

**Committee for Children Rights Protection
of the Ministry of Education and Science Republic
of Kazakhstan**



**The Report
on the Situation of Children in Kazakhstan
for 2019**

Nur-Sultan, 2020



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ABBREVIATIONS

CAM	– Center for Adaptation of Minors
CCRP MES	– Committee for Children Rights Protection of the Ministry of Education and Science Republic of Kazakhstan
CLSSA	– Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Accounts of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan
EAEA	– External Assessment of Educational Achievements
GDP	– Gross Domestic Product
GPO	– General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of KazakhstanK
GRP	– Gross Regional Product
IAC	– Information and Analytical Center
ILO	– The International Labour Organization
MCI	– Monthly Calculation Index
MCS RK	– Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan
MDDIAI	– Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan
ME RK	– Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
MES RK	– Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan
MF RK	– Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan
MFA RK	– Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
MJ RK	– Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan
MH RK	– Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan
MIA RK	– Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
MIID RK	– Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan

MLSPP RK	– Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan
MNE RK	– Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
NED	– National Education Database
NGO	– Non-Governmental Organizations
REMCAE	– Republican Educational and Methodological Center of Additional Education
RK	– The Republic of Kazakhstan
RSE	– Republican State (State) Enterprise
RSI	– Republican State Institution
SAMK	– The Spiritual Administration of the Muslims of Kazakhstan
SC MNE RK	– Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan Statistics Committee
SC RK	– Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan
SCES	– State Compulsory Education Standard
SCO	– Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SRR	– Sanitary Rules and Regulations
SSIF	– State Social Insurance Fund
TSA	– Targeted Social Assistance
TVE	– Technical and Vocational Education
UN	– United Nations
UNICEF	– United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	– World Health Organization
YHC	– Youth Health Centers

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan presents the annual “Report on the Situation of Children in Kazakhstan for 2019” (further referred as “Report”).

The report was prepared in accordance with the Article 46 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan «On the Rights of a Child in the Republic of Kazakhstan», based on official statistical data, gathered from authorized state bodies, as well as the results of a sociological study on the implementation of the fundamental children’s rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Within the study, more than 85 thousand children from all regions of Kazakhstan ages 8 to 17 years, as well as more than 3 thousand parents, specialists, teachers working with children were interviewed. The respondent sample included urban and rural areas, including remote villages.

The report reflects the issues of demography, the state of health, education, social support for families and children, a list of legislative acts on children’s rights protection adopted in 2019. Quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the situation of children are given in dynamics over the past five years.

Particular attention is paid to issues of child safety, the system for the prevention of neglect, social orphanhood, crimes against children, child abuse, and problems of children and families in difficult life situations, in general.

The report is aimed at drawing attention to these issues from representatives of central and local executive bodies, non-governmental organizations, and providing the interested structures and organizations of various departmental affiliations with analytical information on the situation of children in the Republic of Kazakhstan.



CHAPTER 1

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN KAZAKHSTAN LEGISLATION

CHAPTER 1. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN KAZAKHSTAN LEGISLATION

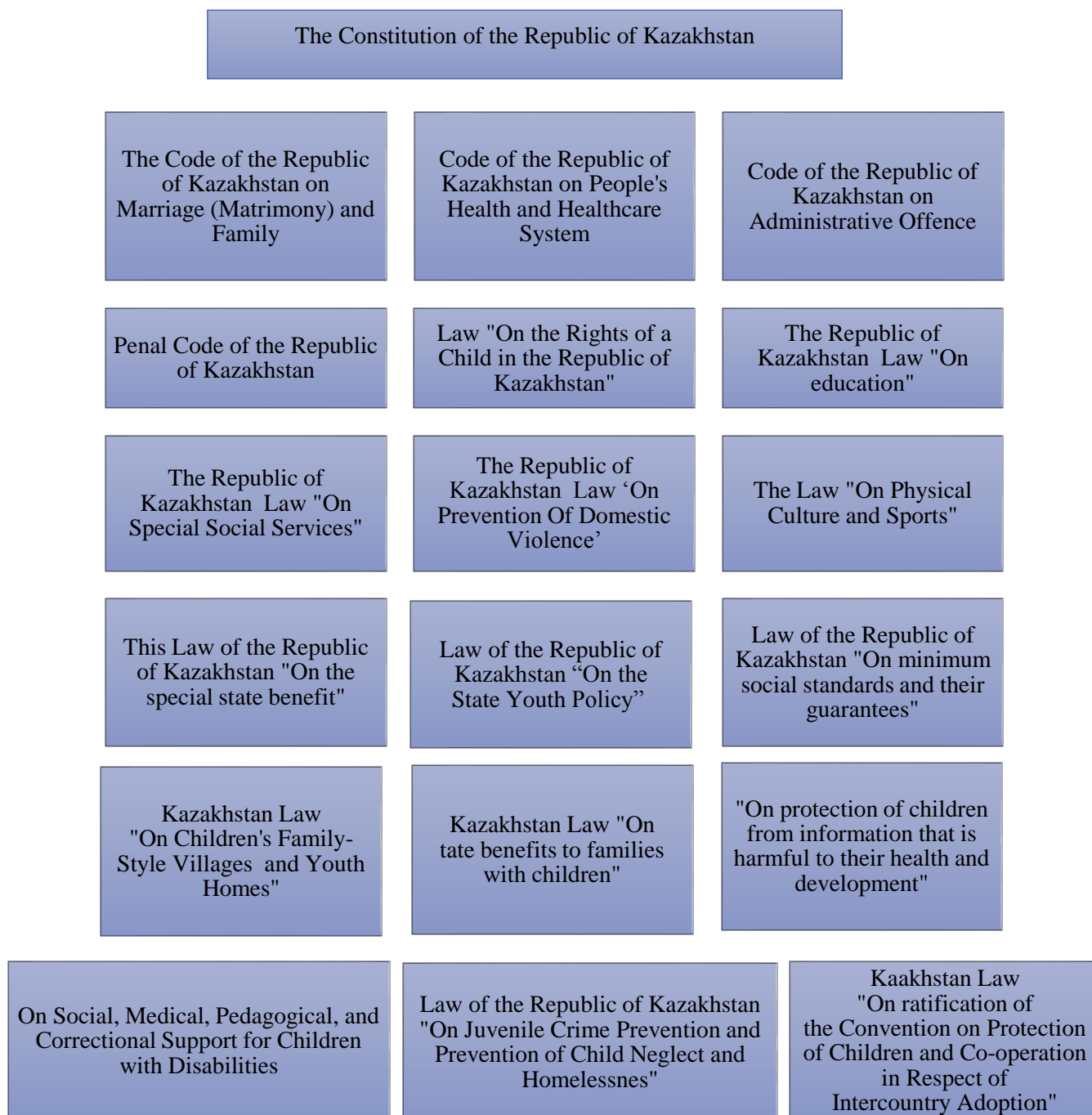
Under the Kazakhstan Constitution, country's international and other treaty obligations are included in the current law of the Republic, together with the Main Law of Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is a party to most universal international human rights treaties, among which the «Convention on the Rights of the Child» occupies a prominent place.

International documents on children's rights protection, ratified by the Republic of Kazakhstan

1. *The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.*
2. *The ILO Convention on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor.*
3. *The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*
4. *The ILO Maternity Protection Convention*
5. *The Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others*
6. *The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*
7. *The Convention "On Combating Discrimination in Education"*
8. *The Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance and the Protocol on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations"*
9. *The Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption*
10. *The Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.*
11. *The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*
12. *The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*
13. *The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*
14. *The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography*
15. *The Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict..*

The general principles and norms of the Convention and other international acts are reflected not only in the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, but also in the regulatory legal acts that establish and ensure the rights and interests of children.

The list of basic regulatory legal documents of the Republic of Kazakhstan in child's rights



Source: Legal information system on Regulatory Legal Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan <http://adilet.zan.kz>

As part of the implementation of state policy in children's rights and interests protection, a set of legislative measures was adopted in 2019 to improve the situation.

In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan **"On Amendments and Additions to Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Issues Related to the Activities of Organizations Performing the Functions of Protecting**

the Rights of a Child" dated April 1, 2019, amendments were made to 6 codes and 6 laws, providing for:

- expanding the competence of the authorized body in the field of education in terms of developing and approving standards for the provision of special social services in children’s rights protection;
- Legislative consolidation of the norms for the creation and operation of Support Centers for children in difficult life situations;
- introduction of the obligation of social workers (in education, health care, social protection of the population) to immediately inform law enforcement agencies about the facts of action (inaction) committed by minors or against them, containing signs of a criminal or administrative offense;
- settlement of issues related to the activities of the commission on minors' affairs and protection of minors’ rights in terms of developing programs and methods aimed at protecting them from violence and abuse;
- the local executive bodies maintaining medical and social registration of minors, as a new form of individual prevention of child neglect and homelessness, as well as as a basis for providing a child with social special services;
- the inclusion of a stepfather and stepmother as a subject of a crime for criminal offenses infringing on the sexual integrity of a minor;
- exclusion of criminal liability for failure to fulfill, without good reason, the duties of raising a minor by a parent, legal representative, teacher, whose functions include the obligation to supervise the child;
- strengthening measures in cases of committing a crime against minors: punishment by imprisonment for a term of twelve to seventeen years with life deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities;
- conditions for early release of minors from compulsory educational measures in the form of placement in an educational organization with a special regime of detention;
- visits by the participants of the national preventive mechanism to organizations performing functions for the protection of the rights of a child.

These norms are aimed at developing a system for providing special social services to families with children in difficult life situations; monitoring and evaluating results, reducing latency in the field of protecting the rights and interests of children, increasing the effectiveness of measures aimed at preventing juvenile delinquency.

The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Amendments and Additions to Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Issues of

Compulsory Social Insurance, Social Security and Public-Private Partnership in Healthcare" dated December 26, 2019 provides:

- changing the current system of TSA provision by returning to the previously existing mechanism for its provision and supplementing TSA with a guaranteed social package for children from low-income families;
- a new state allowance for large families in multiples of the MCI, from 42.5 thousand tenge to 74 thousand tenge, differentiated depending on the number of children in the family.

Within the framework of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "**On Amendments and Additions to Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Improving Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Legislation and Strengthening the Protection of Individual Rights**" dated December 27, 2019, amendments and additions were made to the Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Marriage (Matrimony) and family", in particular, are regulated:

- the activities of organizations that provide assistance in the placement of orphans and children left without parental care, as well as the requirements for their accreditation;
- compulsory training of potential adoptive parents.

The introduction of these measures will reduce the number of children brought up in orphanages, and reduce the level of repeated orphanhood.

The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "**On Amendments and Additions to Some Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Status of a Teacher, Reducing the Strain on Students and Teachers**" dated December 27, 2019, legislates the competence of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan to approve the provision on the activities of the Commission on Juvenile Affairs and the Protection of Minors.





CHAPTER 2
OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION
OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
IN KAZAKHSTAN



CHAPTER 2. OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN KAZAKHSTAN

2.1. Demographic trends

According to the data of the Constitutional Court of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as of the beginning of 2019, the number of children aged 0 to 18 years was 5,944,304 children (51% of boys, 49% of girls), which is 32.3% of the total population of the country.

Table 1. The number of children 0-17 years old by region at the beginning of 2019

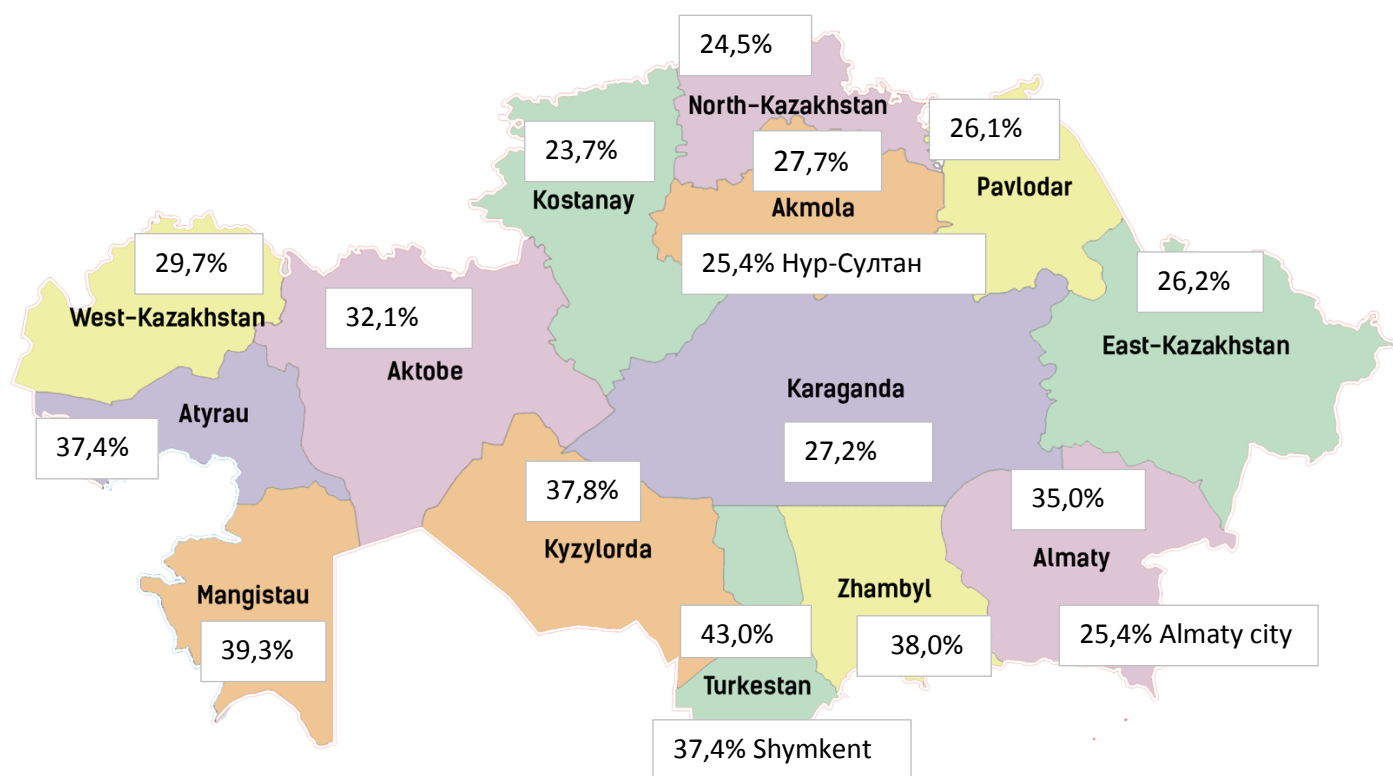
Regions	Population total			Urban population			Rural population		
	total	boys	girls	total	boys	girls	total	boys	girls
Akmola	204 468	105 117	99 351	96 991	50 130	46 861	107 477	54 987	52 490
Aktobe	279 070	144 045	135 025	195 926	101 354	94 572	83 144	42 691	40 453
Almaty	713 049	366 679	346 370	160 058	81 917	78 141	552 991	284 762	268 229
Atyrau	237 167	121 764	115 403	124 528	63 863	60 665	112 639	57 901	54 738
West-Kazakhstan	193 433	99 958	93 475	99 369	51 271	48 098	94 064	48 687	45 377
Zhambyl	427 388	219 564	207 824	164 762	84 841	79 921	262 626	134 723	127 903
Karaganda	375 503	192 331	183 172	292 565	149 886	142 679	82 938	42 445	40 493
Kostanay	206 555	105 906	100 649	110 240	56 702	53 538	96 315	49 204	47 111
Kyzylorda	300 223	154 376	145 847	134 368	69 119	65 249	165 855	85 257	80 598
Mangistau	266 615	137 668	128 947	100 383	52 815	47 568	166 232	84 853	81 379
Pavlodar	196 449	101 038	95 411	132 140	67 853	64 287	64 309	33 185	31 124
North-Kazakhstan	135 793	69 996	65 797	57 671	29 816	27 855	78 122	40 180	37 942
Turkestan	852 684	437 099	415 585	181 386	93 435	87 951	671 298	343 664	327 634
East-Kazakhstan	361 336	185 505	175 831	212 489	109 257	103 232	148 847	76 248	72 599
Nur-Sultan	346 269	177 985	168 284	346 269	177 985	168 284	-	-	-
Almaty city	470 466	243 161	227 305	470 466	243 161	227 305	-	-	-
Shymkent	377 836	194 646	183 190	377 836	194 646	183 190	-	-	-
Kazakhstan	5944304	3056838	2887466	3257447	1678051	1579396	2686857	1378787	1308070

Source: MNE of the RK SC operational data

45% of the RK children live in rural areas. The largest share of children (aged 0 to 18 years) from villages lives in Turkestan (672 thousand), Almaty (553 thousand) and Zhambyl (263 thousand) regions.

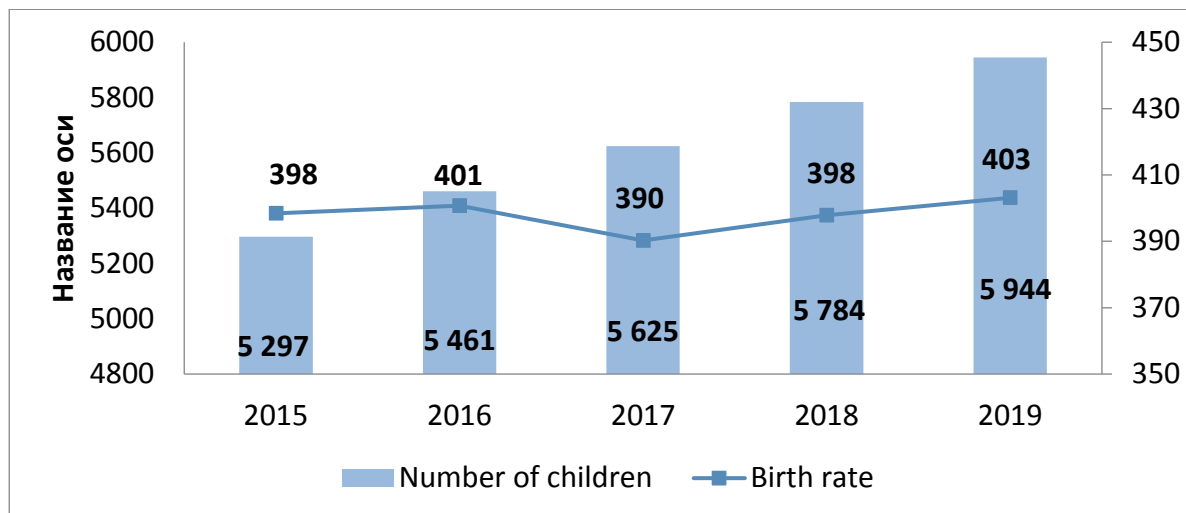
On average, the proportion of children in the total population is 32%; in urban areas - 30%, in rural areas - 35%. However, in regions this proportion varies. The lowest proportion of children is in Kostanay (23.7%), North-Kazakhstan (24.5%) regions and Almaty city (25.4%), the highest is in Turkestan (43.0%), Mangistau (39.3%), Kyzylorda (37.8%), Zhambyl (38.0%) regions. The high proportion of children in the southern regions indicates a high dependency ratio in these regions and the need for special emphasis on supporting families with children.

Map 1. The share of children in the structure of the population by region at the beginning of 2019, thousand people

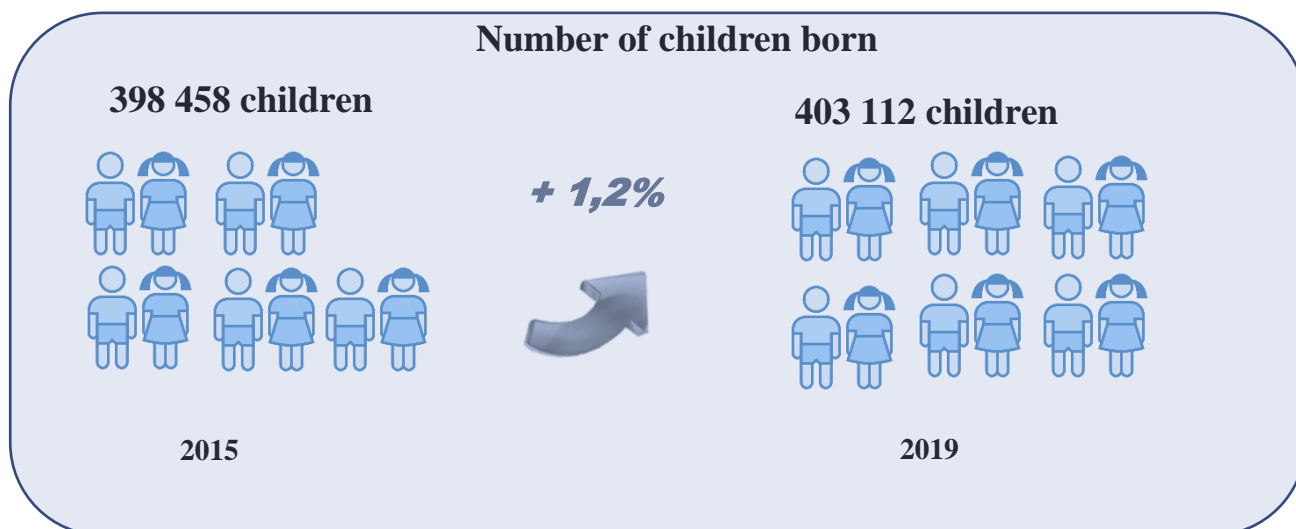


Over the past 5 years, the country has seen an increase in the number of children. So, from 2015 to 2019, the number of children aged 0 to 17 years has increased by 12%.

Figure 1. The dynamics of the number of children and birth rate in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2015-2019, thousand people



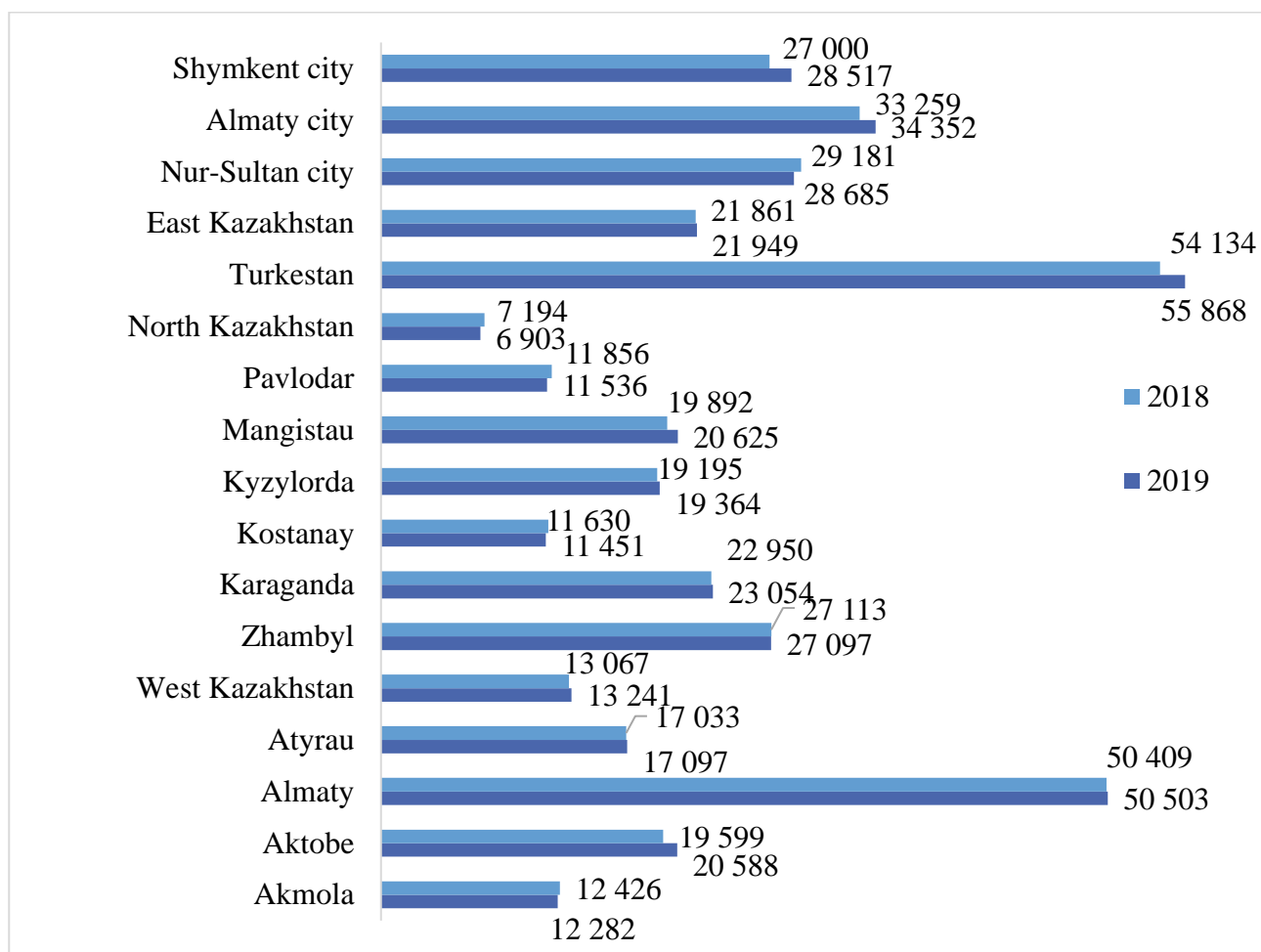
The increase in the number of children is due to the fact that there has been a tendency of birth rate rising in Kazakhstan for several years. In 2019, 403,112 children were born in the country, which is 1.3% more than in 2018 and 1.2% or more than in 2015. There were born 13,768 more boys than girls.



Picture 1. Fertility rate in Kazakhstan in 2015 and 2019, people

The largest number of children born is in the Turkestan region (35,981 children, 0.8% more than in 2018) and Almaty region (33,395 children, 1.2% more than in 2018). This is due to large population of these regions and a rather high birth rate due to the local mentality. Least of all children are born in the North Kazakhstan region (6,903).

Figure 2. Fertility rate in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2018-2019 by regions, people



Source: MNE of the RK SC operational data

When assessing the needs of the regions in preschool and school institutions, health facilities, social facilities and others, the significant difference in fertility between some regions should be taken into account, for example, in the Turkestan region in 2019 the number of newborns was 8 times higher than in the North Kazakhstan region.

It should be noted that in Kazakhstan, a decrease in the birth rate is prognosed in the next 5 years. Firstly, according to statistics, the peak of child-bearing age for women in the country is 20-29 years old, and the female population of this age group is decreasing, due to the demographic crisis of the 90s (when there was a sharp decline in fertility and a high outflow of the population). Secondly, urbanization processes and global trends lead to a change in the family model from a large to a family with one or two children. It is necessary to study the key criteria that influence the birth rate in Kazakhstan, such as housing conditions, level of education and access to the labor market for women, employment of a father of a family, family values and others to formulate a competent policy to increase the birth rate. The solution of the issue through material support to the family, as the experience of many countries in the world shows, does not always lead to the desired result.

2.2. The quality of life of Kazakhstani families with children

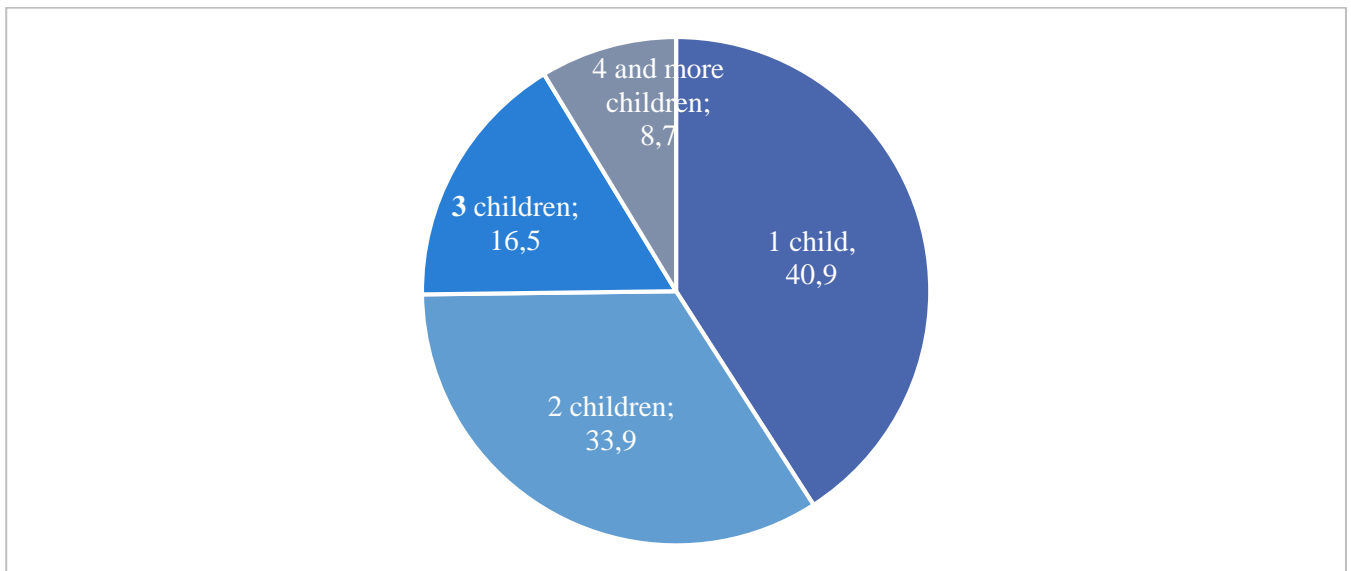
2.2.1. Family Characteristics

According to the official data of the SC of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in 2018 there were 1,352,330 households with children. Of these, 38.5% are single-parent families (452,730 households consisting of a mother with children, 68,256 - consisting of a father with children).

The proportion of households with children in the total number of households is 54%. In rural areas there is a larger number of households with children (61.4%), in urban areas - slightly less (49.8%).

Most households with children has 1-2 children (74.8%), 16.5% of households have 3 children, 8.7% are large families with 4 or more children.

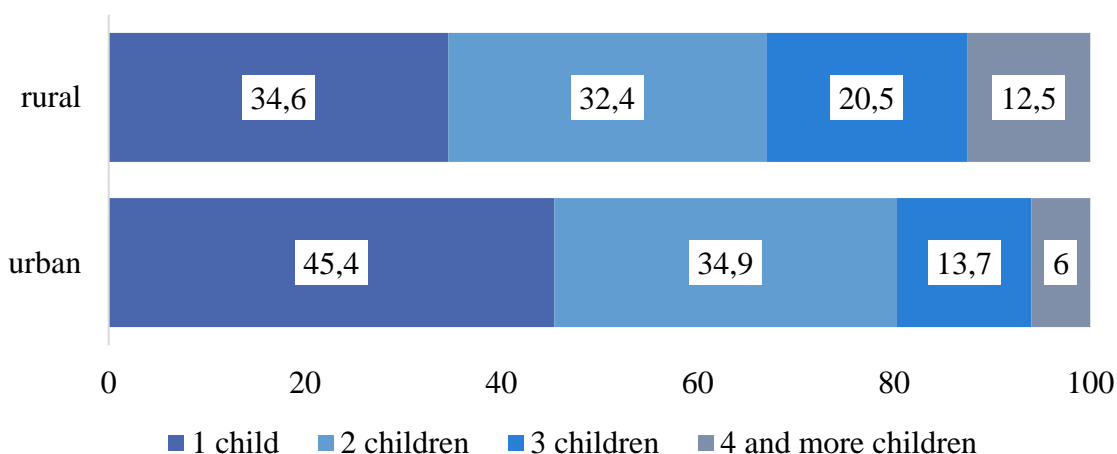
Figure 3. Households by number of children, %



Source: MNE of the RK SC operational data

Rural areas, compared to urban areas, have 2 times more families with more than 4 children (12.5% versus 6%).

Figure 4. Households by children and area of residence, %

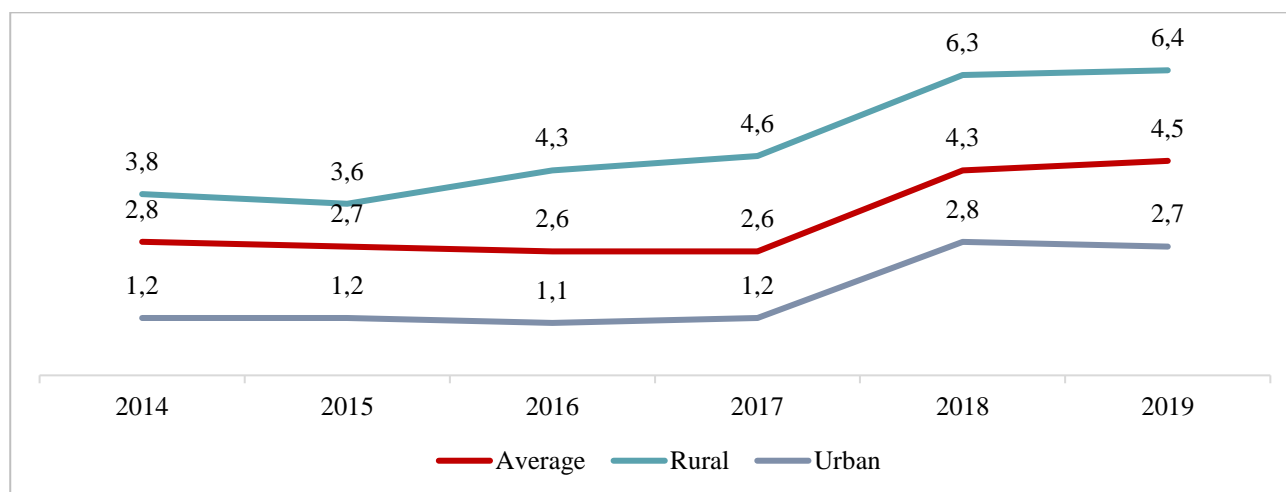


Source: MNE of the RK SC operational data

2.2.2. Family living standard

According to the official data of the MNE of the RK SC, in 2019 the poverty rate was 4.5%¹ (817,080 people²), in rural areas – 6.4%, in urban – 2.7%. In recent years, there has been a steady increase in poverty in Kazakhstan, as measured by the proportion of the population with incomes below the subsistence level³, which is especially noticeable in rural areas.

Figure 5. The proportion of the population with incomes below the subsistence level in urban and rural areas, 2014-2019, %



Source: <https://stat.gov.kz/official/dynamic>, * - estimated data

Poverty rates are underestimated in Kazakhstan. Contrary to official estimates of poverty, World Bank (WB) experts believe that many Kazakhstanis still remain

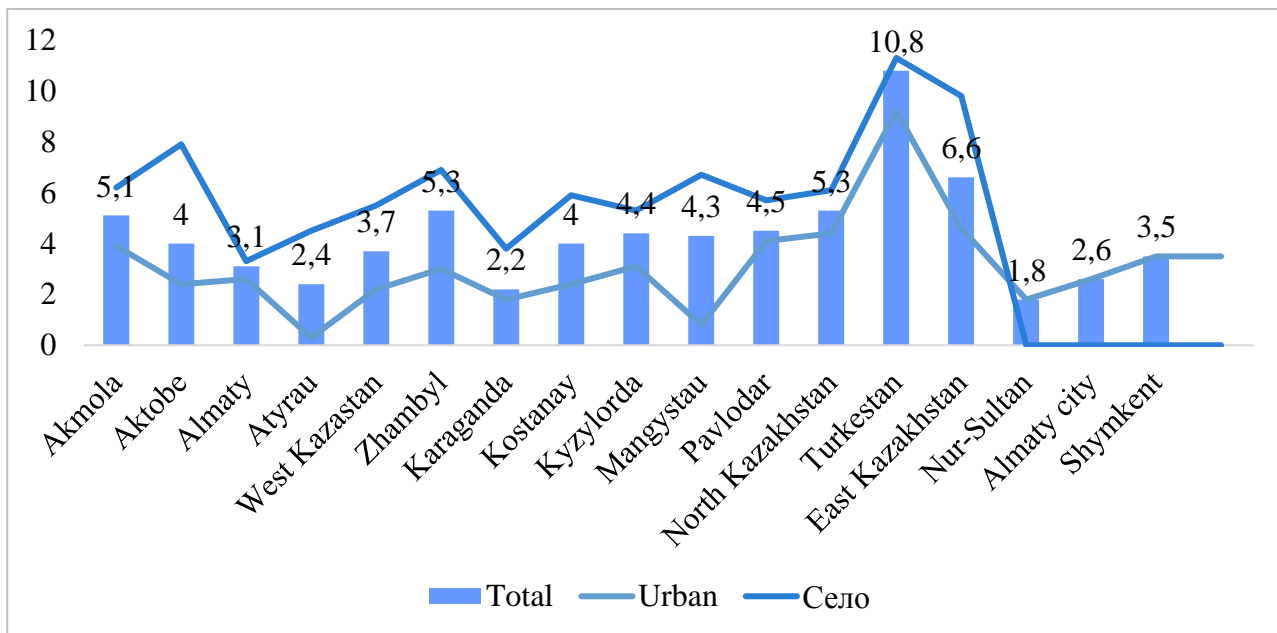
¹ The proportion of the population with an income below the subsistence level

² Estimated figure

³ The subsistence minimum for calculating the amount of basic social payments in 2019 was 29 698 tenge

vulnerable to economic uncertainty. According to the World Bank, in 2018, the average poverty indicator (on the international poverty scale of \$5.5 per day) was at 8.6%, and according to WB forecasts, at the current rate, it will remain above 6% until 2021.⁴ Experts also note that the poverty indicator is uneven in the country, there are regions where it exceeds the national average by 3.5 times. For example, in some remote areas of Turkestan and Zhambyl regions, it exceeds 30% (in terms of 5.5 US dollars per day). This coincides with official data, according to which in the Turkestan region, the poverty indicator is two times higher than the national average and reaches 10.8% even according to underestimated measurements.

Figure 6. Poverty Level in Kazakhstan, Q3 of 2019, %



Source: Monitoring the living standards of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Q3 2019, MNE of the RK SC

The main category of poor households is made up of large families. The analysis of the distribution of households with children by decile groups⁵ showed that households with 4 or more children are mainly concentrated in the first four deciles, but a particularly large share is in the first decile (40.1%), i.e. these are the poorest households, while in 10th decile (the richest households), the proportion of large families is only 0.7%.

⁴ To make an international ranking, the World Bank annually estimates the poverty line based on purchasing power parity. Kazakhstan has an income level lower than average, which means that the poverty line is \$5.5 per day. <https://inbusiness.kz>

⁵ Decile groups - groups of the population (households) formed by dividing the entire population (households) into 10 numerically equal parts.

Table 2. Distribution of households by number of children and decile groups, 2018

	Households with children under 18, total %	Including households, %			
		With 1 child	With 2 children	With 3 children	4 or more children
All households, %	100	100	100	100	100
1 decile	10,2	2,5	7,4	19,2	40,1
2 decile	11,2	6,1	12,4	16,1	20,7
3 decile	11,8	7,6	13,7	17,2	13,2
4 decile	11,6	9,8	12,2	15,1	11,3
5 decile	11,6	11,6	14,1	9,3	6,1
6 decile	11,3	13,5	11,4	10,2	3,3
7 decile	10,1	12,7	11	5,7	2,7
8 decile	9,3	14,3	7,7	4,3	1,3
9 decile	7,7	11,6	7,5	2,3	0,6
10 decile	5,2	10,3	2,6	0,6	0,7

Source: Socio-demographic characteristics of households in the Republic of Kazakhstan, MNE of the RK SC, 2018

The social gap between poor and rich households with children is most significant in terms of food consumption. In families with incomes below the subsistence level, food consumption is significantly lower than in other groups, and the consumed products are less diverse. In poor households, the consumption of meat and fish is three times lower. Their diet includes two times less milk, fruits, eggs. The insufficient diet significantly affects the development of children, their ability to learn, and morbidity.

2.2.3. Unwanted social changes in Kazakhstani families

The world is changing, massive changes in the economic, political, social and spiritual spheres are transforming the institution of family, marriage, family relations. However, despite all the transformations, a family is still the foundation for the development of a child's life goals, moral standards, behavior patterns and adaptation to the outside world. Communities and economies could not function without the notion of a family, it being a key element of any society.

The modern world offers various models of family relationships that modify the traditional view of marriage: marriage without children (families or couples do not plan to have children, voluntarily refuse to have children, spreading the ideology of "childfree"), early marriage (under 18 years of age), civil marriage, "guest" marriage (the marriage is registered officially, but the spouses live separately), online marriage (meeting and marriage takes place on the internet), spiritual marriage (marriage based on spiritual unity, without physical intimacy), same-sex marriage, officially registered marriage and other.

The results of a survey of Kazakhstani youth conducted during a study by F. Ebert Foundation within "Youth of Central Asia" show that the young generation aged 14-29, preserve traditional outlooks, however, there are changes in their attitude towards the institution of a family, other marriage models and forms are developed. Most respondents see themselves as married and having a family in the future - 82.5%,

9.4% of young people choose a civil marriage, 1.5% see themselves without a partner and family, as they want to be free from family obligations; a small percentage prefer to have a child, but live without a partner. Thus, the global trend of modification of the concept of a “traditional” family is also observed in Kazakhstani families.

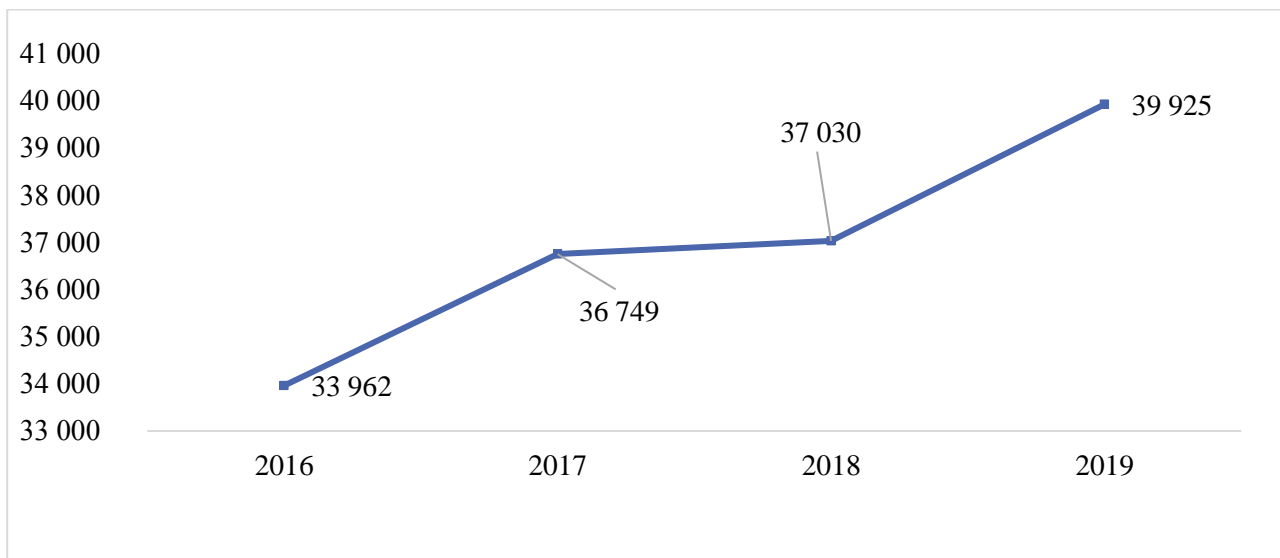
Divorces

The number of divorces is growing in the republic, including in families with children. Even those who have three or four minor children refuse to stay married, and having children does not affect the desire to keep the family together.

According to official data, in 2019, 79,333 applications for divorce were received by the courts of the republic, of which 85% are from families with underage children. More than half (58%) of such applications were satisfied, that is, 39,925 families with children changed their status to single-parent families, and the children in them received psychological trauma from their parents' divorce. Over the past four years (2016-2019), the number of divorces has increased by 18%, but a particularly sharp increase occurred in 2019, when the number of divorces increased by 2,895 cases compared to 2018, while over the period 2017-2018. the increase was 281 cases.

According to the interviews with experts, partially, the increase in divorce rates in 2019 can be justified by fictitious divorces, filed in order to receive TSA by excluding the father's income in targeted assistance calculations.

Figure 7. Dynamics of the number of divorces of Kazakhstani families with minor children

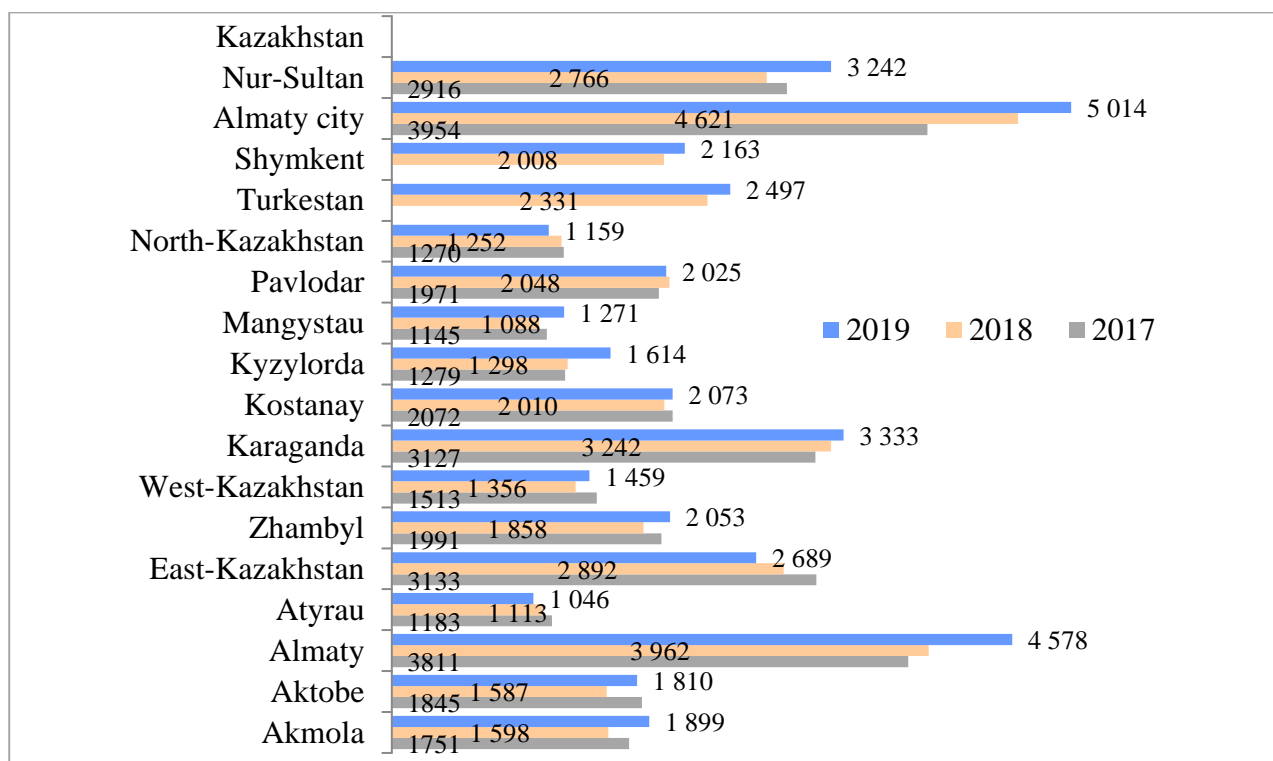


Source: SC RK

Among the regions in 2019, the largest number of divorces of families with children was registered in Almaty city (5,014), Almaty (4,578), Karaganda (3,333) regions, Nur-Sultan (3,242). The largest surge of this phenomenon was recorded in 2019 in Almaty, Akmola, Kyzylorda, Aktobe, Kyzylorda, Mangistau regions, and Nur-

Sultan. In these regions, there was a decrease in divorce rates in 2018 compared to 2017, but a significant increase in 2019 (1.3 times on average).

Figure 8. Change in the number of divorces of married couples with underage children for the period of 2017-2019.



Source: SC RK

This influence of social policy on the change in civil status requires its study and indicates the need to rely on factual data of the family's situation in the appointment of benefits, and not so much on formal data.

Comparative statistics of divorces in the world show that Kazakhstan is in the top 10 countries in terms of the number of divorces. According to statistics from the UN Demographic Report 2017, Kazakhstan entered the top 10 countries in the world by number of divorces, with a ratio of the number of marriages to the number of divorces - being 3, with this ratio remaining the same as in the report for 2018. ⁶

Table 3. Top 10 countries by the number of divorces in the world

The ratio of the number of marriages to the number of divorces	
Russia	4,7
Moldova	4,0
Guam (USA)	3,4
Belarus	3,4
Latvia	3,1

⁶ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/products/dyb/#statistics>

The ratio of the number of marriages to the number of divorces

Ukraine	3,1
Kazakhstan	3,0
Lithuania	3,0
Cuba	2,9
Georgia	2,7

Peace procedures play a positive role in preventing divorce. According to the SC RK, in 2019 it was possible to prevent divorce in 12,766 families through the peaceful settlement of disputes. Compared to 2018, the number of families saved from divorce has increased by 1.5 times.

The most common form of peaceful settlement is mediation, which saved 12,518 marriages. Amicable settlement discontinued 191 divorce cases, and 57 were discontinued by using participatory procedure⁷.

In order to preserve married couples, in September 2018, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan launched a pilot project "Family Court". The peculiarity of the project is that couples who find themselves in a crisis situation are helped to overcome it, find a way out of a difficult life situation and receive legal and psychological support.

Legal consequences of divorce for the spouses

Despite the divorce, parents are obliged to support their child; one of the forms of it being the alimony support.

In 2019, there were 270,974 enforcement proceedings on the execution of bailiffs to recover alimony, of which 7,309 problem cases (2.7% of the total number of cases), where debtors evaded the payment of alimony. Compared to 2018, the number of problem cases has decreased by almost three times (in 2018 - 25,545 problem cases, 10.3% in the total volume of cases).

Despite the positive reduction in the number of problem alimony payers, the total amount of parental alimony debt essentially stays the same. In 2018, it amounted to 3 billion 636.1 million tenge, in 2019 - 3 billion 528 million tenge. This means that the number of cases with a large amount of parental debt is not reduced. It is almost impossible to enforce the parents with large alimony debts to pay it.

In the context of regions, the largest numbers of problem alimony cases is in the city of Nur-Sultan (12.6% of the total number of alimony cases in the region), Karaganda region (4.2%), Turkestan region (3%). The largest amount of alimony debts is in the Karaganda region (853,195,202 tenge). In a comparative calculation of debt per case, the largest amounts are observed in Pavlodar (1,789,283 tenge), Akmola (1,445,320 tenge), Aktobe (1,388,166 tenge) regions.

The reasons for non-payment of alimony are an immoral lifestyle, unemployment, unofficially payed wages, lack of access to communication with children, lack of reliable information about the use of alimony money.

