

Drug Related Deaths in Ukraine

2015-2020

Kyiv 2022

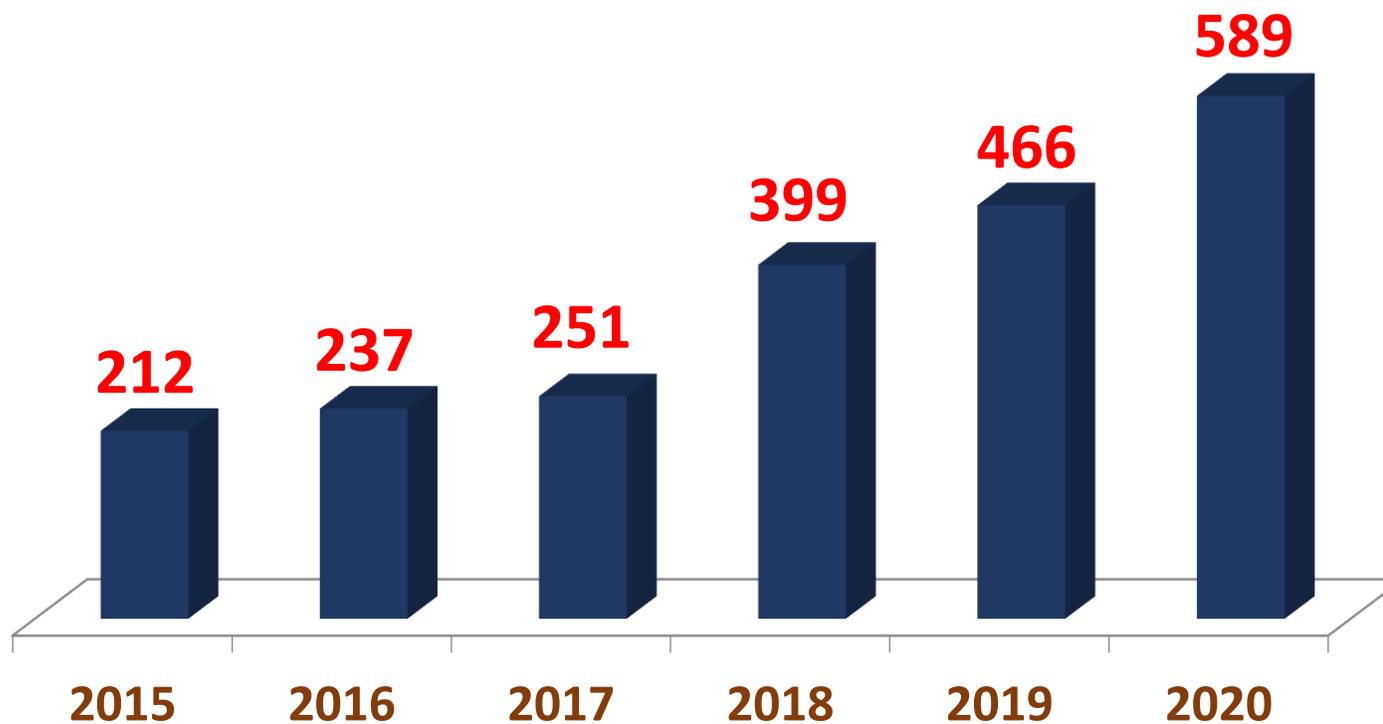
DRD Indicator in Ukraine

- 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 (overdose). This information is provided by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine ([Ukrstat](#)).
- This indicator incorporates quantitative data on people who died as a result of using substances: by gender, by age group and cause of death – according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems ([ICD-10](#)).
- The second data source is Forensic Testing Bureaus. At that, the data provided by these bureaus are inaccurate and therefore hard to be called illustrative.

