

# **District-Level Mapping of Gender-Based Violence in Sindh, Pakistan (2024)**



## **Acknowledgments**

### **Research Team**

Yusra Khurram Butt

(Author, Data Analysis, Data visualization, Heat-style Choropleth maps)

### **Special Acknowledgements for Support:**

Omama Mir

(RTI Request and Legal Guidance, Recommendations)

### **Editorial and Technical Review:**

Syed Kausar Abbas

Muhammad Shahid Khan

Maryam Jawad

### **Design and Layout:**

Fatima Aslam Khan (Design and Layout)

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Tel: +92 (51) 228 7298

Fax: +92 (51) 843 3431

Email: [info@ssdo.org.pk](mailto:info@ssdo.org.pk)

URL: [www.ssdo.org.pk](http://www.ssdo.org.pk)

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# Background & Objectives



# Background

Building upon the comprehensive Provincial Analysis of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Pakistan – 2024 which covered cases from January to December, explicates the prevalence and patterns of GBV across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan, and Islamabad Capital Territory, this report takes a more comprehensive approach by providing district-wise analysis.

While the provincial report offered valuable insights into the overall scale of the issue, this district-level analysis of Sindh enables a closer study of individual districts to understand localized trends, assess variations in reporting and response mechanisms, and develop more targeted interventions at the grassroots level. By focusing on district-specific data, this analysis uncovers nuanced and hidden realities of GBV that may be obscured when viewed only at the provincial level.

The report presents two key metrics: the absolute number of GBV cases and the crime rate per 100,000 population. Data on registered cases was obtained through Right to Information requests, while the GBV crime rate was calculated using the standard crime rate formula:

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

In certain cases, districts with smaller populations report elevated numbers of GBV cases, indicating a higher concentration of GBV incidents within these less densely populated districts. Each section includes thematic maps that illustrate the crime rate of GBV incidents across each district. The distinct color-coded intervals to categorize crime rates, with lighter shades representing lower crime rates and darker shades denoting higher prevalence. This visual representation facilitates the identification of high-risk geographical clusters and enables stakeholders to quickly assess regional variations in GBV patterns.

Focusing on Sindh, the province recorded 243 rape cases, 2,645 kidnappings/abductions, 134 honor killings, and 375 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

