

Drug-Related Offences in Ukraine

in 2018-2022

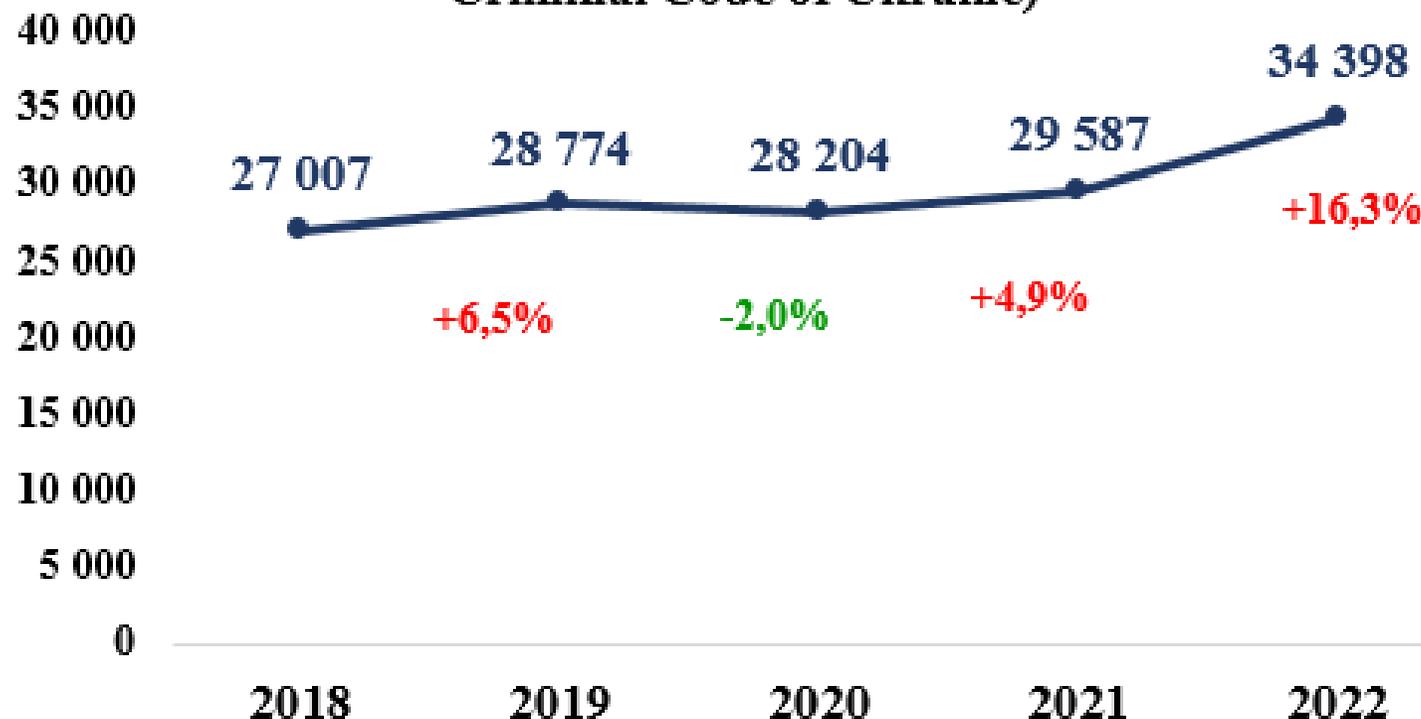
Kyiv

2023

Drug-Related Criminal Offences

Registered drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022

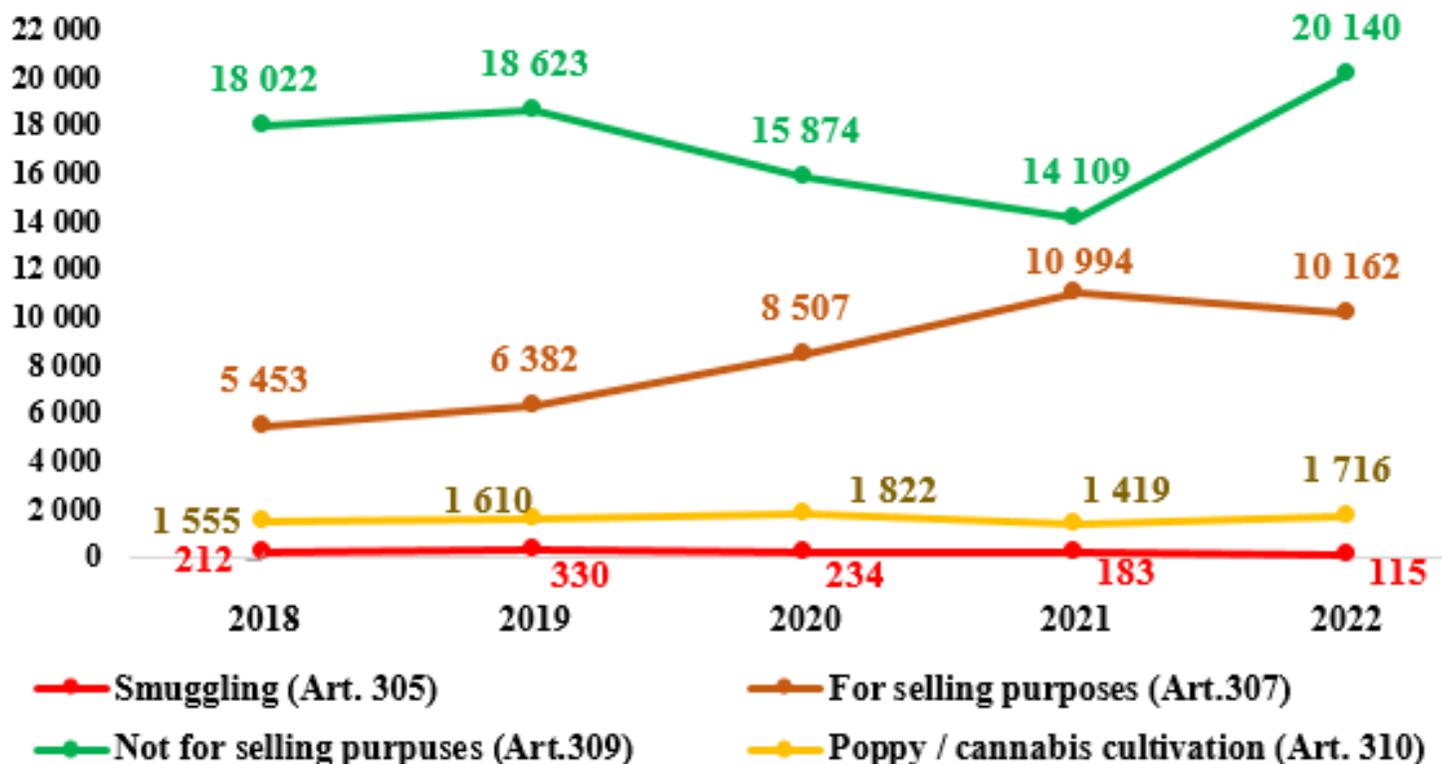
Total number of registered drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022 (Articles 305-327 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine)



- Criminal liability for drug-related offenses is provided for in [Section XIII of the Criminal Code of Ukraine](#).
- Since 2019, there is a trend of increase in the total number of drug-related criminal offenses.
- The exception was in 2020, when there was a slight decrease (by 2,0%) in the total number of criminal offenses.
- In 2022, this figure increased significantly (by 16,3%!).

Registered drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by type of offence

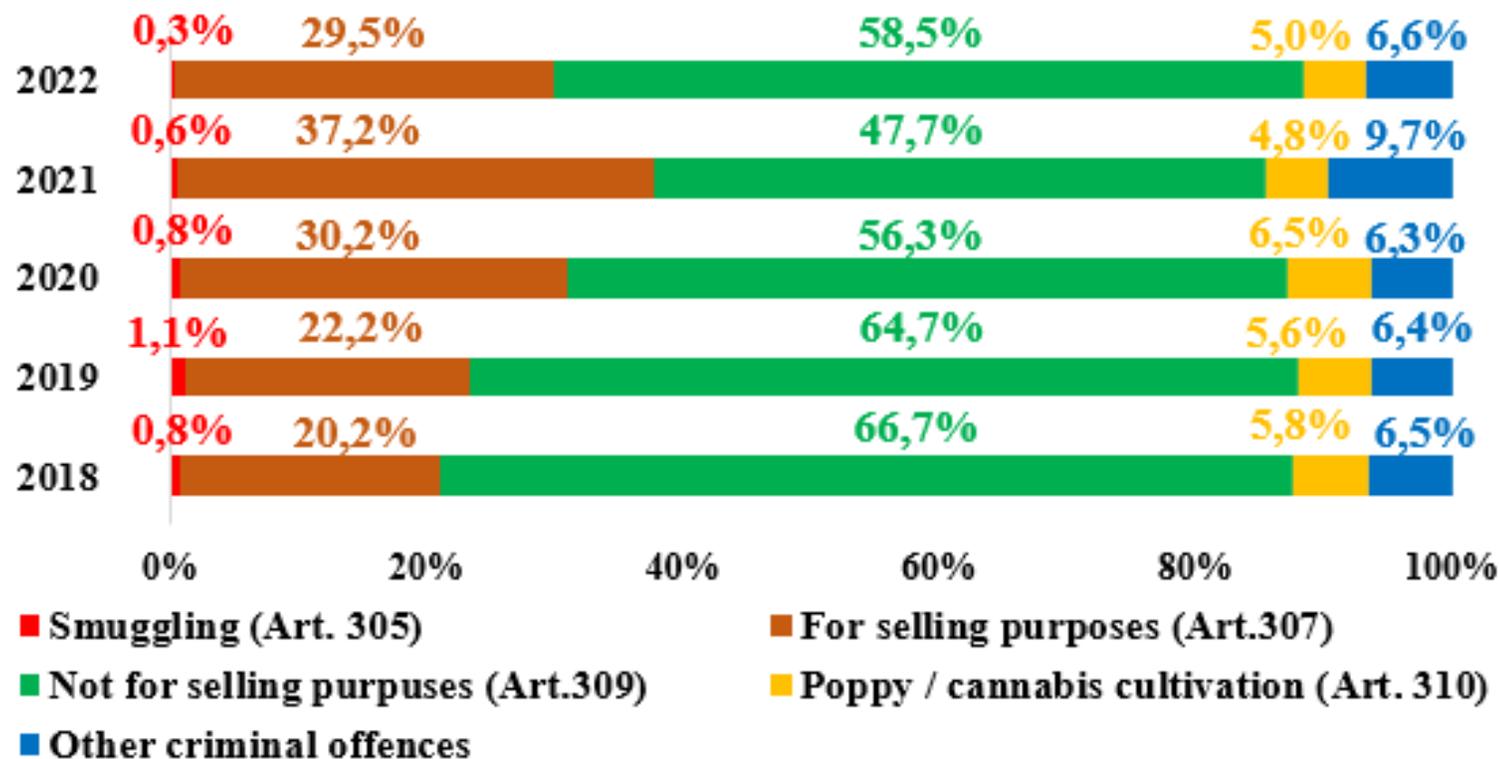
Number of registered drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by offence



- Trend of decrease in number of offences not for selling purposes up to 2022
- Trend of increase in number of offences for selling purposes up to 2022
- Trend of increase in number of offences related to poppy and cannabis cultivation with an exception in 2021
- Increase in offences in 2022:
 - Not for selling purposes (+42,7%)
 - Poppy / cannabis cultivation (+20,9%)
- Decrease in offences in 2022:
 - Smuggling (-37,2%)
 - For selling purposes (-7,6%)

Registered drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by type of offence

Proportion of registered drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022 by offence

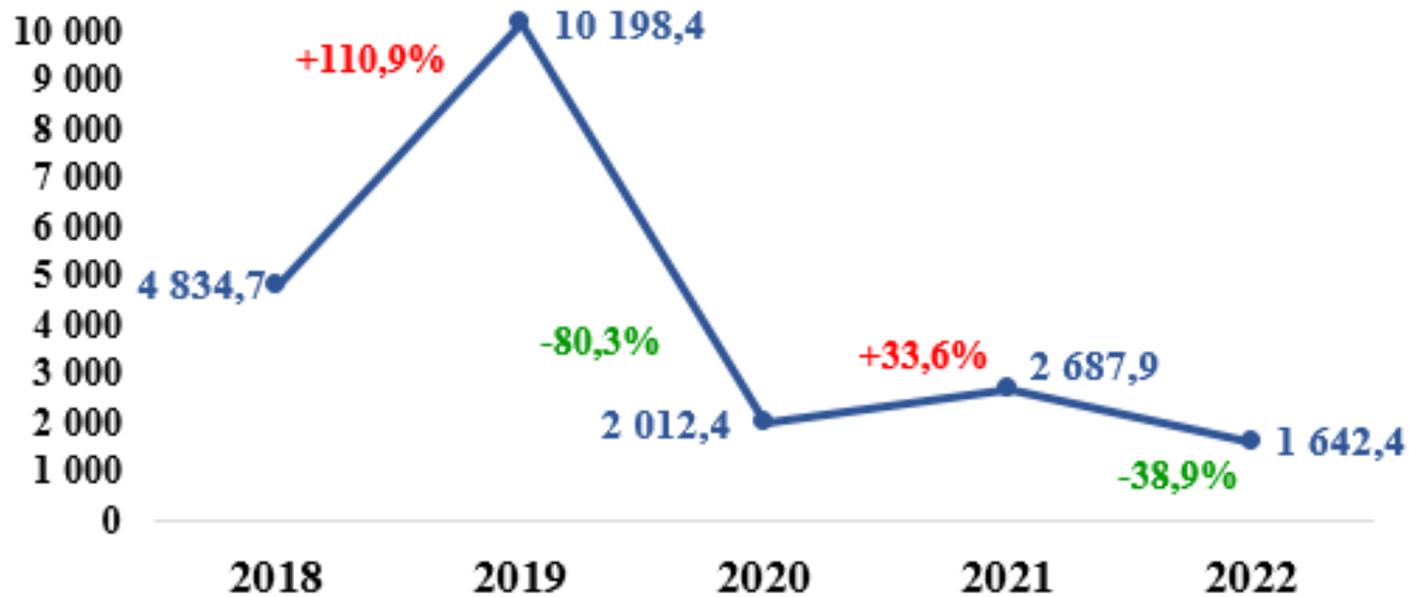


Average proportion of registered criminal offences by their type:

- Smuggling – 0,7%
- For selling purposes – 27,8%
- Not for selling purposes – 58,8%
- Poppy / cannabis cultivation – 5,5%
- Other offences – 7,1%

Volume of seized substances on initiated criminal proceedings in 2018-2022 to be forwarded for investigation (kilograms)