Trends for Drug-Related Deaths in Ukraine

Sustainable annual increase in the drug-related deaths

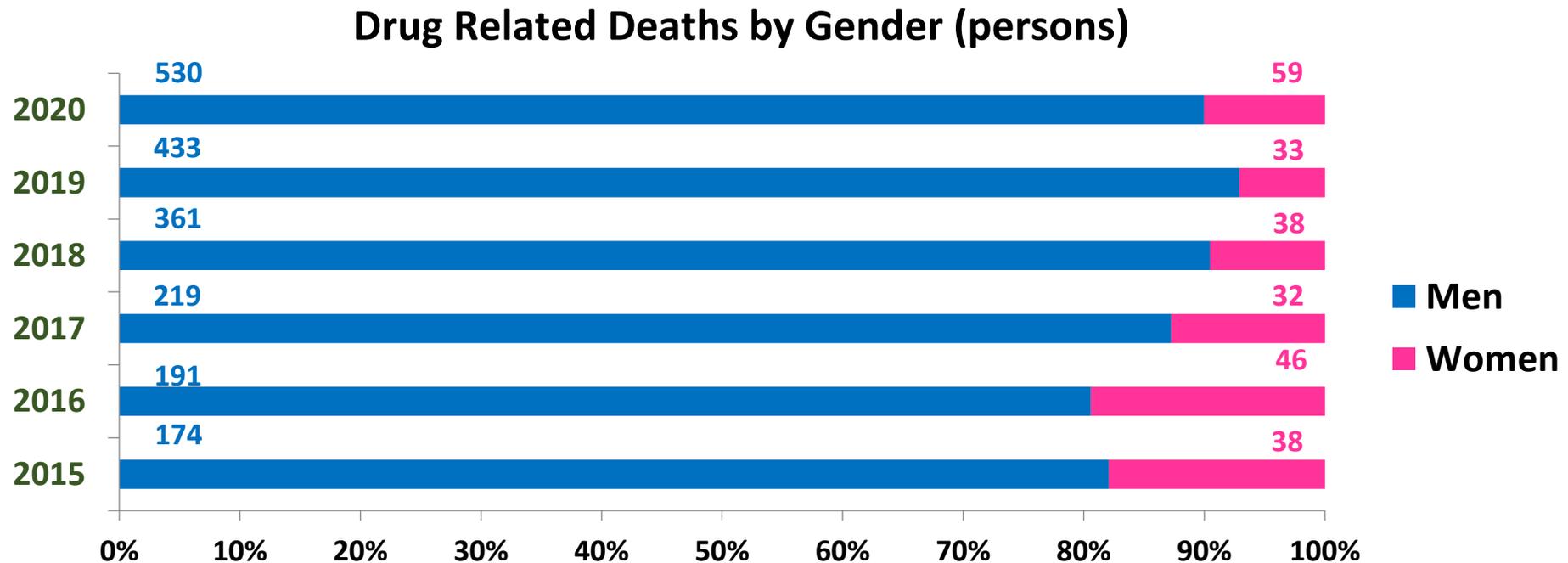
Drug-Related Deaths (persons)



Trends for Drug-Related Deaths in Ukraine

Drug-related deaths by gender:

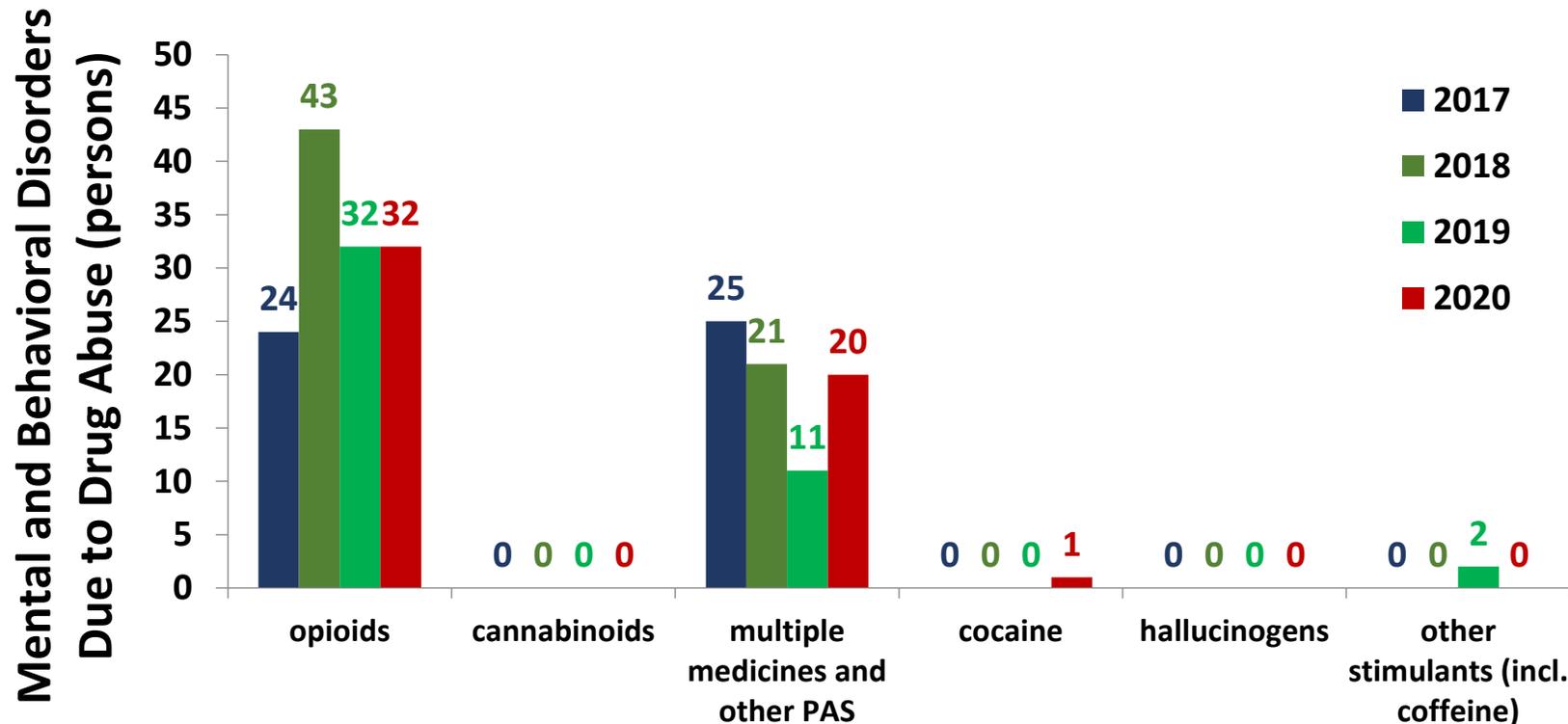
- Men's deaths have been sustainably growing up
- Women's deaths have increased importantly in 2020



Trends for Drug-Related Deaths in Ukraine

Deaths related to the mental and behavioral disorders caused by drug use are due to **two key factors of abuse**:

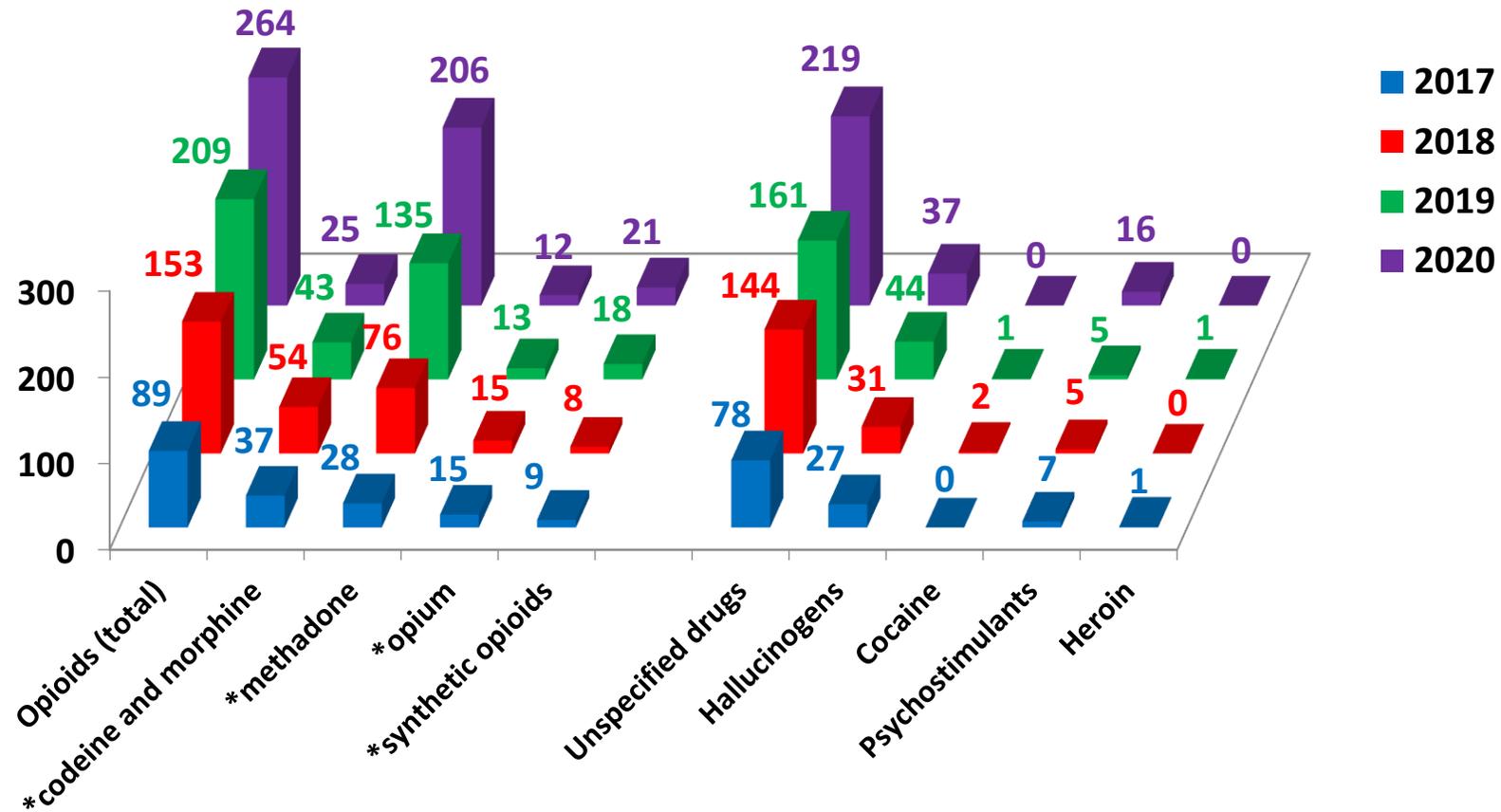
- 1) Abuse of opioids
- 2) Abuse of several medications and other substances



