

Surveys on children: child poverty in Kyrgyzstan

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Geography of the Kyrgyz Republic



Geography of the Kyrgyz Republic

- # The Kyrgyz Republic is situated in the north-eastern part of Central Asia
- # The Republic has borders with Kazakhstan, China, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
- # The country is 199,900 square kilometers in size.
- # Most of the terrain is mountainous (almost 90 per cent of the surface is 1500 meters above sea level)

Geography of the Kyrgyz Republic

- ✚ The maximum height above sea level is 7439 meters, and the minimum is 401 meters.;
- ✚ Issyk-Kul lake covers an areas of 6236 square kilometers and is one of the largest and deepest mountain lakes in the world
- ✚ The language of government is Kyrgyz, but Russian can still be used in official and state documents, meetings etc
- ✚ The national currency is the “som”
- ✚ The republic has 7 administrative regions, and the capital Bishkek (757,000) is also considered as a separate administrative region

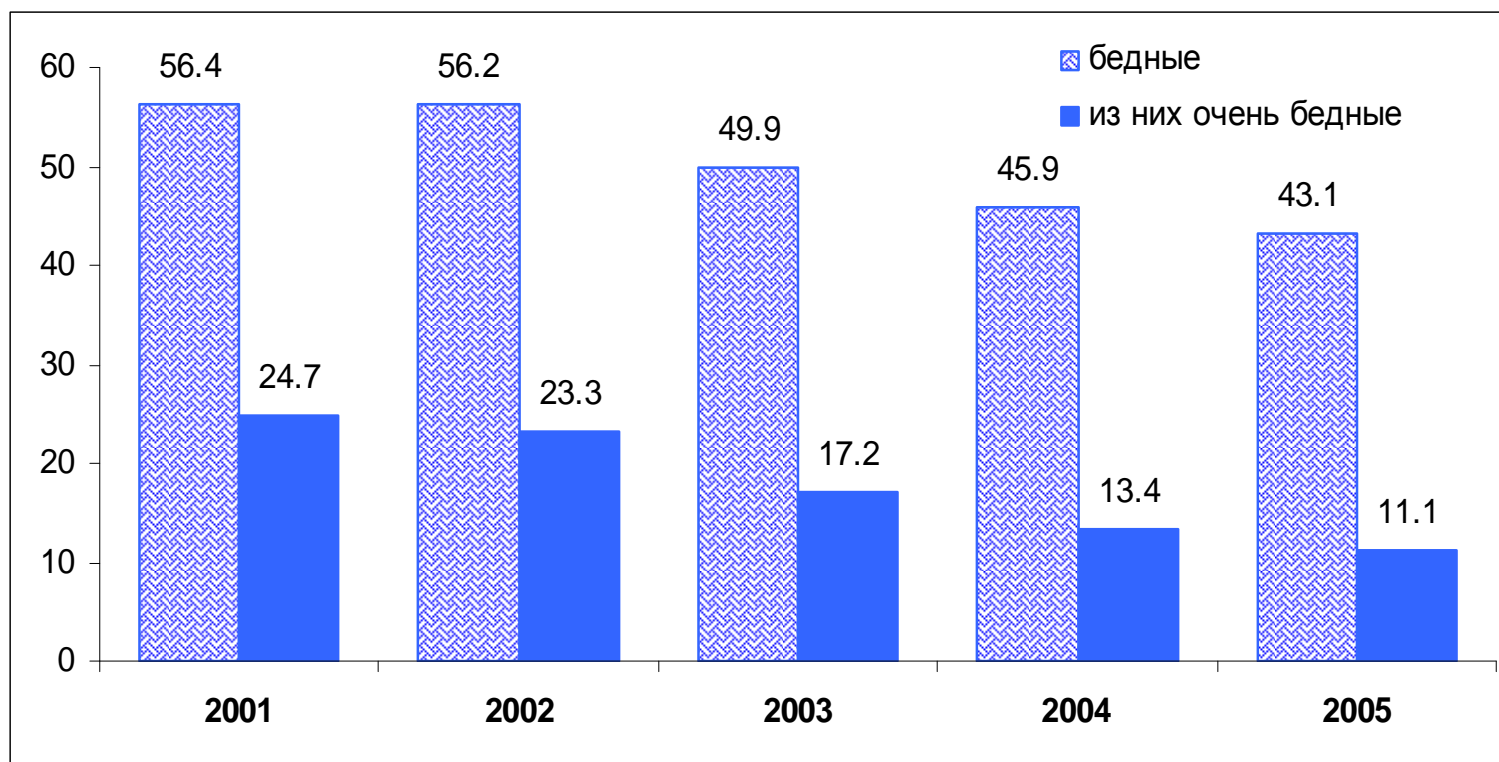
The Population

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
				<i>thousands</i>			
Total population	4836.8	4887.6	4927	4965.4	5010.8	5065	5115.8
Population over 16 years	3013.2	3076.9	3137.2	3198.3	3265.2	3336	3401.1
Children aged 0-15 years	1823.6	1810.7	1789.8	1767.1	1745.7	1729	1714.6
				<i>percent</i>			
Total population	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Population over 16 years	62.3	63.0	63.7	64.4	65.2	65.9	66.5
Children aged 0-15 years	37.7	37.0	36.3	35.6	34.8	34.1	33.5

Источник: Национальный статистический комитет КР

Level of Poverty in the Kyrgyz Republic

Share of total population



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- ✚ Survey of child and maternal mortality in Talass region:
 - ✚ December 2002. (CSER “Sotsekon”)
 - ✚ Size of sample 4680 hhs (captured 2 325 children, born in the period 1997-2001)
- ✚ Generation in peril?! Childhood poverty in Kyrgyzstan:
 - ✚ March 2003 (Research Centre AUCA, M. Ablezova et al)
 - ✚ Sample size: 1096 hhs

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✚ Dynamics of childhood poverty:

- ✚ 2003, first report published in 2005 (Jane Falkingham and Sh. Ibragimova)
- ✚ The research drew on the results of the LSMS surveys (1996-1998), Household Energy Survey (1999), HBS (1998-2002), panel data of HBS (1998-2001), health module added to HBS (2001)
- ✚ Sample size LSMS и HES: 3000 hhs
- ✚ Sample size HBS: 1998-1999 2000 hhs; 2000-2002 3000 hhs
- ✚ Panel data from HBS: 1998 – 2001 1000 hhs

✚ MICS – survey of children under 5 years and family,

- ✚ December 2005 (UNICEF & NSC)
- ✚ Sample size: 5200 hh (3004 children under 5 years)

Survey of child poverty in Kyrgyzstan

