

NATIONAL REPORT 2019
On The Drug Situation in Ukraine
(based on 2018 data)

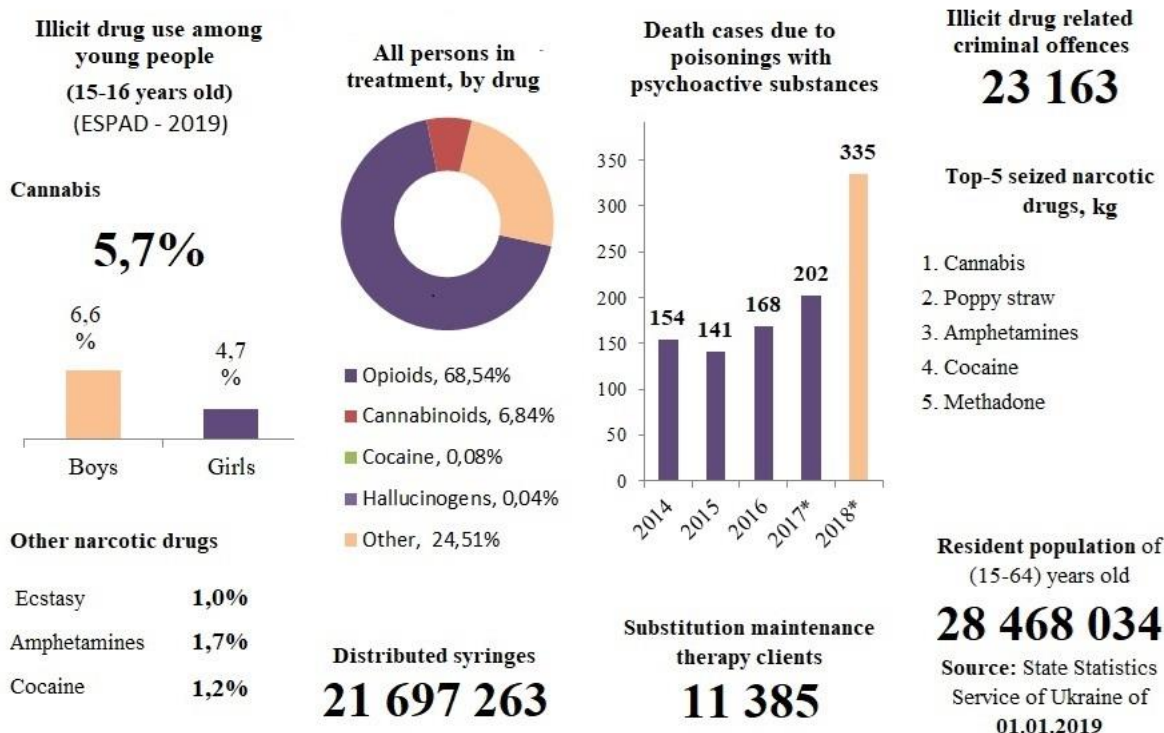
Kyiv
2019

UKRAINE

2019 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 2018.

Summary on drug problems and responses to the drug problems in Ukraine



Note: Data reported on the EMCDDA indicators (treatment clients, fatal intoxications, problem drug use, distribution of syringes and drug law offences), approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. 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 2019 study under the international project “The European school survey project on alcohol and other drugs (ESPAD)”.

*in 2017 and 2018 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).

CONTENTS

Summary on drug problems in Ukraine	1
List of abbreviations.....	3
National drug strategy and coordination mechanisms for its implementation.....	4
<i>National drug strategy</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>National coordination mechanisms.....</i>	<i>4</i>
State expenditures	4
Drug laws and drug law offences	5
<i>National drug laws</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Violation of the law on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances</i>	<i>7</i>
Drug use.....	8
<i>Prevalence and trends</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>High-risk drug use and trends.....</i>	<i>10</i>
Drug harms	11
<i>Drug-related infectious diseases.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Deaths related to use of PAS and poisoning by them</i>	<i>13</i>
Prevention	17
<i>Preventive measures.....</i>	<i>17</i>
Harm reduction	19
<i>Reducing harm of drug misuse.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Measures for harm reduction.....</i>	<i>Ошибка! Закладка не определена.</i>
Treatment.....	21
<i>The treatment system.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Treatment provision</i>	<i>21</i>
Drug use in prison	24
Quality assurance	25
Drug-related research	25
Drug markets	26
KEY STATISTICS.....	29
Generalized conclusion	32
Proposals aimed at an improved system of monitoring of the drug situation in Ukraine	32

List of abbreviations

PGO	Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine
SI «CMHMDAMH»	State Institution «Center for Mental Health and Monitoring of Drugs and Alcohol of Ministry of Health of Ukraine»
SMT	Substitution maintenance therapy
MoH	Ministry of Health of Ukraine
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
MoSP	Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine
MoYS	Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine
Poisoning	External causes of death related to PAS use
PAS	Psychoactive substances
SSU	Security Service of Ukraine
ESPAD	The international project "The European school survey project on alcohol and other drugs"

National drug strategy and coordination mechanisms for its implementation

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 2018 for the implementation of the aforementioned Strategy has not been approved due to the reform of the system of central executive bodies responsible for the development and implementation of drug policy.

At the same time, in 2018 the provisions of the Strategy were implemented by all players involved in drug policy-making and implementation, in conformity with their functional obligations, about which the Government of Ukraine was informed.

Thus, in 2018, in order to increase the availability of premedical care for drug addicts and to prevent their mortality due to opioid-related overdoses, a naloxone drug was allowed to be released from pharmacies in the amount of 2 mg without a prescription by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MoH).

In order to improve the provision of premedical care to persons in medical emergency, the procedure for providing premedical care to persons with suspected opioid-related overdose, was approved by the Order of the MoH of Ukraine, according to which emergency responders, state firefighters, police officers, pharmacists, sport instructors, flight attendants and other personnel without formal medical education but who have practical skills in providing premedical care, are allowed to use antidote (naloxone) for the individuals suspected of opioid-related poisoning.

National coordination mechanisms

Putting the Strategy into practice effectively is determined by key factors, such as the state coordination. Coordination is carried out through regulatory activities, control and inspection measures, and implementation of the mechanisms of interaction between the drug policy, along with setting up inter-agency working groups, organising information exchange, undertaking joint projects, conducting special operations, etc. The MoH of Ukraine is the principal coordinator of the activities in this area.

State expenditures

The implementation of the Strategy is financed from the state, local budgets and other legal sources. The separate funds from the State Budget of Ukraine are not allocated for the implementation of the Action Plan, however, activities envisaged in the Strategy are implemented within the core budget provided by the State to each implementing partner of the Strategy.

Since 2017, funding for the program of substitution maintenance therapy has been provided at the expense of the State budget. Thus, in 2018, the purchase of medicines

for substitute maintenance therapy was spent in the amount of 3007.7 thousand UAH (109 370 thousand USD).

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 regard to movement and circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, establishes the way of state control, the powers of the executive authorities. The law also sets out the rights and obligations of individuals 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. The rights and obligations of legal entities and citizens are set down in connection with the law being applicable in practice. This law also defines that illegal circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors is an activity on the cultivation of drug containing plants (e.g., plants of cannabis and opium poppy) along with the 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 as conducted 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 of Ukraine at the request of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

The Criminal Code of Ukraine and the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences define types of crimes and punishment for violation of the above-mentioned legislation. .

The Criminal Code of Ukraine provides criminal sanctions for actions, such 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 opium poppy or Cannabis, illegal injection of narcotic drugs to another person, induce of other individuals to use of narcotic drugs, organisation or running places for illegal drug use, production or manufacture of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues.

The Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses determines and provides administrative legal responsibility 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 use in public) 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 of 25 to 50 minimum tax exempt

monthly income, or public works for a period of 20 to 60 hours, or administrative arrest for up to 15 days.

The small, large and particularly large amounts of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors that are in illegal circulation are established by the MoH of Ukraine.

The individual who has voluntarily surrendered narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances (in amounts which does not exceed defined small quantities), being in possession and produced, manufactured, purchased, stored, transported, transferred without the purpose of selling, is exempt from administrative liability for such actions.

Besides, the individuals aged from 16 to 18, who have committed such administrative offenses, may be subjected to other measures, such as the warning or the placement of minor under the custody of parents or guardians, or under the supervision of teaching staff or co-workers 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 imprisonment for a term of 5 to 8 years.

The same actions committed repeatedly or by prior conspiracy among a group of individuals, 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 2 to 5 years.

If the amount of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances is less than the large one, but greater than the small one, the punishment involves a fine of 50 to 100 times the defined monthly income exempted from the income tax, or punitive work for term of up to 2 years, or arrest for up to 6 months, or restriction of liberty for up to 3 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 specified 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 handed in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues while indicating 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 involve a heavier penalty).

Violation of the law on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

In Ukraine, in order to monitor some cases of violations of drug law and psychotropic substances trafficking, as was the case in previous years, information provided by the open source of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine (PGO) is used, which in particular contains information about registered criminal offenses.

23 163 criminal cases of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances trafficking were recorded in Ukraine in 2018.

