

REPORT

**On Drug and Alcohol Situation
in Ukraine
2023**
(based on data 2022)

KYIV 2023

UKRAINE

Ukraine Drug and Alcohol Report 2023

The [national drug and alcohol monitoring](#) was formally launched in Ukraine in 2019 by the adoption of [Government resolution of 10 July 2019 No. 689](#) «Issues of monitoring of drug and alcohol situation in Ukraine» (hereinafter – CMU Resolution 689) that set up the procedure of data collection according to the indicators defined by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), as well as the scope of monitoring data providers:

- General population surveys (GPS) targeted at young people aged 15-17: prevalence and patterns of drug use (category and type of substances, as well the effects of their use);

- General population surveys (GPS) targeted at people aged 15-64: prevalence and patterns of drug use (category and type of substances, as well the effects of their use);

- Treatment demand indicator (TDI), prevalence of drug-related mental and behavioral disorders;

- Problem drug use (PDU);

- Drug-related deaths (DRD);

- Drug-related infectious diseases (DRID) among people who injected drugs;

- Drug trafficking and drug-related crime (DRC);

- Drug use prevention and harm reduction;

- Legislation on drugs and combating their trafficking;

- Social reintegration of people who use drugs.

This report highlights the drug and alcohol situation in Ukraine. The information, graphs and calculations are based on data for 2022. At that, the sections “Deaths related to drug use and poisoning” and “Deaths related to alcohol use and poisoning” were drafted based on the data provided by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine for 2021.

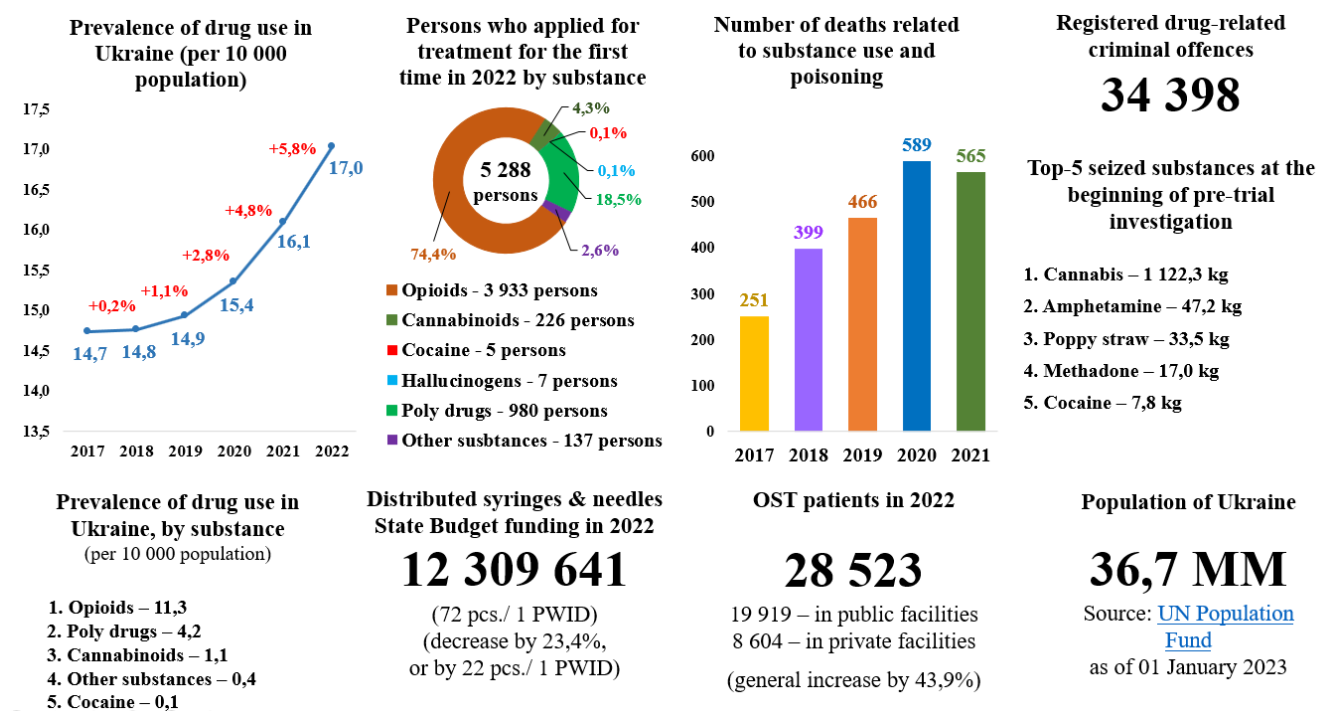
Important note:

Given the martial law, introduced by the Decree of the President of Ukraine of 24 February 2022 No. 64 “On the introduction of martial law in Ukraine”, and due to ongoing hostilities in some regions of Ukraine, as well as limited access to relevant resources in the above regions, the monitoring data providers are incapable of performing their activities in full, therefore it was impossible to provide all the required and comprehensive information in this Report*.

Notes:

* Martial Law in Ukraine was introduced by the [Decree of the President of Ukraine of 24 February 2022 No. 64/2022](#).

A brief overview of the drug situation in Ukraine



Notes:

1. The data is presented according to EMCDDA recommendations on indicators (patients, deaths related to drug poisoning, problem drug use, distribution of syringes & needles, drug-related offences, among others), approved by [Government Resolution of 10 July 2019 No. 689](#). The information on the prevalence of drug use is based on the analyzed data in the Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use.

2. Since 2017, according to the EMCDDA recommendations, the indicator of deaths related to substance poisoning has been calculated using ICD-10 codes as follows: X41 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X42 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X61 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X62 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); Y11 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); Y12 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6).

3. In the text of the document the term “Nontaxable minimum income” = UAH 17, established by the Tax Code of Ukraine, which is applied when referring to the nontaxable minimum income of citizens in laws or other regulations, except for the provisions of administrative and criminal legislation in terms of qualifying crimes or offences for which the amount of the tax-free minimum is set at the level of the tax social benefit determined in Chapter IV of the Code for the relevant year.

4. Given the lack of full administrative data during the martial law or a state of war, used for calculating country’s population, the State Statistics Service suspended the compilation and publication of data on the population, starting from 01 March 2022, therefore it was decided to use the quantitative population size based on [UN Population Fund’s estimates](#).

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Abbreviations

Forensic Bureau	Bureau of Forensic Medical Examination
CCU	Criminal Code of Ukraine
COM	Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
CUAO	Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences
Customs	State Customs Service of Ukraine
DLS	State Service of Ukraine on Medicines and Drugs Control
Border Guard	State Border Guard Service of Ukraine
E-Health	Electronic Healthcare System
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
ESPAD	European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs
GPO	Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine
IPFPEDM / Institute	State Institution "Institute of Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatric Examination and Drug Monitoring of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine"
MOES	Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
MOH	Ministry of Health of Ukraine
MOJ	Ministry of Justice of Ukraine
MOSP	Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine
MOYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine
NPS	New psychoactive substances
NSSU	National Social Service of Ukraine
OST / OAT	Opioid Substitution Treatment
PAS	Psychoactive substances (drugs & psychotropic substances)
PHC	Center for Public Health of the Ministry of Health
Police	National Police of Ukraine
SPSU	State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine
SSU	Security Service of Ukraine
Strategy	National Drug Policy Strategy
Ukrstat	State Statistics Service of Ukraine
RADA	Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Parliament of Ukraine)

National drug policy strategy

To go on with the activities stated in the National Drug Policy Strategy for the period of up to 2020, in 2021, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine developed the draft of the [National Drug Policy Strategy for the period of up to 2030](#) (hereinafter – the Strategy) and the draft Plan of Activities for 2022-2024. As of the date of this report, the above documents are under finalization.

Key priorities of the Strategy:

- to prevent substance use without medical indications and raise public awareness of harm;
- to enhance the public security through focusing on combating organized drug crime, money laundering and intensifying the detection of drug trafficking channels;
- to ensure the access of people with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use to prevention and treatment services;
- to implement effective harm reduction measures;
- to ensure the rights of people with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use to treatment and prevention services in the penitentiary facilities;
- to improve Ukrainian laws and regulations on drugs.

Goals of the Strategy:

1. To promote a healthy lifestyle, as well as to reduce substance demand.
2. To combat illicit drug and precursor trafficking, as well as to reduce supply of substances and to ensure their timely seizures.
3. To ensure the availability of drug-containing medicines for people who are in need of them.
4. To provide timely and high-quality services for diagnostics, prevention, medical and socio-psychological assistance to individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use, as well as to ensure their access to harm reduction programs.

The Strategy sets up the drug policy strategic paradigm, i.e., the need for a comprehensive transition from the punitive and criminal law-oriented anti-drug activities to the treatment and prevention services, as the most fruitful and efficient approach to address substance use.

Government funding

The general approach to the drug policy provides for implementing of the Strategy is funded from the national and local budgets or any other sources not banned by law. No particular funds are allocated for the Plan of Activities within the Strategy; therefore, it is carried out by the agencies, involved in shaping and/or implementing drug policy within their own budgets.

Since 2017, Ukraine has been funding the opioid substitution treatment programs (OST) at the expense of the state budget.

In 2022, the total funds for procuring OST medicines (methadone and buprenorphine), allocated from the State Budget, was EUR 625 235,29 which is 43,2% higher than in 2021 (EUR 436 488,58). The above amount in 2022 was made up totally

of the humanitarian aid. The budget allocations for the Medical Guarantees Program “Treatment of people with mental and behavioral disorders due to opioid use with OST medicines” were EUR 3 571 123,53 which is 118,9% higher than in 2021 (EUR 1 631 136,22).

In June 2019, as part of the Plan of Ukraine’s transition from the Global Fund’s funding to the national funding, the Government decided to allocate State Budget funds for HIV prevention services to high-risk groups. The procedure of providing HIV prevention services and their list were approved by the [Order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine No. 1606 of 12 July 2019](#).

In 2022, the state budget allocations for HIV prevention services amounted to EUR 3 206 600,26.

Laws on drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors

Conventions

[Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961](#)

- Signed by Ukraine on: 31 July 1961
- Ratified by Ukraine on: 10 January 1964
- Effective in Ukraine as of: 27 September 2001

[Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971](#)

- Signed by Ukraine on: 21 February 1971
- Ratified by Ukraine on: 20 October 1978
- Effective in Ukraine as of: 18 February 1979

[Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988](#)

- Signed by Ukraine on: 16 March 1989
- Ratified by Ukraine on: 25 April 1991
- Effective in Ukraine as of: 27 November 1991

National legal framework on drugs

[Law of Ukraine No. 60/95-BP of 15 February 1995](#) “On drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors” accommodates international liabilities of Ukraine and regulates public relations in the area of traffic in drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogs, and precursors, determines the powers of executive authorities, rights, and duties of legal entities and citizens, involved in such traffic in Ukraine.

[Law of Ukraine No. 62/95-BP of 15 February 1995](#) “On counteraction measures against illicit traffic in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors” accommodates international liabilities and determines the system of measures aimed at combating drug and precursor trafficking in Ukraine.

[Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 770 of 6 May 2000](#) “On approval of the list of drugs, psychotropic substances, and precursors” approves the lists of highly dangerous substances, the list of plants that contain drugs and psychotropic substances for industrial purposes, the lists of substances with restricted traffic, as well the lists of precursors with restricted or controlled traffic.

[Criminal Code of Ukraine \(CCU\): Section XIII](#) determines criminal liability for the criminal offences related to the traffic in drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues or precursors, and other offences against public health.

[Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences \(CUAO\): Article 44](#) determines administrative liability for illegal production, purchasing, storage, transportation, shipment of drugs or psychotropic substances in small quantities not for selling purposes.

Other key national regulations:

[Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 589 of 3 June 2009](#) “On approval of the procedure for activities related to the traffic in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, and control over their traffic”.

[Order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine No. 188 of 1 August 2000](#) “On approval of tables of small, big and especially big sizes of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors in illicit traffic”.

[Order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine No. 715 of 03 April 2019](#) “On some issues of referring substances to the analogues of drugs and psychotropic substances”.

National drug laws and regulations adopted in 2022

Laws of Ukraine

Law of Ukraine “On state registration of human genomic information”

dated [9 July 2022 No. 2391-IX](#)

effective as of 06 February 2023

Goal To set up and launch the human genomic information system in Ukraine, aimed at contributing to the performance of law enforcement agencies in preventing, detecting, solving and investigating crimes and offences, including the drug-related ones.

Law of Ukraine “On medicinal products”

dated [28 July 2022 No. 2469-IX](#)

*key provisions enter in force 30 months after the martial law is over**

Goal To improve health protection of Ukrainians through ensuring access to effective, high-quality, advanced and safe medications, as well as to implement certain provisions of EU laws on medicines.

Law of Ukraine “On changes to the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences, Criminal code of Ukraine and Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine on the enforcement of decisions of the European Court of Human Rights”

dated [18 October 2022 No. 2690-IX](#)

Goal To settle down the issues related to the application of the provisions of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences that are not in the line with the case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

Law of Ukraine “On changes to the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences, Criminal code of Ukraine and other regulations on military service in martial law or in combat”

dated [13 December 2022 No. 2839-IX](#)

Goal To adjust effective legislation in terms of the liability of military men for offences committed during their service, as well as to regulate the procedure of medical examination for the intoxication induced by alcohol, drugs or other substances.

Law of Ukraine “On changes to some regulations of Ukraine on strengthening control over medicinal products”

dated [18 October 2022 No. 2679-IX](#)

*Enters in force 3 months after the martial law is suspended or abolished**

Goal To ensuring an effective control over the prescribed medicines, including the drug-containing ones, as well as a gradual transition from paper to electronic prescriptions.

Law of Ukraine “On basic principles of state policy on strengthening Ukrainian national and civic identity”

dated [13 December 2022 No. 2834-IX](#)

Goal To define the basic principles of educating citizens (mostly young people), including in the way to prevent them from drug and alcohol use.

Law of Ukraine “On media”

dated [13 December 2022 No. 2849-IX](#)

effective as of 31 March 2023

Goal To implement the provisions of the EU legislation into the national laws, including the ban of promoting drug use, as well as sharing instructions or advice on their manufacture, purchase or use.

Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

Government Resolution “On changes to clause 5 of the Procedure of using drugs and psychotropic substances in training dogs for searching substances”

dated [12 January 2022 No. 21](#)

Goal To adjust the Procedure to the effective legislation.

Government Order “Issues on introducing and ensuring activities within the martial law in Ukraine”

dated [24 February 2022 No. 181-p](#)

Goal To approve the Plan for implementing and enforcing the Martial Law in Ukraine, including to set up a special regime for production and sale of drug and precursor-containing medicines.

Government Resolution “On changes to the list of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors”

dated [11 March 2022 No. 255](#)

Goal To ensure the availability of remifentanyl to Ukrainian medical staff for anesthetic treatment of patients of a certain category.

Government Resolution “On changes to the procedure of issuing permits to import in Ukraine, export from Ukraine or transit through Ukraine of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors”

dated [17 March 2022 No. 306](#) and dated [3 May 2022 No. 527](#)

*effective up to the martial law in Ukraine is over**

Goal To regulate import, export and transit of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors given the martial law regime.

Government Resolution “On changes to the licensing of business activities on cultivating plants from Table I of the List of controlled drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors”

dated [15 April 2022 No. 452](#)

Goal To facilitate the licensing of business activities related to the traffic in substances and precursors during the martial law in Ukraine.

Government Resolution “On termination of the agreements with the russian federation on cooperation in combating drug and precursor trafficking, as well on medical insurance for Ukrainians temporarily staying in russia, and russians temporarily staying in Ukraine”

dated [20 May 2022 No. 611](#)

Government Resolution “On changes to the Resolution of 5 April 2022 No. 413”

dated [7 July 2022 No. 762](#)

Goal To improve the procedure of activities and general requirements for the detention of prisoners of war in accordance with international law.

Government Resolution “On approval of the quotas for 2022 for cultivating plants containing drugs and psychotropic substances.”

dated [13 September 2022 No. 1027](#)

Goal To ensure a due control over the traffic in drugs and psychotropic substances, to prevent the diversion of such substances. as well as to reduce non-medical use and distribution of substances in Ukraine.

Government Resolution “Some issues of implementing state medical care guarantees in 2023”

dated [27 December 2022 No. 1464](#)

Goal To provide patients with the necessary health care services (medical services) and high-quality medicines, as well as reimbursements under the Medical Care Guarantees Program in 2023.

Government Order “Some issues on implementing the Agreement with the Republic of Uzbekistan on cooperation in combating drug and precursor trafficking”

dated [02 December 2022 No. 1088-p](#)

Goal To implement paragraph 2 of article 1 of the [Agreement](#).

Government Order “On approval of the Strategy for reforming the penitentiary system up to 2026 and the plan of activities for its implementation in 2022-2024”

dated [16 December 2022 No. 1153-p](#)

Goal To implement comprehensive long-term changes and to determine areas of developing the national penal system as part of the penitentiary reform in compliance with the Council of Europe standards.

Regulations of the national authorities

Notification of the Ministry of Justice “On termination of international agreements”

dated [05 April 2022](#)

Goal Termination of agreement between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation on cooperation in combating illicit trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors of 28 January 2011.

Order of the Ministry of Health “On approval of procedures of first aid provision to people in emergency”

dated [09 March 2022 No. 441](#)

Goal To improve emergency first aid, as well as to improve relevant procedures, including the [Procedure of first aid provision in case of opioid overdose](#).

Order of the Ministry of Health “On approval of the procedure of preliminary, regular and unscheduled psychiatric check-ups, including on substance use”

dated [18 April 2022 No. 651](#)

changes:

[No. 1012 of 13 June 2022](#)

[No. 1400 of 04 August 2022](#)

Goal To meet the requirements of [part 2](#) of article 9 of the Law of Ukraine “On Psychiatric Care” regarding the need to conduct psychiatric check-ups of persons to determine their capacity for certain activities.

Order of the Ministry of Health “On approval of changes to a number of regulations of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine”

dated [11 October 2022 No. 1841](#)

Goal To introduce prescriptions and e-prescriptions for medicines containing drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as to ensure an effective control over such medicines.

Order of the Ministry of Health “On changes to the unified form of the Act on state supervision (control) activities on the business entity’s compliance with license terms for cultivating drug-containing plants from Table I of the List of controlled drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors”

dated [10 November 2022 No. 2040](#)

Goal To ensure the state control over licensing of business activities related to the cultivation of plants, included to Table I of the [List of controlled substances](#).

Order of the Ministry of Health “On changes to the procedure of opioid substitution treatment for people with mental and behavioral disorders due to opioid use”

dated [27 December 2022 No. 2348](#)

Goal To improve the organizational framework for opioid substitution treatment in line with advanced standards and evidence-based medicine.

Order of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine “On approval of the form and rules for issuing veterinary prescriptions”

dated [29 September 2022 No. 752](#)

*Enters in force 1 year after the martial law is suspended or abolished**

Goal To make the veterinary legislation of Ukraine in line with the requirements of EU law to strengthen control over the traffic and use of veterinary medicines and minimize possible low-quality treatment of animal diseases.

Notes:

* Martial Law in Ukraine was introduced by the [Decree of the President of Ukraine of 24 February 2022 No. 64/2022](#).

Drug markets

General overview of drug market trends

In 2022, the main factor affecting the illegal drug markets was the full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. On 24 February 2022, Ukraine was attacked from several directions: Kyiv and Chernihiv regions – from Belarus; Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk regions – from Russia; Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Mykolaiv regions – from the temporarily occupied Crimea.

In the temporarily occupied territories, the government gave up their control over trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors. The closure of seaports and air traffic, as well as the road and rail traffic on the borders with Belarus and Russia, complicated the functioning of international drug trafficking channels in Ukraine, including the transit of “heavy” drugs like heroin and cocaine.

The migration of the population led to the emergence of new drug smuggling and supply schemes. So, new routes for importing substances and precursors were developed and tested by drug traffickers. To ensure the secure import, export and transportation of drugs (e.g., cocaine, heroin, “captagon” (a mixture of amphetamine and fenethylamine)) through Ukraine, as one of the transshipment hubs of drug routes, drug traffickers started using the infrastructure of legal businesses, organizations and individuals that were not previously of the law enforcement agencies’ interest.

The deterioration of the socio-economic situation in the country and growing unemployment led to the temptation of making easy money by doing simple work for drug traffickers, including by young people (making “drug caches”, packaging, shipping). This phenomenon resulted in the expansion of drug distribution networks.

At the same time, the volume of drug supply via the Internet, in particular the Darknet, international mail services and road vehicles has grown. At that, the accessibility and immense popularity of social media allowed domestic drug traffickers to establish links with suppliers from around the world, more and more using cryptocurrency payments for drug supplies.

Despite the fact that marijuana and hashish remain the most commonly used substances in Ukraine, there is a steady trend of increasing demand for synthetic amphetamines (methamphetamine & amphetamine), synthetic opioids (methadone as the Top-1), and synthetic cathinones (α -PVP & 4-MMC), and therefore an increase in their clandestine production. At the same time, in recent years, there has been a downward trend in counterfeit medicines smuggling and trafficking in Ukraine (just single cases were recorded by the law enforcement agencies).

The problems with illicit drug trafficking are also closely linked to the corruption in law enforcement and regulatory agencies, where some officers and officials are involved in setting up drug smuggling channels for a financial reward, protecting drug traffickers, assisting them to avoid criminal liability, as well as ensuring the functioning of drug distribution mechanisms.

Despite the war waged by the Russian Federation, the drug demand in Ukraine remains at a consistently high level due to hostilities, losses of the loved ones, housing, wealth, and permanent stress. Accordingly, there is a rising trend in the number of offences related to illicit trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors.

Overview of the most common substances

Cannabis is cultivated for domestic consumption and for export both in open ground (in the central, eastern and southern regions of Ukraine, some of which were temporarily occupied by Russia) and in greenhouses (throughout the country) equipped with drip irrigation, lighting and heating systems that allow harvesting up to three crops a year. Depending on their links abroad, changes in supply and demand, drug traffickers import and export the substance to/from Ukraine. Prior to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, herbal cannabis and cannabis resin were exported to Russia and the European Union. Due to the hostilities, the border crossing points with Russia and Belarus stopped functioning, which redirected the suppliers' focus on the EU and the domestic market.

Methadone is one of the most commonly used drugs in Ukraine, which is in high demand among drug dependents and is produced in Ukraine in clandestine drug laboratories. Given the availability of precursors in Ukraine and its low price, methadone has pushed out other opium-based drugs like heroin and “shirka” from the market in recent years. Laboratories manufacturing this synthetic opioid are regularly detected in Ukraine.

Some volumes of this synthetic opioid produced in Ukraine are smuggled by organized crime groups into neighboring countries for their further sale. Before the full-scale invasion, the main destination countries were Belarus, Russia and Georgia.

At the same time, due to the availability of methadone, Ukraine was passed by the fentanyl overdose epidemic that took place in the USA and a number of Baltic countries.

Amphetamine is produced mainly in the domestic clandestine drug laboratories, and there are recorded only isolated cases of its smuggling into Ukraine. The main precursors for amphetamine production are phenylnitropropene, which is imported from abroad (India, China, and the European Union), and nitroethane, which is a controlled substance in Ukraine.

Due to strengthening national control over precursors for manufacturing amphetamine, as well as due to the law enforcement agencies' effective counteraction to precursor trafficking, as well as due to changes in the routes of precursor delivery to Ukraine, the market evidences an increase in prices for both amphetamine and other substances of amphetamine family.

Methamphetamine is also produced in domestic drug laboratories controlled by interregional drug trafficking groups that arranged channels for smuggling medicines containing pseudoephedrine hydrochloride from the EU and Egypt, where they are freely available (trade names: *Acatar, Efina, Narine Repetabs, Cirrus*).

Due to the effective work of the law enforcement agencies of Ukraine on combating smuggle of the above medicines, drug traffickers have significantly enhanced their conspiracy.

MDMA (ecstasy pills) are smuggled into Ukraine from European countries (*Poland, the Baltics, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy*), the Middle East and Asia, and this trend has been continuing in recent years.

New psychoactive substances (NPS) were imported to Ukraine mainly from China and India, being then distributed via the Internet. There were also some cases of manufacturing of the above substances in Ukraine from the imported precursors. After the invasion, the import of NPS and precursors was arranged through Ukraine's western borders with the European Union and the Republic of Moldova, using postal delivery services and land transport.

In recent years, there has been a steady trend toward diversification of the illegal business of producing and selling NPS. For example, laboratories, warehouses and consumers were located in one country, while call centers that processed orders and organized delivery were located in another country, or in the temporarily occupied and therefore uncontrolled territory of Ukraine.

The most common NPS in Ukraine are cathinones, namely α -PVP and mephedrone (4-MMS).

Cocaine is an expensive drug in Ukraine and is in demand among wealthy young people, businessmen, politicians, and high-level officials). This is typical for large cities of Ukraine (Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Odesa, Lviv).

Before the full-scale invasion, cocaine was smuggled into Ukraine by sea, air, land, and postal services.

Cocaine was smuggled into Ukraine by air by drug couriers, but during the quarantine restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the volume of cocaine imported by air decreased significantly and stopped after russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The main regional hub for cocaine transit by sea was Odesa region, where ships from Latin America (Colombia, Peru, Panama, Bolivia) and the European Union (Portugal, Spain, Greece, and the Baltic States) arrived. Since 24 February 2022, the territorial waters of Ukraine have been closed to free navigation, so the use of Ukrainian ports for cocaine smuggling has been suspended.

International mail shipments are used to deliver cocaine to Ukraine for its further distribution. They come from the European Union to the regional centers of Ukraine, where international companies like TNT Express, DHL, Elite Ltd (FedEX), etc. are headquartered. It should be noted that due to the hostilities, customs processing of international shipments imported into Ukraine is carried out in Lviv.

Heroin traditionally enters Ukraine by sea and land, mainly through export-import and transit shipments of consumer goods and food.

In general, heroin is not so popular drug on the Ukrainian drug market, and its illicit trafficking is associated with transit through Ukraine from the producer countries to the end consumer countries. In Ukraine, the domestic users of heroin and other opium-based substances opt for the much more accessible and cheaper methadone.

Due to its geographical location, Ukraine was used as a transshipment hub for heroin. The country hosted warehousing, repackaging and further transportation of heroin to the European Union.

Before the full-scale invasion, heroin of Afghan origin was smuggled into Ukraine mainly from Turkey and Georgia in trucks, transported by sea ferries.

Opium poppy is traditionally cultivated in Ukraine for industrial purposes, but it has often been used to produce “shirka” for injection.

Due to strengthening national control over this substance, a decrease in its supply was recorded in favor of methadone and extracted opium, which was imported into Ukraine from Hungary that has a simplified procedure for growing opium poppies for the pharmaceutical industry. In 2022, there were no cases of detected extracted opium smuggling channels.

Drug-containing medicines that are used for opioid substitution treatment or for pain relief are also in steady demand among drug users in Ukraine. Thus, patients can register simultaneously in several OST sites, and doctors prescribe drug-containing medications to patients in violation of the established procedures and order.

For a long time being, there has been a well-arranged channel for smuggling Subutex (a buprenorphine-containing medication) from France to Ukraine. The substance enters Ukraine mainly by land through the western borders of the country. Subutex is then distributed all over Ukraine, including in prisons for non-medical use.

In the first half of 2022, due to the full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine, there were some problems with the supply of Subutex to Ukraine, but later the supply channels through neighboring countries (usually Poland) were stabilized.

These smuggling channels are controlled by organized crime groups, mainly in Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv regions. It's worth noting that drug traffickers started concealing their activities more carefully by means of improved conspiracy measures and developing complex schemes for smuggling substances into Ukraine.

Unregistered medicines are imported into Ukraine by couriers and in the form of anonymous shipments in violation of customs rules, which, according to the current legislation, is an administrative offence. In addition, this business exploits gaps in the current laws and regulations, when one person is allowed to import 5 trade names of medicines, but there are no restrictions on the total volume of imported medicines.

The countries of origin of these medications are usually Turkey, India, China and some EU countries.

It should be noted that the availability of unregistered medicinal products with unconfirmed quality on the Ukrainian pharmaceutical market poses a serious threat to public health, which is also due to the frequent cases of non-compliance with the storage and transportation terms and conditions recommended by the manufacturer while transporting these medicinal products.

Drug-related offences

Administrative liability

Administrative liability is defined in the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences ([CUAO](#)) for illegal production, purchase, storage, transportation, shipment of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors not for selling purposes in small quantities.

Small, large and extra-large quantities of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors in illicit traffic are set by the Ministry of Health ([Order of MOH of 01 August 2000 No. 188 as amended](#)).

Information/data on drug-related administrative offences

The data on drug-related administrative offences is available in the following reports:

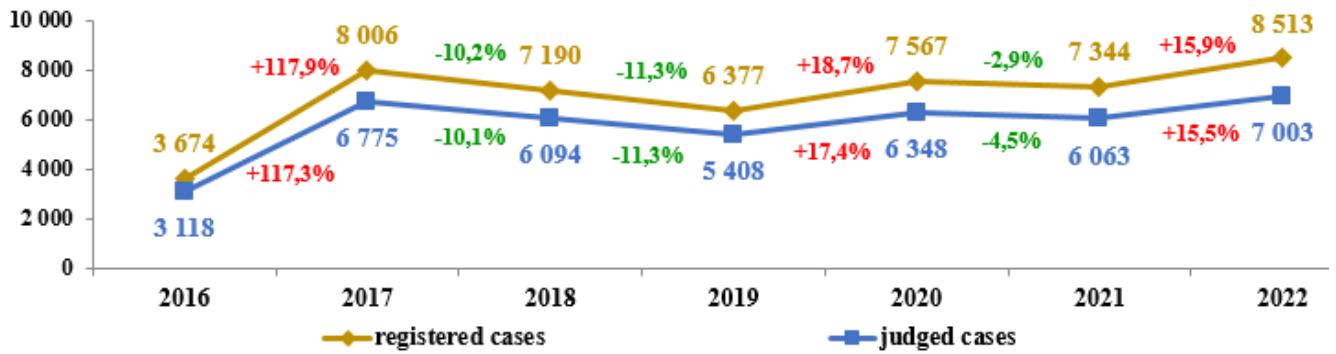
1. [“Report of courts of first instance on judging cases on administrative offences”](#).
2. [“Report of courts of appeal on judging appeals on administrative offences”](#).

The above reports are prepared by the [State Judicial Administration of Ukraine](#) and are published on the [web-portal](#).

In 2022, there were **8 513** cases on drug-related administrative offences pending judgement and referred to the illegal production, purchasing, storage, transportation, shipment of drugs or psychotropic substances not for selling purposes and in small quantities ([Art. 44 of CUAO](#)). Of them, 7 003 cases were judged and court decisions made.

In 2016-2022, the number of cases that were judged remained almost unchanged, with an average of 84.0% of the total number of cases on drug-related administrative offences that were pending court judgement.

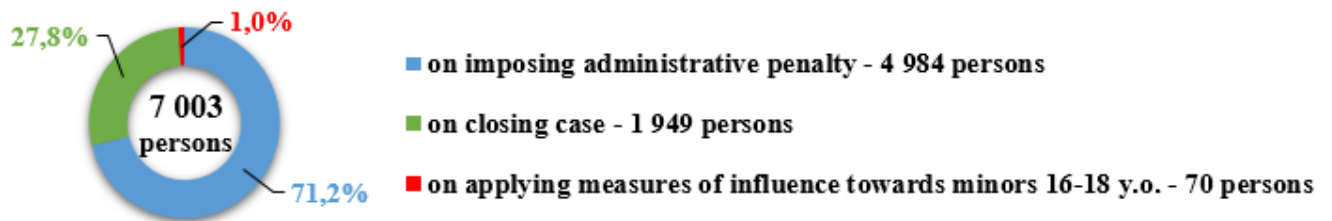
Number of cases on drug-related administrative offences judged in courts in 2016-2022



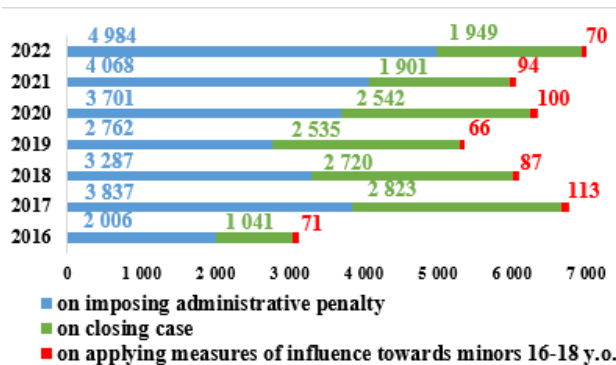
Calculation source: Reports of courts of first instance on judging cases on administrative offences for [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#).

Thus, cases on drug-related administrative offences were judged with respect of 7 003 persons that resulted in making a relevant court decision*.

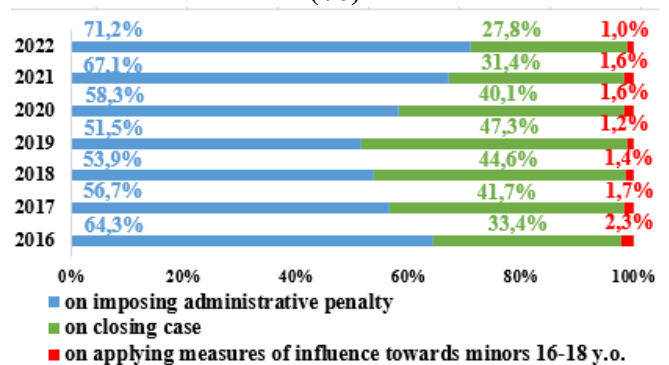
Persons with respect of whom the cases on drug-related administrative offences were judged and decisions were made in 2022



Number of persons with respect of whom cases were judged in 2016-2022, by decision



Proportion of persons with respect of whom cases were judged in 2016-2022, by decision (%)



Calculation source: Reports of courts of first instance on judging cases on administrative offences for [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#).

Note:

*Measures of influence towards minors are provided for in Article 24-1 of the CUAO (obligation to publicly or otherwise apologize to the victim; warning; (severe) reprimand; transfer of the minor either under the supervision of parents / persons in loco parentis, or under the supervision of a teaching or labor team with their consent or individuals at their request).

The decisions on imposing administrative penalty are the most common court verdicts in cases on drug-related administrative offences, having the proportion of 71,2% in the structure of court decisions in 2022.

In 2019-2022 there was an increasing trend for the number of individuals with respect of whom the court decided to impose an administrative penalty.

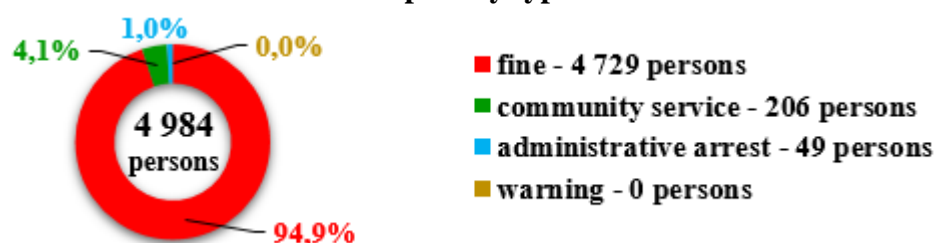
Number of persons with respect of whom the court decided to impose an administrative penalty in 2016-2022



Calculation source: Reports of courts of first instance on judging cases on administrative offences for [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#).

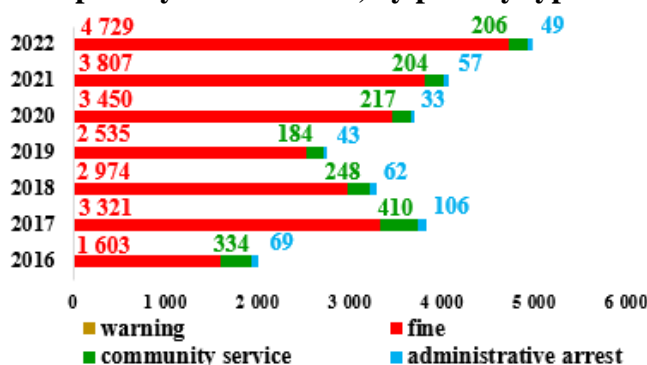
In 2022, 4 984 individuals were brought to administrative liability with an administrative penalty imposed, and the vast majority of them (94,9%) were fined.

Persons with respect of whom the court decided to impose an administrative penalty in 2022, by penalty type

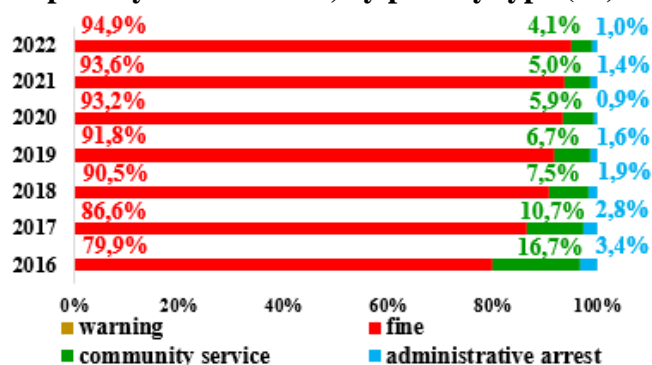


In 2016-2022, fines* remained the main type of administrative penalty. The proportion of fined individuals has been steadily increasing from year to year. Accordingly, the proportion of individuals charged with community service and administrative arrest has been decreasing.

Number of persons with respect of whom the court decided to impose an administrative penalty in 2016-2022, by penalty type



Proportion of persons with respect of whom the court decided to impose an administrative penalty in 2016-2022, by penalty type (%)



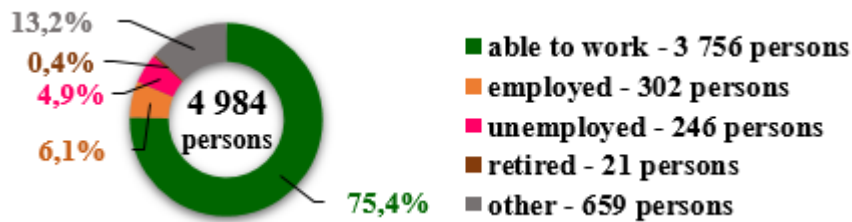
Calculation source: Reports of courts of first instance on judging cases on administrative offences for [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#).

Note: * – the amount of fine varies between 50 to 100 nontaxable minimum incomes

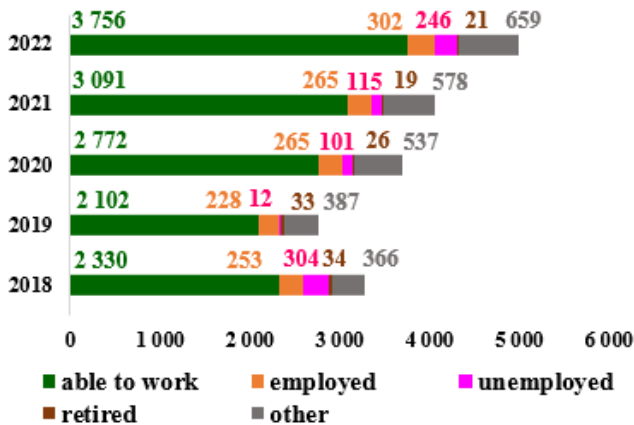
In 2022, the largest proportion (75,4%) of the total number of persons brought to administrative liability belonged to the able-to-work individuals who were not working or studying at the time of committing their offence.

In 2018-2022, the proportion of such persons in the structure of all those brought to administrative liability remained almost unchanged and averaged 74,6%.

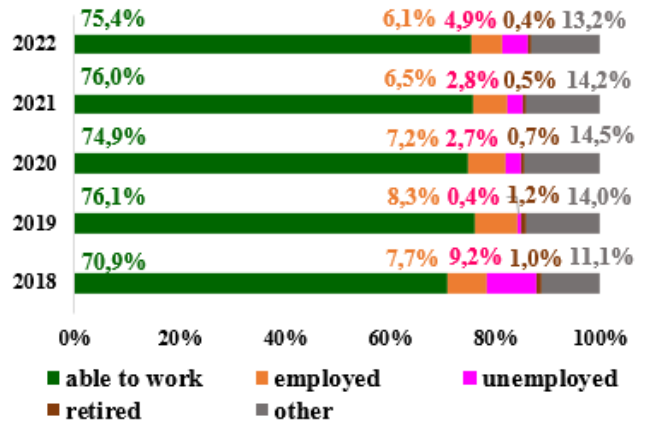
Persons with respect of whom the court decided to impose an administrative penalty in 2022, by employment



Number of persons with respect of whom the court decided to impose an administrative penalty in 2018-2022, by employment



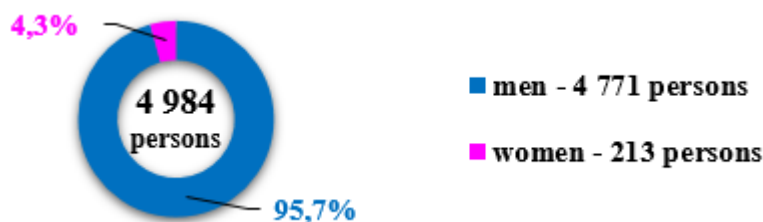
Proportion of persons with respect of whom the court decided to impose an administrative penalty in 2018-2022, by employment (%)



Calculation source: Reports of courts of first instance on judging cases on administrative offences for [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#). No data breakdown before 2018.

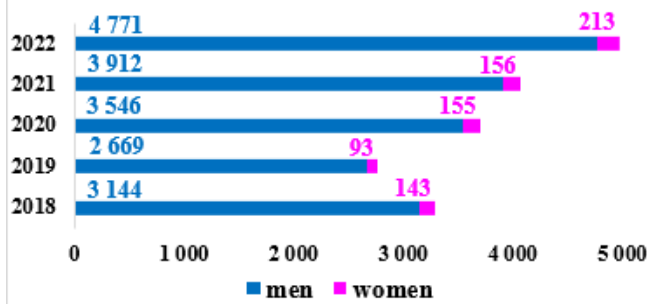
95,7% of the total number of persons brought to administrative liability were men.

Persons with respect of whom the court decided to impose an administrative penalty in 2022, by gender

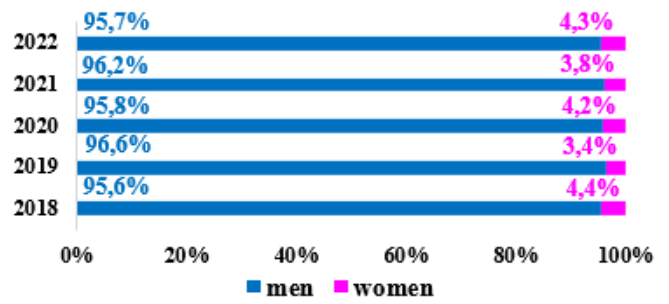


In 2018-2022, the gender breakdown of persons brought to administrative liability remained almost unchanged (on average: 96, 0% of men and 4,0% of women).

Number of persons with respect of whom the court decided to impose an administrative penalty in 2018-2022, by gender



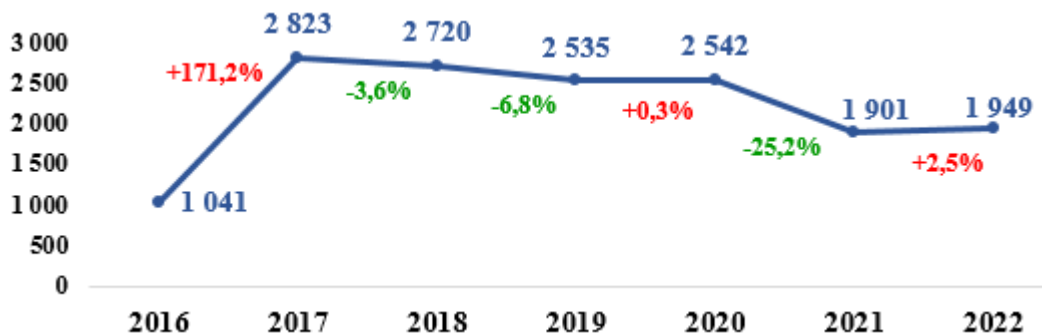
Proportion of persons with respect of whom the court decided to impose an administrative penalty in 2018-2022, by gender (%)



Calculation source: Reports of courts of first instance on judging cases on administrative offences for [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#). No data breakdown before 2018.

The second most common type of court decision in cases on drug-related administrative offences is to close the case.

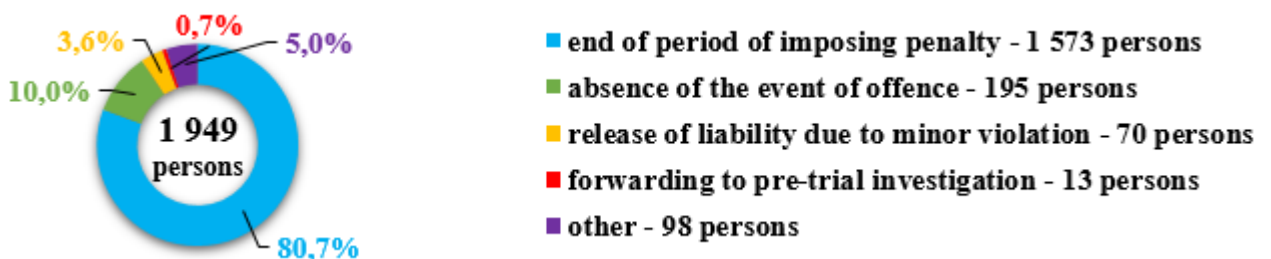
Number of persons with respect of whom the court decided to close the case in 2016-2022



Calculation source: Reports of courts of first instance on judging cases on administrative offences for [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#).

In 2022, a decision on case closure was made with respect of 1 949 individuals (27,8% of the total number of people with respect of whom the cases were judged). At the same time, the main reason for closing a case is the expiration of the period of imposing an administrative penalty (80,7% of the case closure reasons).

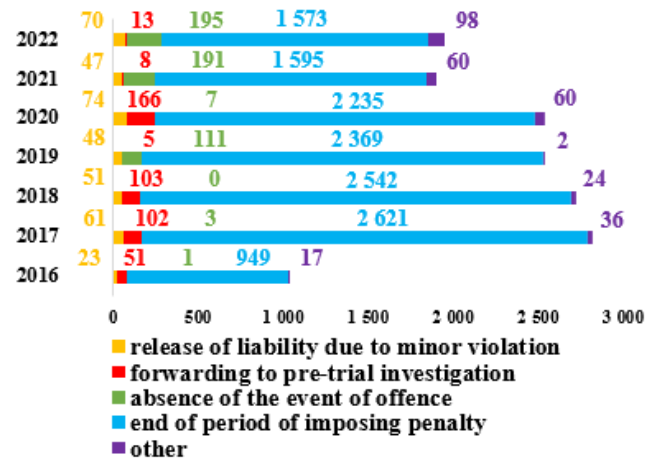
Persons with respect of whom the court decided to close the case in 2022, by reason



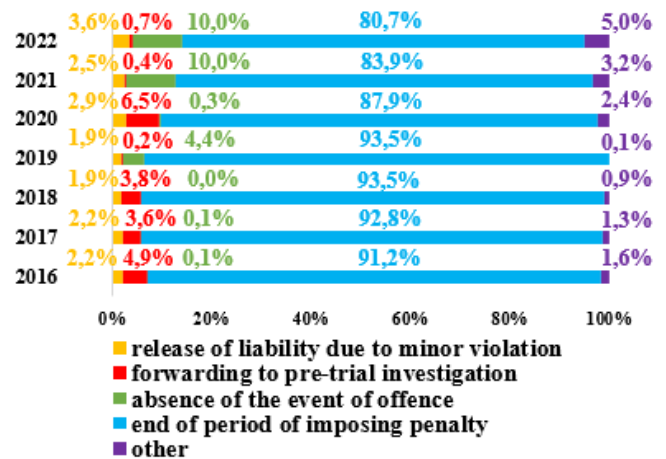
The proportion of persons with respect of whom the court decided to close the case due to the expiration of the period of imposing administrative penalty remained the highest in 2016-2022 (89,1% on average for that period), but has been trending downward since 2019.

There has also been an increase in the proportion of individuals whose cases were closed due to release of liability due to minor violation and due to the absence of the event of offence.

Number of persons with respect of whom the court decided to close the case in 2016-2022, by reason



Proportion of persons with respect of whom the court decided to close the case in 2016-2022, by reason (%)



Calculation source: Reports of courts of first instance on judging cases on administrative offences for [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#).

The Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences ([Part 2 of Article 13](#)) provides that individuals aged 16 to 18 who commit administrative offences as stipulated in [Article 44](#), “Illegal production, purchase, possession, transportation, shipment of drugs or psychotropic substances not for selling purposes in small quantities” shall be subject to administrative liability on general grounds.

However, taking into account the nature of the committed offence and the personality of the offender, the measures of influence stipulated by [Article 24-1](#) of this Code may be applied to such individuals.

So, in 2022, with respect to 70 individuals aged 16 to 18 (1,0% of the total number of judged cases), the courts made decisions to apply measures of influence as provided by Article 24-1 of the CUAO.

Minors aged 16 to 18 years with respect of whom the courts decided on applying measures of influence in 2016-2022



Calculation source: Reports of courts of first instance on judging cases on administrative offences for [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#).

The total amount of fines imposed by courts in cases on drug-related administrative offence amounted to EUR 95,0 thousand in 2022 (an average of EUR 20,7 per person).

Amount of fine, imposed by court in cases on drug-related administrative offences in 2016-2022 (EUR thousand)

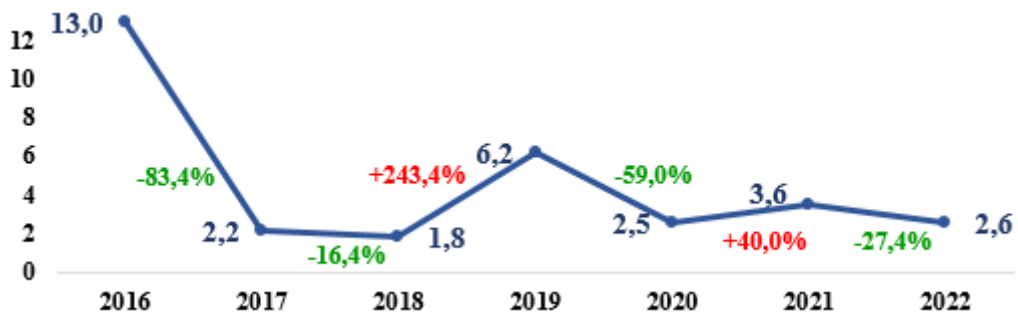


Calculation source: Reports of courts of first instance on judging cases on administrative offences for [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#).

Information on seized substances in cases on drug-related administrative offences is available in the annual “Report of courts of first instance on judging cases on administrative offences”, however only in the form of the overall volumes, i.e., without breakdown by substance type, due to the small quantities of substances seized.

In 2022, the total volume of seized substances in cases on drug-related administrative offences was 2,6 kilograms.

Volume of seized substances on drug-related administrative offences in 2016-2022 (kg)



Calculation source: Reports of courts of first instance on judging cases on administrative offences for [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#).

Criminal liability

Criminal liability is defined in the Criminal Code of Ukraine ([CCU](#)) and is provided for smuggling; using funds obtained from illicit trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogs, and precursors; illegal production, manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, shipment or sale of substances; cultivation of opium poppy or cannabis; arrangement or maintenance of settings for illegal use, production, or manufacturing of substances; illegal issuance of prescriptions for purchasing substances, as well as violations of the established rules for the circulation of drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogs or precursors.

Information/data on drug-related criminal offences

The data on drug-related criminal offences is available in the following reports:

1. [“Single report on criminal offences”](#).
2. [“Single report on persons who committed criminal offences”](#).

The above reports are prepared by the [Office of the Prosecutor General](#) and are published on the web-site.

3. [“Report of courts of first instance on judging cases on criminal proceedings”](#).
4. [“Report on persons brought to criminal liability and types of criminal punishment”](#).

5. [“Report on the convicted persons”](#).

6. [“Report on minor convicts”](#).

7. [“Report of courts of appeal on judging appeals in criminal proceedings”](#).

The above reports are prepared by the [State Judicial Administration of Ukraine](#) and are published on the [web-portal](#).

