

REPORT

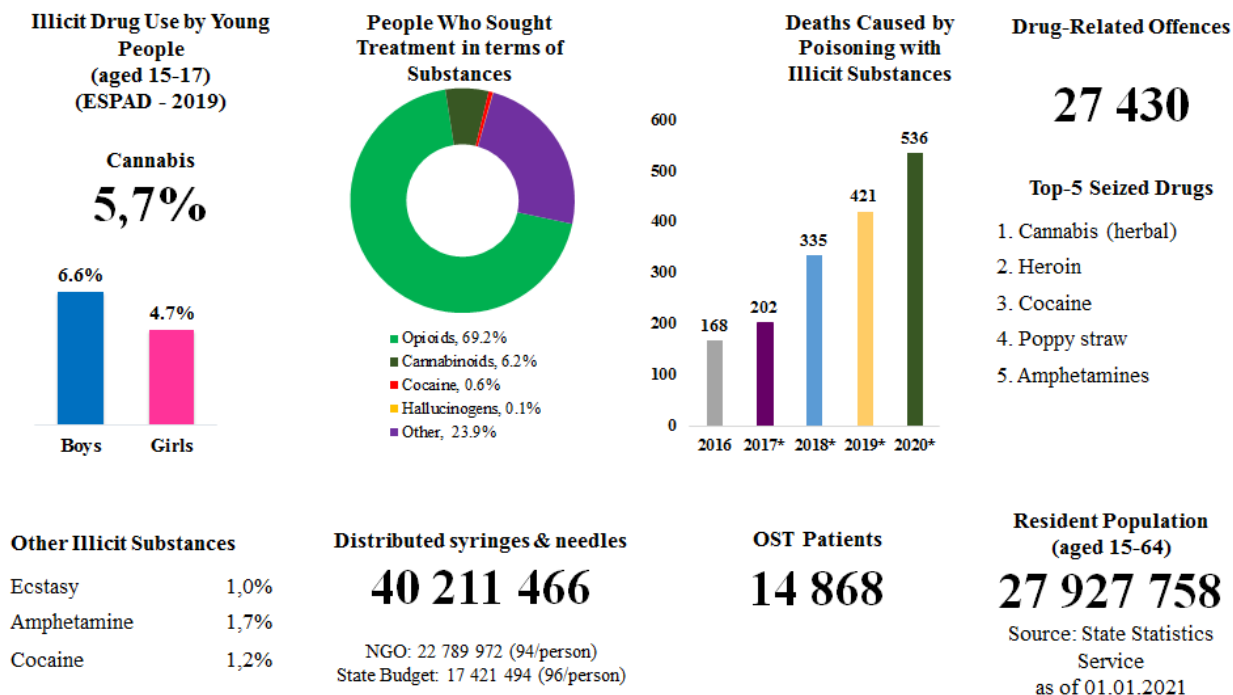
On Drug and Alcohol Situation
In Ukraine
for 2021
(Based on data 2020)

UKRAINE

Report on the Drug and Alcohol Situation in Ukraine for 2021

This report provides an overview of the drug and alcohol situation in Ukraine. Statistics and information are based on data 2020.

Outline of Drug Related Problems in Ukraine



Notes: The data are presented in accordance with the recommended indicators of the EMCDDA (patients, drug-related deaths, problems linked with drug use, distribution of syringes and drug-related offences) (CMU Resolution 689). Information on the prevalence and trends in the use of psychoactive substances and alcohol in Ukraine among the young people aged 15 to 17 are based on the results of the Study carried out in 2019 in the framework of the international project ESPAD.

*Starting from 2017, according to the recommendations of the EMCDDA, the cases of deaths due to overdoses of illegal psychoactive substances are obtained on the basis of the following ICD-10 codes: X41 (in combination with T40.0-9 and T43.6); X42 (in combination with T40.0-9 and T43.6); X61 (in combination with T40.0-9 and T43.6); X62 (in combination with T40.0-9 and T43.6); Y11 (in combination with T40.0-9 and T43.6); and Y12 (in combination with T40.0-9 and T43.6).

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List of Abbreviations

BFME	Bureau of Forensic Medical Examination
CMHMDA	State Agency “Centre for Mental Health and Monitoring Drugs and Alcohol of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine”
CCU	Criminal Code of Ukraine
CUAO	Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences
CMU	Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
ESPAD	European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs
GPU	Prosecutor General’s Office of Ukraine
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
MoH	Ministry of Health of Ukraine
MoSP	Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine
MoYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine
MSM	Men who have sex with men
NP	National Police of Ukraine
OST	Opioid Substitution Therapy
PAS	Psychoactive substances (drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors)
Poisoning	External causes of deaths related to drug use
PWID	People who inject drugs
SPSU	State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine
SW	Sex workers (people who provide sexual services for money)
SSU	Security Service of Ukraine
Strategy-2020	National Drug Policy Strategy for the period up to 2020
Ukrstat	State Statistics Service of Ukraine

National Drug Strategy and Coordination Mechanisms of its Implementation

National Drug Strategy

In 2019, in the framework of implementing the Strategy for State Drug Policy for the period up to 2020, the Government approved the Action Plan for 2019-2020 on the implementation of the Strategy for State Drug Policy for the period up to 2020 (the Plan). The Plan is aimed at resolving issues to boost activities of all the parties involved in drug policy implementation. These included relevant measures and regulations to improve the system of control over the legal trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, while preventing their diversion to illegal markets. At the same time, the Plan provides for the availability of narcotic medicines to patients, strengthening the fight against organized drug crime, corruption and drug business, as well as further modernizing the laws in this area.

To implement the Plan in 2020, there were taken relevant measures aimed at reducing the harm of psychoactive substances, resolving medical and social issues, as well as there were adopted some regulatory acts.

In 2019, the system of monitoring drug and alcohol situation in the country was set up at the national level by adopting the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 689 of 10.07.2019 “Issues of Monitoring Drug and Alcohol Situation in Ukraine” ([CMU Resolution 689](#)). It approved the procedure for submitting and collecting information/data that reflect the drug and alcohol situation, according to the indicators established by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), as well as it defined the range of drug and alcohol monitoring entities that were committed to provide the above information/data for its further analysis:

- general population surveys among individuals by age group of 15-16 years, prevalence, forms of using psychoactive substance (including their class, type, consequences of use);
- general population surveys among individuals by age group of 15-64 years, prevalence, forms of using psychoactive substance (including their class, type, consequences of use);
- treatment demand, prevalence of mental disorders and behavioral disorders due to the use of psychoactive substances;
- problematic use of drugs and psychotropic substances;
- drug-related mortality;
- infectious diseases among people who inject drugs and psychotropic substances;
- illicit trafficking in psychoactive substances and related crimes;
- preventive measures aimed at reducing substance abuse;
- legislation in the field of circulation of psychoactive substances and combating their illicit trafficking;
- social reintegration of individuals addicted to psychoactive substances.

To regulate the state control over the trafficking in drugs and substances with psychoactive effect, to prevent their diversion to illicit trafficking, as well as to prevent the use of such drugs and substances for non-medical purposes, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted its [Resolution No. 1185 of 02.12.2020](#) “On Approving the

Assessment Criteria for Risks from Economic Activities linked to Trafficking in Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, as well as the Frequency of Scheduled Government Supervision (Control) Activities of the State Service of Ukraine on Medicines and Drugs Control”.

To enhance the availability of medicines, including those containing psychoactive substances, for healthcare procurement purposes, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine [No. 668 of 29.07.2020](#) “On Introducing Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine” amended the resolutions as follows:

- [No. 589 of 03.06.2009](#) “On Approval of the Procedure for Activities Related to Trafficking in Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, and the Control Over their Trafficking”;

- [No. 282 of 06.04.2016](#) “Licensing of Activities of Cultivation of Plants Added to Table I of the List of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Development, Production, Manufacture, Storage, Transportation, Purchase, Sale (Release), Import to Ukraine, Export from Ukraine, Use, Destruction of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors Included in the Above List”;

- [No. 146 of 03.02.1997](#) “On Approval of the Procedure for Issuing Permissions to Import to Ukraine, Export from Ukraine or Transit through Ukraine of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors”.

The Government also adopted Resolution [No. 322 of 29.04.2020](#) “On Setting up a Local Agency of the National Police” that resulted in setting up the Department of Combating Drug-Related Crimes, which is a public law entity and interregional local agency of the National Police.

To prevent from non-medical use of drugs, as well as to prevent young people from committing criminal offences linked with drug trafficking, the National Police approved Order No. 186 of 05.03.2020 “On Preventive Measures to Combat Drug Crime”.

To strengthen the social protection of people addicted to psychoactive substances, to introduce a single approach to providing those people with social rehabilitation services, the Order of the Ministry of Social Policy [No. 677 of 01.10.2020](#), registered in the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine under register number 1218/35501 of 04.12.2020, approved the National Social Service Standard for Sociopsychological Rehabilitation of Individuals with Addiction to Drugs or Psychotropic Substances.

MoH Order [No. 2806 of 04.12.2020](#) “On Approval of Changes to the Order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine No. 188 of 01.08.2000” was amended as follows:

- the list of small, big and especially big amounts of drugs that are in illegal trafficking was completed with 10 new drugs;

- the list of small, big and especially big amounts of psychotropic substances that are in illegal trafficking was completed with 167 new psychotropic substances;

- the list of big and especially big amounts of precursors that are in illegal trafficking was completed with 28 new precursors.

Moreover, in 2020, Ukraine signed the [Working Agreement between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training \(CEPOL\)](#). The document provides for improving the efficiency of law enforcement authorities in combating crime, including the cross-border one, by means of joint trainings for law enforcement officers aimed at improving and expanding

knowledge about tools and mechanisms of international and European law enforcement cooperation, as well as the advanced methods of combating different crimes, including terrorism, illegal drug trafficking and organized crime, illegal migration and human trafficking, and relevant research work. The Working Agreement will have an unlimited period of validity.

Any multilateral treaties on these issues were not concluded during the reporting period.

National Coordination Mechanisms

The key determinant of the effective implementation of the Strategy-2020 is the coordination function of the Government that is performed through the regulation, implementation of control and inspection activities, as well as the setup of mechanisms of collaboration among drug policy parties (setting up interagency working groups, information exchange, running joint projects, special operations, etc.). The main coordinator of these activities in this area is the MoH.

Government Expenditure

Funding the Strategy-2020 implementation is allocated at the expense of the national and local budgets or any other sources not excluded by law. No funds are allocated separately for the fulfillment of the Action Plan for the Strategy from the State Budget of Ukraine. However, the subjects that shape and/or implement drug policy perform their tasks and activities set out in the Strategy-2020 are limited to the costs provided for in the State Budget of Ukraine for their main functions as the drug policy parties.

Since 2017, Ukraine has been financing the Opioid Substitution Therapy Program (OST) at the expense of the State Budget. For example, in 2020, the Government spent UAH 16 239.2 thousand (EUR 527.41 thousand) on purchasing OST medicines that is 6.4% more than in 2019.

In June 2019, as part of the Plan for Ukraine's transition from donor funding of the Global Fund to Fight HIV to the state funding, the Government decided to provide high-risk groups with HIV prevention services from the State Budget.

HIV prevention services particularly include the distribution of condoms and lubricants, the exchange and delivery of syringes among high-risk groups, namely: among men who have sex with men (MSM); among sex workers (SW), and people who inject drugs (PWID).

In 2020, 744 760 people from high-risk groups were provided with HIV prevention services (target informational, educational, and communicational services, distribution of condoms and lubricants, HIV tests), namely: 537 383 people who inject drugs, 98 380 men who have sex with men, and 108 997 sex workers. These figures refer to all prevention services provided to the total contacts, and not "unique individuals".

Moreover, 245 488 people from high-risk groups were provided with tuberculosis screening services.

The State Budget funding amounted to UAH 90 917 260 (EUR 2 952 818).

Drug Laws and Drug-Related Offences

National Drug Laws

The [Law of Ukraine “On Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors”](#) defined the legal and organizational principles of state policy on the legal distribution in Ukraine of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors (PAS). The law establishes the procedure for state control, powers of executive authorities, rights and obligations of both individuals and legal entities in the area of legal PAS distribution.

At the same time, the [Law of Ukraine “On Counteraction Measures against Illegal Trafficking in Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Abuse of Them”](#) accommodates international liabilities and determines the system of measures directed against the illegal trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances, and precursors and abuse of them. It also determines the rights and duties of legal entities and citizens in terms of the application of this Law.

The same Law defines that the illegal trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors provides for any activities on cultivating drug-containing plants (cannabis and opium poppy family), developing, producing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, shipping, purchasing, selling, importing into Ukraine, exporting from Ukraine, transiting through Ukraine, using, destructing any drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors with violation of the laws on drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors.

The list of drugs, psychotropic substances, and precursors and changes to it were approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine ([Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 770 of 06.05.2000](#)) upon the submission of the MoH.

Violations of the laws in the area of trafficking in supervised substances, types of crimes and penalties are defined in the [Criminal Code of Ukraine](#) (CCU) and the [Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences](#) (CUAO).

The **criminal liability** is defined in the CCU and imposed for the actions such as smuggling, illegal production, manufacture, purchase, storage, transportation, shipment or sale of drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues, sowing or growing of opium poppy or cannabis, illegally inputting them to the body, inducing the use of drugs, organizing or maintaining places for illegal use, production or manufacture of drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues.

The **administrative liability** is defined in the CUAO and imposed for the illegal production, purchasing, storage, transportation, shipment of drugs or psychotropic substances in small amounts not for selling purposes.

The use of drugs or psychotropic substances (other than in public) is not treated as a criminal offence.

Illegal production, purchasing, storage, transportation, shipment of drugs or psychotropic substances in small amounts not for selling purposes is an administrative offense and shall be punishable by a fine of 25 to 50 tax-free minimum incomes or community service for a period of 20 to 60 hours, or an administrative arrest for up to 15 days.

Small, big and especially big amounts of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors that are illegally trafficked are established by the MoH ([MoH Order No. 188 of 01.08.2000 as amended](#)).

Any individual who voluntarily surrenders drugs or psychotropic substances that he or she has had in small quantities or which he or she has produced, manufactured,

purchased, stored, transported or shipped without selling purposes shall be released from the administrative liability for such actions.

In addition, the people aged between sixteen and eighteen years who have committed such administrative offences may be subject to other enforcement actions, such as warning or placing the minor offenders under the care of parents or guardians, or under the supervision of their teachers or labor collective upon their consent, as well as to other citizens at their request.

Illegal manufacturing, purchasing, storage, transportation, shipment of drugs or psychotropic substances not for selling purposes in amounts exceeding the small ones stipulates the criminal liability. The maximum penalty for such criminal offences (if they are committed with the involvement of a minor and if the subject of such actions were drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues in especially big amounts) is the imprisonment for a term of 5 to 8 years.

The same actions, if repeated or committed by group of persons upon their prior conspiracy; or a person who has previously committed any similar offences; or if these actions involved drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues in big amounts, shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of up to 3 years.

If the amount of drugs or psychotropic substances is less than big, but more than small, the offence shall be punishable by a fine of 1000 to 3000 tax-free minimum incomes, or correctional labor for a term up to 2 years, or arrest for a term up to 6 months, or restraint of liberty for a term up to 5 years (the liability was strengthened due to the amendments to the Criminal Code of Ukraine introduced by Law of Ukraine No. 2617-VIII of 22.11.2018, which entered into force on 1 July 2020). A person, who voluntarily applied to a treatment facility and began the treatment of drug addiction, shall be discharged from the criminal liability for such actions.

At the same time, the illegal production, manufacture, purchasing, storage, transportation or shipment for selling purposes of drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of 4 to 12 years.

The punishment depends on the size of seized drugs or psychotropic substances. More severe punishment shall be provided if such actions were repeated or committed by a group of individuals upon their prior conspiracy, or by involving a minor, as well as the sale of drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues in places designated for educational, sports, and cultural purposes, and in other places of wide public attendance, or the sale or transfer of these substances to places of imprisonment, or where these actions involved drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues in big amounts or especially dangerous drugs and psychotropic substances. The maximum penalty shall be imposed when such actions are committed by an organized group, and also if these actions involved drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues in especially big amounts, or committed by involving a minor or in respect of a minor.

A person, who voluntarily surrendered drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues, and disclosed the source from which they were purchased, and assisted in uncovering the criminal offences related to their trafficking, shall be discharged from criminal liability for their illegal production, making, purchasing, storage, transportation, or shipment (if the amount of drugs, psychotropic substances is less than big and there were no circumstances for which a more severe punishment can be imposed).

Offences of Laws on Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

Administrative Liability

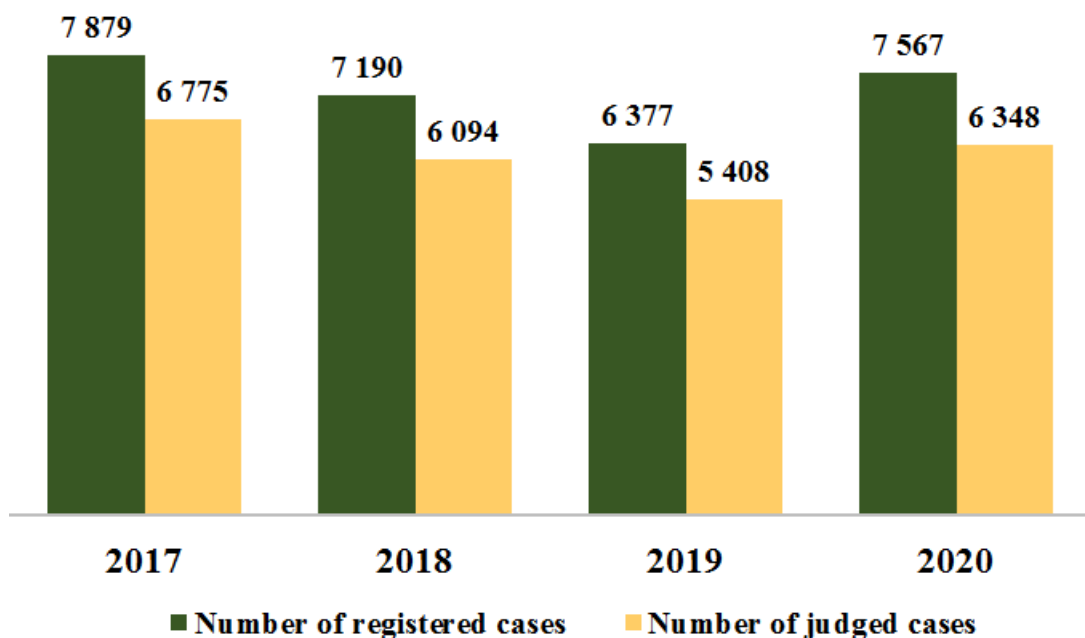
In 2020 there were 7 567 administrative cases pending in the courts and related to illegal production, purchasing, storage, transportation, shipment of drugs or psychotropic substances *not for selling purposes* and in small amounts (Article 44 of the CUAO).

Out of 7 567 cases, 6 348 court decisions were issued, of which 58% (3 701 cases) were judged on imposing administrative penalties and 39% (2 482 cases) were closed (74 individuals were released of administrative liability due to minor infraction, 166 charges were dismissed due to absence of the event of administrative offence, 7 cases were forwarded to the prosecutor or a pre-trial investigation body, 2 235 cases were closed due to the end of period of limitation for imposing administrative penalty).

3 450 individuals were fined. The total amount of fines in 2020 amounted to UAH 2 185 609 (EUR 70 984), of which 74% (UAH 1 618 280 (EUR 52 558)) was the amount of the imposed fine, 26% (UAH 567 329 (EUR 18 426)) was the amount of the fine paid voluntarily.

The volume of seizures for administrative drug offences was 2,5 kg in 2020; 6,2 kg in 2019; 1,8 kg in 2018; 2,2 kg in 2017; 12,9 kg in 2016; 1.2 kg in 2015. These data are extracted from the [Judicial Statistics](#), where the types of seized drugs are not specified.

Drug-Related Administrative Offences in 2017-2020



Criminal Liability

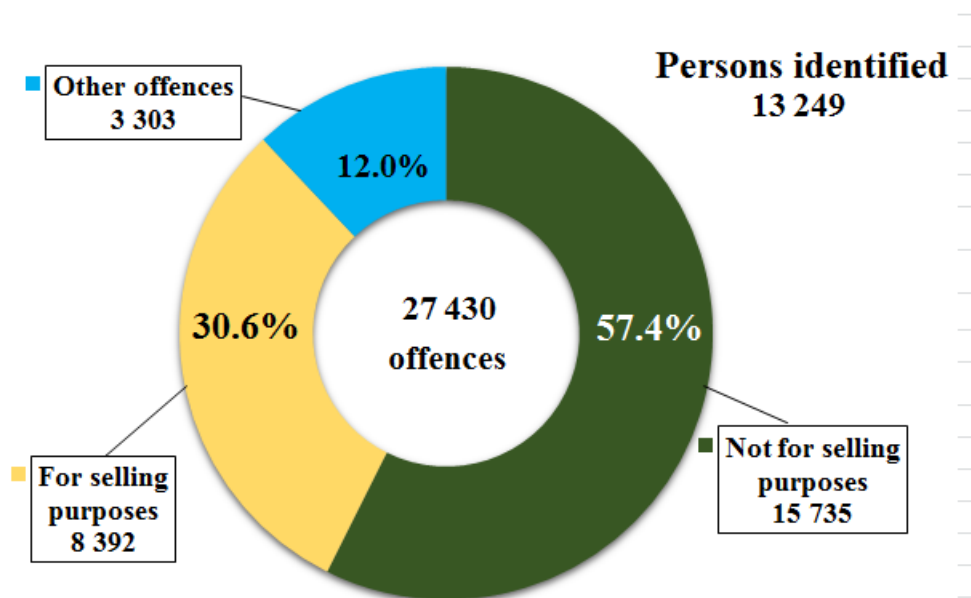
In Ukraine, the information on crimes related to illegal trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances is available in two administrative reports: the Single Report on Persons Who Committed Criminal Offences and the Single Report on Criminal Offences. Both reports are available to public and published monthly on the website of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine (GPU).

