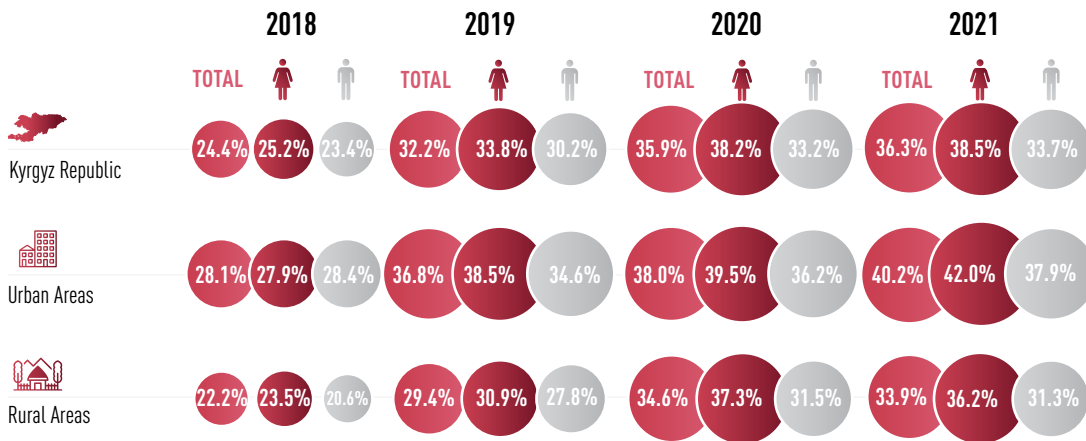


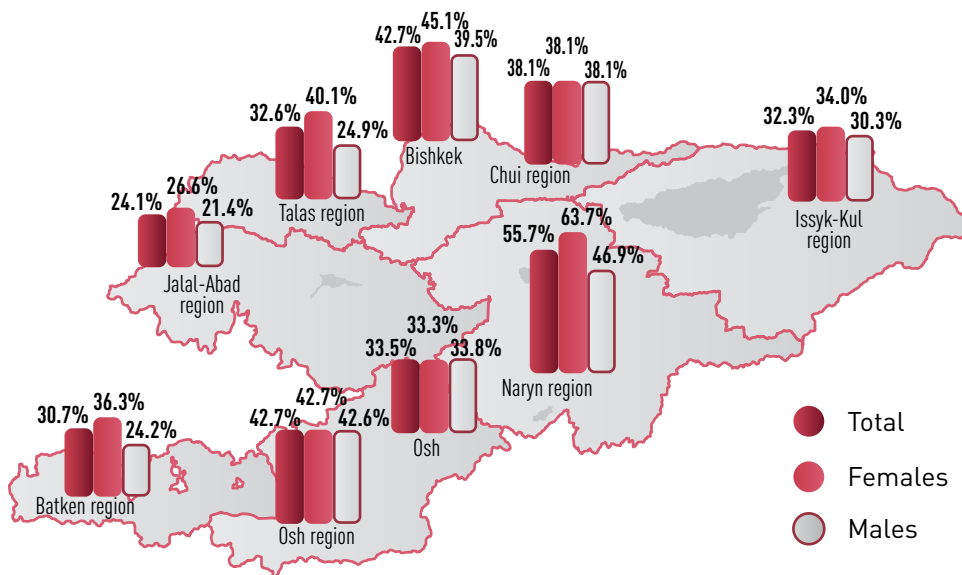


Chart 45.

Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile money service- provider



BY REGION





SDG 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Infrastructure development and accelerated adoption of the latest technology can not only enhance the standard of living of the

general population, but also eliminate the gap in women's access to digital technology, leading to their economic empowerment.

The National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040 provides a vision of future development in which the country has the high-quality production infrastructure necessary for balanced and diversified economic development. All regions should be in a single information space and be interconnected by means of smooth transport communications.

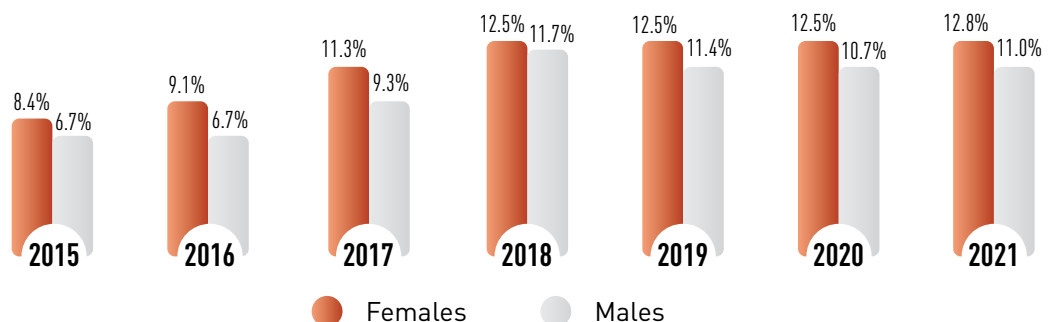
Kyrgyzstan's National Gender Equality Strategy until 2030 includes policy measures aimed at institutional and infrastructural support for women's education through the improvement of technical infrastructure.

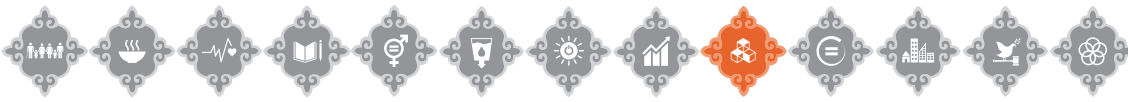
The proportion of workers in the manufacturing industry (SDG 9.2.2) increased by 1.5 times over the 2016–2021 period. The proportion of women in this industry was initially higher due to the predominance of textile and food industry in the structure of the economy. In recent years, however, there has been an increase in the number

of men in the manufacturing industry, from 6.7 per cent in 2016 to 11.0 per cent in 2021, due to the growth of non-ferrous metallurgy and the construction materials industry. The highest manufacturing employment rates are seen in the Chui region (18.8 per cent) and Bishkek (19.6 per cent).

Chart 46.

Manufacturing employment





The number of researchers per million inhabitants (SDG 9.5.2) in Kyrgyzstan amounted to 515 people in 2021, up from 306 people in 2010 and from 511 people in 2014. At the same time, research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP (SDG 9.5.1) has remained unchanged since 2010 – at a mere 0.1 per cent.

The proportion of female researchers was 58.9 per cent in 2021, an increase of 8.5 per cent over 2016.

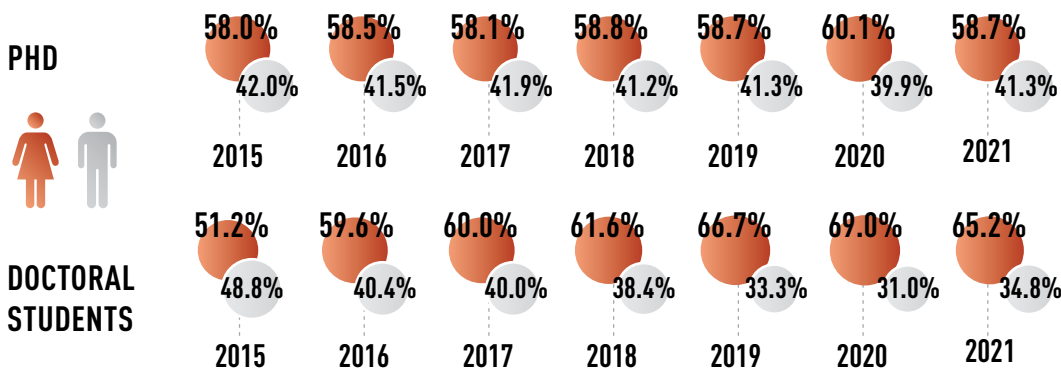
The number of women among doctors (26.2 per cent) and PhDs (48.7 per cent) has increased. Moreover, 65.2 per cent of female teachers combine research with teaching.