Trends for Drug-Related Deaths in Ukraine

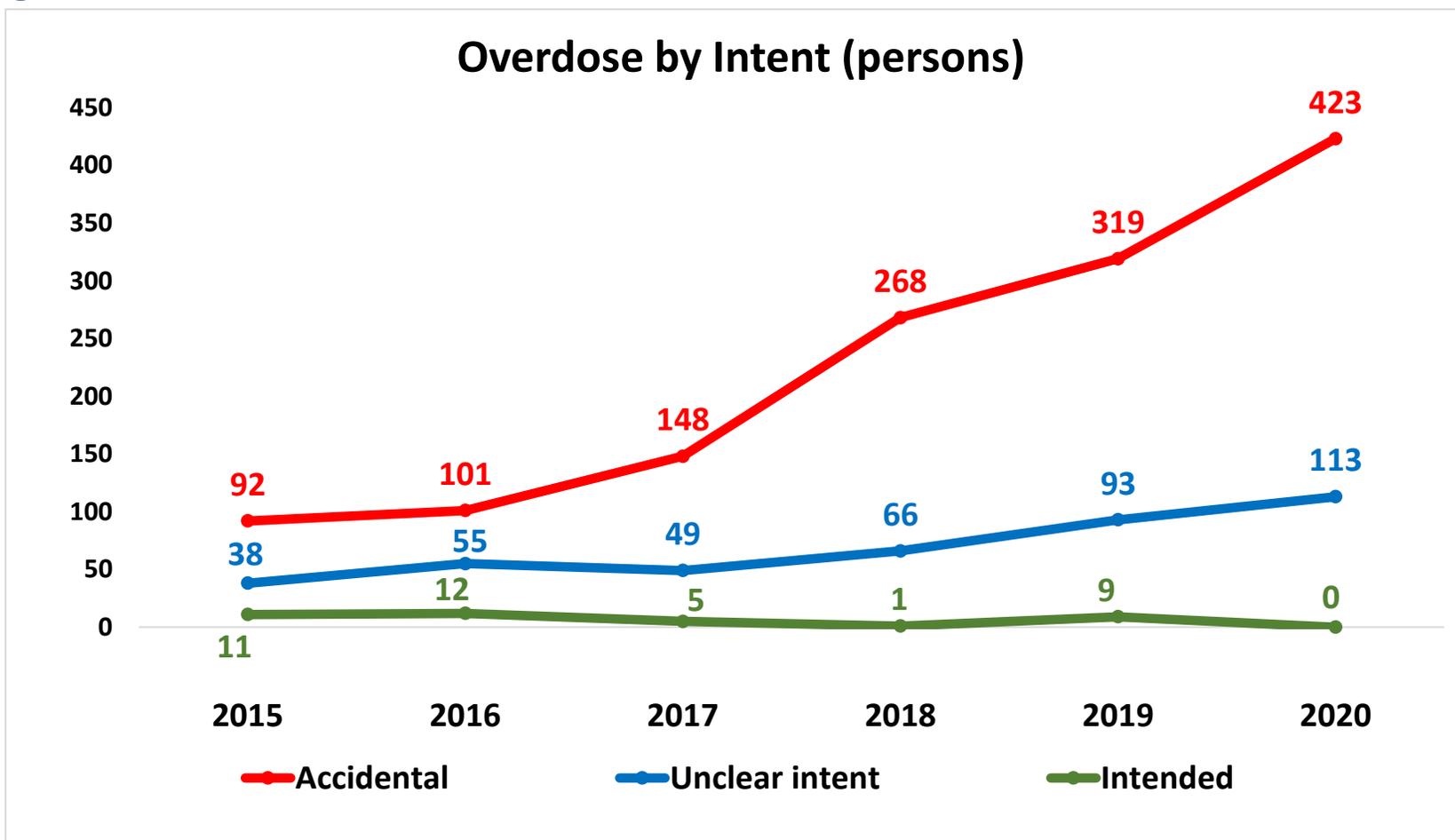
The increase in the total number of deaths due to poisoning (overdose) with substances is mainly due to the overdose with methadone and unspecified drugs.

Overdose with Substances (persons)