⁷ Participatory procedure is an alternative method of resolving civil disputes arising from civil, labor, family and other legal relations with the participation of individuals and (or) legal entities, with the exception of public law disputes, unless otherwise provided by laws. <https://www.zakon.kz/4878058-partisipativnaya-protsedura.html>

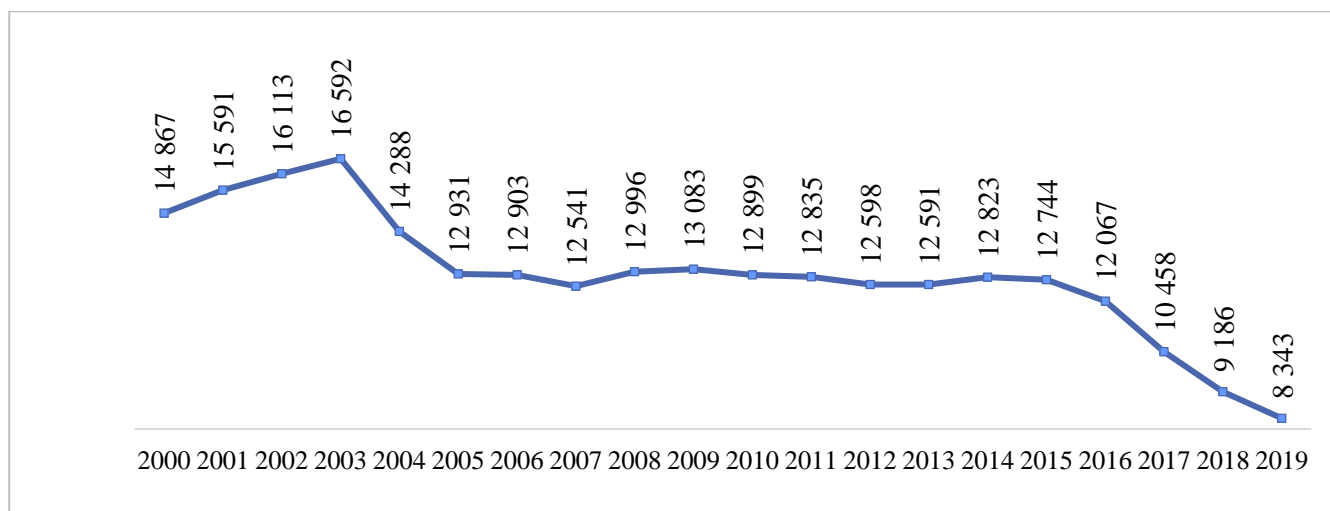
Table 4. Information on alimony by region, 2019

	Total number of cases	Number of problem alimony	Share of problem alimony cases in the region total number of cases	Amount of problem alimony debt (tenge)	Debt per problem case, tenge
Akmola	12 318	91	0,7	131 524 144	1 445 320
Aktobe	14 070	62	0,4	86 066 265	1 388 166
Almaty	25 391	462	1,8	351 527 383	760 882
Atyrau	10 716	195	1,8	158 245 352	811 515
East-Kazakhstan	22 353	239	1,1	64 126 279	268 311
Zhambyl	18 550	184	1,0	84 525 229	459 376
West-Kazakhstan	10 217	266	2,6	33 108 922	124 470
Karaganda	26 191	1 112	4,2	853 195 202	767 262
Kostanay	16 620	324	1,9	77 546 765	239 342
Kyzylorda	11 736	180	1,5	81 846 387	454 702
Mangystau	11 151	186	1,7	59 407 199	319 394
Pavlodar	16 276	270	1,7	483 106 401	1 789 283
North-Kazakhstan	7 698	154	2,0	22 844 290	148 340
Turkestan	21 322	645	3,0	66 945 307	103 791
Shymkent	12 624	354	2,8	415 651 682	1 174 157
Almaty city	14 407	162	1,1	118 143 621	729 282
Nur-Sultan	19 284	2 423	12,6	440 205 605	181 678
Kazakhstan	270 924	7 309	2,7	3 528 016 033	482 695

Source: MJ RK

Dysfunctional families

The situation with the number of dysfunctional families is improving somewhat. Over 19 years in Kazakhstan, the number of dysfunctional families registered with the internal affairs bodies has decreased by 1.8 times or by 44%. If in 2000 there were 14,867 families registered, then in 2019 there were 8,343 families.

Figure 9. Dynamics of a decrease in the number of dysfunctional families in Kazakhstan for the period 2000-2019.

In 2019, 8,343 dysfunctional families were registered with the internal affairs bodies, in which 13,994 children were raised. In absolute numbers, the largest number of dysfunctional families was registered in Kostanay region (1,160).

Table 5. Registered dysfunctional families and the number of children in these families, 2018 - 2019

Region	Dysfunctional familie		Children in them	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
Akmola	998	798	1 048	911
Aktobe	380	459	641	853
Almaty	950	936	1 878	1 899
Atyrau	186	182	393	386
East-Kazakhstan	618	526	787	737
Zhambyl	518	413	818	734
West-Kazakhstan	260	217	429	402
Karaganda	890	918	1 336	1 419
Kostanay	1 271	1 160	1 767	2 370
Kyzylordinskaya	106	83	171	108
Mangystau	170	164	345	288
Pavlodar	483	477	724	719
North-Kazakhstan	237	226	121	318
Turkestan	496	578	856	1 168
Shymkent	555	238	1 342	329
Almaty city	883	762	1 125	969
Nur-Sultan	184	203	351	384
Kazakhstan	9 186	8 343	14 132	13 994

Source: MIA RK official data.

Almost all regions over the past four years have shown a decrease in the number of dysfunctional families, except for the Aktobe region, where the number grew by almost 9%. The best result for a decrease in the indicator was in the Kyzylorda region (a decrease by 54%). Although the Kostanay and Akmola regions annually have the highest rates in terms of the number of dysfunctional families (48 and 40 dysfunctional families per 10,000 families, respectively), in Akmola region it decreased by 45% over 4 years, in Kostanay - by 30%.

Table 6. Dysfunctional families per 10,000 families

Region	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change over 4 years in %
Akmola	73	59	50	40	45,2
Aktobe	23	22	20	25	-8,7
Almaty	21	21	22	21	0,0
Atyrau	19	16	15	15	21,1
West-Kazakhstan	16	17	17	14	12,5
Zhambyl	29	22	20	17	41,4
Karaganda	44	25	25	25	43,2
Kostanay	69	71	53	48	30,4
Kyzylordinskaya	11	9	7	5	54,5
Mangystau	21	15	13	15	28,6
South-Kazakhstan	22	25	19	15	31,8
Pavlodar	30	32	24	23	23,3
North-Kazakhstan	16	16	14	13	18,8
East-Kazakhstan	26	16	16	14	46,2
Nur-Sultan (Astana city)	18	14	13	14	22,2
Almaty city	28	28	27	23	17,9

Source: data on the number of disadvantaged families - the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan from an official request. The calculation for 10,000 families was carried out by the Sange RC, based on the number of families according to the 2009 National Census, provided in the statistical collection "Women and Men of Kazakhstan" (2018) of the SC MNE RK.

The main causes of family dysfunction are the low level of personal responsibility, lack of life planning and accompanying economic problems: lack of housing and unemployment.

Deprivation of parental rights

Every year, about 5 thousand parents are brought to administrative responsibility for failure to fulfill their parental obligations, and over 2 thousand are deprived of parental rights. In 2019, 1,636 parents were deprived of their parental rights, 335 were temporarily restricted in their rights. Compared to the previous year, in 2019, the number of deprivations of rights decreased by only 193 cases, while the number of restrictions in rights increased by 77 cases.

The largest number of deprivations/restrictions in rights is observed in the northern regions of the country: Pavlodar region (241/101 families), East-Kazakhstan region (209/28), Karaganda (136/63), Kostanay (205/23) regions, and in the cities of Nur-Sultan and Almaty.

Behind these numbers lies the fate of children. Considering that the average number of children in families is 2, in 2019 about 3,272 children in the country received the status of children left without parental care, and the further fate of these children is determined by the state.

Table 7. Deprivation / limitation and restoration of parental rights, number

	2018			2019		
	deprivation	limitation	restoration	deprivation	limitation	restoration
Akmola	72	17	8	78	25	10
Aktobe	50	4	3	50	2	2
Almaty	153	9	5	114	10	7
Atyrau	51	17	3	34	8	3
East-Kazakhstan	266	10	13	209	28	13
Zhambyl	38	3	5	48	6	5
West-Kazakhstan	34	18	6	23	34	3
Karaganda	178	52	8	136	63	4
Kostanay	172	20	6	205	23	8
Kyzylorda	61	5	2	62	6	4
Mangystau	36	1	1	47	7	1
Pavlodar	225	93	20	241	101	33
North-Kazakhstan	49	4	3	46	2	2
Turkestan	91	0	1	24	1	1
Shymkent	5	0	0	40	2	2
Almaty city	212	1	1	153	3	3
Nur-Sultan	136	4	7	126	14	3
Kazakhstan	1 829	258	92	1 636	335	104

Source: SC RK

It is necessary to pay attention to the statistics on cases of parents' restoration parental rights. On average, the ratio of deprivation and restoration of parental rights is 23:1, in other words, for 23 cases of deprivation / restriction of rights, there is 1 case of restoration.

In 2019, 104 parents were restored in their rights, thus receiving the legal right to raise their children. The largest number of such cases is in Pavlodar, East-Kazakhstan, Akmola regions.

As the analysis of interviews with experts who work on issues concerning children has shown, all failures are based on both the unwillingness of parents to change themselves and the insufficient effectiveness of the policy of support and correctional work with parents who, due to various difficult life circumstances, could not provide their children with proper care and maintenance. It is necessary to talk about developing measures based on the support, rather than control, of families.

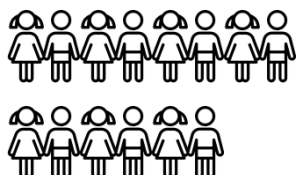
2.3. Family values, traditions, education

2.3.1. Family relationships, traditions and upbringing

The development of the child's personality and mental health are influenced not only by the financial situation of a family, but also by the atmosphere in it, including

the relationships between its individual members. In a state of security, confidence in their parents, a child will feel happy, which means that they will be able to fully develop. As part of the preparation of this report, a survey was conducted of 85 thousand children across the country aged 8-17 years. Children rated their **level of happiness at 8.9 points** out of 10 possible.

91.7% of children are sure that their parents will always help and stand up for them. 68.4% of children will share their innermost secrets and concerns with their parents, 25.6% will trust their other relatives, siblings.

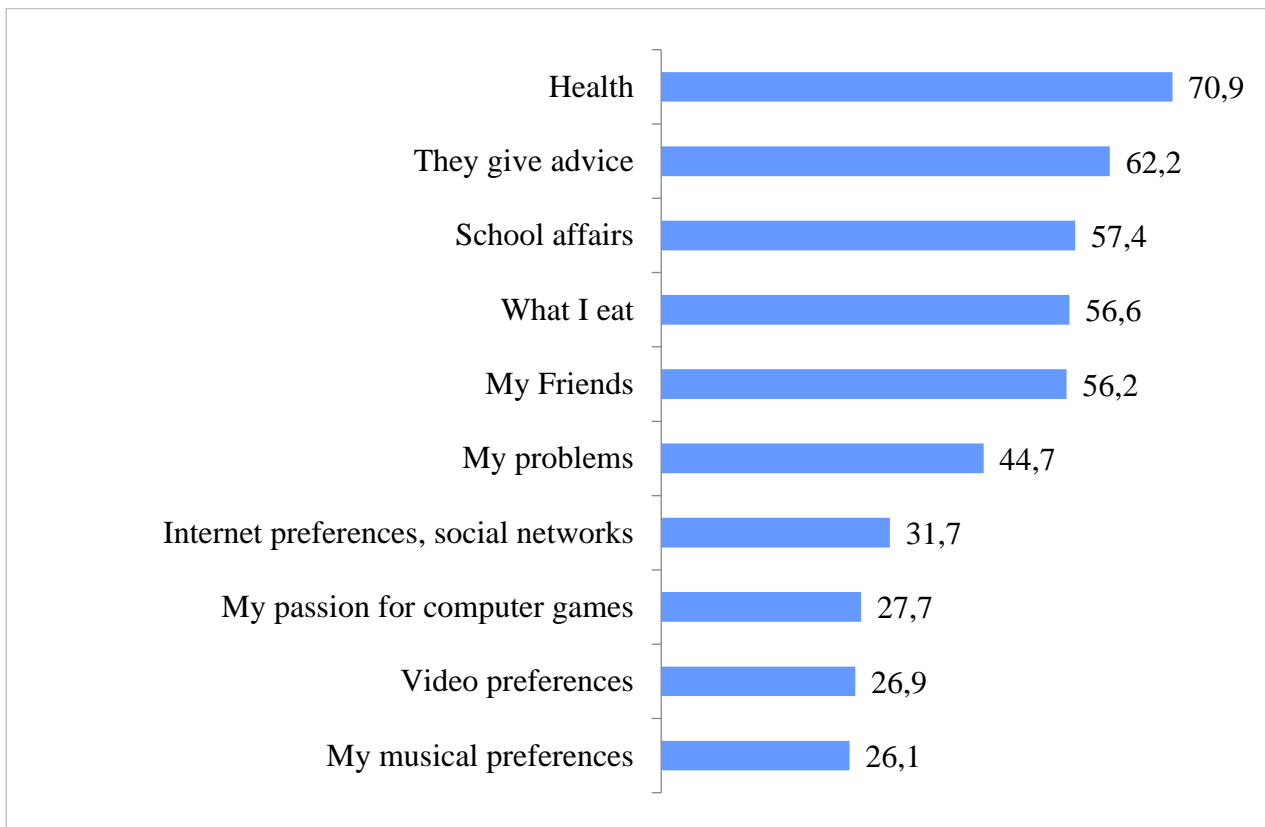


91,7 % *are sure that their parents will always help and stand up for them*

The question of family traditions was very interesting to look into within the research. Every day 83.2% of children gather at the same table with their parents during lunch or dinner, 11.1% of children - several times a week, 2.4% of the respondents - several times a month.

The relationship with parents has a huge impact on a child. As shown by the results of the children survey, parents are concerned about their child's health (71%), a significant proportion of parents give their children advice on how to act in a given situation (62.2%), 57.4% are interested in the child's school affairs, their child's friends (56, 2%), what they eat (56.6%). The least popular issues among parents are who their child communicate with on social networks, what computer games they play, what they watch on TV, what music they listen to. That is, the issues of a child's inner world and virtual communication are not included in the priority interests of the majority of parents. At the same time, 36.3% of parents believe that children receive information containing violence and cruelty through the Internet and social networks. There is a certain paradox in parents knowing about the dangers of the world wide web, but at the same time do not control these sources of information.

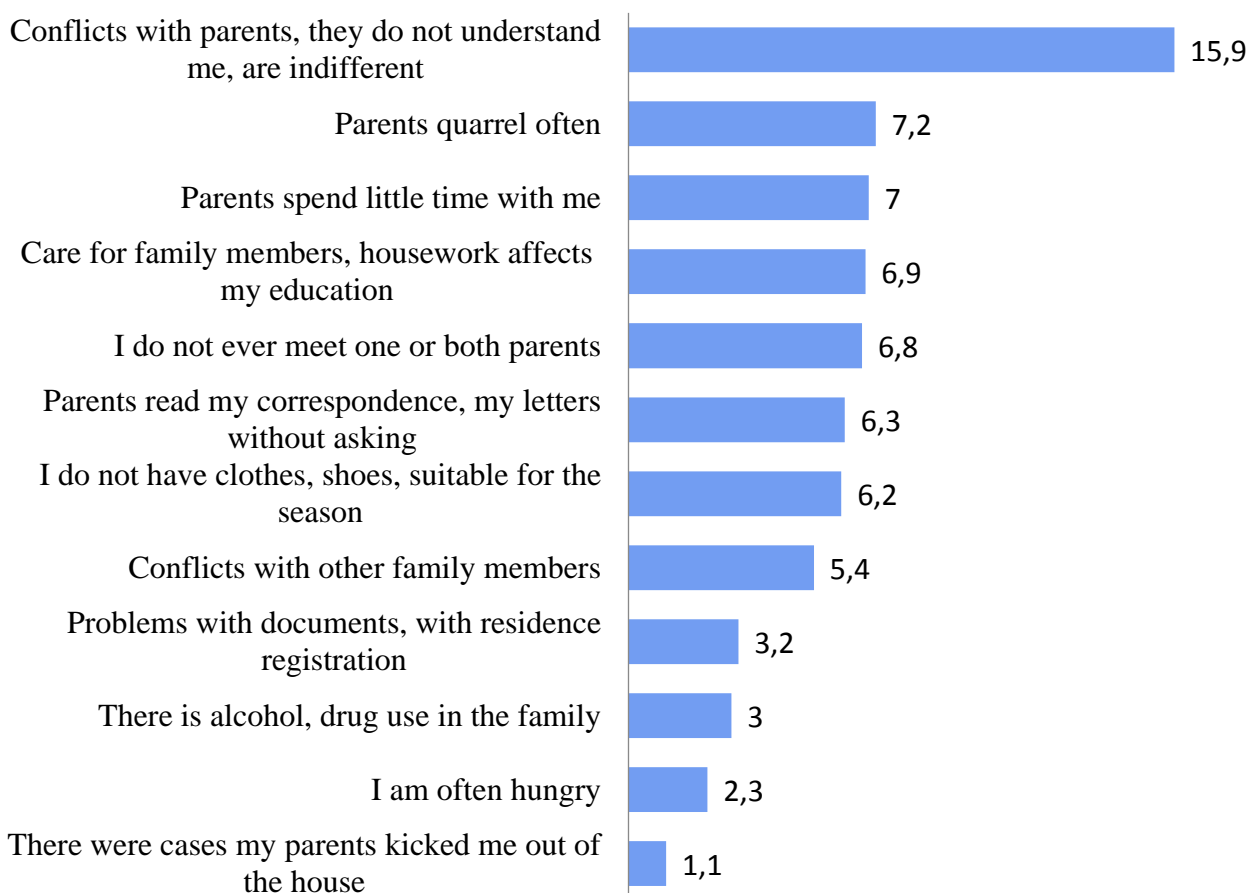
Figure 10. My parents are interested in ..., % of answers of children who marked the option "always"



Children experience various kinds of problems: 22.8% of children said that they have problems, 12.4% say that their families have problems. The most common problem is the lack of mutual understanding in parent-child relationships, and indifference on the part of parents (15.9% of surveyed children). 7.2% of children worry about quarrels between their parents. Approximately 7% of children suffer from a lack of parental attention. In 6.9% of children, housework and helping relatives is reflected in their academic performance. 6.3% of children do not like that their parents violate their personal boundaries, namely, read their correspondence without asking for permission. The financial situation of individual families is heavily reflected on 6.2% of children, since they do not have season appropriate shoes and clothes, 2.3% of children say that they are often hungry.

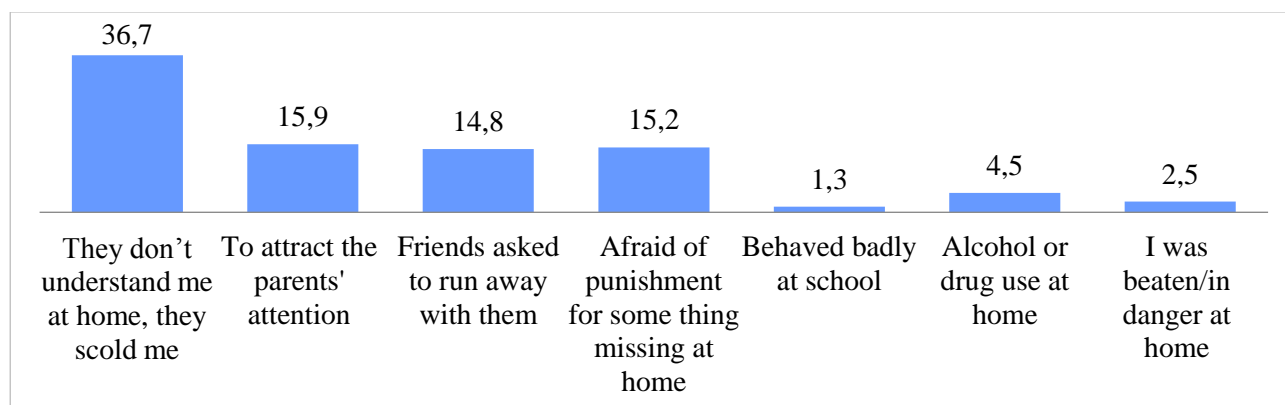
The above-mentioned misunderstandings in the parent-child relationship lead to children tending to run away from their homes, hoping to find understanding on the street or somewhere else, or using it as a way to let the parents know that their child is unhappy and does not feel enough love and understanding at home. Running away is a kind of protest, a challenge from a child to their parents. According to the survey, 8.3% of children had run away from home at some point, of which 1.5% of children run away often.

Figure 11. Family problems faced by children, % of children's responses



Children who had the experience running away, named the reasons they ran: the family's lack of understanding of the problems and views of the child - 36.7%. 15.9% of children run away to get attention from parents. 14.8% of children run away with friends “for company”. 15.2% due to fear of punishment for the loss of things from home.

Figure 12. The reasons for running away, % of the responses from children with experience of running away from home



Due to alcoholism and drug use in a family, 4.5% of children were forced to leave their homes. Beating, a threat to a life of a child was the cause of running away for 2.5% of children. Among the reasons, there is also mentioned bad behavior in school.

Thus, the root cause of children running away from their homes is the lack of understanding with parents and the desire to attract their attention. Parents are rarely interested in the preferences and interests of their child, they are more interested in the state of health and school success than in the state of mind, sympathies and antipathies of their children. To establish harmonious relationships in the family, it is necessary that parents know about the interests and attachments of children, know what is important to them and what values they are guided by, what moral and spiritual guidelines lie at the basis of their behavior.

2.3.2. Values and behavioral attitudes of children

The foundations of a child's moral and spiritual guidelines are laid primarily in a family. It is the family that is the main institution of education and socialization (assimilation of norms and values). The family is among the five most important values for children (67.9%), among which are health (84.7%), love/friendship (48.8%), interesting life (31.6%) and safety (27,1%). In the last place in terms of importance are respect for human rights (6.6%) and religion (6.1%). For adolescents (ages 16-17), health is much less valuable than for young children. For them, money and material wealth are more important.

Figure 13. Children's values, %



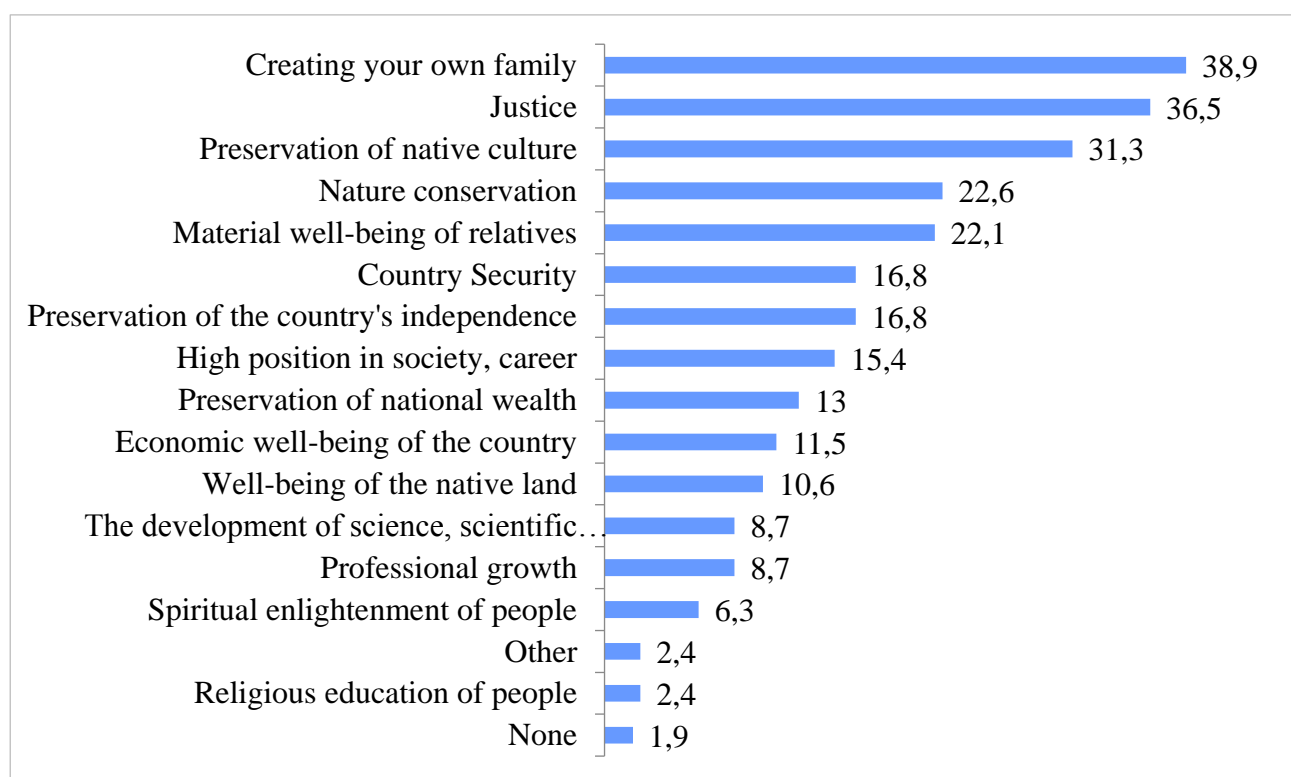
* The question suggested a multiple choice of answers, so the total number of answers is not 100%

The native language, traditions and culture are most important for children in the southern regions: Almaty (18.1%), Zhambyl (17.6%), Turkestan (16.3%) regions. Less often than in other regions, these values were chosen in Almaty (7.9%) city, East Kazakhstan (8.1%), North Kazakhstan (8.2%) and Kostanay (8.9%) regions.

Religious values occupy an important place in the system of values of children in the city of Shymkent (13.4%), Mangistau (12.4%) and Kyzylorda oblasts (9.6%).

There are socially significant goals that children are willing to devote their lives to, in their opinion: first of all, creating and strengthening their families (38.9%), promoting respect for justice and equality between people (36.5%), preserving their native culture, language (31, 3%). Only 1.9% of respondents would not like to devote their lives to fulfilling socially significant goals.

Figure 14. The socially significant goals that children are willing to devote their lives to, %



* The question suggested a multiple choice of answers, so the total number of answers is not 100%

In order to identify the attitudes of children in the context of the idea of “Rukhani zhagyru” (Modernization of public consciousness), they were asked about the qualities, abilities and skills that, in their opinion, contribute most to success. It turned out that the predominant factor for children is the “*cult of knowledge*”, namely, constant learning and broadening one's horizons (56.8%), the ability to appropriately express one's thoughts (45.5%), and language skills (43.6%).

The second important success factor is *pragmatism*, children chose such components as determination (53.9), the ability to find a way out in a difficult situation (36.4%), and time planning (33.6%).

In third place are the components of the factor “*openness of consciousness*”: knowledge of languages (43.6%), readiness for change (29.3%).

Competitiveness (the presence of qualities, abilities and skills that give an advantage in something) is in last place in terms of the number of choices (16.2%).

Figure 15. Qualities, abilities and skills that are necessary to develop to be successful according to children, %



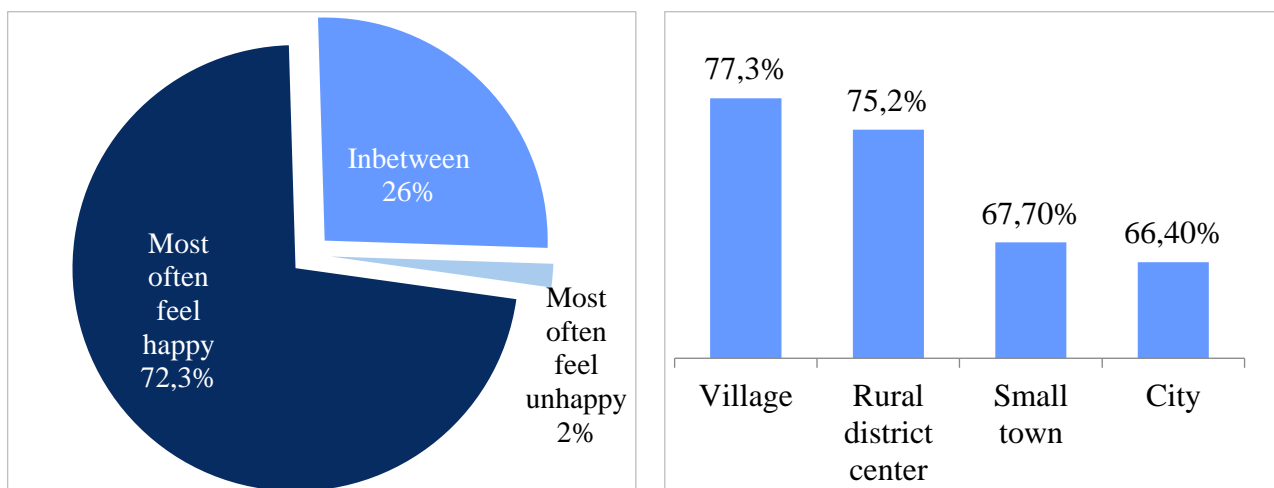
* The question suggested a multiple choice of answers, so the total number of answers is not 100%

For harmonious development, it is important for a child to feel loved and supported. Most of the children (66.8%) most often feel loved. However, 29.2% of the children chose the answer “something average” between loved and unloved, and 4% more often feel unloved.

Most often, children in the age group of 9-10 years old feel loved (79.1%), less - in the group of 16-18 years of age (59.4%). Among young people of 18 years, only half feel loved. Love can be perceived by children not only in relation to family members, but also in relation to peers and other people around them.

Peer acceptance plays an important role in the psychological health of a child. According to the survey, 2.7% of children feel rejected by their peers. However, if a child most often feels unloved or is not always sure that he is loved, then, as a rule, the source is the family.

Figure 16. Happiness in children, %

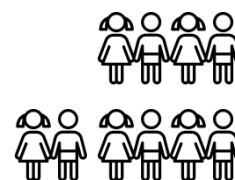


For a successful development of deep, healthy, lifelong paradigms when building and forming a personality, it is important for a child to feel happy. According to the survey, 72.3% of children feel happy, 26% feel something in the middle between “happy” and “unhappy”, and 1.7% feel unhappy. It is interesting that in rural areas the proportion of happy children is higher - 77.3% than in large cities - 66.4%.

Most happy children live in Atyrau (79.5%) and Kyzylorda (81.8%) regions, while there are highest percentages of children who often feel unhappy in the cities of Nur-Sultan (3.5%) and Shymkent (3.7%).

Interest in the daily life is one of the components of happiness for children. For 71.4% of respondents, their daily lives are most often interesting to them, for 3.6% it is most often uninteresting, and 25% chose the answer “something in the middle” between those two.

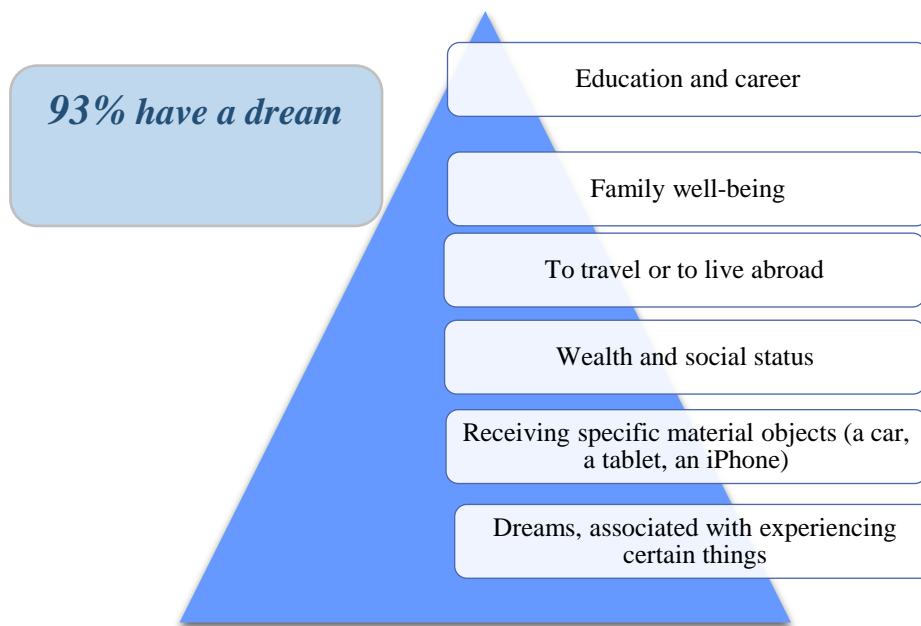
71,4 % consider their life interesting



An analysis of the data showed that among children who feel loved, 87.7% are happy, among children accepted by peers 85.9% are happy, and 72.5% are happy among those whose life is interesting. Thus, **the main components of children's happiness are feeling loved and accepted.**

A significant factor influencing behavior is goal orientation, focus on achieving certain goals. For children, as well as for adults, it is important to have value orientations: attachments, goals, dreams. According to the survey, 93.1% of children have a dream.

Table 8. Children's dreams, %



Most children have practical, future-oriented dreams. So, in the first place are the dreams associated with getting an education and career. Among boys, the most common dreams are to get sports professions: a football player, martial arts (judo, boxing, etc.), law enforcement agencies (police, special forces), among girls - getting artistic professions (singer, writer, actress). The profession of a doctor is popular among children. Speaking of education, many children dream of studying abroad. Some children dream of becoming entrepreneurs, opening their own business.

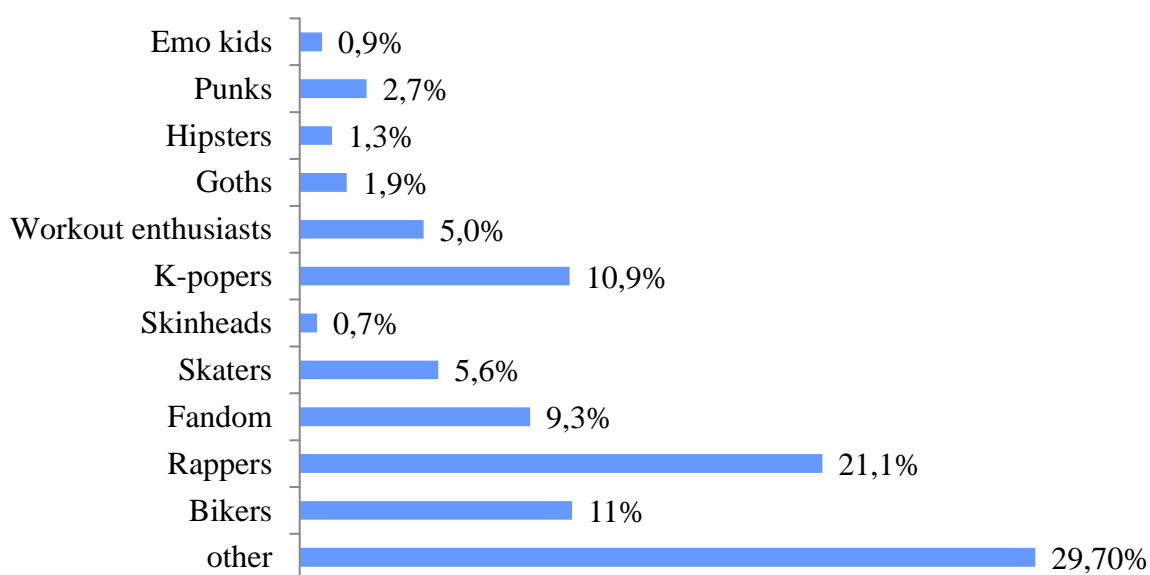
Another dream is the well-being of their family: good health of loved ones, for parents to always be with them. Many children dream of traveling and visiting foreign countries, mainly European countries (Italy, Spain, France). The dreams associated with high material and social status are often mentioned as well: to become rich, to be a millionaire, to become a boss, to become the President. There is also a group of dreams associated with obtaining specific material objects (car and other vehicles, tablet, iPhone).

Within the general society's culture, there are subcultures - the parts of the general culture that differ from the dominant one, but at the same time do not contradict its basic norms and values. The survey found that 18.8% of children consider

themselves to be in subcultures or youth movements. Moreover, in small towns and regional centers, 20.3% and 25.2% of children (respectively) consider themselves to be involved in subcultures and youth movements, in villages this figure is lower - 15.8%.

The most popular subculture among children is rappers (21.1%). Other common subcultures are bikers, including cycling enthusiasts (11%), key pop / K-pop (10.9%), and fandom (9.3%). Also, the answer “other” (29.7%) was popular among children, which included subcultures outside the list (anime lovers, gamers, bloggers, sports enthusiasts: parkourists, dancers, soccer players, etc.).

Figure 17. Subcultures children see themselves as a part, %



A sufficiently large number of children, especially older ones, are not sure that they are loved, and 4% of respondents often feel unloved, 2.7% feel rejected by their peers.



37,9 % *children feel lonely in a varying degree*

In the digital age, children do not have enough live communication. Modern information space, the prevalence of gadgets leads to the fact that many children do not know how to communicate with each other. The dreams of most children are quite pragmatic and often determined by the expectations of their parents (getting a good education, prestigious work).

Unfortunately, the subject “Self-knowledge” is often discredited by parents and schools. Some children believe that this subject is unnecessary:

“In my opinion, it is necessary to remove the subject “Self-knowledge”, it does not bring any benefit, just wastes our time. Instead, it is necessary to replace it with other subjects, for example, mathematics” (in-depth interview, East Kazakhstan region, 16 years old). However, in the modern world, when everything has shifted to material values and the spiritual component fades into the background, “Self-knowledge” is one of the most important subjects that teaches children kindness and the ability to talk about their feelings.

Thus, more than a third of children to one degree or another experience loneliness. The modern information space, the prevalence of gadgets, misunderstandings in the family, inability to listen to oneself, set goals and achieve them only facilitates this.

It is important to develop empathy in children, the ability to be in touch with their feelings, to express those in a socially acceptable way. In this regard, it is necessary to carry out work among school principals and school psychologists on the actualization and development of the subject "Self-knowledge". This subject should be a subject of first importance, not only informative, but also interesting and coherent for all children.

2.4. Religion and children

Children are one of the vulnerable groups affected by religious radicals. According to the Central Asian Representative Office of the international NGO Penal Reform International, people between the ages of 14-29 are mostly subject to recruitment into terrorist fighters. Given that the preconditions for radicalization can be already present in childhood, prevention and, in particular, secular education are the most effective means of response. More than 70 countries recognized the need for lessons on religions in schools to develop students' tolerance and ability to understand religion, however, it is necessary to provide high-level instruction considering the sensitivity of the matter.

To this end, in 2017, by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Concept of State Policy on Religion of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2017-2020 was adopted. In the schools of Kazakhstan since the 9th grade, the compulsory subject “Secularism and Fundamentals of Religious Studies” was introduced. Teaching aids have been developed for the implementation of the subject, however, there are wide discussions about the effectiveness and teaching quality of this subject. According to experts, in Kazakhstan there is a lack of qualified teachers of religious studies. In an interview with school principals, the question was raised of the insufficient professional qualifications of these teachers, the lack of specialists in this area in schools.

Religious education

According to SAMK, in Kazakhstan, 9 educational institutions carry out educational activities: 5 madrasah colleges, 4 madrassas, where more than 2 thousand students receive religious education. In educational institutions, in addition to 11th

grade graduates, there are 9th grade graduates (children under 18). In particular, there are 602 students under 18 in madrasah colleges.

Officially, there are 6 centers under SAMK, providing education for the readers of the Qur'an, 132 students study there, both those who finished 9th grade and 11th grade.

In addition to the official religious educational institutions of the SAMK, there are religious boarding schools in Kazakhstan. In boarding schools, the majority of students are children from families in difficult life situations. These institutions are subordinate to public charitable foundations, and their educational activities are not regulated by the SAMK. In this regard, it is proposed to resolve this issue within the legal framework, in order to eliminate the possible risk of destructive training materials penetrating into the educational process.

Deradicalization and rehabilitation of minors

The issue of deradicalization and rehabilitation of minors who have arrived from zones of terrorist activity is under special control.

In 2019, 441 minors (including 46 orphans and children without parental care) were returned to the republic from the zones of terrorist activity, as part of the humanitarian operations "Zhusan" and "Rusafa".

To rehabilitate and effectively reintegrate children and their mothers into the Kazakhstani society, the Ministry of Education and Science together with interested state bodies created an interagency working group. A unified algorithm of actions for the rehabilitation of these individuals has been developed. Specialized non-governmental organizations were involved into the process.

Organizational activities with the citizens returned from the Syrian zone were carried out primarily on the basis of the adaptation center. The center provided primary settlement for those evacuated, providing them with accommodation, meals, and sanitary and preventive measures. It included children rooms, a summer school at the Center. Rehabilitation support was provided to every returnee from psychologists, theologians, social workers, religious scholars, lawyers, educators, and medical workers.

After completion of the quarantine measures, the work on socialization continued under the project "Organization of activities for deradicalization and rehabilitation of minors who returned from zones of terrorist activity", with the involvement of NGOs. In the country, there were 12 Centers of socio-psychological and legal support for minors "Chance" under the Public Fund "Pravo".

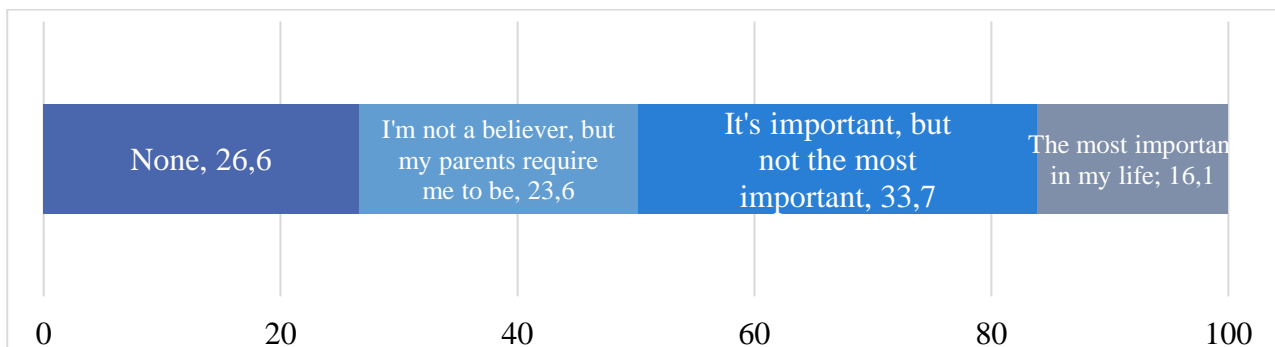
The centers, with the support of interested state bodies, conducted genomic examinations to recognize family ties, documenting, formalizing social assistance, assisting in obtaining compulsory and additional education, etc.

As of 2019, all children of school age are enrolled in education, children of preschool age are placed in kindergartens. Additionally, work is underway to socialize children by organizing leisure activities (visiting houses of creativity, cinemas, theaters, museums, children's entertainment, parks, amusement parks). Additionally, the centers support women in taking short-term professional courses with subsequent employment. Children left without parental care are placed under guardianship with their relatives, and in state organizations for orphans, close to family conditions.

Assessing the importance of religion for children

According to a survey conducted as part of the Report's preparation, religion does not matter for 26.6% of adolescents 12-17 years old. It should be noted that compared with 2018, the proportion of children who are indifferent to religion has increased by 7.6%. About a quarter of children do not consider themselves believers, but they observe rituals, as this is a requirement of adult family members (23.6%). Thus, we can see the planting of religious views on children by members of their families, depriving them of the right to choose for themselves their relationship with religion. The importance of religion was noted by 49.8% of adolescents, of whom 16.1% believed that religion is the most important thing in their life.

Figure 18. Religion in adolescents' lives, ages 12-17, %



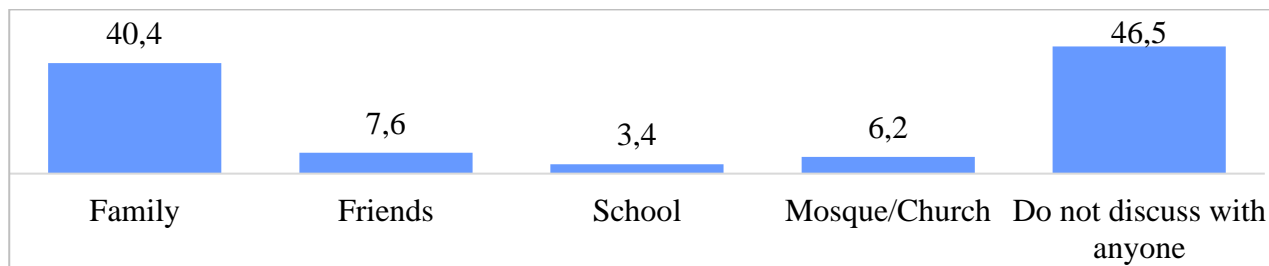
60.6% of adolescents respect people of different religions, 34.2% express indifference, but 5.3% say that they have a negative, intolerant attitude towards representatives of other religions.

Mainly, teenagers discuss religious issues at home (40.4%), and the problem here is whether parents can form an objective point of view for a child on this topic. 6.2% of teenagers ask questions they are interested in at a mosque/church, 7.6% discuss this topic with friends. Judging by the results of the survey, the school is not a place where religious issues are discussed. Consequently, educational organizations need, by the virtue of requirements imposed on them, to educate students in secular and religious studies, to pay serious attention to this issue.

Less than half of the children surveyed (46.6%) believe that religious issues should not be discussed with anyone. This is alarming, since if teenagers do not want to discuss these issues with accessible knowledgeable people, parents, they might

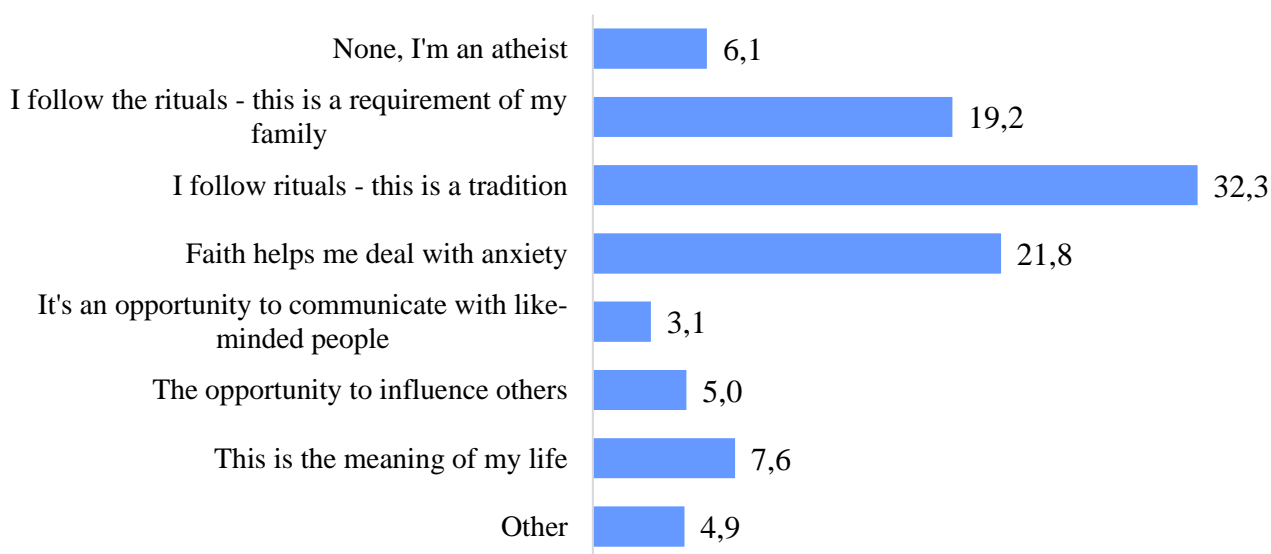
search for answers on their own in social networks, the Internet space, where there is a lot of conflicting information.

Figure 19. Where/with whom do teenagers discuss religion, %



Similar questions were asked to parents in order to get the opinions of those closest to the children. According to the survey, religion for 32.3% of parents is a ritual tradition, 19.2% observe rituals only at the request of the family, as this has become part of family traditions. For a one-fifth of adults (21.8%), religion helps them to overcome fears, thus replacing a person's belief in one's own strength. The 7.6% of parents surveyed see their meaning of life in religion.

Figure 20. Religion in parent's life, %

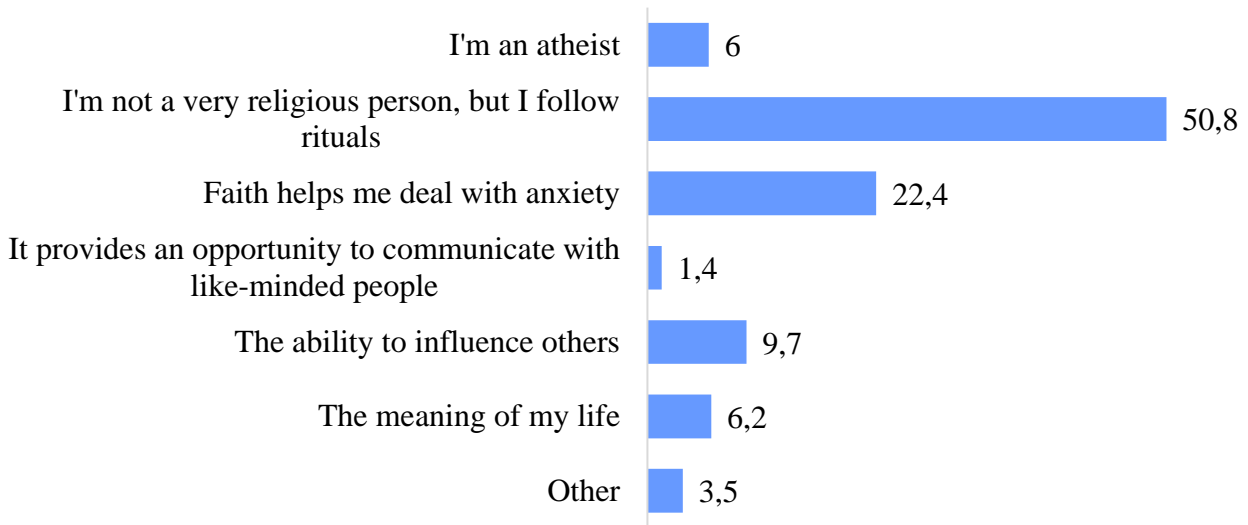


According to the Concept of State Policy in the Religious Sphere, the education system is designed to ensure the secular nature of the education of children. Providing students with exclusively scientific knowledge. At the same time, neutrality and impartiality of teaching is very important.

The results of a survey of school teachers showed that for 50.8% of the teachers surveyed, religion is just the observance of traditions and rituals, but for 39.7%, religion is important, 22.4% of teachers help to overcome their own fears and anxieties, and for 9.7% religion is a means of managing people, for 6.2% it is the meaning of life. Consequently, there is doubt about how scientific and objective teachers are in

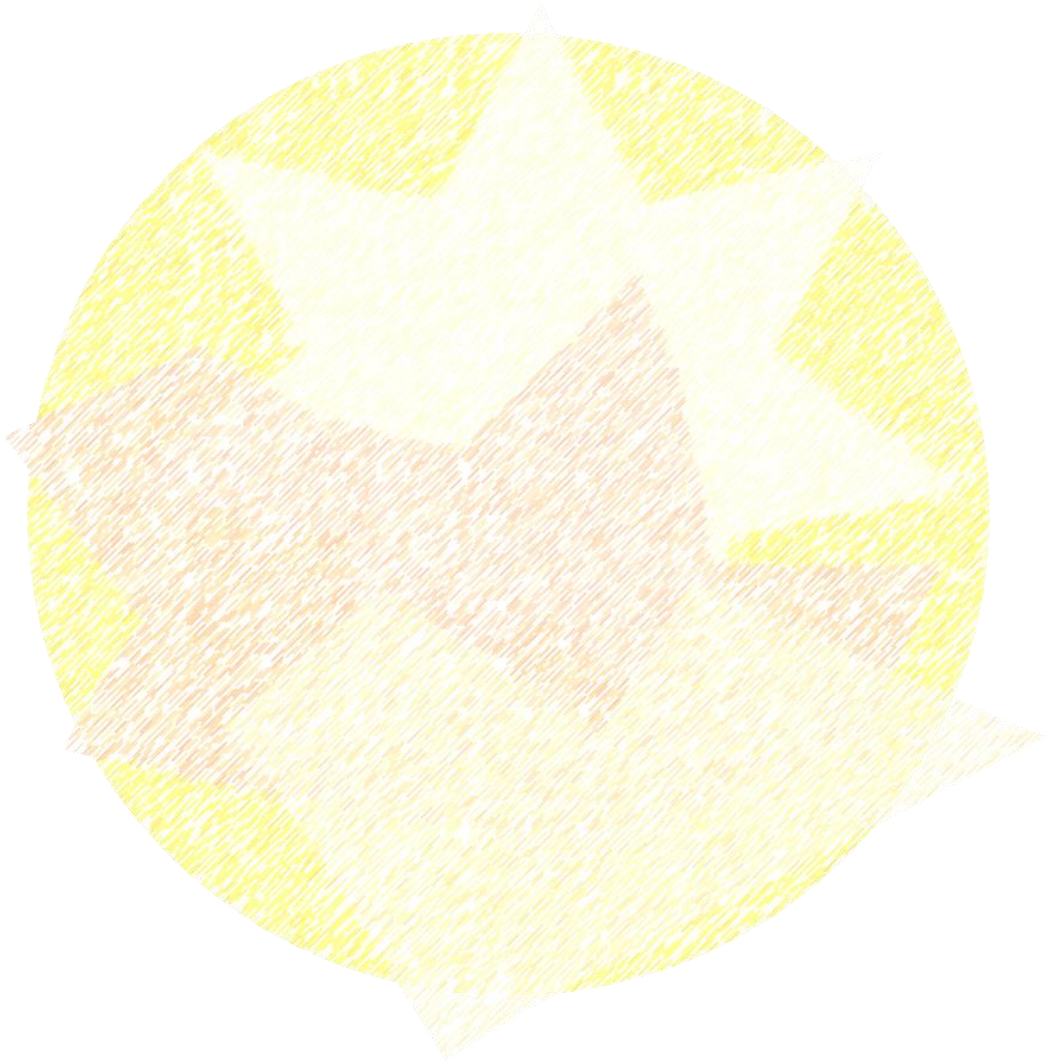
enlightenment, for whom religion is a means of influencing people or the meaning of life, how much they are committed to the secular nature of education.