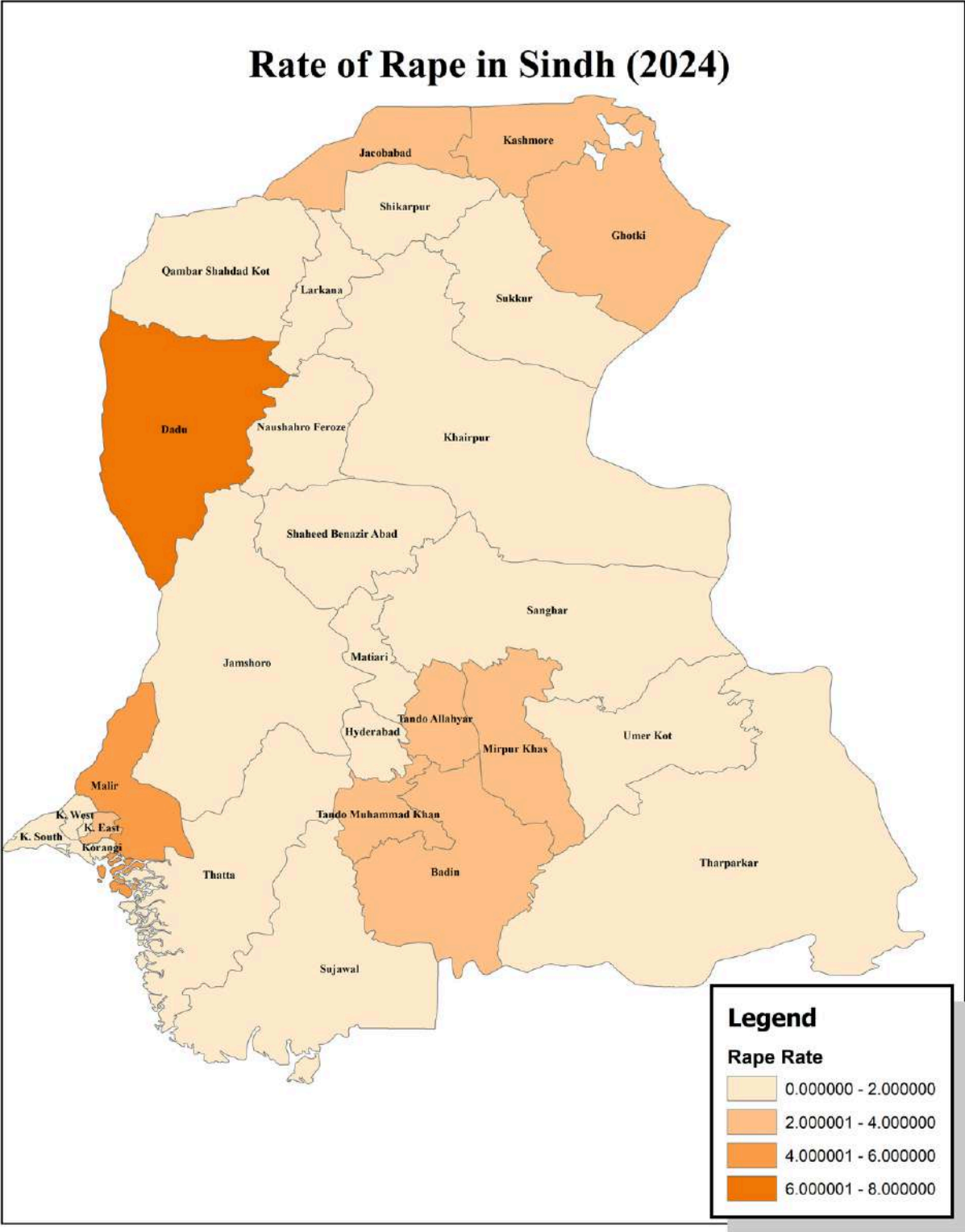
This report serves as a follow-up to the Gender-Based Violence Provincial Analysis published in February 2025. The primary objectives of this study are:

1. To identify GBV hotspot districts within Sindh province—specifically those areas with the highest number of reported cases.
2. Analyse conviction patterns in these districts by examining whether registered cases result in successful prosecutions.



Rape







### Top 5 Districts in Sindh with the Highest Number of Rape Cases      Conviction

|                               |    |   |
|-------------------------------|----|---|
| 1. Ghotki                     | 27 | 0 |
| 2. Karachi South              | 21 | 0 |
| 3. Karachi Central & Khairpur | 19 | 0 |
| 4. Hyderabad                  | 15 | 0 |

### Top 5 Districts in Sindh with the Highest Rate Rape Cases (per 100,000 women population)      Conviction

|                  |     |   |
|------------------|-----|---|
| 1. Ghotki        | 6.4 | 0 |
| 2. Matiari       | 5.1 | 0 |
| 3. Karachi South | 3.1 | 0 |
| 4. Khairpur      | 3.1 | 0 |
| 5. Jamshoro      | 2.9 | 0 |

According to 2024 data, Ghotki reported the highest number of rape cases in Sindh (27) in total with the highest crime rate relative to its population (6.4 cases per 100,000 people). Other districts with a high number of reported cases include Karachi South (21), Karachi Central and Khairpur (19 each), and Hyderabad (15). Yet, shockingly, none of these cases resulted in a conviction. Apart from these districts, Karachi West (14 cases), Dadu (12 cases), and Badin, Matiari, and Sanghar (11 cases each) also recorded concerning numbers of rape cases.

