

# Prevalence of Drug Use in Ukraine 2014-2022\*

Kyiv  
2023

\* The data is based on the Report on Individuals with Mental and Behavioral Disorders due to Substance Use”.

## Data collection

In terms of prevalence of drug use, the most relevant data collection source in Ukraine is:

**Form No. 32 “Report on Individuals with Mental and Behavioral Disorders due to Substance Use”.\***

### **Notes:**

- The data is provided by the Center for Public Health and published on the [website](#) (only in Ukrainian).
- Other existing forms like [Form 10](#) are not relevant for estimates and analysis to illustrate the situation according to EMCDDA recommendations.
- According to Form-32, there are analyzed people who applied to healthcare facilities and were taken under surveillance.
- The previous efforts of the National Drug Observatory aimed at elaborating a Unified Form 100% based on EMCDDA recommendations didn't bring the required results for a series of institutional and policy-making reasons.

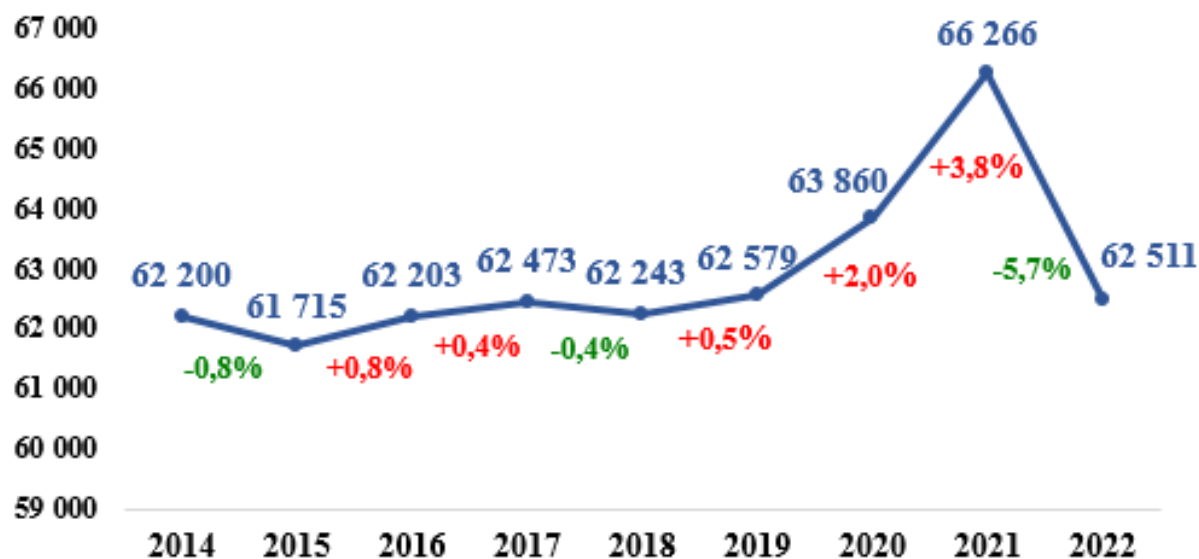
**\* Substances don't include alcohol and tabaco in this overview**

