

SOCIAL WORK WITH DRUG USERS IN A PROBATION SYSTEM OF KYRGYZSTAN

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Conflict of Interests Statement

I declare that there is no conflict of interests related to the presentation

Background

Kyrgyzstan's prison system collapsed, not only in terms of economy, but also in terms of civilization. In the penal colonies there was a problem of permanent malnutrition. Hunger, unemployment and indolence among the prisoners, and their personal hygiene worsened dramatically (Moczydłowski, 2015).

Probation in Kyrgyzstan

February
24, 2017

- The Law "On Probation" was adopted

January 1,
2019

- The Law came into force

September
1, 2019

- The Probation Department was established

- Probation Department



- Government bodies



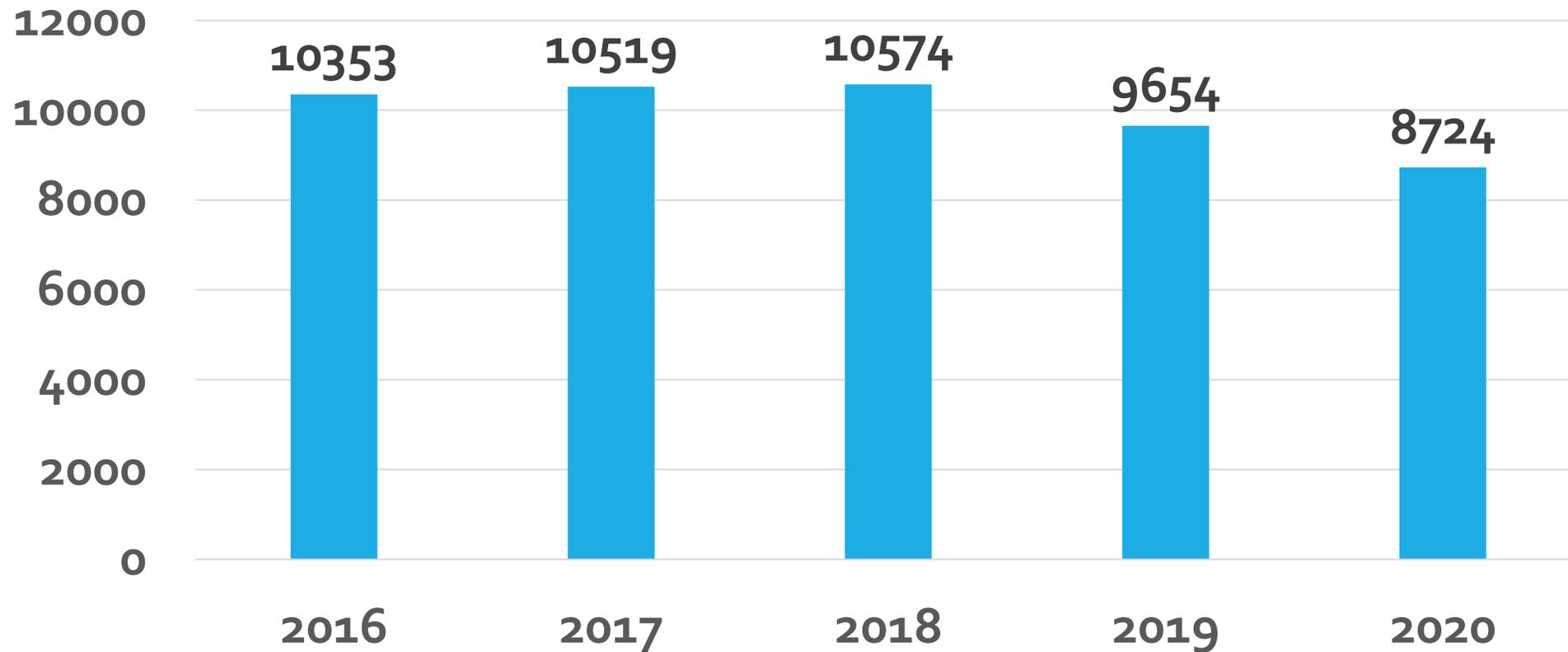
- Local self-government bodies



Probation system



Prison population of Kyrgyzstan in 2016-2020



Territorial coverage of the probation system in Kyrgyzstan



Methods

- Face-to-face interviews with probation officers



- Regional probation authorities were covered



- Assessment of social work with drug users in the probation system



- Average interview duration



Results



Professional and educational background



WORK EXPERIENCE

- Average – 2 years
- Max – 4 years
- Min – 2 months

- Higher education



- Head of the regional probation authority
- Chief expert
- Senior specialist
- Specialist