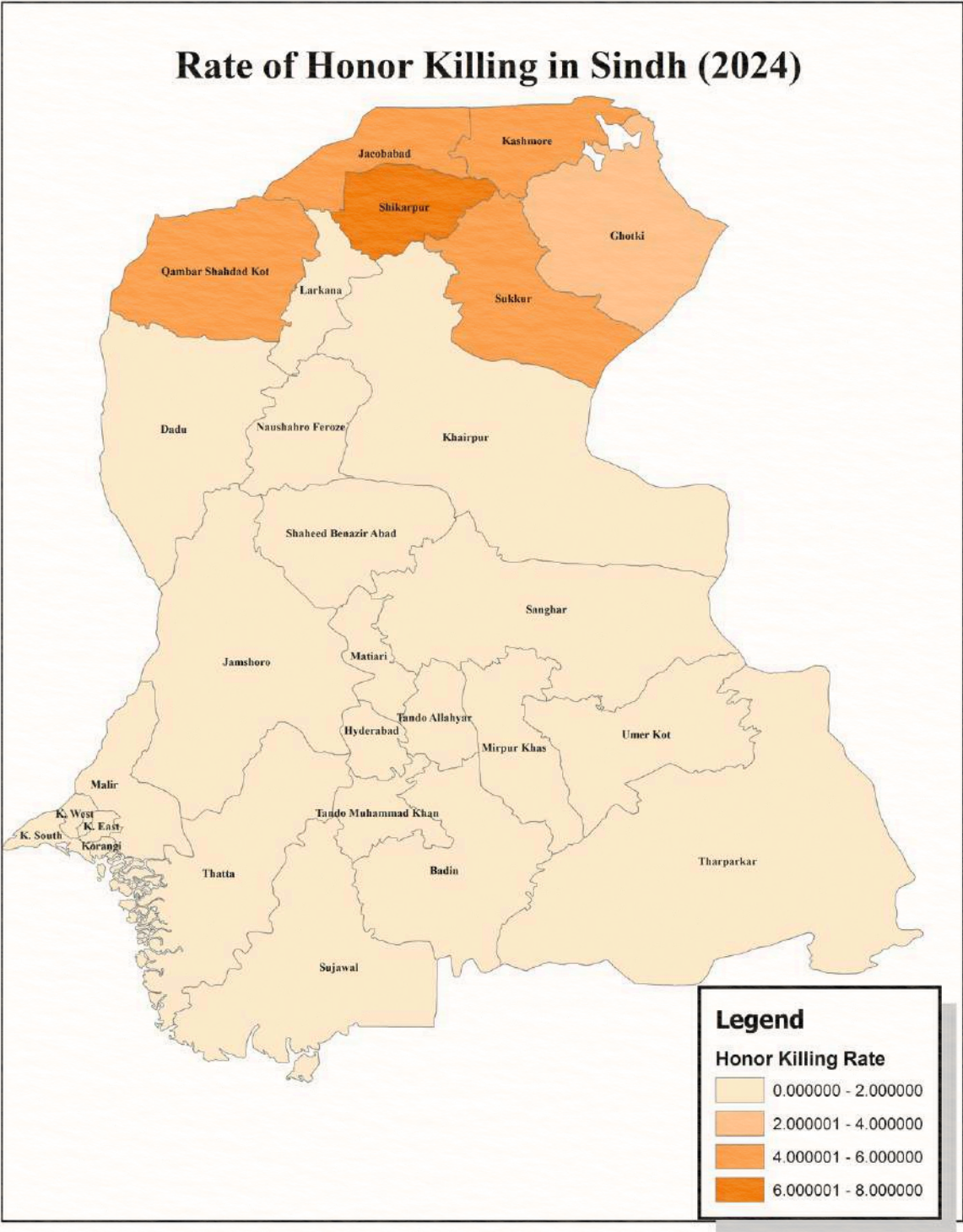
The data also shed light on some smaller district where the problem is severe when population size is considered. For example, Matiari does not appear among the top five districts by total number of cases that is 11 as mentioned in the below table, but it has the second highest crime rate of rape cases - 5.1 per 100,000 people. This means that although fewer cases were reported in absolute numbers, the problem is much more intense relative to Matiari's smaller population.

Other districts with high crime rates include Karachi South (3.1), Khairpur (3.1), and Jamshoro (2.9). Unfortunately, just like in other areas, there were no convictions reported in any of these districts.