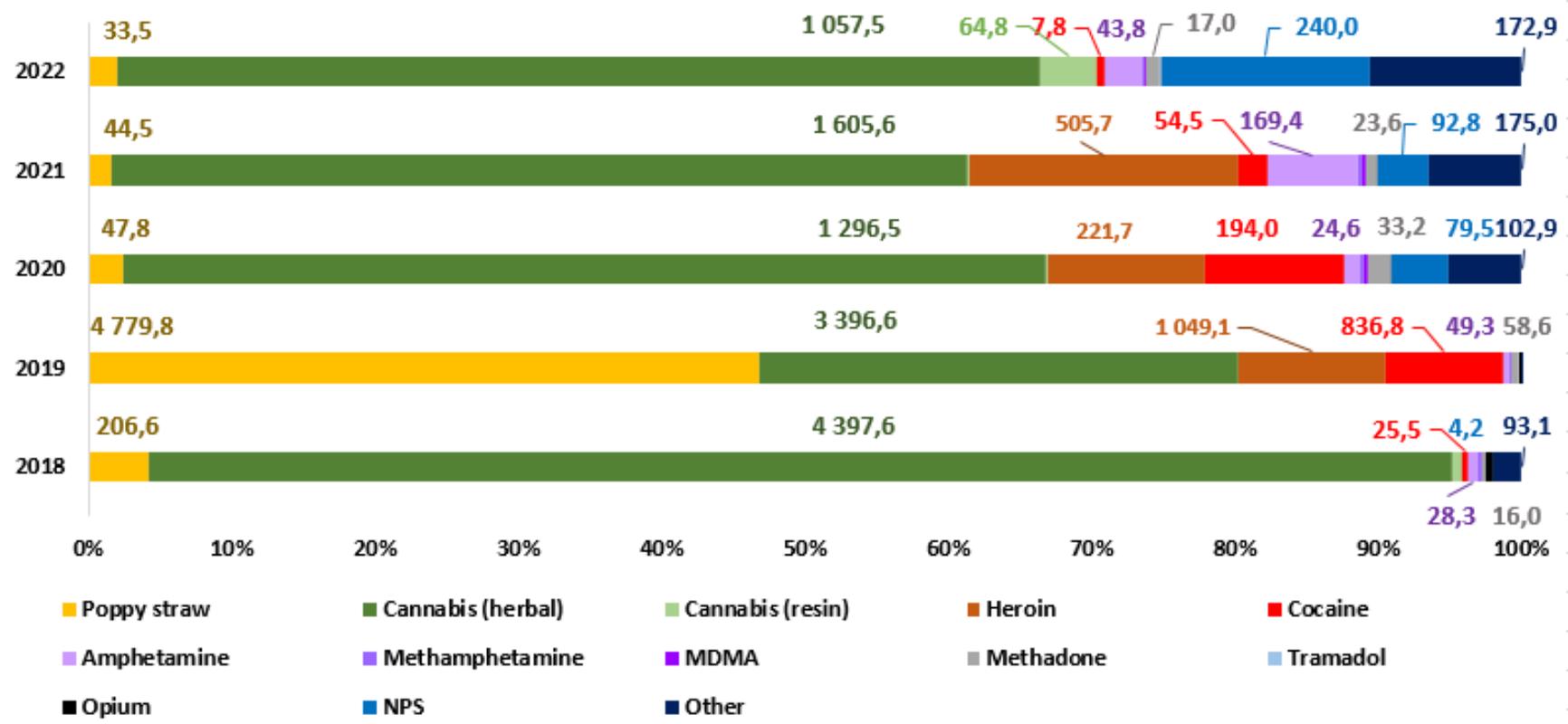
Seized substances on drug-related criminal proceedings to be forwarded for investigation in 2018-2022 (kg)



- The data set refers to the seizures at the beginning of pretrial investigation, i.e. volumes seized, tested and documented by law-enforcement authorities “on the spot”. Then the initiated criminal proceedings is subject to investigation and after that – to court trial.
- In 2019, there was a sharp increase in seizures (by 110,9%) with the essential decrease in seizures in 2020 (by 80,3%).
- In 2022, the volumes of seized substances dropped down by 38,9% due to the war in Ukraine.

Volume of seized substances on initiated criminal proceedings in 2018-2022 to be forwarded for investigation (kilograms)

Volumes of seized substances on initiated criminal proceedings to be forwarded for investigation (kg)



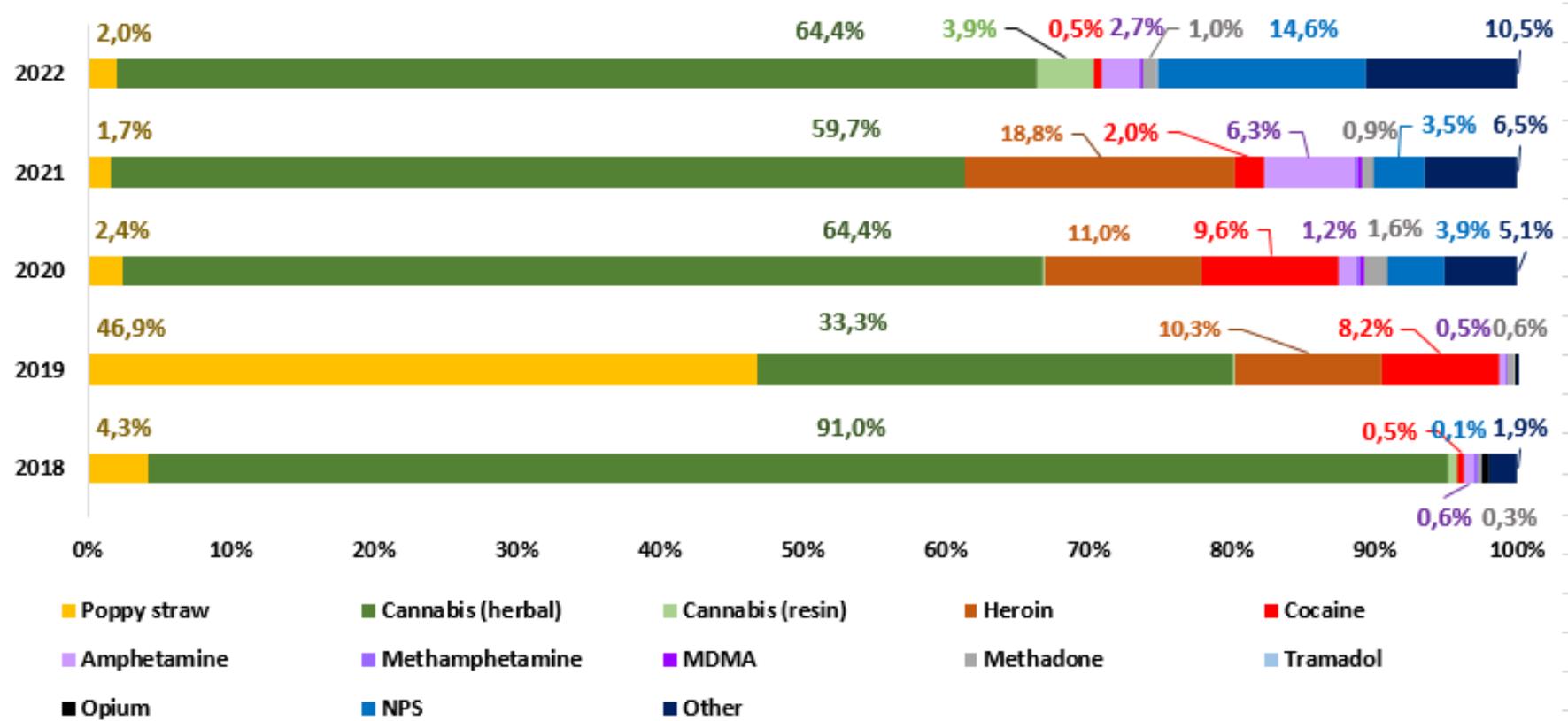
- Herbal cannabis it the mostly seized substance in Ukraine
- General trend of decrease in seizures of “traditional” substances
- Trend of increase in seizures of synthetic cathinones and undefined substances.

Top-3 substances seized in 2022:

- Cannabis (herbal and resin) – 68,3% of all substances
- NPS – 14,6%
- Amphetamine – 2,7%

Proportion of seized substances on initiated criminal proceedings in 2018-2022 to be forwarded for investigation (%)

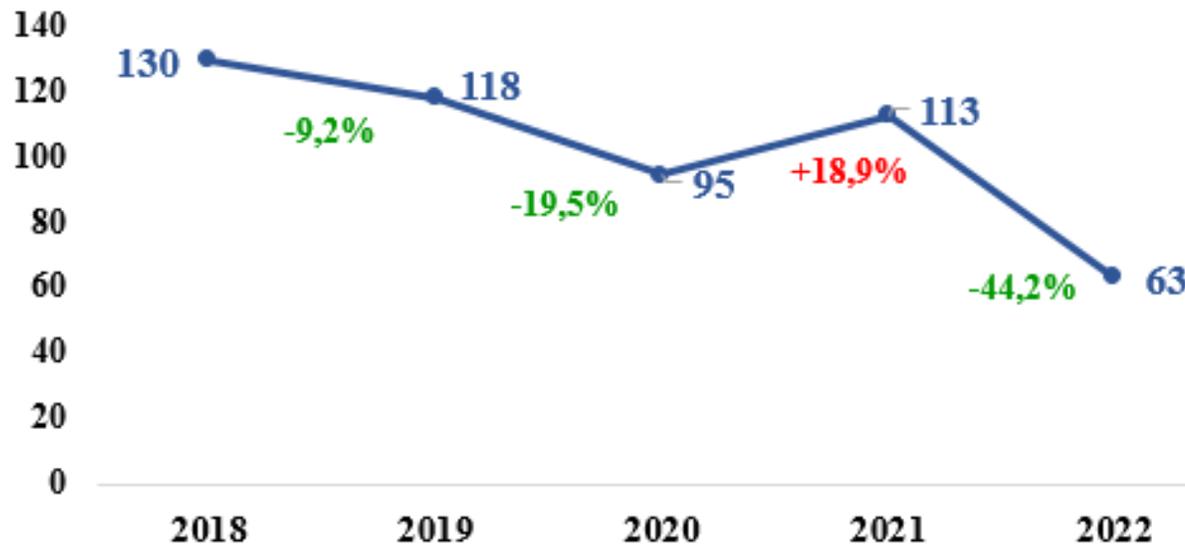
Proportion of seized substances on initiated criminal proceedings to be forwarded for investigation (%)



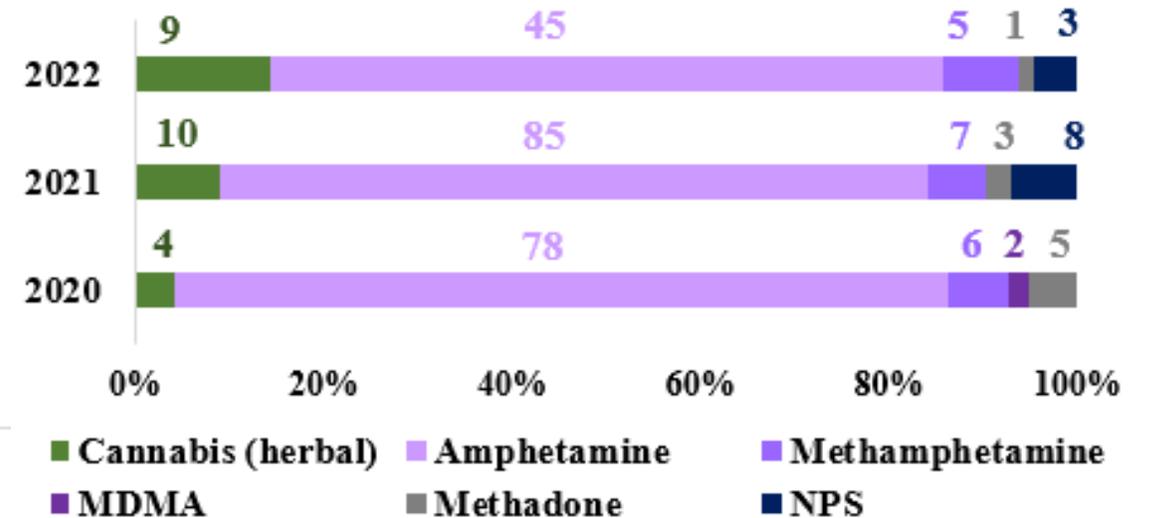
- From 2019, trend of decrease in seizures of poppy straw.
- Seizures of “transit drugs” like heroin and cocaine, as well as imported drugs like MDMA decreased in 2022 due to broken drug trafficking channels because of the war in Ukraine.

Dismantled drug laboratories

Number of clandestine drug laboratories dismantled by the Police and Security Service in 2018-2022



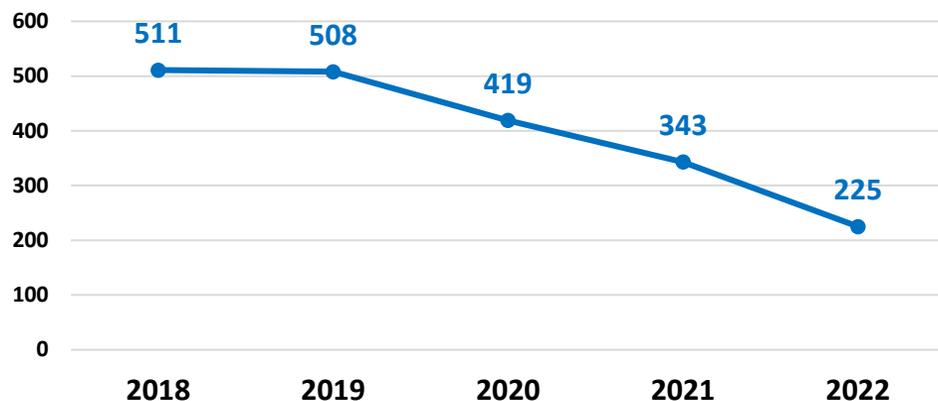
Number of clandestine laboratories, dismantled by the Police and Security Service in 2020-2022, by produced substance



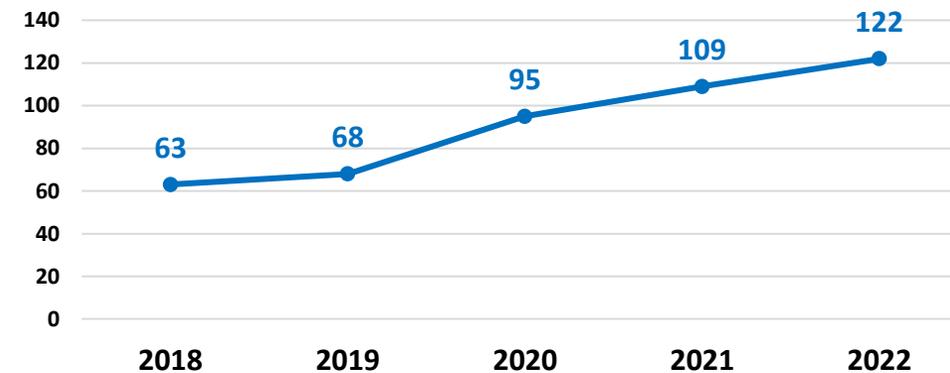
- Substance breakdown data is only available for 2020- 2022.
- Amphetamine is the top-1 substance produced in clandestine laboratories with the proportion of 82,1%, 75,2% and 71,4% in 2020-2022, respectively.
- Trend of increase in proportion production of NPS (synthetic cathinones) which proportion increased up to 7,1% in 2021 with a decrease by 32,7% in 2022, at that, the share of methamphetamine production slightly increased up to 7,9% in 2022 (in 2020 & 2021 it was 6,3% and 6,2%, respectively).