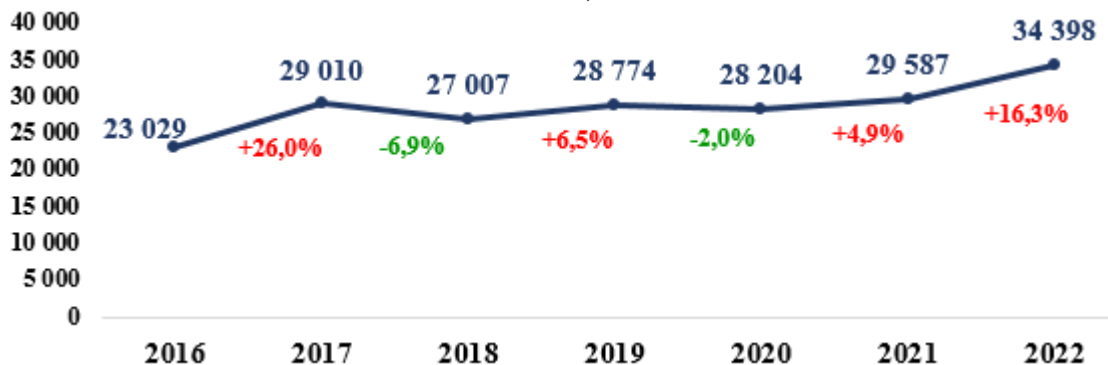
8. [“Report on the Administration of Justice by the Supreme Court”](#).

9. [“Report on the administration of justice by the Criminal Cassation Code”](#).

The above reports are prepared by the [Supreme Court](#) and the Criminal Cassation Court within the Supreme Court and are published on the web-site.

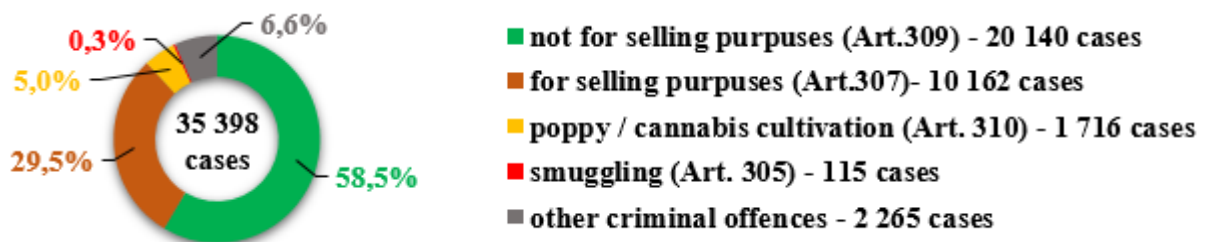
In 2022, there were registered 34 398 drug-related criminal offences, of them 22 678 offences with 13 708 persons charged with suspicion and 12 633 persons identified.

Number of registered drug-related criminal offences in 2016-2022 (Art. 305-327 of Criminal Code)



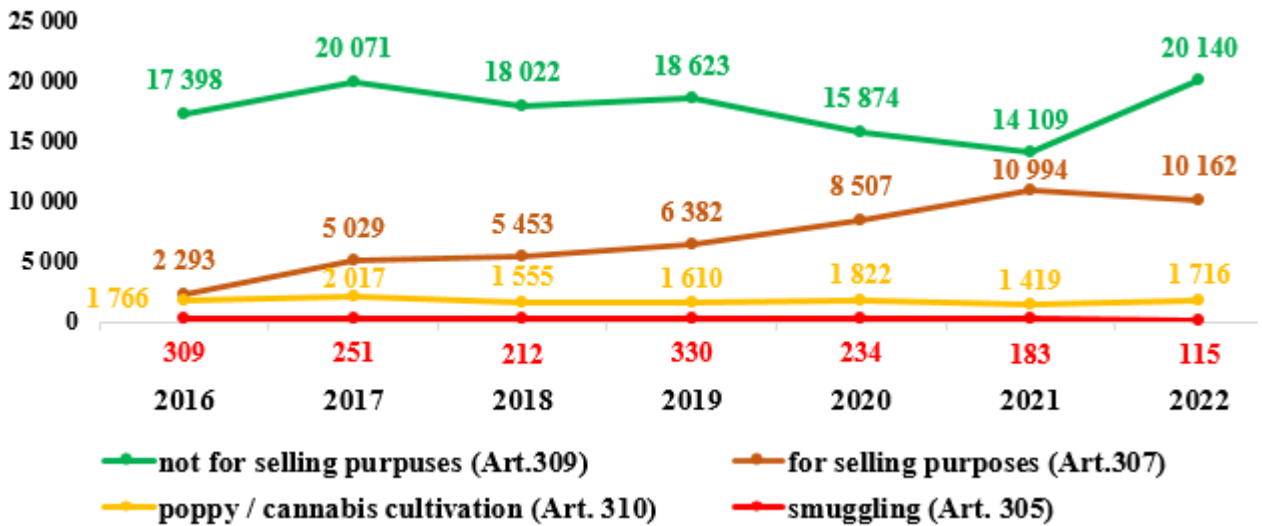
Calculation source: Single reports on criminal offences for 2016-2022.

Registered drug-related criminal offences in 2022, by type of offence



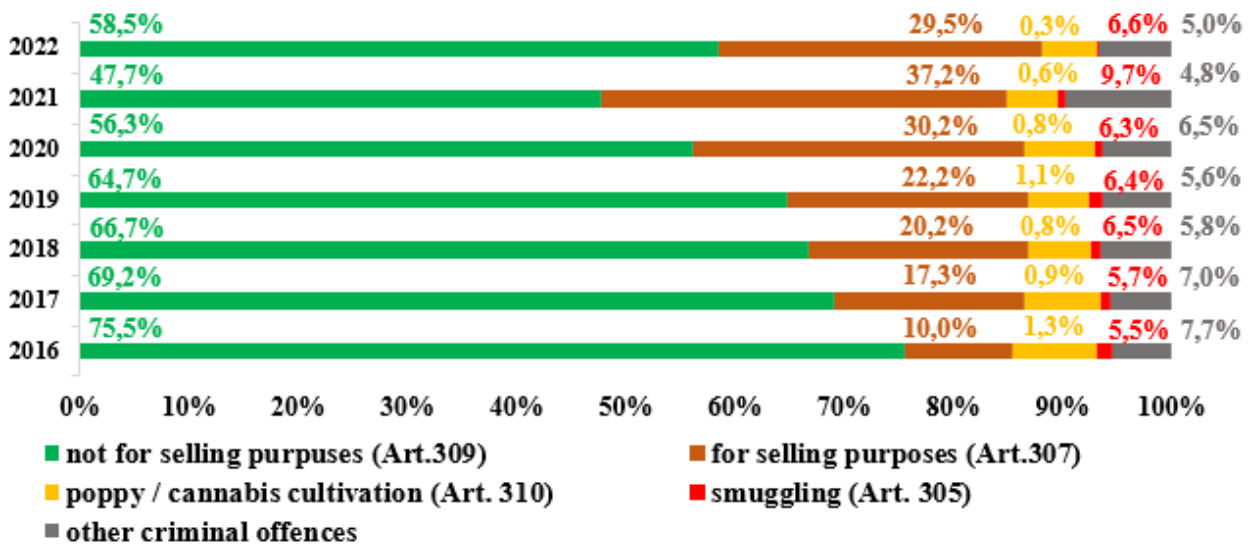
In 2016-2022, out of the total number of registered drug-related criminal offences, the proportion of offences under Art. 309 (not for selling purposes) remained the largest, although it tended to decrease steadily up to 2021. At that in 2022, the proportion of the above offences increased by 10,8 points compared to 2021.

Number of registered drug-related criminal offences in 2016-2022, by type of offence



Calculation source: Single reports on criminal offences for 2016-2022.

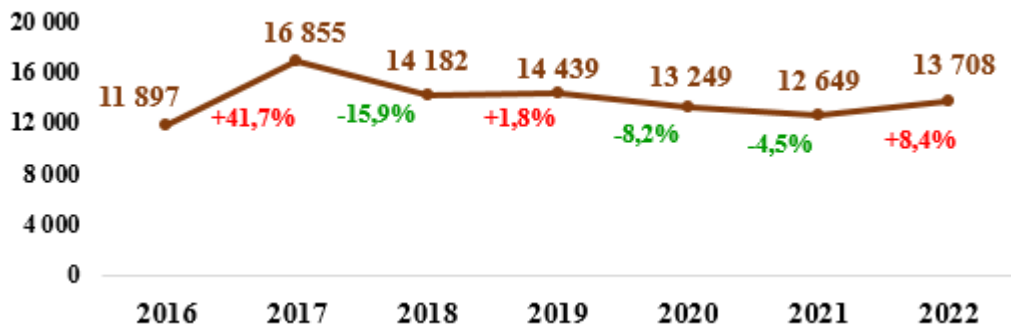
Proportion of registered drug-related criminal offences in 2016-2022, by type of offence (%)



Calculation source: Single reports on criminal offences for 2016-2022.

After a sharp increase (by 41,7%) in 2017 in the number of individuals who were charged with suspicion of committing drug-related offences, there was a general decreasing trend in that indicator, but in 2022 it grew again and increased by 8,4% compared to 2021.

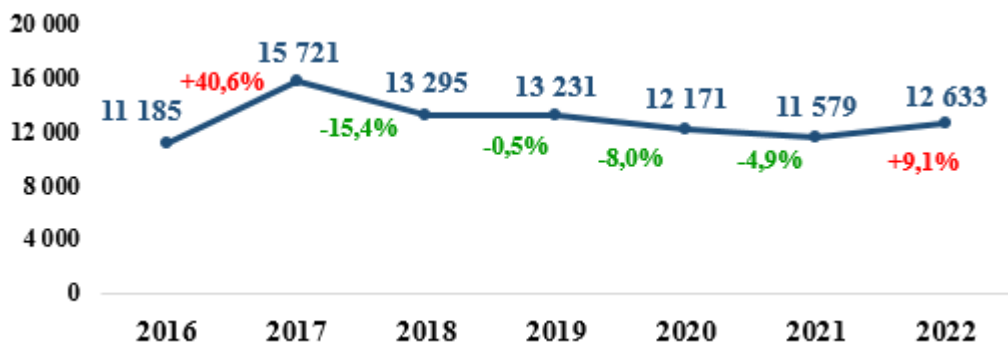
Number of persons charged with suspicion of committing drug-related criminal offences in 2016-2022 (Art. 305-327 of Criminal code)



Calculation source: Single reports on persons who committed criminal offences for 2016-2022.

The same trend was observed in terms of the number of identified persons who committed drug-related offences, i.e., with a sharp increase (by 40, 6%) in 2017, a gradual decrease up to 2021, and an increase in the number of identified individuals in 2022 (by 9,1% compared to 2021).

Number of identified individuals who committed drug-related criminal offences in 2016-2022 (Art. 305-327 of Criminal code)

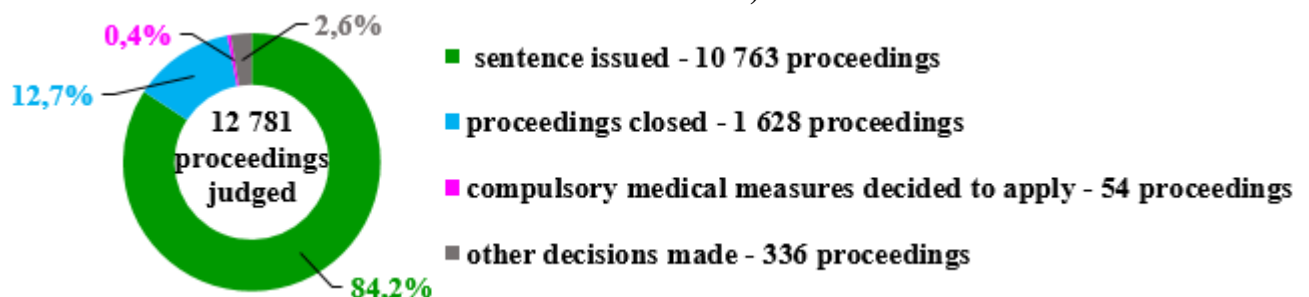


Calculation source: Single reports on persons who committed criminal offences for 2016-2022.

In 2022, **21 907** drug-related criminal proceedings (including 14 167 that came in the reporting period) were pending in courts with respect to 24 273 persons.

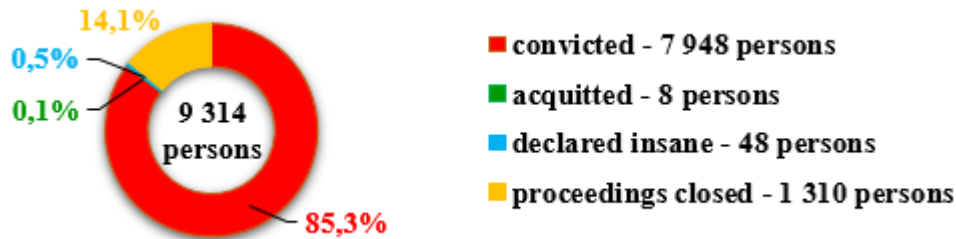
The courts of first instance judged 12 781 proceedings with most of them (10 763 or 84,2%) resulted in issuing sentences.

Results of courts' judging proceedings on drug-related criminal offences in 2022 (Art. 305-327 of Criminal Code)

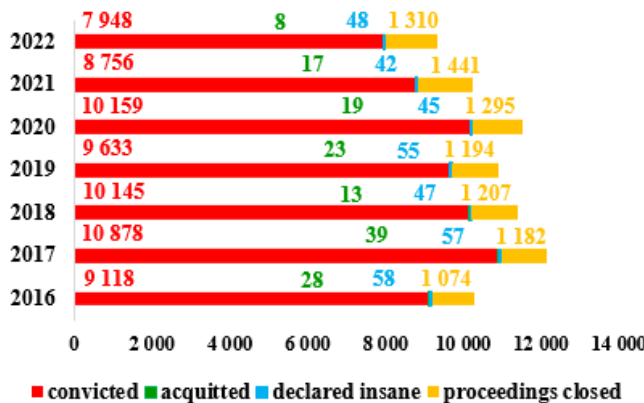


The number of persons who got the court decision entered into force for drug-related criminal offences amounted to 9 314, the vast majority of whom were convicted, which is 16,0% of the total number of convicted persons in Ukraine for all the offences. For the period of 2016-2022, that proportion averaged 14,0%.

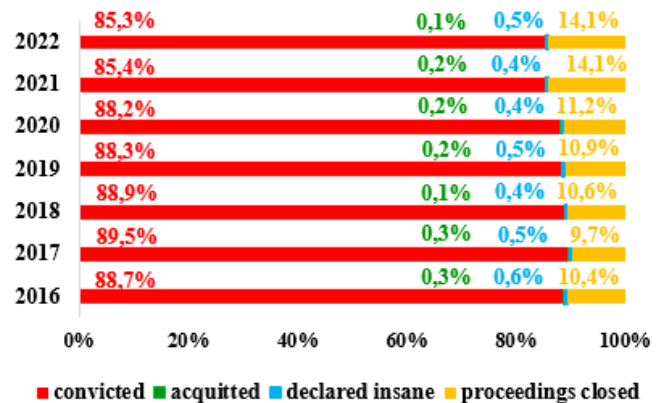
Persons who got the court decision entered into force for drug-related criminal offences in 2022, by court decision



Number of persons who got the court decision entered into force in 2016-2022, by court decision



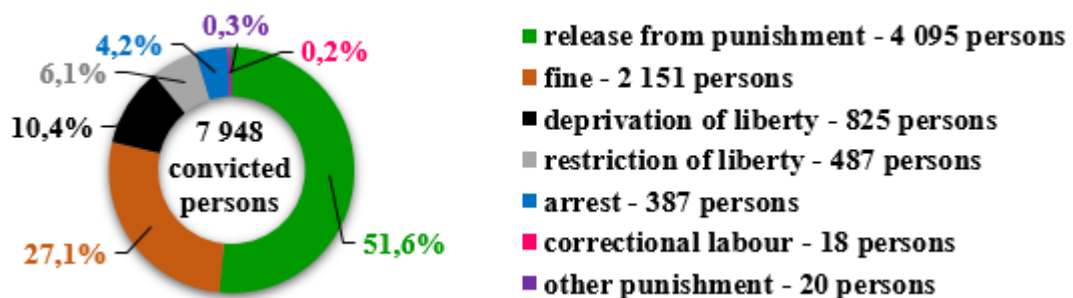
Proportion of persons who got the court decision entered into force in 2016-2022, by court decision (%)



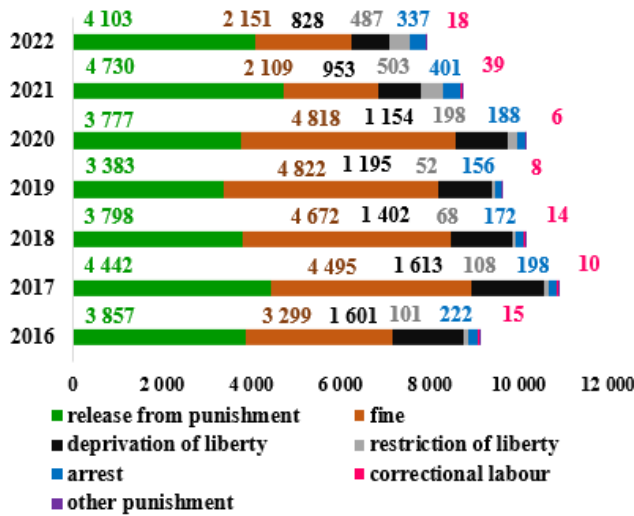
Calculation source: Reports on persons brought to criminal responsibility and types of criminal punishment for 2016-2022.

In terms of the punishment applied, out of the total number of persons convicted in 2022 under Articles 305-327 of the CCU, more than 50,0% of persons were released from punishment. In 2016-2022, their number and proportion decreased up to 2020, but increased significantly in 2021.

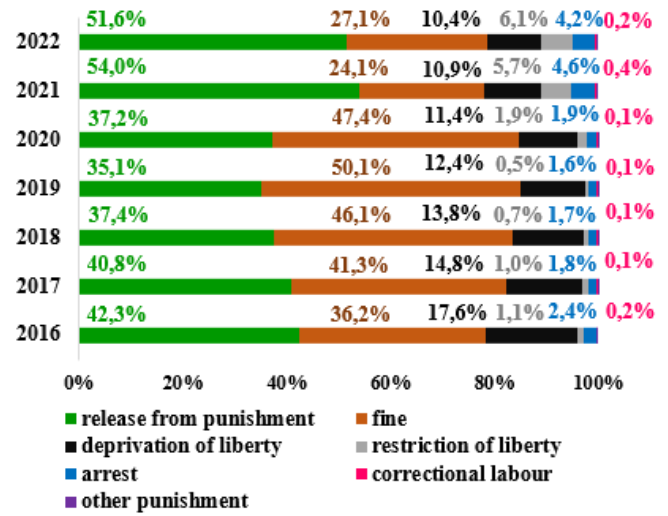
Persons, convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences in 2022, by type of punishment



Number of persons, convicted in 2016-2022, by type of punishment



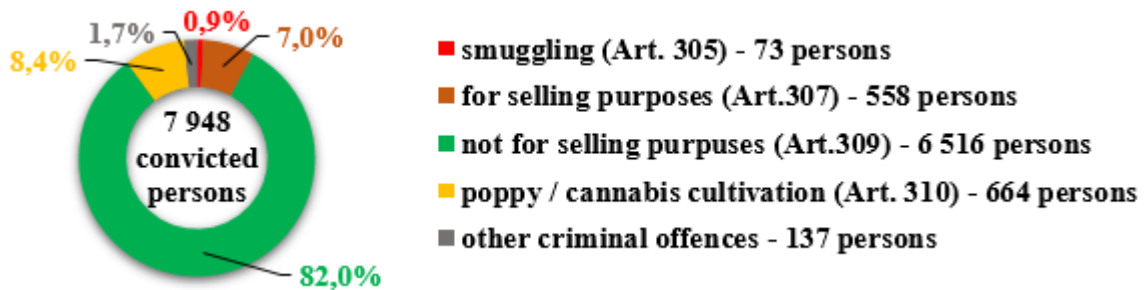
Proportion of persons, convicted in 2016-2022, by type of punishment (%)



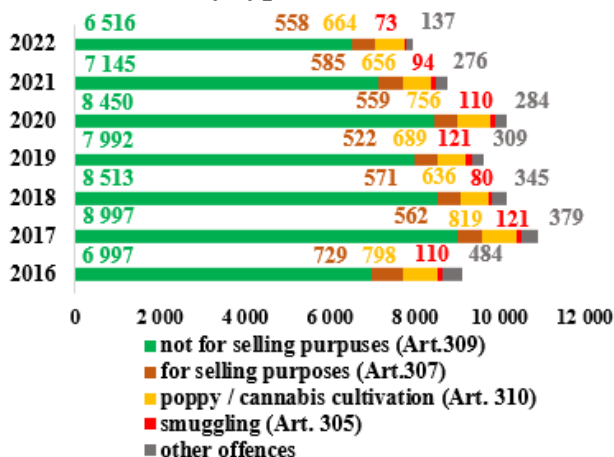
Calculation source: Reports on persons brought to criminal responsibility and types of criminal punishment for 2016-2022.

In terms of the type of offence, the largest number of persons were convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences not for selling purposes (Article 309 of the CCU). In 2016-2022, the proportion of persons convicted under this article averaged 81,9%.

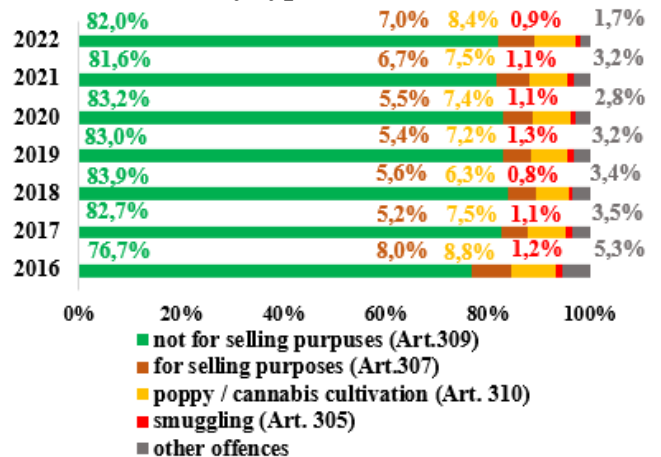
Persons, convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences in 2022, by type of offence



Number of persons, convicted in 2016-2022, by type of offence



Proportion of persons, convicted in 2016-2022, by type of offence (%)

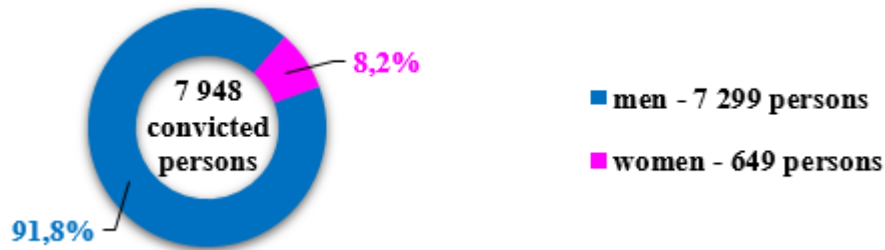


Calculation source: Reports on the convicted persons for 2016-2022.

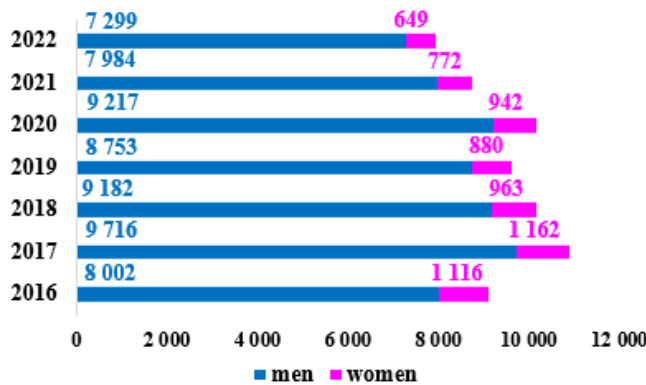
In terms of gender, in 2016-2022, the proportion of men convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences remained the highest and it tended to increase slightly but steadily every year (by 0,8 points on average). The average proportion of convicted men was 90,3% over the period.

At the same time, the proportion of convicted women decreased by one third over the same period, i.e., from 12,2% in 2016 to 8,2% in 2022.

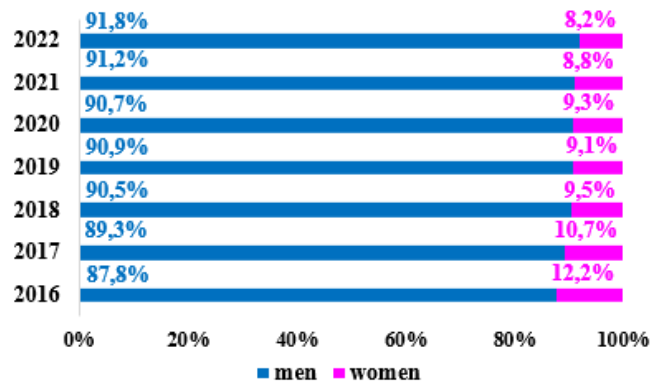
Persons, convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences in 2022, by gender



Number of persons, convicted in 2016-2022, by gender



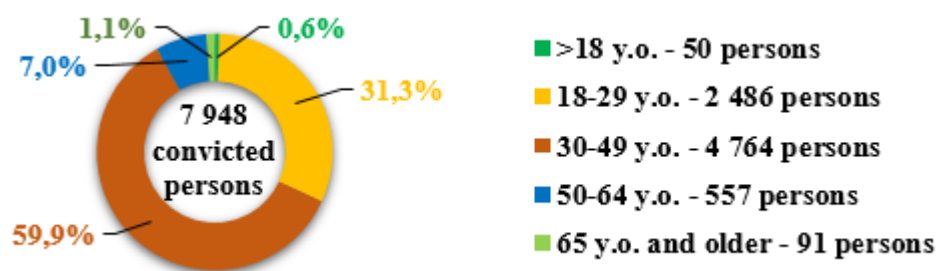
Proportion of persons, convicted in 2016-2022, by gender (%)



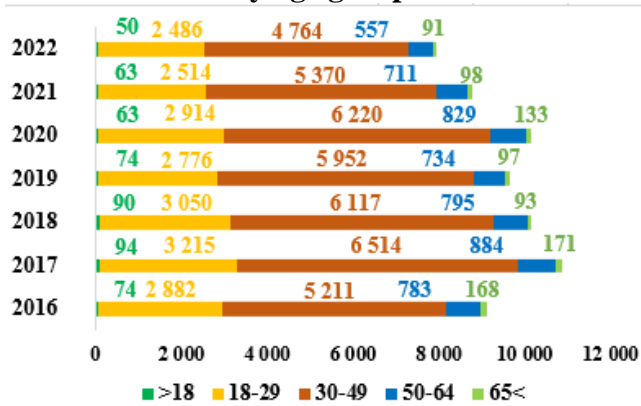
Calculation source: Reports on the convicted persons for 2016-2022.

In terms of age groups, the largest number of persons convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences in 2022 referred to the age group of 30-49 y.o. This trend remained almost unchanged during 2016-2022.

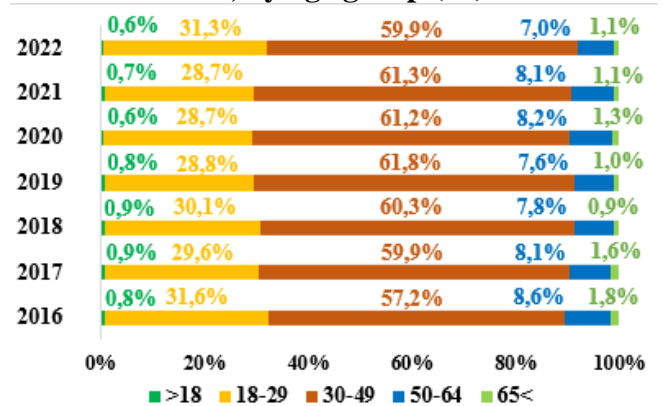
Persons, convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences in 2022, by age group



Number of persons, convicted in 2016-2022, by age group



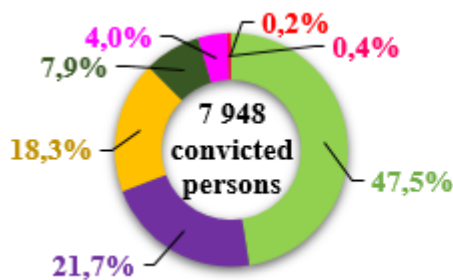
Proportion of persons, convicted in 2016-2022, by age group (%)



Calculation source: Reports on the convicted persons for 2016-2022.

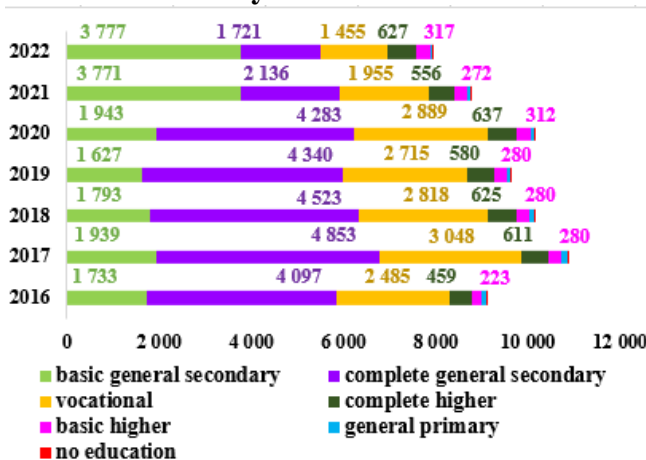
In terms of education, 6 953 people (87,5%) had complete/basic general secondary education or vocational education. In 2016-2022, there was a gradual increase in the proportion of convicted persons with complete and basic higher education. At the same time, in 2021 and 2022, the proportion of convicts with basic general secondary education increased significantly.

Persons, convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences in 2022, by education

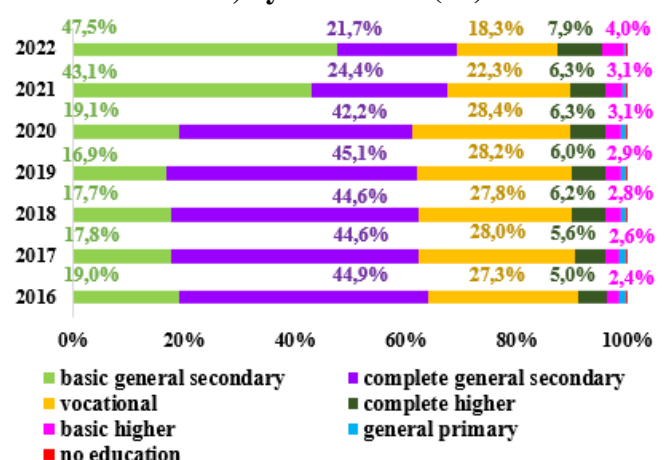


- basic general secondary - 3 777 persons
- complete general secondary - 1 721 persons
- vocational - 1 455 persons
- complete higher - 627 persons
- basic higher - 317 persons
- general primary - 35 persons
- no education - 14 persons

Number of persons, convicted in 2016-2022, by education



Proportion of persons, convicted in 2016-2022, by education (%)



Calculation source: Reports on the convicted persons for 2016-2022.

In 2022, out of the total number of persons convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences 172 persons (2,2%) committed them in group/ organized group/ criminal organization, and 129 persons (1,6%) committed them under the effect of drugs.

As for the employment of the convicts at the moment of committing their offence, 6 181 individuals (77,8%) were able to work, but neither of them worked nor studied.

Out of the total number of persons convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences 50 individuals (0,6%) were minors aged 14-18.

Number of minors aged 14-18 y.o., convicted for committing criminal offences in 2016-2022 (Art. 305-327 of Criminal code)



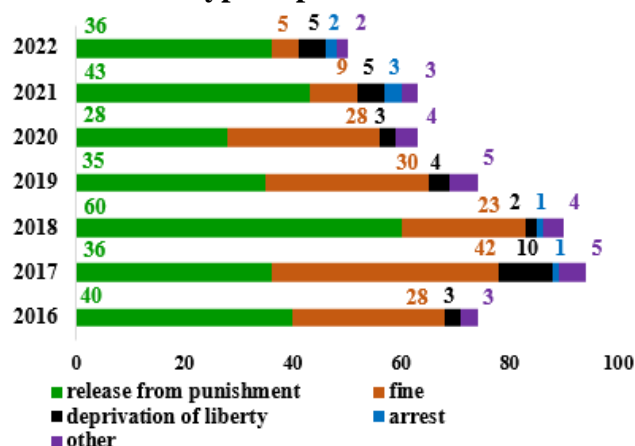
Calculation source: Reports on minor convicts for 2016-2022.

In terms of the punishment applied, out of the total number of persons aged 14-18 y.o. convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences, the largest proportion of them (72.0%) were released from punishment.

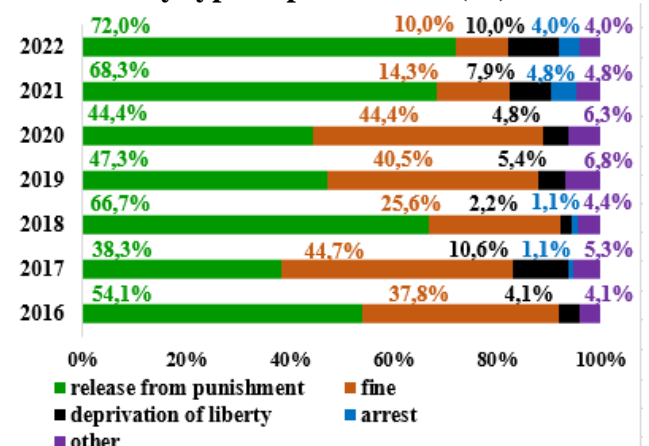
Minors aged 14-18 y.o., convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences in 2022, by type of punishment



Number of minors, convicted in 2016-2022, by type of punishment



Proportion of minors, convicted in 2016-2022, by type of punishment (%)

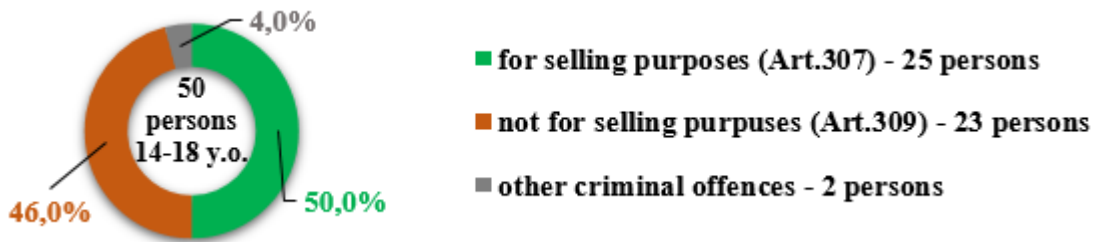


Calculation source: Reports on minor convicts for 2016-2022.

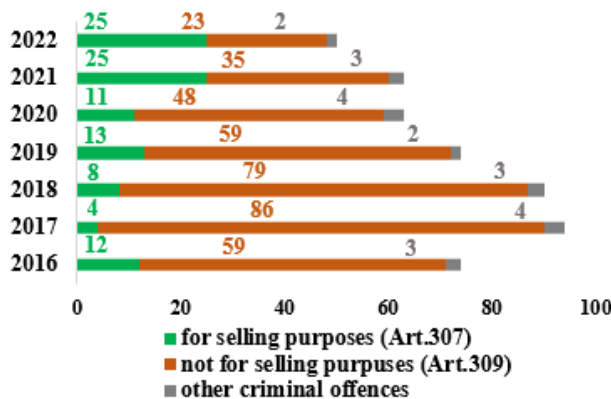
In 2022, out of the total number of individuals aged 14-18 y.o. that were convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences, 50,0% of minors were convicted for the offences for selling purposes (Article 307 of the CCU).

At the same time, it's worth noting that in 2016-2021, the largest proportion of minors aged 14-18 y.o. were convicted for committing drug-related offences not for selling purposes (Article 309 of the CCU). However, that proportion steadily decreased while the proportion of minors convicted under Article 307 increased simultaneously.

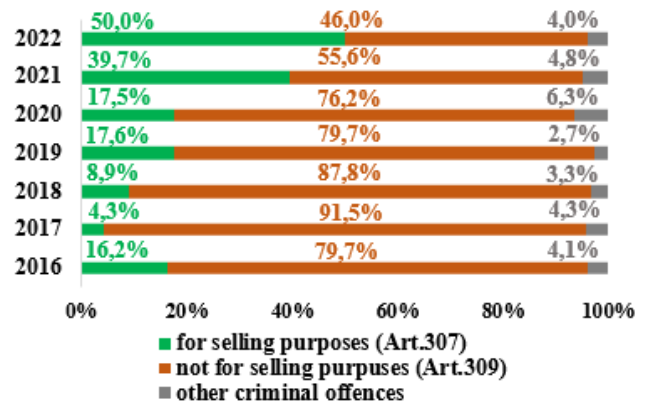
Minors aged 14-18 y.o., convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences in 2022, by type of offence



Number of minors, convicted in 2016-2022, by type of offence



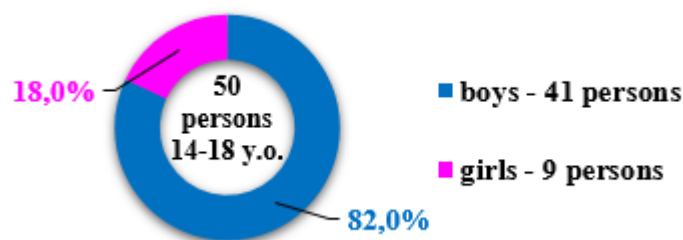
Proportion of minors, convicted in 2016-2022, by type of offence (%)



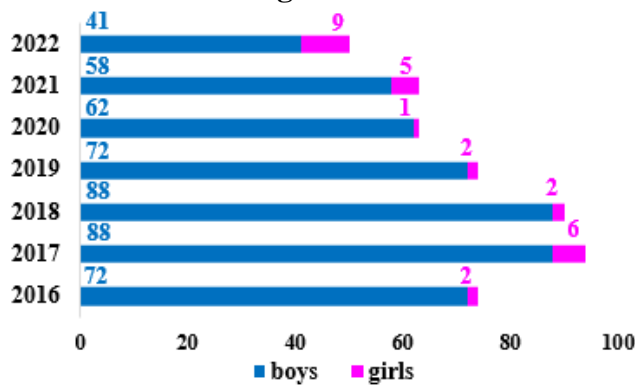
Calculation source: Reports on minor convicts for 2016-2022.

In terms of gender, out of the total number of minor convicts aged 14-18 y.o., boys accounted for more than 80,0%. It should be observed that in 2022, the proportion of girls 2,2 times compared to 2021 and 11,2 times compared to 2020.

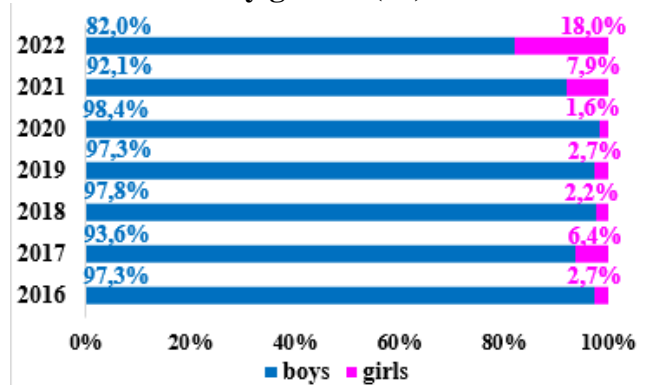
Minors aged 14-18 y.o., convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences in 2022, by gender



Number of minors, convicted in 2016-2022, by gender



Proportion of minors, convicted in 2016-2022, by gender (%)



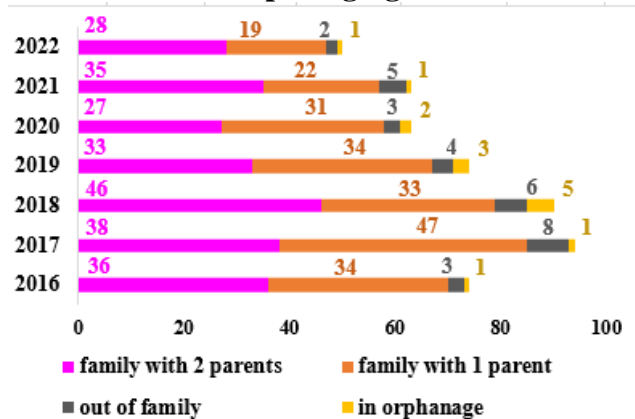
Calculation source: Reports on minor convicts for 2016-2022.

In terms of upbringing conditions, the majority of minor convicts (56,0%) were brought up in full families.

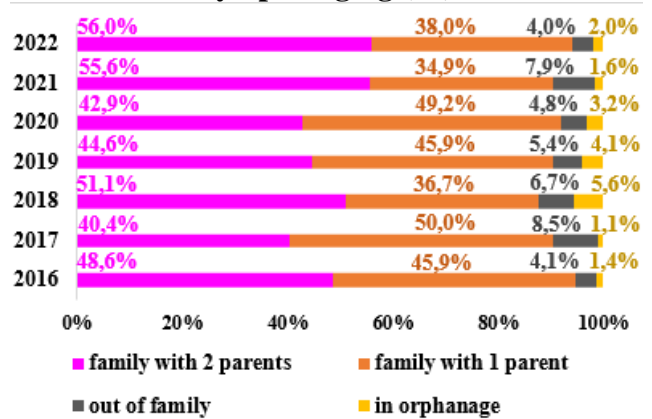
Minors aged 14-18 y.o., convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences in 2022, by upbringing



Number of minors, convicted in 2016-2022, by upbringing



Proportion of minors, convicted in 2016-2022, by upbringing (%)



Calculation source: Reports on minor convicts for 2016-2022.

In 2022, out of the total number of minors aged 14-18 y.o. convicted for committing drug-related offences, 5 persons (10,0%) committed them in a group.

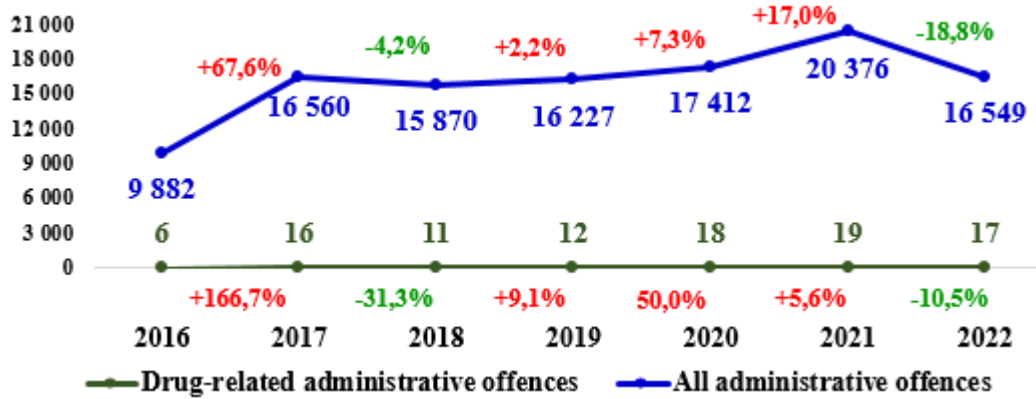
As for the employment of the minor convicts at the moment of committing their offence, 25 persons (50,0%) were able to work, but neither of them worked nor studied, and in terms of education, 37 persons (74,0%) had a basic general secondary education.

Appeals and cassations on drug-related offences

Cases reviewed on appeal on drug-related administrative offences

In 2022, the proportion of cases reviewed on appeal on drug-related administrative offences amounted to 0,1% of the total number of cases reviewed on appeal on administrative offences. This figure remained unchanged in 2016-2022.

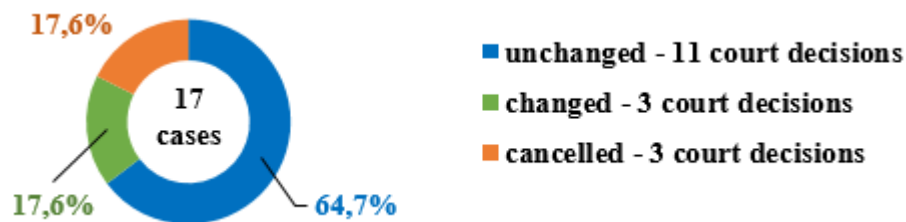
Number of cases reviewed on appeal on administrative offences in 2016-2022



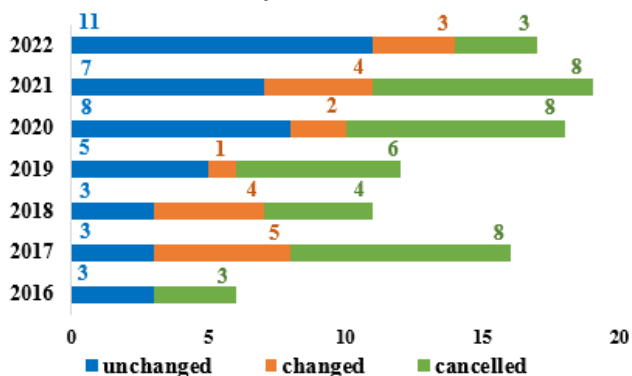
Calculation source: Reports of courts of appeal on judging appeals on administrative offences for 2016-2022.

Out of 24 cases on drug-related administrative offences pending review by courts of appeal in 2022, 17 cases were reviewed.

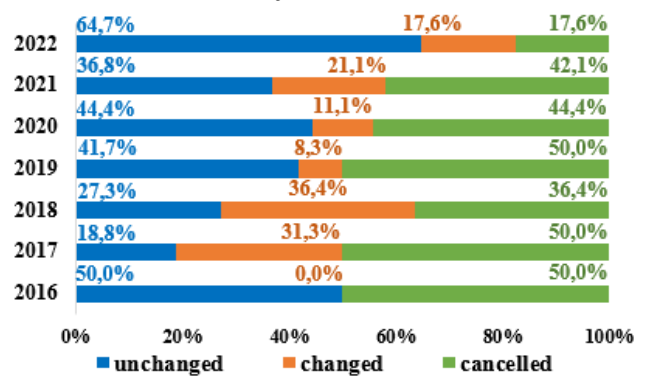
Results of the review on appeal of cases on drug-related administrative offences in 2022



Number of cases, reviewed on appeal in 2016-2022, by court decision



Proportion of cases, reviewed on appeal in 2016-2022, by court decision (%)

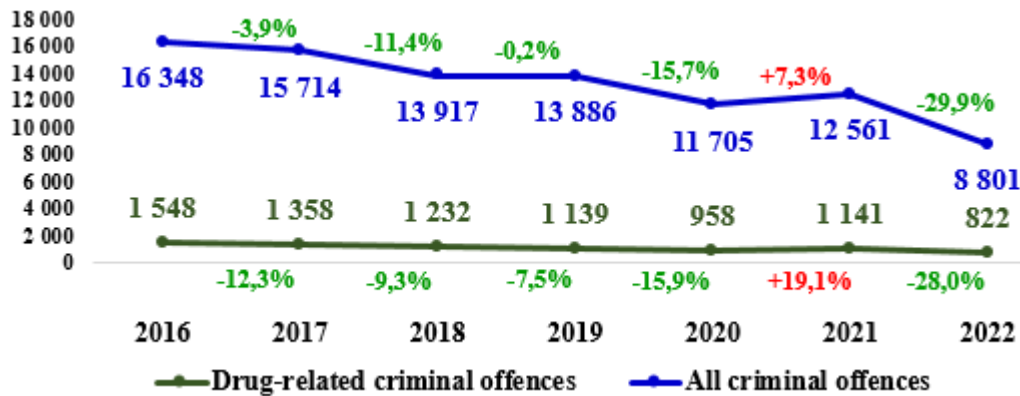


Calculation source: Reports of courts of appeal on judging appeals on administrative offences for 2016-2022.

Sentences reviewed on appeal on drug-related criminal offences

In 2022, the proportion of sentences reviewed on appeal on drug-related criminal offences amounted to 9,3% of the total number of sentences reviewed on appeal on criminal offences. In 2016-2022, that figure averaged 8,8%.

Number of sentences reviewed on appeal on drug-related criminal offences in 2016-2022

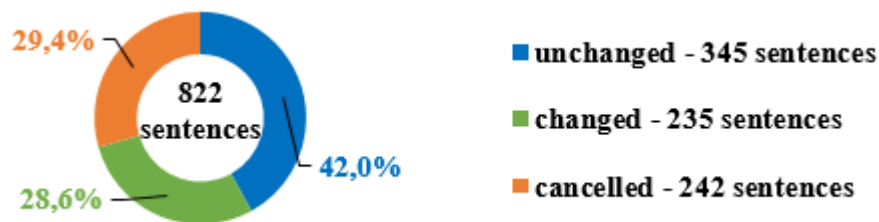


Calculation source: Reports of courts of appeal on judging appeals in criminal proceedings for 2016-2022.

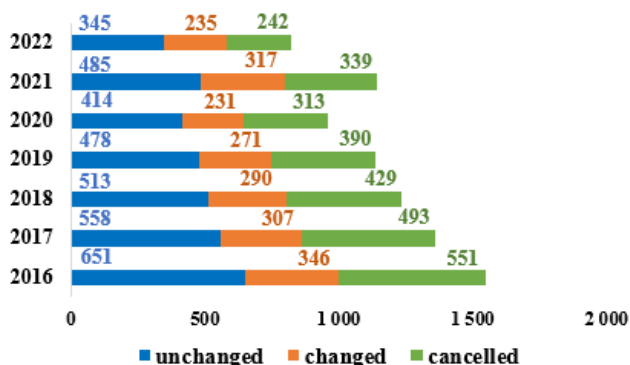
In 2022, the courts reviewed 822 sentences on drug-related criminal offences.

In the structure of the results of the sentence review, the largest proportion belonged to the decisions to leave the sentence unchanged (42,0%). That figure remained almost unchanged over 2016-2022, with a simultaneous increase in the proportion of decisions to change the sentence and a decrease in the proportion of decisions to cancel the sentence.

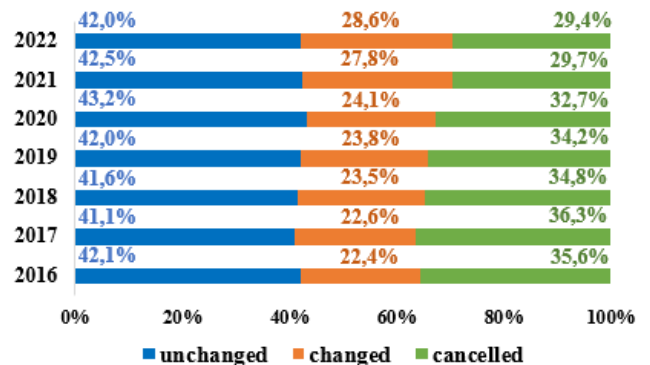
Results of review on appeal of sentences on drug-related criminal offences in 2022



Number of sentences, reviewed on appeal in 2016-2022, by verdict



Proportion of sentences, reviewed on appeal in 2016-2022, by verdict



Calculation source: Reports of courts of appeal on judging appeals in criminal proceedings for 2016-2022.

Cassation review of court decisions on drug-related criminal offences

In 2022, the proportion of court decisions on drug-related criminal offences reviewed on cassation amounted to 11,0% of the total number of court decisions on criminal offences reviewed on cassation. In 2018-2022, that figure averaged 8,9%.

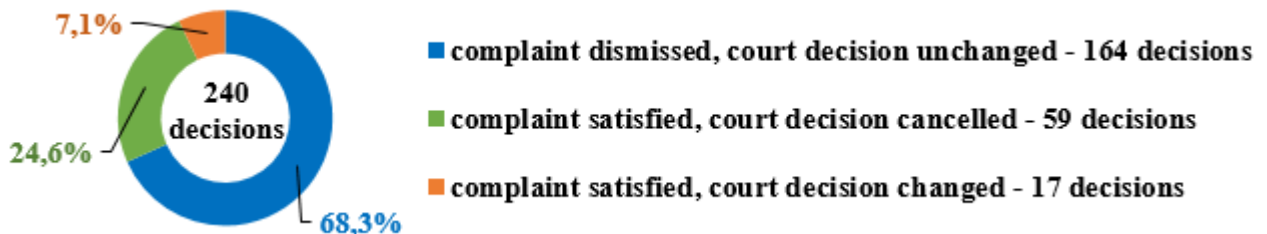
Number of court decisions, reviewed on cassation on criminal offences in 2018-2022



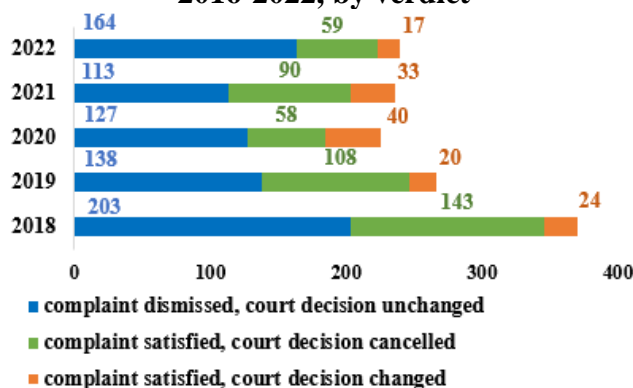
Calculation source: Reports on administering justice by the Criminal Court of Cassation within the Supreme Court for 2018-2022. Data before 2018 is unavailable*.

