

**L. Kasymova<sup>1</sup>\*, P. Ananchenkova<sup>2</sup>**<sup>1</sup>Narxoz University, Almaty, Kazakhstan<sup>2</sup>N.A. Semashko National Research Institute of Public Health, Moscow, Russia

\*e-mail: leila67@mail.ru

## CRIME SITUATION AS AN OBJECT OF SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH (USING THE EXAMPLE OF ONE OF THE DISTRICTS OF ALMATY)

The article presents the results of an empirical study aimed at studying the perception of the crime situation of residents of the Turksib district of Almaty.

The purpose of this article is to study the problems and factors influencing the crime situation in the Turksib region. The scientific and practical significance of the work lies in the fact that the empirical study carried out on the example of one district of the city reveals problems of crime that are identical for any district of the city.

The research methodology is based on quantitative and qualitative methods. A survey was conducted among residents of the Turksib district of Almaty, the observation method and analysis of legal statistics were used. The accessibility and availability of area infrastructure, the quality and efficiency of street lighting, compliance with safety and comfort requirements for area residents and the impact of these factors on the crime situation were analyzed.

The study found that crime is perceived as a significant problem by the majority of area residents. There is an unsatisfactory state of street lighting and an insufficient number of CCTV cameras, which leads to an increase in crime. The lack of sufficient awareness of the activities of local police officers and poor communication with residents indicate problems in communication and interaction between the police and the population.

Social inequality and limited access to legitimate means of achieving success can lead to increased crime. The crime situation in the urban environment can increase in areas with high levels of migration, poverty and social instability. Such areas often lack social norms and values, as well as control mechanisms, creating favorable conditions for criminal activity. Crimes occur in places and situations where there is opportunity and low risk of being caught.

The practical significance of this work also lies in the actualization of a little-used research method as observation for the study of public spaces of Kazakh society.

**Key words:** criminogenic situation, crime, security, urban environment, law enforcement agencies, social factors, Turksib district of Almaty.

Л.Н. Қасымова<sup>1</sup>\*, П.И. Ананченкова<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>Нархоз университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан<sup>2</sup>Н.А. Семашко атындағы ағылшын-ағылшын қоғамдық денсаулық сақтау

ұлттық ғылыми-зерттеу институты, Мәскеу, Ресей

\*e-mail: leila67@mail.ru

### Криминогендік жағдай әлеуметтік зерттеудің объектісі ретінде (Алматы қаласындағы аудандардың бірінің мысалы негізінде)

Мақалада Алматы қаласы Түркісіб ауданы тұрғындарының криминогендік жағдайды қабылдауын зерттеуге бағытталған эмпирикалық зерттеу нәтижелері келтірілген.

Бұл мақаланың мақсаты Түркісіб ауданындағы криминогендік жағдайға әсер ететін мәселелер мен факторларды зерттеу болып табылады. Жұмыстың ғылыми және практикалық маңыздылығы мынада: қаланың бір ауданының мысалында жүргізілген эмпирикалық зерттеу қаланың кез келген ауданына ұқсас қылмыстық мәселелерді анықтайды.

Зерттеу әдістемесі сандық және сапалық әдістерге негізделген. Алматы қаласы Түркісіб ауданының тұрғындары арасында сауалнама жүргізілді, бақылау әдісі мен құқықтық статистиканы талдау қолданылды. Аудан инфрақұрылымының қолжетімділігі мен болуы, көше жарығының сапасы мен тиімділігі, аудан тұрғындары үшін қауіпсіздік пен жайлылық талаптарына сәйкестігі және осы факторлардың криминогендік жағдайға әсері талданды.

Зерттеу барысында аудан тұрғындарының көпшілігі қылмысты маңызды мәселе ретінде қабылдағаны анықталды. Көше жарығының қанағаттанарлықсыз жай-күйі және бейнебақылау камераларының жеткіліксіз саны байқалады, бұл қылмыстың өсуіне әкеледі. Участке инспекторының

ның қызметі туралы жеткілікті ақпараттың болмауы, тұрғындармен тығыз байланыстың болмауы, полиция мен халық арасындағы байланыс пен өзара іс-қимылдағы проблемаларды көрсетеді.

Бұл жұмыстың практикалық маңыздылығы қазақстандық қоғамның қоғамдық кеңістігін зерделеу үшін байқау ретінде зерттеудің аз таралған әдісін өзекті етуден тұрады.

**Түйін сөздер:** криминогендік жағдай, қылмыс, қауіпсіздік, қалалық орта, құқық қорғау органдары, әлеуметтік факторлар, Алматы қаласы Түрксіб ауданы.

Л.Н. Касымова<sup>1\*</sup>, П.И. Ананченкова<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Университет Нархоз, Алматы, Казахстан

<sup>2</sup>Национальный НИИ общественного здоровья им. Н.А. Семашко, Москва, Россия

\*e-mail: leila67@mail.ru

### **Криминогенная обстановка как объект социологического исследования (на примере одного из районов г. Алматы)**

В статье приводятся результаты эмпирического исследования, направленного на изучение восприятия криминогенной обстановки жителей Турксибского района города Алматы.

Целью данной статьи является изучение проблем и факторов, влияющих на криминогенную обстановку в Турксибском районе. Научная и практическая значимость работы заключается в том, что проведенное эмпирическое исследование на примере одного района города выявляет проблемы криминогенности, идентичные для любого района города.

Методология исследования основана на количественных и качественных методах. Был проведен опрос среди жителей Турксибского района города Алматы, использован метод наблюдения и анализ правовой статистики. Были проанализированы доступность и наличие инфраструктуры района, качество и эффективность уличного освещения, соответствие требованиям безопасности и комфорта для жителей района и влияние этих факторов на криминогенную обстановку.

В ходе исследования было выявлено, что преступность воспринимается большинством жителей района как значительная проблема. Отмечается неудовлетворительное состояние уличного освещения и недостаточное количество камер видеонаблюдения, что приводит к росту преступности. Отсутствие достаточной информированности о деятельности участковых инспекторов, слабая связь с жителями указывают на проблемы в коммуникации и взаимодействии между полицией и населением.

Практическое значение данной работы также состоит в актуализации малораспространенного метода исследования как наблюдения для изучения общественных пространств казахстанского общества.

**Ключевые слова:** криминогенная обстановка, преступность, безопасность, городская среда, правоохранительные органы, социальные факторы, Турксибский район г.Алматы.

## **Introduction**

The sense of security experienced by residents within their neighborhoods holds significant importance and relevance in contemporary society, directly influencing the quality of life in these areas. People who feel secure in their surroundings have greater opportunities for personal development and self-actualization. Ensuring a safe environment contributes to the improvement of both psychological and physical well-being within a community.

The criminogenic situation, which reflects the levels of crime and safety in society, is one of the critical aspects of social reality. Examining this phenomenon serves as a vital tool for assessing public safety and developing effective strategies for its enhancement (Muharremi et al., 2023).

The Turksib District of Almaty is not only historically significant but is also known for its high

crime rates, necessitating special attention to ensure the safety of both residents and visitors. According to the city's development program through 2025, improving safety and reducing crime rates in the Turksib District is among the key priorities for creating a comfortable and favorable urban environment. However, as in many other urban areas, the district faces the challenge of a high criminogenic situation, which negatively affects the safety of residents and the overall development of the district.

The aim of this study was to examine safety in the district by assessing the perception of crime among the residents of the Turksib District in Almaty.

### *Objectives:*

1. To explore key theoretical approaches to studying criminogenic situations from the perspective of safety.

2. To identify the main features and trends of the criminogenic situation in the Turksib District based on statistical data and survey results.

3. To determine the primary patterns of crime perception through the lens of safety among the residents of the Turksib District.

4. To develop practical recommendations aimed at improving the safety of Turksib District residents.

#### *Hypotheses:*

1. Residents of the Turksib District who regularly receive information about the activities of district police officers and other law enforcement agencies feel safer compared to those who lack such information.

2. Individuals who have personally experienced crime or have encountered it within their immediate social circle are more inclined to perceive the criminogenic situation in the district as more threatening than those without such experiences.

3. The likelihood of crime decreases in areas with good lighting and a high frequency of video surveillance.

4. Active collaboration with the police and responsiveness to residents' concerns may contribute to reducing crime rates.

The criminogenic situation in the Turksib District may be associated with several factors, such as socio-economic differentiation, insufficient infrastructure, inadequate public order control, and other aspects that may contribute to the occurrence of crime. Therefore, addressing the criminogenic situation in the Turksib District requires a comprehensive approach, incorporating measures to improve safety and prevent criminal activity (Djekobs, 2011).

The first step in understanding the criminogenic situation in the Turksib District is the analysis of the factors that contribute to the emergence and escalation of crime. In this context, it requires examining various aspects, such as socio-economic conditions, unemployment levels, the prevalence of social issues, the state of infrastructure, the presence of criminal groups, and other factors that may impact security in the district. Such an analysis helps to identify key problem areas and factors requiring attention and response to ensure safety in the Turksib District.