Some results of National Police's combating drug-related crime in 2018-2022

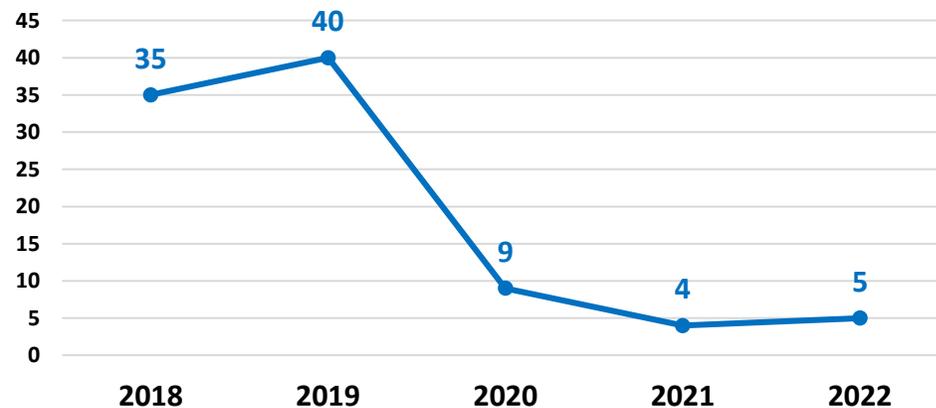
Drug dens closed by the Police



Organized drug crime groups exposed by the Police

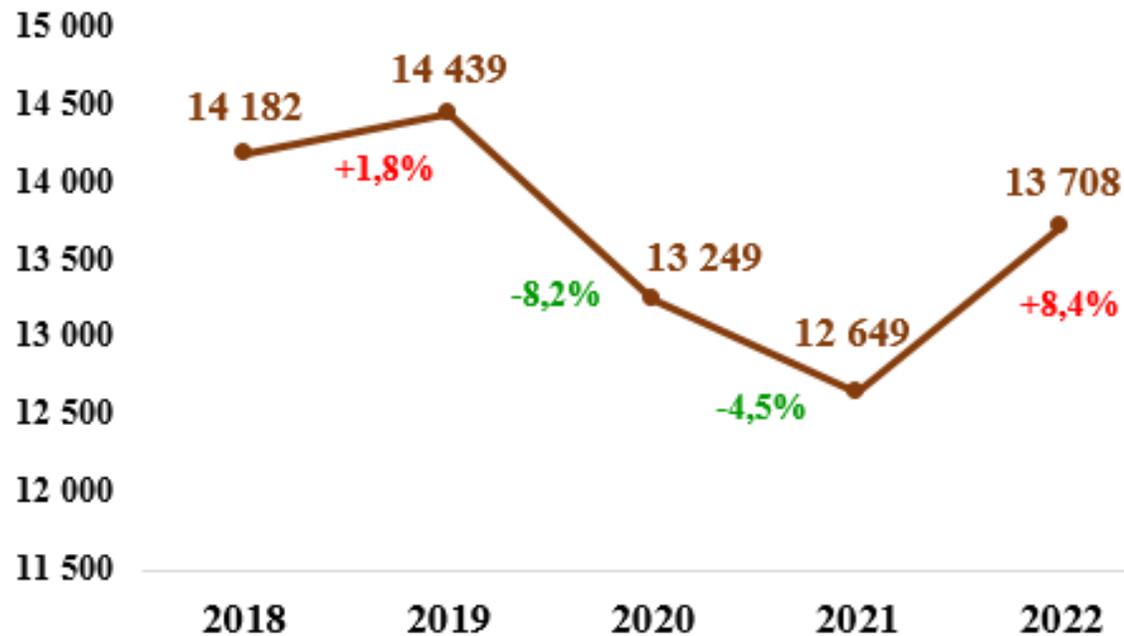


International drug trafficking channels blocked by Police



Individuals who committed drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022

Total number of individuals notified of suspicion of committing drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022 (Articles 305-327 of Criminal Code of Ukraine)

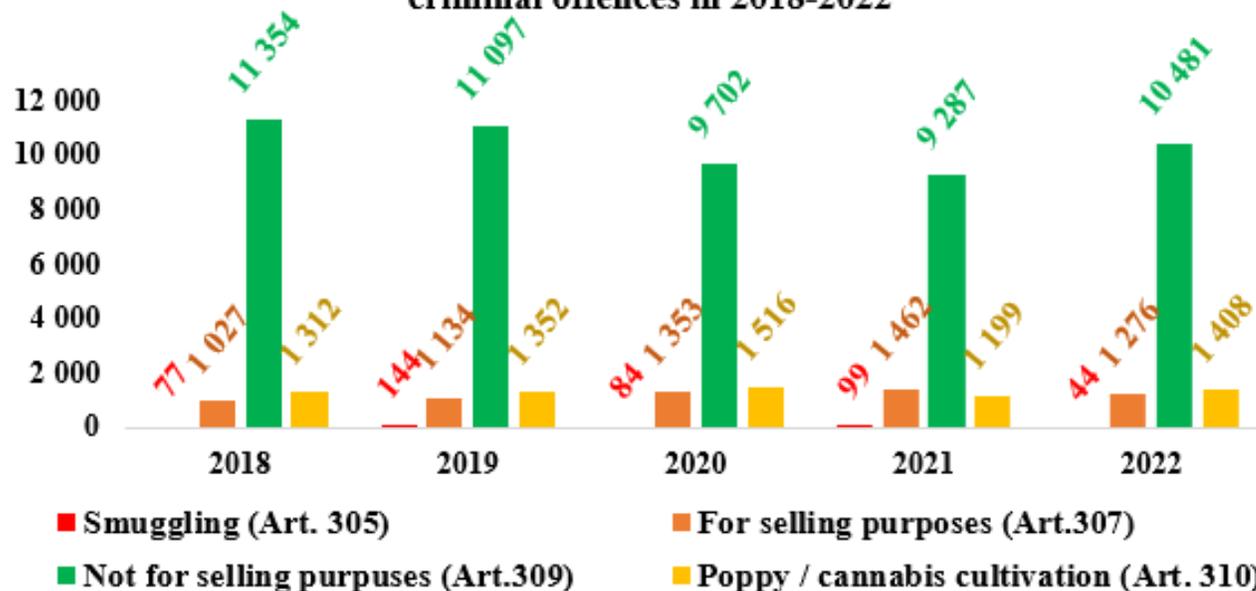


Total number of identified individuals who committed drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022 (Articles 305-327 of Criminal Code of Ukraine)

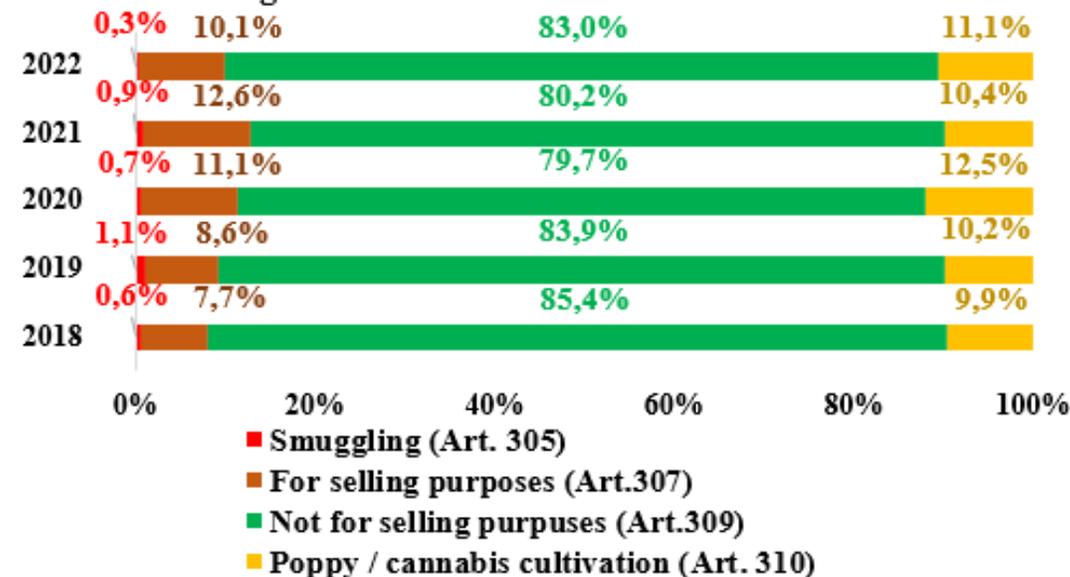


Identified individuals who committed drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by type of offence

Number of identified individuals who committed drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022



Proportion of identified individuals who committed drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022

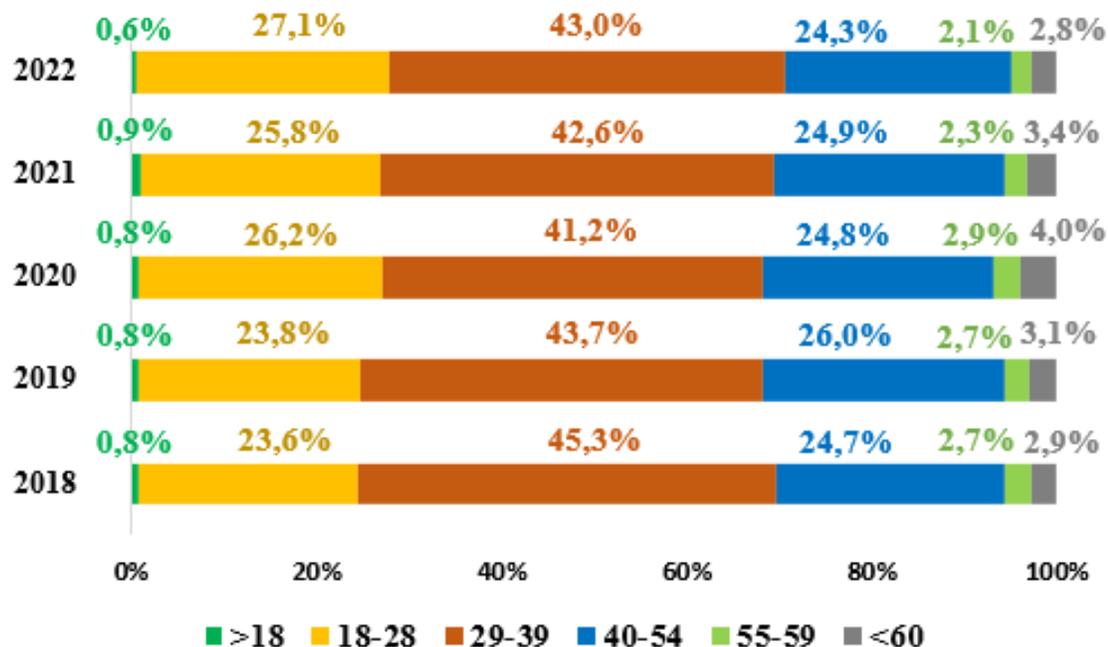


- Most of identified individuals committed drug-related offences not for selling purposes (82,4% in average), followed by those who committed offences related to poppy / cannabis cultivation (10,8%) and for selling purposes (10,0%).

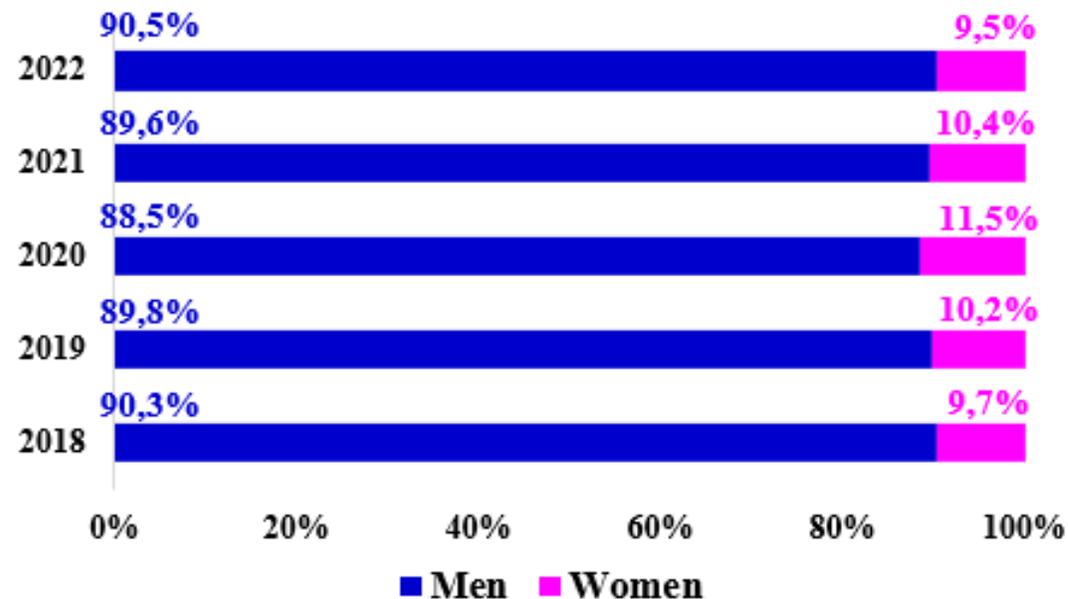
Source: [Prosecutor General's Office](#)

Identified individuals who committed drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by age group and gender

Proportion of identified individuals by age group



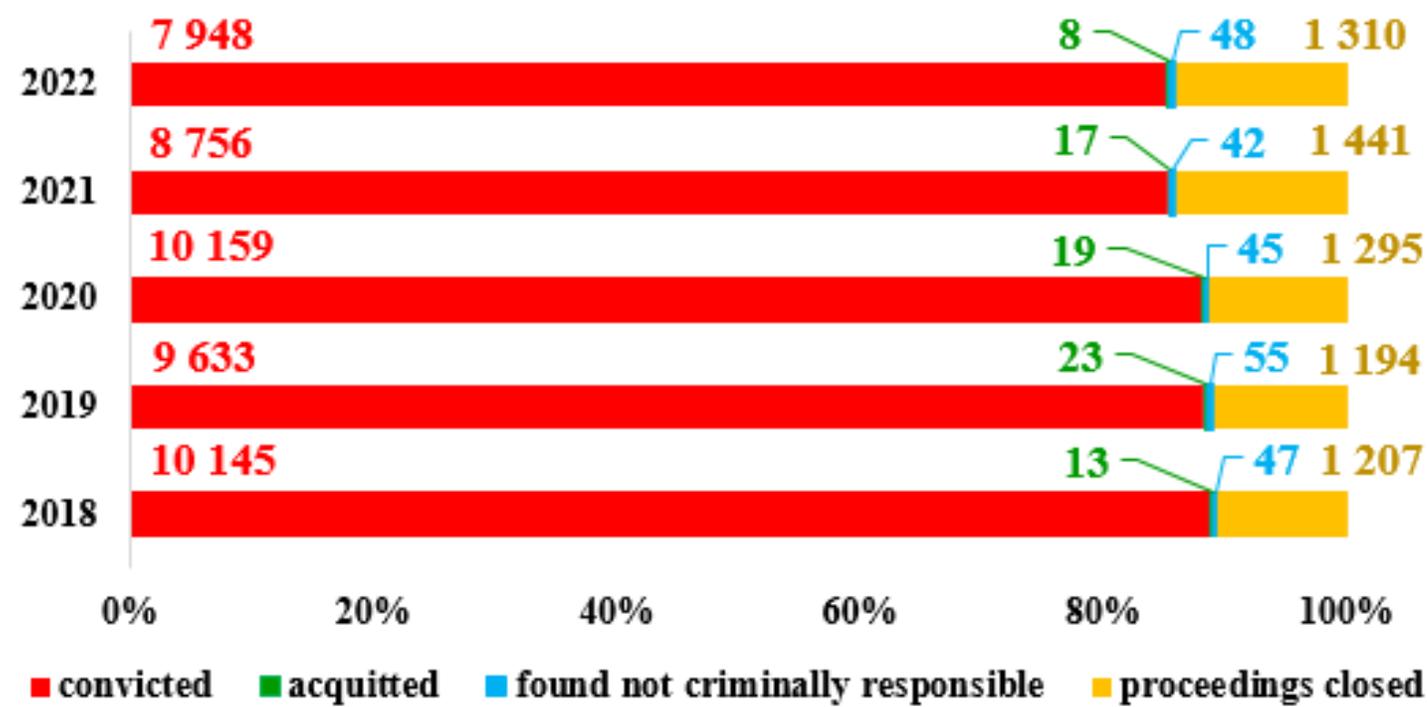
Proportion of identified individuals by Gender



- 89,7% (in average) of identified offenders are men, and this trend remain unchanged during 2018-2022.
- 43,2% (in average) of identified offenders represent the age group of 29-39 years old, and this trend remains sustainable during 2018-2022.
- 25,3% (in average) of identified offenders belong to the age group 18-28, and another 25,0% - to the age group of 40-54.

