

The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP)

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC 2017 Scores and 2014-2017 Trendsⁱ

What is the NCIFP?

A tool that supports FP2020'sⁱⁱ efforts to improve the policy environment for family planning (FP), the NCIFP provides information on FP program activities that are not readily available in national demographic or reproductive health surveys or service statistics systems. The NCIFP measures the existence of FP policies and program implementation based on 35 items that fall under five dimensions: **Strategy, Data, Quality, Equity, and Accountability**.

Strategy – whether a national FP strategy/plan exists that includes quantified objectives, targets to reach the poorest and most vulnerable, projected resource requirements, and support for wider stakeholder participation. Also included are two items that affect strategy implementation: high-level leadership and regulations that facilitate contraceptive importation or production.

Data – whether the government collects/uses data on special sub-groups (e.g. the poor) and their access, private sector commodities, and the quality of service statistics. It also includes data-based evaluation and research to improve the program.

Quality – whether the government uses WHO standards of practice (SOP), task-sharing guidelines, and quality of care indicators in public and private facilities. Quality of care (QOC) also considers the adequacy of structures for training, logistics, supervision, IUD and implant removal, and informed choice, including informing clients about the permanence of sterilization.

Accountability – whether mechanisms exist to monitor discrimination and free choice review violations, report denial of services, enable facility-level feedback, and encourage communication between clients and providers.

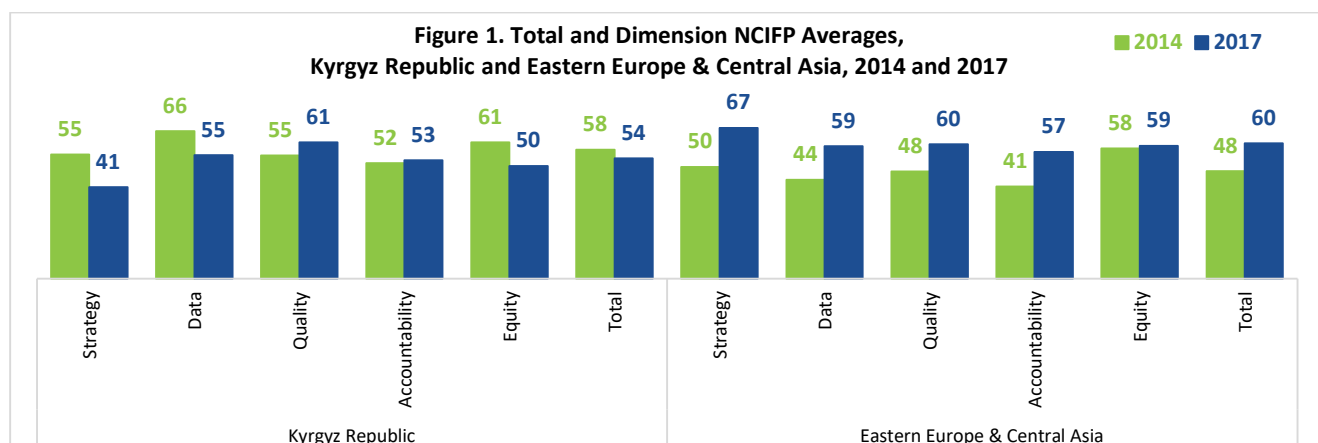
Equity - whether anti-discrimination policies exist, providers discriminate against special groups, the population has easy access to modern contraceptive methods (referring to STMs meaning short-term methods, or LAPMs meaning long-acting and permanent methods), and services are provided to underserved areas through community-based distribution (CBD).

First undertaken in 2014, the NCIFP builds on the long-standing National Family Planning Effort Index (FPE). In 2017 Avenir Health's Track20 project (funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to assist countries participating in the FP2020 Global Initiative) administered a new round of NCIFPs to assess current national FP program status and changes since 2014. NCIFP data are intended for policy and planning use by each country's FP stakeholders.

Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzstan) vs Eastern Europe and Central Asia Results

Figure 1 shows Kyrgyzstan's total NCIFP score of 58 in 2014 was higher than that of the region (48) but standings reversed in 2017 as the country's total score declined to 54 while the region's score rose to 60. With Accountability and Quality as the only exceptions, three of the country's dimensions also scored lower in 2017 compared to the region averaging higher for all five dimensions.

- Kyrgyzstan's highest rated dimension was Data in 2014 and Quality in 2017. Accountability was its lowest rated dimension in 2014, but Strategy took over as the country's lowest ranked in 2017 as its average fell to 41.
- The region's highest rated dimension in 2014 was Equity (58) but was replaced by Strategy in 2017. Accountability was the region's lowest rated in both years despite the dimension's score improving by 2017.