# Honor Killing







### Top 5 Districts in Sindh with the Highest Number of Honor Killing Cases

**Conviction**

|                      |    |   |
|----------------------|----|---|
| 1. Shikarpur         | 23 | 0 |
| 2. Qamber shahdadkot | 19 | 0 |
| 3. Sukkur            | 18 | 0 |
| 4. Ghotki            | 16 | 0 |
| 5. Jacobabad         | 13 | 0 |

### Top 5 Districts in Sindh with the Highest Rate of Honor Killing Cases (per 100,000 women population)

**Conviction**

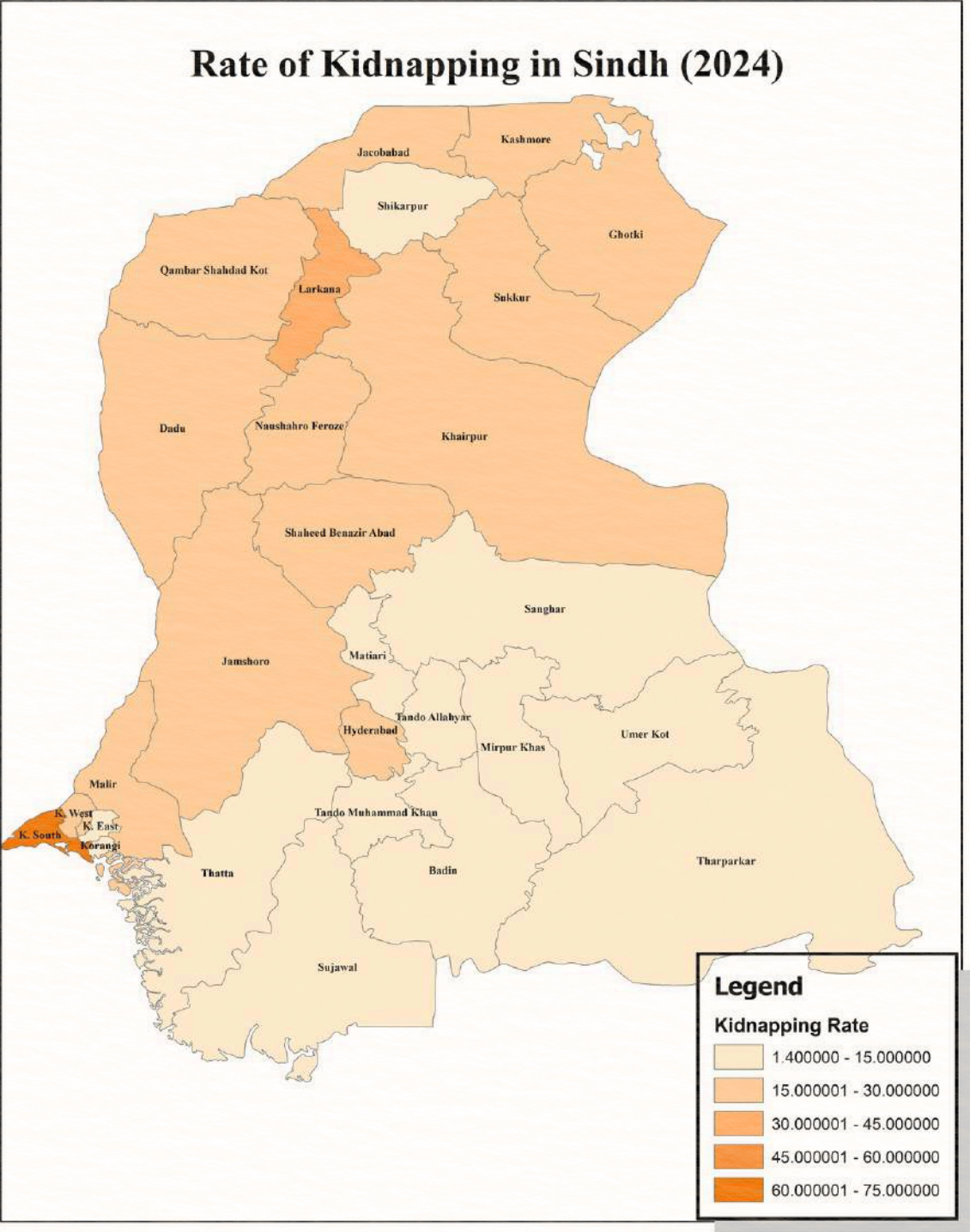
|                      |     |   |
|----------------------|-----|---|
| 1. Shikarpur         | 7.7 | 0 |
| 2. Qamber shahdadkot | 5.6 | 0 |
| 3. Jacobabad         | 5.3 | 0 |
| 4. Kashmore          | 5.1 | 0 |
| 5. Sukkur            | 4.8 | 0 |