Persons who got the court decisions entered into force for drug-related criminal offenses in 2018-2022, by court decision

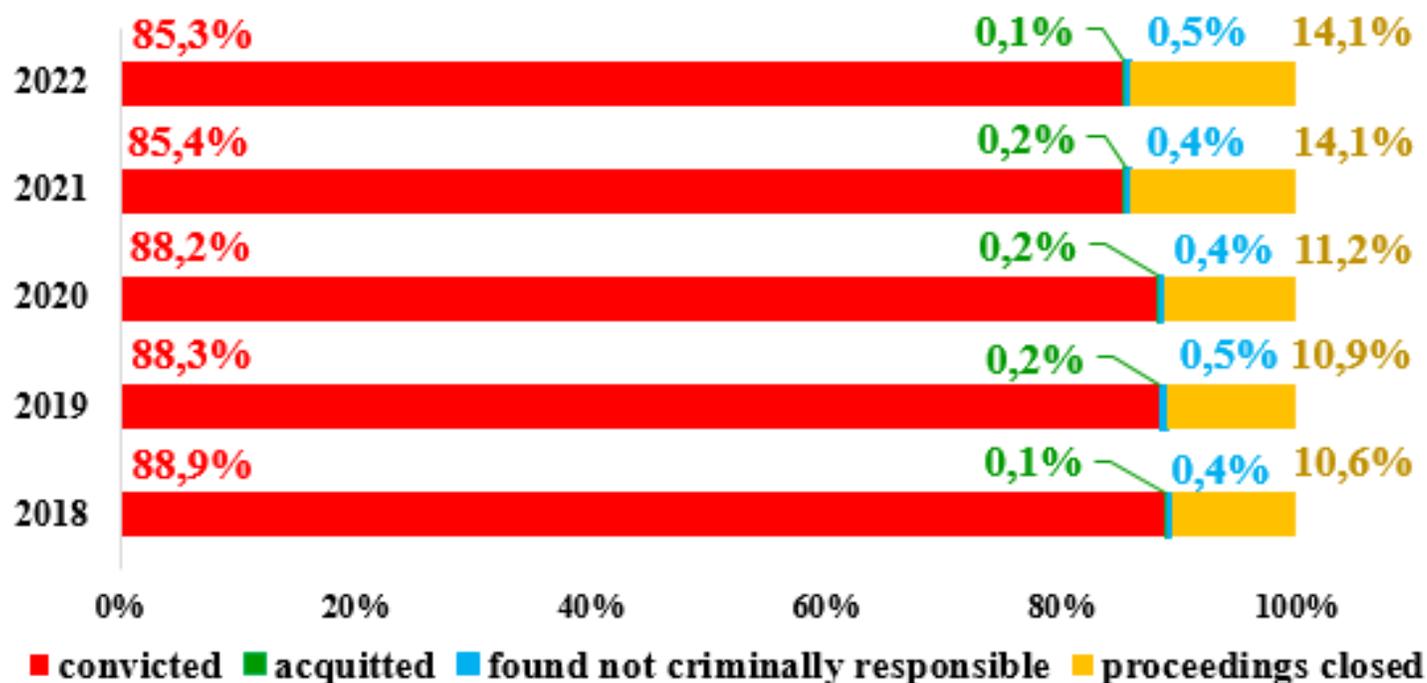
Number of persons who got the court decisions entered into force for drug-related offenses in 2018-2022



- Trend of decrease in the number of persons that were convicted by courts for drug-related criminal offences.
- Trend of increase in the number of persons who got the court decision on closing the criminal proceedings on drug-related criminal offences.
- The number of persons that were found not criminally responsible remains barely unchanged.

Persons who got the court decisions entered into force for drug-related criminal offenses in 2018-2022, by court decision

Proportion of persons who got the court decisions entered into force for drug-related offenses in 2018-2022

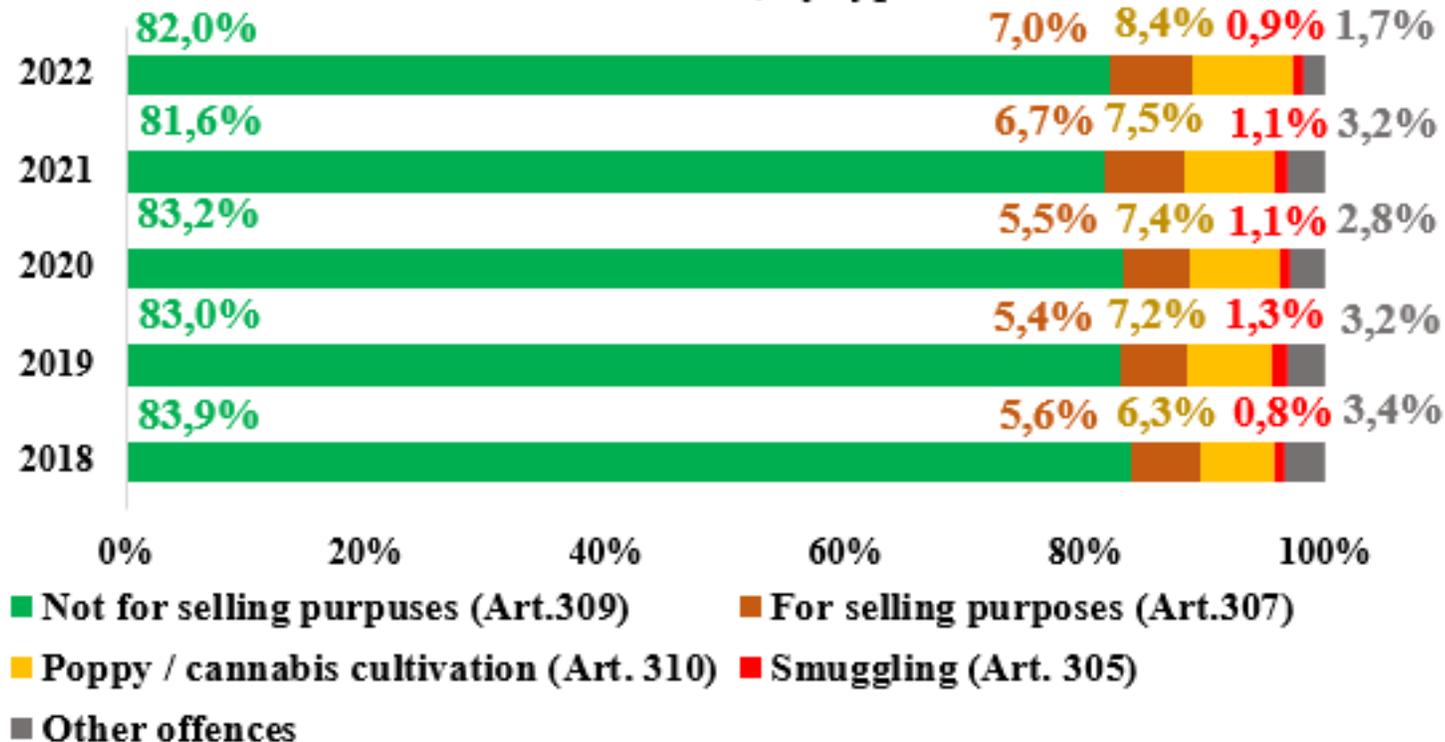


In average:

- 87,2% of persons were convicted by courts for drug-related criminal offences.
- 12,2% of persons got their criminal proceedings closed.
- 0,4% of persons were declared insane and subject to compulsory medical interventions.
- Just very few persons were judged acquitted.

Persons who were convicted by courts for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by type of offence

Proportion of persons convicted for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by type of offence



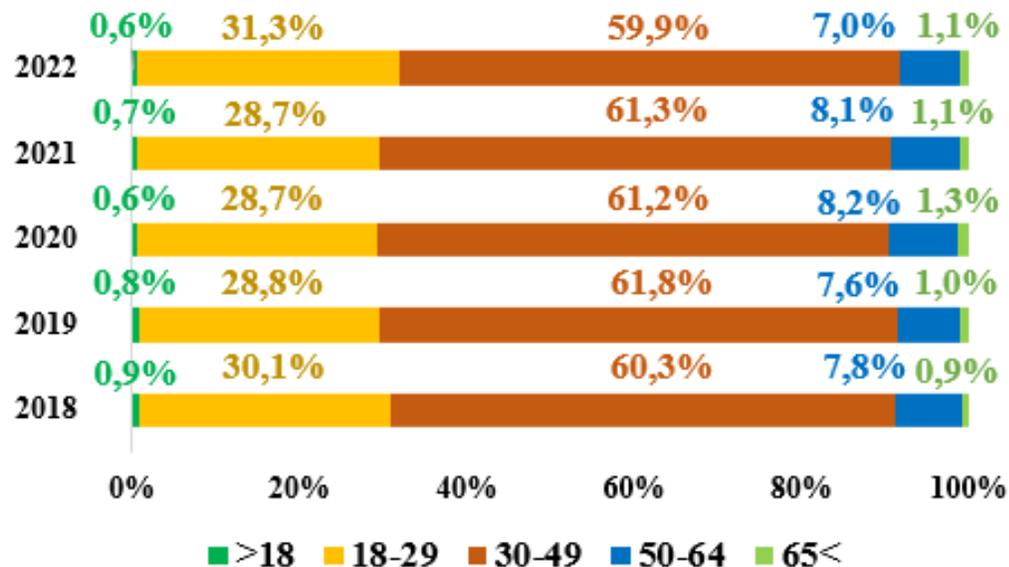
- The proportion of drug-related criminal offences remains nearly unchanged in 2018-2022.

In average:

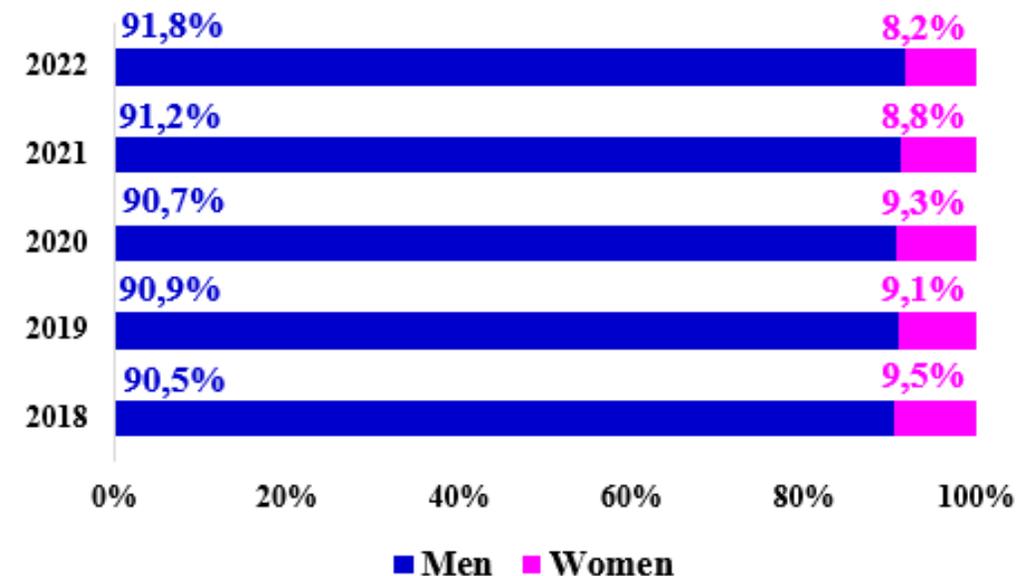
- 82,7% of persons are convicted for drug-related criminal offences not for selling purposes.
- 7,3% – for poppy / cannabis cultivation.
- 6,1% – for selling purposes.
- Only 1,0% - for smuggling.

Persons who were convicted by courts for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by age group and gender

Proportion of persons convicted for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by age group (%)



Proportion of persons convicted for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by gender (%)

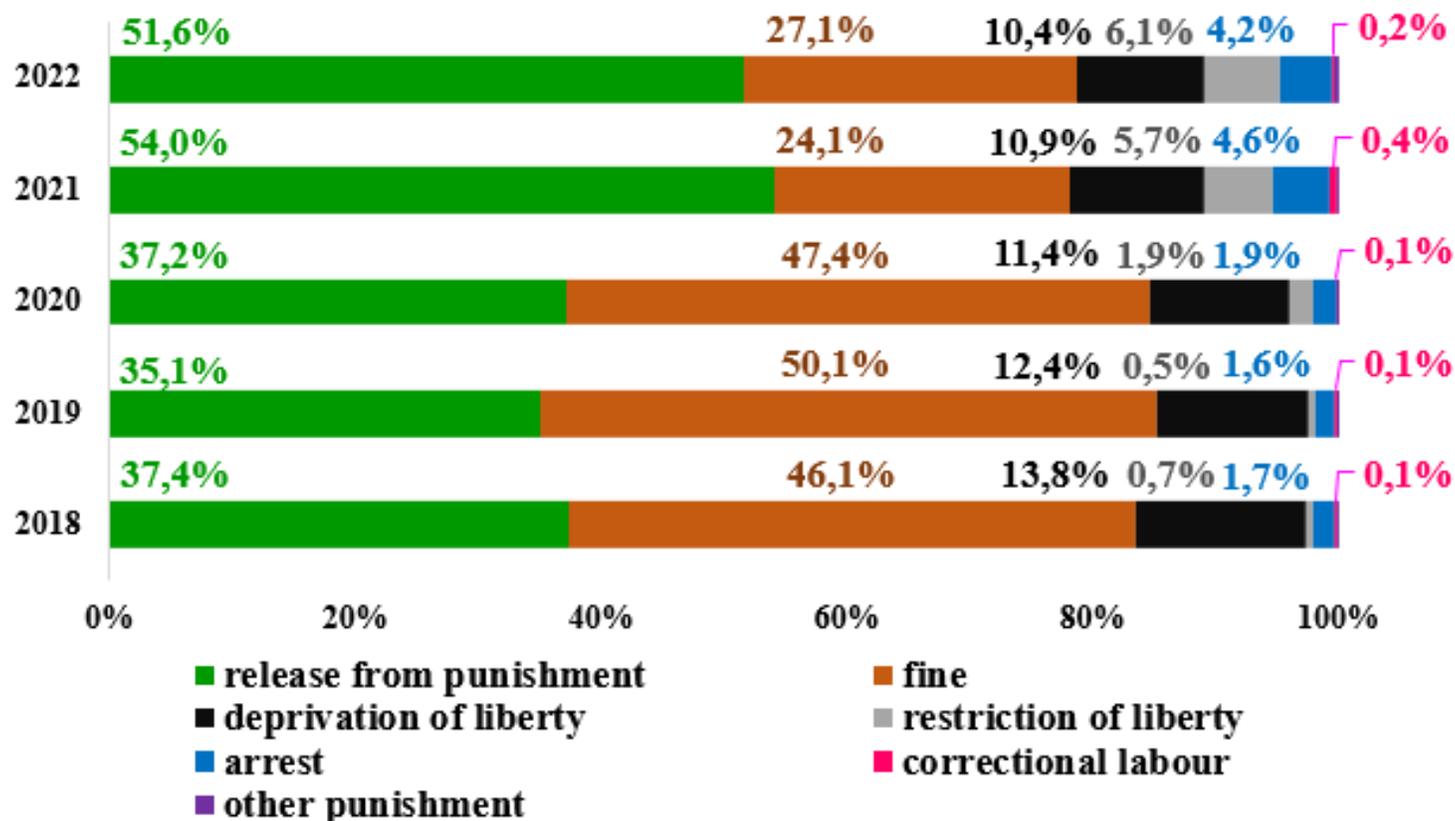


- 91,0% (in average) of convicted persons are men, and this trend remains unchanged.
- 60,9% (in average) of convicted persons represent the age group of 30-49 y.o., and this trend remains unchanged.
- 29,5% (in average) of convicted persons belong to the age group 18-29 y.o., with small increase in 2022, while the proportion of those from the age group of 50-54 y.o. experienced a small decrease in 2022.
- 0,7% and 1,1% (in average) of convicted persons represent the age groups of >18 y.o. and 65< y.o., respectively.