## Data Classification in Form-32

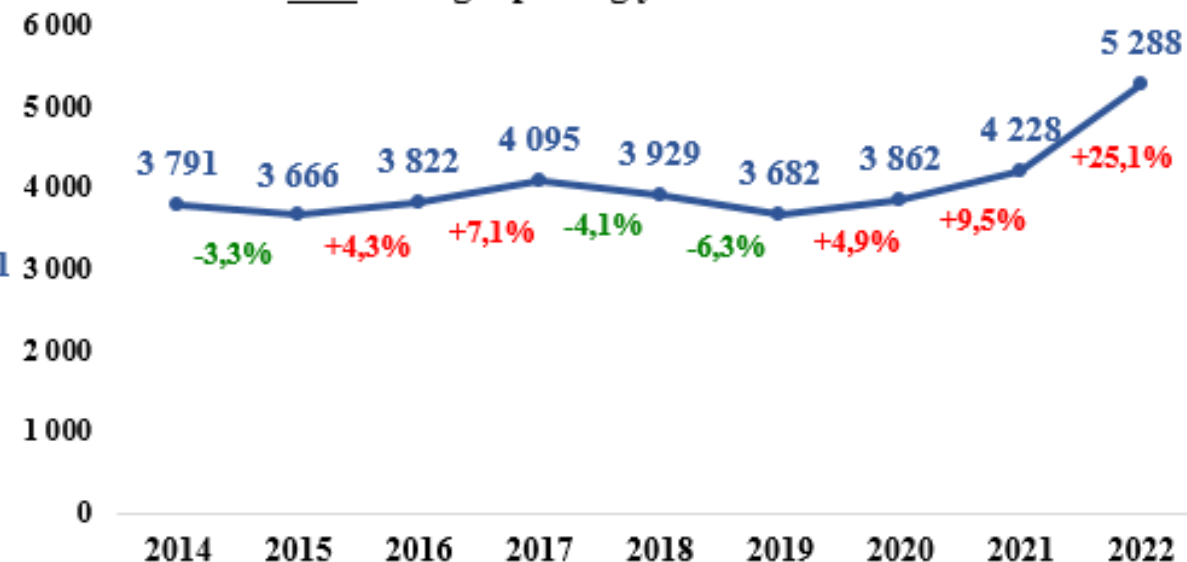
<p><b>1. Demographic</b></p> <p>✓ <u>Age Groups:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 0-17</li><li>• 15-35</li><li>• 18+</li></ul> <p>✓ <u>Residential Area:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rural population</li><li>• Urban population</li></ul>	<p><b>2. Substance groups</b></p> <p>✓ <u>Total drugs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opioids</li><li>• Cannabinoids</li><li>• Cocaine</li><li>• Hallucinogens</li><li>• Poly drugs</li><li>• Other substances</li></ul> <p>✓ <u>Other stimulants (excl. alcohol)</u></p>
<p><b>3. Period of Surveillance</b></p> <p>✓ <u>All cases in the reporting year</u> <u>(Prevalence of Drug use)</u></p> <p>✓ <u>New cases in the reporting year</u> <u>(Morbidity of Drug Use)</u></p>	<p><b>4. Type of Treatment</b></p> <p>✓ <u>Prophylactics Group</u></p> <p>✓ <u>Dispensary Group (of our interest):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outpatient</li><li>• Inpatient</li><li>• Compulsory in healthcare facilities</li><li>• Compulsory in penitentiary facilities</li></ul>

## Persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use

Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were under surveillance in 2014-2022



Number of persons with mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use who were taken under surveillance for the first time during reporting year in 2014-2022