The analysis reveals that the districts with the highest number of registered GBV cases in Sindh are Shikarpur (23 cases), Qamber Shahdadkot (19 cases), Sukkur (18 cases), Ghotki (16 cases), and Jacobabad (13 cases). Beyond these top-ranking districts, the number of registered honor killing cases continues across other parts of Sindh, including Kashmore (13 cases), Naushero Feroz (8), Larkana (6), Khairpur (5), and Thatta (4). Alarmingly, none of these cases resulted in convictions, highlighting a critical gap in the justice system. When analysing the crime rate of honor killings per 100,000 population, the data provides further insight into the prevalence of GBV in rural and less densely populated areas. Shikarpur maintains its position as the most affected district with a crime rate of 7.7, followed by Qamber Shahdadkot (5.6), Jacobabad (5.3), Kashmore (5.1), and Sukkur (4.8). These districts, despite having smaller populations relative to other areas in the province, demonstrate disproportionately high crime rates of GBV.



**Kidnapping**







### Top 5 Districts in Sindh with the Highest Number of Kidnapping

### Conviction

|                    | Cases |   |
|--------------------|-------|---|
| 1. Karachi South   | 487   | 0 |
| 2. Karachi Central | 315   | 0 |
| 3. Karachi West    | 183   | 0 |
| 4. Malir           | 153   | 0 |
| 5. Khairpur        | 143   | 0 |

### Top 5 Districts in Sindh with the Highest Rate Kidnapping Cases (per 100,000 women population)

### Conviction

|                    |      |   |
|--------------------|------|---|
| 1. Karachi South   | 72.9 | 0 |
| 2. Larkana         | 31.0 | 0 |
| 3. Karachi Central | 29.4 | 0 |
| 4. Karachi West    | 25.8 | 0 |
| 5. Malir           | 24.4 | 0 |

