

REPORT

**On Drug and Alcohol Situation
In Ukraine
for 2022
(Based on data 2021)**

Institute of Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatric Examination and Drug Monitoring
of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine

Kyiv - 2022

UKRAINE

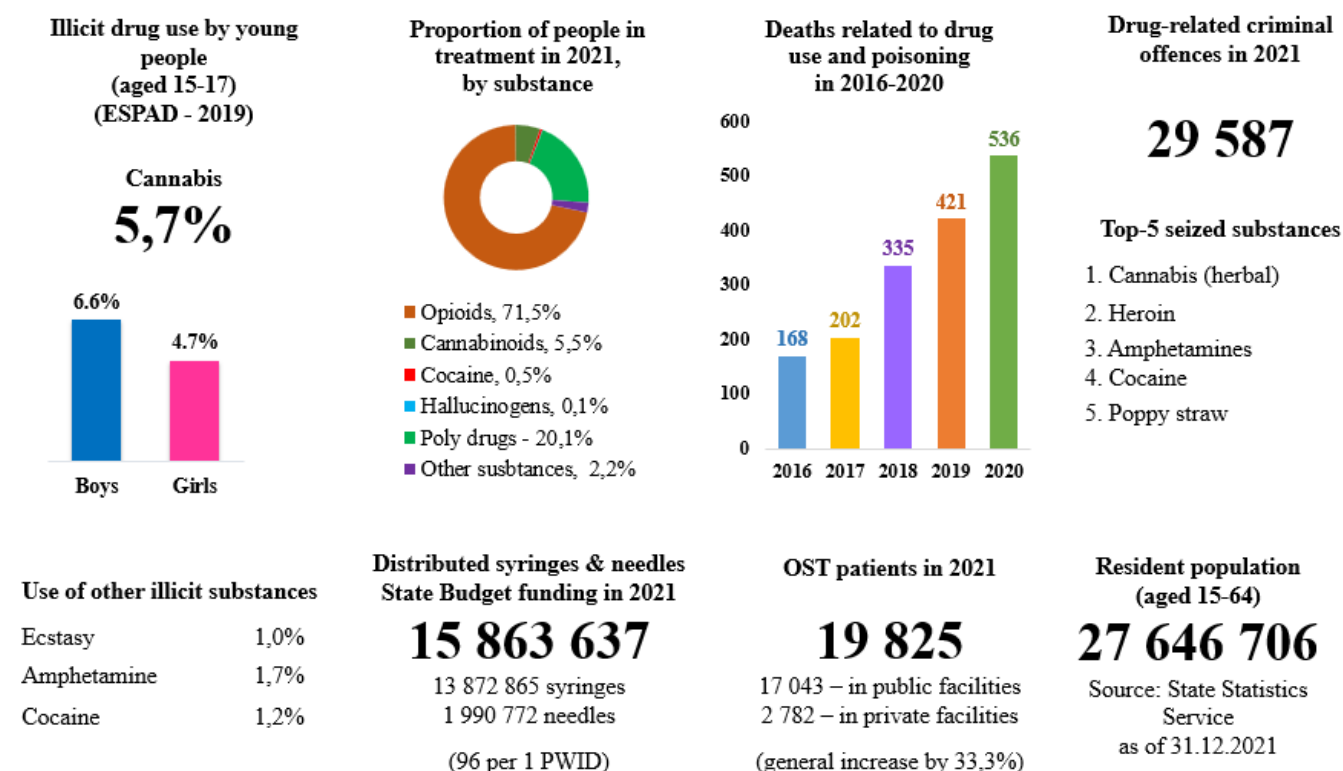
Report on Drug and Alcohol Situation in Ukraine for 2022

This report provides an overview of the drug and alcohol situation in Ukraine. Statistics and information are based on data 2021. At that, the sections “Drug-related deaths and poisoning” and “Alcohol-related deaths and poisoning” are based on data 2020.

NB:

Given the conditions of martial law, imposed by the Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 64 of 24 February 2022 “On the imposition of martial law in Ukraine”, the active hostilities in some regions of Ukraine, as well as limited access to relevant resources in these territories, certain monitoring data providers do not have any opportunity to exercise their powers to the full extent. As a result, it is hard to impossible to provide all required comprehensive information in present Report*.

Outline of drug related problems in Ukraine



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

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

* In the Drug-Related Harm section, the Drug-Related Death indicator is based on the data 2020.

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List of abbreviations

BFME	Bureau of Forensic Medical Examination
CMHMDA	State Institution “Centre for Mental Health and Monitoring Drugs and Alcohol of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine”
IPFPEDM	State Institution “Institute of Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatric Examination and Drug Monitoring of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine”
CCU	Criminal Code of Ukraine
CUAO	Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences
CMU	Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
ESPAD	European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs
GPU	Prosecutor General’s Office of Ukraine
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
MoH	Ministry of Health of Ukraine
MoSP	Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine
MoYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine
MSM	Men who have sex with men
NP	National Police of Ukraine
NSSU	National Social Service of Ukraine
OST	Opioid Substitution Therapy
PAS	Psychoactive substances that include drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors
Poisoning	External causes of deaths related to drug use
PWID	People who inject drugs
SPSU	State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine
SW	Sex workers (people who provide sex services for money)
SSU	Security Service of Ukraine
Strategy-2030	National Drug Policy Strategy for the period up to 2030
Ukrstat	State Statistics Service of Ukraine

National drug policy strategy and coordination mechanisms of its implementation

National drug policy strategy

In order to continue carrying out measures started within the National Drug Policy Strategy for the period up to 2020, the [State Drug Policy Strategy for the period up to 2030](#) (the Strategy) and the draft Action Plan for 2022-2024 were developed in 2021.

The main priorities of the Strategy:

- to prevent substance use without medical indications and raise public awareness (prevention of use, raising awareness of the harmful effects of drugs);
- to enhance the public security (focus on combating organized drug crime, money laundering and intensifying the detection of channels of illicit trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors);
- to stop the illegal manufacture and production of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors;
- to ensure the access to the relevant preventive means and efficient treatment approaches for individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use;
- to implement the effective measures aimed at reducing risk and harm to the health of individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use;
- to ensure the rights to treatment and prevention of individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use in the penitentiary facilities and pre-trial detention centers of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine;
- to improve of the regulatory legal acts of Ukraine through working out, approving and introducing changes for the effective implementation of the objectives set up in this Strategy.

The strategic and operational goals of the Strategy

1. To promote a healthy lifestyle and to decrease substance demand:
 - preventing population from substance abuse;
 - preventing people who use drugs from substance abuse and addictiveness.
2. To combat illicit trafficking in drugs, psychoactive substances and precursors, as well as to reduce supply of illegal substances and their timely seizures:
 - reducing the volume of psychoactive substances available on the illicit market;
 - preventing the diversion of drug-containing medicines by means of implementing efficient measures of government regulation and control;
 - preventing trafficking in of analogues or new substances;
 - strengthening the human resources capacity of law enforcement authorities.
3. To ensure the availability of drug-containing medicines for people who are in need of them:
 - to ensure the access to treatment based on drug-containing medicines;
 - to facilitate the development of palliative care.
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 the availability of comprehensive harm reduction programs:

- organizing services for diagnostics, medical and socio-psychological assistance, rehabilitation and resocialization for individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use, as well as ensuring access to harm reduction programs;
- improving the treatment organization and provision through decriminalization, combating stigma and discrimination, and introducing alternatives to punishment;
- organizing treatment of individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use in penitentiary facilities of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine;
- building up an effective system of epidemiological surveillance of the prevalence of substance use, as well as implementing an effective monitoring and efficiency assessment of the measures within the state drug policy implementation.

The Strategy sets up the drug policy strategic paradigm, i.e., the need for a comprehensive transition from the punitive and criminal liability oriented anti-drug measures to the treatment and prevention ones, as the most fruitful and efficient to overcome substance use.

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

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

In order to create a legal framework for expanding Ukraine’s participation in the cooperation with the Council of Europe on combating substance abuse and illegal trafficking, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted [Law No. 1647-IX of 07.14.2021](#) “On Ukraine’s Joining the Partial Agreement on the Creation of a Cooperation Group for Combating Drug Abuse and Illegal Drug Trafficking ([Pompidou Group](#))”, which entered into force on 01 January 2022.

That decision was approved following a 10-year fruitful cooperation between Ukraine and the Pompidou Group.

Ukraine joined the Council of Europe in 1995, making many commitments to the rule of law, democracy and human rights.

Joining the Pompidou Group is the next step towards addressing drug-related problems, based on the values of the Council of Europe, namely through integrating human rights into all stages of drug policy-making.

A stronger focus on human rights is one of the key points of the renewed mandate of the Pompidou Group, adopted in June 2021 on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, which was also extended to the addiction to legal substances (e.g., alcohol or tobacco) and new forms of addiction (e.g., internet gambling and online games).

The membership in the Pompidou Group contributes to as follows:

- to expand Ukraine’s participation in cooperating with the Council of Europe on combating illegal drug trafficking;
- to open additional opportunities for attracting international technical assistance, studying and implementing international expertise in combating illegal drug trafficking;
- to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation on drug control according to the European standards at the intergovernmental and expert levels;
- to promote the initiation and implementation of pilot projects in Ukraine on the drug addiction prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of people who use drugs;
- to provide a sustainable access to information on drug threats, trends of drug trafficking and drug consumption;
- to receive technical assistance and financial support for implementing projects on reducing crime and substance use among young people, on combating illegal drug trafficking, reforming health care, including the implementation of positive practices in prisons. And this assistance significantly exceeds the membership annual fees;
- to get practical international support in combating drug trafficking, including the access to specialized law enforcement networks and professional cooperation platforms for sharing operational and policy information; experiments with flexible responses to combat 21st century addictions such as Internet gambling; and new ideas of research and practice in the field of science-based prevention and treatment of disorders due to substance use.

In order to establish the government control over the novel psychoactive substances, the [CMU Resolution No. 192 of 10 March 2021](#) “On Changes to the List of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors” and [CMU Resolution No. 324 of 07 April 2021](#) “On Changes to the List of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors” included 60 new substances (17 drugs, 38 psychotropic substances and 5 precursors) to the List of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors”, first adopted by the [CMU Resolution No. 770 of 06 May 2000](#).

[Order of the Ministry of Health No. 2712 of 06 December 2021](#) “On Changes to Order of the Ministry of Health No. 188 of 01 August 2000” amended:

- the table of small, big and especially big sizes of drugs in illegal circulation with 17 new drugs;
- the table of small, big and especially big sizes of psychotropic substances in illegal circulation with 36 new psychotropic substances;

– the table of small, big and especially big sizes of precursors in illegal circulation with 5 new precursors.

In order to improve the procedure for licensing business activities, the [CMU Resolution No. 939 of 08 September 2021](#) introduced changes to the licensing terms of business activities, approved by the [CMU Resolution No. 282 of 06 April 2016](#) on the cultivation of plants included in Table I of the List of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, development, production, manufacture, storage, transportation, acquisition, sale, import to Ukraine, export from Ukraine, use, destruction of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors included in the above list.

[Order of the Ministry of Health No. 1654 of 05 August 2021](#) made changes to the unified form of the Act of scheduled or unscheduled measures of governmental supervision (control) over a business entity's compliance with the licensing terms of conducting business activities on the cultivation of plants, included in Table I of the List of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, development, production, manufacture, storage, transportation, acquisition, sale, import to Ukraine, export from Ukraine, use, destruction of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors included in the above list, approved by [Order of the Ministry of Health No. 109 of 22 January 2018](#).

[CMU Resolution No. 1002 of 22 September 2021](#) “On Changes to the Licensing Terms of Business Activities on Manufacturing Medicines, Wholesale and Retail Trade of Medical Products, Import of Medical Products (except for active pharmaceutical ingredients) and Approval of the Standard Form of the Contract on Delivering Medical Products to the End Consumer” made amendments to the licensing terms by adding the section “Requirements for Business Activities on Retail E-trade of Medical Products”, which prohibits retail e-trade and delivery to the end customer of those medical products, the circulation of which, according to the Law, is licensed as the activities related to the circulation of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors.

In order to ensure the publicity of provision of administrative and other licensing services, to reduce corruption risks, to shorten time and to improve the quality of the those services' provision, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted its [Resolution No. 895 of 11 August 2021](#) “On Implementing the Experimental Project on the Introduction of the First Stage of the Unified State Electronic System of Permits”, that also included licensing of business activities related to the cultivation of plants included in Table I of the List of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, approved by the [CMU Resolution No. 770 of 06 May 2000](#), development, production, manufacture, storage, transportation, acquisition, sale, import to Ukraine, export from Ukraine, use, destruction of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors included in the above list.

This resolution defines electronic interaction between the licensing procedure parties. The first stage provides for a full cycle of procedures related to the license administration: provision of administrative licensing services (issuance, suspension, renewal, cancellation, etc.), filing complaints against licensing authorities, receiving information about inspections, generating license files, among others.

[CMU Resolution No. 166 of 03 March 2021](#) “On Changes to the Procedure for Issuing Permits to Import to Ukraine, Export from Ukraine or Transit through Ukraine of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors” (the List of Documents) made

clarifications to the List of Documents attached to the Application for Corresponding Permit. The above changes were made to bring the List of documents into compliance with the [Law of Ukraine No. 644-IX of 02 June 2000](#) “On Changes to some Laws of Ukraine on Removing Bureaucratic Barriers and Corrupt Factors in the Health Care Industry”.

Pursuant to the provisions of the [Law of Ukraine No. 1207-VII of 14 April 2014](#) “On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Citizens, and the Legal Regime in the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine”, the [Order of the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine No. 258 of 21 November 2021](#) approved the List and volumes (prices/ weights/ quantities) of goods restricted or prohibited to cross the administrative border, as well as goods that can be classified as personal items. According to that List, the prohibited goods included drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors from the List of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors approved by the [CMU Resolution No. 770 of 06 May 2000](#), as well as their analogues, except for medicines containing drugs or psychotropic substances in quantities not exceeding those indicated in prescriptions, issued to an individual, and with the maximum of 10 ampoules, 50 pills, 10 transdermal systems.

The Ministry of Justice approved its [Order No. 3157/5 of 07 September 2021](#) “On Changes to Some Legal Acts of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine”, including those to the Regulations on the “Overcoming Drug Addiction” Program of differentiated educational impact on convicts (the Program), approved by [Order of the Ministry of Justice No. 1418/5 of 16 May 2016](#). The changes to that Program were aimed at correcting the social behavior of convicts involved in the Program while serving a prison sentence, as well as at improving the stages and conditions of the Program’s implementation.

[CMU Decree No. 1362-p of 21 October 2021](#) approved the Concept of the State targeted law enforcement program of improving the state border through building engineering and fortification systems, fences, border signs, border crossings, communications of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine for the period up to 2024. The program is aimed at addressing many potential threats to the national interests and national security of Ukraine, including smuggling and drug trafficking, among others. The geography of Ukraine makes it attractive for the illicit transit of migrants and drugs through one of the five main illegal migration routes, i.e., the Central European route, which runs through the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Poland, and Slovakia to the Western European countries. There were regular attempts of crossing the state border by migrants, as well as illegal drug trafficking. Therefore, the implementation of that Program was supposed to improve the state border security system in terms of preventing threats, including the illegal drug border-crossing and drug trafficking.

[President’s Decree No. 482/2021 of 27 September 2021](#) ratified the Agreement between the Kingdom of Spain and Ukraine on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs activities, including aimed at combating illegal drug border-crossing and trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, as well as other substances that pose a danger to the health of the population and society.

*Cooperation with EU-ACT Project:

The public authorities involved in combating drug trafficking took part in the project “[EU-ACT](#): activities aimed at combating drug abuse and organized crime, intensive cooperation and capacity building to combat organized crime in the area of drug trafficking within the “Heroin Route” Project”, funded by the EU.

The project allowed for familiarizing Ukrainian law enforcement officials, including forensic experts, with conducting criminal investigations based on analytics, intelligence and evidence, as well as strategic analysis and threat assessment in the area of combating drug-related organized crime.

A series of seminars and trainings were also held for Ukrainian experts on novel substances (NPS), methods of collecting, analyzing, working with evidence in drug trafficking criminal proceedings, as well as practical exercises on controlling the heroin supply. Moreover, the National Police and the State Border Guard Service received tests for synthetic cannabinoids, opiates, amphetamines, ephedrine, cocaine and crack cocaine.

Within the Informal Network of Prosecutors in the Black Sea Region (Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine), supported by the EU-ACT project, the representatives of the Prosecutor General’s Office of Ukraine attended webinars on international cooperation in drug trafficking investigations and the importance of wiretapping in drug trafficking investigations.

On June 15, 2021, the draft NPS research roadmap was approved within the EU-ACT project. That roadmap provided for improving effective national legislation and information support, as well as facilitating the implementation of the State Drug Policy Strategy for the period up to 2030.

Starting in September 2021, as part of the implementation of programs of differentiated educational impact on convicts and as one of the tools ensuring the implementation of the “Overcoming Drug Addiction” Program, the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine introduced in its penitentiary facilities a Rehabilitation Program for convicts and detained individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to psychoactive substances use (the Program) for the relevant category of individuals. During 2021, 727 people participated in that Program and 127 finished it.

*Cooperation with EUBAM Mission:

In 2021, Ukraine and Moldova went on cooperation within the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine ([EUBAM](#)) in the area of combating illicit drug trafficking. Thus, EUBAM set up a Task Force on Combating Drug Trafficking dealing with engaging the Mission’s partners and other law enforcement agencies in the region and developing an information-driven approach to combating drug smuggling. The activities of the Task Force were aimed at improving profiling and information exchange, as well as conducting investigations that would ensure the development of the operational capabilities of Ukraine and Moldova in implementing those activities.

Thanks to longstanding cooperation between the police of Ukraine and Moldova, a joint investigative team was also built to investigate the heroin illegal sale and smuggling. It resulted in blocking the heroin route from the Islamic Republic of Iran through Ukraine with further transiting to Moldova and the EU countries.

*Cooperation between the National Police and Europol:

In January – December 2021, the Europol Operations Support Unit processed 508 drug trafficking requests.

The Department of International Police Cooperation of the National Police of Ukraine coordinated the Ukrainian law enforcement authorities' participation in the following [Europol](#) operations:

- ACATAR – combating precursors smuggling from EU to Ukraine;
- WONKA – combating cocaine smuggling;
- HARIKA – combating heroin smuggling;
- FROST – combating heroin smuggling.

* Cooperation with the EMCDDA:

In 2021, Ukraine went on cooperating with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction ([EMCDDA](#)) within the [Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#) signed on 28 January 2010 and [Working Arrangements](#) that were updated and signed in late 2022.

Main areas of cooperation with EMCDDA:

- exchange on data collection methodology and on data itself;
- participation in thematic EMCDDA activities on key drug monitoring indicators;
- exchange on experiences on responses to drug problems.

*Cooperation with the UNODC:

In 2021, the Parties agreed on prolongation of [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 of 16 January 2018](#) on implementing Container Control Program (including for the purposes of preventing their usage for illicit activities like drug trafficking).

* source – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

National coordination mechanisms

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

Government funding

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

Starting in 2017, Ukraine has been financing the Opioid Substitution Therapy Program (OST) at the expense of the State Budget. In 2021, the Government spent UAH 14 098 581 (EUR 436 489) on purchasing OST medicines (methadone and buprenorphine), and it was 13.2% less than in 2020. The logistics to the regions in 2021 cost UAH 5 398 500 (EUR 167 136). The budget allocations under the Medical Guarantees Program for the “Treatment of individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to use of opioids through using opioid substitution therapy medicines” amounted to UAH 52 685 700 (1 631 136 euros) that was 3,2 more than in 2020.

In June 2019, as part of the Plan for Ukraine’s transition from donor funding of the Global Fund to Combat HIV to the state funding, the Government decided to provide high-risk groups with HIV prevention services from the State Budget. The procedure for 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](#).

HIV prevention services particularly include the distribution of condoms and lubricants, the exchange and delivery of syringes, HIV tests, TB screening, as well as and targeted informational, educational and communicational services to high-risk groups for HIV infection, namely: men who have sex with men (MSM); sex workers (SW), people who inject drugs (PWID).

In 2021, HIV prevention services (targeted informational, educational, and communicational services, distribution of condoms and lubricants, HIV tests), were provided at the expense of the State budget to 164 717 of PWID, 37 808 of MSM, 41 646 of SW. These figures refer to all prevention services provided to the total contacts, and not “unique individuals”.

Moreover, 237 730 people from high-risk groups were provided with tuberculosis screening services for HIV infection.

The state budget allocations for HIV prevention services in 2021 amounted to UAH 100 876 010 (EUR 3 123 096).

Drug laws and drug-related offences

National drug laws

The [Law of Ukraine “On Circulation of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Their Analogs and Precursors in Ukraine”](#) defined the legal and organizational principles of state policy on the legal circulation of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors (PAS) in Ukraine. The law determines the procedure for state control, powers of executive authorities, rights, and duties of legal entities and citizens dealing with the circulation of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors.

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

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

The list of drugs, psychotropic substances, and precursors as amended was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine ([CMU Resolution No. 770 of 06 May 2000](#)) upon the submission of the Ministry of Health.

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

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

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

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

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

Small, big and especially big amounts of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors that are illegally trafficked are established by the MoH ([MoH Order No. 188 of 01 August 2000 as amended](#)).

Any individual who voluntarily surrenders drugs or psychotropic substances that he or she has had in small amounts or which he or she has produced, manufactured, purchased, stored, transported or shipped without selling purposes shall be released from the administrative liability for such actions.

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

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

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

A person, who voluntarily applied to a treatment facility and began the treatment of drug addiction, shall be discharged from criminal liability for the above actions.

At the same time, the illegal production, manufacture, purchasing, storage, transportation or shipment for selling purposes of drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of 4 to 8 years.

The punishment depends on the size of seized drugs or psychotropic substances.

More severe punishment shall be applied if such actions were repeated or committed by a group of individuals upon their prior conspiracy, or by involving a minor, as well as the sale of drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues in places designated for educational, sports, and cultural purposes, and in other places of wide public attendance, or the sale or transfer of these substances to places of imprisonment, or where these actions involved drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues in big amounts or especially dangerous drugs and psychotropic substances (imprisonment for a term of 6 to 10 years with forfeiture of property).

The maximum penalty shall be imposed when such actions are committed by an organized group, and also if these actions involved drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues in especially big amounts, or committed by involving a minor or in respect of a minor (imprisonment for a term of 9 to 12 years with forfeiture of property).

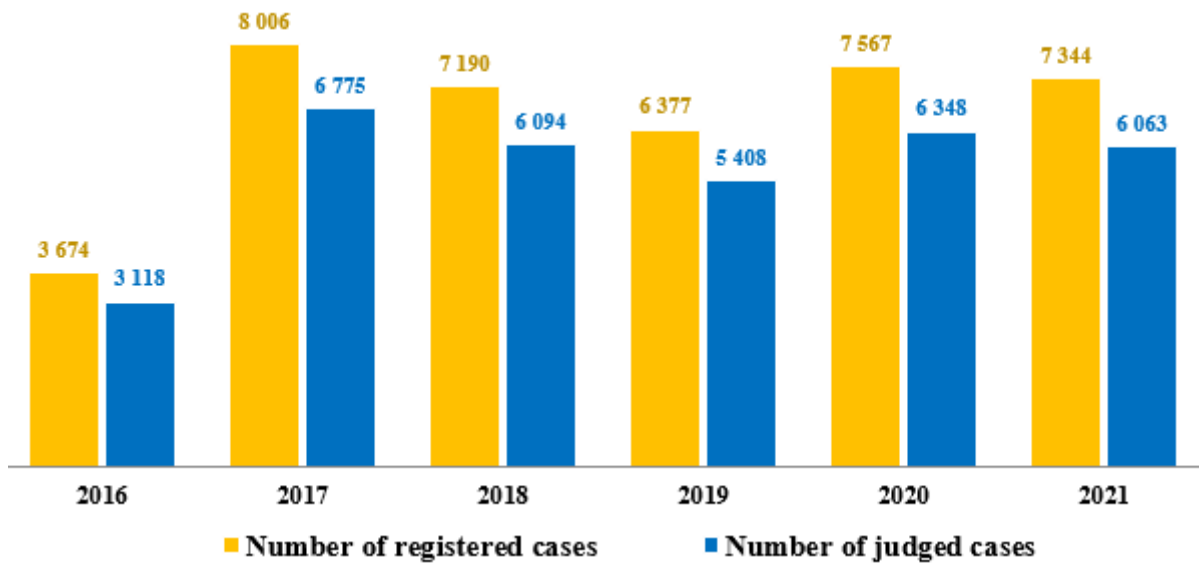
A person, who voluntarily surrendered drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues, and disclosed the source from which they were purchased, and assisted in uncovering the criminal offences related to their trafficking, shall be discharged from criminal liability for their illegal production, making,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

Offences of laws on drugs and psychotropic substances

Administrative liability

In 2021 there were 7 344 administrative cases pending in the courts and related to illegal production, purchasing, storage, transportation, shipment of drugs or psychotropic substances *not for selling purposes and in small amounts* ([Article 44 of the CUAO](#)).