It's worth mentioning that the available administrative data do not allow identifying substances and their amounts that were the subject matter of the crime. However, these data are entered into the Single Register of Pre-trial Investigations that is allowed to access only by the law enforcement officials of Ukraine.

In 2020, the number of registered criminal offences in Ukraine in the field of trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances was 27 430 cases, and the number of persons charged with drug-related offence was 14 278 people.

Of the total number of cases (27 430) 57,4% of cases (15 735 (CCU, Article 309) were crimes related to the illegal production, purchasing, storage, transportation or shipment of drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues *not for selling purposes*, 30,6% of cases (8 392, (CCU, Article 307) were crimes related to illegal production, manufacture, purchasing, storage, transportation or shipment of drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues *for selling purposes*; and 12% of cases (3 303 (CCU, Articles 305, 306, 308, 310-320) were *other crimes*.

Registered Drug-Related Criminal Offences in 2020



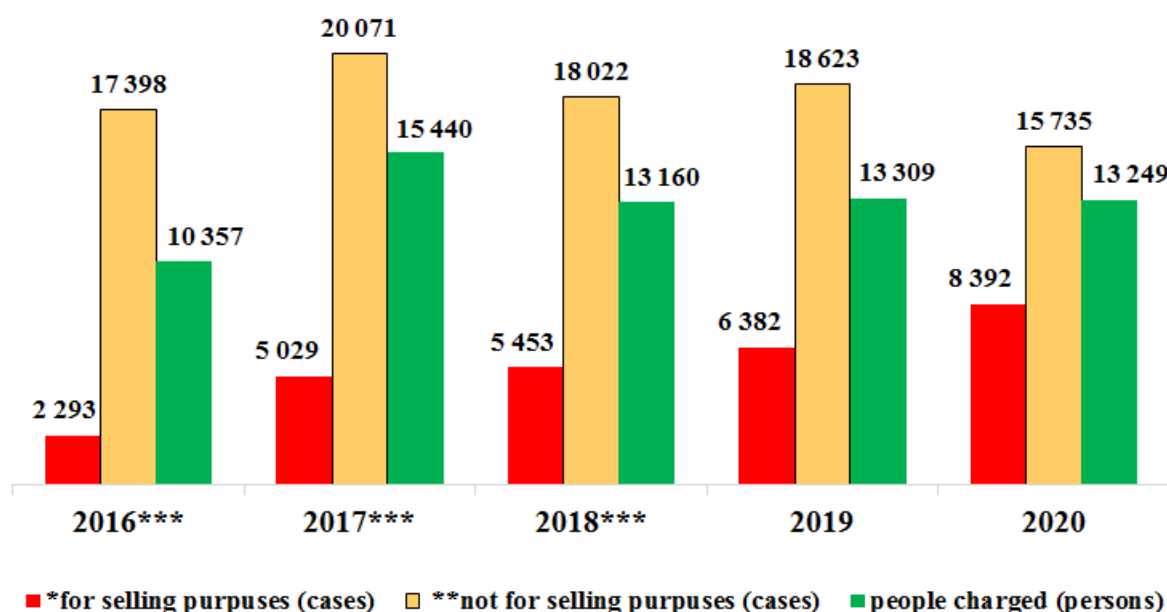
Notes: source – GPU (reports: “Single Report on Persons Who Committed Criminal Offences” and “Single Report on Criminal Offences”, 2020).

*Illegal production, manufacture, purchasing, storage, transportation, shipment or sale of drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues (Article 307 of the CCU).

**Illegal production, manufacture, purchasing, storage, transportation or shipment of drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues not for selling purposes (Article 309 of the CCU).

In 2020, under Articles 307 and 309 of the CCU, the number of registered criminal offences amounted to 24 127 cases, and the number of persons charged with drug-related offence was 13 249, including 9 971 not for selling purposes.

Number of Registered Drug-Related Criminal Offences in 2016-2020
*Illegal Production, Manufacture, Purchasing, Storage, Transportation, Shipment of
 Drugs, Psychotropic Substances or their Analogues Not for Selling Purposes and For
 Selling Purposes (CCU, Article 309 and Article 307)*



Notes: source – GPU (reports: “Single Report on Persons Who Committed Criminal Offences” and “Single Report on Criminal Offences”, 2016-2020).

*Illegal production, manufacture, purchasing, storage, transportation, shipment or sale of drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues (Article 307 of the CCU).

**Illegal production, manufacture, purchasing, storage, transportation or shipment of drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues not for selling purposes (Article 309 of the CCU).

***Data updates based on the information from all the law enforcement authorities.

Drug Use

Prevalence and Trends

In Ukraine, the studies on the prevalence of drug use among the population aged 15-64 are not conducted. That is why, today, Ukraine does not have the full scope of consolidated information on this issue.

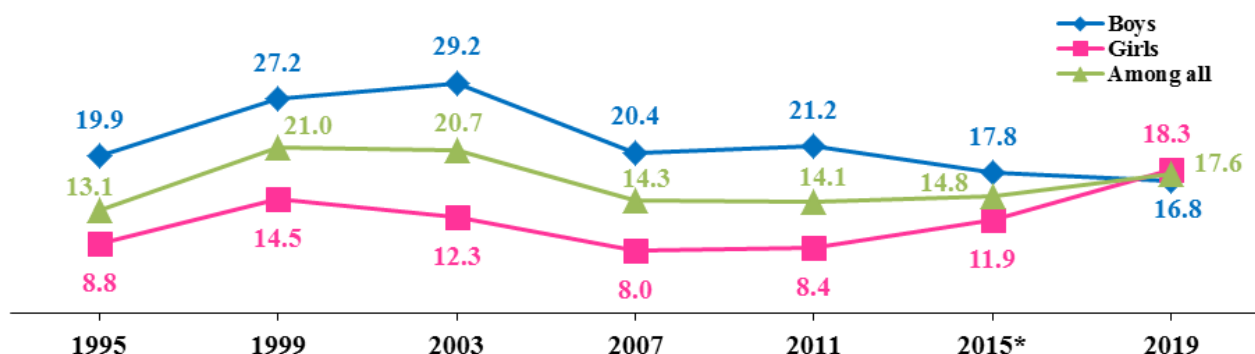
However, some efforts are being undertaken to study the prevalence of drug use among certain categories of citizens.

Thus, in Ukraine, since 1995, a survey of student youth has been conducted on a regular basis in the framework of the international project “European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs” (ESPAD).

The latest data on the consumption of various substances (alcohol, tobacco, drugs) among 15-17-year-old students were obtained in 2019 as part of the ESPAD.

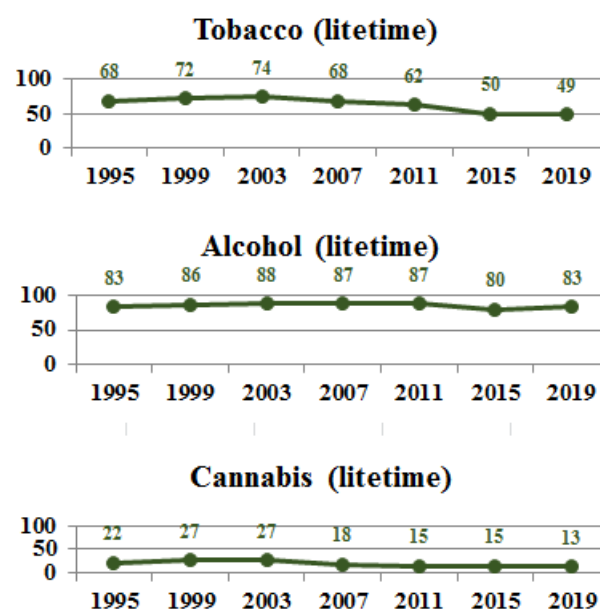
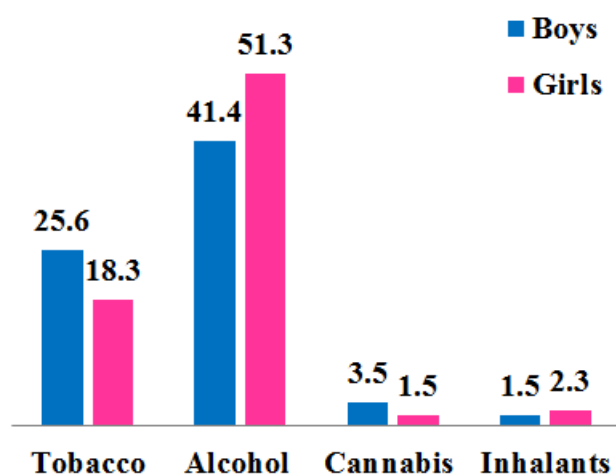
Use of Substances among Young People aged 15-17

Dynamics of Consumption of any Drugs During Lifetime, % by Gender



Notes: *Data updates for 2015 were made in 2019, source – ESPAD survey data for 2019.

Prevalence of Substance Use, %
During the past 30 days



Notes: source – ESPAD survey data for 2019.

According to the survey conducted in 2019, there was a steady trend to decrease in smoking tobacco among school-aged adolescents. In 2003, 70% of respondents had smoking experience, and in 2019 this figure was 50%. With that in mind, the access to alcohol increased – more than half of respondents stated they would be easily able to get beer, wine or soft drinks. The vast majority (85.7%) of the surveyed adolescents had the experienced of alcohol use, and one in five (22.5%) adolescents reported on drinking alcohol on a nearly weekly basis.

The proportion of adolescents who have used at least once in their lives any drugs was 18%, and the proportion of girls increased 1.5 times compared to 2015 (from 12.7% in 2015 to 18.1% in 2019). 8.7% of adolescents used cannabis, and 9.2% used inhalants, while the use of two or more narcotic substances among all respondents was 4.2%.

Use of Drugs among High-Risk Groups; and Trends

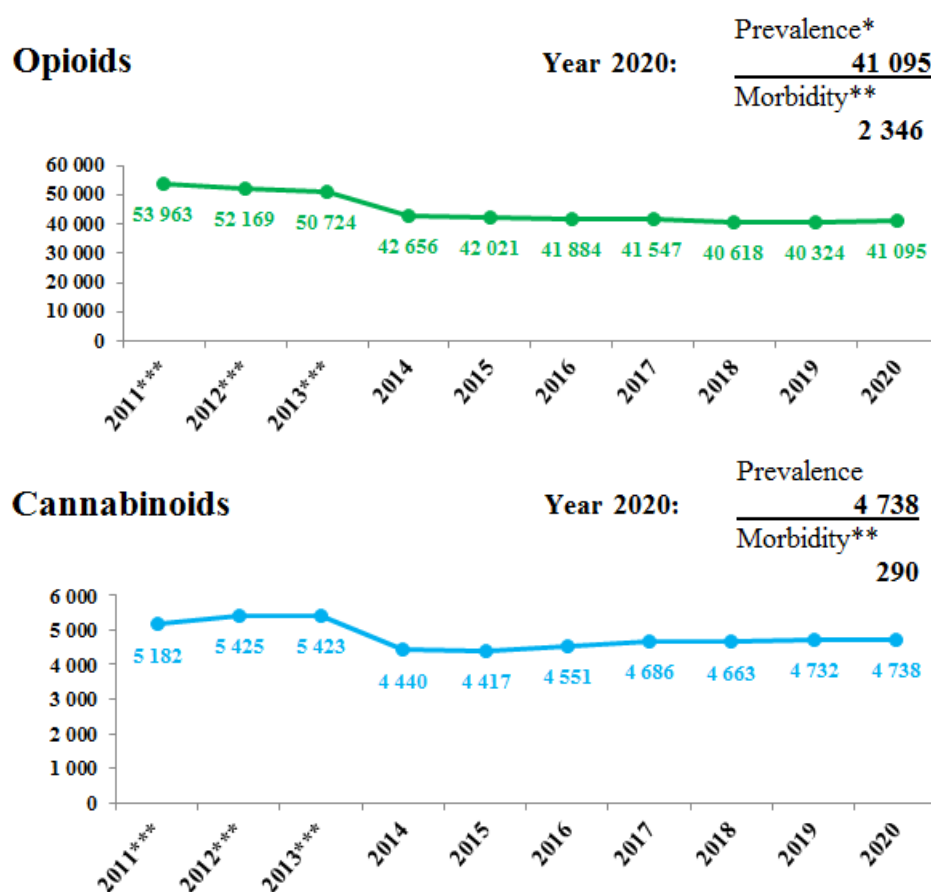
In Ukraine, the use of high-risk drugs is mainly associated with the injection of “home-made” opiates (the opium extract solution with the street name “shirka”) and stimulants of amphetamine family. Injecting drug use leads to a higher risk of HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and syphilis because of needle and syringe sharing.

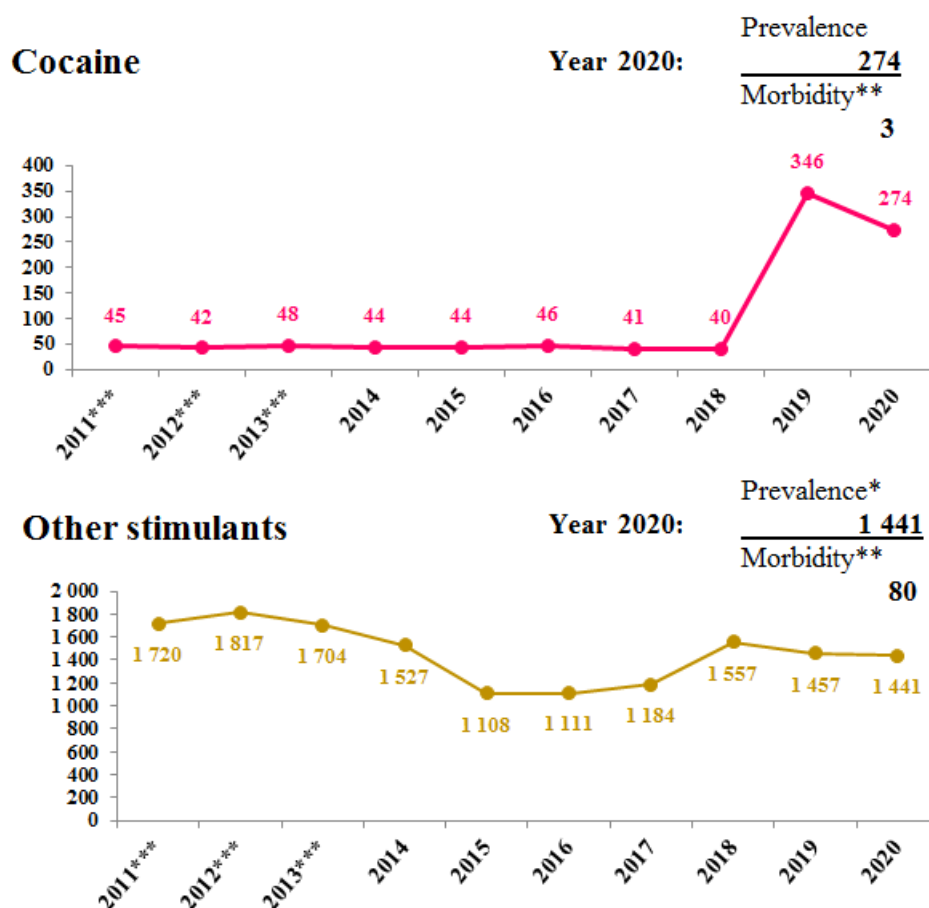
In 2020, a small decrease in cocaine users’ treatment demands was observed. Thus, as of the end of 2020, 274 cocaine consumers remained under surveillance, while at the end of 2019 there were 346 such people.

There was also observed an increase in opioid users’ demands, i.e., 41 095 as of the end of 2020 persons compared to 40 324 people at the end of 2019.

The number of consumers of cannabinoids and other stimulants who voluntarily applied for treatment remained barely unchangeable.

Number of Drug Users who Applied for Treatment and Were Taken under Surveillance in terms of Substances, in 2011-2020





Notes: source – Center for Health Statistics of the MoH (Form No. 32 “Report on Individuals with Mental Disorders due to Drug Use, 2020”).

*Prevalence is the total number of individuals under surveillance at the end of the reporting period

**Morbidity is the total number of individuals who received health care services for the first time in their life in the reporting year.

***2011–2013 take into account the currently temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol, and part of the temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk Regions.

Drug-Related Harms

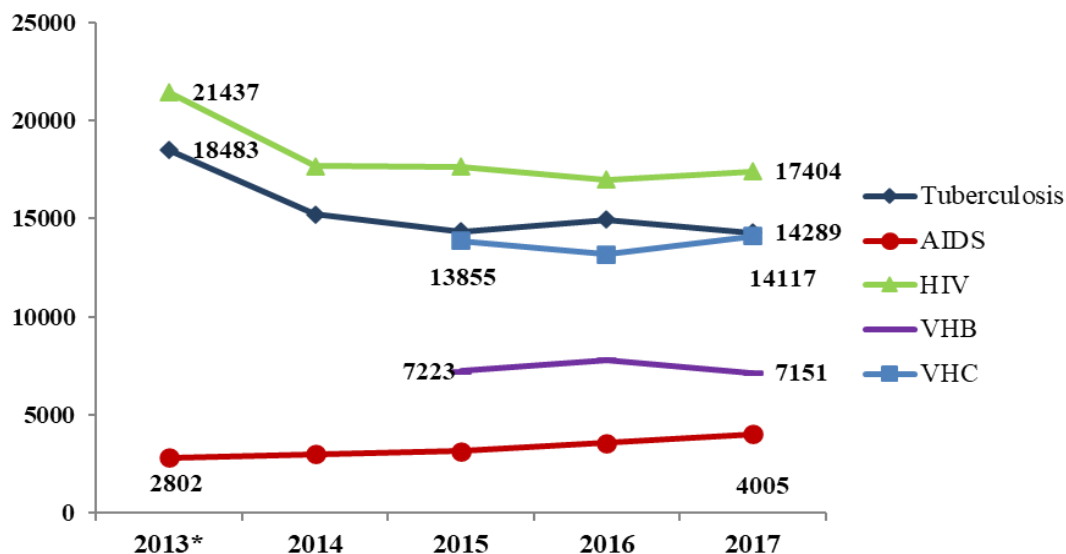
Infectious Diseases Related to Drug Use

The epidemiological surveillance data on spreading of infectious diseases among the entire population of Ukraine are collected and summarized at all levels, from local to the national one.

According to the official website of the Center for Public Health, as of January 1, 2021, Ukraine registered 15 659 (16 257 – in 2019) new HIV-infected people, 4 131 AIDS cases and 2 112 AIDS-induced deaths of Ukraine’s citizens, as well as 50 HIV-infected citizens of foreign countries.

As for people who use drugs, considering the dynamics in 2013-2017, there was observed the following trend: the number of HIV-infected, individuals infected with tuberculosis and hepatitis B decreased, the number of individuals infected with hepatitis C remained barely unchanged, while the number of individuals with AIDS almost doubled.

Number of People Reporting Infectious Diseases among Those Registered with Mental and Behavioral Disorders due to Drug Use in Ukraine (2013*-2017)**



Notes: source – Center for Health Statistics of the MoH, 2013 – 2017.

*2013 takes into account the currently temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol, and part of the temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk Regions.

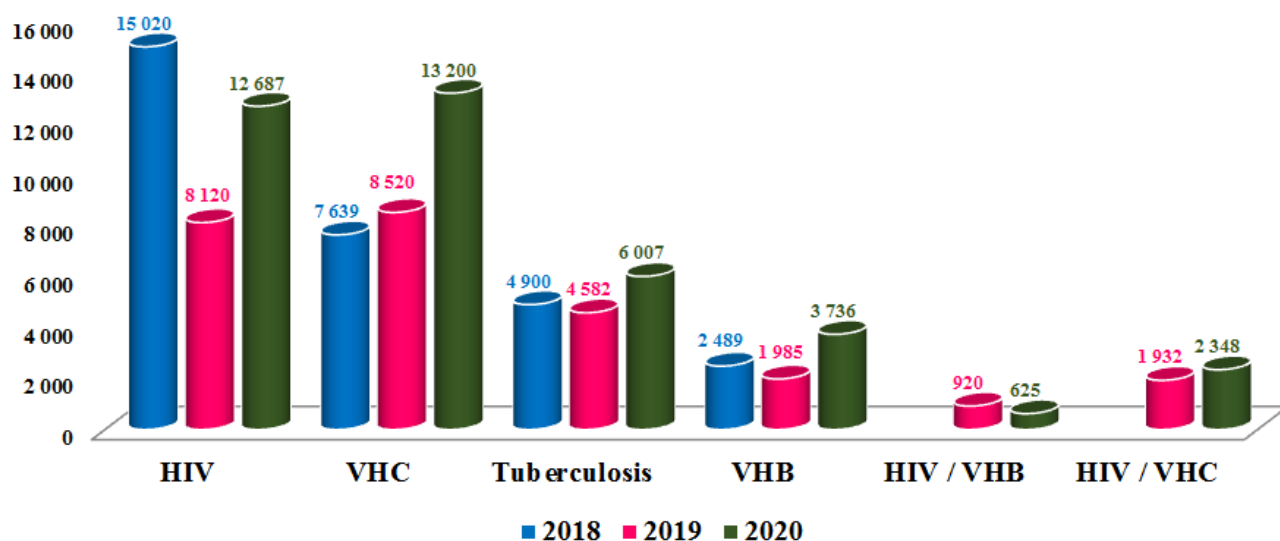
**In 2018, the data collection form was changed, and Ukraine started collecting data on infectious diseases of ONLY people who inject drugs. Thus, it was decided to present the situation in two graphs: the present one covering 2013-2017, while the second one (coming below) featuring the situation after 2018.