Source: [Court statistics](#)

Persons who were convicted by courts for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by type of punishment

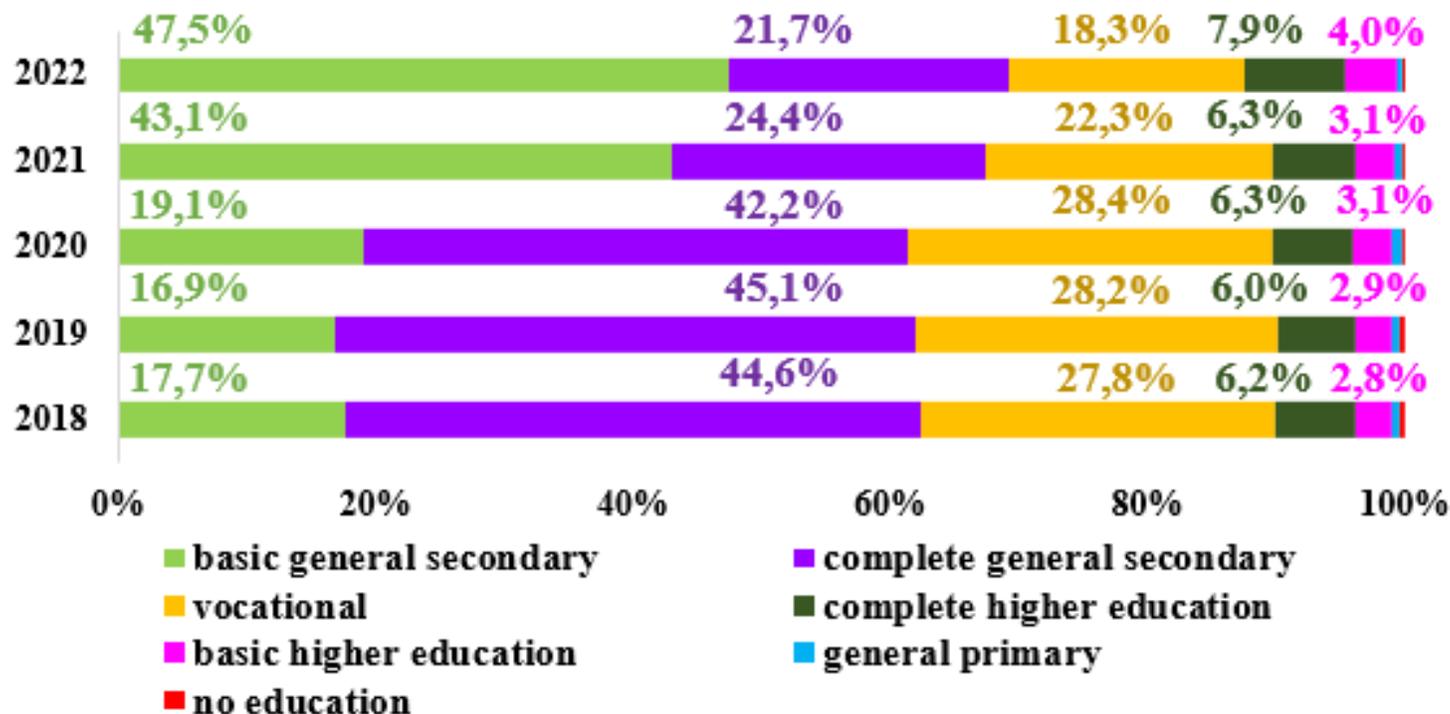
Proportion of persons convicted for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by type of punishment



- Trend of sustainable increase in the proportions of convicted persons that are released from punishment
- Trend of decrease in the proportions of convicted persons that are fined
- Trend of important increase in the proportions of convicted persons that are deprived of liberty.
- Trend of notable increase in the proportions of convicted persons that are arrested

Persons who were convicted by courts for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by education

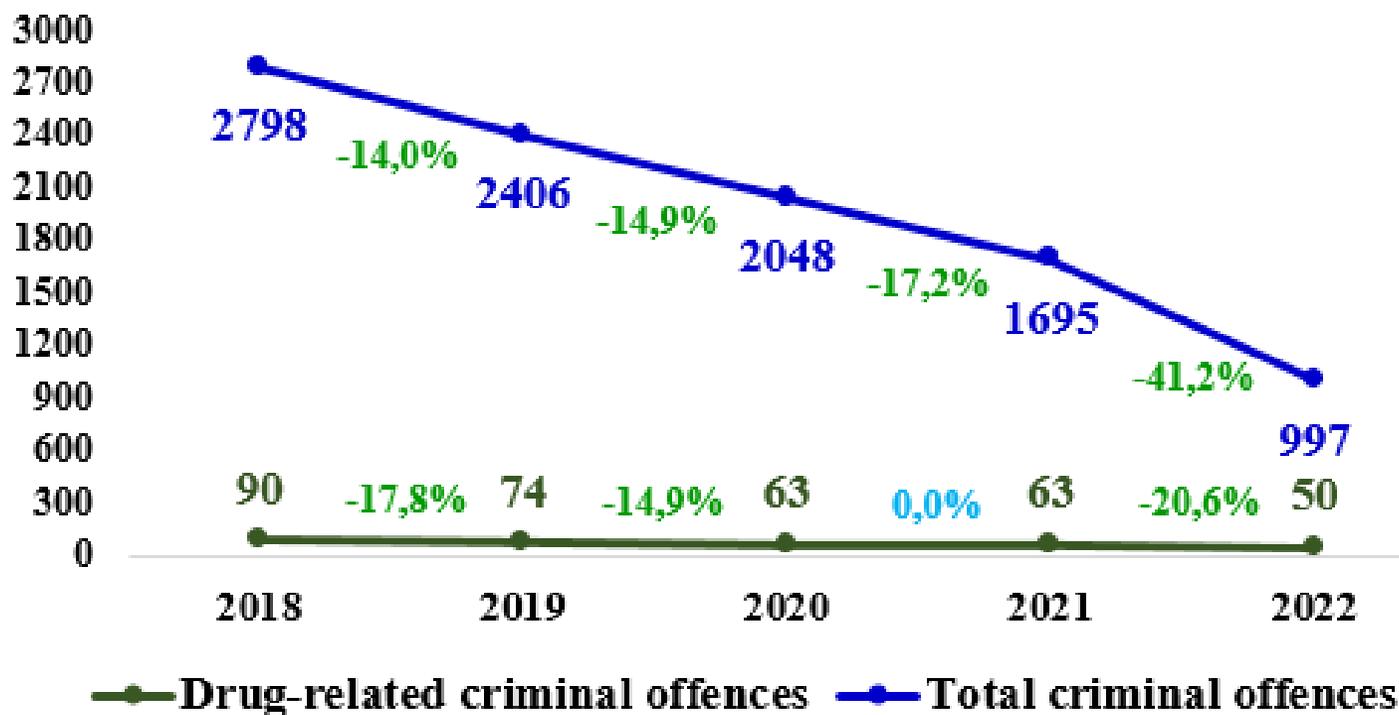
Proportion of persons convicted for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by education (%)



- Trend of increase in the proportion of convicted persons with basic general secondary education, while the proportion of those with complete secondary education has been decreasing.
- The proportion of convicted persons with vocational education has been decreasing.
- Trend of a small increase in the proportion of convicted persons with higher education (both basic and complete).
- The proportion of convicted persons with general primary education and without any education is very low (some 0,6% and 0,3% in average, respectively).

Minors (14-18 y.o.) who were convicted by courts for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022

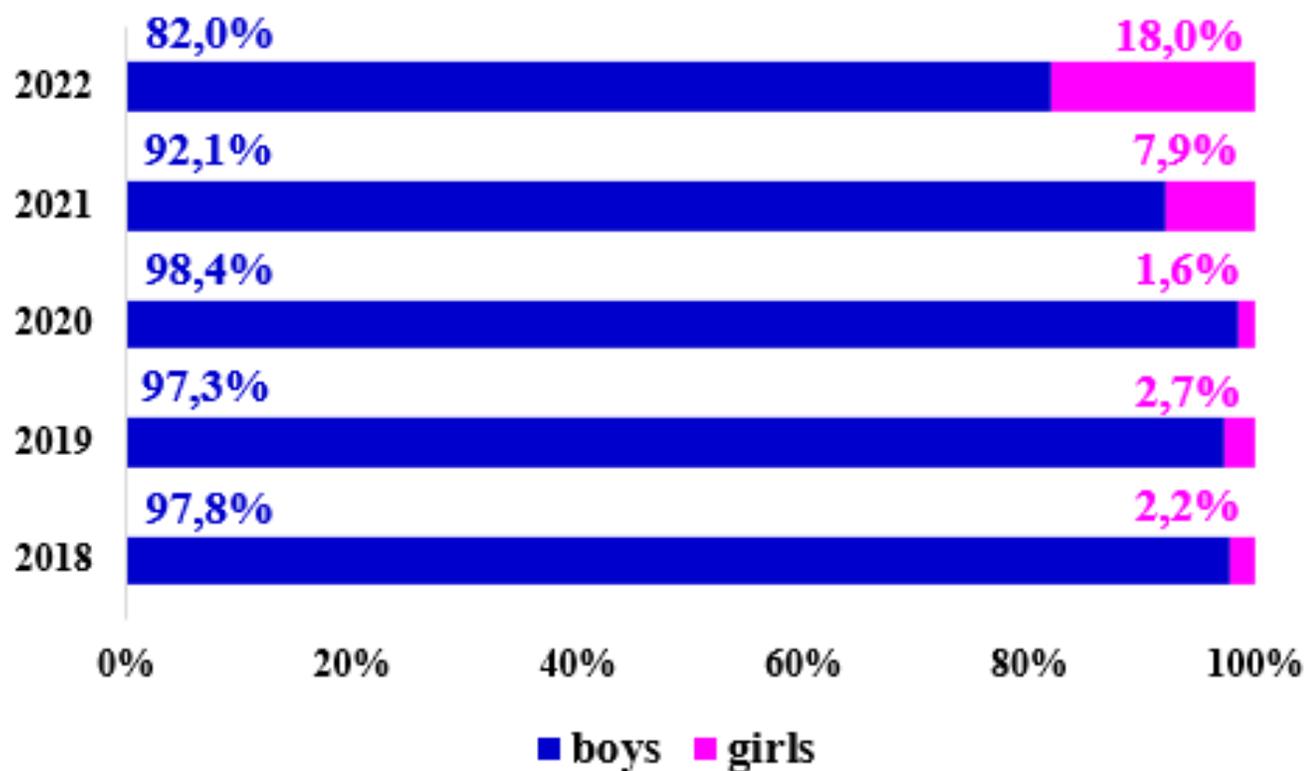
Minors convicted for committing criminal offences in 2018-2022 (persons)



- Trend of decrease in number of minors convicted for committing criminal offences, including the drug-related ones
- Proportion of minors convicted for drug-related criminal offences in the structure of all the criminal offences has been increasing from 3,2% in 2018 up to 5% in 2022.

Minors (14-18 y.o.) who were convicted by courts for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by gender

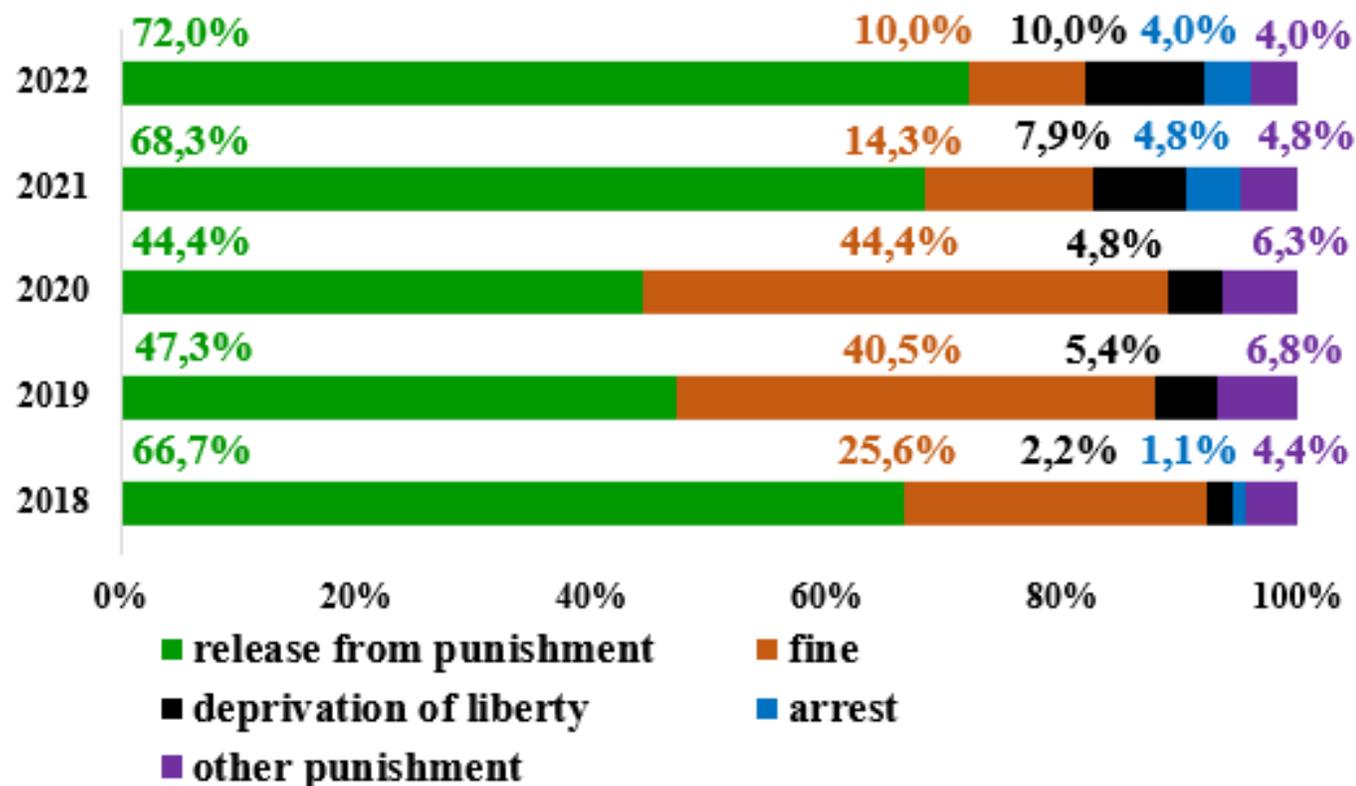
Proportion of minors convicted for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by gender (%)



- The highest proportion of convicted minors are boys (94% in average for a 5-year period), and there is a decreasing trend of their proportion from 97,8% in 2018 up to 82,0% in 2022.
- From 2021 the proportion of convicted girls has been notably increasing from 2,2% in 2020, up to 7,9% in 2021 and 18,0% in 2022.