Figure 21. Religion in the life of school teachers, %



Taking into account that for the majority of children, parents, teachers, religion is part of the traditions that they observe, it is important to improve literacy in matters of religion, to form critical thinking, and to form a consciousness that meets the norms of a secular society. Teaching secular religious studies is necessary not only for school students, but also for teachers.







CHAPTER 3

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION



Chapter 3. Children's Education

3.1. Preschool education and training

The preschool period is the most favorable for the social development of a child, significant for his entry into the difficult world of social relationships. It is well known that the foundations of thinking, mental and creative abilities, new skills are formed in the earliest childhood.

The modern child is a child of the digital generation, therefore, the process of socialization of preschool children is currently becoming more complicated. In these conditions, preschool organizations are faced with the task of compensating for the insufficient intensity of socialization of children and making it more harmonious.

In addition, the dynamically developing world requires a shift in the education model towards the development of key competencies (4K model): the development of creativity, critical thinking, communication skills and the ability to work in a team.

In 2019, 10 583 preschool organizations functioned in Kazakhstan, which is 19.8% more than in 2015. Of these, kindergartens - 6 633 units, mini-centers - 3 950 units. Over the past year, the number of kindergartens increased by 474 units (5%), the number of mini-centers by 205 (1%).

Picture 2. The number of preschool organizations in 5 years has grown by 19,8%



The contingent of children in preschool organizations in 2019 amounted to 892,251 people, over five years it increased by 17.6%.

Picture 3. Contingent of children in preschool organizations in 2015 and 2019, people



High coverage of children is ensured by expanding the network of preschool organizations, including through the growth of private kindergartens. In recent years, work has been actively carried out to attract business to the education sector: 40.6% (4299 units) of preschool organizations in the country are private, which is 2.4 times higher than in 2015 (1775 units).

In rural areas, there are mainly mini-centers at schools. A small population in villages, a small number of children, low incomes of villagers lead to the fact that the maintenance of a kindergarten becomes impractical, so the issue of accessibility is solved by opening mini-centers. In 2019, there were 3.5 times less mini-centers in cities than in rural areas. The number of mini-centers in the countryside amounted to 3079 units, of which 73.1% with a full day of stay - 2352 units.

Access to preschool education for children with special educational needs. Today, inclusive education is the co-education of children with special educational needs and normatively developing peers. Children with special educational needs in this practice will be able to grow, develop together with others, attend regular educational institutions, make friends in them.⁸

In 2019, 20.1% of preschool organizations (1890 units) created conditions for inclusive education, which is 11% higher than in 2015 (9.1%). 2.8% of the parents surveyed reported that their children do not attend preschool because "*there are no special conditions for my child with special needs.*" At the same time, the introduction of inclusive education in preschool institutions is faced with a number of problems: a lack of material and technical support, a shortage of specialists for working with special children, a lack of understanding among teaching staff how to behave in relation to children with special educational needs. In the course of the survey, teachers said that normatively developing children can suffer from inclusion, since sometimes a

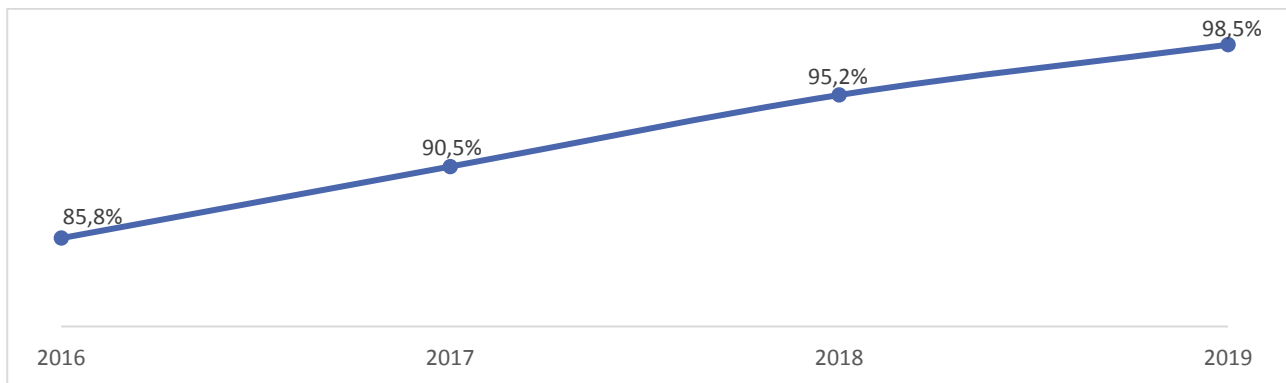
⁸ Aleksina A.V. "Inclusive education for children with disabilities"
<http://childpsy.ru/lib/articles/id/32757.php>

“special” child can violate the personal boundaries of other peers and even have a physical and psychological impact on them. Therefore, in this direction it is necessary to carry out serious work on personnel training.

3.1.1. Preschool education coverage

Enrollment in preschool education is an important criterion for assessing the level of education in the country. In 2019, the coverage of children aged 3-6 years was 98.5% (95.2% in 2018). 100% coverage is provided in all regions of the republic, except for Almaty (86.9%), Nur-Sultan (96.1%), Almaty (98.4%), Kostanay (99.8%) regions.

Figure 22. Preschool coverage of children 3-6 years old, %⁹

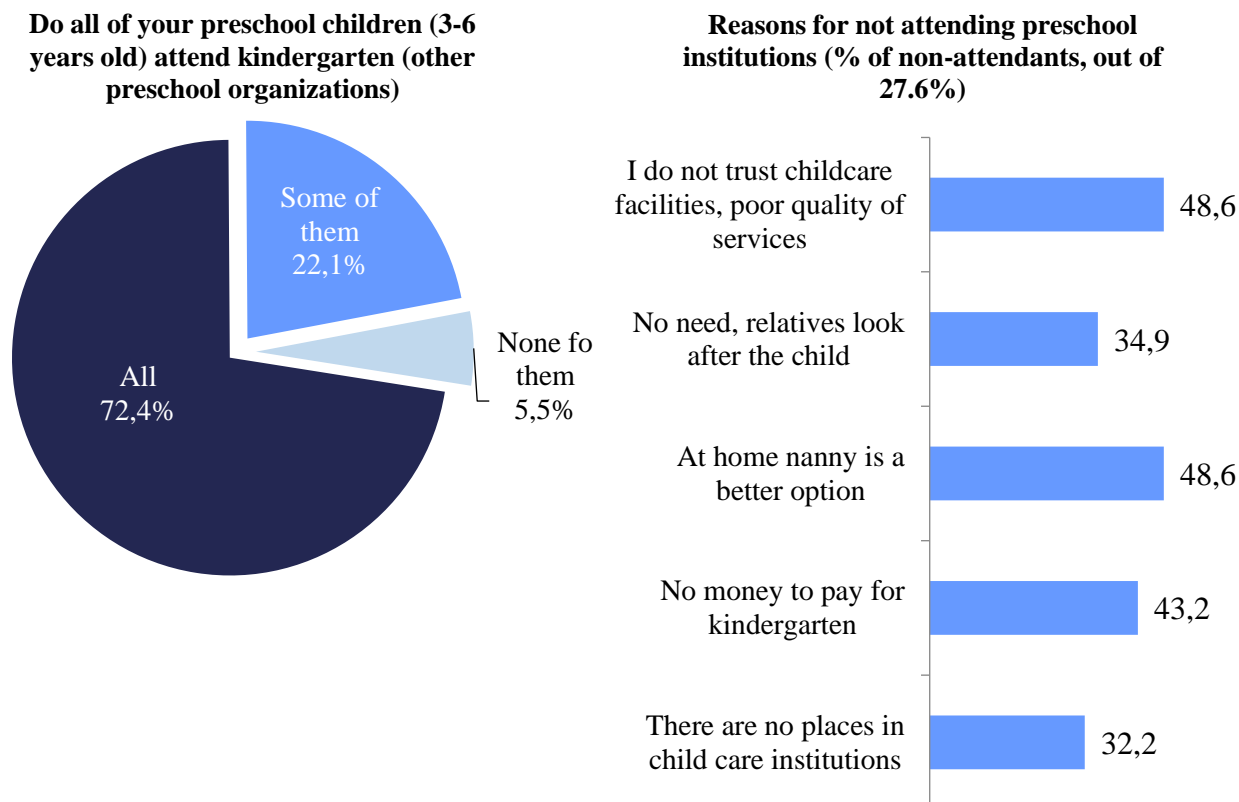


The coverage of preschool education and training of children aged 1-6 years in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2019 is 78.3%. At the same time, in the Turkestan region (92.5%), Nur-Sultan (91.7%), Shymkent (84.7%), Aktobe region (84.6%), the largest coverage is observed. Almaty city (63.1%), Atyrau (62.9%), Karaganda (62.8%) regions have the lowest coverage. The State Program for the Development of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020-2025 sets the task for the full coverage of children 3-6 years old and 85.3% of children 1-6 years old.

In order to study the reasons why children of primary school age do not attend preschool organizations, a survey of parents was conducted. 27.6% of whom, in the course of the survey, said that not all of their children aged 3 to 6 attend a preschool organization. Half of these parents do not trust children's institutions and believe that the quality of services there is poor (the share of such parents in rural areas is 10% more than in urban areas). 32.2% of parents, whose children do not go to a kindergarten or other preschool organization said that “*there are no places in child care institution*”, 43.2% - “*there is no money to pay for kindergarten*”, 48.6% thinks that “*at home nanny is a better option*”, 34.9% - “*our relatives look after the child*”.

⁹ According to MES of RK

Figure 23. Reasons for not going to kindergarten, %¹⁰



Nevertheless, the role of preschool education in the formation of the personality and laying the foundation for the intellectual development of the individual is great. It is necessary to conduct educational work among parents, explaining the importance of early child development. And also to improve the electronic queue, to develop a successful experience of public-private partnership, which will increase the coverage of preschool education.

3.1.2. Queue for kindergartens

A lot of work is being done in the country to increase the network of preschool organizations, including through the successful implementation of public-private partnership projects. Nevertheless, the problem of ensuring the accessibility of preschool education still persists, which is associated with high birth rates, migration and urbanization. In 2019, the total number of children queuing for a referral in preschool organizations, amounted to 446,176 people, including 3-6 years old - 80,529 people.

The most acute issue is the shortage of places in preschool institutions in Almaty, Almaty, Karaganda regions. Despite the fact that in 2019 three state and 113 private

¹⁰ % of parents who answered that their preschool child is not attending preschool

kindergartens for 2.6 thousand places appeared in Almaty¹¹, 77 thousand children are still in the queue, 41 thousand of them are children aged 3 to 6 years. This is due to an increase in the birth rate and strong internal migration flows. At the same time, in East Kazakhstan and North Kazakhstan there is no queue for kindergartens for children of this age category.

In order to ensure the transparency and mobility of the distribution of places in preschool organizations, in 2019, the automated issuance of referrals to kindergartens was introduced without the participation of educational authorities in this procedure. The parents themselves choose which kindergarten the child will go to. Such a system is designed to streamline the situation with the priority in kindergartens, to make it transparent and accessible.

At the same time, the electronic queue, like any innovation, causes bewilderment and criticism from parents, especially those who are not good at modern technologies: *“Now there is an electronic queue. Even if there is a place in the kindergarten, they say “there is no place” until you get into the electronic queue ... I went for three days, I could not get the child to the kindergarten. 20 vacant places were announced, I was 10th in the electronic queue ”*(resident of the village of Saumakol, NKO).

Many city dwellers, whose demand for places in kindergartens significantly exceeds the available supply, also could not get a place in a kindergarten: *“I monitored the queue through an EDS, but I did not wait for a place in the kindergarten we needed. I called the head, she said - there are no places and will not be, the groups are recruited.... It’s strange somehow, all these queues turn out to be some kind of farce”* (resident of Almaty city).

“I have twins, I sat for a month to take a referral, the system constantly freezes on the site at 7 am, and when everything works, there are no more places ” (a resident of Kostanay city).

The automated queue also added difficulties to those parents who need to transfer their child to another kindergarten: *“You will need to write an application for departure in the old kindergarten. ”* (resident of Almaty city).

According to the report "Monitoring the state of corruption in Kazakhstan"¹², 6.9% of parents who have placed a child in kindergarten in the last 12 months have resolved this issue with an unofficial payment. Most often in the Karaganda (21.2%), Almaty (15.4%), Akmola (13.5%) and Mangistau (9.6%) regions.

Of course, the electronic queue is a step forward in solving the problem of queuing in preschool organizations and reducing the barriers to access to preschool education. It is necessary to work out the problems that arise - to provide counseling assistance to parents who have a low level of digital literacy, to solve the issues of automating the transfer of a child from one kindergarten to another, to reduce the cases of system freezing. This will reduce the tension around the electronic queue and increase the efficiency of assigning children to preschool organizations.

¹¹ https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/skolko-detey-stoit-v-ocheredi-na-detsadyi-almaty-384413/

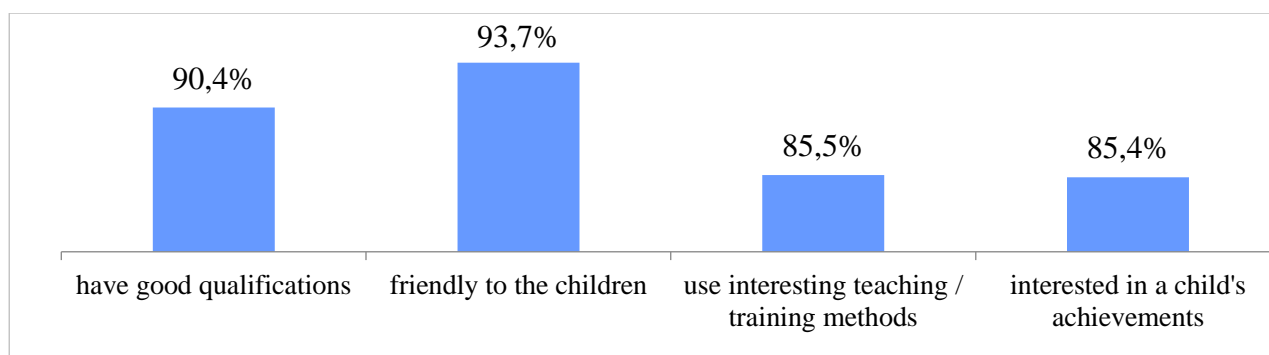
¹² «Monitoring the state of corruption in Kazakhstan» http://tikazakhstan.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/1.Otchet_Transperensi_naselenie_itog.pdf#page=53&zoom=100,0,477

3.1.3. Kindergarten staff

For the period 2015-2019 there is a positive dynamics of the staff of preschool education and training. So, if in 2015 only 34.8% of educators had professional training in the field of preschool education and training, in 2019 this indicator has already reached 72.9%.

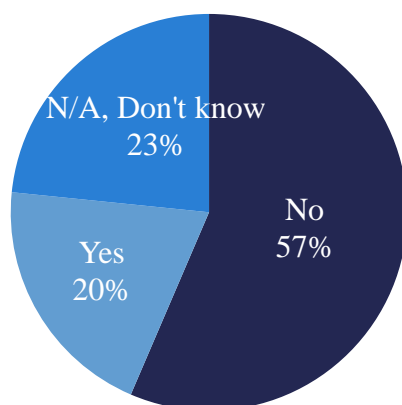
During the study, parents were asked to assess the qualifications of educators, their attitude towards children. In general, high marks were obtained: 90.4% believe that the educators are highly qualified, 85.5% said that the educators use interesting methods and are interested in the child's achievements. 93.7% of parents of preschoolers noted that educators are friendly towards their child. At the same time, it should be noted that in rural areas the proportion of parents who do not know what methods are used and whether educators are interested in the child's achievements, 1.5 times more than in the city, and those who do not know whether teachers are friendly towards their children, 3 times more.

Figure 24. Assessment of the teaching staff of kindergartens, parents of preschoolers, %



The increase in the birth rate has led to an increase in the demand for preschool organizations, and accordingly, the need for educators and other employees has grown. However, due to low wages, the profession has become unattractive.

Figure 25. Distribution of answers of kindergarten teachers to the question: "If you have the opportunity to change your profession / specialization, will you change it?", %



According to the survey results, only slightly more than half of the surveyed kindergarten employees (57%) do not want to change their profession, 20% would change if they had such an opportunity. Another 23% found it difficult to answer. These data confirm the fact that only half of teachers do not regret choosing a profession.

Due to the lack of qualified specialists of this profile, there is an urgent need to create conditions for training.

According to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, annually 7,600 educators undergo advanced training. The share of updated educational programs of refresher courses in management for managers of preschool organizations is 100%.

An important criterion for ensuring the quality of personnel and competition in the profession is wages. Low earnings do not allow attracting talented and capable youth to the sphere. Despite,

that since June 1, 2019, the salary of educators is on average 88 thousand tenge and has increased more than 2 times in 2 years, it continues to remain significantly lower than the average wage in the country. Therefore, the issue of remuneration, the prestige of the profession of a kindergarten teacher continues to remain relevant for Kazakhstan.

3.1.4. Video surveillance and security in preschool organizations.

Protection of the life and health of children is one of the most important indicators of the quality of preschool education. According to local executive bodies, 2,503 (or 88.6%) state preschool organizations are equipped with video surveillance systems. Of these, 2,262 (or 80.1%) have internal and external, 128 (or 4.5%) internal and 111 (or 3.9%) external video surveillance. 322 (or 11.4%) kindergartens are not equipped with video surveillance cameras.

The increasing incidence of beating of children in kindergartens raise the issue of ensuring safety, increasing requirements for employees of preschool organizations, developing a whole range of measures aimed at working with staff and parents to counter violence against children. In particular, it is necessary to explain to educators, educators' assistants about the inadmissibility of physical punishment of children, about the consequences that an employee may suffer.

In-depth interviews have shown that parents face physical violence against their preschool children, but often

do not know where they can go to protect the rights of their child. Parents do not know about the existence of helplines, do not know about the peculiarities of the juvenile police, and so on. Prescribed algorithms of parental behavior are required for each case of violation of children's rights: where to go, where to get advice, how to fix it, etc. These algorithms should be available to everyone, including via the Internet. This will increase the level of protection of the rights of preschool children.

3.2. Primary and secondary education

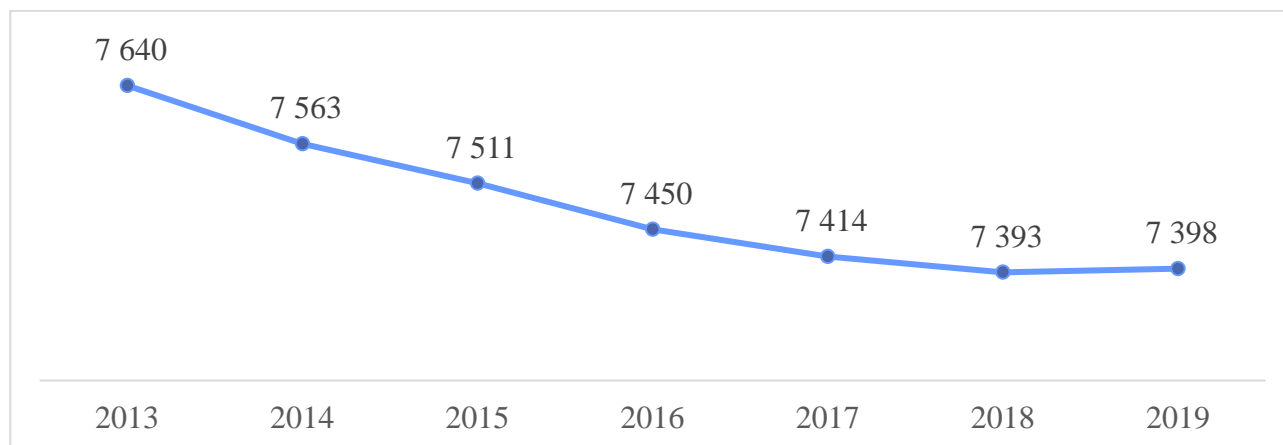
According to UNICEF estimates, Kazakhstan has achieved significant success in the field of education in recent years: the level of enrollment in secondary education is almost 100%. At the same time, the average expected number of years of study increased from 12.3 years in 2000 to 15.1 years in 2017. UNICEF experts note that in Kazakhstan a person of working age with a 15-year education is more educated than in many other post-Soviet states¹³.

The country manages to maintain such high results by ensuring the right of every child to free basic secondary, general secondary education. This right was exercised in 2019 in **7,398 general education schools**, in which 3,338 thousand children studied.

According to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the network of secondary schools in the country is represented by 6,975 day-time public (95.3%), 189 private (1.7%), 69 evening, 99 special educational organizations, 7 schools for children with deviant behavior, 1 school for children with a special regime of detention, 12 international schools, 4 republican schools, 33 schools subordinate to other government agencies, 20 Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools and 1 international school-branch of NIS AO.

However, in the period 2013-2019, there was a steady decline in the number of general education schools, which is associated with a reduction in small schools in rural areas.

Figure 26. Dynamics of the number of secondary schools in the Republic of Kazakhstan



3.2.1. Access to primary and secondary education

The country maintains a high level of access to education. In recent years, there has been an increase in the contingent of schoolchildren. The largest number of students is in the Turkestan (481 thousand) and Almaty (415 thousand) regions, and the smallest in the North Kazakhstan region (73 thousand).

¹³ "Analysis of the situation of children in the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2019"
<https://www.unicef.org/kazakhstan/media/4616/file/Situation%20Analysis%20in%20Russian.pdf>

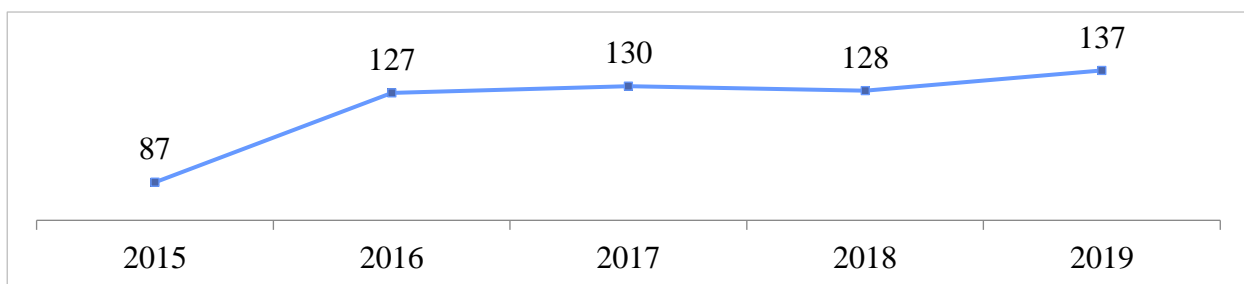
75.8% of public schools are located in rural areas. At the same time, 41.1% of daytime general education schools are ungraded schools, in which only 6.4% of all students of general education schools study. In such a situation, the costs per student in these schools are much higher, and due to the remoteness, there is an acute shortage of teaching staff and their insufficiently high qualifications. Small-class schools provide the right to secondary education for children from remote areas, but at the same time, it is in these schools that the issue of ensuring the quality of education remains open. Therefore, improving the quality of knowledge of students in rural areas, reducing the gap between the countryside and the city is one of the main tasks of the education system in the country.

Emergency and three-shift schools. Despite the active work to reduce the number of **emergency schools**, their number in 2019 increased from 36 to 37. This is due to the fact that there are "many adobe schools in the country, as well as schools that were built back in 1920"¹⁴. This is a problem that requires the most rapid response, since the lives and health of children studying in these schools are threatened every day.

Unfortunately, despite the programs being adopted, over the past five years, the share of schools teaching classes in **three shifts** has been growing: their number from 2015 to 2019 increased by 57%. However, according to numerous studies, the training mode in the second, not to mention

about the third shift, not only reduces the quality of education, but also significantly harms the health of Kazakhstani schoolchildren¹⁵. Nevertheless, according to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2019, the number of three-shift schools reached 137, which is 9 schools more than in the previous year. The most urgent need to increase the number of schools in order to eliminate three-shift education is observed in Almaty (34 schools), Aktobe (14 schools), Atyrau (14 schools) and Akmola (11 schools) regions, as well as in Shymkent (19 schools)¹⁶.

Aunzky 27. Dynamics of growth in the number of schools with three-shift education in 2015-2019, units



¹⁴ <https://strategy2050.kz/ru/news/gosprogramma-razvitiya-obrazovaniya-chto-sdelano/>

¹⁵ Litosh I.N. The impact of the second shift on the quality of schooling in the context of the renewal of the education system

¹⁶ Key indicators of the system of preschool, secondary, technical and vocational education, JSC "IAC", Astana, 2018

The increase in the number of three-shift schools is taking place against the background of an increase in the number of students and requires special attention, since there can be no question of any quality of education for students in the third shift.

Per capita funding. In 2019, 437 state and 80 private schools of the republic were transferred to per capita financing. Now their budget depends on how many children study there - an average of 224 thousand tenge per year is allocated for each child. With estimated funding on average, one student accounted for 157 thousand tenge per year¹⁷. The effects of the introduction of per capita normative financing will be: a) equity and equity of financing; b) equalization of expenses for 1 student, regardless of which school and in which locality the child receives education; c) the competitiveness of schools; d) motivation of the teaching staff for the result.

With per capita normative funding, the very approach to the problem is changing, now students, their interests and rights in obtaining a quality education “come to the fore”. As a result, the efficiency of management of organizational and financial issues increases, which leads to the emergence of “healthy” competition between educational institutions for students and teachers.¹⁸

In the course of in-depth interviews, it became clear that the new form of per capita financing requires development and faces a number of problems: the form of ownership does not allow the school to accumulate money, expenses are strictly regulated, they, like under the old system, must be mastered in a calendar year: “September of this year I switched to per capita financing, but the problem is ... They accrue money in a new way, but spend it in the old way” (from an in-depth interview with the headmaster).

“It turned out that I can’t order a study room on my own ... I don’t need, for example, a computerized classroom ... I need children to do something with their hands ... the competition for procurement of classrooms can only be conducted by the Department of Education, and I don’t I can do it. When I began to understand this in more detail, I realized that I can’t even buy a highchair for myself, although I have the funds for it ... I want to put lockers for the children so that everyone has an individual metal locker, but I cannot buy them. I cannot, although I have the funds for this” (from an in-depth interview with the headmaster). Thus, the per capita financing system is promising, but requires improvements and development.

3.2.2. Ensuring equal rights to education for children from remote areas

Due to the lack of schools in 1,208 settlements, over 25,637 schoolchildren have no opportunity to study at their place of residence. School buildings with expired service life (built in 1950-1970) are gradually becoming damaged. Today, it is necessary to carry out major repairs in 151 small schools, in addition, 13 small schools are in disrepair¹⁹.

¹⁷ <https://strategy2050.kz/ru/news/gosprogramma-razvitiya-obrazovaniya-cto-sdelano/>

¹⁸ Per capita funding <http://www.fincenter.kz/funding/>

¹⁹ Accessibility and safety <https://www.kazpravda.kz/fresh/view/dostupnost-i-bezopasnost>

Children living in remote areas where there are no schools are provided by local executive bodies with daily transportation. For these purposes, 927 vehicles are used. The largest number of children covered by the transportation lives in the Almaty, Turkestan and East Kazakhstan regions. In many villages, children are placed in boarding schools: *“On Sunday evenings they take them home, on Friday nights they bring them home”* (from an interview with their parents in NKO). Thus, children are provided with access to education, they are provided with food and accommodation, but they are deprived of daily communication with their families.

It should be noted that, despite the measures taken, every fifth child (21%) living in a remote village is faced with the problem of transportation. Parents often complain about buses that provide transportation to school: *“Yes, there is a children's bus. Looks like an ambulance, VAZ”, “but children freeze in winter, because cars get stuck, skid and cannot do anything, they have to stay there. Last year, one bus flipped”* (from an interview with parents in North Kazakhstan region).

In this regard, it is required to raise the issue of updating the buses that transport children, since this is a matter of children’s life and health safety.

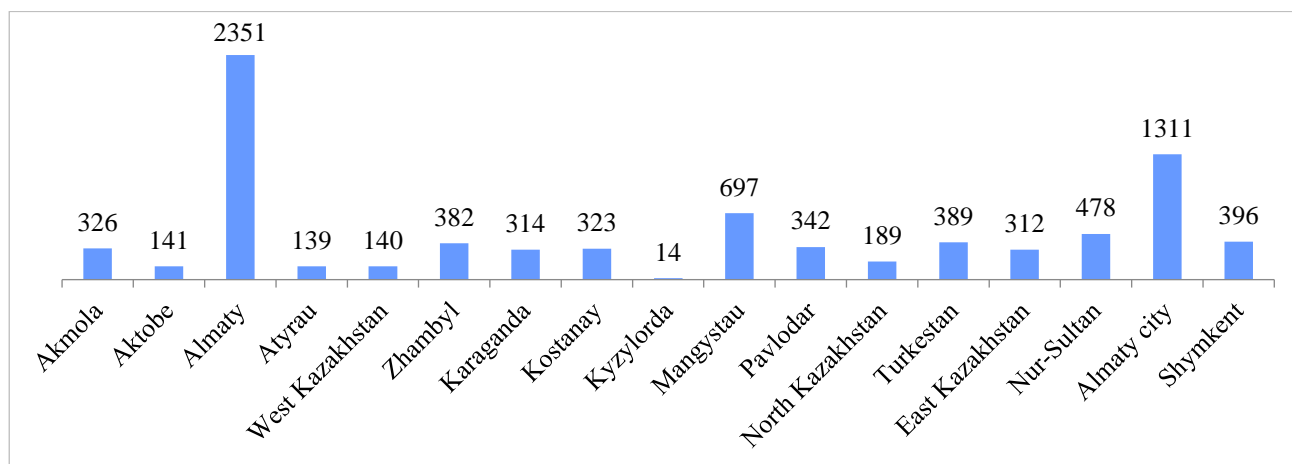
3.2.3. Ensuring equal rights to education for migrant and refugee children

Education for children who are not citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan and temporarily stay in the territory of our country is guaranteed by Article 8 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Education".

According to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the number of migrant children from other countries studying in schools is 8,244 people.

In the Almaty region and the city of Almaty, the largest number of them - 2,351 and 1,311 children, respectively. It should also be noted the Mangystau region, where 697 children-migrants from other countries study. There are 478 migrant children studying in Nur-Sultan, less than 400 in other regions.

Figure 28. Migrant’s children, taught in Kazakhstan schools, 2019.



Kazakhstan is a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and other international treaties on human rights, according to which it must allow refugees access to its territory, ensure respect for their fundamental rights, including the right to education for refugee children. In 2019, in the country, according to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 419 children with refugee status were enrolled in schools.

3.2.4. Ensuring equal rights to education for children of different nationalities

In Kazakhstan, all children, regardless of nationality, have the right to education. Children of more than 117 nationalities (Kazakhs, Russians, Abazins, Abkhaz Avars, Azerbaijanis, Uyghurs, Koreans, Uzbeks and others) studied in Kazakh schools in 2019.

In most schools in Kazakhstan, instruction is conducted in Kazakh (53.5% of schools), Russian (17.0%) languages, 29.2% of schools are mixed (instruction in them is conducted in Russian and Kazakh). In 12 general education schools, instruction is conducted entirely in Uzbek, in 11 - in Uyghur. However, there is a downward trend in the number of such schools: in 2015, there were 33 schools in the country with instruction in the Uzbek, Uyghur and Tajik languages.

Table 9. Public day schools by language of instruction in 2019

daytime public schools under the jurisdiction of the local executive bodies	Quantity, units.	%
with Kazakh language of instruction	3729	53,5%
with Russian language of instruction	1185	17,0%
with mixed languages of instruction	2038	29,2%
with Uzbek language of instruction	12	0,2%
with Uyghur language of instruction	11	0,2%

In 2019, a study was conducted "Monitoring of schools with Uyghur language of instruction"²⁰, The results of which indicate that only 31% of all Uyghur schoolchildren study in their native language, while the majority prefer to study in Kazakh or Russian. And the trend towards an outflow from national schools and classes continues. One of the key reasons for this is the poor quality of education. Schools are experiencing a shortage of textbooks and teaching aids in the Uyghur language, which directly affects the desire of parents to send their children to classes in their native language. In this regard, the situation with the availability of education for national minorities in the future raises concern. In order to preserve the self-identity of national minorities, eliminate possible discrimination in the field of education by nationality,

²⁰ Ethnic schools without chaos // https://bureau.kz/novosti/sobstvennaya_informaciya/yetnicheskie_shkoly_bez_khaosa/

measures should be developed to strengthen the material, technical, methodological database of schools in order to preserve them.

3.2.5. Ensuring the right to quality images

Every year, as part of the preparation of the report, the assessment of the quality of the education received by children is studied. It should be noted that children have become more critical: in 2019, only 78.8% of respondents believed that they were getting a good education, which would allow them to go to college and get a good job. In 2018, the share of such students was 84%.

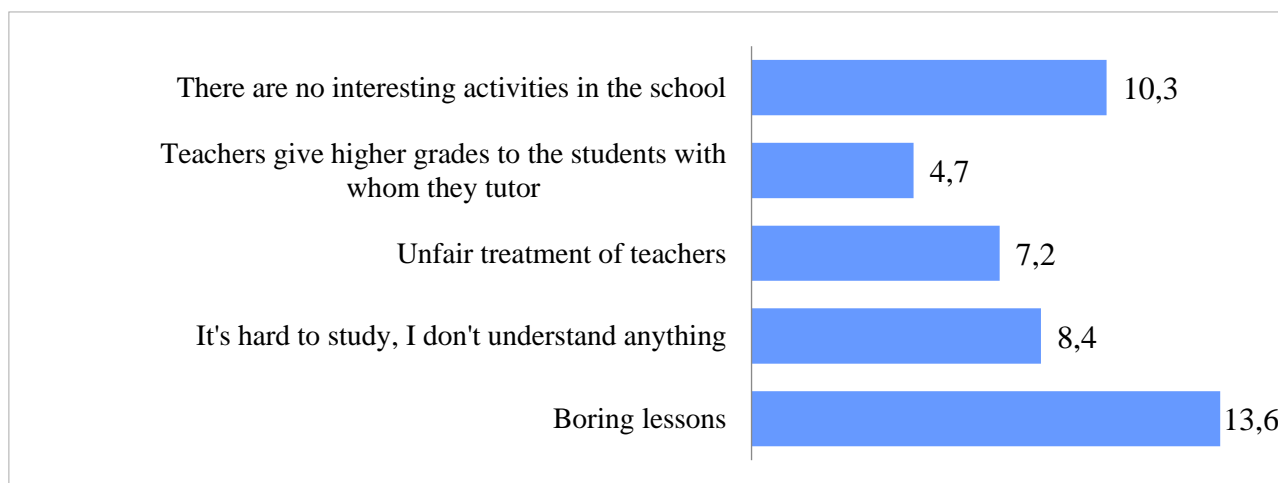


78,8 % of children believes that they receive a sufficiently good education, which will allow him to enter college or get a good job in the future

But, in general, the assessments are quite high: 80.0% of parents rated education as “good” and only 1% of parents and 5% of children as “bad”. 30% of parents do not believe that the curriculum meets all modern requirements. Despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of parents and schoolchildren consider education in schools to be good, 42.6% of the surveyed children study additionally with tutors (18.9% outside of school and 23.6% with their own school teacher).

Unfortunately, every 8th child thinks that lessons at school are not interesting (10.3%), every 12th student reported that it is difficult for him to study, he does not understand anything, 7.2% complains about the unfair attitude of teachers, 4, 7% of children believe that teachers give higher marks to those students with whom they are tutoring, every 10th student says that there are no interesting activities for him at school.

Figure 29. School problems reported by children, 2019, %



Education in three languages is gradually being introduced in Kazakhstan: Kazakh, Russian and English. Only 1.5% of the children surveyed reported that they have lessons (physics, chemistry, biology, etc.) in English. Children do not always easily comprehend the introduction of trilingual education: “*some lessons are taught in English, I cannot understand what this is about*” (Turkestan region).

3.2.6. Teaching staff in secondary education

As the analysis of international experience shows, the success of the education system is guaranteed if the teaching profession is chosen by the best school graduates who consciously wish to become teachers. For this reason, it is extremely important that no random people come to school. Currently, the choice of other specialties (non-pedagogical) provides an opportunity for higher wages, more promising career paths, higher social prestige and more comfortable working conditions.²¹

According to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 54.5% of teachers in daytime public general education schools (157,944 people) have the first and highest categories. In 2019, the replenishment of the teaching staff with young specialists amounted to 3.5%. In 2018, a new teacher certification system was introduced, which was passed by more than 123 thousand people (70% of teachers).

In 2019, a study was conducted in Kazakhstan, the purpose of which was to identify factors that influence the motivation for choosing a teaching profession by Kazakhstani youth and the desire of teachers to continue their professional activities. The results showed that “in most cases, interest in teaching, the social significance of the teacher’s role, and an environment conducive to professional development outweigh the interest in material benefits when candidates choose the teaching profession”²².

The researchers concluded that many students are enrolled in teaching majors only because of the high number of grants allocated and the low passing score. 52.6% of the interviewed teachers under the age of 34 studied on a grant, of which 62% noted that free education “played a significant role in choosing a profession” or “became a decisive factor in learning”. It is also alarming that 25% of the surveyed young teachers (up to 34 years old) and 55% of students of pedagogical specialties consider their profession as a short-term career, and want to leave the profession in the next 5 years.

At the same time, salary is one of the most key demotivating factors affecting leaving the teaching profession. Also, high workload, lack of time to provide quality education to children, administrative barriers, low social status of the profession are the main reasons for unwillingness to enter the specialty of a teacher, and for young teachers to continue working in this profession.

²¹ Ramsay, G. (2000) Update on national and international trends from the perspective of the NSW Review of Teacher Education, paper presented to the Australian Association for Research in Education, Sydney.

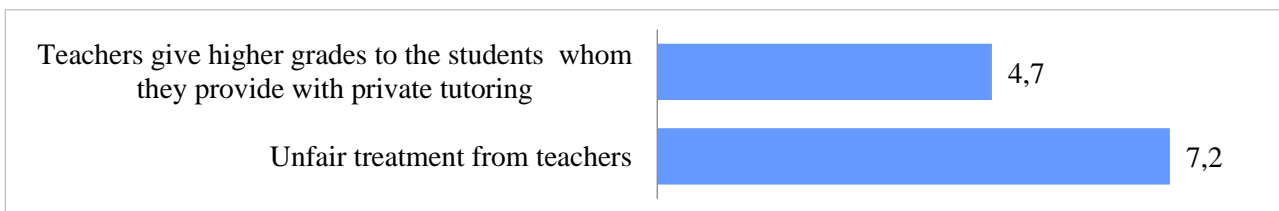
²² Ирсадиев С.А., Камзолдаев М.Б., Ташибаева Д.Н., Копеева А.Т. Учителя Казахстана: почему молодые люди выбирают эту профессию и что их мотивирует оставаться в ней?.- Астана: Общественное объединение «Центр анализа и стратегии «Белес», 2019. – 126 с.

There is a feminization of the teaching profession: 80% of teachers are women, and, most likely, this trend will continue in the future. "Insufficient prestige of the profession and insufficiently competitive remuneration of teachers push men away from this work, since in most traditional families a man is the breadwinner and must earn sufficient funds for this"²³.

There is a tendency of aging and insufficient renewal of the teaching staff. According to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the average age of teachers is 41 years old, most of all teachers (65%) are over 34 years old, 12% are in pre-retirement age. It should be understood that the aging of the teaching staff reduces professional mobility, competitiveness, and also contributes to hindering innovations in the educational process. These conclusions are also confirmed by the results of focus groups with children, who noted that young teachers often conduct classes more interesting: "Young professionals, teachers conduct lessons better. Because they understand us better than adult teachers "(from FGD with adolescents, Raimbek village, Almaty oblast).

Research conducted as part of the preparation of the Report shows that a fairly high percentage of children (7.2%) are faced with unfair treatment of teachers, 4.7% of children believe that teachers give higher grades to those students with whom they are tutoring.

Figure 30. Percentage of children reporting relationship problems with teachers, %



In the course of in-depth interviews and focus groups, the children said that teachers do not respect students, they insult: "They say that we are incompetent," "With the whole class, they can say that you are the dumbest among all" the teacher of Kazakh does not like Russians. She once said to me: "Ugh, why are you sitting with her, is she Russian?" (from FGD with teenagers, Almaty).

"Teachers divide us into 'good' and 'bad'. For those with low grades, they constantly repeat: "You are a bad student, you do not know anything." And when they say this all the time, the student does not want to even try to learn better. Teachers should treat children in the same way. We need to give them the opportunity. Teachers should not hurt a child's feelings when they are scolded. The child is humiliated in front of the whole class, this will also affect his psychological state "(from FGD with

²³ Там же

adolescents, Raimbek village, Almaty region). These statistics only confirm the fact that random people sometimes come to the profession.

2,9 % of the interviewed schoolchildren reported that teachers and other school staff humiliate them, insult them

B At the same time, there are schools in the country where teachers respect their students: “When we just came, almost every teacher told us that it is not customary to talk in a raised voice with students at this school.

In general, at school, teachers are like friends, we treat them very respectfully. And the teachers really love their subject, that is, they go not only to work, they are also interested in learning itself” (student of a lyceum in Almaty сшеш).

The experience of such schools should be studied and implemented in all educational institutions of the country, since it has been proven that it is the favorable relationship between the teacher and the student that stimulates the child's learning and supports the student. Whereas negative attitudes create feelings of psychological insecurity in the student's educational environment and discourage the child from coping with school demands.²⁴

3.2.7. Student assessment system

Since 2015, a new system for assessing student knowledge has been introduced, in which the requirements for assessment tools have been strengthened, which should ensure objectivity. The developed criteria and tasks make it possible to determine not only the level of knowledge, but also the ability to apply knowledge and thinking skills of a higher level (how the student speaks and discusses, can he highlight the main thing and draw conclusions, can he make decisions, apply the acquired knowledge in life). This allows you to neutralize the bias of traditional assessments and ensures the uniformity of requirements, standardization and equality of procedures²⁵.

The new grading system takes into account each stage of the study assignments, which allows you to accumulate points. The accumulative system stimulates the independent activity of students and ensures the development of the curriculum, i.e. improves the quality of knowledge. The results of interviews with parents and teachers showed that the new system has a number of shortcomings.

Most of the parents do not understand the essence of the assessment according to the new system, they see a decrease in the child's performance (according to the estimates) and remain dissatisfied: “*The meaning of the current assessments has been completely lost. We literally had a situation that his [student's] current grades in the Russian language were two “fours”, three “fives”, but the final grade turned out to be*

²⁴ Pianta R.C., Hamre B.K. Classroom processes and positive youth development: conceptualizing, measuring, and improving the capacity of interactions between teachers and students // Journal: New Directions for Youth Development. 2009. 121. Pp. 33-46.

²⁵https://www.inform.kz/ru/vice-ministr-nauki-i-obrazovaniya-rk-prokomentirovala-soch-i-sor-v-shkolah_a3581095

a “three”, because he got sick and did not come to write the attestation of the summative assessment for the section. Since he did not get the points, the child was given a “three” for the whole term. It turns out that there is no point in studying throughout the term at all! This is stress for the child and there is no interest in learning, because there are factors that do not depend on him” (mother of a student, Almaty city).

The new program of updated content and the assessment system are perceived differently by the country's teachers. “The system of new updated content is generally not bad, the problem is that it was introduced very quickly.

It had to be introduced from the first grade, without touching the rest, and then teachers, children, and their parents would slowly adapt. The problem is that parents and children studied under the old system, and the abrupt transition for them was very painful, incomprehensible ... Great sabotage comes from the teachers themselves, who do not understand the new system, because if before the teacher was “God and the tsar ”: he stood near the blackboard and that's it, now he has criteria-based assessment, he must show the child where he mastered well, where the gaps are, where he held out, and where he did not. And this is a lot of work”(school director, Almaty).

The new program of the updated content and the assessment system are perceived by the teachers of the country differently. “*The system of new updated content is generally not bad, the problem is that it was introduced very quickly. It had to be introduced from the first grade, without touching the rest, and then teachers, children, and their parents would slowly adapt. The problem is that parents and children studied under the old system, and the abrupt transition for them was very painful, incomprehensible ... Great sabotage comes from the teachers themselves, who do not understand the new system, because if before the teacher was “God and the tsar ”: he stood near the blackboard and that's it, now he has criteria-based assessment, he must show the child where he has mastered well, where the gaps are, where he held out, and where he did not. And this is a lot of work*” (school director, Almaty).

The head teacher of one of the Almaty schools said in an interview that, according to her observations, the transition to the new assessment system removed a lot of psychological stress from the children: “*if a child was afraid to go to the blackboard before, you call him, he seems to know, but everything is shaking, but now he understands that even if he now gets a two or three, this mark will not affect his quadruple mark in any way, so he goes to the board more calm and relaxed.* ”

Teachers talk about problems with access to "Kundelik" during the period of SAS (summative assessment for a section) and SAT (summative assessment for a term), that if they have 5 classes, then in 1-2 days it is necessary to have time to check and put the results in an electronic journal for 150 works and in such a load it is impossible I appreciate all the ideas on this: the teachers do not have the time and energy to give the students feedback, to show the student what he has achieved, and what needs to be worked on.

In this regard, it is necessary to solve the technical problems that teachers face in accessing an electronic journal, to work out a mechanism for changing the student's

grade (for example, in the case of an erroneous grade), and also to provide all schools with high-speed Internet. In addition, it is important to educate parents about the features of the new assessment system, its objectivity and focus on supporting and stimulating the learning process of students.

3.2.8. Quality control of secondary education

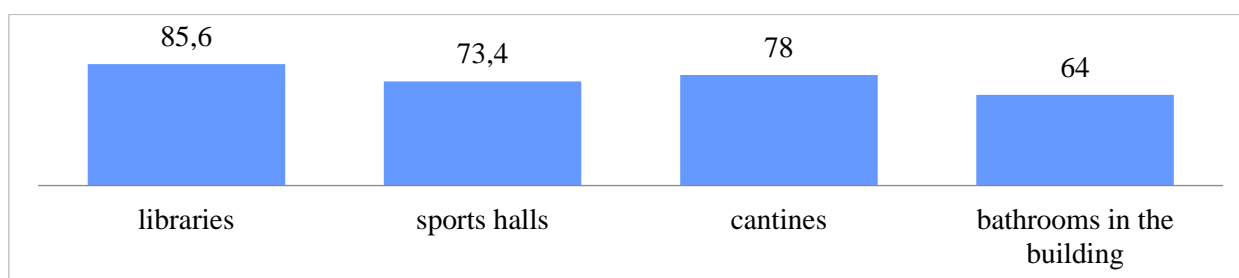
Quality control of school education in the country is carried out on the basis of an external assessment of educational achievements. According to the National Testing Center, in 2019, testing took place in grades 4, 9 and 11 of secondary education organizations, a total of 1,406 schools, 118,370 students participated. The average score among 4 grades was 19.97 points (out of a possible 30 points), among 9 grades - 38.67 points (out of a possible 75 points), among 11 grades - 63.84 points (out of a possible 100 points)²⁶.

Since 2019, there have been changes in the form of the final certification of students, which is now carried out at the school in the form of exams. Unified national testing has become one of the forms of selection exams for admission to institutions of higher and (or) postgraduate education. In addition, in order to increase the availability of income to higher educational institutions on a paid basis, reducing social and psychological tension, graduates were able to take the UNT 4 times a year. Persons who are fluent in English and have an international certificate, in the current year were exempted from passing the UNT in the specialized subject "Foreign language (English)" or in a special subject.

3.2.9. Material and technical base

An important condition for ensuring the quality of education is the material and technical base. In 2019, according to the NEDR of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 85.6% of schools had libraries, 73.4% had sports halls, 78% of schools were equipped with canteens.

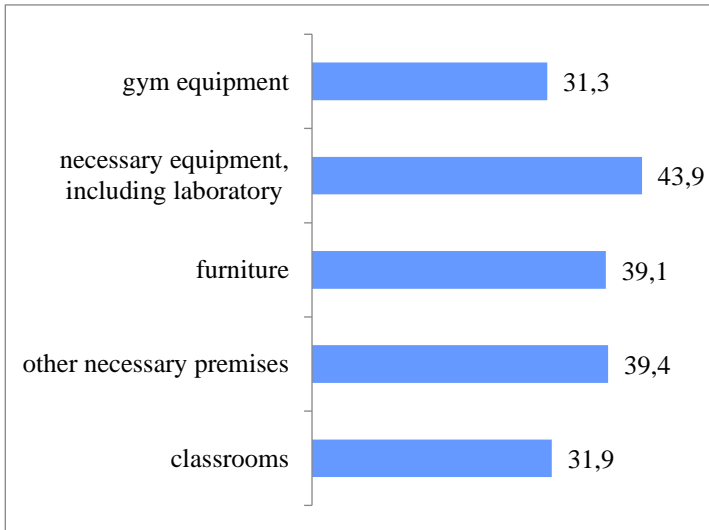
Figure 31. Proportion of schools provided with canteens, libraries and sports halls, 2019, %



The logistics of schools require special attention. Not all schools have internal toilets or toilets that meet all sanitary and hygienic standards, not all schools are well heated in winter.

²⁶ Information on the results of the external assessment of educational achievements in secondary education for 2018 // <https://testcenter.kz/ru/schools/voud-so-results/>

Figure 32. Share of directors who reported a lack of material and technical base, %



In the course of the survey, school principals said that they were experiencing difficulties with material and technical support: 31.3% of principals reported that there is not enough sports equipment in schools for the competent organization of physical education classes, almost half (43.9%) of principals noted that there is a lack of equipment, including laboratory equipment, 39.1% reported a lack of furniture, 39.4% - a lack of premises

for organizing the educational process.

Schoolchildren also complain about the material and technical equipment: 13% of students noted that conditions in their school are poor (it is cold in the school, there is no light, bad toilets or other bad conditions). At the same time, there are no differences in the urban / rural aspect. Students of Akmola and Kostanay regions are more dissatisfied with the conditions of education than others.

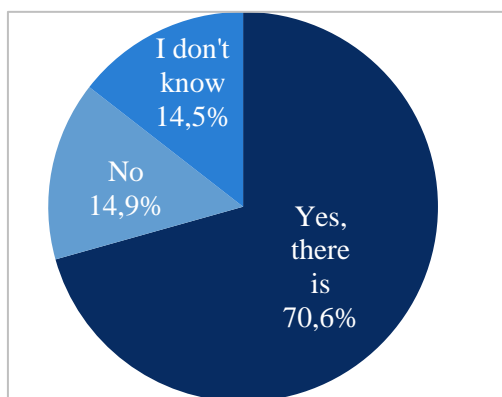
3.2.10. Access to information and communication technologies

The key factor in the formation of human capital is the quality of education. In the context of the development of digital technologies, the rapid expansion of the Internet, the imparting of information and communication skills to schoolchildren is an important condition for a high-quality educational process.

