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District-Level Mapping of Gender-Based Violence in Punjab, Pakistan (2024)

Acknowledgments

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Background & Objectives

Background

Following the comprehensive Provincial Analysis of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Pakistan – 2024, the provincial report highlights the prevalence and patterns of GBV across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan and Islamabad Capital Territory. The provincial report provided the insights into the overall scale of the issue.

This report provides a district-wise breakdown, a closer look to individual districts to understand the localized trends, assess variations in reporting and response, and develop more targeted interventions at the grassroots level. By focusing on district-specific data, the report uncovers nuanced and hidden realities of GBV that may be masked by the provincial level.

To be more precise, the report comprises the number of GBV cases and the crime rate per 100,000 population. The number of registered cases was obtained through Right to Information requests. Meanwhile, the rate of GBV was calculated using the standard crime rate formula:

$$Crime\ Rate = \left(\frac{Number\ of\ GBV\ reported\ cases\ to\ the\ Police}{Population\ of\ the\ Province}\right)$$

In some cases, less populous districts report high number of GBV cases, indicating high magnitude of GBV incidents in smaller districts.

Each section is accompanied by the thematic maps that represent the rate of GBV incidents in each district. The legend categorizes the crime rates inro distinct color-coded intervals. Light shades signalling lower rates and dark shades indicating high prevalence. The visual representation allows to easily recognize the high-risk clusters.

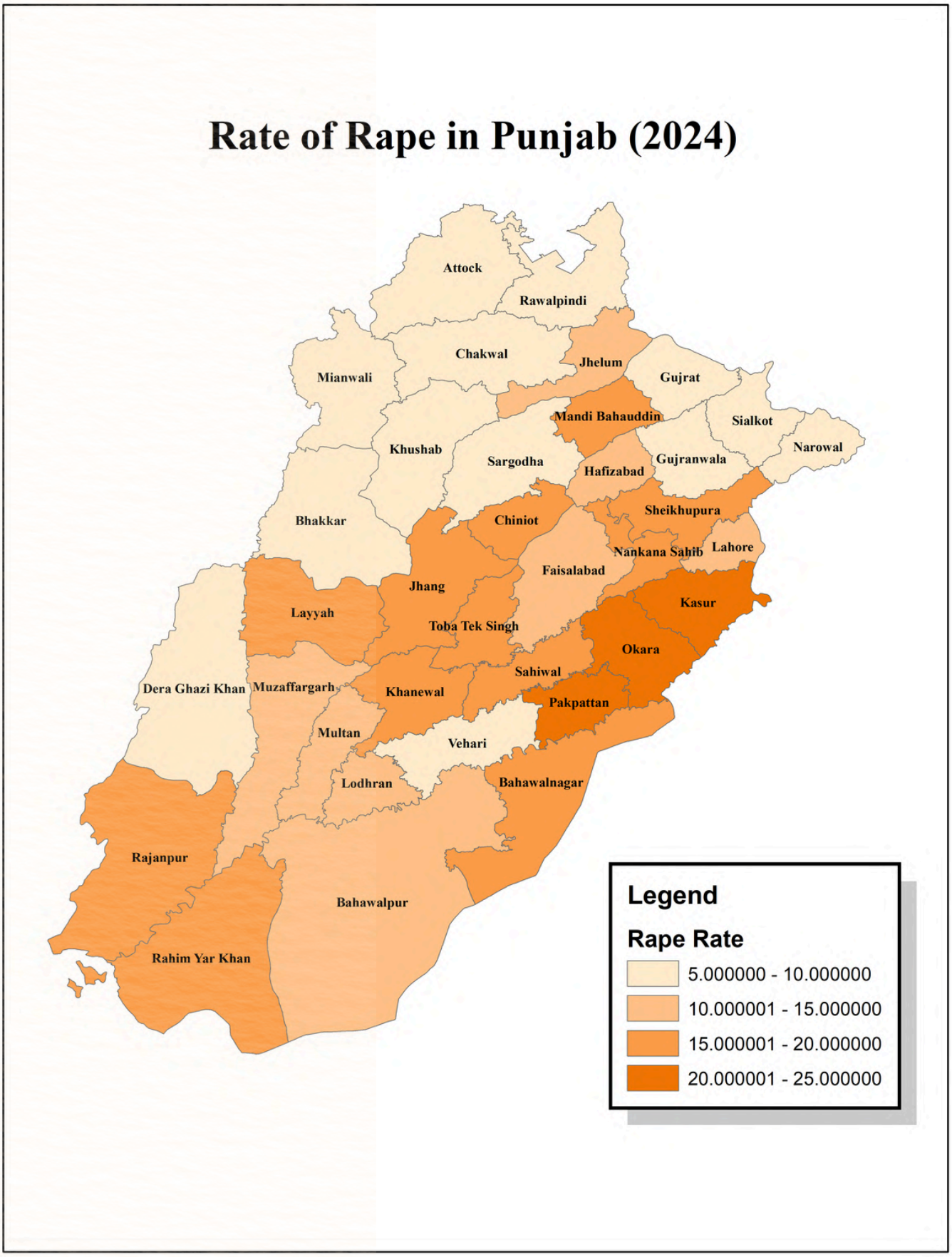
Focusing on Punjab, the province recorded the highest number of GBV cases in 2024 among all regions, with 4,641 rape cases, 20,720 kidnappings/abductions, 225 honor killings, and 1,167 incidents of domestic violence. These figures, as documented in the provincial report by SSDO, reinforce the urgency of dissecting the data further at the district level to uncover the specific areas most affected.