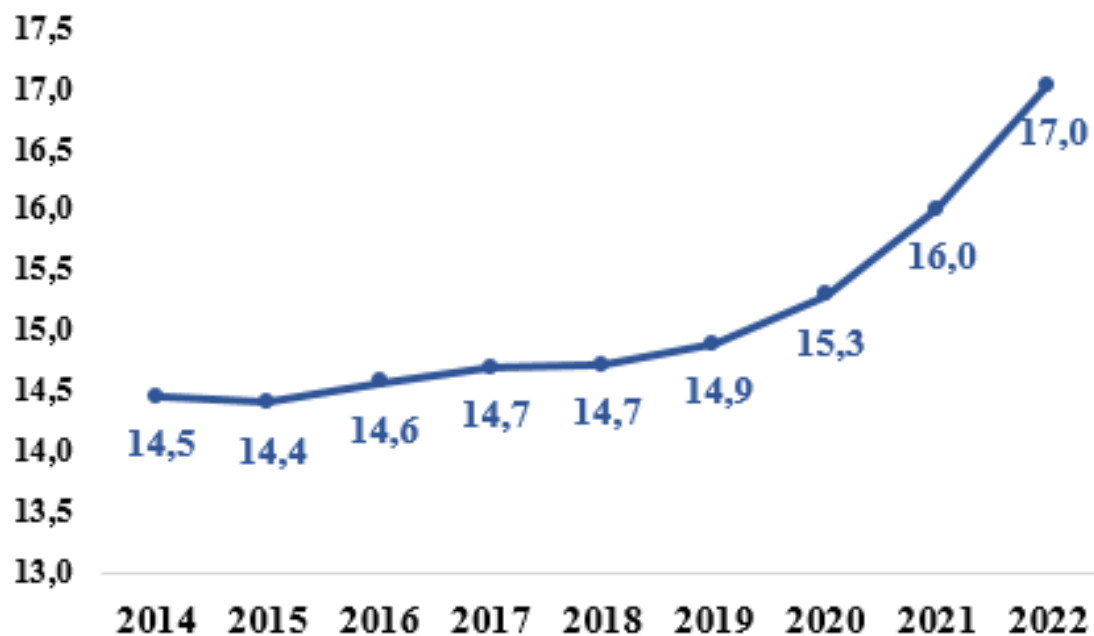


✓ From 2019 there was an annual increase in the number of persons under surveillance. However, in 2022, the number of such individuals decreased by 5.7% compared to 2021.

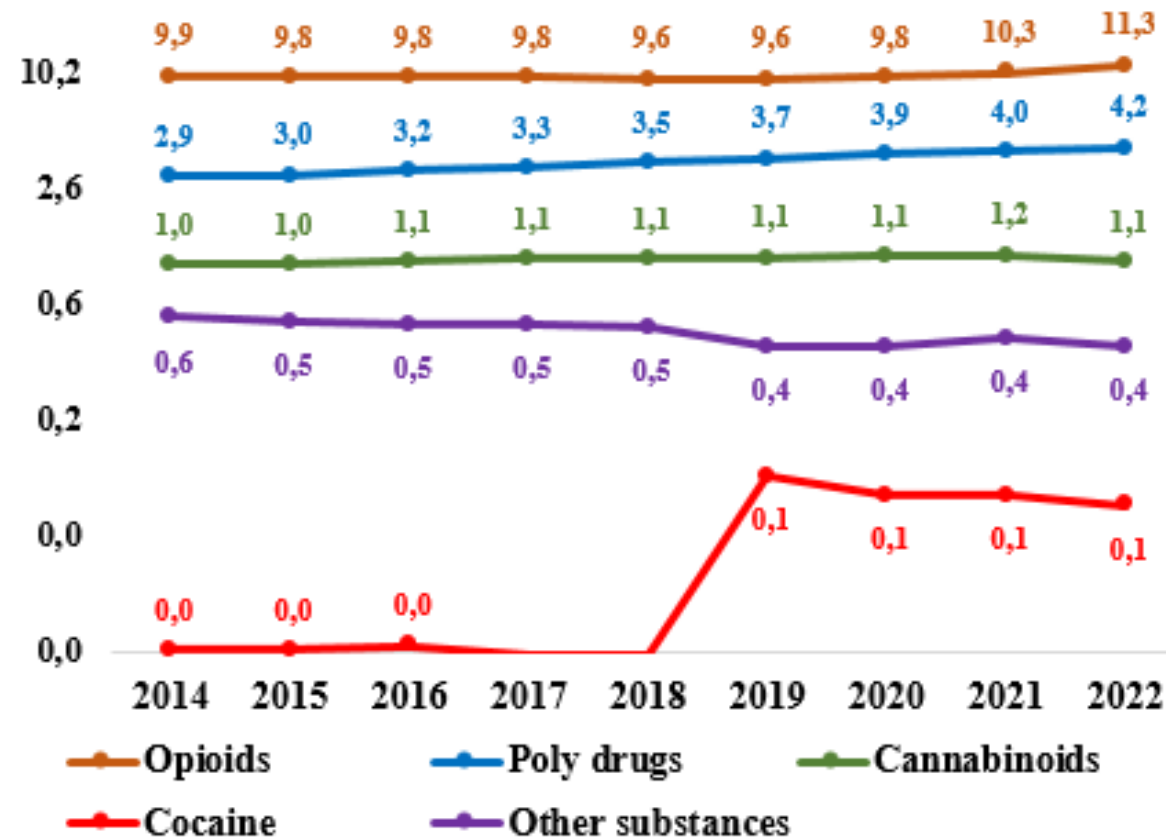
✓ At that, the number of persons who were taken under surveillance for the first time, increased essentially (by 25,1%) in 2022 compared to 2021.