In the structure of the results of cassation review of court decisions on drug-related criminal offences in 2022, the largest proportion (68,3%) referred to the decisions to dismiss the complaint and leave the court decision unchanged.

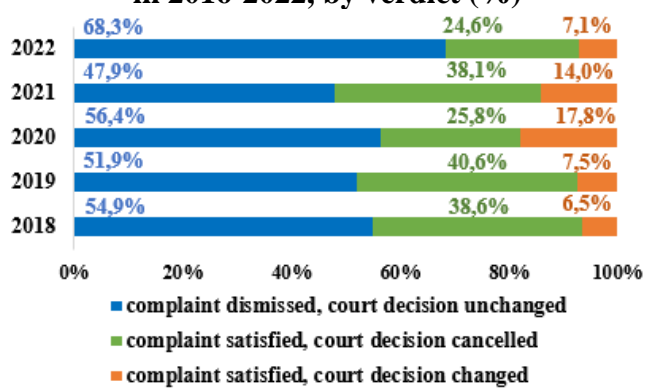
Results of cassation review of court decisions on drug-related criminal offences in 2022



Number of decisions, reviewed on cassation in 2016-2022, by verdict



Proportion of decisions, reviewed on cassation in 2016-2022, by verdict (%)



Calculation source: Reports on administering justice by the Criminal Court of Cassation within the Supreme Court for 2018-2022. Data before 2018 is unavailable*.

* As a result of the judicial reform in Ukraine in 2017, the High Specialized Court of Ukraine for Civil and Criminal Cases was abolished, and the new Supreme Court was launched on 15 December 2017. Therefore, the data before 2018 is unavailable.

Activities of law enforcement authorities

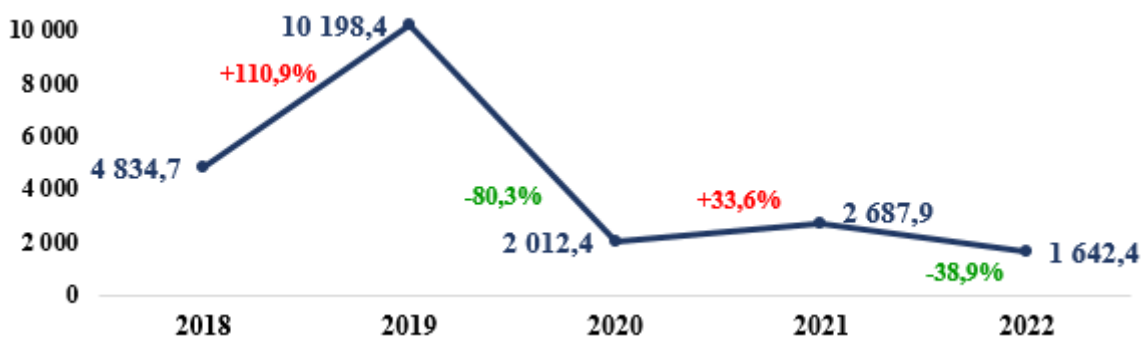
Seizures of drugs and psychotropic substances

Seizures at the beginning of pre-trial investigation

According to the Drug and Alcohol Monitoring Procedure, approved by the [Government Resolution of 10 July 2019 No. 689](#), the law enforcement authorities provide data and information on substances seized at the beginning of the pre-trial investigation, dismantled laboratories and other activities aimed at combating drug-related crime.

In 2022, the total volume of drugs and psychotropic substances seized at the beginning of the pre-trial investigation, i.e., “before the recorded offence is passed for further investigation” amounted to 1 642,4 kg, which was 38,9% less than in 2021.

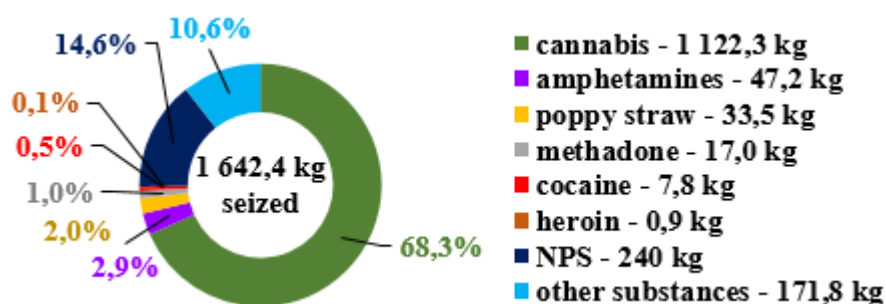
Total volume of substances, seized at the beginning of pre-trial investigation in 2018-2022 (kg)



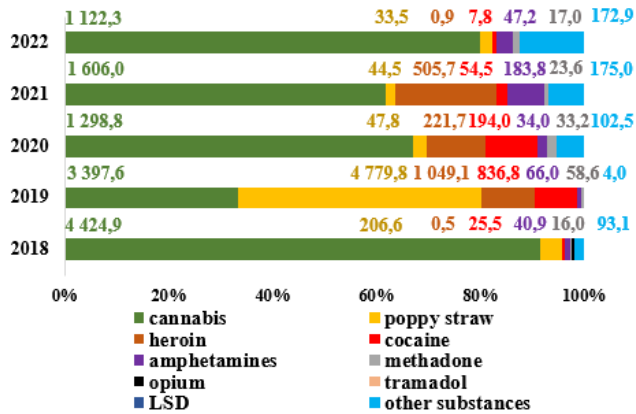
Calculation source: data by law-enforcement agencies for 2018-2022.

In 2022, the volume of seizures at the beginning of pre-trial investigation in terms of substances and their proportion was as follows:

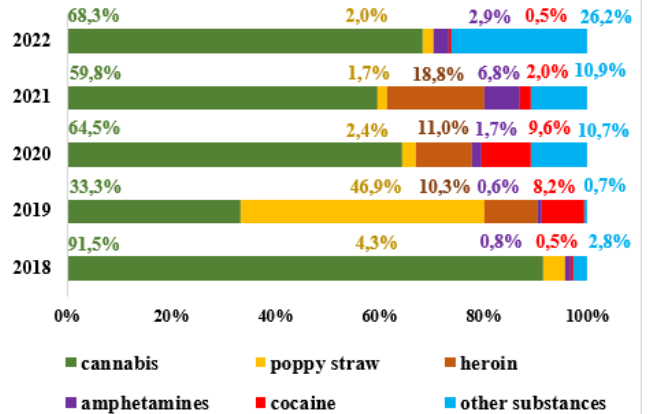
Substances, seized at the beginning of pre-trial investigation in 2022



Volume of substances, seized at the beginning of pre-trial investigation in 2018-2022 (kg)



Proportion of top-substances, seized at the beginning of pre-trial investigation in 2018-2022 (kg) (%)



Calculation source: data by law-enforcement agencies for 2018-2022.

The average volume of substances, seized at the beginning of pre-trial investigation in 2018-2022:

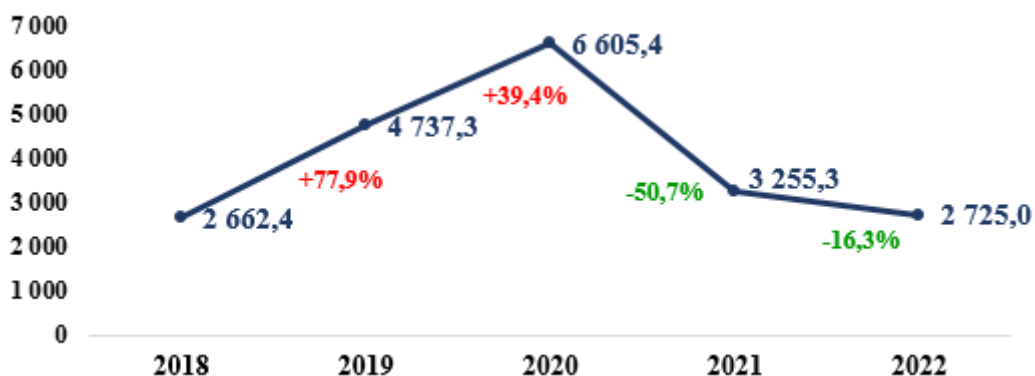
- Cannabis – 63,5%;
- Poppy straw – 11,4%;
- Heroin – 8,0%;
- Cocaine – 4,2%;
- Amphetamines – 2,6%;
- Other substances (methadone, opium, tramadol, LSD, etc.) – 10,3%.

Seizures on investigated criminal proceedings

The data on the volume of substances, seized on completed criminal proceedings, i.e., after the investigation of an offence was over, is presented in the [Single Report on Criminal Offences](#).

In 2022, the total volume of drugs and psychotropic substances seized on completed criminal proceedings amounted to 2 725,0 kg, which was 16,3% less than in 2021.

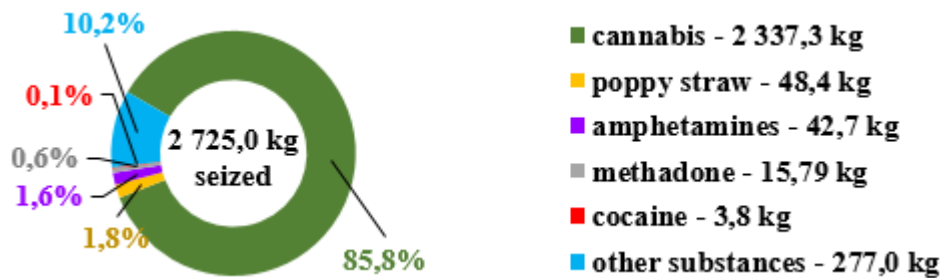
Total volume of substances, seized on investigated criminal proceedings in 2018-2022 (kg)



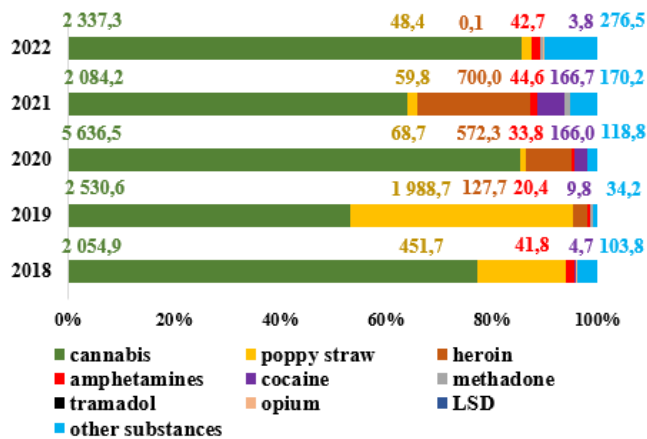
Calculation source: Single reports on criminal offences for 2018-2022.

In 2022, the volume of seizures on investigated criminal proceedings in terms of substances and their proportion was as follows:

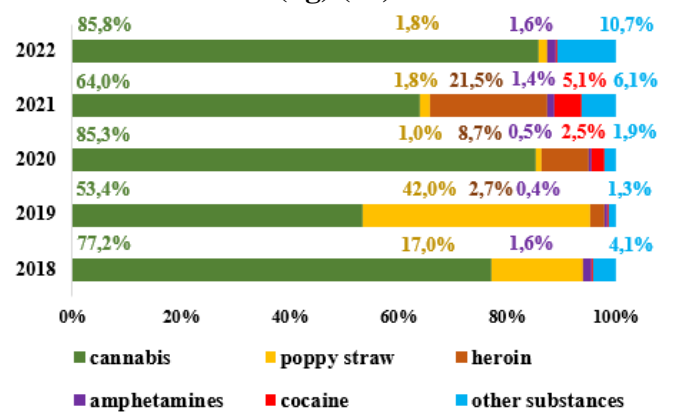
Substances, seized on investigated criminal proceedings in 2022



Volume of substances, seized on investigated criminal proceedings in 2018-2022 (kg)



Proportion of top-substances, seized on investigated criminal proceedings in 2018-2022 (kg) (%)



Calculation source: Single reports on criminal offences for 2018-2022.

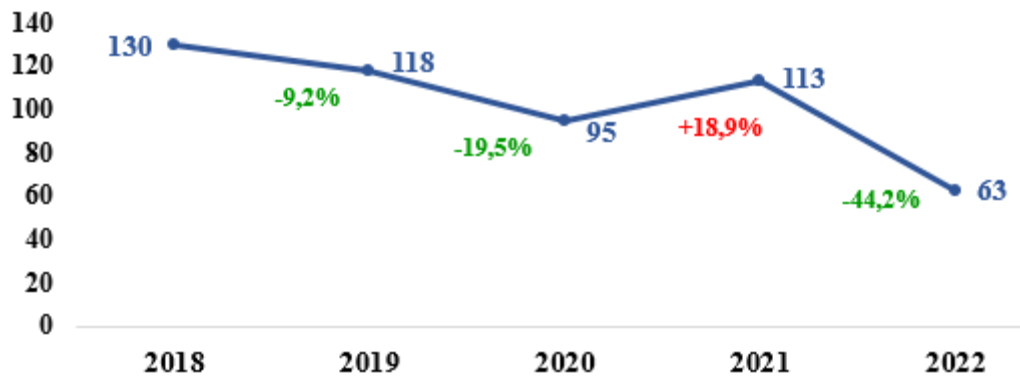
The average volume of substances, seized on investigated criminal proceedings in 2018-2022:

- Cannabis – 73,1%;
- Poppy straw – 12,7%;
- Heroin – 6,6%;
- Cocaine – 1,6%;
- Amphetamines – 1,1%;
- Other substances (methadone, opium, tramadol, LSD, etc.) – 4,8%.

Dismantled drug laboratories

In 2018-2022, there was a general trend towards a decrease in the number of dismantled clandestine laboratories that produced drugs and psychotropic substances. This is explained by both the improvement of laws on combating illicit drug trafficking, and effective activities of the law enforcement agencies on detecting and dismantling such laboratories.

Total number of clandestine drug laboratories, dismantled by the National Police and Security Service in 2018-2022



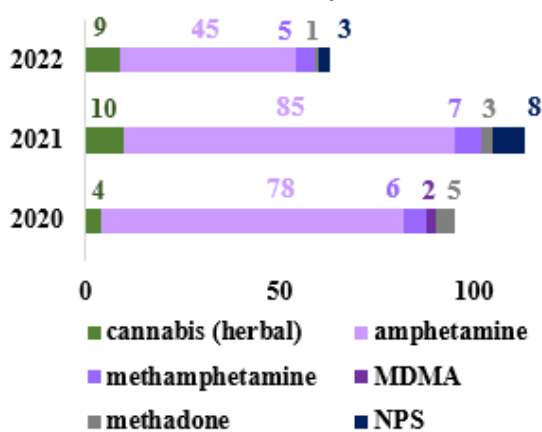
Calculation source: data by National Police and Security Service for 2018-2022.

The largest proportion of dismantled drug laboratories manufactured synthetic substances of amphetamine family. At the same time, amphetamine ranks first in terms of production in the structure of those laboratories with a proportion of 82,1%, 75,2% and 71,4% in 2020-2022, respectively. There is a trend, however, of its decreasing proportion in the structure of the above labs. The downward trend in the number of clandestine laboratories that produced amphetamine is explained by strengthening the national control over the precursors used for its production.

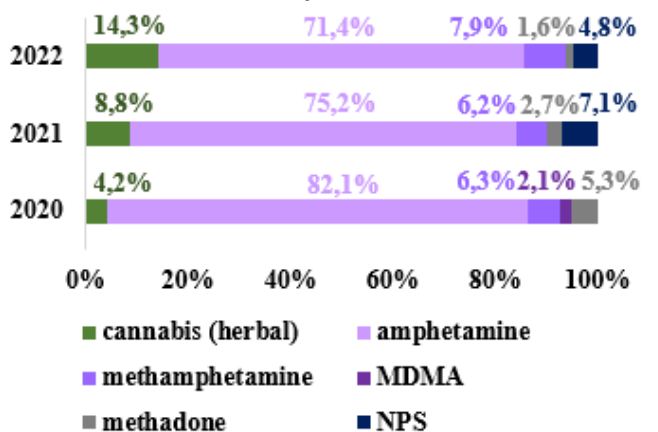
At that, in 2020-2022, there was a decreasing trend in the proportion of methadone laboratories from 5,3% in 2020 to 2,7% in 2021 and to 1,6% in 2022.

It is worth mentioning that in 2022, the proportion of laboratories that produced herbal cannabis and methamphetamine increased.

Number of dismantled drug laboratories in 2018-2022, by substance



Proportion of dismantled drug laboratories in 2018-2022, by substance (%)



Calculation source: data by National Police and Security Service for 2018-2022.

Note: The data breakdown by substance produced in drug laboratories is available only for 2020-2022.

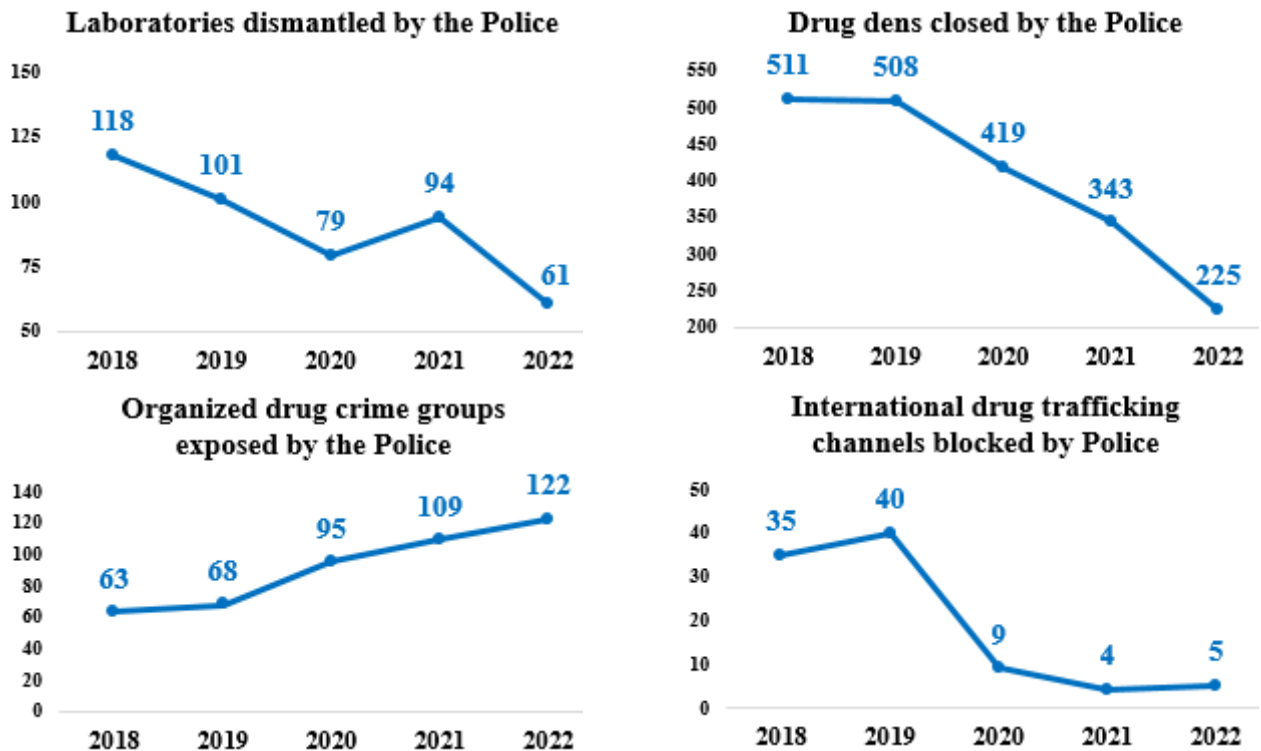
Performance of the National Police of Ukraine:

Results of the National Police’s activities in 2022:

- 61 drug laboratories dismantled;
- 225 drug dens closed;
- 122 organized drug crime groups exposed;
- 5 international drug trafficking channels blocked;

- Substances seized:

- 1 484,8 kg of drugs and psychotropic substances and 23,6 tons of precursors – at the beginning of pre-trial investigation of criminal proceedings.
- 2 434,7 kg of drugs and psychotropic substances and 26,7 tons of precursors – on investigated criminal proceedings.



Calculation source: data by Counter Narcotics Department of the National Police for 2018-2022.

The National Police cooperates tightly with their colleagues from foreign countries, in particular the European Union, as well as from international organizations:

- EUROPOL within EMPACT Project;
- DEA;
- INL;
- UNODC.

Examples of the National Police’s activities to combat illicit drug trafficking:

July 2022. The Counter Narcotics Department of the National Police (CND) held preventive inspections in Kyiv and detected a citizen with a parcel of 267 pills of Acatar and Cirrus medications containing pseudoephedrine, which is used for manufacturing amphetamine and methamphetamine. An urgent search at the individual’s residence resulted in seizures of another 960 pills of drug-containing medicines. It was found out that those medications were supplied in bulk under the guise of humanitarian aid through bus drivers traveling from Poland to Ukraine.

September 2022. CND and SSU officers stopped the criminal activities of a group of people, including Ukrainian and foreign residents who smuggled heroin in particularly large quantities from Iran through the seaport of Constanta (Romania) and then by land through the river ferry crossing “Orlivka-Isakcha” to the territory of Ukraine. The joint special operation resulted in seizing 186 kg of heroin hidden in dried fruit containers (disguised as dates) and detaining two Romanians.

November 2022. CND officers blocked a channel for smuggling potent medications from the Republic of Moldova. The illegal business was organized by a Kyiv resident who regularly changed his place of residence in different regions of the country for conspiracy purposes. A group of four people had used various Internet websites and postal services for a long time to set up the import and illegal sale of drug-containing medications associated with sports pharmacology, namely anabolic steroids, the circulation of which is prohibited in Ukraine. During the authorized searches, there were seized 3 381 pills, 1 570 ampules, 1 718 vials, 47 plates of potent medicines.

National Police's activities to improve laws and regulations on drugs:

The National Police of Ukraine (the Police) approved the draft government resolution on setting control over the psychotropic medicine "Gidazepam".

The Police found out the use of "Pyrrolidine" in the synthesis of psychotropic substances α -PVP and MDPV and initiated relevant amendments to the List of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors.

The Police initiated the amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding between the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on involving police officers in the operation of port control points set up under the Container Control Program.

The Police drafted the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Criminal Code of Ukraine to Implement the Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health".

Pursuant to the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for Combating Organized Crime, approved by the Government Order of 27 September 2022 No. 850-r, the CND officers were involved in working groups to develop relevant draft laws.

Performance of the Security Service of Ukraine

In 2022, the Security Service's activities, both independent and in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies, resulted in as follows:

- 2 drug laboratories dismantled;
- 157,6 kg of drugs and psychotropic substances were seized at the beginning of pre-trial investigation of criminal proceedings that was completed in the same reporting year.

Examples of the Security Service's activities to combat illicit drug trafficking:

January 2022. The Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) stopped an attempt to smuggle 0,411 kg of PVP and 0,023 kg of amphetamine from Ukraine to the Russian Federation by land.

May 2022. SSU stopped an attempt to smuggle 3,93 kg of cocaine through the Odesa Commercial Seaport. The substance was hidden in a container that arrived in Ukraine from a South American country before 24 February 2022 along with legal cargo. The destination of cocaine was the European Union.

May 2022. SSU stopped an attempt to smuggle some 19,04 kg (21,3 kg in gross) of cannabis resin (hashish) from Ukraine to the Russian Federation via the EU countries.

June 2022. SSU stopped an attempt to smuggle some 5,3 kg of PVP from Ukraine to the Republic of Moldova across the Dniester River using a small river vessel. The

further operation resulted in seizures of some 70 kg of psychotropic substances that were destined to be smuggled abroad.

July 2022. SSU dismantled a cannabis cultivation laboratory in Zhytomyr region, and 115,24 kg of cannabis were seized.

September 2022. SSU and Police officers stopped the criminal activities of a group of people who smuggled heroin in particularly large quantities from Iran through the seaport of Constanta (Romania) and then through the river ferry crossing “Orlivka-Isakcha” to the territory of Ukraine. The joint operation resulted in seizing 186 kg of heroin and detaining two Romanian residents.

Security Service’s activities to improve laws and regulations on drugs:

May 2022. SSU submitted to the Ministry of Health their suggestions and observations on the draft government resolution on amendments to the List of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, as well as the Procedure of Procurement, Transportation, Storage, Prescription, Use and Destruction of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors in Healthcare Facilities.

May 2022. SSU submitted to the Ministry of Health their suggestions and observations on the draft Law of Ukraine on amendments to legal regulations on cannabis for medical, industrial, scientific and research purposes.

July 2022. SSU submitted to the National Police received their suggestions and observations on the draft order on approving the Procedure of the Destruction of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, Recognized Unreasonable in Legal Circulation, as well as Equipment for Their Production.

August 2022. SSU informed the Ministry of Health about the possibility of legalizing the limited circulation of MDMA, DMT, psilocybin, psilocin and ibogaine through making relevant amendments to the List of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors.

August 2022. SSU submitted to the Ministry of Health their suggestions and observations on the draft government resolution on amendments to the List of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors.

October-December 2022. SSU submitted to the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine their suggestions and observations on the draft Procedure of Information Exchange and Cooperation between Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Agencies on Combating Smuggle of Drugs, their Analogues, Precursors, Weapons, Ammunition, and Explosives.

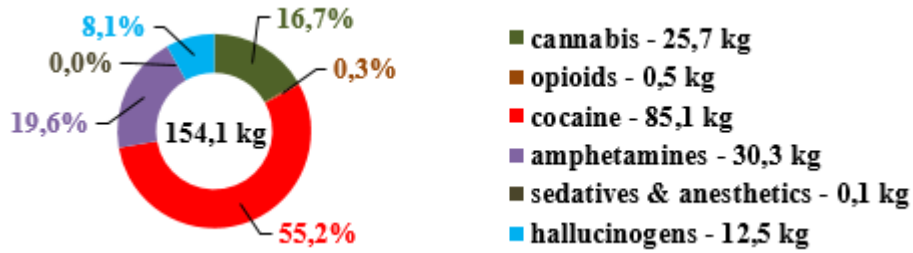
November 2022. SSU submitted to the Ministry of Health their suggestions and observations on the draft Rules for Producing / Manufacturing of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Performance of the State Customs Service of Ukraine:

According to the data provided by the State Customs Service of Ukraine on the substances seized/detected in Ukraine while importing, exporting, and transiting them in 2022, the total volume of seizures amounted to **154,1 kg**.

In terms of types of substances seized/detected at the customs border of Ukraine in 2022, cocaine accounted for the largest proportion (55,2%).

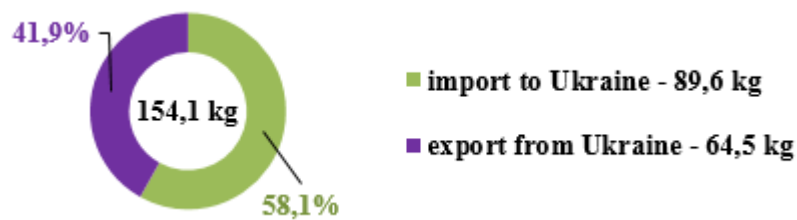
Substances, seized/ detected in 2022



Calculation source: data by State Customs Service for 2022.

The largest volume of substances (89,6 kg, or 58,1%) was seized/detected when imported into the territory of Ukraine.

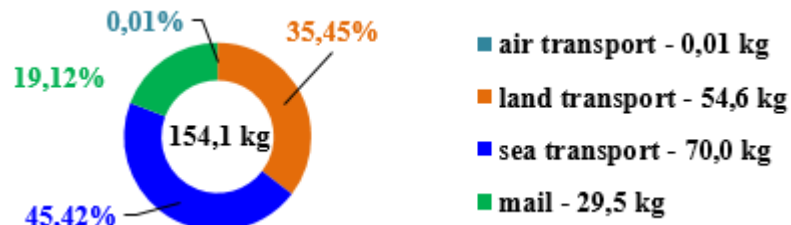
Substances, seized/ detected in 2022, by destination



Calculation source: data by State Customs Service for 2022.

As for the modes of transportation, the largest volume of substances was seized/detected on sea transport when imported into the territory of Ukraine.

Substances, seized/ detected in 2022, by transportation

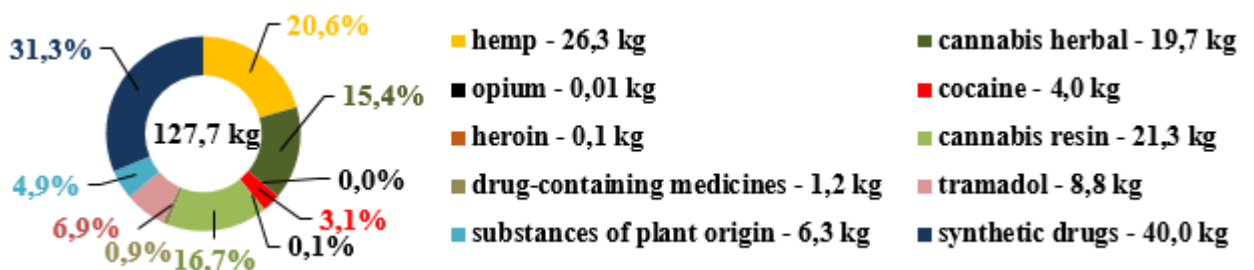


Calculation source: data by State Customs Service for 2022.

Performance of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine:

In 2022, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine detected 127,7 kg of substances, and that was the lowest figure in 2016-2022 due to a number of factors related to russia’s military aggression.

Substances, detected in 2022



Calculation source: data by State Border Guard Service for 2022.

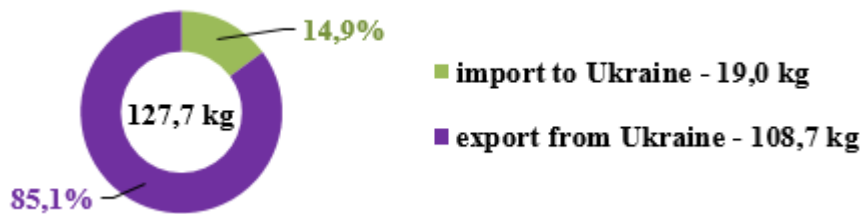
Volume of substances, detected in 2016-2022 (kg)



Calculation source: data by State Border Guard Service for 2022.

Out of the total volume of seized substances, 19,0 kg were detected when imported into Ukraine, and 108,7 kg when exported from Ukraine.

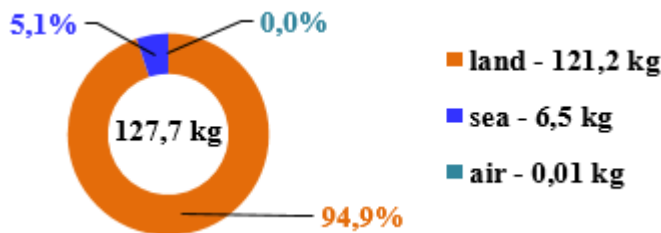
Substances, detected in 2022, by destination



Calculation source: data by State Border Guard Service for 2022.

As for the ways of border crossing, substances were detected mainly on the land and sea borders of Ukraine.

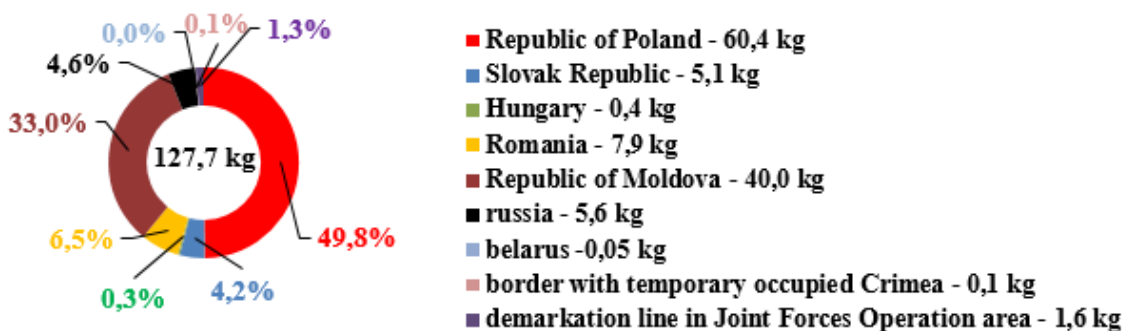
Substances, detected in 2022, by border crossed



Calculation source: data by State Border Guard Service for 2022.

The largest volume of substances in 2022 was detected on the borders with Poland (49,8%) and Moldova (33,0%).

Substances, detected in 2022, by border country crossed



Calculation source: data by State Border Guard Service for 2022.

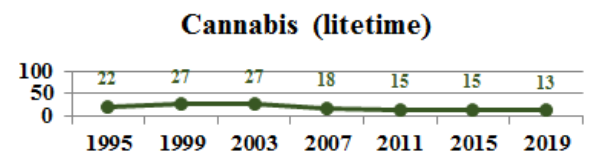
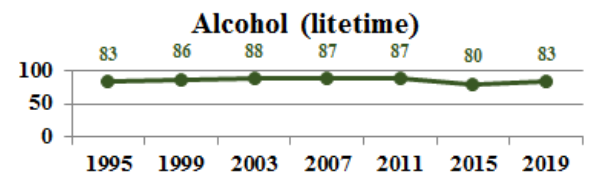
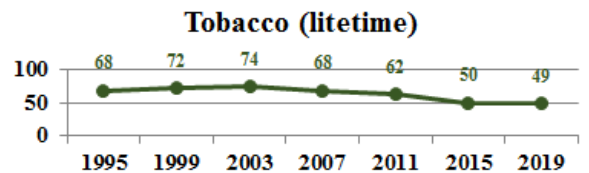
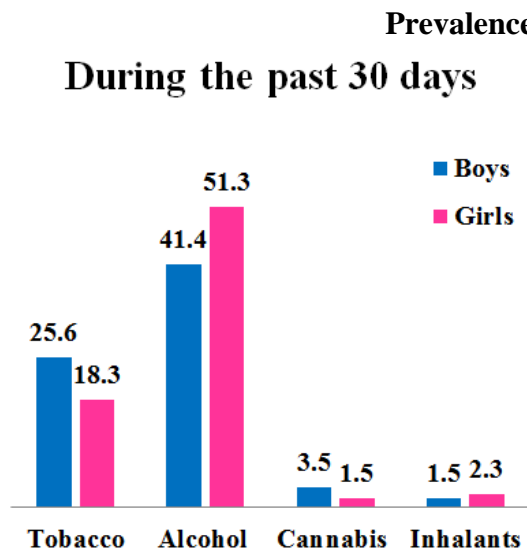
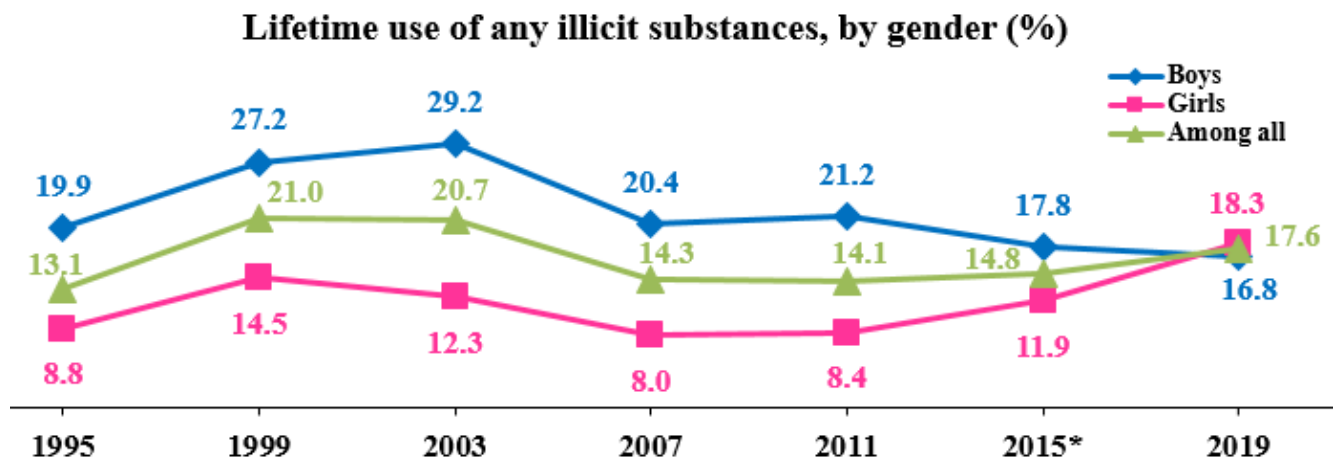
Drug use

Ukraine does not conduct general population surveys on the prevalence of drug use among people aged 15-64 y.o. At that, certain activities in this area have been carried out, being targeted at the selected population groups.

Since 1995, a survey of Ukrainian student youth has been conducted on a regular basis in the framework of the “European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs” (ESPAD). The next ESPAD survey is scheduled for 2024.

Substances use by young people

The most recent data on the use of various substances (alcohol, tobacco, drugs) by 15-17-year-old students were collected in 2019 as part of the [ESPAD](#).



Calculation source: ESPAD survey-2019.

The proportion of adolescents who have used any drugs at least once in their lives was 18,0%, 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 4,2% of respondents used two or more substances.

Please follow the [link](#) to view full results of the ESPAD survey-2019.

In 2022, the [Institute of Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatric Examination and Drug Monitoring of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine](#) in cooperation with the teenager movement [Teenergizer](#) and the [European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#) implemented an online-survey from April 20 up to May 1. The goal of the survey was to discover findings on how the full-scale war waged by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022 affected the Ukrainian young people in terms of their mental health, alcohol consumption and drug use.

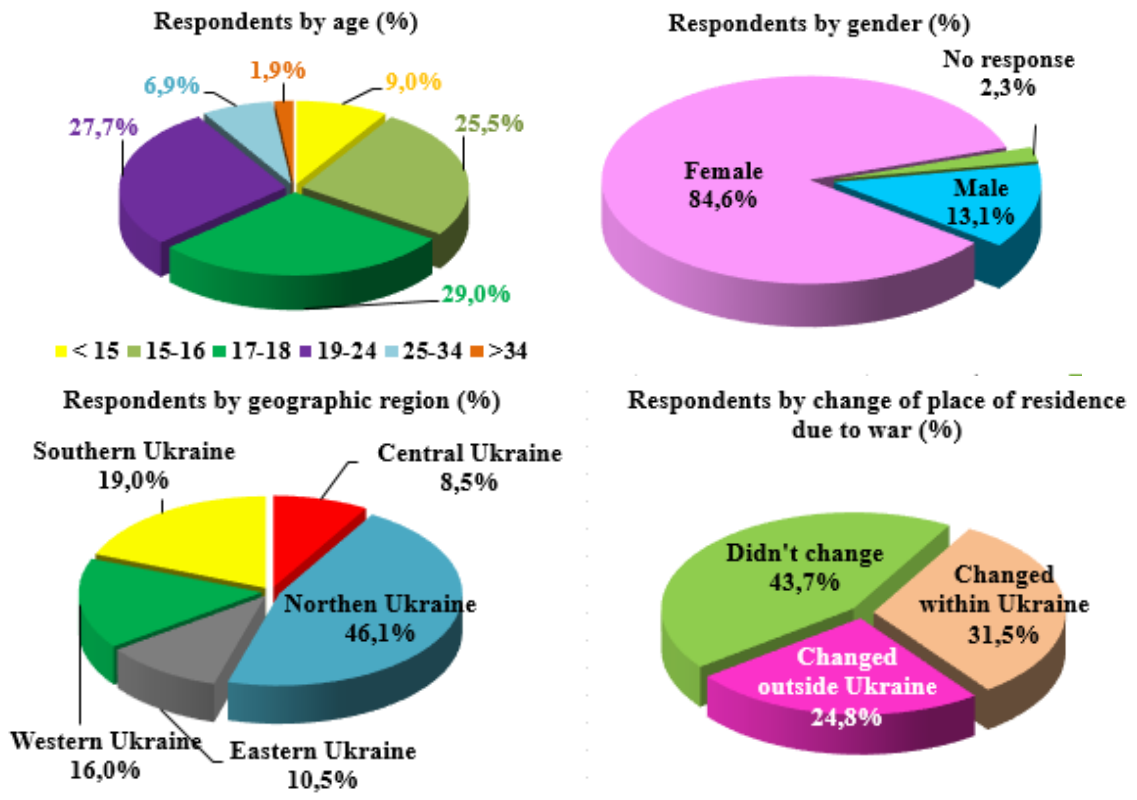
1 512 questionnaires were submitted by respondents.

Most of respondents represented the age groups of 15-16 y.o. (25,5%), 17-18 y.o. (29,0%) and 19-24 y.o. (27,7%).

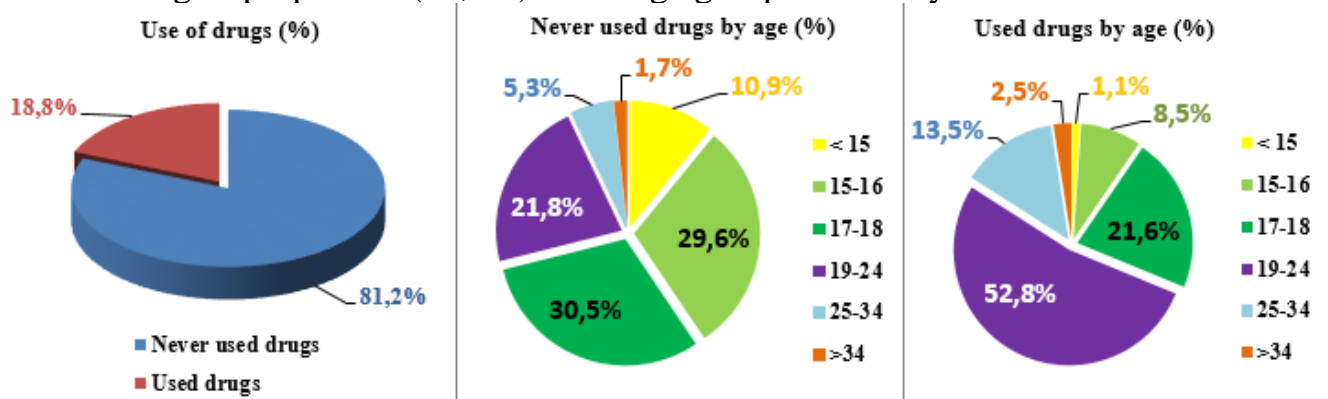
84,6% of respondents were female.

In terms of geography, 46% of respondents were residents of the Northern Ukraine (city of Kyiv, Kyiv region, Chernihiv region, Sumy region and Zhytomyr region).

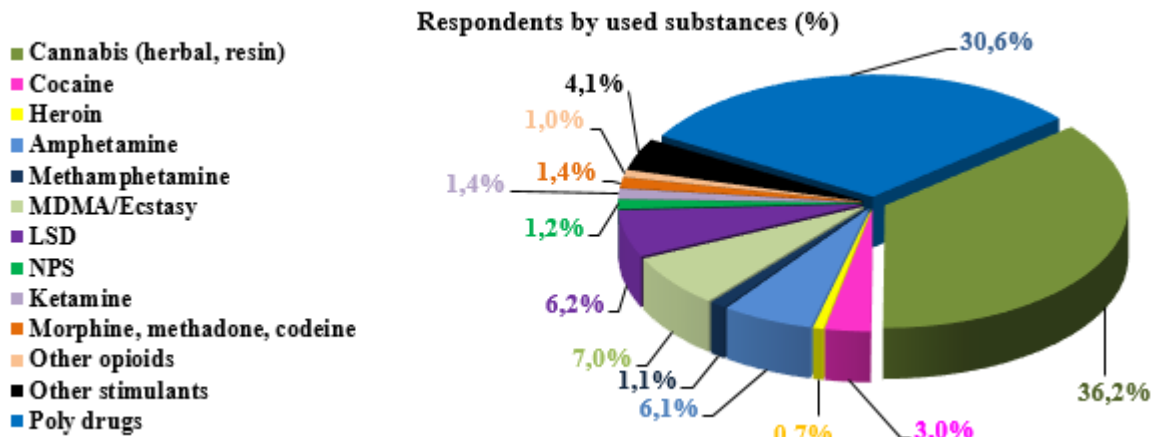
43,7% of respondents didn't change their place of residence due to the hostilities, while 31,5% of respondents displaced within Ukraine and 24,8% displaced abroad.



Only 18,8% of respondents (or 282 individuals out of 1 512) reported drug use, with the largest proportion (52,8%) in the age group of 19-24 y.o.

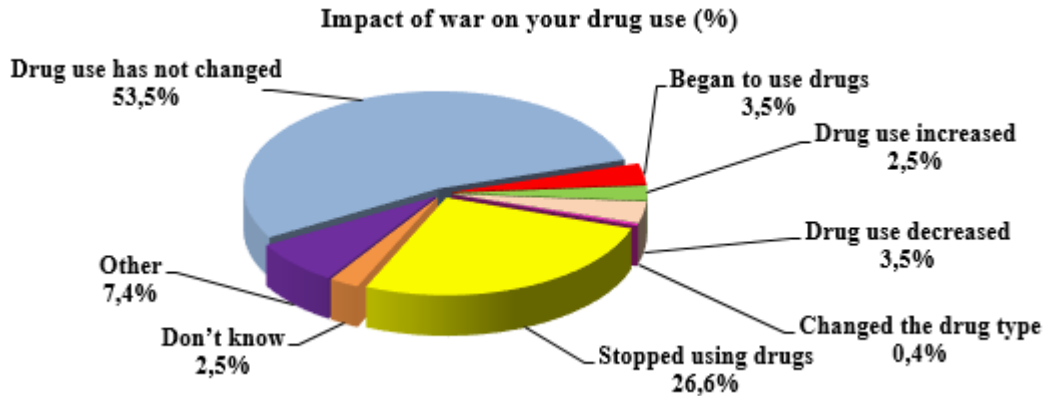


The most used substance reported was cannabis: 36,2% of respondents.



How the war impacted on Ukrainian young people' drug use

- 53,5% of respondents reported on no changes in their drug use (56,3% of them were persons aged 19-24 y.o.).
- 26,6% of respondents reported on giving up drug use (53,3% of them were persons aged 19-24 y.o.), and just 3,5% started using drugs.
- 7 out of 282 respondents reported on an increase in their drug use, and those individuals aged 15-16 y.o. and 19-34 y.o.
- 10 out of 282 respondents reported on a decrease in their drug use, and those individuals aged 17-34 y.o.



Please follow the [link](#) to view full results of the survey.

Substance use by high-risk group people

In Ukraine, the substance use by people from high-risk groups is mainly associated with the injection of “home-made” opiates, synthetic opioids like methadone, and stimulants like amphetamine and methamphetamine.

Given the lack of general population surveys, the annual data on the prevalence of substance use is collected from other sources. The most reliable data source that meets the EMCDDA recommendations is the “Report on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use” (Form 32).

In 2018-2021, there was an annual increase in the number of individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were under surveillance in the dispensary register (by an average of 1,3 points per year). At that, in 2022, the number of those persons decreased by 5,7% compared to 2021.

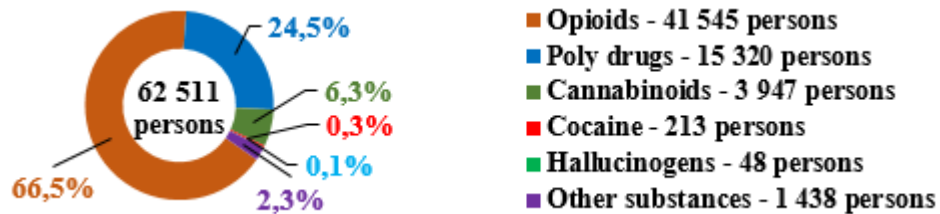
Total number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were under surveillance in dispensary register in 2014-2022



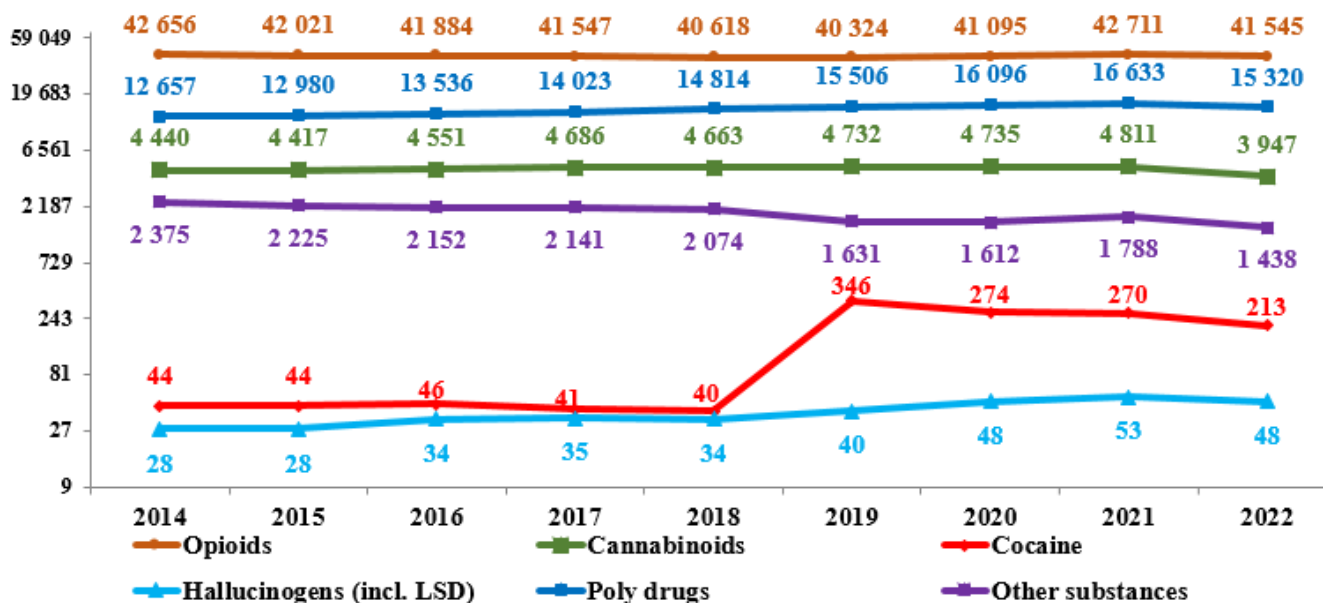
Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

As of 01 January 2023, 62 511 persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use were under surveillance in the dispensary register in Ukraine. Of them, the largest proportion (66,5%) were individuals with disorders due to opioid use. The proportion of such persons remains stable from year to year.