To summarize, the proportion of women in the manufacturing industry exceeds that of men in Kyrgyzstan. At the same time, the proportion of women among researchers is steadily increasing.

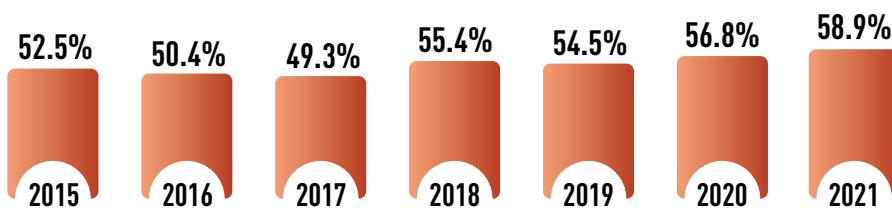
Chart 47.

Employment in research and development

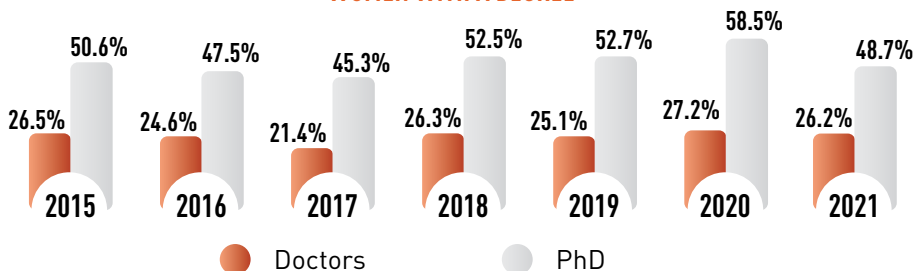
PHDS AND DOCTORAL STUDENTS, BY SEX



FEMALE EMPLOYMENT IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (EXCLUDING PART-TIME EMPLOYEES)



WOMEN WITH A DEGREE





SDG 10. Reducing inequality within and among countries

SDG 10 is aimed at increasing the incomes of the poorest segments of society at a rate higher than the national average, as well reducing all forms of exclusion and inequality in society.

The National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040 establishes that the State guarantees minimum social protection standards for all, with a focus on socially vulnerable segments of the population. At the same time, the system promptly responds to changes in the socioeconomic situation, provides social services that are in demand and regulates targeted support.

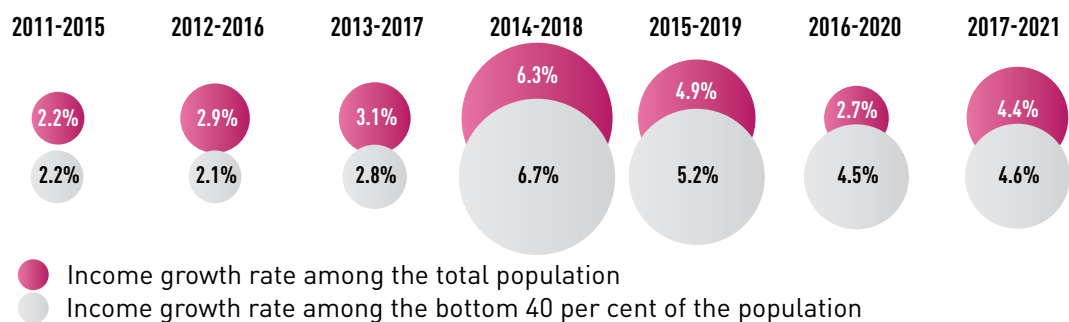
With average incomes increasing in recent years, the growth in real income of the poorest strata in 2017–2021 was 1.1 per cent higher than for the entire population. In 2021, labour income accounted for 66.3 per cent, social transfers for 14.9 per cent, agricultural income for 14.3 per cent, and other income for 4.6 per cent of the population's average income. Given that the poorest 40 per cent of the population receive only 17.4 per cent of total income⁷, higher income growth among these vulnerable groups is needed,

so as to improve living standards and reduce inequality in income distribution.

The proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income (SDG 10.2.1), which reflects relative poverty, declined from 12.0 per cent in 2015 to 9.5 per cent in 2021. Changes in relative poverty in recent years vary by less than one per cent. On average, there is no big difference between women and men, but the relative poverty in rural areas is almost 1.4 times higher than in urban areas.

Chart 48.

Per capita income growth rate

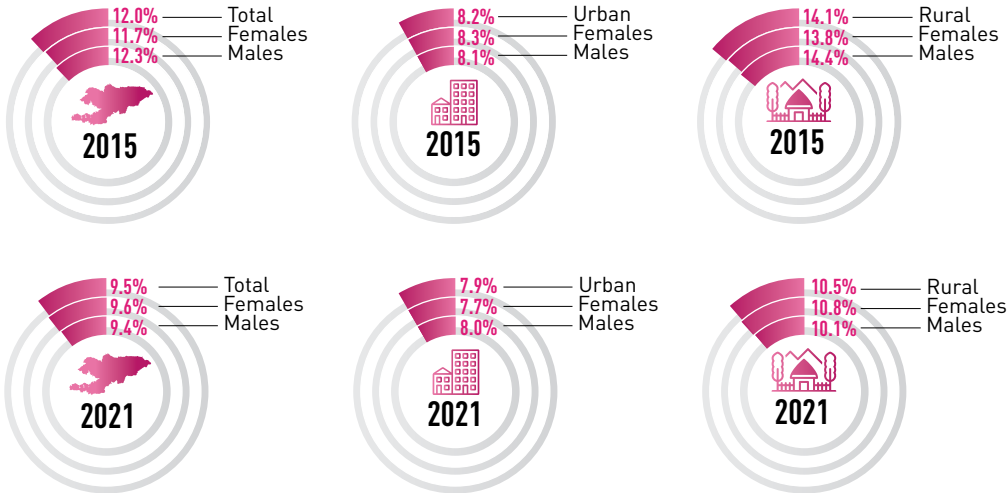


⁷ NSC KR. 2022. Food Security and Poverty Information Bulletin of the Kyrgyz Republic, 1/2022. p. 18.

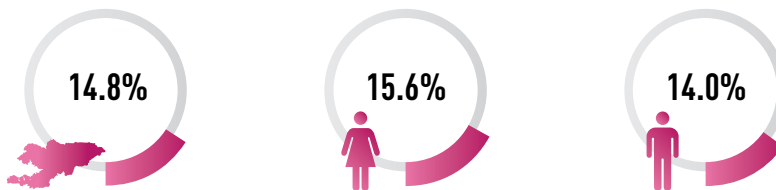


Chart 49.