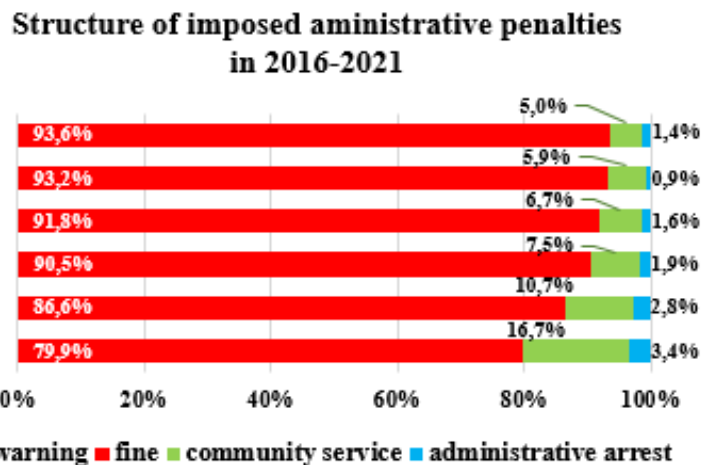
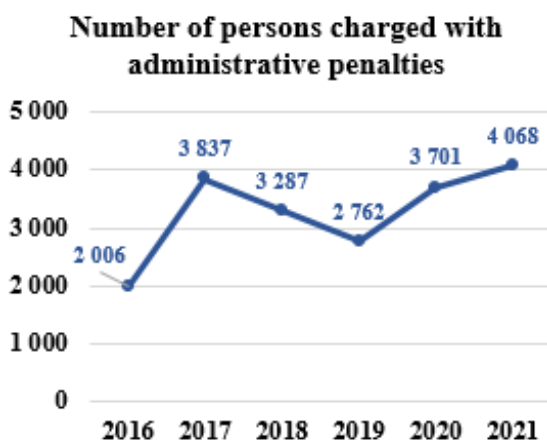
Number of drug-related administrative offences in 2016-2021



* source – Reports of Courts of First Instance on Cases of Administrative Offenses [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#))

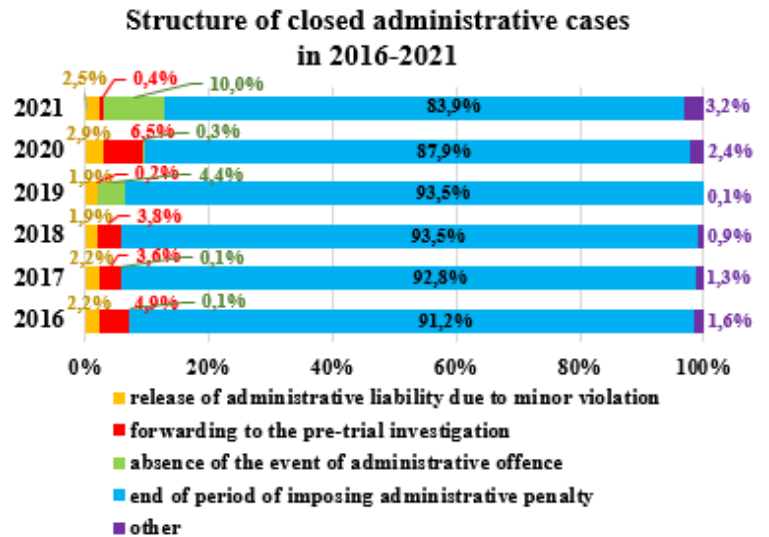
6 063 cases were tried with court decisions issued:

– 4 068 cases (67,1%) were judged on imposing administrative penalties (3 807 – fine, 204 – community service; 57 – administrative arrest)



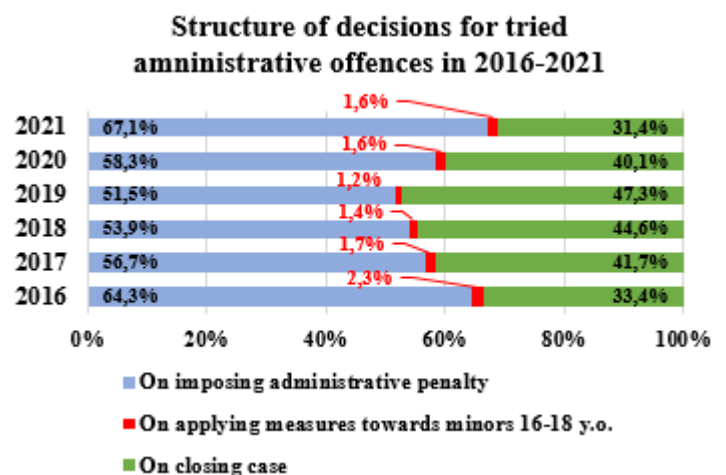
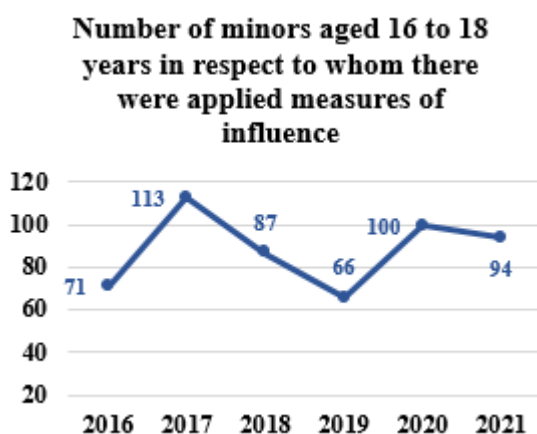
* source – Reports of Courts of First Instance on Cases of Administrative Offenses [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#))

– 1 901 cases (31,3%) were closed (47 individuals were released of administrative liability due to minor violation, 191 charges were dismissed due to absence of the event of administrative offence, 8 cases were forwarded to the prosecutor or a pre-trial investigation body, 1 595 cases were closed due to the end of period of limitation for imposing administrative penalty).



* source – Reports of Courts of First Instance on Cases of Administrative Offenses [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#))

– 94 individuals (1,6%) were minors aged 16 to 18 years in respect to whom there were applied measures of influence, provided for in Article 24-1 of the CUAO (obligation to publicly or in another form ask for forgiveness from the victim; warning; reprimand or severe reprimand; transfer of a minor under supervision of parents or persons replacing them, or under the supervision of a pedagogical or labor collective under their consent, as well as any other citizens at their request).

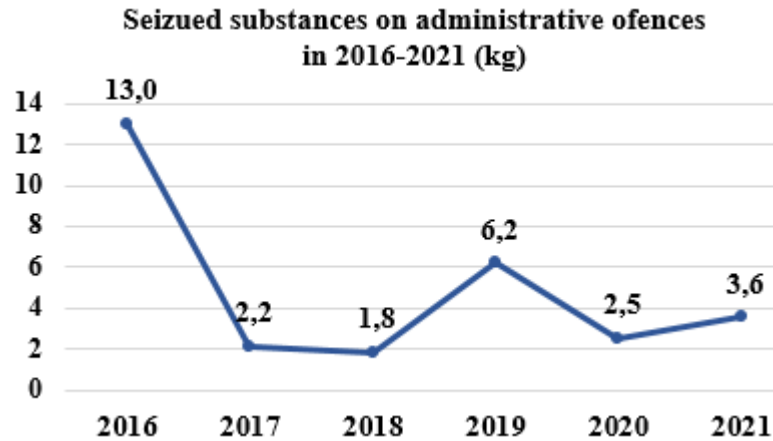


The total amount of fines in 2021 amounted to UAH 2 378 579 (EUR 73 640), of which:

- 76,2% (UAH 1 811 420 or EUR 56 081) was the amount of the imposed fine;
- 23,8% (UAH 567 159 or EUR 17 559) was the amount of fine paid voluntarily.

The volume of seizures for administrative drug offences was 3,6 kg in 2021; 2,5 kg in 2020; 6,2 kg in 2019; 1,8 kg in 2018; 2,2 kg in 2017; 12,9 kg in 2016; 1.2 kg in 2015.

The data on seized substances on administrative offenses is available only in general figures without disaggregation by substances in the Annual Reports of Courts of First Instance on Cases of Administrative Offenses.



* source – Reports of Courts of First Instance on Cases of Administrative Offenses [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#) [2021](#))

Criminal liability

In Ukraine, the information on criminal offences related to illegal trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances is available in two administrative reports:

1) On the number of registered criminal offences and the number of persons charged with suspicion for committing criminal offences.

- [Single Report on Criminal Offences](#)
- [Single Report on Persons who Committed Criminal Offences](#)

Both reports are prepared by the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine (GPU), are available to public, and are published monthly on the GPU's website.

2) On the number of criminal proceedings judged in the courts and the number of persons tried on the criminal proceedings judged in the courts:

- [Report of Courts of First Instance on Criminal Proceedings.](#)

This report is prepared by the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, is available to public, and is published annually on the “Judicial Power of Ukraine” official web portal.

3) On the number and composition of those convicted for committing crimes related to illicit trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances, their analogues or precursors (by sentences that have entered into force):

- [Report on persons charged with criminal liability and types of criminal punishment](#)
- [Report on the convicted persons](#)
- [Report on juvenile convicts](#)

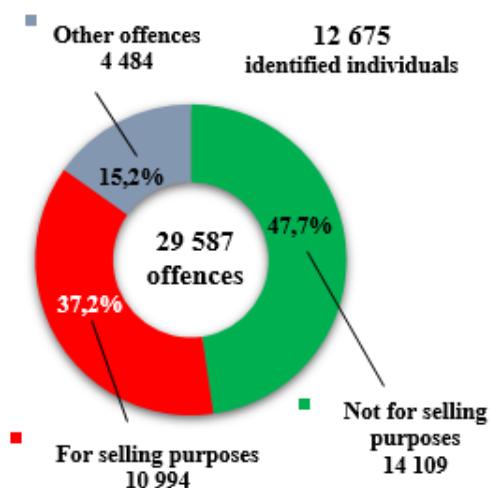
These reports are prepared by the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, are available to public, and are published annually on the “Judicial Power of Ukraine” official web portal.

In 2021, the number of registered criminal offences in Ukraine related to trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances, their analogues and precursors was 29 587 cases, and the number of persons charged with drug-related offence was 14 278 people.

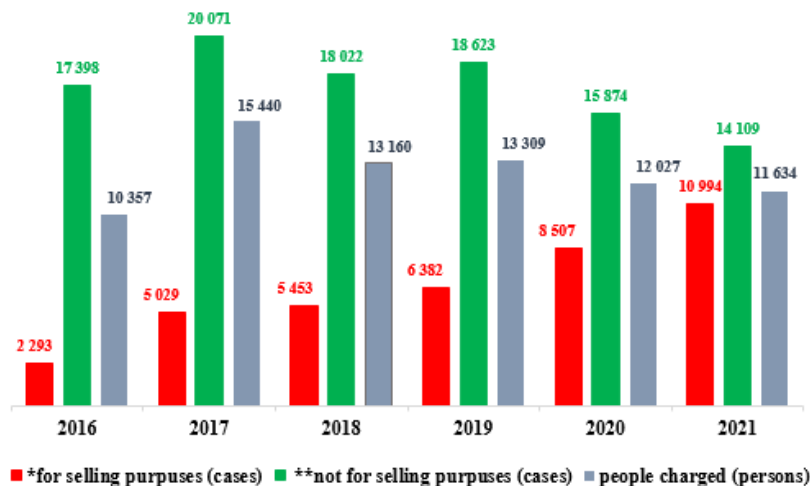
Of the total 29 587 cases, 14 109 (47,7%) of cases were crimes related to the illegal production, purchasing, storage, transportation or shipment of drugs, psychotropic

substances or their analogues *not for selling purposes* (CCU, Article 309), 10 994 (37,2%) of cases were crimes related to illegal production, manufacture, purchasing, storage, transportation or shipment of drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues *for selling purposes* (CCU, Article 307); and 4 484 (15,2%) of cases referred to other offences (CCU, Articles 305, 306, 308, 310-327).

Registered drug-related criminal offences in 2021



Registered drug-related criminal offences not for selling purposes and for selling purposes in 2016-2021



Notes: source – GPU (reports: “Single Report on Persons who Committed Criminal Offences” and “Single Report on Criminal Offences”, 2016-2021).

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

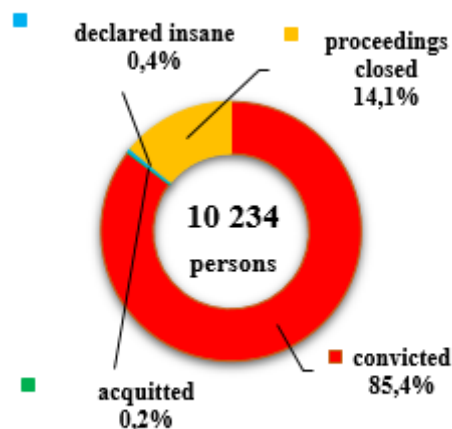
**Illegal production, manufacture, purchasing, storage, transportation or shipment of drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues not for selling purposes (Article 309 of the CCU).

In 2021, 23 468 proceedings (including 14 282 submitted in the reporting period) in relation to 25 747 individuals were pending trial under Articles 305-320 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

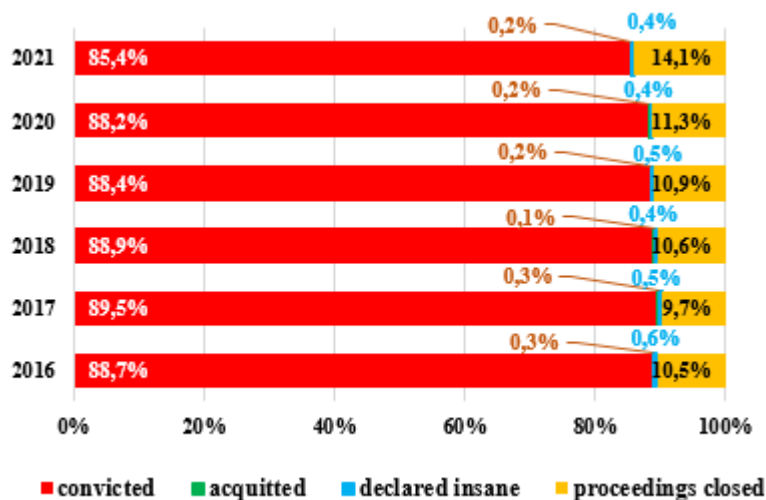
During the year, the courts of first instance tried 14 013 drug-related criminal proceedings under Articles 305-320 of the Criminal Code, of which 11 516 resulted in sentences, 1 913 were decided on closing the case, 74 were decided on applying compulsory medical measures, and 510 proceedings got other court decisions.

In Ukraine, in 2021, the number of persons who got the court decisions entered into force for drug-related offenses amounted to 10 234 people, of which 8 737 people were convicted (13,6% of the total the number of convicted in Ukraine), 17 people were acquitted, 42 were declared insane with compulsory medical measures to be applied; 1 438 people got the criminal proceedings closed, and 7 individuals were sentenced to compulsory treatment.

Proportion of persons who got court decisions entered into force for drug-related offenses in 2021 (Art. 305-320)

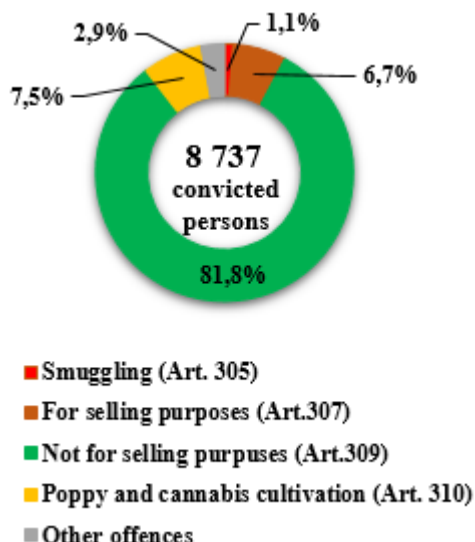


Proportion of persons who got court decisions entered into force for drug-related offenses in 2016-2021 (Art. 305-320)

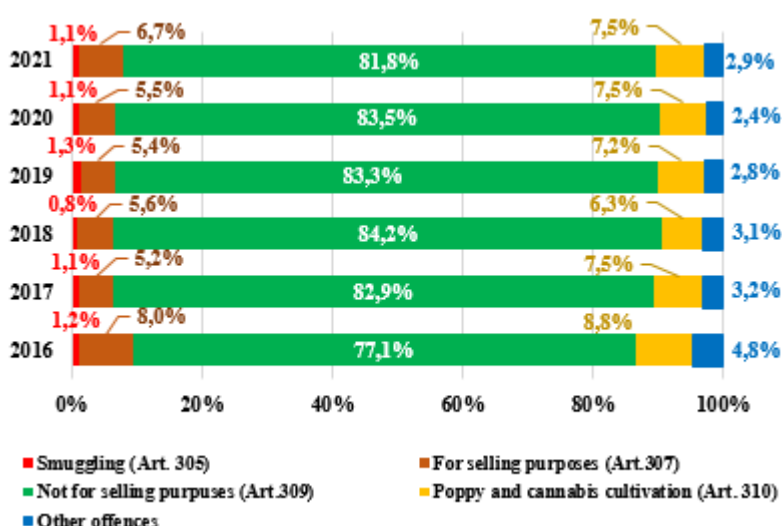


Of the total number of those convicted under Articles 305-320 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (8 737 persons), 94 persons (1,1%) were convicted for smuggling drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues or precursors, or counterfeit medicines (Article 305); 585 persons (6,7%) were convicted for drug-related offences *for selling purposes* (Article 307); 7 145 persons (81,8%) were convicted for drug-related offences *not for selling purposes* (Article 309); 656 persons (7,5%) were convicted poppy and cannabis cultivation offences (Article 310); and 257 persons (2,9%) were convicted for other drug-related offences (Art. 306, 308, 311-316, 318-320).

Proportion of convicted persons in 2021, by offence (Art. 305-320)



Proportion of convicted persons in 2016-2021, by offence (Art. 305-320)



Of the total number of persons convicted for drug-related offenses, 63 individuals (including 5 girls) committed the offenses referred to the age group of 14-18 years old. Of these, 43 individuals were released from punishment, while others were sentenced to imprisonment (5 persons), arrest (3 persons), fine (9 persons) and other types of punishment (3 persons).

Drug use

Prevalence and trends

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

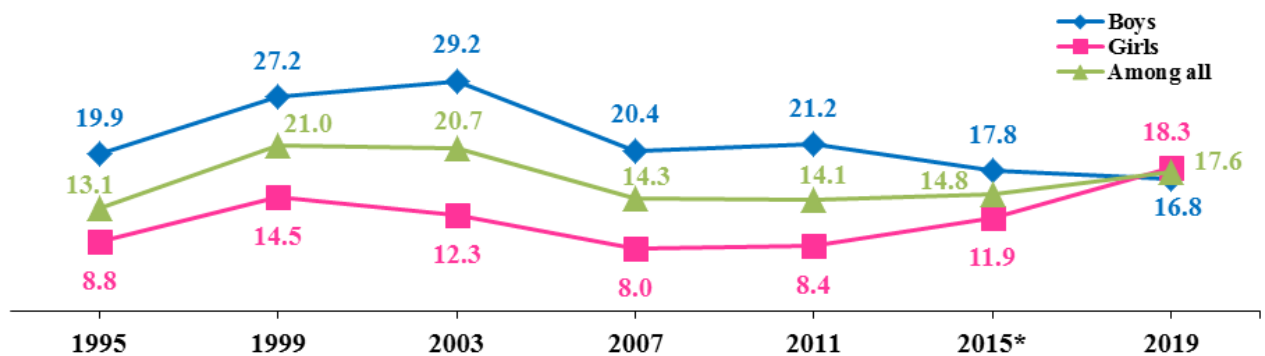
However, some efforts are being undertaken to study the prevalence of drug use among certain categories of citizens.

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

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

Use of substances among young people aged 15-17

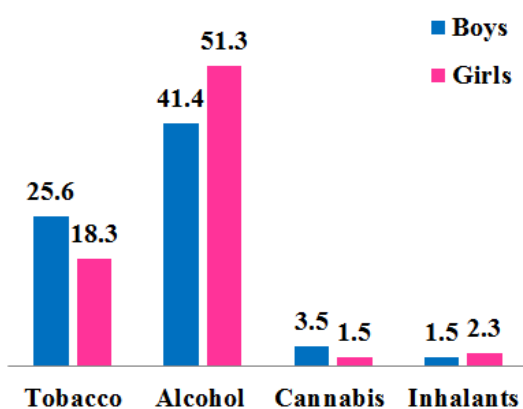
Dynamics of Consumption of any Drugs During Lifetime, % by Gender



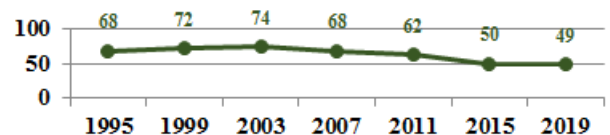
Notes: *Data updates for 2015 were made in 2019, source – ESPAD survey data for 2019.

Prevalence of substance use, %

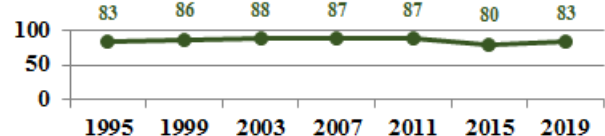
During the past 30 days



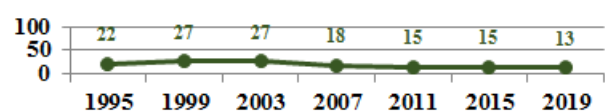
Tobacco (lifetime)



Alcohol (lifetime)



Cannabis (lifetime)



Notes: source – ESPAD survey data for 2019.

According to the survey conducted in 2019, there was a steady trend to decrease in smoking tobacco among school-aged adolescents. In 2003, 70% of respondents had smoking experience, and in 2019 this figure was 49%. With that in mind, the access to alcohol increased – more than half of respondents stated they would be easily able to get beer, wine or soft drinks. The vast majority (85,7%) of the surveyed adolescents had the experienced of alcohol use, and one in five (22,5%) adolescents reported on drinking alcohol on a nearly weekly basis.

The proportion of adolescents who have used at least once in their lives any drugs was 18%, and the proportion of girls increased 1,5 times compared to 2015 (from 12,7% in 2015 to 18,1% in 2019). 8,7% of adolescents used cannabis, and 9,2% used inhalants, while the use of two or more narcotic substances among all respondents was 4,2%.

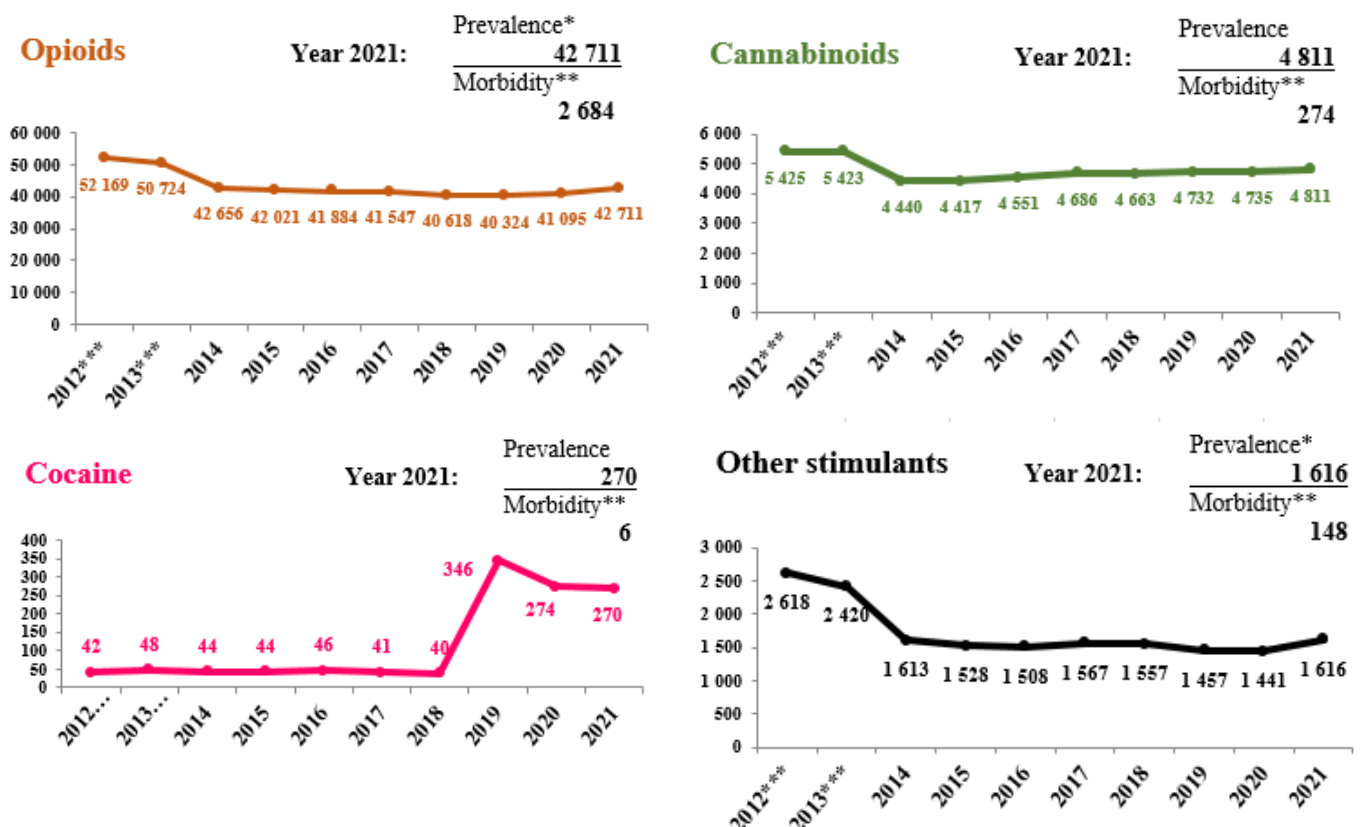
Use of drugs among high-risk groups and trends

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

In 2021, a small increase (by 3,8%) in opioid users’ treatment demand was observed – 42 711 persons against 41 095 persons in 2020; in cannabinoid user’s treatment demand (by 1,6%) – 4 811 persons against 4 735 persons in 2020; as well as poly drug users’ treatment demand (by 3,2%) – 16 633 persons against 16 096 persons in 2020.