## Prevalence of substance use in Ukraine

Prevalence of substance use in Ukraine in 2014-2022  
(per 10 000 of population)



Prevalence of substance use in Ukraine in 2014-2022  
(per 10 000 of population), by substance

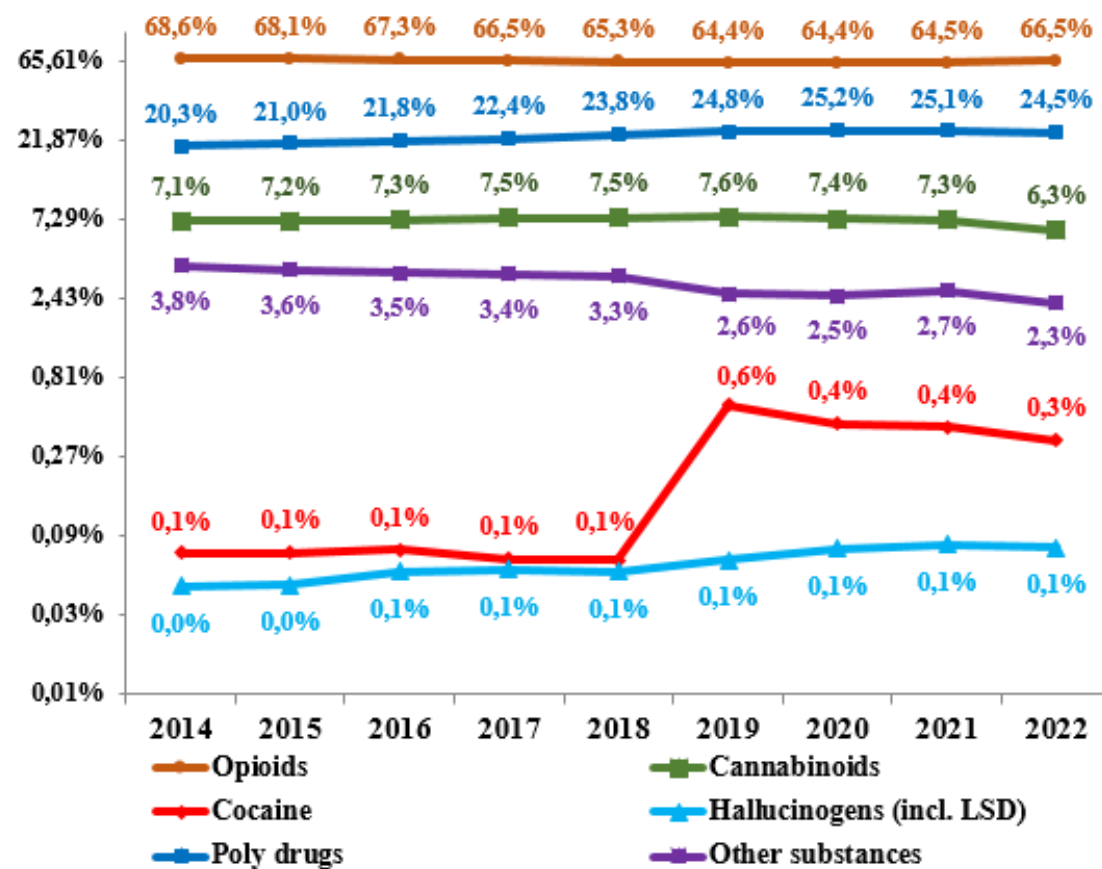