Objectives of Research

This version of the report is the sequel Gender-based-Violence Provincial Analysis published in February 2025. The objectives of this report are:

1. Identifying the GBV hotspot districts (districts with the highest number of reported cases) in Punjab.
2. Analysing conviction in these districts whether registered cases are leading to convictions or not.

Rape


Rate of Rape in Punjab (2024)
Attock
Rawalpindi
Chakwal
Jhelum
Mianwali
Gujrat
Mandi Bahauddin
Sialkot
Narowal
Khushab
Sargodha
Gujranwala
Hafizabad
Bhakkar
Chiniot
Sheikhupura
Nankana Sahib
Lahore
Faisalabad
Jhang
Kasur
Layyah
Toba Tek Singh
Okara
Sahiwal
Dera Ghazi Khan
Muzaffargarh
Khanewal
Pakpattan
Multan
Vehari
Lodhran
Bahawalnagar
Rajanpur
Bahawalpur
Rahim Yar Khan
Legend
Rape Rate
5.000000 - 10.000000
10.000001 - 15.000000
15.000001 - 20.000000
20.000001 - 25.000000

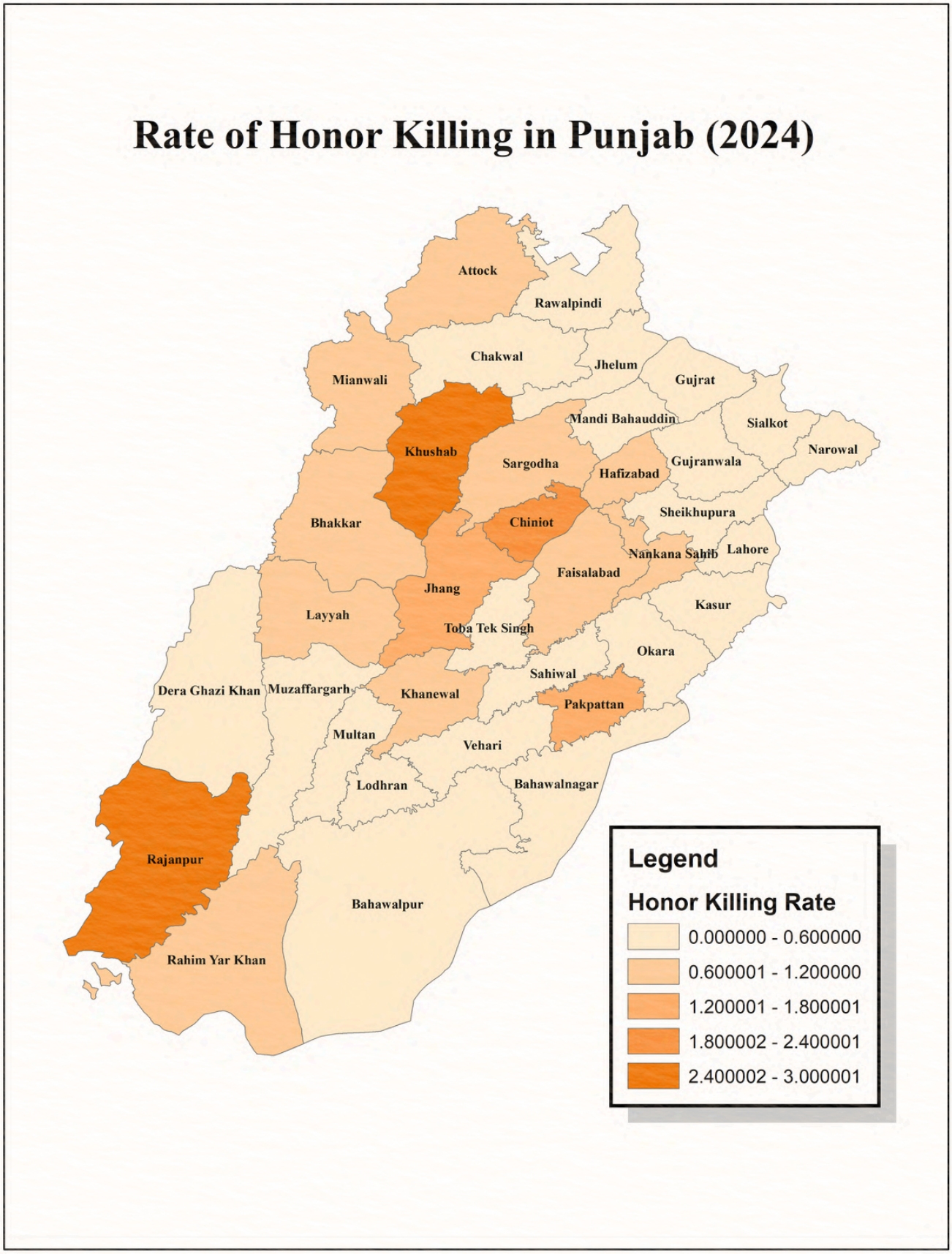
Top 5 Districts in Punjab with the Highest Number of Rape Cases		Conviction
1. Lahore	532	2
2. Faisalabad	340	0
3. Kasur	271	6
4. Rahim Yar Khan	250	0
5. Okara	213	0

Top 5 Districts in Punjab with the Highest Rate Rape Cases (per 100,000 women population)		Conviction
1. Kasur	25.5	6
2. Pakpattan	25	0
3. Okara	22.7	0
4. Jhang	19.9	0
5. Toba Tek Singh	18.1	0

The 2024 data on rape cases depicts an alarming picture, especially in urban and densely populated districts. Lahore recorded 532 cases of rape in one year, followed by Faisalabad (340), Kasur (271), Rahim Yar Khan (250), and Okara (213). Lahore only showed 2 convictions out of 532 cases. In Kasur conviction in 6 cases out of 271. The rest showed no convictions.

