

**2018 NATIONAL REPORT**  
**(2017 data)**  
**on the Drug Situation in Ukraine**

Kyiv  
2018

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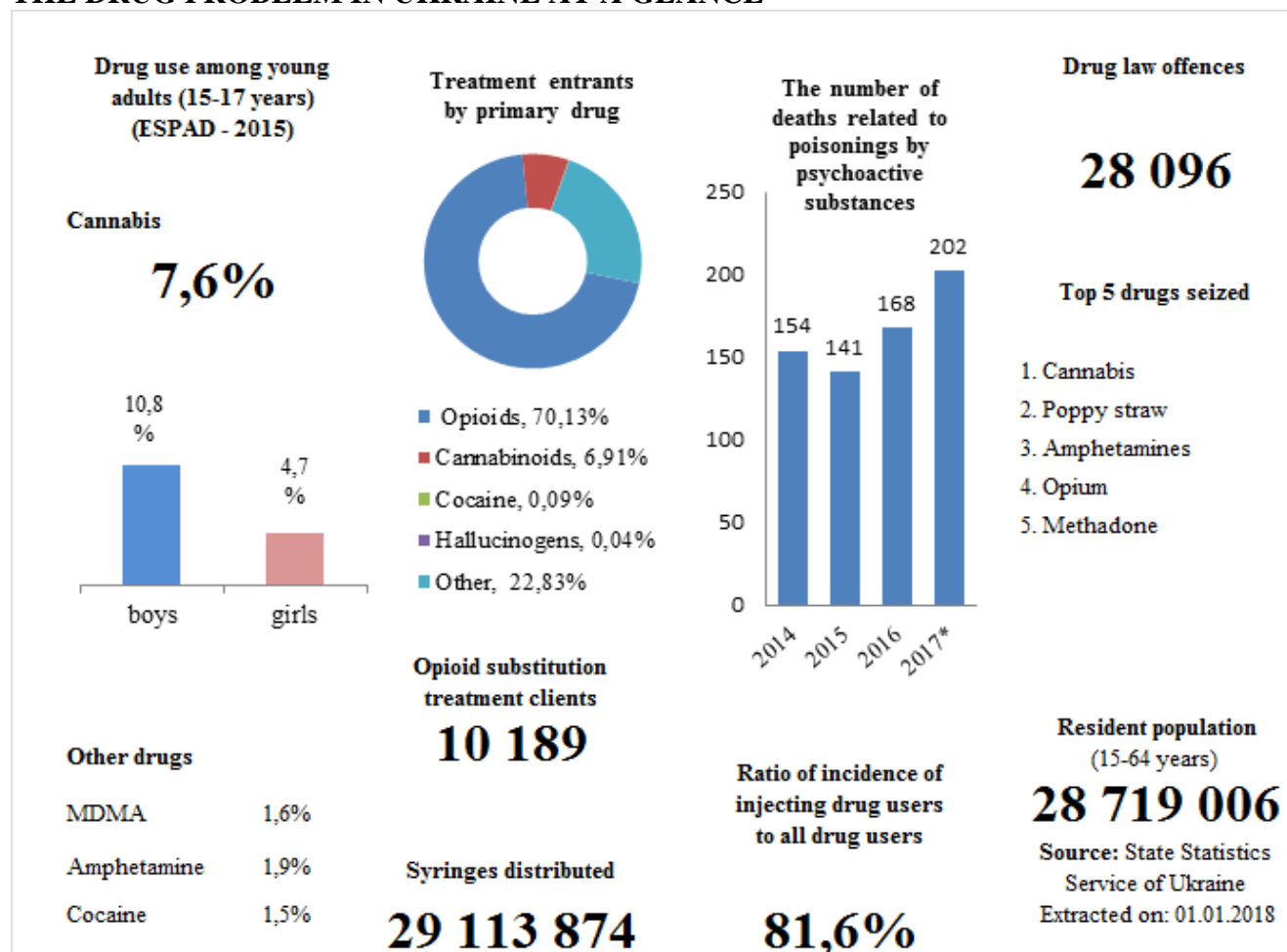
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## UKRAINE

### 2018 Report on the Drug Situation in Ukraine

This report presents the general overview of the drug situation in Ukraine. The statistical data and information reported relate to 2017 (or most recent year).

#### THE DRUG PROBLEM IN UKRAINE AT A GLANCE



**NB:** Data reported on the EMCDDA indicators (treatment clients, fatal intoxications, problem drug use, distribution of syringes and drug law offences). The information on prevalence and trends of use of psychoactive substances and alcohol among young people aged 15-17 years in Ukraine is provided following 2015 study under the international project "The European school survey project on alcohol and other drugs (ESPAD)".

\*in 2017 according to the EMCDDA recommendations, the death rate related to psychoactive substances poisoning was calculated on the basis of the clearly defined ICD-10 codes, as follows: X41 (in combination with T43.6), X42 (in combination with T40.0-9); X62 (in combination with T40.0-9); Y11 (in combination with T43.6), Y12 (in combination with T40.0-9).

## **National drug strategy and coordination**

### *National drug strategy*

Over the last years, the Strategy of the State Drug Policy for the Period up to 2020 (hereinafter – the Strategy) is being implemented in Ukraine, which sets out the directions and mechanisms of reduction of illicit supply and demand for drugs, the achievement of balance in the state drug policy between punitive measures concerning illicit drug trafficking and ensuring their availability for medical purposes.

The norms of the Strategy are being implemented through the adoption by the Government of the Annual Action Plan on its implementation.

The Action Plan for 2015 to implement the Strategy was approved by the regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers No 514-p of March 25, 2015.

The Action Plans for 2016-2017 on the implementation of the above-mentioned Strategy were not approved as a result of the reforms of the system of the central executive bodies, which form and implement drug policy.

At the same time, in 2017 the provisions of the Strategy were implemented by all actors involved in drug policy-making and implementation pursuant to their functional obligations, about which the Government of Ukraine was informed.

### *National coordination mechanisms*

The determining factor in the effective implementation of the Strategy is the state coordination function, which is carried out by means of regulatory activities, the implementation of control and inspection measures and introduction of the mechanisms of interaction between the drug policy actors (creating inter-agency working groups, information exchange, implementing joint projects, conducting special operations, etc.). The Ministry of Health of Ukraine is the principal coordinator of the activities in this area.

## **Public expenditure**

The implementation of the Strategy of the State Drug Policy for the Period up to 2020 is financed from the state, local budgets and other sources not forbidden by the legislation. The separate funds from the State Budget of Ukraine are not allocated for the implementation of the Action Plan to implement the Strategy, however, subjects of drug policy-making and implementation carry out the tasks and activities set out in the Strategy under expenditures within the State Budget of Ukraine to fulfil core functions of the drug policy subjects .

## **Drug laws and drug law offences**

### *National drug laws*

The Law of Ukraine ‘On narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors’ defines legal and organizational basis of the state policy with regards to circulation of

narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, establishes the way of state control, the powers of the executive authorities, rights and obligations of physical and legal persons in the area of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors circulation.

The Law of Ukraine 'On the measures of counteraction to the illegal circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors and to their abuse', meanwhile, defines the system of measures in Ukraine in accordance with the international obligations to fight against illegal circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors and their abuse, rights and obligations of legal persons and citizens in connection with the application of this law.

This law also defines that illegal circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors is an activity on the cultivation of drug containing plants (plants of cannabis and opium poppy), development, production, manufacture, storage, transportation, transfer, acquisition, sale, import to Ukraine, export out of Ukraine, transit via Ukrainian territory, use, destruction of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, that is in violation of legislation on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors.

The list of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors and changes into the list are approved by the Cabinet of Ministers (the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers No 770 of May 6, 2000) at the request of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

The violations of legislation in the sphere of circulation of controlled substances, types of crimes and punishment are determined by the Criminal Code of Ukraine and the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences.

The criminal liability is determined by the Criminal Code of Ukraine and provided for such actions, for example, as smuggling, unlawful production, manufacture, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or sale of the narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues, planting or growing of species of Poppy Soporific (*Papaver somniferum* L) or Hemp (*Cannabis*), illegal injection to another person, induce of other individuals to use of narcotic drugs, organization or running places for illegal use, production or manufacture of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues.

The Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses determines and provides administrative liability for unlawful production, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of selling in small quantities.

The use of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances (except for public use) is not an offence.

The unlawful production, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of selling in small quantities are an administrative offence and punishable by a fine on nationals of 25 to 50 times the individual income tax exemption limit, or public works for a period of 20 to 60 hours, or administrative arrest for up to 15 days.

The small, large and especially large amounts of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors that are in illegal circulation are established by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (the Decree of the MoH of Ukraine No 188 of August 1, 2000).