According to the NED (National Education Database), the provision of daytime general education schools with a broadband Internet connection at a speed of 4 Mbps or more is 99.1% in 2019, that is, 7,333 schools²⁷

²⁷ <https://strategy2050.kz/ru/news/gosprogramma-razvitiya-obrazovaniya-chto-sdelano/>

Figure 33. Access to school Internet for students, %

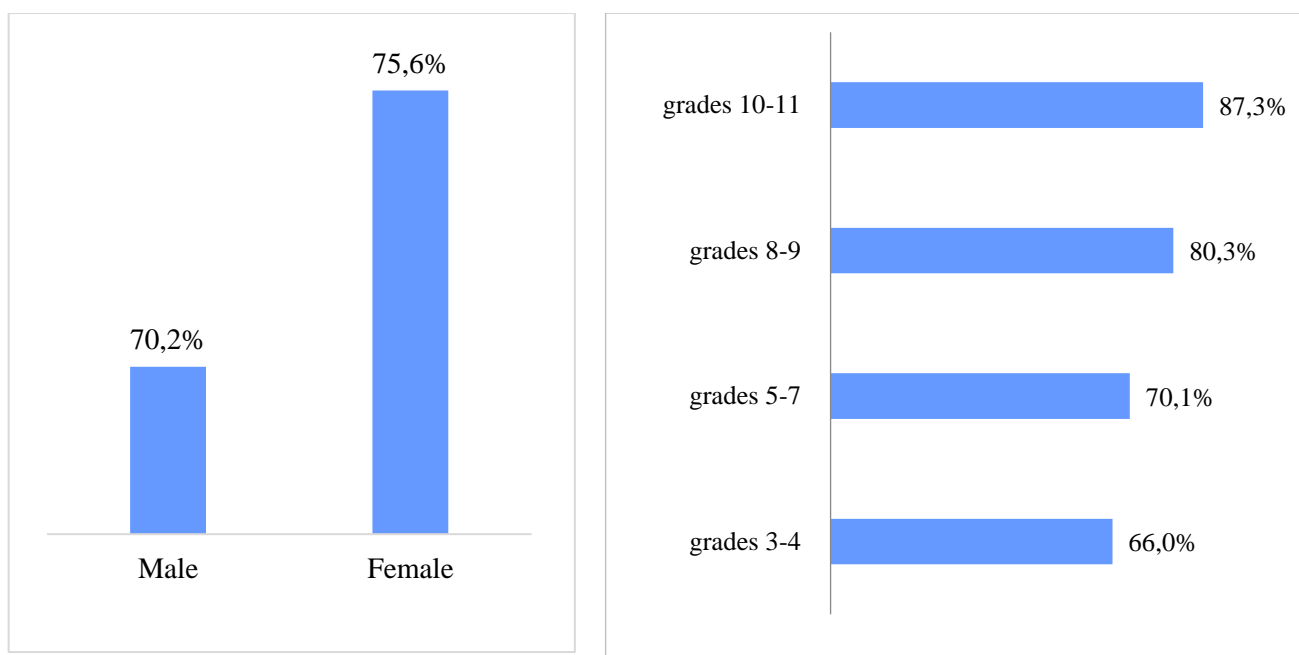


In the course of the survey, 70.6% of students reported that they have access to the Internet at school. At the same time, access was equally assessed by both urban and rural students, both girls and boys. The share of students with access to the Internet at school among students of gymnasiums and lyceums is lower than among students of simple general education schools.

According to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, a system of electronic journals and diaries has been introduced in 81.1% of schools (5,999 schools). The system of electronic journals and diaries is used by more than 300 thousand teachers, 2.7 million students and 1.9 million parents. A mobile version for teachers (50 thousand users) and parents (40 thousand users) was also put into operation. However, according to the ministry, 65 schools do not have an Internet connection at all, 30 of this number are in WKO.

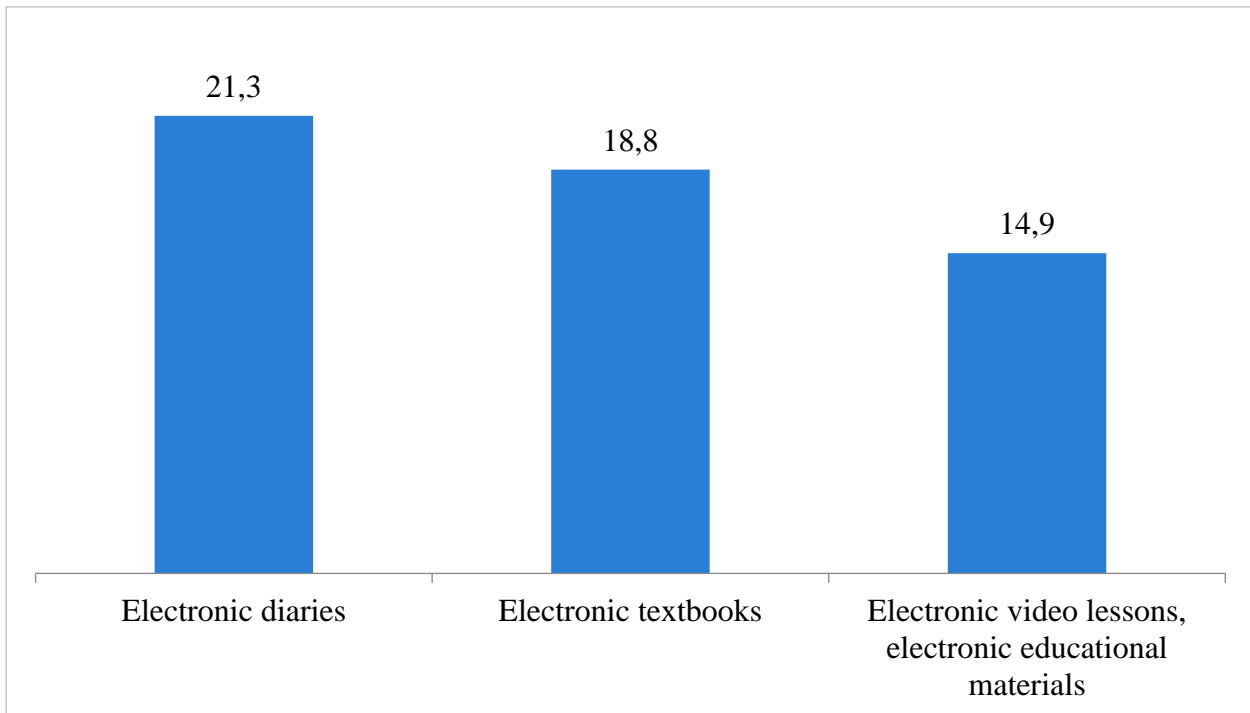
According to the survey, 73.2% of students have access to an electronic diary. In the context of city / village, there is no difference in access. Interestingly, girls have a higher proportion of those who have access than boys. Apparently, due to their age, junior schoolchildren noted less access to an electronic diary. 8.5% of pupils in grades 3-4 noted that they do not know what it is, while among pupils in grades 5-7 those who are not familiar with the electronic diary - 3.5%, and among the senior management there are no such.

Figure 34. Access to electronic diary, share of schoolchildren, %



The fact that not everyone has access to electronic educational resources was also confirmed by school leaders. Every fifth director reported that his school does not have access to an electronic diary and electronic textbooks, another 15% said that the school does not have access to electronic video lessons and educational materials.

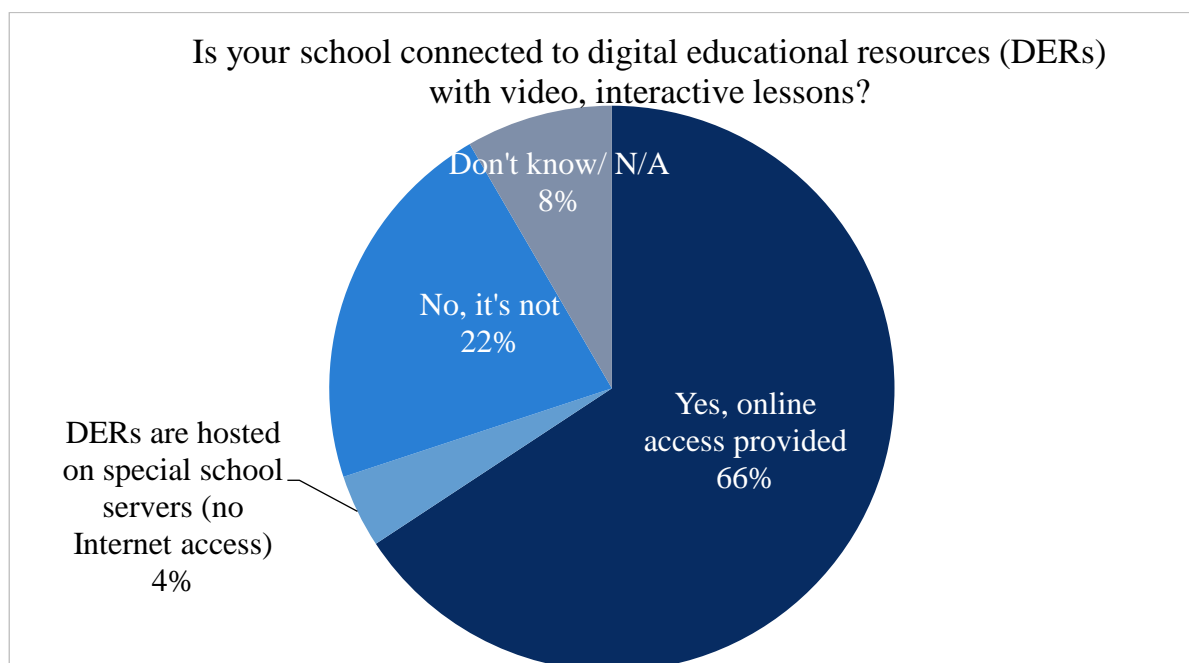
Figure 35. Lack of access to electronic educational resources for headmasters, %



Entering the dynamically developing market of information systems requires fundamentally new opportunities from the educational process to improve the efficiency of the educational process. The use of digital educational resources in the field of education allows teachers to qualitatively change the content, methods and organizational forms of education. Digital educational resources allow you to enhance the intellectual capabilities of students in the information society and to improve the quality of education at all levels of the educational system.

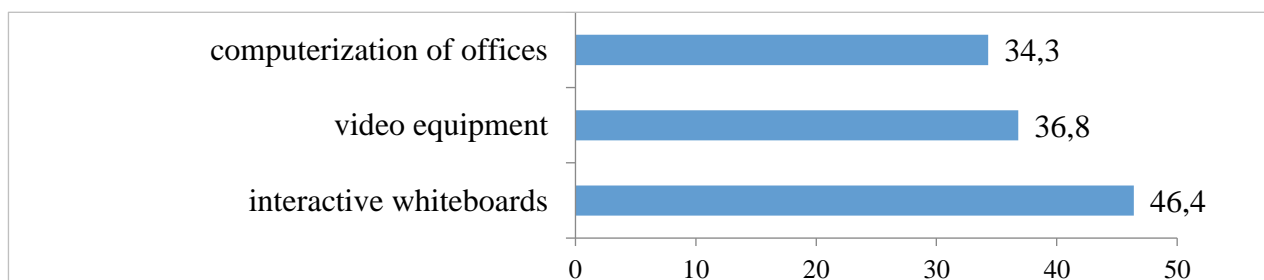
During the survey, 66% of principals reported that their school is connected to digital educational resources with video, interactive lessons, and in another 4% of cases, Digital Educational Resources (DERs) are hosted on special school servers.

Figure 36. Connecting schools to digital educational resources, distributing school headmasters' answers, %



In addition to computers, the educational organization is supplied with interactive equipment, which is of great importance for the use of digital content in education. In the republic, the availability of interactive equipment in school organizations is 6 636 units (of which 2 143 in small schools) or 84.7% (72.8%)²⁸.

Aunzky 37. Share of principals who noted a lack of Information and Communication Technologies at school, %



Nevertheless, school principals talk about the inadequacy of the interactive equipment available in schools: 46.4% of the surveyed principals believe that they do not have enough interactive whiteboards, a third spoke about insufficient computerization of the classrooms and the lack of video equipment necessary for the educational process.

In addition, one should take into account the fact that the rapid growth of information and communication technologies leads to the fact that equipment and software are rapidly becoming obsolete. The study, carried out with the support of the

²⁸ National report on the state and development of the education system of the Republic of Kazakhstan (at the end of 2017) - Astana: JSC "IAC", 2018, p.319

Soros Foundation, found that many schools have computers manufactured in 2007/2010²⁹, which are very outdated, it is extremely difficult to update software on them, provide anti-virus protection, but most importantly, and it is impossible to teach modern information technologies on obsolete and equipment that does not meet modern requirements.

3.2.11. Schoolbooks

School textbooks are the most important cultural product and are a key element of the educational process. In the course of the survey, 2.2% of children reported that they “*do not have the necessary textbooks, school supplies*”.

It should be noted that there is ongoing work to improve the quality of textbooks and their availability. In connection with the transition to a new educational program, all textbooks have been updated: they have QR codes with which you can download them to a tablet or mobile device. Since September 1, 2019, electronic versions of textbooks for grades 1-10 in EPUB format have been posted on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan. This allowed schoolchildren to use textbooks via electronic devices, which means they don't have to carry heavy textbooks to school. A schoolchild can learn from them at will in class or at home, but each child must have a paper version of the book.

The main problem in the use and dissemination of the practice of using electronic textbooks in the educational process is that not all schools, especially in remote areas, are provided with high-quality Internet connections; only about 1,200 secondary educational institutions have broadband Internet connections³⁰.

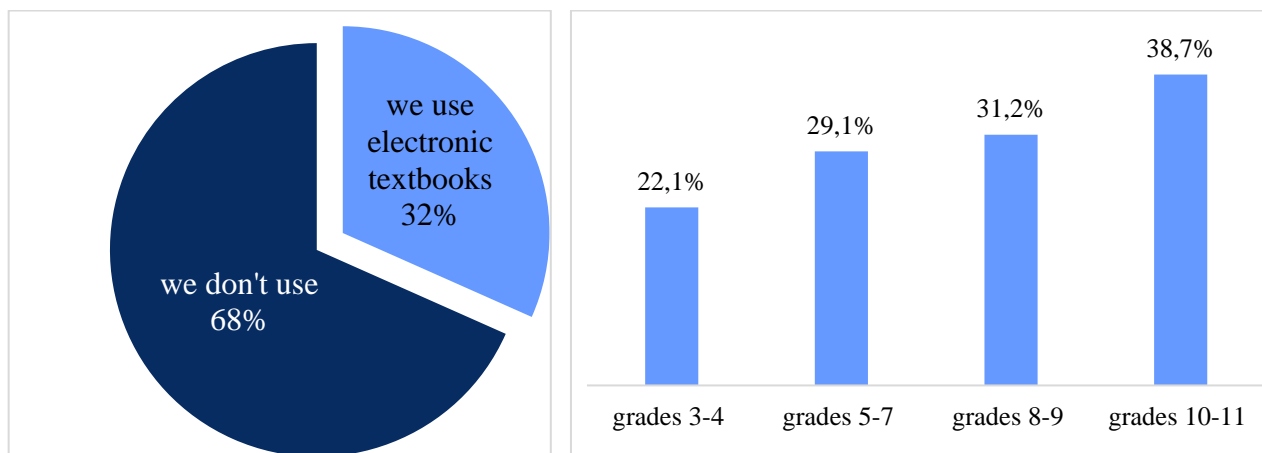
Nevertheless, according to the survey results, 31.7% of students in the educational process use electronic textbooks. The proportion of those who use them increases with the transition to higher grades.



²⁹ Village school – does the government discriminate the school students? <https://ekonomist.kz/nurbayev/selskie-shkoly-diskriminiruet/>

³⁰ <https://ru.sputniknews.kz/education/20190521/10214964/elektronnye-uchebniki-itogi-pilotny-proekt.html>

Figure 38. Proportion of school students using e-textbooks, %



During the study, those schoolchildren who have already been able to use electronic textbooks noted that they like this idea, they do not have to wear heavy backpacks: “we are allowed to use gadgets, whoever has it, we have uploaded textbooks there, this is generally cool” (according to the results focus groups, Almaty). But there were also those students who said that teachers did not allow them to use gadgets at school: “Oh, what are you? You can't bring us phones! Who will allow us to bring tablets! I won't even risk it! They yell at me and that's it” (from an interview with a student of grade 8, Almaty).

The introduction of electronic textbooks, along with paper ones, will increase the availability of textbooks, unload a schoolchild's backpack (and, therefore, take the load off the child's spine), and increase interest in knowledge.

As a result of the combination of information and communication technologies, a new knowledge environment is created, in which new opportunities for learning open up.

3.3. Technical and vocational education (TVE)

The TVE system is designed to provide the country's economy with professional technical personnel with the aim of further transition to a highly effective innovative model. Large-scale work is being carried out in Kazakhstan to modernize vocational education, taking into account staffing needs.

In the field of TVE, there are 821 colleges (of which 479 are public, 342 are private)³¹ with 479 thousand students. The share of colleges participating in the Free Vocational Education for All project is 64.5%. According to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the share of young people with technical and vocational education, aged 18-28, in the structure of the employed population is 40%. Implementation of the project "Free vocational education for all" allowed to increase the coverage of young people with free first job specialties by 23%. Project

³¹ History of TVE development in Kazakhstan <http://today.kz/news/kazakhstan/2019-09-19/783476-istoriya-razvitiya-tipo-v-kazahstane/>

participants are provided with government support for tuition fees, scholarships, travel, meals.

In 2019, within the framework of the project, a state order was placed for 97.8 thousand places, including 21.3 thousand places under the productive employment program. The share of training and production workshops, laboratories and classrooms for special disciplines of state colleges, equipped with modern teaching equipment, increased from 41.2% in 2016 to 45% in 2018.

Dual education has been introduced in 486 colleges with the participation of 4,188 enterprises. With the transition to the dual training system, 70% of the study time is devoted to practical exercises, so the load on the masters and the need for them increases. In this regard, it is necessary to strengthen the work to attract mentors in production.

To update the content based on the requirements of employers in all 246 specialties, modular programs have been developed, while the content of the programs and expected competencies have been agreed with employers. In addition, due to the reduction of duplicate disciplines, the terms of study have been reduced and the opportunity has been given to master up to three related qualifications within the framework of one specialty.

Technical and vocational education is not currently prestigious and interesting for school graduates. In this regard, a set of measures has been developed to change the situation. Thus, it is expected that a 30% increase in the size of the scholarship for students with work qualifications (from September 1, 2019) will be an excellent incentive to attract young people to TVE. From the 2019-2020 academic year, the project "Top 100 College Students of the Republic of Kazakhstan" was launched, as well as the wide involvement of schoolchildren and students in the WorldSkills, JuniorSkills, DeafSkills and Abilimpics movements.

In order to create conditions for stimulating youth to entrepreneurial activity, in the colleges of the country, the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs "Atameken", from the 2019-2020 academic year, has begun training students in entrepreneurial skills.

In TVE organizations, students studying for work qualifications (131 thousand people), as well as children from large families studying in middle-level specialties (more than 7 thousand people), are provided with free meals during the period of education. 53.5% of colleges have their own or rented dormitories, thus providing accommodation for 85,818 people.

3.4. Higher Education

The experience of economically developed countries proves the existence of a close relationship between the level of education of the country's population and the level of socio-economic efficiency of the state. In this regard, education, especially higher education, is seen as a leading factor in social, political and economic progress. The reason for this lies in the understanding that the most important value and main capital of modern society is a person who is capable of searching and mastering new knowledge and making non-standard decisions.

In 2019, there were 131 higher educational institutions in Kazakhstan: national - 10, state - 31, non-civilian - 14, AEO - 1; international - 1; corporatized - 18, private - 56. The contingent of students in the 2018-2019 academic year was only 586 661 people, including 182 317 people under the state order.

In order to increase the competitiveness of universities in 2018, amendments were made to the legislation, according to which the country's universities received more academic, managerial and financial freedom, within which they were given the authority to independently determine the content of programs in order to improve the quality of education. This is important in the context of the transition to a new economy, when the need for qualified personnel and new professions is growing more and more.

In this regard, a new classifier of personnel training areas has been developed, according to which universities can develop new educational programs in accordance with market challenges.

The law "On Education" has been removed from the norm that regulates the cost of education in universities. Previously, the cost per student on a paid basis could not be less than the size of an educational grant or state educational order. However, this made it difficult for universities to respond flexibly to demand. They can now set prices as they see fit. It is believed that this amendment will expand the access of Kazakhstanis to higher education. The state compulsory standard of higher education provides for inclusive education, which ensures equal access to education for all students, taking into account special educational needs and individual opportunities. In order to provide personnel for the system of special and inclusive education in the compulsory components of all pedagogical specialties, the discipline "Inclusive education" was revised in the amount of 2 credits.

3.5. Additional education

Modern additional education is a flexible, dynamic, multilevel system based on an individual approach to the student. The system of additional education for children, due to its personal orientation towards each child, can successfully solve the problem of preparing generations for life in a modern information society³². Additional education of children increases the space in which schoolchildren can develop their creative and cognitive activity, realize their personal qualities»³³.

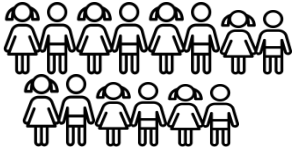
According to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the total coverage of additional education is 78.5% (2 619 586 students) of the total number of students, including 33.7% in rural areas (1,124,432 students).

³² Abisheva MM The role of additional education in the formation of a socially active personality [Text] // Actual problems of modern pedagogy: materials of the V Intern. scientific conf. (Ufa, May 2014). - Ufa: Summer, 2014. — p. 143-145. — URL <https://moluch.ru/conf/ped/archive/103/5528/>

³³ Mikryukova O. N. The role of additional education in the early professionalization of schoolchildren // Scientific and methodological electronic journal "Concept". – 2017. – t. 27. – p. 74–76.

1,028,896 (30.8%) schoolchildren are involved in 1,256 out-of-school organizations of education, culture and sports, 1,590,690 (47.7%) in 63,172 school circles.

Particular attention is paid to the employment of children from socially vulnerable groups of the population. Additional education in out-of-school organizations covered 6.5 thousand orphans and children left without parental care, 5.6 thousand children with special educational needs, 57.9 thousand children from low-income families.



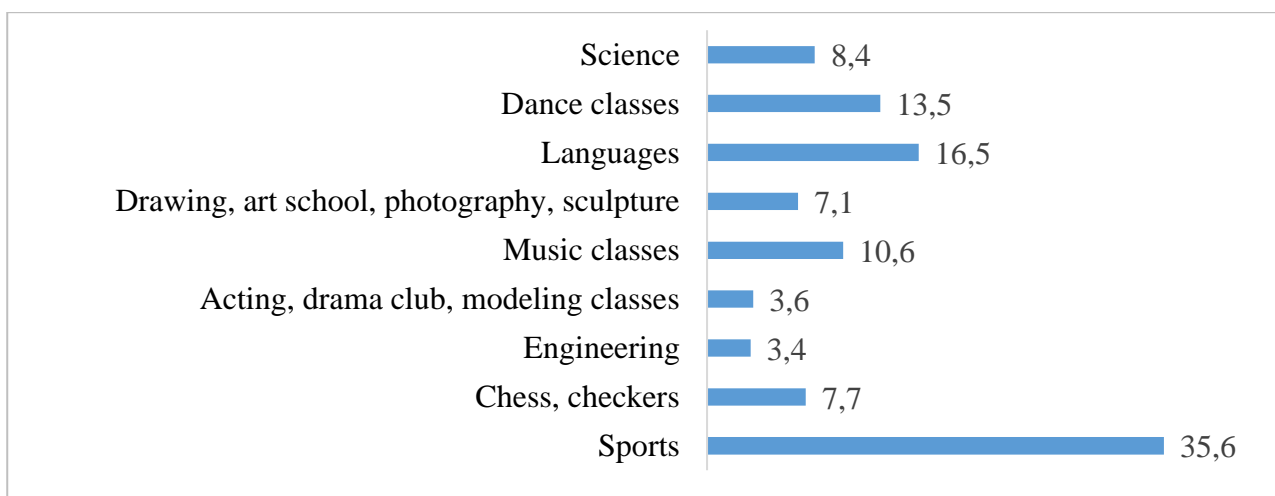
78,5 % of students attends hobby groups in schools and out-of-school organizations

According to the results of the study, 26.8% of children do not attend clubs or sports clubs. The primary reason for this is lack of time (29.2%), remoteness from home (15.2%) and lack of desire (39.0%). Less mentioned reasons are the lack of sections and circles (8.6%), lack of money to pay for them (10.5%).

35.6% of the surveyed children go to sports clubs in their free time. Of these, the proportion of boys is almost twice that of girls (48.7% and 24.9%, respectively). Most of all, children are involved in sports at the age of 14-15 years (38.5%). Language circles are attended by 16.1% of the surveyed students, of which the share of girls is 12.3%, and the share of boys is 20.0%. To a greater extent, courses are available for children from regional centers (20.1%), as well as for those who live in medium and small towns - 14.6%. Unfortunately, only 9.6% of the surveyed children from the countryside and 3.4% from remote villages attend language courses.

Scientific circles (physics, mathematics, literature, etc.) are chosen by 8.4% of children, of whom most are girls - 9.5%, and boys - 6.3%. Compared to young children, students aged 16-17 attend scientific circles more often than others - 17.0%, while children aged 8-10 - 5.7%. This is justified by the fact that high school students have to take the UNT, for which they prepare by attending electives and circles in certain subjects.

Figure 39. Proportion of children attending clubs, electives and sports sections, %



13.5% of students go to dance clubs, and only 4.8% are boys. Girls are much more likely to choose dance sections (20.7%), especially in primary school.

The rapid growth in the volume of scientific information requires fundamentally new skills, the ability to progressively master emerging technologies, to understand their principle of operation. The modern generation of schoolchildren should be ready for life in a society with high needs for technical progress, and possess the necessary level of technical culture. Unfortunately, the share of children attending engineering classes is extremely small - 4.3%.



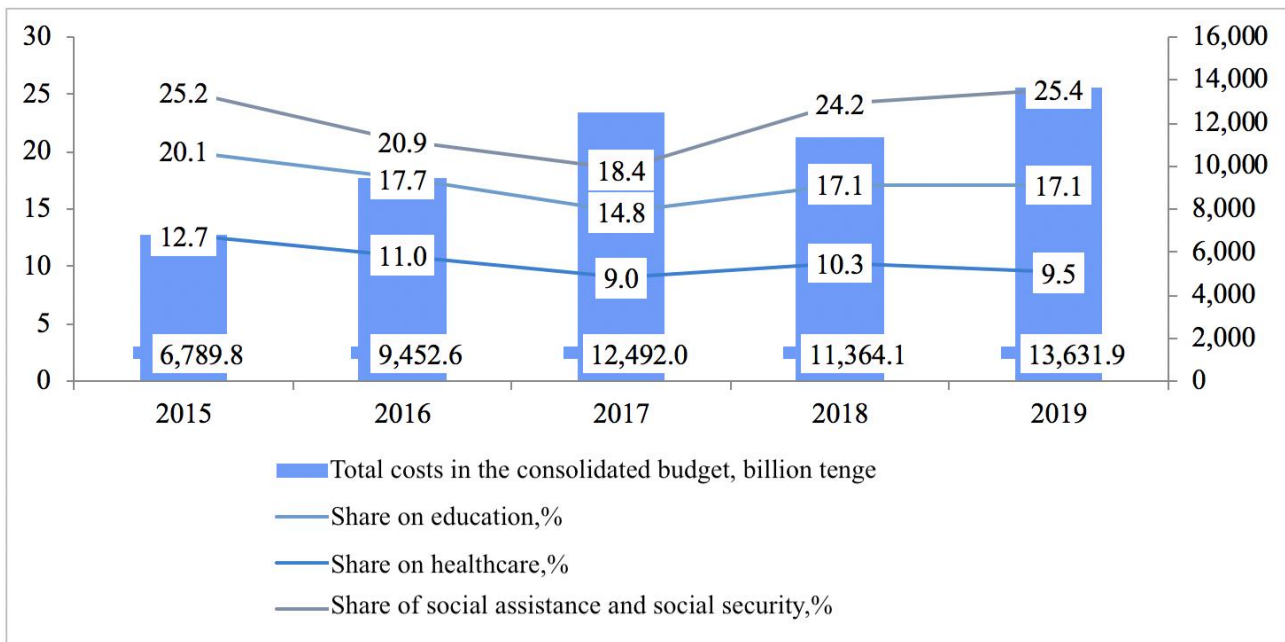
only 4,3 % of schoolchildren attend engineering classes

In this regard, there is an acute issue of the need to strengthen work on the development of technical circles, increase interest in them among children, expand funding for additional education in this direction.

3.6. Dynamics of government spending on children over the past 5 years. Education expenses

According to the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan, over the past 5 years, the sums of the consolidated budget allocated for the social sphere have doubled (from 6,789.8 billion tenge in 2015 to 13,631.9 billion tenge in 2019). However, if we consider the share of costs from the total budget, then there is a decrease in the indicator from 2015 to 2017, in 2018 there is an increase in all three areas, but in 2019 there is a different situation: a decrease in the share of health care costs (from 10.3% to 9,5%), an increase - in the field of social assistance and social security (from 24.2% to 25.4%), remained at the same level - in the field of education (17.1%).

Figure 40. Share of expenditures of the consolidated budget of Kazakhstan on education, health care and social assistance, %³⁴



Education costs

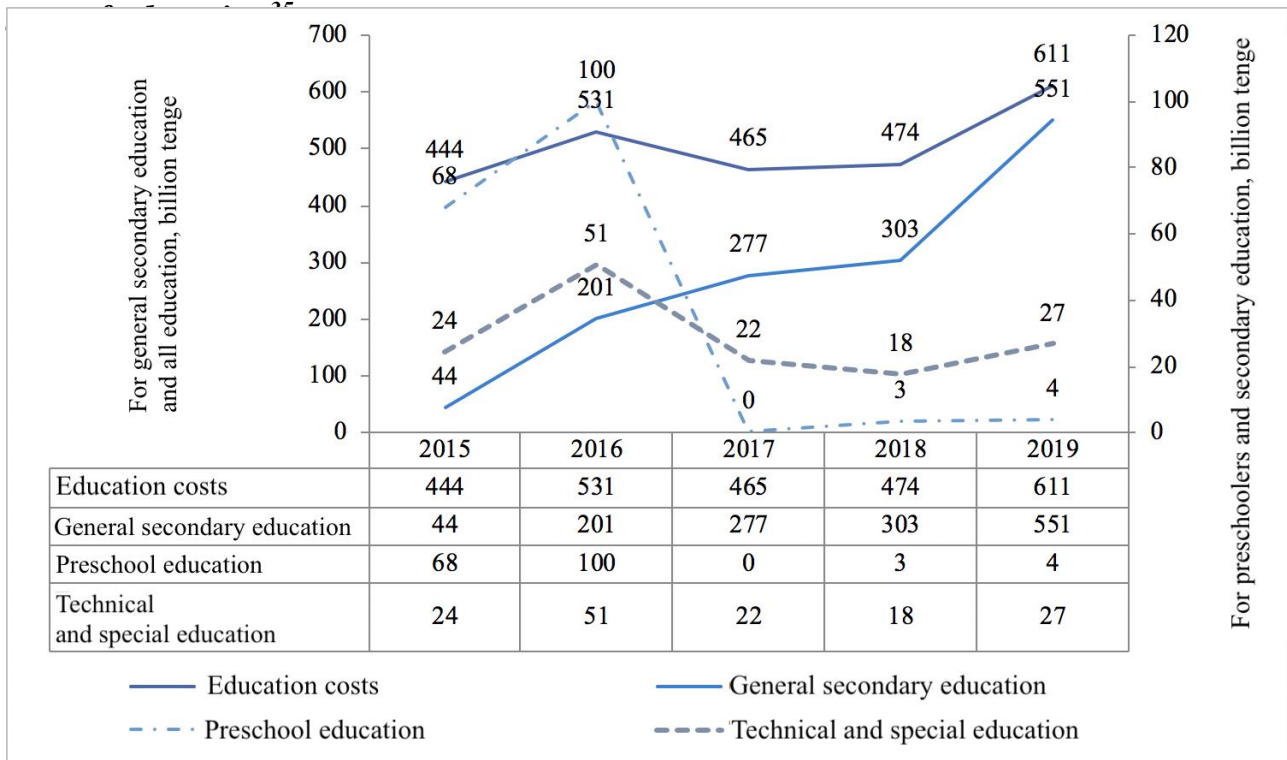
The share of the republican budget in the education programs of the consolidated budget is 26.2%, that is, three quarters of the expenses of local budgets are responsible for education. In 2019, the share of spending on education in the consolidated budget was 17.1%, while the amount of spending on education itself increased to 2.3 trillion tenge.

To consider a deeper structure and share of spending on children's education, data from the statistical bulletin of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan and annual budgets were used. In the annual budgets, separate items were singled out directly related to the education of children (0-17 years old). According to the data received, in 2019 there was a decrease in republican costs for universities and other education compared to the highlighted items of "direct costs". In 2017, there was a sharp reduction in the costs of the republican budget for preschool institutions and specialized types of education, but in 2019 there was a slight increase (up to 3,958 million tenge) in preschool education and almost 27 billion tenge was spent in the field of special and technical education.

Secondary education, which includes budget items "Primary, basic secondary and general secondary education", "Ensuring the availability of high-quality school education", "Stimulating productive innovations", in aggregate amounts to 90.1% of all education spending in 2019 (551 billion tg.), and demonstrates a steady increase in costs, which in terms of growth rates significantly exceeds inflation.

³⁴ Reporting on budget execution. <http://www.minfin.gov.kz:81/redirect3.jsp?language=ru>

Figure 41. Expenditures on education and certain expenditures on education in Kazakhstan, directly related to the education of children under 17, billion tenge, by



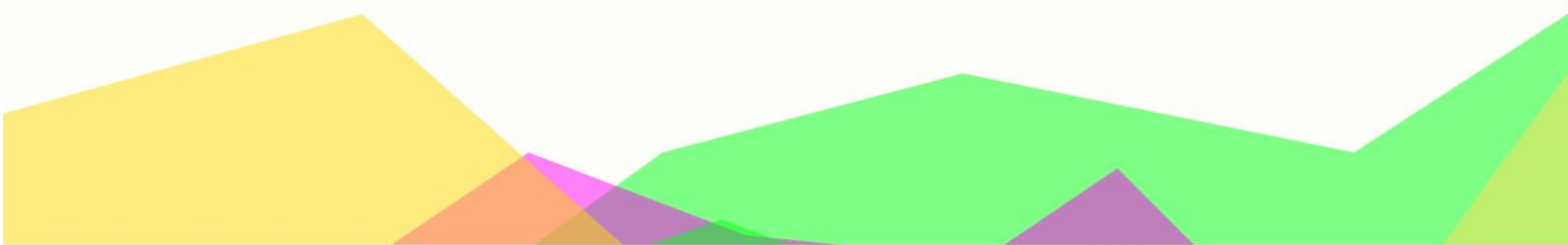
³⁵ Statistical Bulletin of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan, data from January to December of each year.

http://www.minfin.gov.kz/irj/portal/anonymous?NavigationTarget=ROLES://portal_content/mf/kz.ecc.roles/kz.ecc.anonymous/kz.ecc.anonymous/kz.ecc.anonym_budgeting/budgeting/reports_fldr/statistical_bulletin_fldr



CHAPTER 4

CHILDREN'S HEALTH



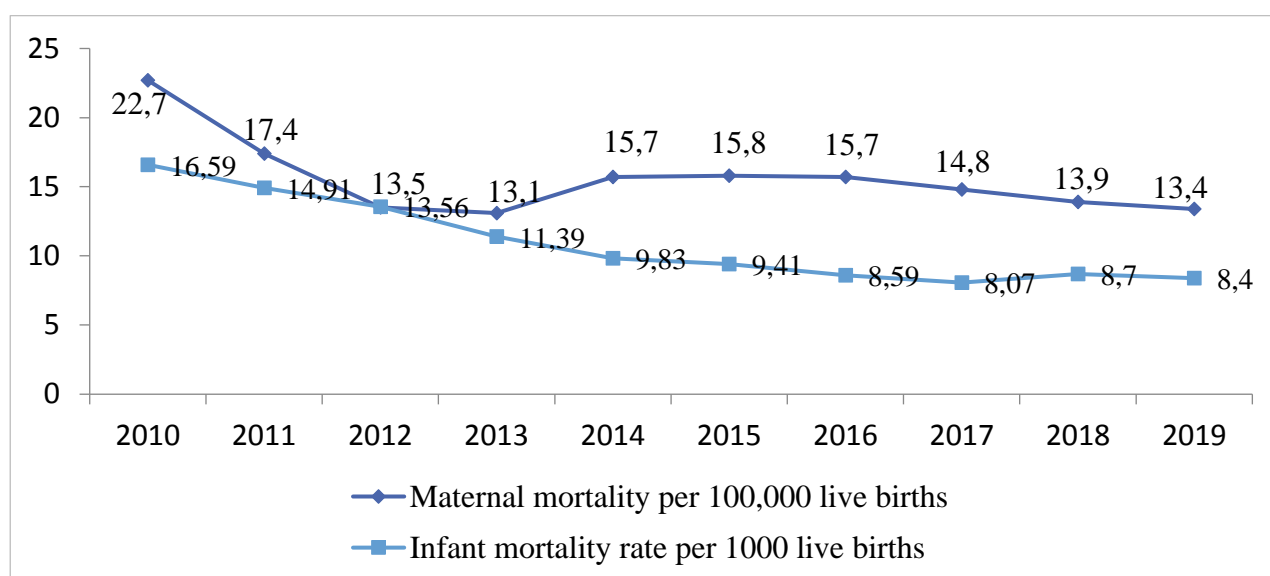


Chapter 4. Children's health

4.1. Child and maternal mortality

During the period of independence of the state, **maternal and infant mortality** in Kazakhstan has significantly decreased: maternal mortality from 76.8 per 100 thousand live births in 1992 to 13.4 in 2019, infant mortality from 25.7 to 8.4 per 1,000 births alive. Maternal mortality responds to the economic situation, showing peaks of growth in 1992, 1997-1998 and 2007, virtually coinciding with economic crises. From 2010 to 2019, there has been a decrease in maternal mortality by 1.6 times and infant mortality by 2 times.

Figure 42. Maternal and infant mortality rates in Kazakhstan



Source: 2010-2016 Statistical collection "Children of Kazakhstan", Astana 2018. 2017-2019. Department of Public Health Policy, MH RK. * Preliminary data

In 2019, the highest maternal mortality rates were recorded in Karaganda (39.4), Kostanay (26.4) and Almaty (29.6) regions.

Compared to 2018, in 2019, this indicator showed a significant improvement in the situation in Pavlodar and North-Kazakhstan regions, where in 2019 there was not a single case of maternal death, in Mangistau region, where maternal mortality decreased five times, in the city of Nur-Sultan, where the indicator decreased seven times, in Akmola - two times.

A significant deterioration of the situation was noted in the Kostanay region - an increase in the indicator by three times, in the Atyrau and East Kazakhstan regions.

Table 10. Maternal mortality (per 100,000 live births) in 2018-2019

Region	2018	2019
Akmola	35,9	17,9
Aktobe	5,1	4,9
Almaty	14,8	29,6
Atyrau	5,9	18,0
West Kazakhstan	7,6	7,6
Zhambyl	8,0	11,8
Karaganda	26,2	39,4
Kostanay	8,7	26,4
Kyzylorda	10,7	5,3
Mangystau	25,1	4,9
Pavlodar	8,5	0,0
North Kazakhstan	14,8	0,0
East Kazakhstan	14,0	23,4
Almaty city	8,9	11,0
Turkestan	10,3	9,1
Shymkent	19,6	7,5
Nur-Sultan	29,0	3,7
Kazakhstan	13,9	13,4

Source: MH RK

It is worth noting that, despite the fact that over the past 10 years, maternal mortality in Kazakhstan has decreased by 3.5 times, it is almost twice as high as in OECD countries..

The **infant mortality** rate in 2019 was **8.4** per 1,000 live births and increased according to official data relative to 2018 (in 2018 - 8.03 per 1,000 live births). However, it cannot be said that the indicator actually increased, since, as a result of the analysis of stillbirths initiated by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan in all regions in 2018, 277 cases of unaccounted early neonatal mortality (unaccounted live births) were identified in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Based on the analysis results, the infant mortality rate for 2018 was adjusted downward, which in fact amounted to 8.7 per 1,000 live births, instead of the official figure of 8.03.³⁶

Infant mortality over the past 10 years (2010-2019) tends to decrease and has almost halved: from 16.54 to 8.4 per 1,000 live births.

In the structure of causes of infant mortality **in 2019**, the leading conditions are those arising in the perinatal period - 54.7%, congenital malformations - 20.4%, infectious and parasitic diseases - 5.5%, respiratory diseases - 4.5% and diseases of the circulatory system - 4.2%.

The highest rates of infant mortality are noted in Atyrau (11.52), Kyzylorda (9.50), Kostanay (9.26), Mangystau (9.26), Zhambyl (9.12) regions and in Shymkent

³⁶ Report on the implementation of the strategic plan of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2017-2021,

<http://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/qyzmet/documents/details/14056?lang=ru>

(9, 40). The lowest are in Nur-Sultan city (6.07), Pavlodar (6.85) and West Kazakhstan (6.80) regions. Significant tendencies towards a decrease in this indicator cannot be noted in any of the regions..

Table 11. Infant mortality (up to 1 year) (per 1,000 live births) in 2018-2019

Regions	2018	2019
Akmola region	5,64	7,00
Aktobe region	8,66	9,86
Alma-Ata's region	6,98	7,35
Atyrau region	10,69	11,52
West Kazakhstan	6,61	6,80
Jambyl Region	7,39	9,12
Karaganda region	7,59	8,59
Kostanay region	10,30	9,26
Kyzylorda Region	9,09	9,50
Mangistau region	9,81	9,26
Pavlodar region	5,55	6,85
North Kazakhstan	10,81	9,13
Turkestan region	8,67	8,40
East Kazakhstan	7,99	8,29
Nur-Sultan	6,17	6,07
Almaty city	8,36	8,09
Shymkent	8,37	9,40
Kazakhstan	8,03	8,40

Source: MH RK

If we compare infant mortality in Kazakhstan with other countries, it can be noted that its coefficient in Kazakhstan is lower than in Central Asian countries, but higher than in OECD countries.

Table 12. Infant mortality in selected countries of the world

Country	Year	Infant mortality (per 1000 births)
Estonia	2014	2,44
Germany	2014	3,19
Belarus	2014	3,45
Denmark	2012	3,49
Latvia	2014	3,82
Great Britain	2013	3,94
OECD	2012	4,13
Hungary	2014	4,6
The EU	2014	5,06
Russia	2011	7,33
Bulgaria	2013	7,34
Ukraine	2014	7,85
Kazakhstan	2017	7,93
CIS	2014	9,34
Azerbaijan	2007	9,82

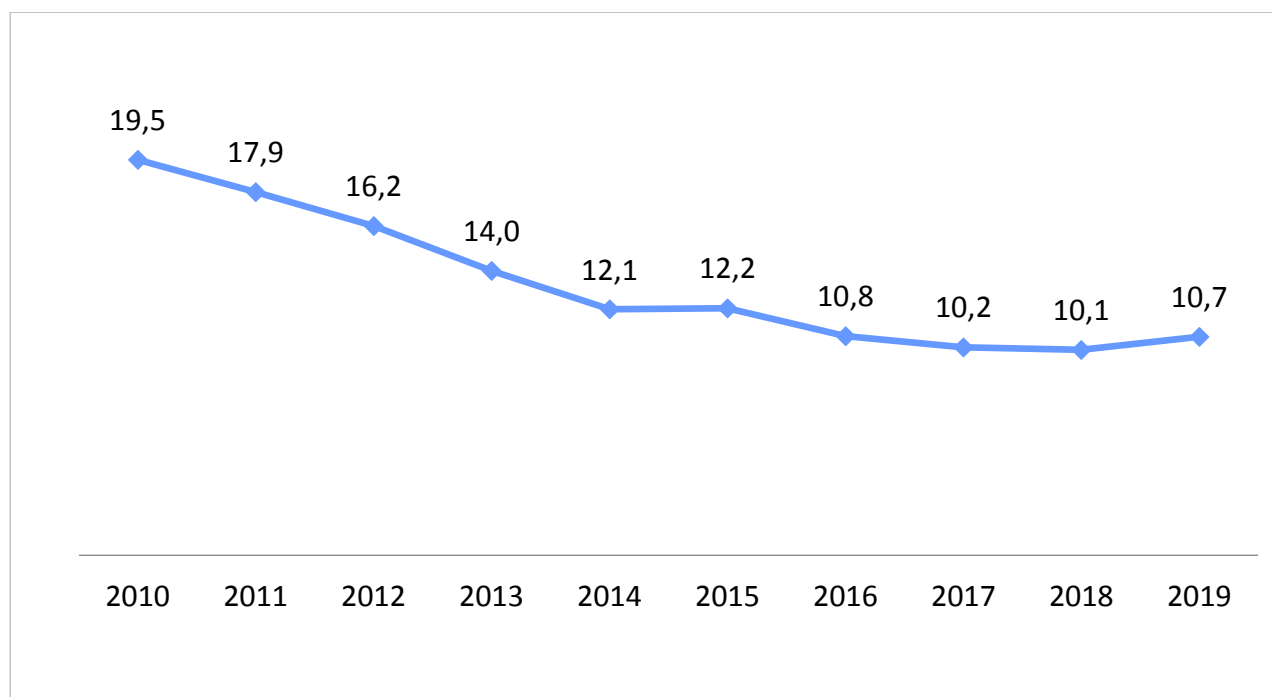
Country	Year	Infant mortality (per 1000 births)
Turkey	2013	10,08
Uzbekistan	2014	10,71
Tajikistan	2005	11,78
Kyrgyzstan	2013	19,88

Source: "Health of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the activities of healthcare organizations in 2017", Ministry of Health, Astana, 2018

Child mortality in 2019 was 10.75 cases per 1,000 births (2016 level). Until 2016, there was a significant decrease in the child mortality rate in the country: from 19.5 in 2010 to 10.8 per 1,000 births in 2016. But in the past three years, such positive dynamics have not been observed, the mortality rate remains in the range from 10.1 to 10.8, which is more than 3 times higher than the OECD indicators.

In 2019, the highest infant mortality rate is observed in Atyrau (13.3) and Kyzylorda (13.3) regions. The lowest infant mortality rate is in Akmola region (8.2), West-Kazakhstan (8.2), Pavlodar region (8.2) and in the city of Nur-Sultan - 7.7. In comparison with 2018, a slight improvement in the situation is noted only in the North-Kazakhstan region (a decrease from 13.0 to 11.4). In all other regions, compared with 2018, there is a tendency for a worsening.

Figure 43. Child mortality in Kazakhstan in 2010-2019.



Source: "Health of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the activities of healthcare organizations in 2017", Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Astana 2018, Department of Public Health Policy of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

* preliminary data for 2019

Table 13. Child mortality (per 1,000 live births) by region in 2018-2019

Region	2018	2019
Akmola	7,48	8,22
Aktobe	10,92	11,71
Almaty	9,4	9,98
Atyrau	12,68	13,39
West Kazakhstan	7,73	8,23
Zhambyl	9,63	11,88
Karaganda	9,11	10,76
Kostanay	11,52	11,44
Kyzylorda	12,56	13,32
Mangystau	11,86	11,78
Pavlodar	7,25	8,24
North Kazakhstan	13,07	11,44
Turkestan	11,69	11,85
East Kazakhstan	9,51	10,16
Nur-Sultan	7,44	7,77
Almaty city	9,86	9,69
Shymkent	10,22	11,61
Kazakhstan	10,11	10,75

Source: MH RK.

Thus, for all three basic indicators of mortality (maternal, infant and child), there is no stable positive dynamics, both in the country as a whole and in certain regions.

Among the regions of the country, the Pavlodar, West-Kazakhstan regions and the city of Nur-Sultan are relatively favorable in relation to all three indicators. Atyrau, Zhambyl, Kostanay and Turkestan regions look unfavorable against the general background.

There is no uniform dynamics in the data for the regions, if in some there is an improvement, then in others it is worsening, which may indicate the absence of a single systemic factor that would form the overall dynamics, and as a result, the regional situation plays a prevailing role. Then, an important task of public health policy is to develop measures that would lead to widespread positive changes.

In order to effectively reduce maternal mortality, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan approved and implemented the "Operational plan to reduce maternal mortality for 2019" (Order of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 27 dated January 29, 2019). The activities of this plan include staffing, material and technical equipment, standardization of medical care, digitalization and information work with patients and the public. It also defines key performance indicators for akims, heads of health departments and medical organizations.

Quite specific recommendations are contained in the UNICEF reports. According to this international organization, most of the deaths of children in

Kazakhstan can be prevented through the timely implementation of certain preventive and therapeutic measures.³⁷

“Investing in a week before and after childbirth will have a triple benefit: lower mortality, lower stillbirths and lower maternal mortality.”³⁸

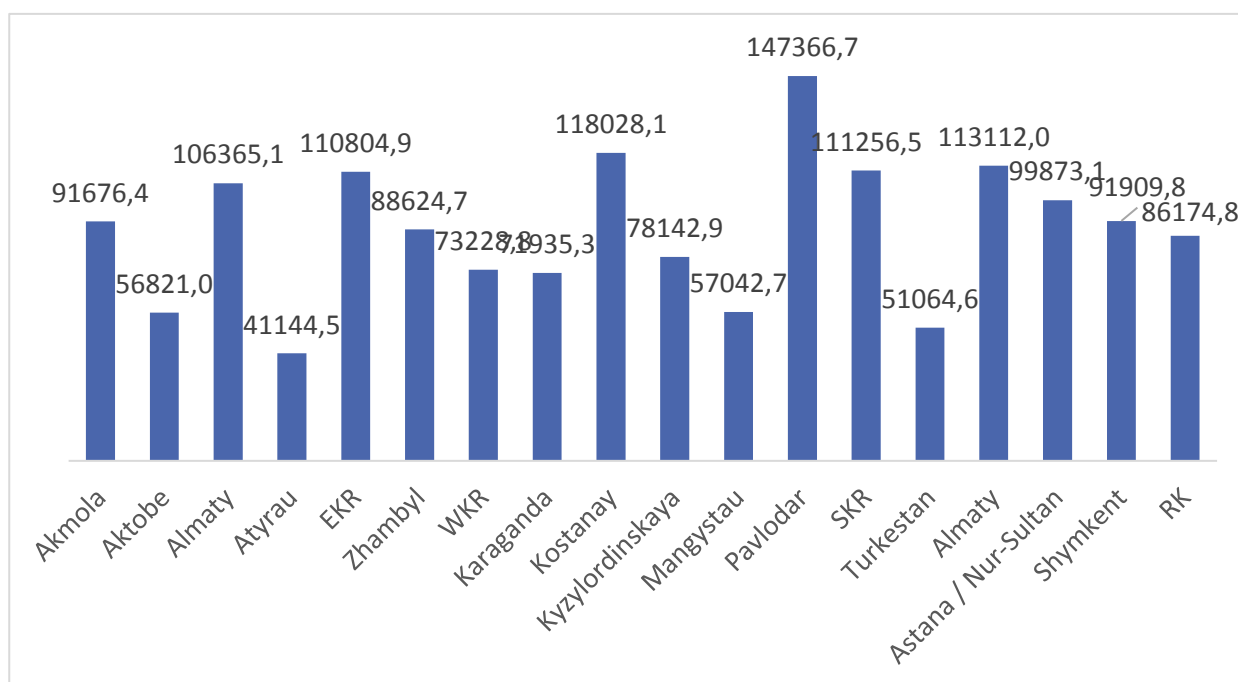
Primary health care can make a major contribution to reducing infant and child mortality in Kazakhstan, which includes outpatient visits, home visits and treatment of the most common diseases and injuries, and also covers issues of motherhood, fatherhood, childhood and family planning.

4.2. Morbidity in children

The **morbidity rate** of children from 0 to 14 years old with a first diagnosis in 2019 was 86,174.8 cases per 100,000 people of the corresponding age.