When viewed through the lens of population-adjusted rates, smaller districts show an even more disturbing trend. Kasur and Pakpattan top the list with rape rates of 25.5 and 25 per 100,000 people, respectively, despite their smaller populations. Other high-rate districts include Okara (22.7), Jhang (19.9), and Toba Tek Singh (18.1). These figures suggest that less populous districts may face more severe or concentrated incidents of sexual violence.

Honor Killing

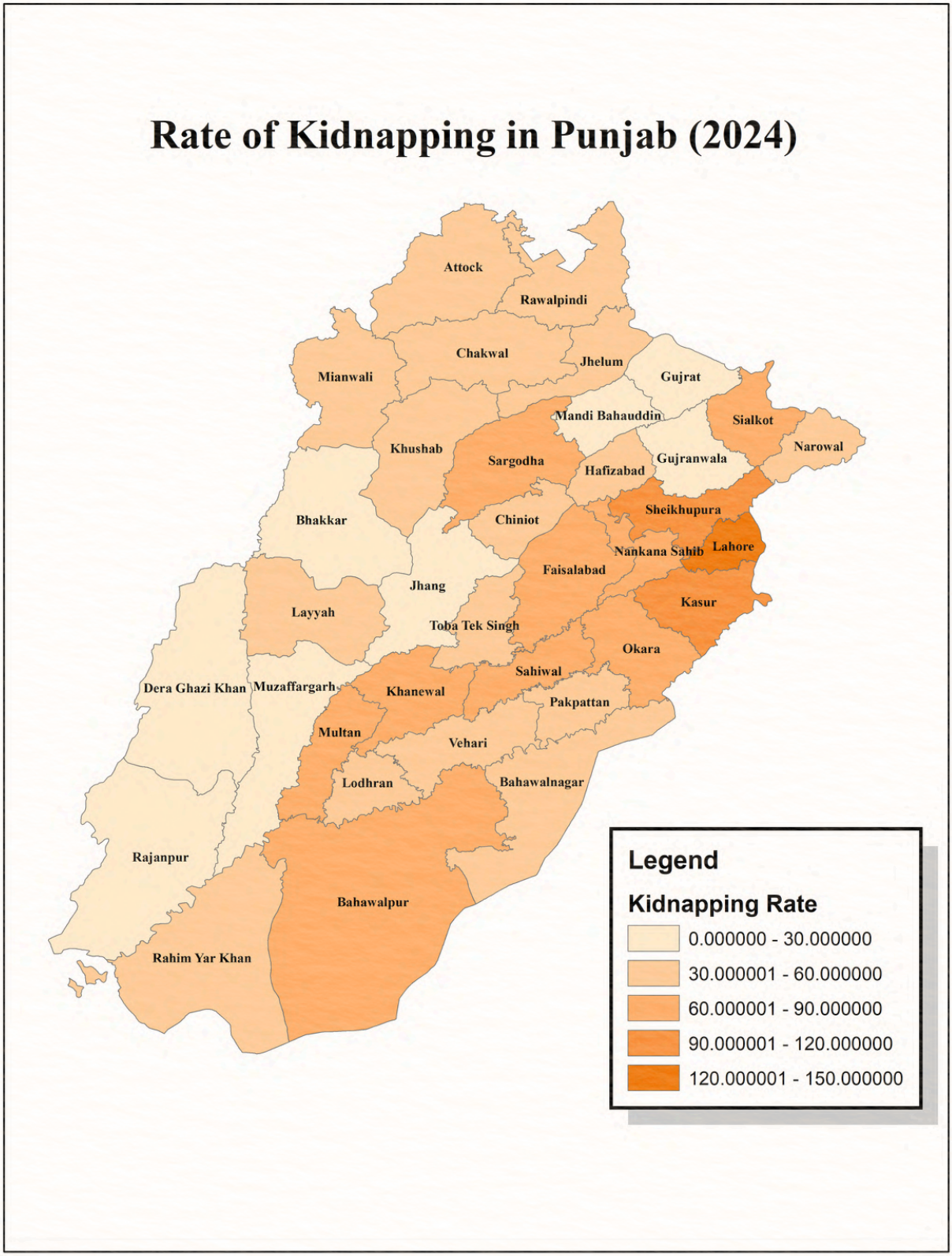

Rate of Honor Killing in Punjab (2024)
Attock
Rawalpindi
Chakwal
Jhelum
Mianwali
Gujrat
Mandi Bahauddin
Sialkot
Narowal
Khushab
Sargodha
Gujranwala
Hafizabad
Sheikhupura
Bhakkar
Chiniot
Nankana Sahib
Lahore
Faisalabad
Jhang
Kasur
Layyah
Toba Tek Singh
Okara
Sahiwal
Dera Ghazi Khan
Muzaffargarh
Khanewal
Pakpattan
Multan
Vehari
Lodhran
Bahawalnagar
Rajanpur
Bahawalpur
Rahim Yar Khan
Legend
Honor Killing Rate
0.000000 - 0.600000
0.600001 - 1.200000
1.200001 - 1.800001
1.800002 - 2.400001
2.400002 - 3.000001

Top 5 Districts in Punjab with the Highest Number of Honor Killing Cases		Conviction
1. Faisalabad	31	0
2. Rajanpur	15	0
3. Sargodha	15	0
4. Rahim Yar Khan	13	0
5. Jhang	12	0

Top 5 Districts in Punjab with the Highest Rate of Honor Killing Cases (per 100,000 women population)		Conviction
1. Rajanpur	2.9	0
2. Khusab	2.5	0
3. Chiniot	2.3	0
4. Pakpattan	1.8	0
5. Jhang	1.5	0