The individual who surrendered voluntarily narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, which the individual possessed in small quantities and produced, manufactured, purchased, stored, transported, transferred without the purpose of selling, is immune from administrative liability for such actions.

Besides, the individuals aged 16-18, who have committed such administrative offenses, may be subjected to other measures of influence, such as the warning or the placement of minor under the supervision of parents or persons replacing them, or under the supervision of teaching staff or labour collective with their own consent, as well as transfer to other citizens on request.

The unlawful production, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of selling in excess of small sizes are subject for criminal liability. The maximum penalty for such actions (if they are committed with the involvement of a minor, and if the narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues in especially large amounts were subject of such actions) is deprivation of liberty for a term of 5 to 8 years.

The same actions committed repeatedly or by prior conspiracy among a group of persons, or by a person who committed similar crimes in the past, or if the narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues in large amounts are the subject of such actions, are punishable by imprisonment from two to five years.

The punishments imposed if the amount of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances lower than large, but greater than small, are a fine of 50 to 100 times the individual income tax exemption limit, or punitive work for term of up to two years, or arrest for up to six months, or restriction of liberty for up to three years, or deprivation of liberty for the same term. Exemption from criminal liability occurs in the case if the person, who committed such actions, voluntarily sought treatment in medical facilities and began drug treatment.

At the same time, the unlawful production, manufacture, acquisition, storage, transportation or transfer with the intent to sell, as well as illegal selling of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues, are punishable by deprivation of liberty for a term of 4 to 12 years.

The punishment varies according to the amounts of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances. More severe punishment occurs if such actions are committed repeatedly or by prior conspiracy among a group of persons or with the involvement of a minor, as well as for selling in places intended for educational, cultural and sporting events, and in other places where large numbers of citizens are present, or selling or transfer of these substances to detention facilities. The maximum punishment is provided for commitment of such actions by an organized group, or in a particularly large amount, or with the involvement of a juvenile or against a juvenile.

The person who voluntarily submitted narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues and indicated the source of their acquisition or contributed to the investigation of crime related to drug trafficking may be exempted from criminal liability for their illegal manufacture, production, acquisition, storage, transportation or

transfer (in case if the amount of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances lower than large, and there were no circumstances that attracted heavier penalty).

*Violation of the legislation on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances*

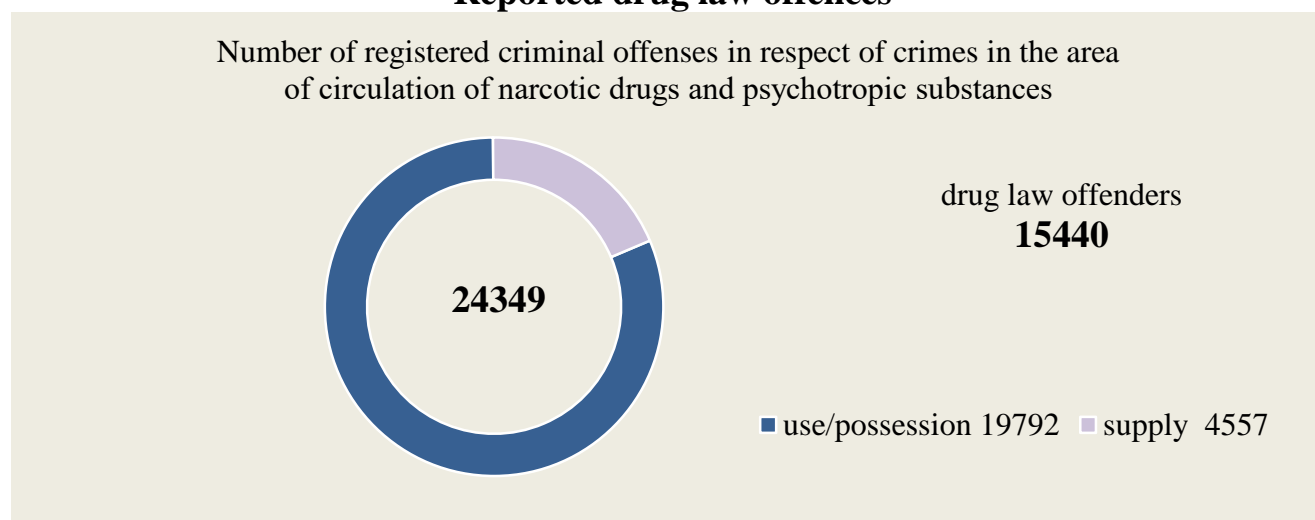
The monitoring of violations of the legislation in the area of circulation of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is based on the statistics of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, that in particular contain information on registered criminal offenses.

As in the past, in Ukraine the crimes related to unlawful production, acquisition, storage, transportation, transfer of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of selling prevail (in 2017, 19,792 offenses were recorded). 4, 557 offenses relating to unlawful production, manufacture, acquisition, storage, transportation or transfer with the purpose of selling, as well as illegal selling of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues were recorded. 15,440 individuals were notified on suspicion for related offences as a whole.

Besides, according to the Report on cases before the courts on administrative offences and concerning individuals incurred administrative penalties, during 2017 7,879 administrative cases related to the unlawful production, acquisition, storage, transportation, or transfer of small amounts of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of selling were passed to the court.

As for today, the available statistical data do not allow to determine what substances and their amount were the object of a crime, at the same time, such information is recorded in the Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations, which is accessible only to the representatives of the law enforcement agencies.

### Reported drug law offences



**NB:** Year of data 2017

## Drug use

### *Prevalence and trends*

In Ukraine the studies of prevalence of use of narcotic drugs among the population aged 15-64 years are not being carried out. And that's why Ukraine does not have complete consolidated information on this issue for today.

However, some steps were taken towards study of the drug use prevalence among certain categories of citizens, and since 1995 the selective survey of young students has being carried out in Ukraine on a regular basis as part of the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD).

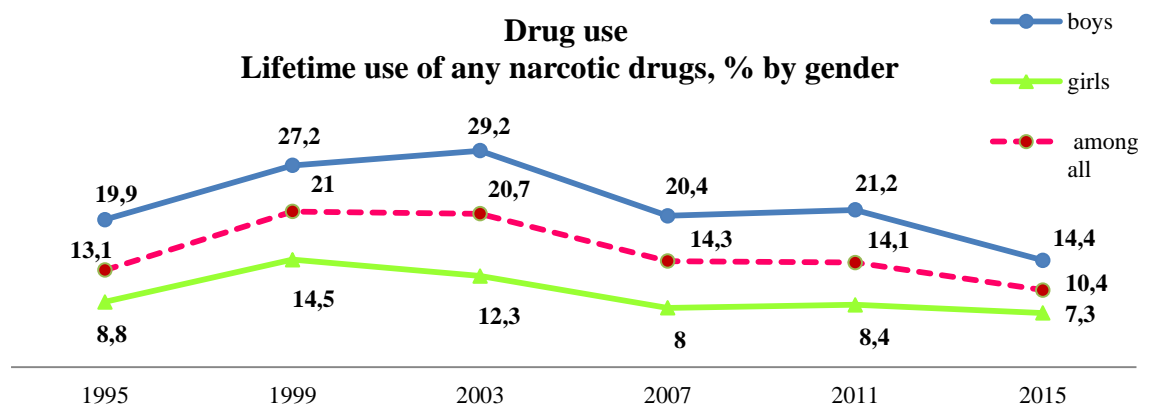
Besides, the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) was conducted in 2017 with support of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and in cooperation with the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine. The technical assistance was provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the RTI research institute.

The communal wastewater analysis of drugs and their metabolism products to assess community-wide drug consumption is not being performed in Ukraine.

The latest data on consumption of various substances (alcohol, tobacco, narcotic drugs) among students aged 15-17 years were received in 2015 as part of the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD).

By the results of survey carried out in 2015 the prevalence of lifetime use of any drugs among the Ukrainian students was no higher than the European average. The level of lifetime use of marijuana or hashish among the Ukrainian students was three times less in comparison with some European countries (9% versus 37% (Czech Republic), 31% (France)).