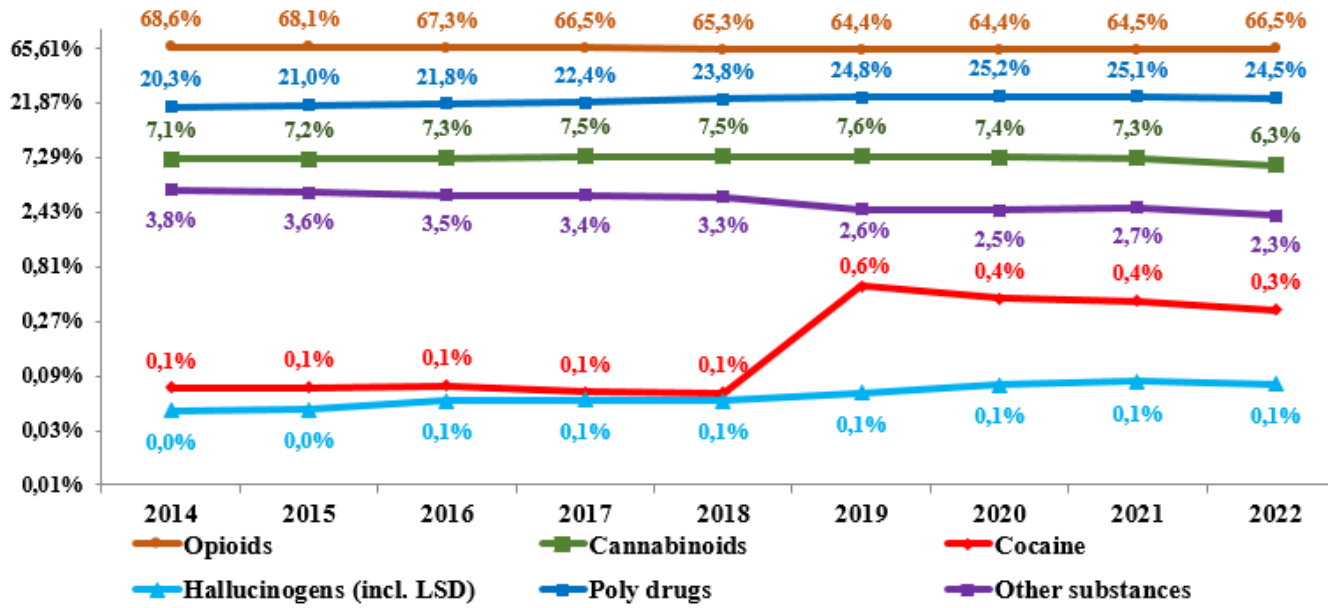
Persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were under surveillance in dispensary register in 2022, by substance



Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were under surveillance in dispensary register in 2014-2022, by substance



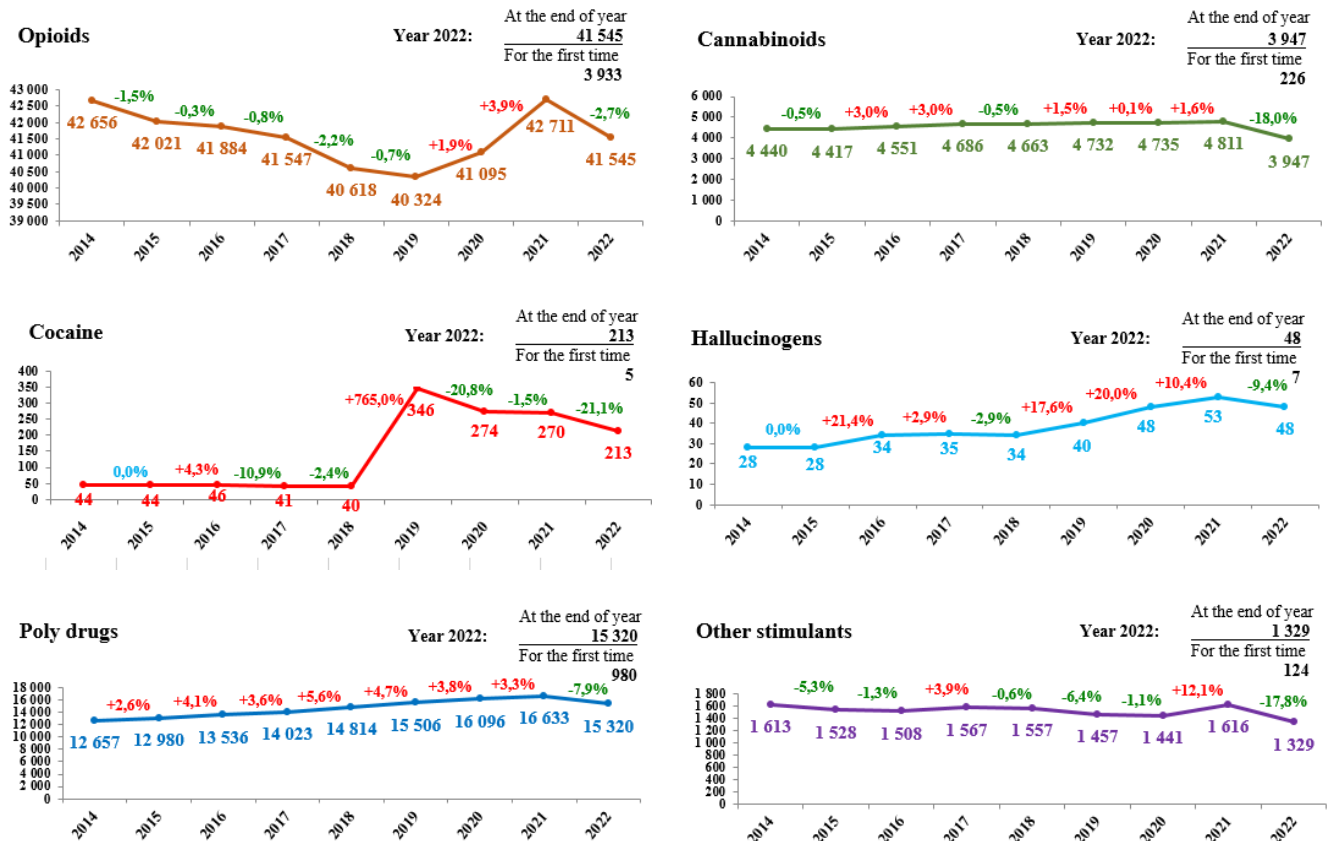
Proportion of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were under surveillance in dispensary register in 2014-2022, by substance



Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

In 2022, there was a decrease in the number of persons with disorders due to the use of all substances who were under surveillance at the end of the reporting period.

Changes in the number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were under surveillance in dispensary register in 2014-2022, by substance

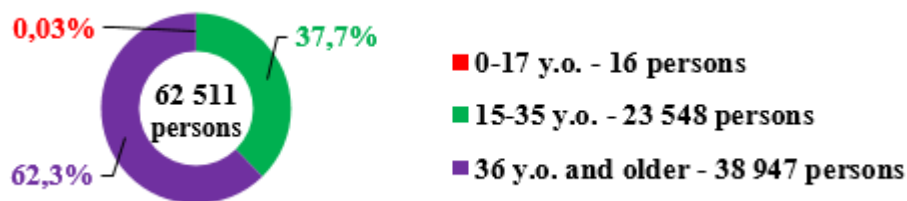


Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

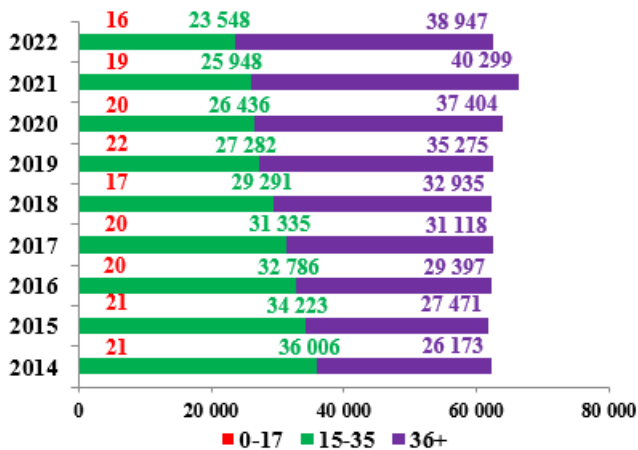
In 2022, the proportion of people in the age group of 36 y.o. and older remained the largest and amounted to 62,3% (38 947 persons). In 2018-2022, the proportion of individuals in this age group remained the largest one.

Also, in this reporting year, there was an ongoing trend of reducing proportion of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use aged 15-35 y.o. Over 2017-2022, the proportion of individuals in that age group has been steadily decreasing by an average of 2,5 points annually. At the same time, there was an increase in the proportion of people in the age group of 36 y.o. and older by an average of 2,5 points annually.

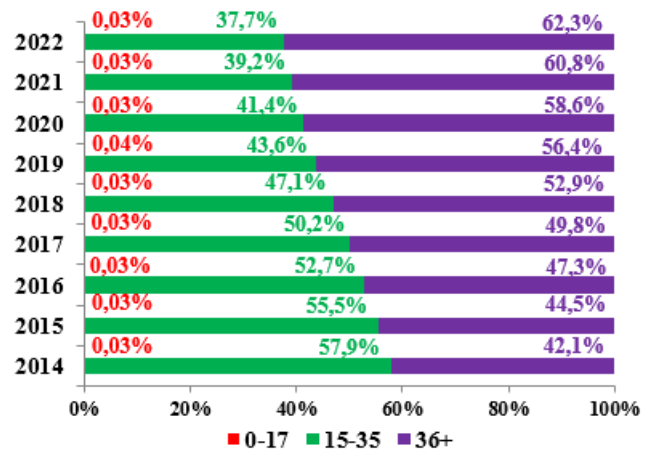
Persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were under surveillance in dispensary register in 2022, by age



Number of persons with disorders due to substance use, by age



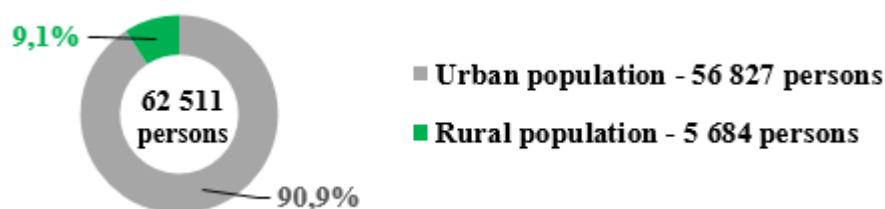
Proportion of persons with disorders due to substance use, by age (%)



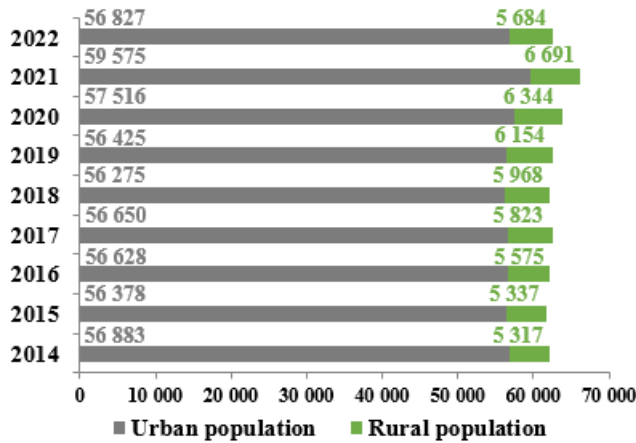
Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

In 2022, the main proportion of individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were under surveillance in the dispensary register referred to urban residents, i.e., 90,9% (56 827 persons). This ration of urban to rural residents remained stable over 2014-2022.

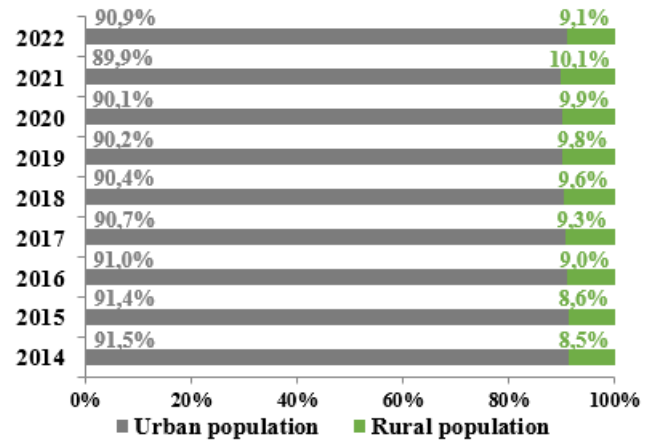
Persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were under surveillance in dispensary register in 2022, by residence



Number of persons with disorders due to substance use, by residence



Proportion of persons with disorders due to substance use, by residence (%)



Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

Prevalence of drug use

Based on the quantitative data on people with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were under surveillance in the dispensary register at the end of the reporting period, the prevalence of substance use was calculated by the formula below.

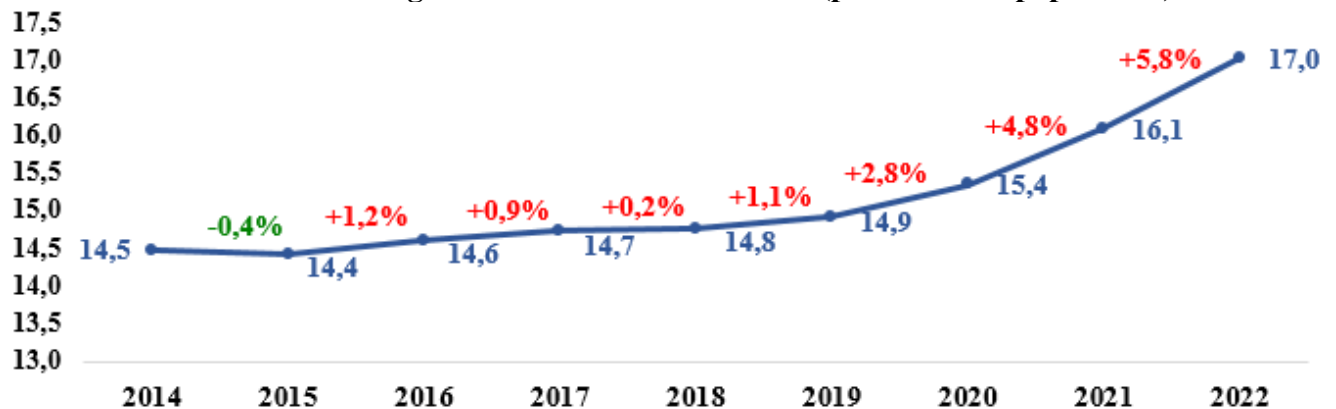
$$Prevalence (\%) = \frac{\text{Number of persons under surveillance at year-end}}{\text{Population size at year-end}} \times 10\,000$$

In 2022, the prevalence of substance use in Ukraine was 17 persons per 10 000 population. The calculation of this year is based on the data by the [UN Population Fund](#). Over 2015-2022, that figure tended to increase annually.

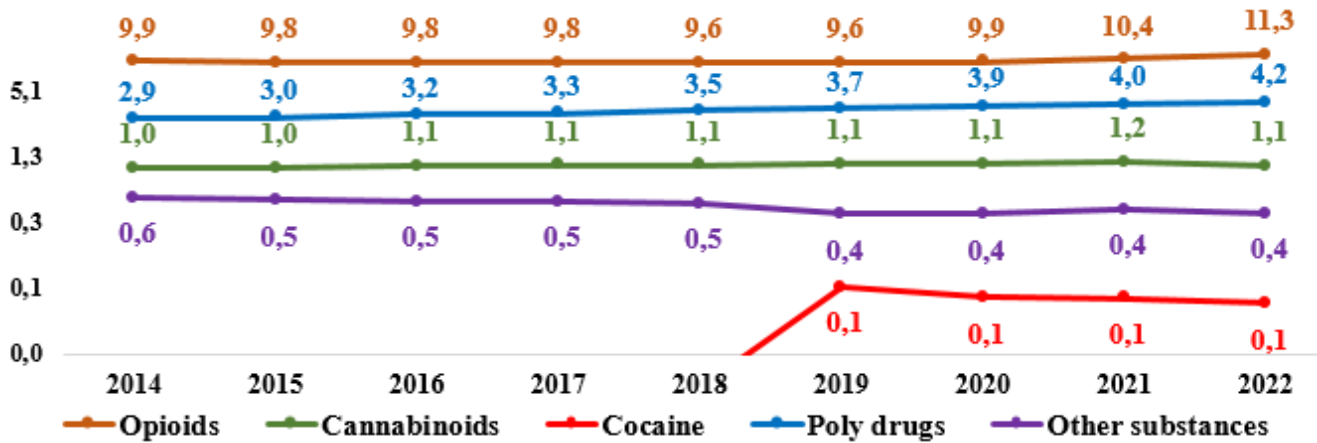
In 2014-2022, the prevalence of opioid use was the highest (11,3 people per 10 000 population in 2022). The number of people with mental and behavioral disorders due to opioid use has been increasing since 2020.

Over the same period, there was also an annual steady increase in the prevalence of poly drug use. In 2022, that figure was 4,2 persons per 10 000 population.

Prevalence of drug use in Ukraine in 2014-2022 (per 10 000 of population)



Prevalence of drug use in Ukraine in 2014-2022 (per 10 000 of population), by substance



Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022. Data by Ukrstat on actual population size for [2014-2021](#). Data by [UN Population Fund](#) for 2022.

Infectious diseases related to drug use by injection

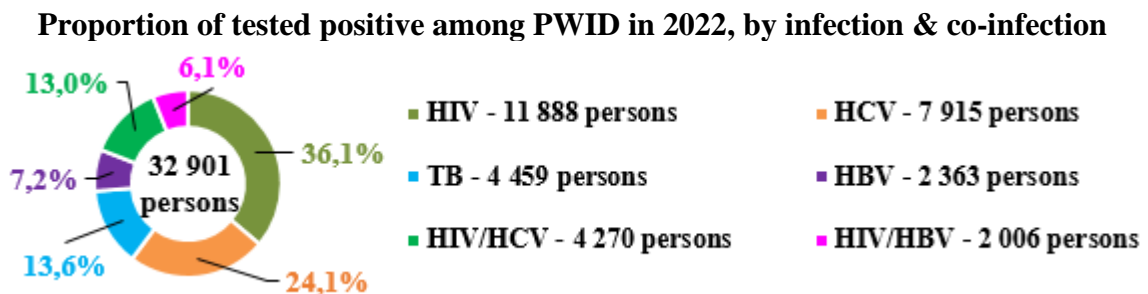
The epidemiological data on the spread of infectious diseases among the entire population of Ukraine are collected and consolidated both at the local and national levels.

In 2019, the procedure of collecting information/data on infectious diseases among PWID (persons who inject drugs) was changed:

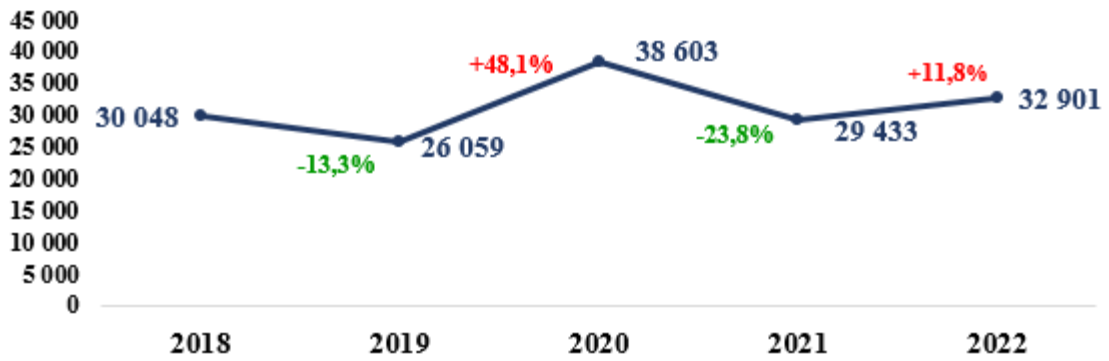
- collection and submission of data for monitoring regarding PWID with infectious diseases are carried out by regional, as well as Kyiv and Sevastopol city state administrations;
- co-infections are specified, namely: HIV/HCV and HIV/HBV.

At the same time, it is not possible now to collect and obtain data from the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol, temporarily occupied as a result of the annexation in 2014, as well as from other territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied in 2014 and after the full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation on 24 February, 2022.

The number of PWID that were positive tested in 2022 for infectious hepatitis virus, tuberculosis, and HIV infection in Ukraine amounted to 32 901 persons:



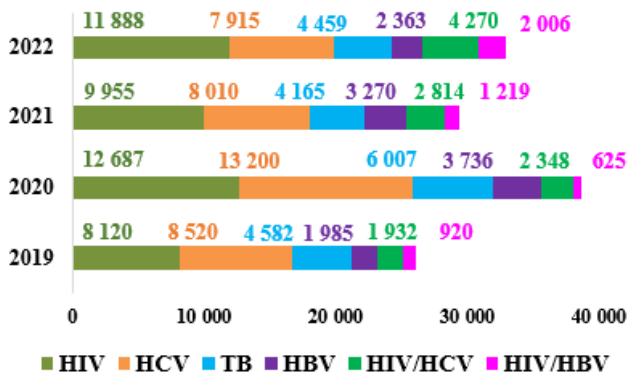
Total number of tested positive among people who inject drugs in 2018-2022



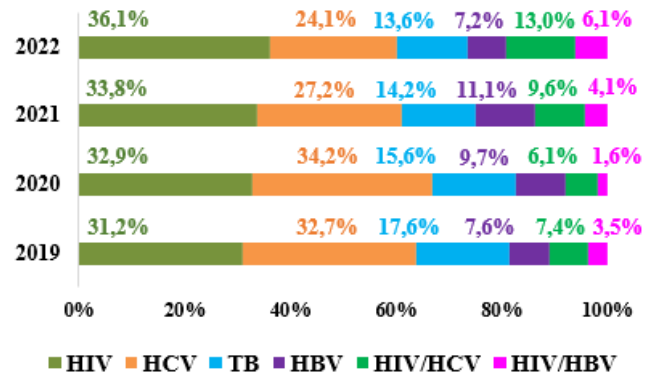
Calculation source: data by regional authorities for 2018-2022.

In 2022, the largest proportion of tested positive among PWID was made up of HIV-infected people without co-infections (36,1%). That proportion remained the largest among those people in 2019-2022 and tends to increase. A slightly smaller proportion was accounted for by PWID with HCV and amounted to 24,1%.

Number of tested positive among PWID in 2019-2022, by infection



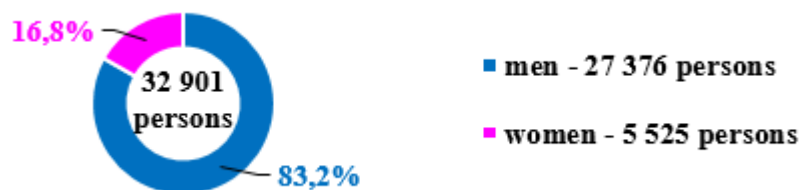
Proportion of tested positive among PWID in 2019-2022, by infection (%)



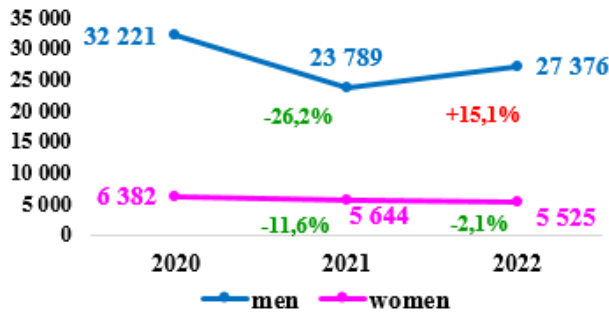
Calculation source: data by regional authorities for 2019-2022.

In terms of gender, men made up the largest proportion (83,2%) of tested positive among PWID in 2022. The gender ratio among such persons remained almost unchanged during 2020-2022 (on average: 82,5% – men, 17,5% – women).

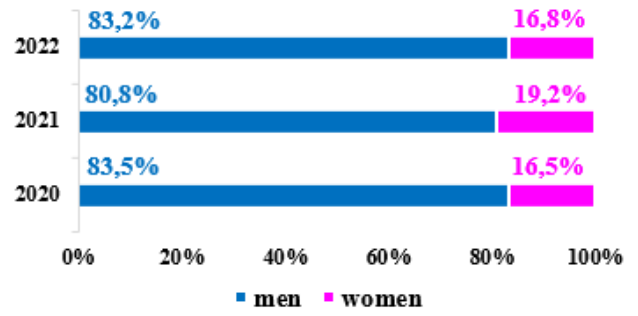
Proportion of tested positive among PWID in 2022, by gender



Number of tested positive among PWID in 2019-2022, by gender



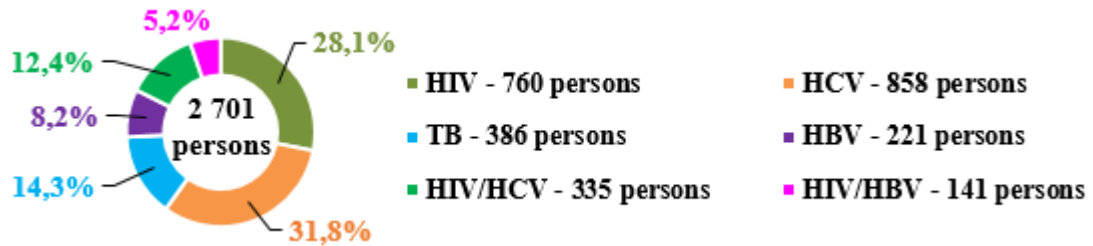
Proportion of tested positive among PWID in 2019-2022, by gender (%)



Calculation source: data by regional authorities for 2020-2022. Data before 2020 was not recorded in most regions.

In 2022, 2 701 persons who injected drugs and who were diagnosed with infectious diseases for the first time were recorded in Ukraine.

People who inject drugs with infections detected for the first time in 2022, by infection



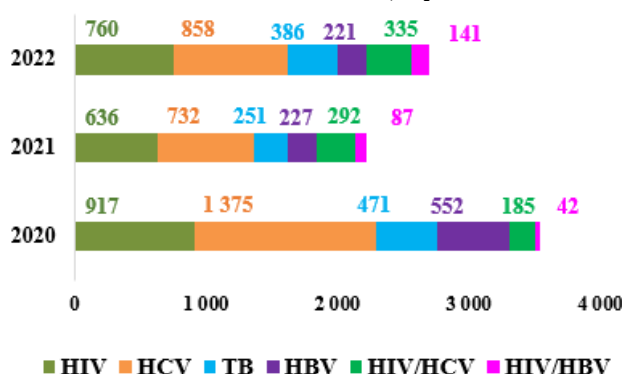
Total number of people who inject drugs with infections detected for the first time in 2020-2022



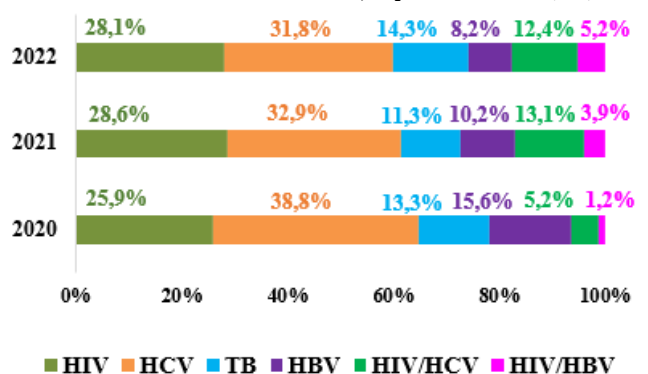
Calculation source: data by regional authorities for 2020-2022. Data before 2020 is unavailable.

In 2022, the largest proportions of those individuals were made up of PWID with HCV (31,8%) and HIV (28,1%) detected for the very first time. That ratio remained almost unchanged in 2020-2022. At the same time, in 2020-2022, there was an increase in the number of PWID with first-detected HIV/HBV and HIV/HCV co-infections.

Number of PWID with first-detected co-infections in 2020-2022, by infection



Proportion of PWID with first-detected co-infections in 2020-2022, by infection (%)



Calculation source: data by regional authorities for 2020-2022. Data before 2020 is unavailable.

Drug-related deaths

Deaths related to drug use and poisoning

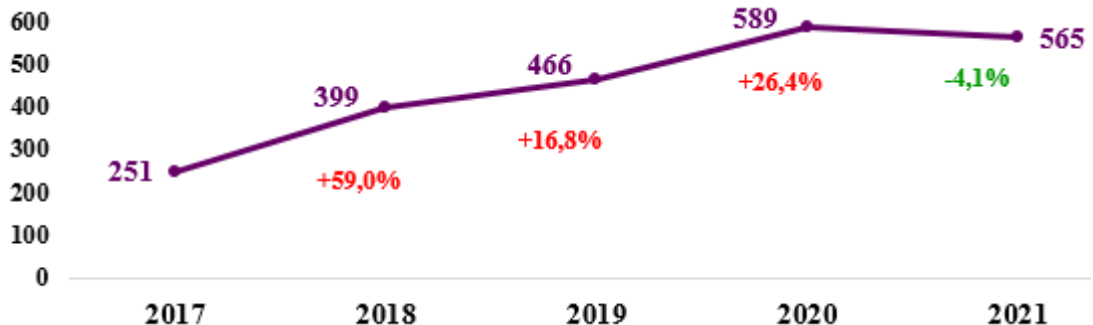
Data collection and consolidation on “Deaths related to drug use and mortality among drug users” indicator is carried out in Ukraine using data on deaths related to the drug use and poisoning provided by the State Statistics Service.

Given the current situation with the full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine backed by the Republic of Belarus, following the provisions of [paragraph 1 of the Law of Ukraine No. 2115-IX](#) “On Protection of the Interests of Reporting Entities during Martial Law or a State of War”, individuals and legal entities have the right not to submit statistical and financial reports during martial law or a state of war and within three months after its termination.

Some of these entities exercised the above right and did not submit reports, which made it impossible for the State Statistics Service to compile accurate official statistics for 2022, including on the number of deaths related to mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use and poisoning.

While in 2017-2020 there was a rising trend in the total number of deaths related to substance use and poisoning, in 2021 that figure decreased by 4,1% compared to 2020.

Total number of deaths related to substance use and poisoning in 2017-2021



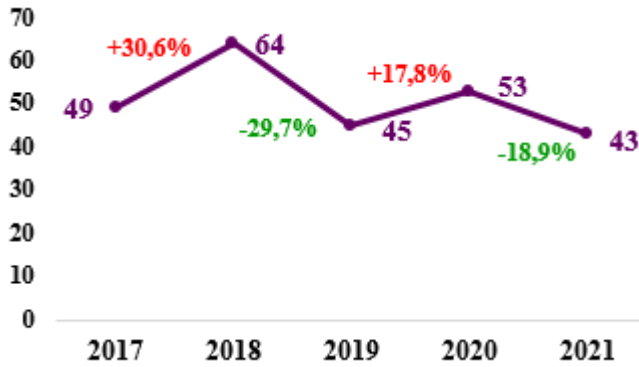
Calculation source: Ukrstat data for 2017-2021. Codes: X41 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X42 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X61 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X62 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); Y11 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); Y12 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); F11–F16; F18; F19.

Of the **565 deaths** related to substance use and poisoning recorded in Ukraine in 2021, **43 cases** were related to mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use, and **522 cases** were related to external causes of death due to substance use (hereinafter referred to as poisoning or overdose).

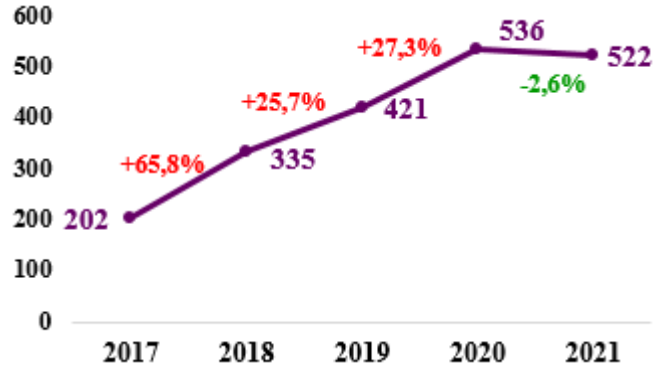
While the number of persons who died from mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use increased significantly in 2018 (by 30,6%) and 2020 (by 17,8%), in 2019 and 2021 that figure decreased by 29,7% and 18,9%, respectively.

As for the deaths due to substance poisoning, their number increased significantly year over year in 2017-2020, but in 2021 there was a slight decrease by 2,6% compared to 2020.

Number of deaths related to mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use in 2017-2021



Number of deaths due to substance poisoning in 2017-2021



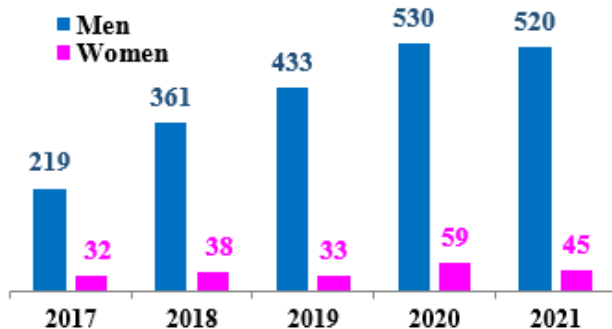
Calculation source: Ukrstat data for 2017-2021. Codes: X41 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X42 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X61 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X62 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); Y11 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); Y12 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); F11–F16; F18; F19.

Among the deceased persons whose deaths were related to substance use and poisoning, the majority in 2021 were men – 520 persons (92,0%). That gender ratio remained stable during 2017-2021.

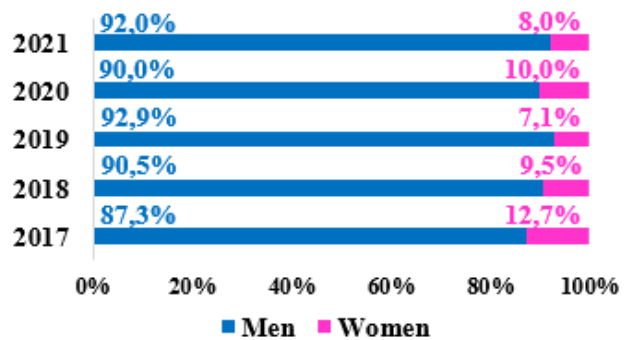
Deaths related to substance use and poisoning in 2021, by gender



Number of deaths related to substance use and poisoning in 2017-2021, by gender



Proportion of deaths related to substance use and poisoning in 2017-2021, by gender (%)

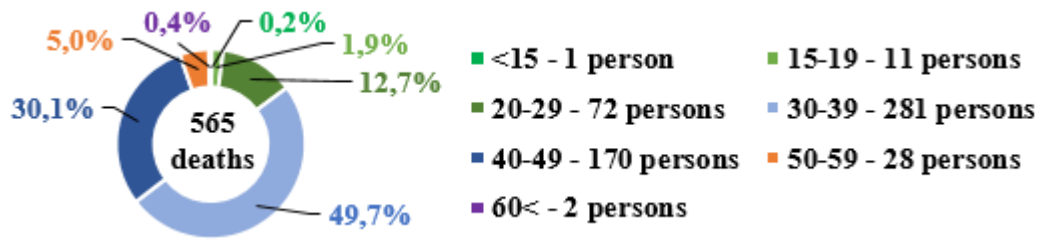


Calculation source: Ukrstat data for 2017-2021. Codes: X41 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X42 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X61 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X62 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); Y11 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); Y12 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); F11–F16; F18; F19.

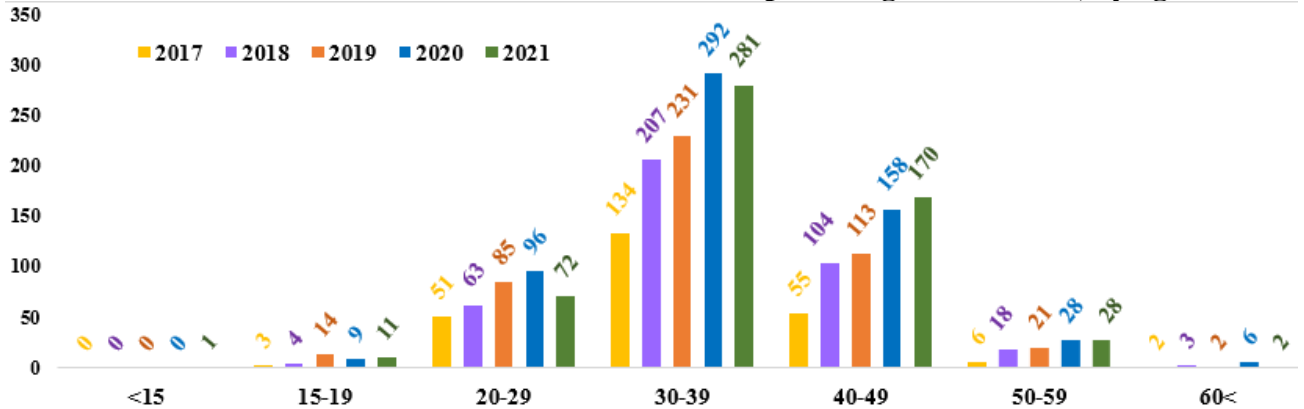
In terms of age groups of deceased persons whose deaths were related to substance use and poisoning, in 2021, the largest proportion was made up of people aged 30-39 (49,7%). That age group remained the largest in 2017-2021.

At the same time, there observed a declining trend in the proportion of deceased individuals aged 20-29 and a rising trend in the proportion of the deceased aged 40-49.

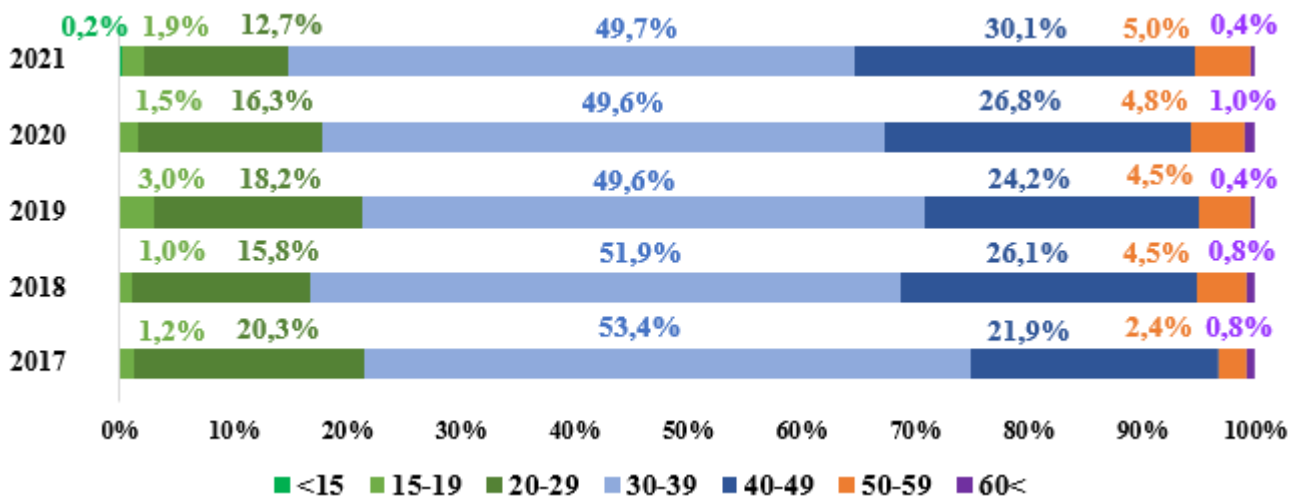
Deaths related to substance use and poisoning in 2021, by age



Number of deaths related to substance use and poisoning in 2017-2021, by age



Proportion of deaths related to substance use and poisoning in 2017-2021, by age (%)

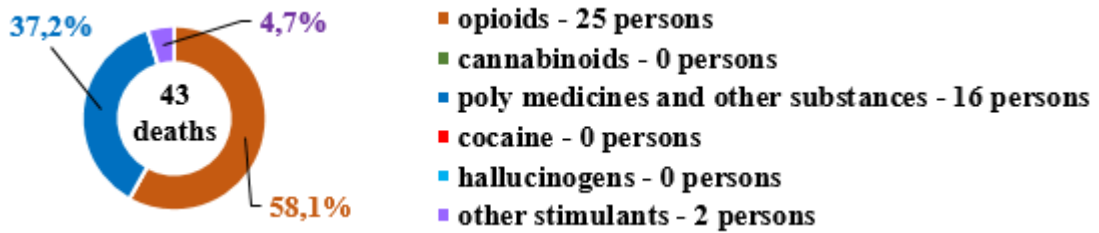


Calculation source: Ukrstat data for 2017-2021. Codes: X41 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X42 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X61 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X62 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); Y11 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); Y12 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); F11–F16; F18; F19.

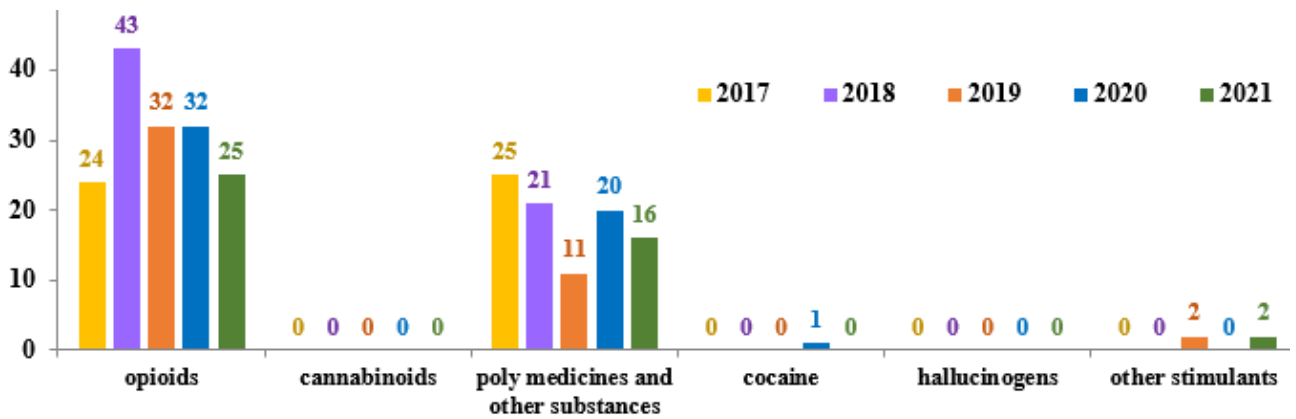
In 2021, opioid users made up the majority (58,1%) of people who died from mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use. That figure averaged 61,2% for the period 2017-2021.

The second largest proportion of deaths occurred among poly medicines and other substances users (37,2%).

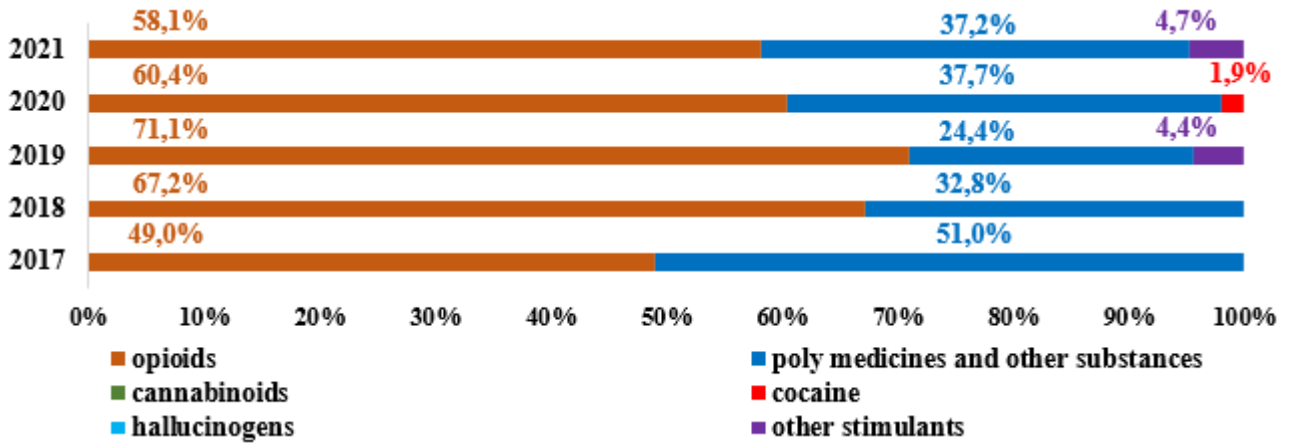
Deaths related to mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use in 2021, by substance



Number of deaths related to mental and behavioral disorders due to substance in 2017-2021, by substance



Proportion of deaths related to mental and behavioral disorders due to substance in 2017-2021, by substance (%)



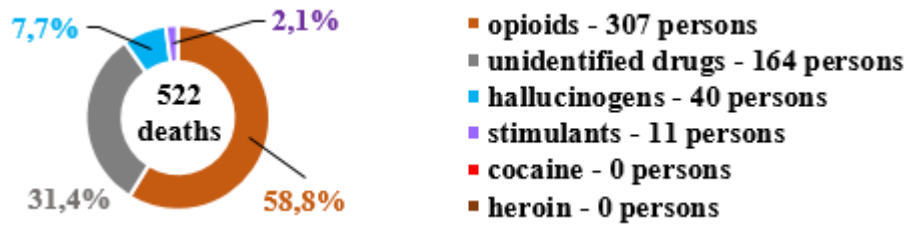
Calculation source: Ukrstat data for 2017-2021. Codes: F11–F16; F18; F19.

58,8% of deaths related to substance poisoning in 2021 were caused by opioid poisoning. That proportion remained the largest in 2017-2021 and tended to increase.

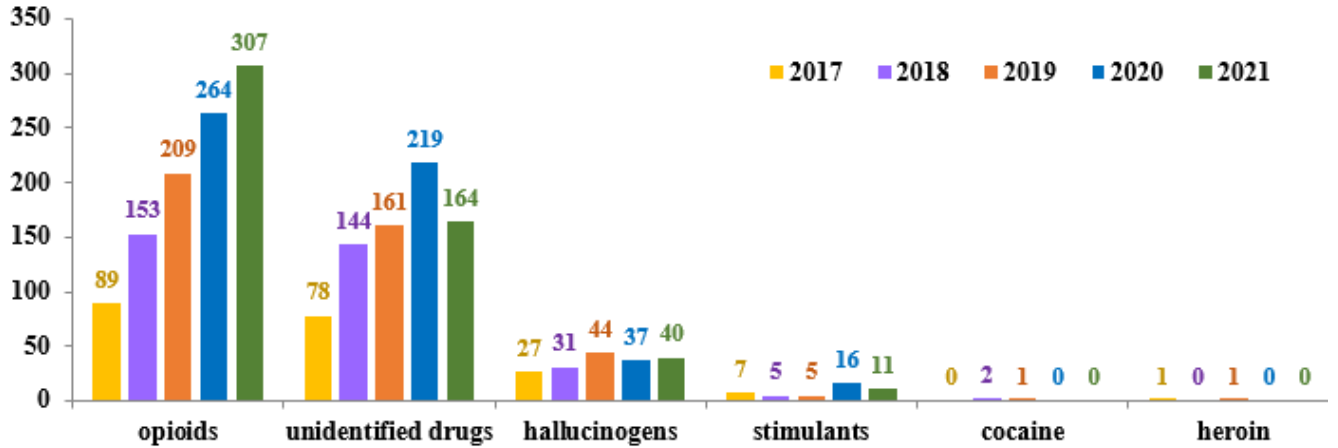
The number of people who died due to poisoning by unidentified drugs also accounts for a significant proportion of these people – 31,4% in 2021, and averaged 38,4% for the period of 2017-2021.

Over the same period, there was a decrease in the number of people who died due to hallucinogen poisoning. In 2021, their proportion was 7,7%.

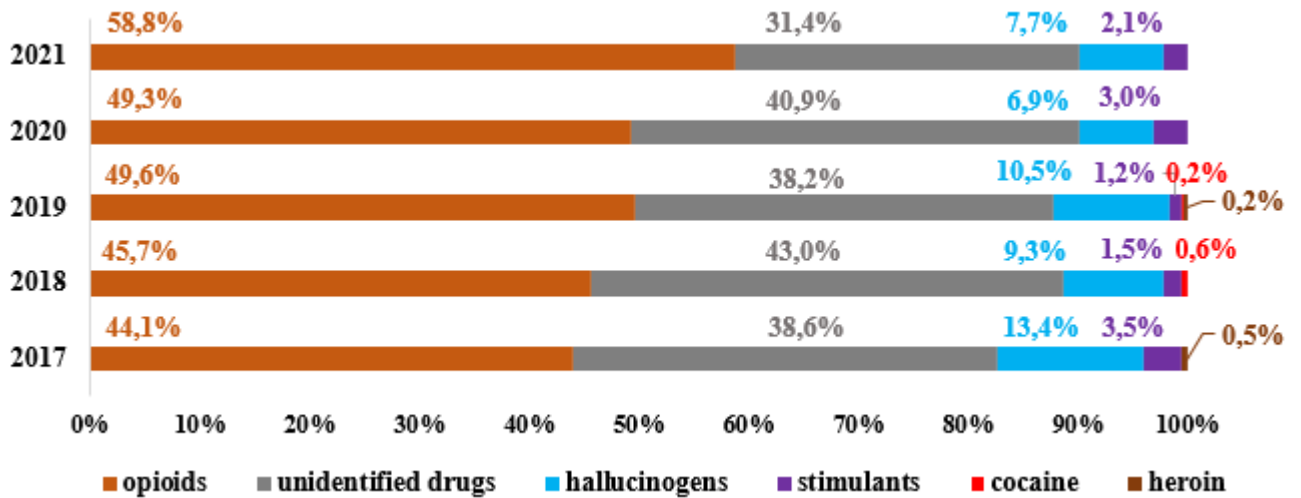
Deaths due to substance poisoning in 2021, by substance



Number of deaths due to substance poisoning in 2017-2021, by substance



Proportion of deaths due to substance poisoning in 2017-2021, by substance (%)



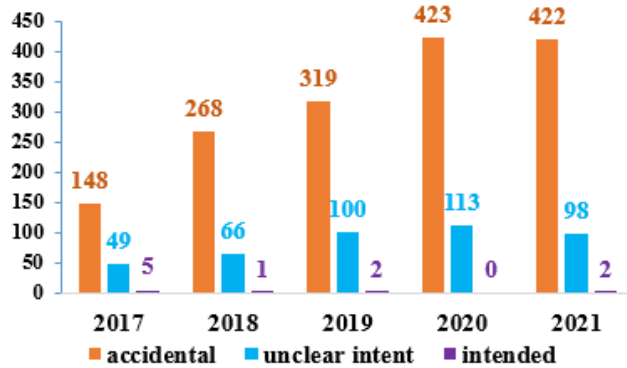
Calculation source: Ukrstat data for 2017-2021. Codes: X41 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X42 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X61 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X62 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); Y11 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); Y12 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6).

In terms of intent, accidental poisoning accounted for the largest proportion of deaths (80,8%). That trend remained unchanged during 2017-2021.

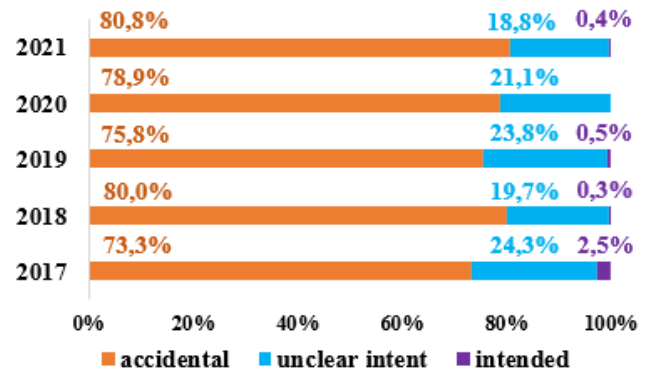
Deaths due to substance poisoning in 2021, by intent



Number of deaths due to substance poisoning in 2017-2021, by intent



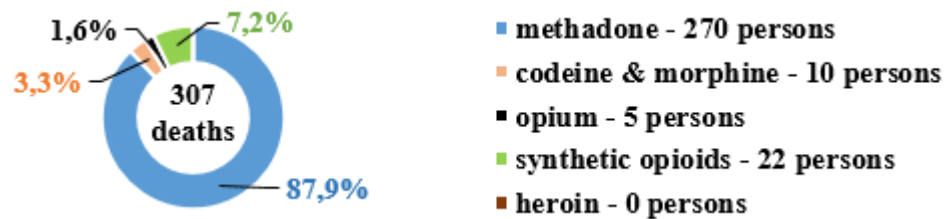
Proportion of deaths due to substance poisoning in 2017-2021, by intent (%)



Calculation source: Ukrstat data for 2017-2021. Codes: X41 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X42 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X61 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); X62 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); Y11 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6); Y12 (combined with T40.0-9 & T43.6).

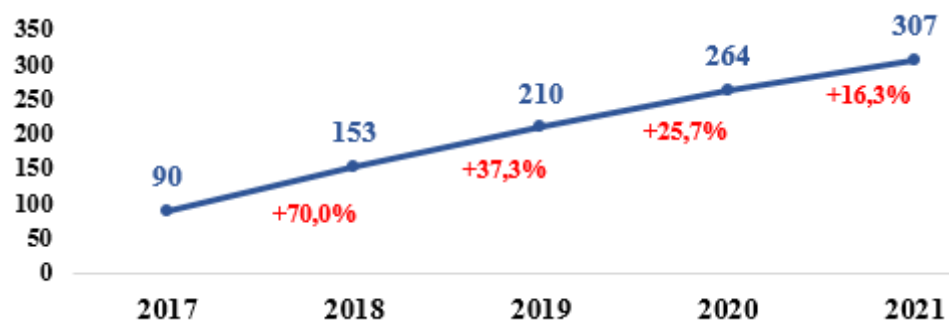
In 2021, out of the total number of deaths due to substance poisoning (522 cases), opioid poisoning accounted for the largest number of deaths – 307 cases.

Deaths due to opioid & opiate poisoning in 2021, by substance



The number of opioid poisoning cases increased steadily in 2017-2021. In 2021, there were 16,3% more such cases than in 2020, and in general, that figure increased 3,4 times over 4 years (2017-2021).