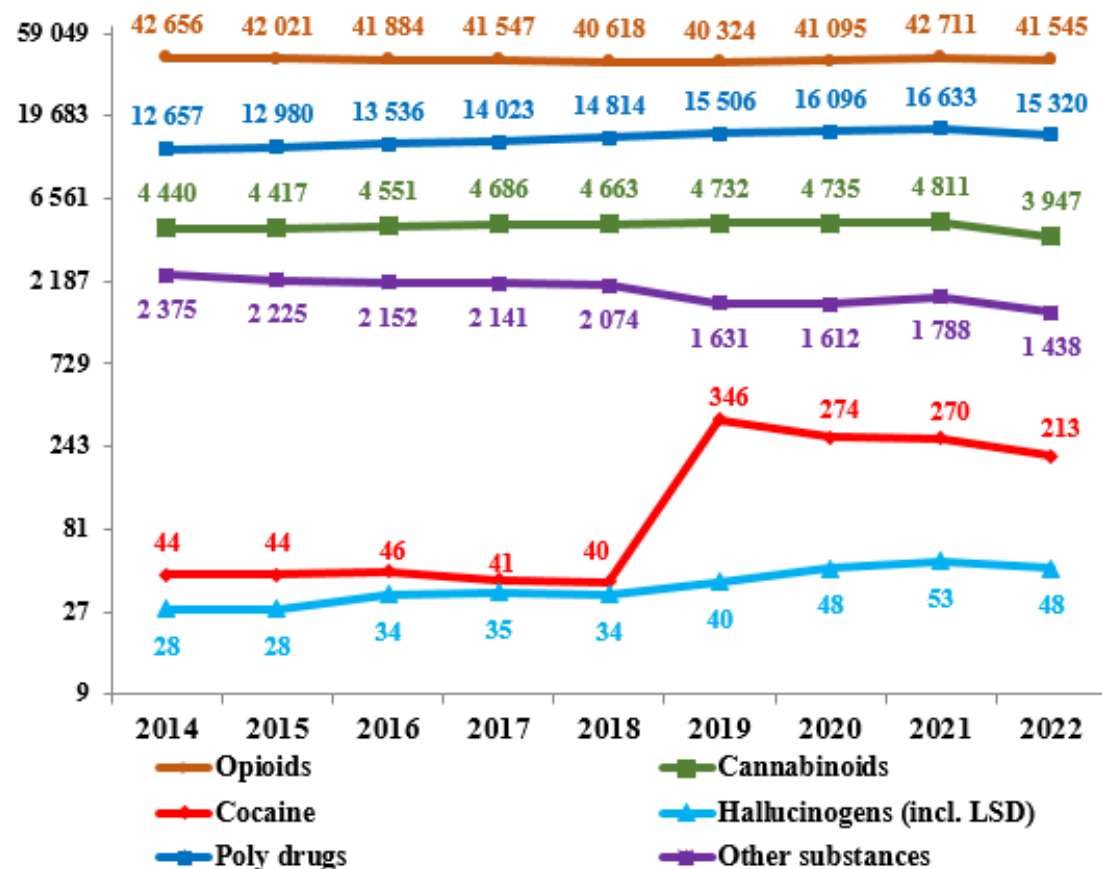


✓ Calculation: Prevalence = (Number of persons under surveillance / Average annual population) x 10 000.

✓ Official data on average annual population for 2022 is unavailable, so the calculation is based on [UNO estimates](#).