The indicator of cocaine users’ treatment demand showed a considerable increase from 2018 to 2019. At that, it remained mostly unchanged from 2020 to 2021.

Number of people who use drugs that applied for treatment and were on the register of healthcare facilities in 2012-2021, in terms of substance



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

*Prevalence is the total number of individuals who were on the treatment register at the end of the reporting period

**Morbidity is the total number of individuals who applied for treatment for the first time in their life in the reporting year.

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

Drug-related harm

Infectious deceases related to drug use

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

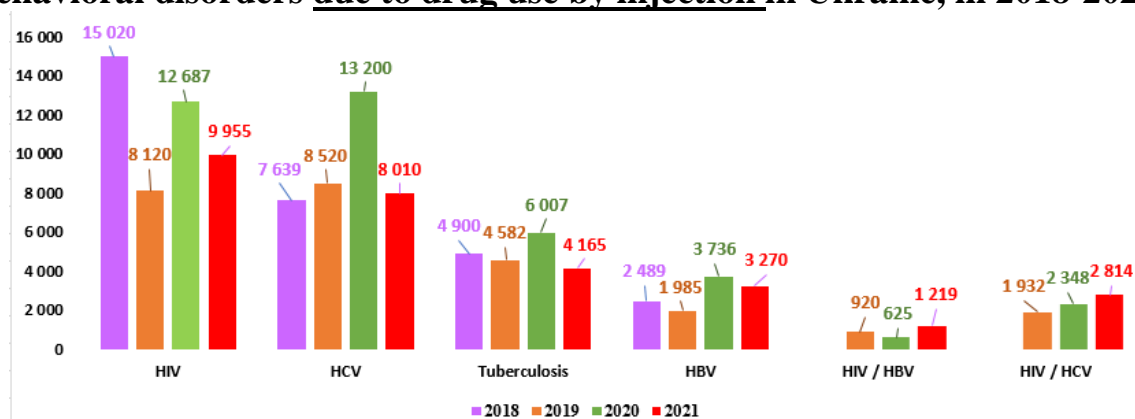
According to the official website of the [Center for Public Health](#), as of 31 December 2021, Ukraine registered 15 366 (15 659 – in 2020) new cases of HIV, 4 150 AIDS cases and 1 925 AIDS-induced deaths of Ukraine’s citizens, as well as 35 HIV-infected citizens of foreign countries.

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

So, out of people who inject drugs, in 2021 HIV-infected were 9 955 individuals against 12 687 in 2020 (decrease by 21,5%), individuals with HBV were 3 270 against 3 736 in 2020 (decrease by 12,5%), individuals with HCV were 8 010 against 13 200 in 2020 (decrease by 39,3%), individuals with tuberculosis were 4 165 against 6 007 in 2020 (decrease by 30,7%), individuals with HIV/HBV were 1 219 against 625 in 2020 (increase by 48,7%), individuals with HIV/HCV were 2 814 against 2 348 in 2020 (increase by 16,6%).

In 2021, among people who inject drugs and psychotropic substances there were disclosed the following deceases for the first time: HBV – 227 individuals, HCV – 732 individuals, tuberculosis – 251 individuals, HIV – 636 individuals, HIV/HBV – 87 individuals, HIV/HCV – 292 individuals.

Number of people with infectious diseases among those registered with mental and behavioral disorders due to drug use by injection in Ukraine, in 2018-2021*



Notes: source – Regional State Administrations.

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

Deaths related to drug use and poisoning

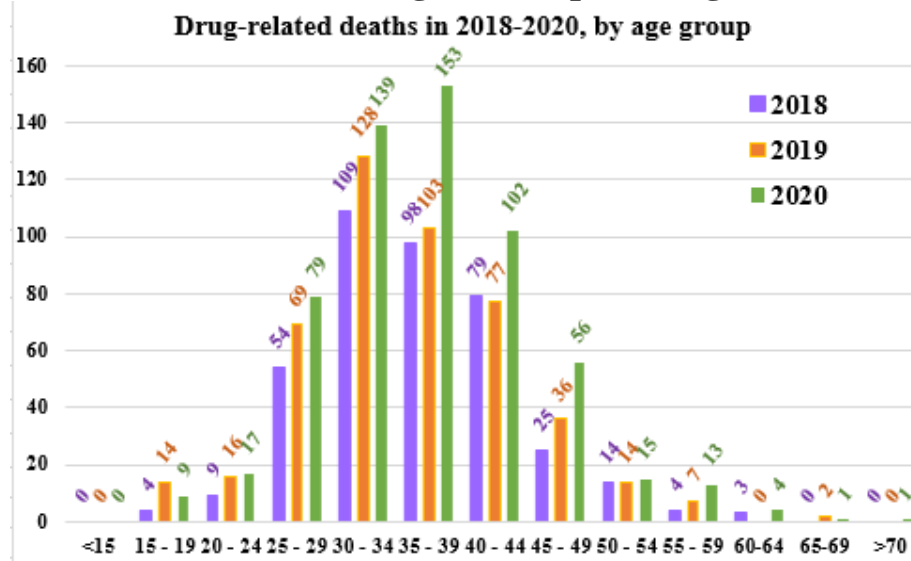
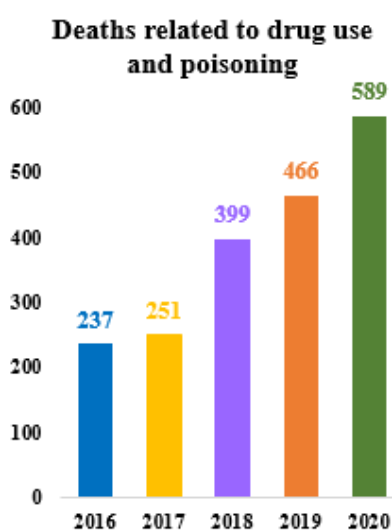
In Ukraine, the indicator “Drug-Related Deaths and Mortality among People Who Use Drugs” is based on data on deaths related to drug use and poisoning. This information is provided by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (Ukrstat). In turn, Ukrstat extracts data from the death certificates issued by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

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

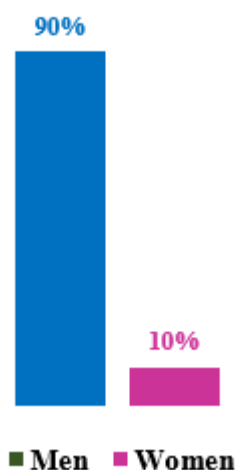
It’s worth mentioning that over the past 5 years Ukraine has been observing the increasing trend for deaths related to drug use and poisoning in general, as well as for changes in terms of age groups.

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

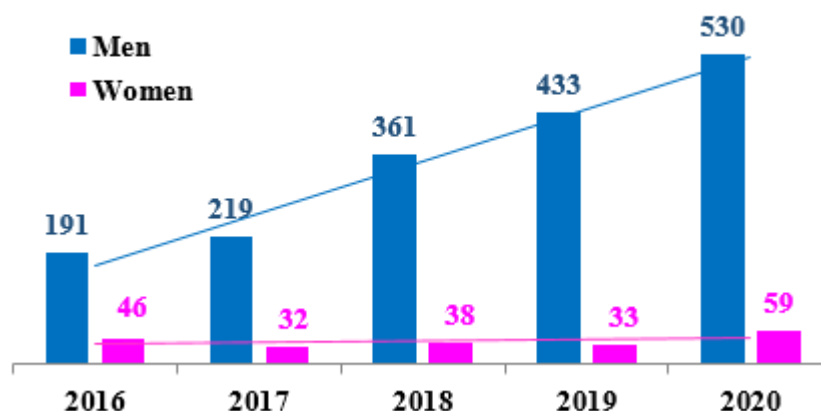
Some indicators of deaths related to drug use and poisoning



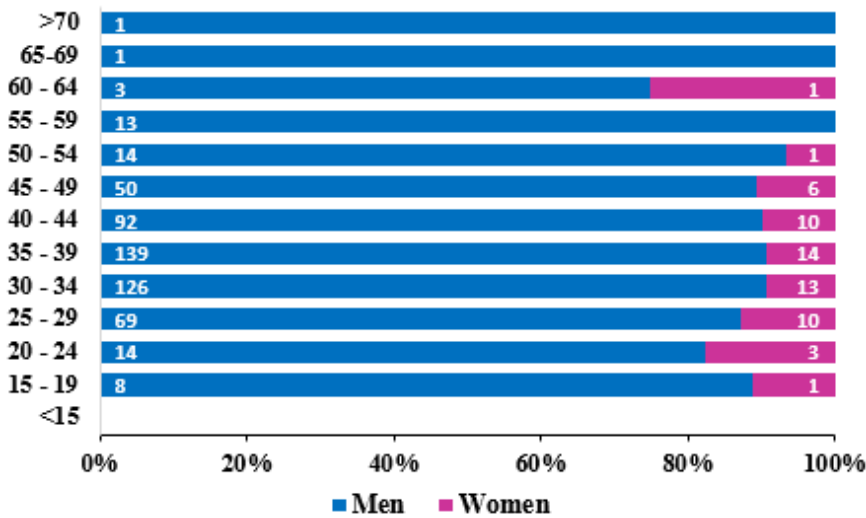
Proportion of deaths in 2020 by gender



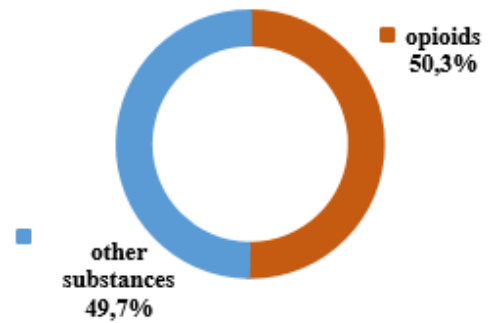
Number of drug-related deaths in 2016-2020,



Drug-related deaths in 2020, by age group and gender



Proportion of opioid-related deaths in 2020



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

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

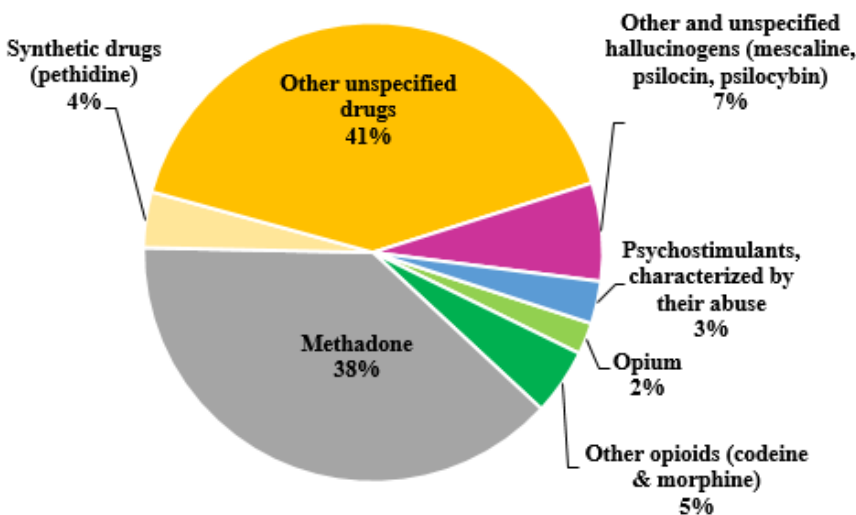
In 2020, the distribution of deaths in terms of gender was changed slightly. So, 90% were men (530 deaths) and 10% were women (59 deaths) against 92,9% men and 7,1% women in 2019.

In terms of age group, the largest number of deaths in 2020, namely 529 (89,8%), were in the age group of 25 to 49 years, 9 deaths were in the age group of 15 to 19 years, 17 deaths were in the age group of 20 to 24 years, and 34 deaths were in the age group of 50 years and older.

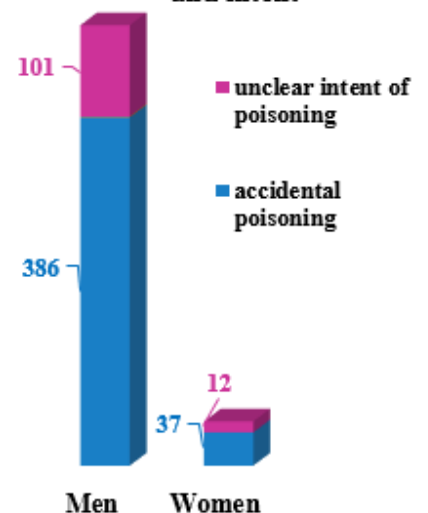
The deaths related to the mental and behavioral disorders due to drug use (53 deaths) occurred for three reasons (defined by ICD-10 codes): 32 cases referred to opioid use, 20 cases were related to the use of poly drugs and other substances, and 1 death was due to the cocaine use.

Some indicators of drug-related deaths due to poisoning in 2020

Proportion of drug-related deaths due to poisoning in 2020, by substance



Drug-related deaths due to poisoning in 2020, by gender and intent

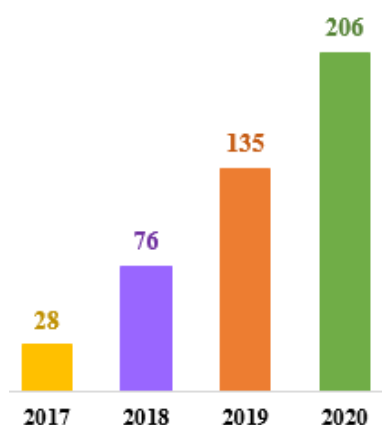


Notes: source of calculation – State Statistics Service’s data for 2020.

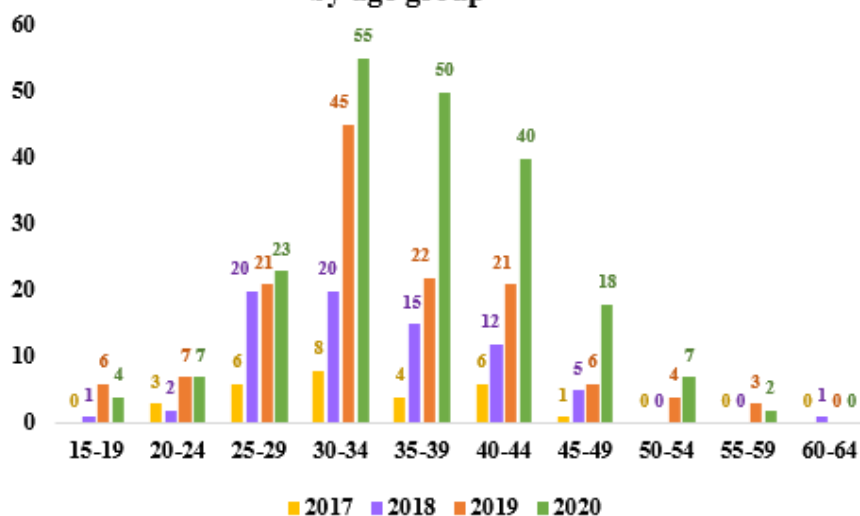
More detailed analysis of drug-related deaths due to poisoning (536 cases), we may note that opioid poisoning caused 264 deaths (25 cases induced by codeine and morphine, 206 cases induced by methadone, 12 cases induced by opium, and 21 cases induced by synthetic opioids). Poisoning with unspecified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

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

Number of deaths for external causes related to methadone use in 2017-2020



Methadone-related deaths in 2017-2020, by age group

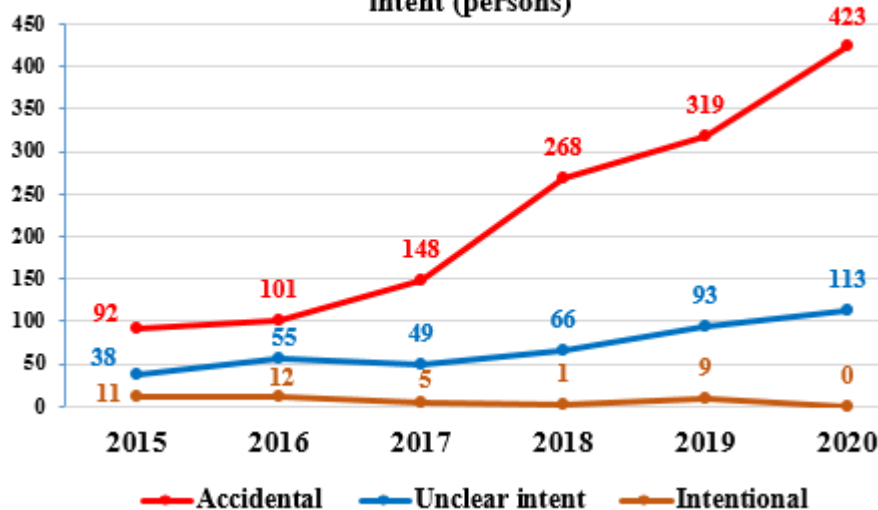


Notes: source of calculation – State Statistics Service’s data.

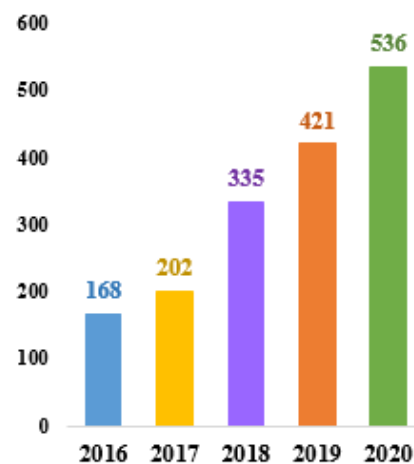
In terms of intent (poisoning due to substance use) the deaths were distributed in 2020 as follows:

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

Dynamics of drug-related deaths due to poisoning, by intent (persons)



Drug-related deaths due to poisoning



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

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

Of these:

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

263 cases referred to opioids detected in the human body

234 cases referred to several drugs and other substances

138 cases referred to unidentified substances

127 cases referred to other stimulants

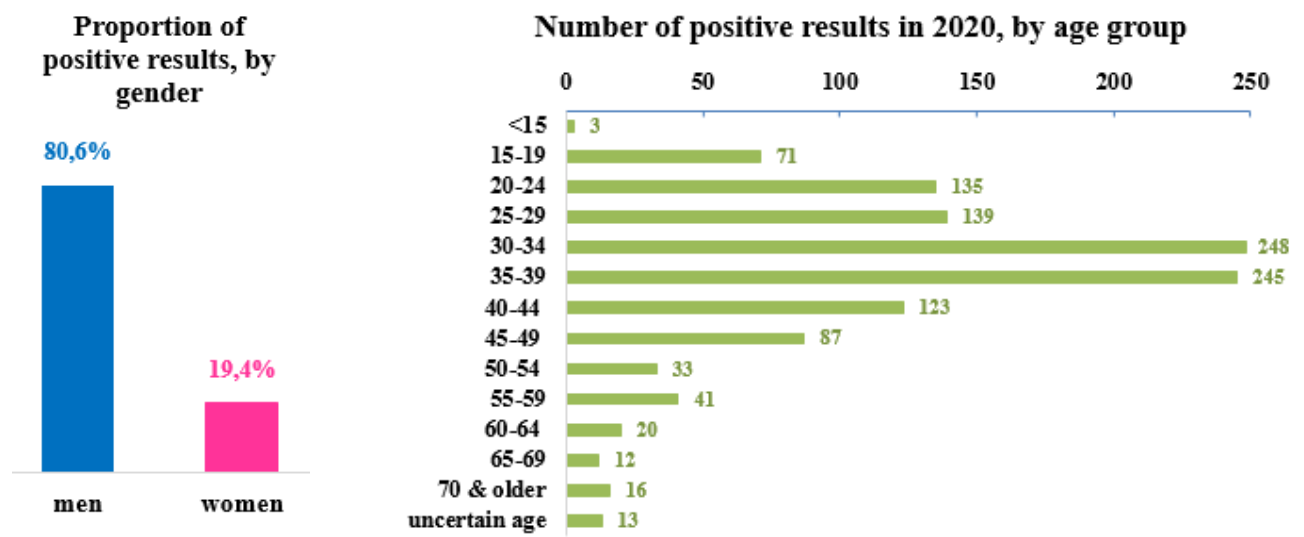
74 cases referred to sedatives or hypnotics

15 cases referred to hallucinogens

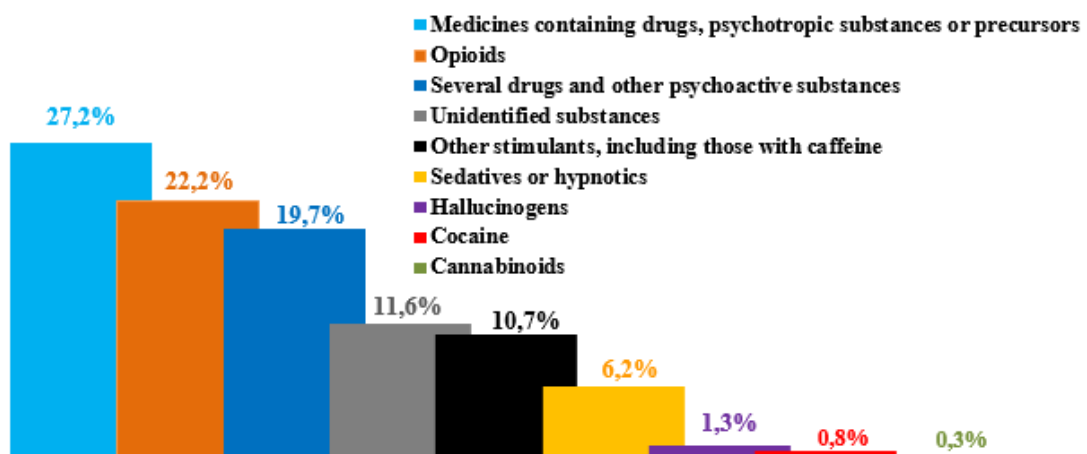
10 cases referred to cocaine

3 cases referred to cannabinoids

Deaths with the identified evidence of substances in the biological material in 2020, in terms of gender, age group and substance (N=1 186 cases of deaths)



Proportion of Positive Results in terms of Substances



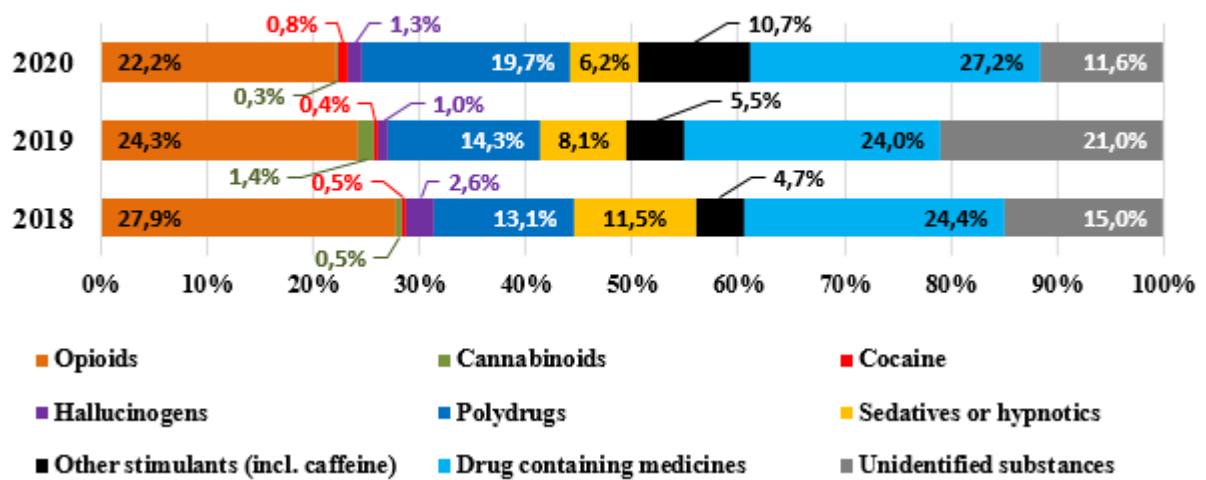
Notes: source – data from 25 Ukraine's bureaus of forensic medical examination, 2020.

Analyzing the ranges of age groups with identified evidence of substances in the biological material, it's worth observing that 75% (890 cases) referred to the age group of 20 to 44 years of the total number of deaths (1 186 cases).

As for the distribution of deaths in terms of gender, 80,6% (956 cases) referred to men, and 19,4% (230 cases) referred to women.

The proportion of medicines containing drugs, psychotropic substances or precursors was almost 27,2% of all identified evidences of substances in the biological material; 22,2% referred to opioids; 19,7% referred to poly drugs and other substances, and the remaining ratio referred to other categories.