In 2018, the data collection form and method was changed, and Ukraine started collecting data on infectious diseases of ONLY people who inject drugs. This information is provided by the Regional State Administrations (the graph below).

So, out of people who inject drugs, in 2020 HIV-infected were 12 687 individuals against 8 120 in 2019 (by 36% more), individuals with VHB were 3 736 against 1 985 in 2019 (by 47% more), individuals with VHC were 13 200 against 8 520 in 2019 (by 35% more), individuals with tuberculosis were 6 007 against 4 582 in 2019 (by 24% more), individuals with HIV/VHB were 625 against 920 in 2019 (by 32% less), individuals with HIV/VHC were 2 348 against 1 932 in 2019 (by 18% more).

In 2020, among people who inject drugs and psychotropic substances there were disclosed the following deceases for the first time: VHB – 552 individuals, VHC – 1 375 individuals, tuberculosis – 471 individuals, HIV – 917 individuals, HIV/VHB – 42 individuals, HIV/VHC – 185 individuals.

Number of People Reporting Infectious Diseases among Those Registered with Mental and Behavioral Disorders due to Injecting Drug Use in Ukraine (2018-2020*)



Notes: source – Regional State Administrations.

*In 2019, information / data on infectious diseases among people who inject drugs changed, and the incidence of mixed co-infection in that category of people was differentiated. Thus, in 2018 there was information available in terms of HIV infection, Hepatitis C and Hepatitis B, and in 2019 it was completed with information / data of Co-infections, namely: HIV / VHC and HIV / VHB. In this regard, there is a large discrepancy in the number of HIV-infected people in 2018 compared to 2019.

Deaths Related to Drug Use and Poisoning

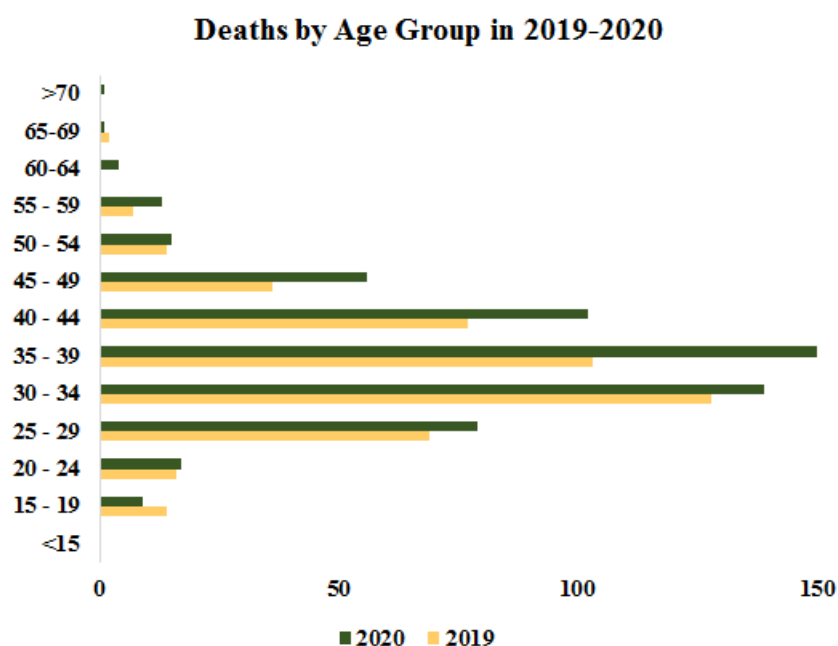
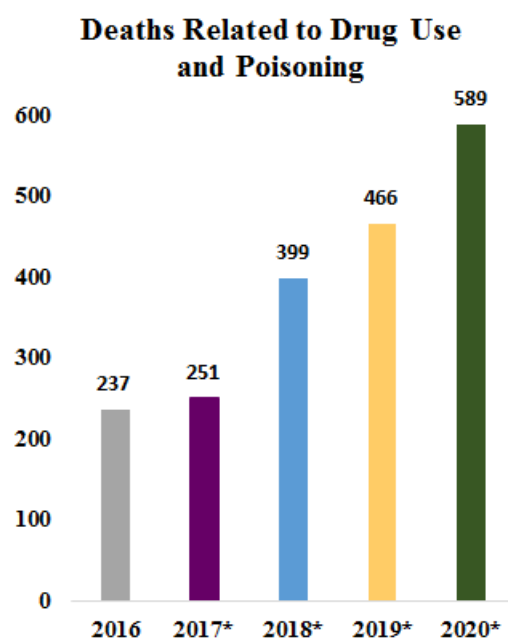
In Ukraine, the indicator “Drug-Related Deaths and Mortality among People Who Use Drugs” is based on data on deaths related to drug use and poisoning. This information is provided by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (Ukrstat). In turn, Ukrstat extracts data from the deaths certificates issued by physicians. Thus, if a person uses drugs and then dies in a car crash, the death reason may be certified as, for example, the “neck fracture”.

According to Ukrstat, 589 deaths related to the use of PAS and poisoning were registered in Ukraine in 2020. Of these, 53 deaths were related to the mental and behavioral disorders due to drug use, and 536 deaths referred to external causes of death related to drug use (hereafter – poisoning).

It's worth mentioning that over the past 5 years Ukraine has been observing the increasing trend for deaths related to drug use and poisoning in general, as well as for changes in terms of age groups.

Thus, in 2020, there was observed a death increase in the age group of 35 to 44 years, compared to the previous reporting year. At the same time, in the age group of 30 to 54 years there were noticed growing deaths caused by methadone use.

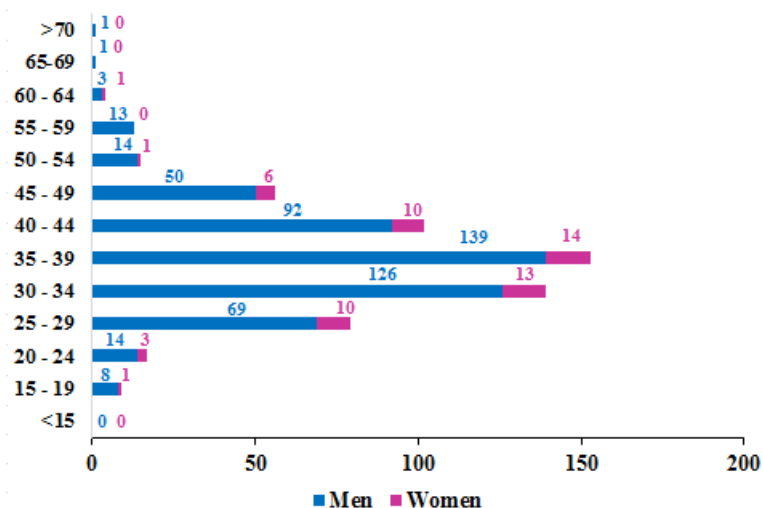
Some Indicators of Deaths Related to Drug Use and Poisoning



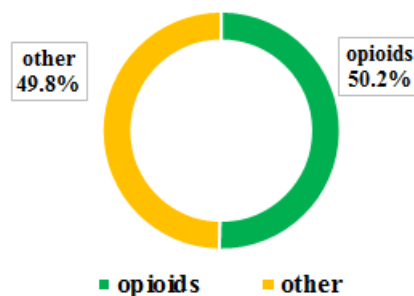
Proportion of Deaths by Gender in 2020



Deaths by Age Group and Gender in 2020



Proportion of Opioid-Related Deaths in 2020



Notes: source of calculation – State Statistics Service's data for 2020.

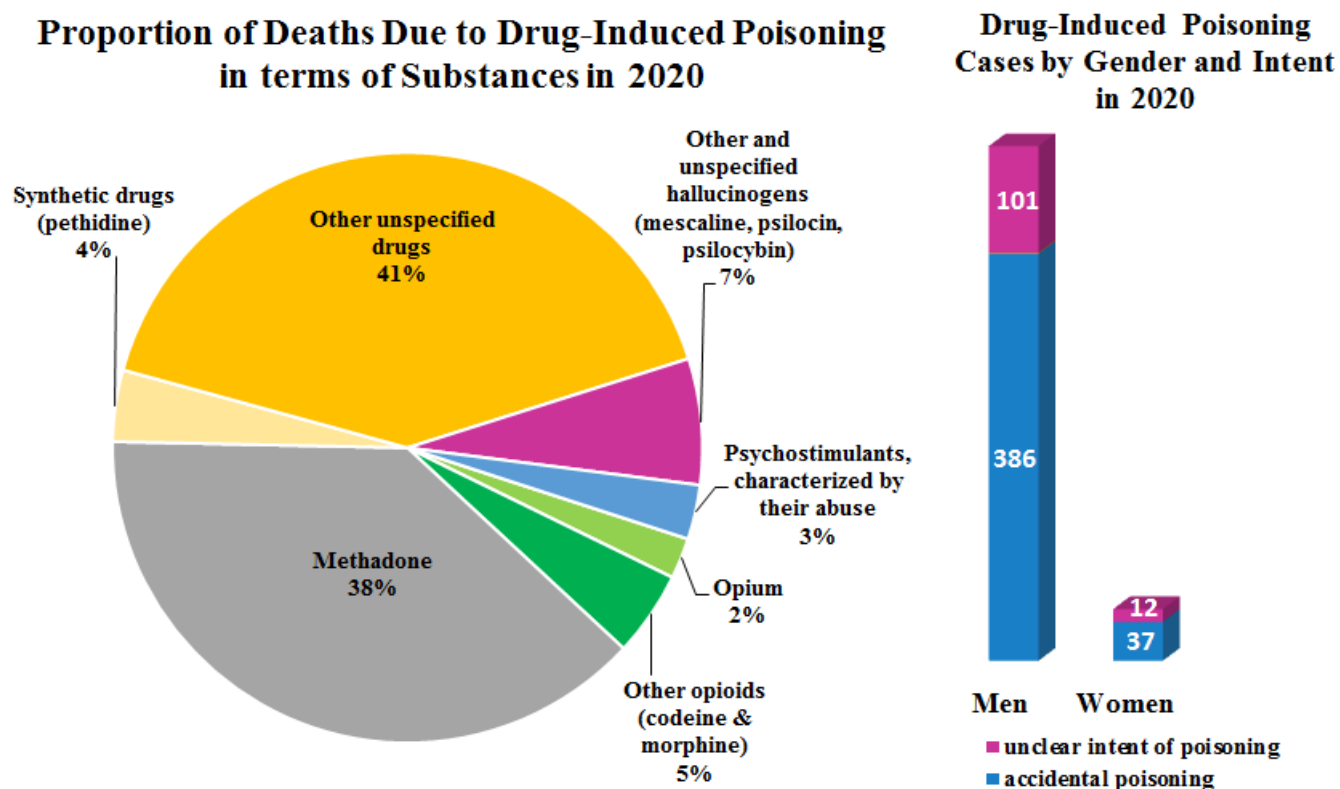
*X41 (in combination with T40.0-9 and T43.6); X42 (in combination with T40.0-9 and T43.6); X61 (in combination with T40.0-9 and T43.6); X62 (in combination with T40.0-9 and T43.6); Y11 (in combination with T40.0-9 and T43.6); and Y12 (in combination with T40.0-9 and T43.6).

In 2020, the distribution of deaths in terms of gender was changed slightly. So, 90% were men (530 deaths) and 10% were women (59 deaths) against 92.9% men and 7.1% women in 2019.

In terms of age group, the largest number of deaths in 2020, namely 529 (89.8%), were in the age group of 25 to 49 years, 9 deaths were in the age group of 15 to 19 years, 17 deaths were in the age group of 20 to 24 years, and 34 deaths were in the age group of 50 years and older.

The deaths related to the mental and behavioral disorders due to drug use (53 deaths) occurred for three reasons (defined by ICD-10 codes): 32 cases referred to opioid use, 20 cases were related to the use of multiple substances and other PAS, and 1 death was due to the cocaine use.

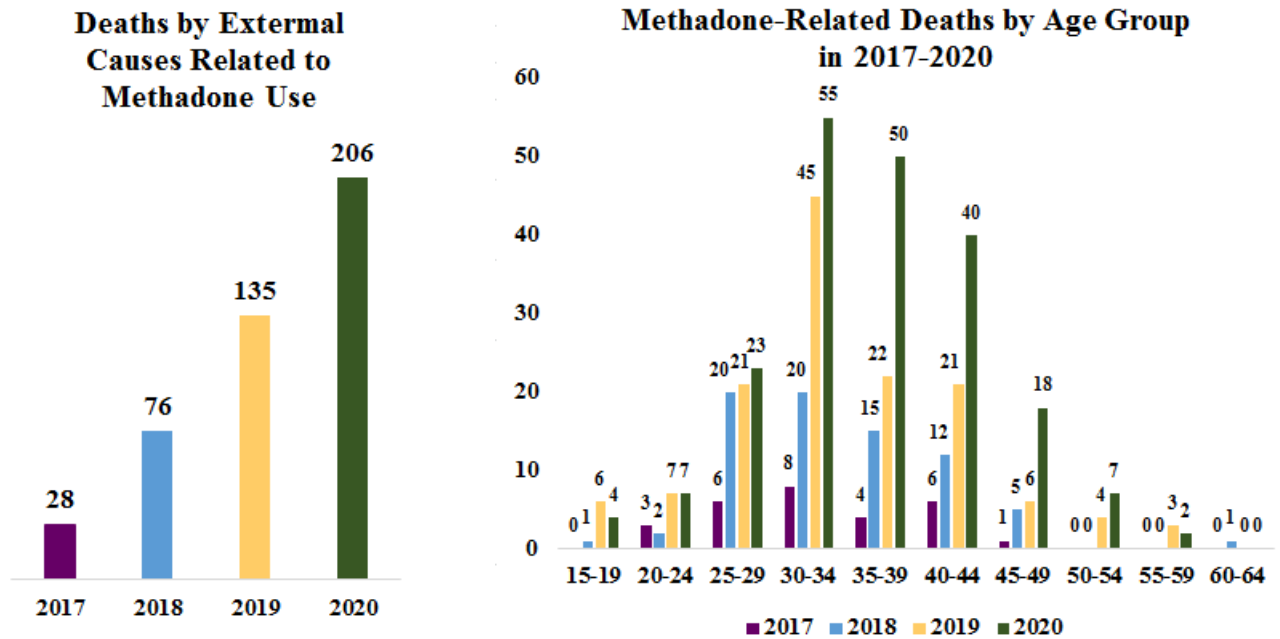
Some Indicators of Drug-Related Deaths Due to Poisoning in 2020



Notes: source of calculation – State Statistics Service’s data for 2020.

More detailed analysis of deaths due to poisoning with PAS (536 cases), we may note that opioid poisoning caused 264 deaths (25 cases induced by codeine and morphine, 206 cases induced by methadone, 12 cases induced by opium, and 21 cases induced by synthetic opioids). Poisoning with unspecified drugs referred to 219 deaths, while 37 cases referred to psychodysleptics (hallucinogens). There were also registered 16 cases of poisoning with psychostimulants (characterized by a possible abuse of them).

So, in 2020, the number of deaths due to poisoning with PAS increased by a quarter, compared to 2019. In particular, methadone-induced poisoning increased by one-and-a-half times, and the number of poisonings with other opioids decreased by less than one-third.



Notes: source of calculation – State Statistics Service’s data.

In terms of intent (PAS poisoning) the deaths were distributed as follows:

- 423 deaths – accidental poisoning;
- 113 deaths – poisoning with unclear intent.

According to the Bureau of Forensic Medical Examination (BFME), the number of deaths with the identified evidence of PAS in the biological material was **1 186 cases**. The BFME conducts examinations only upon a criminal investigator’s request, so this agency examines just the presence or absence of drugs in the dead body. That’s why their data may include both deaths purely due to drug use and other deaths with evidence of drugs in the corpse.

Of these:

322 cases referred to medicines containing drugs, psychotropic substances or precursors

263 cases referred to opioids detected in the human body

234 cases referred to multiple drugs and other PAS

138 cases referred to unidentified substances

127 cases referred to other stimulants

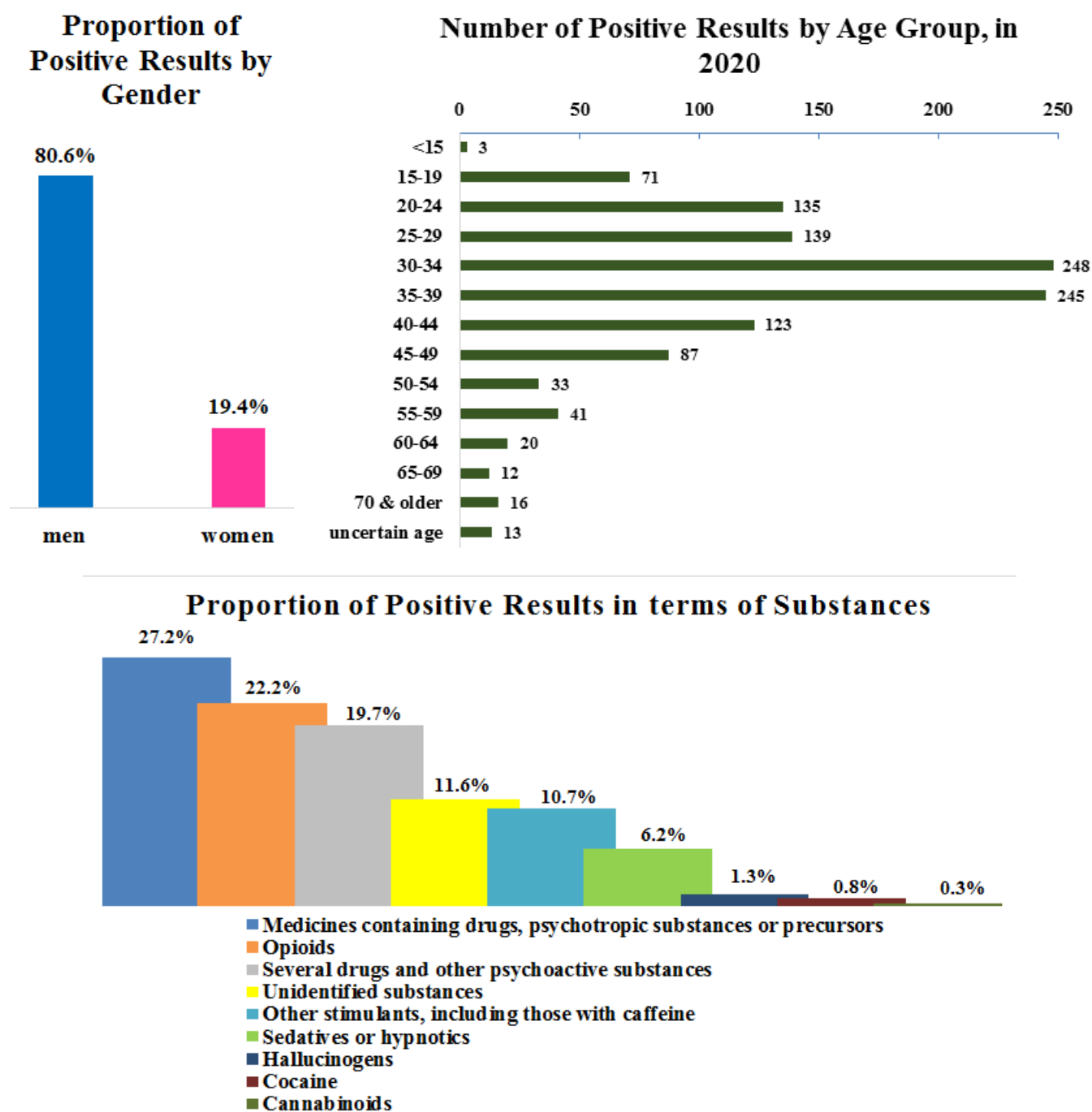
74 cases referred to sedatives or hypnotics

15 cases referred to hallucinogens

10 cases referred to cocaine

3 cases referred to cannabinoids

Character of Deaths with the Identified Evidence of PAS in the Biological Material in terms of Gender, Age Group and Substances, in 2020



Notes: source – data from 25 Ukraine's bureaus of forensic medical examination, 2020.

Analyzing the ranges of age groups with identified evidence of PAS in the biological material, it's worth observing that 75.0% (890 cases) referred to the age group of 20 to 44 years of the total number of deaths (1 186 cases).

As for the distribution of deaths in terms of gender, 80.6% (956 cases) referred to men, and 19.4% (230 cases) referred to women.

The proportion of medicines containing drugs, psychotropic substances or precursors was almost 27.2% of all identified evidences of PAS in the biological material; 22.2% referred to opioids; 19.7% referred to multiple drugs and other PAS, and the remaining ratio referred to other PAS categories.