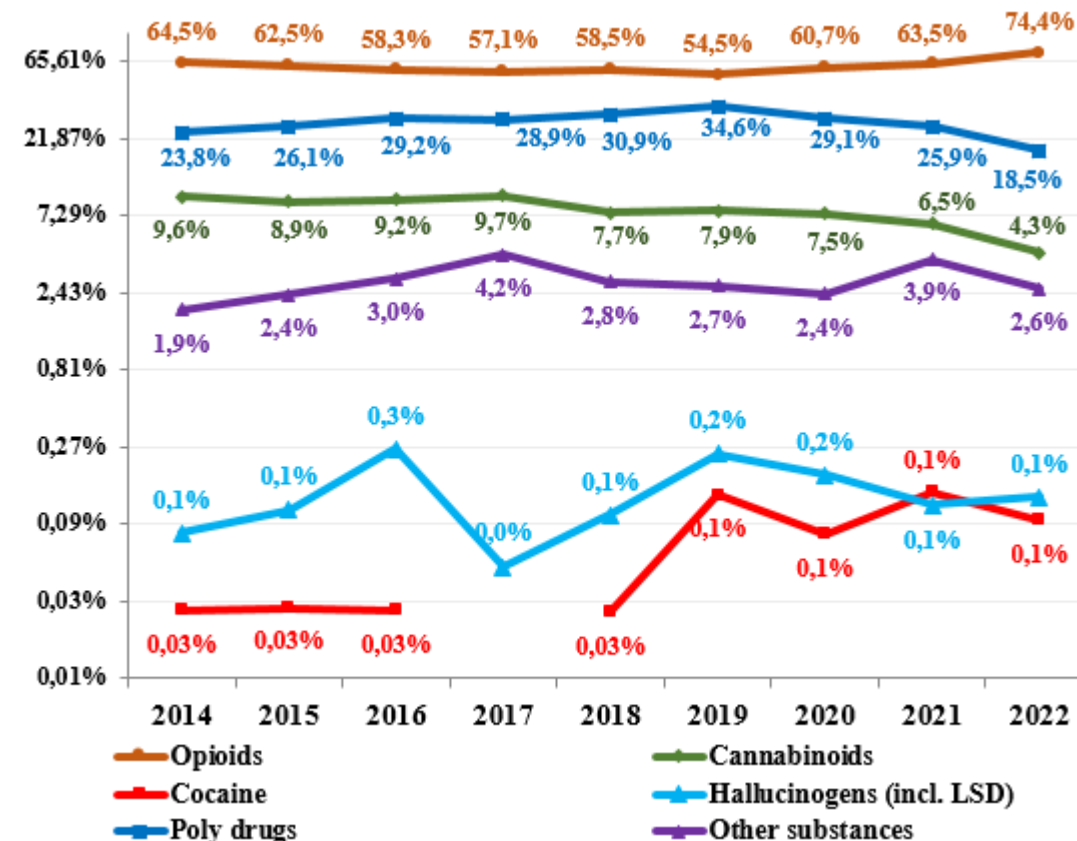
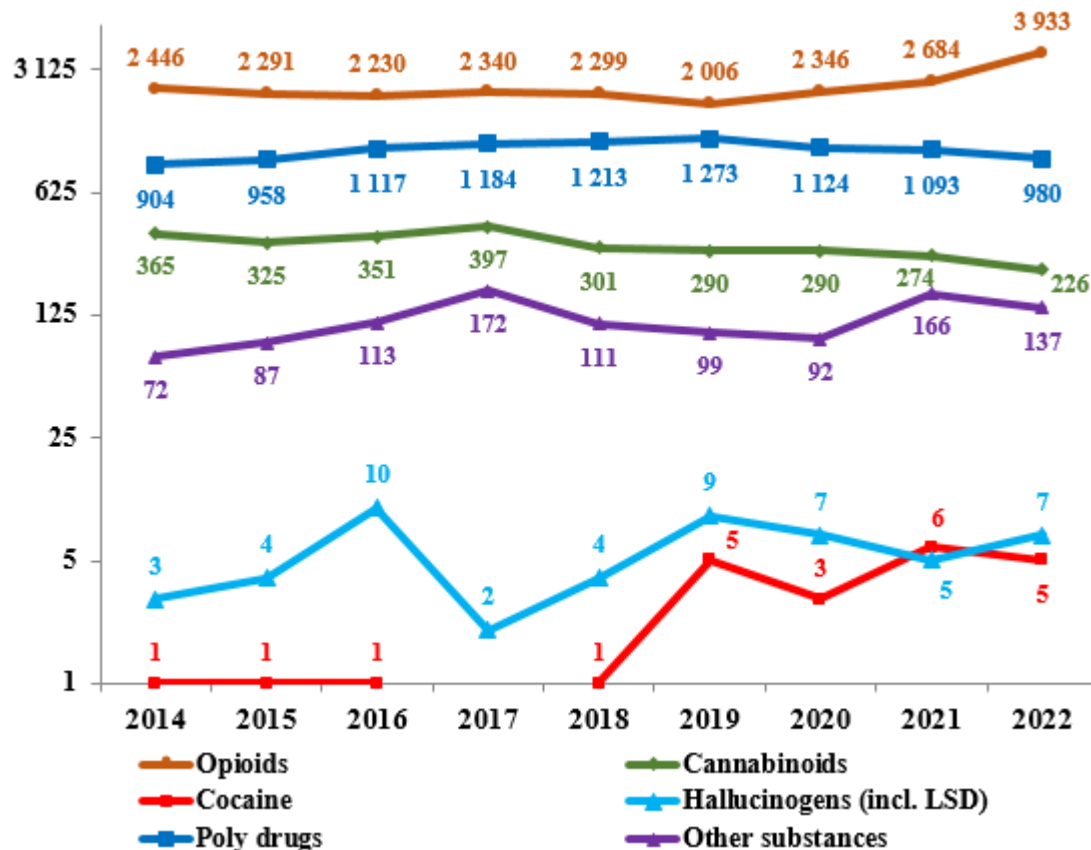
✓ The prevalence rate has been growing in years.