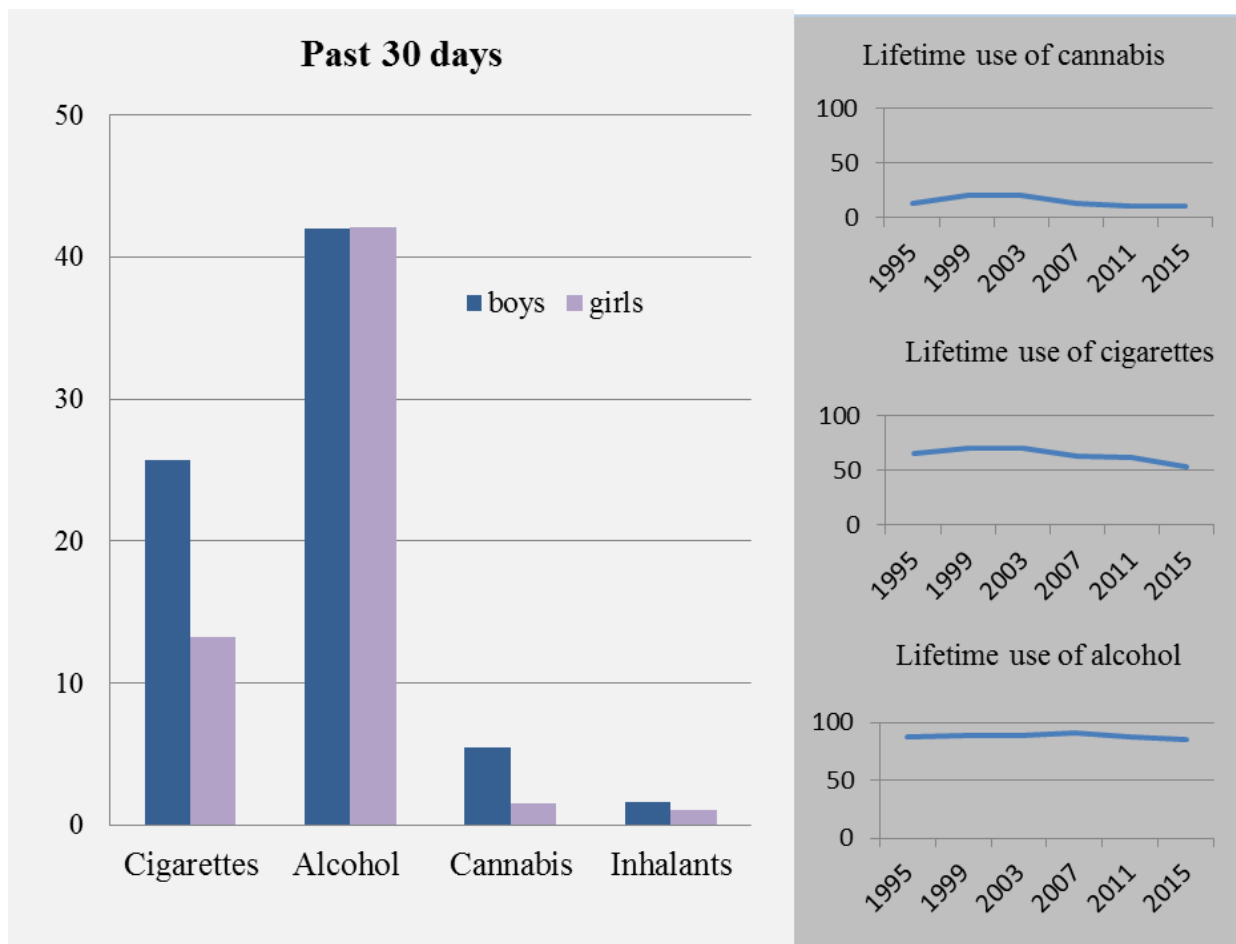
### Substance use among 15- to 17- year-old school students



NB: Source: ESPAD study 2015

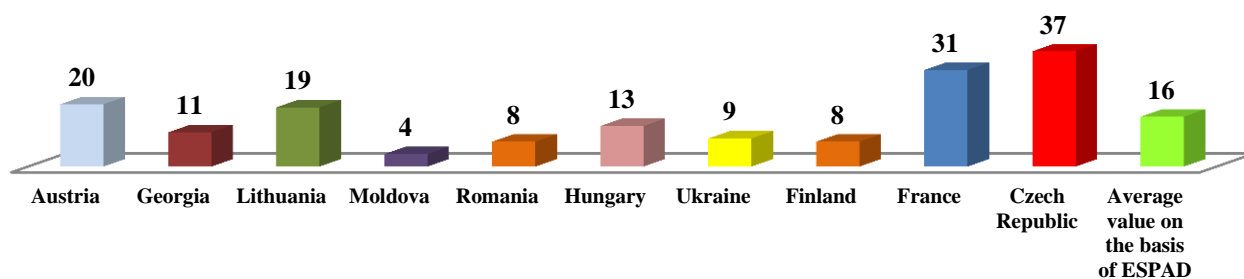


## The prevalence of use of psychoactive substances, %



NB: Source: ESPAD study 2015

## Lifetime use of marijuana or hashish in some European countries, %



NB: Source: ESPAD study 2015

## High-risk drug use and trends

In Ukraine the high-risk drug use can be defined as primarily injection use of opiates (as it leads to the risk of HIV, hepatitis B and C, syphilis as a result of use of one needle by several individuals) — domestically prepared extracted opium ('shyrka') and stimulants (amphetamines).

In 2017 there were no studies available in Ukraine concerning people with mental and behavioral disorders through injecting drug use. However, according to the statistical information of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, by the end of 2017 the number of people with mental and behavioral disorders through injecting drug use amounted to 51,489 individuals, which equals 84.5% of all drug addicts at the end of the reporting period. Of that number, 3,214 individuals who suffered from mental and behavioral disorders diagnosed for the first time as a result of use of narcotic drugs, representing 81.6% of all drug addicts diagnosed with mental and behavioral disorders for the first time.

### Characteristics and trends of prevalence of drug use in Ukraine



**NB:** prevalence is the total number of persons, who are under the supervision at the end of the reporting period

## Drug harms

### *Drug-related infectious diseases*

In Ukraine the data on persons with mental and behavioral disorders as a result of use of psychoactive substances, who have medical history of infectious diseases, are collected in accordance with separate forms of state statistical reporting of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

According to statistical data, in 2017 among individuals with mental and behavioral disorders as a result of use of psychoactive substances such number of persons with infectious diseases was registered, namely: infectious hepatitis – 29, 939 individuals; tuberculosis – 14, 289 individuals; HIV infection – 17, 404 individuals; AIDS – 4, 005 individuals; Hepatitis B – 7, 151 individuals; Hepatitis C – 14, 117 individuals.

In analysing the dynamics of infectious diseases among mentioned individuals over the past five years the following trends were noted: infectious hepatitis B and C have remained stable; tuberculosis (-22.7%) and HIV infection (-18.8%) have witnessed significant declines of rates. The attention should be paid to the significant increase in the number of persons both with mental and behavioral disorders as a result of use of psychoactive substances and with AIDS. Thus, in 2017 the number of such registered individuals amounted to 4, 005, which is 43% more than 2013 (2802 persons).

In Ukraine, since 2012 the substitution maintenance therapy for patients with opioid dependence has been implemented (the Law of Ukraine “On Combatting Spread of Diseases Caused by the Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV) and Legislative and Social Support for People living with HIV”, the Decree of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine No 200 of March 27, 2012).

The State Institution «Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine», that is designated to be responsible for implementation of the substitution maintenance therapy for patients with opioid dependence, collects monthly information on individuals receiving substitution maintenance therapy, including information on infectious diseases among such people. As of 01 January 2018, among 10,189 mentioned individuals, 1,619 people with tuberculosis were registered; 4, 227 people with HIV; 1, 364 people with Hepatitis B and 5, 799 people with Hepatitis C.

According to the data of the above-mentioned State Institution «Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine», the information on HIV cases among injecting drug users is collected annually. The number of such registered people amounted to 3, 997, their proportion of the total number of new cases of HIV infection was 25.5% for 2017.

In November 2017, the new statistical reporting form was approved, which will permit to receive separate information on the above-mentioned issues for 2018 and subsequent years.

### *Emergencies related to acute narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances poisoning*

In Ukraine in 2017, 926 people diagnosed for the first time as having an acute intoxication and mental disorders with harmful consequences through the use of psychoactive substances (apart from alcohol and tobacco) were under the supervision of narcological establishments of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

In analysing the above-mentioned data in terms of substances, it should be noted that only 9.2% of people were kept under regular review of drug abuse therapists as a result of the use of sedatives or hypnotics, other stimulants, including caffeine, inhalants, and the rest of people – as a result of the use of narcotic substances.