Comparison of Ukrstat's Data on PAS-Related Deaths and Poisoning with BFME's Data on Deaths with Identified Evidence of PAS in Biological Material, in 2020

Sample Criteria	Ukrstat's Data (GMR / Choice "B")	BFME's Data (CMP / Choice "D")
Age group of 25 to 49	89.8% (529 deaths)	75.0% (842 deaths)
By gender, men	90.0% (530 deaths)	80.6% (956 deaths)
Total:	589 deaths	1186 deaths

When comparing the data on deaths with identified evidence of PAS in the biological material, with the death cases related to drug use and poisoning, it can be noted that the ranges of age groups nearly coincide. That is to say, according to Ukrstat's data, 89.8% of total deaths related to drug use and Poisoning referred to the age group of 25 to 49 years, while according to BFME's data, 82.4% of deaths with identified evidence of PAS in the biological material referred to the age group of 20 to 49 years.

Comparing Ukrstat's data with BFME's data in terms of gender, we state that over 80% referred to men in both samples.

And only in terms of substances, the analyzed data have some differences, but in both samples of data to the largest group of PAS are opioids.

In Ukraine in 2020, the frequency of deaths related to drug use and Poisoning in the age group of 15 to 64 years, was almost 20.5 individuals per every 1 000 000 of population*.

Notes: *The calculation excludes the occupied part of Donetsk and Luhansk Regions, city of Sevastopol and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea

Prevention

In Ukraine, the implementation of prevention measures is carried out by the central government bodies within the powers defined by the relevant regulations.

The organizational and practical prevention and rehabilitation of drug addicts are carried out by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (MoES), the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MoH), the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine (MoYS), the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine (MoSP), other central government bodies, regional state administrations and non-governmental organizations.

Prevention Measures

Prevention covers certain social and age groups and provides for a variety of measures, starting with the prevention from drug use up to the reduction of negative effects caused by drug use.

The implementation of the state policy, in particular, in the area of healthy lifestyle among student youth, is committed to the MoES.

According to the Ukrstat, at the beginning of the academic year 2020/21 the educational institutions included as follows:

- **14 900** general secondary education institutions, which is 2% (15 194) less than in 2019, that accounted for 4 211 000 pupils, which is almost 2% (4 138 466) more than in 2019, as well as 440 000 teachers, which is 79 individuals more than in 2019.

- **711** professional (vocational technical) education institutions, which is 1.5% (723) less than in 2019, that accounted for 246 900 students, which is 0.5% (245 800) more than in 2019;

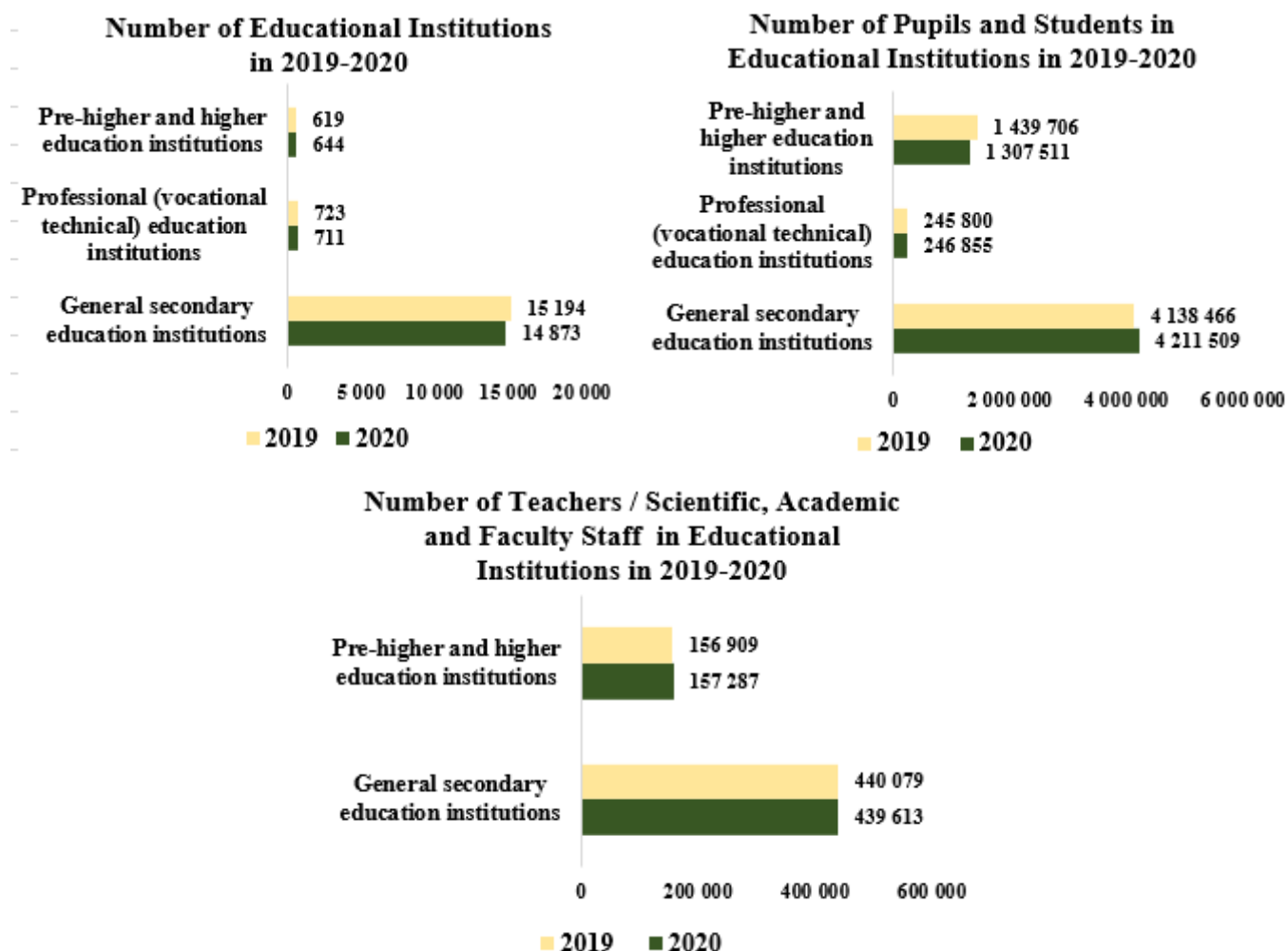
- **515** higher education institutions (colleges, training schools, technical high schools, universities, academies, institutes), which is 17% (619) less than in 2019, that accounted for 1 333 179 students, which is 8% (1 439 706) less than in 2019, as well as 154 900 scientific, academic and faculty staff, which is 1.3% (156 909) less than in 2019.

Type of educational institution	Number of Educational Institutions (units)	Number of Pupils and Students (persons)	Number of Teachers / Scientific, Academic and Faculty Staff (persons)
General secondary education institutions*	14 873	4 211 509	439 613
Professional (vocational technical) education institutions (at the end of 2020)	711	246 875	
Pre-higher and higher education institutions**	644	1 307 511	157 287

Notes: *Source: MoES's administrative data

**administrative data of the Unified State Electronic Database on Education (EDEBO).

***The calculation excludes the occupied part of Donetsk and Luhansk Regions, city of Sevastopol and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea



In Ukraine, primary education usually starts from the age of six. Children who turn seven at the beginning of the academic year shall start primary education in the same academic year. The full learning process to get general secondary education in Ukraine takes 11-12 years of studying.

The implementation of primary prevention programs, healthy lifestyle promotion, prevention from HIV infections and other socially dangerous diseases, as well as the organizational requirements for educational institutions to ensure safety, health, prudent nutrition and rest are ruled by a number of laws and regulations.

The main regulatory documents that define the place of preventive education in the education system are as follows:

- *National Doctrine for the Development of Education in Ukraine* states that one of the priorities of the state policy for the development of education is to promote a healthy lifestyle among young people.

- *Law of Ukraine "On Education"* defines that one of the grounds of the state policy for education and the principles of educational activities is to shape a healthy lifestyle culture, environmental culture and environmental care.

- *National Strategy for the Development of Education in Ukraine for the period up to 2021* particularly provides for shaping a healthy lifestyle as an integral part of education, preserving and strengthening the health of children and youth, ensuring their balanced nutrition, preventive medical examination.

- *National General Secondary Education Standards* are approved by the Government of Ukraine and are reviewed at least once every 10 years.

- *Higher Education Standards* are worked out for every level of higher education within every qualification in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework and are used to define and assess the quality of higher education and the results of the educational activities of higher education institutions (research institutions), learning outcomes in terms of relevant qualifications.

The forms of work on shaping healthy lifestyle skills of pupils/students are carried out by running various activities to raise awareness and enhance knowledge about the negative effects of substance use, namely:

1) *work with pupils / students through holding the following events:*

- individual and group interviews;
- training and educational classes;
- thematic meetings with narcologists, both for students and faculty staff;
- educational hours;
- round tables, discussions, seminars;
- familiarization with informational and methodical literature;
- sports games, tournaments, etc.;
- lectures;
- meetings with law enforcement authorities;
- contests, exhibitions of works, engaging students to work out information materials;
- watching videos;
- after-school clubs aimed at shaping the motivation of kids and adolescents to follow a healthy lifestyle.

2) *work with parents through holding the following events:*

- parent-teacher meetings;
- individual interviews;
- reviews of the healthy lifestyle literature;
- meetings with law enforcement authorities.

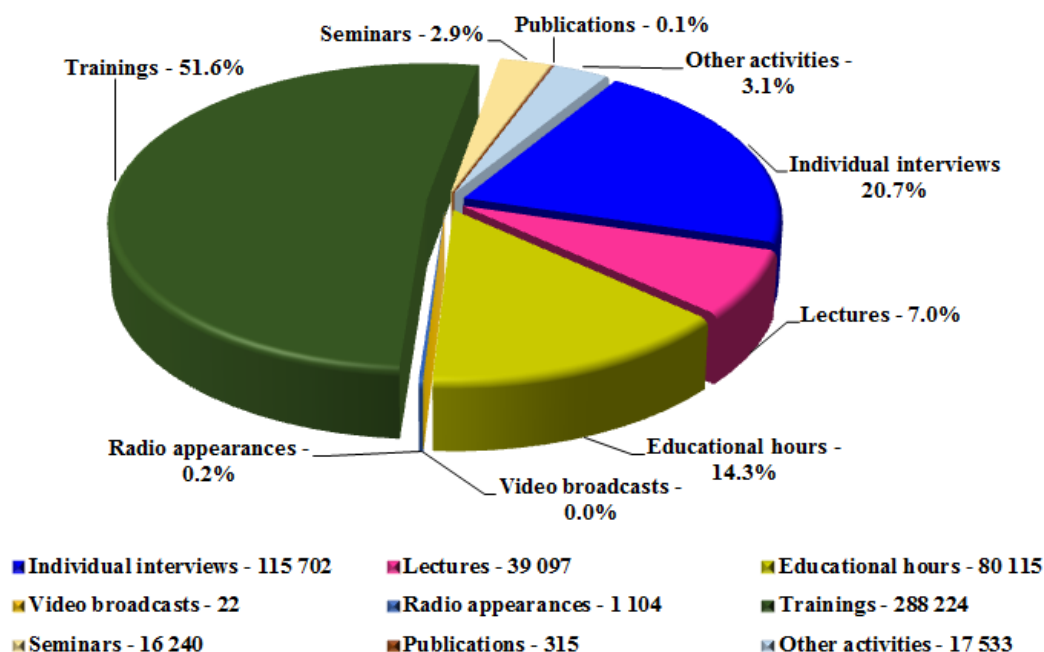
3) *work with faculty staff through holding the following events:*

- faculty board meetings;
- seminar-workshops, information and awareness-raising seminars;
- interactive lectures and trainings;
- training of the faculty staff on courses;
- advanced training courses for the faculty staff;
- reviews of the healthy lifestyle literature;
- All-Ukrainian conferences;
- modular classes;
- specialized courses on educational work to prevent young people from drug use and trafficking;
- online courses.

According to the MoES, in the academic year 2020/2021, there were held 558 352 various activities aimed at preventing and reducing the risk of drug use, namely:

- 115 702 – individual interviews;
- 39 097 – lectures;
- 80 115 – educational hours;
- 22 – broadcasting videos;
- 1 104 – radio appearances;
- 288 224 – trainings;
- 16 240 – seminars;
- 315 – publications of information and methodical literature;
- 17 533 – other activities.

Prevention Measures in Ukraine in the academic year 2020/2021



Notes: source – MoES's data for the academic year 2020/2021.

Ukraine approved the National Standard for Social Support of Families (Individuals) in Difficult Straits, according to which the Ministry of Social Policy, namely the Centers for Social Services for Families, Children and Youth, provided social services to more than 10 000 families in difficult straits related to alcohol consumption and/or drug use.

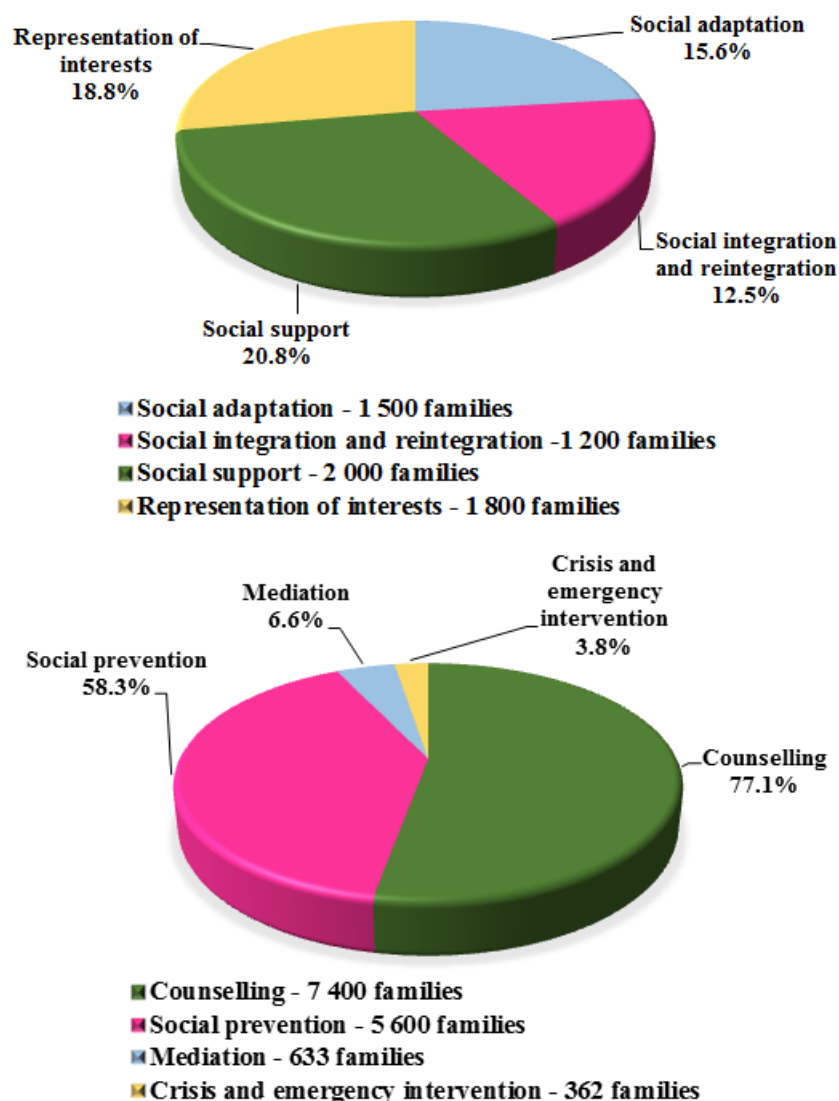
Monitoring of social services in 2020 showed that their vast majority were aimed at preventing from negative effects, shaping a healthy lifestyle and the necessary skills.

In 2020, the social services were provided to **9 600 families** with drug or alcohol addicted individuals:

- **7 400 families (individuals)** (77.1%) were provided with counseling services;
- **5 600 families (individuals)** (58.3%) – with social prevention services;
- **1 500 families (individuals)** (15.6%) – with social adaptation services;
- **1 200 families (individuals)** (12.5%) – with social integration and reintegration services;
- **almost 2 000 families (individuals)** (20.8%) – with social support services;
- **1 800 families (individuals)** (18.7%) – with representation of interests' services;
- **633 families (individuals)** (6.6%) – with mediation services;
- **362 families (individuals)** (3.8%) – with crisis and emergency intervention services.

The following results were obtained:

- **870 families (individuals)** received the assistance in overcoming difficult straits;
- **1 900 families (individuals)** got their difficult straits minimized;
- **4 300 families (individuals)** (30%) got their family links established;
- **5 400 families (individuals)** (40%) received the psychological assistance;
- **2 200 families (individuals)** (17%) received the legal assistance;
- **4 700 families (individuals)** (25%) received the humanitarian assistance;
- **3 300 families (individuals)** (28%) got housing problems solved, including improved living conditions;
- **2 300 families (individuals)** (17%) received the assistance in issuing/reissuing documents, including those for social benefits;
- **230 families (individuals)** (2%) received the assistance in registering/reregistering their residency or staying;
- **719 families (individuals)** were employed (6%);
- **1200 families (individuals)** (10%) received treatment services;
- **196 families (individuals)** (2%) received recovery services;
- **302 individuals** (3%) got their studying in educational institutions arranged;
- **1 100 individuals** (10%) were directed/redirected to social protection facilities;
- **931 individuals** (8%) to healthcare facilities;
- **706 individuals** (4%) were directed/redirected to non-governmental facilities.



Notes: source – MoSP’s data for 2020.

In 2020, the State Targeted Social Program “Youth of Ukraine” for 2016-2020 was implemented, and one of its objectives was to shape a healthy lifestyle of young people through the activities aimed at promoting and popularizing a healthy and safe lifestyle and health culture among young people. The program coordinator was the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine.

Youth and children’s non-governmental organizations were involved in the implementation of the state youth policy by holding a Competition to identify programs (projects, activities) developed by civil society institutions, for the implementation of which the financial support is provided.

In 2020, there were approved 14 projects were worked out by 11 children’s and youth non-governmental organizations, the priority of which was to popularize and implant a healthy and safe lifestyle and health culture among young people. However, in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, there were implemented only 8 projects (the State Budget expenditure was UAH 1 868 215) that covered 174 770 individuals.

In addition, the Ministry joined the All-Ukrainian Program “Healthy Challenge” (organized by: Center for Corporate Social Responsibility Development and the United Nations Population Fund) on promoting healthy lifestyle among young people and already involved over 20 educational institutions and 10 000 young people in different

regions of Ukraine.

According to the Regional State Administrations, a number of prevention measures were taken at the regional level, being aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle and preventing from negative effects, namely:

- **144 540 lectures** were arranged in 2234 institutions/ agencies/ organizations and attended by 195 702 individuals (pupils, students, teachers, parents, staff of institutions/ agencies/ organizations, and imprisoned individuals, among others);

- **3 073 seminars** were arranged in 196 institutions/ agencies/ organizations and attended by 14 091 individuals;

- **610 trainings** were arranged in 610 institutions/ agencies/ organizations and attended by 34 019 individuals;

- **297 publications** of informational and methodical literature were issued in 126 that covered 29 286 individuals;

- **4 328 educational hours** were arranged in 4 598 institutions/ agencies/ organizations to 195 702 individuals;

- **214 824 individual interviews** were arranged in 12 674 institutions/ agencies/ organizations with 213 755 individuals;

- **253 TV shows** were run, involving 5 533 individuals;

- **35 965 radio broadcasts** were run, involving 29 918 individuals;

- **Other 7 375 events** were held in 397 institutions/ agencies/ organizations, involving 87 436 individuals.

According to the information of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the medical, socio-economic and other prevention measures were taken during 2020, being aimed at preventing and reducing the psychoactive substance use and promoting a healthy lifestyle through organizing lectures, seminars, round tables, educational hours, educational and individual interviews, informational and practical classes, information games, quizzes, TV shows, guidelines publication, and other activities to the National Police officers, cadets, students, service students, masters, faculty staff at the educational institutions.

The National Police officers held lectures on the PAS-related harms to youth students in 1 724 educational institutions.

Harm Reduction

Reducing Harms Caused by Drug Use

The issue of measures aimed at reducing the harm from the effects of drug use is defined by the Law of Ukraine “On Combating the Spread of Diseases Caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Legal and Social Protection of People Living with HIV”, and the Law of Ukraine “On Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors”. In addition, in 2019 the Government adopted the National Strategy on HIV/ AIDS, Tuberculosis and Viral Hepatitis Response for the period up to 2030 which sets long-term priorities and streamlining national policy-making to combat this disease, accommodating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Harm Reduction Measures

In the framework of the Plan for Ukraine's transition from donor funding of the Global Fund to Fight HIV to the state funding Ukraine's, in June 2019, the Government decided to provide high-risk groups with HIV prevention services at the expense of the state budget. The HIV prevention services include as follows:

- provision of the targeted information, educational and communication services;
- distribution of condoms and lubricants;
- exchange and distribution of syringes;
- HIV testing services;
- tuberculosis screening services.

The distribution of condoms and lubricants, as well as the exchange and distribution of syringes was carried out among high-risk groups, namely men who have sex with men (MSM), sex workers (SW), and people who inject drugs (PWID).

**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF SUPPLIES
to Provide in the Framework of HIV Prevention Services to High-Risk Groups in terms of
HIV Infection**

List of services	Service recipients	Supplies	Estimated number* (person/year)
Condoms distribution	PWID (aged 14 and older)	Condoms	20
		Lubricants	2
	SW (aged 18 and older)	Condoms	200
		Lubricants	100
	MSM (aged 14 and older)	Condoms	50
		Lubricants	25
Syringes exchange and distribution	PWID (aged 14 and older)	One-use hypodermic syringes with needles	200
		Disinfectant alcohol wipes	200

Notes: *The estimated number is used as the projected average per recipient during the year. The volume of provided supplies may vary depending on the recipient's need.