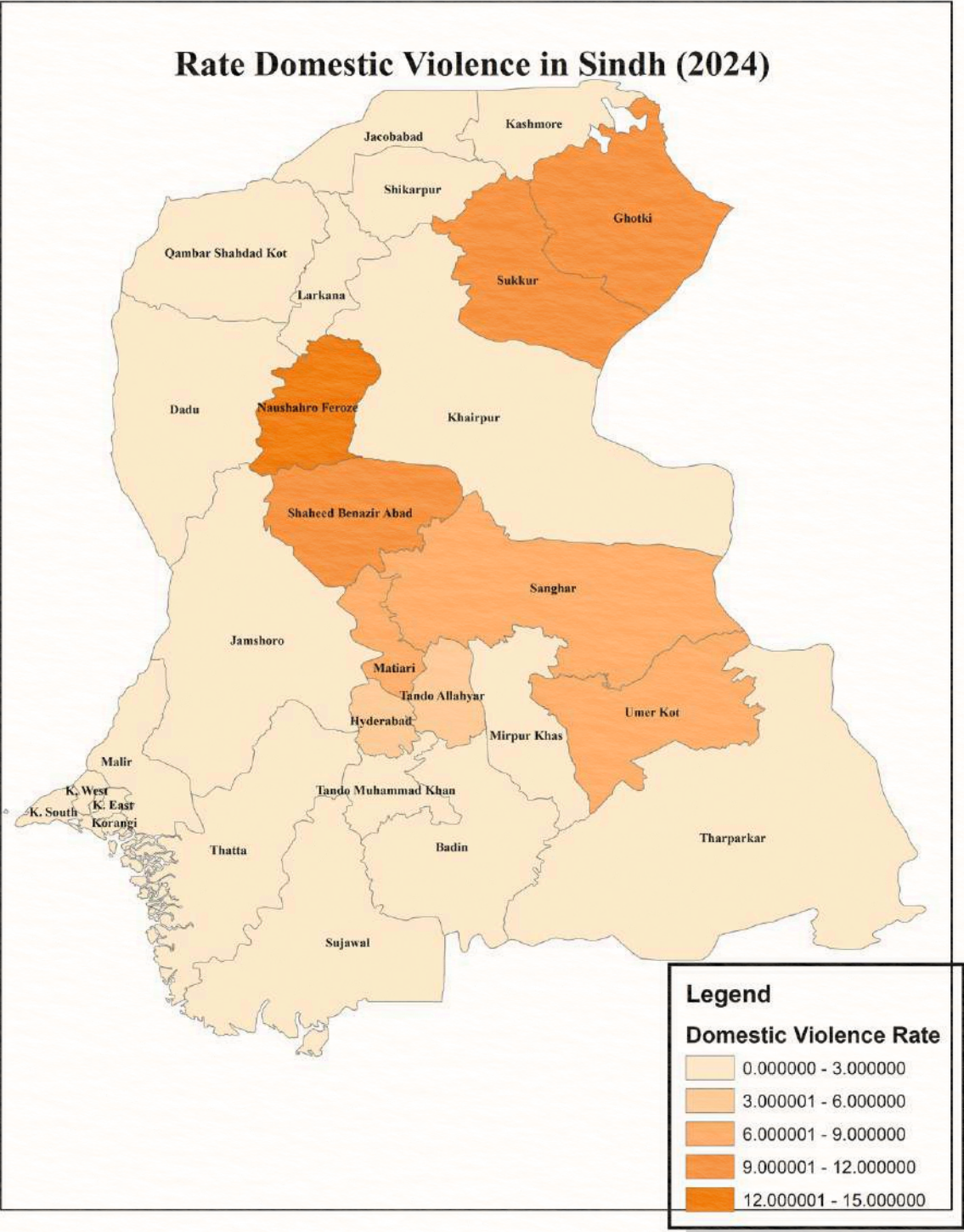
The 2024 data on kidnapping and abduction cases in Sindh present alarming statistics. Karachi South recorded the highest number of cases (487 in total) and with the highest crime rate relative to its population: 72.9 cases per 100,000 people. Other districts with high case numbers include Karachi Central (315 cases), Karachi West (183), Malir (153), and Khairpur (143). Yet not a single conviction was reported in any of these districts. The crisis of kidnapping in Sindh extended far beyond a single district. In 2024, Larkana emerged with 132 cases, followed by Karachi East (125), Hyderabad (100), Korangi (99), and Ghotki (87). The mix of urban and interior districts in these figures shows that the threat of kidnapping is not confined to big cities. The severity of the issue becomes even clearer when population size is considered.

Larkana, which had a crime rate of 31.0 per 100,000, showing that even districts with smaller populations faced a serious threat. Malir also reported a high crime rate of 24.4 followed by Karachi Central recorded a crime rate of 22.7, Karachi West had 17.4, and Khairpur followed with 16.6 per. Despite these high crime rates, not a single conviction was reported in any of these districts throughout the year.



# Domestic Violence







### Top 5 Districts in Sindh with the Highest Number of Domestic Violence Cases

Conviction

|                         |    |   |
|-------------------------|----|---|
| 1. Naushero Feroz       | 60 | 0 |
| 2. Ghotki               | 48 | 0 |
| 3. Shaheed Benazir Abad | 41 | 0 |
| 4. Sanghar              | 40 | 0 |
| 5. Sukkur               | 37 | 0 |