Proportion of positive results in 2018-2020, by substance



Comparison of Ukrstat's data on drug-related deaths and poisoning with the BFME's data on deaths with identified evidence of substances in biological material, in 2020

Sample criteria	Ukrstat's data (GMR / Choice "B")	BFME's data (CMP / Choice "D")
Age group of 25 to 49	89,8% (529 deaths)	75,0% (842 deaths)
By gender, men	90,0% (530 deaths)	80,6% (956 deaths)
Total:	589 cases of death	1 186 cases of death

When comparing the data on deaths with identified evidence of substances in the biological material, with the death cases related to drug use and poisoning, it can be noted that the ranges of age groups nearly coincide. I.e., according Ukrstat's data, 89,8% of total deaths referred to the age group of 25 to 49 years, while according to BFME's data, 82,4% of deaths referred to the age group of 20 to 49 years.

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

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

In 2020, the frequency of deaths related to drug use and poisoning in the age group of 15 to 64 years, was almost 2,1 individuals per every 100 000 of population*.

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

Prevention

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

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

Prevention measures

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

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

According to the Ukrstat, at the beginning of the academic year 2021/22 the educational institutions included as follows:

- **13 991** general secondary education institutions, which is 5,3% (14 873) less than in 2020, that accounted for 4 230 358 pupils, which is almost 0,4% (4 211 509) more than in 2020, as well as 434 755 teachers, which is 1,1% (439 613) less than in 2020.

- **694** professional (vocational technical) education institutions, which is 2.4% (711) less than in 2020, that accounted for 250 336 students, which is 1.4% (246 855) more than in 2020;

- **634** pre-higher and higher education institutions (colleges, training schools, technical high schools, universities, academies, institutes), which is 1,6% (644) less than in 2020, that accounted for 1 328 988 students, which is 1,6% (1 307 511) more than in 2020, as well as 160 334 scientific, academic and faculty staff, which is 1,9% (157 287) more than in 2020.

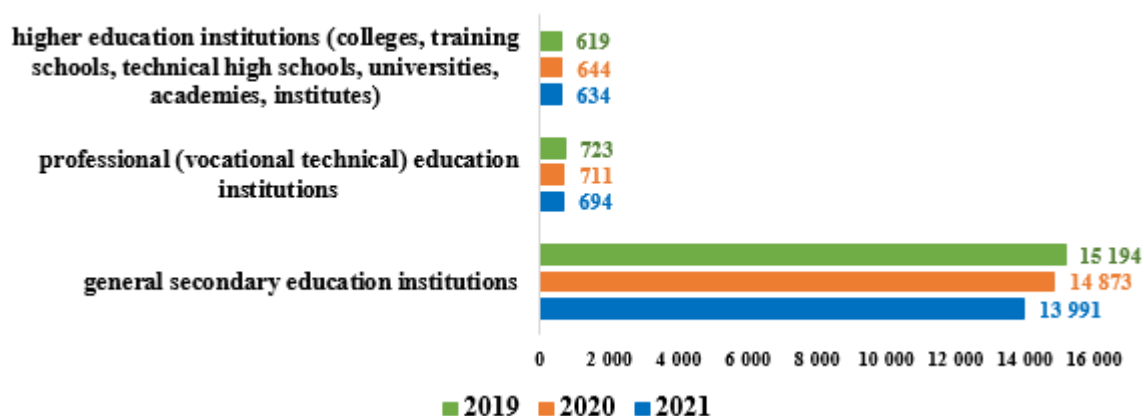
Type of educational institution	Number of Educational Institutions (units)	Number of Pupils and Students (persons)	Number of Teachers / Scientific, Academic and Faculty Staff (persons)
General secondary education institutions*	13 991	4 230 358	434 755
Professional (vocational technical) education institutions (at the end of 2020)	694	250 336	
Pre-higher and higher education institutions**	634	1 328 988	160 334

Notes: *Source: MoES's administrative data

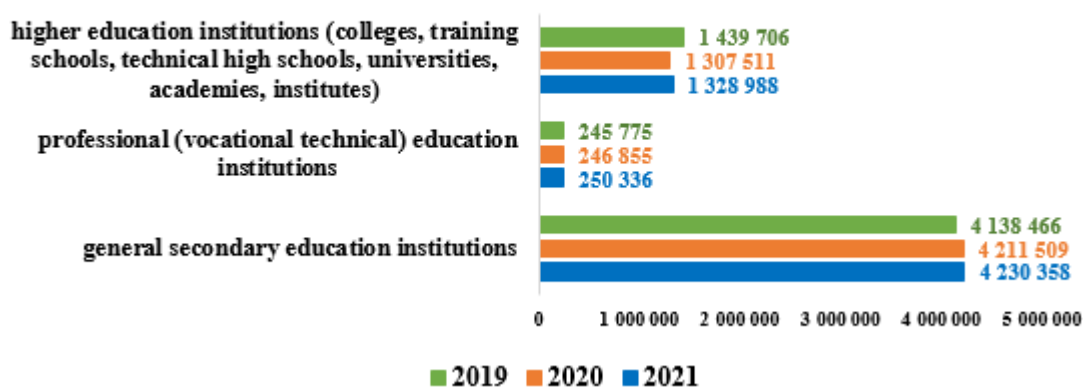
**administrative data of the Unified State Electronic Database on Education (EDEBO).

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

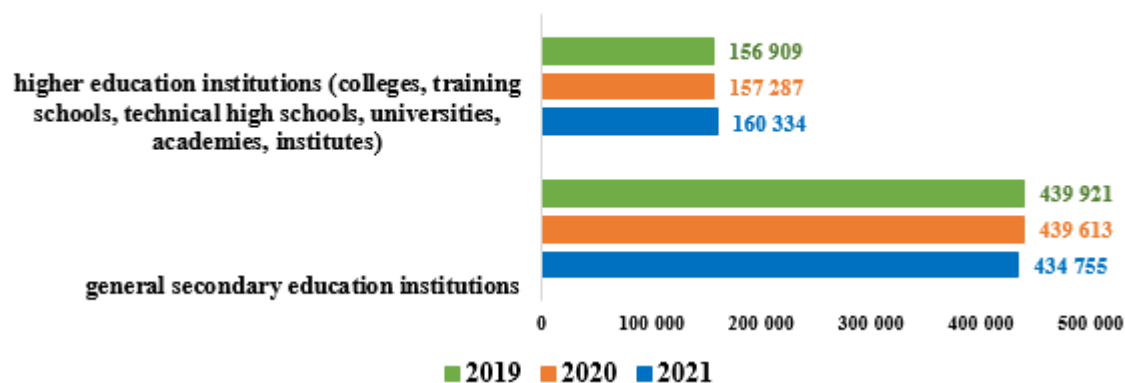
Number of educational institutions in 2019-2021



Number of pupils and students in educational institutions in 2019-2021



Number of teachers / scientific, academic and faculty staff in educational institutions in 2019-2021



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

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

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

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

- [National Doctrine for the Development of Education in Ukraine](#) states that one of the priorities of the state policy for the development of education is to promote a healthy lifestyle among young people.
- [Law of Ukraine “On Education”](#) defines that one of the grounds of the state policy for education and the principles of educational activities is to shape a healthy lifestyle culture, environmental culture and environmental care.
- [National Strategy for the Development of Education in Ukraine for the period up to 2021](#) particularly provides for shaping a healthy lifestyle as an integral part of education, preserving and strengthening the health of children and youth, ensuring their balanced nutrition, preventive medical examination.
- [National General Secondary Education Standards](#) are approved by the Government of Ukraine and are reviewed at least once every 10 years.
- [Higher Education Standards](#) are worked out for every level of higher education within every qualification in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework and are used to define and assess the quality of higher education and the results of the educational activities of higher education institutions (research institutions), learning outcomes in terms of relevant qualifications.

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

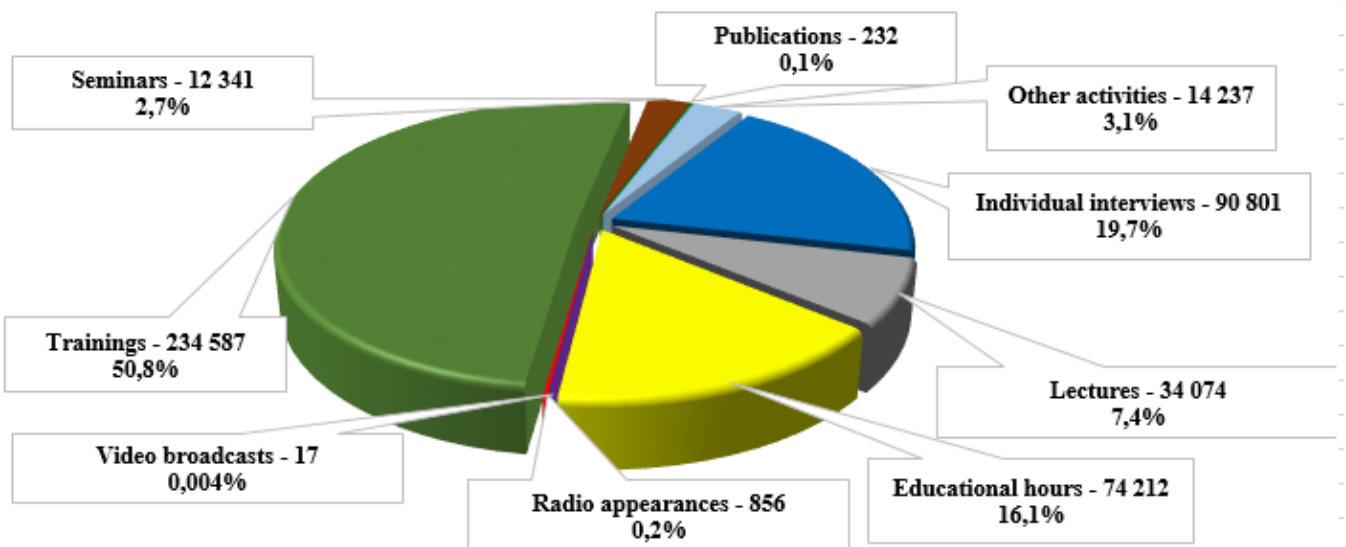
- 1) *work with pupils / students through holding the following events:*
 - individual and group interviews;
 - training and educational classes;
 - thematic meetings with narcologists, both for students and faculty staff;
 - educational hours;
 - round tables, discussions, seminars;
 - familiarization with informational and methodical literature;
 - sports games, tournaments, etc.;
 - lectures;
 - meetings with law enforcement authorities;
 - contests, exhibitions of works, engaging students to work out information materials;
 - watching videos;
 - after-school clubs aimed at shaping the motivation of kids and adolescents to follow a healthy lifestyle.
- 2) *work with parents through holding the following events:*
 - parent-teacher meetings;
 - individual interviews;
 - reviews of the healthy lifestyle literature;
 - meetings with law enforcement authorities.
- 3) *work with faculty staff through holding the following events:*
 - faculty board meetings;
 - seminar-workshops, information and awareness-raising seminars;

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

According to the MoES, in the academic year 2021/2022, there were held 461 357 various activities aimed at preventing and reducing the risk of drug use, namely:

- 90 801 – individual interviews;
- 34 074 – lectures;
- 74 212 – educational hours;
- 17 – broadcasting videos;
- 856 – radio appearances;
- 234 587 – trainings;
- 12 341 – seminars;
- 232 – publications of information and methodical literature;
- 14 237 – other activities.

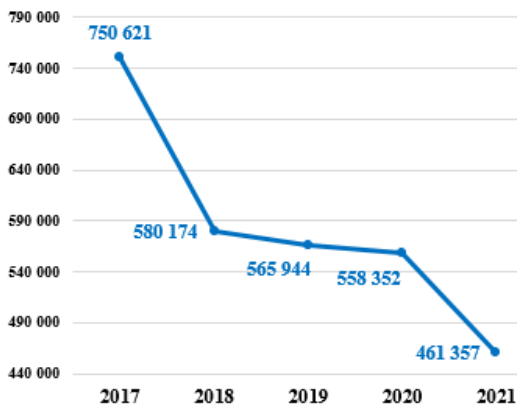
Prevention measures in Ukraine in the academic year 2020/2021



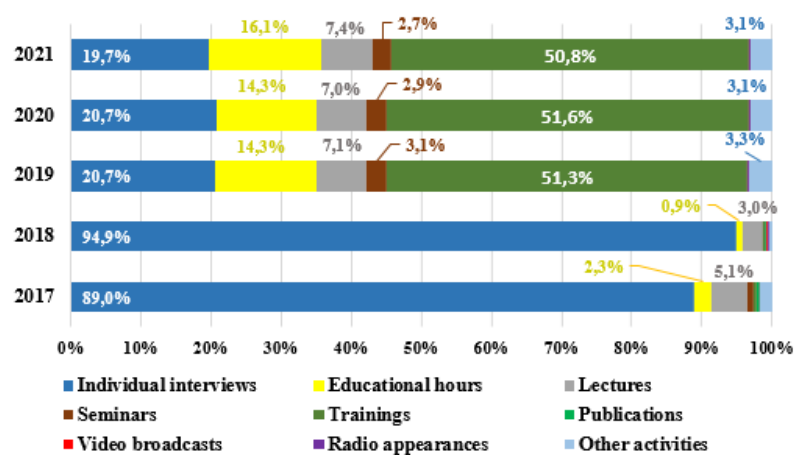
Notes: source – MoES's data for the academic year 2020/2021.

The total number of preventive measures decreases from year to year. If in 2017 and 2018 the main activities were individual interviews (90% and 95%, respectively), then since 2019 the structure of preventive activities has changed significantly and qualitatively in favor of training (51% on average). On average, the proportion of individual interviews was 20%, educational hours – 15%, lectures – 7% and seminars – 3%.

General number of preventive measures in 2017-2021



Structure of preventive measures in 2017-2021



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

In 2021, according to the [National Social Service of Ukraine](#), the families with members who used substances were provided with social services by municipal, district, town and rural social service centers.

In addition, social services for drug addicted individuals were provided by centers for socio-psychological rehabilitation operating in 3 regions of Ukraine (Donetsk, Mykolaiv, Khmelnytsky). During 2021, 965 people who use drugs received counseling and social prevention services in those centers; of which 100 people were included in the resocialization program (65 people completed the program).

The monitoring of social services in 2021 showed that their vast majority were aimed at preventing from negative effects, promoting a healthy lifestyle and the necessary skills.

In 2021, the social services were provided to the families with family members who use drugs or alcohol as follows:

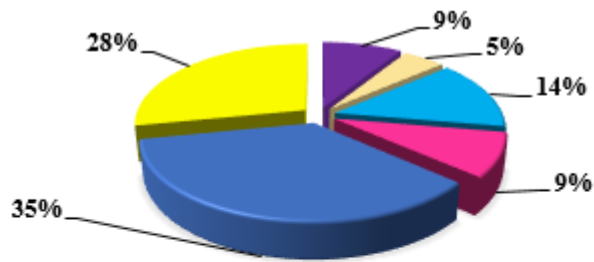
- **4 829 families (individuals)** (35 %) were provided with counseling services;
- **3 825 families (individuals)** (28%) – with social prevention services;
- **1 220 families (individuals)** (9%) – with social adaptation services;
- **641 families (individuals)** (5%) – with social integration and reintegration services;
- **1 903 families (individuals)** (14%) – with social support services;
- **1 195 families (individuals)** (9%) – with representation of interests' services;

The following results were obtained:

- **520 individuals** (9%) were referred to healthcare facilities;
- **537 individuals** (10%) were referred to social protection facilities;
- **227 individuals** (4%) got their studying in educational institutions arranged;
- **1 411 families (individuals)** (25%) received the assistance in issuing/reissuing documents;
- **2 212 families (individuals)** (39%) got their family links established;
- **719 families (individuals)** (13%) received treatment/ recovery services;

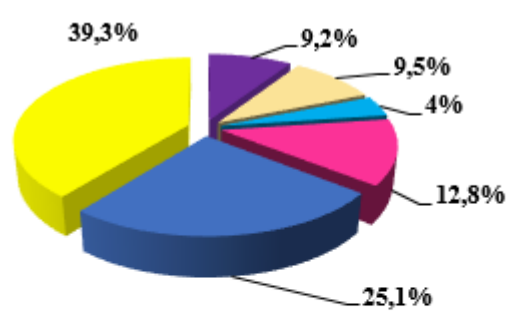
In addition, 79 persons passed a after-program support after completing the resocialization program.

Social services for the families with members who use drugs, in 2021



- Social adaptation - 1 220 families
- Social integration and reintegration - 641 families
- Social support - 1903 families
- Representation of interests - 1 195 families
- Counselling - 4 829 families
- Social prevention - 3 825 families

Results of social services provided to the families with members who use drugs, in 2021



- directed to healthcare facilities – 520 persons
- directed to social protection facilities – 537 persons
- enrolled in educational institutions – 227 persons
- received treatment/ recovery services – 719 persons
- got assistance in reissuing documents – 1 411 persons
- got their family links reestablished – 2 212 persons

Notes: source – National Social Service of Ukraine’s data for 2021.

According to the results of a representative sociological survey of young people in Ukraine, conducted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2021, the most important values of young people were defined: the desire to be healthy and to feel good (75,7%), material well-being (58,7%), to have good and reliable friends (45,8%), to have own happy family (40,9%), the importance of feeling secure and sure in the future (39,7%).

The youth policy is focused on creating a comfortable environment for the life and development of young people in communities, and the policy priority components are financial and staff support, the development of youth infrastructure and the involvement of young people in decision-making and monitoring decision implementation.

The implementation of youth policy is carried out through facilities and institutions working with youth, including youth centers, public society institutions, youth consultative and advisory bodies, bodies of student and self-government, etc.

At the end of 2021, there were more than 300 regional and local centers and spaces set up on the basis of educational institutions, culture, physical culture and sports, the All-Ukrainian Youth Center, as well as 1 All-Ukrainian and 202 regional centers of physical health of the population “Sports for Everybody”.

In 2021, the [Law of Ukraine No. 1414 IX of 27 April 2021](#) “On the Basic Principles of Youth Policy” was adopted, which defines the goals, objectives, basic principles, areas, and mechanisms for implementing youth policy in Ukraine, guarantees of youth participation in its shaping and implementation, features of organizational and legal foundations of the setting up and activities of youth and children’s public associations.

[Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 94/2021 of 12 March 2021](#) approved the National Youth Strategy up to 2030, which will ensure the creation of opportunities for young people to be competitive, participate in society, etc. One of the main priorities of the Strategy is health, i.e., building healthy lifestyle skills, developing and preserving physical culture, a culture of healthy eating and mental hygiene.

The Government approved ([Resolution No. 579 of 02 June 2021](#)) the National Target Social Program “Youth of Ukraine” for 2021-2025, one of the objectives of which was to build a conscious and responsible attitude among young people to their own health, to

promote harmonious mental development, to preserve reproductive health, culture of life safety, to prevent socially dangerous diseases and various forms of addiction.

The President of Ukraine initiated the Healthy Ukraine Program, and the social project “Active Parks – Locations of Healthy Ukraine” was launched within that program and approved by the Government’s decision ([Resolution No. 326 of 07 April 2021](#)).

In 2021, the Ministry of Youth and Sports supported on a competitive basis 12 projects developed by children’s and youth NGOs, and the priority of those projects was to promote a healthy and safe lifestyle and health culture among young people. The projects covered 253 800 children and young people.

Also, for the first time in Ukraine, 10 cities held the All-Ukrainian tour of street cultures, i.e., filling empty abandoned public spaces of the territorial communities with street activities, promoting a healthy lifestyle for young people, which, in turn, is an impetus for the development of the general infrastructure of the territorial communities, its investment and tourist attraction. This event involved 100 000 people.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports organized a specialized training for 25 representatives of youth and children’s NGOs working with children and young people.

To intensify the work on promoting a healthy and safe lifestyle, the online and offline events were held, namely educational hours, interviews, communication hours, film screenings, expert lectures, psychological trainings, questionnaires, lectures for parents, flash mobs, sports competitions, cultural-artistic and sports and health promotions, etc. In addition, in order to prevent the promotion of violence and cruelty in educational institutions, there were held various educational and information sessions on the rights of minors, scientific and practical conferences, seminars, master classes involving leading lawyers, among others.

In the regions of Ukraine, there are regional target programs for youth, which provide for activities aimed at improving safe environment and strengthening the resilience of young people, to promote a healthy and safe lifestyle and health culture among young people. For example, the Ternopil Regional Council approved a target regional program on combating bad habits, promoting a sober and healthy lifestyle among children and youth for 2021-2025.

Work on building a healthy lifestyle is widely covered on the social media, official websites of district state administrations, united territorial communities, and cities of regional importance.

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

- **8 113 lectures** were arranged in 2 161 institutions/ agencies/ organizations and attended by 152 535 individuals (pupils, students, teachers, parents, staff of institutions/ agencies/ organizations, and imprisoned individuals, among others);

- **154 seminars** were arranged in 102 institutions/ agencies/ organizations and attended by 6 140 individuals;

- **1 265 trainings** were arranged in 1 265 institutions/ agencies/ organizations and attended by 19 393 individuals;

- **352 publications** of informational and methodical literature were issued in 24;

- **11 645 educational hours** were arranged in 1 378 institutions/ agencies/ organizations to 286 083 individuals;

- **119 590 individual interviews** were arranged in 2 367 institutions/ agencies/ organizations with 192 378 individuals;

- **128 TV shows** were run, involving 29 individuals;

- **226 radio broadcasts** were run, involving 26 individuals;

- **Other 8 217 events** were held in 3 207 institutions/ agencies/ organizations, involving 111 931 individuals.

in 2021, due to quarantine measures aimed at COVID-19 prevention, the sanitary and educational activities were not carried out in certain regions of Ukraine.

Also, due to hostilities in Ukraine, the information from some regions is missing.

Harm reduction

Reducing harms caused by drug use

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

Ukraine also adopted a number of regulations that defined the procedure of providing HIV prevention services among people from high-risk groups for HIV infection, as well as set up the basis for funding those services from the state budget within the relevant budget program.

Harm reduction measures

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

- provision of the targeted information, educational and communication services
- distribution of condoms and lubricants
- exchange and distribution of syringes
- HIV testing services
- TB screening services
- Opioid substitution treatment services

The distribution of condoms and lubricants, as well as the exchange and distribution of syringes was carried out among high-risk groups, namely:

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

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF SUPPLIES
to provide in the framework of HIV prevention services to high-risk groups in terms of HIV infection

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

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

In 2021, HIV prevention services (targeted informational, educational, awareness-raising and communication services, distribution of condoms and lubricants, HIV testing services) were provided at the expense of the State Budget to 164 717 PWID, 37 808 MSM, 41 646 SW. These figures refer to the general number of individuals covered with all the above services

In 2021, the state budget funding was allocated to the distribution/ exchange of 13 872 865 syringes and 1 990 772 needles, as well as the distribution of 15 163 745 alcohol wipes, 2 238 695 condoms, and 573 323 lubricants. At that, the syringes and needles were distributed among 164 717 PWID (96 s&n/person).

The tuberculosis screening services were provided to 237 730 people from high-risk groups.

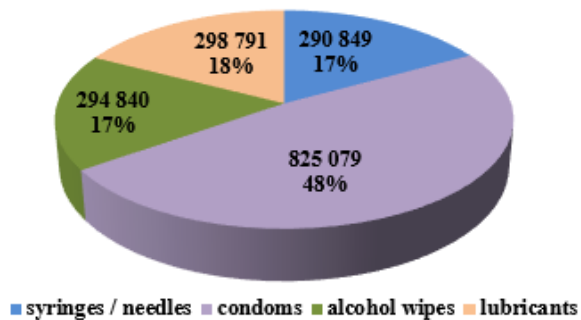
According to NGO "[Convictus Ukraine](#)", it provided people from high-risk groups with the following supplies: 290 849 syringes/ needles, 294 840 alcohol wipes, 825 079 condoms, 298 791 lubricants.

Moreover, in 2021, that NGO provided rapid HIV testing services to 35 950 individuals from high-risk groups (16 450 PWID, 9 354 SW, 740 PWID partners, among others):

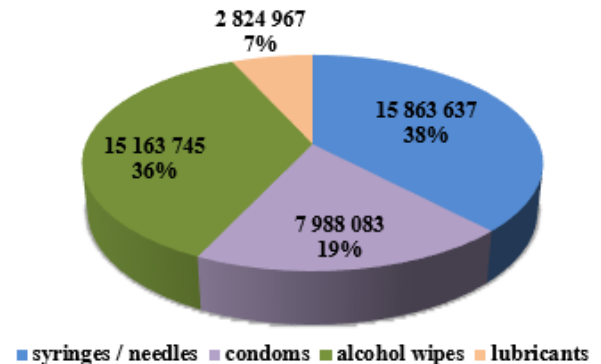
- HIV testing: 33 720 persons, of which 921 persons got positive result;
- HBV testing: 1 795 persons, of which 91 persons got positive result;
- HCV testing: 5 491 persons, of which 2 103 persons got positive result;
- TB screening: 17 835 persons, of which 1 019 persons got positive result.

At the same time, in 2021, NGO "[Alliance for Public Health](#)" organizations provided HIV testing for 261 785 people from high-risk groups, and 12 294 persons got positive results. The above activities were funded by the international organizations.

Distributed personal protection supplies among high-risk groups by NGOs in 2021



Distributed personal protection supplies among high-risk groups at the expense of State Budget in 2021



Notes: source - the data for 2021 obtained from NGO “Convictus Ukraine” and the Centre for Public Health, respectively.