The highest rate is observed in Pavlodar, Kostanay regions and the city of Almaty, where the morbidity rate of children exceeds the national average by 31-71%

Figure 44. Morbidity in children ages 0 to 14, registered for the first time, per 100,000 of the corresponding population, 2019



Source: MH RK

The disease requiring increased attention today is **pediatric oncology**. Every year in Kazakhstan, on average, about 600 new cases of malignant neoplasms in children are detected. Of these, about 40% are leukemias and 60% are tumors. In 2019, 124 children were registered in oncological dispensaries, and by the ninth month of the

³⁷ Assessment of the impact of primary health care (PHC) on the reduction of infant and child mortality in 2000-2017. UNICEF 2019 <https://www.unicef.org/>

³⁸ UNICEF Health and Nutrition Coordinator, Kanat Sukhanberdiev

year, 1,726 children were registered. An increase in morbidity is noted, which is largely due to improved diagnostics.

The majority of children with cancer come from the southern regions. A high morbidity is also observed in Aktobe, Mangistau, West-Kazakhstan, North-Kazakhstan regions and the cities of Nur-Sultan and Almaty.

Table 14. Children (from 0 to 14 years old inclusive) who are registered in oncological dispensaries for 9 months of 2019

Region	Registered in the reporting year	Registered at the end of the reporting year
Akmola	9	75
Aktobe	1	77
Almaty	16	206
Atyrau	4	54
East Kazakhstan	13	113
Zhambyl	21	123
West Kazakhstan	5	73
Karaganda	3	98
Kyzylorda	3	79
Kostanay	5	64
Mangystau	17	83
Pavlodar	8	80
North Kazakhstan	4	56
Turkestan	6	129
Shymkent	3	36
Almaty city	6	196
Nur - Sultan	0	184
Kazakhstan	124	1726

Source: MH RK³⁹

There are two republican centers in the country: the Scientific Center for Pediatrics and Pediatric Surgery in Almaty and the National Scientific Center for Motherhood and Childhood in Nur-Sultan, where the diagnosis and treatment of children is free. On average, the state allocates about 10-12 million tenge for a course of therapy for one patient. In these two centers, about 5,000 children with malignant neoplasms are treated annually. Primary diagnostics are carried out in the regions, and intensive chemotherapy courses are carried out in republican centers.

The fight against cancer is one of the priority key areas of social policy in Kazakhstan. Since 2018, the Comprehensive Plan for Combating Cancer for 2018-2021, approved by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, has been implemented.⁴⁰

³⁹ At the time of the preparation of the report, the data of the Ministry of Health were provided for 9 months of 2019.

⁴⁰ <https://strategy2050.kz/ru/news/52788/>

Special emphasis in the prevention of oncological diseases among children, as well as in issues related to infant, child and maternal mortality, must be placed on primary health care, which will provide high-quality prevention, early detection of diseases. The comprehensive plan provides annually additional financing in the amount of 8 billion tenge to expand services within the guaranteed volume of free medical care: screenings, molecular genetic testing, radiation diagnostics services. It is expected that such measures will improve the rates of not only early diagnosis, but also reduce the death rate of children from cancer.

4.3. Healthy Lifestyle

A healthy lifestyle is extremely important for a child's development, well-being, both physically and mentally, and includes regular and healthy eating and exercise.

According to the results of a survey of the country's children, 81% of children who always eat three times a day or more often gave the highest assessment of their health level - five points out of the proposed five. Among children who “never” adhere to such a meal schedule, 64.1% rated their health highly.

Table 15. Health and nutrition assessment (%)

Assess your health status on a 5-point scale	Do you eat three times or more every day?				Average
	Always	Not always	Never	Don't know or N/A	
1	0,3	0,4	2,2	2,0	0,4
2	0,2	1,4	3,3	2,5	0,6
3	2,7	9,3	10,4	15,8	4,6
4	15,9	30,2	20,0	27,8	19,4
5	80,9	58,7	64,1	51,9	75,1
Number (N)	40 882	12 577	1 389	748	55 596

It can also be noted that children and adolescents who attend clubs and sections are more likely to rate their health by five points - 79.6%, in comparison with children who do not attend them - 66.5%.

Table 16. Assessment of health status and attendance of hobby groups, sports (%)

Assess your health status on a 5-point scale	Do you attend hobby groups, sports?	
	Yes	No
1	0,2	0,6
2	0,4	1,0
3	3,1	7,3
4	16,7	24,5
5	79,6	66,5

Research from the University of British Columbia suggests that extracurricular activities make children feel better connected to their peers, which is beneficial for their psychological health.⁴¹

A study carried out among children in Kazakhstan also confirms a positive relationship between the participation of children and adolescents in clubs and sports clubs and their well-being. It can be noted that children who attend clubs and sports sections more often feel happy (78.7%), energetic (70.3%), rested (53.6%), that their everyday life is interesting to them (77.9 %) and that their peers accept them (77.6%).

Thus, there is a direct connection between the quality of nutrition, activity, the presence of hobbies in children and their subjective assessment of their own health, attitude to life. This indicates the ability to regulate the physical and psychological health of children through environmental conditions, the creation of a variety of accessible ways for an active lifestyle for children and good nutrition. This approach requires comprehensive measures, which include, as preventive measures, the creation of an information field that contributes to the formation of healthy eating habits, including regular nutrition, as well as measures aimed at ensuring the availability of leisure, sports, and developmental activities for children.

4.4. Child nutrition safety in educational institutions

In the 2018-2019 academic year, specialists in the field of quality control and safety of goods and services of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan checked more than 4 thousand catering units of educational organizations. According to the results of inspections, 3,871 orders were issued on the imposition of administrative punishments in the form of fines in the total amount of 97,871,691 tenge against the perpetrators, 3,593 orders were issued to eliminate violations of legislation in the field of sanitary and epidemiological welfare of the population, 25 cases were transferred to the court, suspended from the work of 347 persons. 85 contracts with food service providers terminated.

In order to strengthen control over catering in educational institutions, on behalf of the Committee for Quality Control and Safety of Goods and Services of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, between education departments, territorial divisions of the Committee and entrepreneurs providing catering services in educational institutions, tripartite memorandums are concluded to ensure the safety of students' health, preventing mass poisoning among children.

As part of the School Canteens project, which provides for the participation of the parent community in the control of school meals, work is underway with the parent committee and the education department to organize unscheduled inspections of school catering units on initiative requests, to determine a single supplier of raw materials for school catering units. The Committee for Quality Control and Safety of Goods and

⁴¹«Journal of Youth and Adolescence», University of British Columbia. <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-08-kids-team-based-extracurricular-mental-health.html>

Services of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan monitors the implementation of the Uniform standards for the diet of schoolchildren (4-week menus of dishes for organizing meals for schoolchildren in general educational organizations), developed by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan. To date, the Unified Food Standards have been introduced in 4,516 educational institutions.

4.5. The problem of alcoholism and drug addiction among minors

According to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in 2019, 185 minors with alcohol and 101 minors with drug addiction were registered on drug addiction.

In general, since 2010, the number of children in this category has been steadily decreasing - in 2019, 3.1 per 100 thousand of the child population for alcoholism and 1.7 per 100 thousand for drug addiction.

Table 17. The minors suffering from alcoholism and drug addiction

Type of addiction	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Alcoholism	7741	4167	3267	2195	1426	749	515	346	253	185
Per 100 thousand children *	161,2	84,4	78,6	43,6	27,6	14,1	9,4	6,1	4,6	3,1
Drug addiction	843	2649	463	421	304	362	159	156	133	101
Per 100 thousand children*	18,2	53,7	11,1	8,3	5,9	6,8	2,9	2,9	2,4	1,7

Source: Ministry of Health. * Calculations of the Sange Research Center according to the data of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Statistics Committee of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

An alarming situation is in the North Kazakhstan, East Kazakhstan, Pavlodar, Kostanay regions, where the highest rates for child alcoholism - the alcoholism indicator in these regions exceeds the national average by several times. In West Kazakhstan, North Kazakhstan and Nur-Sultan, the largest number of children are drug addiction (5.2-8.8 per 100 thousand children with an average of 1.7 in the country).

Table 18. Juvenile patients with alcohol and drug addiction registered as having an addiction by regions

Region	Alcoholism		Drug addiction	
	N	per 100 thousand children	N	per 100 thousand children
Akmola region	7	3,4	3	1,5
Aktobe region	5	1,8	5	1,8
Alma-Ata's region	8	1,1	2	0,3
Atyrau region	-		1	0,4
West Kazakhstan	7	3,6	17	8,8
Jambyl Region	11	2,6	2	0,5
Karaganda region	1	0,3	7	1,9
Kostanay region	16	7,7	6	2,9
Kyzylorda Region	-		1	0,3
Mangistau region	3	1,1	2	0,8
Pavlodar region	27	13,7	1	0,5
North Kazakhstan	24	17,7	7	5,2
East Kazakhstan	55	15,2	9	2,5
Almaty city	-		10	2,1
Turkestan region	-		-	
Shymkent	-		-	
Nur-Sultan	20	5,8	28	8,1
Kazakhstan	185	3,1	101	1,7

Source: Ministry of Health. * Calculations of the Sange Research Center according to the data of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Statistics Committee of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The number of minors with alcohol and drug addiction is declining, but, nevertheless, 4% of children 12-17 years old, according to the results of a sociological survey, consider the use of strong alcoholic beverages permissible and 6.9% - the use of beer. In such regions as East-Kazakhstan, Karaganda, Kostanay regions and in Nur-Sultan, these indicators are higher than the national average.

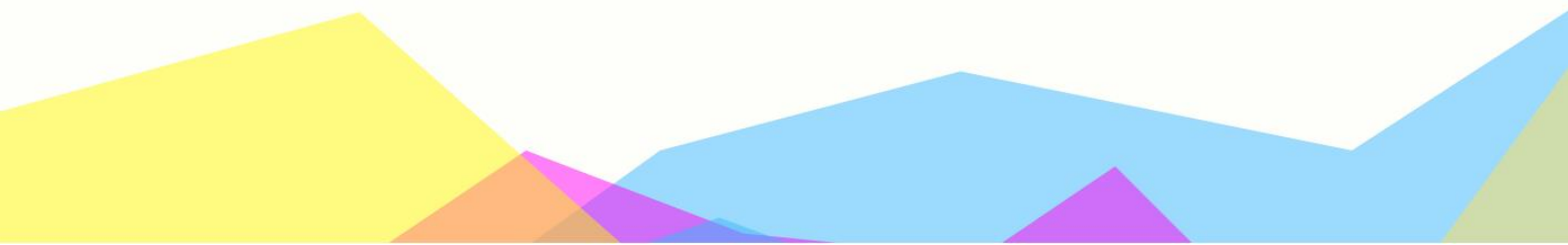
The use of 'weak' drugs was noted as permissible by 1.8%, stronger drugs - by 0.7% of the surveyed children 12-17 years old. It should be noted that in East-Kazakhstan, West-Kazakhstan regions, Almaty and Nur-Sultan cities, the share of children who consider it permissible to use soft drugs is more than 3%, and 1.5% or more – feel the same about the hard drugs.

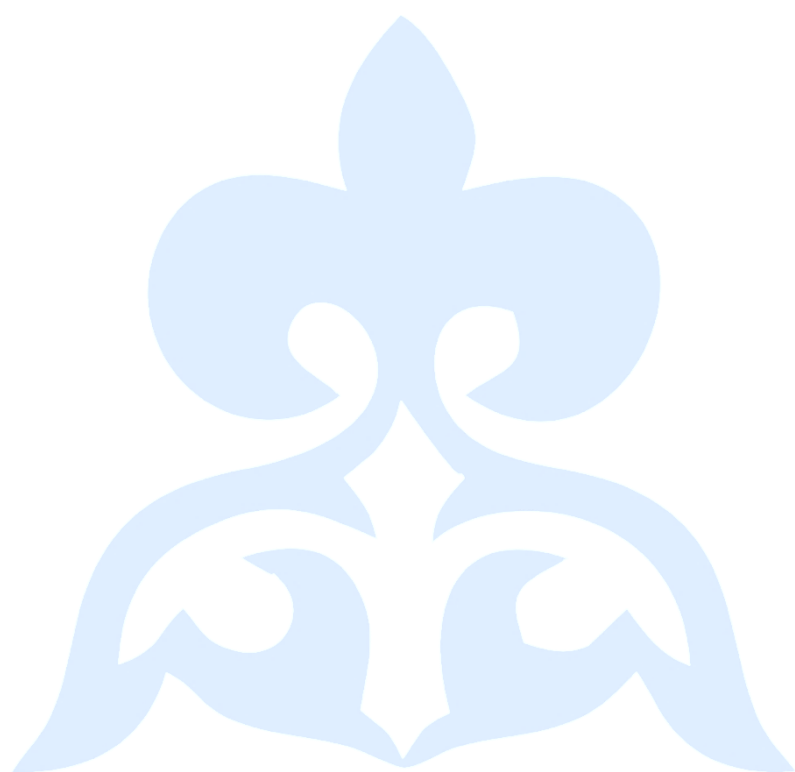
Table 19. According to the sociological survey (children 12-17 years old), %

	Drink beer	Drink strong alcoholic drinks	Use “weak” illegal substances, weed	Use “strong” illegal substances
Akmola	4,7	2,5	0,4	0,7
Aktobe	8,6	6,0	1,9	1,5
Almaty	4,9	2,3	1,6	0,0
Atyrau	3,3	0,8	0,4	0,4
East Kazakhstan	14,8	8,7	4,1	0,0
Zhambyl	2,5	0,4	1,2	0,0
West Kazakhstan	4,8	4,3	3,1	2,2
Karaganda	12,8	7,5	2,7	0,4
Kostanay	12,2	7,5	1,9	1,1
Kyzylorda	0,4	0,4	1,1	0,4
Mangystau	3,9	2,8	0,7	0,0
Pavlodar	7,1	2,8	2,0	0,4
North Kazakhstan	8,0	3,4	1,7	0,4
Turkestan	4,0	1,1	1,1	1,1
Shymkent	5,9	1,6	1,2	0,4
Almaty city	15,6	11,8	3,1	1,6
Nur-Sultan	5,9	5,1	3,3	1,5
Kazakhstan	6,9	4,0	1,8	0,7



CHAPTER 5
SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN
AND
FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN





CHAPTER 5. SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

5.1. The system of social protection and support for families with children and its effectiveness

The most important social task of the state is the protection of motherhood, fatherhood and childhood. Children and families with children are traditionally one of the key groups of social policy, which is conditioned not only by general humanitarian issues, but also by the need to invest in the human capital of children for the further development of the country, because it has been repeatedly proven that the standard of living, quality of nutrition, health and education in childhood significantly affect the social and economic potential of a person.

The state policy of support for families, motherhood and childhood includes measures aimed at increasing material and intangible resources of the family, primarily in order to stimulate the birth of children and improve the quality of life in the family. The main measures of social protection for citizens with children include the payment of state benefits in connection with the birth and upbringing of children, the loss of work or the ability to work of the head of the family, the absence of one of the parents. Social protection of children is one of the priority directions of the state policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. This is a whole range of measures aimed at developing a full-fledged personality, in order to neutralize negative factors and create favorable conditions for the child. An important component of the child's social protection is the payment of social benefits.

5.1.1. Help for families with children

The system of child and maternal benefits and payments includes lump-sum payments in connection with the birth of a child, social benefits for pregnancy and childbirth (for those mothers who worked before the birth of a baby) and monthly childcare benefits for up to a year for those mothers who are not worked, as well as benefits for mothers with many children and benefits for low-income families.

In Kazakhstan, a unified system of payments of social benefits in connection with the birth of a child, care for him and his upbringing is carried out in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On State Benefits to Families with Children" dated June 28, 2005.

Picture 4. The system of child and maternity benefits and payments in the Republic of Kazakhstan

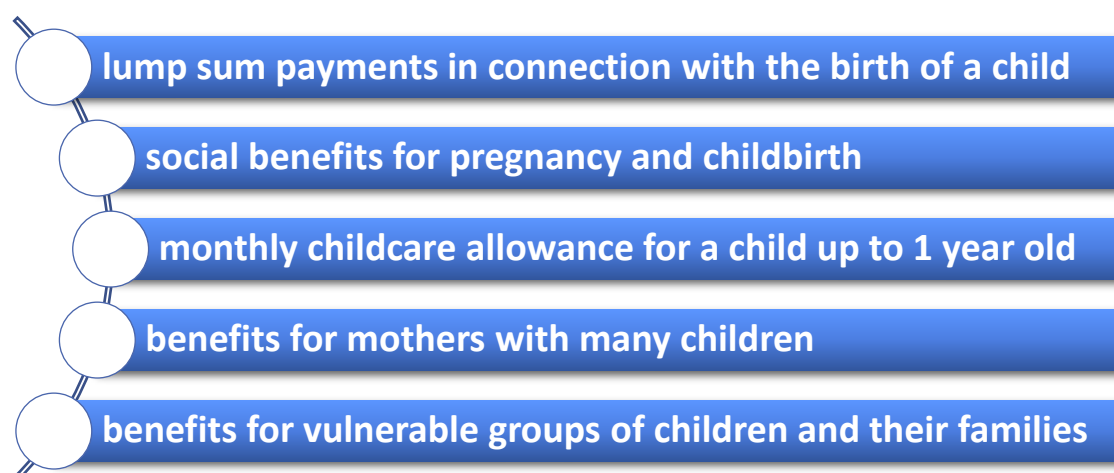


Table 20. Social support of a family at the birth of a child

Benefit/payment	Sum	Beneficiary
lump-sum maternity benefit	95,950 tenge for the first, second and third child 159,075 tenge for the fourth and more children	All mothers
monthly social payments from the State Social Insurance Fund in case of loss of income in connection with caring for a child upon reaching one year of age	in the amount of 40% of the average monthly income for the last two years before the birth of a child, the amount of monthly payments cannot be less than 29,698 tenge (one SL) and cannot exceed 118,792 tenge (four SLs).	Working mothers
monthly state allowance for caring for a child upon reaching one year of age.	The amount of payments depends on how many children a woman gave birth to: ✓ For the first child – 14,544 tenge; ✓ For the second – 17,196 tenge; ✓ For the third – 19,821 tenge; ✓ For the fourth and more – 22,473 tenge.	Unemployed mothers
lump-sum social benefit for pregnancy and childbirth due to loss of income	in the amount of 4.2 average monthly income of a woman for the last 12 months (maternity benefit).	Working mothers

The right to receive state benefits in connection with the birth and upbringing of a child are persons subject to compulsory social insurance in case of temporary disability and in connection with maternity (working citizens), and not subject to this type of insurance (non-working citizens). Several types of child benefits are paid to families at the birth of a child (see table above).

Working mothers, in accordance with Article 99 of the Labor Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan, are granted maternity leave, which is 126 days (70 calendar days before childbirth and 56 calendar days after childbirth). In the case of complicated childbirth or the birth of two or more children, it increases by another 14 days. During the period of the mother's parental leave, the state additionally makes mandatory pension contributions to the UNPF for her, in conjunction with the contributions calculated from social payments at the level of her transfers before going on maternity leave.⁴²

5.1.2. Coverage of benefits and social benefits in connection with the birth of a child

Social support for families with children is extremely important for Kazakhstanis. According to UNICEF research, the risk of falling into poverty increases significantly with the birth of a child.⁴³

PAYMENT FOR BIRTH OF A CHILD. Childbirth allowance is paid to absolutely all women, regardless of employment status. In 2019, 400 thousand people received childbirth allowance, and the amount of payments amounted to more than 43.8 billion tenge. The largest number of recipients is observed in the most densely populated regions of the country: Turkestan and Almaty regions, where more than 30 thousand people received benefits.

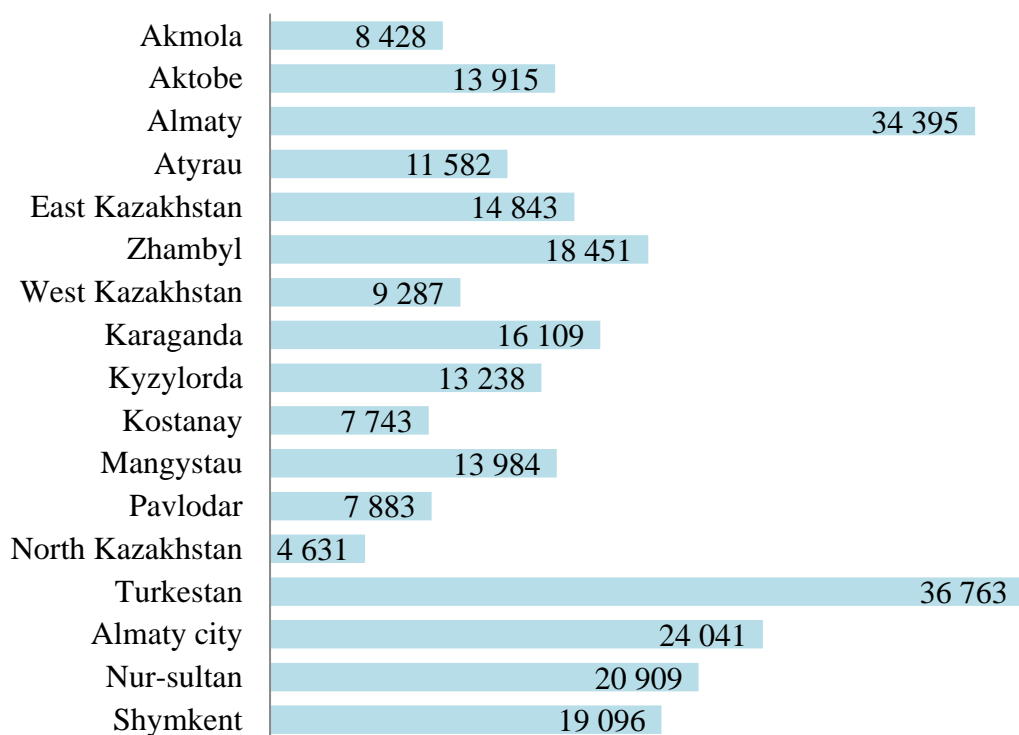
The amount of the allowance for the first, second and third child increased from 91 390 tenge in 2018 to 95 950 tenge in 2019, for the fourth and more children, respectively, from 151 515 tenge to 159 075 tenge. Thus, the increase in the amount of the benefit amounted to 5.0% (with an inflation rate of 5.4% in 2018). According to the Ministry of Labor, over the past 3 years, the amount of this benefit has increased by 38%. But here it should be borne in mind that for the period 2016-2018. cumulative inflation rate was 29.0%⁴⁴.

⁴² <https://ru.sputniknews.kz/society/20190619/10603247/posobiya-rebenok-ukhod-mintruda-komentariy.html>

⁴³ UNICEF, "Analysis of the situation of children in the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2019"

⁴⁴ Calculated on the basis of inflation data of the SC MNE RK

Figure 45. Number of recipients of childbirth allowance by region, January-September 2019

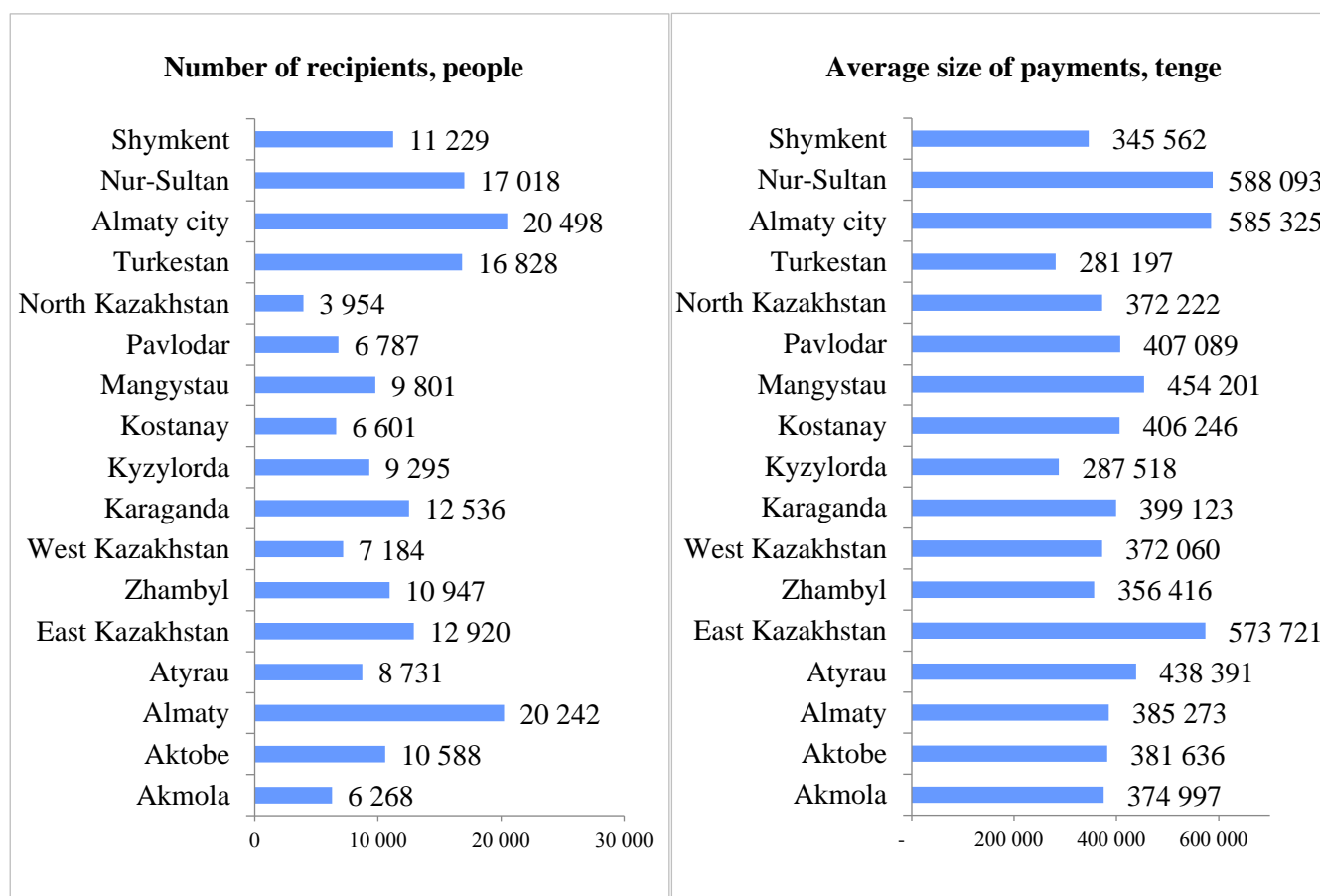


Source: Operational data by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan

SOCIAL PAYMENTS IN CASE OF LOSS OF INCOME DUE TO PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH (*employed women*). In 2019, more than 191.4 thousand women received social benefits in case of loss of income due to pregnancy and childbirth. The total amount of social payments amounted to 77.5 billion tenge. The largest share of recipients lives in the cities of Almaty, Nur-Sultan and Almaty region.

The average size of nominal social payments amounted to 428,325 tenge, which is 7% more than in the previous year, and with an inflation rate of 5.4%, we can say that the growth in payments is very small. In the cities of Nur-Sultan, Almaty, as well as in the East Kazakhstan region, the highest average indicators are noted, where the amount of one-time payments amounted to more than 500 thousand tenge, the lowest payments are observed in the Turkestan and Kyzylorda regions.

Figure 46. The number of recipients and the average size of payments in case of loss of income due to pregnancy and childbirth from the State Social Insurance Fund (SSIF), 2019

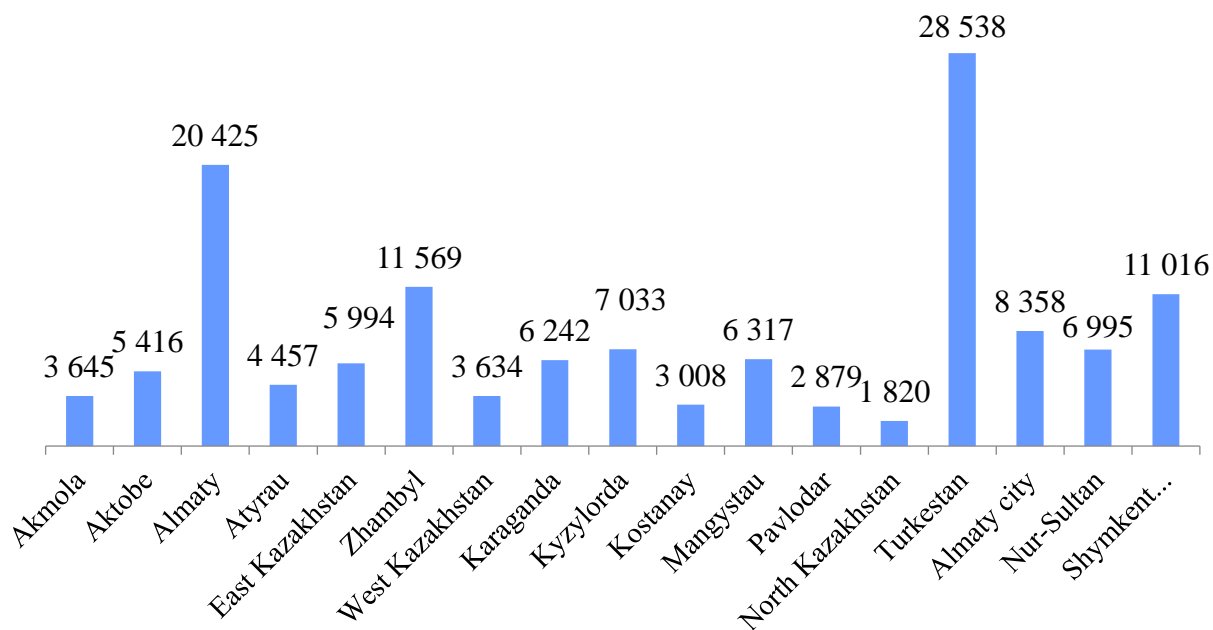


Source: According to operational data of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan

CHILD CARE UNDER ONE YEARS (FOR UNEMPLOYED WOMEN). The state guarantees monthly social benefits for caring for a child up to 1 year old to all women, even those who did not work.

In 2019, childcare benefits for up to a year covered more than 138 thousand people with a total amount of payments of over 34.7 billion tenge. The amount of the allowance varies from 14,544 tenge (0.49 of the subsistence minimum) to 22,473 tenge (0.76 of the subsistence minimum). To determine the amount of the monthly allowance for the care of the second child and subsequent children, the previous children born (adopted) by the mother of this child are taken into account. The largest burden on the budget for the payment of benefits for non-working women falls on the regions: Turkestan (70% of all women who received benefits or social benefits for childcare under one year in this region), Almaty (58%), Zhambyl (59%) regions, as well as Shymkent city (58%).

Figure 47. Number of recipients of childcare benefits under one year of age, 2019

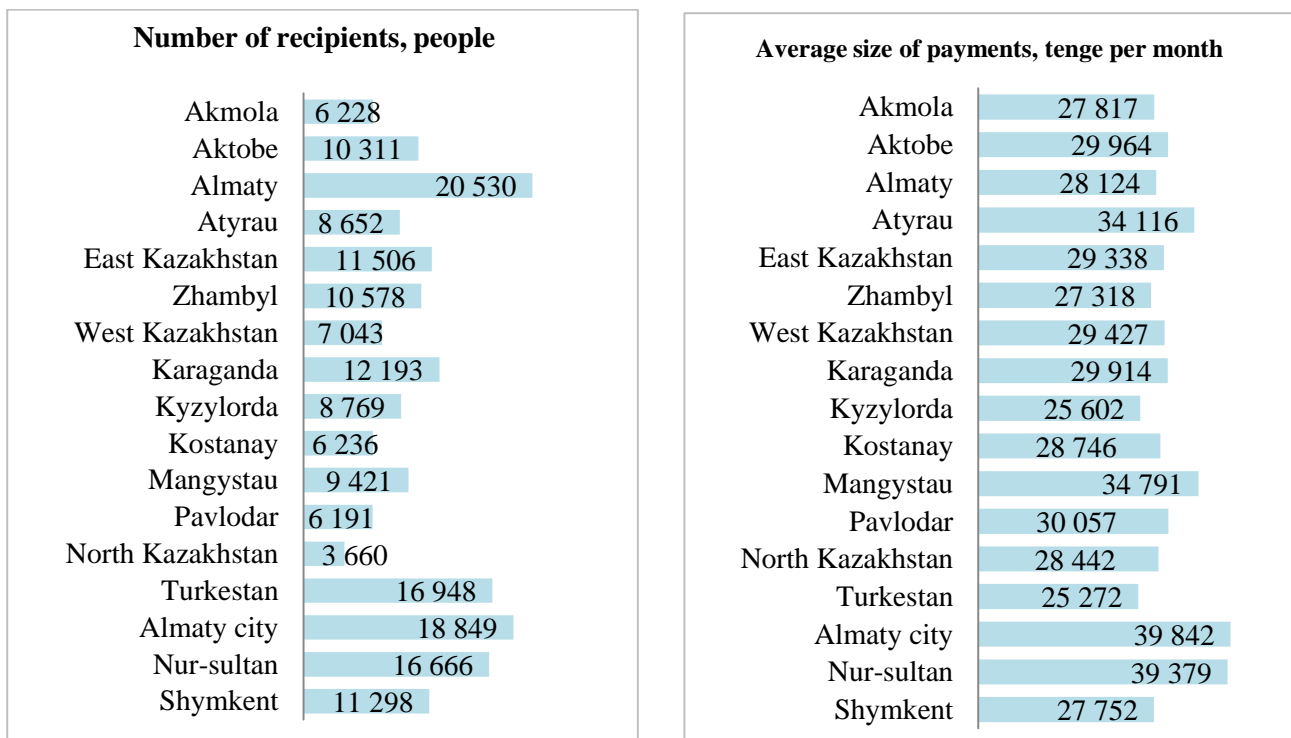


Source: According to operational data of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan

MONTHLY SOCIAL BENEFITS IN CASE OF LOSS OF INCOME IN CONNECTION WITH CARE OF A CHILD AFTER THEY REACH ONE YEAR (*employed women*). In 2019, 434 thousand people received payments for employed women in case of loss of income due to caring for a child under one year old. The average amount of the payment was 30,878 tenge. In 2019, 89.1 billion were allocated from the Social Insurance Fund for social payments in connection with the care and upbringing of a child under one year old. The largest share of working women (of all women who received benefits or social benefits for caring for a child under one year old) live in Almaty (64%), Nur-Sultan (65%) and Almaty region (63%).

In the regional context, there are differences, where the highest rates are in the cities of Almaty (39,842 tenge) and Nur-Sultan (39,379 tenge). It should be noted that in the southern regions the average amount of social payments is less than in other regions of Kazakhstan (Kyzylorda, Turkestan), which indicates low wages for women in these regions compared to others.

Figure 48. The number of recipients of social benefits for childcare under one year old from the SSIF by regions, 2019



Source: Operational data of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Despite the fact that the amount of benefits and payments for child care is increasing every year, this increase for the most part only covers the inflation rate. In fact, the amounts of social benefits and payments are not sufficient, since they do not even cover the subsistence minimum for two people (mother and child). The state needs to create more favorable conditions for families with children, especially in the first years of a child's life, when mothers are unable to start working. It should be borne in mind that a woman is forced to sit with a child until the age when he can be taken to kindergarten. And during this period, the load on the family budget grows significantly.

5.1.3. Support for large families

In Kazakhstan, a large family is considered to be a family in which four or more minor children live together. Today, according to the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan, there are 346 thousand large families in the country with almost 1.5 million children.⁴⁵

Sustainable growth of the state is unattainable without vigorous measures of social protection of large families, at least guaranteeing all those in need of basic social security by establishing a legislatively fixed minimum level, and gradually expanding the coverage and amount of the corresponding benefits.

⁴⁵ https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/posobie-dlya-vseh-mnogodetnyih-cto-izmenitsya-380944/

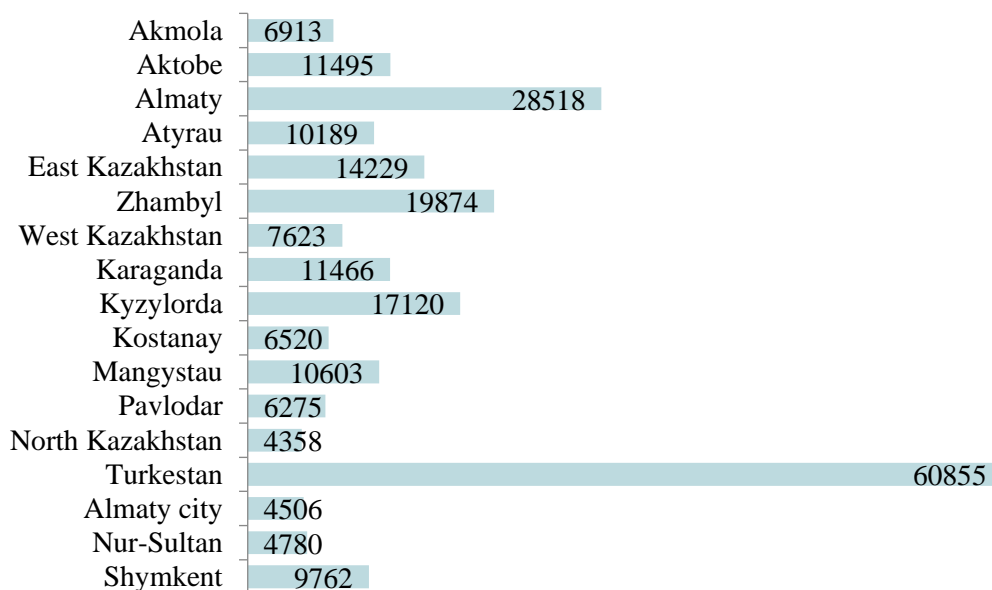
According to UNICEF research, in 2017 in Kazakhstan, only 1.3% of families with one child had an income below the subsistence level, while among large families, 19.6% had an extremely low income. Such a colossal difference proves once again the need for social support for families with many children.

SOCIAL BENEFITS FOR MOTHERS WITH MANY CHILDREN

Each mother of many children who has been awarded the pendants "Altyn alka" and "Kumis alka" or who has previously received the title of "mother heroine", awarded the orders of "maternal glory" I and II degrees, is paid a monthly state allowance, which is lifetime and assigned regardless of income. The amount of the benefit in 2019 was 16 160 tenge (6.4 MCI). In 2019, more than 45.7 billion tenge was paid, the total number of recipients was 235 thousand mothers. In total, there are 3,151 families in Kazakhstan with more than 7 children.

26% of mothers with many children who were awarded the "Altyn alka" and "Kumis alka" pendants or who received the title of "mother heroine" earlier, were awarded the orders of "maternal glory" I and II degrees, live in the Turkestan region (more than 60 thousand women), 12 more % lives in the Almaty region.

Figure 49. Number of benefit recipients (mothers of large families awarded orders), by region, January-September, 2019.



Source: Operational data of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan

SPECIAL STATE ALLOWANCE FOR LARGE FAMILIES

For mothers with many children who received the status of large families before January 1, 2018, a special state allowance was paid. Its size was 10,504 tenge in 2019 (35% of the subsistence minimum), regardless of the number of children in the family.

For 9 months of 2019, more than 255 thousand families received this type of benefit in the amount of 24.2 billion tenge⁴⁶. From January 1, 2019, for mothers with many children who received the status of large families after January 1, 2019, this type of benefit was canceled.

Despite notable progress over the past decades, many large families suffer from poverty, social exclusion and lack of access to essential goods and services. The number of children and the amount of benefits paid affect children particularly hard, irreversibly undermining their mental and physical development and well-being.

In 2019, the issue of supporting large families became especially acute due to the difficult situation (about 20% of such families are below the poverty line). The authorities need to take a wide range of measures that will have a positive impact on the well-being of children, and in this regard, the development of social cash transfer programs in the country deserves special attention. In this regard, since 2020, a special allowance has been introduced for large families, which is paid to all families with four or more minor children, regardless of income level.

OTHER SUPPORT FOR LARGE FAMILIES

In addition to benefits, the state provides mothers with many children a number of benefits, including tax breaks. They are exempt from transport tax (one vehicle); on land plots occupied by the housing stock, including buildings and structures with it; adjoining land plot; from property taxes within 1000 times the MCI of the total value of all taxable items that are on the right of ownership.

Due to the fact that the housing issue is acute for large families, amendments to a number of legislative acts were adopted in 2019, including the Law on Housing Relations, according to which a separate queue will be formed for large families.

As of April 1, 2019, the number of large families in the queue for housing was 31,725. According to the developed program, in order to provide large families with rental housing under the Nurly Zher program, funds in the amount of 50 billion tenge will be allocated annually, due to which it is planned to allocate annually at least 6,000 apartments. In addition, the legislation introduced the concept of "rental housing without the right to purchase", which will ensure the direct and targeted allocation of funds for solving the housing problems of families with many children.

5.1.4. Support for children from low-income families

In order to support the category of citizens whose incomes do not even allow them to feed their families, not to mention other needs, the state provides for various types of material assistance, such as targeted social assistance, housing assistance, and others. In 2018, the system of targeted social assistance (to poor families) was improved and combined the three existing social benefits for low-income families: special benefits for families with four or more children, benefits for children under 18,

⁴⁶ <https://informburo.kz/cards/mnogodetnye-semi-v-kazahstane-vsyo-o-posobiyah-ocheredyah-na-zhilyo-i-socialnoy-pomoshchi-.html>

and targeted assistance to families with incomes below 50% from the level of the subsistence minimum (previously 40%).

Depending on the social status of a family or an individual, targeted social assistance is currently divided into two types: **unconditional and conditional**.

As of January 2020, unconditional financial assistance was provided to 77,173 families with an average of 13,464 tenge. A total of 253,200 people received assistance, of which most recipients are in Turkestan (37,911 people) and in Almaty oblasts (32,655 people). Interestingly, for 9 months of 2019, 30% of the residents of the Turkestan region received TSA and only 4% of the population of the North Kazakhstan.

Table 21. Types of targeted social assistance

Unconditional assistance		Conditional assistance
Lonely and (or) living alone low-income, if they:	Low-income families if family members:	– lonely and / or lonely living low-income able-bodied persons
– Pensioners	– disabled people of the first and / or second group	– low-income families, which include an able-bodied family member (if he participates in employment promotion measures)
– disabled people of the first and / or second groups	– suffer from a disease (period of temporary incapacity for work over two months)	
– suffer from a disease (period of temporary incapacity for work over two months)	– caring for a child under the age of seven; disabled child; disabled person of the first or second group; the elderly; in need of outside care and assistance	

According to a study conducted by Sange RC in January 2019, many families in need were unable to receive benefits because benefits were calculated based on disability benefits, pensions, and the income of those with whom the family lived (even if it rented this housing and had a separate budget), in addition, travel and benefit processing costs were high, and the amount of benefit was low.

From April 1, 2019, changes were made in the amount, as well as in the conditions for the payment of this type of social assistance. TSA is issued if the family's average per capita income does not exceed 70 percent of the subsistence minimum (20,789 tenge per person). Only close relatives should be taken into account in the family: parents, children, adoptive parents (adoptive parents), adopted children (adopted), full and half brothers and sisters, grandfather, grandmother and grandchildren. According to the new mechanism, targeted social assistance is paid to children under 18 years old, and subject to full-time education in organizations of secondary, technical and vocational, post-secondary, higher and postgraduate

education after they reach the age of majority until the time of graduation from educational organizations (but no more than before reaching 23- years old)⁴⁷.

On average, as of January 1, 2020, unconditional financial assistance was assigned to 2,177,200 citizens at 12,188 tenge per month ⁴⁸, as of January 1, 2019, it was assigned to 571,600 citizens at 4,834 tenge on average monthly. Thus, 2,177.2 thousand poor in relation to 18,632.2 thousand of the total population of Kazakhstan give 11.6% of the poor, which is 4.5% higher than the estimates of the Constitutional Court of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, almost 2.6 times. State social assistance is distributed between residents of rural and urban areas in the proportion of 53.7: 46.3 (almost half to half), while according to the Committee on Statistics, the poverty rate in rural areas is 6.4%, and in urban areas - 2.7%, that is, it differs by 2.4 times.

Another form of assistance is unconditional (BDP) and conditional cash (CCT) assistance. The first was assigned to 253.2 thousand people with an average size of 13 464 tenge, and the second - 1 924.4 thousand people with an average size of 11 964 tenge. It is known that unconditional care is usually provided to mothers

with young children who do not have the opportunity to work, and conditioned - mothers with many children. Unfortunately, the MLSPP does not provide a breakdown by categories of recipients, nor does it provide estimates of the effectiveness of this assistance. However, judging by the fact that the level of poverty is increasing, both according to the Committee on Statistics and the MLSPP, its effectiveness remains questionable.

It should be noted that rural areas have a higher level of poverty. At the same time, it is more difficult for villagers to receive social support from the state, since the application process is complicated and costly for them (primarily due to the fact that potential recipients have to travel to the district center to apply). In addition, in order to receive assistance, family members are forced to study or work in workplaces offered by employment centers, which is especially difficult for single mothers in case of unavailability or high cost of kindergartens or other options for childcare.⁴⁹

At the same time, I would like to note that poverty is a complex and multifaceted category, it is difficult to solve it only by paying benefits. A set of measures is needed here, which would include not only cash benefits, housing assistance (for example, in the form of providing free rental housing to vulnerable families with children), but also support in finding a job, paperwork, assistance in caring for a child, education. professional skills, entrepreneurial skills so that the family can further improve their financial condition on their own.

⁴⁷ <https://24.kz/ru/news/polezno-znat/item/305196-chto-nuzhno-znat-ob-adresnoj-sotsialnoj-pomoshchi>

⁴⁸ Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of Kazakhstan <http://enbek.gov.kz/ru/node/365862>

⁴⁹ UNICEF, "Analysis of the situation of children in the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2019"

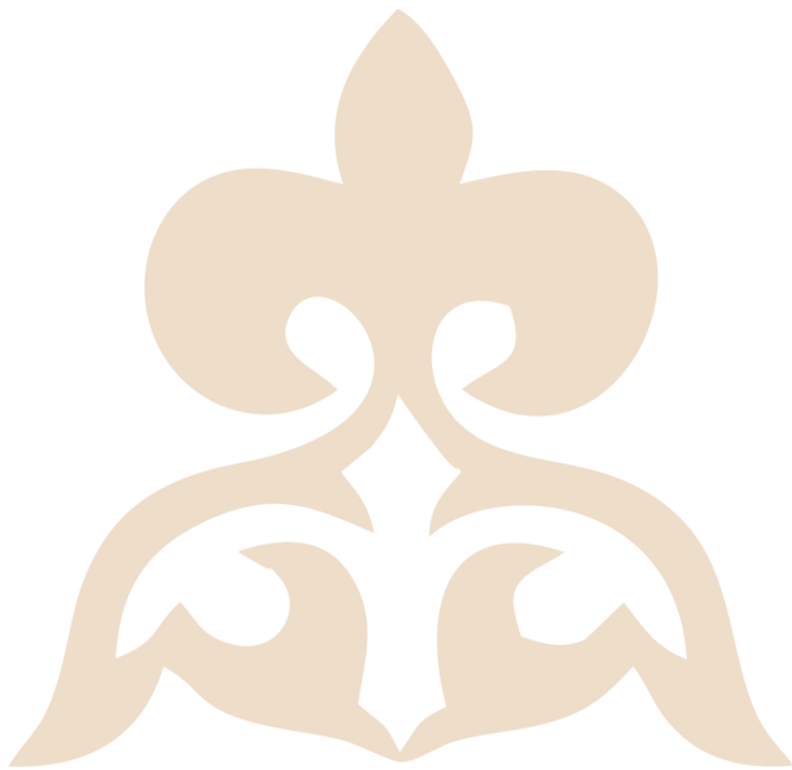




CHAPTER 6

SAFETY OF CHILDREN





Chapter 6. Safety of children

The strategic goal of Kazakhstan is to enter 30 world developed countries by 2050, for which effective steps should be taken at the moment. Kazakhstan, as an advocate of children's rights protection, undertakes to create a comfortable and safe environment for every child in the country.

Despite the improvement of the legal framework, the ongoing preventive work, violence against children still occurs, and often the term “violence” is associated with adults only with causing serious bodily harm, and “spanking”, verbal abuse and humiliation, psychological pressure are not considered violence, but only by educational measures.

According to the study "Violence against children in families in Kazakhstan" (UNICEF, Kazakhstan), 75.4% of adults, 46.1% of employees in the field of child protection and justice, as well as 54.8% of the media support the use of corporal punishment in families. Often, parents resort to cruel measures because they do not know alternative ways to punish their children or do not have the time and patience to raise their children. In schools, children and adolescents can be victims of bullying, which can take many forms and have a number of negative consequences for well-being.⁵⁰

6.1. Child safety in educational institutions

According to the UN Report, one in ten schoolchildren in the world are exposed to school violence, and this figure is growing every year.⁵¹

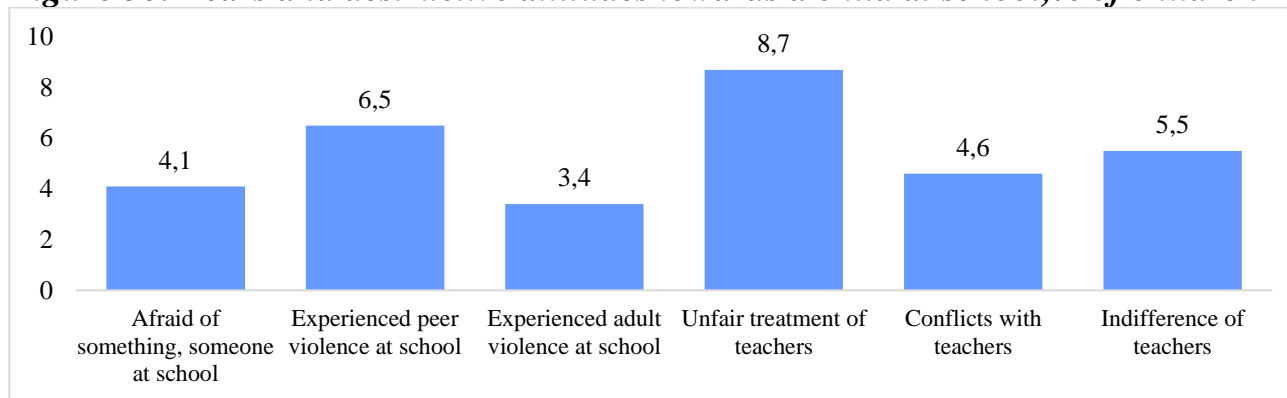
According to the results of a sociological survey conducted in the framework of this study, 4.1% of children note that they are afraid of something / someone at school. By sending a child to school, each parent hopes that certain rules of behavior have been adopted in the school where there are teachers, and that there is a model for protecting the child from any type of violence. But, as the survey shows, for some of the children, fears and fears have turned into a real plane. Thus, 6.5% of children say that they experience psychological and physical violence from their peers, 3.4% - from adults. Speaking about adults at school, you understand that they are school employees. Thus, Russian schools, with all their well-organized educational process, make serious mistakes that allow them to apply prohibited methods of influence to students.

According to the survey results, 8.7% of children answered that there is an unfair attitude of teachers towards students in schools, 4.6% of children are in conflict with their teachers, 5.5% believe that teachers are indifferent to their opinion.

⁵⁰ “Analysis of the situation of children in the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2019”, UNICEF

⁵¹ Pinheiro P.S. World Report on Violence Against Children. 2006. URL: <http://www.unicef.org/violencestudy/reports.html>

Figure 50. Fears and destructive attitudes towards a child at school, % of children



Source: Sociological survey

In open conversations, the children expressed that they were afraid of teachers and the educational process, afraid of older students, hooligans and extortion of money by peers.

At school, children are afraid of **teachers who scold them**, physically assault them, do not try to understand them and verbally abuse their students: *“At school, I am afraid to say something out of line, because it can have serious consequences. I am afraid to express my opinion, because I can get angry and be rude, and then the matter will be taken to my parents, with the school inspector, etc.”* (based on the results of a questionnaire survey of schoolchildren). *“The school has an authoritarian, intolerant teaching staff. Frankly, sometimes teachers exasperate us, make us afraid, thereby suppressing the individuality of students”* (according to the results of a questionnaire survey of students).