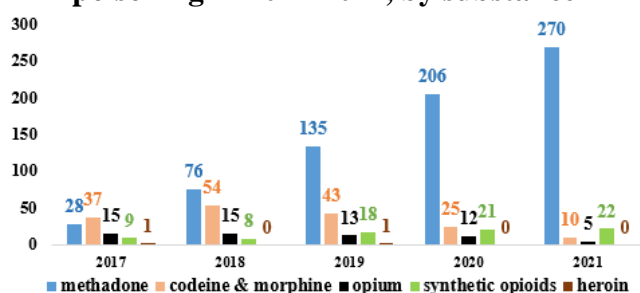
Number of deaths due to opioid & opiate poisoning in 2017-2021



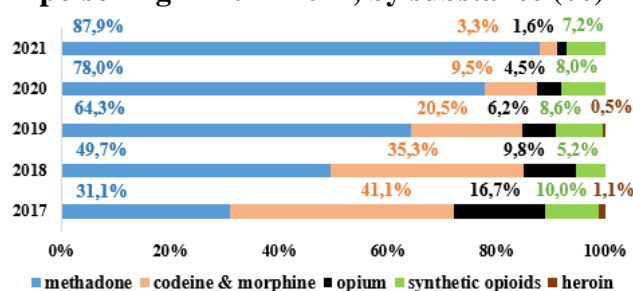
Methadone poisoning accounted for the main proportion (87,9%) of opioid poisoning cases in 2021. The proportion of such cases remained the largest among the total number of opioid poisoning cases in 2018-2021 and tended to increase year over year.

At the same time, in 2017-2021, there was an annual decrease in the proportion of codeine and morphine, opium and synthetic opioids poisonings.

Number of deaths due to opioid & opiate poisoning in 2017-2021, by substance



Proportion of deaths due to opioid & opiate poisoning in 2017-2021, by substance (%)



Calculation source: Ukrstat data for 2017-2021. Codes: X41 (combined with T40.0-4); X42 (combined with T40.0-4); X61 (combined with T40.0-4); X62 (combined with T40.0-4); Y11 (combined with T40.0-4); Y12 (combined with T40.0-4).

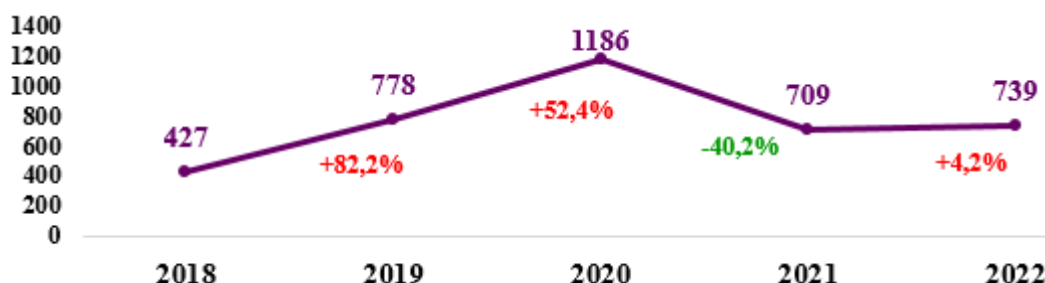
Deaths related to drug use by autopsy results

Data collection on the number of deceased persons with identified evidence of substances in biological material was launched in 2019 in accordance with the [Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 10 July 2019 No. 689](#) “Issues of monitoring of drug and alcohol situation in Ukraine”. These data are provided by the Bureaus of Forensic Medical Examination (hereinafter – Forensic Bureaus) from each region of Ukraine based on the results of autopsies of the deceased upon the request of investigators.

According to the Forensic Bureaus, the number of deaths with identified evidence of substances in biological material amounted to 739 cases in 2022. Until 2021, there was a general trend towards a significant increase in that figure. The data for 2021-2022 are incomplete, as it was impossible to obtain them from the Forensic Bureaus of a number of regions due to the temporary occupation of the territories of Ukraine and military actions as a result of russia’s full-scale military aggression after 24 February 2022.

Thus, in 2021, the number of documented cases with identified evidence of substances in biological material of deceased persons decreased by a record 40,2%, but in 2022 that number increased by 4,2%.

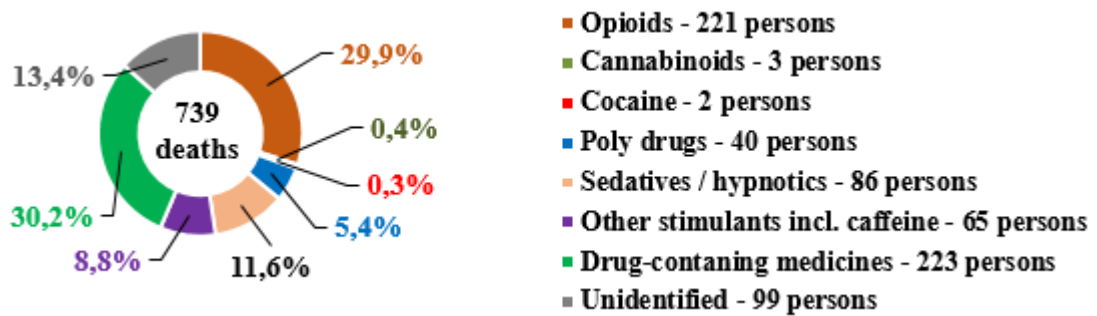
Number of deaths with identified evidence of substances in biological material in 2018-2022



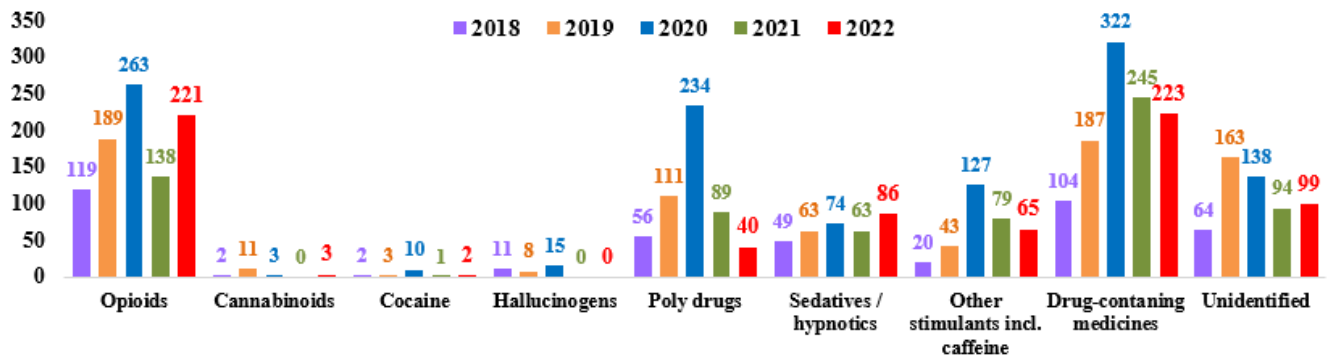
Calculation source: data by Forensic Bureaus for 2018-2022.

In terms of the substances, identified in the biological material of the deceased in 2022, the largest proportions were made up of drug-containing medicines (30,2%) and opioids (29,9%). On average, over the period 2018-2022, the proportions of drug-containing medicines (28,1%) and opioids (24,7%) remained the highest.

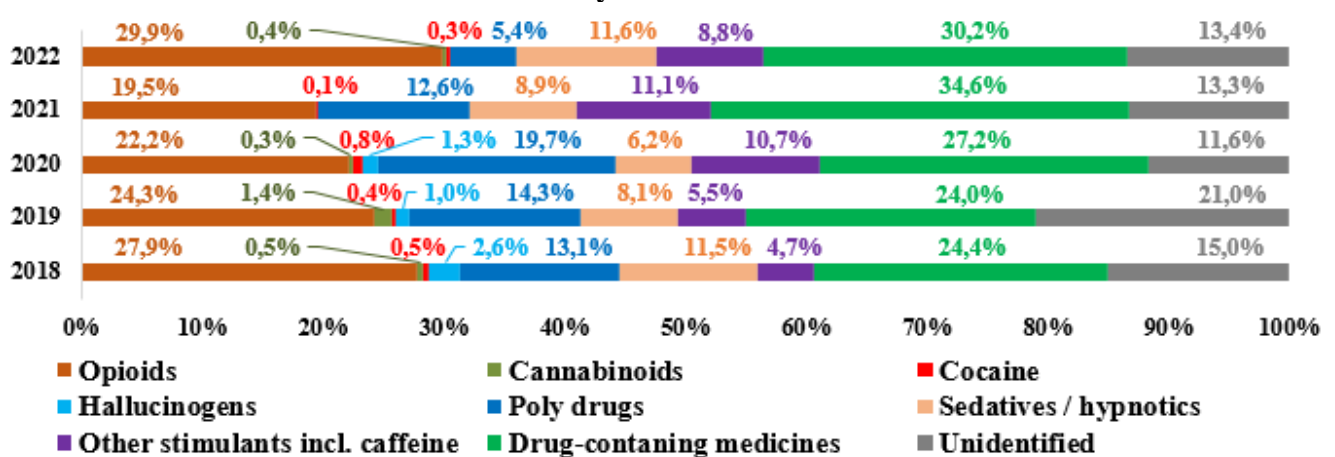
Deaths with identified evidence of substances in biological material in 2022, by substance



Number of deaths with identified evidence of substances in biological material in 2018-2022, by substance



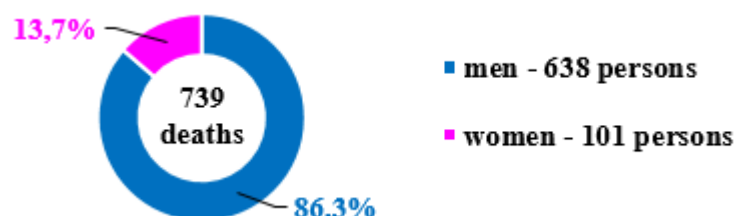
Proportion of deaths with identified evidence of substances in biological material in 2018-2022, by substance



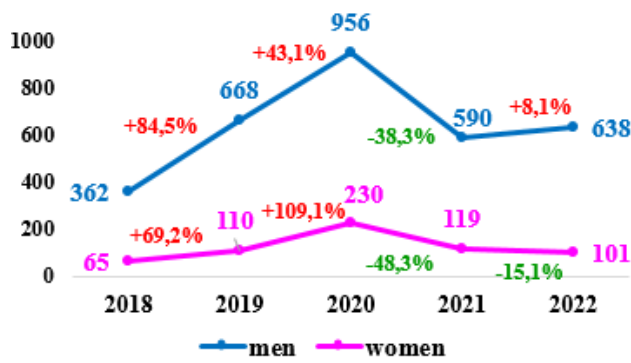
Calculation source: data by Forensic Bureaus for 2018-2022.

Among the deceased individuals with identified evidence of substances in biological material, 638 persons (86,3%) were men. That gender ratio remained stable during 2018-2022.

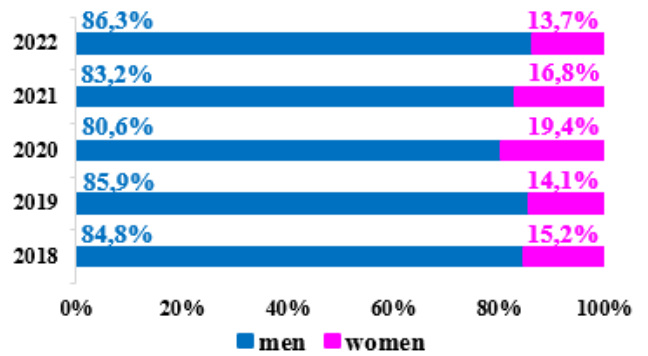
Deaths with identified evidence of substances in biological material in 2022, by gender



Number of deaths in 2018-2022, by gender



Proportion of deaths in 2018-2022, by gender (%)



Calculation source: data by Forensic Bureaus for 2018-2022.

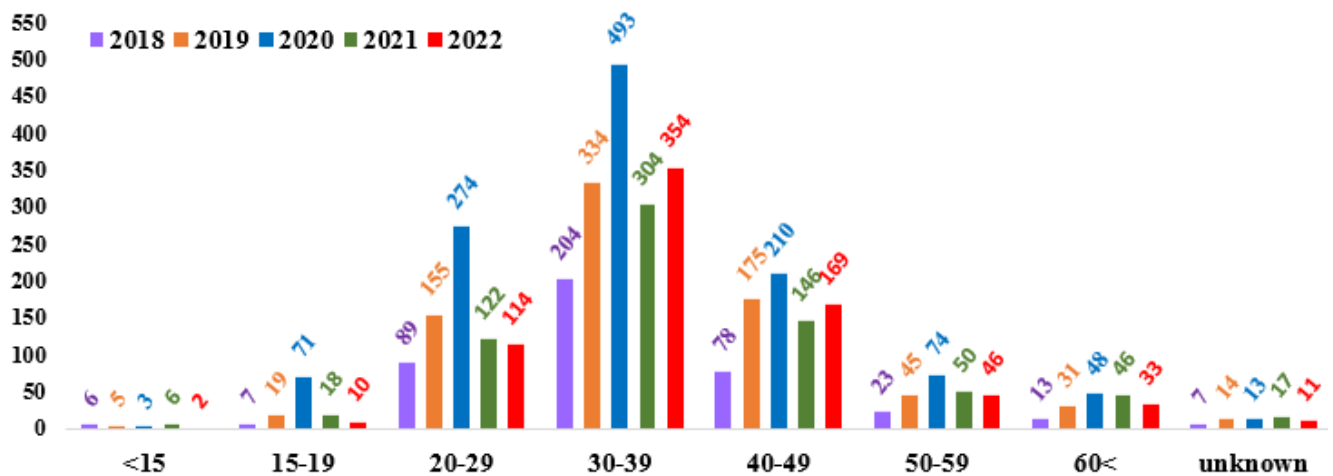
In terms of age groups of deceased persons with identified evidence of substances in biological material in 2022, the largest age group was 30-39 y.o. (47,9%), remaining predominant during 2018-2022.

In 2018-2022, there was a trend toward a decrease in the proportion of deaths in the age group of 20-29 y.o and an increase in the proportion of deaths in the age group of 40-49 y.o.

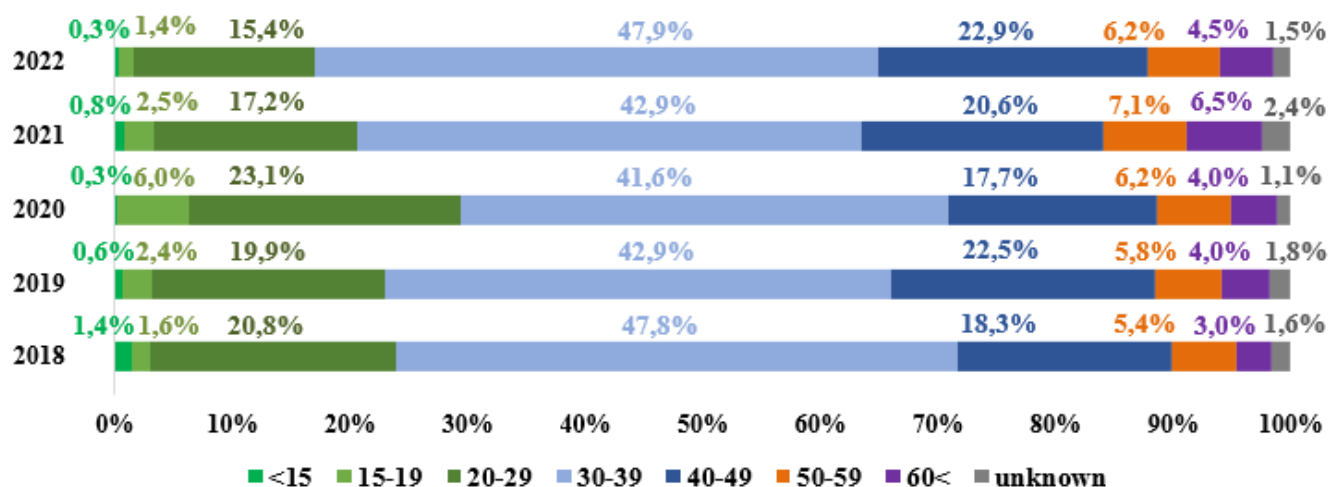
Deaths with identified evidence of substances in biological material in 2022, by age



Number of deaths with identified evidence of substances in biological material in 2018-2022, by age



Proportion of deaths with identified evidence of substances in biological material in 2018-2022, by age (%)



Calculation source: data by Forensic Bureaus for 2018-2022.

When analyzing deaths with identified evidence of substances in biological material and deaths related to substance use and poisoning for 2021, the largest proportion of deaths occurred in the age group of 30-39 y.o. Thus, this age group accounts for 49,7% of all deaths related to substance use and poisoning, according to the State Statistics Service, and for 42,9% of deaths with identified evidence of substances in biological material, according to the Forensic Bureaus.

According to data provided by the State Statistics Service and Forensic bureaus, the majority of the deceased were men: 92,0% and 83,2%, respectively.

Analysis of some indicators on deaths due to substance use and poisoning provided by Ukrstat, and indicators on deaths with identified substances in biological material provided by Forensic Bureaus, 2021*

Indicator	Data by Ukrstat	Data by Forensic bureaus
Number of cases of deaths:	565 cases	709 cases
Substance: opioids	58,8 % (332 cases)	19,5% (138 cases)
Gender: men	92,0 % (520 cases)	83,2% (590 cases)
Age: 30-39 y.o.	49,7% (281 cases)	42,9% (304 cases)

Note: * Data for 2021 is analyzed here due to the unavailability of Ukrstat data for 2022.

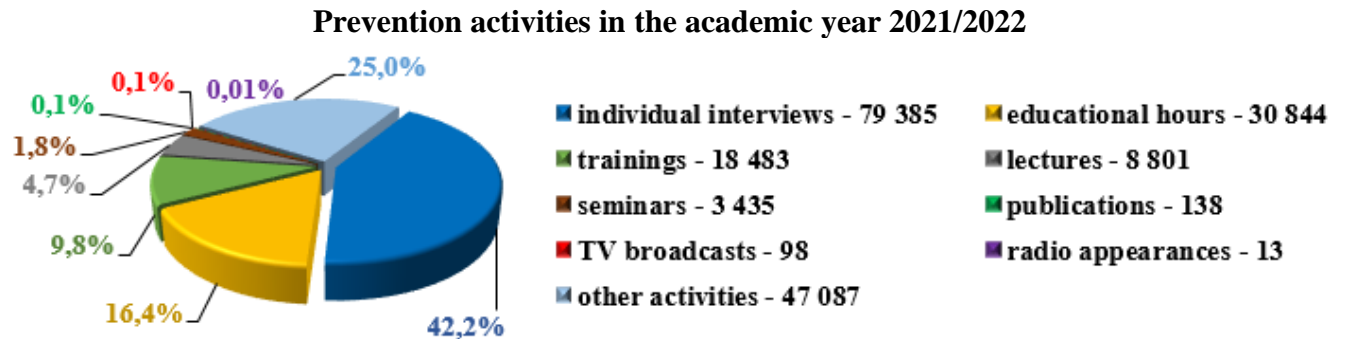
Drug use prevention and social services

In Ukraine, the drug use prevention and rehabilitation programs, targeted at people who use drugs (PWUD), are arranged and implemented 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 NGOs.

The prevention services are provided to certain social and age groups and include a variety of activities from the drug use prevention up to the harm reduction.

The state policy for students is implemented by [MOES](#), focusing on and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

According to MOES, 188 284 drug use prevention activities were carried out in the academic year 2021/2022, aimed at reducing substance use.

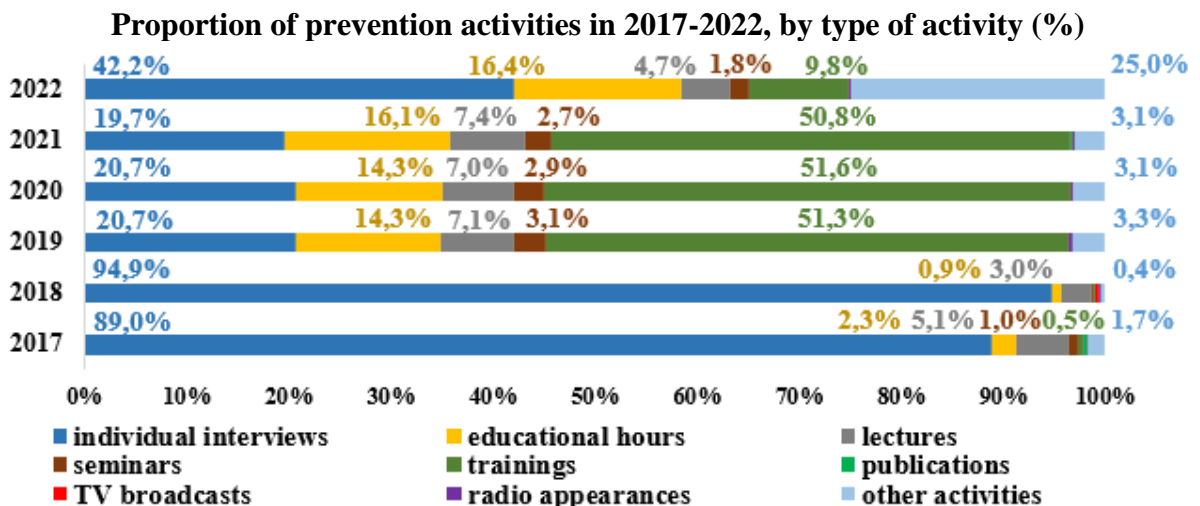
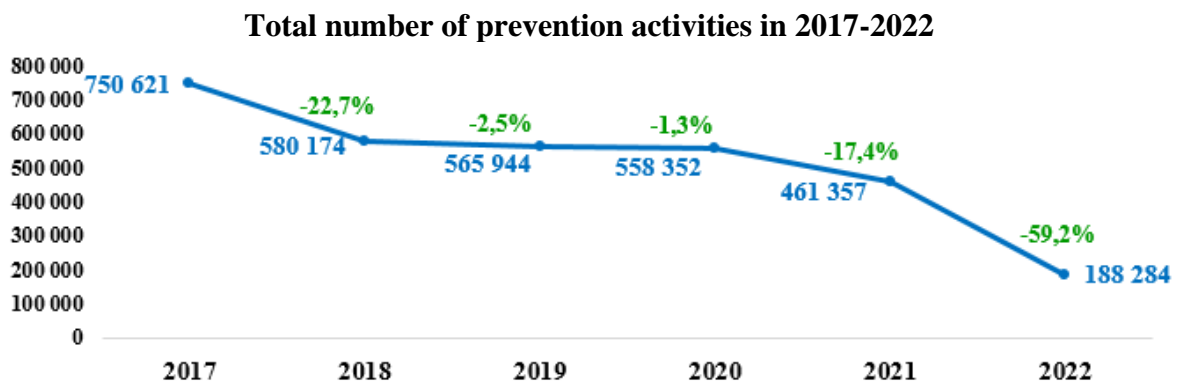


Calculation source: data by MON for the academic year 2021/2022.

The total number of prevention activities in Ukraine has been decreasing every year. At that, in 2022, their number decreased importantly (by 59,2%) directly due to russia’s military aggression.

At the same time, the proportion of individual interviews increased significantly in 2022, while it had a steady declining trend in 2019-2021.

Over the above period, the most common prevention activity was trainings with an average proportion of 51,3% of all the prevention activities, but in 2022, their figure went down 5 times compared to 2021.

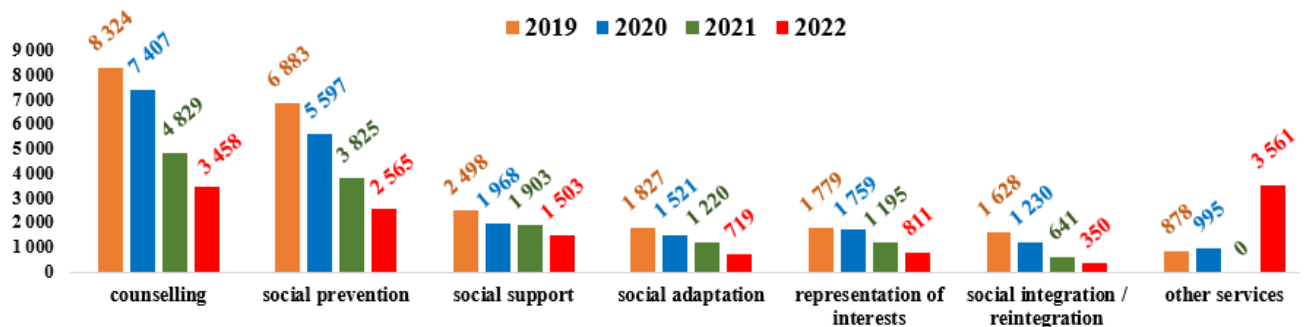


Calculation source: data by MON for 2017-2022.

The provision of rehabilitation, social reintegration and other social services is coordinated and monitored by [NSSU](#). These services are provided by social workers and include the social services, implementation of proven prevention programs, as well as resocialization programs.

The monitoring of the social services in 2022 showed that the vast majority of them were aimed at preventing negative phenomena, developing a healthy lifestyle and the useful skills. Those services were targeted above all at families with family members who used substances.

Number of individuals/families provided with social services in 2019-2022, by type of service

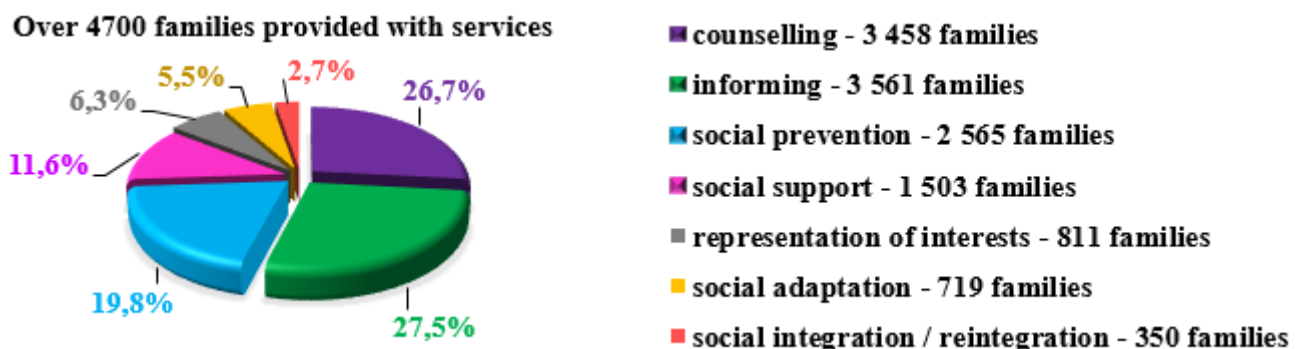


Calculation source: data by NSSU for 2019-2022.

In 2022, 812 drug dependent individuals were provided with counseling, shelter, emergency (crisis) intervention, mediation, and social prevention services, among others. Of them, 39 individuals were provided with further support after completing the resocialization course (53 persons completed the resocialization course).

In 2022, more than 4 700 families with family members who used substances, including 28 children, were provided with social services by city, town, district and village social service centers.

Social services provided to families with family members who used substances in 2022

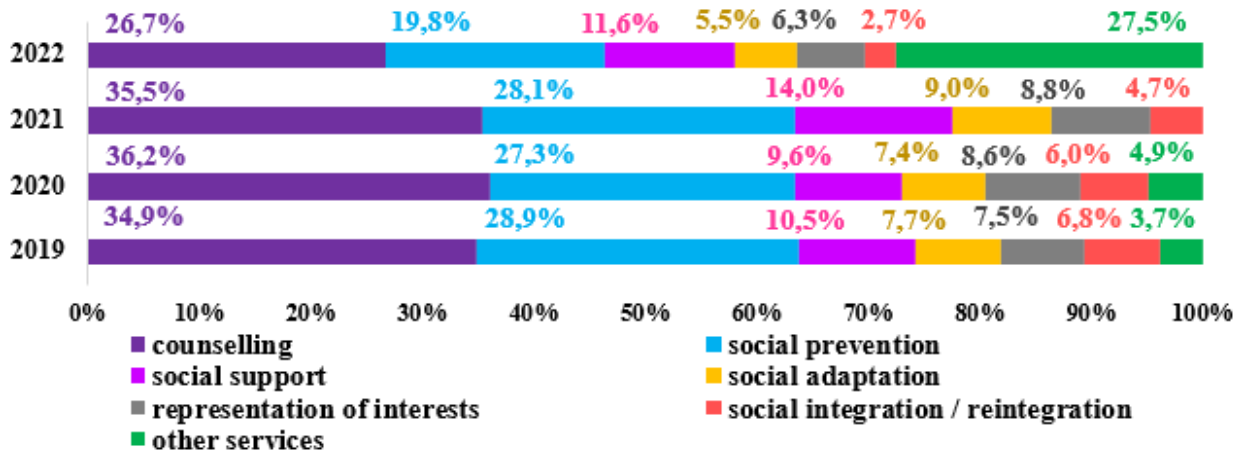


In 2019-2022, counseling and social prevention services accounted for the largest proportions in the structure of services provided. At that, in 2022, the proportion of counseling services decreased from 35,5% up to 26,7% compared to 2021, and the proportion of social prevention services decreased from 28,1% to 19,8%.

Over the same period, there has been a downward trend in the proportion of social integration and reintegration services.

At the same time, in 2022, the proportion of other services increased up to 27,5% (compared to 2021), and they included the services like video lectures, educational and prevention programs, visits to narcologists and psychologists, practical classes, discussions, educational activities, conversations, etc.

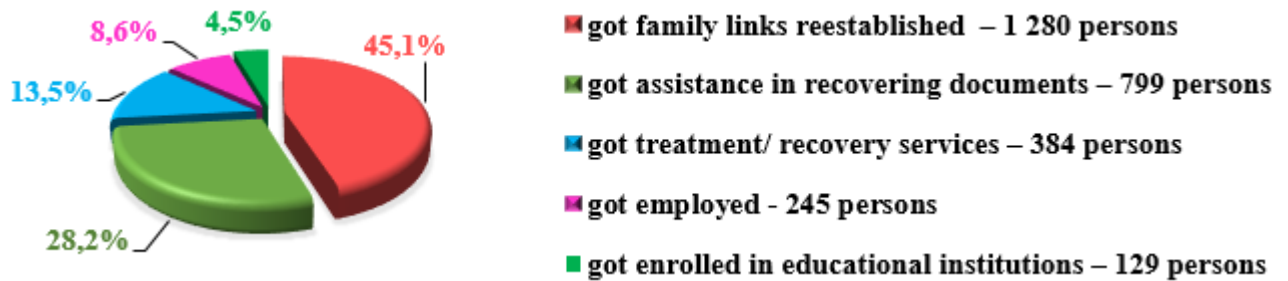
Proportion of social services provided to families with family members who used substances in 2019-2022, by type of service (%)



Calculation source: data by NSSU for 2019-2022.

2 837 family members who used substances got measurable results of the social services provided in 2022.

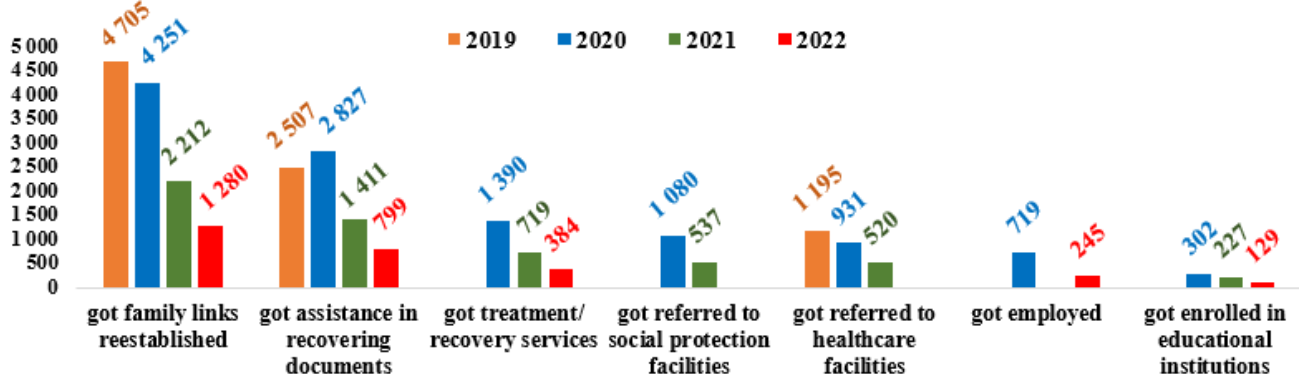
Results of social services provided to families with family members who used substances in 2022



Calculation source: data by NSSU for 2019-2022.

In 2019-2022, the main outcome of social services provided to the family members who used substances was family links reestablished.

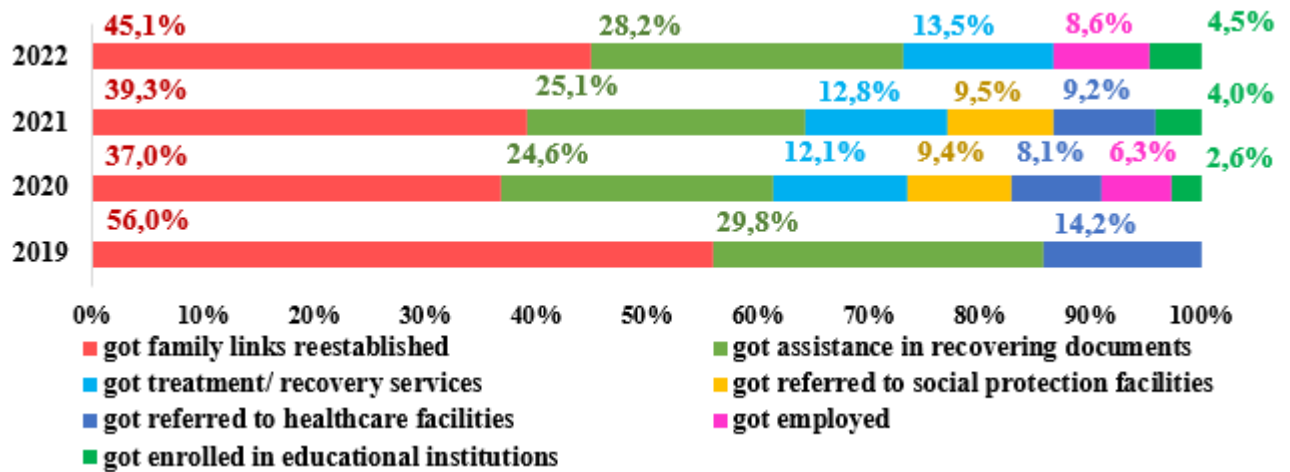
The number of persons who used substances, provided with social services in 2019-2022, by result of service provision



Calculation source: data by NSSU for 2019-2022.

The assistance in recovering documents was the second largest outcome of the social services, and its proportion remained sustainable year over year.

Results of social services provided to families with family members who used substances in 2019-2022 (%)



Calculation source: data by NSSU for 2019-2022.

The state youth policy and relevant activities are implemented by [MOYS](#).

In 2022, due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, most youth activities were canceled, and no social surveys conducted. E.g., as of February 2022, there were 300 youth centers and spaces. Of them, 9 were totally destroyed, 29 were damaged, 57 were occupied.

The [survey](#) showed that the youth centers started adapting their work with youth, and as of June 2022, there were 121 functioning centers, and at the end of 2022, there were 143 functioning centers. Based on those centers MOES set up 24 youth hubs in 21 Ukrainian regions within the national wide platform “[SpivDiia](#)”. As an example, over 8 000 persons were provided with psychological services and over 2 000 children were provided with informal educational services.

In addition, MOES hold activities aimed at involving young people in sports events promoting a healthy lifestyle. Thus, the “[Sport for All](#)” centers organized 55 sports and recreation events involving 73 839 participants, including 17 760 internally displaced persons.

Within “[Active Parks](#)” social project, [initiated by the President of Ukraine](#), as of December 2022, 704 locations were open in Ukraine (of them 54 were damaged by Russian troops), 644 coordinators conducted events, more than 5 000 sports and recreation events were held with more than 800 000 participants involved, including more than 50 000 internally displaced persons.

Harm reduction

The Laws of Ukraine “[On Countering the Spread of Diseases Caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\) and the Legal and Social Protection for People Living with HIV](#)” and “[On Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors](#)” define harm reduction issues and interventions. In addition, in 2019, the Government adopted [the National Strategy for Combating HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Viral Hepatitis up to 2030](#), which defines long-term priorities and the vector for the development of further

national programs to combat these diseases under Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

In June 2019, as part of the Plan for Ukraine's transition from donor funding of HIV programs by the Global Fund to state funding, the Government [decided](#) to provide HIV prevention services to individuals from high-risk groups at the expense of the state budget.

HIV prevention services include:

- targeted information, education and communication services;
- distribution of condoms & lubricants;
- exchange and distribution of syringes & needles;
- HIV testing;
- TB screening.

Distribution of condoms and lubricants, exchange and distribution of syringes & needles are targeted at individuals from high-risk groups, namely:

- men who have sex with men (MSM);
- sex workers (SW);
- people who inject drugs (PWID).

**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PREVENTION TOOLS
to be provided to high-risk groups within HIV prevention services**

Services	Recipients	Prevention tools	Estimation* (person/year)
Distribution of condoms & lubricants	PWID (14 y.o. & older)	Condoms	20
		Lubricants	2
	SW (18 y.o. & older)	Condoms	200
		Lubricants	100
	MSM (14 y.o. & older)	Condoms	50
		Lubricants	25
Exchange and distribution of syringes & needles	PWID (14 y.o. & older)	Disposable syringes	200
		Disinfectant alcohol wipes	200

Note: * The estimated number is used as the estimated average per recipient during the year. The number of prevention tools may vary depending on the service recipient's need.

Comparison of the estimated number of prevention tools to be provided within HIV prevention services with the actual number of distributed prevention tools (per 1 recipient) in 2022

Prevention tools	Estimated number of prevention tools per 1 recipient	Distributed number of prevention tools per 1 recipient and its proportion from the estimated number
Condoms	270 pieces	40 pieces (14,8%)
Lubricants	127 pieces	63 pieces (49,6%)
Syringes & needles	200 pieces	72 pieces (36,0%)
Alcohol wipes	200 pieces	77 pieces (38,5%)

Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2022.

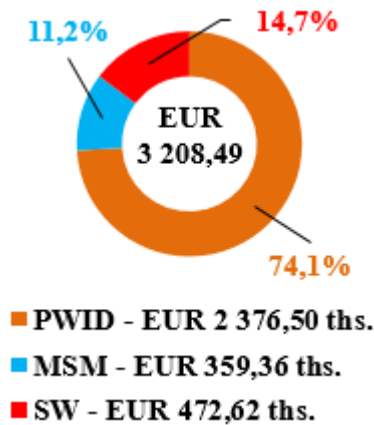
In 2022, people who were provided with HIV prevention services funded by the state budget were as follows (persons):

	PWID	MSM	SW
Targeted information, education and communication services	169 905	41 185	42 738
Condom and lubricant distribution services	169 812	41 134	42 975
HIV testing services	154 235	38 546	40 472
TB screening services	159 334	39 028	41 326

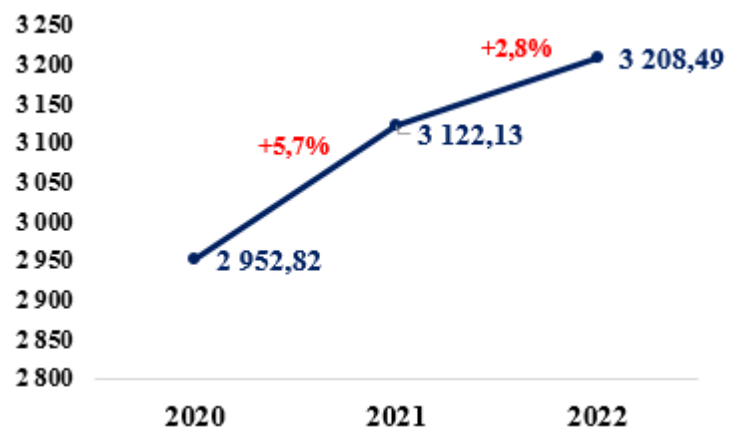
Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2022.

In 2022, the total amount of state budget funds allocated for the procurement of HIV prevention services amounted to EUR 3 208 487,61, of which the largest amount (EUR 2 376 502,94) was used to procure services for people who inject drugs.

State Budget funds allocated for procurement of HIV prevention services to high-risk groups in 2022



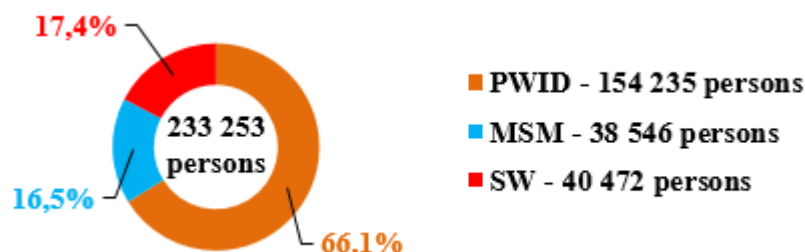
State Budget funds allocated for procurement of HIV prevention services to high-risk groups in 2020-2022 (EUR thousand)



Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2020-2022.

233 253 persons from high-risk groups were provided with HIV testing services in Ukraine in 2022.

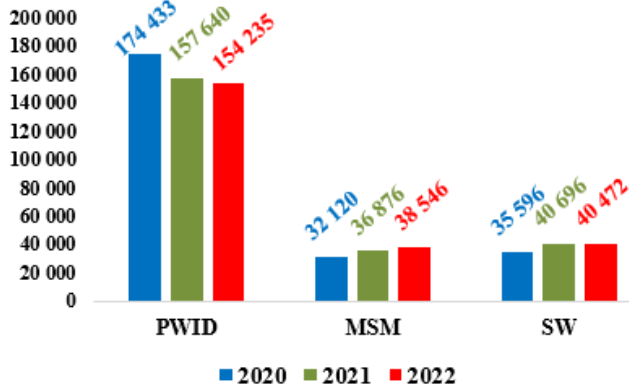
High-risk groups, provided with HIV testing services in 2022



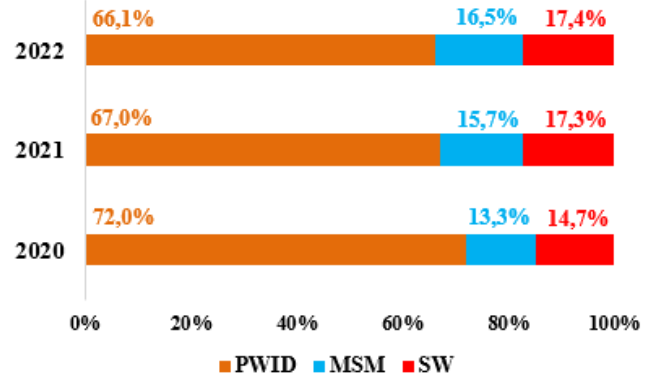
In 2020-2022, the proportion of PWID remained the largest among people from high-risk groups who were provided with HIV testing services. Thus, in 2022, their proportion was 66,1%, but it tended to decrease slightly during this period.

Over the same period, there was a slight increase in the proportion of people from MSM and SW groups who were provided with HIV testing services.

Number of persons, provided with HIV testing services in 2020-2022



Proportion of persons, provided with HIV testing services in 2020-2022 (%)

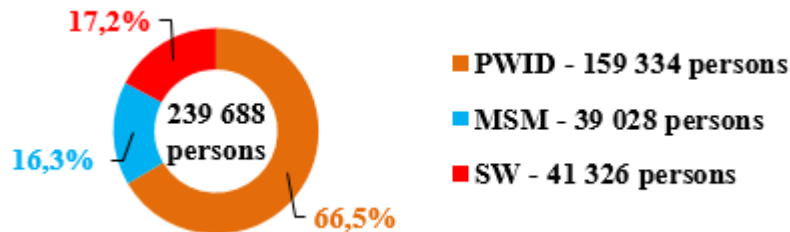


Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2020-2022.

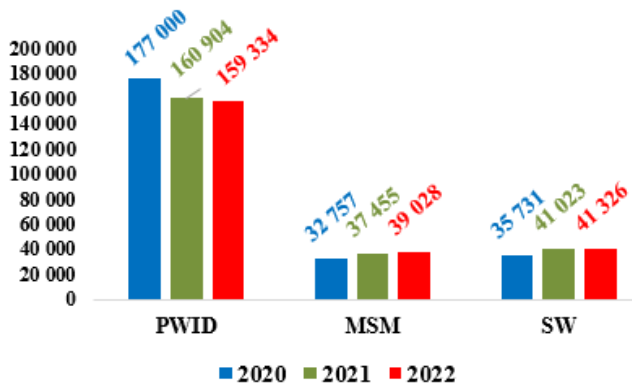
In 2022, 239 688 individuals from high-risk groups were provided with TB screening services. In 2020-2022, PWID remained the largest group among high-risk groups receiving TB screening services.

In 2022, the proportion of that group accounted for 66,5%. At the same time, there was a trend of its slight decrease. Over the same period, there was a slight increase in the proportion of persons from MSM and SW groups who were provided with TB screening services.

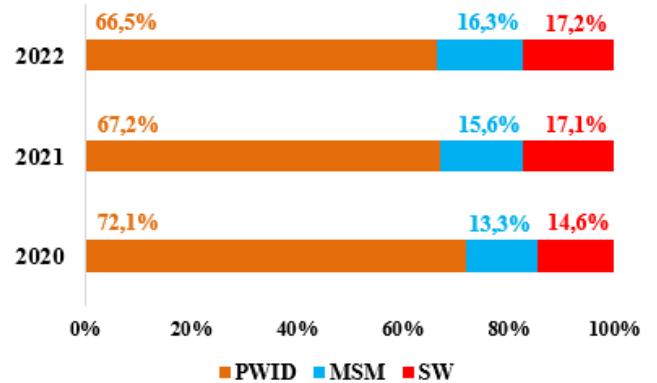
High-risk groups, provided with TB screening services in 2022



Number of persons, provided with TB screening services in 2020-2022



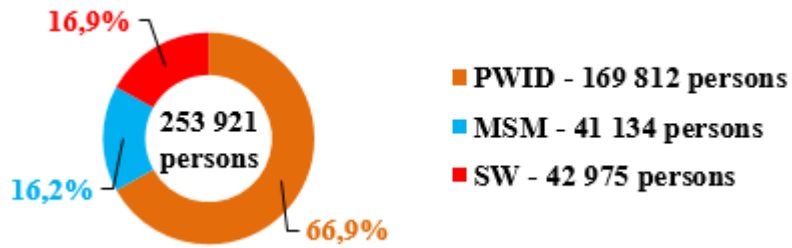
Proportion of persons, provided with TB screening services in 2020-2022 (%)



Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2020-2022.

253 921 persons from high-risk groups were provided with condom and lubricant distribution services in 2022.

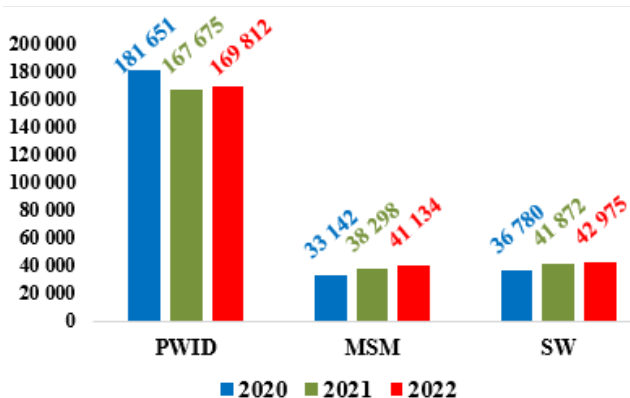
High-risk groups, provided with condom and lubricant distribution services in 2022



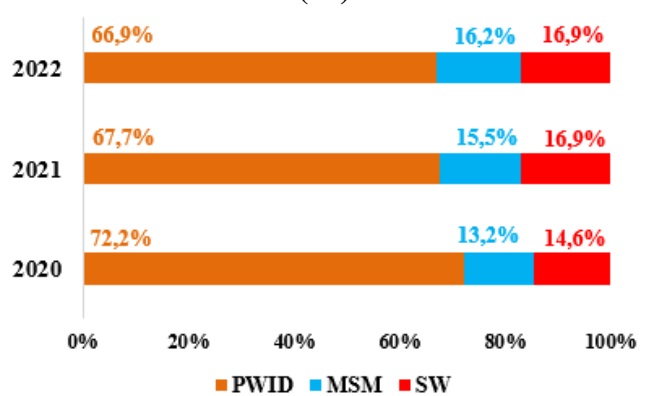
In 2020-2022, the largest proportion of high-risk groups provided with condom and lubricant distribution services was made up of PWID. In 2022, their proportion was 66,9%, but there was a trend of its slight decrease over the period.

At the same time, there was a slight increase in the proportion of MSM and SW who were provided with condom and lubricant distribution services over that period.

Number of persons, provided with condom & lubricant distribution services in 2020-2022



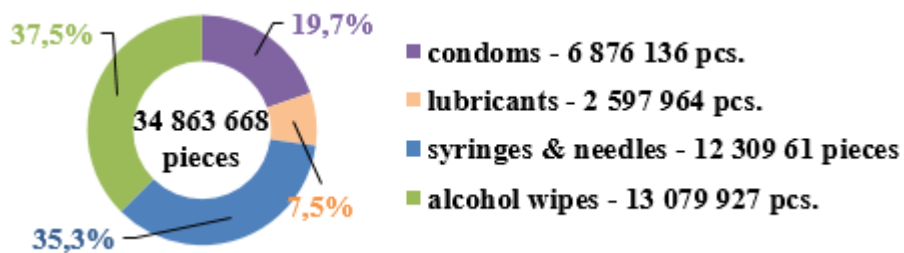
Proportion of persons, provided with condom & lubricant distribution services in 2020-2022 (%)



Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2020-2022.

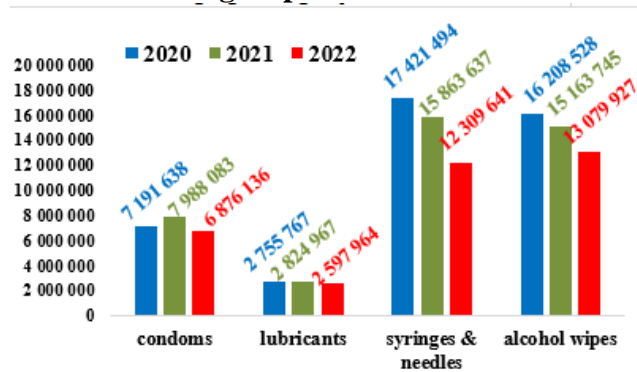
In 2022, PWID were provided with 12 309 641 syringes and needles, as well as 13 079 927 alcohol wipes.

Prevention tools provided to high-risk groups in 2022

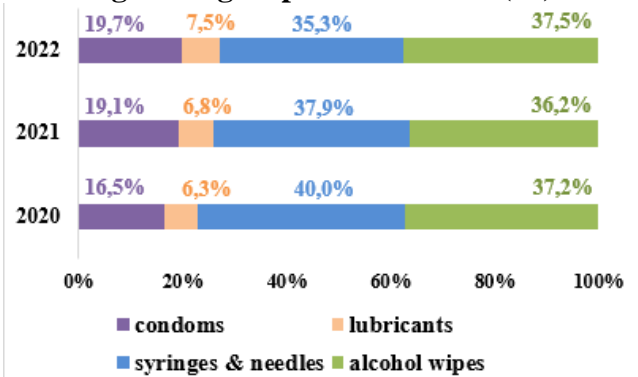


Syringes and needles (35,3% in 2022) and alcohol wipes (37,5% in 2022) accounted for the largest proportions of prevention tools provided to high-risk groups in 2020-2022, but the proportion of syringes & needles (exchanged/distributed) had been decreasing from year to year. Over the same period, there was an increase in the proportion of condoms and lubricants distributed.

Number of prevention tools, provided to high-risk groups in 2020-2022



Proportion of prevention tools, provided to high-risk groups in 2020-2022 (%)



Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2020-2022.

Treatment of mental and behavioral disorders due to drug use

Treatment services system

The treatment objectives are defined in the Strategy, and the plans for their implementation focus on comprehensive, integrated use of all components of the treatment system based on evidence-proved methods, ensuring access to health care, expanding treatment options, alternatives to punishment.

Treatment services are financed from the state and local budgets, special funds and other sources of funding like humanitarian and international aid. Psychiatric care is provided by medical facilities of any ownership:

- harm reduction centers;
- psychiatric and narcological hospitals;
- narcological dispensaries;
- narcological sites in multidisciplinary healthcare facilities;
- outpatient clinics.