## **Literature review**

Criminogenesis is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that describes the tendency of certain social conditions or structures to generate criminal

behavior. Sociology provides tools for studying crime, enabling its analysis not as an isolated occurrence but as the result of interactions among various social factors (Maloku et al., 2024). It seeks to uncover the roots of criminal behavior and develop strategies for its prevention and control (Garland, 2000). Poverty, unemployment, and inequality are socio-economic conditions that can contribute to the emergence of a criminogenic environment (Opp, 2020).

Criminal activity within society may be driven by numerous factors that interact and escalate the situation. Among them, it is necessary to highlight the socio-economic conditions that create an unfavorable environment for people and easily lead to the need to engage in criminal activity. Low levels of education and unemployment also play a significant role, as they deprive individuals of opportunities to earn a legitimate income and can potentially lead to despair and hopelessness. Another critical factor is the presence of a criminal subculture, which fosters deviant norms and values, thereby encouraging criminal behavior (Anderson, 1999).

In general, sociologists examine criminogenic factors through the lens of social conditions, including the economic, cultural, political, and institutional aspects of society. Social factors such as economic inequality, social disorganization, insufficient social control, and cultural norms significantly influence the level of crime within society. Criminogenic conditions can be created and sustained by various aspects of social structure and organization. For example, the 12 criteria outlined by J. Gehl, which we discussed earlier. One of the most important criteria is the sense of safety in the urban environment (Gehl, 2010a).

Sociological approaches to studying criminogenesis include the theory of social disorganization, which emphasizes the link between the disorganization of social institutions (such as the family and school) and the rise in crime. Aspects such as the impact of social changes on crime rates, the role of social institutions in the socialization of individuals, and the destructive factors within the urban environment are examined within this framework. (Bernasco, 2016: 451–467).

A representative of the Chicago School, Robert Park, claimed that urban space and the structure of the city have a significant influence on social behavior and, consequently, on crime levels.

Durkheim's theory of anomie encourages us to view crime and deviant behavior as the result of the interaction between social goals and the availability

of legitimate means to achieve them. A reasonable alignment between these factors in society contributes to maintaining social stability, while their misalignment may lead to crime and deviant behavior (Durkheim, 1893).

The theory of social disorganization is a fundamental tool for studying social processes and societal development. It helps to expand our knowledge of how the social environment and the structure of society influence individual behavior and the formation of values (Park, 1967). Ernest Burgess proposed the concentric zone model, which presents the idea that a city can be divided into different areas with varying degrees of social disorganization and crime. He clearly distinguishes cities into concentric rings or zones, each with distinct characteristics and functions (Burgess, 1925).

The next sociologists who studied urban disorder and antisocial behavior are American sociologists James Wilson and George Kelling. The “broken windows” theory is one of the key concepts explaining the rise in crime in cities. This theory offers a compelling explanation that captures our attention and provides deep insights. Initially formulated in 1982 by sociologists James Wilson and George Kelling, the “broken windows” theory is based on the idea that the degradation of the urban environment and an atmosphere of impunity create favourable conditions for the emergence and spread of crime. A critical factor in this process is the visual appeal of the urban environment. According to this theory, any broken window or abandoned building creates the impression that the area is not subject to control or surveillance (Wilson et al., 1982). The “broken windows” theory provides us with a profound understanding of how degradation of the urban environment and impunity can lead to increased crime. It emphasizes the importance of creating an attractive and safe urban environment where people feel protected and are motivated to maintain order (Daniil, 2021). The core idea is that preventing minor offenses can help prevent more serious crimes. The theory highlights that minor incidents of vandalism can create a “spiral of disorder.” If such minor infractions are ignored or not addressed, they can escalate into more serious and dangerous actions that contradict laws and societal norms. One of the key solutions to disorder in society, according to the theory, is a proactive police response to minor offenses and vandalism. This includes conducting police patrols, responding to reports of public disturbances, and intervening in a timely manner.

Researchers have found that individuals living in areas with a high prevalence of graffiti, abandoned buildings, and similar indicators experience more mental health issues and have a greater disposition to use drugs and alcohol. This establishes a connection between street disorder and the mental well-being of residents (Martin, 2019).

The rational choice theory plays a crucial role in studying criminogenic environments and safety. According to this theory, crime results from a rational decision-making process based on an evaluation of benefits and risks. An individual commits a crime if they believe the benefits outweigh the potential negative consequences. Ensuring safety requires creating conditions in which crime becomes irrational and unjustifiable from the perspective of a potential criminal. This can be achieved by increasing the risks associated with criminal actions and reducing the benefits that offenders might obtain (Kultigin, 2004).

In conclusion, preventive measures aimed at reducing opportunities for criminal activity can include improving public safety, strengthening law enforcement, and fostering community collaboration. Additionally, providing positive alternatives and improving the economic conditions of society, particularly for marginalized groups, can decrease the motivation to commit crimes.

Theoretical frameworks for studying criminogenic environments from a safety perspective play a critical role in analyzing factors influencing crime rates and developing measures for its prevention. Theories such as social control, social disorganization, rational choice, and environmental control offer diverse approaches to examining criminogenesis and ensuring public safety. The community plays a pivotal role in forming a safe urban environment and contributing to crime prevention.

To effectively implement the concept of safety within criminogenic urban environments, it is essential to develop a system for assessing its effectiveness. This system should include criteria and indicators that allow for assessing achieved results and identifying necessary adjustments. In the context of a rapidly developing metropolis, addressing the issue of safety in criminogenic environments becomes increasingly urgent. Designing and implementing a comprehensive safety concept that considers the specific characteristics of urban spaces is a vital requirement for creating a comfortable and secure living environment for city residents.

## Materials and methods

Criminogeneity, defined as the likelihood of criminal behavior, is a subject of study not only in law but also in sociology. Various theories emphasizing the influence of social factors and the roots of criminal behavior, particularly in urban environments, were examined to identify the specifics of the sociological approach.

An empirical study was conducted in one of the criminogenic districts of Almaty to assess the relevance of these theories to Kazakhstani society.

From April 16 to May 6, an online survey was conducted on the Google Forms platform among the residents of the Turksib District in Almaty. The questionnaire included both open-ended and closed-ended questions regarding the criminogenic situation, safety levels, types of prevalent crimes, and interactions with law enforcement agencies. A total of 722 residents aged 20 to 65 (both men and women proportionally) were surveyed using a random sampling method. Of the respondents, 75.9% had lived in the Turksib District for more than 6 years; 12.9% had lived there for 4-6 years; 7.3% had lived there for 1-3 years; and 3.9% had lived there for less than a year. Statistical data were obtained from the crime map on the website <https://qamqor.gov.kz>, as well as from complaints filed by district residents, which were collected by the Quality Control Department of the Turksib District Akimat. Additionally, an observation diary was compiled for the district.

The methodological framework of the study is based on a comprehensive approach to the research object, employing both general scientific methods (such as analysis, synthesis, description, compari-

son, etc.) and specialized scientific methods (including the criminal-statistical method, legal method, and sociological methods such as surveys and observation). The observation method, along with photo documentation, provided factual material regarding the condition of public spaces in the Turksib District that influence the level of criminogeneity.

To analyze this public space, we employed the concept developed by J. Gehl in his work *Cities for People*, where the author outlines 12 criteria that public spaces must meet to ensure a comfortable urban environment (Gehl, 2010a). Based on these criteria, the study examined the accessibility and availability of infrastructure in the area, the quality and efficiency of street lighting, compliance with safety and comfort standards for residents, and the impact of these factors on the area's criminogenic situation.

## Results and discussions

The criminogenic environment of a city reflects the level of crime and offenses, as well as the degree of danger for residents and visitors. It is influenced by numerous factors, including socio-economic conditions, the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies, and overall safety levels. Crimes can often be concentrated in specific areas of the city, typically characterized by low income levels, poor housing conditions, and high unemployment rates.

In general, the data concerning violent crimes, theft, fraud, drug-related offenses, and other types of violations are used for the assessment of registered crimes, their trends, and structure. In Kazakhstan, approximately 150,000 offenses were reported in 2023 ([qamqor.gov.kz](https://qamqor.gov.kz), 2023).