Children are afraid of **not completing their homework and receiving unsatisfactory grades**: *“I’m afraid that some of the teachers will accuse me of something that I did not do, and I will not be able to stand up for myself. I am afraid of conflicts with teachers, because they, regardless of the situation, will be seen as right”* (according to the results of a questionnaire survey of schoolchildren)

At school, children are afraid of **bullying from their classmates**: *“Aggression from classmates, since I’m new, the girls humiliate me, this way they want to build themselves up”* (based on the results of a questionnaire survey of schoolchildren).

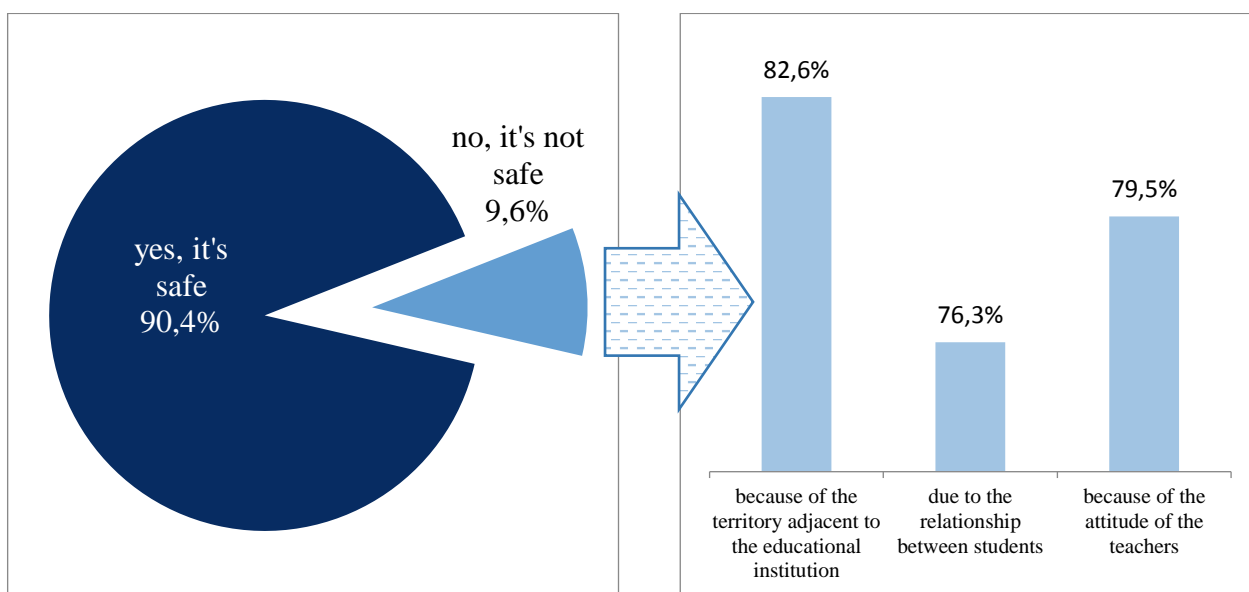
Children's games are widespread among students, innocent at first glance, but participation in them psychologically puts a lot of pressure on those who are "victims".

Children are afraid of **aggression from high school students**, physical fights. In the questionnaires, the children wrote: *“there is a pupil, his name is R ... whom the whole school is afraid of”, “I am afraid of 9th grade students”, “7th grade students”*. (based on the results of a questionnaire survey of schoolchildren). Children note fights between their peers, especially between high school students, or high school students bullying younger grades: *“They will bring them to the toilet or outside the school and beat them, some of these situations, these beatings, end up in deaths”* (rural school students, Almaty region).

During focus groups with school students, cases of bullying (harassment, bullying) in educational institutions were announced. In particular, children say that many high school students take pleasure in taking money from the weak or from the elementary school students. As children say, in some schools there is a proven scheme for collecting "monetary tribute" from students.

10% of the parents surveyed believe that it is unsafe for their children in educational institutions. 79.5% of them believe that it is unsafe in educational institutions because of the attitude of school staff to students, 76.3% speaks of unhealthy relationships between students, 82.6% notes that the area adjacent to the school is unsafe for children.

Figure 51. Lack of safety in school, according to parents, and its reasons, %



Fear of using school toilets. Outdoor school toilets are a major concern. This problem was voiced by both students of rural schools and their parents. The problem is acute, these are issues of safety of life of children, issues of compliance with sanitary and hygienic standards, issues of preserving the health of the future generation: “We have a toilet on the street, this is also a problem. One boy was bitten by dogs...”. “There are here are sports horizontal bars near the toilet, different people come there and exercise. When girls from primary grades go to the toilet, they can be abducted and molested, we are afraid”(from FGD, schoolchildren 10-14 years old, Almaty region). “Once a student of the elementary grades almost fell into the toilet pit, they barely pulled him out” (from an in-depth interview, 7th grade student, Zhambyl region).

Appeals from schoolchildren’s parents about taking safety measures concerning school toilets do not bring results. In particular, one of the headmasters of a rural school responded to this request from parents that there was no money to move the toilet inside

the school building, and suggested that parents collect 5,000 tenge from each child's family (from an in-depth interview with the parents in a rural school, Almaty oblast).

In the course of the study, 10.7% of the surveyed schoolchildren noted that at their school they have an outside toilet. This problem was mentioned by every fourth schoolchild studying in rural areas, and every 20th urban schoolchild.

According to MES RK⁵², in 2019, 2,352 schools (34%) had only outdoor toilets, 94% of these schools are in rural areas⁵³. In Turkestan, Almaty and Zhambyl regions, more than half of schools have only outside toilets.

The Roadmap on strengthening the protection of the rights of a child, counteraction to domestic violence and addressing the issues of suicide among adolescents provides for the elimination of outside toilets within three years and the opening of appropriate sanitary facilities. Here it is necessary to take into account the fact that in-school toilets in rural areas are often not provided due to the lack of sewerage and water supply.

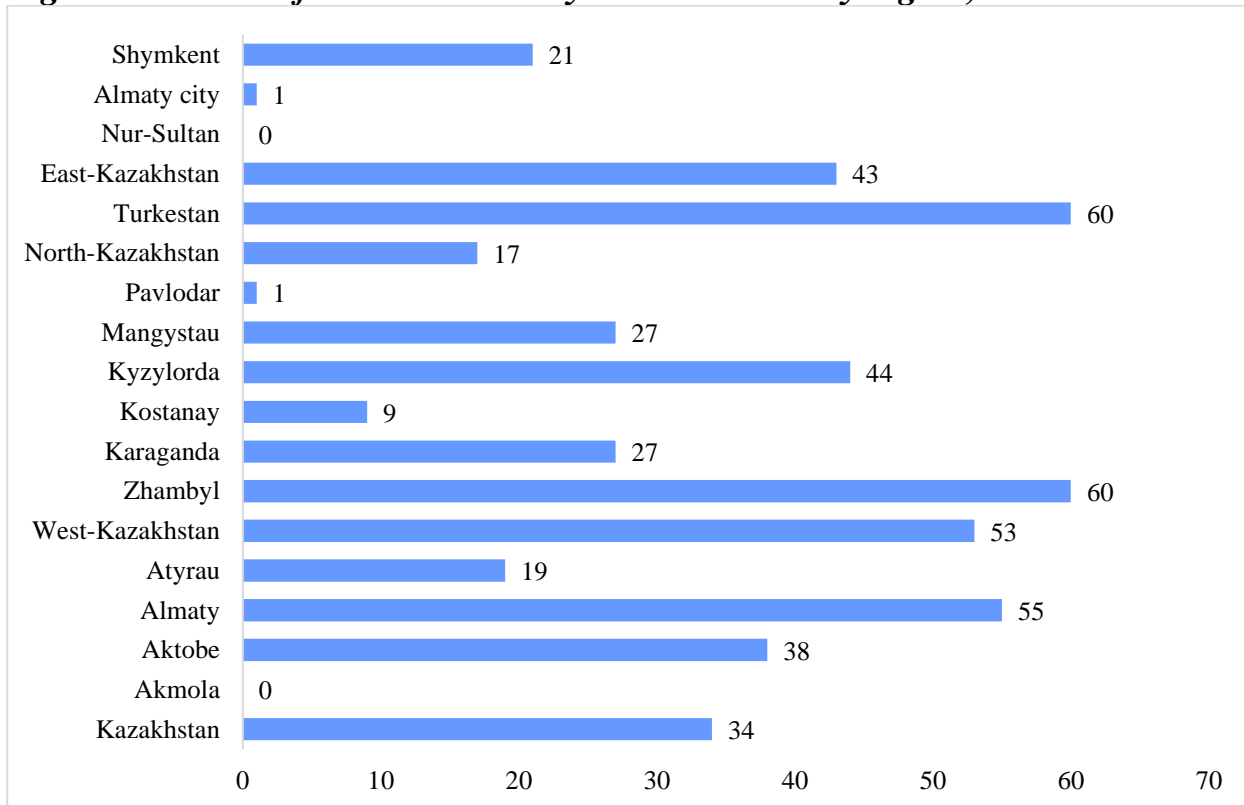
There are cases when there are toilets in schools, but children's access to them is limited: during the FGD with 10-14 years old adolescents in the Almaty region, children noted that their school has a toilet inside the school, but they can use it only in winter, as it is closed during the summer. Here it is necessary to work with school administrations on the inadmissibility of using street toilets if there are in-school facilities on the premises.



⁵² Information on the material and technical base of secondary education organizations as of November 15, 2019

⁵³ In Kazakhstan, they began to eliminate street toilets in schools. <https://ru.sputniknews.kz/society/20191224/12359508/kazakhstan-likvidaciya-ulichny-tualet-shkola.html>

Figure 52. Share of schools with only outdoor toilets by region, %



Fear of synthetic drugs. According to specialists from the Center for Mental Health, the age of young people who use drugs is between 14 and 28 years old.

The head of the “Free People” public foundation notes: “According to the narcologists, the synthetic drug addict has no more than five years left. In five years, they will either commit suicide or receive a lifelong psychiatric diagnosis. Patients who use synthetic drugs are referred to as dual diagnosis patients. The first is narcological, the second is psychiatric. Many such people live their whole lives on psychocorrectors, even if they do not use drugs anymore.”.⁵⁴

6.2. Safety at home

It is believed a priori that home and family is the safest place for a child. Unfortunately, according to the survey, 4.6% of children consider their home to be an unsafe place for them. 4.3% of children were exposed to psychological or physical influence from adults. Basically, children are afraid of their parents, and in particular of their fathers, but at the same time, most children note that this fear is excused by the fact that parents are strict with them out of good intentions, since they want their children to grow up as “worthy” people. There are cases when children are afraid that their parents will use physical force or moral abuse against them: “*At home I’m afraid*

⁵⁴ <https://ru.sputniknews.kz/society/20190131/9108295/narkotiki-podrostki-istorii.html>

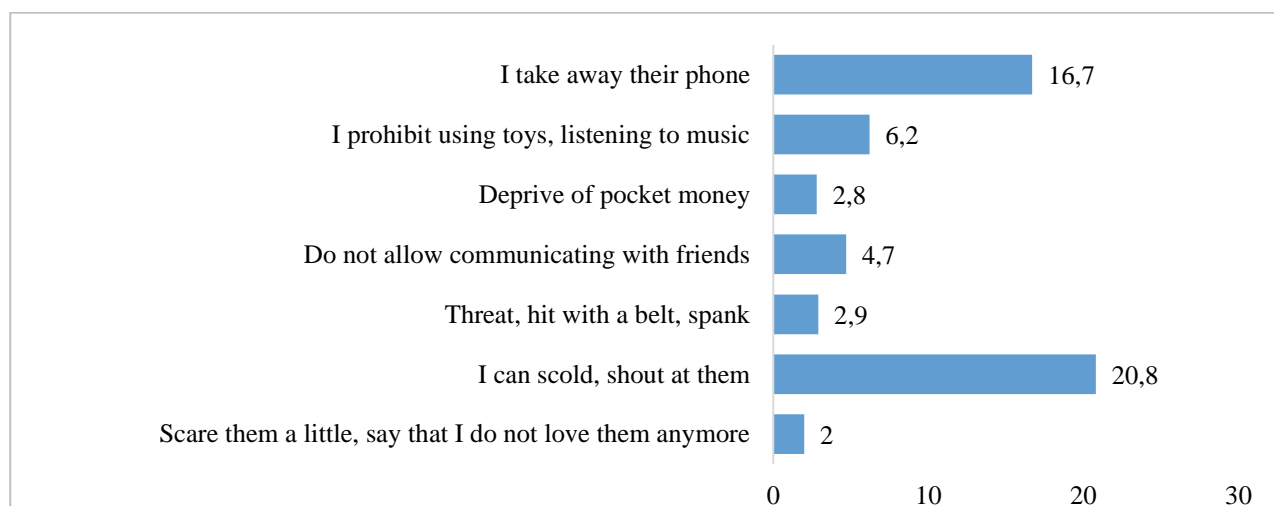
of my dad, because I can be in trouble for any little thing. I have bruises, but I'm afraid to call specialists. It's just that mom is happy with dad, but I'm not” (from schoolchild’s questionnaire).

Children are afraid of parents' quarrels and divorces: *“I'm afraid when parents argue, they shout. I'm scared that they could get divorced”* (from a schoolchild’s questionnaire).

Children are afraid of their relatives who have mental disorders: *“At home I'm afraid of my brother, he has mental retardation, I'm afraid of him, because when he gets angry, he begins to choke me”* (from a schoolchild’s questionnaire).

According to a survey of parents, it was revealed that, despite that majority of parents said they choose a conversation with a child as a method of problem resolution (89.7%), 20.8% say they can strictly scold a child, yell at them, 16.9% - take away the phone, 6, 2% - prohibit playing, listening to music, 4.7% - deprive of communication with friends, spank a child, sometimes using a belt, to blackmail with them not loving them anymore.

Figure 53. Punishment methods used by parents, in addition to using conversation (89.7%), % of parents



6.3. Child safety in society

According to the study, 16.5% of children do not feel safe on the street; 2.8% of children reported that they were victims of adult violence on the street; 6.5% of children experienced peer violence.

Children are afraid of drunken people, drug addicts; darkness, unlit streets; stray dogs; maniacs, pedophiles, *“to be kidnapped by strangers”, “men in black”, “open hatches, pits”, “I'm afraid of passers-by, because you never know which of them may suddenly turn out to be a thief, a murderer, or a rapist”* (excerpts from the questionnaires).

Children often mentioned the fear of returning home from school down the street in the dark, due to the late end of lessons, especially in winter, and in those settlements where there is practically no street lighting. *“I am returning from the second shift from school. Usually parents meet, but sometimes they cannot meet, and then it is scary to*

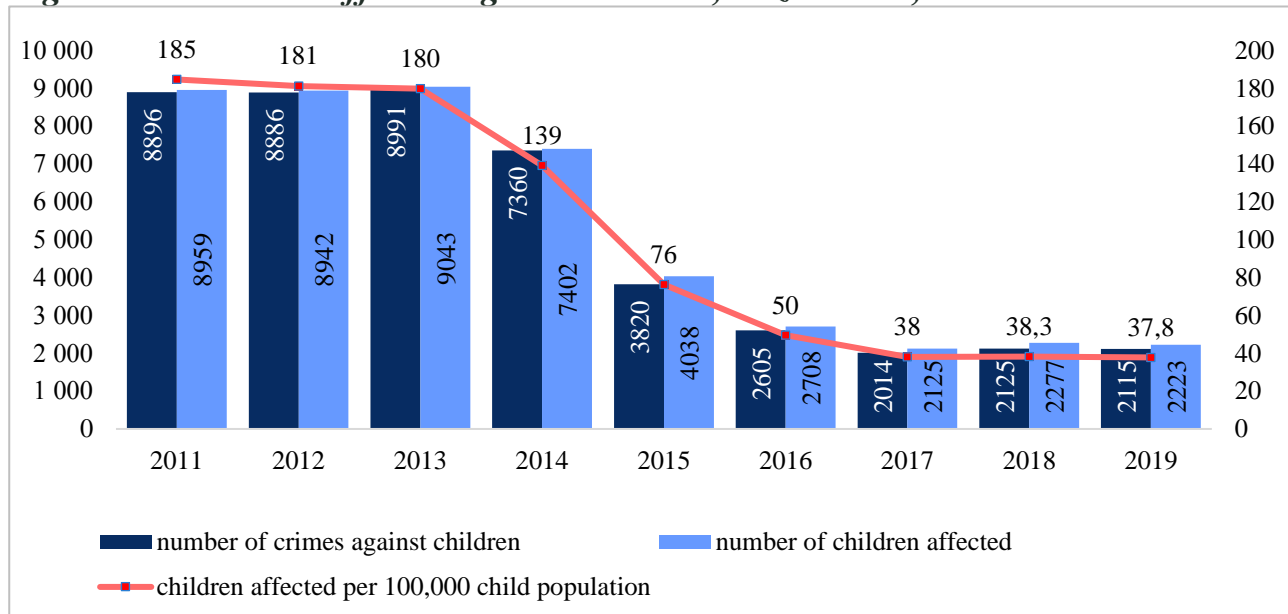
go home, some men are sitting, drunks. Recently there was a case, a man ran after one boy from the 7th grade, the boy managed to run away, as he plays sports, but then he had severe stress. Why are the streets are barely patrolled at such a time? And why is there no good lighting?" (from FGD with teenagers, Almaty).

Note that some children are afraid that at the right time, when they are in real danger, law enforcement agencies will not come to their aid. Some believe that they will not receive assistance due to their social, ethnic origin. Child safety conditions that are not created make children in deserted, dark streets victims of violence.

6.3.1. Crimes against children

During the period 2011-2019, there has been a decrease in the number of crimes against children. Compared to 2011, the number of crimes decreased by 76.1%; the number of children who became victims of crimes decreased by 75.2%.

Figure 54. Criminal offenses against children, Kazakhstan, 2011-2019



Source: CLSSA RK.

Note that over the past three years (2017-2019) the number of crimes has hardly decreased. In 2019, 2,115 crimes were committed against children, the victims of which were 2,223 children. The number of affected children per 100 thousand of the child population is 37.8, a static figure over the past three years.

Regional comparison showed that the largest number of crimes against children occurs in Turkestan, Zhambyl, Aktobe, Almaty, East-Kazakhstan, Karaganda regions, the cities of Almaty and Shymkent. In these regions, in 2019, the largest number of crimes against children was committed. A significant increase in crimes is observed in the Zhambyl region (by 42.2%), Almaty (29.8%), Atyrau region (21.7%). In some regions, there is a decrease, in particular in Kostanay by 24.3%, in Shymkent by 16.9%, East-Kazakhstan by 18.8%.

Table 22. Criminal offenses against children in 2018 -2019 by regions of Kazakhstan

	2018	2019	Change, %
Akmola	87	92	5,7
Aktobe	187	182	-2,7
Almaty	186	211	13,4
Atyrau	60	73	21,7
East-Kazakhstan	165	134	-18,8
Zhambyl	154	219	42,2
West-Kazakhstan	59	54	-8,5
Karaganda	168	171	1,8
Kyzylorda	61	56	-8,2
Kostanay	140	106	-24,3
Mangystau	80	66	-17,5
Pavlodar	82	79	-3,7
North-Kazakhstan	59	52	-11,9
Turkestan	207	191	-7,7
Shymkent	166	138	-16,9
Almaty city	141	183	29,8
Nur-Sultan	84	77	-8,3
Transport region, Chief Military Prosecutor's Office, 21-C	39	31	-20,5
Kazakhstan	2125	2115	-0,5

Source: CLSSA RK.

An analysis of the dynamics of the main crimes against children showed that more serious crimes (murder, causing grievous bodily harm, crimes of a sexual nature) tend to grow and decrease slightly. There are still relatively high numbers of thefts, robberies, and hooliganism.

In 2019, compared to 2018, we see an increase in the number of crimes against the sexual integrity of children. If in 2018 the number of such crimes was 739, then in 2019 - 794.

In the total number of all types of crimes against minors, the share of crimes of this nature is 37.5%. The number of crimes of pedophilia is the highest (377 cases in 2019), there is also an increase in rape by 35.1%, violent acts of a sexual nature - by 28.2%.

Table 23. Dynamics of crimes against children by main types, 2018-2019.

	2018	2019	Change, %
Murder, including premeditation and a murder attempt by a mother of a newborn child	42	22	-47
Driving to suicide	31	36	16
Causing grievous bodily harm	51	51	0
Rape	114	154	35,1
Sexual assault	117	150	28,2
Sexual intercourse, sexual activities with a child under 16 years old	379	377	-0,5
Corruption of minors	129	113	-12,4
Hooliganism	165	140	-15
Robbery	138	137	-0,7
Theft	303	284	-6

Source: CLSSA RK

Almost half of these crimes (47% of all types of sexual crimes) are sexual intercourse with persons under 16 years of age. These types of crimes are difficult to prevent, because every second crime is committed in apartments, houses, dormitories, where access is limited.

77% of all types of sexual crimes (606) were committed by persons from a close circle (fathers - 33, stepfathers - 26, mother's cohabitants - 10, relatives - 15, neighbors - 25 and acquaintances - 497).

In the regional context, in absolute numbers, the largest number of crimes against sexual inviolability in 2019 was recorded in the Almaty region - 103 facts, in the Karaganda region - 85, Turkestan - 70.

Table 24. Crimes against sexual integrity of minors in the regions, 2019

	Total, 2019	share in the total number of crimes against children	per 100,000 children in the region
Akmola	49	53,3	24
Aktobe	40	22,0	14
Almaty	103	48,8	14
Atyrau	35	47,9	15
East-Kazakhstan	57	42,5	16
Zhambyl	63	28,8	15
West-Kazakhstan	20	37,0	10
Karaganda	85	49,7	23
Kyzylorda	18	32,1	6
Kostanay	55	51,9	27
Mangystau	19	28,8	7
Pavlodar	42	53,2	21
North-Kazakhstan	25	48,1	18
Turkestan	70	36,6	8
Shymkent	38	27,5	10
Almaty city	50	27,3	11

	Total, 2019	share in the total number of crimes against children	per 100,000 children in the region
Nur-Sultan	21	27,3	6
Transport region, 21 C	4	12,9	
Kazakhstan	794	37,5	13

Source: CLSSA RK

In relative numbers, per 100 thousand of the child population and in terms of the share of these crimes in the total number of crimes, the most problematic regions are Akmola, Pavlodar, Kostanay,

Karaganda and Pavlodar regions, where the number of crimes against sexual inviolability of minors is more than 20 per 100 thousand children, and their share is more than half. These are the northern regions, where the proportion of the child population is much lower than in the whole country.

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the analysis of criminal cases showed that the reasons that contributed to the commission of violent crimes of a sexual nature are:

- inadequate level of upbringing in families and the immediate environment, the negative impact of examples of sexual promiscuity, stimulation the adolescent has wrong views and sexual behavior skills, incitement from adults or depraved peers, negative influence of the media;
- low moral qualities of criminals, personality degradation due to the abuse of alcohol and psychotropic substances.

The conditions that contributed to the commission of violent crimes are the lack of parental control, leaving minors alone without supervision, trust in friends, relatives, neighbors, and the confidence that they have no base intentions.

A deeper analysis of the reasons for the sharp increase in sexual violence in recent years and social origins would help prevent such crimes against children.

Due to the high rate of crimes against children, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan is forming a comprehensive strategy to counter violence.

The Roadmap was approved to strengthen the protection of the rights of the child, counter domestic violence and address issues of suicide among adolescents for 2020 - 2023.

Along with this, the draft State Program for the Development of Education and Science for 2020 - 2025 provides for a set of measures aimed at preventing offenses, improving social mechanisms for the rehabilitation and integration into society of minors who find themselves in difficult life situations.

The Code "On Health", the Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Education", "On Special Social Services" and others have introduced a norm on the immediate notification of social workers about the facts of juvenile offenses or in relation to them.

6.3.2. Childhood injuries and mortality from external causes ⁵⁵

Child injury is one of the social problems not only for Kazakhstan, but also for many countries of the world. This is evidenced by the high mortality rate of children from injuries. According to the WHO and UNICEF World Report on Child Injury Prevention and Evaluation, 830,000 children die worldwide each year and tens of millions become disabled as a result of injuries.

In 2018, 48,184 children in Kazakhstan were hospitalized as a result of various types of injuries. For the period January-September 2019, the number of hospitalized children was 36,227 people. Most often, children are injured at home, in particular, 62% of injuries (22,378 injured children) are of a domestic nature, and 89% of the number of injured in everyday life are children aged 0-14 years (19,967 children), which indicates failure of adults to provide a safe environment for children at home. The second most traumatic environment are the streets: 9,182 injured children (25%).

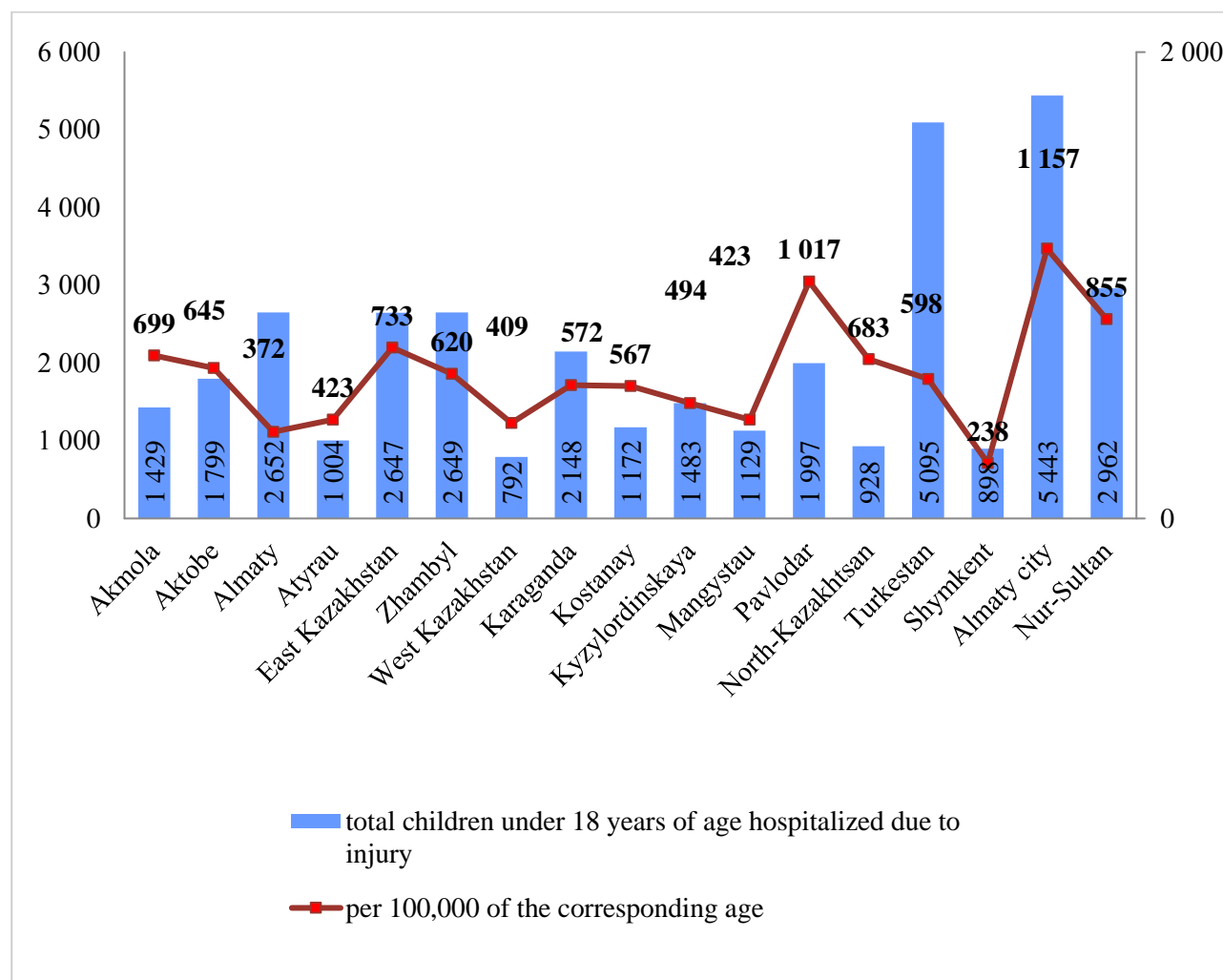
Table 25. Травматизм детей по причинам, январь-сентябрь 2019 года

Trauma	Number of hospitalized	%
Total children hospitalized	36 227	100,0
<i>Household injuries</i>	23 378	64,5
<i>Street injuries</i>	9 182	25,3
<i>Sports injuries</i>	1 025	2,8
<i>Traffic injuries</i>	1 192	3,3
<i>School injuries</i>	1 033	2,9
<i>Production</i>	323	0,9
<i>Other</i>	1 094	3,0

In absolute numbers, the largest number of children affected by external causes was registered in Almaty, Turkestan region, more than 5 thousand children were injured with hospitalization. If we compare the regions taking into account the size of the child population (per 100 thousand children in the regions), then the largest number of injuries occurs in the city of Almaty and Pavlodar region (1,157 and 1,017 injured children, respectively, per 100 thousand of the child population), the lowest - in Shymkent (238 cases per 100 thousand children in the region).

⁵⁵ In this chapter, the official statistics of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan are provided for 2018 and January-September 2019. Full data for 2019 was not available at the time of Report preparation.

Figure 55. Injuries of children aged 0 to 18 years from external causes, number of hospitalized in 9 months of 2019.



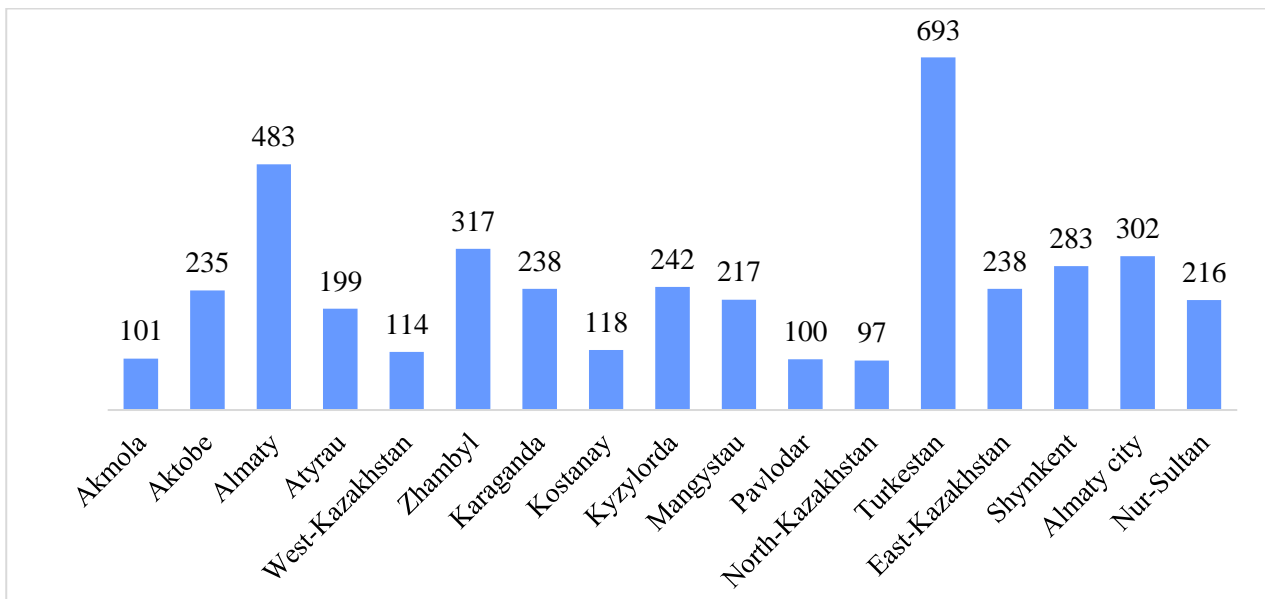
Source: MH, Committee of Public Health. Per 100,000 children by Sange RC

Mortality from injuries, poisoning and other consequences of external causes

According to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in 2018, deaths from injuries, poisoning and exposure to other external causes occurred in 5,294 children; in January-September 2019, 4,193 children died. Children aged 0-14 years die more often (for 9 months of 2019 - 3,902 children, which is 93% of the total number of children killed). Often these deaths could have been avoided if adults were able to protect children, teach them how to avoid a dangerous situation, follow precautions, and actions in case of emergency.

In absolute numbers, the largest number of children in 9 months of 2019 died in Turkestan (693), Almaty (483) regions.

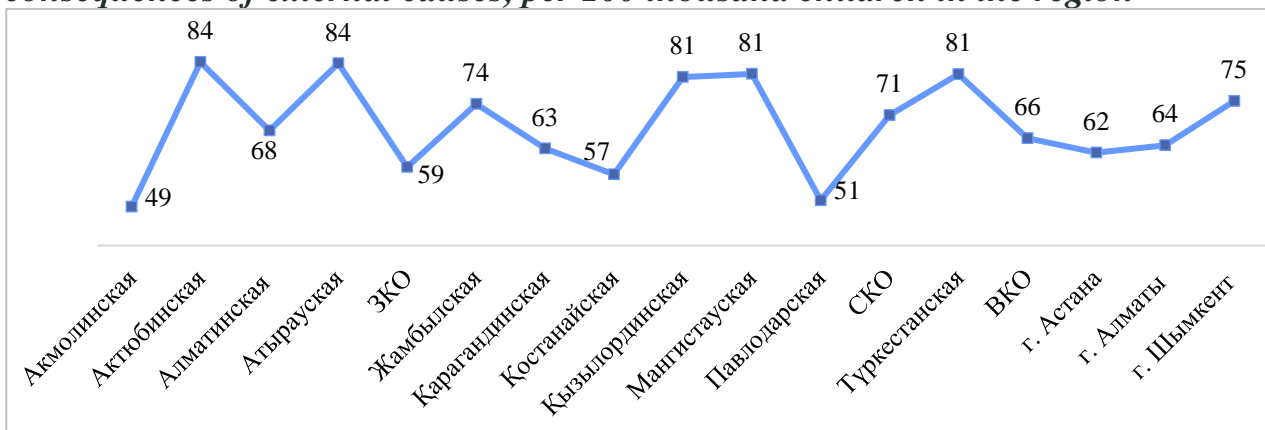
Figure 56. Mortality of children aged 0 to 18 years from injuries, poisoning and other external causes, people, 9 months 2019.



Source: official data of the Ministry of Health of the RK Department of Public Health Policy

Per 100 thousand of the child population in the region, the largest number of children killed is observed in Aktobe, Atyrau, Kyzylorda, Mangystau, Turkestan regions (more than 80 cases per 10,000 children), these are mainly regions with a high proportion of the child population, where, apparently lack of parental supervision and attention to children.

Figure 57. Mortality of children aged 0-18 years from injuries, poisoning and other consequences of external causes, per 100 thousand children in the region



Source: for January-September 2019, official data of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Department of Public Health Policy. Calculation for 100,000 children was performed by the Sange RC

The main causes of death of children, among others, are deaths as a result of traffic accidents (205 children), accidental drowning - 129 children, accidental falls - 54 children, deliberate self-harm - 82 children.

Table 26. The main causes of death of children from injuries, poisoning and other consequences of external causes, the number of children

	2019 (January-September)
Transport accidents	205
Accidental falls	54
Accidental drowning	129
Fire, carbon monoxide poisoning	24
Accidental poisoning and exposure to toxic substances	26
Intentional self-harm	82
Attack	10
Other reasons	3663
Total children deaths	4193

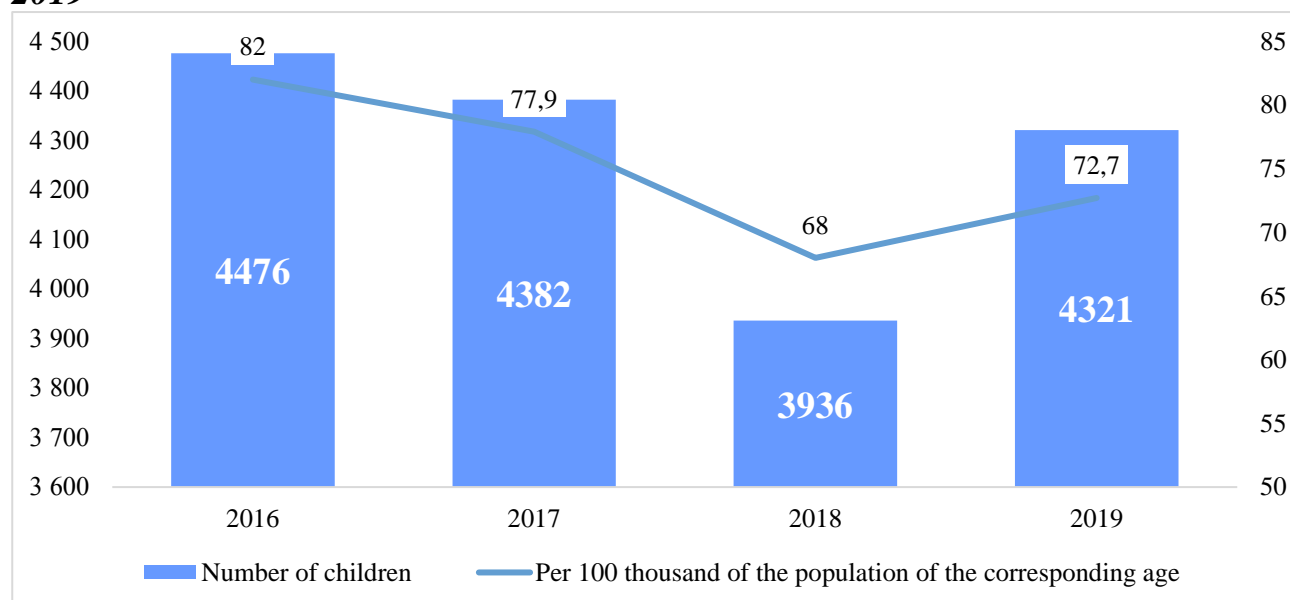
Source: official data of the Ministry of Health of the RK Department of Public Health Policy

6.3.3. Childhood injuries due to road traffic accidents

Road traffic accidents are the most common causes of injury and child mortality from external causes. For the period from 2016 to 2019, in Kazakhstan, **17,115** minor children were injured in road traffic accidents. Of this number, 876 children died, 16,239 received injuries of varying severity.

To solve the problem, the Government approved the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Decade of Action for Road Safety and Injury Prevention for 2011–2020. Full implementation of the plan is expected to reduce road crashes and improve child safety.

Figure 58. Number of children who became victims of road traffic accidents, 2016-2019



Source: CLSSA RK, The indicator per 100 thousand of the population of the corresponding age is calculated by Sange

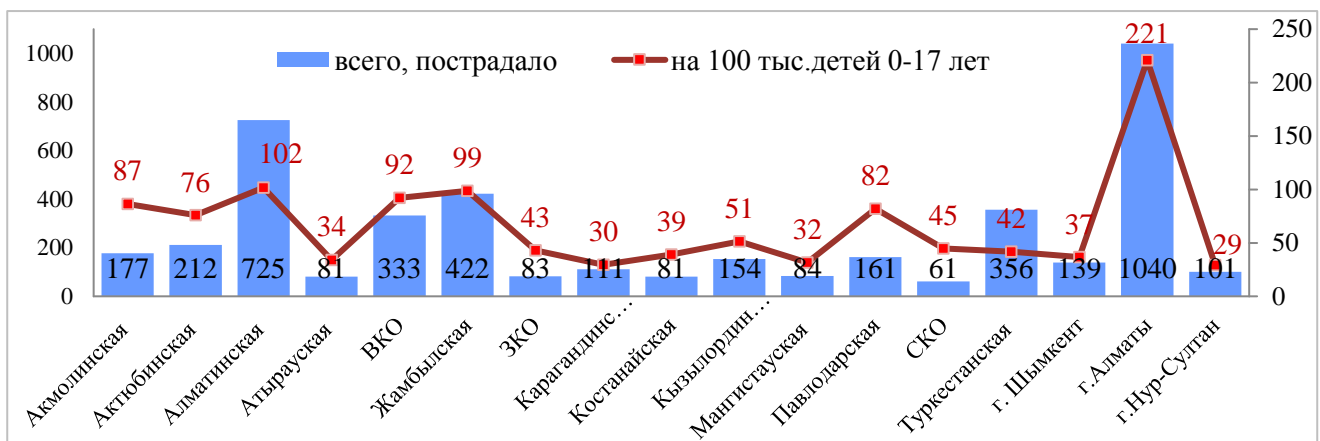
Official data show that it is premature to talk about a decrease in the injury rate of children from road accidents, since there is no stable dynamics.

In 2019, 4,321 children were victims of a road accident, an increase of 9.8% compared to 2018. The share of children among all victims of road accidents on average in Kazakhstan is 18%, in fact, every fifth victim in road accidents is a child.

Regionally, an alarming situation is developing in the city of Almaty, where 1,040 children suffered as a result of road accidents, that is, 221 children per 100 thousand of the child population. In Almaty, Zhambyl, Pavlodar, East Kazakhstan regions, the largest number of injured children is noted.

Of the total number of all injured children (4 321 people), as a result of an accident, 245 children died, 4 076 received various injuries..

Figure 59. Children injured in road traffic accidents, 2019



Source: CLSSA RK. Calculation зук 100,000 was performed by Sange RC

In absolute numbers, the largest number of children injured as a result of road accidents is in the city of Almaty - 1028 children, in Almaty - 681, Zhambyl - 407, East Kazakhstan - 317, Turkestan - 302. The largest number of children killed in Turkestan (54) and Almaty (44) regions.

Table 27. Children injured in road traffic accidents by region, 2019

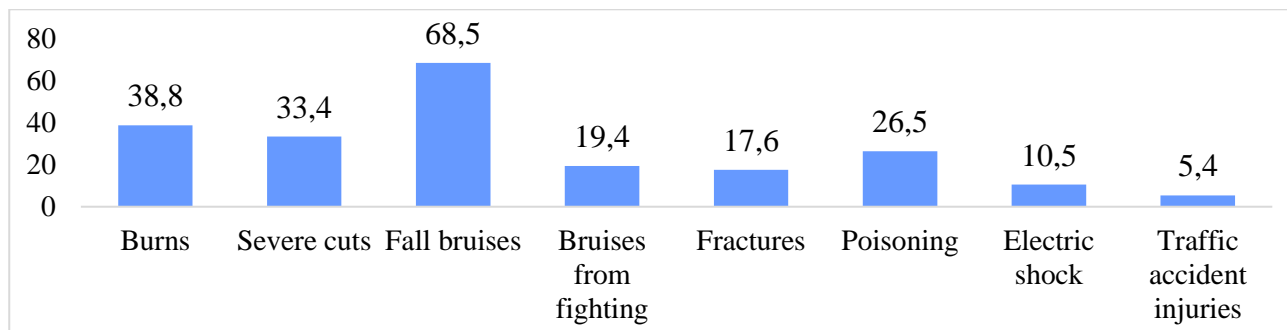
	injured	dead		injured	dead
Akmola	168	9	Kyzylorda	139	15
Aktobe	196	16	Mangystau	79	5
Almaty	681	44	Pavlodar	157	4
Atyrau	74	7	North Kazakhstan	58	3
East Kazakhstan	317	16	Turkestan	302	54
Zhambyl	407	15	Shymkent	124	15
West Kazakhstan	76	7	Almaty city	1028	12
Karaganda	97	14	Nur-Sultan	95	6
Kostanay	78	3	Kazakhstan	4076	245

Source: CLSSA RK

Child injury and its prevention (according to the results of a sociological survey). To determine the picture associated with childhood traumatism and its prevention, as part of a sociological survey, schoolchildren were asked to answer a number of questions. The analysis showed that for the current year 68.5% of children

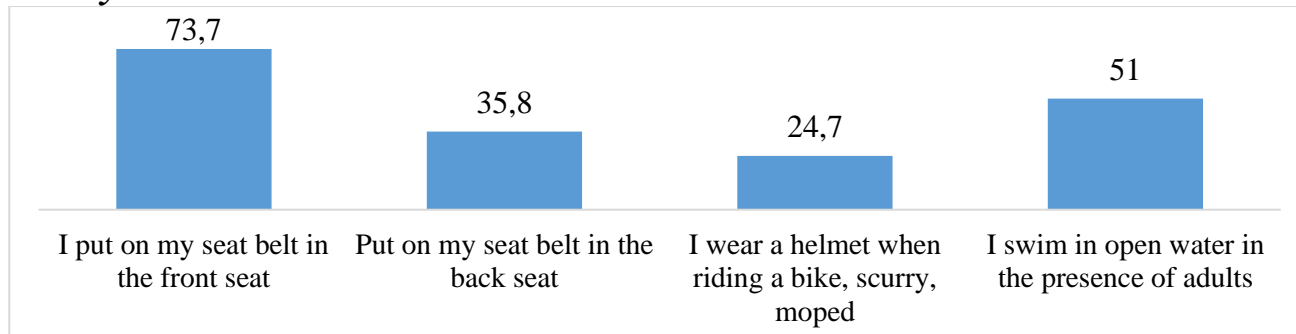
received various bruises due to falls, 38.8% received burns, 33.4% - serious cuts, 26.5% were treated for serious poisoning. A fifth of children were injured in fights, about the same number had fractures of various parts of their bodies.

Figure 60. Types of injuries sustained by children in the current 2019, % of children's answers



Prevention and safe behavior skills are essential in preventing child injury. As shown by the survey of children, of the proposed transport safety measures, only one is mainly used: the use of a seat belt when driving in a car in the front seat. The share of positive answers from children was 73.7%. It is worth noting here that children are fastened mainly in the front seat of a car; when driving in the back seat, only 35.8% of children use this safety measure.

Figure 61. Safe behavior skills, % of responses of children who marked the option "always"



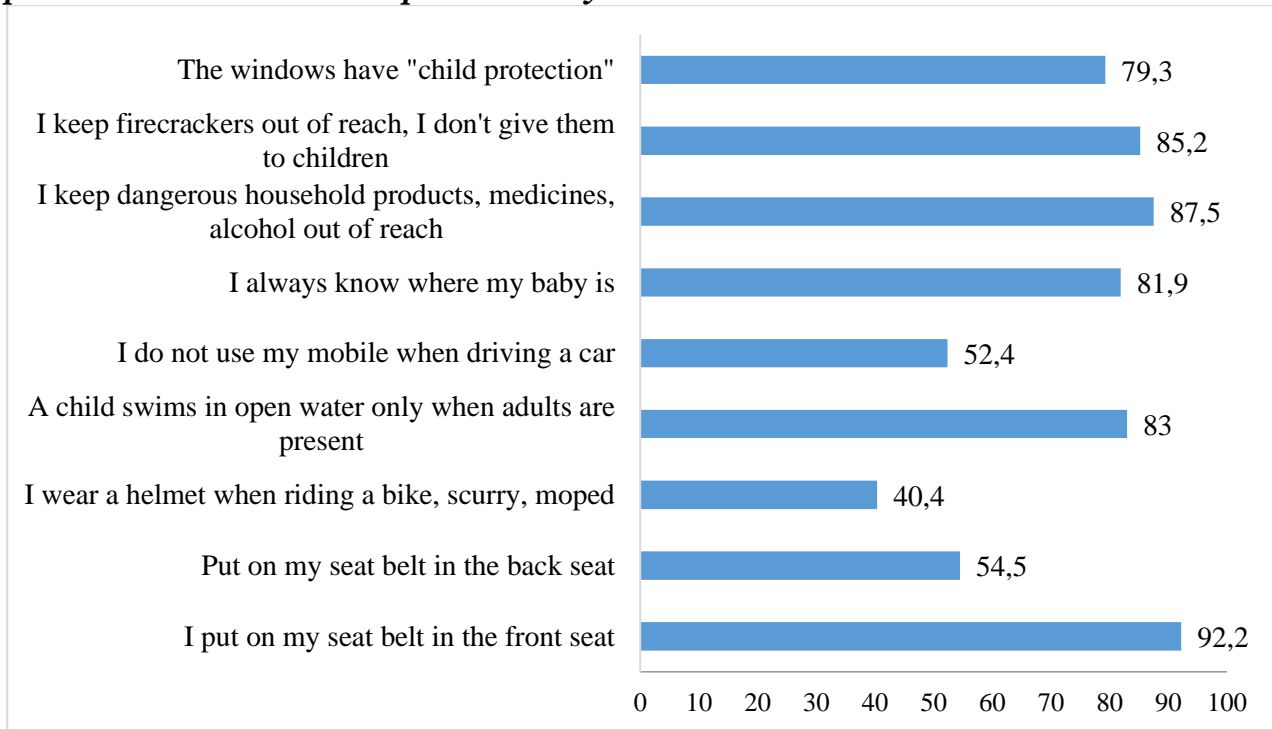
Teaching children these skills plays an important role in the formation of safe behavior skills. Only half of the children (52.7%) noted that they were told what to do so that strangers would not harm them on the street. About 60% of children say they have been told about behavior during a fire, when swimming in open water. 70% indicated informing them about the rules of behavior on the roads. Thus, approximately 40% of children were not informed about safe behavior and therefore have a greater risk of being in a dangerous situation.

Safe behavior skills of parents play an important role in creating a safe situation for a child. According to the survey, every second parent surveyed neglects the rule of wearing their children when driving in the back seat of a car, as well as the rule of prohibiting the use of mobile phones while driving. Only 40.4% of parents always wear protective helmets for children when riding bicycles and scooters. Thus, parents who disregard the above rules risk not only their own lives, but also the lives of their

children.

About half of the children surveyed (51%) observe the skills of safe behavior on the water when swimming in open water bodies in the presence of adults. One fifth of children wear helmets when cycling (24.7%), although it often happens that children get head bruises when falling from bicycles or scooters.

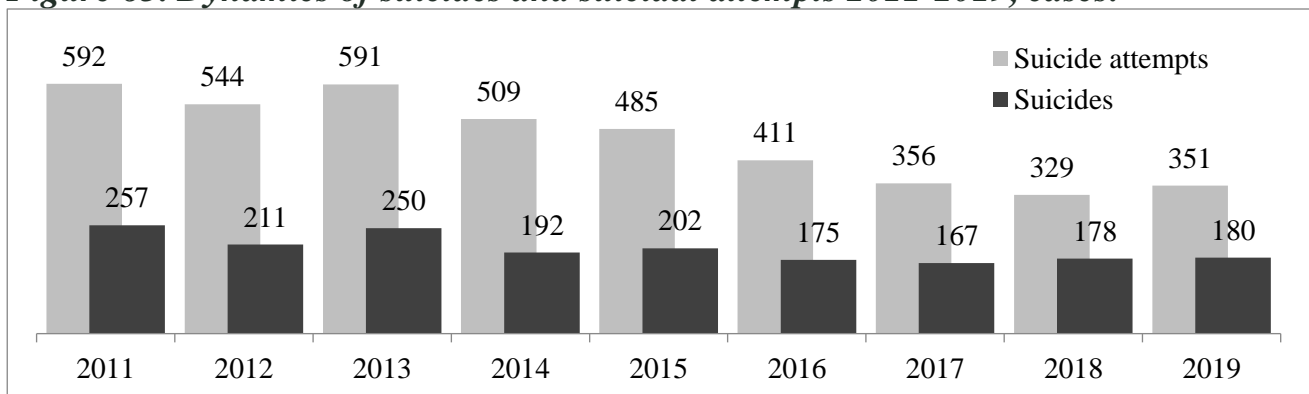
Figure 62. Parents' observance of safe behavior skills for their own children, % of parents who marked the option "always"



6.4. Child and adolescent suicides

According to the Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Records of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the number of suicides among minors for 12 months of 2019 amounted to 180 cases, suicide attempts - 351. Cases of suicide and suicidal attempts increased in comparison with the last year.

Figure 63. Dynamics of suicides and suicidal attempts 2011-2019, cases.



Source: CLSSA RK

In general, in the Republic of Kazakhstan there are 3 cases of suicide per 100 thousand of the child population. The highest suicide rate in 2019 is noted in the North-Kazakhstan (6.6), Kostanay (5.3), Turkestan (4.5) and West-Kazakhstan (4.1 per 100 thousand children) regions.