In 2020, HIV prevention services were provided to 990 248 individuals from high-risk groups, while the total of the state budgetary funding amounted to UAH 90 917 260 (EUR 2 952 818).

In 2020, HIV prevention services, namely: targeted informational, educational, awareness-raising and communication services, distribution of condoms and lubricants, HIV testing services, were provided at the expense of the state budget totally to 744 760 individuals from high-risk groups, including PWID – 537 383 individuals, MSM – 98 380 individuals, SW – 108 997 individuals. These figures refer to the general number of individuals covered with all the above services.

The tuberculosis screening services were provided to 245 488 from high-risk groups, including PWID – 177 000 individuals, MSM – 32 757 individuals, SW – 35 731 individuals.

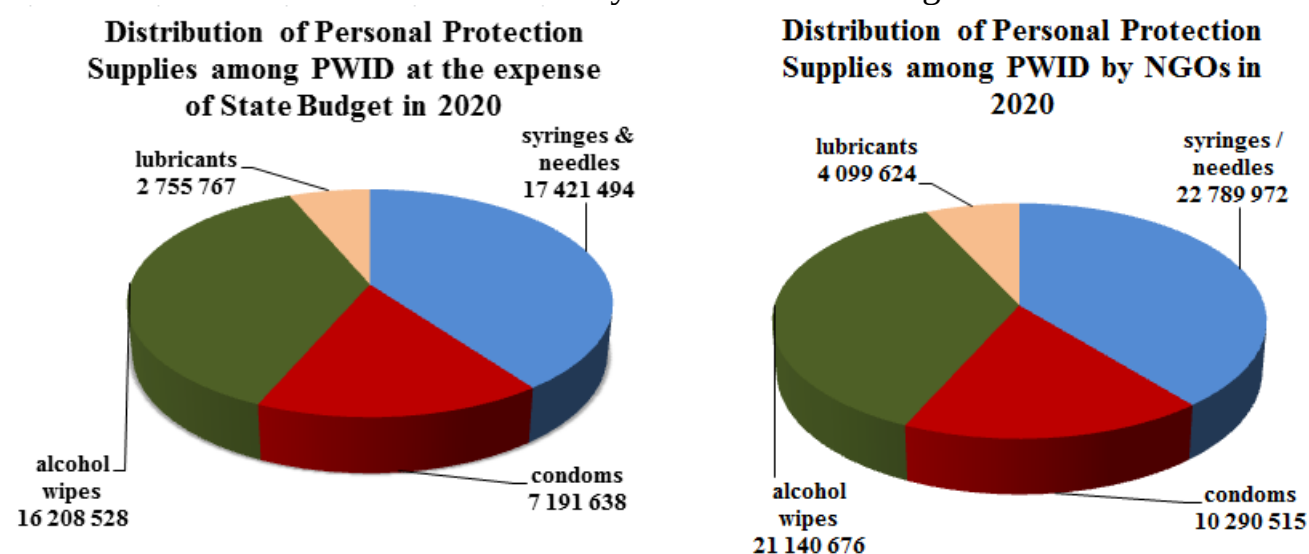
In 2020, the state budgetary funding was allocated to the distribution/ exchange of 17 421 494 syringes and needles, as well as the distribution of 16 208 528 alcohol wipes, 7 191 638 condoms, and 2 755 767 lubricants. At that, the syringes and needles were distributed among 181 651 PWID (96 s&n/person).

In addition, in 2020, NGOs provided people from high-risk groups with the following supplies: 10 290 515 condoms, 4 099 624 lubricants, 22 789 972 syringes/needles, and 21 140 676 alcohol wipes. At that, the syringes and needles were distributed among 242 933 PWID i.e. 183 316 men, and 59 617 women (94 s&n/person).

Moreover, in 2020, NGOs provided rapid HIV testing services to 474 273 individuals from high-risk groups.

At the same time, in 2020, these organizations provided rapid testing for sexually transmitted infections (syphilis, hepatitis B) to HIV-vulnerable groups, namely 86 448 tests to PWID, 11 655 tests to MSM, 8 307 tests to SW, and 13 105 tests to non-injecting drug users.

The above activities were funded by the international organizations.



Notes: source - the data for 2020 obtained from the Centre for Public Health and NGO.

Treatment of Mental and Behavioral Disorders Caused by Drug Use

Treatment Services System

The objectives of treatment, defined in the Strategy-2020, and the plans for their implementation focus on comprehensive, integrated use of all components of the treatment system, their interaction based on evidence-proved methods, ensuring access to health care, expanding treatment options, alternatives to punishment. At the same time, changing the strategic priorities of treating drug addicts in the penitentiary institutions (ensuring the availability of all types of drug treatment services, implementation of psychosocial and pharmacological programs (including detoxification) in the penitentiary institutions, monitoring and control of this process, etc.).

Treatment services are funded from the state and local budgets, special funds and other sources not prohibited by the laws and regulations of Ukraine. The psychiatric care is provided by medical institutions of all forms of ownership and is implemented through specialized harm reduction centers, psychiatric and narcological hospitals, narcological dispensaries, narcological offices in multidisciplinary medical and preventive institutions for primary, secondary and tertiary care, outpatient clinics.

There are following forms of providing medical care to people with drug addiction: inpatient detoxification – in all narcological and some psychiatric institutions; outpatient detoxification – in all narcological institutions and outpatient units; medical counseling; OST based on methadone hydrochloride and buprenorphine; rehabilitation programs.

The inpatient treatment services include as follows: the examination and short-term intervention; detoxification; symptomatic therapy; gradual relief of withdrawal syndrome; opioid substitution therapy; treatment planning; counseling and more.

The OST program in Ukraine obtained the law support in 2012.

OST services are provided at the health care facilities (narcological and anti-tuberculosis dispensaries, AIDS centers, municipal and community hospitals, primary health care centers). Since 2017, OST programs have been funded from the State Budget which ensures not only the continued treatment of existing patients, but also the expansion of the program.

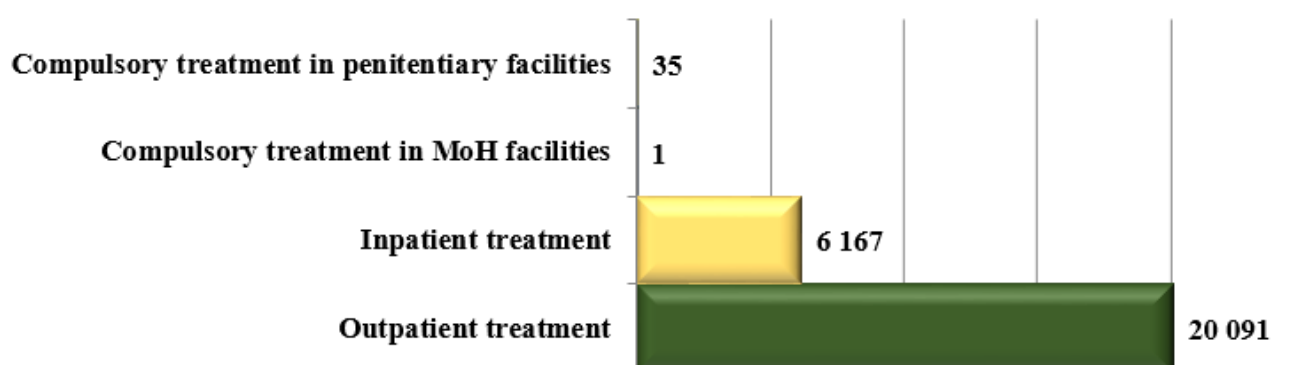
Treatment Services Provision

As of 01.01.2021, 62 419 people with mental and behavioral disorders due to the use of drugs and psychotropic substances were under supervision in the dispensary group in Ukraine, of which 3 782 individuals came with a first-time diagnosis, 50.6% of whom referred to the age group of 15 to 35 years.

Out of people with this diagnosis that were covered with treatment services, the largest number of individuals was treated from opioid addiction. Thus, in 2020, this group of patients accounted for 69% (18 175 individuals) of all people covered with the relevant treatment services. Some 6.2% of people (1 636) were provided with treatment for mental and behavioral disorders due to cannabinoid use. 5 858 individuals were treated for polydrug addiction.

In 2020, 26 294 people with the relevant diagnosis were provided with treatment in the dispensary group and 14 164 people – in the preventive supervision group.

Number of People with Mental and Behavioral Disorders due to Drug Use that were Provided with Treatment Services in the Dispensary Group in 2020

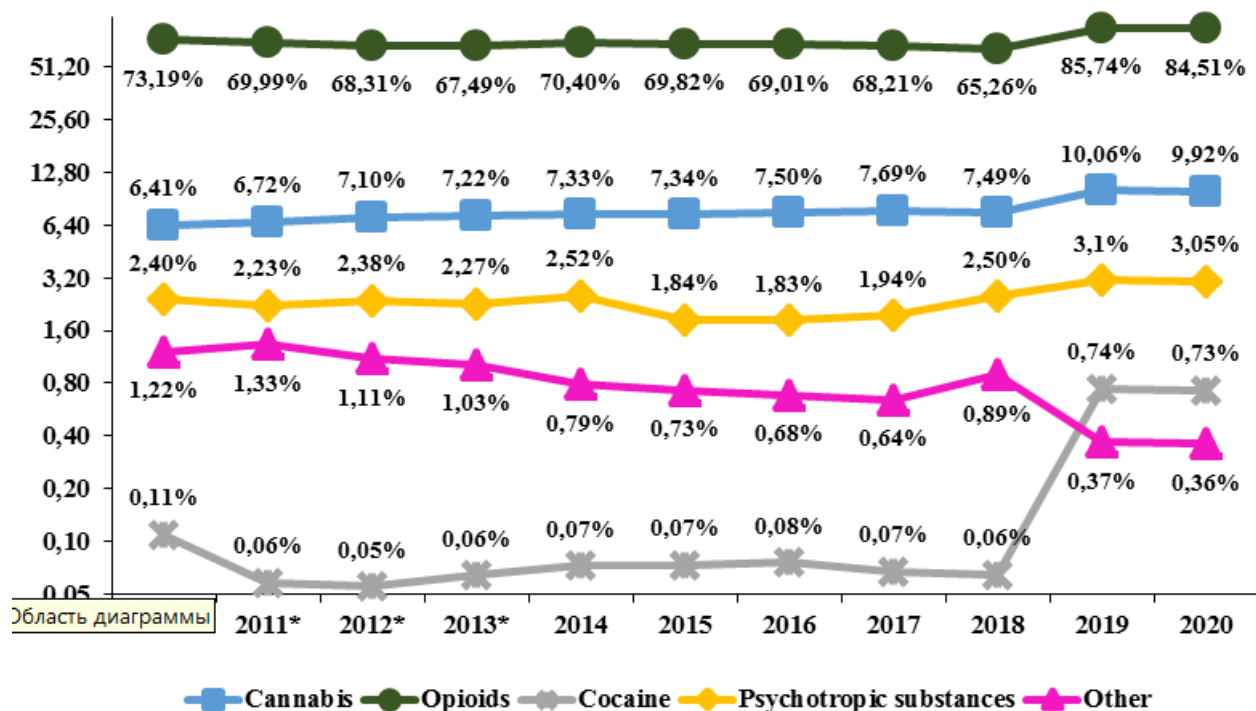


Notes: source – Center for Health Statistics of the MoH (Form No. 32 “Report on Persons with Mental Disorders due to Drug Use, 2020”).

As for the dispensary group, 20 091 people were provided with treatment services in outpatient facilities, and 6 167 people – in hospitals. According to the court decision, 36 individuals were provided with compulsory treatment, and 1 of them was treated in the MoH’s facilities, and 35 individuals were treated in the penitentiary facilities.

Of the total number of people treated in the reporting year, 57% individuals aged over 35 years.

Prevalence of Drug Use among People with Mental and Behavioral Disorders due to Drug Use, Who Were Covered with Treatment Services in Ukraine, in 2010-2020



Notes: source – Center for Health Statistics of the MoH (Form No. 32 “Report on Persons with Mental Disorders due to Drug Use, 2020”).

*Prevalence is the total number of persons under surveillance at the end of the reporting period; morbidity is the total number of persons who received health care services for the first time in their life in the reporting year.

**2011–2013 take into account the currently temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol, and part of the temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk Regions.

***A logarithmic scale was applied for visualization.

Opioid Substitution Therapy in Ukraine

According to the State Agency “Center for Public Health of Ukraine of the MoH of Ukraine”, which is responsible for OST services in Ukraine, as of 01.01.2021, 14 868 individuals were provided with OST services, of which 12 793 patients (86%) received methadone hydrochloride (pills), 263 patients (1.7%) received methadone hydrochloride (oral solution), and 1 812 patients (12.3%) received buprenorphine hydrochloride (sublingual pills).

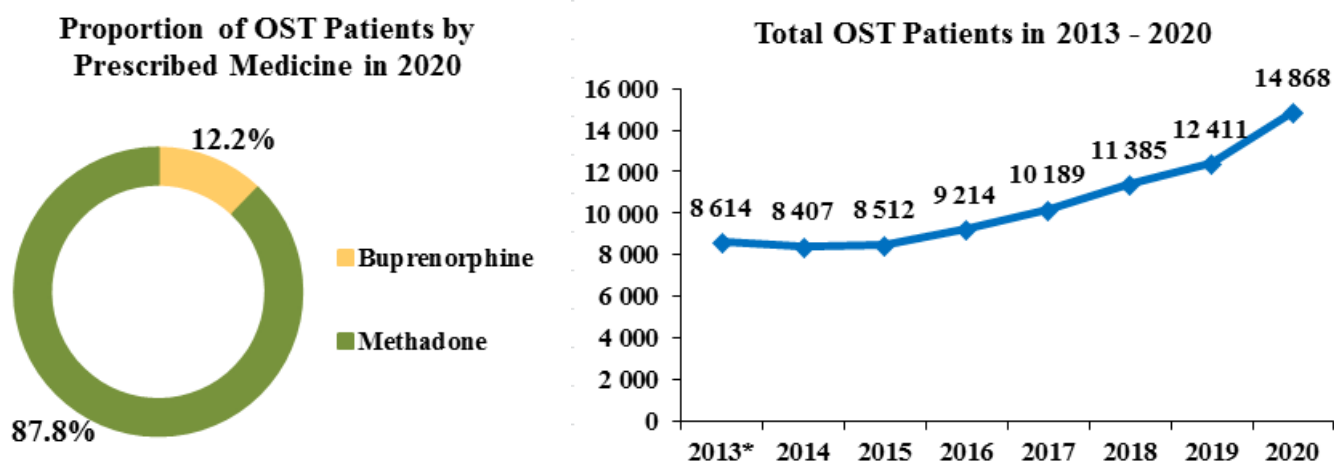
Among OST patients, almost 37.18% (5 528 individuals) were HIV infected.

In 2020, 9 271 OST patients were self-administered (62.4% of total OST patients), of which 2 965 patients (19.9%) received OST drugs directly in the OST offices of the health care facilities, 555 individuals (3.7%) received drugs by prescription, and 2 077 individuals (14.0%) received drugs at home.

In terms of gender of the OST program beneficiaries, almost 83.7% were men, and in terms of age group, the average age of patients was 37-38 years.

In 2020, 16 new OST services settings were set up in Ukraine. In general, OST services were introduced in all Ukraine’s regions (25), and the total number of them amounted to 231 settings.

Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) in Ukraine



Notes: source – the official website of the Centre for Public Health of Ukraine.

Drug Use in Prisons

In Ukraine, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine is the central executive body that is responsible for executing criminal punishments and probation. One of its main functions is to supervise the observance of human and civil rights, the requirements of the legislation on executing criminal sentences, as well as the realization of the legal rights and interests of convicts and detainees.

As of 01.01.2021, the number of penitentiaries, pre-trial detention centers (except for medical facilities) of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine (SPSU) was 148 (Order of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine No. 4534/5 of 29.12.2020).

As of 01.01.2021, 49 823 individuals were held in imprisonment facilities of the penitentiary system, excluding the occupied part of Donetsk and Luhansk Regions, city of Sevastopol and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Thus, during the year the number of people in the imprisonment facilities reduced by 3 040 individuals or 5.75%. Starting 2017, the number of prisoners has been sustainably decreasing by 3-5%.

In 2020, the total registered number of imprisoned people with mental and behavioral disorders was 6 582.

Of these, 2 970 people with mental and behavioral disorders due to the use of psychoactive substances (45% of all dispensary patients with mental disorders): 738 individuals (25%) with mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol consumption and 2 232 individuals (75%) with mental disorders due to drug use.

In 2020, 181 individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to opioid use were provided with treatment based on opioid substitution therapy. Of these, 68 individuals received a long-term treatment based on OST drugs, of which 36 people received treatment at the Bucha Correctional Facility No. 85 (29 of them were transferred to the Northern Correctional Facility No. 90) and 32 individuals were treated at the State Institution “Sumy Pre-Trial Detention Center”. 113 people passed through detoxification.

At the end of 2020, the total number of prisoners with tuberculosis was 886. In terms of the number per 1 000 imprisoned people, the number of those prisoners notably reduced from 21.05 individuals (2019) to 17.78 individuals (2020).

The total number of HIV-infected in 2020 increased from 3 824 individuals (2019) to 3 901 individuals (2020), and in terms of the number per 1 000 imprisoned people, the

number of those prisoners notably increased from 72.34 individuals (2019) to 78.30 individuals (2020).

An approximate number of prisoners who injected drugs and had infectious diseases was: VHB – 20 individuals; VHC – 151 individuals; HIV – 114 individuals; TB – 14 individuals.

The SPSU pays due attention to the preventive work in its penitentiary institutions. The preventive activities have been continuously developed and implemented, as well as the non-governmental organizations and the international technical assistance projects for prevention and rehabilitation therapy of drug users have been involved.

For almost 2 years, Ukraine has been preparing for the OST introduction in the penitentiary facilities. The “Rehabilitation Program for Convicts and People in Custody with Mental and Behavioral Disorders due to the Use of Psychoactive Substances” has been implemented in cooperation with the Spanish experts in the framework of the EU-Act Project: the activities to combat drugs and organized crime, the intensive cooperation and intensification of fight against organized crime in the area of drug trafficking along the “heroin route”. During 2020, the Program was implemented in 5 penitentiary facilities for convicted people, namely in state-owned institutions like “Sumy Correctional Facility No. 116”, “Romny Correctional Facility No. 56”, “Kachanivka Correctional Facility No. 54”, “Boryspil Correctional Facility No. 119”, and “Bila Tserkva Correctional Facility No. 35”.

The “Drug Addiction Reduction” Program of differentiated educational influence on convicts has been implemented in all penitentiary facilities.

The goal of the “Drug Addiction Reduction” Program is to shape a healthy lifestyle among drug addicted convicts, and to assist in reducing that addiction and rehabilitating those people.

The main objectives of the “Drug Addiction Reduction” Program are as follows:

- to ensure the interaction of penitentiary facilities with government and non-governmental organizations that promote a healthy lifestyle;
- to prevent convicts from moral and psychological deformation related to the deprivation of liberty;
- to raise awareness and recognition by convicts of their drug addiction, and their inability to resist on their own;
- to provide convicts with constructive skills in fighting against drug addiction, skills in controlling negative emotions, feelings and states, communication (seeking help), creating their positive image;
- to identify psychological mechanisms of drug addiction and to develop relevant defense mechanisms (change in stereotypic thinking, experience, behavior);
- to strengthen or encourage motivation to continue drug addiction treatment, as well as awareness of responsibility for their health.

In 2020, 1 696 convicts took part in the activities under the “Drug Addiction Reduction” Program, and 804 convicts completed that Program.

The management of penitentiary facilities systematically takes measures to timely disclose and prevent from the delivery of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors to these settings.

Thus, according to the Department of the Execution of Criminal Sanctions of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, the following drugs, psychotropic substances and

precursors were seized/ detected the imprisonment facilities in 2020: cannabis – 17,2 kg; cannabis resin – 50,2 g; opioids (including raw opium and smoking opium) – 23,2 g; acetylated opium: 4,3 g; amphetamine – 50,369 g; methamphetamine – 6,9 g; codeine – 11,4 mg; methadone – 0,6 kg; buprenorphine – 7,2 g; cocaine – 0,2 g.

Quality Assurance

On 28 April 2017, the MoH Order No. 1422 of 29.12.2016 came into effect and allowed Ukrainian doctors to apply the international clinical protocols approved by the internal order of the health care institution that can be applied in this institution, given the patient's informed consent.

At the same time, the unified clinical protocols approved by the MoH do not lose their validity and remain binding, in the case when the health care institution does not approve new clinical protocols, or the patients don't give their informed consent.

Furthermore, in 2017, the Law of Ukraine "On State Financial Guarantees of Medical Care" was passed and came into effect in January 2018. This Law defines state financial guarantees for the provision of necessary health care services (medical services) and medicines of proper quality to patients at the expense of the State Budget of Ukraine within the program of medical guarantees.

Drug Related Studies

In Ukraine, the studies related to drug problems are conducted mainly by non-governmental organizations in the framework of technical assistance from international organizations.

No such studies were held in 2020.

The State Agency "CMHMDA" publishes the annual report on the drug situation in Ukraine, which consolidates available data on the studies that were conducted in Ukraine and focused on the area of drug use and effects.