Forms of medical care provided to drug dependent individuals:

- inpatient detoxification;
- outpatient detoxification;
- medical counseling;
- OST;
- rehabilitation programs.

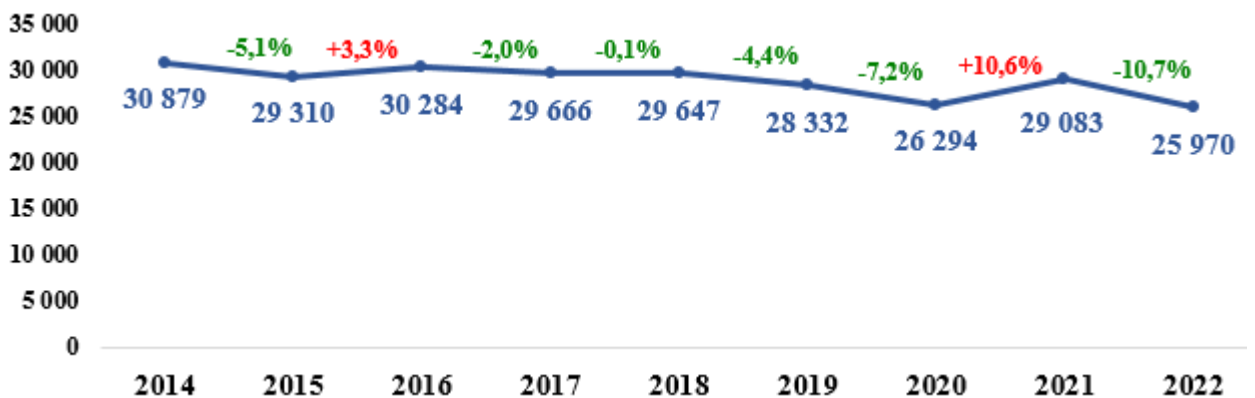
The inpatient treatment services include as follows: the checkup and short-term intervention; detoxification; symptomatic therapy; gradual relief of withdrawal syndrome; opioid substitution therapy; treatment planning; and counseling, among others.

Provision of treatment services

25 970 individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use were treated in the dispensary register in 2022.

Of them, the largest number of people (19 722 or 75,9%) were provided with outpatient treatment services.

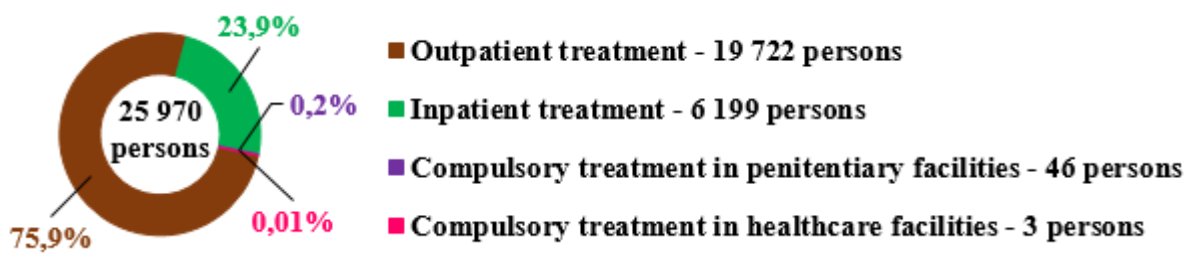
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use, provided with treatment services in 2014-2022



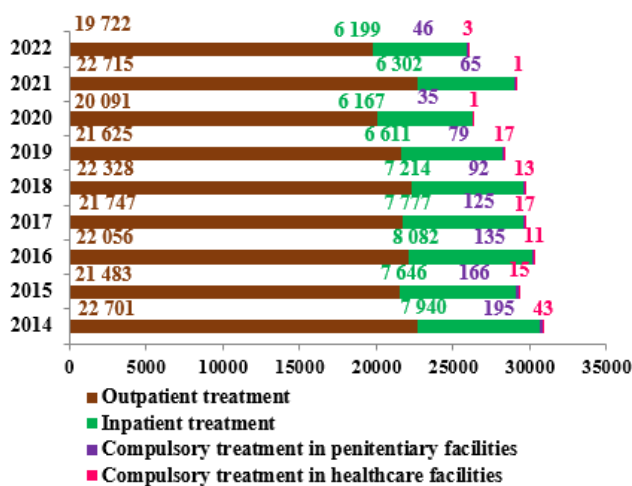
Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

In 2022, outpatient services were the main form of treatment in the dispensary register for people with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use (75,9%). In 2014-2022, that form of treatment remained predominant.

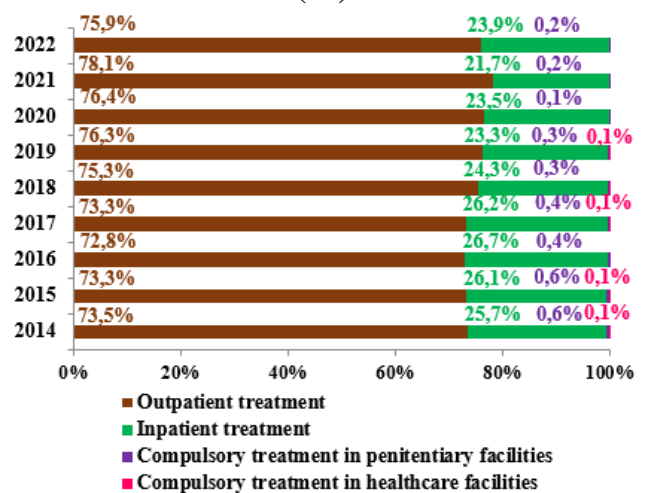
Persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use, provided with treatment services in 2022, by form of treatment



Number of persons, provided with treatment in 2014-2022, by form of treatment



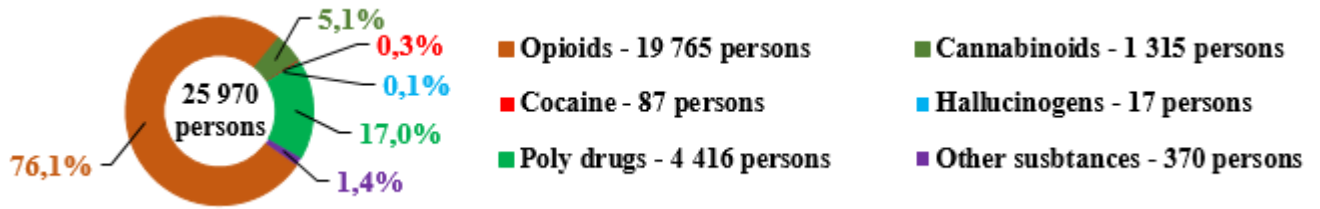
Proportion of persons, provided with treatment in 2014-2022, by form of treatment (%)



Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

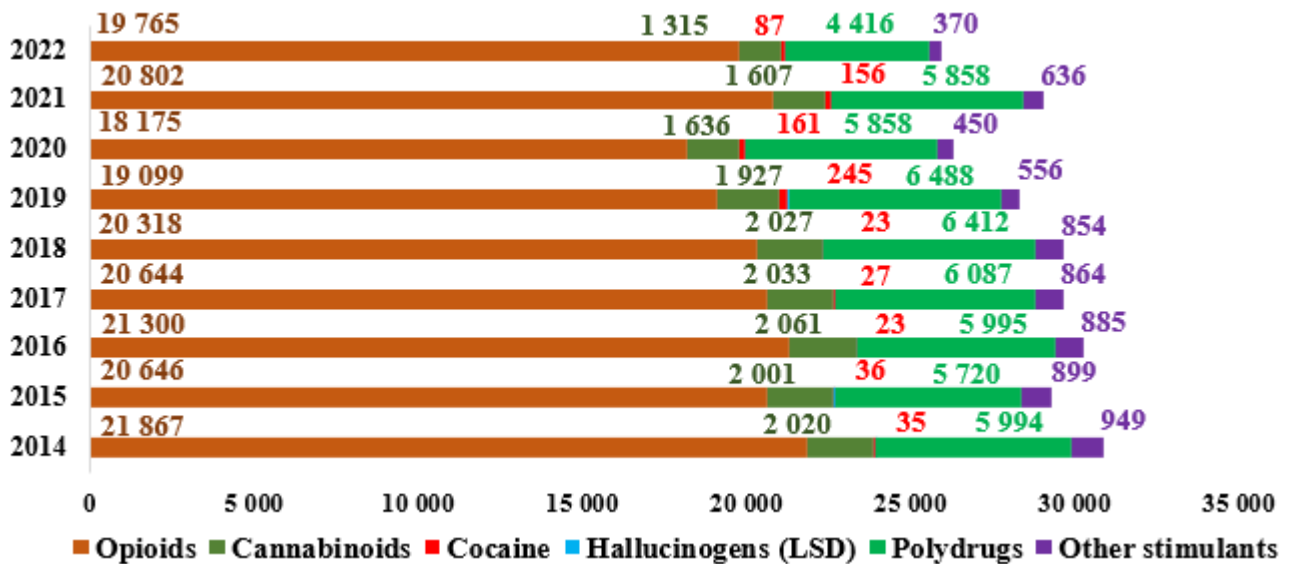
In 2022, out of the total number of individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use, provided with treatment services in the dispensary register, the vast majority of patients were treated for opioid addiction (19 765 persons or 76,1%).

Persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use, provided with treatment services in 2022, by substance

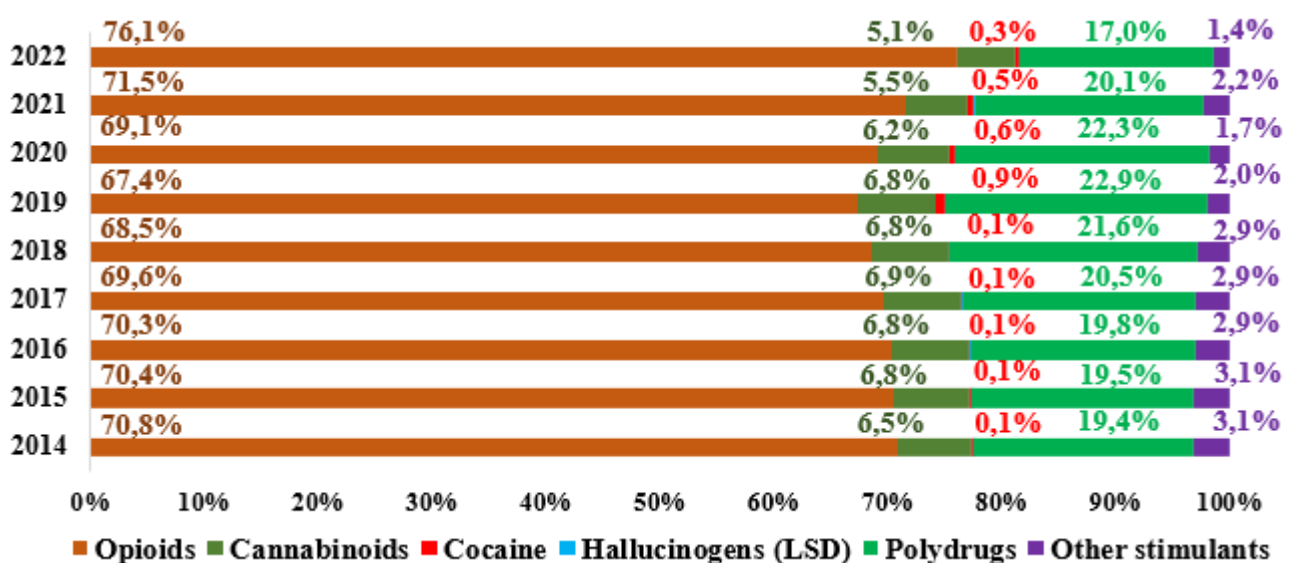


In 2019-2022, there was an annual increase in the proportion of persons treated for opioid addiction. At the same time, the proportion of people treated for polydrug use and for mental and behavioral disorders due to cannabinoid use decreased year over year.

Number of persons, provided with treatment services in 2014-2022, by substance



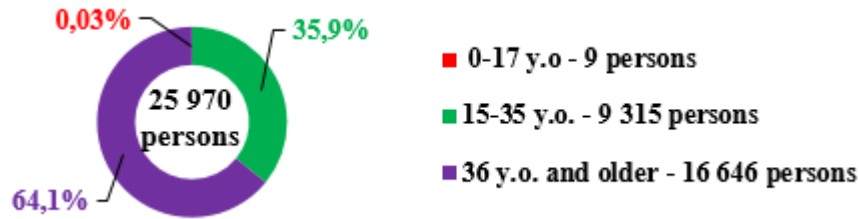
Proportion of persons, provided with treatment in 2014-2022, by substance (%)



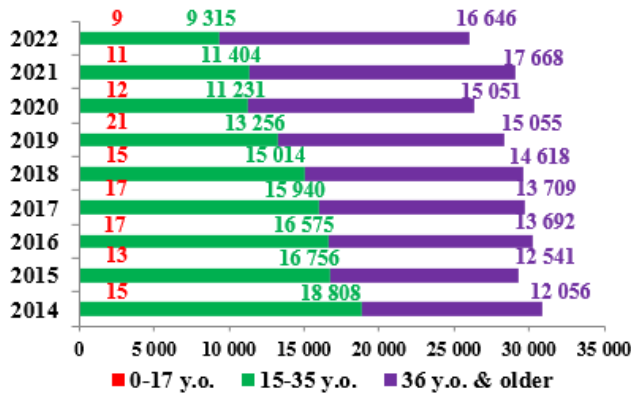
Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

In terms of age groups of people with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use provided with treatment services in the dispensary register, 64,1% were individuals aged 36 years and older. From 2014 to 2018, the proportion of persons in the age group of 15-35 y.o. were the largest one, but from 2019 to 2022, the proportion of individuals in the age group of age group of 36 y.o. and older showed an annual increase by an average of 3,7 points.

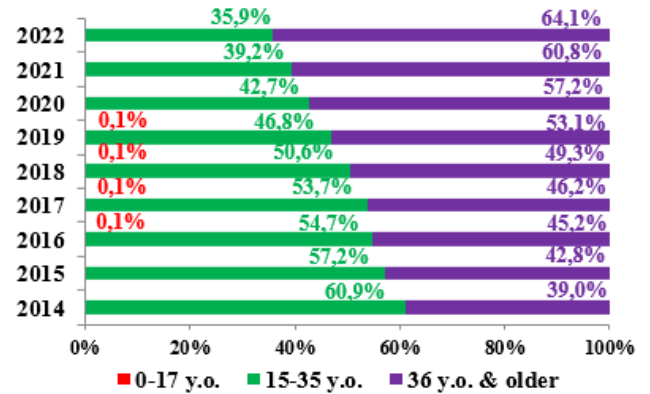
Persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use, provided with treatment services in 2022, by age



Number of persons, provided with treatment in 2014-2022, by age



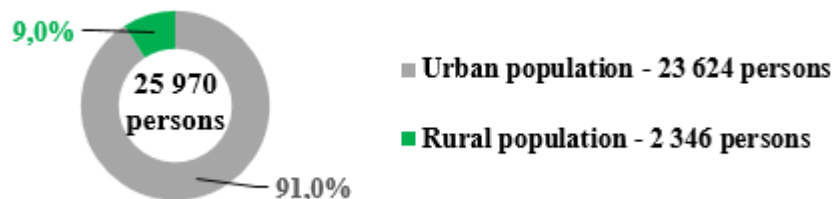
Proportion of persons, provided with treatment in 2014-2022, by age (%)



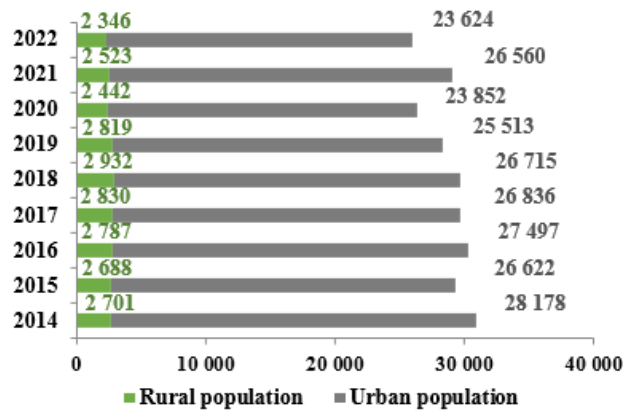
Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

As in previous years since 2014, the majority of individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were provided with treatment services in the dispensary register were urban residents (91,0% in 2022).

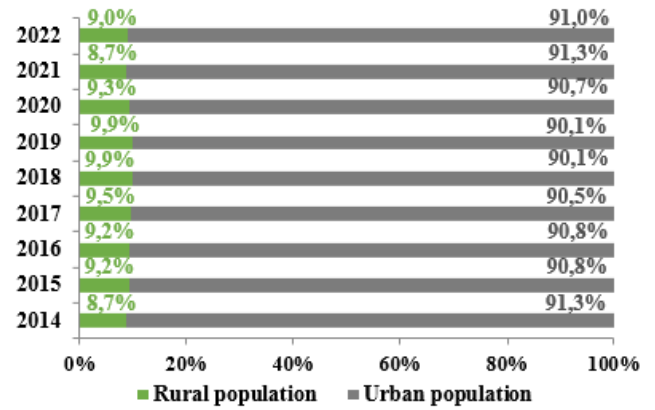
Persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use, provided with treatment services in 2022, by residence



Number of persons, provided with treatment in 2014-2022, by residence



Proportion of persons, provided with treatment in 2014-2022, by residence (%)



Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

In 2022, people with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were provided with treatment services in the dispensary register for the first time accounted for 5 288 persons (hereinafter – first-time entrants).

As for the first-time entrants, there was an increasing trend in their number over the last 3 years. In 2022, that figure increased significantly (by 25.1% compared to 2021), which is several times higher than the average annual change in their number.

Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were provided with treatment services for the first time in 2014-2022

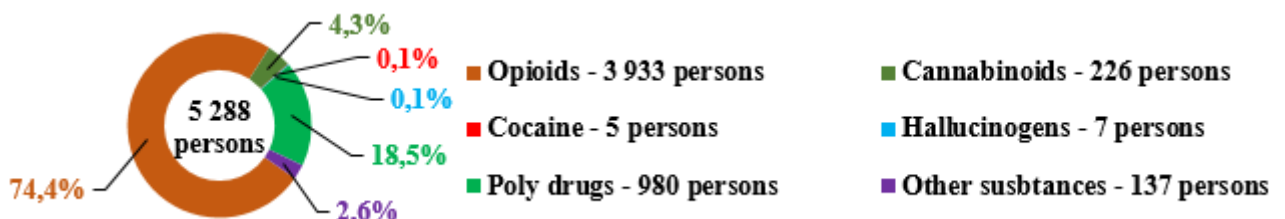


Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

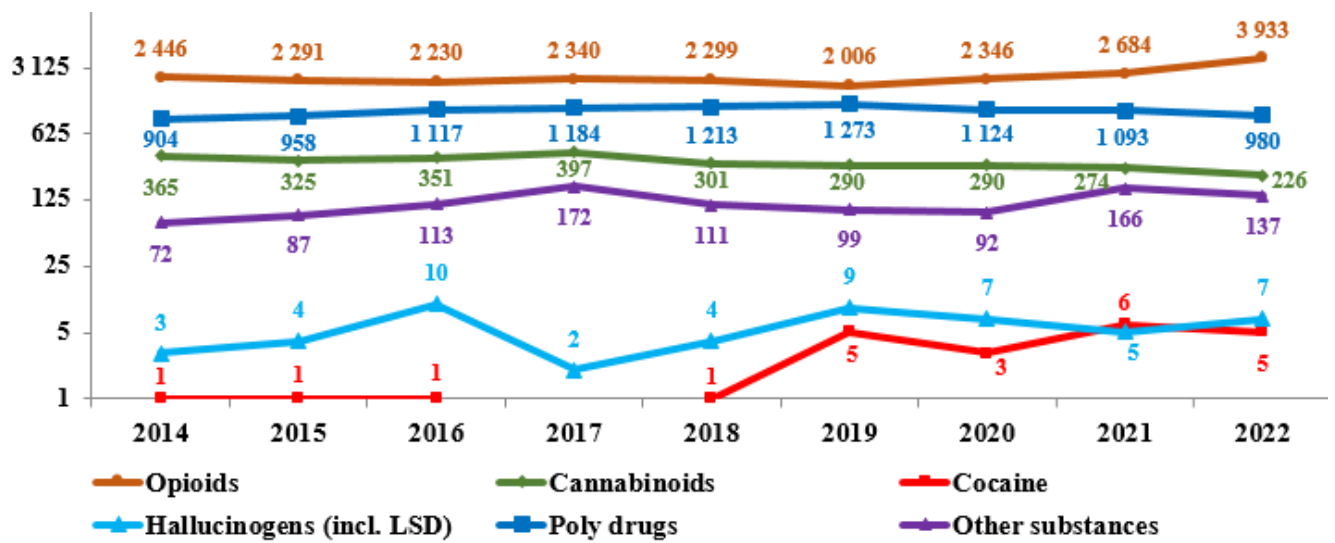
In 2022, the largest proportion of first-time entrants were provided with treatment services for opioid addiction (74,4%). The proportion of those individuals remained the largest year over year and tended to increase in 2019-2022.

During the same period, there was a decrease in the proportion of first-time entrants with mental and behavioral disorders due to cannabinoid use and due to poly drug use.

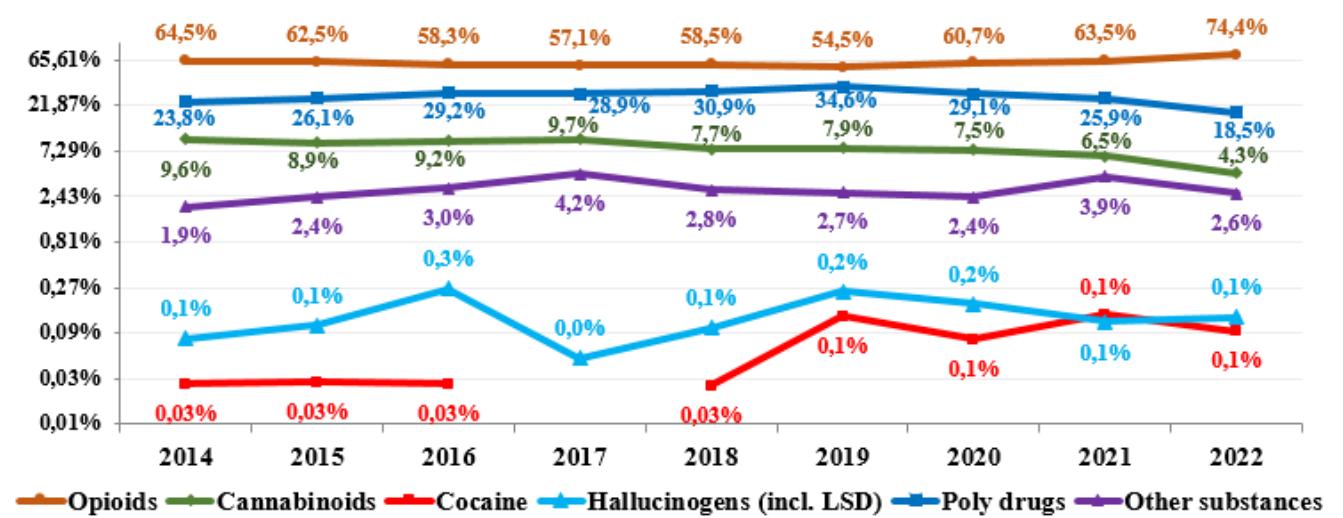
Persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were provided with treatment services for the first time in 2022, by substance



Number of first-time entrants in 2014-2022, by substance



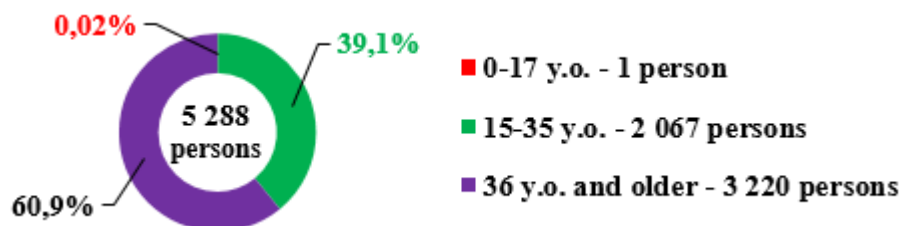
Proportion of first-time entrants in 2014-2022, by substance (%)



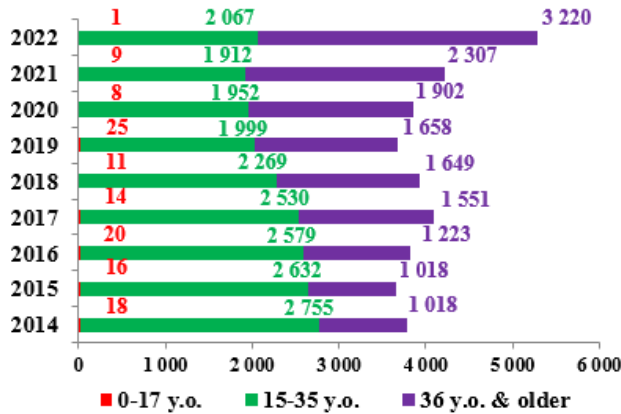
Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

In terms of age groups, in 2022, the largest proportion of first-time entrants with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use in the dispensary register were people aged 36 years and older (60,9%). An increase in the proportion of that age group was observed every year from 2014 to 2022. At the same time, there was a decrease in the proportion of first-time entrants in the age group of 15-35 y.o.

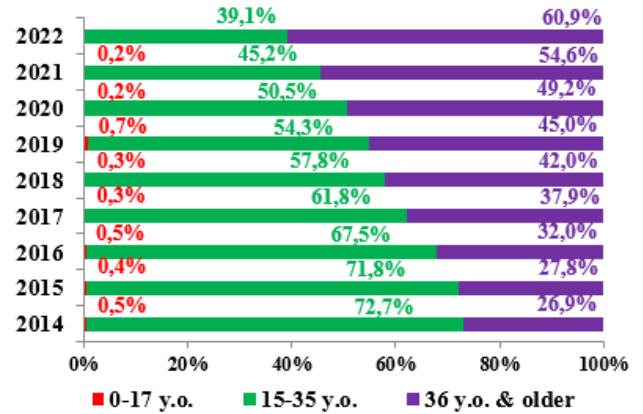
Persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were provided with treatment services for the first time in 2022, by age



Number of first-time entrants in 2014-2022, by age



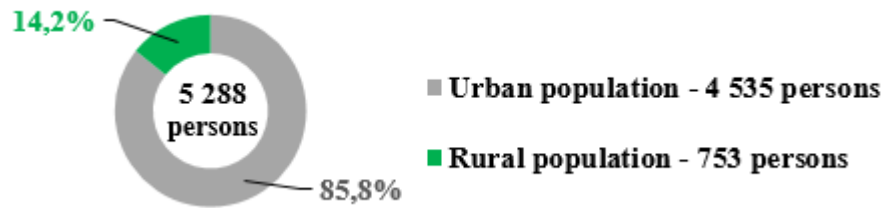
Proportion of first-time entrants in 2014-2022, by age (%)



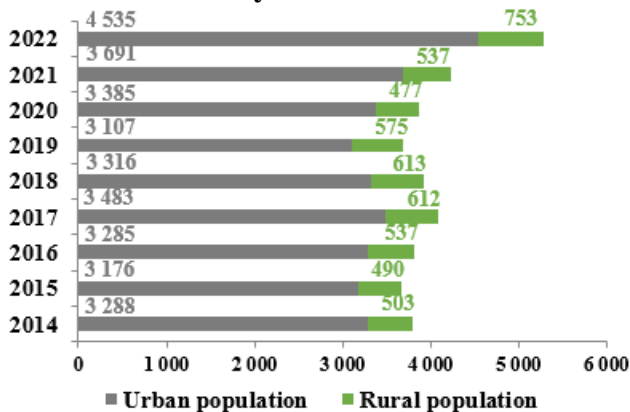
Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

As in previous years, starting from 2014, the majority of first-time entrants with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use in the dispensary register were urban residents (85,8% in 2022).

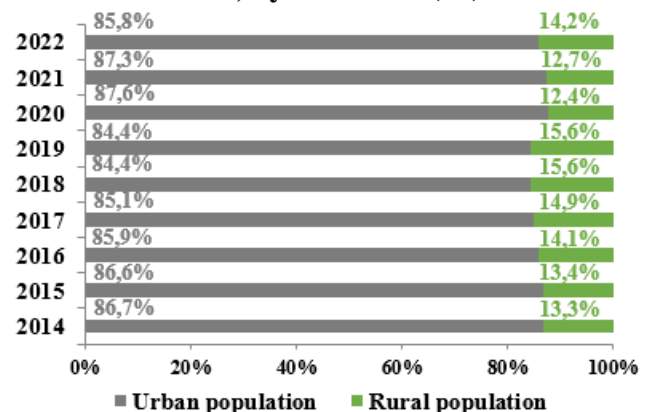
Persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were provided with treatment services for the first time in 2022, by residence



Number of first-time entrants in 2014-2022, by residence



Proportion of first-time entrants in 2014-2022, by residence (%)



Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

In 2022, significant changes in some indicators are mainly associated with russia's military aggression against Ukraine, namely the temporary occupation of part of Ukraine's territory, the seizure, damage or destruction of healthcare facilities, the breakdown of logistics channels, the displacement of a huge number of Ukrainians to other regions or abroad, etc.

Opioid substitution treatment

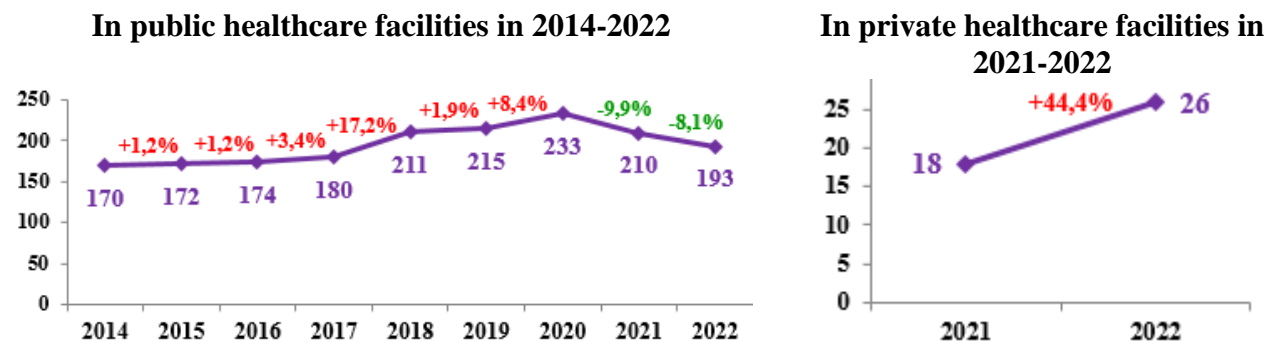
OST programs in Ukraine got their legal framework in 2012. In 2020, the standards of medical care “Mental and behavioral disorders due to opioid use” were worked out and further approved by [Order of the Ministry of Health of 09 November 2022 No. 2555](#).

OST is implemented by healthcare facilities like narcological and tuberculosis dispensaries, HIV/AIDS centers, municipal and district hospitals, first-aid healthcare centers.

Starting from 2017, OST programs have been funded by the state budget that ensures the continuity of treatment of patients and the expansion of the programs.

In 2022, there were 193 OST sites in public healthcare facilities in 23 Ukrainian regions and the city of Kyiv. In addition, 26 private healthcare facilities in 9 regions and the city of Kyiv reported on OST services provision to the [Center for Public Health of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine](#) that is a national coordinator of OST programs.

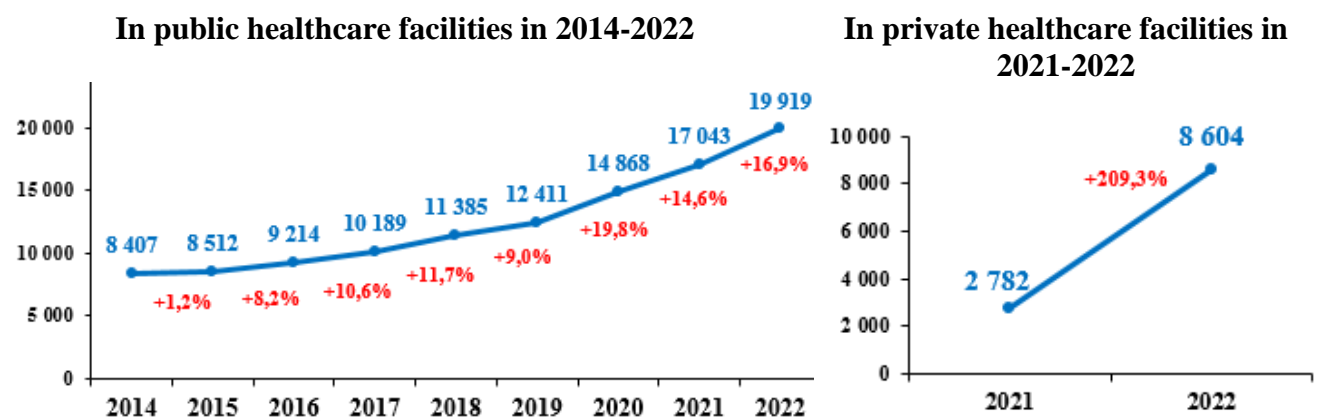
Number of OST sites



Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2014-2022.

In 2022, the number of OST patients went on increasing, i.e., in public healthcare facilities by 16,9%, in private healthcare facilities by 209,3%, compared to 2021. According to the Center for Public Health of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, as of 31 December 2022, the total number of OST program participants amounted to 28 523 persons.

Number of OST patients in 2014-2022

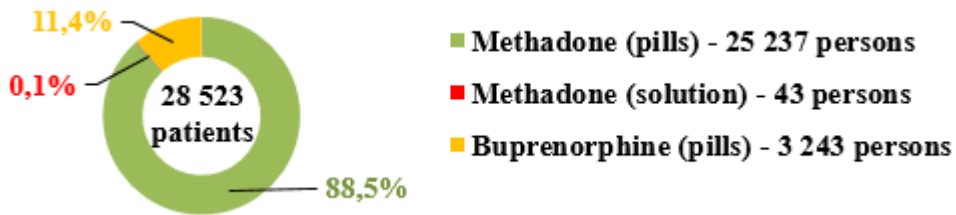


Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2014-2022.

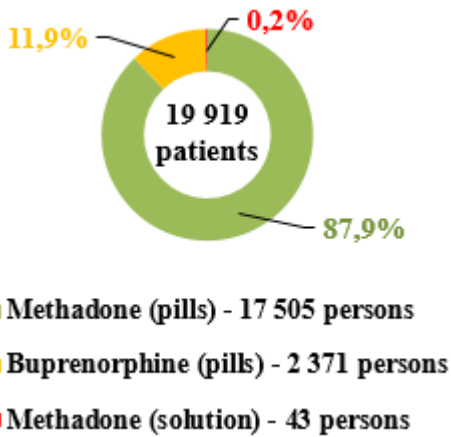
Methadone hydrochloride in pills remained the most common medication for treating OST patients in 2022, both in municipal and private healthcare facilities.

In 2022, 25 237 OST patients were treated with methadone hydrochloride in pills (88,5% of all OST participants) 3 243 patients (11,4%) received buprenorphine hydrochloride (sublingual pills), and only 43 persons (0,1%) received methadone hydrochloride (oral solution), which is not used in private healthcare facilities.

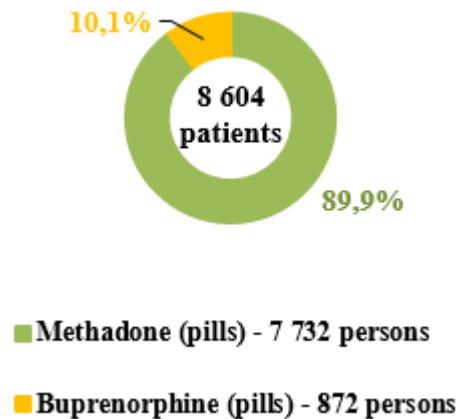
Total number of OST patients in 2022, by prescribed medicine



In public healthcare facilities

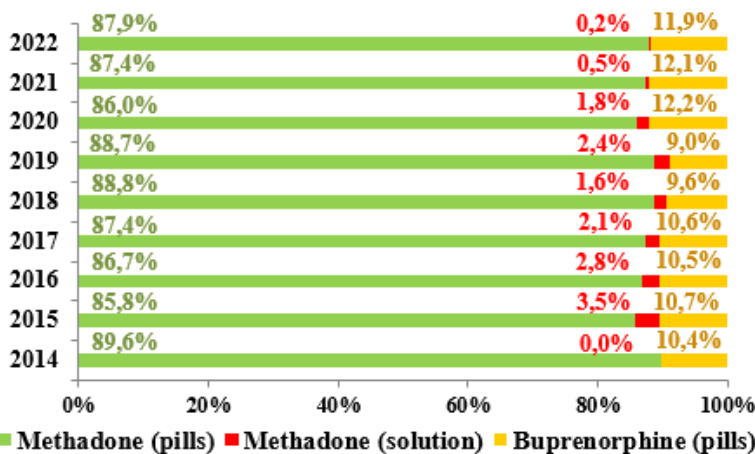


In private healthcare facilities

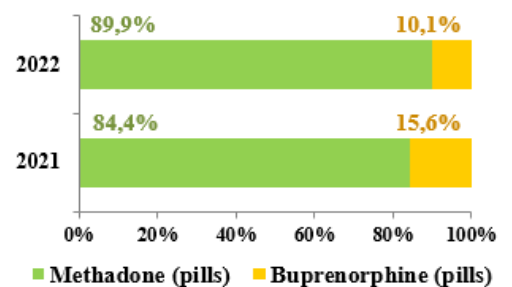


Proportion of OST patients, by prescribed medicine (%)

In public healthcare facilities in 2014-2022



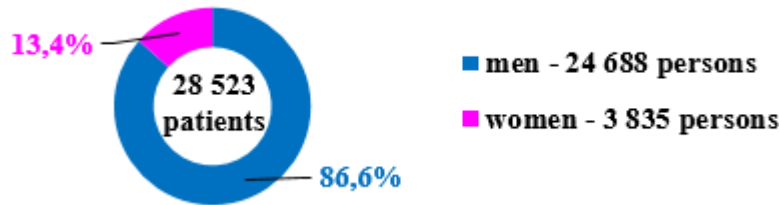
In private healthcare facilities in 2021-2022



Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2014-2022.

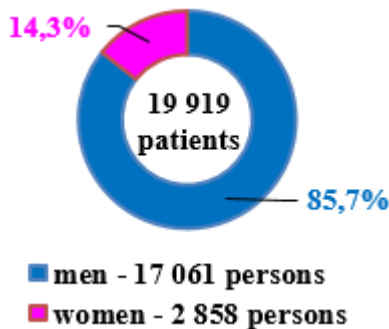
In terms of gender, 86,6% (24 688 persons) of OST program participants (totally in municipal and private healthcare facilities) were men in 2022, which was 1,3 points higher than in 2021. There was an increasing trend in the number of male OST patients during 2016-2022, with their proportion's annual average increase by 0,7 points.

Total number of OST patients in 2022, by gender

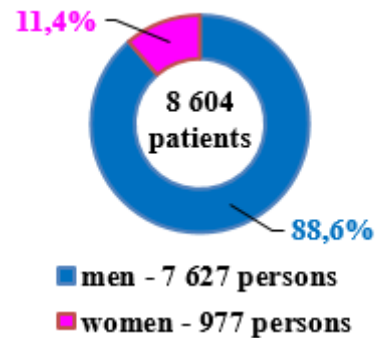


OST patients in 2022, by gender

In public healthcare facilities

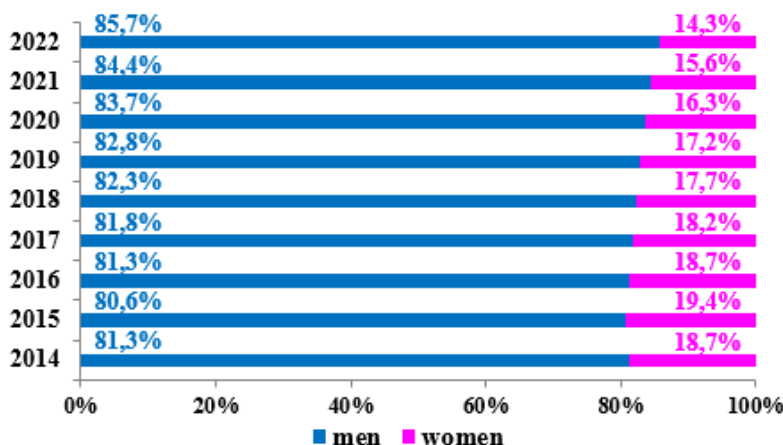


In private healthcare facilities

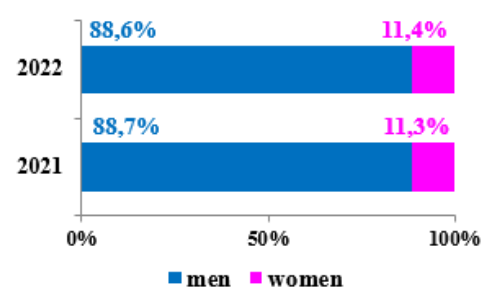


Proportion of OST patients, by gender (%)

In public healthcare facilities in 2014-2022



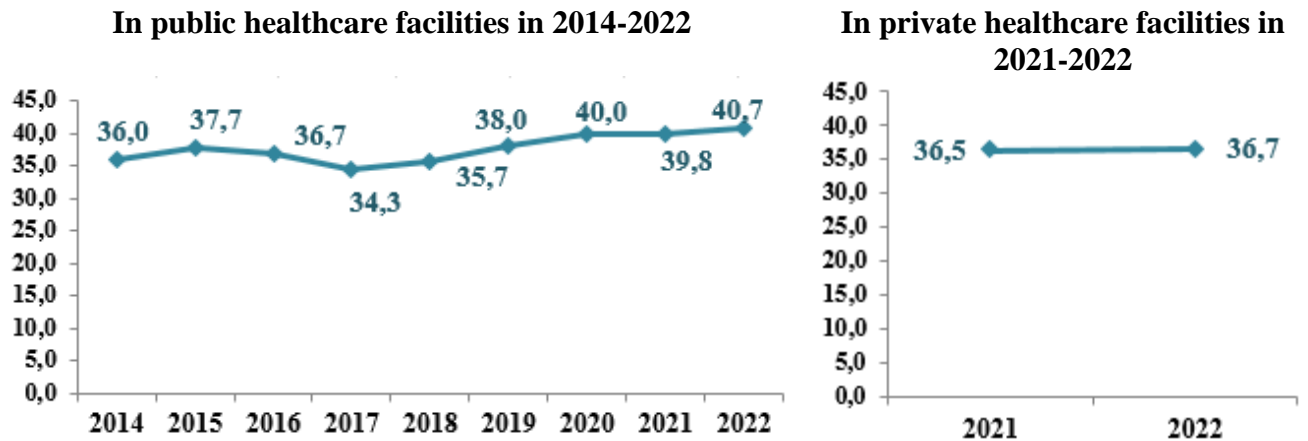
In private healthcare facilities in 2021-2022



Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2014-2022.

In 2022, the average age of OST patients in municipal healthcare facilities was 40,7 years, and in private healthcare facilities – 36,7 years. In municipal healthcare facilities, there has been a steady increase in the average age of OST program participants by 1.3 years on average in 2017-2022.

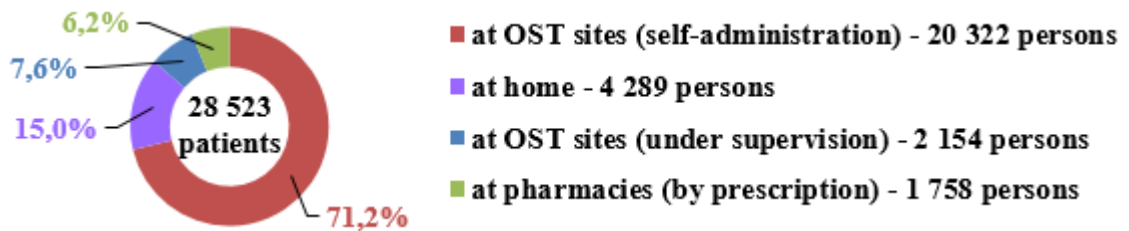
OST patients, by average age



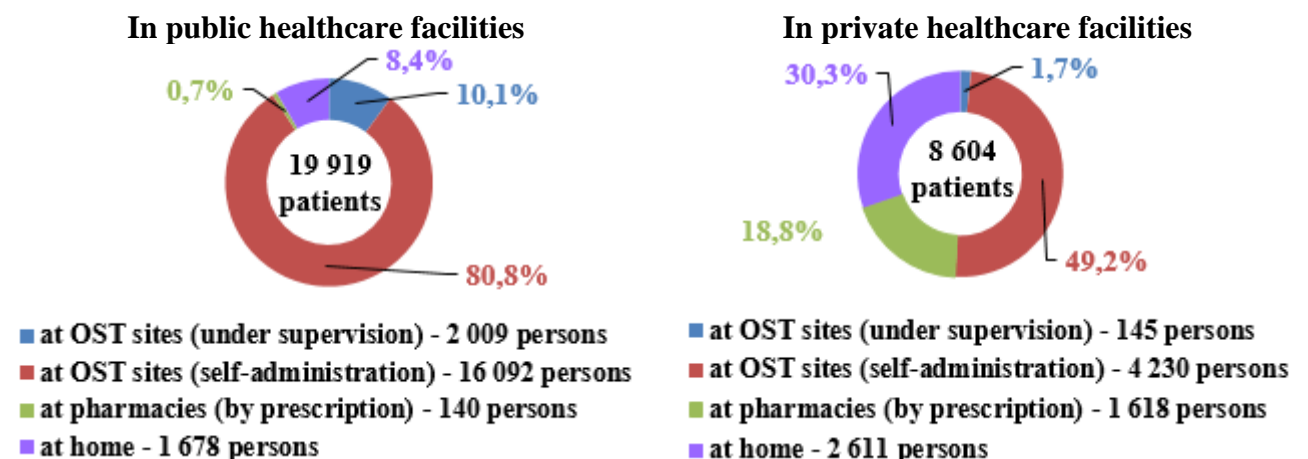
Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2014-2022.

The largest proportion of patients (71,2%) got medicines at OST sites for self-administration outside the healthcare facility. The overwhelming majority of patients received medications at the OST sites for self-administration, both in municipal and private healthcare facilities (80,8% and 49,2%, respectively).

Total number of OST patients in 2022, by place of administration



OST patients in 2022, by place of administration



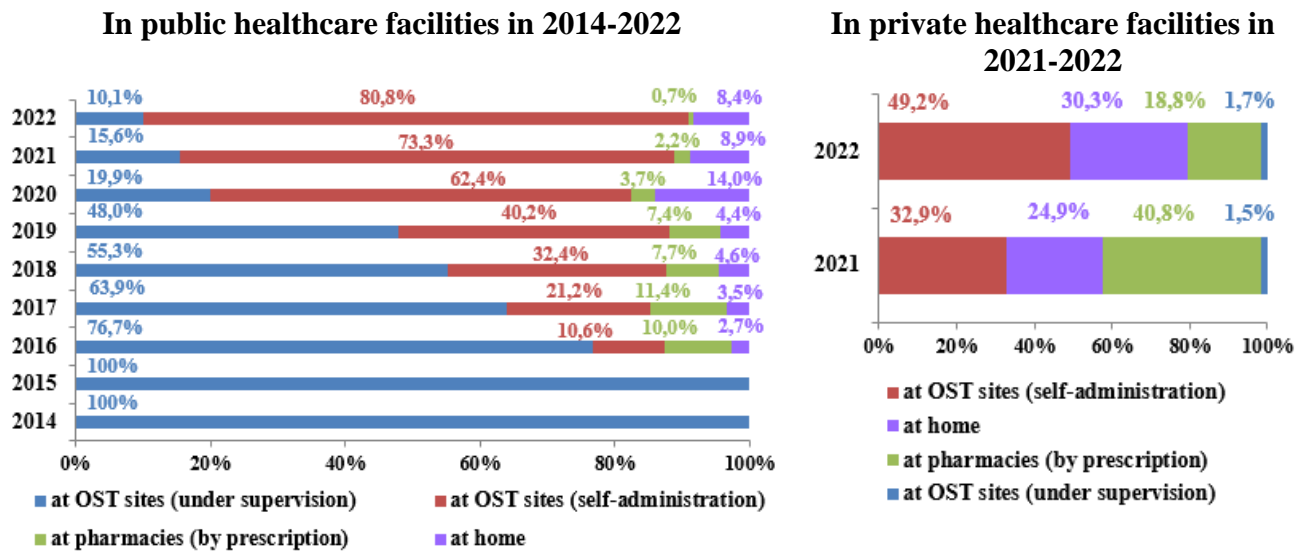
Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2014-2022.

The annual increase in the number of OST patients receiving medicines in that form of administration remained steady, both in municipal healthcare facilities (7,5 points higher than in 2021) and in the private ones (16,3 points higher than in 2021). The growth of that figure in municipal healthcare facilities in 2017-2022 was 11,9 points on average.

At the same time, the annual decrease in the number of OST patients in municipal healthcare facilities who were given medications daily under the supervision of medical staff remained sustainable (by 5,5 points, compared to 2021).

As for OST patients who received medicines at pharmacies under prescription, their number has been also decreasing annually. In 2022 (compared to 2021), the number of such people decreased by 1,5 points in municipal healthcare facilities, and by 22.0 points in private healthcare facilities. As for the municipal healthcare facilities, that figure had been decreasing annually by 2,1 points on average in 2017-2022.

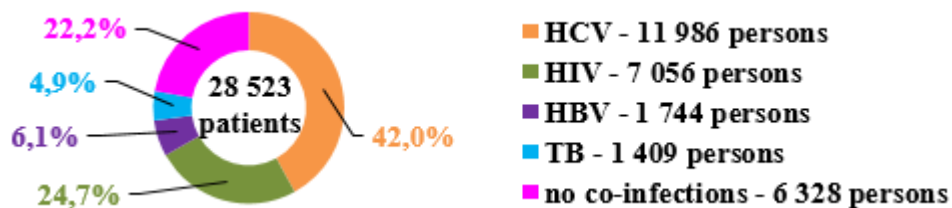
Proportion of OST patients, by place of administration (%)



Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2014-2022.

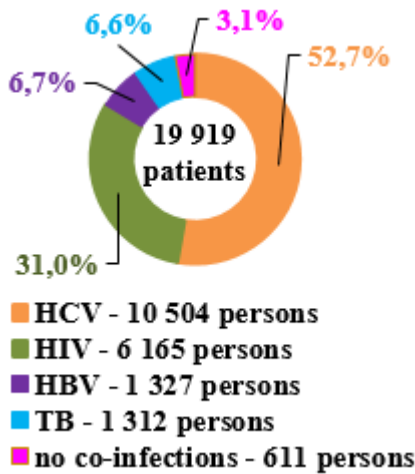
In 2022, out of the total number of OST patients in municipal and private healthcare facilities, the vast majority of individuals were diagnosed with HCV (11 986 persons, or 42,0%). HIV was diagnosed in 7 056 individuals, which was 24,7% of the total number of OST patients.

Total number of OST patients in 2022, by co-infections

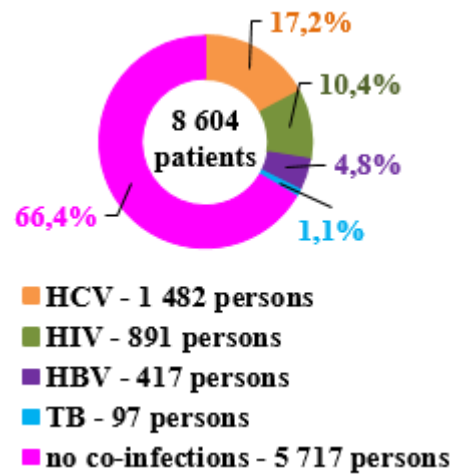


OST patients in 2022, by co-infection

In public healthcare facilities



In private healthcare facilities



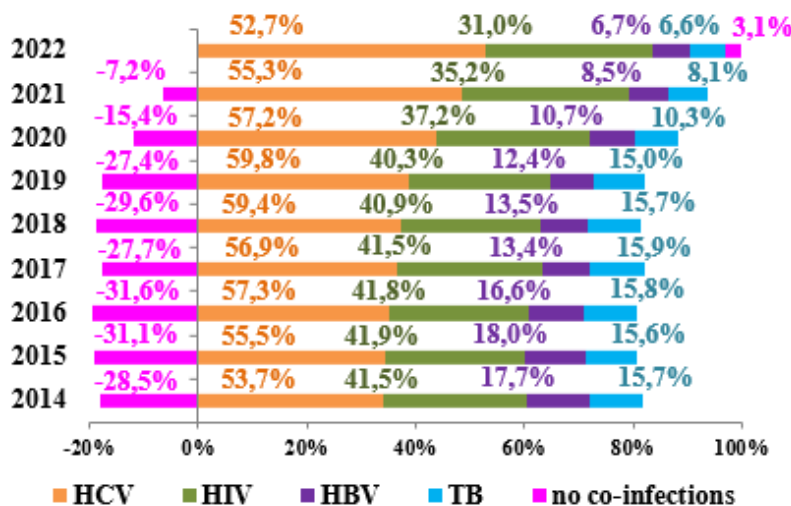
Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2014-2022.