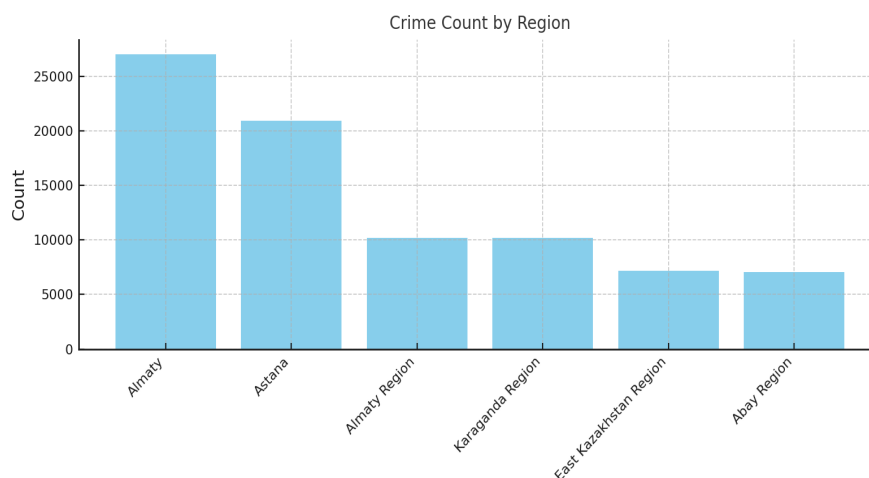
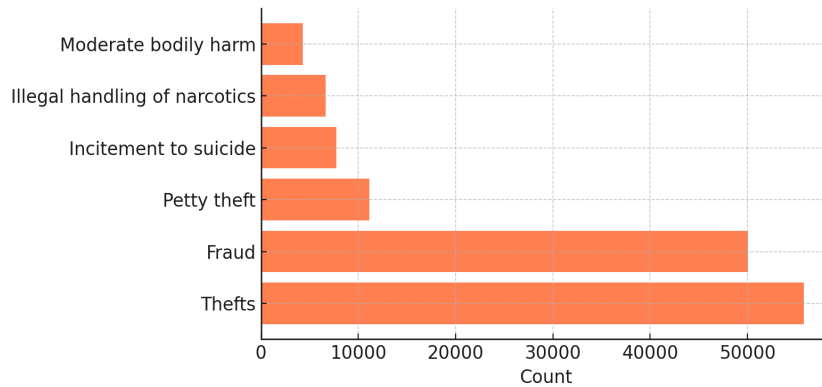


Figure 1 – Number of crimes by region of Kazakhstan in 2023



Figure 1 illustrates that, by region, the highest number of crimes registered in 2023 occurred in the city of Almaty (27,027 crimes). This is followed by the city of Astana (20,931 crimes), Almaty Region (10,215 crimes), and others.

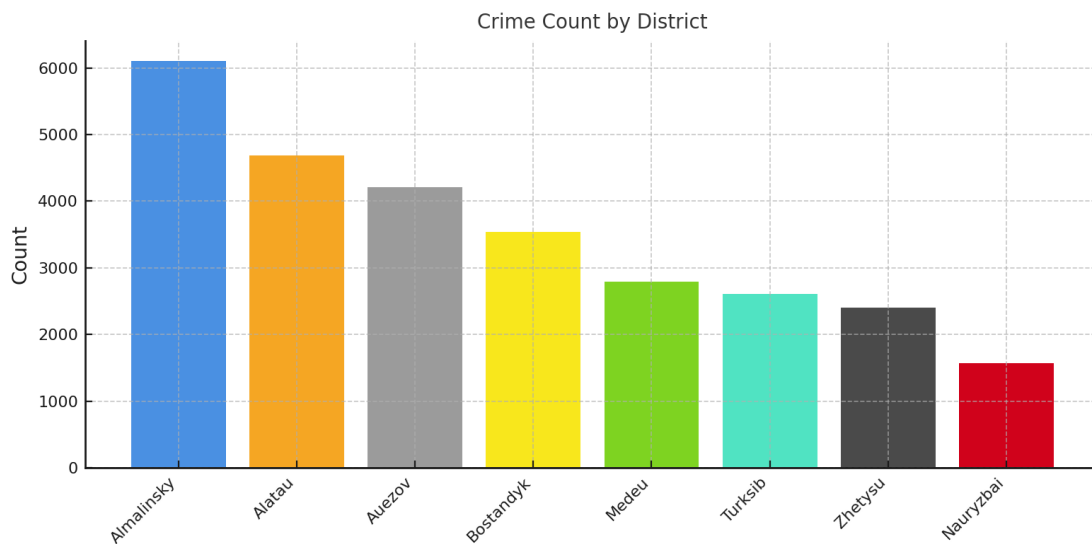
According to official data, 90% of the recorded offenses in Kazakhstan in 2023 related to public order and safety were connected to property rights violations (qamqor.gov.kz, 2023):



**Figure 2** – The largest number of types of crimes in Kazakhstan in 2023

Figure 2 highlights the prevalence of different types of crimes in Kazakhstan in 2023. The most common were thefts (55,800 incidents), followed by fraud (50,051 incidents), pilferage (11,148 incidents), incitement to suicide (7,749 incidents), and

others. The primary motives behind theft and fraud are likely linked to individuals facing financial hardships resorting to these crimes as a means of survival. Additionally, a lack of stable income may drive people to commit such offenses.



**Figure 3** – Number of crimes by districts of Almaty city in 2023

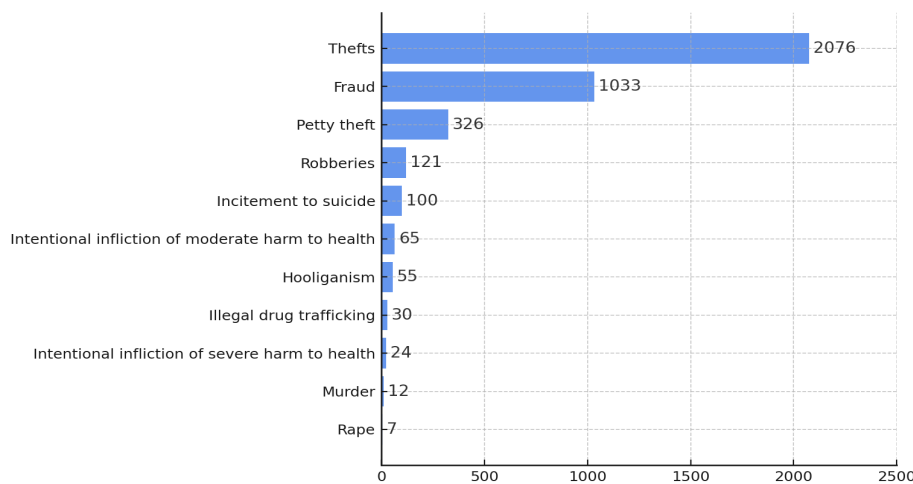
In 2023, 27,000 offenses were registered in the city of Almaty. According to legal statistics for the year, the most dangerous districts were Almaly, Alatau, and Auezov, while the less dangerous districts were Turksib and Bostandyk. The safest districts were Medeu, Zhetysu, and Nauryzbay (qamqor.gov.kz, 2023).

This distribution is influenced by various factors, including socio-economic conditions, the performance of law enforcement agencies, cultural norms, infrastructure, economic inequality, and unemployment levels. For instance, comparing the Almaly and Turksib districts in Almaty reveals that while the types of offenses are similar, they occur

more frequently in Almaly. This can be attributed to the higher population density, the concentration of business centers, and a larger number of commercial establishments in the Almaly district.

In the Turksib district of Almaty in 2023, the primary types of crimes included theft, fraud, petty theft, robbery, and incitement to suicide. These crimes are often influenced by high unemployment rates, which frequently correlate with increased crime rates, particularly property-related offenses and minor vandalism.

Conversely, the least frequent crimes in this district were drug-related offenses, intentional infliction of severe bodily harm, murder, and rape.



**Figure 4** – Number of crimes committed in the Turksib district in 2023

In Kazakhstan, over 140,000 crimes were committed in 2023, reflecting an 11% decrease compared to 2022. Annual theft-related damages exceeded ten billion tenge, with an average refund rate of only about 40%. This situation has led to public dissatisfaction regarding the effectiveness of police work. Research shows that more than half of thefts (62%) occur during the daytime, with 70% of these taking place in public spaces. Among these crimes, 85% are pickpocketing incidents, more than half involve mobile phone theft, and 65% are vehicle thefts. Experts have outlined a typical profile of a “thief-criminal,” characterized as a male aged 21–39, unemployed, with secondary or vocational education, and a prior criminal record. This suggests that socio-economic hardships and the desire to acquire material goods drive certain individuals to commit theft.

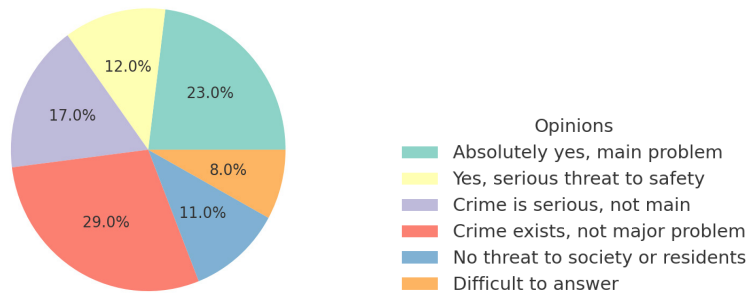
Crimes committed while intoxicated remain a pressing issue in modern society. Approximately 40% of particularly serious crimes and 13% of serious crimes are associated with such states. Among these, alarmingly high percentages are observed, such as 70% of murders, rapes, severe bodily harm, and acts of hooliganism (Seitakova, Saitbekov, Kulmukhanbetova, 2024: 369–384).