Table 28. Suicides and attempted suicides by regions of Kazakhstan, per 100 thousand child population, 2017-2019.*

	Suicides			Suicide attempts		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Kazakhstan	2,9	3	3,0	6,2	5,5	5,9
Akmola	6,9	4,9	1,5	9,4	11,2	12,2
Aktobe	3,7	1,8	2,9	5,6	5,4	8,2
Almaty	2,6	2,5	3,8	2,2	3,4	3,2
Atyrau	1,3	3	1,3	3,1	2,5	2,1
West-Kazakhstan	5,3	2,1	4,1	8,5	0,5	2,1
Zhambyl	1,9	2,8	3,7	1,4	0,7	1,6
Karaganda	3,5	2,4	1,3	7,8	5,1	6,4
Kostanay	4,9	5,8	5,3	17,9	18,4	11,6
Kyzylorda	1,7	4	2,0	1,7	0,3	2,3
Mangystau	0,4	2,3	1,9	3,1	0	2,3
Turkestan (2017 includes Shymkent)	3,4	4,9	4,5	5,9	7,5	5,0
Pavlodar	3,6	3,1	2,5	11,3	11,7	8,1
North-Kazakhstan	4,4	4,4	6,6	7,3	17,7	8,8
East-Kazakhstan	3,4	2,8	2,1	9,8	7,7	2,4
Nur-Sultan	0,9	0,9	3,9	6,2	3,8	14,9
Almaty city	1,1	0,9	1,4	9,2	7	12,1
Shymkent		3,2	1,5		3,7	5,5

Source: CLSSA RK

* Calculations of the Sange Research Center based on the data of the CLSSA of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Committee on Statistics of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

In the last three years, there has been a decrease in cases of juvenile suicide in Akmola and Karaganda regions. In other regions, there is no stable situation to reduce the suicidal behavior of minors.

There is no steady decline in suicide attempts in any of the country's regions. But we can note their decrease compared to last year in Almaty, Atyrau, North-Kazakhstan, Pavlodar, Kostanay, Turkestan regions, Shymkent and Almaty.

Table 29. Suicides and attempted suicides by regions of Kazakhstan, 2015-2019

	Suicides					Attempted suicides				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Kazakhstan	202	175	167	178	180	485	411	356	329	351
Akmola	13	14	14	10	3	19	20	19	23	25
Aktobe	4	12	10	5	8	31	32	15	15	23
Almaty	22	20	18	18	27	21	11	15	24	23
Atyrau	9	5	3	7	3	16	17	7	6	5
West-Kazakhstan	6	12	10	4	8	18	6	16	1	4
Zhambyl	11	10	8	12	16	24	24	6	3	7
Karaganda	8	10	13	9	5	52	25	29	19	24
Kostanay	17	7	10	12	11	23	28	37	38	24
Kyzylordinskaya	10	9	5	12	6	23	12	5	1	7
Mangystau	10	4	1	6	5	35	10	8	0	6
Turkestan (until 2017 includes Shymkent)	45	36	41	42	38	45	53	71	64	43
Pavlodar	5	2	7	6	6	28	24	22	23	17
North-Kazakhstan	9	6	6	6	9	28	11	10	24	12
Shymkent				12	8				14	9
East-Kazakhstan	22	15	12	10	14	47	41	35	28	54
Nur-Sultan	6	6	3	3	5	44	44	20	13	42
Almaty city	5	7	5	4	7	30	51	41	33	26
Other regions			1		1	1	2			

Source: CLSSA RK

Out of 180 children who committed suicide, there are more boys (67.2%), out of 351 who tried to commit suicide, more girls (76.9%). The number of suicide attempts among girls is more than 3 times higher than among boys (270 and 81 cases, respectively).

Table 30. Suicides and attempted suicides by gender by regions of Kazakhstan, for 2019

Region	Suicides			Suicide attempts		
	Total	Boys, %	Girls, %	Total	Boys, %	Girls, %
Kazakhstan	180	67,2	32,8	351	23,1	76,9
Akmola	3	66,7	33,3	25	20,0	80,0
Aktobe	8	87,5	12,5	23	4,3	95,7
Almaty	27	66,7	33,3	23	21,7	78,3
Atyrau	3	33,3	66,7	5	20,0	80,0
W-Kazakhstan	8	75,0	25,0	4	25,0	75,0
Zhambyl	16	62,5	37,5	7	57,1	42,9
Karaganda	5	80,0	20,0	24	25,0	75,0
Kostanay	11	63,6	36,4	24	20,8	79,2
Kyzylorda	6	66,7	33,3	7	42,9	57,1
Mangystau	5	60,0	40,0	6	83,3	16,7
Turkestan	38	63,2	36,8	43	20,9	79,1
Pavlodar	6	83,3	16,7	17	35,3	64,7
N-Kazakhstan	9	77,8	22,2	12	33,3	66,7
Shymkent	8	75,0	25,0	9	33,3	66,7
E-Kazakhstan	14	71,4	28,6	54	16,7	83,3
Nur-Sultan	5	80,0	20,0	42	21,4	78,6
Almaty city	7	42,9	57,1	26	19,2	80,8
Other regions	1	0,0	100,0			

Source: CLSSA RK

The largest number of suicide cases was registered in Turkestan (38 cases), Almaty (27 cases), and Zhambyl (16 cases) regions.

In terms of suicide attempts, in absolute numbers, the East Kazakhstan region is in the lead - 54, the Turkestan region - 43, in the city of Nur-Sultan 42 cases of suicide attempts are registered.

The number of attempted and completed suicides increases sharply at the age of 15-17: those who committed suicide attempts - 76.8%, committed suicides - 62%.

The bulk of children who committed suicide are from complete families - 82.7% (16.2% - from single-parent families, 1.7% - orphans and those left without parental care). These data suggest that children, even when they are near their parents, feel lonely and find it difficult to cope with the difficult life situation in which they find themselves.

Table 31. Information on the number of suicides and suicide attempts, by age for 2019

Region	Suicides				Suicide attempts			
	boys		girls		boys		girls	
	5-14	15-17	5-14	15-17	5-14	15-17	5-14	15-17
Kazakhstan	47	73	21	38	22	59	64	205
Akmola	0	2	0	1	0	5	5	15
Aktobe	4	3	1	0	1	0	5	17
Almaty	9	9	2	7	3	2	8	10
Atyrau	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	3
W-Kazakhstan	1	5	2	0	0	1	1	2
Zhambyl	5	5	1	5	4	0	1	2
Karaganda	2	2	0	1	1	5	3	15
Kostanay	2	5	2	2	1	4	3	16
Kyzylorda	1	3	1	1	0	3	0	4
Mangystau	2	1	2	0	2	3	0	1
Turkestan	10	14	7	7	4	5	8	26
Pavlodar	0	4	1	0	0	6	2	8
N-Kazakhstan	3	4	0	2	1	3	4	4
Shymkent	2	4	0	2	1	2	1	5
E-Kazakhstan	2	8	0	4	1	8	12	33
Nur-Sultan	2	2	0	1	1	8	5	28
Almaty city	2	1	2	2	2	3	5	16
Other regions	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Source: Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Accounts of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Among the established factors that preceded suicidal behavior, loneliness (with a feeling of rejection), conflict relationships with parents and conflict relationships with relatives are distinguished.

The problems of suicidal attempts and completed suicides among children and adolescents are widely discussed in society.

Since 2016, the Project for the Prevention of Suicide Among Minors has been implemented in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The three-component suicide prevention program, implemented at the level of educational institutions, includes:

- ✓ Improving adolescent mental health literacy;
- ✓ Training school and college staff as "suicide watchmen";
- ✓ Early identification of high-risk students for suicidal behavior

The suicide prevention program was launched in a pilot mode in the Kyzylorda region, then expanded to the following regions: Akmola, Atyrau, Aktobe, North Kazakhstan regions and Nur-Sultan, Shymkent. The above activities in 2019 were implemented in different volumes, depending on funding. The measures were fully implemented only in Kyzylorda and Akmola regions.

The set of measures carried out revealed, on average, up to 5.3% of children in need of psychological support and medical assistance, and influenced the decrease in the prevalence of suicidal behavior in minors in these regions.

To date, the country's secondary schools do not pay enough attention to the formation and development of life skills of children and adolescents. There are problems related to the distrust of the adult population in matters related to mental health. Methodological support for the prevention of suicidal behavior is not set up to the mark.

There is a need for a more comprehensive approach to adolescent suicide. It should be noted that in this direction, work is underway to develop and adopt a Roadmap to strengthen the protection of the rights of the child, counter domestic violence and address issues of suicide among adolescents for 2020-2023, which provides for a set of measures aimed at preventing violence and abuse in against children, suicide, juvenile delinquency.

6.5. Information Safety

The number of Internet users is growing all over the world, and Kazakhstan is no exception, which brings with it both advantages and disadvantages. The Internet is accessed by people of different age groups and is used for many different purposes. However, if adults in most cases are able to take care of their own safety while exploring the Internet space, then children can face many threats, from cyber fraudsters hunting for personal information, and ending with "death groups" pushing children to harm themselves. and suicide.

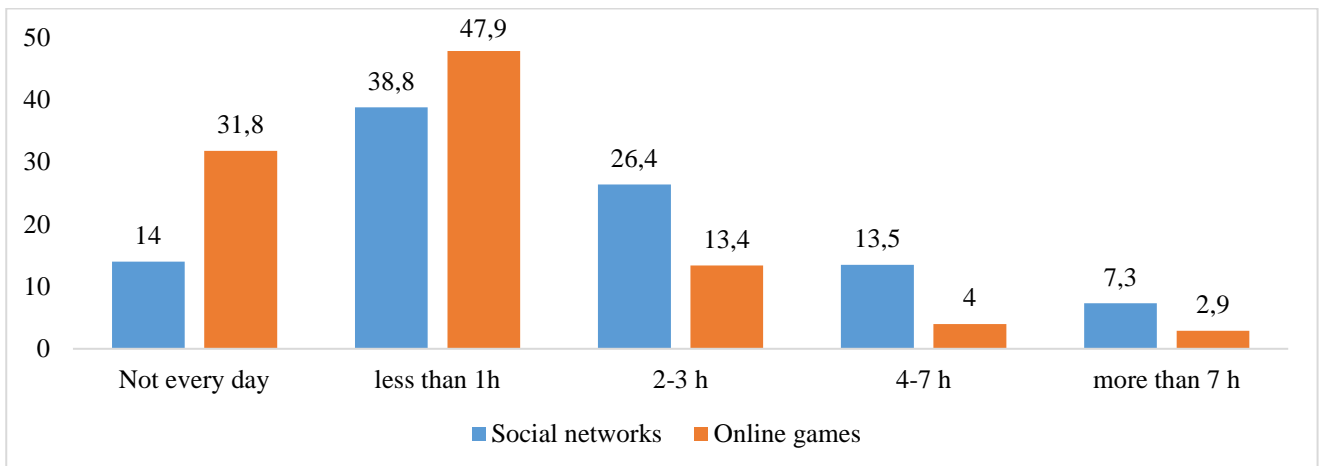
According to the survey, more than 70% of children use the Internet, have mobile phones and computers, thereby becoming the most vulnerable to cyber-bullying and fraud in the electronic space. For example, 6% of children said they faced incidents of virtual violence in 2019. The expansion of Internet fraud is evidenced by the data of official statistics, if in 2018 7 criminal cases were opened for involving minors in Internet fraud, then in 2019 - 15 cases, an increase of 2 times.⁵⁶

The study showed that there is a dependence of children on social networks. Only 14% do not communicate on social networks every day. The majority of children are keen on virtual communication (38.8% communicate on social networks for up to 1 hour), 26.4% of children are on the verge of addiction (communicate 2-3 hours a day), and 20.8% of children are absorbed in social networks (spend on social networks more than 4 hours a day).

The picture with online gambling addiction is somewhat different, suggesting that Internet communication in social networks is more popular among teenagers. The survey showed that about a third of schoolchildren aged 12-17 do not play online games every day. About 48% devote about 1 hour a day to this lesson, 13.4% can go beyond addiction, as they play 2-3 hours a day, 6.9% are practically dependent on these games, and spend more than 4 hours a day.

⁵⁶ Official data of the CLSSA

Figure 64. Children 12-17 years old spending time on social networks and virtual games, %



Children use the Internet for a variety of purposes, such as entertainment, as well as dating and making friends. For example, 6.4% of adolescents noted that they have more virtual friends with whom they met on the Internet than real ones.

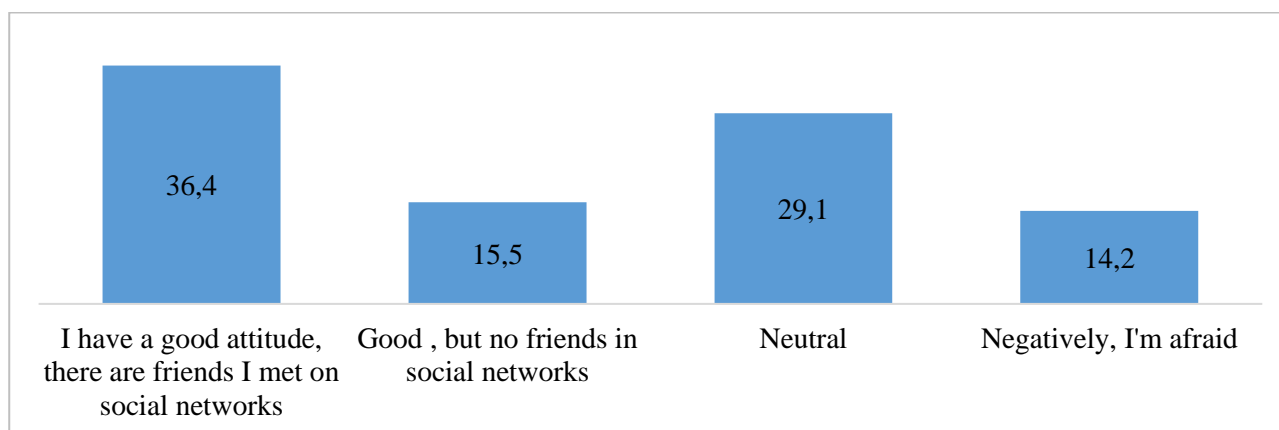
Let's note children's perception of virtual dating. Considering that it is quite difficult for children to separate malicious acquaintance from friendly acquaintance, it can be assumed that 36.4% of children are at risk of “virtual deception” by malefactors, since this proportion of children has a positive attitude towards acquaintances on social networks. 15.5% of adolescents also do not see anything negative in this type of dating, but they themselves have not yet met. And only 14.2% of adolescents have a negative attitude towards online dating.

The dangers of online dating are reflected in a study by the British National Child Abuse Prevention Society (NSPCC). In particular, the results show that 16% of children send their intimate photos over the Internet and every second child sends them to strangers - virtual friends.⁵⁷



⁵⁷ <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/press-office/>

Figure 65. Attitude of children to meeting people on social networks, % of responses of children 12-17 years old



The format of behavior when meeting on social networks is alarming. Only 17.8% of teenagers will not go to a meeting with a virtual acquaintance from social networks for safety reasons, 13.3% will refuse, but because they “don’t like to meet like that,” 18% will not be able to make a decision on their own and will follow the advice of their parents and friends. But half of the children (50.7%) will go to a meeting with a stranger from social networks, of which 11.6% do not see any danger in this situation.

A rather positive attitude towards virtual dating among children is influenced by the attitude of parents to this social phenomenon. A survey of parents has shown that 19% have a positive attitude towards virtual dating, 20% are neutral, 45% are afraid of such acquaintances, 13% do not know about this practice, since they do not use social networks. Thus, it can be assumed that a partially positive attitude towards virtual acquaintance is formed in the family.

Figure 66. Reaction of children to acquaintance in social networks, % of responses of children 12-17 years old

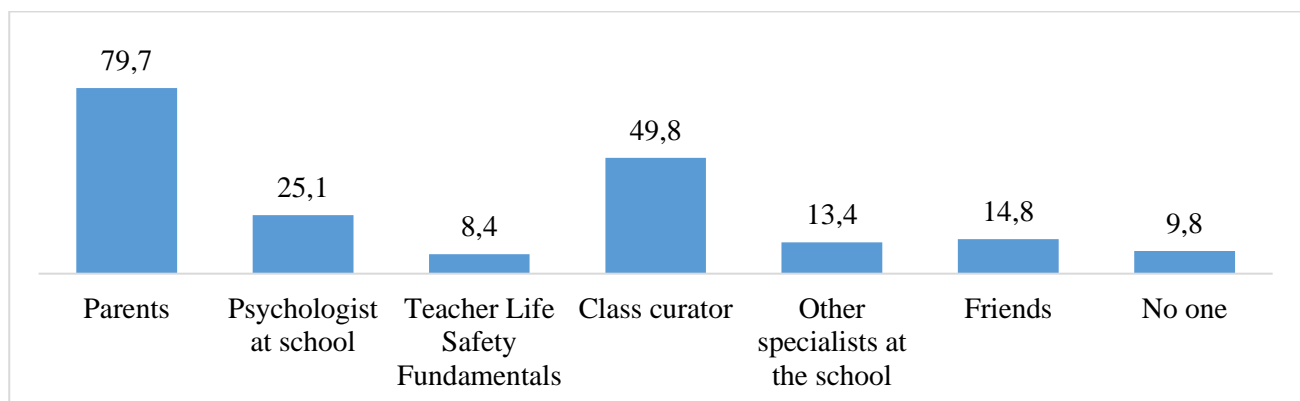


The World Wide Web contains a huge amount of information of a prohibited nature that promotes violence, cruelty, drug addiction, suicide, and pornography. According to the survey, children faced propaganda on the Internet:

- suicide - 5%
- religions - 8.5%
- violence against others - 3%
- anorexia - 4%.

In this context, it is important to what extent adults control the child's activity on the Internet, whether they introduce any restrictions. Every tenth teenager noted that they had never been told about the negative impact of the Internet, social networks, and online games. However, the majority indicate that such conversations took place. Judging by the data, parents talk about it more often - 79.7% of positive answers of children. 49.8% note the conversations of teachers, 25.1% - a psychologist at school.

Figure 67. Conversations with children about the negative impact of social networks, online games, the Internet, % of positive responses from children 12-17 years old



A great responsibility in protecting children from the flow of information lies with adults, in particular parents and teachers. An analysis of the parent survey data showed that only 64% of the parents surveyed often talk with their child about the dangers of the Internet, about how to avoid risks, 25% rarely talk about this with their children, the remaining 11% do not touch on this topic at all.

In order for parents to be able to talk to their children about risks on the Internet, they must be aware of the risks themselves. A survey of parents has shown that, on average, about 36% of parents hear for the first time that there are various types of bullying and blackmailing children on the Internet.

In particular, 25% do not know that there is bullying of a child through social networks (cyber-bullying), 36% first learned about the existence of virtual sexual blackmail (online grooming), sending intimate photos (sexting). Low awareness of this type of crime indicates a lack of knowledge to protect the child and effectively cope with the problem.

The American organization THOR conducted a study among 2,100 grooming victims. One in four victims is a child 12 years of age or younger. At the same time, 62% of children agreed to the demands of the criminals, and in 68% of cases the demands did not stop, but on the contrary increased.

In the matter of ensuring Internet security, it is important to involve all those who shape the child's worldview. In particular, parents believe that they are primarily responsible for them (98.7% of positive answers), 85% believe that educational authorities are also responsible, 70.4% involve law enforcement agencies in this issue, 68.7% of the media, 55 % speaks of the responsibility of the Government. The responsibility of the children themselves for their Internet behavior is not denied, as 54.7% of parents believe that a child should be able to control his personal Internet space and virtual hobbies.

Government agencies are monitoring Internet resources, including social networks, for the dissemination of destructive information. In 2019, access to more than 2,809 materials was restricted, of which 2,251 violations are related to violations of the rights of the child. Analysis of prohibited materials showed that there is a dominance of the Internet space with pornographic materials and drug trafficking.

By agreement with the administrations of social networks "VKontakte", "Odnoklassniki", "mail.ru", "livejournal", "Facebook" and "Instagram", materials of suicidal and other illegal content in these social networks are being removed.

Despite all the measures taken, new groups periodically appear on social networks, using symbols that are attractive to a teenage audience. In this regard, conditions are created so that any user who finds a group on a social network or Internet resource where illegal content is distributed, has the opportunity to complain about this or that material that he considers suspicious. For this purpose, a special service "Complain" has been created on the official website of the IIOR qogam.gov.kz (<http://qogam.gov.kz/ru/complain>).

To carry out explanatory work among the parental community of the Ministry of Education and Science in the Telegram messenger "BALA QORGAU", a round-the-clock work of a chat with feedback was organized for prompt response and interaction between educational authorities and organizations in providing timely assistance to children and parents. Educational organizations were informed about the work of the chat, information was disseminated through electronic and print media, social networks. More than 7.7 thousand participants are registered in the chat.





CHAPTER 7
CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT LIFE
SITUATIONS



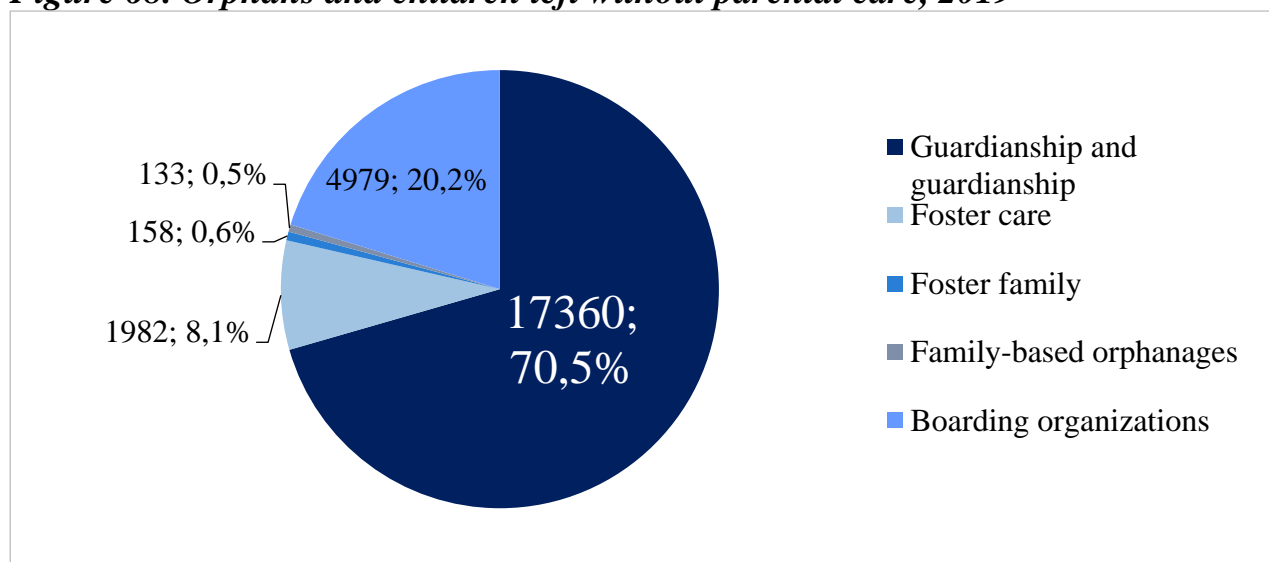


7.1. Orphans and children left without parental care

In Kazakhstan, the child's right to live and be raised in a family is enshrined in the Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On marriage (matrimony) and family." Due to various life circumstances, this right of a part of Kazakhstani children remains vulnerable. At the end of 2019, the number of orphans and children left without parental care (hereinafter referred to as the OCD) in the country was 24,239 people.

Most of the orphans and children of the OBPR are under guardianship and custody - 17 360 (70.5%), in foster care - 1 982 (8.1%), in foster families - 158 (0.6%), orphanages family type - 133 (0.5%). In boarding schools there are 4,606 orphans and children of the OBPR (20.2%). It is this group of children who live in various boarding schools and do not receive parental care that can be distinguished as limited in their rights..

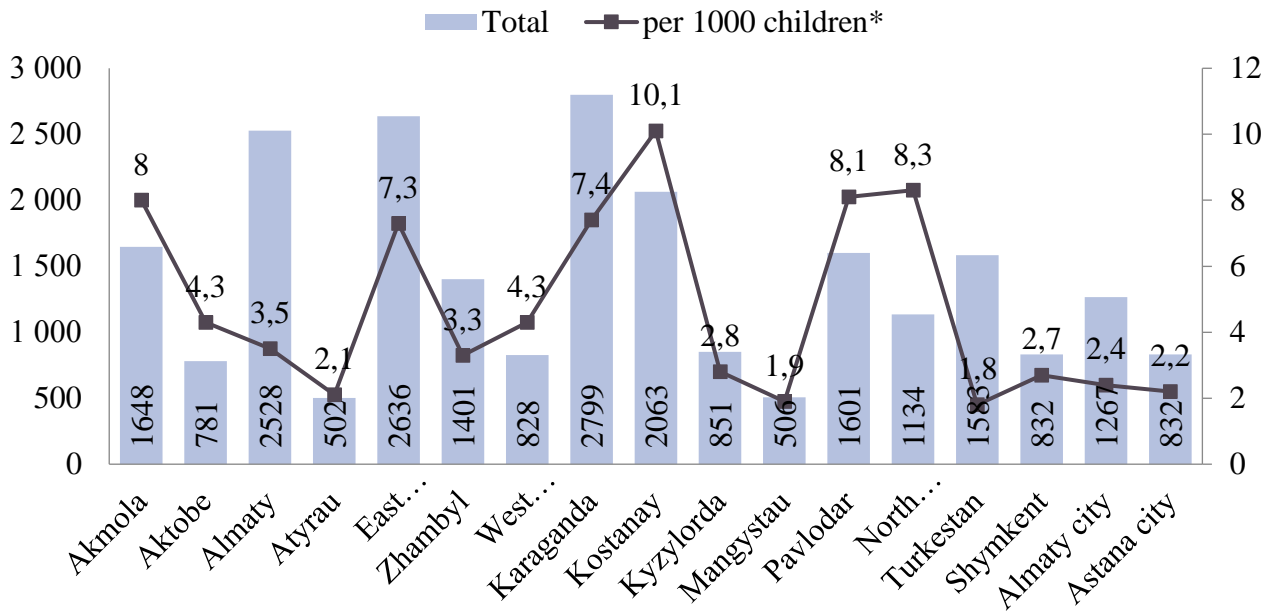
Figure 68. Orphans and children left without parental care, 2019



Source: MES RK

The largest number of orphans and children of the OBPR is found in the Karaganda (2,799), Almaty (2,528) and East-Kazakhstan (2,636) regions. If we compare the regions, taking into account the size of the child population, then the unfavorable situation is developing in the Kostanay, North-Kazakhstan, Akmola, Pavlodar, Karaganda, East-Kazakhstan regions. In these regions, there are 7-10 orphans per 1000 child population. Whereas in the Almaty region, taking into account the size of the child population, there are 4 orphans per 1,000 children - this is an indicator at the level of the average for Kazakhstan (4.1 per 1,000 children).

Figure 69. Orphans and children left without parental care, 2019

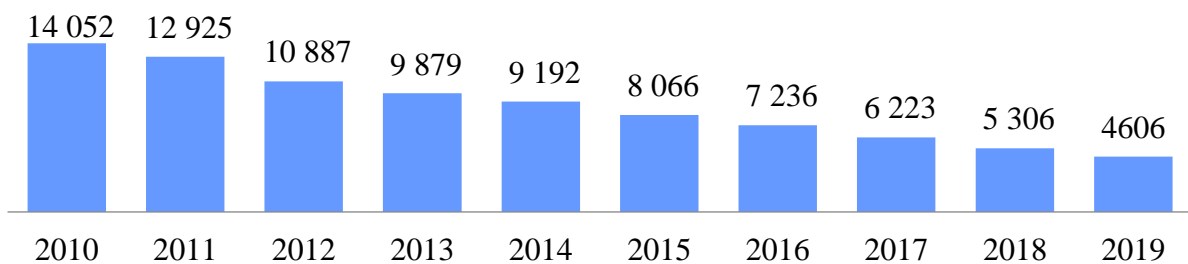


Source: MES RK * Calculations of the Sange Research Center according to the MES RK, the Committee on Statistics of the MNE RK

A positive trend that has remained stable over the past 10 years in this area is a decrease in the overall number of orphans and children left without parental care, and children living in residential institutions. This is facilitated by various factors that are manifested at the level of state policy aimed at deinstitutionalization, and in the changes taking place in public consciousness, in the strengthening of the activity of the non-governmental sector.

As a result of the processes of deinstitutionalization of the existing system, the total contingent of inmates of boarding schools has decreased by 36% over 10 years, children living in institutions by 67%. Accordingly, the number of institutions themselves is reduced..

Аунзкы 70. Orphans and children left without parental care in boarding schools, 2019



Source: MES RK

The network of boarding schools for orphans and children left without parental care amounted to 107 organizations in 2019. The largest number of orphans and children left without parental care is in educational institutions - 79% (3,656 children).

The number of children in boarding schools is decreasing, in addition to natural attrition, due to the transfer to foster families. At the end of 2019, 1,111 children or 22% of inmates of boarding schools were placed in families: 606 people were transferred to families, 505 people were returned to their blood families.

The work aimed at supporting children and families in crisis is of particular relevance. If we take into account the fact that the contingent of the existing 107 boarding schools is represented mainly by children left without parental care - 85.2%. That is, these are social orphans - children whose parents are deprived of parental rights (50%), abandoned parental rights (9.8%) and limited rights (5.5%). Timely comprehensive social support for these families would save children from social orphanhood.

In December 2019, amendments and additions were made to the Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Marriage (Matrimony) and the Family" related to the creation of conditions in the country for the activities of organizations to assist in the placement of orphans, children left without parental care in the families of citizens Republic of Kazakhstan⁵⁸. If earlier in the country only agencies that deal with the placement of children in foreign families received accreditation, now Kazakh citizens will also have access to such services.

In accordance with this Code, for families accepting orphans, children left without parental care, psychological training and other advice will be provided free of charge. Now, these families will have to submit a Certificate of Psychological Training to the body that carries out the functions of guardianship or guardianship. This norm, widely used in world practice, has now become mandatory in Kazakhstan as well.

In general, there is a tendency in Kazakhstan to downsize orphanages and create family-type houses. However, most of the existing institutions have an outdated traditional model, which is characterized by numerous children's groups with a large composition, often changing personnel, which has a detrimental effect on the development of children. Such institutions remain in the Karaganda, Kostanay, East Kazakhstan regions.

In the current situation, for orphans and children left without parental care living in the system of boarding schools, the issues of successful socialization after graduation from the orphanage, the issue of providing housing, also remain relevant. The queue for housing is **67,397** orphans and children left without parental care, brought up in families and in organizations for orphans and children left without parental care. In 2019, 1,456 people were provided with housing.

⁵⁸ https://online.zakon.kz/document/?doc_id=31102748#pos=1385;-18

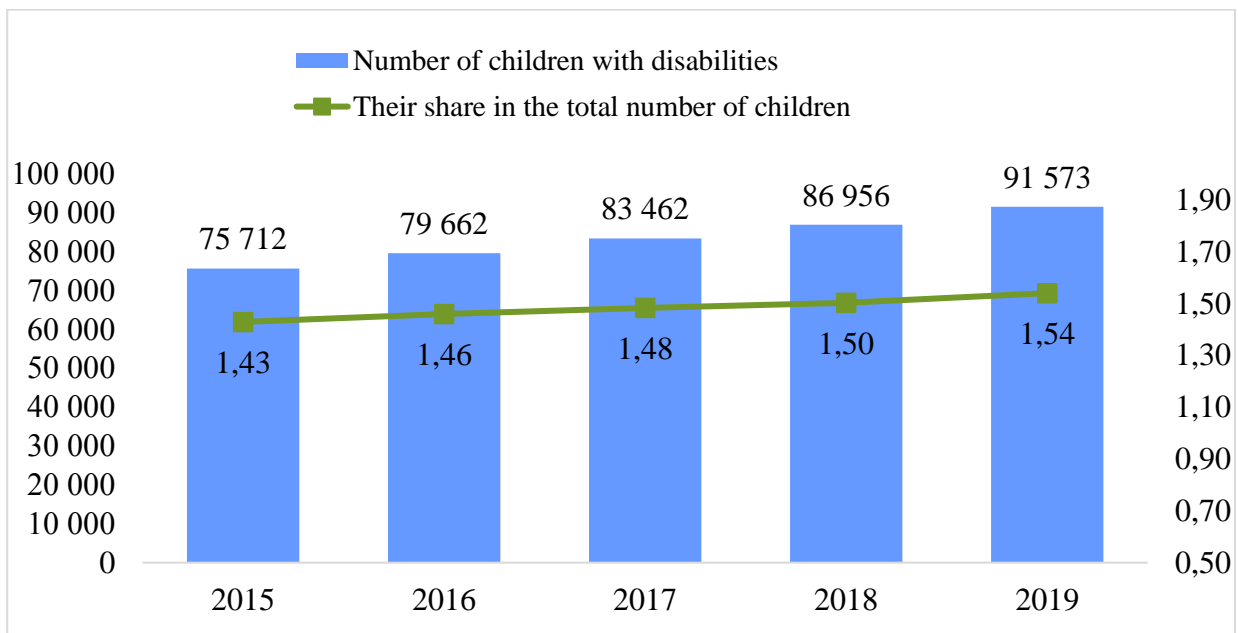
Thus, in the field of ensuring and protecting the rights of orphans and children left without parental care, there are positive changes, expressed in a decrease in the number of children in institutions, the transformation of the functions of institutions and in changes that occur at the legislative level and contribute to the development of public institutions aimed at family support. The culture of adoption is actively developing in the country and a legislative framework is being formed to facilitate these processes.

However, there are serious gaps that leave some children in a vulnerable position. First of all, this concerns orphans and children left without parental care, whose placement in a family is difficult for various reasons. The question of providing them with alternatives that would fully compensate for the lack of family support and social protection remains open. Special attention should be paid to the situation of orphans and children left without parental care with special educational needs, living in institutions. There are no solutions aimed at creating conditions for them that would neutralize the negative consequences of long-term residence in an institution and lack of family care. The issue of housing provision, which is key for the successful socialization of orphans and children without parental care, remains acute and requires systemic solutions.

7.2. Children with disabilities

The total number of children under 18 with disabilities in 2019 is 91,573 people. Of these, 90.2% are children under 16 years old. During the year, the number of children with disabilities increased by 4,617 children or 5.3% compared to the data as of January 1, 2019. This issue requires a more detailed study, since the share of children with disabilities among the total number of this age group increased from 1.4% in 2015 (75,712) up to 1.5 in 2019 (91,573).

Figure 71. Growth in the number of children with disabilities (% of the total number of children at the beginning of the year)



The total number of children under 18 years of age recognized for the first time was 12,916 people in 2019, of which 96.7% are children under 16. In general, among children with disabilities, 14.1% are newly recognized.

Table 32. Children first recognized as disabled in 2019

	Total number of children with disabilities first recognized		Ages 16 to 18			
	от 0 до 18 лет	до 16 лет	Total	1 degree	2 degree	3 degree
Total	12 916	12 494	422	26	152	244
Share of total	14,1	15,1	4,7	1,8	5,8	4,9

The largest number of children recognized as disabled children for the first time is in the Mangistau region, 1,026 children, or 3.8 children per 1,000 children population (on average in the country - 2.2 per 1,000 children).

Table 33. Children first recognized as disabled by regions, 2019

Регион	Всего	На 1000 детей	Ребенок-инвалид до 16 лет	Дети-инвалиды от 16 до 18 лет
Akmola	414	2,0	396	18
Aktobe	581	2,1	561	20
Almaty	1 316	1,8	1 272	44
Atyrau	529	2,2	514	15
East-Kazakhstan	739	2,0	721	18
Zhambyl	885	2,1	855	30
West-Kazakhstan	352	1,8	339	13
Karaganda	707	1,9	676	31
Kyzylorda	648	2,2	633	15
Kostanay	420	2,0	406	14
Mangystau	1 026	3,8	999	27
Pavlodar	347	1,8	335	12
North-Kazakhstan	311	2,3	294	17
Turkestan	1 769	2,1	1 700	69
Shymkent	1009	2,3	974	35
Almaty city	984	2,1	965	19
Nur-Sultan	879	2,8	854	25
Kazakhstan	12 916	2,2	12 494	422

The largest number of children with disabilities is in Turkestan (14,558) and Almaty (716) regions, where the child population is more than 700 thousand.

In general, in Kazakhstan, the number of children with disabilities among the age group from 16 to 18 years old increased by 7%, from 8,430 to 9,016, among children under 16 years old - by 5.1%, from 78,526 to 82,557.

Table 34. Information about children with disabilities by age by region

Region	For 1.01.2019			For 01.01.2020		
	total	child with a disability under 16	child with a disability, ages 16 - 18	total	child with a disability under 16	child with a disability, ages 16 - 18
Akmola	2 796	2 505	291	2 885	2 596	289
Aktobe	3 735	3 385	350	4 016	3 651	365
Almaty	8 507	7 730	777	8 757	7 939	818
Atyrau	3 342	3 028	314	3 580	3 243	337
East-Kazakhstan	5 278	4 756	522	5 463	4 925	538
Zhambyl	6 116	5 568	548	6 511	5 867	644
West-Kazakhstan	2 654	2 372	282	2 750	2 439	311
Karaganda	5 110	4 535	575	5 291	4 682	609
Kyzylorda	4 942	4 448	494	5 010	4 542	468
Kostanay	2 796	2 495	301	2 956	2 612	344
Mangystau	5 115	4 710	405	5 831	5 373	458
Pavlodar	2 746	2 457	289	2 874	2 533	341
North-Kazakhstan	2 100	1 822	278	2 172	1 891	281
Turkestan	14 331	12 847	1 484	14 558	12 997	1561
Shymkent	5 586	5 035	551	6 014	5 402	612
Almaty city	6 486	5 894	592	6 968	6 339	629
Nur-Sultan	5 316	4 939	377	5 937	5 526	411
Kazakhstan	86 956	78 526	8 430	91 573	82 557	9016

Source: Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan

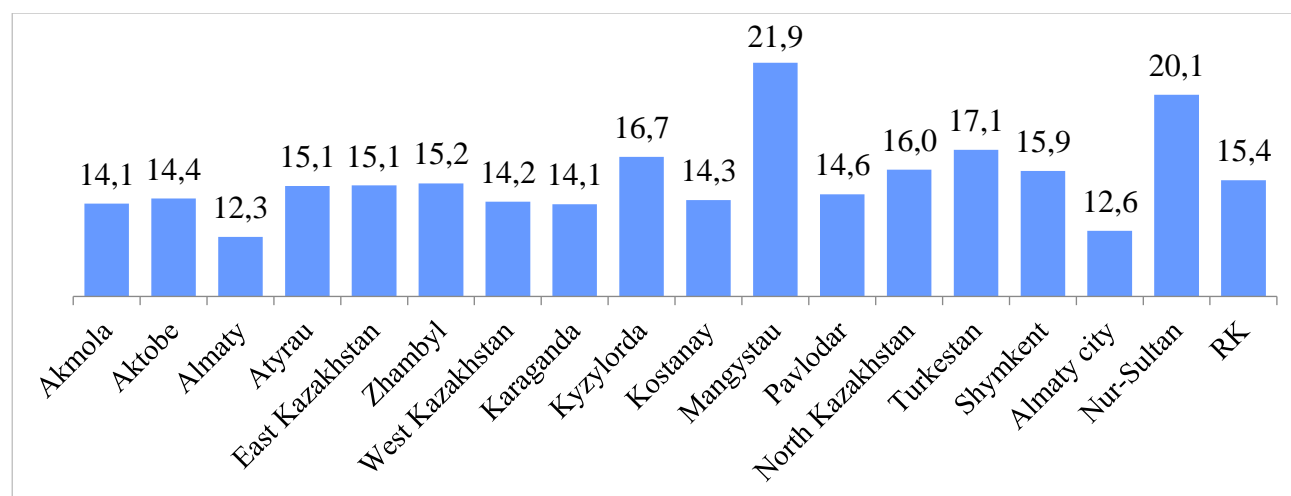
Out of 9,016 children from 16 to 18 years old, children with the first group of disabilities make up 1,422 people (15.8%), the second group - 2,600 (28.8%). More than half are children of the third group - 4,994 people (55.4%).

Table 35. Information about children 16-18 years old by disability group for the last 5 years

Year	Number				%		
	total	1 degree	2 degree	3 degree	1 degree	2 degree	3 degree
2015	7447	1053	2500	3894	14,1	33,6	52,3
2016	7513	1086	2411	4016	14,5	32,1	53,5
2017	8084	1155	2518	4411	14,3	31,1	54,6
2018	8430	1242	2479	4709	14,7	29,4	55,9
2019	9016	1422	2600	4994	15,8	28,8	55,4

On average, there are 15.4 disabled children per 1,000 children in the country (as of January 1, 2019). In such regions as Mangistau (21.9 per 1,000 children), Turkestan (17.1 per 1,000 children), Kyzylorda (16.7 per 1,000 children) regions and Nur-Sultan (20.1 per 1,000 children) 1,000) this indicator is higher than the national average (15.4 per 1,000).

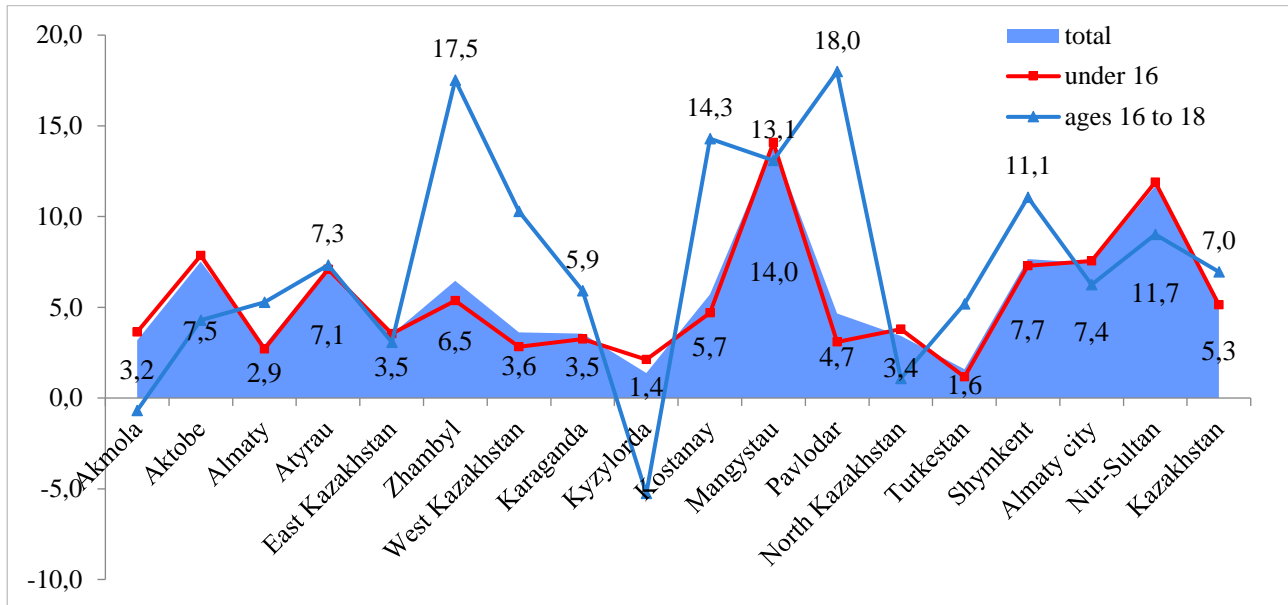
Figure 72. Information about children with disabilities per 1000 child population



The increase in the number of children with disabilities is most observed in Mangistau - by 14%. Above the average height of children with disabilities in the cities of Nur-Sultan (11.7%), Almaty (7.4%) and Shymkent (7.7%), as well as Atyrau (7.1%) and Aktobe (7.5%) areas.

A significant increase in the number of children with disabilities compared to last year in Pavlodar and Zhambyl regions among children aged 16 to 18 years (by 18% and 17.5%, respectively).

Figure 73. Growth in the number of children with disabilities, by region, %



Social measures to support children with disabilities include an allowance for a child under 16 in the amount of 41,578 tenge per month.

From 16 to 18 years old, depending on the disability group: for the first group - 57,021 tenge, for the second group - 47,220 tenge, for the third group - 35,638 tenge. In addition to these payments, benefits are assigned to a person raising a disabled child until he reaches the age of majority. According to the amendments, from July 1, 2019, the amount of benefits for raising a disabled child has been increased from 1.05 minimum living wage to 1.4 living wage, that is, to 41,578 tenge ($1.4 * 29,698$).

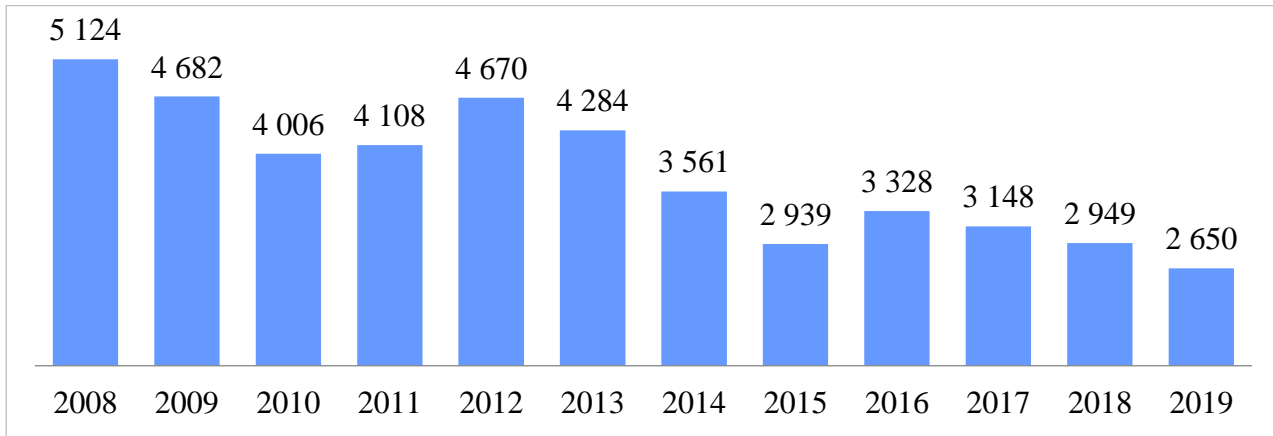
A set of special social services is provided for children with disabilities. Taking into account individual needs, children are provided with auxiliary, compensatory and hygienic means. Also, for children with disabilities, benefits for travel in public transport and the service "Invataxi", sanatorium treatment are provided.

The issues of more comprehensive support for this category of children are presented in the National Plan for Ensuring and Improving the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities until 2025, approved by the Government Decree (dated May 28, 2019, No. 326). Within the framework of this document, measures are provided for the prevention and prevention of disability, social rehabilitation, access to education, and improving the quality of social services.

7.3. Children in conflict with the law

The total number of juvenile delinquency decreased by 299 compared to 2018, or by 10%. According to the Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Records of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in 2019, 2,650 criminal offenses were committed by minors or with their complicity, among which 2,563 were classified as crimes, 87 - as misdemeanors.

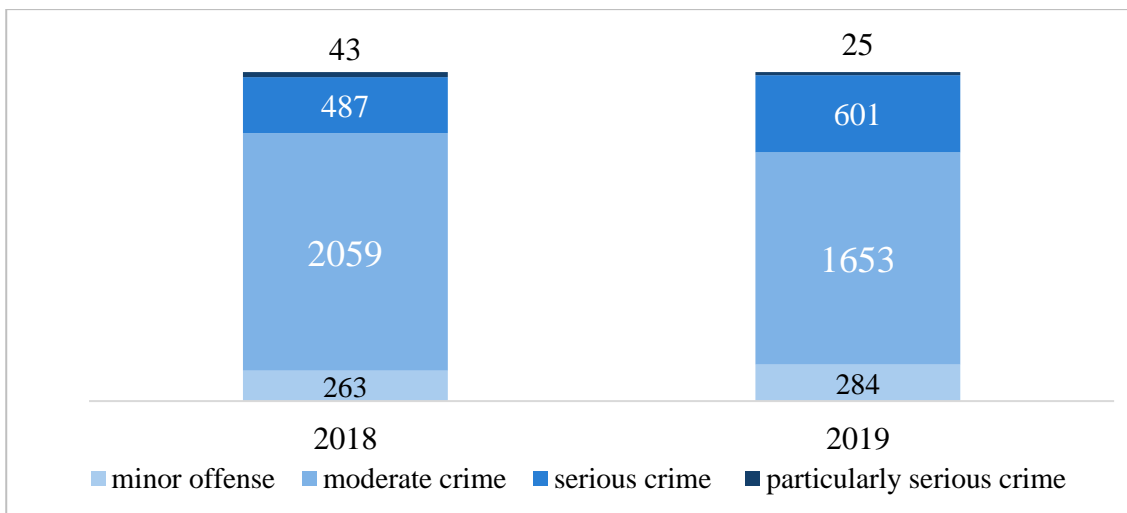
Figure 74. Criminal offenses committed by minors in 2008-2019



Source: CLSSA RK

In 2019, compared to 2018, the number of especially grave crimes also halved - from 43 to 25, but an alarming signal is the increase in the share of grave crimes by 6.4%, their number increased from 487 to 601.

Figure 75. The number of crimes by category committed by minors in 2018-2019.

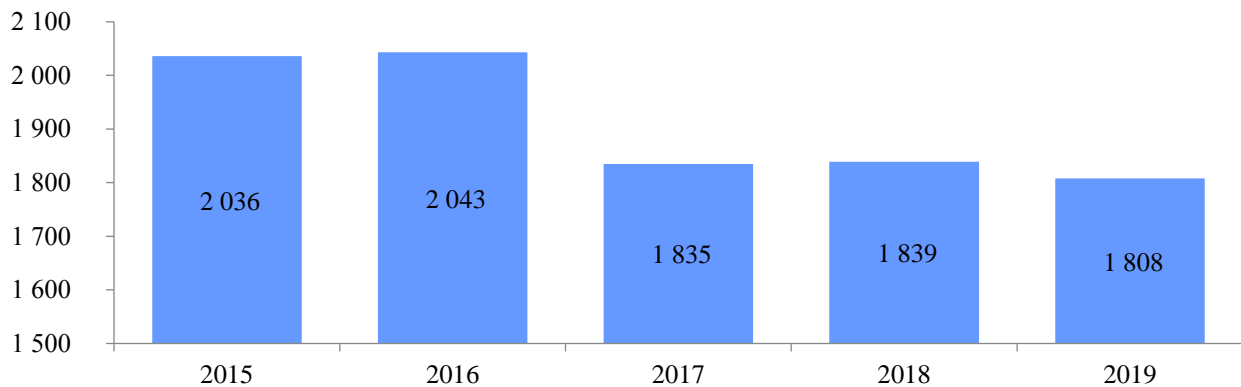


Source: CLSSA RK

Offenses in 2019 were committed by 1,808 minor students of general education institutions.

In general, over the past 5 years, there has been a downward trend in the number of crimes committed by students of general education institutions.

Figure 76. The number of crimes committed by students of general education institutions in 2015-2019



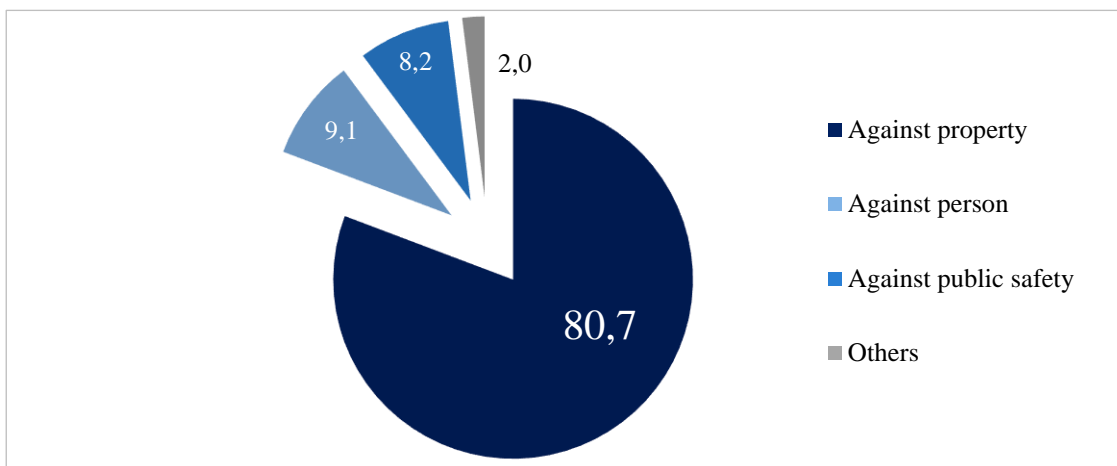
Source: CLSSA RK

Criminal proceedings were brought against in 2019

2 824 minors, of whom 6.8% (193 people) are girls. The main share of children (80%) prosecuted are aged 16-17. The number of juveniles prosecuted decreased by 10.5% compared to last year (in 2018, 3,156 juveniles prosecuted).