Drug Markets

General overview

The analysis of the situation in Ukraine in the illegal drug markets shows that the largest part of the illegal drug market is traditionally occupied by plant-based drugs. The next most popular after cannabis are so called "cathinones" (PVP, mephedrone, etc.), followed by amphetamine, methadone, methamphetamine, cocaine, and poppy straw.

Cannabis is cultivated in Ukraine for domestic consumption both in the open ground and in greenhouses equipped with a system of drip irrigation, lighting and heating that makes it possible to harvest cannabis up to three times a year. The cannabis seeds are supplied from EU countries (Netherlands and Germany). There are continuously registered the attempts to export cannabis to the Russian Federation and the countries of the European Union.

Poppy straw is mainly imported to Ukraine from Hungary due to the simplified mechanism of cultivating opium poppy, which is used in the pharmaceutical industry there.

As for **heroin**, there is still observed an ongoing trend of transiting heroin of Afghan origin through Ukraine to the EU member countries. Heroin enters Ukraine mainly from Turkey and Georgia by sea ferries.

Methadone is produced in Ukraine in the clandestine laboratories and is partially exported to neighboring countries (Belarus, the Russian Federation and Georgia).

Cocaine comes to Ukraine by sea, air and land transport, as well as by mail. By sea, cocaine enters primarily through the ports of the Odessa region and is used both for local consumption and for further transiting to Western Europe by land transport. By air, the cocaine is transported to Ukraine by drug couriers.

Cocaine, which is supplied to European countries, is mainly manufactured in Bolivia, Peru and Colombia. The analysis of trends shows that the Latin American criminal groups are active in using the Black Sea ports to arrange supplies of drugs using sea container transport. Also, air transport couriers are involved in cocaine smuggling. At the same time, due to the quarantine restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the air trip ban, some countries have significantly reduced the volume of cocaine trafficking by drug couriers.

It's also worth mentioning the trend of transiting cocaine by air from the South America through Ukraine to other countries (EU member countries, Southeast Asia, West Asia and Africa).

The Domestic demand for **methamphetamine** is generally satisfied with the clandestine laboratories in Ukraine. The main precursor pseudoephedrine is illegally imported from the Republic of Poland, Egypt and Jordan in the form of medicines containing this substance.

MDMA (ecstasy pills) is imported from the EU countries (the Netherlands and Germany).

PVP, mephedrone, as well as other so-called. "salts" are imported from China by mail. At the same time, there is a trend for growing production of these substances in the clandestine laboratories in Ukraine from the precursors imported from China. There are registered the evidences of smuggling these substances from Ukraine to the Russian Federation.

Amphetamine. Due to strengthening the government control over the precursors that are used for amphetamine production, there is a trend for the decreasing number of clandestine drug laboratories for its production in favor of other synthetic drugs. There are registered certain facts of importing and exporting this substance to or from Ukraine.

As for **opioid substitution therapy drugs**, there has been functioning a sustainable channel of smuggling OST drugs from France to Ukraine for a long time, in particular the drug "SUBUTEX" ("buprenorphine"). As a rule, the drug gets to Ukraine by motor transport. Further on, "Subutex" is distributed all over Ukraine, including illegal deliveries to prisons for non-medical use.

The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily locked down the channels of illegal Subutex supplies to Ukraine, but they were renewed at the end of 2020.

In addition, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was observed a decreasing import of other drugs and psychotropic substances to Ukraine due to breaking the sustainable logistics routes. However, the organized crime groups quickly refocused their activities and adapted to new challenges. There was not registered any significant decrease in supplies or long-term drug deficiency.

The main reason for the attention to Ukraine from the international criminal groups engaged in drug trafficking remains a favorable geographical position (a common border with the EU, access to the Black Sea and the Azov Sea), the well-developed infrastructure of sea and air ports.

There is observed a trend of transiting heroin of Afghan origin through Ukraine from Asia to the European Union; cocaine – from the Latin America to the EU member countries; “captagon” (the brand name of fenethylline, which is a codrug of amphetamine and theophylline) – from Syria and Lebanon to the Saudi Arabia and other countries of the Arabian Peninsula by sea; hashish of Moroccan origin – from Spain to the Russian Federation.

Information / Data on Seizures of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances on the Completed Criminal Proceedings in 2020

In Ukraine, the official statistics on seizures of drugs and psychotropic substances from illegal trafficking are available in the Single Report on Criminal Offenses, which contains information on the volumes of PAS seizures for the criminal offenses with completed proceedings in the current reporting period. This Single Report on Criminal Offenses is freely accessible and published monthly on the GPU’s website.

So, the drug seizures on the completed criminal proceedings were as follows:

2017 – 4 615,2 kg

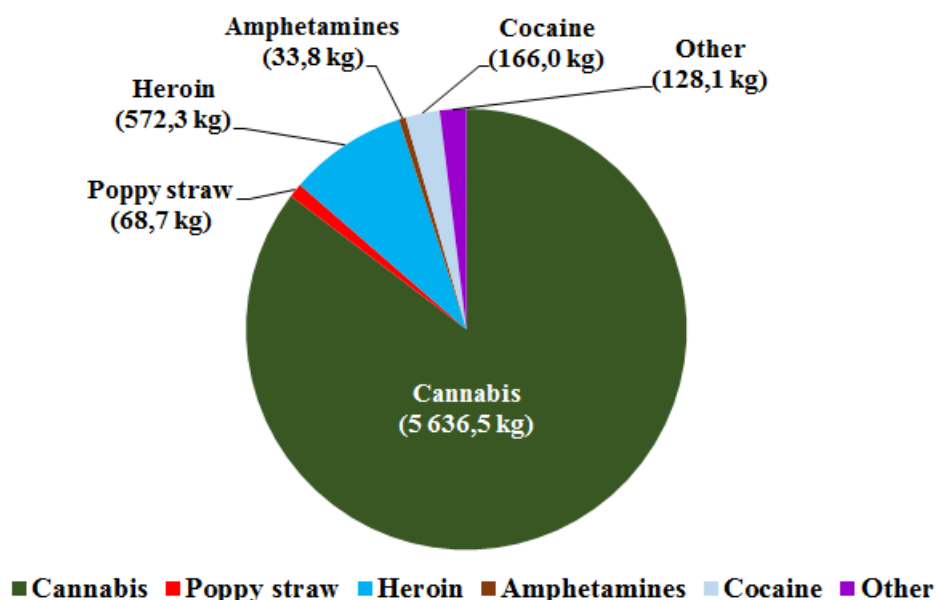
2018 – 2 662,4 kg

2019 – 4 737,3 kg

2020 – 6 605,4 kg

In 2020, the distribution of seizures in terms of substances and their proportion was as follows: 85.34% of seizures were cannabis; 8.66% – heroin; 2.51% – cocaine; 1.04% – poppy straw; 0.51% – amphetamine; 0.11% – methadone; 0.02% – opium, tramadol and LSD together; 1.80% – other psychoactive substances.

**Seizures of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in Ukraine
on the Completed Criminal Proceedings, in 2020**



Over the past 3 years (2018-2020) the total volume of the seized top-5 PAS on the completed criminal proceedings was as follows:

Average seizures:

Cannabis – 85.34% (2020 – 5 636,54 kg, 2019 – 2530,60 kg, 2018 – 2054,90 kg);

Heroin – 8.66% (2020 – 572,34 kg, 2019 – 127,70 kg, 2018 – 0,02 kg);

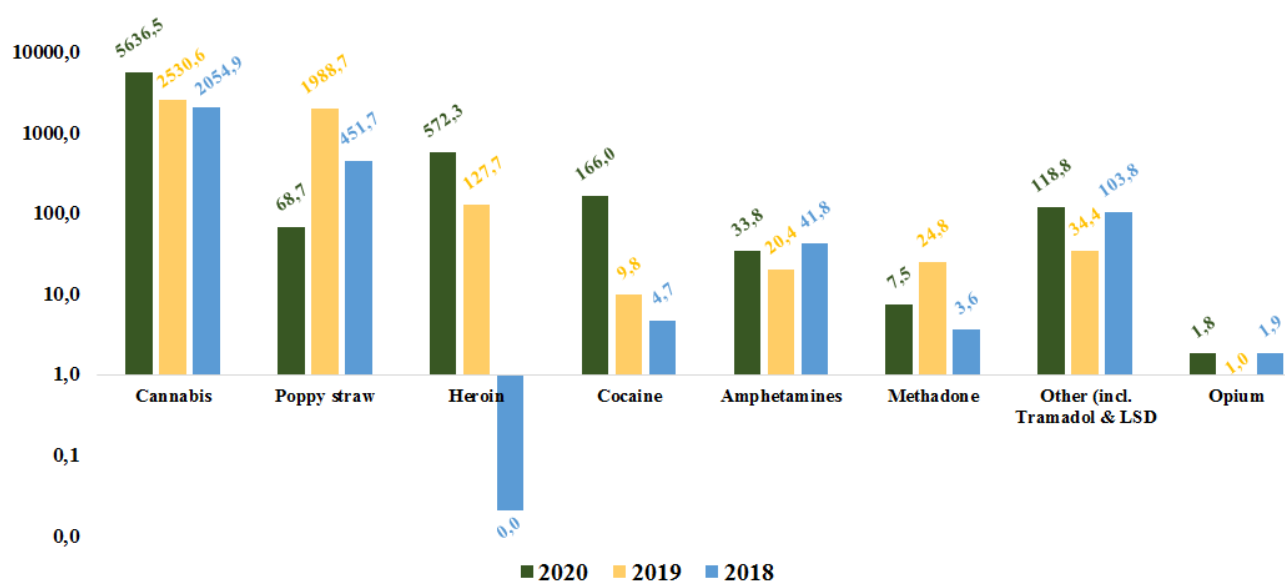
Cocaine – 2.51% (2020 – 165,96 kg, 2019 – 9,83 kg, 2018 – 4,73 kg)

Poppy straw – 1.04% (2020 – 68,70 kg, 2019 – 1988,70 kg, 2018 – 451,70 kg);

Amphetamine – 0.51% (2020 – 33,76 kg, 2019 – 20,30 kg, 2018 – 41,80 kg);

Other (methadone, opium, tramadol, LSD, other PAS) – 1.94% (2020 – 128,12 kg, 2019 – 60,14 kg, 2018 – 109,26 kg).

Seizures of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in Ukraine on the Completed Criminal Proceedings, (kg), in 2018 - 2020



Notes: source - GPU (report: “Single Report on Criminal Offences”, 2018 - 2020).

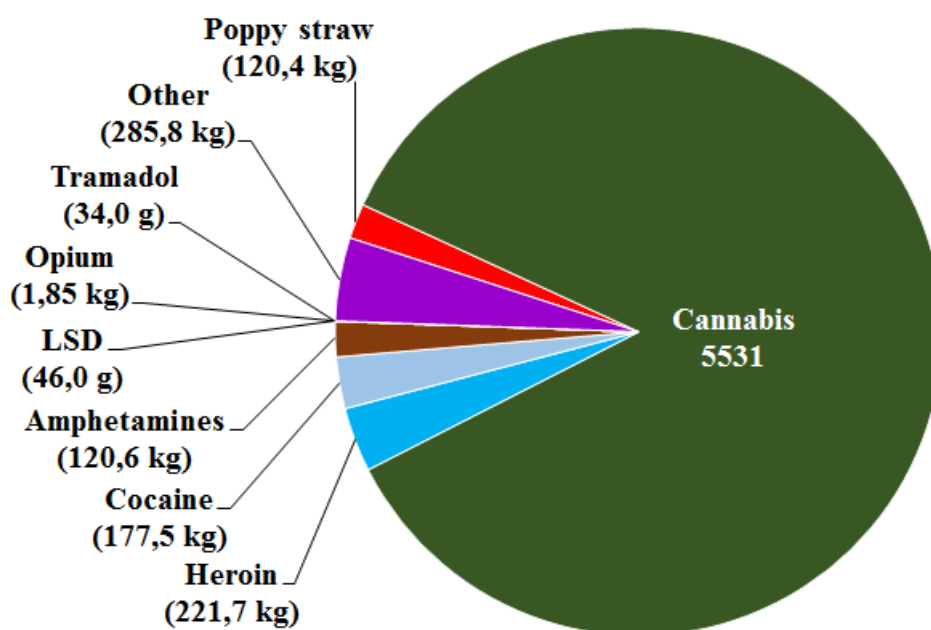
Information / Data on Seizures of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in Ukraine at the Beginning of the Pre-Trial Investigation in 2020

In 2019, the Government of Ukraine adopted the directive document (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 689 of 10.07.2019 “Issues of Monitoring Drug and Alcohol Situation in Ukraine”), which approved the Procedure for submitting and collecting information/data on the drug situation in the country. In particular, according to the indicator “Illicit Trafficking in Psychoactive Substances and Related Crime”, the monitoring entities (law enforcement authorities) provide information/ data on the seizures/ detection of drugs and psychotropic substances in the reporting year (by class, type, price), availability and sources of their origin, offences related to their illegal trafficking, dismantled illegal laboratories and crops of narcotic plants.

Thus, according to law enforcement authorities, 6 592,32 kg of drugs and psychotropic substances were seized from illegal trafficking in 2020. The distribution of seizures in terms of substances and their proportion was as follows:

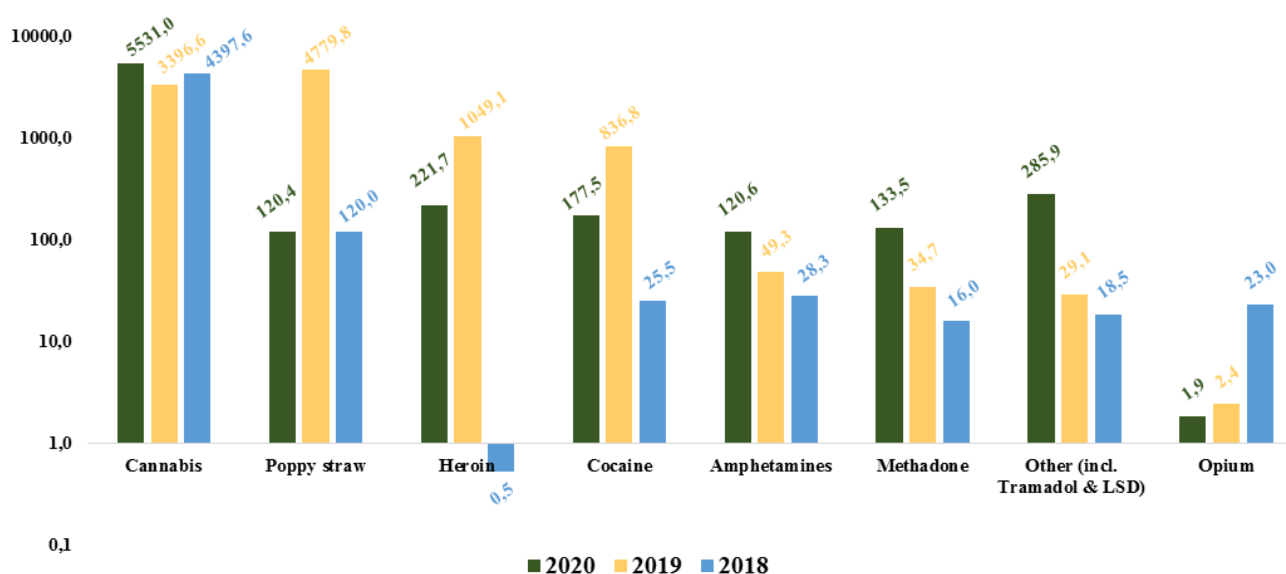
1.82% (in 2019 – 47%) – poppy straw; 83.90% (in 2019 – 33.40%) – cannabis; 3.36% (in 2019 – 0.30%) – heroin; 2.69% (in 2019 – 8.20%) – cocaine; 2.02% (in 2019 – 0.3%) – methadone; 1.82% (in 2019 – 0.50%) – amphetamine; 0.28% (in 2019 – 0.02%) – opium; 0.001% (in 2019 – 0.005%) – tramadol; 0.001% (in 2019 – 0.0001%) – LSD; 4.33% (in 2019 – 0.30%) – other psychoactive substances.

Seizures of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in Ukraine at the Beginning of the Pre-Trial Investigation, in 2020



Notes: source – information / data from the Law Enforcement Authorities under CMU Resolution No. 689 of 10.07.2019 “On Issues of Monitoring the Drug and Alcohol Situation in Ukraine”.

Seizures of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in Ukraine at the Beginning of the Pre-Trial Investigation (kg), in 2018-2020



Notes: source – information / data from the Law Enforcement Authorities under CMU Resolution No. 689 of 10.07.2019 “On Issues of Monitoring the Drug and Alcohol Situation in Ukraine”.

Comparison of GPU's data with Law Enforcement Authorities' data for 2020

PAS name	GPU's data (PAS seizures on completed criminal proceedings)	Law Enforcement Authorities' data (PAS seizures at the beginning of pre-trial investigation)
Cannabis	85.33% (5 636,54 kg)	83.90% (5 531,00 kg)
Poppy straw	1.04% (68,70 kg)	1.83% (120,40 kg)
Heroin	8.66% (572,34 kg)	3.36% (221,67 kg)
Cocaine	2.51% (165,96 kg)	2.69% (177,48 kg)
Methadone	0.11% (7,45 kg)	2.02% (133,49 kg)
Tramadol	0.00% (0,03 kg)	0.00% (0,03 kg)
Opium	0.03% (1,82 kg)	0.03% (1,85 kg)
Amphetamine	0.51% (33,76 kg)	1.83% (120,56 kg)
LSD	0.00% (0,03 kg)	0.00% (0,05 kg)
Other PAS	1.80% (118,79 kg)	4.34% (285,80 kg)
Total	6 605,41 kg	6 592,32 kg

If we compare the most seized substances, then the substances would be the same in the vast majority, i.e., both statistical data featured the top-5 substances are as follows: cannabis, heroin, cocaine, poppy straw, amphetamine, making over 98% of the total seizures on the completed criminal proceedings, and over 94% of the total seizures at the beginning of the pre-trial investigation.

As for the total seizures on completed criminal proceedings and those at the beginning of the pre-trial investigation, the difference was just 13,08 kg, which is less than 1%.

Activities of Law Enforcement Authorities

In February 2020, the officers of the Department of Combating Drug-Related Crimes of the National Police and the Division of Combating Drug-Related Crimes of the Main Directorate of the National Police in Kyiv documented the criminal activities of a drug group with international relationship that consisted of 9 members, who used Internet platforms to manufacture and sell the drugs and psychotropic substances.

The special-forces raid resulted in seizing 38 kg of amphetamine, 17 kg of methamphetamine, 9 kg of psilocybin mushrooms, 100 thousand ecstasy pills, 19,6 kg of MDMA, 50 thousand LSD, 5,6 kg of cannabis, 5,6 kg of methadone, 1,5 kg of cocaine, 80 kg of PVP, 2,8 kg of ketamine, and 1,7 kg of mephedrone.

In April 2020, the National Police officers disclosed an organized crime group, whose members set up the manufacture and sale of the “methadone” and psychotropic substances on an especially large scale, using a network of Internet stores and Telegram channels. The special-forces raid resulted in detecting 27 group members, dismantling 2 laboratories, seizing over 50 kg of methadone, 10 kg of mephedrone, precursors and other chemicals sufficient to produce more than 500 kg of methadone, as well as withdrawing funds like UAH 177 000, USD 2 850, EUR 3 050, 4 handguns by different brands, 1 rifled carbine, 60 cartridges for weapons of different calibers, and 18 cars.

As for the above methadone, it was the largest seized amount in Ukraine since its

obtaining independence. Its cost was USD 2 million. The overwhelming majority of the seized drugs were intended to their further exporting to neighboring countries.

In December, the National Police of Ukraine shut down 102 online stores selling illicit substances, blocked 2 international channels of supplying psychotropic substances to Ukraine from the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the People's Republic of China, dismantled the drug laboratory for manufacturing psychotropic substances in the Kyiv Region, detained 50 suspected individuals, of which 28 were regular customers of the online store "BOHOSHOP".

During 28 authorized searches, there were seized over 20 kg of Alpha PVP, about 8 kg of amphetamine, over 4 kg of cannabis, about 1 000 ecstasy pills, mushrooms, tramadol, methadone, cannabis plants, 200 liters of liquid psychotropic substance, and 100 liters of precursors for producing psychotropic substances, weapons, computers, vehicles and money.

Moreover, in 2020, there were revealed 3 207 evidences of illegal crops of drug-containing plants, of which 980 referred to poppy and 2 227 referred to cannabis. The total area of detected illegal crops was 246 hectares. In total, more than 3 965 000 narcotic plants were destroyed, of which over 228 000 were poppy, and over 3 736 000 were cannabis. The units of the National Police of Ukraine (NPU) initiated 1 825 criminal proceedings on the evidences of violating laws on the cultivation of narcotic plants. The great majority of these offences were related to revealing significant illegal crops of drug-containing plants cultivated by means of special equipment using hydroponics and drip irrigation methods.

As an example, the officers of the Department of Combating Drug-Related Crimes of the National Police used aerial reconnaissance of the personal plots of local residents to discover and destroy the illegal crops of 350 elite cultivars of cannabis plants that were cultivated illegally using drip irrigation. For committing a serious crime under Paragraph 2 of Article 310 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine they detained two drug criminals, one of whom was detained, and the other one was bailed for UAH 400 thousand.

In 2020, following the results of the law enforcement activities of the special units for combating corruption and organized crime of the Security Service of Ukraine, independently and in cooperation with other law enforcement authorities:

- dismantled 15 drug laboratories;
- seized from illicit trafficking: 221,65 kg of heroin, 174,92 kg of cocaine, 76,48 kg of psychotropic substances, 955,37 kg of precursors, etc.