Treatment of mental and behavioral disorders due to drug use

Treatment services system

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

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

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

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

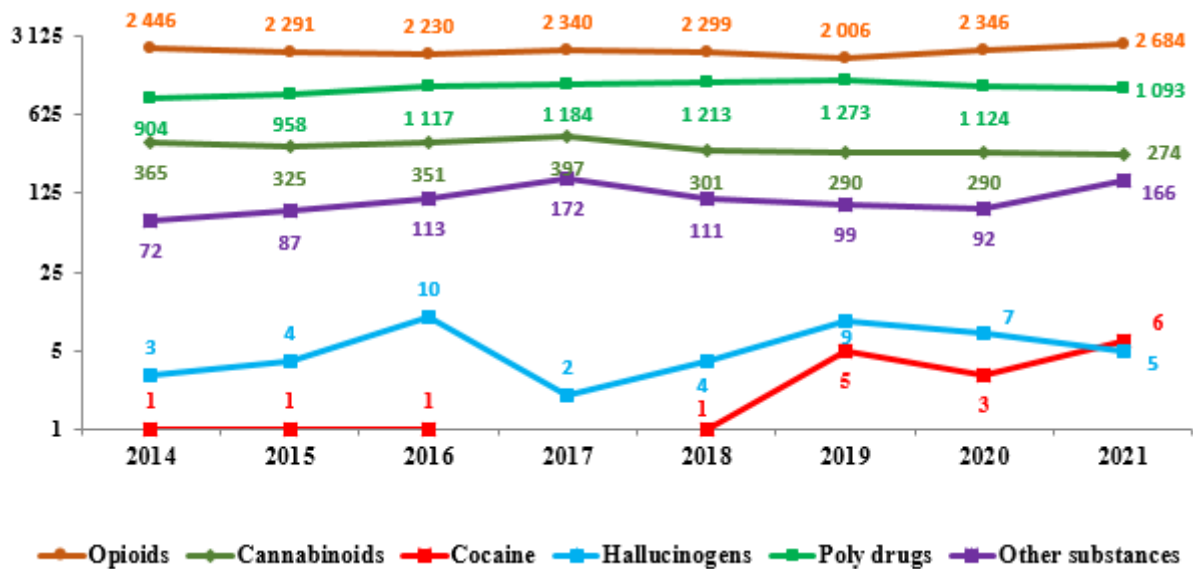
The OST program in Ukraine obtained the law support in 2012. The healthcare standards “Mental and Behavioral Disorders due to Use of Opioids” were developed in 2020, and were approved by [Order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine No. 2555 of 9 November 2020](#).

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

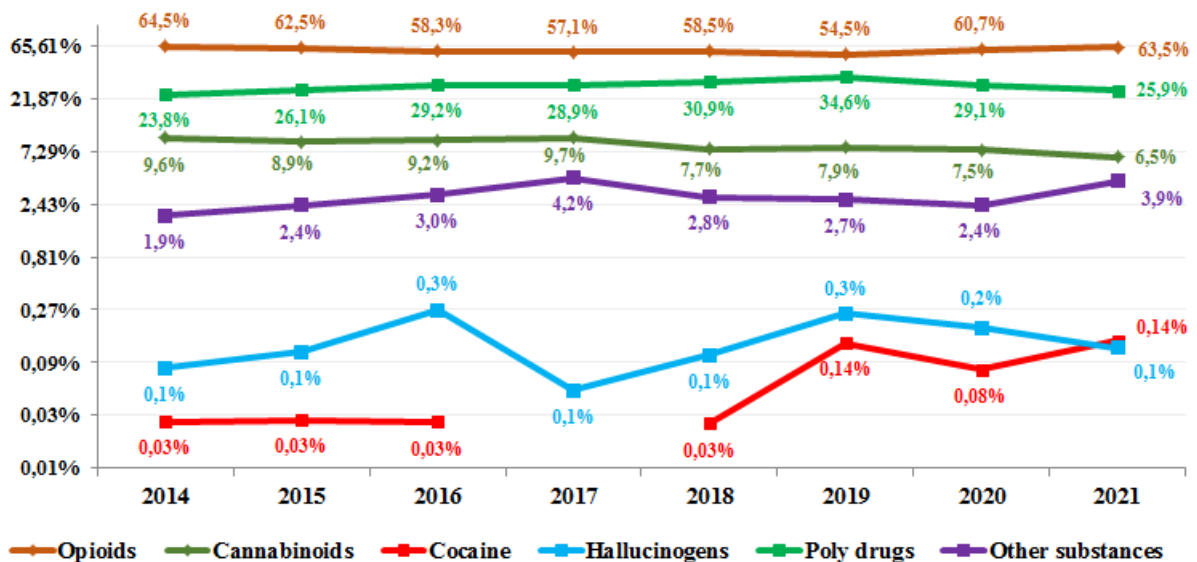
Treatment services provision

As of 31.01.2021, 66 266 individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to the use of drugs and psychotropic substances were under supervision in Ukraine, of which 4 228 individuals came with a first-time diagnosis, 45,2% (1 912 persons) of whom referred to the age group of 15 to 35 years old.

Number of people with mental and behavioral disorders due to drug use that were treated for the first time in their life, in 2014-2021



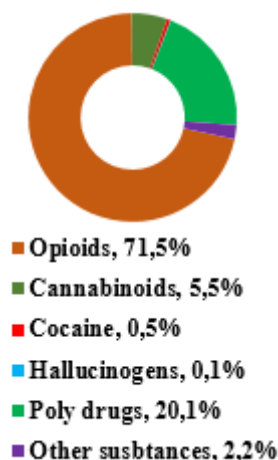
Proportion of people with mental and behavioral disorders due to drug use that were treated for the first time in their life, in 2014-2021



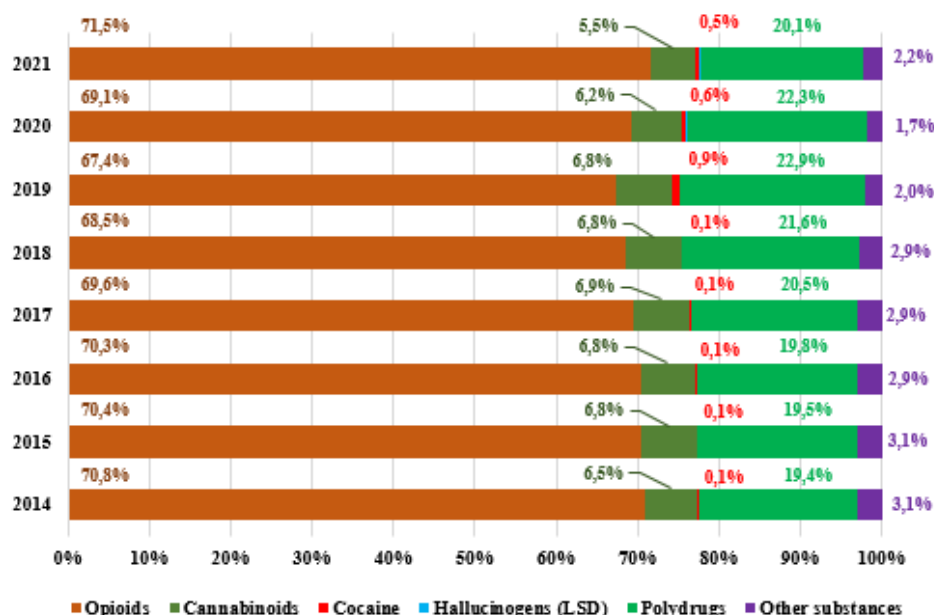
Notes: source – Center for Health Statistics (Form No. 32 “Report on Persons with Mental Disorders due to Drug Use, 2014-2021”).

Out of people with this diagnosis that were covered with treatment services, the largest number of individuals was treated from opioid addiction. Thus, in 2021, this group of patients accounted for 71,5% (20 802 individuals) of all people covered with the relevant treatment services. Some 5,5% of people (1 607) were provided with treatment for mental and behavioral disorders due to cannabinoid use. 5 858 (20,1%) individuals were treated for poly drug addiction.

Proportion of persons in treatment in 2021, by substance (%)



Proportion of persons in treatment in 2014-2021, by substance (%)



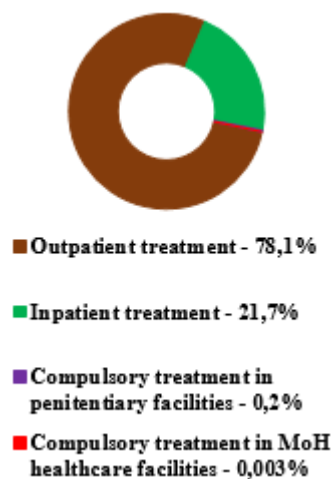
In 2021, 29 083 people with the relevant diagnosis were provided with treatment.

22 715 people were provided with outpatient treatment services, and 6 302 people received inpatient treatment. According to the court decision, 66 individuals were provided with compulsory treatment, of them 1 person was treated in the MoH’s facilities, and 65 individuals were treated in the penitentiary facilities.

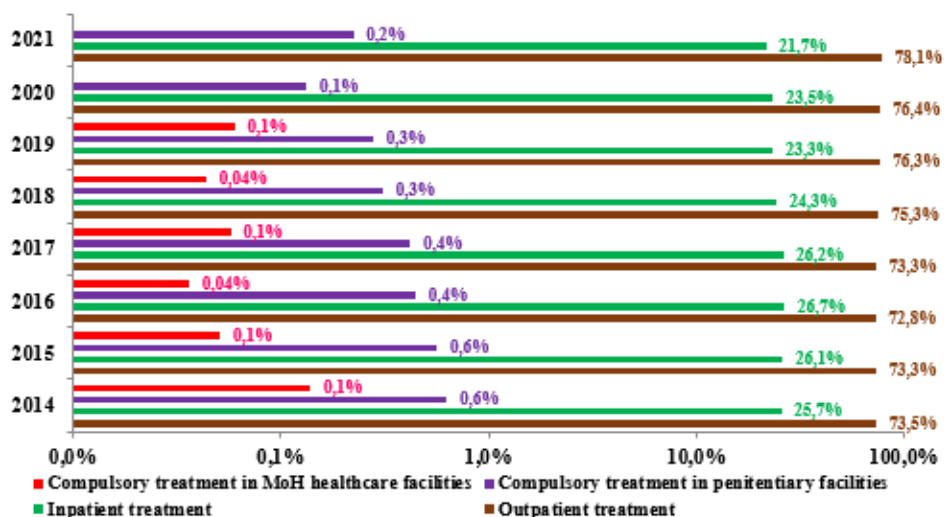
Of the total number of people treated in the reporting year, 60,8% individuals were 35 years old and older.

If we look at the dynamics, there observed a trend of increase in the proportion of people receiving outpatient treatment. At the same time, the proportion of inpatients has been decreasing from year to year, while the proportion of patients receiving treatment in the facilities of the Ministry of Health decreased significantly. The trend regarding the proportion of persons receiving compulsory treatment by court decision remains unchangeable.

Proportion of persons in treatment in 2021, by form of services (%)



Proportion of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to drug use that were in treatment in 2014-2021, by form of services (%)

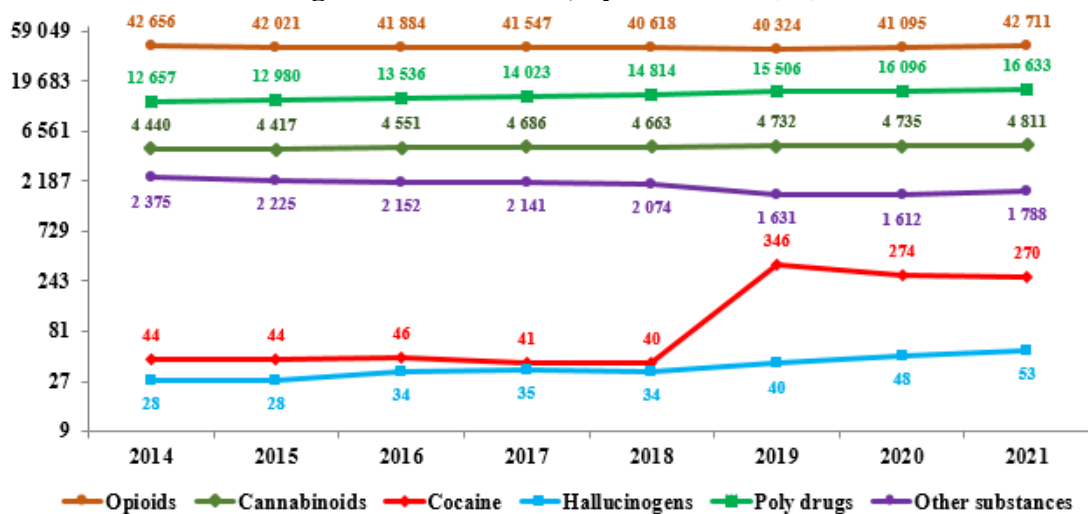


Notes: source – Center for Health Statistics (Form No. 32 “Report on Persons with Mental Disorders due to Drug Use, 2014-2021”)

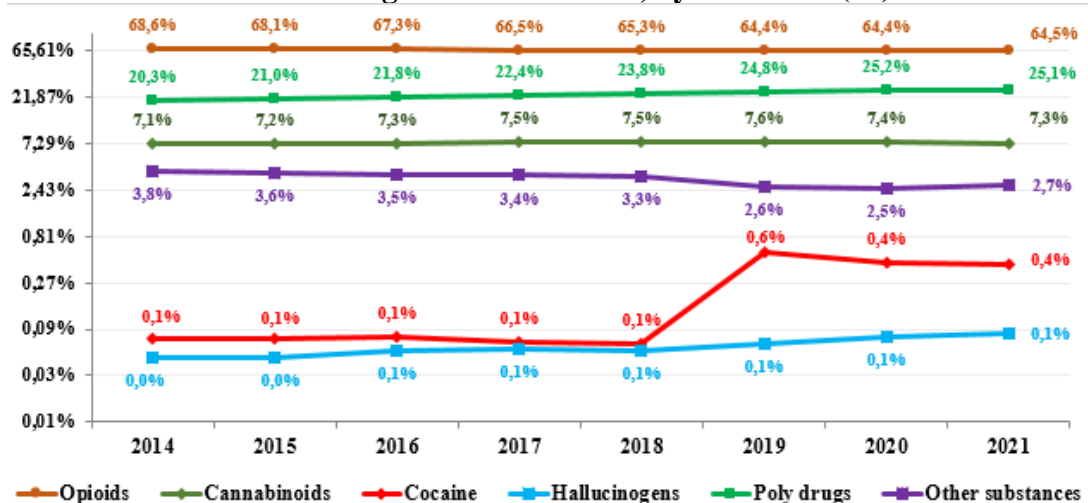
As for the dynamics of prevalence among people with mental and behavioral disorders due to drug use in terms substances, by the end of 2021 (total 66 266 persons):

- 42 711 persons (64,5%) with mental and behavioral decreases due to the use of opioids, which is 3,8% more than in 2020 (41 095 persons);
- 4 811 persons (7,3%) with mental and behavioral decreases due to the use of cannabinoids, which is 1,6% more than in 2020 (4 735 persons);
- 270 persons (0,4%) with mental and behavioral decreases due to the use of cocaine, which is 1,5% less than in 2020 (274 persons);
- 53 persons (0,1%) with mental and behavioral decreases due to the use of hallucinogens, which is 9,4% more than in 2020 (48 persons);
- 16 633 persons (25,1%) with mental and behavioral decreases due to the use of poly drugs, which is 3,2% more than in 2020 (16 096 persons);
- 1 616 persons (2,4%) with mental and behavioral decreases due to the use of stimulants, which is 10,8% more than in 2020 (1 441 persons);
- 172 persons (0,3%) with mental and behavioral decreases due to the use of other psychoactive substances, which is 0,6% more than in 2020 (171 persons).

Number of people with mental and behavioral disorders due to drug use that were on the treatment register in 2014-2021, by substance (%)



Proportion of people with mental and behavioral disorders due to drug use that were on the treatment register in 2014-2021, by substance (%)

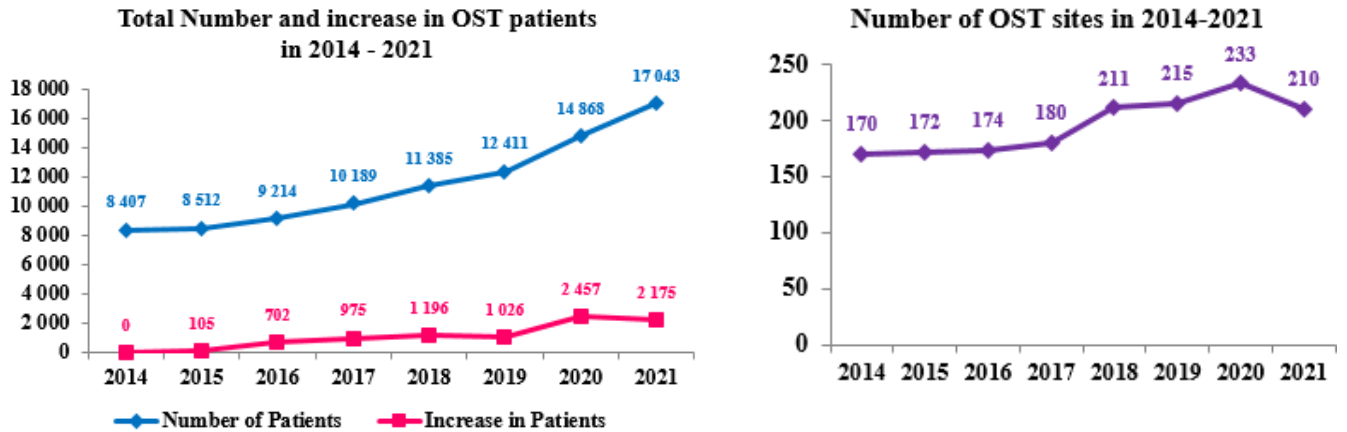


Notes: source – Center for Health Statistics of the MoH (Form No. 32 “Report on Persons with Mental Disorders due to Drug Use, 2021”).

Opioid substitution therapy in Ukraine

In 2021, 210 sites in public healthcare facilities provided OST services in all Ukraine’s regions (25). In addition, 18 private facilities in 4 regions of Ukraine and the city of Kyiv reported on OST services provision to the Center for Public Health of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

Number of OST patients and OST sites in public facilities

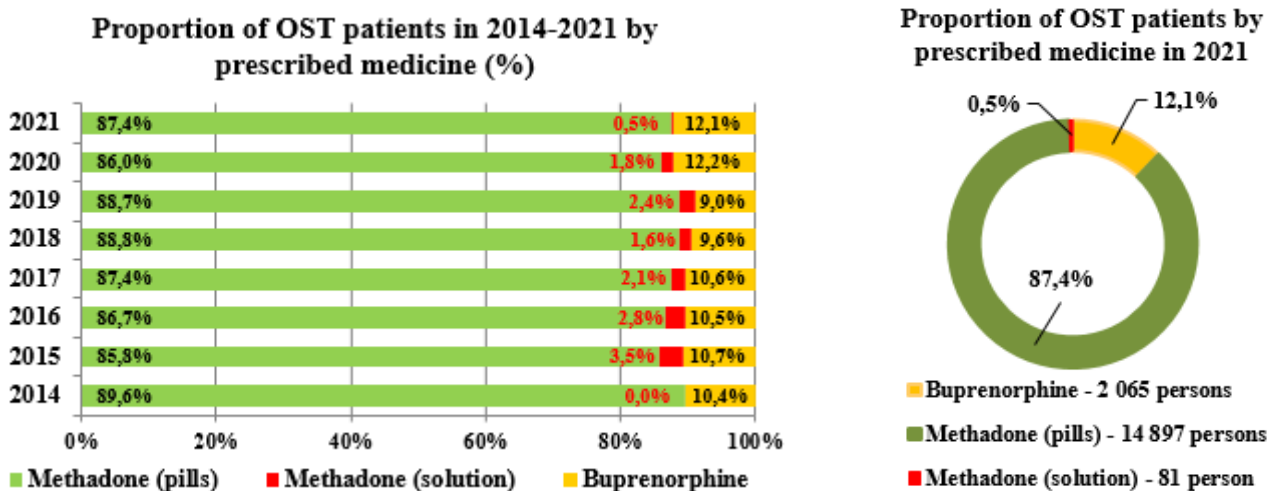


Notes: source – the official website of the Centre for Public Health of Ukraine.

According to the [State Institution “Center for Public Health of Ukraine of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine”](#), which coordinates the implementation and development of OST Program in Ukraine, as of 31.12.2021, 17 043 individuals were provided with OST services, of which 14 897 patients (87,4%) received methadone hydrochloride (pills), 81 patients (0,5%) received methadone hydrochloride (oral solution), and 2 065 patients (12,1%) received buprenorphine hydrochloride (sublingual pills) in public healthcare facilities.

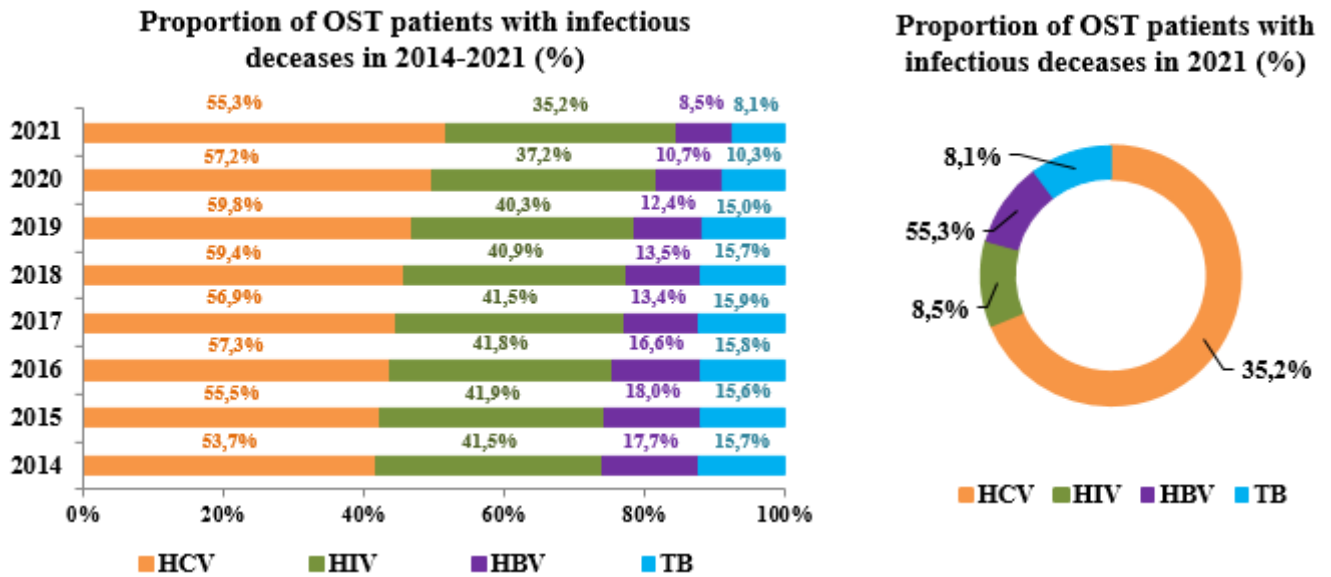
In addition, 2 782 individuals received treatment for mental and behavioral disorders due to the use of opioids by using OST drugs in private healthcare facilities that report to the Center for Public Health of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. The largest proportion of OST patients amounting to 2 348 persons (84,4%) received methadone hydrochloride (pills), and only 434 persons (15,6%) received buprenorphine hydrochloride (sublingual pills). At that, liquid (oral solution) methadone was not available in private facilities.

Proportion of OST patients in public healthcare facilities, by prescribed medicine



Among OST patients, almost 35,2% (6 002 persons) were HIV infected. At that, the proportion of HIV-infected OST patients in private facilities was only 9,9%.

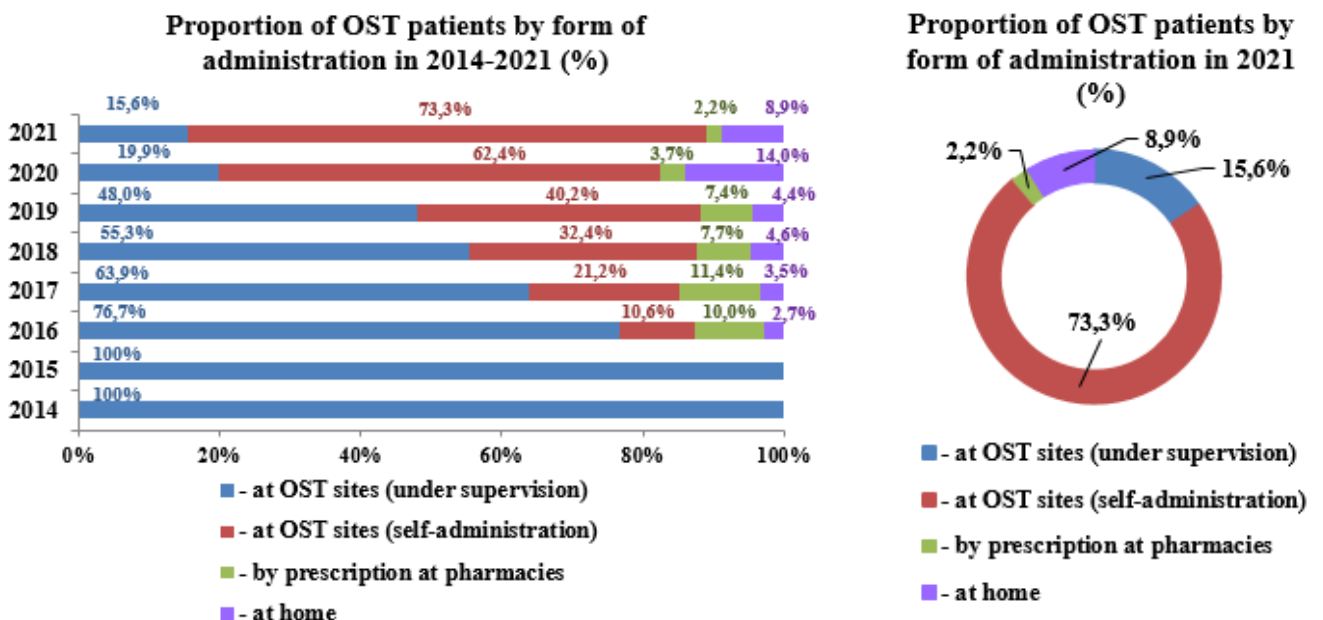
Proportion of OST patients with infectious deceases in public healthcare facilities



In 2021, 17 132 OST patients received medicines both in public and private facilities for self-administration (86,4% of total OST patients), of which 2 693 patients (13,5%) received medicines directly in the health care facilities under the supervision of medical stuff, 1 516 patients (7,6%) received medicines by prescription in pharmacies, and 2 208 individuals (11,1%) received medicines at home.