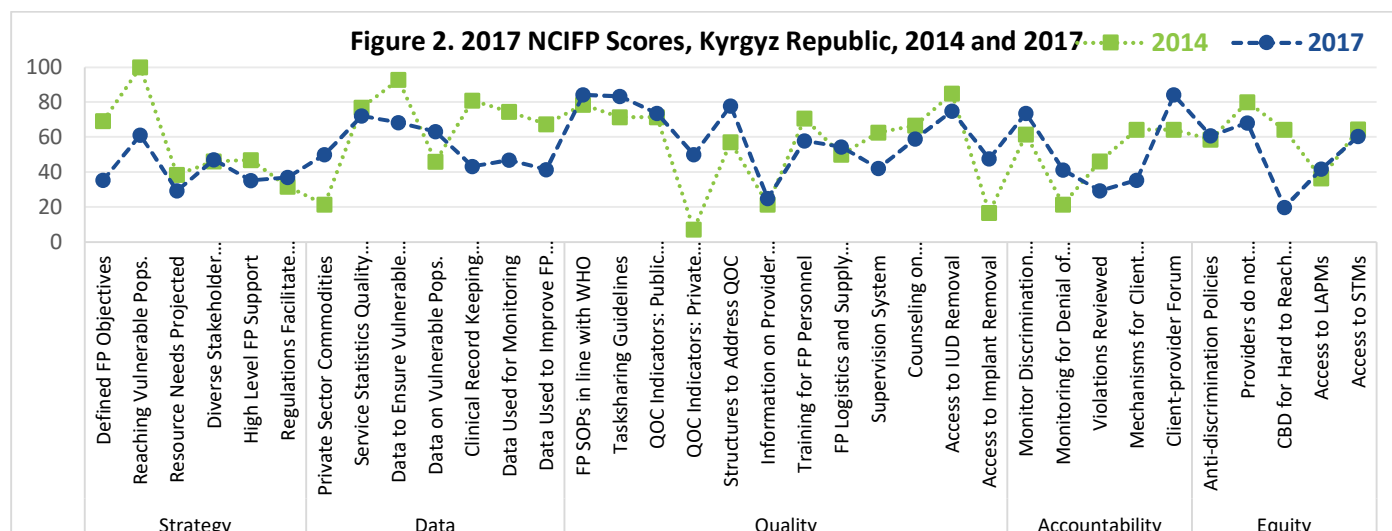


Individual NCIFP Trends, 2014 and 2017

Ratings of individual NCIFP items over time indicate which FP program activities are progressing, stagnant, or deteriorating. Figure 2 shows nearly 15 items had lower 2017 scores; ten items had higher marks; and the rest with hardly changed ratings.

- **Strategy** – Four items scored lower in 2017: the strategy's focus on vulnerable groups (61), objectives (35), high-level program leadership (35), and estimated resource needs (29). Ratings minimally improved for stakeholder participation (47) and regulations facilitating contraceptive importation (37). 2017 scores of strategy items were among the lowest of all NCIFP items.

- **Data** – 2017 ratings declined for quality control of service statistics (72), the use of data to ensure the most vulnerable have access (68), and for clinic recordkeeping/feedback to clients, and data-based monitoring and program development (the 3 items scored in the 40s). Scores improved regarding data on population sub-groups (63) and private sector commodities (50).
- **Quality** – Ratings improved to around the 80s regarding the use of WHO SOPs, tasksharing guidelines, and community/clinic monitoring structures. Scores were also higher for QOC indicators in public (74) and private (50) facilities, as well as for access to implant removal (48). The 2017 score declined to 75 for access to IUD removal and to the 50s for sterilization counseling and training and to the 40s for supervision. Ratings hardly changed for the logistics system (54) and provider bias monitoring (25).
- **Accountability** – 2017 marks were higher for client-provider dialogue (84), monitoring discrimination and free choice (74) and mechanisms for reporting denial of services (41). Scores, however, fell for violations review (29) and facility-level client feedback (35).
- **Equity** – The score declined for provider non-discrimination against certain population groups (68) as well as for CBD coverage of the underserved (score=20, the lowest among all 35 NCIFP items). Ratings stayed in the low 60s for anti-discrimination policies and STMs access and in the 40s for access to LAPMs.



Implications

Kyrgyzstan's NCIFP results point out several FP program activities that improved by 2017 including the use of QOC protocols, indicators, and structures, as well as accountability mechanisms to monitor voluntarism and foster dialogue with clients. But the NCIFP data also flagged out many items with scores that significantly declined or remained in the 40s or even lower. These problematic FP program activities include the FP strategy's need for quantifiable objectives, high-level leadership, estimated resource needs, wider stakeholder participation, and regulations that facilitate contraceptive products; data concerns especially clinic recordkeeping/feedback of results to clients and data-based monitoring and program development; quality of care issues involving provider bias monitoring and supervision; accountability mechanisms to report denial of services, review violations, and solicit client feedback at the facility-level; and CBD coverage of the underserved.

In 2018, the Kyrgyz Republic joined the Global FP2020 Partnership by pledging to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate to 30% by 2020. The commitment cited various government efforts to ensure people's rights to access FP services; strengthen the political will to implement the FP program and achieve the country's Sustainable Development Goals; increase public funding for contraceptive procurement to ensure access among socio-medical high-risk groups; develop a plan of action and budget for 2019-2030 to protect the health of women, children, and adolescents; provide high-quality FP services; improve contraceptive choice by removing barriers to the registration of modern methods; implement and monitor the use of WHO-recommended FP protocols; build provider capabilities regarding long-acting methods; and improve FP communication by involving village health committees.ⁱⁱⁱ It is noteworthy that the FP program initiatives that Kyrgyzstan pledged to undertake are along the main themes and concerns raised by the country's FP experts who responded to the NCIFP study. The NCIFP is a tool that the country stakeholders can use as they plan and implement FP program activities to ensure accessible, high-quality services and reach the most vulnerable and high-risk population sectors and improve the health of mothers and children in Kyrgyzstan.

ⁱ Suggested citation: Avenir Health Track20. "The National Composite Index for Family Planning (NCIFP): KYRGYZ REPUBLIC 2017 Scores and 2014-2017 Trends". 2017 NCIFP Policy Brief Series (2019).

ⁱⁱ FP2020 is a global initiative through which governments, civil society, multilateral organizations, donors, the private sector, and the research community work together to enable more women and girls to use contraceptives by 2020. Visit <http://www.familyplanning2020.org/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.familyplanning2020.org/kyrgyzstan>