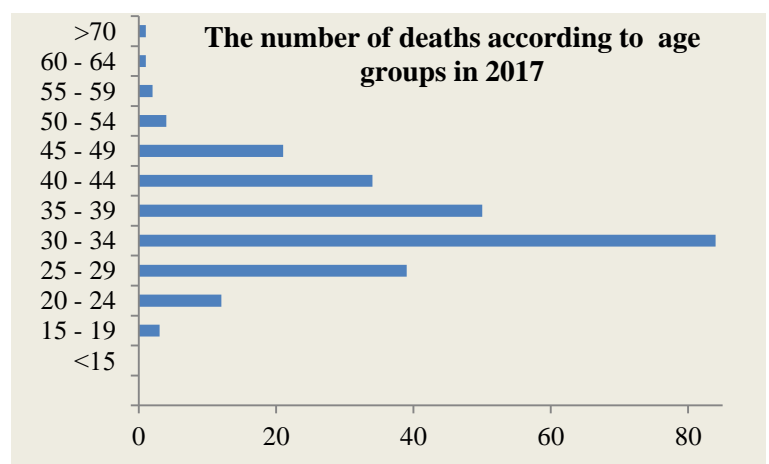
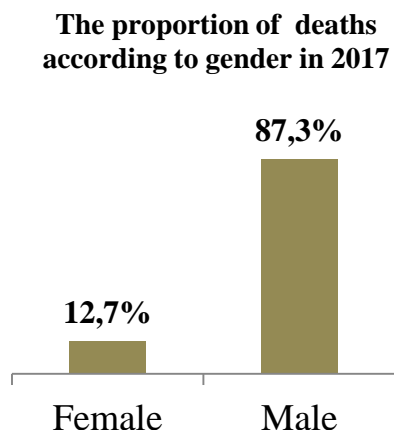
Of 6926 people 919 people were hospitalized during the year (that is, they required emergency medical assistance), out of which 812 people - through the use of narcotic substances, 107 - through the use of other psychoactive substances (apart from alcohol, narcotic drugs).

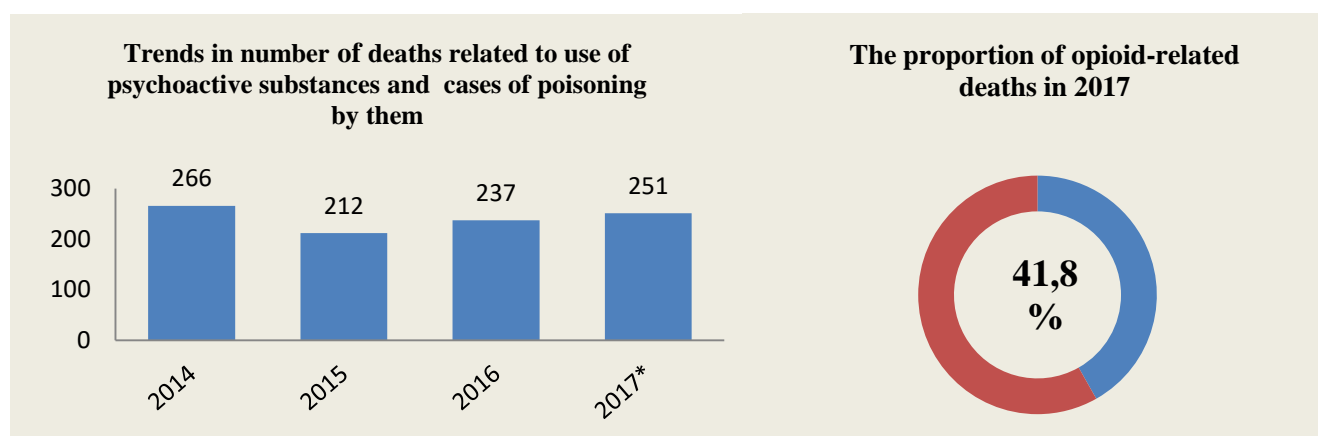
#### *Deaths related to use of psychoactive substances and poisoning by them*

The statistical information of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine on the number of deaths related to the use of psychoactive substances and poisoning by them is analyzed for collection and collation of data in Ukraine necessary for the disclosure of this indicator.

However, in 2017 according to the recommendations of the EMCDDA, the death rate by intoxication of influence of psychoactive substances was calculated using sample data, that is, taking into account defined ICD-10 codes, namely: X41 (in combination with T43.6); X42 (in combination with T40.0-9); X61 (in combination with T43.6); X62 (in combination with T40.0-9); Y11 (in combination with T43.6); Y12 (in combination with T40.0-9).

#### **The characteristics of deaths related to use of psychoactive substances and poisoning by them according to gender, age groups, substances and their trends for 2014-2017**





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

In Ukraine, in 2017 251 cases of deaths related to use of psychoactive substances (hereinafter - PAS) and poisoning by them were registered. Of these, there were 49 cases of deaths from mental and behavioural disorders as a result of use of PAS and 202 cases by external death causes related to use of PAS (hereinafter - poisoning).

Regarding the structure of deaths according to gender, in 2017 87.3% were males (219 cases) and 13.7% were females (32 cases).

According to age groups, the largest number of deaths, namely 168 cases (67%) refer to 30-44 age group, 54 cases - to 15-29 age group, and 29 cases – to 45-and-over age group.

By analyzing more thoroughly cases of deaths as a result of mental and behavioral disorders due to use of PAS (49 cases), it is necessary to note that 24 cases referred to opioid abuse and 25 cases - to abuse of several medicines and other psychoactive substances.

Besides, a more detailed analysis of deaths caused by poisoning by PAS (202 cases) revealed that - intoxication with opioids amounted to 90 cases (codeine and morphine - 37 cases, methadone - 28 cases, opium – 15 cases, synthetic opioids - 9 cases and heroin intoxication - one case). 78 death cases related to poisoning by unspecified drugs and 27 cases related to poisoning by psychotomimetics (hallucinogens). And also 7 cases related to psychostimulants that are characterized by the possibility of abuse of them.

The number of deaths caused by use of psychoactive substances and poisoning by them among the population aged 15-70 years in Ukraine in 2017 amounted to 6 persons for every one million of its population.

## Prevention

One of the tasks of the Strategy of the State Drug Policy for the Period up to 2020 is the focus of drug policy actors on drug prevention, the development of protective barriers for the individual and society as a whole, and the healthy lifestyle promotion.

The issues related to the realization of prevention interventions cut across the central executive bodies in Ukraine within the authority defined in the relevant legal documents.

The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (hereinafter– the MoES of Ukraine), the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (hereinafter – the MoH of Ukraine), the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine (hereinafter –the MoYS of Ukraine), the Ministry of Social Policy Ukraine (hereinafter – the MoSP of Ukraine), the other central executive authorities and oblast government administrations are involved in the organizational and practical provision of prevention and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

Thus, the MoES of Ukraine provides methodological guidance and coordination of prevention activities in the school system, the MoYS of Ukraine coordinates activities on prevention and healthy lifestyle promotion among young people. The MoH of Ukraine is responsible for the formation of state policy in the field of circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues and precursors, counteraction to their illicit circulation and coordinates the activity of executive authorities in this area, the MoSP of Ukraine provides the social and preventive work aimed at preventing families, children and young people from difficult life circumstances.

The non-governmental organizations play a growing role in prevention and carries out actively various initiatives and activities in educational institutions.

The mass media are also being involved in the coverage of issues relating to the prevention of drug addiction, alcohol and tobacco dependence and other issues relating to drug trafficking and the formation of a healthy lifestyle.

#### *Prevention interventions*

The prevention encompasses certain social and age groups of the population and includes various permanent activities - from the prevention of drug use to reducing its negative effects on individuals and society.

Between 2010 and 2017 Ukraine enacted certain laws aimed at countering prevalence of tobacco consumption, including increasing the excise taxes on tobacco, a complete ban on smoking in cafes, bars, restaurants, health care facilities and education institutions, as well as banning tobacco advertising (except for the Internet), sponsorship and promotions of tobacco sales.

In 2016-2017 the Kiev International Institute of Sociology with the support of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and in cooperation with the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine conducted a new round of the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) with a survey design similar to that used in the 2010 survey. According to the results of the study - the prevalence of smoking among adults dropped by nearly 20% during this period. The median price for a pack of 20 cigarettes increased by almost 70%.

Among adults, exposure to tobacco marketing, and exposure to secondhand smoke in the workplace, home, and public places have also significantly declined. Although Ukraine has reduced tobacco burden since 2010, over 8 million Ukrainians still use tobacco in 2017.

According to the statistics collected by oblast state administrations during the reporting year, they carried out various activities on prevention and reduction of the consumption of PAS, most of which were aimed at developing skills of counteracting drug addiction and promoting healthy lifestyle. Measures to counter drug

addiction included: 660,329 individual interviews (89%); 17,530 (2.4%) educational hours; 35, 869 lectures (4.9%), 7, 408 workshops (1%) and 3, 681 trainings (0.5%); 2, 337 (0.3%) publications of informational and methodological literature, 308 television programs, 583 speeches on radio and other events.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine conducted All-Ukrainian and regional activities aimed at healthy lifestyle promotion among young people during 2017, for example: All-Ukrainian festival "It is fashionable to stay healthy", attended by more than 25,000 young people; awareness-raising and preventive campaigns; sports competitions; flash mobs; cossack entertainment and quests, etc. The events were organized in partnership with public associations.