Examples:

In January 2020, the attempt of smuggling 107.1 thousand pills of a medicine containing pseudoephedrine to Ukraine by a citizen of Ukraine was stopped.

A foreign resident was brought to justice for organizing a heroin smuggling channel, who at the end of 2019, as a member of the organized crime group, tried to illegally move over 221 kg of heroin from Ukraine to one of the European Union's countries.

The captagon transit channel was closed. 750 kg of captagon (psychotropic substance is known as the "war drug of the Islamic State") worth over USD 30 million were seized from the illegal trafficking. Two leaders were detained who were the residents of Odesa and Lviv, and who were charged with drug-related offence in October 2020.

7 evidences of illegal importing large amounts of cocaine to Ukraine through sea ports of the Odesa Region:

- In February 2020, an attempt of smuggling 31 kg of cocaine was stopped, and the leader of organizing that smuggling channel was identified and charged with drug-related offence.
- In May 2020, an attempt of smuggling 53,4 kg of cocaine was stopped.
- In August 2020, an attempt of smuggling 56 kg of cocaine was stopped.
- In September 2020, an attempt of smuggling 100 kg of cocaine was stopped.
- In October 2020, an attempt of smuggling 50 kg of cocaine was stopped.
- In November 2020, an attempt of smuggling 20 kg of cocaine was stopped.
- In December 2020, an attempt of smuggling 46 kg of cocaine was stopped.

(The weight of the cocaine is stated as gross figure and was assessed at the moment of seizure. The amount of cocaine in terms of 100% purity is established during the trial examination and depends on the volume of impurities).

The activities of one of the branches of the so-called drug syndicate “Khimprom” was shut down. In 2014, the members of this crime group organized a wide network for selling drugs in Kazakhstan, Belarus, and the Russian Federation via the Internet and chat bots of the Telegram messenger through the so-called “stashers” with subsequent encashment and money laundering in Ukraine. 22 individuals were charged with drug-related offence.

The activity of the interregional organized crime group that was engaged in manufacturing and selling drugs and psychotropic substances in 15 regions of Ukraine was shut down. The number of group members exceeded 20 individuals. The sale of “products” was organized through the Telegram messenger, and delivery was carried out by mail and the “stashers”, the money was debited to their virtual electronic wallets of various payment systems. The monthly turnover of those drug dealers amounted to nearly UAH 5 million.

In the city of Kropyvnytskyi, the activity of the crime group was shut down. Its members supplied illicit substances to a correctional facility. The drug business was organized by the so-called “enforcer” in that specialized facility, involving other prisoners and local residents to illegal activities. The drugs were delivered in dispatches, parcels or packages thrown over the jail fence. One of such packages contained up to 150 single doses. The leader and another 7 individuals (5 of them were serving their sentences in that penitentiary facility) were charged with drug-related offence.

Laboratories

In the Kyiv Region, the drug laboratory for producing methadone and amphetamine, organized by former police officers, was dismantled. In a month, the offenders manufactured near 5 kg of methadone and 10 kg of amphetamine. Over 2 kg of methadone and 3,5 kg of amphetamine were seized (their cost on the black market was UAH 4.9 million), as well as 4,7 kg of liquid methadone that was under processing, a large number of precursors and drug production equipment. 3 group members were charged with drug-related offence.

In the Zhytomyr Region, the drug laboratory was dismantled, which produced monthly almost 5 kg of methadone costing over UAH 3 million on the black market. 3 drug dealers were detained and charged with drug-related offence, and nearly 10 kg of

methadone were seized. They sold drugs in the western and central regions of Ukraine.

In Kyiv, a drug laboratory, as well as a network for selling precursors and chemicals for drug production, was dismantled. The searches at that drug laboratory, warehouses, as well as the online store resulted in detecting and seizing over 9 kg of phenylnitropropene, some 2 liters of mercury, more than 80 liters of other precursors, as well as over 1 ton of chemicals and drug production equipment. The organizer of the laboratory was detained.

There were also revealed some 3 thousand evidences of illegal crops of drug-containing plants.

The volume of seizures of narcotic plants at the beginning of the pre-trial investigation was: 5 636,54 kg of cannabis and 68,70 kg of poppy straw.

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Security Service of Ukraine, the number of destroyed plants was 3 967 211, of which opium poppy was 228 000 plants, cannabis in greenhouses was 3 739 211 plants.

KEY DATA

Recent data

Cannabis

	Year	Value
Prevalence of use over the last 30 days (aged 15-17) (% ESPAD)	2019	2,8
Prevalence of use in the last year (aged 15-17) (%)	2019	5,7
Prevalence of use in the last year – all adults (%)	No research held	
All people passing treatment (%)	2020	2,6
First time recipients of treatment services (%)	2020	17,7
Volume of seized herbal cannabis (kg)	2020	5 636,54
Number of seizures of herbal cannabis	No data available	
Volume of seized cannabis resin (kg)	No data available	
Number of seizures of cannabis resin	No data available	
Content – herb (% THC) (min. & max. registered values)	No data available	
Content – resin (%THC) (min. & max. registered values)	No data available	
Price per 1g – herb (EUR) (min. & max. registered values)	2020	from 0,64 to 8,12
Price per 1g – resin (EUR) (min. & max. registered values)	2020	19,49

Cocaine

	Year	Value
Prevalence of use in schools (aged 15-17) (% ESPAD)	2019	1,2
Prevalence of use in the last year (young people) (%)	No research held	
Prevalence of use in the last year – all adults (%)	No research held	
All people passing treatment (%)	2020	0,26
First time recipients of treatment services (%)	2020	1,86
Volume of seized cocaine (kg)	2020	165,96
Number of seizures of cocaine	No data available	
Purity - (EUR) (min. & max. registered values)	No data available	
Price per 1g – (EUR) (min. & max. registered values)	2020	from 77,9 to 194,9

Amphetamine Family

	Year	Value
Prevalence of use at schools (aged 15-17) (% ESPAD)	2019	1,7
Prevalence of use in the last year (young people) (%)	No research held	
Prevalence of use in the last year – all adults (%)	No research held	
All people passing treatment (%)	No data available	
First time recipients of treatment services (%)	No data available	
Volume of seized amphetamine (kg)	2020	33,76
Number of seizures of amphetamine	No data available	
Purity – amphetamine (EUR) (min. & max. registered values)	No data available	
Price per 1g – amphetamine (EUR) (min. & max. registered values)	2020	from 3,6 to 39

Ecstasy/MDMA

	Year	Value
Prevalence of lifetime use (aged 15-17) (% ESPAD) *	2019	2,0
Prevalence of use in the last year (aged 15-17) (%) *	2019	4,1
Prevalence of use in the last year – all adults (%)	No research held	
All people passing treatment (%)	2020	0,02
First time recipients of treatment services (%)	2020	50
Volume of seized ecstasy (pills)	No data available**	
Number of seizures of ecstasy	No data available**	
Purity (ecstasy mg per pill) (min. & max. registered values)	No data available**	
Purity (ecstasy % per pill) (min. & max. registered values)	No data available**	
Price per pill (EUR) (min. & max. registered values)	2020	from 0,6 to 32,5

Notes:

*Data on “Ecstasy”

**According to GPU, the data on “Ecstasy” are not separately collected.

Opioids

	Year	Value
Use of high-risk opioids (prevalence) (value/1000)	No data available	
All people passing treatment (%)	2020	29,12
First time recipients of treatment	2020	12,9

services (%)		
Volume of seized heroin (kg)	2020	572,34
Number of seizures of heroin	No data available	
Purity - heroin (%) (min. & max. registered values)	No data available	
Price per 1g - heroin (EUR) (min. & max. registered values)	2020	from 14,6 to 77,95

Infectious Diseases Related to Drug Use / Drug Injection / Deaths

	Year	Value
New diagnosed cases of HIV due to injecting drugs – age group of 15 to 64 years (cases / 1mln. persons)	No data available	
Persons with diagnosed HIV due to injecting drugs at the end of the reporting year	2020	12 687
Prevalence of HVC among PWID (%)	No data available	
Drug injection – all population at the end of the reporting year (number of cases / 1000 persons)	No data available	
Drug-related deaths of people aged 15 to 64 years	2020	587*

Note: *number of cases

Health and Social Care Activities

	Year	Value
Syringes distributed in the framework of social programs for budgetary funds	2020	17 421 494
Syringes distributed in the framework of social programs by NGOs	2020	22 789 072
OST Patients	2020	14 868

Treatment Services

	Year	Value
All recipients	2020	25 876
First-time recipients of treatment	2020	3 782
All clients of treatment (prevalence – at the end of 2020)	2020	62 419

Drug-Related Offences

	Year	Value
Number of registered criminal offences	2020	27 430
Criminal offences on consumption (not for selling purposes) / possession (for selling purposes)	2020	15 735/ 8 392

Laws of Ukraine on Alcoholic Beverages

The legislation on the basic grounds of the state policy in the field of alcoholic beverages is based on the Constitution of Ukraine, a series of laws and the Strategy-2020, as well as regulations adopted in accordance with them.

The main Law that governs alcohol circulation is the Law of Ukraine “On State Regulation of the Production and Circulation of Ethyl Alcohol, Cognac and Fruit Alcohols, Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco Products and Fuel.” This Law defines the basic grounds of the state policy for regulating the production, export, import, wholesale and retail trade in ethyl alcohol, cognac and fruit alcohols, grain distillates, rectified grape ethyl alcohol, rectified fruit ethyl alcohol, grape alcohol distillate, fruit raw alcohol, bio-alcoholic drinks, tobacco products and fuel, ensuring their high quality and protecting the health of citizens, as well as strengthening the fight against illegal production and circulation of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and fuel in Ukraine.

In 2020, that law was amended by the Law No. 465-IX of 16.01.2020.

The aforementioned amendments stipulate those liquids used in electronic cigarettes are also subject to this Law.

At the same time, there are a number of normative legal acts in Ukraine that are in effect and aimed at health care of citizens from the harmful effects of alcoholic products through a series of prohibitions. The list of these prohibitions is defined by the Law of Ukraine “On Advertising” the enforcement of which was assigned to the State Service of Ukraine for Food Safety and Consumer Protection, which implements the state policy in the field of the government control over the compliance with legislation on consumer protection, including the protection of advertising consumer rights; as well as to the National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine as regards the television and radio companies of all forms of ownership. The liability for violation of advertising legislation is stipulated in Article 27 of the Law of Ukraine “On Advertising” and the Procedure for the Imposition of Fines for Violations of the Law on Advertising, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 693 of 26.05.2004 (as amended).

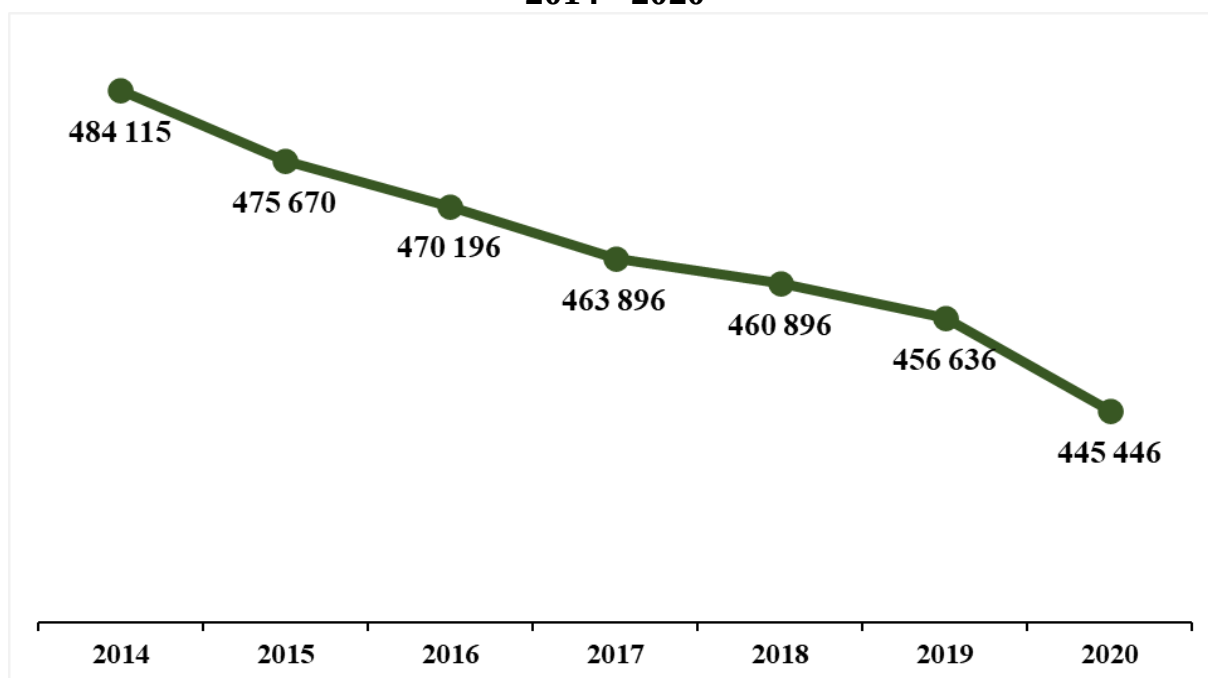
The government supervises the execution of the law through pricing and taxation policies.

So, for ethyl alcohol and other alcoholic distillates, alcoholic beverages, beer, the excise tax is established in accordance with Article 215.3.1. Of the Tax Code of Ukraine, while the minimum wholesale and retail prices for certain types of alcoholic beverages are established by the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 957 of 30.10.2008 “On the Establishment of the Minimum Wholesale and Retail Prices for Certain Types of Alcoholic Beverages.”

Treatment of Mental and Behavioral Disorders Caused by Alcohol Consumption

As of 01.01.2021, 441 700 people with mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol consumption were under surveillance in the dispensary group in Ukraine, and nearly 77% of them referred to the age group of 36 years and older.

Prevalence of Mental and Behavioral Disorders due to Alcohol Consumption in 2014 - 2020



Notes: source – Center for Health Statistics of the MoH (Form No. 32 “Report on Persons with Mental Disorders due to Drug Use, 2020”).

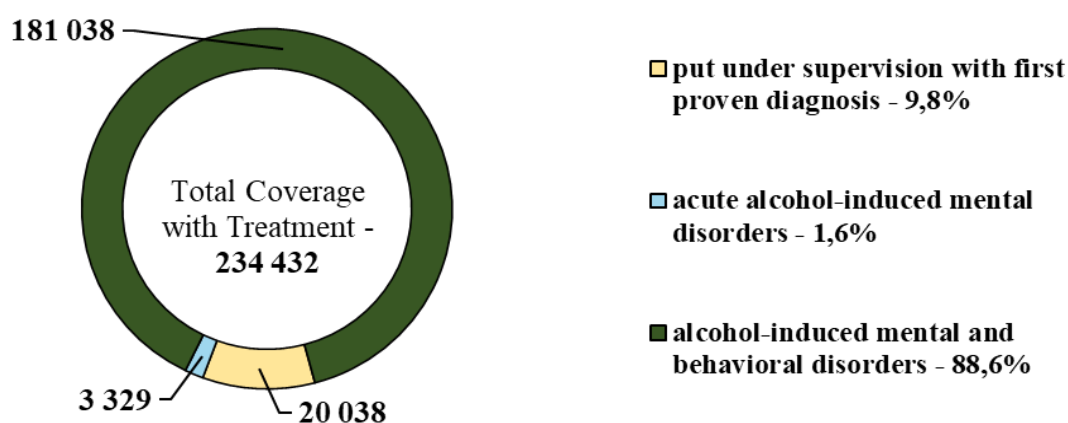
Compared to 2014, the prevalence of mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol consumption decreased by almost 8.7% in 2020.

In 2020, the incidence of mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol consumption, that is, the number of people taken under surveillance with a first-time diagnosis was 17 921 individuals. Of these, over 42% were rural residents, and 74% of individuals aged 35 years and older.

During 2020, 181 038 people with a corresponding diagnosis were provided with treatment in the dispensary group and 53 394 were treated in the preventive supervision group.

In addition, 3 329 people with a diagnosis of acute alcohol-induced mental disorders were treated in 2020.

Number of Individuals with Alcohol-Induced Mental Disorders Covered with Treatment Services in 2020



Notes: source – Center for Health Statistics of the MoH (Form No. 32 “Report on Persons with Mental Disorders due to Drug Use, 2020”).

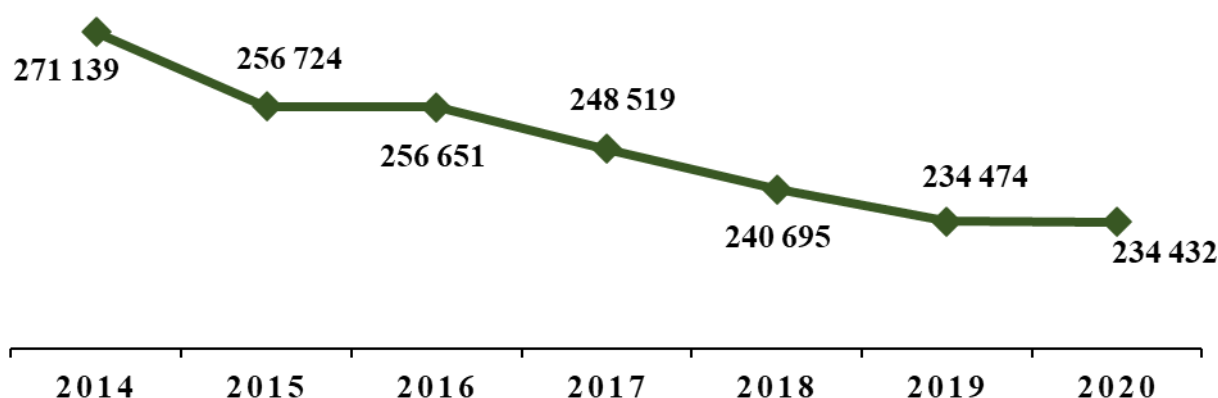
Of the dispensary group (181 038 people), 141 218 individuals received outpatient treatment, and 39 761 people were treated in hospitals. The compulsory treatment, i.e., according to the court decision, were provided to 59 people in penitentiary facilities.

Dynamics of Treated Individuals with Mental Disorders due to Alcohol Consumption, in 2014 - 2020

Of them, approximately annually:

10 % - put under supervision with first proven diagnosis

1,2% - acute alcohol-induced mental disorders



Notes: source – Center for Health Statistics of the MoH (Form No. 32 “Report on Persons with Mental Disorders due to Drug Use, 2020”).

Compared to 2014, the dynamics of treated individuals decreased by 33% in 2020. At the same time, the structure of people covered with treatment remained stable. So, some 10% of people are annually taken under surveillance with a first proven diagnosis, and 1.2% of people are annually diagnosed with acute alcohol-induced mental disorders.

Deaths Related to Alcohol Consumption and Poisoning

In Ukraine, the Ukrstat collects and consolidates data on the causes of death.

In 2020, Ukrstat registered 9 709 deaths related to alcohol consumption and poisoning. Of them, 729 deaths referred to mental disorders, while 2 813 deaths referred to external causes of death related to the consumption of alcohol and its derivatives.

In terms of gender, 79.83% referred to men (7 751 deaths), and 20.17% referred to women (1 958 deaths).

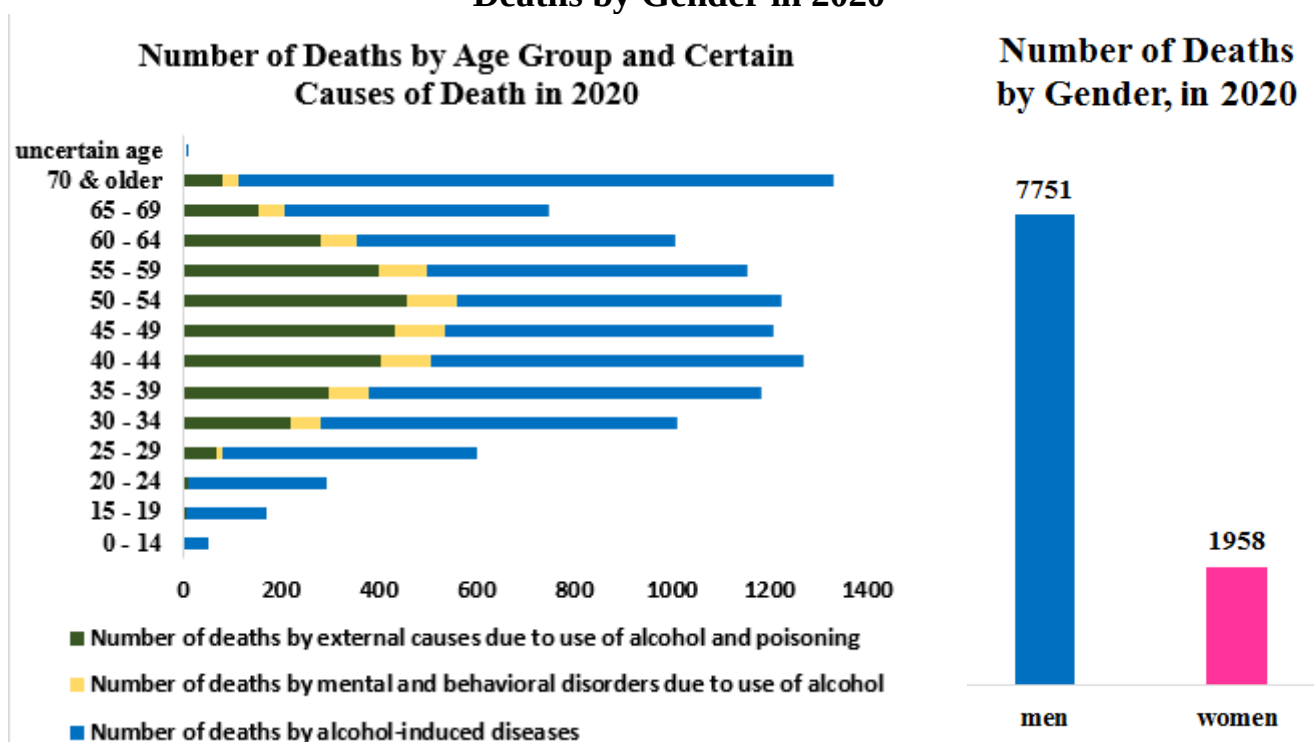
In terms of age group, the largest number of deaths in 2020 was as follows:

- 9 525 deaths (98.10%) referred to the age group of 30 years and older;
- 352 deaths (3.63%) referred to the age group of 70 years and older;
- 1 323 deaths (13.63%) referred to the age group of 40 to 44 years;
- 2 deaths referred to the age group of 0 to 14 years, i.e., children.