Minors (14-18 y.o.) who were convicted by courts for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by type of punishment

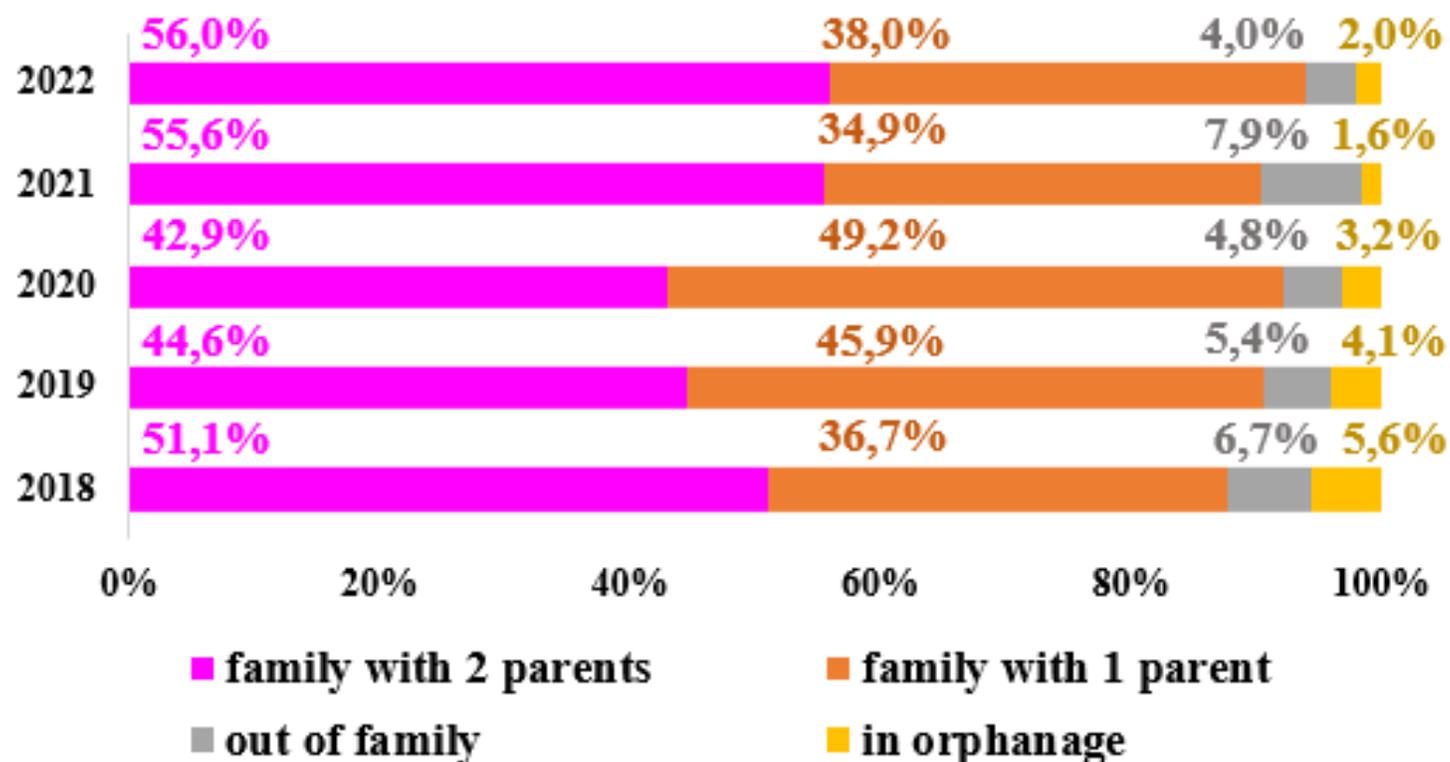
Minors convicted for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by type of punishment (%)



- In 2018-2020, the proportion of convicted minors who were released from punishment had been decreasing, but from 2021 that proportion has been increasing.
- In 2018-2020, the proportion of convicted minors who were fined had been increasing, but from 2021 that proportion has been decreasing.
- A stable trend of increase in proportion of minors convicted to the deprivation of liberty.

Minors (14-18 y.o.) who were convicted by courts for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by upbringing

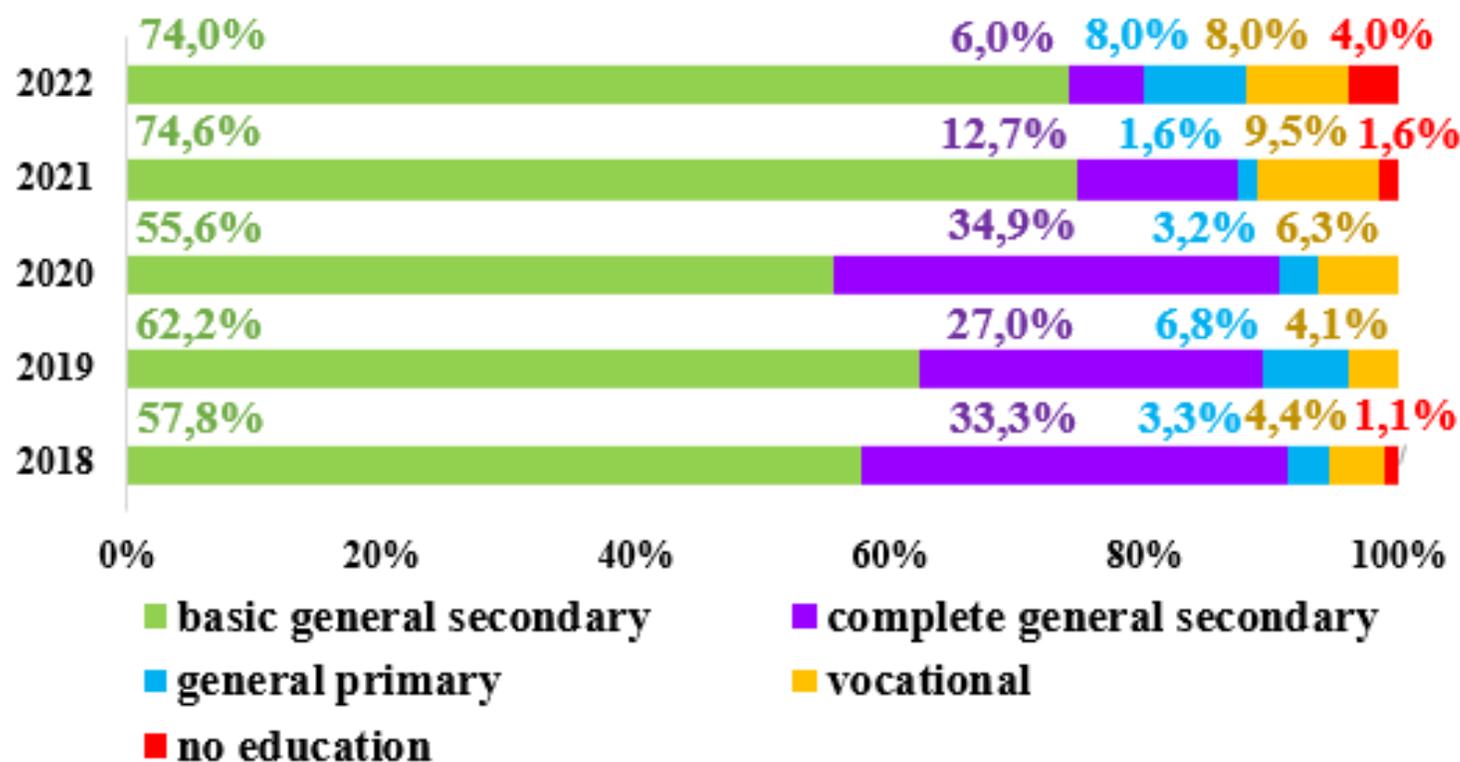
Proportion of minors convicted for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by upbringing (%)



- Most convicted minors were brought up in family with 2 or 1 parents – 91,0% both in average.
- From 2021, a trend of important increase in the proportion of convicted minors brought up in families with both parents.
- A trend of decrease in the proportion of convicted minors brought up in orphanages, i.e. from 5,6% in 2018 to 2,0% in 2022.

Minors (14-18 y.o.) who were convicted by courts for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by education

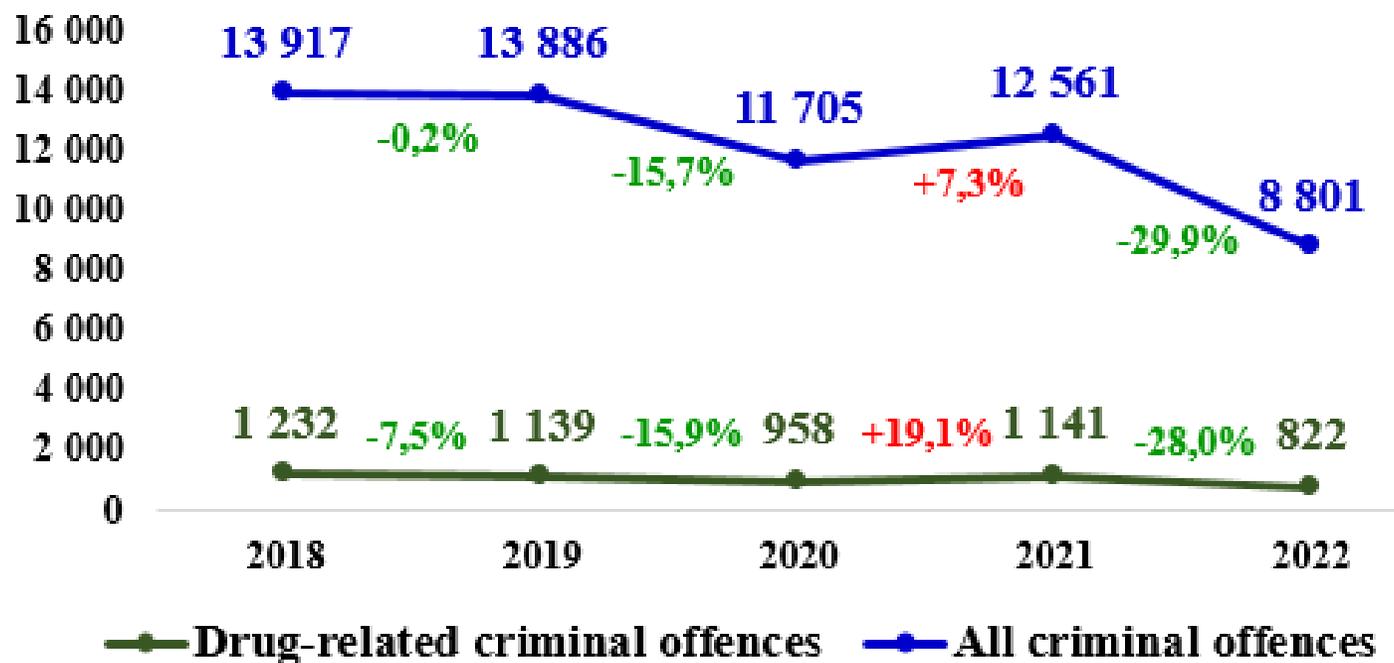
Minors convicted for drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022, by education (%)



- In 2021 the proportion of convicted minors with basic general secondary education has importantly increased from 57,8% in 2018 up to 74,0% in 2021.
- A trend of decrease in proportion of convicted minors with completed general secondary education, i.e. from 33,3% in 2018 to 6,0% in 2022.
- The proportion of convicted minors with vocational education and without any education has been increasing.

Sentences reviewed on appeal on drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022

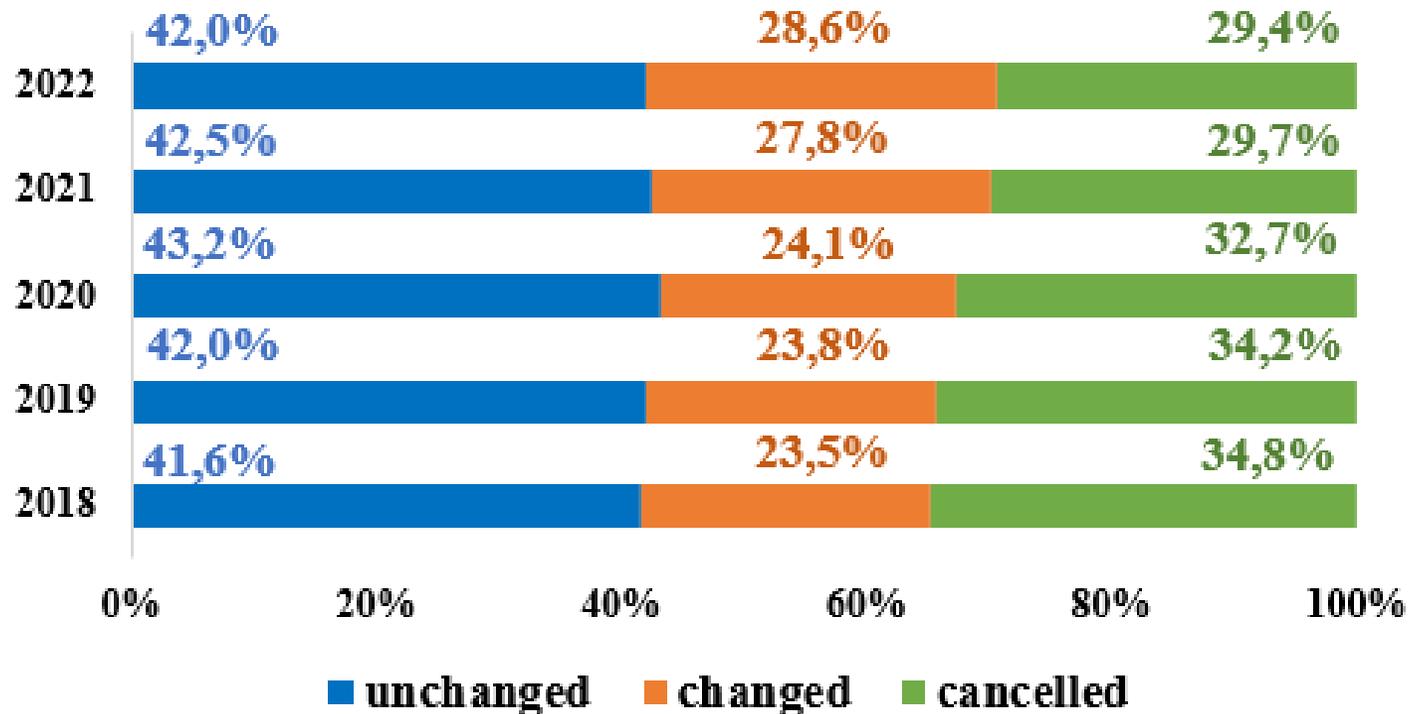
Number of sentences reviewed on appeal on criminal offences in 2018-2022



- In 2022, an important decrease in sentences reviewed on appeal on criminal offences, including the drug-related ones (by 28%).
- In the structure of the sentences reviewed on appeal on all the criminal offences, the proportion of sentences reviewed on appeal on drug-related criminal offences is 8,7% in average, and from 2020 this proportion has been increasing.