Also, a Ukraine-wide sociological study "Leisure and healthy lifestyle of the youth" was commissioned by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine in 2017 concerning the vital priorities of the value preferences of the modern Ukrainian youth. Within the context of the study, considerable attention had been paid to assessment of state of one's own health by the young people and the use of psychoactive substances. 2,000 respondents were interviewed.

According to the survey, the overwhelming majority of young people assess their health state as quite satisfactory; the interviewed youth of between 44.4% and 85.3% (depending on the type of alcoholic drinks) did not use alcohol during the last 30 days. With reference to narcotic drugs, more than 90% of young people among all respondents had never used drugs in their life.

According to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine during 2017, the Centers of Social Services for Families, Children and Youth (CSSFCY) were serving 483,000 families in difficult circumstances, among them 12,000 families, whose members used psychoactive substances, received a range of preventive services. The overwhelming number of services were aimed at prevention of "negative phenomena" and measures of promotion of a healthy way of life.

In Donetsk, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, and Khmelnytskyi oblasts there are centers for resocialization of young drug addicts with 85-90 beds. During 2017, 450 drug addicts received counselling services and services of social prevention, and 312 their family members were involved in activities aimed at reducing harm and threats from the use of narcotic drugs. 205 people are included in the program of resocialization, of which 96 individuals completed the course and 57 individuals are receiving post-program support after the completion of the course of resocialization.

According to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the issue of prevention of the use of psychoactive substances is integrated into the general secondary education and the system of educational work of educational institutions, namely, into such subjects, namely "Basics of health" and "Biology". The extracurricular activities on preventing the use of psychoactive substances are also conducted in educational institutions.

According to the collected data, a number of activities on the prevention and reduction of the level of use of psychoactive substances were conducted by the governmental and non-governmental organizations in Ukraine in 2017. The results of monitoring show that a large part of activities was devoted to the preventive individual interviews among schoolchildren, students, employees of enterprises and other specific groups of the population, representing 89% of the total number of activities undertaken, and 11% of the activities cover the educational and awareness-raising areas.

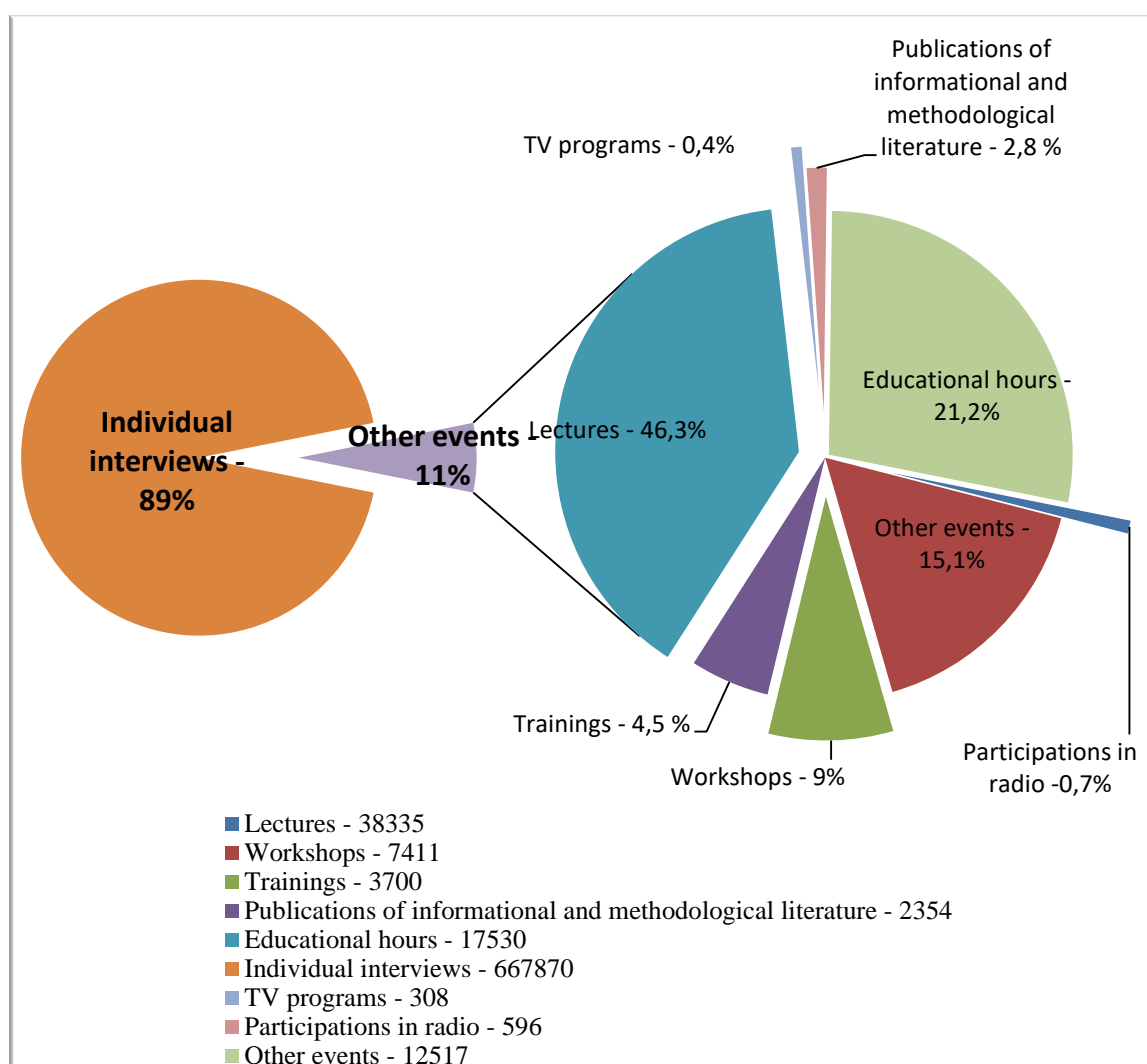
Thus, in Ukraine in 2017, various activities were undertaken on prevention and reduction of the use of psychoactive substances, of which 90.5% were conducted at the regional level, namely:

- 667, 870 - individual interviews;
- 17, 530 - educational hours;
- 38, 335 - lectures;
- 7,411 - workshops;
- 3, 700 - trainings;
- 2, 354 - publications of informational and methodological literature;
- 308 - TV programs;
- 596 - participations in radio.

Also, there were a large number of other targeted interventions aimed at prevention of alcoholism, drug addiction and tobacco use, such as film screening, questionnaires, printing of ballots, etc.



## Prevention interventions in Ukraine



NB: Year of data 2017

## Harm reduction

### *Reducing harm of drug misuse*

The Strategy of the State Drug Policy for the Period up to 2020 defines that reducing harm of drug misuse is a science-based policy and programmes of actions aimed at minimizing the negative effects of drug misuse for individuals, groups, segments and society as a whole. It also takes into account the reduction of the risk of contracting illnesses linked to drug addiction, namely: HIV infection, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis and other socially dangerous diseases.

The issue of carrying out measures to reduce harm of drug use is defined by the Laws of Ukraine “On prevention of diseases caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and legal and social security of people living with HIV”, “On Approval of the National Programme on HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support for HIV and

AIDS persons for 2009-2013”, “On Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors”.

### *Harm reduction interventions*

The selected programmes of reducing harm of drug use have not been approved in Ukraine, there is lack of such programmes as: "Take-home naloxone programmes", "Drug consumption rooms" and "Heroin-assisted treatment".

However, interventions related to the needle and syringe provision are carried out by the public organizations at the expense of the means of international organizations.

Thus, in 2017 in Ukraine the International Charitable Foundation “Alliance for Public Health” and All-Ukrainian Charitable organization “Convictus Ukraine” distributed 29,113,875 syringes/needles to people, of which 97.7% - injecting drug users, 2.1% - men having sex with men and 0.1% - commercial sex workers. The gender ratio is: 71 per cent men to 39 per cent women.

<b>Availability of selected harm reduction responses</b>				
Country	Needle and syringe programmes*	Take-home naloxone programmes	Drug consumption rooms	Heroin-assisted treatment
<b>Ukraine</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>

**NB:**\*interventions are funded through the funds of international organizations and carried out by the public organizations

## **Treatment**

### *The treatment system*

Treatment-related objectives in the Strategy of the State Drug Policy for the Period up to 2020 and their realization plans are focused on the comprehensive, integrated use of all components of the treatment system, their interaction based on evidence-based methodology, assurance of access to health care, extension of the capacity of treatment, alternative punishment, as well as, the change of strategic priorities of the treatment of drug addicts in the institutions of the penitentiary system (ensuring accessibility to all types of treatment services for drug addicts, implementation of psychosocial and pharmacological programmes (in particular, detoxification) in the institutions of the penitentiary system, administration and supervision of this process, etc.).