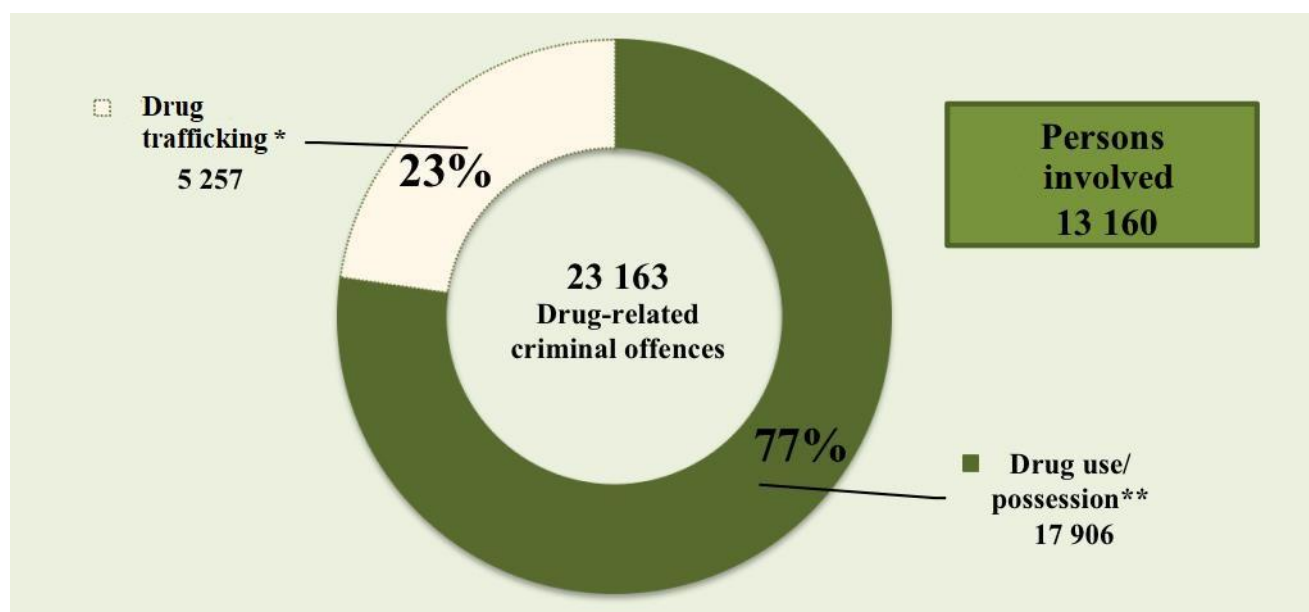
According to the PGO in the reporting year, crimes related to the illicit manufacture, purchase, storage, transportation, trafficking of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances with no purpose for sale prevailed.(Figure 1)

For the illicit manufacture, production, purchase, storage, transportation or shipment for the purpose of sale, as well as the illicit sale of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues, 5 257 cases of such offenses were reported.

13 160 persons were reported as suspected of the cases of law offenses mentioned above.

In addition, according to the Report of the Courts of First Instance on Administrative Offenses and Administrative Proceedings, 7 190 administrative cases related to the illegal production, acquisition, storage, carriage, transportation of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances without the small-scale trade objective were reported.

Figure 1. Criminal offenses related to violation of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances circulation law reported in 2018



Note: source data — the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, published reports "Unified report on persons who committed criminal offenses" and "Unified report on criminal offenses" for 2018;

* illicit manufacture, production, purchase and storage, transportation, transfer or sale of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues (Article 307 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine);

** illicit manufacture, manufacture, purchase and storage, transportation or transfer of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues without the purpose of sale (Article 309 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Drug use

Prevalence and trends

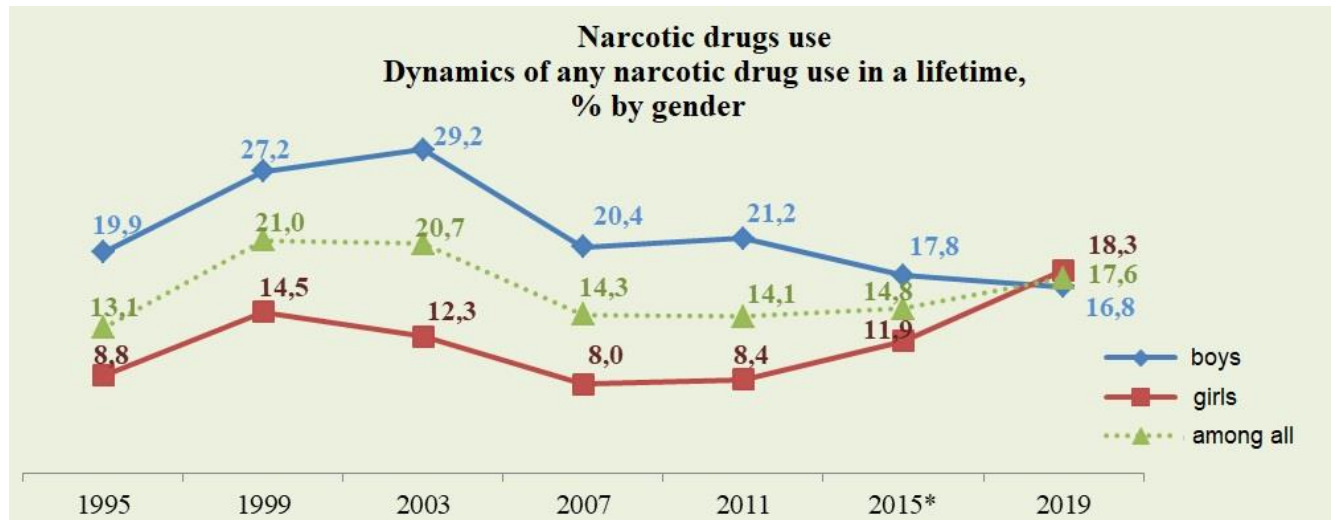
In Ukraine, the studies of prevalence of use of narcotic drugs among the population aged 15-64 years are not being carried out. That is why Ukraine does not have complete consolidated information on this issue for today.

However, some steps were taken to study the drug use among certain categories of citizens, and since 1995 the survey of young students (15 – 16 years old) has been carried out in Ukraine on a regular basis as part of the 'European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs' (ESPAD) .

In Ukraine, there has not been an analysis of municipal wastewater on drugs and their metabolites to evaluate the drug consumption in the community so far.

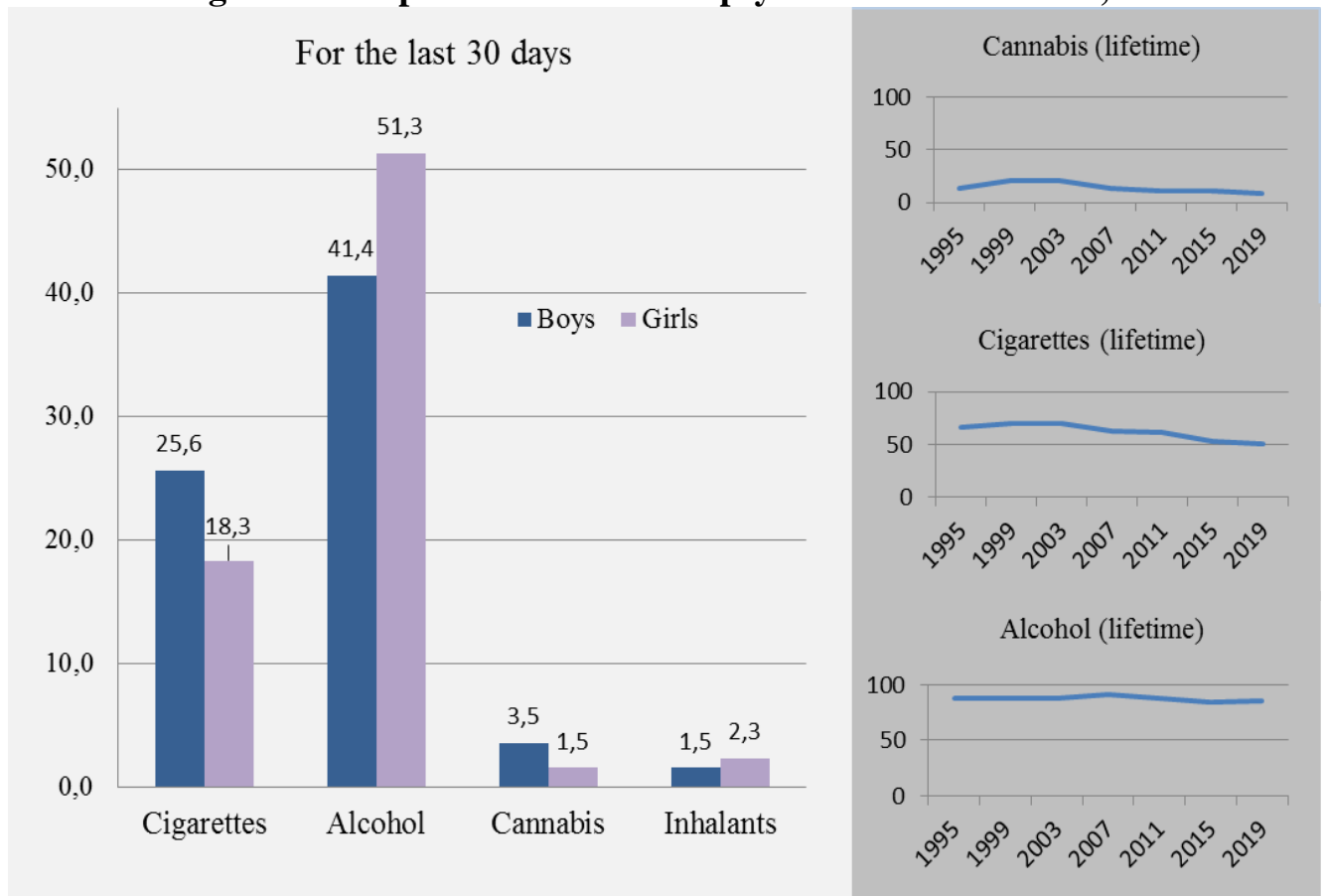
The latest data on consumption of psychoactive substances (alcohol, tobacco, drugs) among 15-16 year olds were obtained in 2019 as part of the ESPAD.

Figure 2. Lifetime prevalence of use of any narcotic drug among 15-16 (or 17) years old school students , by gender (%)



Note: * refining data for 2015 obtained in 2019, source of an ESPAD study for 2019.

Figure 3. The prevalence of use of psychoactive substances, %



Note: Source: ESPAD study 2019.

The 2019 round shows a steady downward trend in students smoking. In 2003, 70% of those interviewed had a smoking experience, and in 2019 this figure was 50%. At the same time, access to alcohol increased — more than half of those surveyed said they could easily get beer, wine or low alcohol drinks. The vast majority (85.7%) of students surveyed have experience of drinking alcohol, and one in five (22.5%) students say they drink alcohol almost weekly.

