



CRIME PREVENTION IN UZBEKISTAN

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Introduction

Crime prevention is pivotal for maintaining stability and social order in Uzbekistan. Ongoing political and socio-economic reforms have prompted comprehensive measures to combat crime in all its forms—from youth delinquency to cyber threats—through legal, institutional, and community-based interventions reddit.com+grjournal.us+uzswlu.uz+ijournal.uz+[15theasiatoday.org](https://theasiatoday.org)+[15en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org)+15.

Crime Trends and Current State

- In 2024, Uzbekistan recorded 132,298 crimes, or about 200 offenses per 100,000 citizens, a significant reduction from 289 per 100,000 in 2023 buzb.uz+[1monitor.kun.uz](https://monitor.kun.uz)+1.
- The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) achieved a 92.4% case resolution rate, arresting over 8,700 individuals, identifying nearly 59% of crimes committed by youth and ~36% by repeat offenders monitor.kun.uz.
- Cybercrime surged sharply—accounting for 44.4% of total crimes in 2024, compared to just 6.2% in 2023—highlighting a growing cyber threat requiring urgent prevention strategies arxiv.org+3yuz.uz+3specialeurasia.com+3.

Legal and Institutional Framework



• Following legal reforms since 2017, the crime prevention system has been strengthened through updated frameworks empowering police and grassroots structures such as mahalla committees journal.imras.org+4theasiatoday.org+4theeuropetoday.com+4.

• The MIA, comprising around 80,000 officers, oversees law enforcement and prevention work nationwide en.wikipedia.org+1monitor.kun.uz+1.

• Educational institutions like the Academy of MIA and Tashkent State University of Law play key roles in training specialists in criminology, law enforcement, and crime prevention theeuropetoday.com+7en.wikipedia.org+7scholarexpress.net+7.

Community-Based “Mahalla Model”

• Uzbekistan’s unique model leverages traditional mahalla structures as foundational units in social and situational crime prevention theasiatoday.org+1theeuropetoday.com+1.

• Mahallas are categorized annually as green/yellow/red zones based on crime rates, with focused prevention efforts in “red” neighborhoods .

• The "five-authority" model (soon expanding to seven) integrates mahalla leaders, youth and women's activists, social workers, tax inspectors, prevention officers, and government support for employment, social welfare, and youth engagement.

Youth and Social Prevention Programs

• Targeting juvenile delinquency, Tashkent’s Chilonzor district has implemented educational programs, mentorship, and community-engagement initiatives reddit.com+2ijournal.uz+2ijournal.uz+2.



- Universities, including the Uzbekistan State World Languages University, host lectures and awareness-raising events for youth on hooliganism and legal responsibility uzswlu.uz.

Cybercrime Prevention Efforts

- The dramatic rise in cybercrime has led to the establishment of a Cybersecurity Center within the MIA and increased media communication to raise public awareness yuz.uz+1monitor.kun.uz+1.

- Strategies include digital literacy campaigns, digital fraud monitoring, and coordination with banks to prevent illicit fund transfers.

Challenges and Gaps

- Despite overall crime reduction, cybercrime remains a critical threat requiring improved technological capacity and legal tools.

- Youth crime, repeat offenders, and economically vulnerable communities still disproportionately contribute to crime rates.

- The implementation gap persists: inconsistent engagement across mahallas, limited resources for social prevention, and uneven digital awareness.

Conclusion

Uzbekistan's multi-layered crime prevention approach—integrating legislative reforms, law enforcement, mahalla social governance, youth engagement, and cybersecurity initiatives—has contributed to notable declines in general crime. However, the explosion of cybercrime, persistent repeat offenses, and youth delinquency spotlight areas for further improvement. Strengthening digital prevention infrastructure, scaling youth support programs, and enhancing the capacity of mahalla-based networks will be essential to consolidating these gains and ensuring sustainable public safety.

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