At that, of the total proportion of patients who received OST treatment, the patients of private facilities received medicines outside the OTS sites more often than those patients in public facilities. The proportion of OST patients in private facilities who received medicines by prescription was also high (40%).

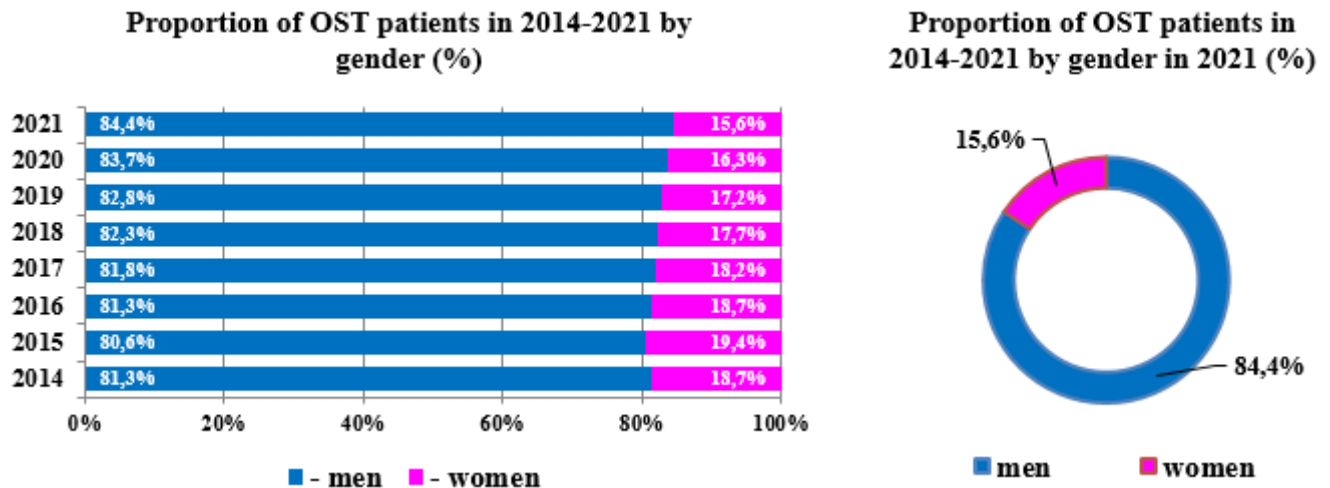
Proportion of OST patients in public healthcare facilities, by form of administration



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

In terms of gender, of the OST program beneficiaries both in public and private facilities, 85% were men (16 853), and in terms of age group, the average age of patients was 40-42 years.

Proportion of OST patients in public healthcare facilities, by gender



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

Drug use in prisons

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

As of 31.12.2021, the number of penitentiary facilities and pre-trial detention centers (excluding healthcare facilities) of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine (SPSU) was 180 ([Order of the Ministry of Justice No. 3507/5 of 01 October 2021](#)).

In 2021, 48 259 individuals were held in imprisonment facilities of the penitentiary system, excluding the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk Regions, city of Sevastopol and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Thus, the number of people in prisons reduced by 3,1% (49 823 persons), compared to 2020. Starting 2017, the number of prisoners has been sustainably decreasing by 3-5%.

In 2021, the total registered number of prisoners with mental and behavioral disorders was 7 286 persons, which is 9,7% higher than in 2020 (6 582 persons).

Of these, 1 918 people were with mental and behavioral disorders due to the use of psychoactive substances (26,3% of all patients with mental disorders), and which is 35,4% less than in 2020 (2 970 persons).

In order to ensure equal access to treatment programs without discrimination, implementing harm reduction programs, the availability of treatment services, testing the implementation of OST programs in the penitentiary facilities, expanding OST programs to other penitentiary facilities, the State Institution “Health Center of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine” approved its Order No. 224-ОД of 09 August 2021 “On Improving Organizational Activities related to Opioid Substitution Therapy”. That order introduced the provision of services to the convicted and detained individuals with mental and

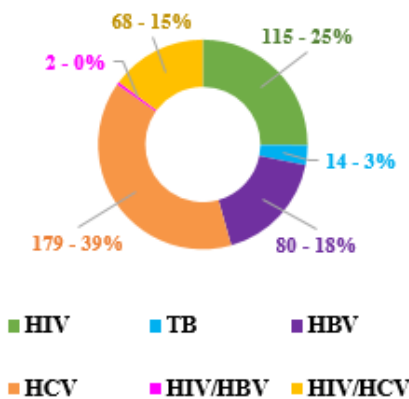
behavioral disorders due to drug use, in accordance with the Pilot Project “Comprehensive Treatment with OST medicines of Persons with Mental and Behavioral Disorders Due to the Use of Opioids”, as well as the methodological recommendations “Program of Rehabilitation of Convicts with Mental and Behavioral Disorders due to Substance Use”.

In 2020, 499 individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to opioid use were provided with treatment based on opioid substitution therapy (26% of total number of individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use). Of them, 170 individuals received a long-term OST treatment, which is 60% more than in 2020 (68 persons).

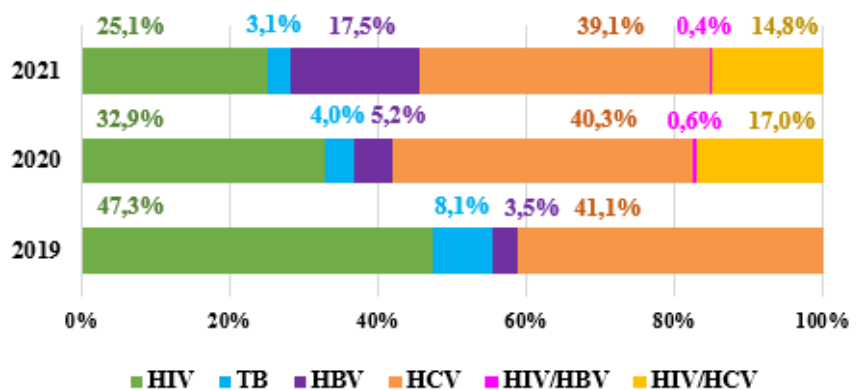
202 individuals passed through detoxification, which is 44,1% more than in 2020 (113 persons).

The number of prisoners who injected drugs and had infectious diseases was: HBV – 80 individuals (68 men and 12 women); HCV – 179 individuals (154 men and 25 women); HIV – 115 individuals (96 men and 9 women); TB – 14 individuals (all men); HIV/ HBV – 2 individuals (all men); HIV/ HCV – 68 individuals (61 men and 7 women).

Imprisoned PWID with infectious diseases in 2021 (persons and %)



Proportion of imprisoned PWID with infectious diseases in 2019-2021 (%)



The State Penitentiary Service pays due attention to the preventive measures in its penitentiary facilities. The preventive activities have been continuously developed and implemented, as well as involving non-governmental organizations and international technical assistance projects for prevention and rehabilitation therapy of drug addicted people.

In 2021, on the initiative and involvement of the Ministry of Justice, the Health Center of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine, non-governmental and international organizations (RANT, For Life Project, EU-ACT Project, POMPIDOU Group, Ukrainian Institute on Public Health Policy, WHO) held a number of trainings on “Implementing Comprehensive OST Treatment in Healthcare Facilities of the Health Center of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine”, “Implementing Rehabilitation Programs for Drug Addicted Persons”, mbGAP Program.

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

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

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

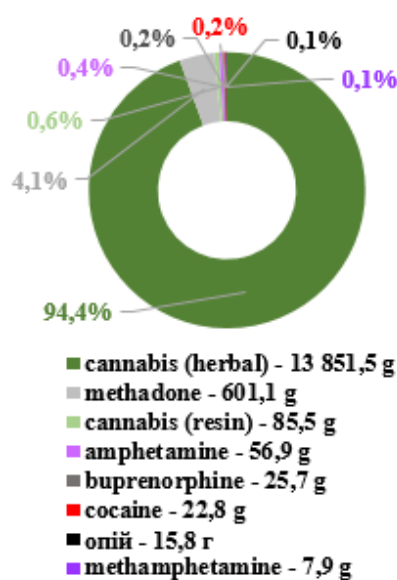
- to ensure the interaction of penitentiary facilities with government and non-governmental organizations that promote a healthy lifestyle;
- to prevent convicts from moral and psychological deformation related to the deprivation of liberty;
- to raise awareness and recognition by convicts of their drug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

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

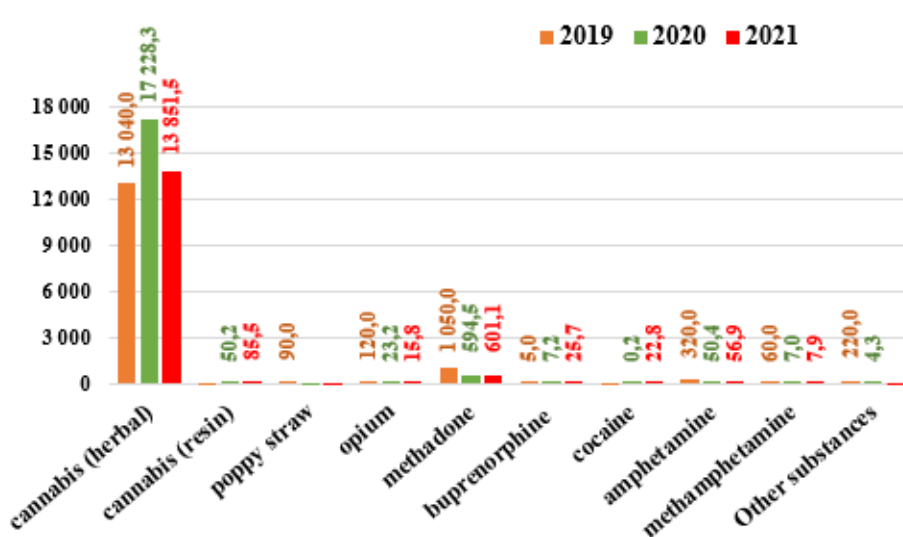
According to the Department of the Execution of Criminal Sanctions of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, the following drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors were seized/ detected in the penitentiary facilities in 2021:

- cannabis – 13 937,0 g, which is 19,1% less than in 2020 (17 228,3 g), including cannabis resin – 85,5 g, which is 41,3% more than in 2020 (50,2 g);
- opioids – 735,14 g, including raw opium and smoking opium – 15,76 g, which is 32% less than in 2020 (23,18 g), methadone – 601,05 g, which is 1,1% more than in 2020 (594,51 g);
- amphetamine – 56,85 g, which is 11,4% more than in 2020 (50,37 g);
- methamphetamine – 7,89 g, which is 11,4% more than in 2020 (6,99 g);
- buprenorphine – 25,71 g, which is 71,8% more than in 2020 (7,24 g);
- cocaine – 22,84 g, which is 99% more than in 2020 (0,22 g)

Seized substances in penitentiary facilities in 2021



Seized substances in penitentiary facilities in 2019-2021 (grams)



Quality assurance

On 28 April 2017, the [Order of the Ministry of Health No. 1422 of 29 December 2016](#) came into effect and allowed Ukrainian doctors to apply the international clinical protocols approved by the internal order of the health care institution that can be applied in this institution under the patient's consent.

At the same time, the unified clinical protocols approved by the Ministry of Health didn't lose their validity and remained binding, in the case when a health care institution does not approve new clinical protocols, or the patients don't give their consent.

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

Furthermore, in 2017, the [Law of Ukraine "On State Financial Guarantees of Medical Service to Population"](#) was passed and came into effect in January 2018. That Law defined state financial guarantees for the provision of necessary medical care (medical services) and medicines of proper quality to patients at the expense of the State Budget of Ukraine under the program of medical guarantees.

Drug-related studies

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

No such studies were held in 2021.

The State Institution "Institute of Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatric Examination and Drug Monitoring of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine" as the legal successor of the "Centre for Mental Health and Monitoring Drugs and Alcohol of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine" publishes the [annual report on the drug situation in Ukraine](#), which consolidates available data on the studies that were conducted in Ukraine and focused on drug use and its effects.

Drug markets

General overview

The analysis of the situation in Ukraine in the illegal drug market shows that the largest part of the illegal drug market is traditionally occupied by cannabis, followed by synthetic cathinones (PVP, mephedrone, etc.), amphetamine, methadone, methamphetamine, cocaine, extracted opium and poppy straw.

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

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

Opium poppy is traditionally cultivated in Ukraine for industrial purposes, but it is often used to produce acetylated opium for injection. At the same time, due to strengthening state control over its circulation, there observed a decrease in opium poppy supply in favor of methadone and extracted opium, which is imported to Ukraine from Hungary due to the simplification of the opium poppy cultivation mechanism for pharmacological industry.

Methadone is produced in Ukraine in the clandestine laboratories and is partially exported to neighboring countries (belarus, the russian federation and Georgia).

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

Cocaine, which is supplied to European countries, is mainly manufactured in Bolivia, Peru and Colombia. The analysis of trends shows that the Latin American criminal groups are active in using the Black Sea ports to arrange supplies of drugs using sea container transport. Also, air transport couriers are involved in cocaine smuggling.

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

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

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

PVP, mephedrone, other cathinones are imported from China by mail. At the same time, there is a trend for growing production of these substances in the clandestine laboratories in Ukraine from the precursors imported from China. There are registered the evidences of smuggling these substances from Ukraine to neighboring countries.

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

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

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

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

Information / data on seizures of drugs and psychotropic substances on the completed criminal proceedings in 2021

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

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

2018 – 2 662,4 kg

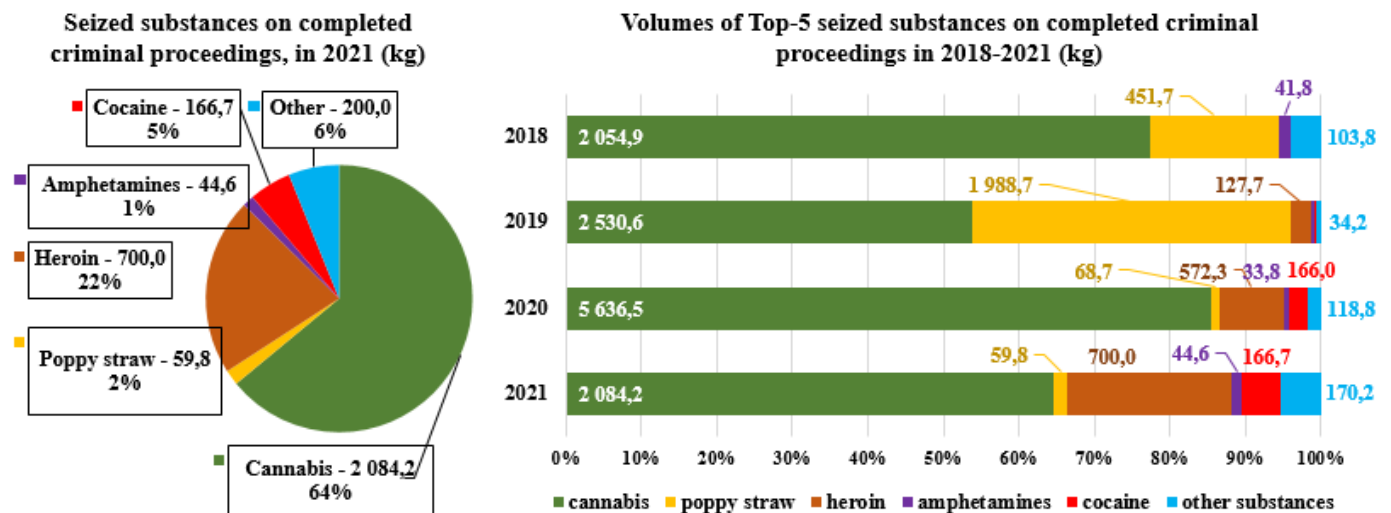
2019 – 4 737,3 kg

2020 – 6 605,4 kg

2021 – 3 255,4 kg

In 2021, the proportion of seizures in terms of substances was as follows: 64% of seizures were cannabis; 21,5% – heroin; 5,1% – cocaine; 1,8% – poppy straw; 1,4% – amphetamines; 6,2% – other drugs and psychoactive substances.

**Seizures of drugs and psychotropic substances in Ukraine
on the completed criminal proceedings**



Notes: source - GPU (report: "Single Report on Criminal Offences", 2018 - 2021).

Over the past 4 years (2018-2021) the total volume of the seized top-5 substances on completed criminal proceedings was as follows:

Average seizures:

Cannabis – 70% (2021 - 2 084,2 kg; 2020 - 5 636,5 kg, 2019 - 2 530,6 kg, 2018 - 2 054,9 kg);

Heroin – 8,2% (2021 - 700 kg; 2020 - 572,3 kg, 2019 - 127,7 kg, 2018 - 0,02 kg);

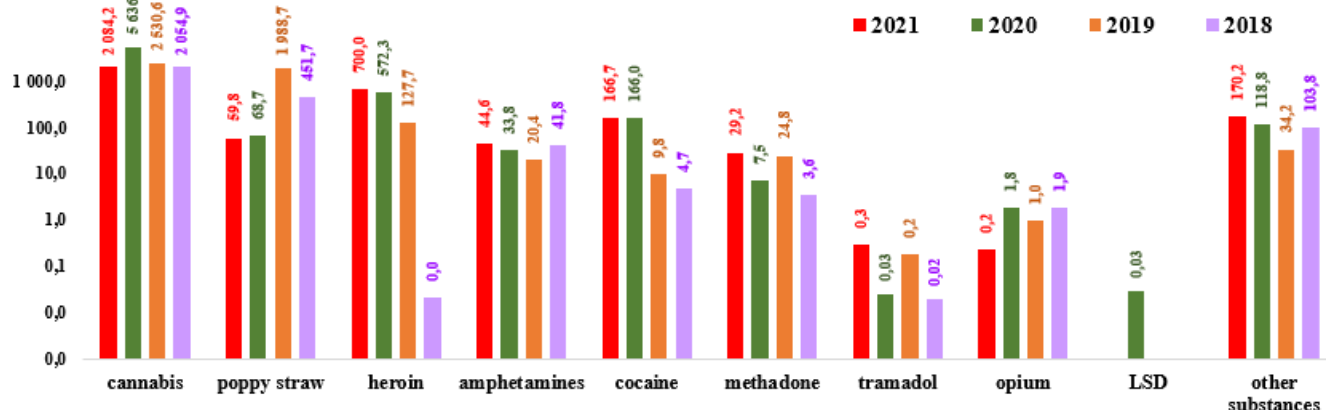
Cocaine – 2% (2021 - 166,7 kg; 2020 - 165,9 kg, 2019 - 9,8 kg, 2018 - 4,7 kg)

Poppy straw – 15,5% ((2021 - 59,8 kg; 2020 - 68,7 kg, 2019 - 1 988,7 kg, 2018 - 451,7 kg);

Amphetamines – 1% (2021 - 44,6 kg; 2020 - 33,8 kg, 2019 - 20,3 kg, 2018 - 41,8 kg);

Other substances (methadone, opium, tramadol, LSD, other) – 3,3% (2021 - 199,9 kg; 2020 - 128,1 kg; 2019 - 60,1 kg; 2018 - 109,3 kg)

Seizures of drugs and psychotropic substances in Ukraine on completed criminal proceedings in 2018 - 2021, (kg)



Notes: source - GPU (report: "Single Report on Criminal Offences", 2018 - 2021).

Information / data on seizures of drugs and psychotropic substances in Ukraine at the beginning of pre-trial investigation in 2021

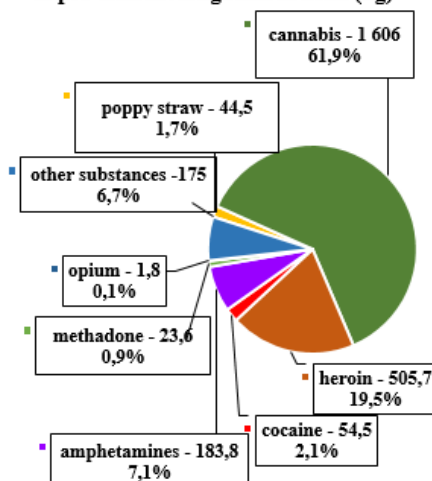
In 2019, the Government of Ukraine adopted [Resolution No. 689 of 10 July 2019](#) "Issues of Monitoring Drug and Alcohol Situation in Ukraine"), which approved the Procedure for submitting and collecting information/data on the drug situation in the country. As for the indicator "Illicit Trafficking in Psychoactive Substances and Drug-Related Crime", the law enforcement authorities provide information/ data on seizures/ detection of drugs and psychotropic substances in the reporting year, channels, drug-related offences, dismantled laboratories, cultivation of plants containing substances.

Thus, according to law enforcement authorities, 2 595,15 kg of drugs and psychotropic substances were seized in 2021. The distribution of seizures in terms of substances and their proportion was as follows:

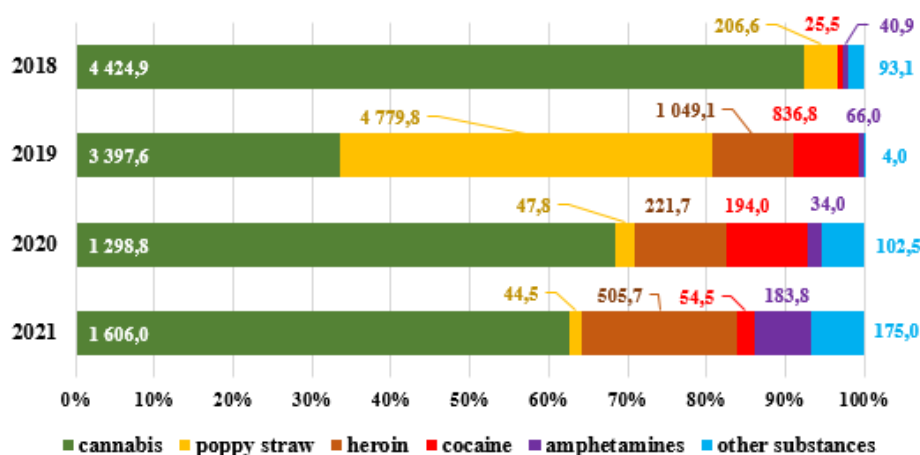
1,7% (in 2020 – 1,8%) – poppy straw; 61,9% (in 2020 – 83,9%) – cannabis; 19,5% (in 2020 – 3,4%) – heroin; 2,1% (in 2020 – 2,7%) – cocaine; 0,9% (in 2020 – 2,0%) – methadone; 7,1% (in 2020 – 1,8%) – amphetamines; 0,1% (in 2020 – 0,3%) – opium; 0,0002% (in 2020 – 0,001%) – LSD; 6,8% (in 2020 – 4,3%) – other substances.

Seizures of drugs and psychotropic substances in Ukraine at the beginning of the pre-trial investigation, in 2021

Seized substances at the beginning of pre-trial investigation in 2021 (kg)

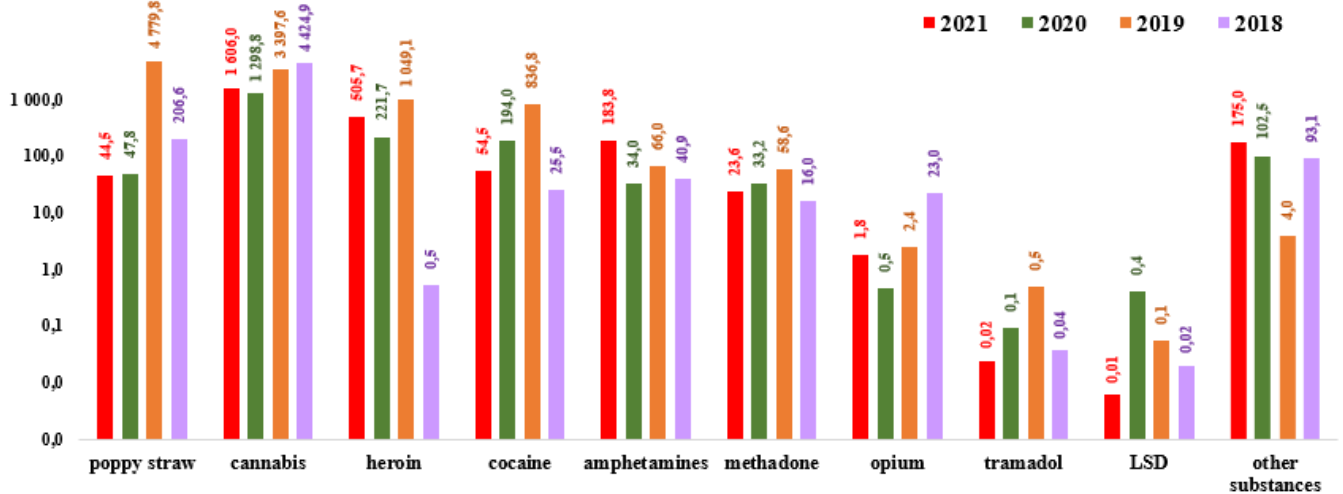


Volumes of Top-5 seized substances at the beginning of pre-trial investigation in 2018-2021 (kg)



Notes: source – information / data from the Law Enforcement Authorities under CMU Resolution No. 689 of 10.07.2019.