The proportion of students who used any narcotic drug at least once in their lifetime was 17.6%, and among girls, it increased 1.5 times compared to 2015 (from 12.7% in 2015 to 18.3% in 2019). (Figure 2) In 2019, 8.7% of students reported cannabis use and 9.2% had used inhalants in the past. The proportion of those who used both substances was 4.2% of all 15 to 17 (or 16) years old students. (Figure 3)

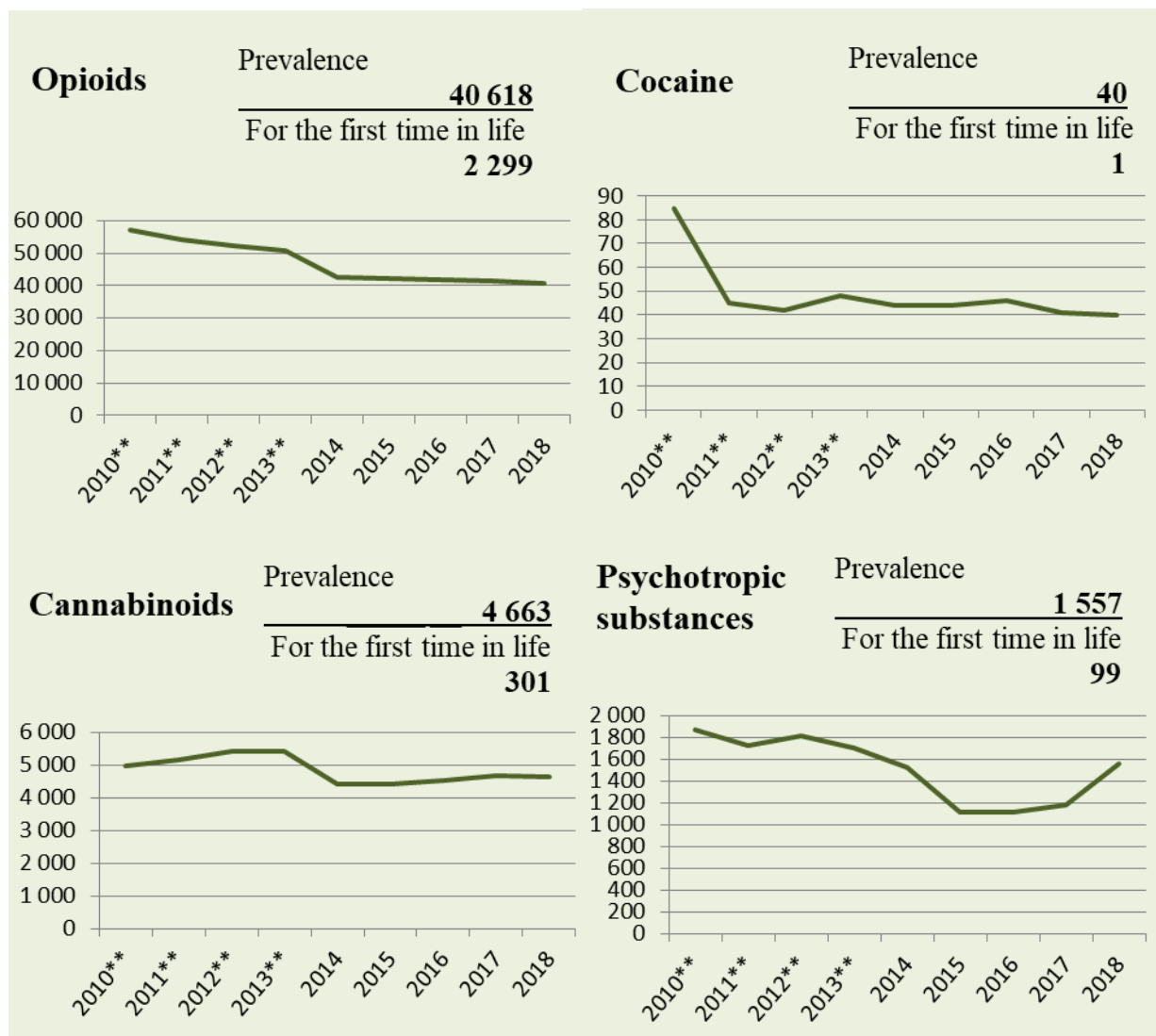
In addition, at the request of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of Ukraine a nationwide sociological study has been set up to examine the system of values and priorities of modern Ukrainian youth for 2018 'Youth of Ukraine — 2018', with 2000 respondents. The study examined how young people perceive their health and what are their experiences with use of psychoactive substances.

In terms of alcohol, beer is the most commonly consumed beverage. More than half of the respondents consumed in the last month, with 6% reporting daily consumption, every fourth respondent — weekly (27.7%) and monthly (25.2%). Wine and champagne were consumed by a third of respondents (33.3%) once a month. One third of the young people surveyed (29.2%) consumed strong alcoholic beverages (vodka, cognac, whiskey) and 29.3% of respondents — light alcohol drinks and cocktails. Energy drinks and beverages of domestic production were the least commonly used alcoholic beverages reported by 17.6% and 10.6% of respondents, respectively.

Majority (82.8%) of young people have never tried narcotic drugs in their lifetime, which is less than 90.9% reported in a similar study in 2017. Around 11.6% of young people had used a narcotic drug once, less than 1.0% have used drugs from time to time, 1.7% have experience using it several times and 1.4% of respondents use it regularly.

High-risk drug use and trends

In Ukraine, high-risk drug use is mainly associated with the injection of domestically prepared extracted opium ('shyrka') and stimulants (amphetamines). Injecting drug use increases the risk of HIV infection, hepatitis B and C and also syphilis, due to the use of one needle by several individuals.

Figure 4. Trends of drug users treated in Ukraine from 2010 – 2018.

Note: data source — Health Statistics Center of the MoH of Ukraine Form No. 32 ‘Report on Persons with Psychiatric Disorders due to the PAS use for 2018’;

* All treated drug users is the total number of people being supervised at the end of the reporting period; Fore the first time in life — the total number of people who received medical care for the first time in the reporting year;

** 2010–2013 — taking into account currently temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Sevastopol and parts of the temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Drug harms

Drug-related infectious diseases

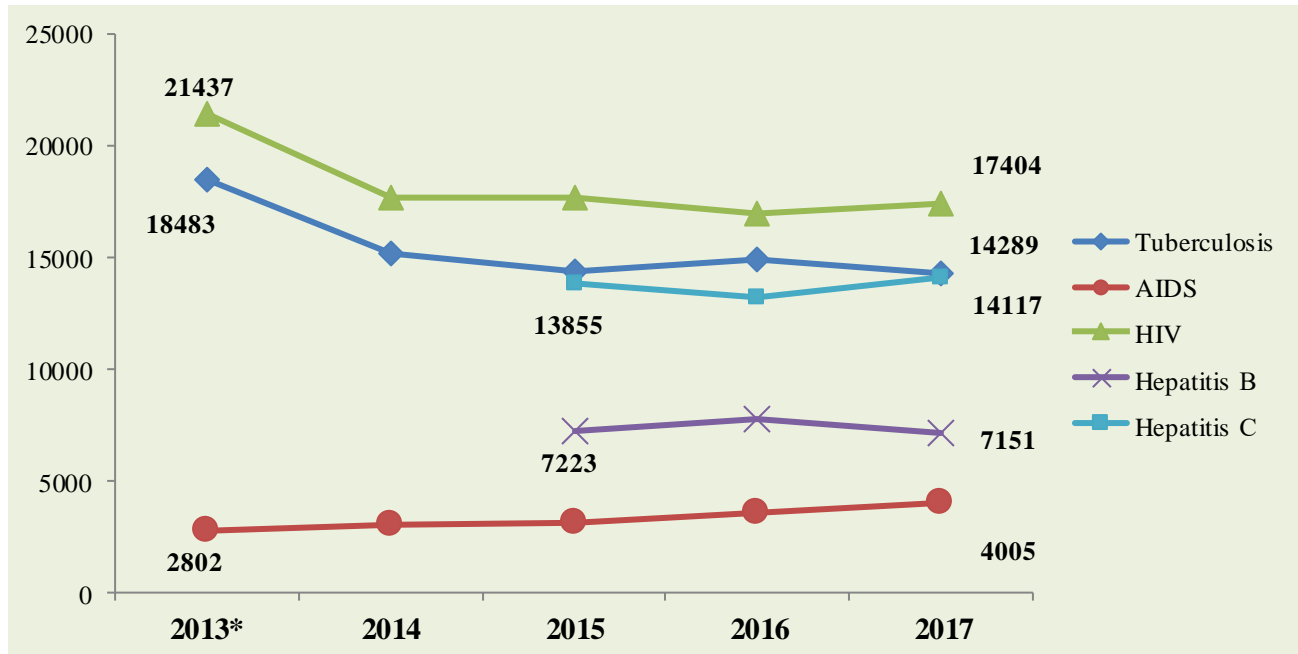
Epidemic surveillance data on the spread of infectious diseases among the entire population of Ukraine are collected and compiled at all levels, from local to national.

As of 1 January 2019, 333 717 persons in Ukraine were infected with HIV; 23 687 persons —with hepatitis B; 82 654 persons were infected with hepatitis C and 31 221 person— with tuberculosis.

With the respect to people who use drugs, observing the changes for 2013 -2017, the following trend is observed: the number of HIV-infected patients with tuberculosis

and hepatitis B — is decreasing; the number of patients with hepatitis C — remains practically constant, while the number of AIDS patients has almost doubled.

Figure 5. The dynamics of prevalence of infectious diseases among individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to the use of psychoactive substances with a history of infectious diseases for 2013-2017

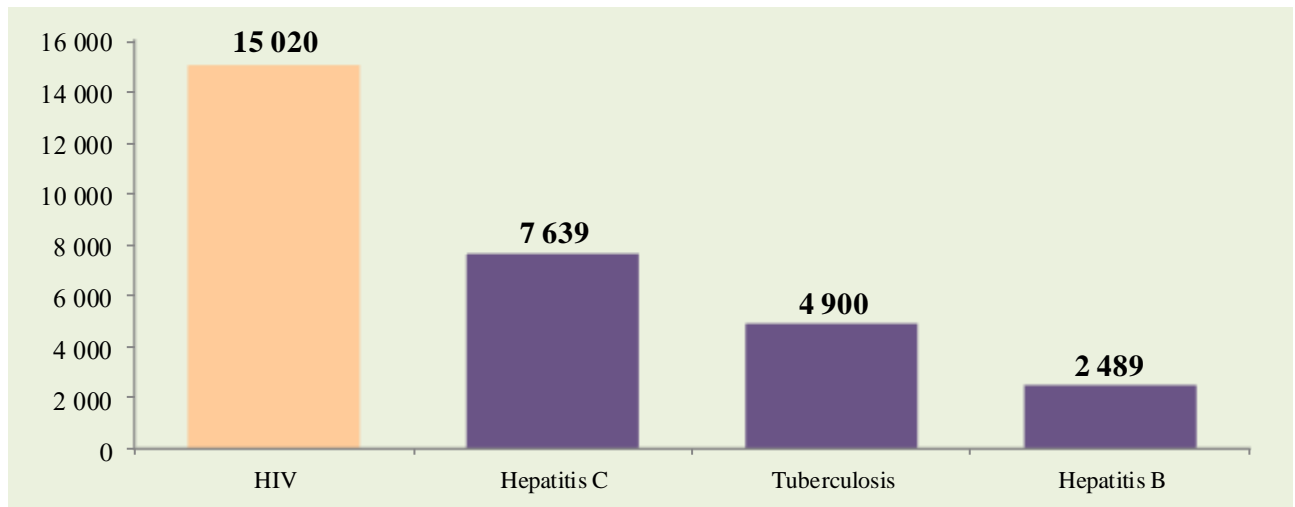


Note: data source — Health Statistics Center of the MoH of Ukraine for 2013–2017;

* 2013 — taking into account currently temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Sevastopol and parts of the temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

In 2018, according to regional state administrations, a total of 15 020 people who inject drugs were reported having an HIV infection-, 2 489 had hepatitis B, 7 639 - hepatitis C, and 4 900 =- tuberculosis.