The treatment services are funded from the State and local budgets, special funds and other sources not prohibited by the legislation of Ukraine. The psychiatric care is provided by medical institutions of all forms of property and is implemented through specialized harm reduction centers, psychiatric and drug hospitals, drug clinics, drug treatment units in multi-profile treatment and preventive care establishments of primary, secondary and tertiary medical care, outpatient polyclinics.

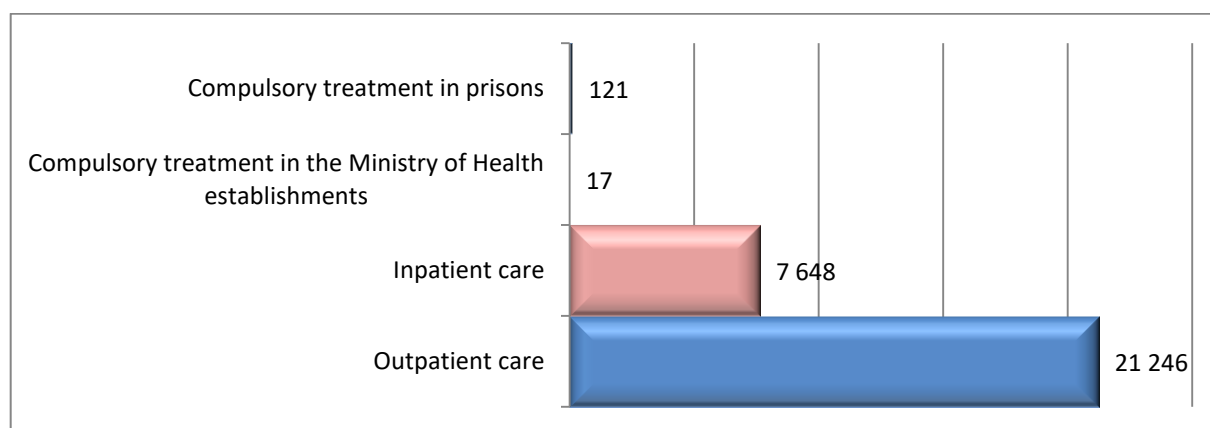
Existing forms of receiving medical assistance by drug-dependant persons: inpatient detoxification - in all drug dependency treatment and some psychiatric

institutions; out-patient detoxification - in all drug clinics and out-patient departments; doctors' consultations; opioid substitution treatment using methadone hydrochloride and buprenorphine; rehabilitation programmes.

The inpatient treatment includes screening and brief interventions; detoxification; supportive care; treatment of withdrawal symptoms; opioid maintenance therapy; treatment planning; consultations, etc.

The programme of substitution maintenance therapy (hereinafter - SMT) was introduced in Ukraine in 2005 and supported by the legislation in 2008. SMT is delivered in health care facilities (drug and tuberculosis clinics, AIDS centers, municipal and district hospitals, primary health care centers). Beginning in 2017, SMT programmes are financed from the State Budget, what ensures the continuity of treatment not only of existing patients, but also the expansion of the programme.

### **Treatment of mental and behavioural disorders as a result of use of psychoactive substances in Ukraine: settings and number treated**



**NB:** Year of data 2017

#### *Treatment provision*

As of January 1, 2018, the supervision in the dispensary group has been established for 60,906 people with mental and behavioral disorders due to the use of psychoactive substances in Ukraine. 3,938 newly diagnosed with the above-mentioned diagnosis were reported during 2017.

In 2017, the treatment was extended to 29,032 persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to the use of psychoactive substances in the dispensary group and to 9, 833 - in the prevention supervision group.

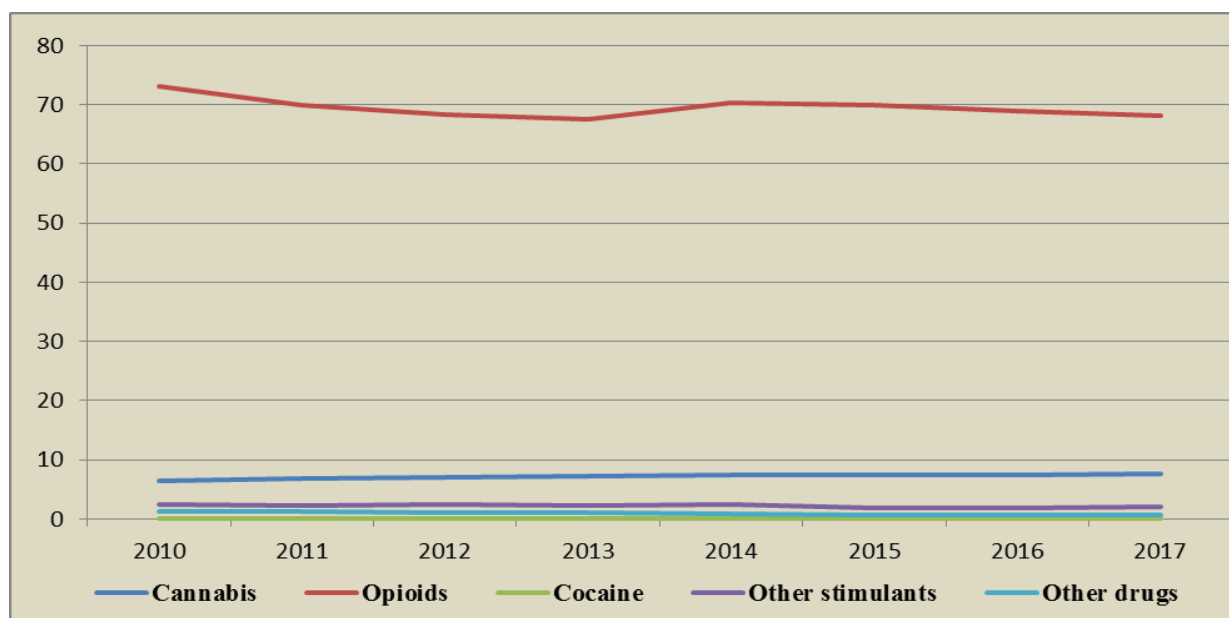
The majority of persons of the dispensary group, namely, 21,246 people received treatment in out-patient clinics and 7,648 people - in hospitals. 138 people received treatment involuntarily, by court order, of whom 17 - at the institutions of the MoH of Ukraine, and 121 persons - in prisons.

Within persons with the mentioned diagnosis who received treatment, the largest number of people is being treated for opioid dependence. Thus, in 2017, this group of patients amounted to 71.1% (20,644 persons) of all people covered by appropriate treatment. About 7% (2,033 persons) received treatment for mental and behavioral

disorders due to the use of cannabinoids. 6,087 people were treated for polysubstance addiction.

Of the total number of treated people in the reported year, 15,580 are young people aged 15 to 35.

**Trends in percentage of clients entering specialised drug treatment (under the supervision at the end of the reporting periods), by primary drug, in Ukraine**



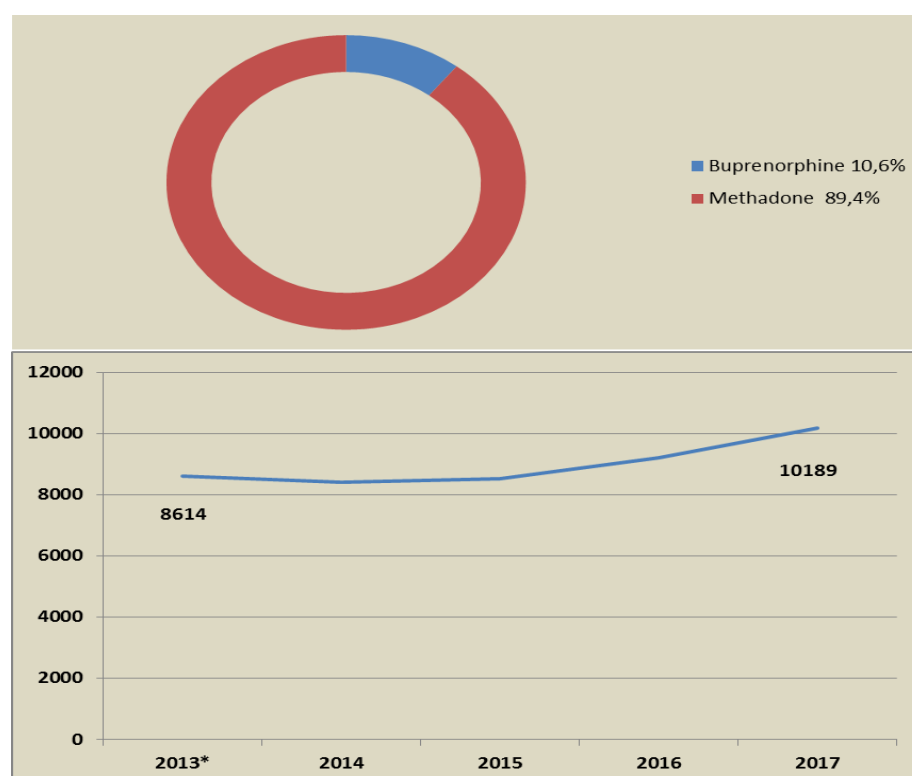
**NB:** data over 2010 - 2017

According to the statistics of the State Agency "The Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine", which is responsible for the provision of SMT in Ukraine, in 2017, the total number of patients under SMT amounted to 10,189, of which 42% were HIV-infected. The patients receive integrated medical services (diagnostics and treatment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis, other somatic diseases) and psychosocial support.