Between 2017 and 2025, approximately 2,500 murders were committed by criminals under the influence of alcohol. Additionally, there is a high incidence of serious crimes committed by minors, over the past five years, 10,845 minors have been brought to criminal responsibility. One contributing factor to elevated crime rates is inadequate or non-existent lighting in certain public spaces. Currently, 20% of streets and courtyards lack street lighting, and nearly one-third of all streetlights fail to provide

adequate lighting. In Almaty, over 128,000 surveillance cameras have been installed, but only 24% are integrated with the city's police department.

According to official data for 2023, the most common offenses in Kazakhstan include

theft, fraud, and robbery (qamqor.gov.kz, 2023). Economic difficulties, social inequality, and the lack of effective crime prevention measures and punitive actions are likely the primary drivers behind these offenses.



**Figure 5** – Perception of crime as a problem in the Turksib region

Based on the responses presented in Figure 5, it can be concluded that crime remains a serious issue in the Turksib district, despite certain positive trends. A significant portion of respondents, 23% (168 people), consider crime to be one of the main problems of the district. Furthermore, 11.8% (82 people) fully agree, and 16.8% partially agree, that crime poses a threat to the safety and well-being of the district's residents. However, 29% acknowledge the presence of crime but do not view it as the district's primary concern. Only 11% (82 people) believe that crime does not negatively affect the residents' well-being.

Analyzing the opinions of residents who identified crime as one of the main problems in the district, we categorized the primary reasons behind this perception as follows:

Infrastructure issues: "Poor lighting in the neighborhoods, weak infrastructure.", "Lighting is partially non-functional; we submitted requests to replace bulbs and repair streetlights, but they were ignored. In some areas, there are no streetlights. On playgrounds in the evening, drunk people often hang around or sleep", "There are few surveillance cameras." (From survey responses, stylistic accuracy is retained.)

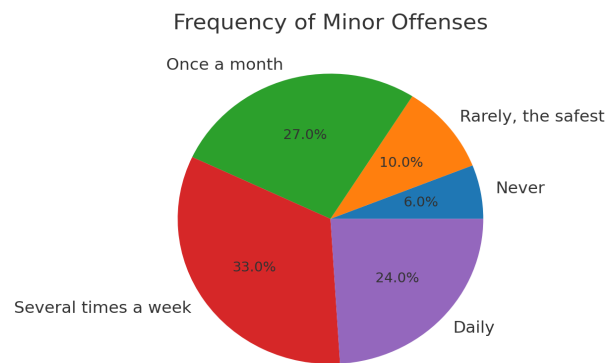
Drug-related crime: "There are too many drug addicts who steal anything they can from the yards. They steal manhole covers, misbehave on play-

grounds, and leave syringes lying around.", "At the station near the bridge, there are addicts and drunkards who are aggressive. In our district, there are many drug stashes who make 'marks,' and people are constantly digging the ground looking for them.", "There are too many customers, addicts." (From survey responses, stylistic accuracy is retained.)

Theft: "Apartment burglaries thrive, and the police do nothing about them.", "So many acquaintances and relatives had their apartments robbed; we were also robbed, and not once did the police even consider investigating the cases.", "Thefts of bicycles and similar items from hallways.", "A schoolgirl was almost abducted; you fear for your children.", "Car windows were smashed, and valuable items were stolen." (From survey responses, stylistic accuracy is retained.)

Evaluation of the performance of local police officers: "For the second time, we went out somewhere with our family, and someone broke our window.", "There are many crimes happening in our neighborhood. It's frightening to leave children unsupervised. The police rarely inspect the area, and the local officers do not conduct neighborhood checks at all.", "...In Turksib District, people are being killed. That's why protection should be improved, or local police officers should patrol the area." (From survey responses, stylistic accuracy is retained.)

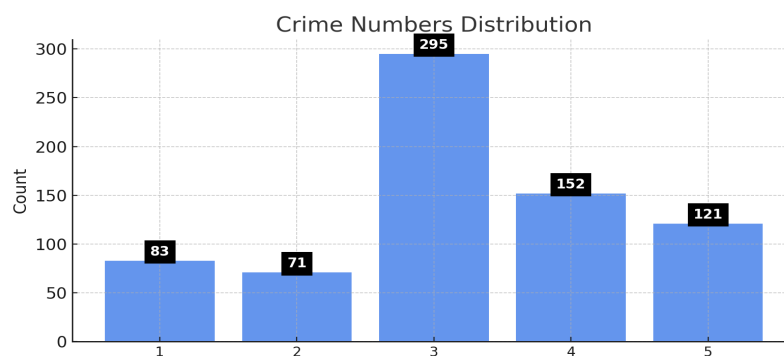




**Figure 6** – Frequency of crimes in the Turksib region

Although the majority believe that crime is a serious issue in the district, residents of the Turksib district rarely encounter incidents of offenses in their daily lives (33% rarely, 27% one or two times a month, 24% never). However, 6% of residents

report experiencing minor offenses daily, and 10% encounter such offenses several times a week. This indicates that while crime poses a relatively low threat to the district, it still occurs, as noted by residents.



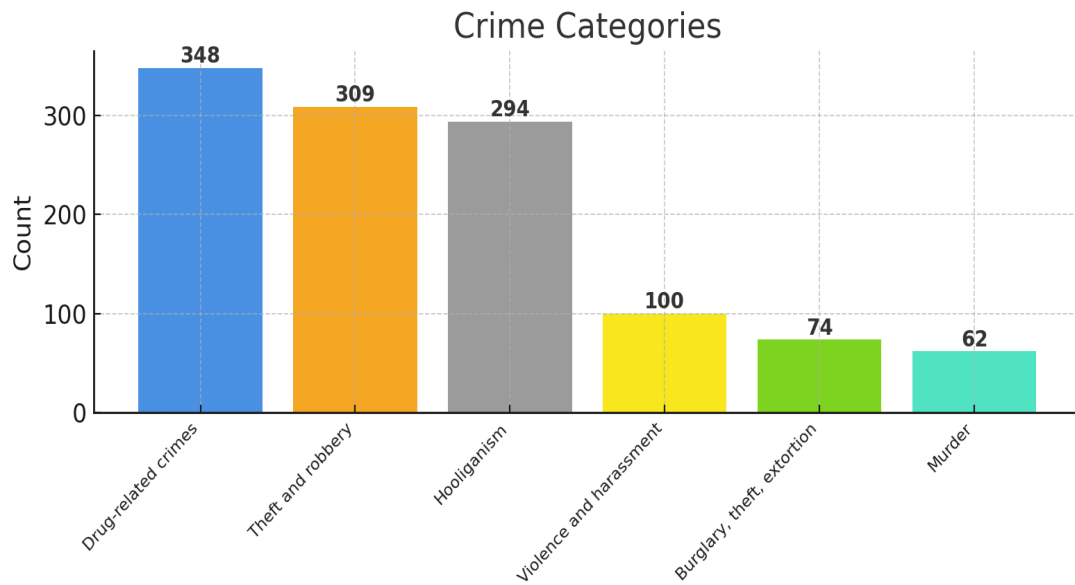
**Figure 7** – Level of safety of living in the Turksib region on a scale of 1-5

The level of safety in the Turksib district, based on survey results, is assessed as average by the majority (40%) of residents. Scores of 4–5 on the scale account for 37% of the total responses, suggesting the presence of positive trends in ensuring safety within the district, as perceived by the residents. However, 20% of respondents rated safety at levels 1–2, indicating the presence of certain risks or problematic areas within the district that residents view as less secure.

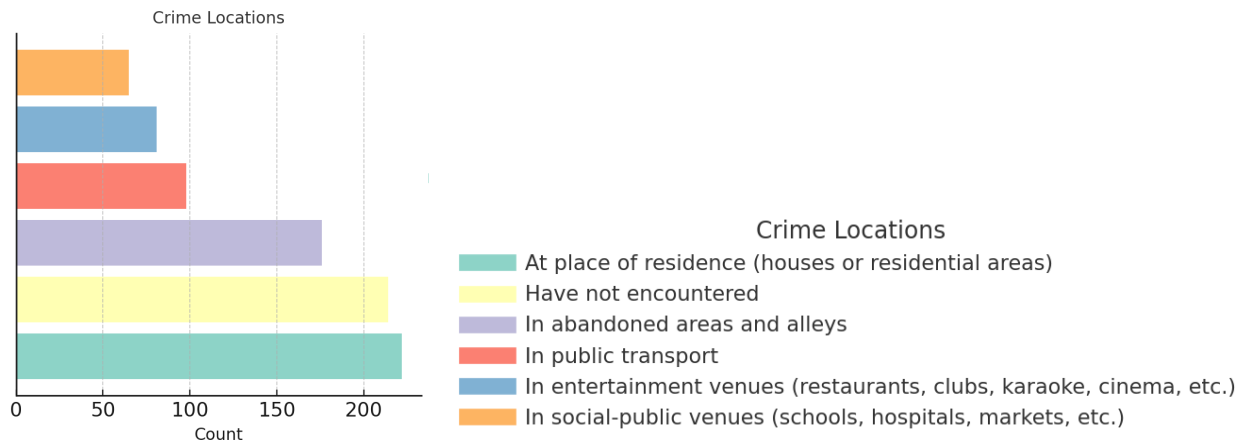
Based on the respondents' data, the greatest concerns among residents are related to the spread of drugs (49%), thefts and robberies (43%), and hooliganism (41%). Additionally, particularly severe crimes such as violence and harassment (14%) and murder (8%) also evoke significant concern,

highlighting the perceived threat of these dangerous offenses.