Figure 6. Number of individuals with mental and behavioral disorders due to psychoactive substances use by injection administration route who have a history of infectious disease in 2018



Note: data source — information from regional state administrations for 2018.

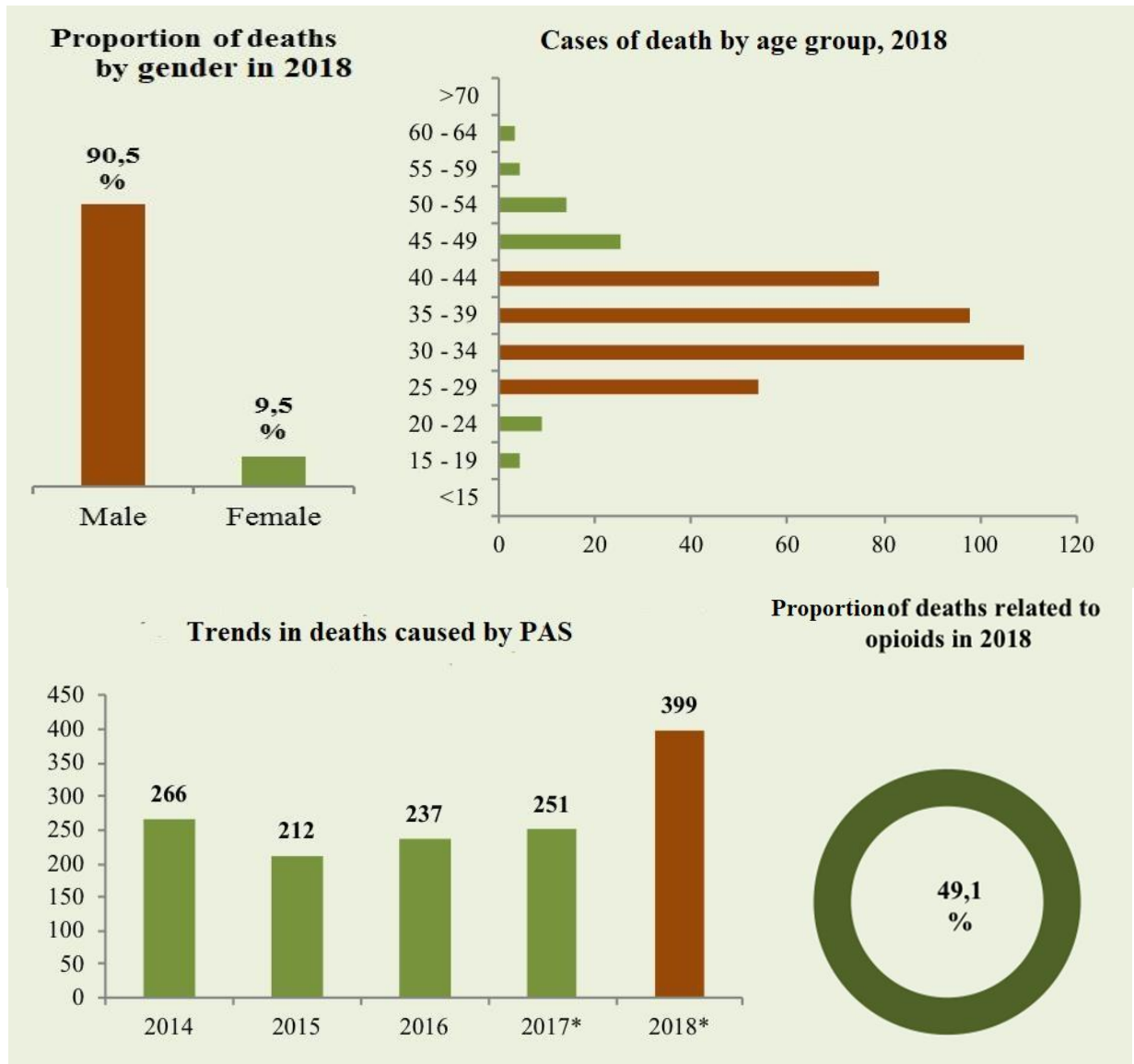
Deaths related to use of psychoactive substances (PAS) and poisoning by them

In Ukraine, data on ‘Drug-related deaths and deaths among narcotic drug users’ are obtained from the general mortality register of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine and refers to the statistics on deaths related to the use of PAS and related fatal poisonings.

In 2018, at the request of the State Institution ‘Center for Mental Health and Monitoring of Drugs and Alcohol of Ministry of Health of Ukraine’ (SI ‘CMHMDAMH’) the statistical information of the regional forensic medical examination bureaus was consolidated and analysed. The analysis aimed to establish the number of deaths based on the autopsy results on the presence of psychoactive substances in biological materials.

According to the State Statistics Service, in 2018 there were 399 cases of deaths related to use of PAS and fatal poisoning by them. Of these, there were 64 cases of deaths from mental and behavioural disorders as a result of use of PAS and 335 cases by external death causes related to use of PAS.

Figure 7. The characteristics and trends in deaths induced by psychoactive substances 2014-2018



Note: data source State Statistics of Ukraine for 2018;

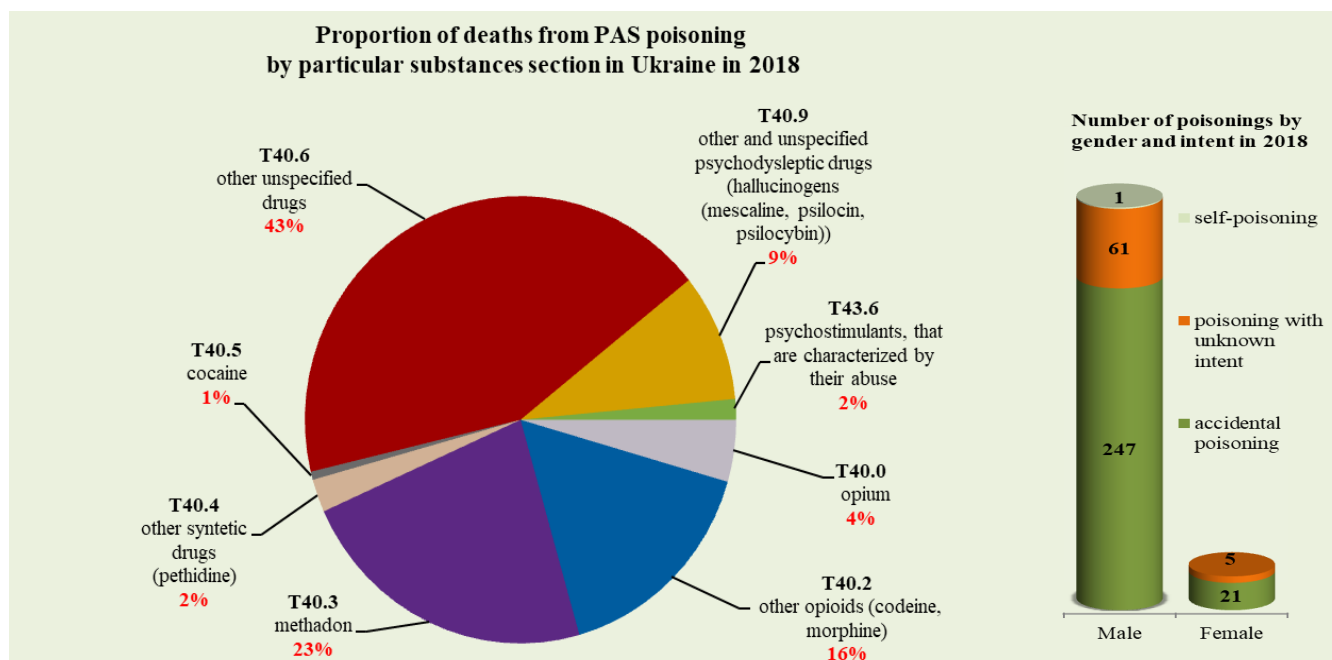
* X41 (in combination with T43.6); X42 (in combination with T40.0-9); X61 (in combination with T43.6); X62 (in combination with T40.0-9); Y11 (in combination with T43.6); Y12 (in combination with T40.0-9)

In 2018, 90.5% of those deceased were males (361 cases) and 9.5% were females (38 cases). The gender distribution remains similar to that in 2017.

Majority of drug-related cases were reported among persons 25 to 44 years old (340 cases or 85.2%), with 13 deaths among those 15 to 24 years old and 46 cases 45 years old and older.

As in the previous year, deaths related to mental and behavioral disorders due to the use of PAS (64 cases) were associated to two causes of deaths (defined by ICD — 10 codes): 43 cases were related to opioid abuse and 21 cases were related to abuse of several medicines and other psychoactive substances.