The data on honor killings in Punjab during 2024 reveals trends not only in term of number of cases but also the complete absence of convictions in top five hotspots districts. Despite the severity of crimes, none of these districts reported a single conviction. Faisalabad recorded the highest number of cases (31), followed by Rajanpur and Sargodha with 15 cases each. Rahim Yar Khan and Jhang registered 13 and 12 cases. When adjusted for population, a different picture emerges. Districts such as Rajanpur, Khushab, and Chiniot—which have relatively smaller populations—show the highest rates of honor killings per capita, with Rajanpur leading at 2.9, followed by Khushab (2.5) and Chiniot (2.3). The disparities are visually represented using fiver-tier, color-coded map. Lighter shades indicate districts with lower rates, while progressively darker tones highlight areas with higher prevalence.

Kidnapping


Rate of Kidnapping in Punjab (2024)
Attock
Rawalpindi
Chakwal
Jhelum
Mianwali
Gujrat
Mandi Bahauddin
Sialkot
Narowal
Khushab
Sargodha
Gujranwala
Hafizabad
Sheikhupura
Bhakkar
Chiniot
Nankana Sahib
Lahore
Faisalabad
Jhang
Kasur
Layyah
Toba Tek Singh
Okara
Sahiwal
Dera Ghazi Khan
Muzaffargarh
Khanewal
Pakpattan
Multan
Vehari
Lodhran
Bahawalnagar
Rajanpur
Bahawalpur
Rahim Yar Khan
Legend
Kidnapping Rate
0.000000 - 30.000000
30.000001 - 60.000000
60.000001 - 90.000000
90.000001 - 120.000000
120.000001 - 150.000000