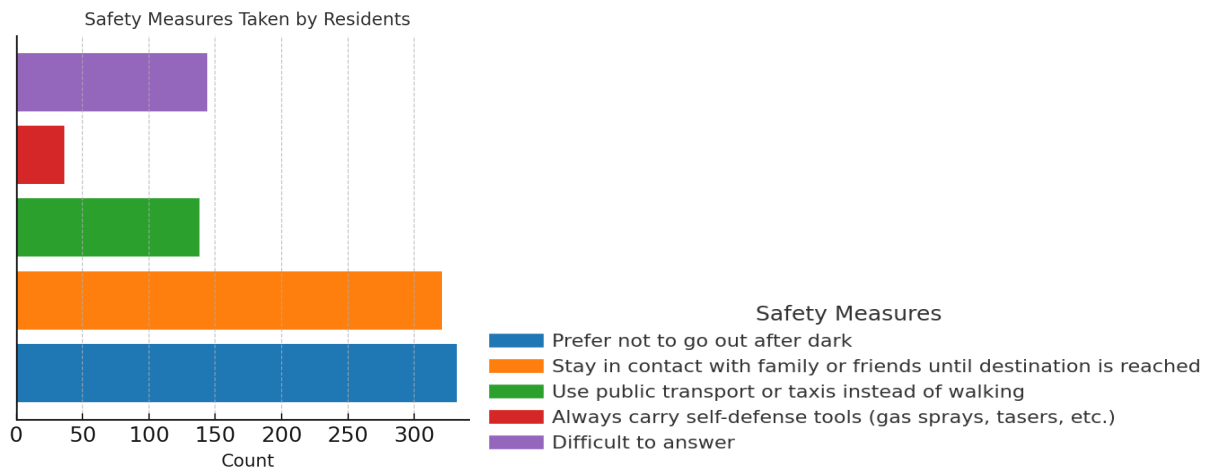
To identify the locations where residents most frequently encounter crimes, a corresponding question was posed, as illustrated in Figure 9. The results reveal that the majority of residents report encountering crimes in residential areas, such as private homes or apartment complexes – 30.7%. Another 29.6% of respondents indicated that they have not encountered crimes at all. Meanwhile, 24.4% reported experiencing crimes in abandoned areas or alleyways, and 13.6% cited public places. Additionally, an analysis of respondents' individual comments revealed that most crimes occur at night on streets and within residential courtyards.



**Figure 8** – Types of crime in the area that cause the greatest concern



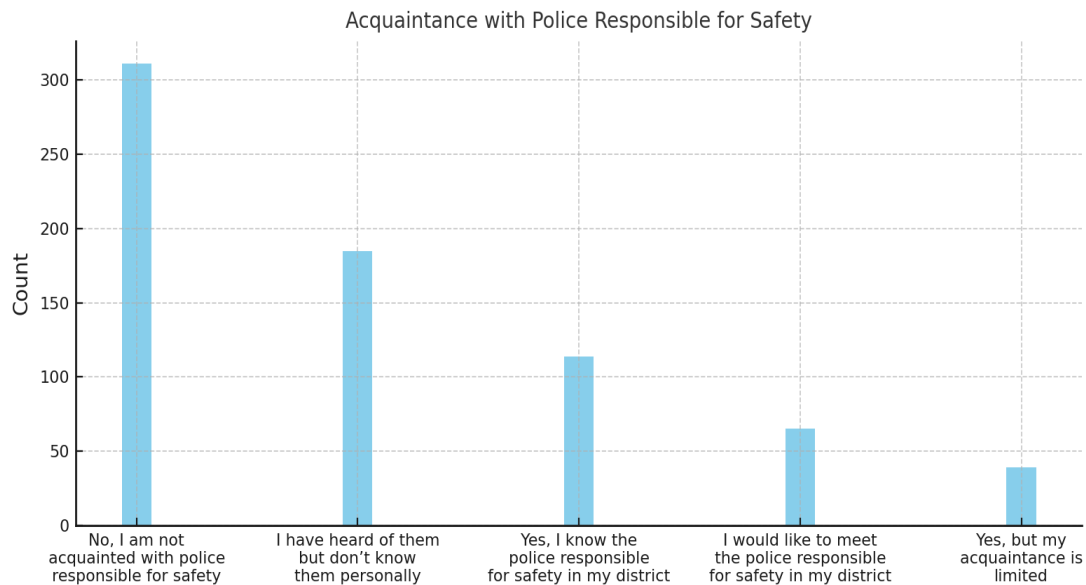
**Figure 9** – Most common locations of crime



**Figure 10** – Security measures adopted by respondents

An analysis of the measures residents take when leaving their homes reveals that the majority (46%) avoid going out at night and maintain communication with family and friends (44.5%). Based on personal responses, it can be concluded that a sig-

nificant portion of respondents do not adopt any specific security measures, as they consider the area to be relatively safe. Additionally, 19.9% of respondents found it difficult to specify the measures they take to ensure their safety.