Figure 8. Proportion of deaths from PAS poisoning by PAS section and number of poisoning cases and intent of poisoning by gender in 2018



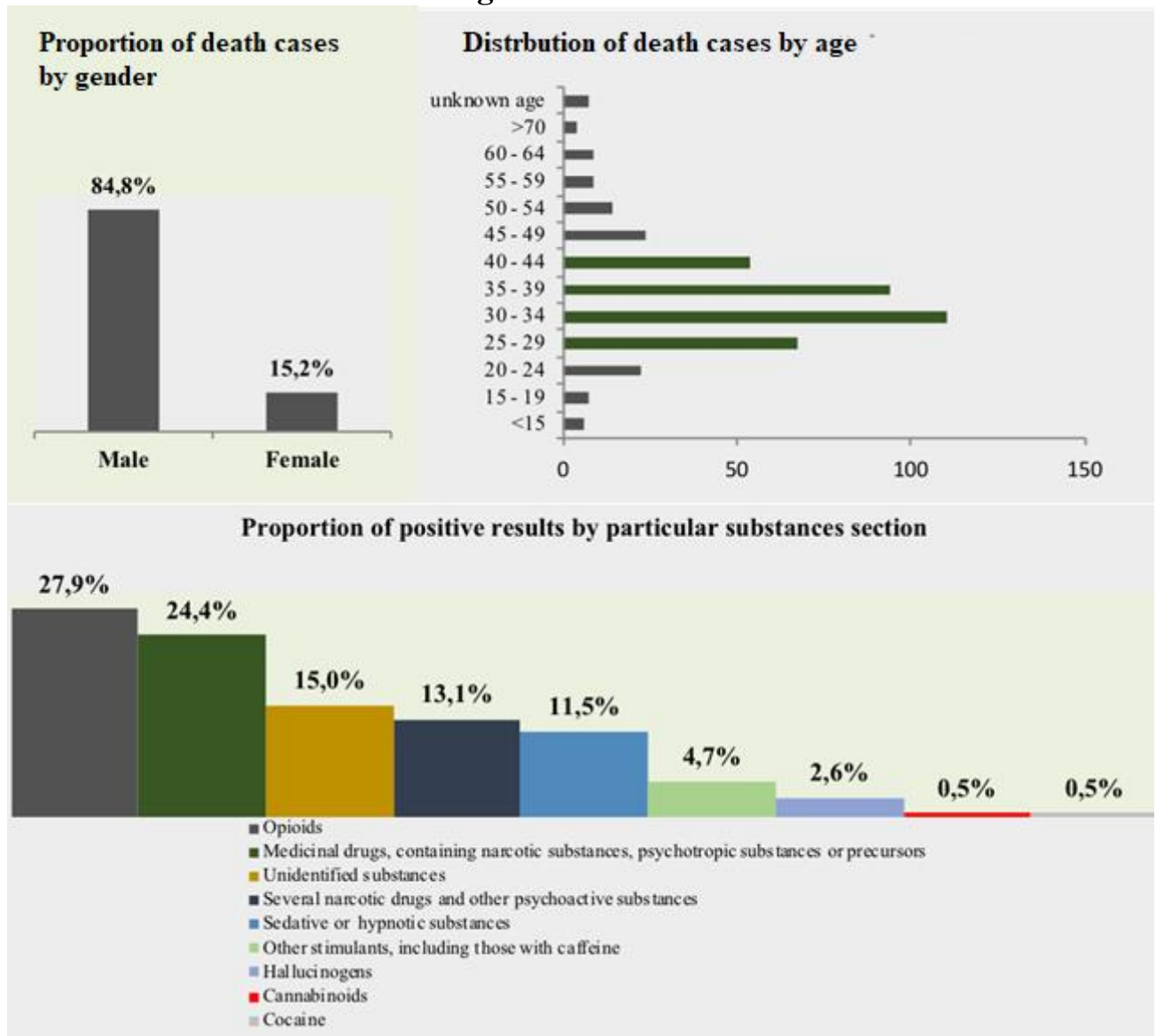
Note: data source — State Statistics of Ukraine for 2018.

Analyzing the overdose deaths in detail (335 cases), we note that opioid overdoses consisted of 153 cases (codeine and morphine — 54 cases, methadone — 76 cases, opium 15 cases, synthetic opioids — 8 cases). The unspecified drug overdoses caused 144 deaths, 31 cases were related to overdose by hallucinogens and 2 cases - to cocaine. And also 5 cases were reported due to psycho-stimulant drugs use, characterized by the possibility of their abuse.

That is, the number of deaths from PAS poisoning in 2018 has increased by one and a half times compared to 2017. In particular, methadone poisoning increased 2.5-fold, and unspecified drug poisoning increased almost 3-fold.

In 2018 the forensic medical examination bureau reported a total of 427 deaths cases where the presence of PAS in biological material was detected. Of these, in 119 cases opioids were present, in 104 cases —drugs containing narcotic, psychotropic substances or precursors, in 64 cases —non-identified substances, in 56 —several drugs and other surfactants, 49 —sedatives or hypnotics, 20 —other stimulants, 11 —hallucinogens and 2 cases —cannabinoid and cocaine groups. (Figure 8)

Figure 9. Characteristics of death cases tested positive for the presence of PAS in biological material in 2018



Note: data source — information from 21 forensic medical examination bureaus of the 25 existing in Ukraine for 2018.

Analyzing the ranges of age groups of deaths confirmed by forensic laboratory tests, we note that almost 76.1% (325 cases) were in the group from 25 years to 44 years old. Regarding the gender, 84.8% (362 cases) were male and 15.2% (65 cases) were female.

The share of opioids was almost 28% of all death in which presence of PAS was detected.

Figure 9. Comparison of data from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine to data of the Forensic medical examination bureau in 2018

Data sampling categories	State Statistics Service of Ukraine data (GMR / Choice "B")	Forensic medical examination bureau data (SMP / Choice "D")
Age groups from 24 to 44 years	85.2% (340 cases)	76.1% (325 cases)
By gender male	90.5% (361 cases)	84.8% (362 cases)
The share of opioids	49.1% (196 cases)	27.9% (119 cases)
Total cases:	339 cases	427 cases

When comparing the data from the two available sources, the age and gender distributions are rather similar.

Although in both data sources the largest group of deaths are attributed to opioids, the proportions differ.

In Ukraine in 2018, the mortality rate due to the PAS use and overdose among the population aged from 15 to 64 was 10 per 1 000 000 people.

Prevention

The Strategy aims to prevent drug use by developing protective barriers for the individual and society as a whole, and the promoting healthy lifestyle.

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

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 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 MoSP of Ukraine provides the social and preventive work aimed at preventing families, children and young people from difficult life circumstances.

In Ukraine, preventive measures are mainly carried out by the non-governmental organizations who implement various initiatives and activities in educational institutions.

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

Preventive measures

The prevention encompasses certain social and age groups of the population and includes various activities — from the prevention of drug use to reducing negative effects caused by PAS use.

According to the MoES of Ukraine, the prevention of use of PAS is integrated into the content of general secondary education and is part of subjects such as ‘Fundamentals of Health’ and ‘Biology’. Extracurricular measures are also being implemented at educational institutions to prevent the use of PAS.

The State Target Social Program ‘Youth of Ukraine’ for 2016-2020 is aimed at shaping healthy lifestyles of young people through the implementation of measures aimed at popularization and promotion of a healthy and safe lifestyle and culture among young people.

In the framework of the program of MoYS of Ukraine in partnership with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in 2018, national and regional events were organized to popularize and promote healthy lifestyles among youth, which included 33 500 young people.

There are more than 250 centers for physical health of the population ‘Sport for all — health for everyone’ (<http://sportforall.gov.ua>), whose priorities are:

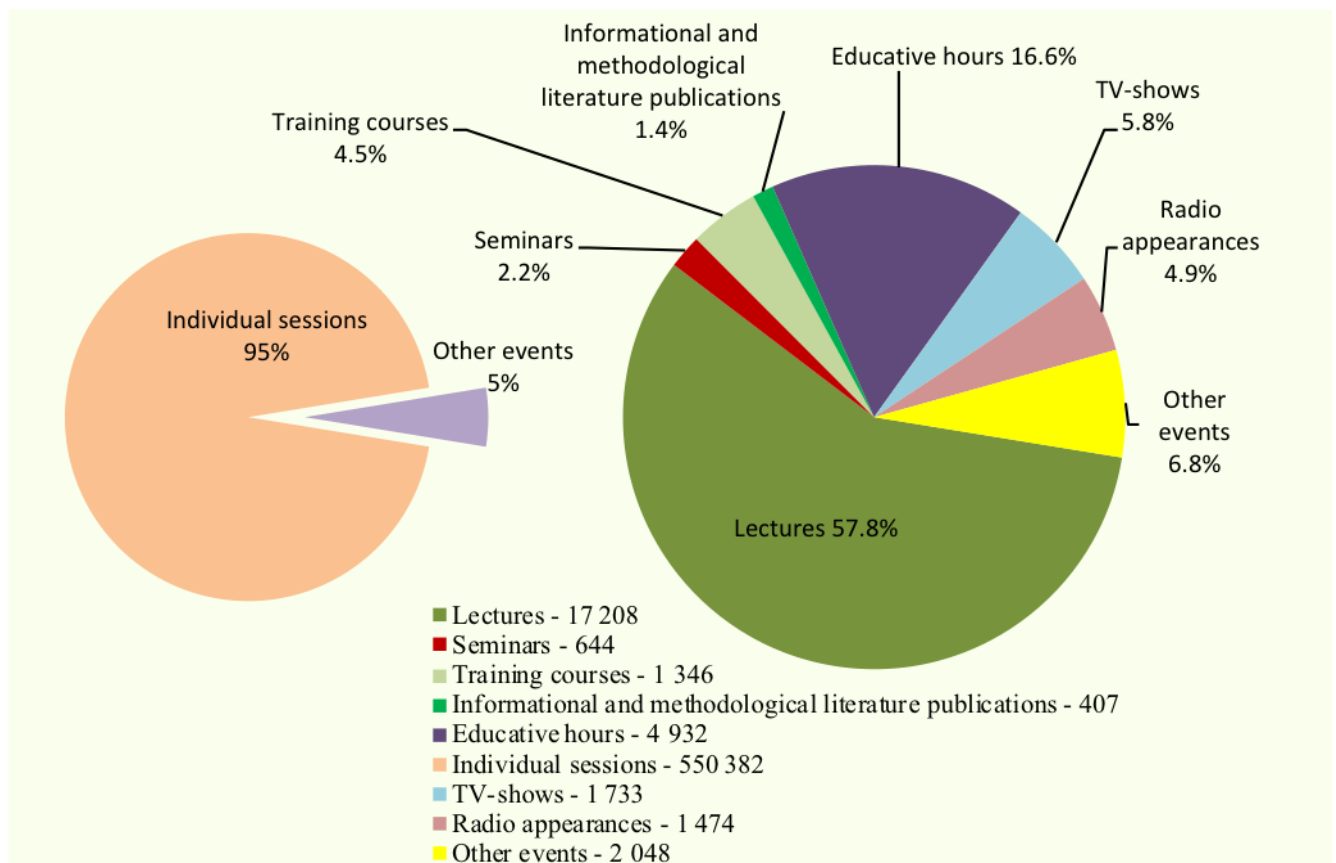
- consolidation of the Ukrainian people in the fight for a healthy future for the nation;
- adherence to national traditions of physical culture and sports and the pursuit of a healthy lifestyle;
- promoting physical culture and sports and healthy lifestyles among all age groups and sections of the population, especially children and young people.