In 2022, the proportion of OST patients diagnosed with HIV infection in municipal healthcare facilities decreased by 2,2 points, compared to 2021. The decrease in that figure was observed over 2018-2022 (by an average of 2,5 points annually).

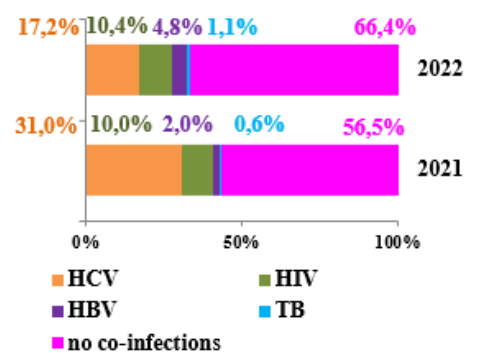
The number of OST program participants diagnosed with tuberculosis decreased by 1,5 points (compared to 2021). Over 2018-2022, the number of patients with TB decreased by an average of 2,3 points annually.

Proportion of OST patients, by co-infection (%)

In public healthcare facilities in 2014-2022



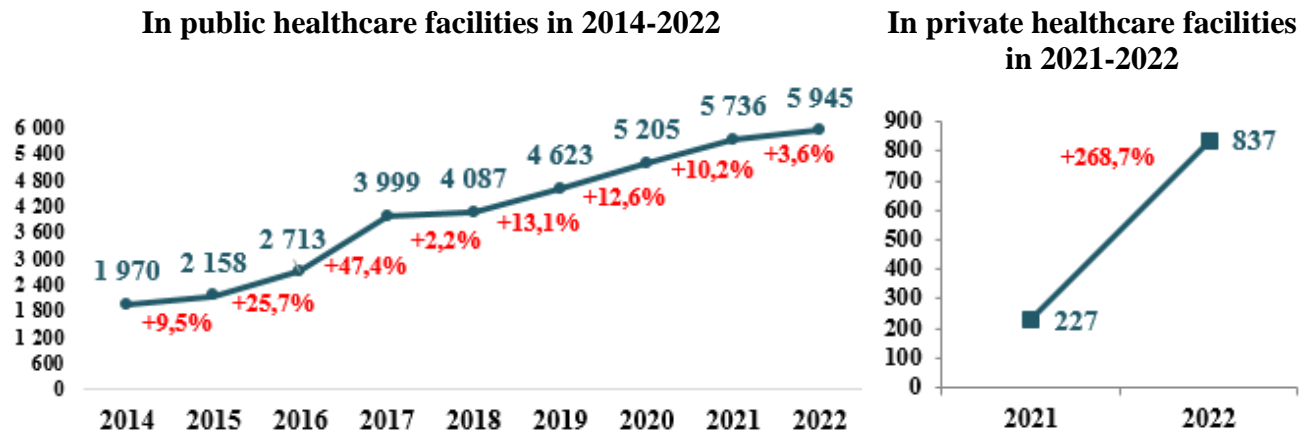
In private healthcare facilities in 2021-2022



Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2014-2022.

Antiretroviral therapy was provided to 6 782 individuals (96,1% of the total number of HIV-infected patients).

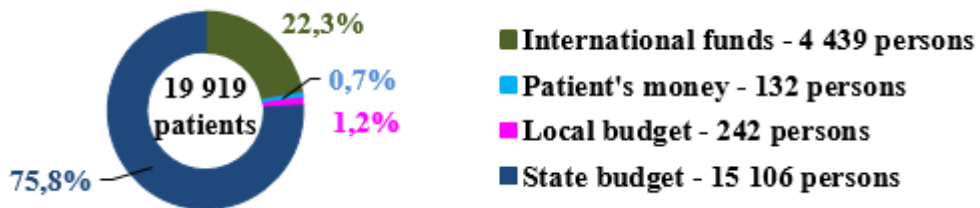
Number of ART patients in 2014-2022



Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2014-2022.

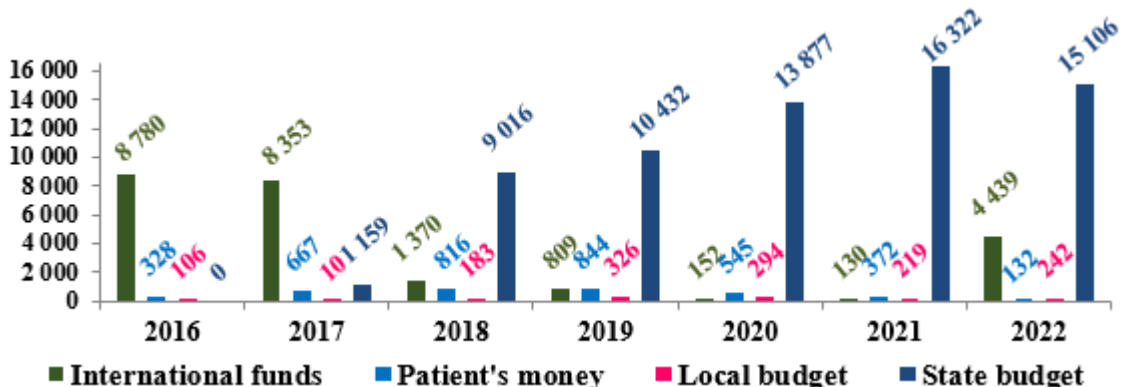
All patients who were provided with OST services in private healthcare facilities (8 604 persons) paid for the treatment by themselves. As for the patients in municipal healthcare facilities, the majority of them (15 106 persons, or 75,8% of all patients) were provided with OST services at the expense of the state budget.

OST patients in public healthcare facilities in 2022, by funding

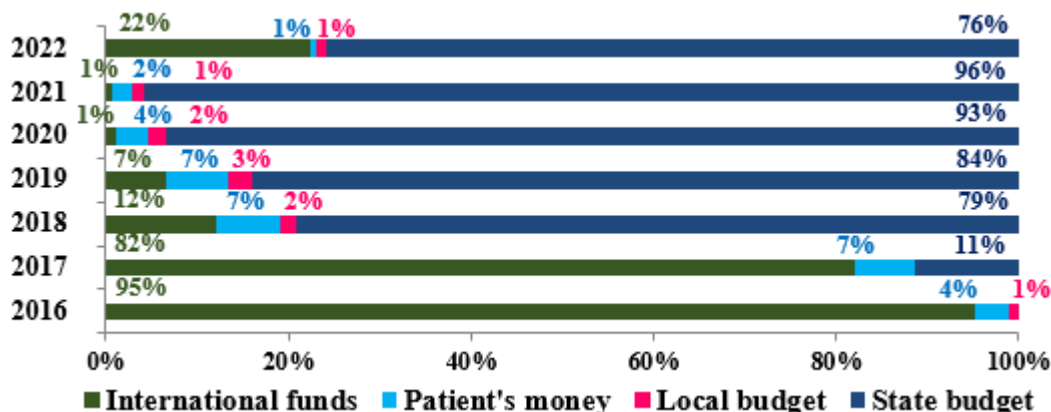


Up to 2022, the proportion of patients who were provided with OST services in municipal healthcare facilities at the expense of the state budget had been steadily increasing. At the same time, there was a decrease in the proportion of patients who were provided with OST services at the expense of the Global Fund and international funds. However, 2022 was an exception due to the war in Ukraine and an increase in international funding as humanitarian aid.

Number of OST patients in public healthcare facilities in 2016-2022, by funding



Proportion of OST patients in public healthcare facilities in 2016-2022, by funding (%)



Calculation source: data by Center for Public Health for 2014-2022.

In 2022, as a result of Russia's military aggression, some of the facilities that provided OST services were closed, destroyed or turned out in the occupied territories. Some OST patients moved to other regions of Ukraine or went abroad.

Quality assurance

On 28 April 2017, the [Order of the Ministry of Health of 29 December 2016 No. 1422](#) came into effect and allowed Ukrainian doctors to apply the international clinical protocols, which can be approved by a healthcare facility itself. Such protocols can be applied only under the patient's consent. When a healthcare facility does not approve new clinical protocols, or the patients don't give their consent for their application, there should be applied the unified clinical protocols of the Ministry of Health, which remained their validity and are binding.

In January 2018, the [Law of Ukraine "On State Financial Guarantees of Medical Services to Population"](#) came into effect. The Law defined state financial guarantees for the provision of medical care and high-quality medicines to patients at the expense of the State Budget of Ukraine under the program of medical guarantees.

Furthermore, the [Order of the Ministry of Health of 09 November 2020 No. 2555](#) approved the Medical Standards "Mental and Behavioral Disorders due to Opioid Use".

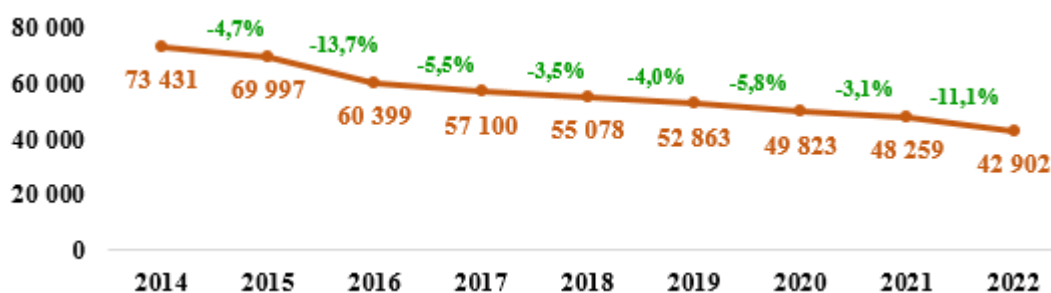
Drug use in prisons

The Ministry of Justice of Ukraine is the central executive body responsible for executing criminal sanctions and probation. One of its key functions is to supervise the observance of human and civil rights, the requirements of the legislation on executing criminal sanctions, as well as the exercise of the legal rights and interests of convicts and detainees.

As of 01 January 2023, the number of penitentiary facilities and pre-trial detention centers (excluding healthcare facilities) of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine (SPSU) accounted for 182 facilities.

In 2022, there were 42 902 prisoners in penitentiary facilities of Ukraine, excluding the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk Regions, city of Sevastopol and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. That figure is less by 11,1% compared to 2021 (48 259). Since 2017, the number of prisoners has been gradually decreasing.

Total number of people in prisons in 2014-2022



Calculation source: data by State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine for 2019-2022.

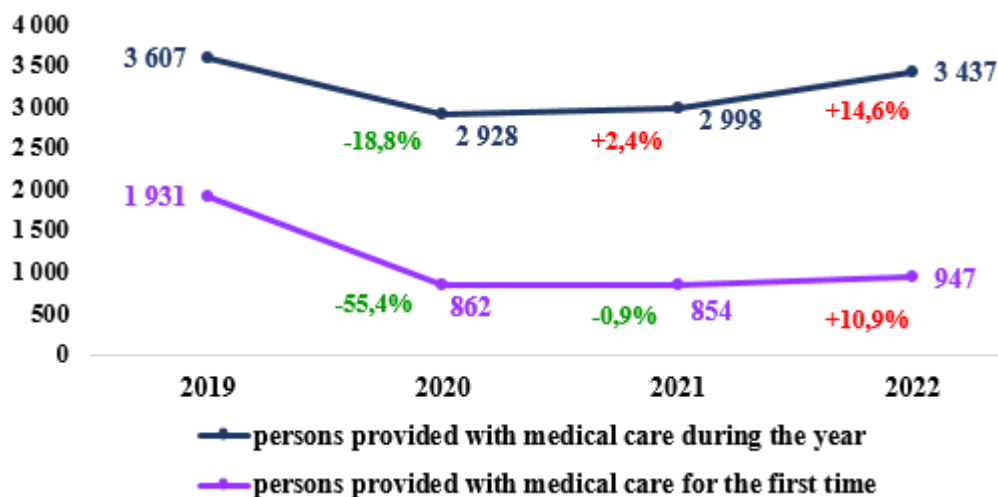
The [Government Order of 16 December 2022 No.1153-p](#) approved the Penitentiary Reform Strategy up to 2026 and its Implementation Plan, based on the standards of the Council of Europe. The goal of the Strategy is to set up a humanistic penitentiary system that would guarantee the security of society and ensure the social adaptation of convicts and detainees.

The objectives of the Strategy are as follows:

- to modernize the legal and organizational framework for providing psychiatric care to people with mental disorders, including through the OST programs;
- to ensure the rights to health care and medical care, social protection in penitentiary facilities and pre-trial detention centers of convicts and detainees with mental and behavioral disorders, including disorders due to substance use;
- to improve and further implement methods and tools for correction and re-socialization of convicts, namely to provide support and assistance in overcoming addictions, to develop and implement correctional programs.

In 2022, the number of prisoners with disorders due to substance use who were provided with medical care amounted to 3 437 with 947 persons provided with medical care for the first time.

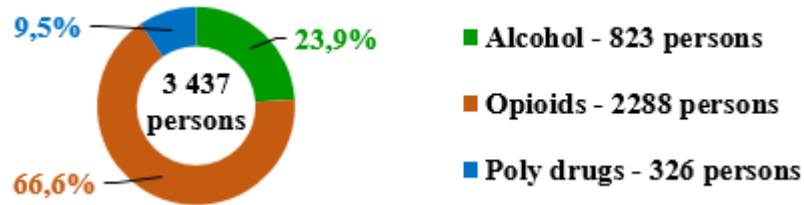
Number of prisoners with disorders due to substance use who were provided with medical care in 2019-2022



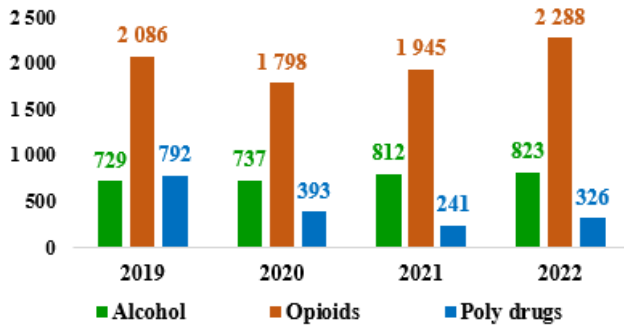
Calculation source: data by State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine for 2019-2022.

In 2022, out of prisoners who were provided with medical care, the largest proportion was made up of persons with opioid addiction (66,6%). That proportion remained the largest and tended to increase in 2019-2022.

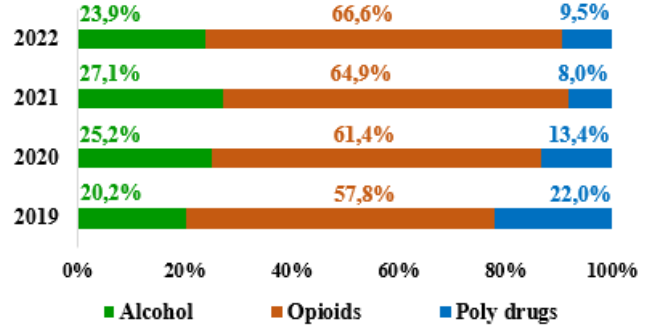
Prisoners with disorders due to substance use who were provided with medical care in 2022, by substance



Number of prisoners, provided with medical care in 2019-2022, by substance



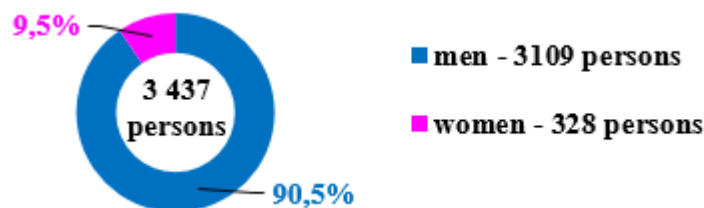
Proportion of prisoners, provided with medical care in 2019-2022, by substance (%)



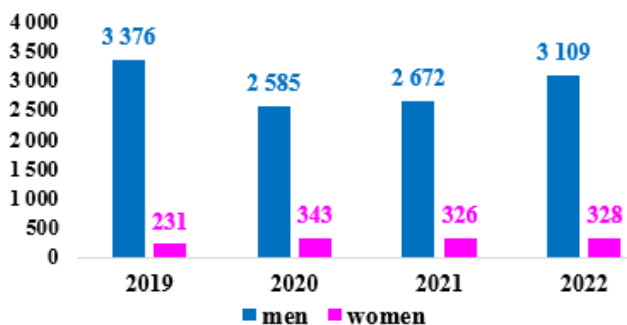
Calculation source: data by State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine for 2019-2022.

The largest proportion (90,5%) of prisoners with disorders due to substance use who were provided with medical care in 2022 were men. That gender ratio remained almost unchanged in 2019-2022.

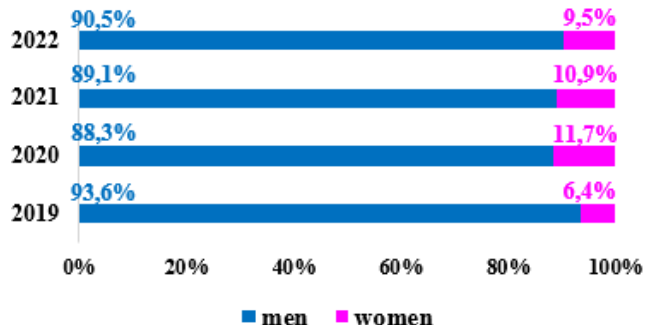
Prisoners with disorders due to substance use who were provided with medical care in 2022, by gender



Number of prisoners, provided with medical care in 2019-2022, by gender



Proportion of prisoners, provided with medical care in 2019-2022 by gender (%)



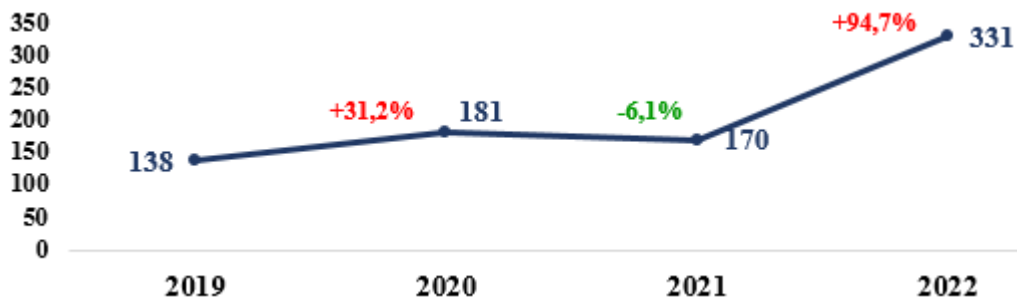
Calculation source: data by State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine for 2019-2022.

To ensure an equal access to treatment programs without discrimination, to implement harm reduction programs, to engage in getting treatment services, to test the implementation of OST programs in the penitentiary facilities, as well as to expand OST programs to other penitentiary facilities, the “Health Center of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine” approved its Order of 09 August 2021 No. 224-ОД “On Improving Organizational Activities related to Opioid Substitution Treatment Provision”.

That order introduced the provision of services to the convicts and detainees with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use within the Pilot Project “Comprehensive OST Treatment of Persons with Mental and Behavioral Disorders Due to Opioid Use”, as well as the methodological recommendations “Program of Rehabilitation of Convicts with Mental and Behavioral Disorders due to Substance Use”.

In 2022, 331 persons were provided with OST treatment services.

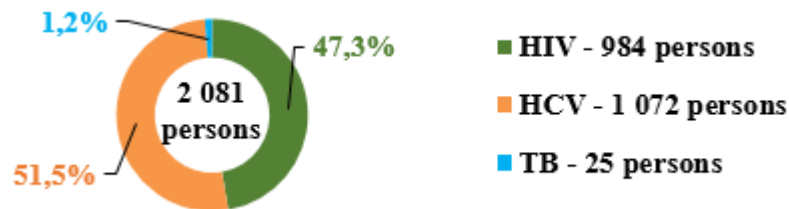
Number of prisoners with disorders due to substance use who were provided with OST services in 2019-2022



Calculation source: data by State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine for 2019-2022.

In 2022, the number of PWID in prisons with infectious diseases amounted to 2 081 persons.

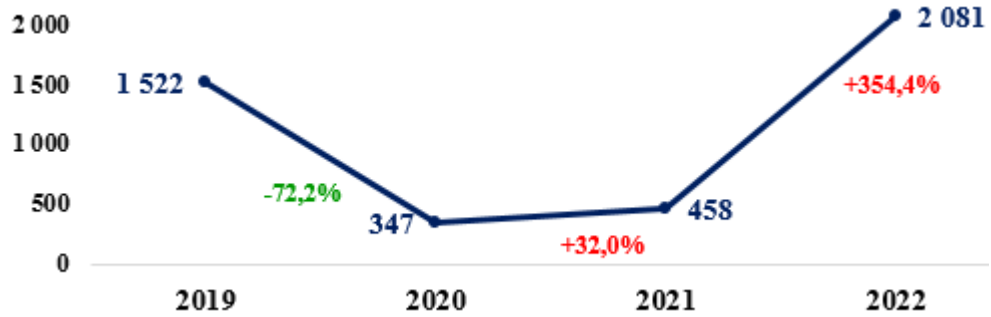
PWID in prison with infectious diseases in 2022



In 2020-2022, there was a trend of increase in the number of prisoners who injected drugs and had infectious diseases. In 2022, the number of those persons increased by 354,4% compared to 2021.

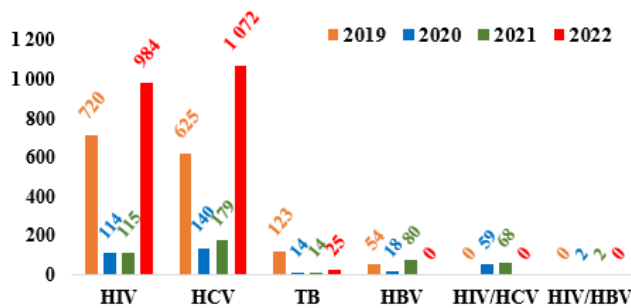
In 2019-2022, the largest proportions of those people were consistently made up of PWID with HCV and HIV (51,5% and 47,3%, respectively in 2022).

Number of PWID in prison with infectious diseases in 2019-2022

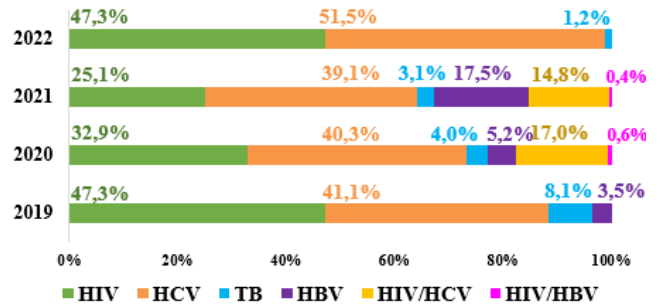


Calculation source: data by State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine for 2019-2022.

Number of PWID in prison with infectious diseases in 2019-2022, by infection



Proportion of PWID in prison with infectious diseases in 2019-2022, by infection (%)



Calculation source: data by State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine for 2019-2022.

SPSU pays due attention to the prevention activities in its penitentiary facilities.

In 2022, the healthcare facilities of the “Health Center of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine” held a number of trainings on “Implementation of Comprehensive OST Treatment in Penitentiary Facilities”, “Implementation of Rehabilitation Programs for Substance Dependents”, “Implementation of Mental Health Gap Address Program”.

In 2022, the penitentiary facilities and pre-trial detention centers carried out a number of activities aimed at expanding the implementation of the Program on applying comprehensive OST treatment for convicts and detainees with mental and behavioral disorders due to opioid use.

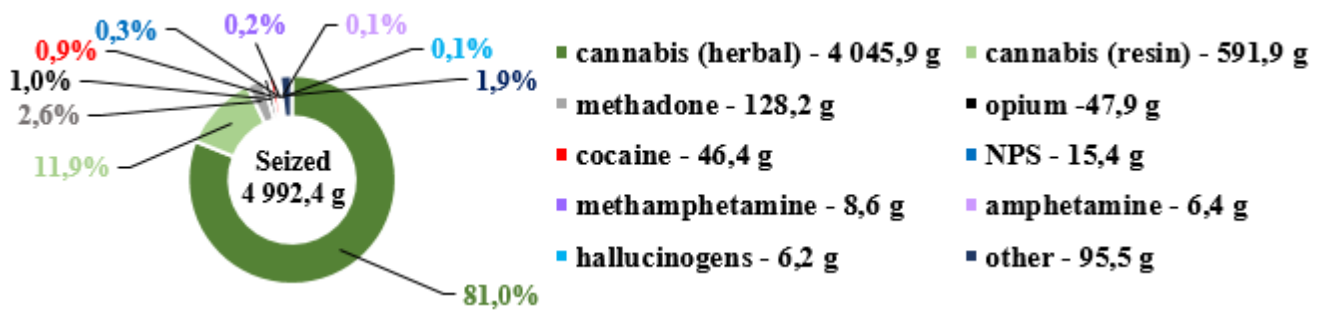
In 2022, 711 persons took part in the Rehabilitation Program for convicts and detainees with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use. Of them, 200 persons completed that program.

Another “Overcoming Drug Addiction” Program is implemented in the penitentiary facilities. It is aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle of convicts with substance addiction, as well as facilitating their recovery and rehabilitation. In 2022, 1 085 convicts participated in that program.

The penitentiary facilities have been taken systematic measures to timely disclose and prevent from the delivery of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors to those settings.

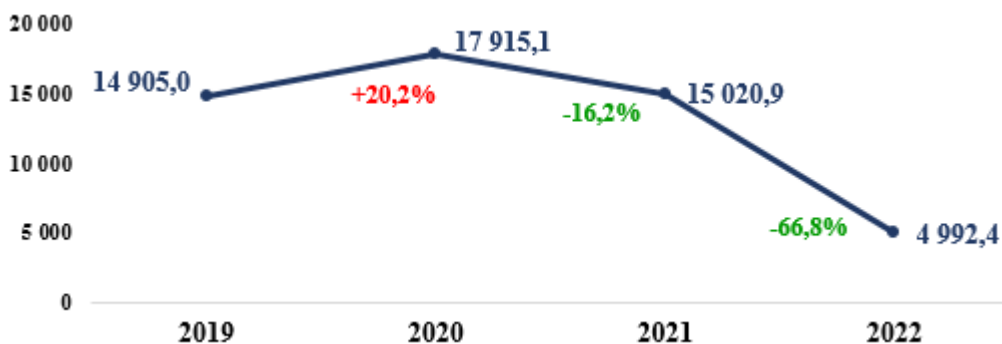
According to the Department of the Execution of Criminal Sanctions of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, 4 992,4 grams of drugs and psychotropic substances were seized/ detected in the penitentiary facilities in 2022. The top seized substance was herbal cannabis (81,0%).

Volume of seized substances in prisons in 2022, by substance (gram)

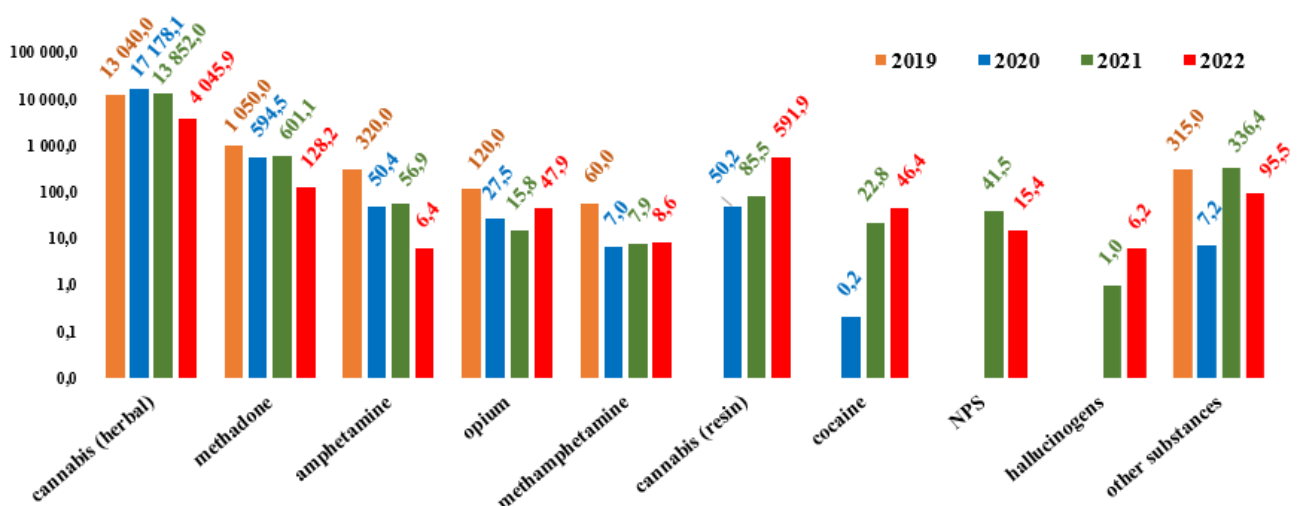


In 2021 and 2022, there was a decrease in the total number of seized/detected substances in prisons, and in 2022 the volume of seized substances decreased by 66,8%. Cannabis (both herbal and resin) led the ranking of seized substances in 2019-2022. In 2022, its proportion amounted to 92,9% of the total volume of seized/detected substances.

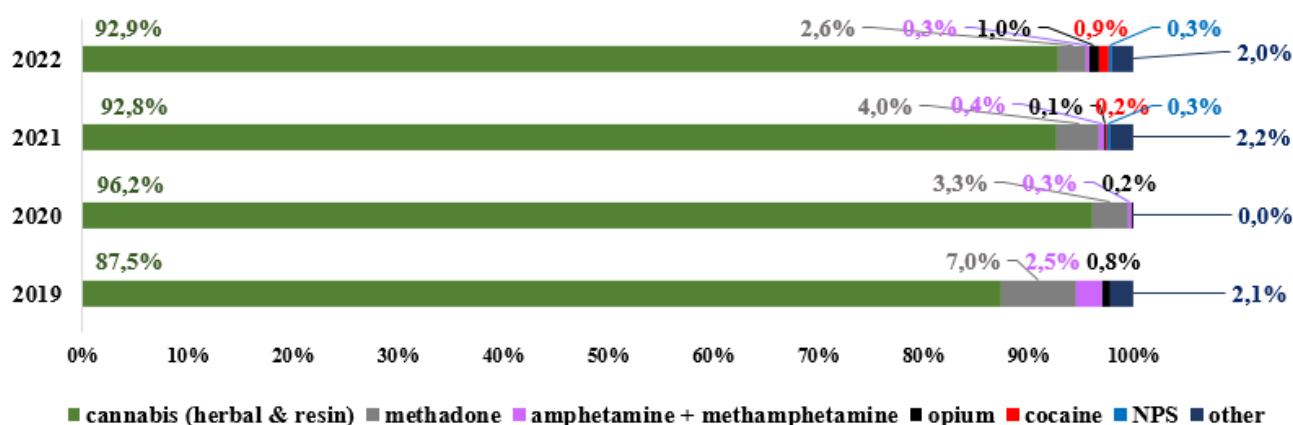
Volume of seized substances in prisons in 2019-2022 (gram)



Volume of seized substances in prisons in 2019-2022m by substance (gram)



Proportion of seized substances in prisons in 2019-2022m by substance (%)



Calculation source: data by State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine for 2019-2022.

Data tables on some substances and drug monitoring indicators for 2022

Cannabis

Indicator	Value
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to cannabinoid use who were under surveillance in dispensary register	3 947
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to cannabinoid use, provided with treatment services in dispensary register	1 315
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to cannabinoid use, provided with treatment services for the first time	226
Number of deaths related to mental and behavioral disorders due to cannabinoid use	0*
Number of deaths due to cannabinoid poisoning	0*
Number of deaths with identified evidence of cannabinoids in biological material	2
Volume of cannabis, seized at the beginning of pre-trial investigation (kg)	1 122,3
Volume of cannabis, seized on investigated criminal proceedings (kg)	2 337,3
Volume of cannabis, detected by the State Border Guard Service (kg)	67,3
Volume of cannabis, detected by the State Customs Service (kg)	25,7
Volume of cannabis, seized/detected in prisons (g)	4 637,7
Average retail price (UAH):	
- per 1 gram of cannabis herbal	300
- per 1 gram of cannabis resin	250

Note: *Data for 2021.

Opioids and opiates

Indicator	Value
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to opioid use who were under surveillance in dispensary register	41 545
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to opioid use, provided with treatment services in dispensary register	19 765
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to opioid use, provided with treatment services for the first time	3 933
Number of deaths related to mental and behavioral disorders due to opioid use	25*
Number of deaths due to opioid poisoning	307*

Number of deaths with identified evidence of opioids in biological material	221
Number of prisoners with disorders due to opioid use who were provided with medical care	2 288
Volume of opioids & opiates, seized at the beginning of pre-trial investigation (kg):	
- heroin	0,9
- opium	0,3
- methadone	17,0
- tramadol	0,5
Volume of opioids & opiates, seized on investigated criminal proceedings (kg):	
- heroin	0,1
- opium	0,2
- methadone	15,8
- tramadol	0,2
Volume of opioids & opiates, detected by the State Border Guard Service (kg):	
- heroin	0,1
- opium	0,01
- tramadol	8,8
Volume of opioids & opiates, detected by the State Customs Service (kg)	0,5
Volume of opioids & opiates, seized/detected in prisons (g):	
- opium	47,9
- methadone	128,2
Average retail price (UAH):	
- per 1 gram of heroin	2 400
- per 1 gram of opium	110
- per 1 gram of methadone	1 200

Note: *Data for 2021.

Cocaine

Indicator	Value
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to cocaine use who were under surveillance in dispensary register	213
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to cocaine use, provided with treatment services in dispensary register	87
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to cocaine use, provided with treatment services for the first time	5
Number of deaths related to mental and behavioral disorders due to cocaine use	0*
Number of deaths due to cocaine poisoning	0*
Number of deaths with identified evidence of cocaine in biological material	2
Volume of cocaine, seized at the beginning of pre-trial investigation (kg)	7,8
Volume of cocaine, seized on investigated criminal proceedings (kg)	3,8
Volume of cocaine, detected by the State Border Guard Service (kg)	4,0
Volume of cocaine, detected by the State Customs Service (kg)	85,1
Volume of opioids & opiates, seized/detected in prisons (g)	46,4
Average retail price per 1 gram of cocaine (UAH)	4 000

Note: *Data for 2021.

Amphetamines

Indicator	Value
Volume of amphetamines, seized at the beginning of pre-trial investigation (kg)	47,2
Volume of amphetamines, seized on investigated criminal proceedings (kg)	42,7
Volume of amphetamines, detected by the State Customs Service (kg)	30,3
Volume of amphetamines, seized/detected in prisons (g)	
- amphetamine	6,4
- methamphetamine	8,6
Average retail price (UAH):	
- per 1 gram of amphetamine	475
- per 1 gram of methamphetamine	1 700
- per 1 pill of MDMA/ecstasy	500

Hallucinogens

Indicator	Value
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to hallucinogen use who were under surveillance in dispensary register	48
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to hallucinogen use, provided with treatment services in dispensary register	17
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to hallucinogen use, provided with treatment services for the first time	7
Number of deaths related to mental and behavioral disorders due to hallucinogen use	0*
Number of deaths due to hallucinogen poisoning	40*
Number of deaths with identified evidence of hallucinogens in biological material	0
Volume of hallucinogens (LSD), seized at the beginning of pre-trial investigation (g):	10,0
Volume of hallucinogens (LSD), seized on investigated criminal proceedings (g)	3,2
Volume of hallucinogens, detected by the State Customs Service (kg)	12,5
Volume of hallucinogens, seized/detected in prisons (g)	6,2
Average retail price per 1 doze of LSD (UAH)	400

Note: *Data for 2021.

Infectious diseases related to drug use by injection

Indicator	Value
Total number of PWID with co-infections	32 901
Of them:	
- HIV	11 888
- TB	4 459
- HCV	7 915
- HBV	2 363
- HIV/HCV	4 270
- HIV/HBV	2 006
Total number of PWID with infections detected for the first time	2 701
Of them:	
- HIV	760
- TB	386
- HCV	858

- HBV	221
- HIV/HCV	335
- HIV/HBV	141
Number of PWID in prison with infectious diseases	2 081
Of them:	
- HIV	984
- TB	25
- HCV	1072

Drug prevention activities

Indicator	Value
Number of prevention activities aimed at reducing substance use	188 284
Number of families with family members who used substances, provided with social services	over 4 700
Number of persons from high-risk groups, provided with HIV testing services	233 253
Number of persons from high-risk groups, provided with TB screening services	239 688
Number of persons from high-risk groups, provided with condom and lubricant distribution services	253 921
Number of distributed prevention tools within HIV prevention services targeted at high-risk groups: total / per 1 recipient:	
- condoms	6 836 136 / 40
- lubricants	2 597 964 / 63
- syringes & needles	12 309 641 / 72
- alcohol wipes	13 079 927 / 77
Number of OST sites:	
- in public healthcare facilities	193
- in private healthcare facilities	26
Number of persons, provided with OST services:	
- in public healthcare facilities	19 919
- in private healthcare facilities	8 604
Number of persons, provided with OST services in prisons	331

Treatment demand

Indicator	Value
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were under surveillance in dispensary register	62 511
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use, provided with treatment services in dispensary register	25 970
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were provided with treatment services for the first time in dispensary register	5 288
Number of prisoners with disorders due to substance use who were provided with medical care	3 437

*Drug-related offences***Administrative liability**

Indicator	Value
Number of cases on drug-related administrative offences registered in court institutions	8 513
Of them:	
- number of judged cases	7 003
Number of persons with respect of whom the cases on drug-related administrative offences were judged and decisions were made (art. 44 of CUAO)	7 003
Number of persons with respect of whom the court decided to impose an administrative penalty (art. 44 of CUAO)	4 984
Total amount of fine, imposed by court in cases on drug-related administrative offences in 2016-2022 (art. 44 of CUAO) (EUR thousand)	95,0
Number of minors aged 16 to 18 years with respect of whom the courts decided on applying measures of influence (art. 24-1 of CUAOU)	70
Volume of substances, seized on drug-related administrative offences (kg)	2,6
Number of cases reviewed on appeal on administrative offences (art. 44 of CUAO)	17
Of them:	
- unchanged	11

Criminal liability

Indicator	Value
Number of registered drug-related criminal offences (art.305-327 of CCU)	34 398
Of them:	
- art. 307 of CCU (<i>for selling purposes</i>)	10 162
- art. 309 of CCU (<i>not for selling purposes</i>)	20 140
Number of persons charged with suspicion of committing drug-related criminal offences (art.305-327 of CCU)	13 708
Of them:	
- art. 307 of CCU (<i>for selling purposes</i>)	1 981
- art. 309 of CCU (<i>not for selling purposes</i>)	10 791
Number of identified individuals who committed drug-related criminal offences (art.305-327 of CCU)	12 633
Of them:	
- art. 307 of CCU (<i>for selling purposes</i>)	1 276
- art. 309 of CCU (<i>not for selling purposes</i>)	10 481
Number of criminal proceedings pending in courts (art.305-327 of CCU)	21 907
Number of persons, convicted for committing drug-related criminal offences (art.305-327 of CCU)	7 948
Of them:	
- art. 307 of CCU (<i>for selling purposes</i>)	558
- art. 309 of CCU (<i>not for selling purposes</i>)	6 516
Number of minors aged 14-18 years, convicted for committing criminal offences (art.305-327 of CCU)	50
Of them:	
- released from punishment	36
Volume of substances, seized at the beginning of pre-trial investigation (kg)	1 642,4
Volume of substances, seized on investigated criminal proceedings (kg)	2 725,0

Alcohol situation in Ukraine

National legal framework on alcohol

The key law that regulates alcohol-related issues is the [Law of Ukraine “On the State Regulation of Production and Circulation of Ethyl Alcohol, Cognac and Fruit Alcohols, Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Products”](#).

In 2022, the above Law was amended in order to improve the national alcohol policy and taxation under martial law. (please see more details below in “*National alcohol laws and regulations adopted in 2022*”):

- [No. 2120-IX of 15 March 2022](#)
- [No. 2142-IX of 24 March 2022](#)
- [No. 2284-IX of 31 May 2022](#)
- [No. 2468-IX of 28 July 2022](#)
- [No. 2836-XI of 13 December 2022](#)

Ukraine is also guided by regulations aimed at protecting the health of Ukrainians from the harmful effects of alcohol products through prohibitions. One of those regulations is the [Law of Ukraine “On Advertising”](#). The liability for violating the law is provided for in [Article 27](#) and the Fining procedure for breaking advertising legislation, approved by the [Government Resolution of 26 May 2004 No. 693 \(as amended\)](#).

The government control over alcohol is also carried out by means of pricing and taxation policies. So, the Tax Code of Ukraine sets the excise tax on ethyl alcohol and other alcoholic distillates, alcohol products, beer. The minimum wholesale and retail prices for certain types of alcohol products are set by the [Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 30 October 2000 No. 957](#) “On Setting Minimum Wholesale and Retail Prices for Certain Types of Alcohol Products”.

National alcohol laws and regulations adopted in 2022

Laws of Ukraine

Law of Ukraine “On Geographical Indications of Alcoholic Beverages”

dated [1 December 2022 No. 2800-IX](#)

To be effective from 29 December 2024

Goal To ensure the implementation of the Association Agreement between Ukraine, on the one hand, and the European Union, the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, on the other hand, in terms of intellectual property rights protection for geographical indications of alcoholic beverages.

Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine and Other Legislative Acts of Ukraine Regarding the Validity of Provisions for the Period of Martial Law”

dated [15 March 2022 No. 2120-IX](#)

Goal To adjust the licensing procedure in this field during martial law and/or a state of emergency in Ukraine.

Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine and Other Legislative Acts of Ukraine to Improve Legislation for the Period of Martial Law”
dated [24 March 2022 No. 2142-IX](#)

Goal To regulate the activities in the field of circulation of ethyl alcohol and alcohol beverages during martial law and/or a state of emergency in Ukraine.

Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine and Other Laws of Ukraine on Stimulation of Production of Denatured Ethyl Alcohol”
dated [31 May 2022 No. 2284-IX](#)

Goal To ensure favorable conditions for the production of denatured ethyl alcohol, bioethanol, chemical and technical products, including disinfectants, perfumes and cosmetics, in the production of which denatured ethyl alcohol is used, as well as vinegar from food raw materials, which is produced from non-denatured ethyl alcohol, thereby contributing to the development of the alcohol industry and related industries.

Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Facilitation of Enterprise Relocation under Martial Law and Economic Recovery of the State”

dated [28 July 2022 No. 2468-IX](#)

Goal Due to the martial law on the territory of Ukraine, the special regulatory regime for state-owned property, objects of national importance and objects of vital public services, the urgent need to restore and intensify economic activity in the country, ensure the relocation of production to safe regions of Ukraine and its rapid launch at new production sites, one of the ways to achieve these goals is through accelerated and simplified privatization of state property.

Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

Government Resolution “On Approval of the Standards for Production Losses of Cognac, Grain Distillate and Other Alcohol Distillates and Standards for Losses of Alcohol and Finished Products during the Production of Some Types of Alcoholic Beverages”

dated [22 November 2022 No. 1310](#)

Goal To regulate the activities in the field of alcoholic beverage production, in particular under martial law in Ukraine.

Government Resolution “Some Issues of Implementing State Medical Care Guarantees in 2023”

dated [27 December 2022 No. 1464](#)

Goal To provide patients with the necessary health care services (medical services) and high-quality medicines, as well as reimbursements under the Medical Care Guarantees Program in 2023.

Government Resolution “On Approval of Standards for Production Losses and Output of Ethyl Alcohol, Including Bioethanol”

dated [28 October 2022 No 1218](#)

Goal The resolution approves:

- [Standards for production losses of ethyl alcohol, including bioethanol](#)
- [Standards for output of ethyl alcohol, including bioethanol](#)

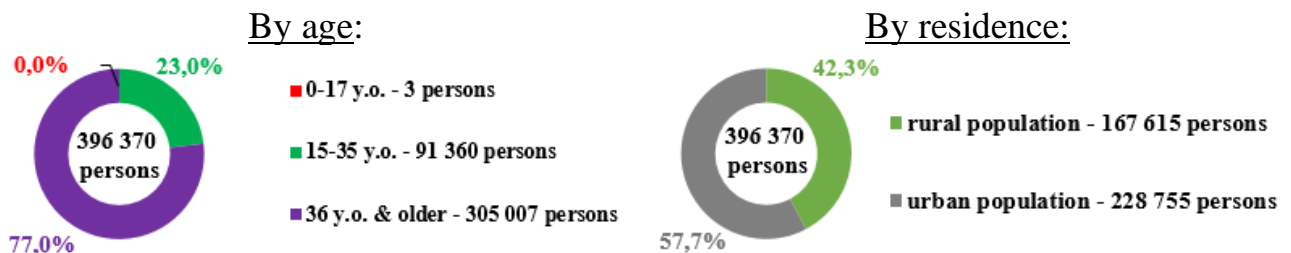
Regulations of the national authorities

Oder of the Ministry of Finance “On Amendments to the Form of Application-Calculation for Purchase of Excise Tax Stamps for Labeling Alcoholic Beverages” dated [18 February 2022 No. 84](#)

Goal To improve the mechanism of labeling alcoholic beverages.

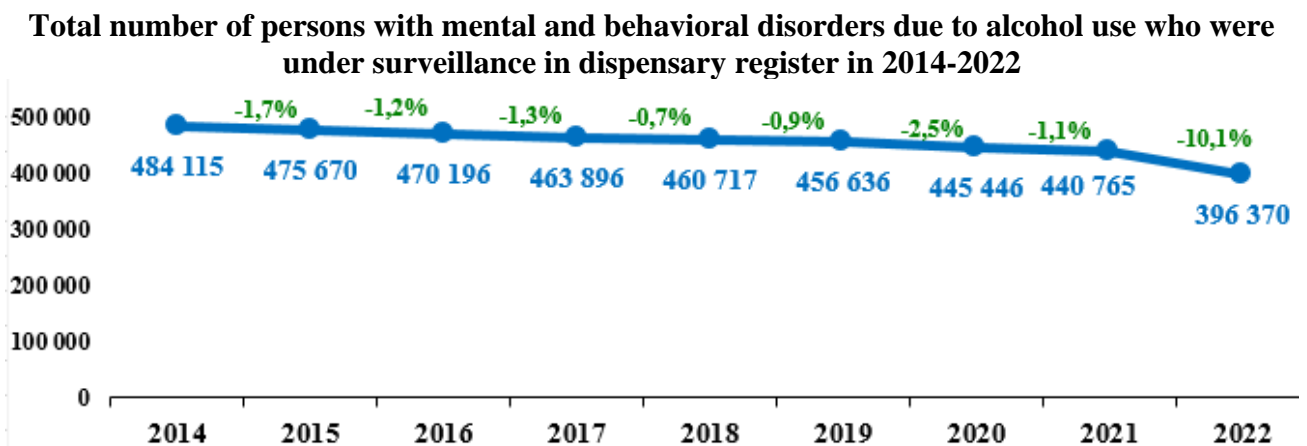
Treatment of mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol use

As of 01 January 2023, 396 370 persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol use were under surveillance at healthcare facilities of Ukraine. Of them:



Calculation source: Report on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2022.

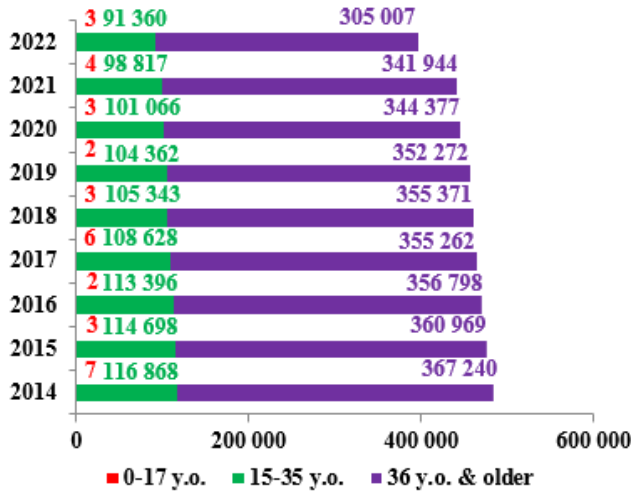
In 2014-2022, the number of people with mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol use who were under surveillance in dispensary register decreased year over year (by an average of 1,3%), and in 2022, that figure decreased by 10,1% compared to 2021.



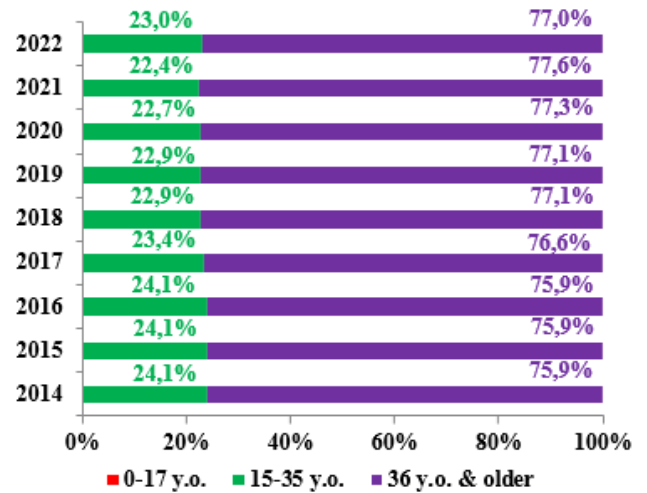
Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

In terms of age group, the proportion of individuals aged 36 years and older remained the highest in 2014-2022. During that period, there was also a slight annual increase in that proportion, while the proportion of individuals in the age group of 15-35 y.o. decreased.

Number of persons with disorders due to alcohol use, by age



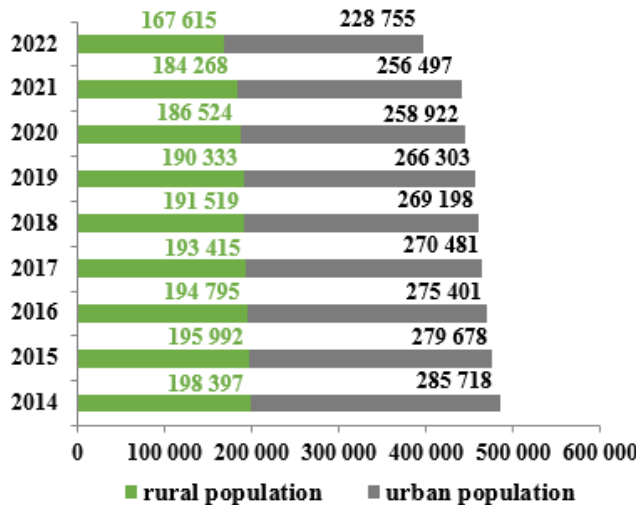
Proportion of persons with disorders due to alcohol use, by age (%)



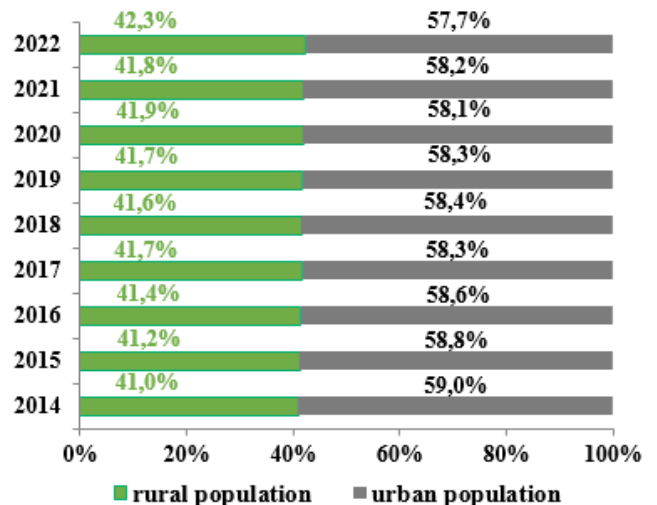
Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

In 2022, urban residents accounted for the largest proportion of those individuals, and that trend remained unchanged over 2014-2022. At the same time, the proportion of urban residents had been gradually decreasing from year to year.