### Top 5 Districts in Sindh with the Highest Rate Domestic Violence Cases (per 100,000 women population)

Conviction

|                         |      |   |
|-------------------------|------|---|
| 1. Naushero Feroz       | 13.8 | 0 |
| 2. Ghotki               | 11.4 | 0 |
| 3. Sukkur               | 9.8  | 0 |
| 4. Shaheed Benazir Abad | 9.1  | 0 |
| 5. Umerkot              | 7.6  | 0 |

Naushero Feroz tops the list both in terms of the highest number of domestic violence cases (60) and the highest crime rate per 100,000 population (13.8). Other districts such as Ghotki (48 cases) and Shaheed Benazir Abad (41 cases) also report significant numbers of incidents; conviction crime rate remains zero. Following Sukkur, Hyderabad recorded 33 cases of domestic violence, Umerkot reported 20, while Karachi South and Matiari each reported 14 cases, and Tando Allahyar documented 12.

Districts like Ghotki (11.4 crime rate), Sukkur (9.8 crime rate), and Shaheed Benazir Abad (9.1 crime rate) show alarming crime rates of domestic violence, conviction rate remains zero.



# Recommendations



## Recommendations

- Amend and align provincial laws (Sindh Domestic Violence Prevention & Protection Act 2013, Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013, Sindh Anti-Women Practices Prohibition Act 2019) with latest federal guidelines from National Commission on the Status of Women (2022) to close loopholes and harmonize definitions of "domestic violence," "sexual assault," and "honour killing".
- Strengthen enforcement of Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act by empowering district Child Marriage Prohibition Committees (CMPCs) to conduct timely site visits in recognised "hotspot" Union Councils and provide clear Standard Operating Procedures for CMPC members to register FIRs under Section 8 without undue delay.
- The Government of Sindh, in collaboration with the judiciary, should institutionalize dedicated fast-track courts to handle gender-based violence (GBV) cases with urgency. These courts must be legally mandated to adjudicate GBV cases within a specified timeframe (ideally 90–120 days), ensuring timely justice for survivors.
- To support timely and just outcomes in GBV cases, institutional capacities must be strengthened across the justice sector, with robust monitoring and survivor-centric procedures.
- Allocate sufficient resources - dedicated judges, court staff, prosecutors, and infrastructure - to ensure the courts' effective and sustained functioning.
- Ensure gender-sensitive court environments, including in-camera proceedings, protection services, and trauma-informed protocols to reduce survivor re-traumatization.
- Set district-wise "Conviction Targets" by requiring District Public Prosecutor (DPP) and SP (Investigations) to submit monthly updates on pending trials older than 6 months and cases with delayed evidence submission.
- Establish Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) every six months in each division with GBV survivors, community leaders, and local NGOs to collect qualitative feedback on actual reporting of GBV cases, pending trials, state of legal aid, and services quality, safety, and barriers to reporting.
- Launch public awareness campaigns about the role of fast-track courts and legal rights of GBV survivors to encourage reporting and trust in the justice system.