Government Standard is approved in Ukraine, according to which the MoSP of Ukraine, namely the Centers for Social Services for Families, Children and Youth (556 centers) provided preventive services to 12 924 families who were in difficult life circumstances related to alcohol and narcotic drug or psychotropic substances use.

The overwhelming amount of services was directed towards the prevention of ‘negative phenomena’ and measures to promote healthy lifestyles.

According to regional state administrations, in 2018, 578 126 different measures were taken to prevent and reduce the level of PAS use and more details are in Figure 10.

Figure 11. Characteristics of preventive measures in Ukraine in 2018



Note: data source — information from regional state administrations for 2018.

Harm reduction

Reducing harm of drug use

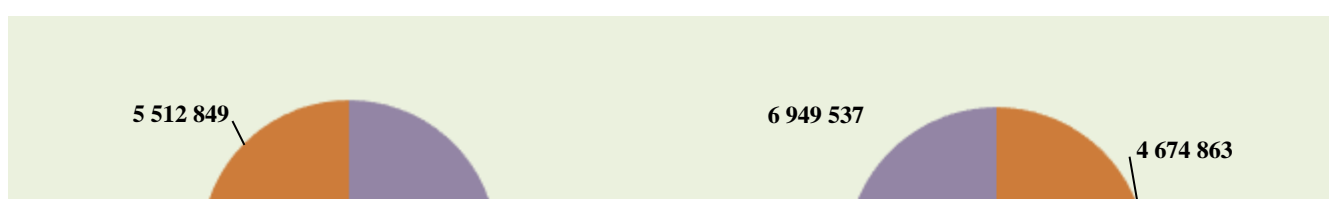
Measures to reduce harm of drug use are defined by the Laws of Ukraine 'On prevention of diseases caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and legal and social security of people living with HIV', 'On Approval of the National Targeted Social Program for Combating HIV infection/AIDS for 2014–2018' and 'On Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors'.

Harm reduction measures

In order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases among the population, the needle and syringe programmes are put in place in Ukraine, and they provide sterile needles and syringes as well as condoms.

Thus, in 2018, 21 697 263 needles and syringes and 11 624 400 condoms were distributed to the population; 330 102 condoms and 254 485 syringes were distributed to high-risk groups. The aforementioned measures were funded by international organizations and implemented by non-governmental organizations.

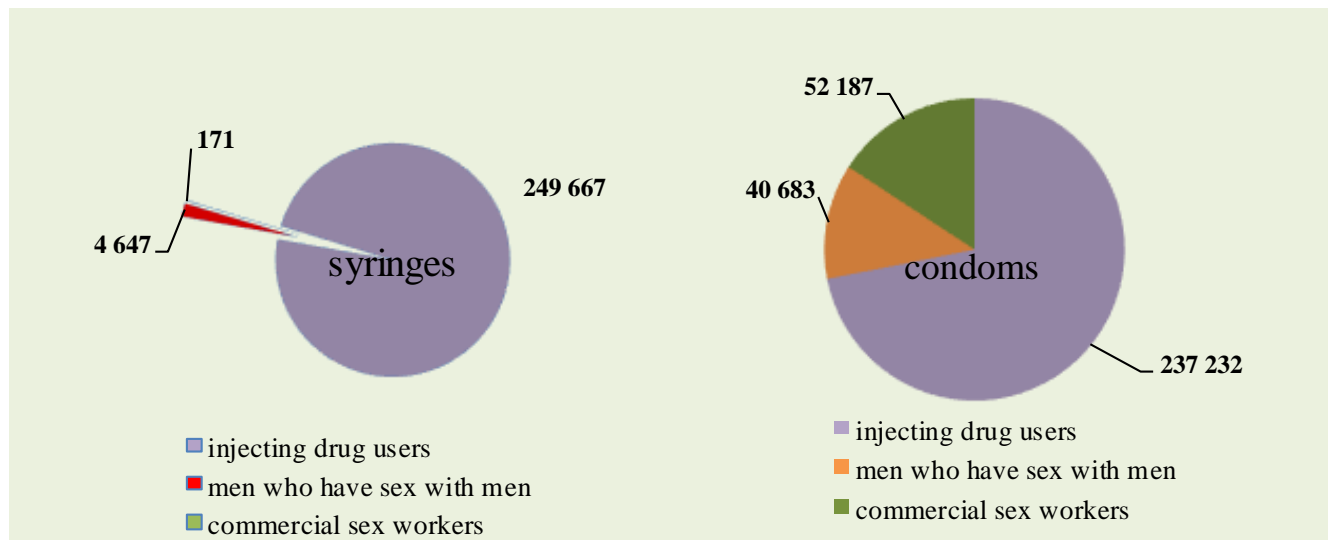
Figure 12. Number of syringes and condoms distributed by gender among population in 2018



syringes

condoms

Figure 13. Number of syringes and condoms distributed to key populations in 2018



Note: data source — NGOs' information for 2018.

Treatment

The treatment system

Treatment-related objectives in the Strategy and their Action plans are focused on the comprehensive, integrated use of all components of the treatment system, provision of evidence-based treatment, assurance of access to health care, extension of the capacity of treatment, treatment as alternative to the punishment or imprisonment. The Action plan also calls for the change of strategic priorities of the treatment of drug dependent people in the institutions of the penitentiary system.

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

Drug-dependant individuals may receive inpatient detoxification in all drug treatment and some psychiatric institutions; out-patient detoxification — in all drug treatment clinics and outpatient clinics; doctors' consultations; opioid substitution treatment (OST) using methadone hydrochloride and buprenorphine and rehabilitation.

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

The OST programme was introduced in Ukraine in 2005 and supported by the legislation in 2012. OST is delivered in health care facilities (drug treatment and tuberculosis treatment clinics, AIDS centers, municipal and district hospitals, primary health care centers). Since the beginning of 2017 the OST 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.

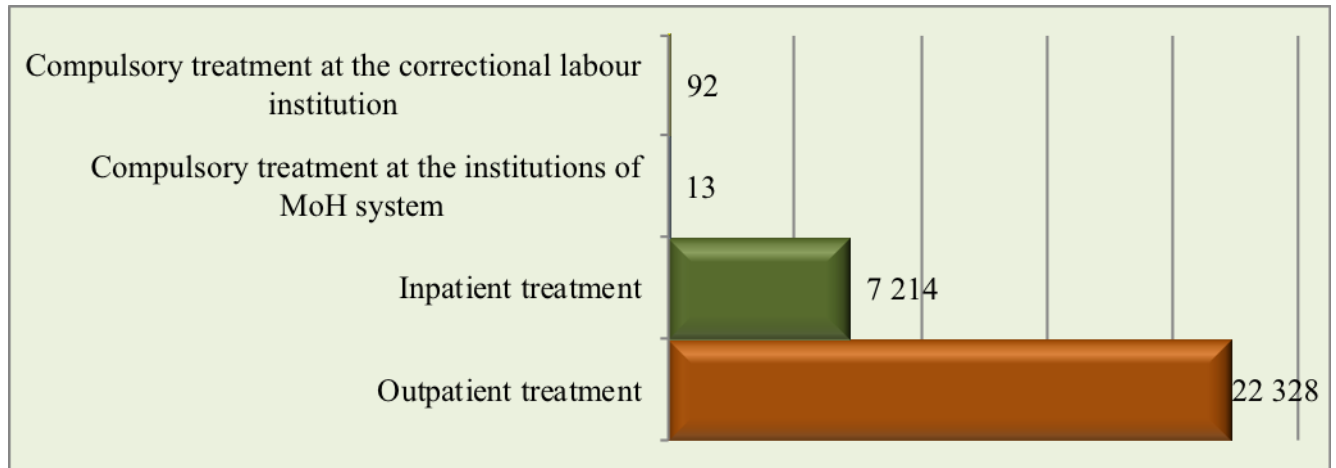
Treatment provision

As of January 1, 2019, a total of 62 243 people have been registered as being under the supervision of mental and behavioral disorders due to the use of PAS in Ukraine (so called ‘ dispensary group’) . Of these, 3 929 persons were newly diagnosed with the above-mentioned diagnosis in 2018. Almost 60% of them were in the age group of 15 to 35 years.

During 2018, 29 647 persons registered in the dispensary group were treated and 16 841 persons in the preventive care group.

Thus, in 2018, opioid dependence was a main cause for seeking drug treatment (68.54% or 20 318 persons). About 7% (2 027 people) received treatment for mental and behavioral disorders due to cannabinoid use. From the field of drug addiction 6 412 people were treated.