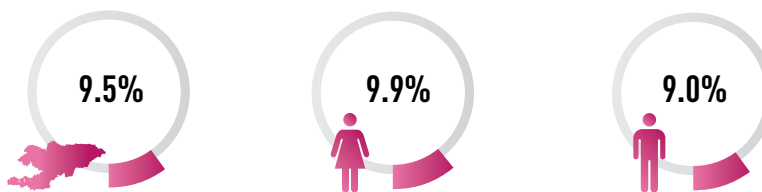
Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income



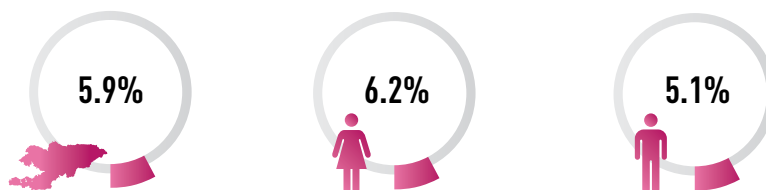
CHILDREN AGED 0-17 YEARS, 2021



**WORKING-AGE POPULATION, 2021
(FEMALES AGED 16-57 YEARS, MALES AGED 16-62 YEARS)**



**POPULATION OLDER THAN WORKING AGE, 2021
(FEMALES AGED 58 YEARS AND OLDER AND MALES AGED 63 YEARS AND OLDER)**



Source: ISSHBW



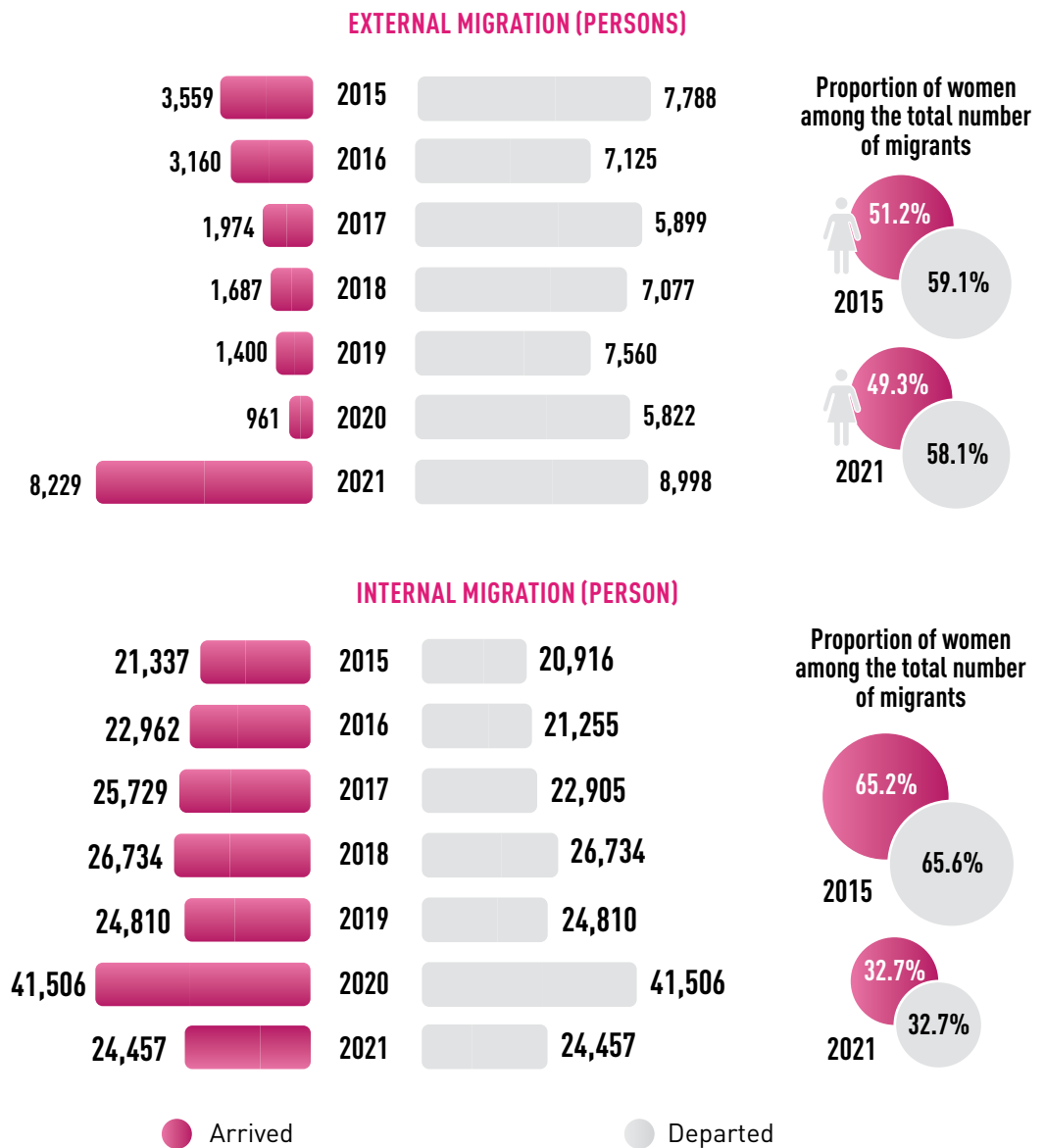
In recent years, until 2021, there had been a significant reduction in the total external migration rate (SDG 10.7.2). In 2021, 8,229 people migrated to Kyrgyzstan and 8,998 people left, for a migration outflow of 769 people.

The most important trend in modern migration processes (both external and internal) is

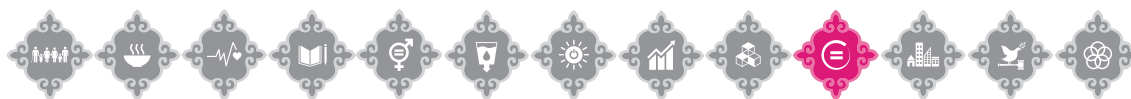
the sustained feminization of migration. In 2021, the number of women participating in internal migration was almost twice as high as the number of men.⁸ Internal migration (inter-regional movement) is directed mainly to the Bishkek and Chui regions, while other regions are steadily losing population.

Chart 50.

Internal and external migration



⁸ National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. 2023. Women and Men of the Kyrgyz Republic.