In 2017, for the first time, the SMT medicines procurement amounting to UAH 13 million was funded from the State budget of Ukraine, but until then, funding was covered through grants of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

In general, SMT was provided in all regions of Ukraine (25), the total number of sites amount to 180. The majority of patients receive methadone (in pill and liquid forms) - 9114, and 1075 patients are receiving buprenorphine.

## Opioid substitution treatment in Ukraine: proportions of clients in SMT by medication and trends of the total number of clients



**NB:**\*taking into account temporarily occupied now the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the City of Sevastopol and the certain temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

## Drug use in prison

The State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine (hereinafter – the SPS of Ukraine) include 183 penal correction facilities and detention centers. As from 2013, in all detention centers the record is kept of people undertaking SMT before imprisonment. The information regarding the remanding of such people is sent to the regional drug clinic to resolve the issue on continuing to receive the necessary treatment. In 2017, the prevalence of drug-related disorders among convicts was 2, 005 individuals, including 905 people who used drugs for the first time in their lives. The total number of convicts receiving treatment at prisons amounted to 121 persons. At the same time, the total number of convicts receiving SMT during the reporting year in the institutions of the SPS of Ukraine is only 18 people.

The prevention and educational measures to combat drug abuse, the promotion of healthy lifestyle, and building skills to oppose harmful effects of drug use are undertaken in cooperation with more than 100 non-governmental organizations providing services to people dependent on alcohol and drugs.

The prevention measures are regularly carried out among convicts in the institutions of the SPS of Ukraine. Persons prone to the consumption of psychoactive substances were involved in the implementation of the program of differential educational impact "Tackling alcohol and drug abuse". The awareness-

raising workshops for prison staff were organized to promote a tolerant attitude to drug addicts and people living with HIV/AIDS.

### **Quality assurance**

The quality of the provision of drug abuse care was regulated by the Unified Standards of drug abuse care to the population in the medical institutions of Ukraine by 2017. All medical, psychological, and social rehabilitation programmes of drug-dependence treatment were included into the Temporary Standards of diagnosis and treatment processes of inpatient care in Ukraine, approved in 1998, and the Regulations of the provision of medical care to the adult population in outpatient polyclinics in Ukraine, approved in 2002.

The Order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine No.1422 dated December 29, 2016, came into force on April 28, 2017, which allows Ukrainian doctors to use in their work the international clinical protocols that are being approved by the internal order of the health care facility, and can be used in this institution, subject to the availability of patient's informed consent.

At the same time, the unified clinical protocols approved by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine cannot be null and void and remain mandatory, in cases when the health care institution does not adopt new clinical protocols or the patient did not provide informed consent.

Also, in 2017, the Law of Ukraine "On State Financial Guarantees of medical care for the Population" was adopted, which came into force in January 2018. This Law defines the state financial guarantees of the provision of medical care (medical services) and medicines of the adequate quality at the expense of the State budget of Ukraine within the programme of medical guarantees.

### **Drug-related research**

The Strategy is implemented on the basis of the Action Plan approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, fulfilment of which requires, in particular: the preparation and implementation of targeted scientific researches within the system of monitoring of drug situation and concerning the effectiveness of prevention, therapeutic and rehabilitation activities.

The researches related to the drug abuse problems are mainly conducted in Ukraine by the public organizations at the expense of international organizations.

Thus, in 2017, the Alliance for Public Health conducted with the support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in 2015-2017 in partnership with the Red Cross Society of Ukraine the research on: "Strengthening the provision of quality outpatient care for MR-TB patients by providing medical, social, psychological services and forming treatment adherence".

In 2017 – early 2018, another round of HIV biobehavioral surveys among the key populations – PWID, sex workers and MSM – was conducted by Alliance for Public Health in cooperation with the Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

On December 5, 2017, the Second Drug policy Talk was held in Kyiv with the attendance of key international experts on drug policy with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation. During the event, the results of the study "Humanizing the state policy regarding people who use drugs" were presented on the criminological, ethical and moral issues of the current methods of combating illicit drug trafficking in Ukraine.

The State Agency "The Center for Mental Health and Monitoring of Drugs and Alcohol" publishes an annual report on drug situation in Ukraine that summarizes the available data on studies conducted in Ukraine in the field of drug use and its consequences.

### **Drug markets**

The most widespread in Ukraine are herbal drugs (poppy straw and marijuana) of the local production. The opiates - opium (in particular acetylated opium), poppy straw, synthetic opiates (methadone and tramadol) - are second most popular after cannabis.

In recent years, amphetamine-type stimulants, such as amphetamine and methamphetamine, are spreading, whose production is mainly carried out in the middle of the country.

The share of new psychoactive substances on the drug market of Ukraine is small, but it is growing. For example, according to the results of the monitoring of drug situation in Ukraine, 82 substances have psychoactive effects and are subject of non-medical use and have been included in the list of controlled substances in May 2017.

Heroin and cocaine are not widespread because of their high cost.

The cannabis seizures exceed seizures of all other narcotic drugs and together with seizures of poppy straw account for more than 95% of all seizures (not taking into account 2013). The illicit cultivation of cannabis in protected conditions has recently become widespread.

In recent years, there has been a significant decrease in opium and heroin seizures, while methadone seizures are increasing. There has been a spread of methadone distribution by the way of "stashers", as well as the elimination of both the places of its clandestine production and channels of leakage from the legal circulation.

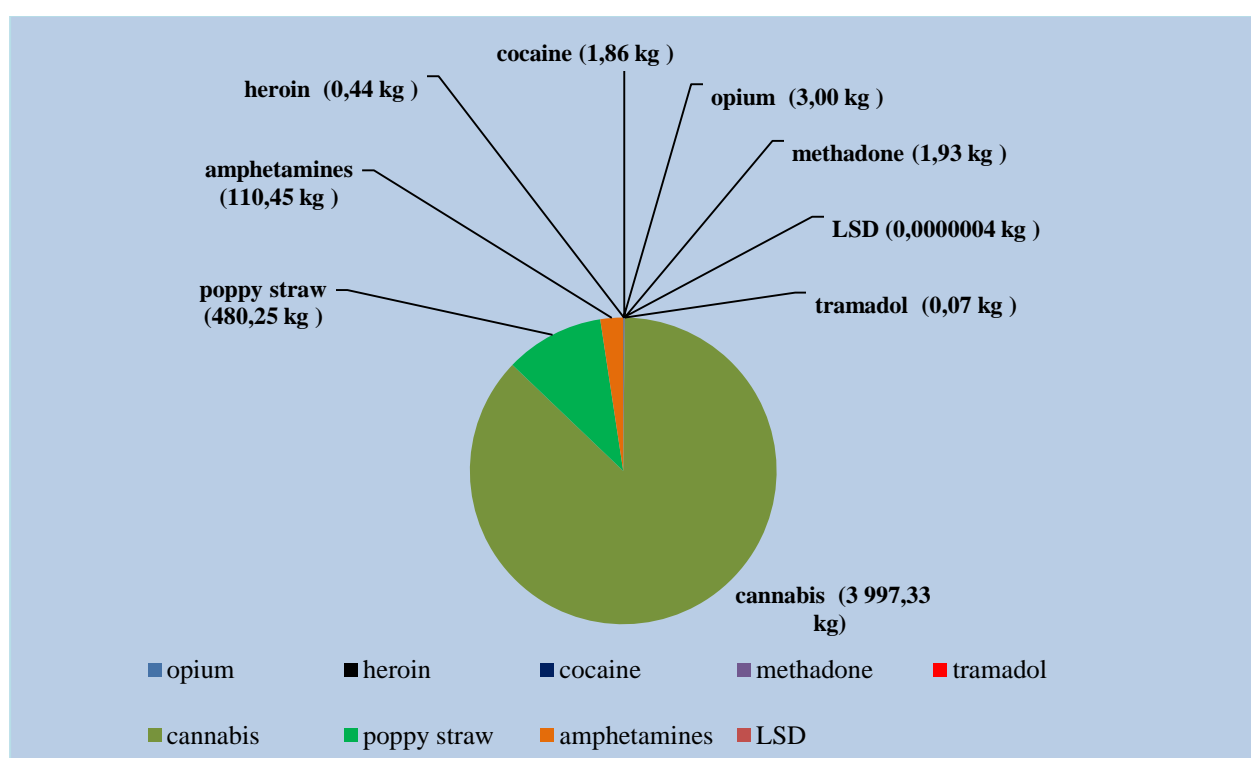
The traditional for Ukraine narcotic drug is acetylated opium, not losing its popularity. It is produced by acetylizing opium or extractive opium, and also includes both opium alkaloids, monoacetylmorphine, diacetylmorphine (heroin), acetylcodeine or a mixture containing these substances. The stable high levels of seizures of both raw materials for its manufacturing (poppy straw) and precursors (anhydrite acetic acid) indicate about this.