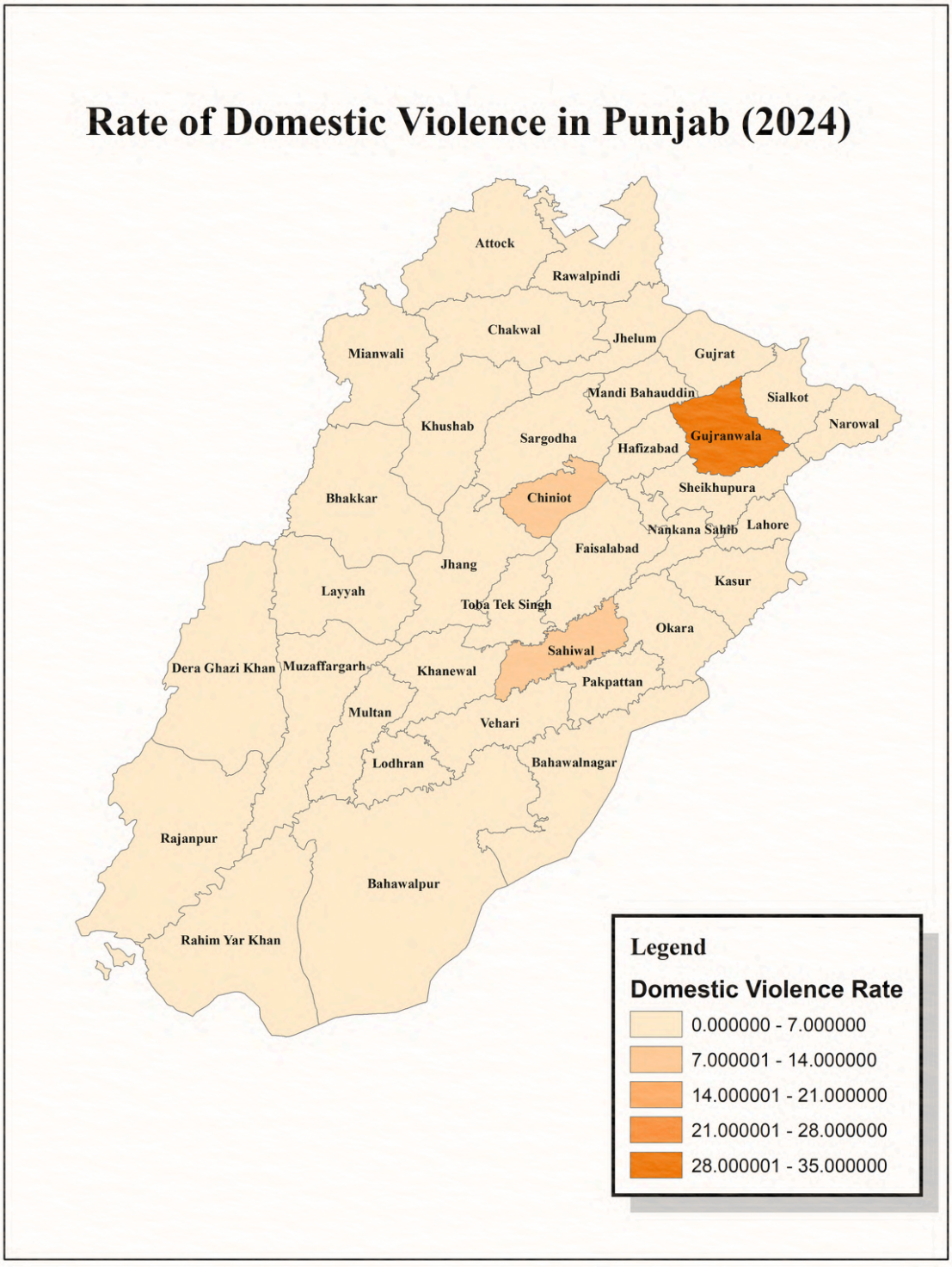
Top 5 Districts in Punjab with the Highest Number of Kidnapping Cases		Conviction
1. Lahore	4510	5
2. Faisalabad	1610	0
3. Kasur	1230	0
4. Sheikhupura	1111	0
5. Multan	970	0

Top 5 Districts in Punjab with the Highest Rate Kidnapping Cases (per 100,000 women population)		Conviction
1. Lahore	128.2	5
2. Kasur	115.8	0
3. Sheikhupura	103.6	0
4. Khanewal	84.9	0
5. Okara	77	0

The crime of kidnapping emerged as one of most reported forms of Gender-Based Violence in Punjab. Lahore alone reported 4,510 cases, with only five convictions. Making it the district with the highest number of reported kidnappings by a significant margin. Faisalabad (1,610), Kasur (1,230), Sheikhupura (1,111), and Multan (970) followed as the top five districts, with zero convictions.