80.7% of crimes were committed by minors against property, 9.1% against individuals and 8.2% against public safety and public order.

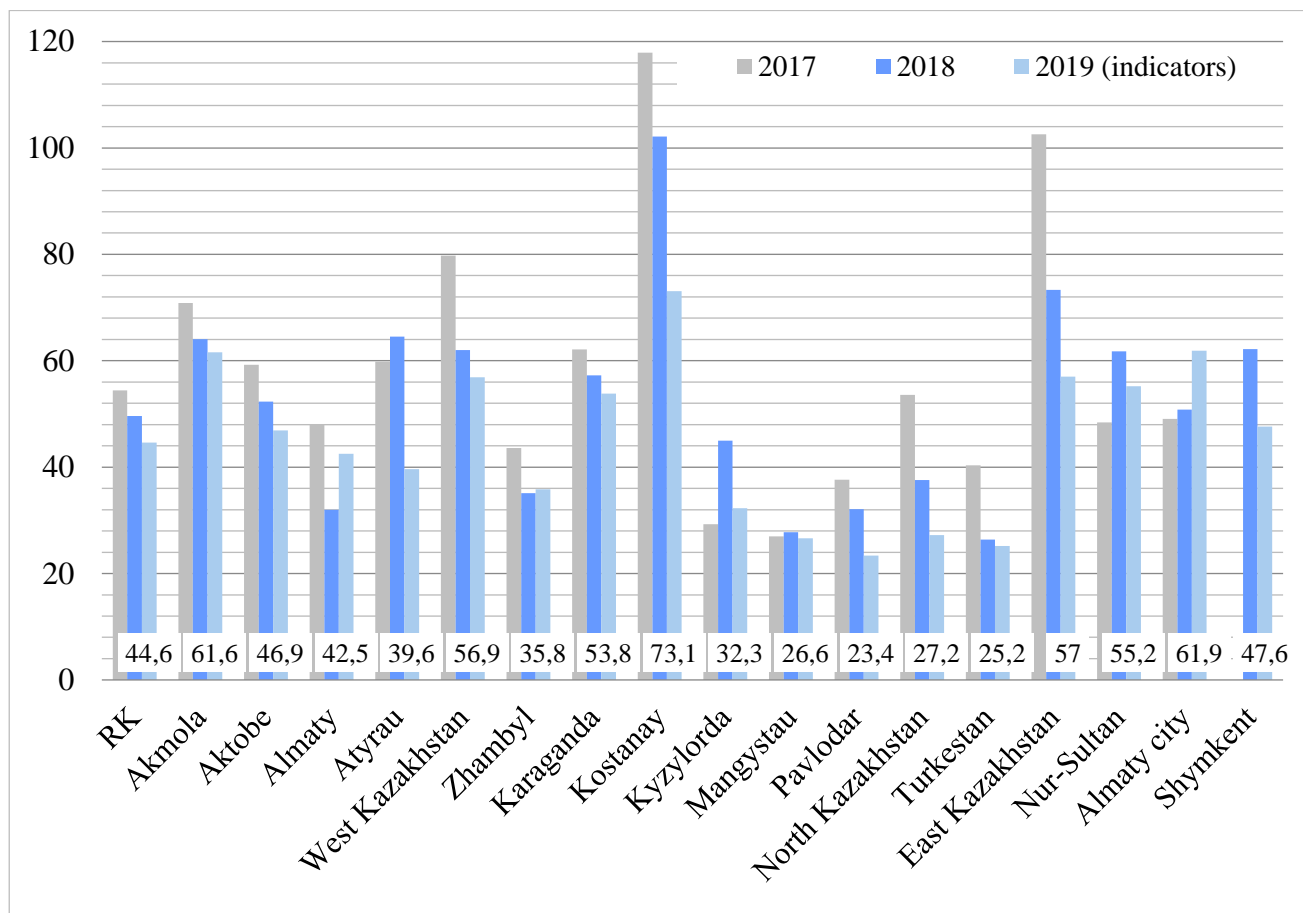
Figure 77. Structure of criminal offenses committed by minors, 2019 (%)



Source: CLSSA RK

Over the past three years, there has been a decrease in criminal offenses in all regions, except for the city of Almaty (an increase from 49.1 to 61.9 crimes per 100 thousand children).

Figure 78. Crimes committed by minors, by region, per 100 thousand child population *



Source: CLSSA RK. Calculation for 100,000 was performed by Sange. Calculations of the Sange Research Center based on the data of the CLSSA, and the Committee on Statistics of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The highest level of child crime is the Kostanay region - 73.1 crimes per 100 thousand of the child population, but at the same time, there is a positive trend in this region in comparison with 2017 (a decrease from 117.9 to 73.1 crimes per 100 thousand of the child population). Also, among the regions, a higher crime rate is noted in the city of Almaty (61.9 crimes) and Akmola region (61.6 crimes per 100 thousand children).

In terms of the number of offenses committed by children and adolescents in 2019, the leading positions are occupied by the Almaty region (303 crimes), Almaty city (291 crimes), Turkestan region (215 crimes).

Table 36. Crimes committed by minors, by region, total number and per 100 thousand children*

Region	Number of crimes			Crimes per 100 thousand children		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Kazakhstan	3 148	2 949	2650	54,4	49,6	44,6
Akmola	143	131	126	70,8	64,1	61,6
Aktobe	160	146	131	59,2	52,3	46,9
Almaty	334	228	303	48,1	32	42,5
Atyrau	137	153	94	59,8	64,5	39,6
West Kazakhstan	150	120	110	79,8	62	56,9
Zhambyl	183	150	153	43,6	35,1	35,8
Karaganda	231	215	202	62,1	57,2	53,8
Kostanay	243	211	151	117,9	102,2	73,1
Kyzylorda	86	135	97	29,3	45	32,3
Mangystau	69	74	71	27	27,8	26,6
Pavlodar	73	63	46	37,6	32,1	23,4
North Kazakhstan	73	51	37	53,6	37,6	27,2
Turkestan region	483	225	215	40,3	26,4	25,2
East Kazakhstan	367	265	206	102,6	73,3	57,0
Nur-Sultan	156	214	191	48,4	61,8	55,2
Almaty city	219	239	291	49,1	50,8	61,9
Shymkent		235	180		62,2	47,6
Transport regions, etc.	41	94	46			

Source: CLSSA RK

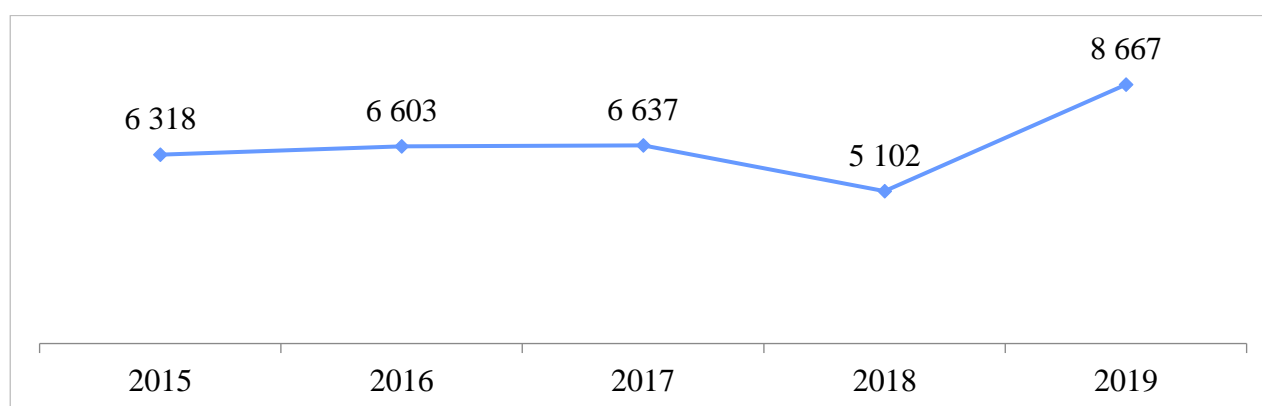
* Sange Research Center calculations based on data from CLSSA and SC MNE RK

In 2019, there is a tendency for an increase in the number of minors brought to administrative responsibility - 8 667 people, which is 11% higher compared to 2018 (5 102).

The main part of administrative offenses is constituted by following offenses:

- encroaching on public order and morality (petty hooliganism, violation of silence and violation of the ban on the consumption of tobacco products in certain public places) - 38.3%;
- encroaching on the established management procedure (living in the RK without registration or without identity documents) - 23%;
- in transport (exceeding the established speed, non-compliance with the requirements prescribed by road signs or markings of the carriageway, driving a vehicle by a person without documents and without the right to drive, etc.) - 24.5%.

Figure 79. The number of minors brought to administrative responsibility for 2015-2019.



Source: CLSSA RK

In comparison with last year, offenses related to living in the Republic of Kazakhstan without registration or without identity documents have increased. In 2018, they accounted for 22.5% of all administrative offenses (1,149), in 2019 - more than half of administrative offenses or 53% (3,014).

Offenses related to transport and observance of traffic rules increased from 1,251 to 2,068 or from 24.5% to 36.5% of all administrative offenses. To a certain extent, this is due to the recording of offenses by the Sergek public and road safety system. The most common offenses are exceeding the set speed (389), violation of traffic rules by pedestrians and other road users (450). 116 violations were committed by underage drivers of vehicles, resulting in harm to human health, damage to vehicles or other property.

One of the most common administrative offenses among minors is driving a vehicle by an undocumented person who does not have the right to drive (372). Their number increased by 63% compared to 2018. Minors have the right to drive only vehicles of subcategory "A1"⁵⁹

Table 37. The most common administrative offenses committed by minors

	2018	2019
Administrative offenses infringing on public order and morality	1 953	2118
Petty hooliganism	946	918
Violation of silence	129	154
Violation of the ban on the consumption of tobacco products in certain public places	768	958
Administrative offenses infringing on the established management procedure	1 172	3109
Accommodation in the Republic of Kazakhstan without registration or without identity documents	1 149	3 014

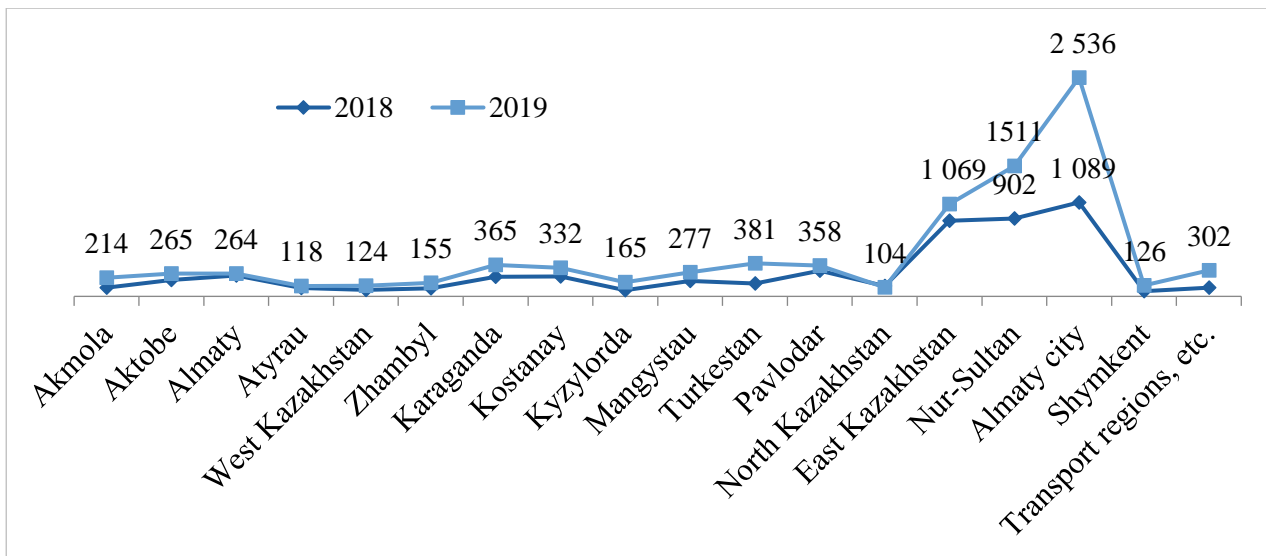
⁵⁹ Motorcycles, tricycles, ATVs and mopeds with a maximum design speed of more than fifty kilometers per hour, with a working volume of an internal combustion engine not exceeding one hundred and twenty-five cubic centimeters, and a maximum power not exceeding eleven kilowatts.

	2018	2019
Administrative offenses in transport, in the road sector	1 251	2 068
Violation of the rules for the operation of vehicles	44	52
Exceeding the set speed	338	389
Failure to comply with the requirements prescribed by road signs or markings of the carriageway	142	282
Driving a vehicle by a driver in a state of alcoholic, narcotic and (or) toxic intoxication, as well as transferring control of a vehicle to a person who is in a state of alcoholic, narcotic and (or) toxic intoxication	16	15
Violation of traffic rules by drivers of vehicles, resulting in harm to human health, damage to vehicles or other property	82	116
Driving a vehicle by an undocumented person who does not have the right to drive	228	372
Violation of traffic rules by pedestrians and other road users	200	450

The highest growth of administrative offenses by minors is in Almaty - up to 2,536 and Nur-Sultan - up to 1,511.

On the prevention of juvenile delinquency, the introduction into the competence of local executive bodies of the function of medical and social registration of persons registered with the internal affairs bodies, for the provision of social, legal and medical and psychological assistance, and also expanded the powers of the Commission on Minors in terms of protection children's rights and interests.

Figure 80. The number of minors brought to administrative responsibility by region for 2018-2019.



It should be noted that in 2019, 1,417 minors are on the preventive account of the internal affairs department, and 4,949 minors are on the list..

Table 38. Information about minors and children from disadvantaged families who are registered with the Department of Internal Affairs

	Preventive accounting	Списочный учет
Akmola	86	317
Aktobe	107	295
Almaty	231	430
Atyrau	36	93
West Kazakhstan	72	88
Zhambyl	88	245
Karaganda	104	666
Kostanay	117	917
Kyzylorda	60	43
Mangystau	57	125
Pavlodar	26	91
North Kazakhstan	26	143
Turkestan	159	438
East Kazakhstan	51	272
Nur-Sultan	30	200
Almaty city	67	518
Shymkent	78	68
Ministry of Internal Affairs Baikonur	22	0
Total	1 417	4 949

There is a medium security institution (LA-155/6) for juvenile convicts in the republic. In 2019, 42 minors were held in the institution.

Table 39. Juveniles convicted of crimes, 2018-2019

By composition of crimes	2018	2019
Murder	16	9
Intentional infliction of grievous bodily harm	6	11
Rape	6	7
Robbery	0	1
Robbery	3	0
Theft	2	0
Other crimes	8	14
Total	41	42

Source: MIA RK

According to the composition of crimes, more than 33% of minors are serving sentences for grave crimes and 67% for especially grave crimes (including one in four for murder, aged 17 and over - 71%, with a term of more than 5 years - 63%). In comparison with 2018, there is an increase in serious crimes and a slight decrease in especially serious crimes.

To ensure public control over the observance of the rights of pupils, there are public monitoring commissions and groups of participants in the national preventive mechanism.

In 2019, according to the probation services, 381 (2018 - 397) minors were sentenced to punishments not related to isolation from society⁶⁰.

7.4. Support Centers for Children in Difficult Life Situations and Adaptation Centers for Minors

During 2019, 15 Centers for the Adaptation of Minors (CAM) and 17 Support Centers for Children in Difficult Life Situations (SCCDLS) functioned in the country. In 2019, the norms for the creation and operation of Support Centers for children in difficult life situations were legislatively enshrined. These Centers were included in the list of organizations performing functions for the protection of the rights of the child. Child support centers operate in Akmola (1), Aktobe (1), East Kazakhstan region (1), Zhambyl (1), West Kazakhstan region (1), Karaganda (2), Pavlodar (2), North Kazakhstan region (2), Kostanay (4) and in Nur-Sultan (1).

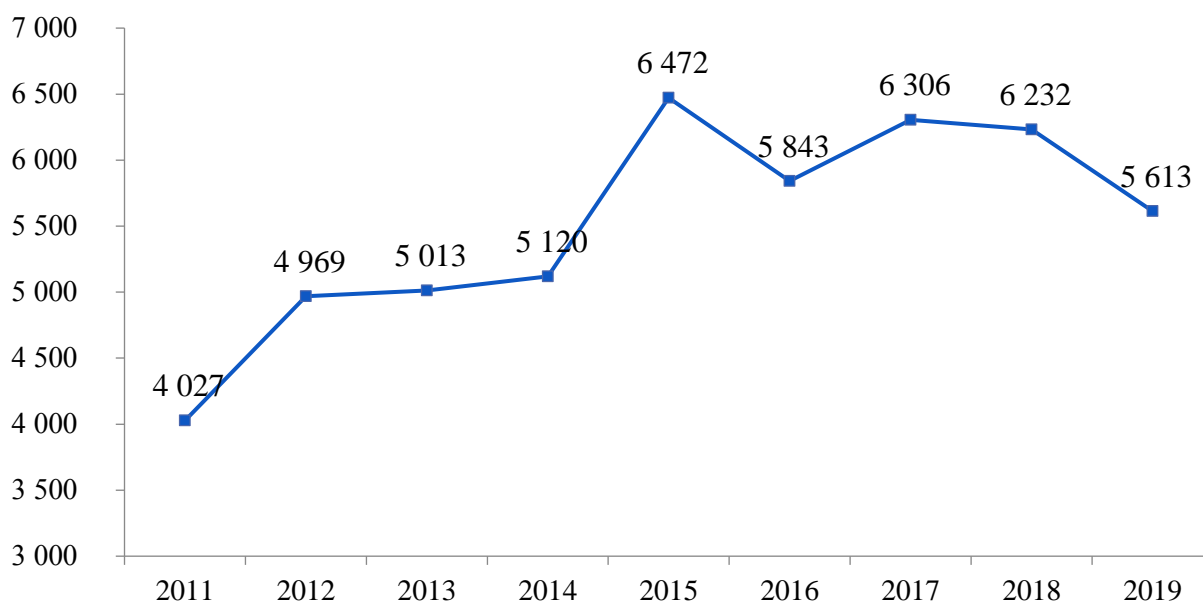
During the year, according to the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 4,597 minors were kept in TsANs, 2,582 minors were kept in CAMs.

Table 40. Children in CAMs and SCCDLS, 2018-2019

	Total minors		Including neglected and street children	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
CAM	4 621	4 597	3 920	3 770
SCCDLS	2 778	2 582	2 312	1 843
Total	7 399	7 179	6 232	5 613

The main share of the pupils of the CAMs and children support center are homeless and neglected children. If we look at the data in dynamics for the period 2011-2019, then there is no significant decrease in the number of children in this category. Compared to last year (6,232), the number of street and neglected children admitted to these institutions decreased to 5,613 children.

⁶⁰Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, data on official request, № ref:6/02/20-3 от 6.02.2020

Figure 81. Street children enrolled in CAMs and SCCDLS (2011-2019)

Source: MES RK

Of all the pupils of the CAMS and support centers (7,179) underwent social adaptation and transferred to families for upbringing 5,829 children or 81.2%, 205 children (2.86%) - for guardianship, foster care and 26 children (0.36%) - to the guest family.

Table 41. Of the admitted minors arranged

	ЦПД	ЦАН	Всего
transferred to families	2041	3788	5829
transferred to custody, patronage	110	95	205
transferred to a guest family	25	1	26
sent to organizations for orphans and LWPC	268	435	703
sent to special schools	31	92	123
transferred to CAM of other areas	12	15	27
sent to organizations like CAM in other countries	4	14	18

Source: MES RK

Support centers were created to provide children in difficult life situations with a guaranteed volume of special social services. The range of services includes social welfare, socio-medical, socio-psychological, socio-pedagogical, socio-labor, socio-cultural, socio-economic services, regulated by the standards for the provision of special social services in the field of education.

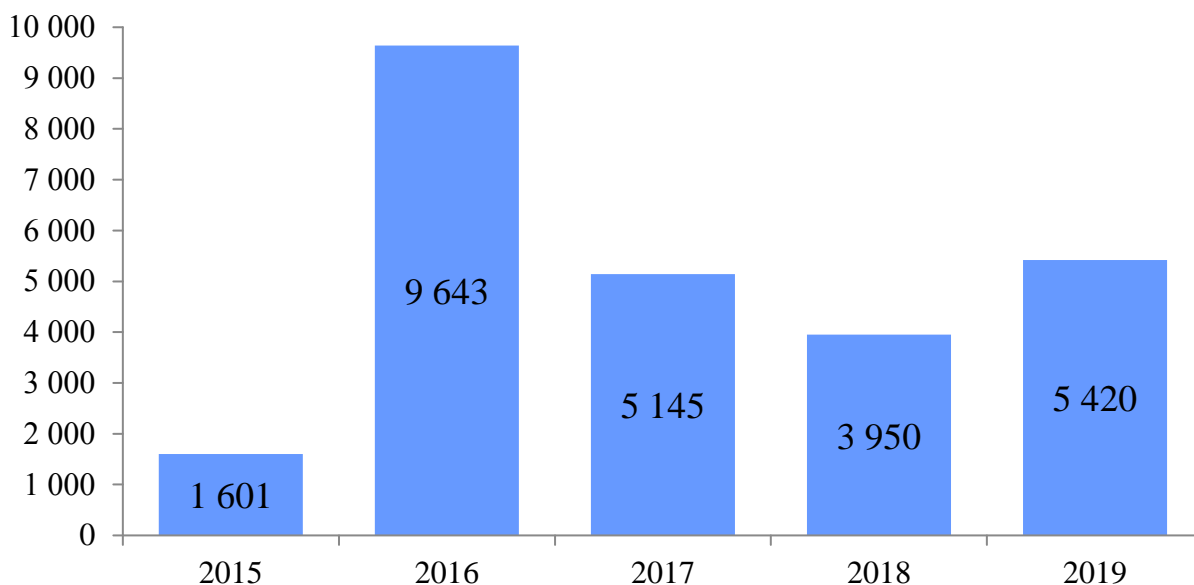
The changes that have occurred at the legislative level are a good basis for the development of special social services and are aimed at comprehensively addressing

issues related to the exit of families with children from a difficult life situation. At the same time, it is necessary to direct efforts to create support centers in each region of the republic, as well as to improve the quality of the services they provide.

7.5. Migrant children

In 2019, 9,993 families returned to their historical homeland and received the status of oralmans. Of the total number of oralmans, 30.7% are children (5,420). According to the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan, over the past five years, 25,759 children have arrived in 17,232 families.

Figure 82. Information about children from oralman families



The largest number of children with oralman status in 5 years arrived in Almaty, Turkestan and Mangistau regions. In 2019, half of oralman families live in Almaty and Mangistau regions (50%). Accordingly, most of the children (53.5%) are concentrated in these regions: in Almaty - 2 129 and in Mangistau - 768 children.

Table 42. Children from oralman families, 2015-2019.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Akmola	126	255	142	173	174
Aktobe	40	135	72	41	56
Almaty	14	2484	1 938	1042	2129
Atyrau	23	90	62	24	30
East Kazakhstan	41	490	325	135	194
Zhambyl	276	579	238	248	245
West Kazakhstan	12	23	15	3	15
Karaganda	147	217	110	148	175
Kostanay	181	121	109	203	149
Kyzylorda	12	14	16	2	4
Mangystau	219	1047	617	464	768
Pavlodar	72	194	134	183	336
North Kazakhstan	18	58	45	41	77
Turkestan	420	3239	867	676	249
Nur-Sultan	0	563	320	301	304
Almaty city	0	134	135	179	203
Shymkent				87	312
Kazakhstan	1601	9643	5 145	3950	5420

Source: MLSPP RK

According to the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the number of children of migrants from other countries studying in schools is 8,244 people, with the status of "refugee" - 419 children.

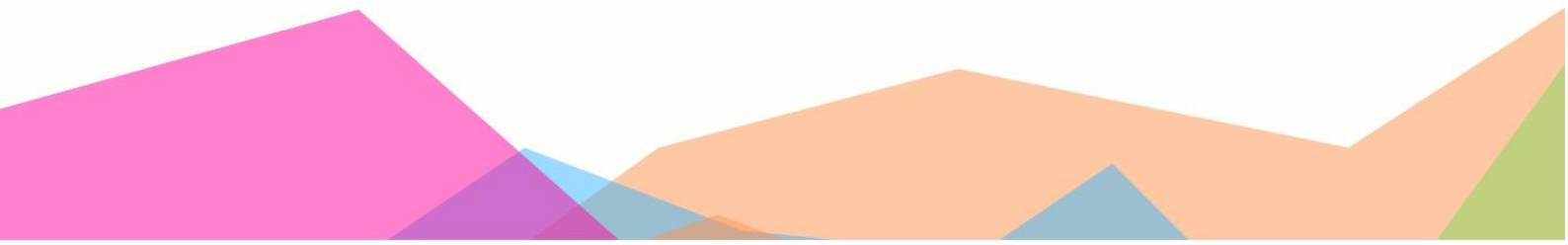
According to the CLSSA of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in 2019, 3,014 juvenile offenses were registered related to living in the Republic of Kazakhstan without registration or without identity documents. This is 2.6 times more than in 2018.

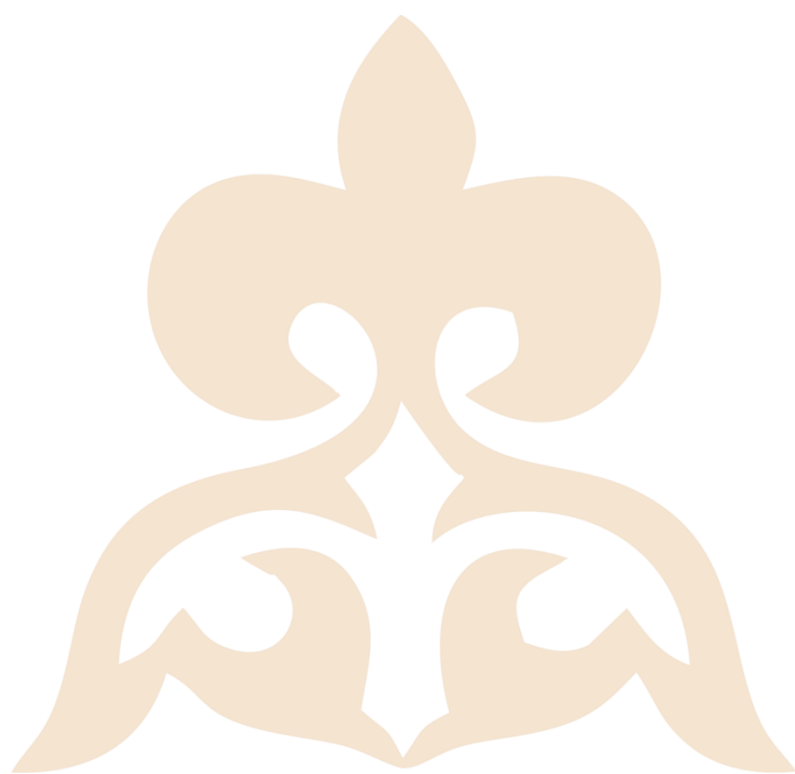
This is a matter of concern, since these children are extremely vulnerable in realizing their rights. Until the child is identified as unaccompanied, the state will not provide services for documenting, finding parents, determining his further placement. Migrant parents who violate immigration laws automatically place children in a state of uncertainty.



CHAPTER 8

RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN KAZAKHSTAN





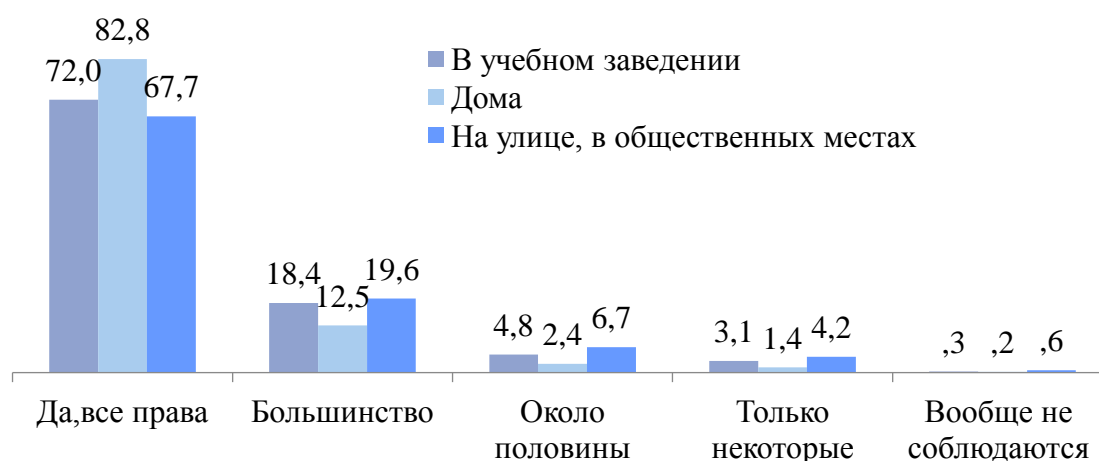
8.1. Child rights assessment

Protection of the rights, freedoms and interests of children is an interconnected system of actions of the state, society, as well as international and Kazakh non-governmental organizations. Within the framework of the study, the children themselves assessed the extent to which their rights are respected at home, in educational institutions, in society.

According to the survey, 56.8% of children believe that all their rights are respected, which is 4.2% more than according to the results of the 2018 survey (in 2018 - 52.6%).

Children are most satisfied with the observance of all their rights at home, least of all on the street. The survey revealed that 82.8% of children answered that their rights were fully observed at home, 72% - in an educational institution, 67.7% - on the street, in public places.

Figure 83. Respect for children's rights (interviewing children), %



33.7% of children note about non-observance of certain rights. Most often, violations of the rights to freedom of speech (9.7%), freedom of expression (6.9%), the right to health care (5.8%) and equality (5.7%) are noted.

The answers of children that are at the end of this list in terms of frequency of mention also require special attention. These are the most problematic and urgent areas in the field of violation of children's rights:

- ✓ Protection from violence and cruel treatment - 2.6%;
- ✓ Care of parents - 2.1%;
- ✓ Protection against all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse - 1.6%;
- ✓ Protection from economic exploitation and from performing any work that may be dangerous, serve as an obstacle for education, etc. - 1.4%;
- ✓ The right to form peaceful assemblies, establish associations - 1.4%;
- ✓ The right to profess your religion, to perform its rituals, mother tongue - 1.3%.

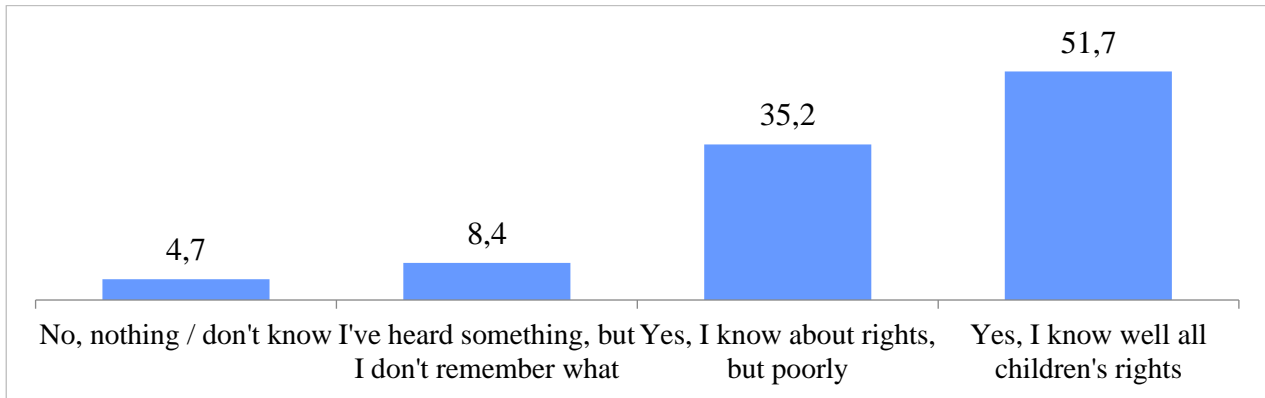
Table 43. Rights that are not respected according to the results of a survey of children.

Right	N	%
The right to freedom of speech	5647	9,7
Freely express your thoughts, your own opinion	4016	6,9
The right to health care	3366	5,8
Equality	3335	5,7
The right to personal freedom	2760	4,7
Respect, dignity and privacy	2519	4,3
Rest and leisure	2255	3,9
Maintain your individuality	2001	3,4
Eligibility for public assistance	1653	2,8
Right to education	1586	2,7
Secrecy of correspondence, correspondence	1577	2,7
Protection from violence and abuse	1537	2,6
Receiving the information	1215	2,1
Decent housing	1227	2,1
Parental care	1201	2,1
Protection against all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse	935	1,6
Protection from economic exploitation and from doing any work that could be dangerous, hinder education, etc.	829	1,4
Peaceful assemblies, association building	841	1,4
The right to profess your religion, to perform its rituals, native language	766	1,3

8.2. Awareness of children about their rights and where to turn in case of violation

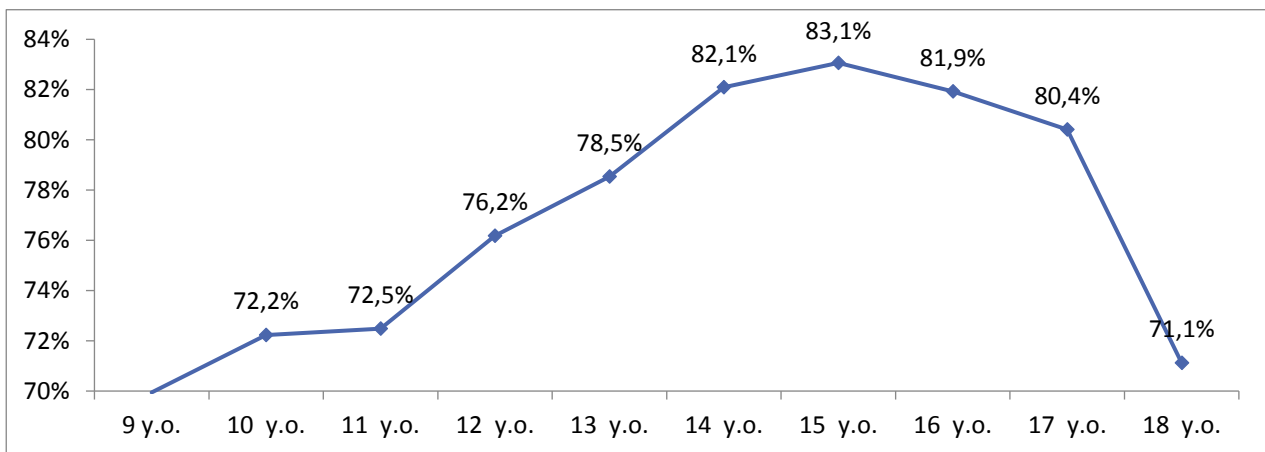
According to a sociological survey, 51.7% of children confidently answered that they know all their rights, 35.2% know about their rights, but poorly. 8.4% of respondents have heard something about rights, but do not remember what exactly, 4.7% of children do not know anything about children's rights.

Figure 84. Awareness of the Rights of a Child (children), %



78% of children know where to turn in case of violation of their rights. The older the children, the greater their awareness (69% of 9-year-olds know where to turn, 83% of 15-year-olds). However, starting from the age of 16, the share of respondents who are aware of this issue begins to decrease from 82% at 16 to 71% at 18.

Figure 85. Children who are aware of where to go if their rights are not respected, %

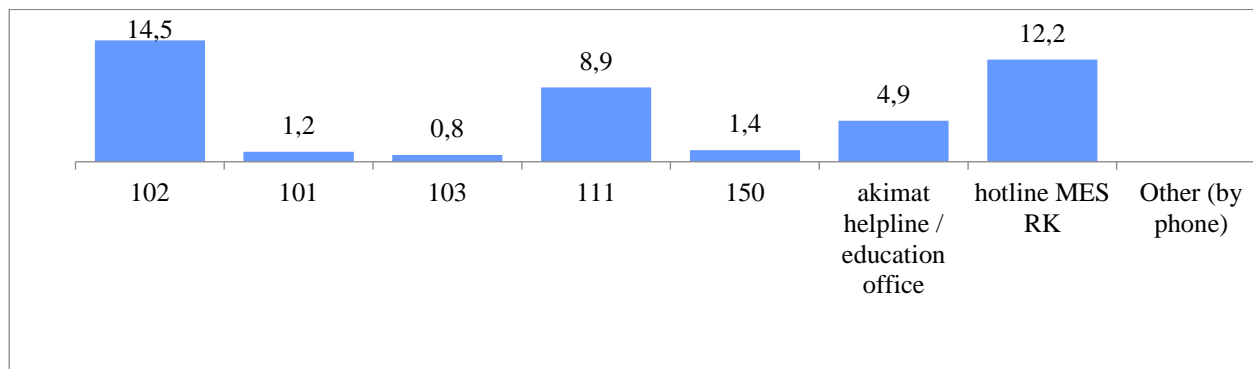


81% of children said that they would turn to someone for help in violation of their rights. In most cases, when rights are violated, children will count on the help of their parents (69.4%). Children with much less desire to turn to other relatives for help (3.3%). Teachers will be approached by 30.3% of respondents, a school psychologist - 18.6%, friends - 10.8%, and a juvenile affairs inspector - 10.4%.

43.9% of respondents can use various services if necessary. 14.5% of children will call the emergency number of police "102". Telephone helplines are not widespread among children. 8.9% of children will use the national helpline (emergency service "111") of the Commissioner for Children's Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Children know and can ask for help, in case of violation of their rights, to the hotline of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights) - 12.2% and to the helpline of the

Akimat / Education Department - 4.9%. Other services are mentioned by about 1% of children.

Figure 86. What services will children turn to if their rights are violated, %



8.3. Exploitation of child labor

Economic instability and market economy conditions increase the vulnerability of children, especially children from poor families living in rural areas, from problem families and children without parental care. There is a risk that children may be manipulated and exploited in the absence of legal and administrative control. According to international experts, in recent years, Kazakhstan has seen the disappearance of some typical urban forms of child labor (small trade, etc.) and the concentration of child labor in two areas - agriculture and the informal sector in cities (small businesses, markets, etc.) bazaars, etc.).

The monitoring of the child labor situation in the country is carried out by the Coordination Council for Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan, whose activities are carried out taking into account the ratified conventions of the International Labor Organization "On the minimum age for admission to work", "On the prohibition and immediate measures to eradicate the worst forms of child labor".⁶¹

According to the said Coordination Council, in 2018 state labor inspectors revealed 10 facts during inspections, and for 9 months of 2019 2 facts of illegal employment of minors in labor, for which employers were brought to administrative responsibility. Basically, minors carry out their labor activities with small businesses in the summer, in places of trade in markets, at car washes and vehicle repair stations, in public catering points (restaurants, cafes), etc.

In September 2019, the Coordination Council approved the Action Plan for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor for 2020 - 2022 in accordance with the Convention on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor. The plan contains a number of measures based on priorities, covering various aspects of this problem: improving policy and legislation on the

⁶¹ <http://www.enbek.gov.kz/ru/node/363643>

elimination of the worst forms of child labor, organizational and practical measures, promoting public awareness of the problem of child labor and methods of its eradication in order to form intolerant public attitudes to the worst forms of child labor.

Effective implementation of this plan can create favorable conditions for both the elimination of child labor and the improvement of the situation of vulnerable groups of children. It can be noted the particular relevance of the following activities included in the plan:

- Studying, within the framework of the current labor legislation, the issue of approving the list of light jobs, which are allowed to use the labor of minors between the ages of fourteen and sixteen, in their free time from school;
- Creation of alternative educational programs for children from low-income families, instilling professional skills;
- Providing children freed from the worst forms of child labor with access to vocational training;
- Conducting annual monitoring of the provision of school education for children living in rural areas, including children of seasonal workers and migrants, during the academic year.

8.4. International experience in the field of observance of children's rights

To improve the situation in the field of observance of children's rights in Kazakhstan, it is important to focus on the experience of countries that are successful in this area, and at the same time take into account local characteristics.

8.4.1. Child Flourishing Index

The report of the WHO commission and UNICEF "A future for the world's children?" presented the Child flourishing index in 180 countries. Achievements in child prosperity are compared, including indicators of child survival and well-being, in particular in health, education and nutrition; and sustainability, using proxies for greenhouse gas emissions and equity or the income gap⁶².

Table 44. Country ranking by child flourishing index, 2019.

Country	Ranking	Ranking with CO2	Flourishing Index	Survival	Well-being
Norway	1	156	0,95	1,00	0,90
South Korea	2	166	0,95	1,00	0,90
Netherlands	3	160	0,95	1,00	0,90
France	4	130	0,95	1,00	0,90
Ireland	5	154	0,95	1,00	0,90
Kazakhstan	59	172	0,75	0,78	0,73

Source: <http://www.thelancet-press.com/embargo/childhealth.pdf>

⁶² <https://www.unicef.org/kazakhstan>

According to this index, the Republic of Kazakhstan occupies the 59th position. Leading countries in the Child Prosperity Index are Norway, South Korea, the Netherlands, France and Ireland.

When carbon dioxide emissions per capita were taken into account, the countries at the top of the index fell far behind. Kazakhstan, taking into account the indicators of carbon dioxide per capita, according to the index of prosperity of children, moved from 59th place to 172nd⁶³.

According to the report "A future for the world's children?" Presented by a commission of more than 40 international experts, children's health and their future are not adequately protected in any country. Thus, one of the main problems in ensuring the rights of children is the problem of ensuring a safe environment for life and health..

8.4.2. Measures to prevent cruelty

Countries that hold leading positions in the protection of children's rights are taking effective measures to combat bullying, ensure the safety of children, and protect against domestic and other types of violence.

Anti-bullying strategies have been developed in the United States of America, European countries and Canada, governments are allocating significant resources to create safe spaces in educational institutions, the media is involved, social advertising, media products, films against bullying and aggression are created. The National Bullying Prevention Center, founded in 2006, operates in the USA⁶⁴. There are entire anti-bullying programs in schools with the slogans "Not in my school" / "Not in my school", where teachers, school staff and students themselves are guided in every possible way to suppress any manifestations of aggression, bullying and hatred. Students conduct flash mobs, anti-violence months, stage performances on this topic, hold film screenings, class hours, sign Anti-bullying Pledge / Anti-bullying charter.

It is important that in such schools children themselves play a major role in the fight against bullying and realize their importance in solving this problem.

Domestic violence is another acute problem. In the United States of America, there is the Childhood Domestic Violence Association (Association against domestic violence against children)⁶⁵. Children and parents are provided with the necessary consultations, the necessary assistance and support, with the involvement of various public organizations.

The human rights organization Safehorizon has several support lines operating 24 hours a day, including the Child Abuse and Maltreatment line on child abuse and violence. Dispatchers provide services in ten different languages⁶⁶.

In the UK, there is the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC). The NSPCC works on child welfare issues and also creates campaigns for the general public to raise awareness about the protection of children's

⁶³ <https://www.unicef.org/kazakhstan>

⁶⁴ National Bullying Prevention Center <https://www.pacer.org/bullying/about/>

⁶⁵ Official website of the Association against Domestic Violence against Children <https://cdv.org/what-is-cdv/>

⁶⁶ Safehorizon <https://www.safehorizon.org/hotlines/>

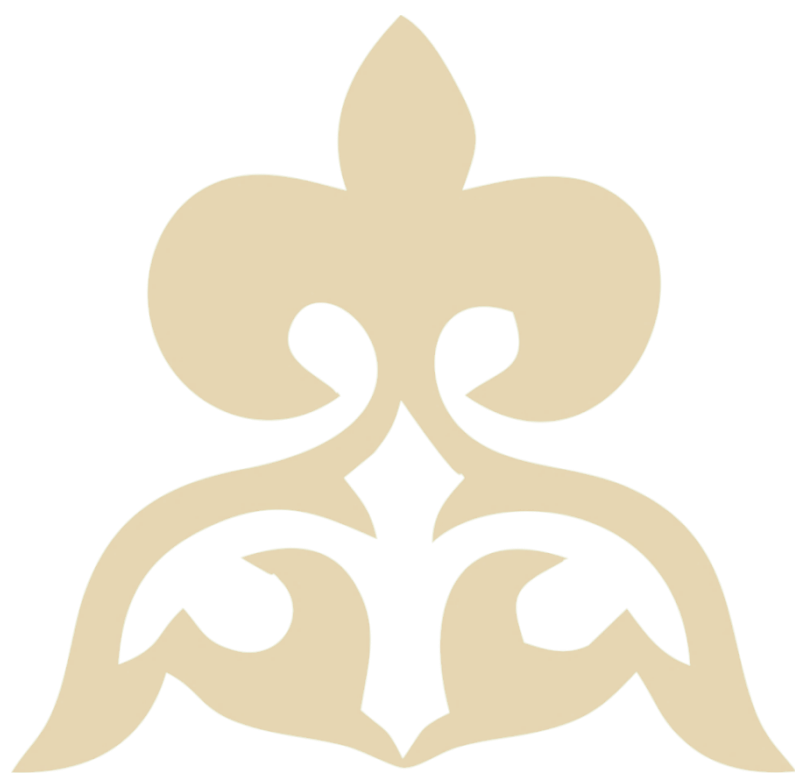
rights. It has a helpline for those who are concerned about the child and a children's helpline where children can directly seek help and support. In addition to telephone lines, an online counseling service is provided for children and adolescents. The NSPCC operates local service centers throughout the UK to help youth and families. Since 2009, training and advice has been provided for organizations that have contact with children, from schools to sports facilities, to make them safer for children.й.





CHAPTER 9
CONCLUSIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS





Chapter 9. Conclusions and recommendations

As a part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations, and the Kazakhstan-2050 Strategy, which focuses on the protection of motherhood and childhood, in 2019, further work was carried out in Kazakhstan to improve legislation, institutional structure, and administrative procedures in children's rights protection.

The “State Program for the Development of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020 - 2025” (further referred as State Program) was approved; this program maintains continuity of education development policy, and is aimed at ensuring accessibility, inclusiveness and improving quality at all levels of education. The State Program includes testing and implementation of Children's Well-being Index, which were recommended in the 2018 Report on the Situation of Children.

In order to reduce the re-orphanage, the activities of organizations to assist the placement of orphans and children left without parental care are regulated, as well as the requirements of mandatory training of potential adoptive parents.

In order to reduce family problems, the competence of local executive bodies on maintaining medical and social records of children and families registered with the police has been expanded, creating support centers for children in difficult life situations.

The criminal responsibility for crimes against the sexual integrity of a child has been strengthened, the functions of the commission for minors and the protection of their rights have been expanded.

Measures of public control over the observance of children's rights in closed institutions have been introduced. There is an open access to visits to all organizations carrying out functions to protect the children's rights under the mandate of the national preventive mechanism.

In order to effectively control the expenditure of the resources of the education fund for students from socially vulnerable categories, amendments were made to the Rules for the formation, expenditure and accounting of funds.

The transition of general education schools to per capita financing, aimed at increasing competition between schools and creating healthy motivation for their growth and development, is being carried out. In 2019, 437 state and 80 private schools of the republic switched to this type of financing.

The significant events of 2019 included the introduction of a new state allowance to large families and of a guaranteed social package for children from low-income families.

As a result of consistent social and demographic policies the number of children in Kazakhstan has increased over the past 5 years by 12%, the maternal and infant mortality decreased by 17% in the republic, the number of preschool institutions has increased by 20%, the number of children in orphanages has decreased by 10%.

However, despite the achievements in children's rights protection in the country, following issues remain and are in need of solutions.

1. The institute of Family

In recent years, there has been a steady increase in poverty in Kazakhstan, measured by the proportion of the population having incomes below the subsistence level (2.8% in 2014, 4.5% in 2019), especially prevalent in rural areas (3.8% in 2014, 6.4% in 2019). The main category of poor households is made up of large families. As a rule, the level of material wealth of a family directly impacts their level of access to high-quality nutrition, the absence of which negatively affects the health and development of a child.

Divorces have a negative impact on the family, children, and society. Over the last 4 years, the number of divorces of families with children has increased by 18%. In 2019 alone, 39,925 families changed the status of a complete family to an incomplete one. Considering that the average number of children in Kazakhstani families is 2 children, it can be assumed that about 80 thousand children of the republic received psychological trauma due to their parents' divorce. At the same time, the reason behind some of these divorces is the desire to reduce the family's official income to receive benefits, and to participate in various state programs for obtaining housing.

2. Children's Safety

The problem of the growth of crimes committed against children (violence, abuse, sexual abuse) remains relevant. Despite the general dynamics of a decrease in the level of offenses since 2011, over the past year the number of crimes against the sexual integrity of children has increased (2019 - 794, 2018 - 739). In the total number of all types of crimes against children, the proportion of crimes of sexual nature is 37.5%.

An additional risk to the safety of children are outdoor toilets. As of 2019, 34% of schools (2352) had only outdoor toilets, of which 94% are in rural areas.

The most common cause of injuries and child mortality from external causes are traffic accidents. Every year, over 4 thousand children are involved in traffic accidents.

In 2019 the number of suicide attempts increased from 329 to 351, or by 6,7%, compared to the previous year. The main factors preceding suicidal behavior are loneliness accompanied by a feeling of rejection, conflicts with parents and relatives.

The issue of information security remains relevant. According to the survey, more than 70% of children use the Internet, have mobile phones and computers, thereby being vulnerable to cyber bullying and electronic fraud. Of these, 6% of children experienced cases of virtual violence on social networks, 8.5% of religious propaganda, 5% of suicide propaganda. However, 86% of children see meeting people online in a positive light.

The situation is aggravated by the lack of the parents' awareness of the dangers of a child's uncontrolled online communication. On average, during the conducted survey, about 36% of parents have heard for the first time about existence of various types of bullying and blackmail a child can suffer in the cyber space.

3. *Emergency schools and triple shifting*

The number of emergency schools is not decreasing in the republic; in comparison with 2018, this indicator increased from 36 to 37 schools.

Over the past five years, the percentage of schools that conduct classes in three shifts has increased by 57% (in 2015 - 87, in 2019 - 137), which not only reduces the quality of education, but also significantly affects the health of children.

*In order to improve the situation of children and families with children, it is therefore necessary to **continue to**:*

- 1) Improve legislation on the protection of children's rights;
- 2) Continue testing and implementation of the Children's Well-being Index;
- 3) Improve the economic situation of families with children through the expansion of social guarantees;
- 4) Carry out construction of new educational facilities, and reconstruction of emergency ones, strengthening the material and technical base of educational organizations;
- 5) Respect the guaranteed rights of orphans and children deprived of parental care, including dismantling and transformation of children's homes and providing training for adoptive parents, expanding the network of specialized centers focused on accompanying children and families in difficult situations;
- 6) Improve the training and advanced training of education personnel working with children (psychologists, social educators, specialists in children's services and guardianship authorities, secretaries of commissions on minors' affairs);
- 7) Establish multidisciplinary sanatorium and spa facilities working throughout the year for rehabilitation of children from socially vulnerable categories of population;
- 8) Strengthen the measures of cyber security for children; attract bloggers and media personalities to promote the rules of cyber security for children;
- 9) Teach parents the basics of ensuring the safety of children on the basis of information and advisory platforms.



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