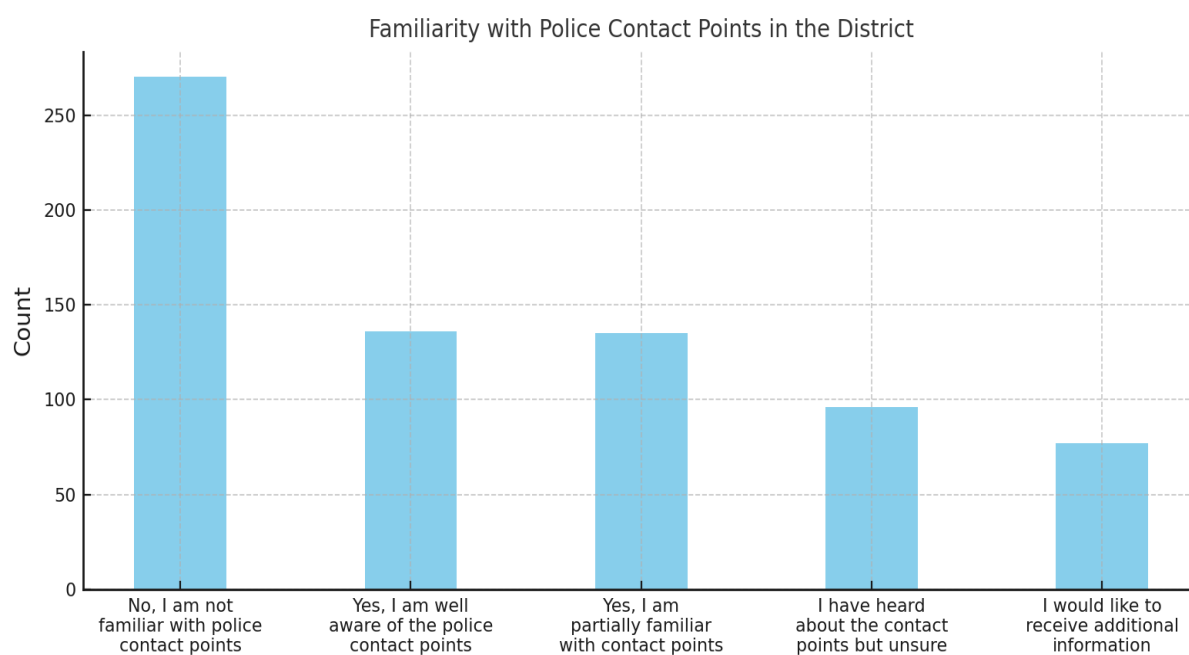


**Figure 11** – Familiarity of respondents with district police officers

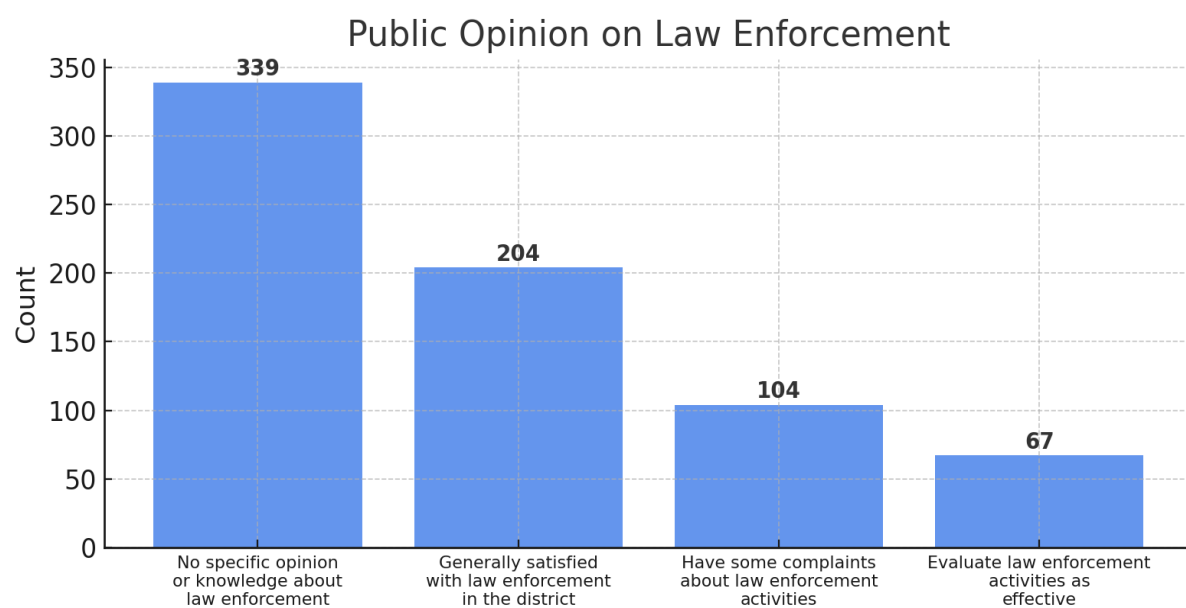
The survey revealed that 43.1% of respondents are not familiar with the local police officers who are responsible for maintaining and regulating safety in their area. Additionally, 25.6% of respondents have heard of these officers but do not know them personally. Meanwhile, 15.8% of respondents reported being acquainted with the police officers in their district. An analysis of personal responses indicated that many respondents are familiar with and satisfied with the work of the local police. A smaller proportion expressed dissatisfaction, primarily due to a lack of personal acquaintance with the officers, which negatively influenced their evaluation of police effectiveness.

The survey responses regarding knowledge of contact information for local police officers in the Turksib district reveal that the majority of respondents (270 individuals or 37%) are not familiar with

the locations and contact details of police stations. This indicates a significant gap in residents' awareness of available security resources in their area. On the other hand, 136 respondents (18%) are well-informed about these stations and their contacts, reflecting the presence of an effective communication channel for part of the population. Another 135 individuals (18%) have only partial knowledge, which may point to the inconsistency or incompleteness of the information provided. Additionally, 96 respondents (13%) have heard of the police station's existence but are uncertain about the accuracy of the contact details, emphasizing the need for improved information accessibility. Finally, 77 respondents (10%) expressed a desire for more information, demonstrating a clear demand for educational initiatives to strengthen ties between law enforcement and the community.



**Figure 12** – Awareness of Contact Information for Local Police Officers



**Figure 13** – Assessment of the activities of law enforcement agencies

Based on the survey data, a significant portion of respondents (339 individuals or 47%) lack a definite opinion or knowledge about the activities of law enforcement agencies in the Turksib District regarding ensuring safety. This indicates insufficient public awareness of the actions and achievements of law enforcement structures in their area. Meanwhile, 204 respondents (28%) expressed satisfaction with the work of law enforcement agencies, reflecting a positive perception among a segment of the population. However, 104 individuals (14%) voiced complaints about the work of law enforcement officers, indicating certain issues that warrant attention. Only 67 respondents (9%) evaluated the activities of law enforcement agencies as effective, highlighting the need for further analysis and potential improvement of safety measures in the district.

The first stage of this study involved analyzing complaints from residents of the Turksib District regarding unlit streets and identifying streets with the highest number of complaints.

Frequent complaints from residents highlighted the following streets: Chekhov, Moldagaliev, Aymaulytov, Shcherbakov, Osipenko, Zhumabayev, Aymaulytov (repeatedly mentioned), Seifullin, Khmel'nitsky, Kramskoy, Pisarev, Mailin, Chernyshevsky, and Ordzhonikidze. Among these, the streets Aymaulytov, Zhumabayev, and Kramskoy received the most complaints.

Description of Streets in the Turksib District with Infrastructure and Social Facilities:

Aymaulytov Street:

1. Kindergarten №15: A critical social institution providing preschool education and childcare services, contributing to social stability and family support.

2. School №61: An educational institution playing a key role in shaping the educational environment and ensuring access to schooling for children of school age.

3. Low-rise residential buildings and private houses: These types of housing developments create a calm residential atmosphere characteristic of the area.

4. KIFS Sports Academy: An educational institution offering sports programs, fostering the development of physical culture and sports among the youth.

5. Alash Stadium with a football field: A sports complex serving as a hub for athletic activities in the district, providing facilities for sports and events.

Kramskoy Street: Kramskoy Street is characterized by uniform infrastructure, including private homes, grocery stores, cafés, and a medical center. The proximity of Baum Grove park enhances recreational opportunities for residents, offering a space for leisure and relaxation.

Zhumabayev Street: Zhumabayev Street exemplifies a typical residential area dominated by private homes and a supermarket. This composition defines its primary function as a predominantly residential zone.

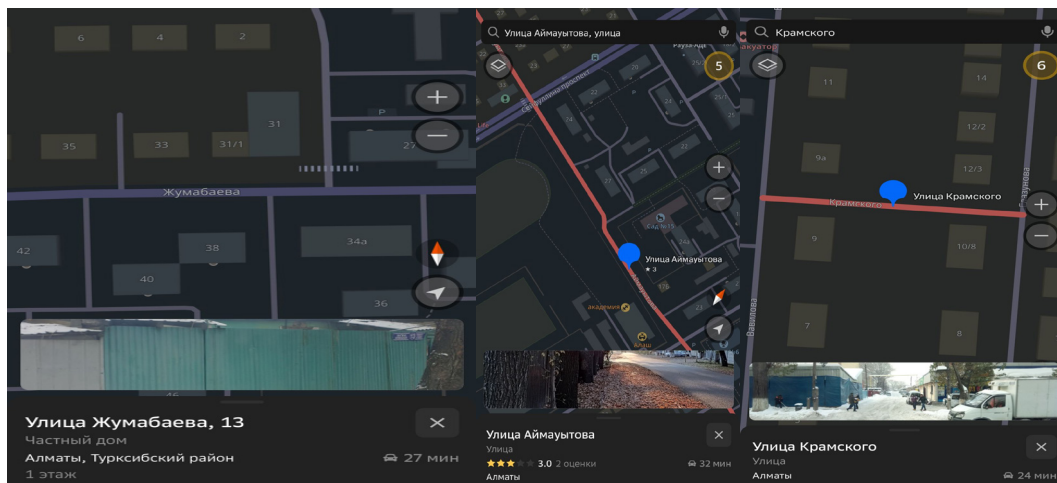


Figure 14 – Map of the territory of Aymaulytov, Zhumabayev, Kramskoy streets in the 2gis program



Observations were conducted on April 27 across three streets with the following time intervals:

- 1) 00:30 – Aymaulytov Street
- 2) 01:00 – Zhumabayev Street
- 3) 01:20 – Kramskoy Street

The total duration of the observation was two hours. The study focused on assessing the quality and effectiveness of street lighting and its compliance with safety and comfort standards for residents of the district.



**Figure 15** – Aymaulytova Street (original photo)

On the street, insufficient lighting is observed in pedestrian walkways. Residents may experience unease and insecurity during nighttime due to the inadequate illumination. Poor lighting can limit opportunities for an active lifestyle, such as walking or engaging in sports, negatively impacting the well-being of residents. Additionally, low visibility of road signs may lead to misinterpretation by road users, potentially resulting in traffic accidents.



**Figure 16** – Zhumabayev Street (original photo)

Well-designed lighting in residential areas ensures visibility and safety for residents at all times, contributing to their comfort and sense of security. However, the lack of sidewalks or pedestrian pathways poses a danger for pedestrians who are forced to walk on the same road as vehicles.



**Figure 17** – Kramskoy Street (original photo)

The roadway for vehicles is illuminated; however, the pedestrian zone lacks any spotlights. The absence of lighting on sidewalks may also contribute to increased crime and create an unfavorable atmosphere in the surrounding environment, potentially influencing public perception of the area's safety.