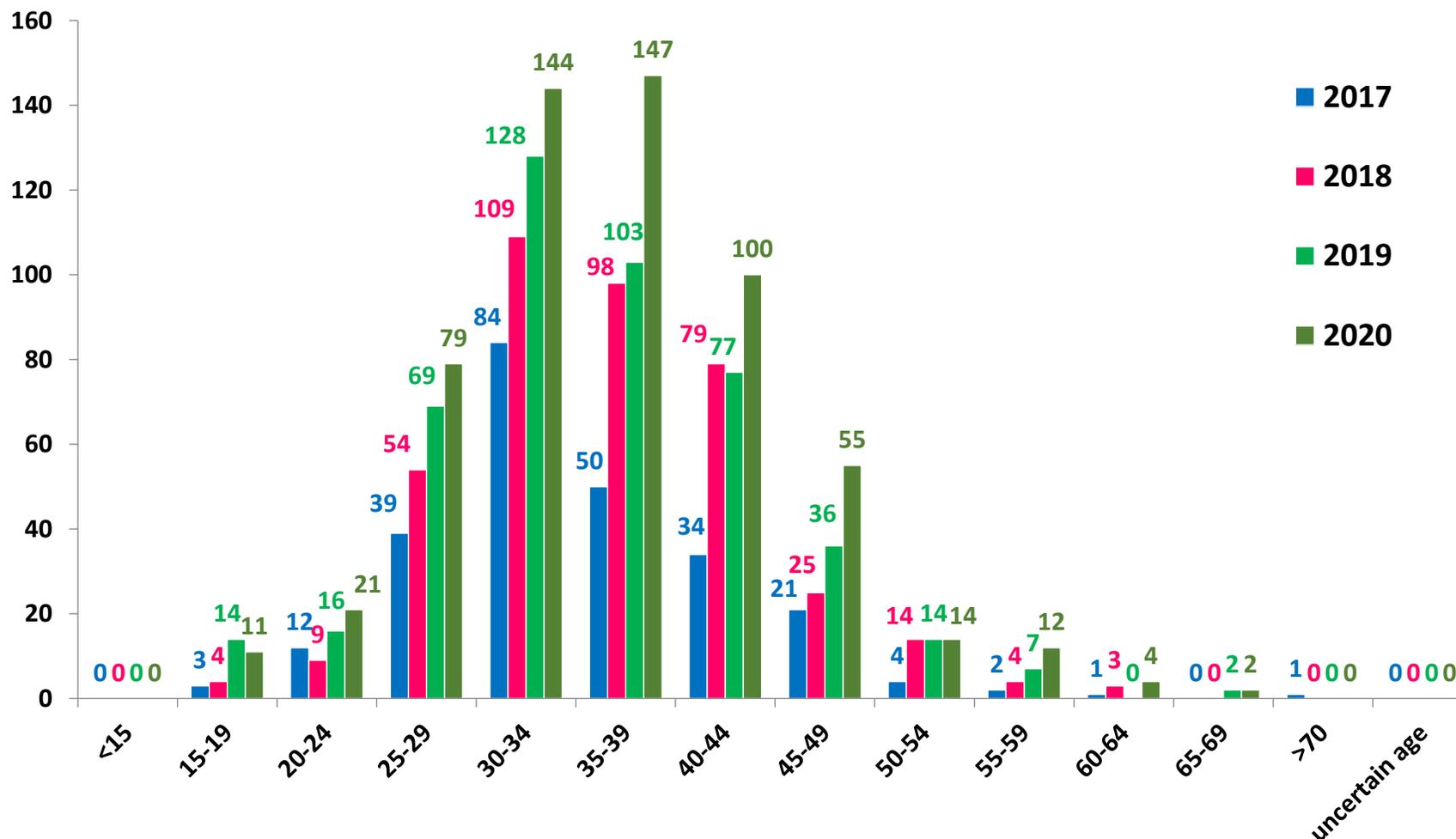
Trends for Drug-Related Deaths in Ukraine

As for intent, the most part of intoxications (overdoses) were accidental, and this indicator has been notably increasing.



Trends for Drug-Related Deaths in Ukraine

In terms of age groups, the largest number of deaths is in the age group of 20 to 44 years old.



Summary

DRD trends:

- Drug-related deaths have been growing from year to year.
- Men's deaths have been increasing sustainably, while the women's deaths dropped up only in 2020.
- Deaths related to the mental and behavioral disorders caused by drug use are due to the abuse of "opioids" and "several medications and other substances"
- The greatest number of deaths are in the age group of 30-39.
- Drastic increase in methadone overdose, especially in the age group of 30-54.
- The most of overdoses are accidental, and this indicator has been notably increasing.

DRD Challenges

- **Data collection:**

The only one reliable source of data is the [State Statistics Service](#). The data are also collected from Forensic Testing Bureaus, but they are unrepresentative mainly due to human factor.

- **Inaccurate identification of narcotic substances that caused deaths**

No licensing and therefore sufficient funding of Forensic Testing Bureaus (chemicals, equipment, modernization, software, staff training, etc.).

- **Lack of the Single State Agency that would coordinate all drug-related issues and activities of the relevant national authorities and services**

All the efforts of setting up such an agency (National Drug Coordination Board) failed due to poor interest support at governmental level.