- ✚ Organization of sample surveys:
 - ✚ Questionnaire design and piloting
 - ✚ Sample design (defining target groups, size of sample, definition of sampling methodology)
 - ✚ Carrying out field work (timetable and schedule for fieldwork, interviewer workload etc)

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Questionnaire design and piloting: pluses and minuses

Advantages:

- All surveys include questions, which allow information to be collected which corresponds to the aims of the survey
- Before the actual survey, the questionnaires can be tested and there is the possibility to improve the quality of the questions

Disadvantages

- Although piloting can show how the questions are being understood by respondents, it cannot show whether the right question is actually being asked
- Wrong or wrongly formulated questions may be asked, but this only becomes clear during analysis

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Questionnaire design and piloting: pluses and minuses

Minuses:

For example, the survey carried out for the research project of AUCA included a question on income: what is the average monthly income of your household?

Less than 300 soms

	minimum	maximum	difference
1. from 301 to 500	301	500	40%
2.	501	700	28%
3. From 2501 to 4000 soms	701	900	22%
	901	1100	18%
	1101	1300	15%
	1301	1500	13%
	1501	2000	25%
	2001	2500	20%

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Questionnaire design and piloting: pluses and minuses :

Minuses:

When analyzing the survey results the researchers at AUCA calculated average values for income. But how correctly were these averages defined?

Table 2 Mean income per household (in soms)

	Mean monthly income	Mean monthly income per capita
Rural	789	131
Urban	1275	255
Total	919	153

T-test for equality of means is significant at 0.01 level - in other words, the differences between these results are statistically significant.

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Minuses:

The following assets were taken into consideration for calculation:

Assets, owned by the household or planned to be purchased	Money equivalents, per item	
	in soms	In USD
A house, owned by the household	40 000	952
Dacha	8 000 per hectare and multiplied by 1.5 if the land is irrigated	190
Farm land	8 000 per hectare and multiplied by 1.5 if the land is irrigated	190
Annual income	Average income of the household multiplied by 12 months	
Car	40 000	952
Other motorised vehicle – truck, etc.	40 000	952
VCR	800	19
Tape recorder	2 000	48
Color TV	8 000	190
Black and white TV	2 500	60
Fridge	10 000	238
Telephone	600	14
Laundry washer	800	19
Cow	15 000	357
Horse	20 000	476
Sheep	2 500	60
Chicken	80	2

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Minuses:

- ✦ It is impossible to calculate income from dachas and family plots using the same coefficients. The size of dacha plots are usually 400-600 square meters, and the owners are usually urban residents
- ✦ Consumer durable goods: if it is planned to estimate their value, then there have to be questions on how old they are (when they were bought), and to ask how much households could get by selling them now. For example, a new black-white television made in China costs \$60, but without additional questions it could be assumed that the hh bought such a television 20 years ago, and that it has no value on the current market. The same is true for other durables

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Some problems with questionnaire design:

- ✦ Surveys are often carried out in several different countries. It is necessary in this case to use standardized methodologies. But the specific characteristics of each country should not be forgotten
- ✦ Sometimes questionnaire is used which has already been used in surveys in other countries. It is necessary to adapt the questionnaire to the specific characteristics of the country
- ✦ Often the first version of the questionnaire is available in English. In order to be sure that the original meaning and purpose of the questions is not lost during translation (in our case into Russian and Kyrgyz), it is best if two-way translation is carried out by different translators (from English to Russian and from Russian to English). And then to compare the translation in English with the original English version.
- ✦ In order to get responses to all the questions, it is best if the whole interview does not last longer than 1.5 – 2 hours. If the interview is longer, there is a risk that the respondent gets tired, and refuses to carry on when only half the interview is completed.

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Sample Pluses:

- ✦ In the above-mentioned surveys the sample design and methodology did correspond to the objectives of the survey, apart from that carried out by the AUCA.
- ✦ In all surveys the sample size was large enough to ensure capturing the target group. Equal probability of being in the sample meant that it was possible to use weights to get results which were representative for the whole country.
- ✦ For example, we do not have statistics on the number of children born in the period 1997-2001 in each PSU. As a result, it is impossible to define in which PSU it is necessary to select a defined number of these children. Therefore the method of simple random selection of hhs with equal probability of being in the sample and large sample size can guarantee a high enough representation of the target group.

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Design of samples: minuses

- ✦ The sample design for the survey carried out by AUCA:
Survey covered 1096 hhs and 22 population points. The following criteria were used to draw up the sample:
 - ✦ Division into urban and rural location
 - ✦ Urban settlements and migrants
 - ✦ Rayons with long term residents
 - ✦ Small industrial towns
 - ✦ Rural rayons where the main economic activity is:
 - ✦ Animal breeding
 - ✦ crops
 - ✦ combined
 - ✦ valley
 - ✦ High mountain
 - ✦ Distance from town centre
 - ✦ Population points with a high number of recipients of benefits

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Sample design: minuses

Use of very different and varied criteria to select households does not always allow to retain the random selection approach. In other words, such an approach does not guarantee equal probability of a hh being in the sample. In this case, the sample was formed on the basis of target groups. Therefore the results cannot be taken as representative for the whole country, since we do not know how many PSUs there are in the country using these criteria.

The results always have to be examined taking into account the confidence interval. (standard deviations etc)

However, state employees and politicians do not always understand that the results have to be interpreted carefully, in this case when drawing up state programmes on protection of child rights

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Organization of field work

Defining the period for field work depends on the aims of the survey

Over 65 percent of the population lives in rural areas. They finish harvest work at the end of October. Therefore if doing a survey of incomes, rural respondents can remember full information on income from agriculture at this time. Therefore it is best to carry out a survey in October- November.

In summer period it is very difficult to find respondents, since in rural areas most of the population are engaged in farm work. Most urban residents go on holiday.

It is not a good idea to do a survey in December-February, since it is very cold, and the interviewers have problems in measuring height and weight of children; snow also makes it difficult to reach some villages

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Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions:

Sample surveys are an expensive business

Large sample size guarantees better quality results, but these are not always possible within the survey budget

If funds are short, then it is tempting to cut the sample size

Small sample sizes and ambitious objectives do not add up to good results

Design of questionnaires and defining key questions depends on the aim of those who will do the analysis. Therefore before beginning the survey, there should be a “design” of the analysis of the results

The survey results and reports should be accessible and understandable to different groups of users

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Conclusions and Recommendations

Recommendations:

- ✦ Statistical offices in the republic carry out regular household surveys. In Kyrgyzstan currently an integrated household survey is carried out together with a labour force. It is carried out quarterly, with a sample of 5000 hhs.
- ✦ In 2001 and 2004 a WHO project helped develop a health module, including qualitative aspects. The questions in the module are given to those households who participate in the HBS
- ✦ This approach allowed:
 - ✦ Reduce survey costs
 - ✦ Reduce time costs - the module takes 30-40 minutes
 - ✦ Includes quantitative data on income and expenditure etc
 - ✦ Obtain large sample size