In terms of intent (poisoning with alcohol and its derivatives), the deaths were distributed as follows:

- 2 513 deaths – accidental poisoning;
- 299 deaths – poisoning with unclear intent

Number of Deaths by Age Group and Certain Causes of Death, as well as % of Deaths by Gender in 2020



Notes: source of calculation - Ukrstat's data for 2020.

In 2020, the mortality related to alcohol consumption in the age group of 15-64 years was 346,6 individuals per 1 000 000 of population*.

Notes: *The calculation excludes the occupied part of Donetsk and Luhansk Regions, city of Sevastopol and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea

Use of Alcoholic Drinks among Adolescents (aged 14-17)

In Ukraine, the survey of student youth has been conducted on a regular basis since 1995 within the framework of the international project “European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs” (ESPAD) which is conducted with the support of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (headquartered in Lisbon, Portugal).

The survey is held every 4 years and covers students aged 14-17 years.

In 2019, the seventh wave of the survey took place in Ukraine. It covered 8 509 respondents (4 108 boys and 4 401 girls) who were students of rural and urban secondary schools and vocational technical schools.

The results of 2019 showed a growing access to alcohol. More than half of respondents stated that they were able easily to get beer, wine or soft drinks.

The vast majority (85.7%) of surveyed adolescents had an experience in alcohol consumption (82.7% of boys and 88.4% of girls).

Almost half (46.3%) of respondents had an “advanced” experience in alcohol consumption, i.e., they drank alcohol for ten times and more.

13.4% of respondents tried alcohol for the first time at the age of 10 or earlier.

Almost half (46.5%) of respondents consumed alcohol at least once in the last 30 days. Every fifth adolescent (22.5%) consumed alcohol more than 3 times in the last 30 days.

Every fifth adolescent experienced a significant alcohol intoxication for the first time at the age of 14 or earlier (21.2% of boys and 20.3% of girls).

Given the cases of alcohol consumption during the last month, the most popular among adolescents were mainly wine and low-alcohol beverages.

More than a quarter of respondents (28.3%) reported drinking alcohol a week ago or earlier. Girls most often drank wine (37.5%) and champagne (31.7%) during their last alcohol consumption occasion. Boys drank beer relatively more often, as reported by 28.1% of the male respondents.

Almost half (45.0%) of respondents experienced alcohol intoxication at least once in their life, a third (31.1%) – during the last year, and 12.8% of adolescents got intoxicated in the last month.

The number of girls who drank alcohol during the year and during the last month was higher than the number of boys. The recent alcohol consumption (a week ago or so) was reported more often by girls than boys.

Wine and champagne were more popular among girls than among boys. Beer was the most popular alcoholic beverage among boys.

There are four groups of key reasons (motivation) for alcohol consumption:

- to cheer up – 39.4% (36.5% of boys and 42.2% of girls);
- to solve inner problems – 26.8% (23.4% of boys and 30.1% of girls);
- to get high – 17.3% (16.7% of boys and 17.9% of girls);
- to socialize – 12.5% (13.5% of boys and 11.5% of girls).

Laws of Ukraine on Gambling

On 14 July 2020, the Law of Ukraine “On State Regulation of Activities in the Organization and Conduct of Gambling” was adopted. It regulates the legal basis for state regulation of economic activity in the field of gambling and conducting gambling activities in Ukraine, as well as it defines legal, economic, social and organizational terms of gambling.

The law introduces a complex regulation of the gambling market in Ukraine, namely:

- an exclusive list of gambling activities that are allowed in Ukraine;
- the introduction of the gambling licensing system with differentiated license fees depending on the type of activity, location of the gambling settings, etc.;
- the setup of strict financial requirements for gambling organizers to ensure their financial sustainability and guaranteed payoffs;
- the setup of special requirements for gambling equipment and its compliance with generally accepted international standards;
- the setup of grounds for introducing restrictions for gambling operators who are not registered in Ukraine and do not have any relevant license;
- the setup of requirements for players and their identification which will help preventing from gambling negative effects, including individuals aged under 18 years, as well as strict financial sanctions for violating those requirements;
- the creation of the register of self-limited individuals and those with any other restrictions to impose a gambling ban for a period of 6 months to 3 years;
- the introduction of the “responsible gambling” principle to commit gambling organizers with arranging measures aimed at preventing and minimizing negative

effects of the individuals' participation in gambling, as well as the setup of mechanisms to combat gambling addiction (ludomania);

- the setup of restrictions for the gambling settings;
- the imposition of financial, administrative and criminal liability for violating Ukrainian gambling laws.

The law states that the state regulatory authority in the field of gambling is the Commission for the Regulation of Gambling and Lotteries (the Commission), which reports to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. The competence of the Commission includes licensing of gambling organizers, keeping relevant registers, setting up requirements for gambling equipment certification.

The law introduces the State Online Monitoring System, which is the main tool for the Authorized Body to perform the function of government supervision (control) of activities in organization and conduct of gambling.

The law provides for creating a special Fund in the State Budget of Ukraine to support medical care, sports and culture. The procedure for allocating funds from the Fund for Medical Care, Sports and Culture is established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

The restrictions on gambling advertising are stipulated in Article 22¹ of the Law of Ukraine “On Advertising”.

Gambling Addiction

The prevalence of gambling morbidity and harm compared to the magnitude of harm from major depressive disorders, alcohol use and addiction has been [assessed by the World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) as significantly higher than that associated with mental disorders due to drug addiction.

For instance, the [New Zealand Study](#) showed that the burden of harm from gambling to humans was 2.5 times higher than diabetes and 3.0 times higher than drug-related disorders. This burden is primarily related to financial consequences, relationship breakdowns, emotional disorders, negative consequences in work and education, and disproportionately affects vulnerable groups, causing and exacerbating existing social inequalities.

The National Gambling Association has estimated the risk of gambling addiction in anyone with a 48% probability. For comparison: the probability of becoming a person addicted to alcohol – 34%, from drug use – 32%. Behavior of these persons, characterized by loss of control over the game (does not control the duration, intensity, frequency), giving it priority to the detriment of other activities, interests and daily activities, while the intensity of gaming cannot be stopped, despite the negative consequences.

In Ukraine, the issue of gambling addiction was studied in the framework of the international project ESPAD which was conducted in 2019 and covered 8 509 respondents (4 108 boys and 4 401 girls) aged 14-17, who are students of rural and urban secondary school institutions, vocational technical education and institutions of professional higher education.

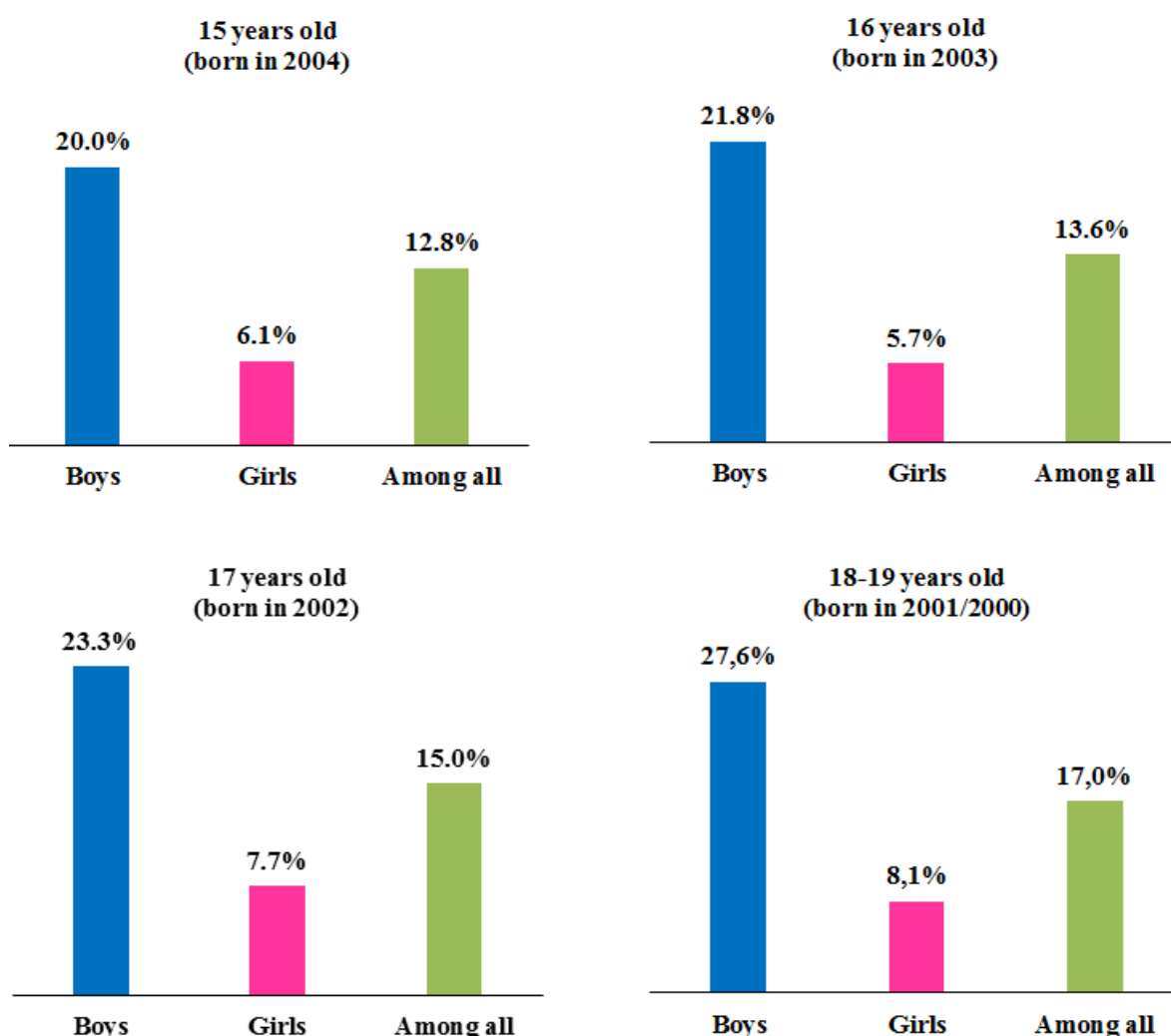
According to the results of such a study in 2019, 85.9% of surveyed adolescents gambled for money in the last 12 months.

With a frequency of two or more times a week, a relatively small proportion of surveyed adolescents gamble – a total of 2.7% (4.9% among boys and 0.7% among girls). One in ten reported (11.4%) playing 1 to 4 times a month for the past 12 months.

The largest proportion of adolescents who gambled on a regular day in the last 12 months spent less than 30 minutes (6.6%). There is a total of 2.2% of players who played for money for two, three or more hours (mostly boys – 3.9% of boys and 0.7% of girls reported such gaming activity).

6.2% of adolescents surveyed reported gambling for more than 2 hours at a time in the last 12 months, with one in ten boys (10.5%) and 2.3% of girls saying so. More often than others, students of vocational education institutions gambled for more than 2 hours at a time during the last 12 months – this was stated by 9.7% of such students.

Proportion of adolescents who gambled at least 1 time during the last 12 months, % by age and gender



Notes: source – ESPAD survey data for 2019.

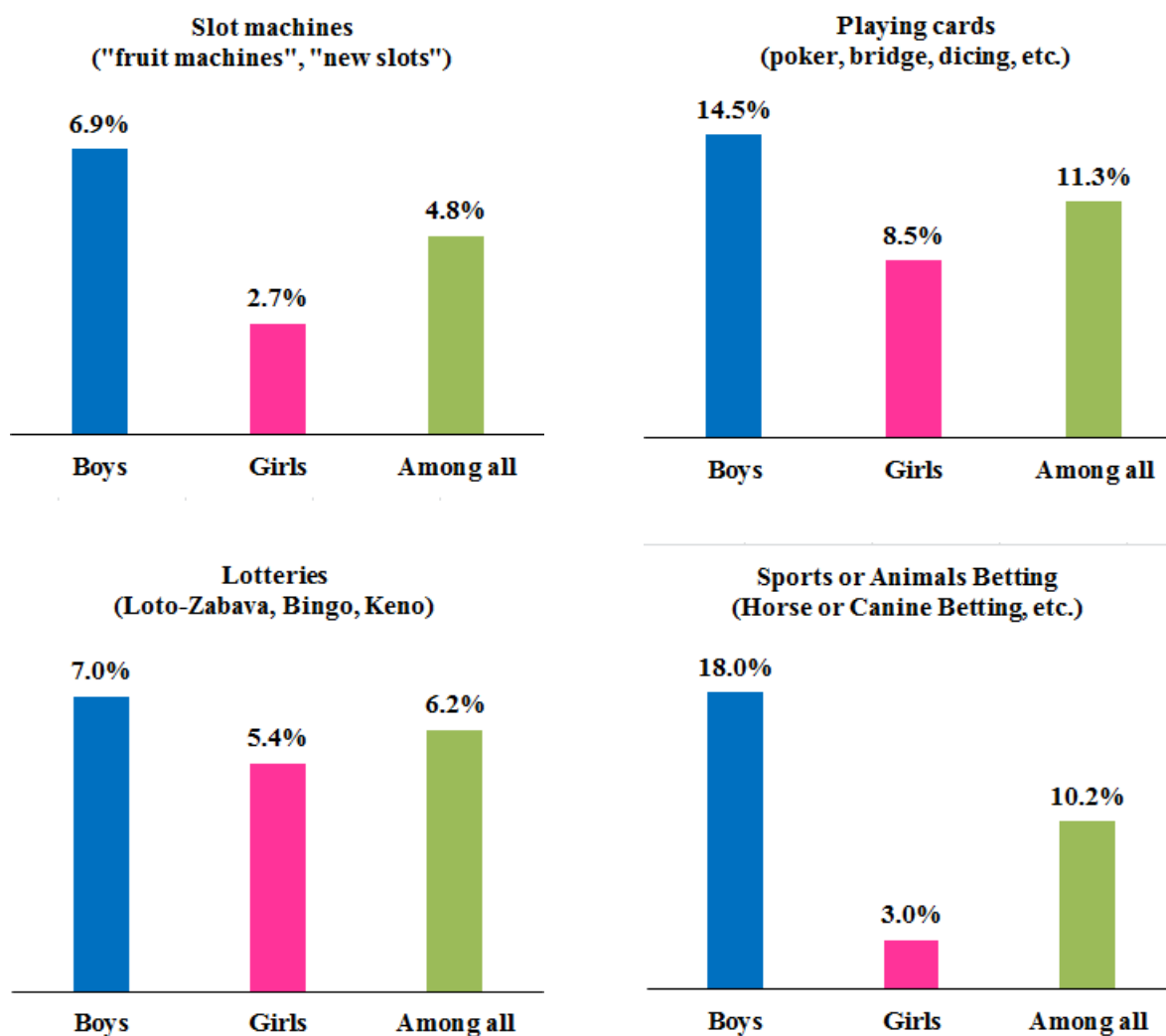
Playing cards (poker, bridge, dice, etc.) are the most popular among adolescents – 11.3% of respondents played cards for money for 12 months. Betting in sports or on animals to the liking of every tenth adolescent – 10.2% of respondents bet. It is important to note that this type of game involves mostly boys.

Playing the lottery attracts a total of 6.2% of respondents. The least common type of gambling among adolescents is slot machines (“fruit machines”, “new slots”, etc.) –

about 4.8% of respondents play slot machines. There were no significant differences among adolescents attending different educational institutions.

Almost one in ten (9.6%) respondents admitted to using the Internet if they gambled for money in the last 12 months, and 3.7% of adolescents reported that they always used the Internet when gambling for money.

Proportion of adolescents who gambled with a certain frequency in the last 12 months, % by gender *(sum of answers: “1 time per place or less”, “3-4 times a month”, “2-3 times a week, or more often”)*



Notes: source – ESPAD survey data for 2019.

The value of problematic gambling is calculated on the basis of two indicators. Respondents were asked whether they had ever felt the need to gamble more and more money (5.5% answered “yes”) and whether they had to deceive loved ones about the amount of money spent on the game (2.8 % of answers “yes”).

Among the surveyed adolescents, 6.7% are addicted to gambling. Have a problematic addiction – 1.5% of adolescents who are addicted.

Gambling Addiction: Affirmative Answers of Respondents by Gender, %

	Boys	Girls	Among all
Have you ever felt the need to bet more and more money on gambling?	8,9	2,4	5,5
Have you ever had to lie to your loved ones about how much money you spent on gambling?	4,6	1,1	2,8

Problem Gambling in terms of Age and Gender, %

	Boys	Girls	Among all
No problems due to gambling	89,2	97,1	93,3
Gambling addiction	10,8	2,9	6,7
Including problematic addiction to gambling	2,6	0,5	1,5

Key results of the study:

- One third (27.5%) of adolescents surveyed believe that they spend too much time playing computer games. 13.9% – admit that their mood deteriorates due to the lack of ability to play games on a computer, tablet, smartphone, etc.
- A quarter (25.7%) of respondents reported that their parents told them that they spent too much time playing computer games.
- 6.2% of adolescents reported gambling for more than 2 hours at a time in the last 12 months, with one in ten boys (10.5%) and 2.3% of girls saying so.
- Almost one in ten (9.6%) respondents admitted to using the Internet if they gambled for money in the last 12 months.
- Among all respondents, 6.7% are addicted to gambling (10.8% among boys and 2.9% among girls).
- 1.5% of adolescents (2.6% among boys and 0.5% among girls) have a problem addiction to gambling.

Consolidated Findings

In recent years, Ukraine has been observing a growing number of people who seek treatment for drug use.

Some 69% of all people receive treatment for opioid use, and 6.2% – for cannabinoid use. The overwhelming majority are young people aged 15 to 35 years.

The prevalence of using any narcotic drugs over the course of life among Ukrainian students aged 15-17 years is not higher than the European average indicator. Thus, about 85.7% of the respondents consumed alcoholic beverages, about 51% smoked tobacco, and 8.7% used cannabinoids. (ESPAD data for 2019).

The measures aimed at preventing and reducing the use of psychoactive substances are carried out mainly by non-governmental organizations, and are focused on popularizing a healthy lifestyle by conducting a variety of educational and awareness-raising activities, distributing personal protective equipment, including among the vulnerable groups of population.

The number of deaths induced by PAS abuse and poisoning over the past five years has a growing trend. The proportion of men in the total number of deaths was nearly 90% in 2020.

Thus, in 2020, there was observed a death increase in the age group of 35 to 44 years, compared to the previous reporting year. At the same time, in the age group of 30 to 54 years there were noticed growing deaths caused by methadone use.

The most of deaths referred to opioid-induced poisoning (50.2%), including methadone poisoning (38.4%), and poisoning with unspecified drugs (40.9%).

In Ukraine, the largest volumes of PAS seizures referred to the drugs of plant origin (cannabis). In terms of seizures, cannabis ranks first, heroin ranks second, cocaine ranks third, next followed by poppy straw and amphetamine. So, on average, 98% of all seizures referred to 5 substances.

Suggestions on How to Improve the Drug and Alcohol Monitoring in Ukraine

1. To coordinate the central executive bodies in order to analyze the implementation of the key objectives of the Strategy for State Drug Policy for the period up to 2030, as well as to shape the Action Plan on the implementation of that Strategy, which is aimed at as follows:

- to prevent drug addiction and to prevent from illegal drug use;
- to overcome stigma and to protect the rights of people who use psychoactive substances;
- to ensure the treatment and rehabilitation of persons with mental and behavioral disorders induced by the use of psychoactive substances;
- to arrange the treatment in institutions and facilities of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine of convicts and detainees with mental and behavioral disorders induced by the use of psychoactive substances;
- to improve the national drug control system;
- to ensure the availability of narcotic medicines, and to facilitate the development of palliative care and opioid substitution therapy;
- to combat drug trafficking;
- to monitor (in dynamics) the drug situation;
- to implement the state drug policy;
- to maintain the international cooperation.

2. To hold recurrent workshops / meetings with the subjects of monitoring the drug situation in the country in terms of providing accurate and reliable information / data according to the indicators defined by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board, which are approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 10.07.2019 No. 689 “Issues of Monitoring Drug and Alcohol Situation in Ukraine”.

3. To work out the issues related to the legal regulation of Ukraine’s introducing research on the drugs and products of their metabolism in wastewater in order to present its results in the future reports on the drug and alcohol situation in Ukraine.

4. To work out the issues related to the monitoring of the situation in Ukraine in terms of the prevalence of gambling addiction.