Lahore still tops the list with a kidnapping rate of 128.2 per 100,000 people, closely followed by Kasur (115.8) and Sheikhupura (103.6). Importantly, districts like Khanewal (84.9) and Okara (77)—which are less urbanized also appear among the highest in terms of kidnapping rate.

Domestic Violence


Rate of Domestic Violence in Punjab (2024)
Attock
Rawalpindi
Chakwal
Jhelum
Mianwali
Gujrat
Mandi Bahauddin
Sialkot
Khushab
Sargodha
Gujranwala
Narowal
Hafizabad
Sheikhupura
Bhakkar
Chiniot
Nankana Sahib
Lahore
Faisalabad
Jhang
Kasur
Layyah
Toba Tek Singh
Okara
Sahiwal
Dera Ghazi Khan
Muzaffargarh
Khanewal
Pakpattan
Multan
Vehari
Lodhran
Bahawalnagar
Rajanpur
Bahawalpur
Rahim Yar Khan
Legend
Domestic Violence Rate
0.000000 - 7.000000
7.000001 - 14.000000
14.000001 - 21.000000
21.000001 - 28.000000
28.000001 - 35.000000

Top 5 Districts in Punjab with the Highest Number of Domestic Violence Cases		Conviction
1. Gujranwala	561	0
2. Sahiwal	68	0
3. Lahore	56	0
4. Chiniot	47	0
5. Multan	47	0

Top 5 Districts in Punjab with the Highest Rate Domestic Violence Cases (per 100,000 women population)		Conviction
1. Gujranwala	34.8	0
2. Chiniot	11	0
3. Sahiwal	8.6	0
4. Mandi Bahaddin	6.1	0
5. Vehari	4.8	0

Gujranwala reported the highest number of cases 561, followed by Sahiwal (68), Lahore (56), Chiniot (47), and Multan (47). Despite the magnitude of cases, not a single conviction was recorded.

In terms of rate per population, Gujranwala once again leads with a domestic violence rate of 34.8 per 100,000 people, followed by Chiniot (11), Sahiwal (8.6), Mandi Bahauddin (6.1), and Vehari (4.8). The appearance of both urban and smaller districts among the highest rates indicates that domestic violence is not limited to one type of setting.

Recommendations

Recommendations

1. The low conviction rates for rape, honor killings, and kidnapping across Punjab highlight gaps in the legal and judicial systems. Specialized GBV courts should be established in high-risk districts to ensure faster trials and better handling of sensitive cases. Gender-sensitivity training for law enforcement and legal personnel is crucial to improve understanding and handling of GBV cases, ultimately leading to better outcomes for victims.
2. The absence of convictions, particularly in domestic violence cases, signals the need for stronger support systems for victims. Emergency shelters, legal aid, and counseling services should be expanded in districts with the highest rates of violence, like Gujranwala and Lahore. This will provide victims with the necessary resources to report crimes without fear of retaliation and assist them throughout the judicial process.
3. The high rates of GBV in less urbanized districts suggest underreporting due to stigma or lack of awareness. Community-based awareness programs should be implemented to educate residents about their legal rights and available support services. Additionally, anonymous reporting mechanisms should be introduced, especially in districts like Kasur and Faisalabad, to encourage victims to come forward without fear of societal repercussions.
4. Districts like Rajanpur, Khushab, and Kasur, which show alarming GBV trends, need targeted interventions. These should include increasing police presence, enhancing victim support programs, and organizing community dialogues to address the root causes of gender-based violence. Engaging local leaders and religious figures in these efforts can help shift cultural norms that perpetuate violence and discrimination against women.