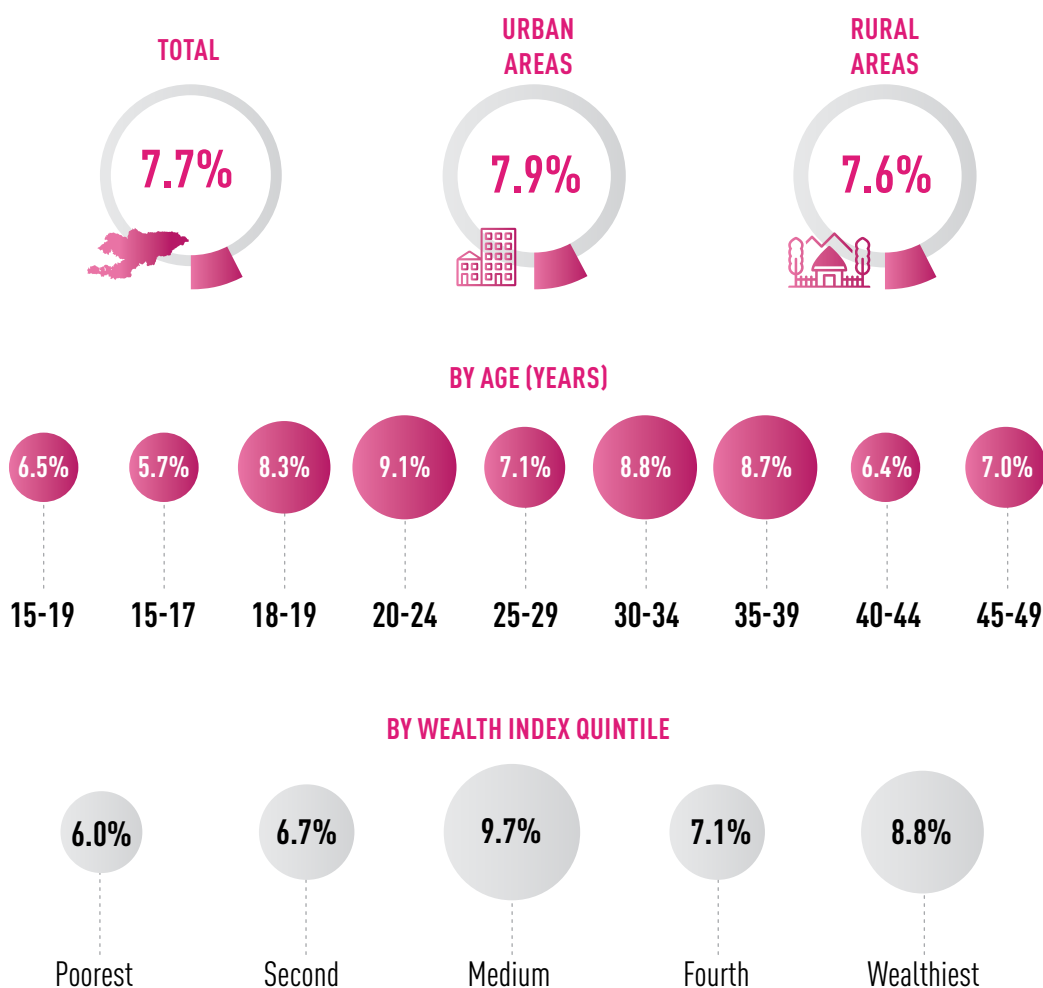


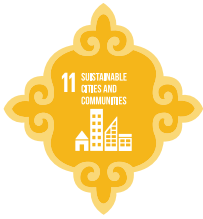
According to 2018 MICS, about 8 per cent of women between the ages of 15 and 49 years have experienced discrimination or harassment of some kind (SDG 10.3.1). Urban women, and young women under the age of 40 are more likely to report discrimination. Discrimination is registered in all categories of the population, regardless of financial well-being. Residents of the Chui region have the highest risk of being discriminated against (16.6 per cent).

In summary, the country shows no reduction in property inequality, while the income of the poorest segments grows very slowly. Women from all sociodemographic groups are subjected to various forms of discrimination. The sustained feminization of migration will have long-term effects on children and families, which will require a greater focus in the implementation of a national migration policy.

Chart 51.

Proportion of women aged 15–49 having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months, 2018





SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

By 2030, the goal is to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems through improved road safety and the expanded use of public

transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations: women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

The National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040 emphasizes that the quality and accessibility of social infrastructure is a prerequisite for the growth of production and for productivity. Special attention is paid to the quality of roads, not only those of international and national significance.

The permanent population of Kyrgyzstan at the beginning of 2022 was 6.7 million. One-third (35.4 per cent) lived in urban areas and two-thirds (64.6 per cent) in rural areas. The population density was 33 people per square kilometre, on average. The population in Bishkek, the capital city, was about 1.1 million people at the beginning of 2022.

The proportion of the population with convenient access to public transport (SDG 11.2.1) among those aged 15 years and older is 53.5 per cent. The satisfaction of the population with access to public transport is higher in urban areas (66.9 per cent) than in rural areas (42.5 per cent). Among less-urbanized regions, the highest coverage rate is in Issyk-Kul (78.4 per cent), which is due to the location of most settlements along highways that are highly transited for tourism.

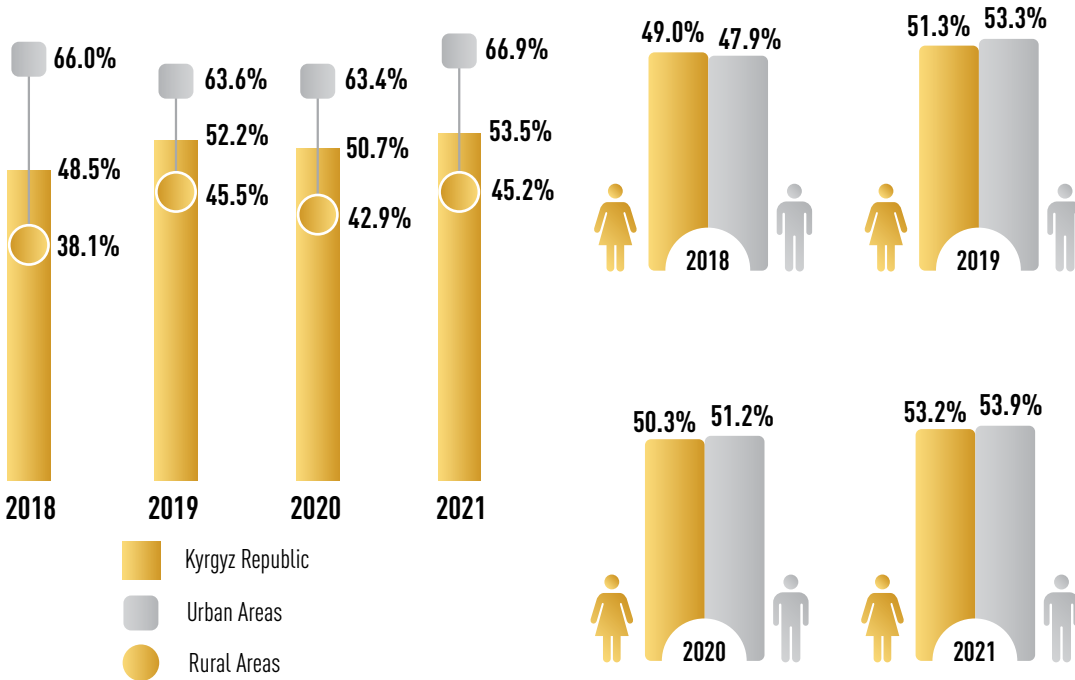
All age groups use public transportation equally. Having access to convenient and safe public transport is especially important for women, as it increases their social mobility.

Males comprise the majority of people killed and affected by disasters, including water-related disasters (SDG 11.5). The number of disaster-attributed deaths is declining overall: from 158 deaths in 2010 to 109 in 2021. However, this Chart is volatile and depends on the nature and scale of disasters that occur each year. For example, there were 141 victims of natural disasters in 2017. Jalal-Abad, Osh and Chui regions are generally the most affected by natural disasters. In 2021, the highest number of deaths was observed in the Batken region (36 people).



Chart 52.

Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport
(percentage of the population aged 15 years and older)



BY REGION

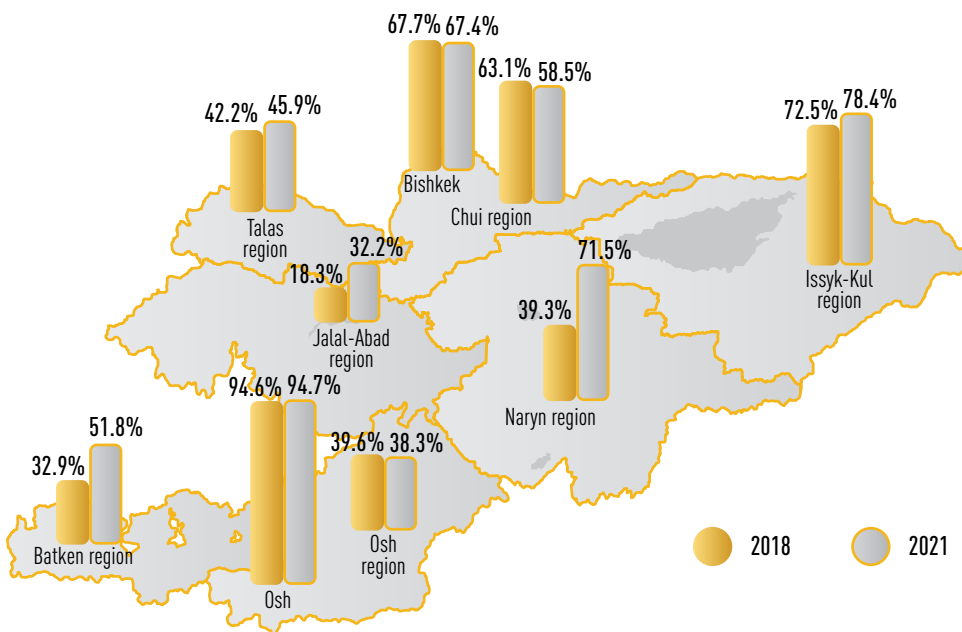
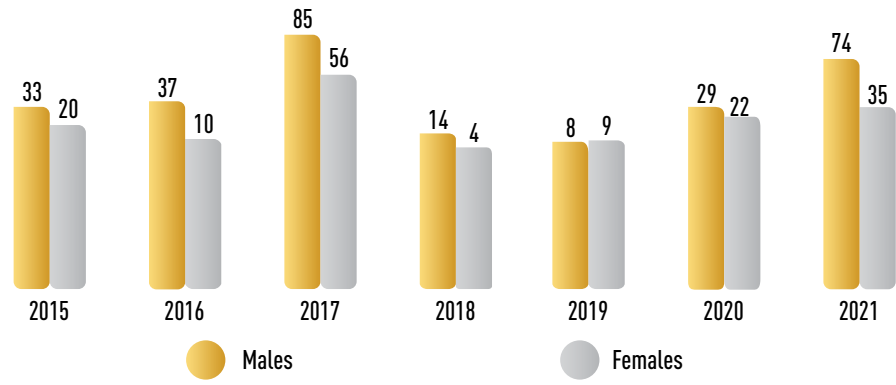
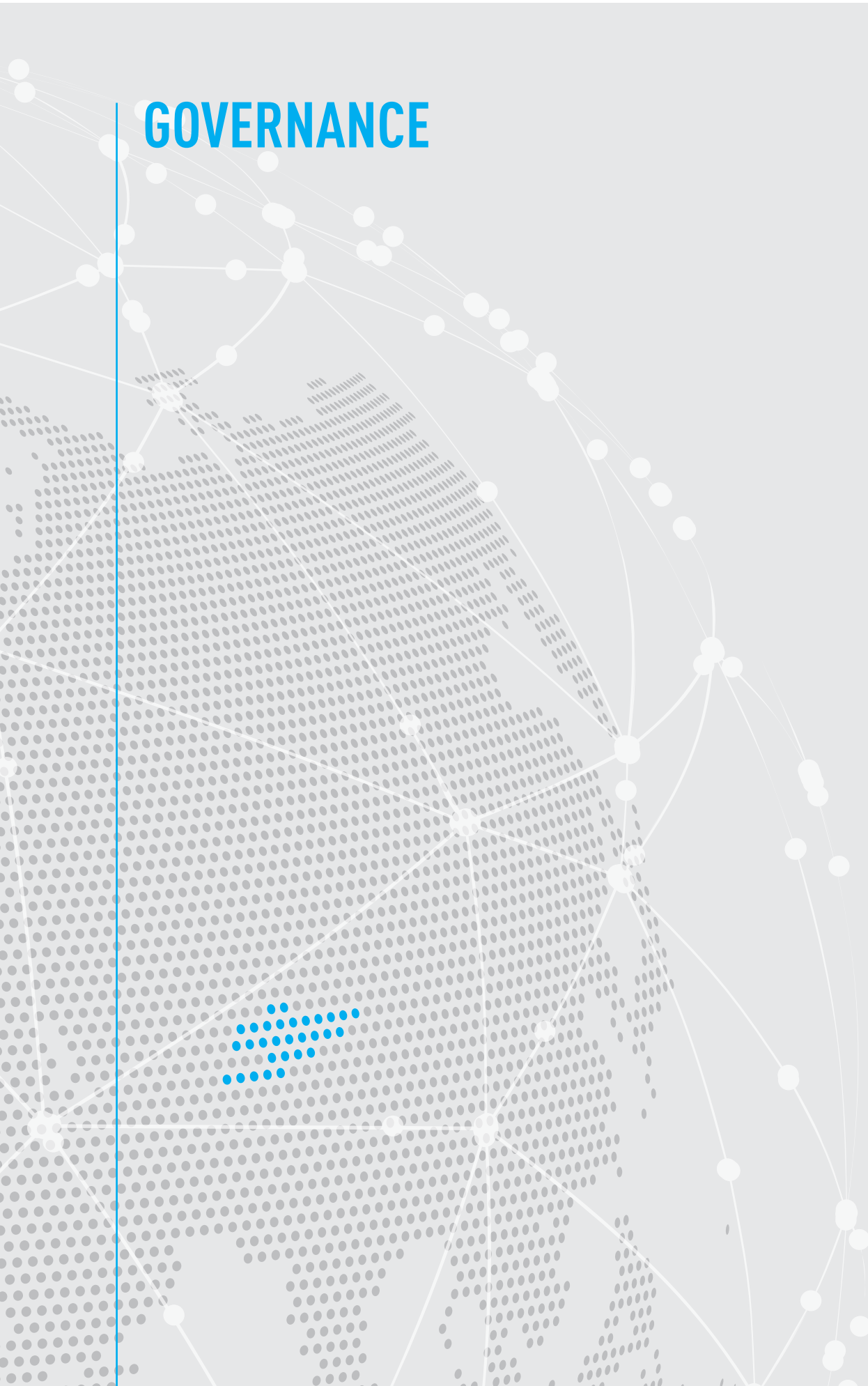
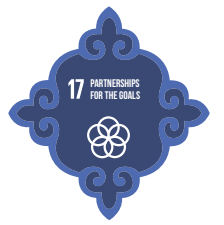


Chart 53.

Deaths attributed to disasters *(number)*



GOVERNANCE





SDG 16.

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Peacekeeping, ensuring the rule of law and justice, as well as efficiency, transparency and inclusiveness in the public service all have a strong gender dimension.

The National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040 seeks the country’s sustainable development and achievement of the SDGs. Sections of the Strategy ‘4.3 Rule of Law and Law Enforcement’ and ‘4.5 Safe Country’ are directly related to SDG 16.