**Figure 18** – Private house on Kramskoy street (original photo)

To enhance safety, a resident installed a lighting fixture in their yard. This light provides visibility around the house, making the surrounding area more transparent and reducing the availability of concealed spots for potential offenders. However, due to the lack of adequate public lighting, residents

may feel compelled to take matters into their own hands to ensure their safety.

The absence of sidewalks can create inconveniences for pedestrians, especially during peak traffic hours. The roadway is not separated from pedestrian pathways. Ensuring protection from vehicles and providing safety are among the most critical criteria for creating a comfortable environment for urban residents.

Protection from crime and sense of security: the lack of video surveillance (none was observed during our assessment) may reduce the opportunity for environmental monitoring. The presence of gates, video intercoms, and friendly neighbors enhances the protective system, complementing the security system, creating additional barriers for potential offenders and fostering a greater sense of safety.

Protection from discomfort: an abundance of greenery (numerous trees planted) contributes to air purification and creates a pleasant living atmosphere.

Convenience for walking: the absence of high-quality walking paths and parking spaces for vehicles causes discomfort for pedestrians. Parks serve as an alternative for recreational walking, enhancing the atmosphere of comfort and natural beauty.

Visibility: streets are only partially illuminated, which can lead to discomfort for residents moving through poorly lit areas. This may restrict their activity during evening and nighttime hours, reducing quality of life and limiting social interactions.

Opportunities for communication and listening: low noise levels create a calm environment, allowing residents to converse and interact without excessive disturbances.

Scale and positive Impressions: the unobstructed view of the surrounding landscape, along with the visual appeal of low-rise buildings and natural elements such as trees, contributes to positive impressions and enhances residents' quality of life (Geil, 2010b).

The conducted observations and analysis of complaints from residents of the Turksib District identified the following key issues regarding the state of lighting on Kramskoy and Zhumabayev streets, as well as adjacent areas, which support our hypotheses:

1. Observations confirmed the hypothesis that street lighting in the district is inadequate. Specifically, sidewalks lack any spotlights, resulting in dark zones that increase risks for pedestrians. Although the roadway is well-lit, pedestrian zones re-

main poorly illuminated, which confirms resident complaints.

2. Observations revealed that partial street lighting (streets that are only half-lit) also contributes to the emergence of dangerous situations. Dark sections of the streets increase the likelihood of criminal activities and accidents. The presence of both lit and unlit areas creates uneven visibility, which confirms the hypothesis of increased risks to the safety of pedestrians and drivers.

3. The lack of adequate lighting on sidewalks and in pedestrian zones causes discomfort among residents, restricting their activities during evening and nighttime hours. This supports the hypothesis that insufficient lighting negatively affects the quality of life in the district.

Summary of observations:

1. Kramskoy Street: sidewalks are completely unlit, confirming resident complaints about inadequate lighting and increased risks for pedestrians.

2. Zhumabayev Street: while the roadway is well-lit, the lack of lighting in pedestrian areas poses a threat to the safety and comfort of residents.

3. Private initiative: the installation of a lighting fixture in a private yard by a resident improved local visibility but does not address the broader issue at the district level.

## Conclusion

Theoretical sociological concepts explaining crime-prone environments view crime as a complex social phenomenon influenced by numerous factors within the urban environment. These theories offer various approaches to understanding the causes and mechanisms that contribute to crime and criminality in society. Broadly speaking, social inequality and limited access to legitimate means of achieving success can lead to an increase in crime rates. To reduce crime levels, it is essential to create favorable socio-economic conditions for the population.

Furthermore, criminogenic environments in urban areas tend to emerge in neighborhoods with high levels of migration, poverty, and social instability, which are more susceptible to criminal activities. Such areas often lack established social norms and values, as well as effective control mechanisms, creating favorable conditions for criminal behavior.

Theoretical concepts suggest that crimes occur in places and situations where there is an opportunity and a low risk of detention. Addressing this issue requires enhancing safety measures, improving street lighting, and implementing other interven-

tions to reduce opportunities for criminal activity.

Sociological theories provide valuable insights into the causes and mechanisms of crime, emphasizing the importance of a multifaceted approach to crime prevention. This approach should integrate social, economic, cultural, and legal measures to effectively address criminal behavior.

Ensuring safety in crime-prone environments necessitates a comprehensive strategy encompassing legal, social, and technological measures. An examination of international practices reveals that various countries employ a wide range of strategies and initiatives to combat crime and maintain public order. Successful safety initiatives in high-crime areas, as evidenced by international experience, require a comprehensive approach that includes preventive measures alongside effective responses to existing criminal activity.

Key conclusions drawn from international practices include the need for the active community-police collaboration, the use of modern technology, the implementation of social and educational programs, and the maintenance of strict and fair legislation. These strategies, adapted to local conditions, can significantly reduce crime rates and improve overall safety in urban environments (Anderson, 1999).

The conducted sociological study on the assessment of public perception of crime patterns in the context of living in the Turksib District provided significant insights into the current state of crime and the factors influencing its levels.

The research revealed that the criminogenic situation in the Turksib District remains dangerous but shows a tendency toward stability. Overall, the analysis indicated that property crimes, such as theft, robbery, and fraud, dominate in the Turksib district. The respondents noted improvements in the performance of law enforcement agencies; however, issues remain with the speed of response and the level of trust in law enforcement agencies among many respondents.

Based on the assessment of public perception of the criminogenic situation, technical and infrastructural measures were proposed to ensure safety, including the implementation of video surveillance systems and improved lighting on streets and in public places, which contribute to reducing crime levels.

During the non-participant observation conducted in the Turksib District, key aspects affecting the safety of the district's residents were analyzed and identified. It was found that certain areas of the district here were sharp contrasts in lighting. For ex-

ample, the main streets may be well-lit, while adjacent alleys and courtyards remain in darkness. Such uneven distribution contributes to a decrease in the feeling of security among residents and an increase in the likelihood of crime.

Based on a survey of Turksib District residents, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. Crime is perceived as a significant issue by the majority of residents of the district. While 23% of participants consider crime as a serious threat, 29% acknowledge its presence but do not see it as the major problem. This indicates widespread concerns and dissatisfaction among the population regarding local crime rates.

2. Poor street lighting and an insufficient number of surveillance (CCTV) cameras are noted as key concerns. Residents associate these factors with increased crime, particularly drug-related activities and thefts.

3. A lack of awareness about the activities of local police officers and weak connections between the police and residents highlight issues in communication and interaction. Only a small percentage of respondents are well-informed about the contact details of local officers.

4. Although some residents express satisfaction with the work of law enforcement agencies, a significant portion remains dissatisfied, particularly regarding the response to thefts and other crimes. This highlights the need to improve the responsiveness and efficiency of the police work.

Key recommendations for improving law enforcement and ensuring safety in the district based on survey results:

1. Many residents expressed the need for a greater number of police patrols, especially in areas such as train stations, airports, and other locations with a high likelihood of theft. The importance of nighttime patrolling and enhanced monitoring in youth gathering spots and potentially dangerous areas was also emphasized.

2. A large number of suggestions were related to improving street lighting and installing surveillance cameras. Residents believe these measures would significantly enhance safety, particularly during nighttime hours.

3. There is a notable demand for crime prevention programs targeting youth and efforts to combat the spread of drugs and alcohol among minors. Residents propose organizing raids and conducting educational events to improve legal literacy.

4. Residents highlighted the need to clean streets and courtyards from garbage and stray animals, as

well as to repurpose empty areas into safe and clean public spaces.

5. The importance of improving collaboration between law enforcement and residents was emphasized. This includes more frequent meetings between local officers and the community to discuss current issues and potential solutions.

6. Some residents reported delays in police response to calls, leading to dissatisfaction. They expect the police to respond more promptly, especially in cases of urgent necessity.

The conducted observation confirmed the hypotheses regarding insufficient lighting, increased security risks, and the discomfort of residents. It is recommended to consider measures to improve lighting in pedestrian areas, such as installing additional streetlights and upgrading the existing lighting system to enhance overall safety and comfort for the residents of the Turksib District. Additional recommendations include:

1. Conduct an audit of the existing street lighting system and address identified deficiencies. This includes replacing faulty lamps and installing additional light sources in areas where lighting is insufficient or absent.

2. Install additional surveillance cameras in high-crime areas, including playgrounds, alleys,

and areas around train stations and airports. Ensure regular maintenance and monitoring of the system.

3. Increase the number of patrols, especially during evening and nighttime hours. Expand the presence of foot and bike patrols in residential neighborhoods and park areas.

4. Develop and implement programs for preventing drug addiction and alcoholism, especially among youth. These programs should include educational campaigns and activities aimed at increasing legal literacy.

5. Create and maintain channels for open dialogue between the police and residents. This could include regular meetings between local officers and residents, informational bulletins, and active use of social media to inform the public about law enforcement activities.

### Acknowledgement

I would like to express special gratitude to Aigerim Bolatova and Zeynep Orakbaeva, graduates of the educational program of “Sociology”, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Narxoz University, for their assistance in collecting data, conducting surveys, and providing technical support.