Seizures of drugs and psychotropic substances in Ukraine at the beginning of pre-trial investigation in 2018-2021 (kg)



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

Activities of law enforcement authorities

National Police of Ukraine reports:

In 2021, the National Police:

- dismantled 94 clandestine drug laboratories;
- exposed 4 international drug trafficking channels;
- seized some 2 384 kg of drugs and psychotropic substances and precursors (*on investigated criminal proceedings*), namely 191,3 kg of heroin, 0,54 kg of cocaine, 135,5 kg of psychotropic substances, 9 kg and 896 liters of precursors.

Some drug-combating results

In March 2021, the Division of Combating Drug-Related Crime in Mykolaiv Region of the Department of Combating Drug-Related Crime of the National Police of Ukraine (hereinafter – DBN) detained an interregional crime group that consisted of 6 members, who organized methadone and acetylated opium online sales in Mykolaiv, Kryvyi Rig and Kherson. 4 authorized searches at the places of residence of the defendants resulted in seizures of 2,5 kg of methadone and 500 ml of acetylated opium. The retail black-market price of the seized substances was some UAH 3,7 million (EUR 114 551).

In June, due to the international joint special operation of the Department of Combating Drug-Related Crime, Main Directorate of the National Police in the Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Prosecutor’s Office of the Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, State Customs Service of Ukraine and Main Police Inspectorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, 7 individuals were detained in Orhei District when trying to cross the border across the Dniester River to the unrecognized Pridnestrovian Republic. As documented, in early December 2020, the DBN obtained information that a transnational organized criminal group with some members living in the Republic of Moldova, were planning to supply heroin, in especially large quantities from the Islamic Republic of Iran through the Russian Federation, temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, then mainland of Ukraine with further transiting that especially dangerous drug through the Republic of Moldova to the EU countries. The authorized searches at the place of residence of the defendants and storages of one

company, the law enforcement agencies seized 15 boxes with 1 092 briquettes (215 g per briquette), with a total weight of 235 kg of heroin. All members of the group were arrested. They were declared suspected of illegal drug trafficking by organized criminal group and drug smuggling according to the laws of the Republic of Moldova.

In July, the DBN, Main Directorate of the National Police in the Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Anti-Smuggling Department of the State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia, and the Department for Combating Drug Transit of the Central Criminal Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, the International Cooperation Department of the National Police of Ukraine carried out a joint operation resulted in detaining 2 citizens of the Republic of Turkey, who organized acquisition and delivery to Ukraine of a heroin from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Within measures in Kyiv, 1 162 heroin briquettes were seized, with a total weight of some 368,2 kg.

In November, the Division of Combating Drug-Related Crime in Zaporizhzhia Region of the DBN and the Main Directorate of the National Police in that Region conducted an authorized search at the place of the LLC “Center for Practical Narcology” in the city of Zaporizhzhia, which resulted in seizures of 12 354 pills of Methadone-ZN, 569 pills of “Metafin IC”, 554 pills of “Buprenorphine hydrochloride”, 660 pills of “Bupren IC”.

In November, the Division of Combating Drug-Related Crime in Lviv Region of the DBN and the Main Directorate of the National Police in that Region detained 2 individuals sealing with sales of precursors in especially large quantities in Lviv and Lviv Region. The authorized searches resulted in seizures of 11 tons of precursors (hydrochloric and sulfuric acid, acetone, toluene, potassium permanganate).

In June-September 2021, the DBN arranged and carried out nationwide preventive measures named “MAK” in order to identify and neutralize illegal crops of drug-containing plants (poppy and hemp), as well as to prevent the diversion of raw substances. Those activities resulted in detecting 2 937 facts of illegal crops of drug-containing plants, of which 748 were poppy crops and 2 189 hemp ones. The total area of illegal crops was 432 hectares, over 11,7 million plants were destroyed, of which more than 173 800 were poppy plants and over 1 500 000 hemp plants. 2 729 criminal proceedings were initiated, and the offenders were charged with suspicion on 971 criminal proceedings.

Some “MAK” operation results:

- In early August, the Division of Combating Drug-Related Crime in Dnipropetrovsk Region and the Main Directorate of the National Police in that Region conducted an authorized search resulted in seizures of 2 287 of hemp pants, dried hemp (cones) with a total weight of about 1 500 grams. The estimated black-market price of the seized substances might exceed UAH 1 million (EUR 30 960).

- The Division of Combating Drug-Related Crime and the Security Service in Dnipropetrovsk Region used air reconnaissance to detect a 2-hectar corn field with hemp plants cultivated by drop irrigation. Some 9 800 hemp plants were seized. According to estimates, it was able to get nearly 980 kg of cannabis at the black-market price of UAH 1,5 million (EUR 46 440).

- The Division of Combating Drug-Related Crime in Mykolaiv Region when checking information on illegal cultivation of drug-containing plants detected a Ukrainian who cultivated hemp for further production cannabis. The authorized searches of his greenhouse resulted in seizures of some 58 kg of cannabis and 410 hemp plant remains

(roots). The black-market price of seized substances was around UAH 11 million (EUR 349 557).

- The Divisions of Combating Drug-Related Crime in Dnipropetrovsk and Kirovograd Regions conducted authorized searches in a household and adjacent land that resulted in seizures of 2 000 hemp plants and 5 kg of cannabis. The black-market price of seized substances was over UAH 5 million (EUR 154 799).

In September, the Division of Combating Drug-Related Crime in Dnipropetrovsk Region and the Main Investigation Directorate of the National Police detained 4 individuals engaged in illegal purchasing, storage and transportation of cocaine for selling purposes through “cashes” in the city of Dnipro. A series of authorized searches at the places of residence and vehicles of the defendants resulted in seizures of nearly 2 kg of cocaine, empty packages and electronic scales. The black-market price of seized substance was some USD 291 000.

Laboratories

In January 2021, the Department of Combating Drug Crime of the National Police stopped the illegal activity of 8 drug dealers who mounted a methadone laboratory in Kyiv Region. The urgent searches resulted in seizures of some 6 kg of methadone, about 1,3 tons of precursors for manufacturing methadone, 100 g of cannabis, as well as laboratory equipment.

On 11-28 January 2021, the Department of Combating Drug Crime, the Main Directorate of the National Police in Kharkiv Region, Cyber Police and TOR special operations unit conducted a joint operation aimed at preventing the illegal trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances. 350 searches were conducted, 118 individuals were intensified, 7 clandestine laboratories were dismantled, some 200 kg of substances and 3 tons of precursors were seized (over 80 kg of cannabis, 80 liters of acetylated opium, over 30 kg of a-PVP, 4 kg of amphetamine, 2 700 packages of methadone and 2 500 packages of strong opioid (narcotic) medicine). In addition, the above operation resulted in exposing 2 organized crime groups dealing with a-PVP and methadone production and closing 5 online drug stores and 43 drug dens. The black-market price of seized substances was around UAH 120 million (EUR 3 715 170).

In April, the Division of Combating Drug-Related Crime in Kyiv detained in Kyiv, Dnipro, Kyiv and Cherkasy Regions an organized crime group of 10 individuals engaged in manufacturing and selling amphetamine and phenylnitropropene in especially large quantities all over Ukraine through 5 online stores. The authorized searches of the premises and vehicles of those defendants resulted in seizures of 3 tons of precursors, 500 kg of phenylnitropropene, 120 kg of amphetamine, laboratory equipment, records on drug sales and bank statements.

In June, the DBN, the Investigation Division in Lviv Region, Main Investigative Directorate of the National Police, and the Prosecutor General’s Office, among others, detained 36 members of a criminal group who were smuggling fentanyl in Ukraine from the republic of belarus and mounted a laboratory in Lviv Region for synthesizing fentanyl into its derivative “carfentanyl” for its further smuggling to the EU countries. 46 authorized searches resulted in seizures of about 20 kg of methadone, 15 kg of liquid methadone, 20 kg of carfentanyl, 5 liters of liquid carfentanyl, 50 grams of cannabis, and more than 250 liters of precursors.

In July, the Division of Combating Drug-Related Crime in Kyiv and the Main Directorate of the National Police in Kyiv detained an organized group of 5 individuals who mounted a clandestine laboratory for manufacturing psychotropic substances for their further sales in especially large quantities through online stores “Proton lab”, “Skrat lab”, “Black Boss”, as well as using courier company “Nova Poshta”. The searches at the places of residence of defendants resulted in seizures of 4,5 kg of PVP, mephedrone and cannabis. The searches at the laboratory led to seizures of nearly 5 kg of PVP in crystals, 100 liters of liquid PVP and more than 3 tons of precursors. The black-market price of seized substances was over UAH 70 million (EUR 2 167 183).

In December, the Division of Combating Drug-Related Crime in Kyiv Region and the Main Directorate of the National Police in that Region detained an organized group of 4 individuals who produced and sold amphetamine in large consignments all over Ukraine, as well as transported the substance to the Republic of Poland. The authorized searches resulted in seizures of 20 kg of amphetamine, 120 liters of liquid amphetamine, 615 liters of precursors, and laboratory equipment.

Also in December, the DBN detained an organized group of 4 individuals who mounted a clandestine laboratory for manufacturing methadone and amphetamine, as well as arranged sales of those substances all over Ukraine. The authorized searches resulted in seizures of 35 liters of liquid amphetamine, 20 liters of liquid methadone, 2,5 kg of methadone, 300 grams of amphetamine, 2 tons of precursors, and laboratory equipment.

Security Service of Ukraine reports:

In January-November 2021 the Security Service along with other law-enforcement agencies:

- dismantled 19 clandestine drug laboratories;
- seized 505,7 kg of heroin, 53,9 kg of cocaine, 182,3 kg of psychotropic substances, 276,4 kg of precursors, etc.

Some smuggling-combating results:

Heroin. In January 2021, smuggling by sea of 1 040 kg (gross) of heroin from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Ukraine through Odesa seaport was stopped, 4 residents of a Middle East country were detained.

Cocaine. In January 2021, smuggling by air of 0,5 kg (gross) of cocaine from a South America country to Ukraine was stopped, 1 EU resident was detained.

- In April 2021, smuggling by air of 1 kg (gross) of cocaine from a South America country to Ukraine was stopped, 1 EU resident was detained.

- In May 2021, smuggling by air of 2,8 kg (gross) of cocaine from a South America country to Ukraine was stopped, 1 resident of a Middle East country was detained.

- In July 2021, smuggling by air of 0,7 kg (gross) of cocaine from a South America country to Ukraine was stopped, 1 resident of a South America country was detained.

- In August 2021, 2 residents of a EU country and 1 of Ukraine were charged with suspicion of smuggling of more than 60 kg of cocaine through “Pivdennyi” seaport.

Precursors. In March 2021, a Ukrainian was detained for smuggling by air some 69 000 pills of pseudoephedrine-containing medicines from a South East Asia country to Ukraine;

- In April 2021, 2 Ukrainian residents were detained for smuggling 9,8 kg of pseudoephedrine contained in medicines by air from an African country to Ukraine.

- In June 2021, a Ukrainian resident was charged with suspicion of smuggling by international courier delivery company of 175 kg (gross) of 1-dimethylamino-2-chloropropane, used for methadone production from an East Asia country to Ukraine.

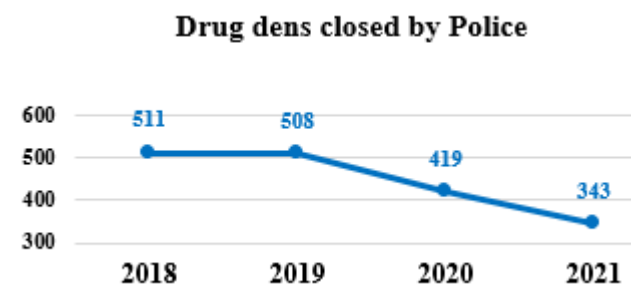
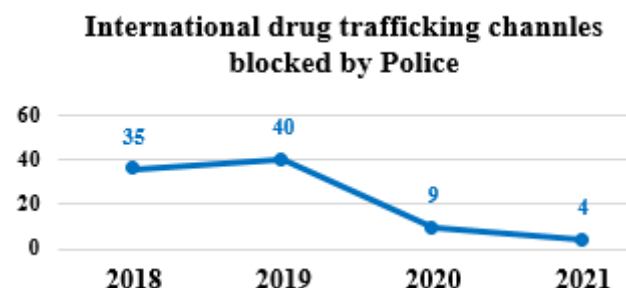
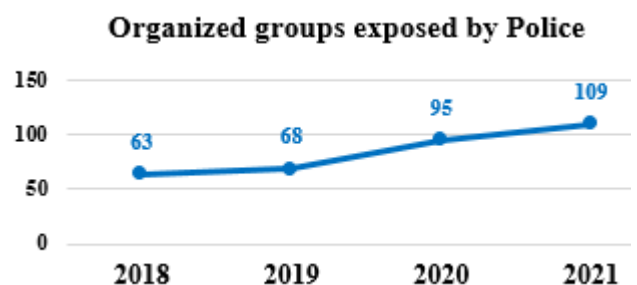
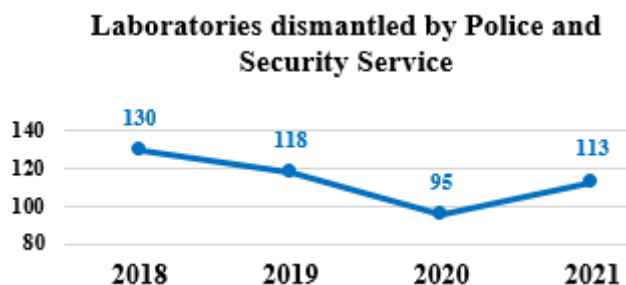
Laboratories

- January 2021. The laboratory was dismantled in a private household of Kyiv Region. 41,6 kg of 1-phenyl-2-piperidin-1-yl-pentan-1-one (PVP) and some 800 kg of various precursors were seized;

- January 2021. The activity of a transnational organized crime group (a branch of “Dvadtsiativski Group (the 20th) was stopped. That group engaged in producing, smuggling and selling methamphetamine. 4 individuals were detained, 1 laboratory was dismantled, 3 kg (gross) of methamphetamine and 4,4 kg of pseudoephedrine were seized.

- March 2021. The activity of a interregional organized crime group was stopped. That group engaged in producing and selling drugs and psychotropic substances using social media Telegram and logistics of the postal and courier company “Nova Poshta”. 8 group members were detained;

- April 2021. 2 clandestine amphetamine laboratories were dismantled in Ivano-Frankivsk Region. 4 individuals were detained. 81,8 grams of amphetamine, over 12 liters of liquid amphetamine, 35 liters of nitroethane, 20 kg of phenylnitropropene, as well as some 500 liters of 500 liters of chemicals and compounds were seized.



* Source: [National Police](#) & [Security Service](#)

State Customs Service of Ukraine reports:

In 2021, the State Customs Service detected 1 143 facts of illegal trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors across the border of Ukraine.

Customs submitted 606 reports to the law enforcement agencies on offences subject to the Criminal Code of Ukraine, of which: 51,5% (312 reports) – under Art. 305 (smuggling), and 48,5% (294 reports) – under Art. 307 and 309 (for selling and not for selling purposes, respectively).

The largest number of detected facts referred to the transportation by land – 46,5% (531 facts), by air – 25,2% (288 facts) and by mail – 20,8% (238 facts).

In terms of geography, the detected facts distributed as follows: Republic of Moldova – 213 facts; Republic of Poland – 180 facts; Russian Federation – 145 facts; Hungary – 76 facts; Republic of Belarus – 58 facts, Republic of Slovakia – 9 facts.

The most resonant facts of revealing the illegal:

- 24 February 2021. 19,55 kg (gross) of cannabis were detected in the gas tank of the car driving from the mainland Ukraine to the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine through the customs post “Crimea” of the Black Sea Customs.

- 30 June 2021. 56 kg (gross) of cocaine packed in 46 briquettes were detected by Odessa Customs in a container marked “Bananas” that came from the Republic of Ecuador.

- 15 August 2021. 59 kg (gross) of cocaine packed in 50 briquettes were detected by Odessa Customs in a container marked “Bananas” that came from the Republic of Ecuador.

- 09 October 2021. 79 kg (gross) of ephedrine (395 250 pills) were detected at the Boryspil International Airport in the luggage of a Ukrainian who arrived from the Arab Republic of Egypt.

- November-December 2021. 5 kg (gross) of coca leaves were detected by Kyiv Customs in 6 parcels that came from the Republic of Peru by international mail.

KEY DATA**Cannabis**

	Year	Value
Prevalence of use over the last 30 days (aged 15-17) (% ESPAD)	2019	2,8
Prevalence of use in the last year (aged 15-17) (%)	2019	5,7
Prevalence of use in the last year – all adults (%)	No research held	
Number of people with disorders due to drug use that were on the treatment register (persons)	2021	4 811
People with disorders due to drug use that were treated (%)	2021	33,4
First time patients (%)	2021	5,7
Volume of seized herbal cannabis (kg)	2021	2 084,2
Number of seizures of herbal cannabis	No data available	
Volume of seized cannabis resin (kg)	No data available	
Number of seizures of cannabis resin	No data available	
Content – herb (% THC) (min. & max. registered values)	No data available	
Content – resin (% THC) (min. & max. registered values)	No data available	
Price per 1g – cannabis herbal (EUR) (min. & max. registered values)	2021	from 0,64 to 8,12
Price per 1g – cannabis resin (EUR) (min. & max. values)	2021	19,49

Cocaine

	Year	Value
Prevalence of use in schools (aged 15-17) (% ESPAD)	2019	1,2
Prevalence of use in the last year (young people) (%)	No research held	
Prevalence of use in the last year – all adults (%)	No research held	
Number of people with disorders due to drug use that were on the treatment register (persons)	2021	270
People with disorders due to drug use that were treated (%)	2021	57,8
First time patients with disorders due to drug use (%)	2021	2,2
Volume of seized cocaine (kg)	2021	166,7
Number of seizures of cocaine	No data available	
Purity - (EUR) (min. & max. registered values)	No data available	
Price per 1g – (EUR) (min. & max. values)	2021	from 74,5 to 170,3

Amphetamine family

	Year	Value
Prevalence of use at schools (aged 15-17) (% ESPAD)	2019	1,7
Prevalence of use in the last year (young people) (%)	No research held	
Prevalence of use in the last year – all adults (%)	No research held	
Number of people with disorders due to drug use that were on the treatment register (persons)	No data available	
People with disorders due to drug use that were treated (%)	No data available	
First time patients with disorders due to drug use (%)	No data available	
Volume of seized amphetamines (kg)	2021	44,6
Number of seizures of amphetamine	No data available	
Purity – amphetamine (EUR) (min. & max. registered values)	No data available	
Price per 1g – amphetamine (EUR) (min. & max. values)	2021	from 7,7 to 37,2

Hallucinogens (incl. MDMA/ecstasy)

	Year	Value
Prevalence of lifetime use (aged 15-17) (% ESPAD) *	2019	2,0
Prevalence of use in the last year (aged 15-17) (%) *	2019	4,1
Prevalence of use in the last year – all adults (%)	No research held	
Number of people with disorders due to drug use that were on the treatment register (persons)	2021	53
People with disorders due to drug use that were treated (%)	2021	45,3
First time patients with disorders due to drug use (%)	2021	9,4
Volume of seized ecstasy (pills)	No data available**	
Number of seizures of ecstasy	No data available**	
Purity (ecstasy mg per pill) (min. & max. registered values)	No data available**	
Purity (ecstasy % per pill) (min. & max. registered values)	No data available**	
Price per pill (EUR) (min. & max. values)	2021	from 6,2 to 31

Notes:

*Data on “Ecstasy only”

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

Opioids

	Year	Value
Use of high-risk opioids (prevalence) (value/1000)	No data available	
Number of people with disorders due to drug use that were on the treatment register (persons)	2021	42 711
People with disorders due to drug use that were treated (%)	2021	48,7
First time patients with disorders due to drug use (%)	2021	6,3
Volume of seized heroin (kg)	2021	700
Number of seizures of heroin	No data available	
Purity - heroin (%) (min. & max. registered values)	No data available	
Price per 1g - heroin (EUR) (min. & max. values)	2021	from 3,7 to 62

Infectious diseases related to drug use / drug injection / deaths

	Year	Value
New diagnosed cases of HIV due to injecting drugs – age group of 15 to 64 years (cases / 1mln. persons)		No data available
Persons with diagnosed HIV due to injecting drugs at the end of the reporting year	2021	9 955
Prevalence of HVC among PWID (%)		No data available
Drug injection – all population at the end of the reporting year (number of cases / 1000 persons)		No data available
Drug-related deaths of people aged 15 to 64 years	2020	587*

Note: *number of death cases

Health and social care activities

	Year	Value
Syringes & needles distributed in the framework of social programs (budget funding)	2021	15 863 637
Syringes & needles distributed in the framework of social programs by NGOs	2021	290 849
OST patients of public healthcare facilities	2021	17 043
OST patients of private healthcare facilities	2021	2 782

Treatment services

	Year	Value
All recipients	2021	29 083
First-time recipients of treatment	2021	4 228
All clients of treatment (prevalence – at the end of 2020)	2021	66 266

Drug-related criminal offences

	Year	Value
Number of registered criminal offences	2021	29 587
Criminal offences on substance circulation (not for selling purposes) / possession (for selling purposes)	2021	14 109/10 994

Alcohol situation in Ukraine

Laws of Ukraine on alcohol

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

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

In 2021, that law was amended by the [Law No. 1914-IX of 30 November 2021](#) that entered into force on 01 January 2022 and made the following changes in the procedure for licensing production and circulation of alcohol, alcoholic beverages and tobacco products, liquids used in e-cigarettes, and fuel:

- to add an option of applying for licenses (except for licenses for the wholesale and retail trade of fuel, storage of fuel for the purpose of its further sale to other consumers) in electronic form;
- to set the registration of an object of taxation in accordance with the requirements of [clause 63.3, Article 63 of the Tax Code of Ukraine](#) as a mandatory condition for issuing licenses;
- to cancel the license suspension procedure;
- to expand the list of grounds for revocation of licenses and change of the procedure of such revocation;
- other changes.

At the same time, there are a number of normative legal acts in Ukraine that are in effect and aimed at health care of citizens from the harmful effects of alcoholic products through a series of prohibitions. The list of these prohibitions is defined by the [Law of Ukraine “On Advertising”](#) the enforcement of which was assigned to the State Service of Ukraine for Food Safety and Consumer Protection, which implements the state policy in the field of the government control over the compliance with legislation on consumer protection, including the protection of advertising consumer rights; as well as to the National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine as regards the television and radio companies of all forms of ownership. The liability for violation of advertising legislation is stipulated in Article 27 of the Law of Ukraine “On Advertising” and the Procedure for the Imposition of Fines for Violations of the Law on Advertising, approved by the [Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 693 of 26 May 2004](#) (as amended).

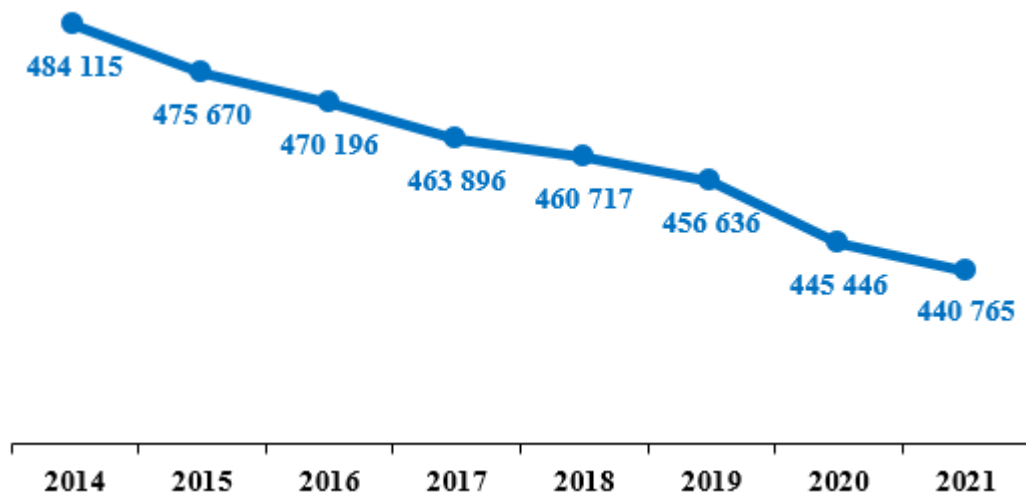
The government supervises the execution of the law through pricing and taxation policies.