- Educational background



Number of probation clients and probation visit schedule



- On average, 207 clients per regional probation authority



- 2 mandatory visits a month to probation



- Drug-related offenders



- 5-10 minutes per 1 visit

Individual social support program

- An act on housing and living conditions

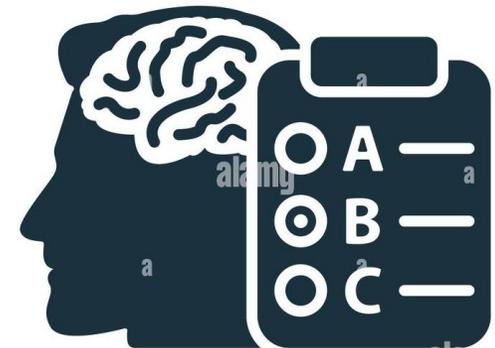


Interviewing:

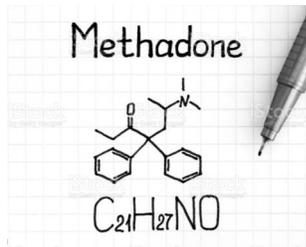
- A client
- 3 relatives
- 3 neighbors



- Psychological test



Services for drug users



- 24 sites in Kyrgyzstan as of November 2022



- Applying for allowance and pension



- 'Equal to equal' counseling, drug-free zones



- Provision of housing



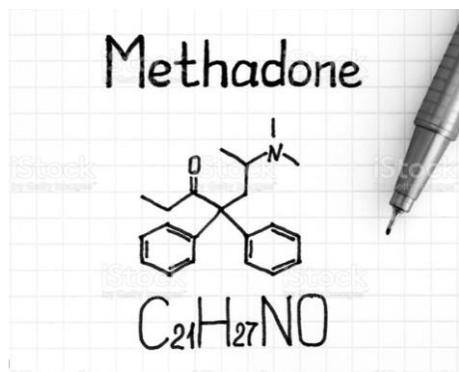
- Trainings, clothing, products, medicaments



- Personal documents restoration



Successful case of social work



“There is a client who has been under probation supervision for **4 months**. He is 37 years old. The client spent about half of his life in prisons. He is on **methadone substitution therapy**. When he became a probation client, he did not have a passport. During the probation supervision, his **passport was restored**. After receiving the passport in his hands, the client rejoiced like a child. He had a **desire to study**. He recently enrolled in an **electrician course** with the assistance of an **employment center**. The client also gradually reduces the dose of methadone. I am constantly **in touch with the client’s mother**. In the beginning, there were complaints from the mother about the client’s behavior. Recently, she has been talking about **positive aspects** in the client’s behavior”.



Probation officer

Problems



- Lack of social workers



- Lack of psychologists



- Heavy workload



- Bureaucracy, weak interaction with other government agencies



- Lack of clear statistics on the number of drug-related offenders

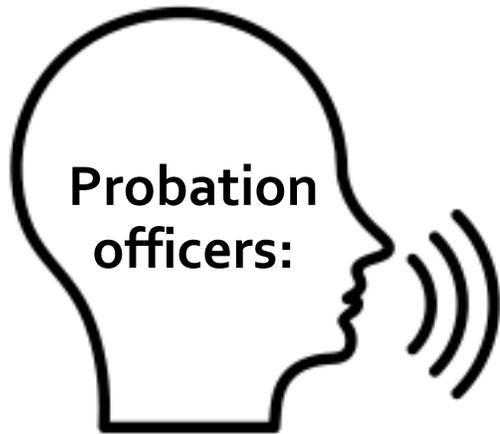


- No mandatory drug test

Suggestions of probation officers

- Increase the number of social workers;
- Increase the number of psychologists;
- Create rehabilitation centers under the Probation Department;
- Increase the number of methadone sites;
- Launch electronic document management with other government agencies;
- Access to the database of other government agencies;
- Organization of trainings on social work with drug users.

Opinions on the Government's policy



- “Probation is better than prison for the prevention and treatment of drug addiction”
- “Probation is a chance for correction and re-socialization in the community”
- “Probation is significantly cheaper than incarceration”
- “Humanization of criminal policy is a positive change in the Government's policy”
- “Incarceration negatively effects the behavior and socialization of offenders”

Thank you for your attention!

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