### References

- Anderson E. (1999) *Code of the Street: Decency, Violence and the Moral Life of the Inner City*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, pp. 35-46.
- Burgess E. *The Growth of the City: An Introduction to a Research Project*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. (accessed June 12, 2024). URL: <https://urpa3301.weebly.com/uploads/4/0/9/2/4092174/burgess.pdf>
- Bernasco W., Steenbeek W. (2016) More Places than Crimes: Implications for Evaluating the Law of Crime Concentration at Place. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, vol. 33(3), pp. 451–467.
- Dejk YA., Kesteren D., Slejd G., Troshev A. Issledovanie «Ocenka urovnya bezopasnosti naseleniya i doveriya k pravoohranitel'nyh organam» (mezhdunarodnyj opros viktimizacii v Kazahstane) [Study “Assessment of the level of population security and trust in law enforcement agencies” (international victimization survey in Kazakhstan)]. [Elektronnyj resurs] (data obrashcheniya: 12.06.2024) URL: [https://research.nu.edu.kz/ws/portalfiles/portal/16792006/\\_pdf](https://research.nu.edu.kz/ws/portalfiles/portal/16792006/_pdf) (In Russian)
- Dzhekobe D. (2011) *Smert' i zhizn' bol'shih amerikanskih gorodov* [Death and Life of Great American Cities]. M.: Novoe izdatel'stvo, 460 p. (In Russian)
- Durkheim E. (1986) *The division of labor in society*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publications, 259 p.
- Garland D. (2000) Criminology, social theory and the challenge of our times. *The British Journal of Criminology*, vol. 40(2), pp. 257-275.
- Gejl Ya. (2012) *Goroda dlya lyudej* [Cities for People], 276 p. (In Russian)
- Harcourt B.E., Ludwig, J. (2006) Broken windows: New evidence from New York City and a five-city social experiment // *University of Chicago Law Review*, vol. 73(1), pp. 271-320.
- Internet-resurs: Pokazateli. Ugolovnye pravonarusheniya. Nachato dosudebnyh rassledovanij [Indicators. Criminal offenses. Pre-trial investigations initiated]. (data obrashcheniya: 12.06.2024) URL: <https://qamqor.gov.kz/crimestat/indicators/criminal>. (In Russian)
- Martin G.S. Researchers find little evidence for ‘broken windows theory,’ say neighborhood disorder doesn’t cause crime. *Northeastern University News*. [Electronic resource]. (accessed May 15, 2019). URL: <https://news.northeastern.edu/2019/05/15/northeastern-university-researchers-find-little-evidence-for-broken-windows-theory-say-neighborhood-disorder-doesnt-cause-crime/>



- Maloku A., Maloku E., Gabela O. (2024) Criminological Study of General Aspects of the Preventive Influence of the theory of Routine Activity on Criminal Behavior. *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, vol. 16(3), pp. 419-433.
- Muharremi D., Ademi M. (2023) The role of the police in reducing the fear of crime in the community. *Access to Justice in Eastern Europe*, vol. 6(2), pp. 242-254.
- Kultygin V. (2004) Teoriya racional'nogo vybora – vzniknovenie i sovremennoe sostoyanie [Theory of rational choice – origin and current state]. *Sociologicheskie issledovaniya*, no 1, pp. 27-37. (In Russian)
- Opp K. Analytical criminology: Integrating explanations of crime and deviant behavior. [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://krimdok.uni-tuebingen.de/Record/1689346698> (accessed June 12, 2024).
- Seitakova B., Saitbekov A., Kulmukhanbetova B. (2024) Social Determinants of Police Efficiency in Kazakhstan: a Criminological perspective. *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, vol. 16(3), pp. 369-384.
- Wilson J., Kelling G. (1982) Broken windows. *The Atlantic Monthly*, vol. 249(3), pp. 29-38.

### Литература

- Anderson E. Code of the Street: Decency, Violence and the Moral Life of the Inner City. – New York: W.W. Norton & Company. – 1999. – P. 35-46.
- Burgess E. The Growth of the City: An Introduction to a Research Project. – Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. (accessed June 12, 2024). URL: <https://urpa3301.weebly.com/uploads/4/0/9/2/4092174/burgess.pdf>
- Bernasco W., Steenbeek W. More Places than Crimes: Implications for Evaluating the Law of Crime Concentration at Place // *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. – 2016. – Vol. 33(3). – P. 451-467.
- Дейк Я., Кестерен Д., Слейд Г., Трошев А. Исследование «Оценка уровня безопасности населения и доверия к правоохранительным органам» (международный опрос виктимизации в Казахстане). [Электронный ресурс] (дата обращения: 12.06.2024) URL: [https://research.nu.edu.kz/ws/portalfiles/portal/16792006/\\_pdf](https://research.nu.edu.kz/ws/portalfiles/portal/16792006/_pdf)
- Джекобе Д. Смерть и жизнь больших американских городов. – М.: Новое издательство, 2011. – 460 с.
- Durkheim E. The division of labor in society. – Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publications, 1986. – 259 p.
- Garland D. Criminology, social theory and the challenge of our times // *The British Journal of Criminology*. – 2000. – Vol. 40(2). – P. 257-275.
- Гейл Я. Города для людей. – М.: КРОСТ, 2012. – 276 с.
- Harcourt B.E., Ludwig, J. Broken windows: New evidence from New York City and a five-city social experiment // *University of Chicago Law Review*. – 2006. – Vol. 73(1). – P. 271-320.
- Интернет-ресурс: Показатели. Уголовные правонарушения. Начато досудебных расследований. (дата обращения: 12.06.2024). URL: <https://qamqor.gov.kz/crimestat/indicators/criminal>
- Martin G.S. Researchers find little evidence for 'broken windows theory,' say neighborhood disorder doesn't cause crime. Northeastern University News. [Electronic resource]. (accessed May 15, 2019). URL: <https://news.northeastern.edu/2019/05/15/northeastern-university-researchers-find-little-evidence-for-broken-windows-theory-say-neighborhood-disorder-doesnt-cause-crime/>
- Maloku A., Maloku E., Gabela O. Criminological Study of General Aspects of the Preventive Influence of the theory of Routine Activity on Criminal Behavior // *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*. – 2024. – Vol. 16(3). – P. 419-433.
- Muharremi D., Ademi M. The role of the police in reducing the fear of crime in the community // *Access to Justice in Eastern Europe*. – 2023. – Vol. 6(2). – P. 242-254.
- Култыгин В. Теория рационального выбора – возникновение и современное состояние // *Социологические исследования*. – 2004. – № 1. – С.27-37.
- Opp K. Analytical criminology: Integrating explanations of crime and deviant behavior. [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://krimdok.uni-tuebingen.de/Record/1689346698> (accessed June 12, 2024).
- Seitakova B., Saitbekov A., Kulmukhanbetova B. Social Determinants of Police Efficiency in Kazakhstan: a Criminological perspective // *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*. – 2024. – Vol. 16(3). – P. 369-384.
- Wilson J., Kelling G. Broken windows // *The Atlantic Monthly*. – 1982. – Vol. 249(3). – P. 29-38.

### Information about authors:

Kasymova Leyla – candidate of sociological sciences, associate professor, Narkhoz University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, e-mail: [leila67@mail.ru](mailto:leila67@mail.ru);

Ananchenkova Polina – candidate of sociological sciences, candidate of economic sciences, associate professor, head of the department of economics and sociology of health, N.A.Semashko National Research Institute of Public Health, Moscow, Russia, e-mail: [ananchenkova@yandex.ru](mailto:ananchenkova@yandex.ru)

### Авторлар туралы мәлімет:

Қасымова Лейла Нұрғазықызы – әлеуметтану ғылымдарының кандидаты, қауымдастырылған профессор, Нархоз университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан, e-mail: [leila67@mail.ru](mailto:leila67@mail.ru);

Ананченкова Полина Игоревна – әлеуметтану ғылымдарының кандидаты, экономика ғылымдарының кандидаты, доцент, денсаулық сақтау экономикасы және әлеуметтану кафедрасының меңгерушісі, Н.А. Семашко атындағы Ұлттық қоғамдық денсаулық ҒЗИ, Мәскеу, Ресей, e-mail: [ananchenkova@yandex.ru](mailto:ananchenkova@yandex.ru)



**Сведения об авторах:**

Касымова Лейла Нургазиевна – кандидат социологических наук, ассоциированный профессор, Университет Нархоз, Алматы, Казахстан, e-mail: leila67@mail.ru;

Ананченкова Полина Игоревна – кандидат социологических наук, кандидат экономических наук, доцент, заведующая кафедрой экономики и социологии здравоохранения, Национальный НИИ общественного здоровья им. Н.А. Семашко, Москва, Россия, e-mail: ananchenkova@yandex.ru

Келіп түсті: 21 маусым 2024 жыл

Қабылданды: 26 ақпан 2025 жыл