Number of persons with disorders due to alcohol use, by residence

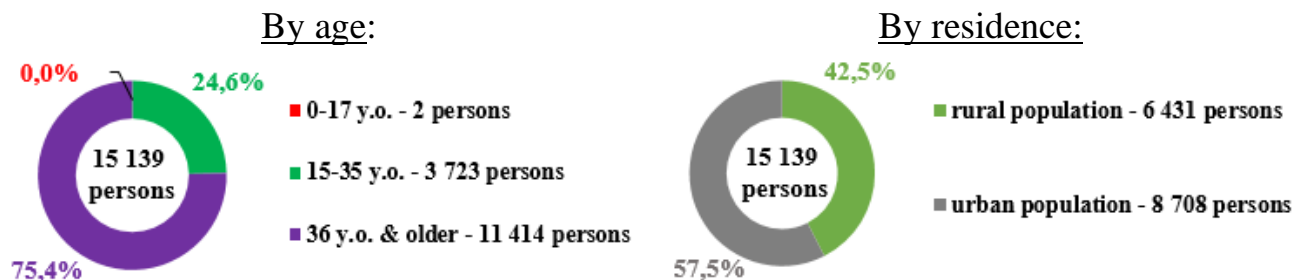


Proportion of persons with disorders due to alcohol use, by residence (%)



Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

In 2022, 15 139 persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol use were put under surveillance for the first time (dispensary register). Of them:

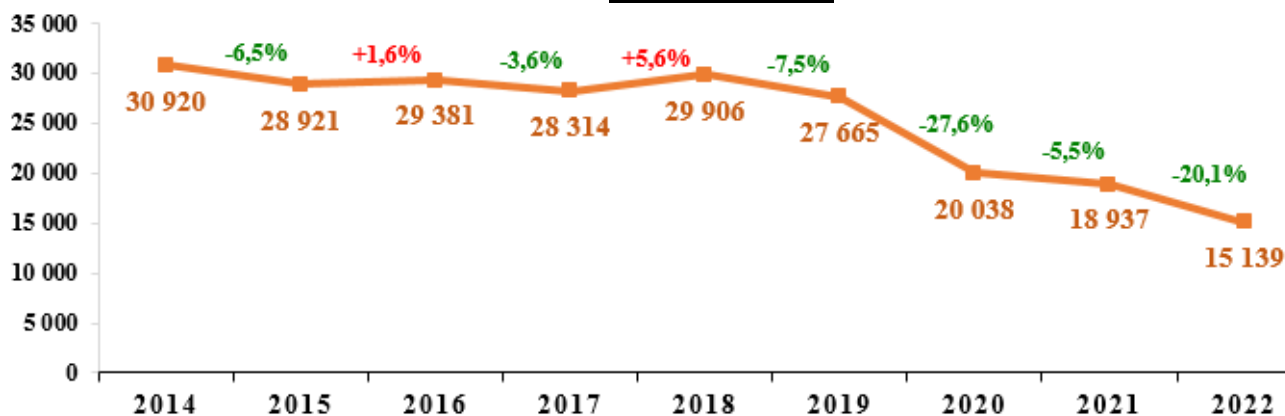


Calculation source: Report on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2022.

In 2019-2022, the number of those persons tended to decrease. Thus, in 2022, that figure decreased by 20,1%, compared to 2021.

The annual average proportion of individuals with acute alcohol-induced psychotic disorders was 8,7%.

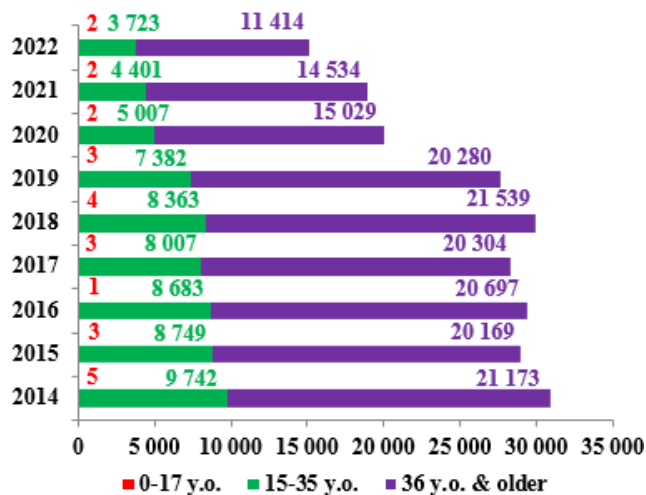
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol use who were provided with treatment services for the first time in 2014-2022



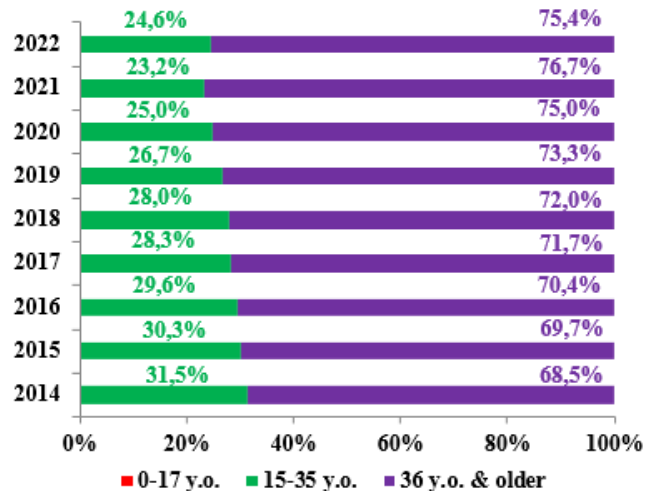
Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

In 2014-2022, the largest out of first-time entrants was the age group of persons aged 36 years and older. There was an annual increase in the proportion of that age group and a simultaneous decrease in the proportion of the age group of 15-35 y.o.

Number of first-time entrants in 2014-2022, by age



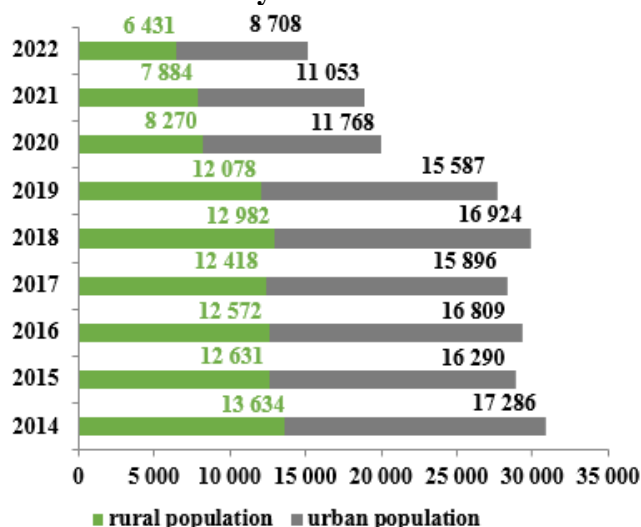
Proportion of first-time entrants in 2014-2022, by age (%)



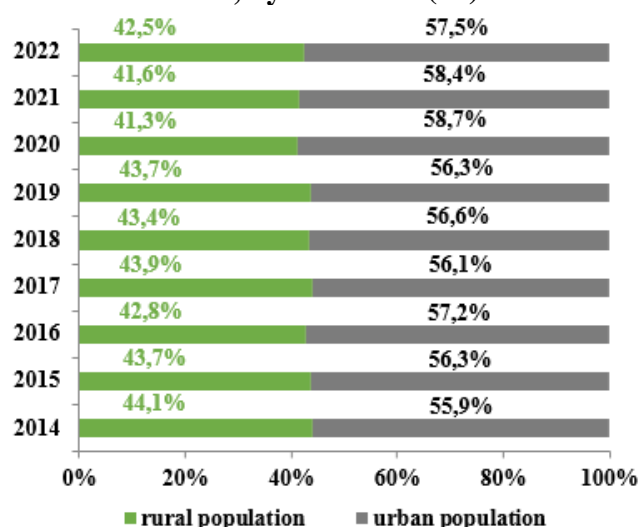
Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

In 2022, urban residents made up the majority of first-time entrants. In 2014-2022, that proportion remained the largest and tended to grow slowly every year.

Number of first-time entrants in 2014-2022, by residence



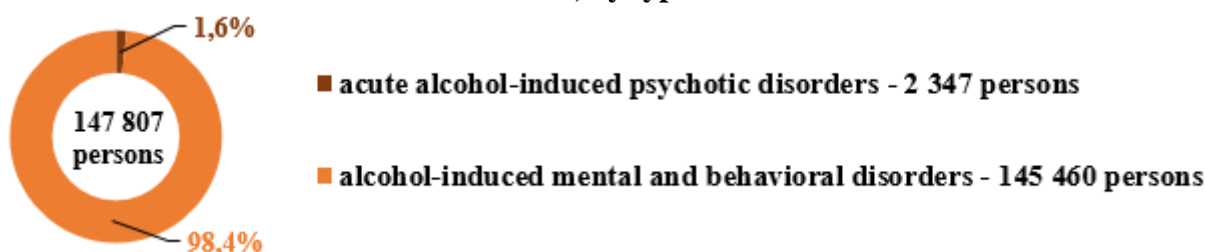
Proportion of first-time entrants in 2014-2022, by residence (%)



Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

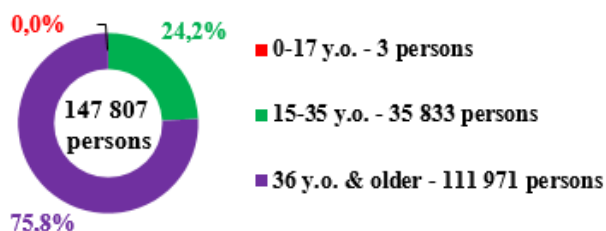
147 807 persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol use were provided with treatment services in dispensary register in 2022.

Persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol use, provided with treatment services in 2022, by type of disorder

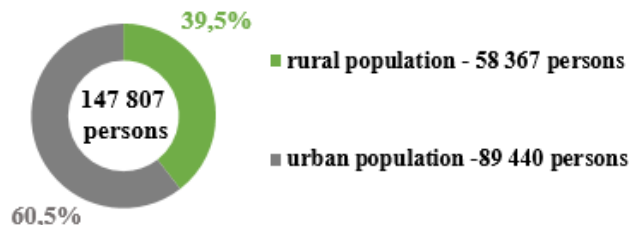


Of them:

By age:



By residence:



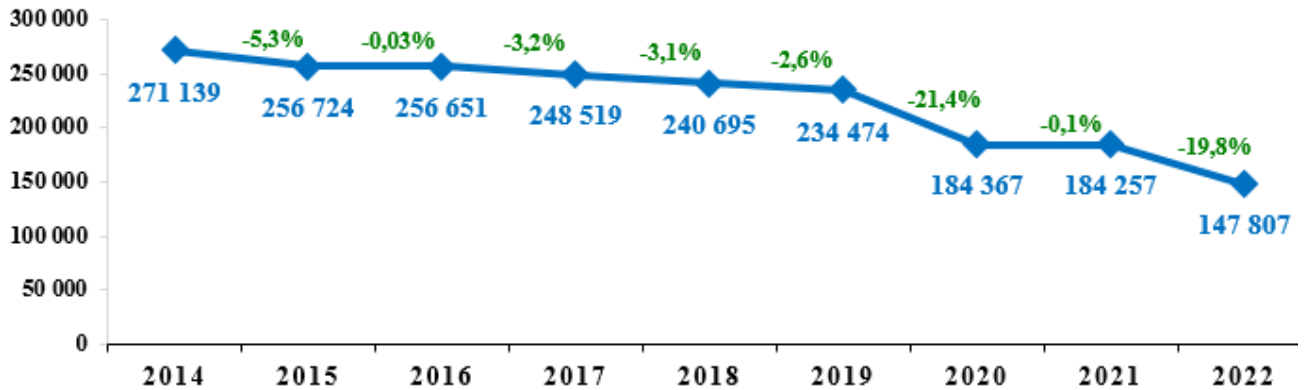
Calculation source: Report on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2022.

In 2022, the number of persons who were provided with treatment services in dispensary register decreased by 19,8%, compared to 2021. The declining trend in the number of those people continued in 2014-2022.

Of them on average annually:

- 11,2% – proportion of first-time entrants;
- 1,6% – proportion of persons with acute alcohol-induced psychotic disorders.

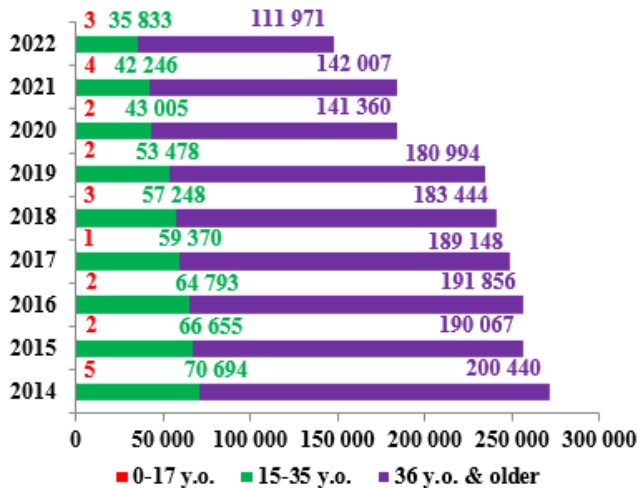
Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol use, provided with treatment services in 2014-2022



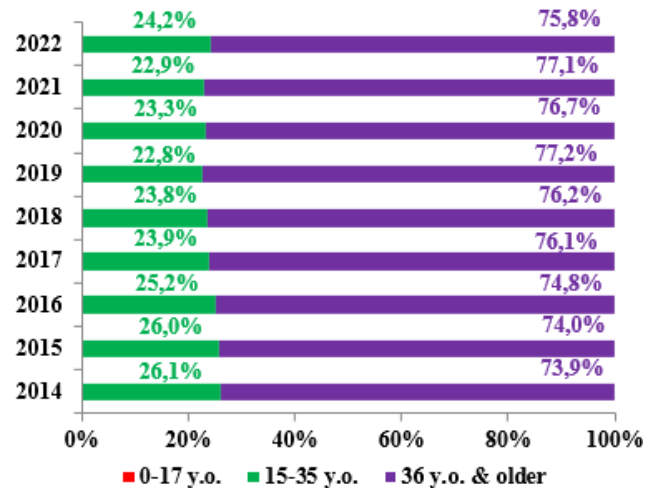
Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

The majority of individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol use provided with treatment in 2014-2022 were those aged 36 years and older and urban residents.

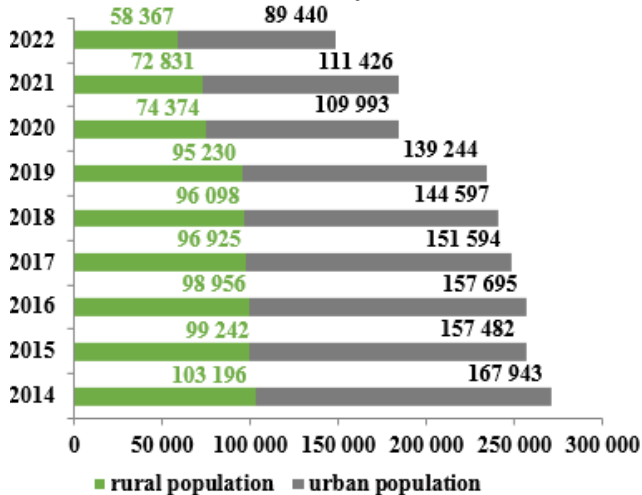
Number of persons, provided with treatment in 2014-2022, by age



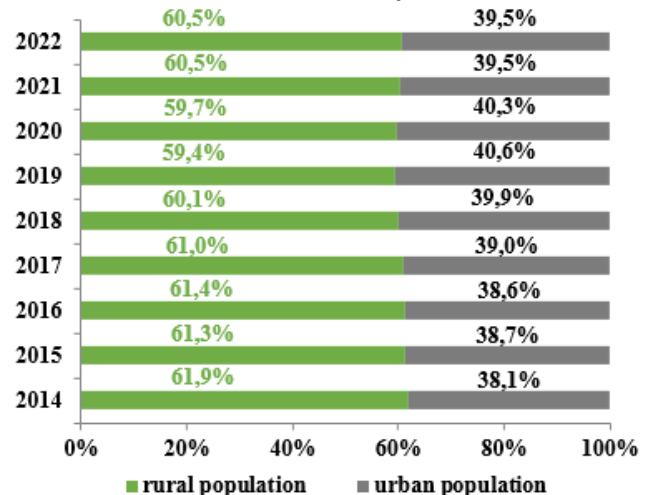
Proportion of persons, provided with treatment in 2014-2022, by age (%)



Number of persons, provided with treatment in 2014-2022, by residence



Proportion of persons, provided with treatment in 2014-2022, by residence (%)



Calculation source: Reports on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use for 2014-2022.

Deaths related to alcohol use and poisoning

Data collection and consolidation on deaths related to alcohol use and poisoning is carried out in Ukraine using data provided by the State Statistics Service.

Given the current situation with the full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine backed by the Republic of Belarus, following the provisions of [paragraph 1 of the Law of Ukraine No. 2115-IX](#) “On Protection of the Interests of Reporting Entities during Martial Law or a State of War”, individuals and legal entities have the right not to submit statistical and financial reports during martial law or a state of war and within three months after its termination.

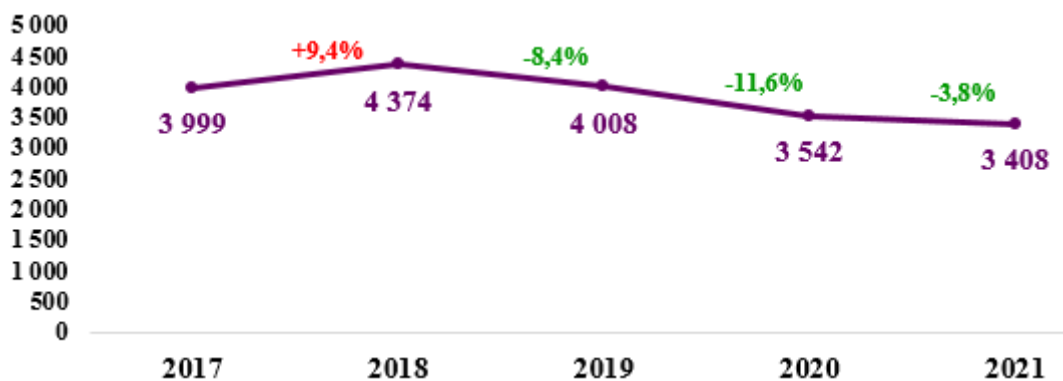
Some of these entities exercised the above right and did not submit reports, which made it impossible for the State Statistics Service to compile accurate official statistics for 2022, including on the number of deaths related to mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol use and poisoning.

According to the State Statistics Service, in 2021, 9 283 deaths related to alcohol use and poisoning were recorded in Ukraine.

- 699 deaths were related to mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol use;
- 2 709 deaths were related to alcohol poisoning;
- 5 875 deaths were caused by diseases related to alcohol use.

In 2019-2021, the number of deaths related to alcohol use and poisoning in Ukraine tended to decrease.

Total number of deaths related to alcohol use and poisoning in 2017-2021*

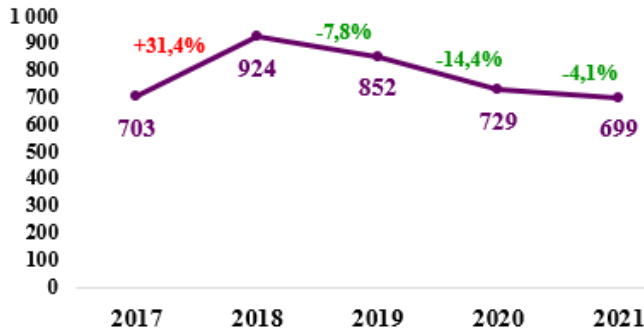


Calculation source: Ukrstat data for 2017-2021.

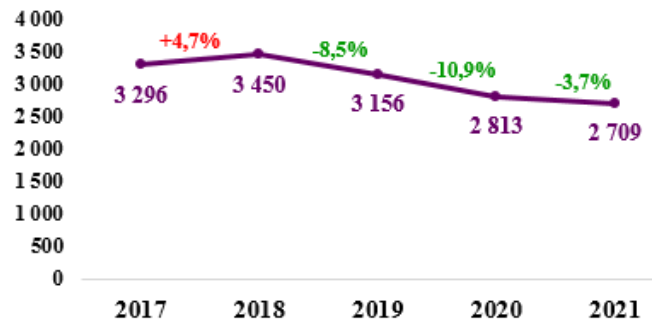
Note: * Hereinafter, excluding deaths from alcohol-related diseases.

In fact, in 2019-2021, both the number of deaths related to mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol use and the number of deaths due to alcohol poisoning decreased annually.

Number of deaths related to mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol use in 2017-2021



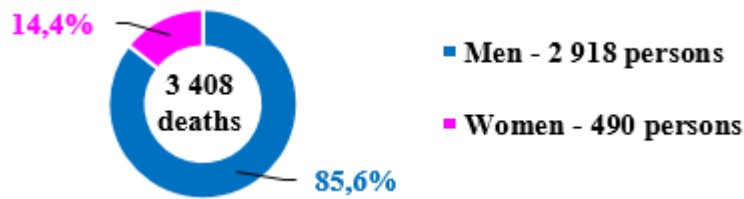
Number of deaths due to alcohol poisoning in 2017-2021



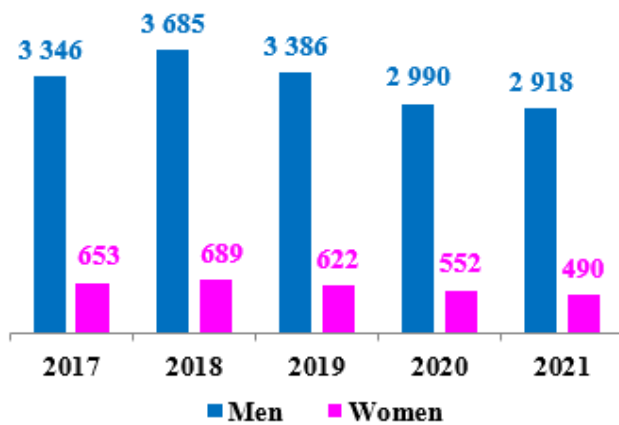
Calculation source: Ukrstat data for 2017-2021.

Among the deceased persons whose deaths were related to alcohol use and poisoning, the largest proportion in 2021 was made up of men (2 918 people, or 85,6%) with a slight annual increase of it from year to year.

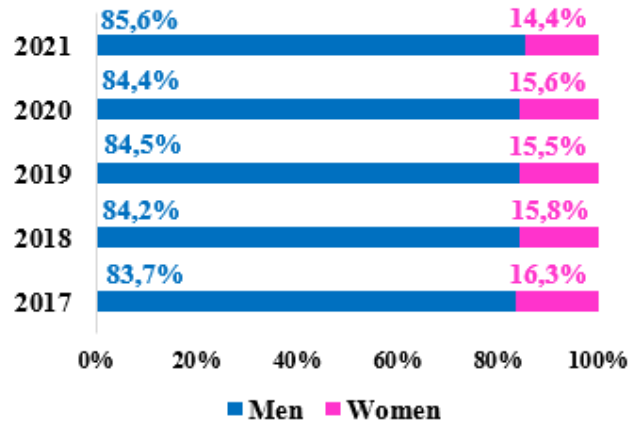
Deaths related to alcohol use and poisoning in 2021, by gender



Number of deaths related to alcohol use and poisoning in 2017-2021, by gender



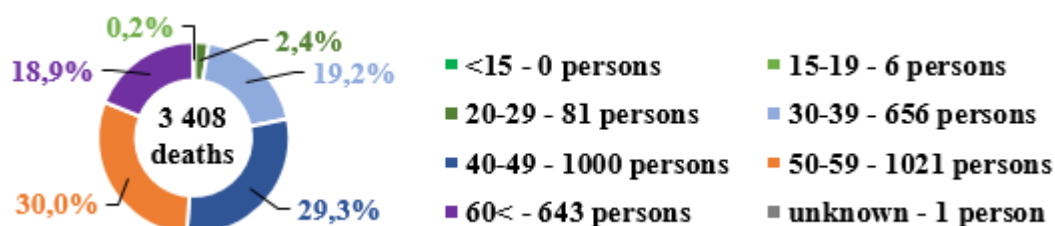
Proportion of deaths related to alcohol use and poisoning in 2017-2021, by gender (%)



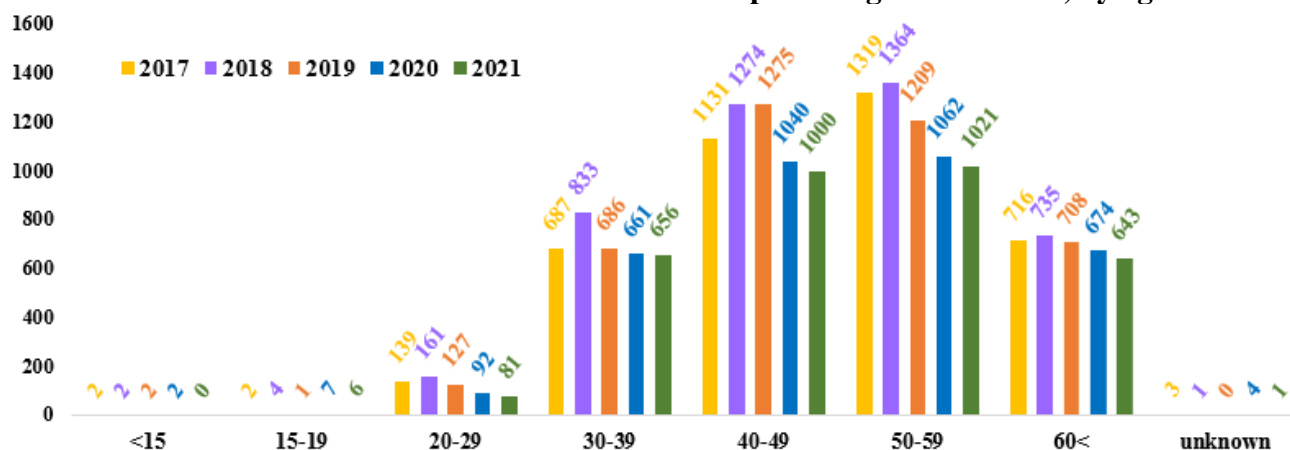
Calculation source: Ukrstat data for 2017-2021.

In terms of age groups of deceased persons whose deaths were related to alcohol use and poisoning, in 2021, the largest proportion was made up of people aged 50-59 y.o. (30,0%) and 40-49 y.o. (29,3%). Those age groups remained the largest in 2017-2021.

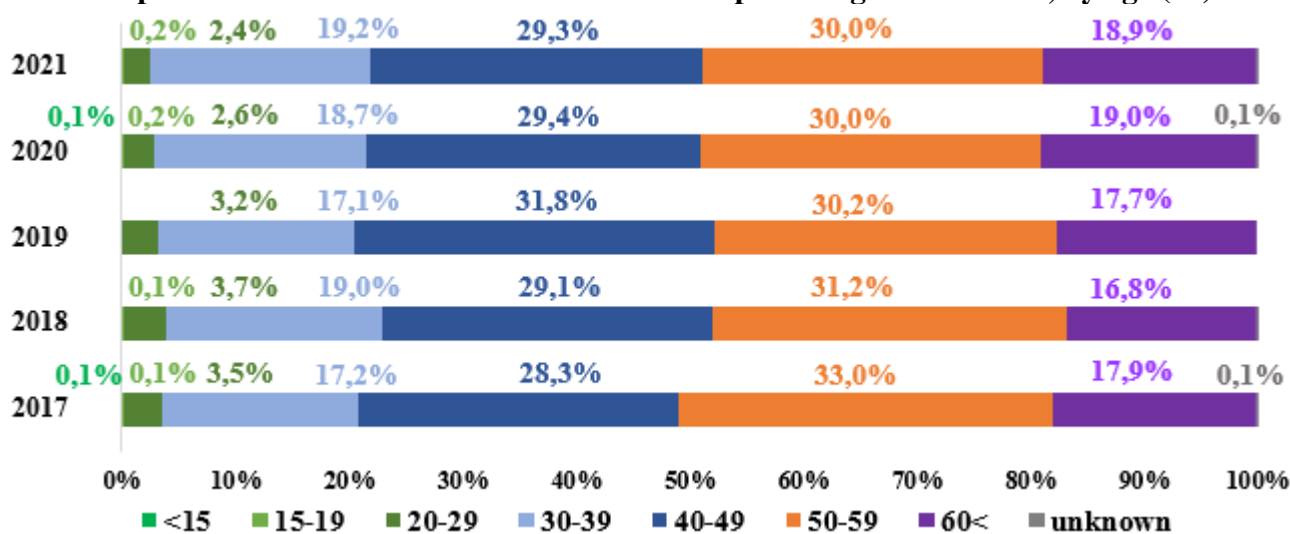
Deaths related to alcohol use and poisoning in 2021, by age



Number of deaths related to alcohol use and poisoning in 2017-2021, by age



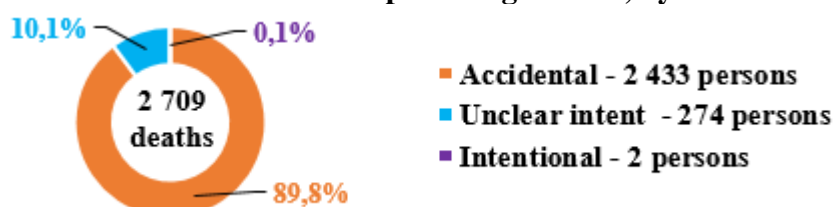
Proportion of deaths related to alcohol use and poisoning in 2017-2021, by age (%)



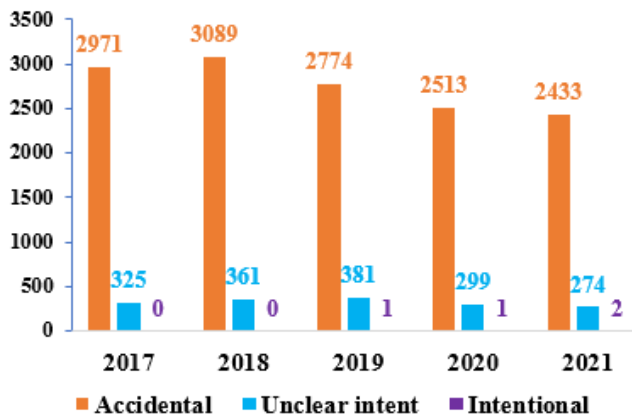
Calculation source: Ukrstat data for 2017-2021.

In terms of intent, accidental poisoning accounted for the largest number of deaths in 2021 (2 433, or 89,8% of all deaths due to alcohol poisoning). That trend was observed in 2017-2021.

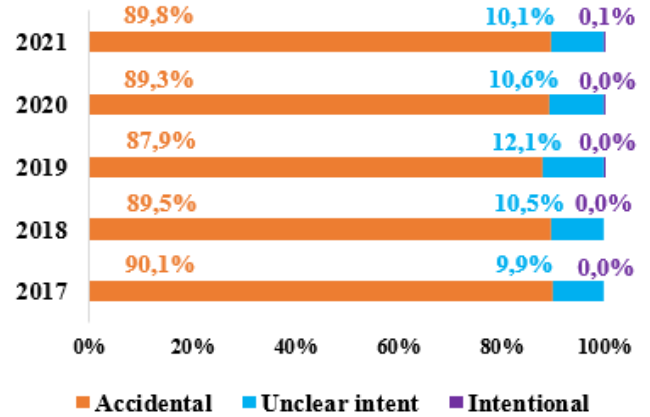
Deaths due to alcohol poisoning in 2021, by intent



Number of deaths due to alcohol poisoning in 2017-2021, by intent



Proportion of deaths due to alcohol poisoning in 2017-2021, by intent (%)



Calculation source: Ukrstat data for 2017-2021.

Alcohol use by young people

Since 1995, a survey of Ukrainian student youth has been conducted on a regular basis in the framework of the “European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs” (ESPAD). The next ESPAD survey is scheduled for 2024.

The recent data on the use of various substances (alcohol, tobacco, drugs) by 15-17-year-old students were collected in 2019 as part of the [ESPAD](#). It covered 8 509 respondents (4 108 boys and 4 401 girls) who were students of rural and urban secondary schools and vocational schools.

The vast majority (85,7%) of surveyed adolescents had a lifetime experience in alcohol consumption (82,7% boys and 88,4% girls). At that, 13,4% of respondents tried alcohol for the first time at the age of 10 or even earlier.

Over the last 30 days, 46,5% of respondents consumed alcohol at least once, and every fifth adolescent (22,5%) – more than 3 times. The most popular drinks were wine and low-alcohol drinks.

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 recent alcohol consumption experience. Boys drank beer relatively more often, as reported by 28,1% of the male respondents.

Top-4 reported motivations for alcohol consumption:

- to cheer up – 39,4% (36,5% of boys, 42,2% of girls);
- to solve inner problems – 26,8% (23,4% of boys, 30,1% of girls);
- to get high – 17,3% (16,7% of boys, 17,9% of girls);
- to socialize – 12,5% (13,5% of boys, 11,5% of girls).

Please follow the [link](#) to view full results of the ESPAD survey-2019.

In 2022, the [Institute of Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatric Examination and Drug Monitoring of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine](#) in cooperation with the teenager movement [Teenergizer](#) and the [European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#) implemented an online-survey from April 20 up to May 1. The goal of the survey was to discover findings on how the full-scale war waged by the russian

federation on 24 February 2022 affected the Ukrainian young people in terms of their mental health, alcohol consumption and drug use.

1 512 questionnaires were submitted by respondents.

Most of the respondents represented the age groups of 15-16 y.o. (25,5%), 17-18 y.o. (29,0%) and 19-24 y.o. (27,7%).

84,6% of respondents were female.

In terms of geography, 46% of respondents were residents of the Northern Ukraine (city of Kyiv, Kyiv region, Chernihiv region, Sumy region and Zhytomyr region).

83,0% of respondents (1 245 out of 1 500 who answered the questions in the alcohol section) reported they had consumed alcoholic beverages, with the largest proportion (93,7%) among the age group of 19-24 y.o.

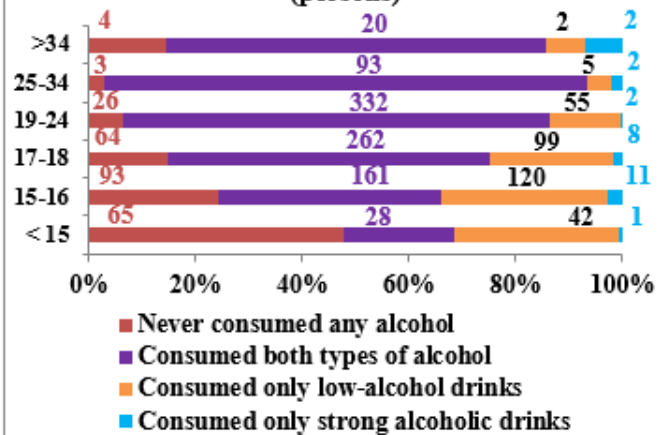
Survey results:

- the vast majority of respondents (59,7%) consumed both low-alcohol and strong alcoholic drinks;
- 1,7% of respondents consumed only strong drinks;
- while the proportion of those who had experience of alcohol consumption among the age group “under 15” accounted for 52,2%, the correspondent figures in other age groups were much higher: 75,8% of the age group of 15-16 y.o, 85,2% of the age group of 17-18 y.o, 93,7% of the age group of 19-24 y.o. and 97,1% of the age group of 25-34 y.o. drank alcohol at least once in their lives;

Respondents by alcohol consumption (%)



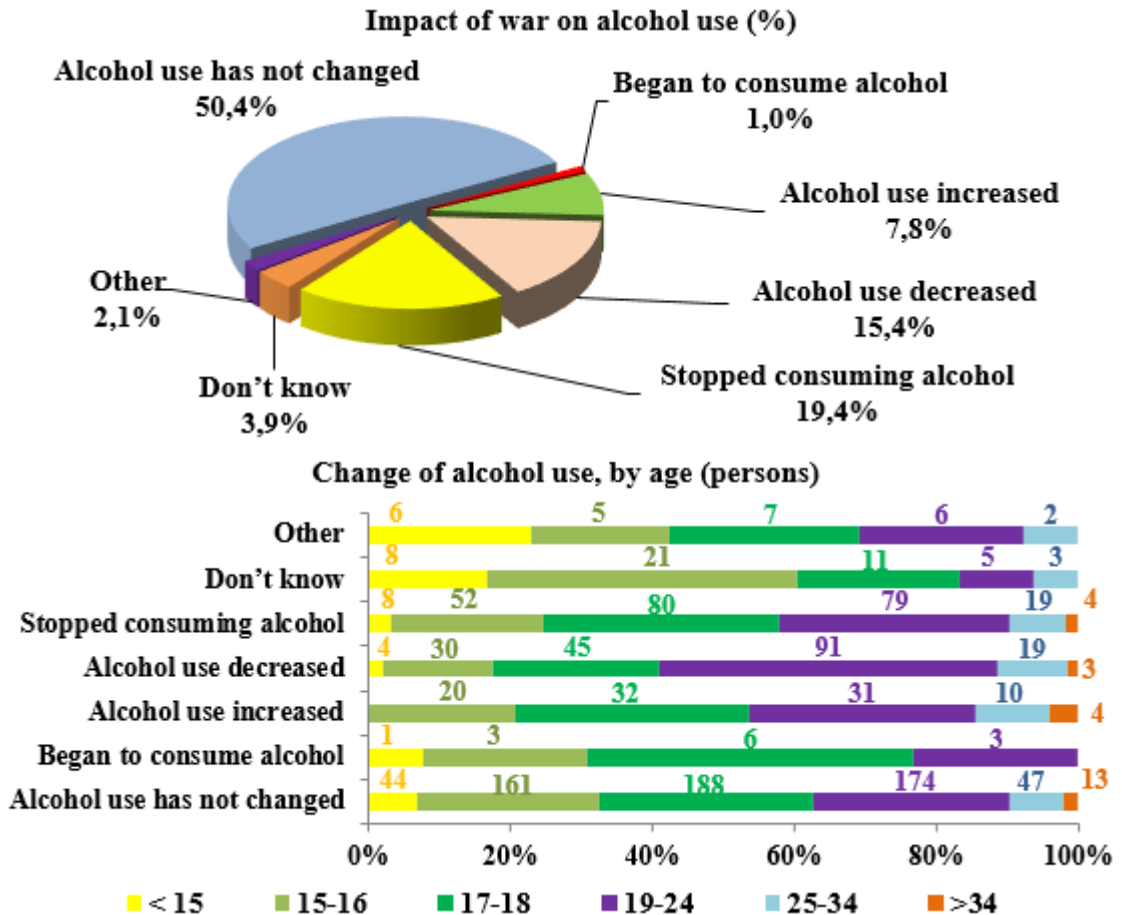
Respondents by alcohol consumption and age (persons)



• More than one third of respondents had either stopped (20%) or reduced (15%) consuming alcohol, while only 1% of respondents reported that they had started drinking alcohol.

• Half of the respondents (50,4%) reported no changes in alcohol consumption. At the same time, an increase in alcohol consumption is noted mainly by respondents aged 15-24 y.o.

The most frequent responses in the “Other” category were “stopped drinking alcohol long before the war” and “rarely drink alcohol”.



Please follow the [link](#) to view full results of the survey.

Consolidated findings

Legal framework

Legal acts and regulations on drug trafficking adopted in Ukraine in 2022 were mainly aimed at the adaptation of relevant provisions to the EU legislation and the adjustment of current national regulations, in particular to the realities and conditions of the country's life after the full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation.

Prevalence of drug use

Given the lack of general population surveys, the annual data on the prevalence of substance use is collected from other sources. The most reliable data source that meets the EMCDDA recommendations is the "Report on individuals with mental disorders due to substance use" (Form 32).

While in 2018-2021 there was an annual increase in the number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were under surveillance in dispensary register (by an average of 1,3 points per year), in 2022 the number of those persons decreased by 5,7% compared to 2021 (from 66 266 to 62 511 persons).

In that category of people, the largest proportion (66,5%) was made up of individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to opioid use (41 545 people), and their proportion remained stable every year. The proportion of polydrug users was the second largest and amounted to 24,5% (15 320 persons).

In terms of age groups, the proportion of people aged 36 years and older had been increasing from year to year (from 42,1% in 2014 to 62,3% in 2022) due to a decrease in the proportion of people aged 15 to 35 y.o. (from 57,9% in 2014 to 37,7% in 2022). The proportion of population by area of residence remains almost unchanged and averages 90,7% of urban residents vs 9,3% of rural residents.

Based on the quantitative data on people with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were under surveillance in the dispensary register at the end of the reporting period, the prevalence of substance use (per 10 000 population) was calculated. During 2014-2022, the prevalence indicator had been increasing steadily (from 14,5 persons per 10 000 population in 2014 to 17 persons per 10 000 population in 2022).

Infectious diseases related to drug use by injection

The number of PWID that were positive tested in 2022 for infectious hepatitis virus, tuberculosis, and HIV infection in Ukraine amounted to 32 901 persons.

The largest proportion of tested positive among PWID was made up of HIV-infected people without HBV and HCV co-infections (36,1%). A slightly smaller, but still significant proportion was accounted for by PWID with HCV (24,1%). The gender ratio of tested positive among PWID remained almost unchanged during 2020-2022 (on average: 82,5% – men, 17,5% – women), and 2022 was no exception (83,2% vs. 16,8%, respectively).

Compared to 2021, the number of PWID with first-time detected infectious diseases in 2022 increased by 21,4% (from 2 225 to 2 701 people). In 2022, the largest proportions of those individuals were made up of PWID with HCV (31,8%) and HIV (28,1%) detected for the very first time. That ratio remained almost unchanged in 2020-2022. At the same time, in 2020-2022, there was an increase in the number of PWID with first-detected HIV/HBV and HIV/HCV co-infections.

Drug-related deaths

Due to the war in Ukraine and its consequences, data for 2022 on the number of deaths related to mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use and the number of deaths related to substance poisoning are not available. Therefore, the Report presents data for 2021, which were not available in the previous document for the same reasons.

While in 2017-2020 there was a rising trend in the total number of deaths related to substance use and poisoning, in 2021 that figure decreased by 4,1% compared to 2020: the number of deaths related to mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use decreased by 18,9% (from 53 to 43 people), and the number of deaths related to substance poisoning decreased by 2,6% (from 536 to 522 people).

The gender ratio of deaths in 2021 (92,0% men and 8,0% women) remained in line with the trend of previous years, as did the age ratio: in 2021, the largest proportion of deaths was in the age group of 30-39 y.o. (49,7%).

In 2021, the largest proportion of people who died from mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use was made up of opioid users (58,1%) confirming a 2017-2020 trend. The second largest proportion of deaths occurred among poly medicines and other substances users (37,2%).

58,8% of deaths related to substance poisoning were caused by opioid poisoning, with methadone poisoning accounting for the majority of opioid cases (87,9%). The second largest (31,4%) was the proportion of deaths due to poisoning by unidentified drugs. In terms of intent, as in previous years, accidental poisoning accounted for the largest proportion of deaths (80,8%).

Regarding the number of deaths with identified evidence of substances in biological material, data for 2021-2022 were collected, but they are incomplete, as it was impossible to obtain them from the forensic bureaus of a number of regions due to the temporary occupation of the territories of Ukraine and military operations after the russia's full-scale invasion.

In 2022, the recorded number of such deaths amounted to 739 cases (4,2% higher than in 2021). In terms of the substances identified in the biological material of the deceased, the largest proportions were drug-containing medicines (30,2%) and opioids (29,9%). By gender, the share of men was the largest and amounted to 86,3%. In terms of age, the largest proportion of deaths was in the age group of 30-39 y.o. (47,9%).

Drug use prevention and social services

According to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, 188 284 drug use prevention activities were carried out in the academic year 2021/2022, aimed at reducing substance use. Compared to 2021, that number decreased by 59,2% (from 461 357 to 188 284 activities), primarily due to russia's full-scale military aggression.

It's worth noting that the proportion of individual interviews in the structure of prevention activities has significantly increased after a steady downward trend in 2019-2021, while the proportion of trainings decreased 5 times (from 50,8% in 2021 to 9,8% in 2022).

According to the National Social Service of Ukraine, in 2022, more than 4 700 families with family members who used substances, including 28 children, were provided with social services by city, town, district and village social service centers.

In the structure of services, the largest proportions were accounted for by services that included video lectures, educational and prevention programs, visits to narcologists and psychologists, practical classes, discussions, educational activities, conversations, etc. (27,5%), counselling (26,7%) and social prevention (19,8%).

In 2019-2022, social services provided to families with drug users resulted mainly in reestablishing family links (45,1% in 2022). The proportion of those who got assistance in recovering documents also remains stable from year to year (28,2% in 2022).

According to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in 2022, due to the russian invasion of Ukraine, most youth activities were cancelled. As of February 2022, there were 300 youth centers and spaces. Of them, 9 were totally destroyed, 29 were damaged, 57 were occupied. In 2022, 55 sports and recreation events were held, involving 73 839 participants, including more than 17 760 internally displaced persons.

As part of the "Active Parks – Locations of Healthy Ukraine" social project, 704 locations were active (54 of them were damaged as a result of russian aggression), and 644 coordinators organized events. More than 5 000 sports and recreation events were held, involving more than 800 000 participants, including more than 50 000 internally displaced persons.

Harm reduction

In 2022, harm reduction services in Ukraine were provided to people from high-risk groups such as people who inject drugs (PWID), sex workers (SW), and men who have sex with men (MSM).

233 253 people received HIV testing services; 66,1% of them were PWID, 17,4% were SW, and 16,5% were MSM.

239 688 people received TB screening services; 66,5% of them were PWID, 17,2% were SW, and 16,3% were MSM.

253 921 people received condom and lubricant distribution services; 66,9% of them were PWID, 16,9% were SW, and 16,2% were MSM.

In addition, PWID were provided with 12 309 641 syringes and needles, as well as 13 079 927 alcohol wipes.

Treatment of mental and behavioral disorders due to drug use

In 2022, 25 970 persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use were treated in dispensary register, which is 10,7% less than in 2021. The largest proportion of patients (75,9%) received outpatient treatment.

The vast majority of those patients (76,1%) received opioid addiction treatment. The second largest proportion of patients was treated for polydrug addiction (17,0%), and that trend was observed during 2014-2022.

In terms of the age groups of patients, the group aged 36 years and older remained the most numerous (64,1%), and its proportion tended to increase year over year. The trend in the distribution by area of residence, where urban residents accounted for more than 90,0% of patients, also remained unchanged (91,0% in 2022).

While the overall number of drug users provided with treatment services declined, the number of people with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use provided with treatment services in dispensary register for the first time increased by 25,1% up to 5 288 individuals in 2022, compared to 2021. The vast majority of new patients were mainly treated for opioid addiction (74,4%) and polydrug addiction (18,5%). In 2022, the largest proportions of first-time entrants by age and area of residence were new patients aged 36 year and older (60,9%) and urban residents (85,8%).

Opioid substitution treatment (OST)

In 2022, there were 193 sites providing OST services in public healthcare facilities (8,1% less than in 2021) and 26 sites providing OST services in private healthcare facilities (44,4% higher than in 2021), which reported to the Center for Public Health of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

In 2022, the number of OST patients went on increasing, i.e., in public healthcare facilities by 16,9%, in private healthcare facilities by 209,3%, compared to 2021. The total number of OST program participants amounted to 28 523 persons.

Methadone hydrochloride in pills with a proportion of 88,5% remained the most common prescribed medicine used in OST. 11,4% of patients received buprenorphine hydrochloride (sublingual pills), and only 0,1% received methadone hydrochloride (oral solution).

The largest proportion of patients (71,2%) got medicines at OST sites for self-administration outside the healthcare facility.

As for co-infections, the vast majority of OST patients were diagnosed with HCV (42,0% of all OST program participants).

In terms of gender, 86,6% of OST program participants were men.

Drug use in prisons

In 2022, the number of prisoners with disorders due to substance use who were provided with medical care amounted to 3 437 (14,6% higher than in 2021). 947 individuals were provided with medical care for the first time (10,9% higher than in 2021).

In 2022, out of prisoners who were provided with medical care, the largest proportion was made up of persons with opioid addiction (66,6%). That proportion tended to increase in 2019-2022. In terms of gender, 90,5% of prisoners with disorders due to substance use were men.

In 2022, 331 persons were provided with OST treatment, which is 97,4% higher than in 2021.

In 2022, the number of PWID in prison with infectious diseases amounted to 2 081 persons (354,4% higher than in 2021). In 2019-2022, the largest proportions of those people were consistently made up of PWID with HCV and HIV (51,5% and 47,3%, respectively in 2022).

In 2022, 4 992,4 grams of drugs and psychotropic substances were seized in prisons, which is 66,8% less than in 2021. The herbal cannabis accounted for the largest proportion of seized substances (81,0%).

Drug markets and Drug-related offences

In 2022, the main factor affecting the illegal drug markets was the full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

However, despite the war, the drug demand in Ukraine remains at a consistently high level. Thus, there is a rising trend in the number of offences related to illicit trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors for their production and supply.

Compared to the previous year's figures, in 2022 the number of registered drug-related criminal offences increased by 16,3%, and the number of cases on drug-related administrative offences increased by 15,5%. There was a continuous trend of the predominant proportion of men (over 90,0%) among those who committed both administrative and criminal offences. In terms of age groups, the largest proportion of offences was committed by persons aged 29-39 years (over 40,0%).

The proportion of offences under Art. 309 of the CCU (not for selling purposes) remained the largest among registered drug-related criminal offences, and their number increased by 42,7% in 2022, compared to 2021. At the same time, the number of offences under Art. 307 of the CCU (for selling purposes) decreased by 7,6%. Thus, while the number of offences under Art. 309 had been going down and the number of offences under Art. 307 had been going up from 2016 to 2021, the situation reversed in 2022.

Despite the increase in the number of registered drug-related offences, there was a decrease in the volume of seizures of drugs and psychotropic substances, compared to 2021, both regarding administrative offences (by 27,4%) and criminal offences (at the beginning of the pre-trial investigation – by 38,9%, on investigated criminal proceedings – by 16,3%). As in previous years, cannabis accounted for the largest proportion of seized substances (68,3% at the beginning of the pre-trial investigation, 85,8% on investigated criminal proceedings). It should be noted that seizures of heroin and cocaine, which were transited through Ukraine to the European Union, decreased in 2022 due to the breakdown of drug trafficking channels as a result of the war in Ukraine.

Compared to 2021, the number of clandestine drug laboratories dismantled in 2022 decreased significantly (by 44,2%). The majority of the dismantled laboratories produced synthetic substances of amphetamine family, mainly amphetamine (with the proportion of 71,4% in 2022). It's worth observing that the proportion dismantled laboratories that produced herbal cannabis and methamphetamine in 2022 increased by 14,3% and 7,9% respectively, while the proportion of methadone in the structure of substances produced in clandestine labs went on declining (5,3% in 2020, 2,7% in 2021, and 1,6% in 2022).

Despite the fact that marijuana and hashish remain the most commonly used substances in Ukraine, there is a steady trend of increasing demand for methamphetamine, amphetamine, methadone, and synthetic cathinones, and therefore an increase in their clandestine production. At the same time, in recent years, there has been a downward trend in counterfeit medicines smuggling and trafficking in Ukraine.

In conclusion:

The results of monitoring the drug situation in Ukraine in 2022 show that the problem of illicit trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as their use remains pressing, poses serious challenges and requires a comprehensive and integrated approach to overcome negative trends.

The growing prevalence of use of already known types of drugs as well as the increasing share of new psychoactive substances on the drug market, including synthetic cathinones with unpredictable and insufficiently studied effects, are cause for serious concern.

Thus, overcoming drug-related problems requires, on the one hand, strengthening law enforcement activities aimed at reducing the availability of illicit drugs on the market by identifying distributors and bringing them to justice, disrupting channels for the illegal import of substances into Ukraine, identifying and dismantling local clandestine drug laboratories, and combating the high level of corruption in law enforcement and regulatory agencies, whose employees are involved in setting up drug trafficking for financial motives.

On the other hand, the impact of drugs on public health requires the development and upscaling of programs aimed at preventing substance use and rehabilitating dependent individuals.