**Annexure**




| Sr.no | DISTRICTS           | 18 and above Population | Sindh                                    |      |                       |                   |  |      |                       |                   |
|-------|---------------------|-------------------------|--|------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|------|-----------------------|-------------------|
|       |                     |                         | 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     | Badin               | 476,539                 | 0  | 11   | 68                    | 3                 | 0.0  | 2.3  | 14.3                  | 0.6               |
| 2     | Dadu                | 427,466                 | 2  | 12   | 76                    | 5                 | 0.5  | 2.8  | 17.8                  | 1.2               |
| 3     | Ghotki              | 422,747                 | 16                                       | 27   | 87                    | 48                | 3.8  | 6.4  | 20.6                  | 11.4              |
| 4     | Hyderabad           | 649,295                 | 0  | 15   | 100                   | 33                | 0.0  | 2.3  | 15.4                  | 5.1               |
| 5     | Jacobabad           | 244,354                 | 13                                       | 4    | 39                    | 7                 | 5.3  | 1.6  | 16.0                  | 2.9               |
| 6     | Jamshoro            | 278,913                 | 0  | 8    | 61                    | 2                 | 0.0  | 2.9  | 21.9                  | 0.7               |
| 7     | Karachi Central     | 1,072,873               | 0  | 19   | 315                   | 4                 | 0.0  | 1.8  | 29.4                  | 0.4               |
| 8     | Karachi East        | 1,073,868               | 0  | 0    | 125                   | 3                 | 0.0  | 0.0  | 11.6                  | 0.3               |
| 9     | Karachi South       | 668,425                 | 2  | 21   | 487                   | 14                | 0.3  | 3.1  | 72.9                  | 2.1               |
| 10    | Karachi West        | 710,308                 | 0  | 14   | 183                   | 0                 | 0.0  | 2.0  | 25.8                  | 0.0               |
| 11    | Kashmore            | 256,139                 | 13                                       | 5    | 44                    | 0                 | 5.1  | 2.0  | 17.2                  | 0.0               |
| 12    | Khairpur            | 615,888                 | 5  | 19   | 143                   | 0                 | 0.8  | 3.1  | 23.2                  | 0.0               |
| 13    | Korangi             | 806,214                 | 0  | 0    | 99                    | 0                 | 0.0  | 0.0  | 12.3                  | 0.0               |
| 14    | Larkana             | 425,820                 | 6  | 7    | 132                   | 0                 | 1.4  | 1.6  | 31.0                  | 0.0               |
| 15    | Malir               | 626,875                 | 0  | 3    | 153                   | 1                 | 0.0  | 0.5  | 24.4                  | 0.2               |
| 16    | Matari              | 213,625                 | 1  | 11   | 25                    | 14                | 0.5  | 5.1  | 11.7                  | 6.6               |
| 17    | Mirpur Khas         | 407,708                 | 0  | 8    | 45                    | 10                | 0.0  | 2.0  | 11.0                  | 2.5               |
| 18    | Naushero Feroz      | 435,215                 | 8  | 9    | 73                    | 60                | 1.8  | 2.1  | 16.8                  | 13.8              |
| 19    | Qamber shahdadkot   | 341,981                 | 19                                       | 3    | 66                    | 8                 | 5.6  | 0.9  | 19.3                  | 2.3               |
| 20    | Sanghar             | 563,277                 | 1  | 11   | 40                    | 40                | 0.2  | 2.0  | 7.1                   | 7.1               |
| 21    | Shaheed Benazir Ab. | 449,414                 | 3  | 9    | 72                    | 41                | 0.7  | 2.0  | 16.0                  | 9.1               |
| 22    | Shikarpur           | 297,023                 | 23                                       | 2    | 41                    | 1                 | 7.7  | 0.7  | 13.8                  | 0.3               |
| 23    | Sujawal             | 194,238                 | 0  | 0    | 13                    | 4                 | 0.0  | 0.0  | 6.7                   | 2.1               |
| 24    | Sukkur              | 376,138                 | 18                                       | 2    | 67                    | 37                | 4.8  | 0.5  | 17.8                  | 9.8               |
| 25    | Tando Allahyar      | 225,433                 | 0  | 3    | 20                    | 12                | 0.0  | 1.3  | 8.9                   | 5.3               |
| 26    | Tando Muhammad K    | 184,377                 | 0  | 5    | 17                    | 3                 | 0.0  | 2.7  | 9.2                   | 1.6               |
| 27    | Tharpakar           | 368,853                 | 0  | 8    | 5                     | 3                 | 0.0  | 2.2  | 1.4                   | 0.8               |
| 28    | Thatta              | 259,117                 | 4  | 3    | 16                    | 2                 | 1.5  | 1.2  | 6.2                   | 0.8               |
| 29    | Umerkot             | 264,094                 | 0  | 4    | 33                    | 20                | 0.0  | 1.5  | 12.5                  | 7.6               |
|       |                     |                         |  |      |                       |                   |  |      |                       |                   |
|       | Total               | 13336217                | 134                                      | 243  | 2645                  | 375               | 1.0  | 1.8  | 19.8                  | 2.8               |





 Office 901, Green Trust Tower, Jinnah Avenue, Islamabad

 +92 51 8433431

 [info@ssdo.org.pk](mailto:info@ssdo.org.pk)



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