Figure 13. The number of individuals covered by treatment in the dispensary group of people with mental and behaviors disorders due to the PAS use in 2018

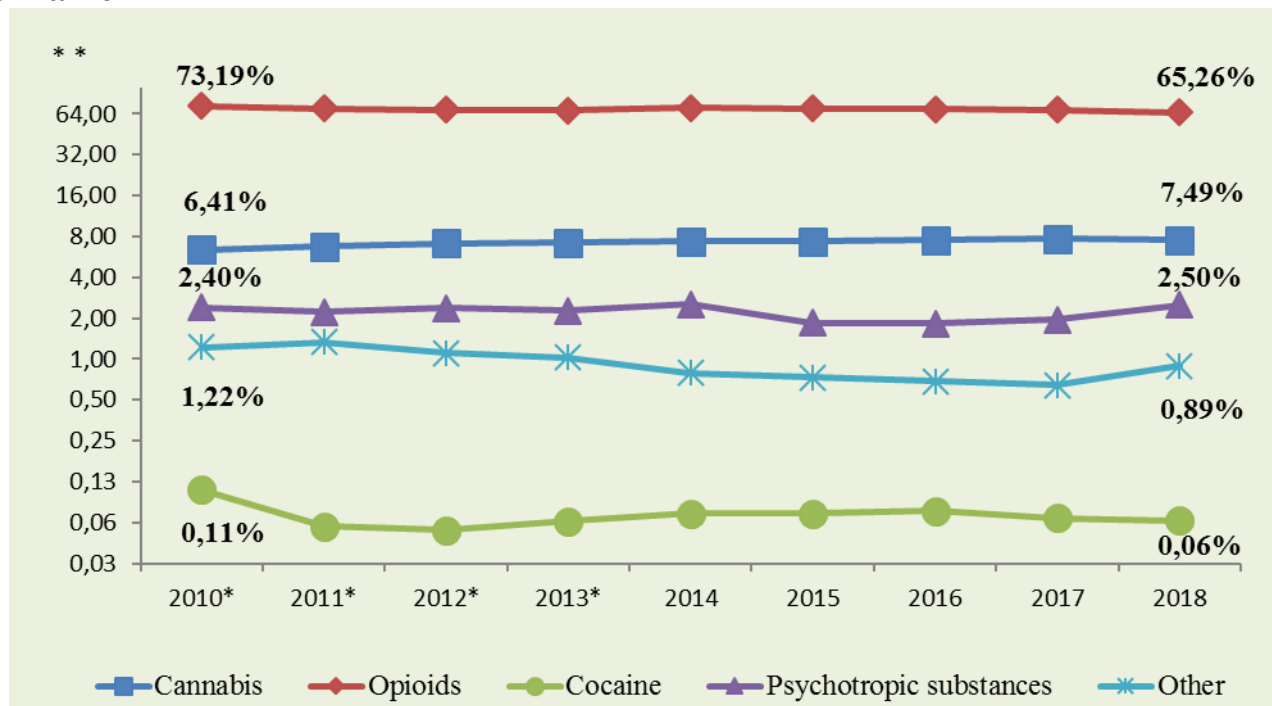


Note: data source — Health Statistics Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine Form No. 32 “Report on Persons with Psychiatric Disorders due to the psychoactive substances use for 2018”;

A total of 22 328 people from the dispensary group received outpatient treatment and 7 214 people were treated as inpatients. Compulsory treatment, i.e. by court decision, was ordered to 105 persons, 13 of them in the institutions of the MoH system and 92 in the correctional institutions. (Figure 13)

Of the total number treated in the reporting year, about 50% of the persons are persons over 35 years of age.

Figure 15. Trends in percentage of clients entering specialised drug treatment (under the supervision at the end of the reporting periods), by primary drug, in Ukraine



Note: data source — Health Statistics Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine Form No. 32 ‘Report on Persons with Psychiatric Disorders due to the psychoactive substances use for 2018’;

* 2010–2013 — taking into account currently temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Sevastopol and parts of the temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions;

** the logarithmic scale was used for visualization.

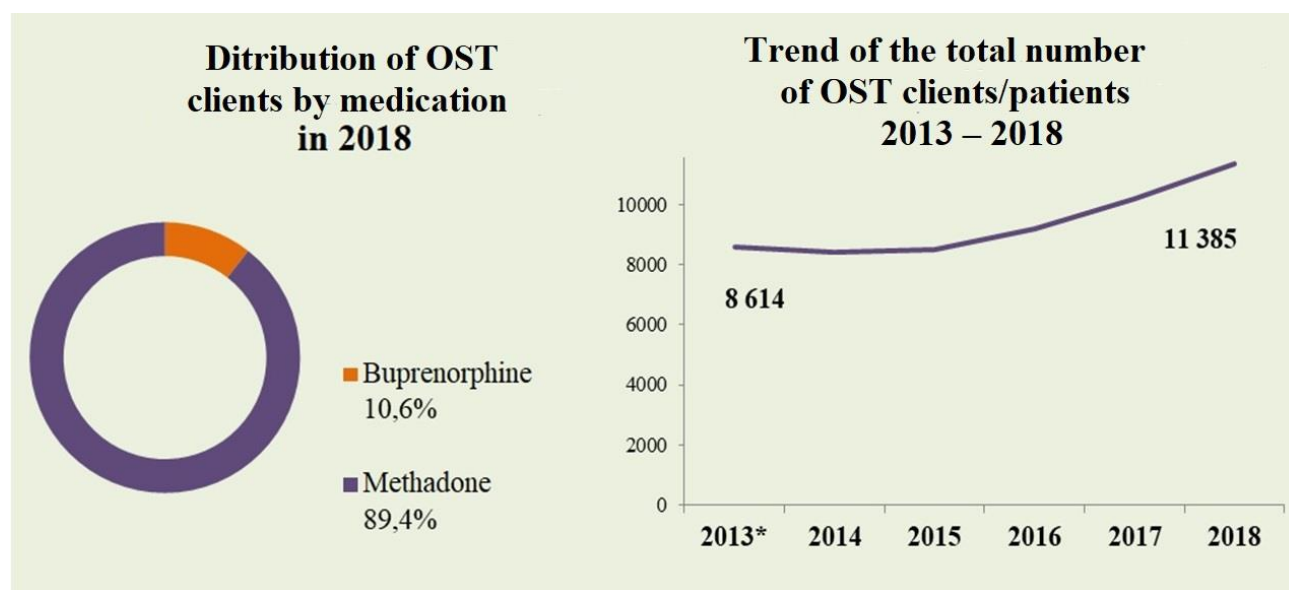
According to the data provided by the State Institution ‘Public Health Center of MoH of Ukraine’, which is responsible for the provision of OST in Ukraine, as of January 1, 2019, a total of 11 385 people received OST, of which 10 107 patients (88.7%) received the methadone hydrochloride drug (tablets), 186 patients (1.7%) — methadone hydrochloride (oral solution), 1 092 patients (10.6%) — buprenorphine hydrochloride (sublingual tablets).

Among OST clients, almost 41% (4 660 people) are HIV-positive.

In 2018, 5 092 OST patients were on prescription based (44.7% of the total number of OST patients), of which 3 686 patients received OST medication directly in the OST office at the healthcare institution (32.4%), 878 persons (7.7%) received a prescription for the medication and 528 people (4.6%) received the medication within the outpatient treatment at home.

In terms of gender distribution, almost 83% of the OST participants are men, in age 37-38 years old.

In 2018, 31 new OST services sites were opened in Ukraine. In total, OST has been implemented in all regions of Ukraine (25), with a total number of 211 sites. The OST program in 2018 was implemented at the primary care level. So, 33 offices of 5 SMTs were opened on the basis of primary health care centers, that maintain 643 SMT patients (5.6%) in 9 regions and in Kyiv during the year

Figure 16. Opioid substitution treatment in Ukraine

Note: data source — the Public Health Center of MoH of Ukraine ‘Report on the results of the implementation of the program of substitution maintenance therapy in 2018’;

* taking into account currently temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Sevastopol and parts of the temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions;

Drug use and responses in prison

In 2018, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine launched a pilot project ‘Integrated Management of Convicts with Mental and Behavioral Disorders due to Opioid Use with Opioid Substitution Treatment’, which is implemented at the State Institution ‘Bucha Correctional Facility (No. 85)’.

According to the SI «CMHMDAMH» data (Form 10; ‘Report on Mental Health Care for the Population’), in 2018, a total of 966 prisoners have been diagnosed with narcotic drug disorders, of them - 714 were diagnosed with mental and behavioral disorders for the first-time. The total number of prisoners receiving OST was 27.

As of 1 January 2019, more than 8 000 prisoners were under regular medical check-up by psychologists and were in need of psychological support of them: 1 353 persons were mentally disabled and 1 381 were at high risk for narcotic drug use.

In addition, differentiated educational programmes are offered within the framework of social and educational work with prisoners.

In 2018, about 40 000 prisoners (72% of total number of prisoner) participated in those programmes. Thus, 877 prisoners completed the program ‘Overcoming alcohol addiction’, 1 006 prisoners completed the program ‘Overcoming drug addiction’ and 10 337 prisoners participated in the the program ‘Preparation for discharge’.

In the framework of the Council of Europe Project ‘Further Support for Penitentiary Reform in Ukraine’, Courses for Prisoners Social and Life Skills Development (Social Training Courses) have been introduced in penitentiary institutions. So, in 2018, 3 219 trainings were held, in which 6 073 prisoners were involved, of which 442 were women and 189 were minors.

In 2018, a training manual 'Rehabilitation programs for prisoners (convicted and remanded in court) with psychiatric and behavioral disorders due to the use of psychotropic substances' was developed for the State Criminal Enforcement Service of Ukraine by the State Criminal Enforcement Administration of Ukraine, with the support of the EU-ACT: EU Action against Drugs and Organised Crime.

Screening questionnaires are also being worked out in the context of working with patients with dependencies that will be widely used in the work after their testing.

Quality assurance

Until 2017, the quality of the provision of drug use care was regulated by the Unified Standards of drug use care to the population in the medical institutions of Ukraine. 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 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 annulled 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 January 2018 the Law of Ukraine 'On State Financial Guarantees of medical care for the Population' came into force. 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 researches related to the drug use problems are mainly conducted in Ukraine by the public organizations and are funded by international organizations.

In 2018, a study on 'Biobehavioral Research in Key Groups' was implemented by the International Public Health Alliance. The purpose of this study was to monitor the prevalence of behavioral and epidemiological indicators among key populations that are at the most risk of infection and transmission of HIV in Ukraine.

In 2018, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs and Crime Research Laboratory completed the next wave of

sociological monitoring of the spread of chemical and non-chemical forms of addictions among the youth of Kharkiv 'Youth and Drugs'.

The SI «CMHMDAMH» 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.