The amphetamine-type stimulants produced locally are widespread, their production is usually carried out at home and does not require high-value equipment. There has been an increase in the volumes of their seizures, as well as the elimination of clandestine labs. Also, there have been seizures of precursors used in the manufacture of stimulants, namely amphetamine (in particular, in 2016, 143 liters of phenylacetone,

and, in 2017, about 13 kg of phenylacetic acid were seized) and methamphetamine (ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, in particular, as medicines).

The rapid increase in seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants in 2017 is related to the elimination of the transit chain of supply of "Captagon" medicine (INN fenethyline, which is a compound of amphetamine and theophylline) from Syria through Ukraine to Kuwait. Thus, in Odessa, the members of organized criminal groups were detained and record shipment for Ukraine of extremely dangerous psychotropic substances "Captagon", weighing about 355 kg, was detected. It was established that a criminal group was preparing a transit movement of a captagon to the territory of Ukraine by air, by hiding it in packages with inflatable boats.

### Drug seizures in Ukraine in 2017



**NB:** according to the statistical information about crime and the results of prosecutorial and investigative activities for 2017. There is no available information about the number of seizures.

## KEY STATISTICS

### Most recent data

#### Cannabis

	Year	Data
Prevalence of use over the preceding 30 days (15-17 years of age) (% ESPAD)	2015	3,3
Last year prevalence of use(15-17 years of age) (%)	2015	7,6
Last year prevalence of drug use - all	No research has been carried out	



adults (%)		
All treatment entrants (%)	2017	6,91
First-time treatment entrants(%)	2017	9,73
Quantity of herbal cannabis seized(kg)	2017	3997,33
Number of herbal cannabis seizures	Information is not available	
Quantity of cannabis resin seized (kg)	Information is not available	
Number of cannabis resin seizures	Information is not available	
Potency - herbal (% THC) (minimum and maximum values registered)	Information is not available	
Potency - resin (% THC) (minimum and maximum values registered)	Information is not available	
Price per gram - herbal (EUR) (minimum and maximum values registered)	2017	1 to 2
Price per gram - resin (EUR) (minimum and maximum values registered)	Information is not available	

### Cocaine

	Year	Data
Prevalence of use - schools (15-17 years of age) (% ESPAD)	2015	1,5
Last year prevalence of use - young adults(%)	No research has been carried out	
Last year prevalence of drug use - all adults(%)	No research has been carried out	
All treatment entrants (%)	2017	0,09
First-time treatment entrants (%)	2017	00
Quantity of cocaine seized (kg)	2017	1,86
Number of cocaine seizures	Information is not available	
Purity (%) (minimum and maximum values registered)	Information is not available	
Price per gram (EUR) (minimum and maximum values registered)	2017	110 to 186

### Amphetamines

	Year	Data
Prevalence of use - schools (15-17 years of age) (% ESPAD)	2015	1,9
Last year prevalence of use - young adults (%)	No research has been carried out	
Last year prevalence of drug use - all adults (%)	No research has been carried out	
All treatment entrants (%)	Information is not available	
First-time treatment entrants (%)	Information is not available	

Quantity of amphetamine seized (kg)	2017	110,45
Number of amphetamine seizures	Information is not available	
Purity - amphetamine (%) (minimum and maximum values registered)	Information is not available	
Price per gram - amphetamine (EUR) (minimum and maximum values registered)	2017	8 to 20

### Hallucinogens

	Year	Data
Lifetime prevalence of use (15-17 years of age) (% ESPAD)*	2015	1,6
Last year prevalence of use(15-17 years of age) (%)*	2015	1,1
Last year prevalence of drug use - all adults (%)	No research has been carried out	
All treatment entrants (%)	2017	0,04
First-time treatment entrants (%)	2017	0,05
Quantity of MDMA seized (tablets)	Information is not available	
Number of MDMA seizures	Information is not available	
Purity (MDMA mg per tablet) (minimum and maximum values registered)	Information is not available	
Purity (MDMA % per tablet) (minimum and maximum values registered)	Information is not available	
Price per tablet (EUR) (minimum and maximum values registered)	Information is not available	

**NB:**\*data available on MDMA

### Opioids

	Year	Data
High-risk opioid use (prevalence) (rate/1000)	2017	51,49
All treatment entrants(%)	2017	70,13
First-time treatment entrants (%)	2017	57,35
Quantity of heroin seized (kg)	2017	0,44
Number of heroin seizures	Information is not available	
Purity - heroin (%) (minimum and maximum values registered)	Information is not available	
Price per gram - heroin (EUR) (minimum and maximum values registered)	2017	70 to 110

**Drug-related infectious diseases/injecting/deaths**

	Year	Data
Newly diagnosed HIV cases related to injecting drug use- aged 15-64 (cases/million population)	Information is not available	
People diagnosed with HIV infection as a result of injecting drug use and placed on a register at the end of the reporting year	2017	48043
HCV prevalence among PWID(%)	Information is not available	
Injecting drug use - general population at the end of the reporting period (cases rate/1 000 population)	2017	1,2
Drug-induced deaths - aged 15-64	2017	250*

Примітка: \*number of cases

**Health and social responses**

	Year	Data
Syringes distributed through social programmes	2015	29 113 875
Clients in substitution treatment	2017	10 189

**Treatment demand**

	Year	Data
All entrants	2017	29 032
First-time entrants	2017	3 938
All clients in treatment(prevalence – at the end of 2017)	2017	60 906

**Drug law offences**

	Year	Data
Number of reports of offences	2017	28 096
Offences for use/possession	2017	4 557

**Generalised conclusion**

In Ukraine, in recent years, there has been an increase in the number of people seeking treatment as a result of the use of psychoactive substances. About 70% of all people receive treatment due to the use of opioids, 7% - due to the use of cannabinoids. The majority of people receiving treatment is young people aged 15 to 35.

The prevalence of lifetime use of any drugs among the Ukrainian students aged 15-17 years was no higher than the European average. Thus, about 85% of the

respondents consumed alcohol, about 53% smoked cigarettes, and 11,1% used cannabinoids (the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs – ESPAD, 2015).

The activities on the prevention and reduction of the level of use of psychoactive substances are conducted mainly by the non-governmental organizations and focused on healthy lifestyle promotion through a variety of educational and awareness-raising activities, distributing personal protective items among population, including among its vulnerable groups.

The number of deaths due to abuse of psychoactive substances and poisonings by them increased by 8% over the last 3 years. It should be noted that the proportion of males of the total number of deaths amounted to about 87%. In 2017, 67% of deaths were recorded in the 30-44 age group, most deaths (44%) were caused by opioids poisoning.

In Ukraine, the plant-based drugs (poppy straw and marijuana) of their own production are the psychoactive substances with the largest volumes seized. The opioids - opium (in particular, acetylated), poppy straw, synthetic opioids – have the second-highest seizures after cannabis. Thus, the seizures of cannabis and opioids amount to 95% of all seizures.

### **Proposals aimed at an improved system of monitoring of the drug situation in Ukraine**

1. The strict implementation of the Article 21 of the Association Agreement between the European Union, the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part, and item 17 of the Action Plan on its implementation, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No.1106 dated 25 October 2017, with regard to the development, publication and adoption of the legislative act on monitoring of the drug situation in Ukraine in accordance with the indicators of the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction to implement a monitoring system of drug situation in Ukraine at the State level.

2. The implementation by all drug policy-making actors of the Action Plan for 2019-2020 on realization of the Strategy of the State Drug Policy for the Period up to 2020 aimed at solving issues in the following areas:

- preventing drug abuse and illicit drug use;
- combating stigma and ensuring the protection of the rights of people using the psychoactive substances;
- treatment and rehabilitation of persons with mental and behavioral disorders as a result of the use of psychoactive substances;
- organization of treatment in the institutions and establishments of the State Penitentiary Service of convicts and persons taken into custody, with mental and behavioral disorders as a result of the use of psychoactive substances;
- improving the system of control over drug circulation;
- ensuring accessibility of narcotic medicines, promoting the development of palliative care and substitution maintenance therapy;

- combating illicit drug trafficking;
- monitoring (dynamic observation) of drug situation;
- some issues of state drug policy;
- international cooperation.