So, for ethyl alcohol and other alcoholic distillates, alcoholic beverages, beer, the excise tax is established in accordance with Article 215.3.1. Of the Tax Code of Ukraine, while the minimum wholesale and retail prices for certain types of alcoholic beverages are established by the [Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 957 of 30 October 2008](#) “On the Establishment of the Minimum Wholesale and Retail Prices for Certain Types of Alcoholic Beverages.”

Treatment of mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol consumption

As of 31.12.2021, 440 765 individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol consumption were registered under surveillance in Ukraine, and nearly 77,6% of them referred to the age group of 36 years and older.

Number of individuals with alcohol-induced mental and behavioral disorders in 2014 - 2021



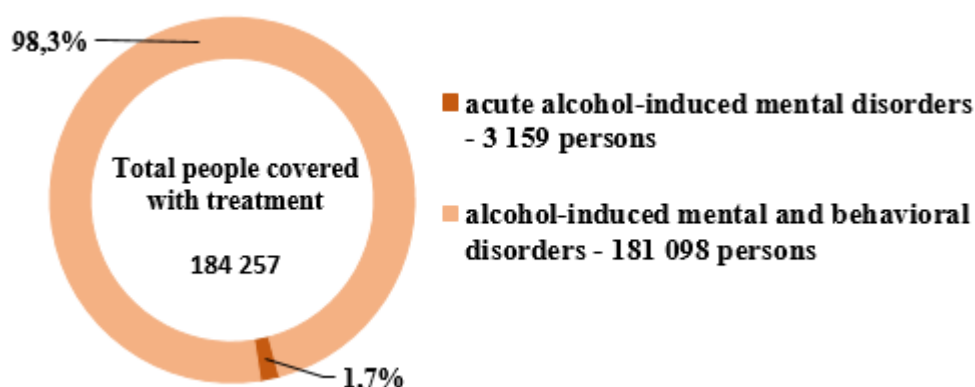
Notes: source – Center for Health Statistics of the MoH (Form No. 32 “Report on Persons with Mental Disorders due to Drug Use, 2021”).

Compared to 2014, the prevalence of mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol consumption decreased by 9% in 2021, and it decreased by 1,1% compared to 2020.

In 2021, the morbidity of mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol consumption, that is, the number of people taken under surveillance with a first-time diagnosis was 18 937 individuals. Of these, near 41,6% (7 884 persons) were rural residents, and some 76,7% of individuals aged 35 years and older. First-time patients with acute alcohol-induced mental disorders amounted to 1 956 individuals.

During 2021, 184 257 people with a corresponding diagnosis were provided with treatment. Of them, 3 159 people with a diagnosis of acute alcohol-induced mental disorders were treated.

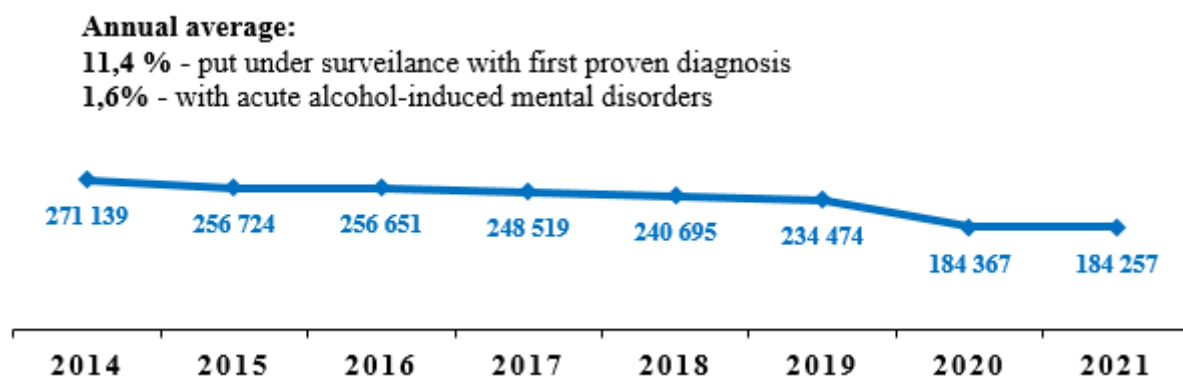
Number of individuals with alcohol-induced mental and behavioral disorders covered with treatment services in 2021



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

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

Number of individuals with alcohol-induced mental and behavioral disorders covered with treatment services in 2014 - 2021



Notes: source – Center for Health Statistics of the MoH (Form No. 32 “Report on Persons with Mental Disorders due to Drug Use, 2021”).

Compared to 2014, the dynamics of treated individuals decreased by 32% in 2021, and only by 0,01% compared to 2020.

Deaths related to alcohol consumption and poisoning

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

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

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

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

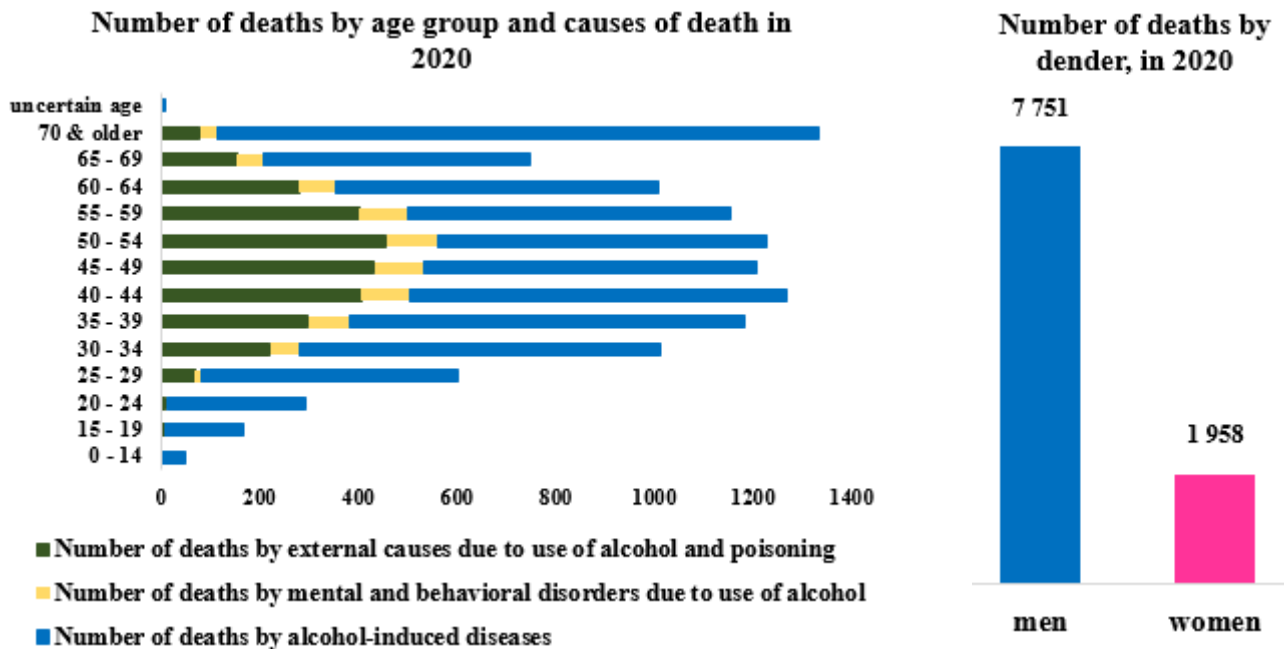
- 9 525 deaths (98,1%) referred to the age group of 30 years and older;
- 1 323 deaths (13,6%) referred to the age group of 40 to 44 years
- 352 deaths (3,6%) referred to the age group of 70 years and older;

- 2 deaths referred to the age group of 0 to 14 years, i.e., children.

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

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

Number of deaths by age group and causes of death, as well as number of deaths by gender in 2020



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

In 2020, the mortality related to alcohol consumption in the age group of 15-64 years was 34,7 individuals per 100 000 of population*.

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

Use of alcoholic drinks among adolescents (aged 14-17)

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

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

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

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

The vast majority (85,7%) of surveyed adolescents had an experience in alcohol consumption (82,7% among boys and 88,4% among girls).

Almost half (46,3%) of respondents had an “advanced” experience in alcohol consumption, i.e., they drank alcohol for ten times and more.

13,4% of respondents tried alcohol for the first time at the age of 10 or earlier.

Almost half (46,5%) of respondents consumed alcohol at least once in the last 30 days. Every fifth adolescent (22,5%) consumed alcohol more than 3 times in the last 30 days.

Every fifth adolescent experienced a significant alcohol intoxication for the first time at the age of 14 or earlier (21,2% among boys and 20,3% among girls).

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

More than a quarter of respondents (28,3%) reported drinking alcohol a week ago or earlier. Girls most often drank wine (37,5%) and champagne (31,7%) during their last alcohol consumption occasion. Boys drank beer relatively more often, as reported by 28,1% of the male respondents.

Almost half (45,0%) of respondents experienced alcohol intoxication at least once in their life, a third (31,1%) – during the last year, and 12.8% of adolescents got intoxicated in the last month.

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

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

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

- to cheer up – 39,4% (36,5% among boys and 42,2% among girls);
- to solve inner problems – 26,8% (23,4% among boys and 30,1% among girls);
- to get high – 17,3% (16,7% among boys and 17,9% among girls);
- to socialize – 12,5% (13,5% among boys and 11,5% among girls).

In 2021, according to the Center for Medical Statistics of the Ministry of Health (Form No. 32 “Report on persons with mental disorders due to the substance use, 2021”), 4 individuals under 17 y.o. with a diagnosis of “mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol consumption” were treated, of which there were 2 people with the first-time diagnosis.

Situation with gambling

Laws of Ukraine on gambling

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

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

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

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

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

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

In 2021 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted [Resolution No. 300 of 31 March 2021](#) “On Approval of the Licensing Conditions for Providing Gambling Services”, which approved a comprehensive list of documents to submit with the gambling license application.

The [Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 1263 of 02 December 2021](#) approved the Criteria for assessing risk from gambling business activities and set up the regularity of state supervision (control) measures of the Commission for Regulation of Gambling and Lotteries. The Resolution defined the risks of negative effects from gambling business activities, as well as the criteria for assessing risks from those activities. One of the goals of state supervision (control) is human life and health, and any fact of non-compliance with the principles of responsible gambling would have a negative effect like an increase in the number of people with expressed gambling addiction (ludomania).

Gambling addiction

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

For instance, the [New Zealand Study](#) showed that the burden of harm from gambling to humans was 2,5 times higher than diabetes and 3 times higher than drug-related disorders. This burden is primarily related to financial consequences, relationship breakdowns, emotional disorders, negative consequences in work and education, and disproportionately affects vulnerable groups, causing and exacerbating existing social inequalities.

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

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

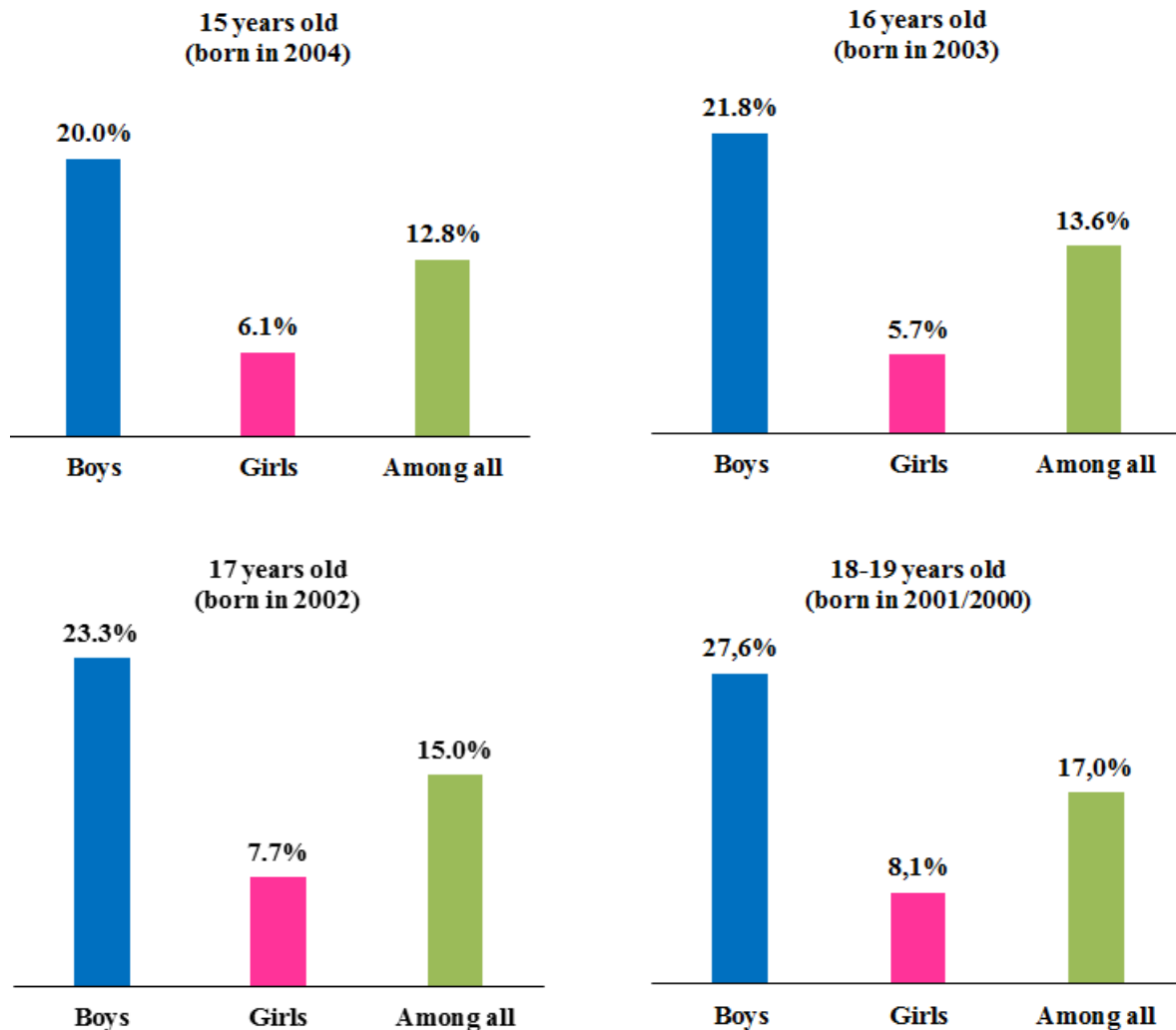
According to the results of such a study in 2019, 85,9% of surveyed adolescents gambled for money in the last 12 months.

With a frequency of two or more times a week, a relatively small proportion of surveyed adolescents gamble – a total of 2,7% (4,9% among boys and 0,7% among girls). One in ten reported (11,4%) playing 1 to 4 times a month for the past 12 months.

The largest proportion of adolescents who gambled on a regular day in the last 12 months spent less than 30 minutes (6,6%). There is a total of 2,2% of players who played for money for two, three or more hours (mostly boys – 3,9% of boys and 0,7% of girls reported such gaming activity).

6,2% of adolescents surveyed reported gambling for more than 2 hours at a time in the last 12 months, with one in ten boys (10.5%) and 2,3% of girls saying so. More often than others, students of vocational education institutions gambled for more than 2 hours at a time during the last 12 months – this was stated by 9,7% of such students.

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



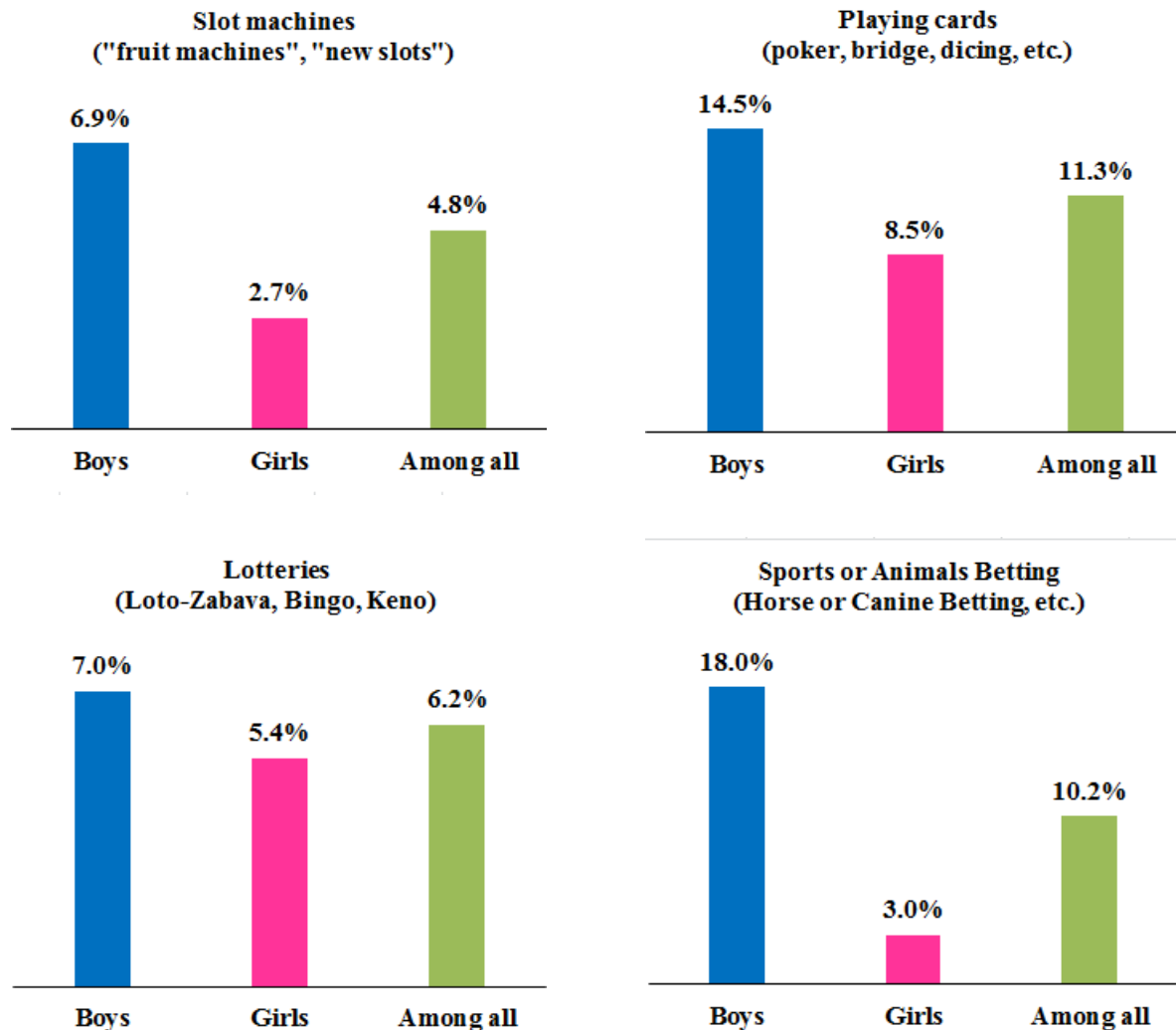
Notes: source – ESPAD survey data for 2019.

Playing cards (poker, bridge, dice, etc.) are the most popular among adolescents – 11,3% of respondents played cards for money for 12 months. Betting in sports or on animals to the liking of every tenth adolescent – 10,2% of respondents bet. It is important to note that this type of game involves mostly boys.

Playing the lottery attracts a total of 6,2% of respondents. The least common type of gambling among adolescents is slot machines (“fruit machines”, “new slots”, etc.) – about 4.8% of respondents play slot machines. There were no significant differences among adolescents attending different educational institutions.

Almost one in ten (9,6%) respondents admitted to using the Internet if they gambled for money in the last 12 months, and 3,7% of adolescents reported that they always used the Internet when gambling for money.

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



Notes: source – ESPAD survey data for 2019.

The value of problematic gambling is calculated on the basis of two indicators. Respondents were asked whether they had ever felt the need to gamble more and more money (5,5% answered “yes”) and whether they had to deceive loved ones about the amount of money spent on the game (2,8 % of answers “yes”).

Among the surveyed adolescents, 6,7% are addicted to gambling. Have a problematic addiction – 1,5% of adolescents who are addicted.

Gambling addiction: affirmative answers of respondents by gender, %

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

Problem gambling in terms of age and gender, %

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

Key findings of the study:

- One third (27,5%) of adolescents surveyed believe that they spend too much time playing computer games. 13,9% – admit that their mood deteriorates due to the lack of ability to play games on a computer, tablet, smartphone, etc.

- A quarter (25,7%) of respondents reported that their parents told them that they spent too much time playing computer games.

- 6,2% of adolescents reported gambling for more than 2 hours at a time in the last 12 months, with one in ten boys (10,5%) and 2,3% of girls saying so.

- Almost one in ten (9,6%) respondents admitted to using the Internet if they gambled for money in the last 12 months.

- Among all respondents, 6,7% are addicted to gambling (10,8% among boys and 2,9% among girls).

- 1,5% of adolescents (2,6% among boys and 0,5% among girls) have a problem addiction to gambling.

Consolidated findings

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

71,5% of all individuals covered with treatment services in 2021 received treatment for opioid use, 20,1% – for poly drug use, 5,5% – for cannabinoid use, 5,5% – for cocaine use. The overwhelming majority were urban residents and young people aged 15 to 35 years.

In Ukraine, the number of opioid substitution therapy patients significantly increased. In 2021, OST services were provided to 17 043 individuals in public healthcare facilities and 2 782 individuals in private healthcare facilities, which is 33,3% more than last year (14 868 persons). It should be emphasized this increase is also due to the inclusion of OST patients of certain private healthcare facilities into statistics.

The prevalence of the lifetime use of any psychoactive substances by Ukrainian students aged 15-17 years is not higher than the European average rate. Thus, around 85,7% of the respondents consumed alcoholic beverages, some 51% smoked tobacco, and 8,7% used cannabinoids. (ESPAD data for 2019).

The activities aimed at preventing and reducing the use of psychoactive substances are carried out both by the state-owned institutions and non-governmental organizations, and are focused on promoting a healthy lifestyle by conducting a variety of educational and awareness-raising activities, distributing personal protective equipment (syringes, condoms, lubricants, etc.), including among the vulnerable groups of population.

Due to the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and relevant quarantine restrictions, many preventive activities could not be implemented.

Given the martial law imposed by the Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 64 of 24 February 2022 “On the Imposition of Martial Law in Ukraine”, and due to intensive hostilities in some regions of Ukraine, as well as limited access to relevant resources in these territories, certain monitoring agents were not able to exercise their powers to the full extent, therefore, the Drug-Related Deaths Indicator is based on data for 2020 in the present report.

The number of deaths related to the use of substances and poisoning has a growing trend over the past five years. The proportion of men in the total number of deaths was nearly 90% in 2020.

Thus, in 2020, there observed an increase in deaths in the age group of 35 to 44 years old, compared to the previous reporting year. At the same time, in the age group of 30 to 54 years old there noticed a growing number of deaths due to methadone use.

The most of deaths referred to opioid-related poisoning (50,3%), including methadone poisoning (38,4%), and poisoning with unspecified drugs (40,9%).

In Ukraine, the largest volumes of seized drugs and psychoactive substances referred to the substances of herbal origin (cannabis). In terms of seizures on completed criminal proceedings in 2021, cannabis ranks first (64%), heroin ranks second (21,5), cocaine ranks third (5,1%), next followed by poppy straw (1,8%) and amphetamines (1,4%). So, on average, 94% of all seizures referred to 5 substances.

Suggestions on how to improve drug and alcohol monitoring in Ukraine

1. To enhance the coordination of the central executive bodies in order to implement the key objectives defined in the Draft Strategy for State Drug Policy for the period up to 2030, as well as to fulfill scheduled activities aimed at as follows:

- reducing substance demand;
- promoting a healthy lifestyle;
- early detecting addiction problems and other mental and behavioral disorders due to the substance use;
- providing timely and high-quality medical and socio-psychological, assistance, rehabilitation and resocialization services to people who need them;
- expanding the access to harm reduction programs;
- contributing to further development of palliative care and opioid substitution treatment (OST);
- combating stigma and discrimination;
- ensuring the availability of drug-containing medications for medical purposes;
- transiting from the punitive anti-drug measures to the treatment and prevention ones, as the most fruitful in the context of overcoming drug addiction;
- improving control over illicit drug trafficking;
- combating distributing drugs, psychoactive substances and precursors, including through Internet and social media

2. To improve the national warning system for new substances detected in Ukraine in order to prevent the circulation of their analogues or new forms, namely:

- mechanisms for collecting data on new substances that are not under control (chemical composition, forms of use, sales channels, trade names, origin);
- mechanisms for including new drugs, psychotropic substances and their analogues to the relevant lists and tables;
- integration with the early warning system of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA);

3. To work out a draft legal act on introducing research on drugs and their metabolites in wastewater as an alternative and supplementary approach to assess the prevalence of substance use in Ukraine.

4. To develop cooperation with monitoring data providers in order to get up-to-date and comprehensive information/data on the indicators defined in the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 689 of 10 July 10 2019 “Issues of Monitoring Drug and Alcohol Situation in Ukraine”, namely:

- to review data breakdown approaches;
- to review the existing list of monitoring data providers;
- to suggest (when necessary) new monitoring data providers;
- to improve data reporting forms;
- to develop questionnaires to obtain additional informational and analytical data from monitoring data providers for better understanding of cause-and-effect relationship and the logic of certain phenomena and/or trends;
- to transit from a unified and generic to an individual and mutually beneficial approach to the cooperation with monitoring data providers.