Annexure

Punjab										
Sr.no	DISTRICTS	18 and above Population	Gender Based Violence (registered cases)				Rate of GBV (per 100,000 Women Population)			
			Honor Killing	Rape	Kidnapping /Abduction	Domestic Violence	Honor Killing	Rape	Kidnapping /Abduction	Domestic Violence
1	Attock	649,767	5	56	201	9	0.8	8.6	30.9	1.4
2	Bahawalnagr	928,692	6	165	433	19	0.6	17.8	46.6	2.0
3	Bahawalpur	1,113,919	3	154	779	29	0.3	13.8	69.9	2.6
4	Bhakkar	504,875	4	44	136	0	0.8	8.7	26.9	0.0
5	Chakwal	541,617	2	43	263	0	0.4	7.9	48.6	0.0
6	Chiniot	426,215	10	73	229	47	2.3	17.1	53.7	11.0
7	Dera Ghazi Khan	798,427	5	74	130	7	0.6	9.3	16.3	0.9
8	Faisalabad	2,534,980	31	340	1610	13	1.2	13.4	63.5	0.5
9	Gujranwala	1,610,107	3	148	469	561	0.2	9.2	29.1	34.8
10	Gujrat	979,029	5	69	224	14	0.5	7.0	22.9	1.4
11	Hafizabad	367,324	3	53	113	5	0.8	14.4	30.8	1.4
12	Jhang	815,808	12	162	139	0	1.5	19.9	17.0	0.0
13	Jhelum	426,865	2	54	253	19	0.5	12.7	59.3	4.5
14	Kasur	1,062,041	4	271	1230	0	0.4	25.5	115.8	0.0
15	Khanewal	906,190	11	148	769	8	1.2	16.3	84.9	0.9
16	Khushab	439,731	11	36	189	15	2.5	8.2	43.0	3.4
17	Lahore	3,517,650	3	532	4510	56	0.1	15.1	128.2	1.6
18	Layyah	541,828	4	94	208	18	0.7	17.3	38.4	3.3
19	Lodhran	503,959	2	52	254	15	0.4	10.3	50.4	3.0
20	Mandi Bahaddin	539,195	0	93	145	33	0.0	17.2	26.9	6.1
21	Mianwali	512,764	4	31	221	14	0.8	6.0	43.1	2.7
22	Multan	1,453,819	3	176	970	47	0.2	12.1	66.7	3.2
23	Muzaffargarh	1,192,576	4	171	190	0	0.3	14.3	15.9	0.0
24	Nankana Sahib	444,623	3	68	304	0	0.7	15.3	68.4	0.0
25	Narowal	539,287	1	28	193	0	0.2	5.2	35.8	0.0
26	Okara	938,481	0	213	723	15	0.0	22.7	77.0	1.6
27	Pakpattan	559,379	10	140	182	8	1.8	25.0	32.5	1.4
28	Rahim Yar Khan	1,394,678	13	250	825	6	0.9	17.9	59.2	0.4
29	Rajanpur	522,886	15	90	135	0	2.9	17.2	25.8	0.0
30	Rawalpindi	1,791,838	5	93	640	25	0.3	5.2	35.7	1.4
31	Sahiwal	793,913	4	127	593	68	0.5	16.0	74.7	8.6
32	Sargodha	1,221,604	15	88	741	43	1.2	7.2	60.7	3.5
33	Sheikhupura	1,072,018	6	181	1111	18	0.6	16.9	103.6	1.7
34	Sialkot	1,282,559	8	113	869	0	0.6	8.8	67.8	0.0
35	Toba Tek Singh	717,989	3	130	224	10	0.4	18.1	31.2	1.4
36	Vehari	929,396	5	81	515	45	0.5	8.7	55.4	4.8
	Total	34576029	225	4641	20720	1167	0.7	13.4	59.9	3.4

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