Sentences reviewed on appeal on drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022

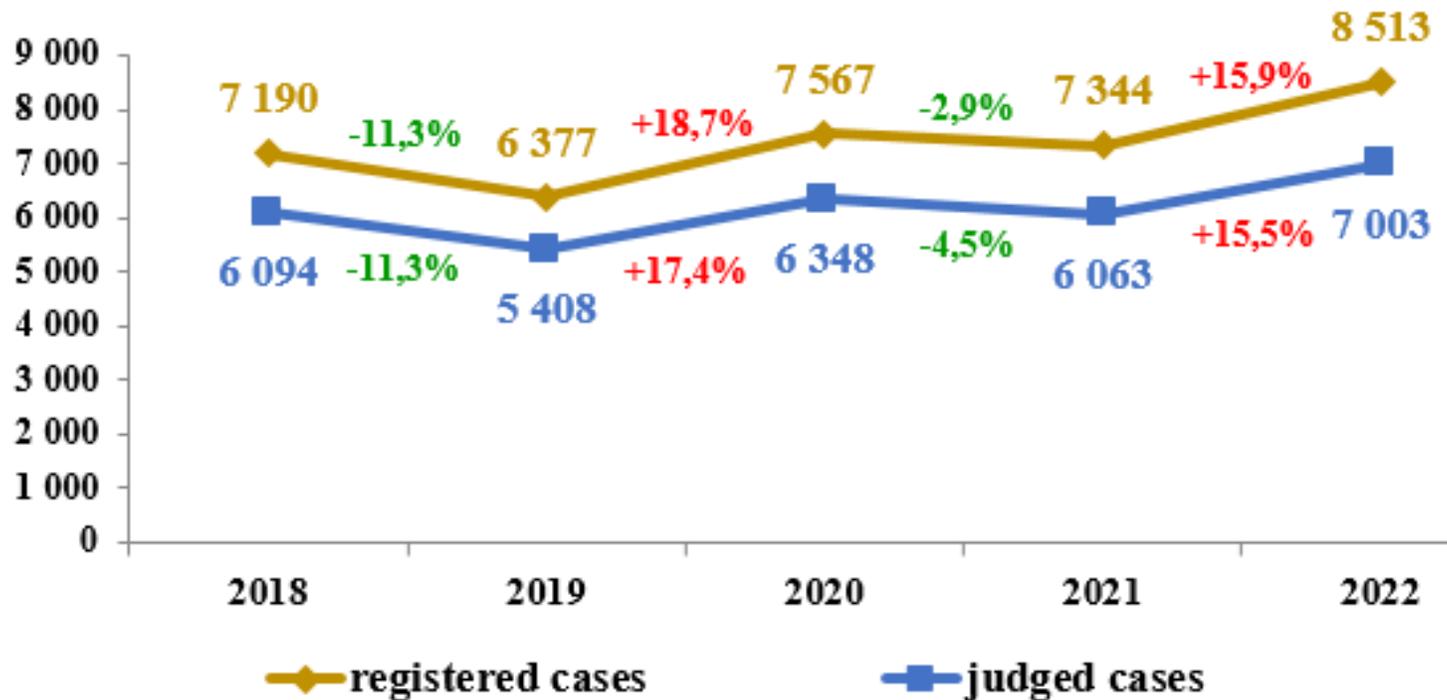
Results of review on appeal of sentences on drug-related criminal offences in 2018-2022



- Trend of increase in the proportion of changed sentences after the review on appeal.
- Trend of decrease in the proportion of canceled sentences after the review on appeal.
- In average, 42,3% sentences remain unchanged after their review on appeal.
- Top-3 reasons for cancelling sentences after review on appeal:
 - adoption of a new sentence
 - appointment of a new court trial
 - closure of criminal proceedings

Drug-Related Administrative Offences

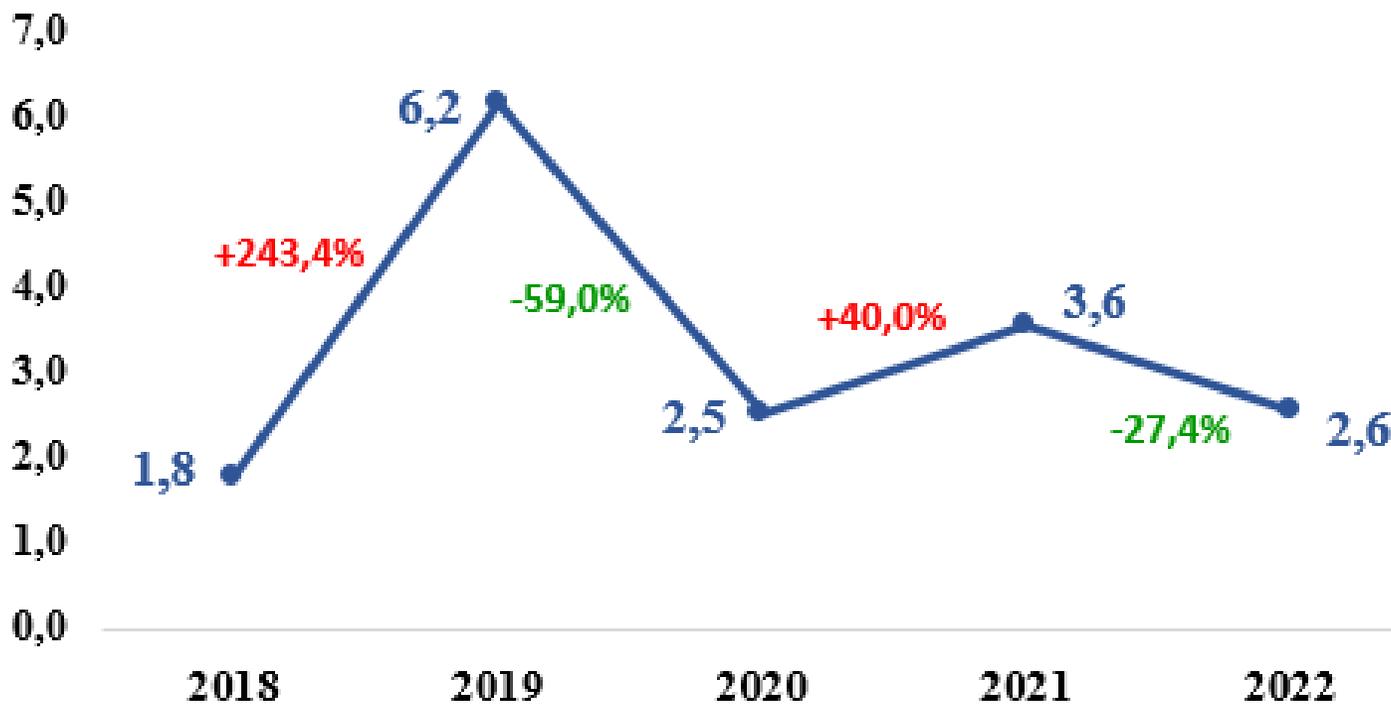
Cases on drug-related administrative offences judged in court institutions in 2018-2022



- The administrative liability is defined in Article 44 [Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences](#) and imposed for the illegal production, purchasing, storage, transportation, shipment of drugs or psychotropic substances in small volumes not for selling purposes.
- Small, big and especially big volumes of substances are established by the Ministry of Health ([MoH Order No. 188 of 01 August 2000 as amended](#)).
- Trend of increase in the number of administrative cases associated with drug-related offences in 2022.

Volume of seized substances on drug-related administrative offences in 2018-2022

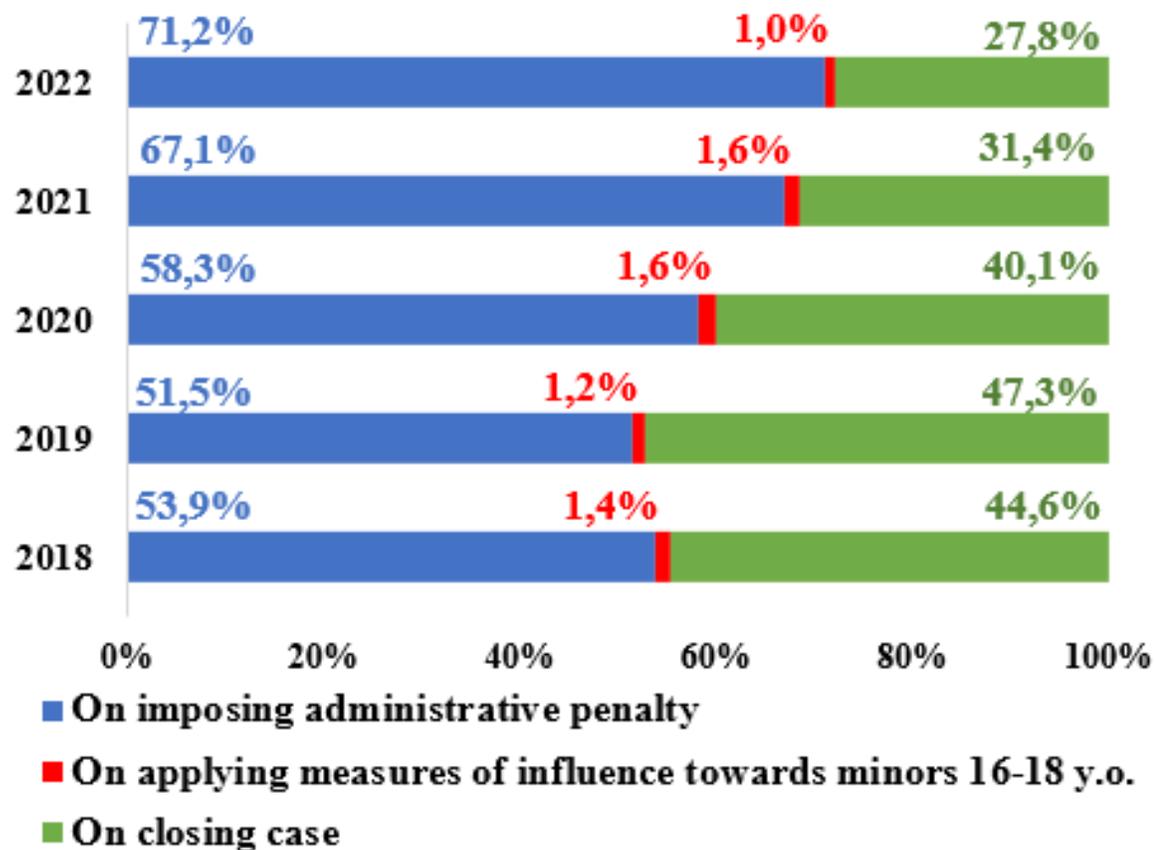
Seized substances on drug-related administrative
offences in 2018-2022 (kg)



- There is no breakdown of seized volumes by substances
- Since the administrative liability is imposed in case of small quantities of substances, the reported annual seizures are also small.
- A stable trend of seized substances, except for the year 2019.

Court decisions on drug-related administrative offences in 2018-2022

Court decisions on drug-related administrative offences in 2018-2022



Number of minors aged 16 to 18 years in respect to whom the courts decided on applying measures of influence



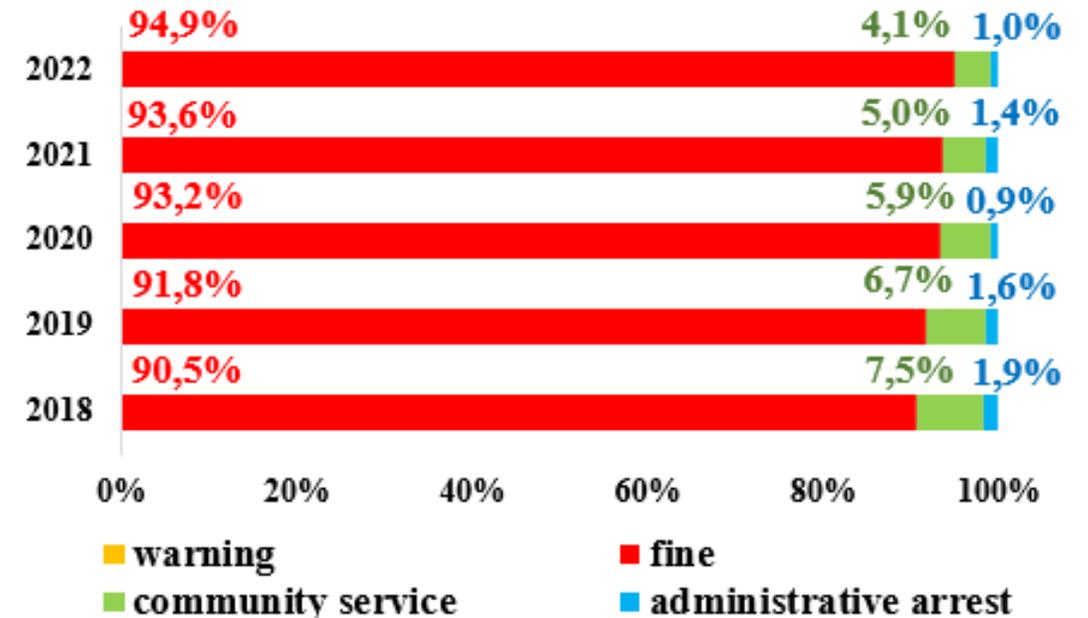
- Trend of increase in proportion of court decisions that impose administrative penalties: from 53,9% in 2018 to 71,2% in 2022.
- Trend of decrease in proportion of court decisions on the closure of case: from 44,6% in 2018 to 27,8% in 2022.
- From 2020, trend of decrease in number of court decisions on applying measures of influence towards minors aged 16-18.

Penalties imposed by courts for drug-related administrative offences in 2018-2022

Number of persons charged with administrative penalties in 2018-2022



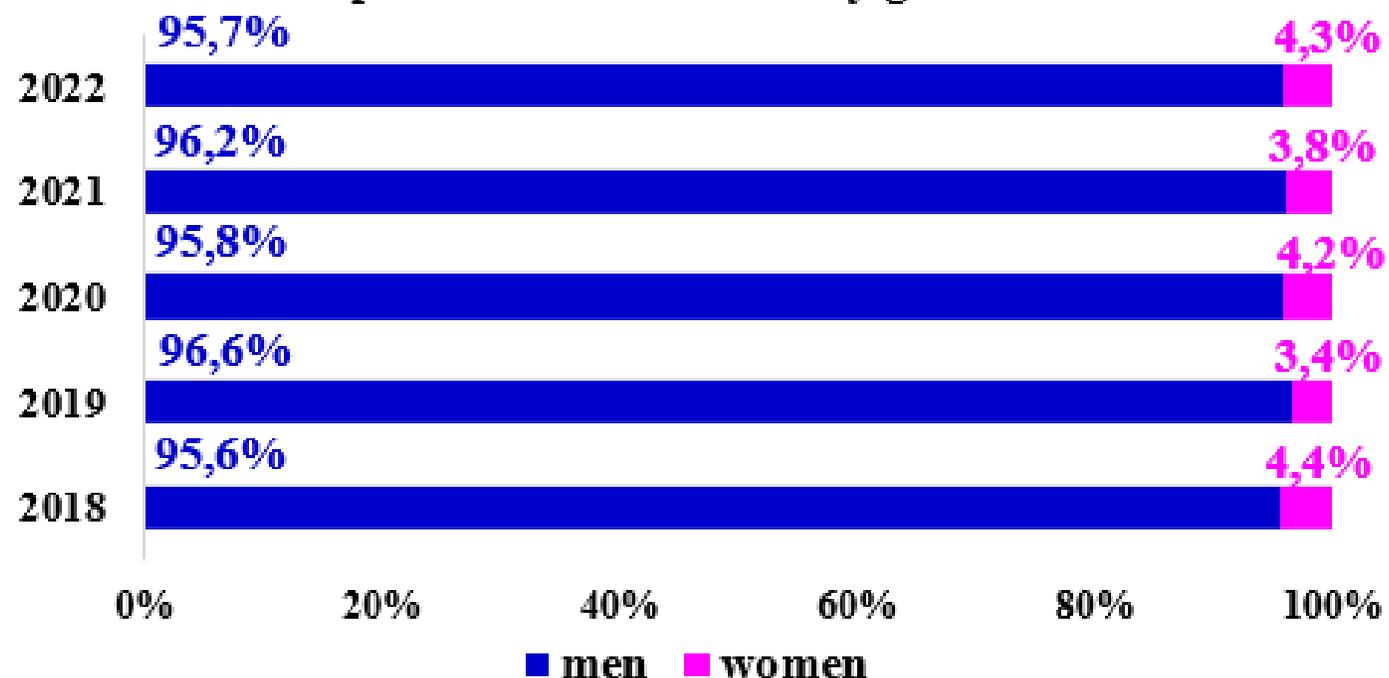
Proportion of persons charged with administrative penalties in 2018-2022, by type of penalty



- From 2020, there is a trend of increase in the number of individuals charged with administrative penalties.
- Fine is the widespread type of penalty imposed for drug-related administrative offences (in average: 92,8% of all the penalties, increasing trend), followed by community service (5,8%, decreasing trend) and administrative arrest (1,3%, decreasing trend).