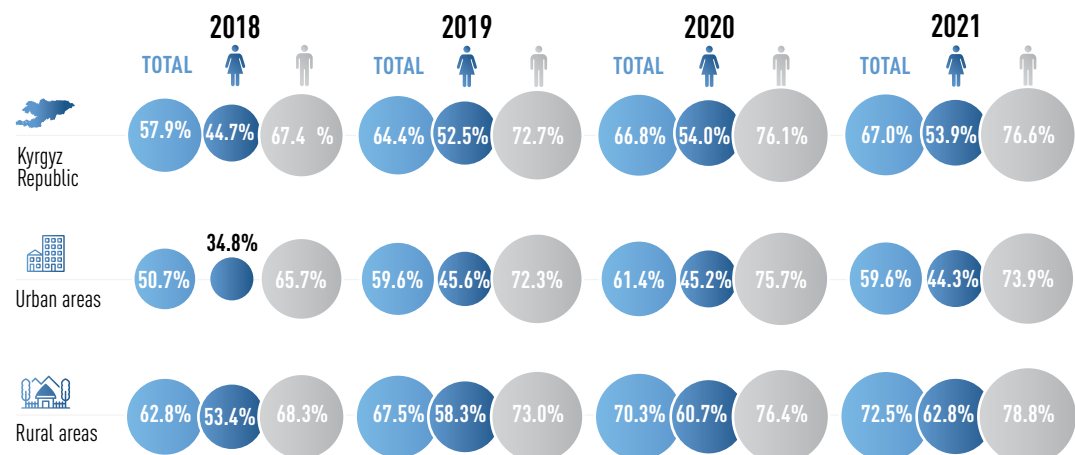
The National Gender Equality Strategy until 2030 also contains Section 3 on the ‘Elimination of Gender Discrimination and Improvement of Women’s Access to Justice’.

Women feel far less safe (53.9 per cent) than men (76.6 per cent) walking alone around the area where they live after dark (SDG 16.1.4). Young women under the age of 28 feel even less safe (47.1 per cent) than older women.

At the same time, rural women (62.8 per cent) and men (78.8 per cent) feel safer than urban dwellers (44.3 and 73.9 per cent, respectively). Overall, only 67.1 per cent of the population aged 15 years and older felt safe in 2021.

Chart 54.

Proportion of the population that feels safe walking alone around the area where they live after dark



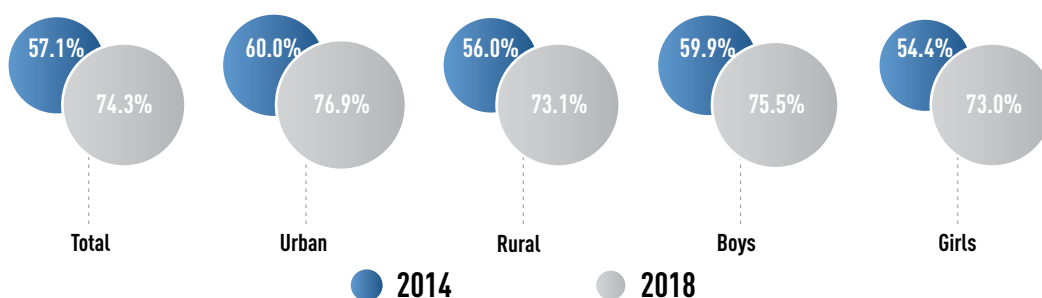


Violence and aggression against children have increased dramatically in recent years. In 2018, the proportion of children who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers (SDG 16.2.1) was 74.3 per cent, up from 57.1 per cent in 2014. This is true for both boys (75.5 per cent) and girls (73.0 per cent). The level of violence against children is slightly higher in urban areas (76.9 per cent) than in rural areas (73.1 per cent). The highest level of violence is seen in Osh city (85.6 per cent) and the Chui region (83.5 per cent).

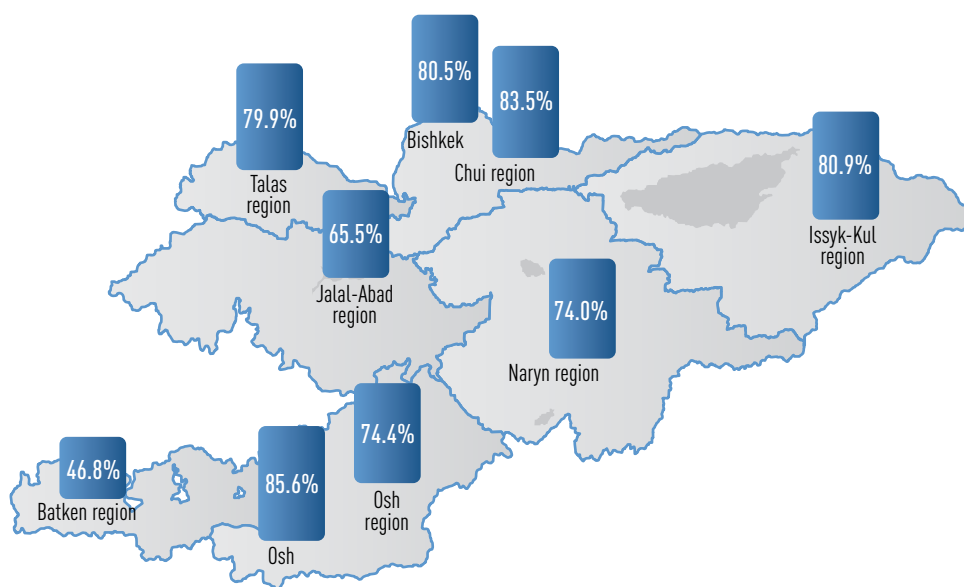
Only about one third of women report their victimization to State authorities (SDG 16.3.1). In 2018, the proportion of women who were the victims of violence such as a robbery or assault who reported this violence was 29.5 per cent. The reporting rate in urban areas (38.4 per cent) is much higher than in rural areas (22.4 per cent), which is associated with higher chances of remaining anonymous in large settlements. In rural areas, every case of violence is visible, which makes it more difficult for women who have experienced violence to use official protection mechanisms.

Chart 55.

Proportion of children aged 1–14 years who have experienced any physical punishment and/or physical aggression by caregivers in the past month



BY TERRITORIES IN 2018





In 2021, 307 people were convicted of official misconduct, including corruption and bribery: 278 men and 29 women. Despite measures introduced – including the declaration of officials’ incomes and assets, an electronic public procurement system, etc. – the overall scale of corruption in the country has not changed significantly.

The representation of women and men in the judiciary and law enforcement indicates the inclusive nature of public

administration and law enforcement agencies. And while men are slightly more represented in special positions (12.3 per cent) than women (11.4 per cent), women have slightly higher representation when it comes to administrative positions (88.6 and 88.7 per cent, respectively).

Most children under the age of 5 have a birth certificate. In 2018, 98.9 per cent of children had their births officially registered, compared to 97.7 per cent in 2014 (SDG 16.9.1). There are no

Chart 56.

Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who were victims of violence such as robbery and/or assault in the past 12 months and reported their victimization to the police, 2018

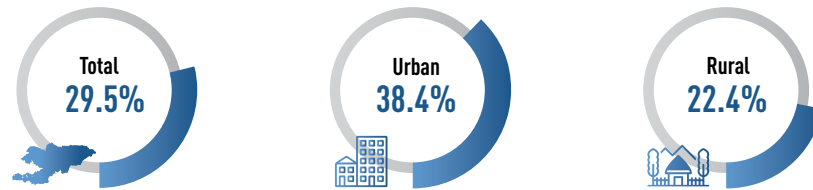
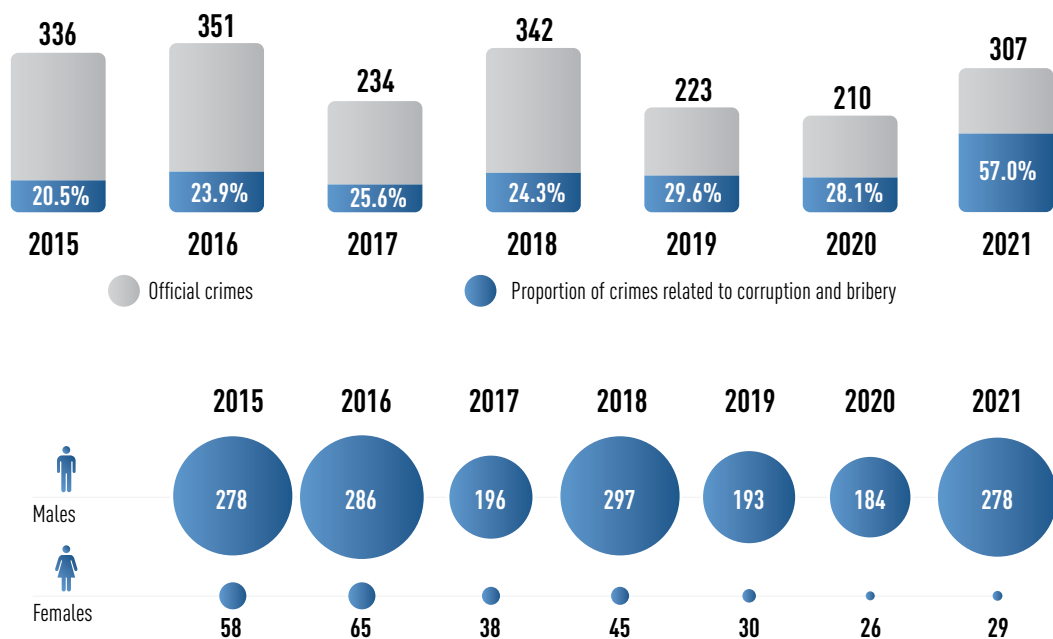


Chart 57.

Persons convicted for official crimes (number)





significant differences by sex or place of birth. Registering children at birth is the first step in recognizing them before the law and preserving their rights, as well as ensuring that any violation of these rights does not go unnoticed. The one-time allowance called 'balaga suyunchu' established by the Government and payable since January 1, 2018 for each child born, is supposed to contribute to the timely registration of children.

Citizens' trust, including that of women who have been subjected to violence, in State authorities who ensure law and order, is clearly insufficient. The gender composition of public administration bodies, including law enforcement agencies, should be a focus, as an increase in the number of women in these bodies indicates their inclusive nature.

58 people who committed crimes related to corruption and bribery

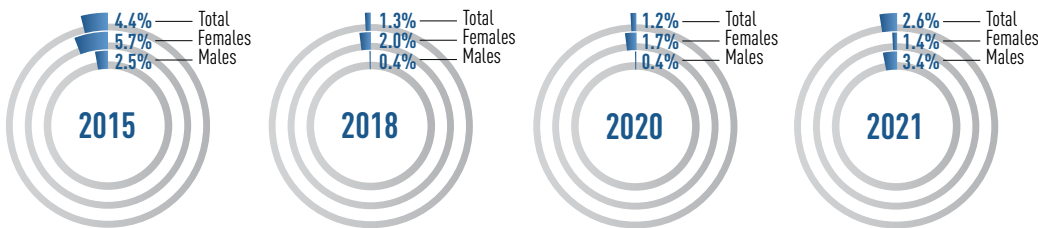


including **6.9%** Females and **93.1%** Males

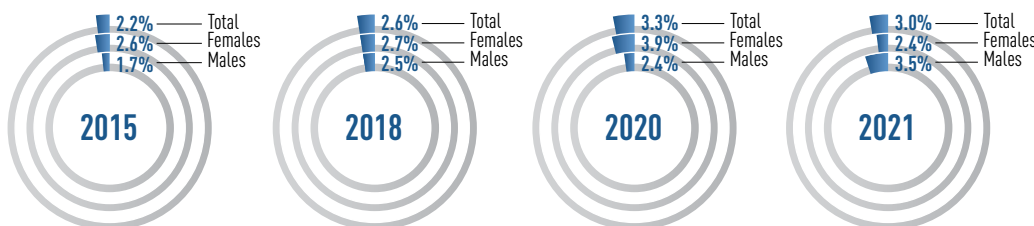
Chart 58.

Proportion of positions in State institutions (excluding government agencies that provide defence, public order and security)

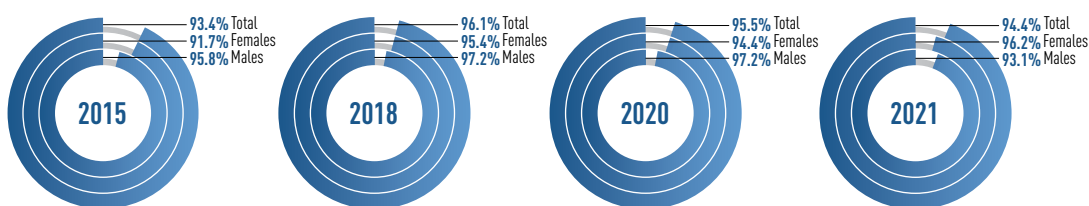
POLITICAL POSITIONS



SPECIAL POSITIONS



ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS





SDG 17.

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

One of the most important indicators for achieving SDG 17 is the proportion of individuals using the Internet (SDG 17.8.1).

It is important to track this indicator by gender, as significant disparities in access indicate a digital gender gap.

The National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040 strives for the creation of a competitive digital economy, innovative and environmentally friendly technologies, and the widespread introduction of information technology in production and management as a priority of development policy.

The National Gender Equality Strategy until 2030 also includes policy measures aimed at institutional and infrastructural support for women in education through the improvement of technical infrastructure, including for rural women and persons with disabilities.

In Kyrgyzstan, 78.9 per cent of the population aged 15 years and older uses the Internet on a regular basis. Internet use among rural residents is 9.0 per cent lower than among urban residents. Residents of Jalal-Abad (64.1 per cent), Batken (74.5 per cent), Naryn (75.6 per cent) and Talas regions (75.1 per cent) are below the national average when it comes to Internet use.

In 2021, the proportion of men using the Internet was 79.2 per cent, and the proportion of women was 78.6 per cent. However, this gap widens in rural areas, where the proportion of women Internet users was 75.0 per cent, compared to 83.9 per cent among women living in urban areas.