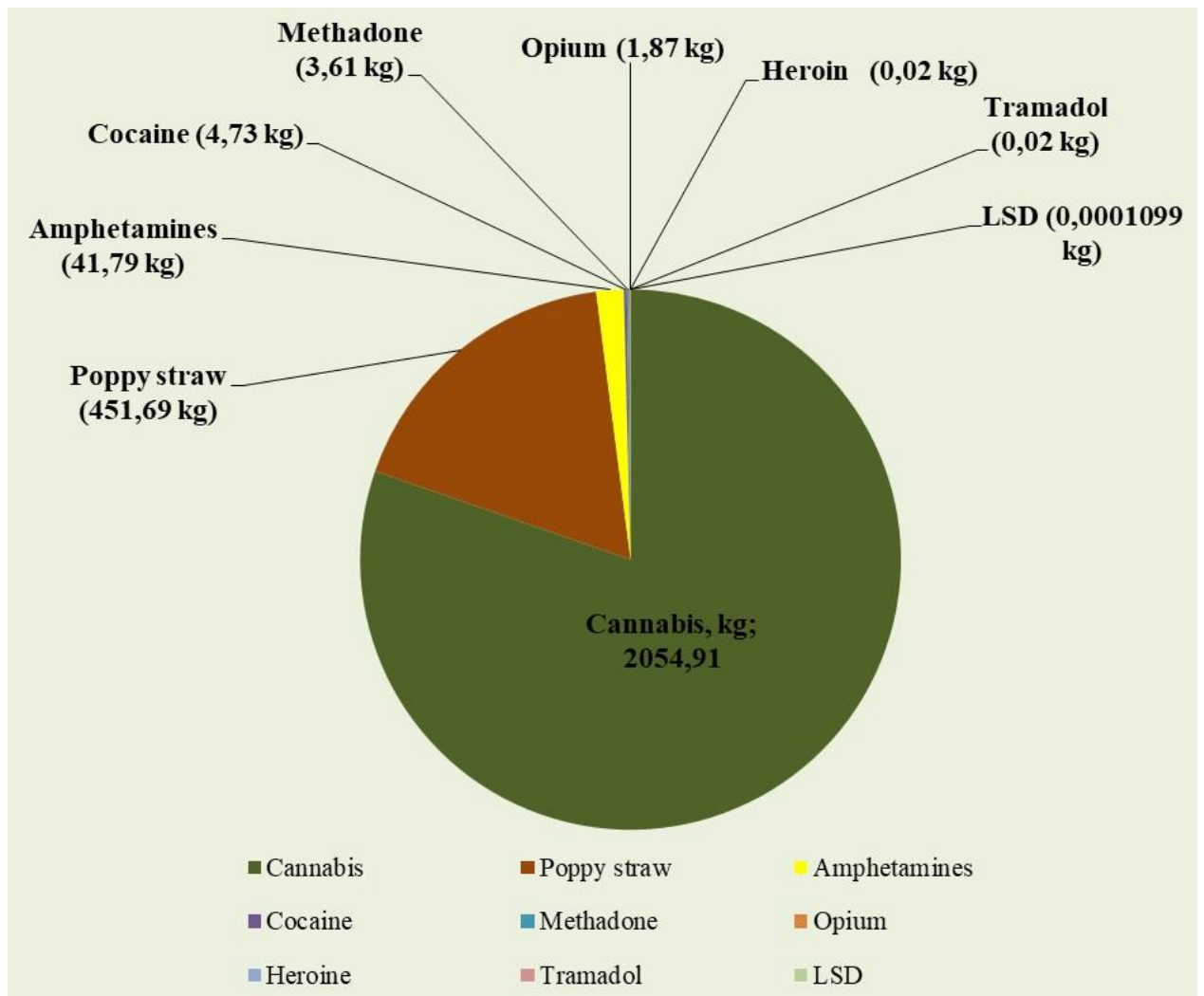
Drug markets

The most widespread narcotic drugs in Ukraine remain herbal narcotic drugs, namely cannabis of local production and poppy straws, which are mainly imported into the territory of Ukraine. After cannabis and poppy straw, amphetamine-type stimulants are on the third place, followed by cocaine and synthetic opiates such as methadone.

At the same time, the market for new psychoactive substances continues to actively develop, so the list of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors has been supplemented by 56 new positions.

The information for 2018 regarding the volumes of narcotic and psychotropic drug seizures was obtained from the PGO's open source.

Thus, in Ukraine in 2018, a total of 2662.4 kg of drugs and psychotropic substances were seized. The structure of seizures in terms of substances and their specific volume is given below. 77.2% of seizures were cannabis; 17% for poppy straw; 1.6% — for amphetamines; 0.2% — for cocaine; and almost 0.2% accounted for methadone, opium, heroin, tramadol and LSD combined.

Figure 17. Quantities of drugs seized in Ukraine in 2018

Note: data source — Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, published report 'Unified report on criminal offenses' for 2018.

According to the National Police of Ukraine and the Security Service of Ukraine, 130 synthetic drug production laboratories were dismantled or seized in 2018.

In 2018, the National Police have eliminated 11 opium poppy crops, with 112 000 grown plants and 72 cannabis crops with 1 900 000 plants. The total area of illegal cultivation of these plants was 155 hectares.

Remote detection (aerial photography and satellite imagery) was used to identify and eliminate the sites of illicit cultivation of narcotic plants.

The National Police seized 5 846 pills of opioid substitution treatment medications (buprenorphine and methadone) from illicit trafficking by.

Drug distribution channels are rapidly expanding through Internet sites and chatbots, mail and container shipping.

In 2018, the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) seized 63.28 kg of poppy straw imported from Poland, 2.97 kg of cocaine shipped from Panama, UAE, and the Netherlands and 0.91 kg of MDMA which was sent by a mail from Germany and the Netherlands.

Law enforcement officers seized 56.16 kg of cannabis, 0.35 kg of cocaine, which was concealed in a car while trying to export it to Russia.

SSU staff in collaboration with Spanish Civil Guard and the Foreign Intelligence Service of Ukraine prevented smuggling into the country almost 5 kilograms of cocaine. The intelligence indicated that cocaine originated from one of the Central America countries and transit through Spain using international postage transportation was on its way to Ukraine. During the joint operation, the police discovered four consignments of electrical devices with a batch of drugs which was sent to Spain for further forwarding to Ukraine.

KEY STATISTICS

Most recent data

Cannabis

	Year	Data
Prevalence of use over the preceding 30 days (15-16 years of age) (% ESPAD)	2019	2.5
Last year prevalence of use (15-16 years of age) (%ESPAD)	2019	5.7
Last year prevalence of drug use — all adults (%)	No research has been carried out	
All treatment entrants (%)	2018	6.84
First-time treatment entrants (%)	2018	7.68
Quantity of herbal cannabis seized (kg)	2018	2054.91
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)	Information is not available	
Price per gram — resin (EUR) (minimum and maximum values registered)	Information is not available	

Cocaine

	Year	Data
Prevalence of use in the last year — schools (15-16 years of age) (% ESPAD)	2019	1.2
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 (%)	2018	0.08
First-time treatment entrants (%)	2018	0.03
Quantity of cocaine seized (kg)	2018	4.73
Number of cocaine seizures	Information is not available	
Purity (%) (minimum and maximum		

values registered)	Information is not available	
Price per gram (EUR) (average price)	2018	124.45

Amphetamines

	Year	Data
Prevalence of use — schools (15-16 years of age) (% ESPAD)	2019	1.7
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)	2018	41.79
Number of amphetamine seizures	Information is not available	
Purity — amphetamine (%) (minimum and maximum values registered)	Information is not available	
Price per gram — amphetamine (EUR) (average price)	2018	10.89

Hallucinogens

	Year	Data
Lifetime prevalence of use (15-16 years of age) (% ESPAD)	2019	2.0
Last year prevalence of drug use — all adults (%)	No research has been carried out	
All treatment entrants (%)	2018	0.04
First-time treatment entrants (%)	2018	0.10
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 gram (EUR) (average price)	2018	9.33

Note:*data available on MDMA

Opioids

	Year	Data
High-risk opioid use (prevalence) (rate/1000)	Information is not available	
All treatment entrants (%)	2018	68.53
First-time treatment entrants (%)	2018	58.69
Quantity of heroin seized (kg)	2018	0.02

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)	Information is not available

Drug-related infectious diseases/injecting/deaths

	Year	Data
Newly diagnosed HIV cases related to injecting drug use aged from 15 to 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	Information is not available	
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)	Information is not available	
Drug-induced deaths — aged 15-64	2018	399

Health and social responses

	Year	Data
Syringes distributed through social programmes	2018	21 697 263
Clients in substitution treatment	2018	11 385

Treatment demand

	Year	Data
All entrants	2018	29 647
First-time entrants	2018	3 929
All clients in treatment (at the end of 2018)	2018	62 243

Drug-law offences

	Year	Data
Number of reports of criminal offences	2018	23 163
Offences for use/possession	2018	17 906

Generalized 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 69% 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 is no higher than the European average. Thus, about 85.7% of the respondents consumed alcohol, about 51% smoked cigarettes, and 8.7% used cannabinoids (ESPAD, 2019).

The activities on the prevention and reduction of the harm related to 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 use of psychoactive substances and overdoses increased by 1.5 times over the last five years. It should be noted that the proportion of males of the total number of deaths amounted to about 91%. In 2018, 72% of deaths were recorded in the 30–44 age group, and opioids were involved in 49.1% of deaths.

In Ukraine, the plant-based drugs (poppy straw and cannabis) of own local production are the psychoactive substances with the largest volumes seized.

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

1. Strengthen the coordination of central executive authorities with a purpose of achieving the objectives of the Action Plan for 2019-2020 for the implementation of the Strategy of the State Drug Policy for the Period up to 2020, aimed at:

- prevention of drug addiction and prevention of illicit drug use;
- overcoming the stigma and protection of the rights of persons who use psychoactive substances;
- treatment and rehabilitation of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to the use of psychoactive substances;
- organization of treatment in the institutions and establishments of the State Penal Enforcement Service of convicted persons and persons taken into custody with mental and behavioral disorders due to the use of psychoactive substances;
- improving the drug control system;
- ensuring the availability of narcotic drugs, promoting the development of palliative care and substitution treatment;
- the fight against drug trafficking;
- monitoring (dynamic observation) of drug situation;
- state drug policy;
- international cooperation.

2. Perform workshops/meetings with drug monitoring entities in the country on a regular basis to provide objective, reliable information/data on indicators defined by the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and the International Committee on Narcotics Control approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of July 10, 2019 No. 689 'Issues of monitoring drug and alcohol situation in Ukraine'.
3. To study the experience of European countries regarding the mechanism of action of the early warning system for new psychoactive substances in order to determine the optimal model for Ukraine.
4. Investigate the issue of introducing into Ukraine research regarding the presence of drugs and products of their metabolites in wastewater, with a view to presenting them in further Reports on the Drug and Alcohol Situation in Ukraine.
5. To work out the issue of creating an algorithm for monitoring the situation in Ukraine regarding the prevalence of gambling addiction.

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