Penalties imposed by courts for drug-related administrative offences in 2018-2022

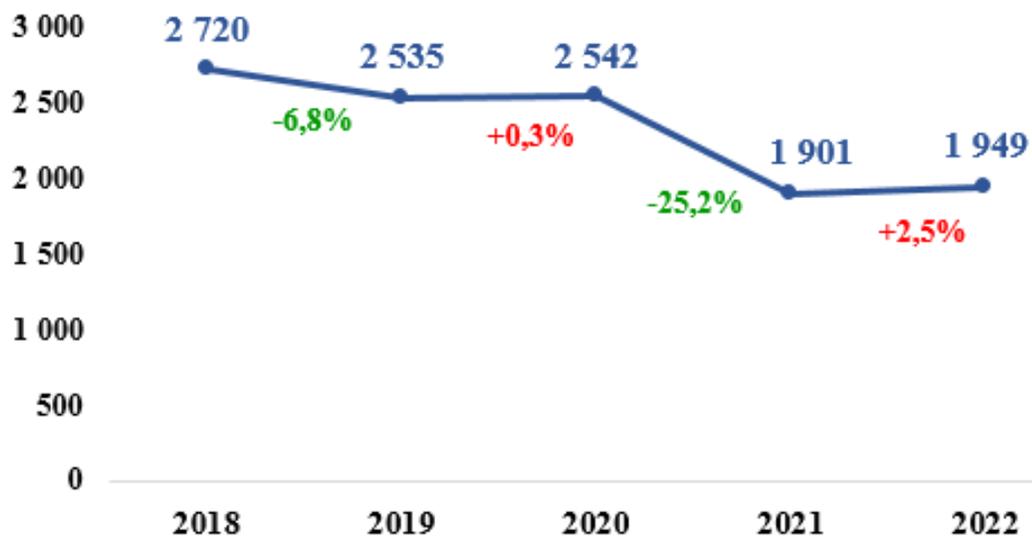
Proportion of persons charged with administrative penalties in 2018-2022 by gender



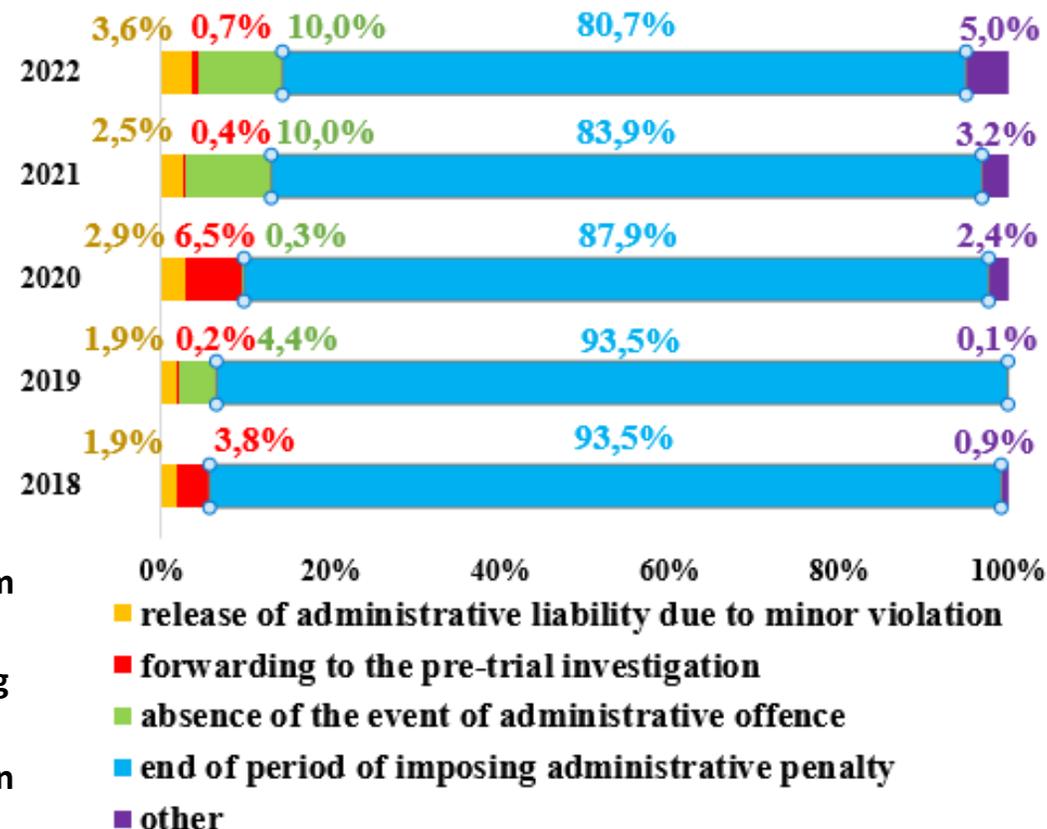
- The highest proportion of persons charged with administrative penalties are men (96,0% in average for a 5-year period), and this trend remains unchanged.

Cases on drug-related administrative offences that were closed by courts in 2018-2022

Number of persons in respect of whom the court decided to close the case in 2018-2022



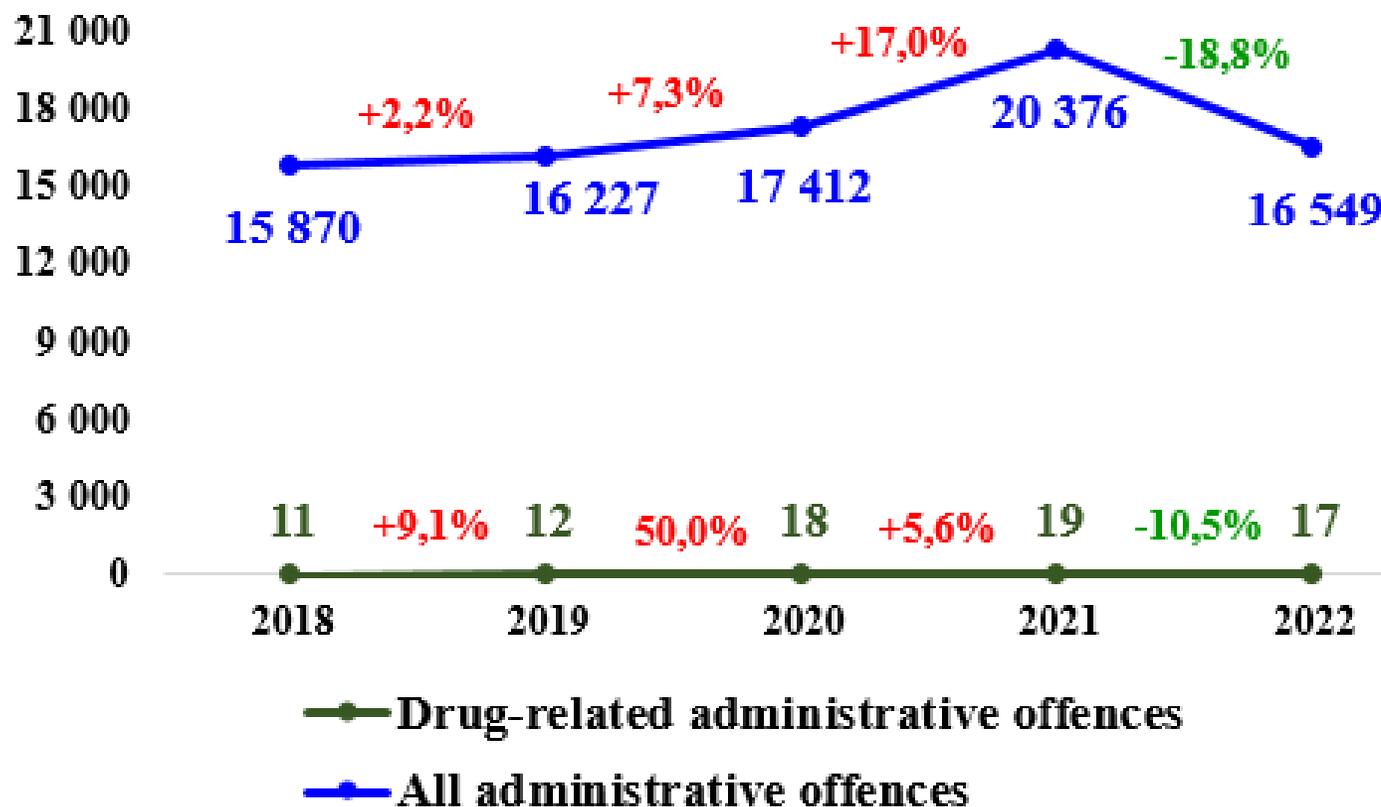
Proportion of persons in respect of whom the court decided to close the case in 2018-2022, by reason



- In 2021 – a sharp decrease by 25,2% in number of persons in respect of whom the court decided to close the case.
- The main reason for closing the case remains the expiry of period of imposing administrative penalty with 88% in average.
- Trend of increase in the proportion of closed cases due to the absence of even of administrative offence from 0.0% in 2018 up to 10,0% in 2022.
- Trend of increase in the proportion of persons released from administrative liability due to minor violation.

Cases reviewed on appeal on drug-related administrative offences in 2018-2022

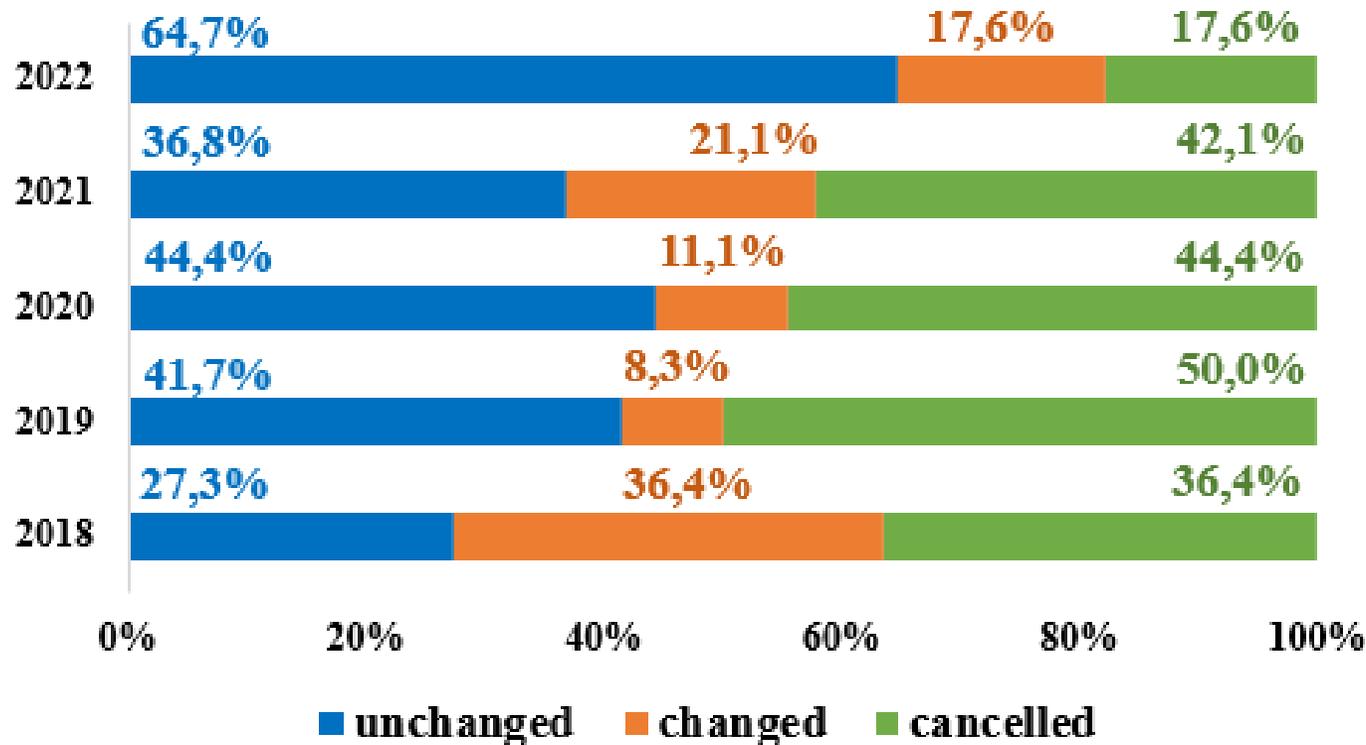
Number of cases reviewed on appeal on administrative offences in 2018-2022



- A trend of increase in the number of cases reviewed on appeal on administrative offences, including the drug-related ones up to 2021. And in 2022, we can see a decrease in their number (by 10,5%).
- In the structure of the cases reviewed on appeal on all the administrative offences, the proportion of cases reviewed on appeal on drug-related administrative offences is only 0,1%, and this trend remains unchanged.

Cases reviewed on appeal on drug-related administrative offences in 2018-2022

Results of review on appeal of cases on drug-related
administrative offences in 2018-2022



- Trend of increase in the proportion of unchanged court decisions on cases on drug-related administrative offences after their review on appeal.
- Trend of decrease in the proportion of canceled court decisions on cases on drug-related administrative offences after their review on appeal.
- Reasons for cancelling court decisions on cases on drug-related administrative offences after their review on appeal:
 - closure of administrative proceedings
 - adoption of a new resolution

General Findings

- There remains a continuing trend of increase in drug-related offences due to high drug demand. 2022 reports the highest number of registered drug-related criminal and administrative offences due to worsening social and economic situation and growing unemployment caused by the war in Ukraine.
- In 2019, there was a sharp increase in seizures (by 110,9%) with the essential decrease in seizures in 2020 (by 80,3%) and in 2022, the volumes of seized substances dropped down by 38,9% due to the war in Ukraine.
- Seizures of “transit drugs” like heroin and cocaine, as well as imported substances like MDMA decreased in 2022 due to broken drug trafficking channels because of the war in Ukraine.
- A trend of increase in manufacturing synthetic cathinones, especially a-PVP, while amphetamine remains the top-1 substance synthesized in clandestine drug laboratories in Ukraine (with the share of 82,1%, 75,2% and 71,4%, based on National Police and Security Service’s data on dismantled labs in 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively).
- A trend of decrease in the proportion of persons that were convicted by courts for drug-related criminal offences from 88,9% in 2018 to 85,3% in 2022. At that, there is a tend of increase in the proportion of persons who got the court decision on closing the criminal proceedings on drug-related criminal offences, i.e. from 10,6% in 2018 up to 14,1% in 2022 .
- A trend of decrease in number of minors convicted for committing criminal offences, including the drug-related ones.
- A trend of increase in proportion of court decisions that impose administrative penalties up to 71,2% in 2022, while the proportion of court decisions on the closure of case has dropped down from 44,6% in 2018 to 27,8% in 2022.
- In 2022, an important decrease in sentences reviewed on appeal on drug-related criminal offences by 18,8%, as well as a decrease in the number of cases reviewed on appeal on all the administrative offences by 10,5%.