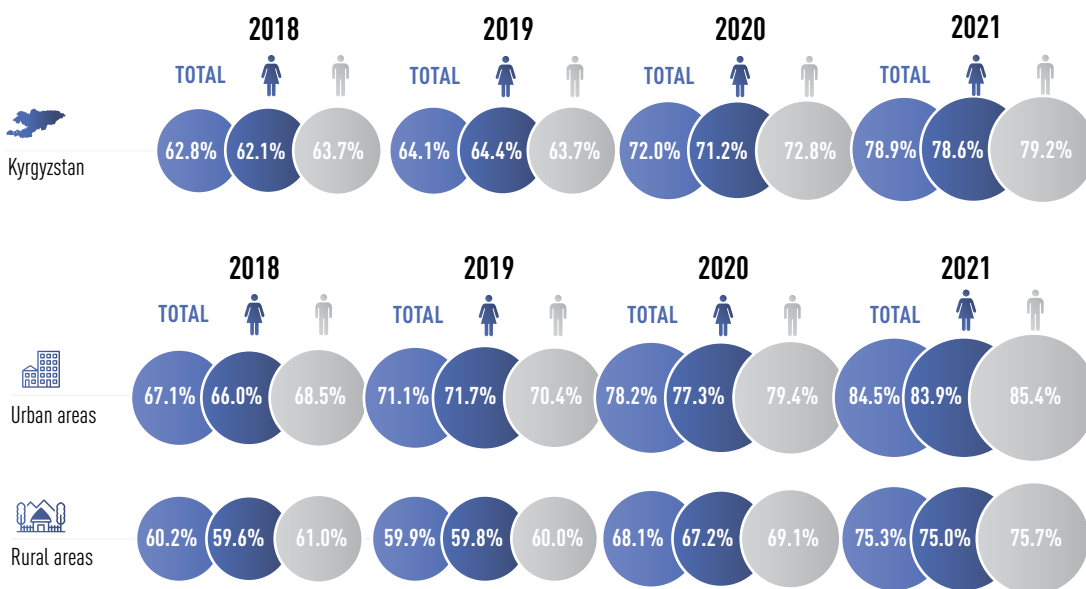
The highest number of Internet users, both among women and men, is among people with higher vocational education. At the same time, only 21 per cent of women aged 15–49 and 30 per cent of women aged 15–24 years possess ICT skills.

Internet access provides the necessary infrastructure to expand people's access to ICT and digital technologies. But it is clearly insufficient for women's active participation in digital transformation processes, as their ICT skills also need to be further improved.

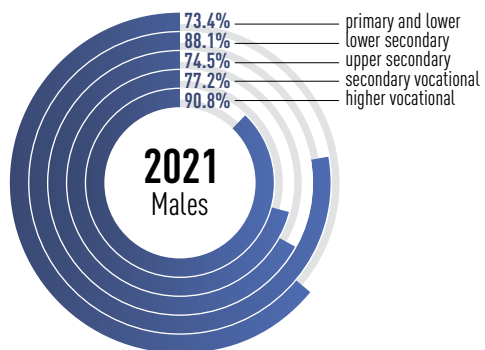
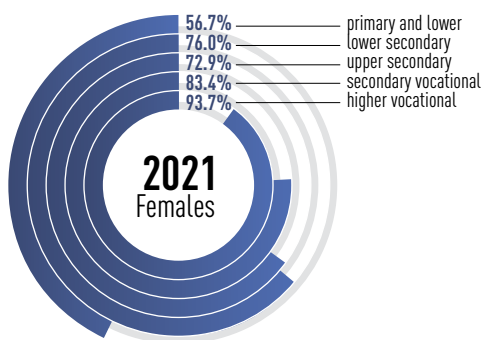


Chart 59.

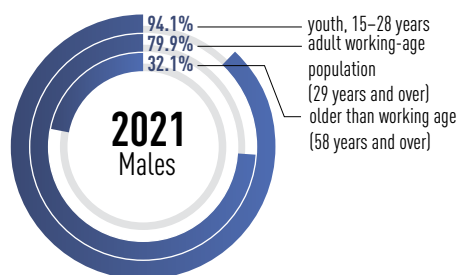
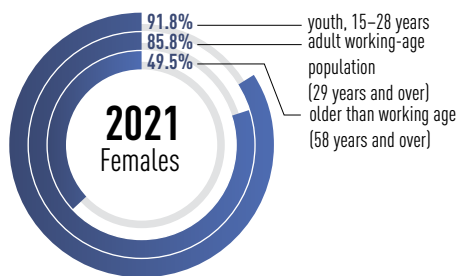
Proportion of individuals using the Internet (proportion of the population aged 15 years and older who accessed the Internet in the past 3 months using any device)



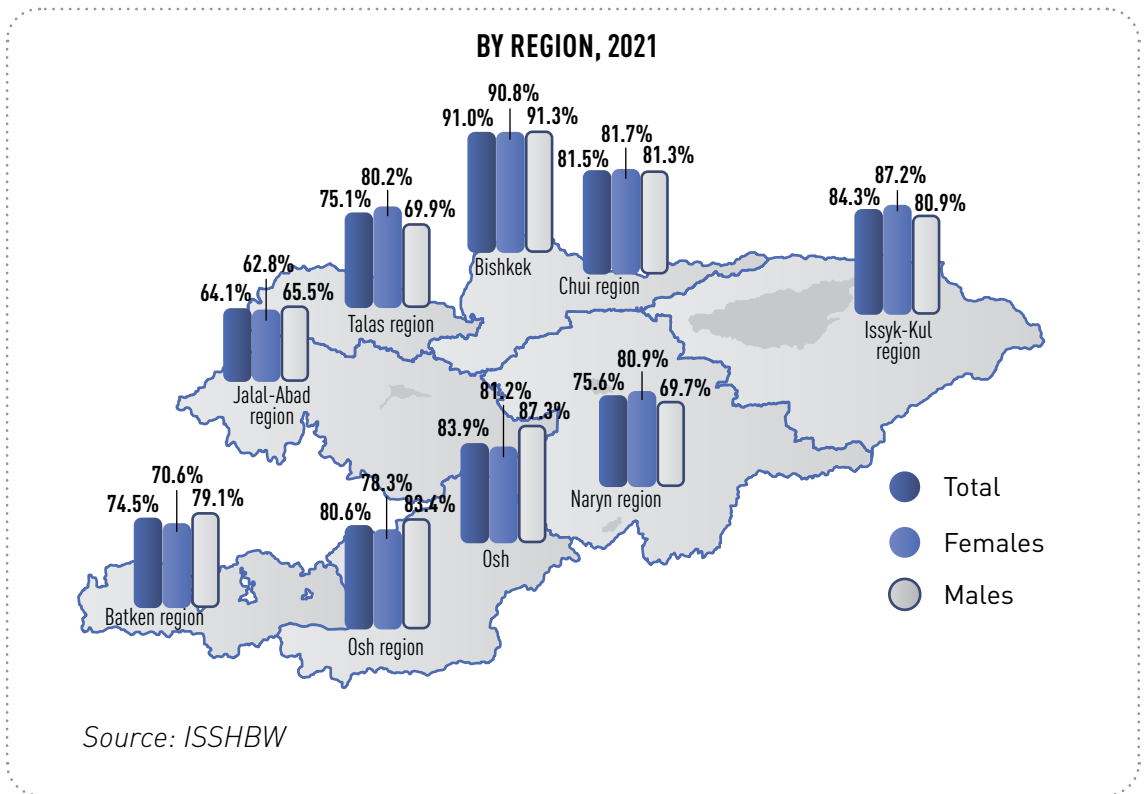
BY EDUCATION LEVEL



BY AGE



Source: ISSHBW





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2014–2021**

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