## Persons who were under surveillance, by substance



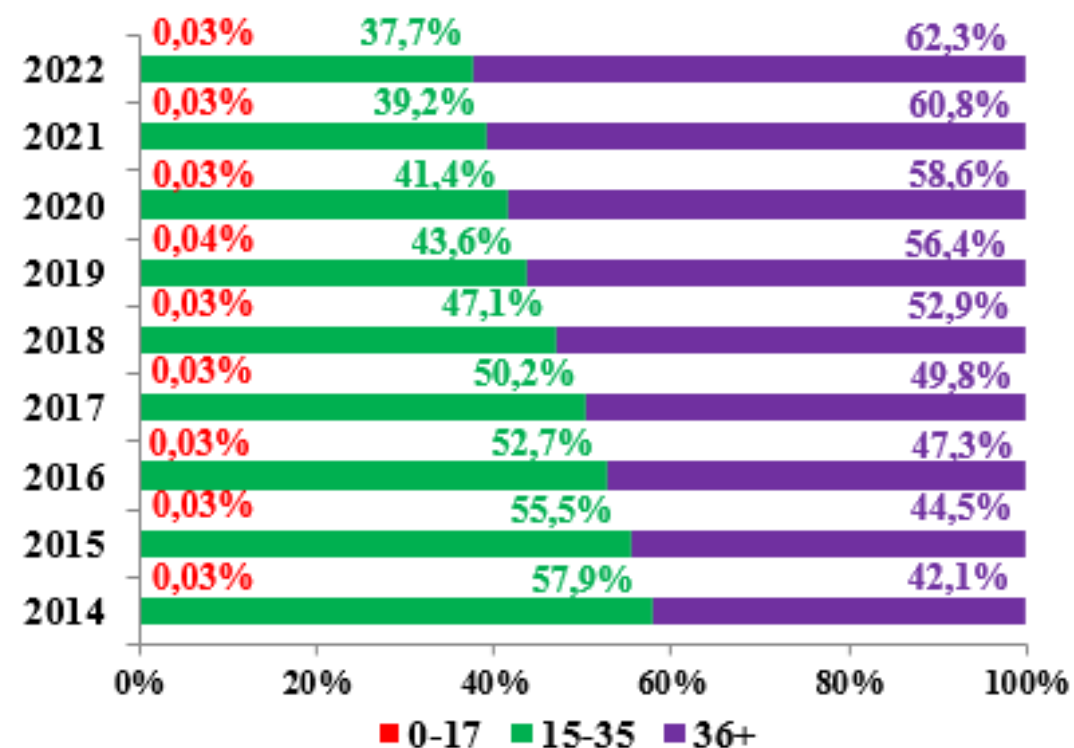
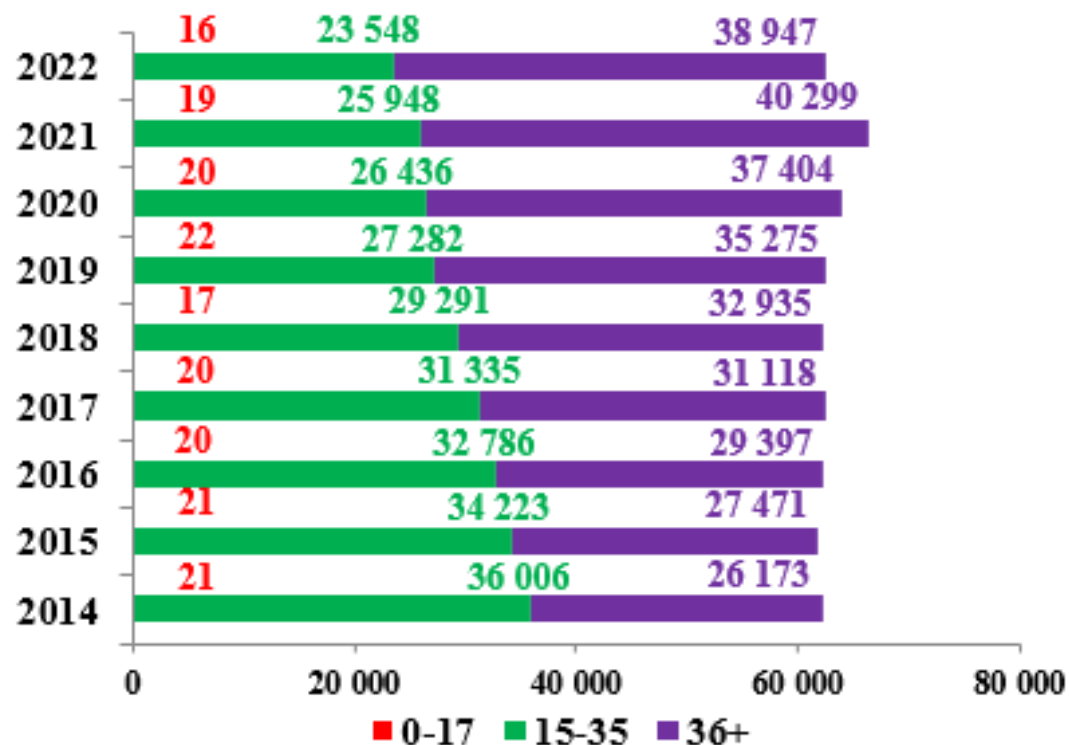
- ✓ The majority of people who apply for treatment have opioid disorders (66,2% in average), and this proportion remains unchanged.
- ✓ The poly drug disorders rank second with 23,2% in average, followed by cannabinoids disorders (7,2%) and stimulants disorders (3,1%).
- ✓ Cocaine treatment demand proportion increased in 2019 from 0,1% to 0,6%.
- ✓ No significant changes observed in persons with disorders due to use of cannabinoids, stimulants, and hallucinogens.

## Persons who were taken under surveillance for the first time, by substance



- ✓ From 2019 the proportion of persons with disorders due to opioid use, taken under surveillance for the first time, has been increasing, while the proportion of people with disorders due to cannabinoids and poly drug use has been decreasing.
- ✓ The first-time treatment demand of persons with disorders due to hallucinogens use decreased importantly in 2017 compared to 2016, and then gained back its “positions” in 2019, and after that has been slightly decreasing.
- ✓ From 2017 there is a trend of increase in number of persons who apply for treatment from cocaine-induced disorders.

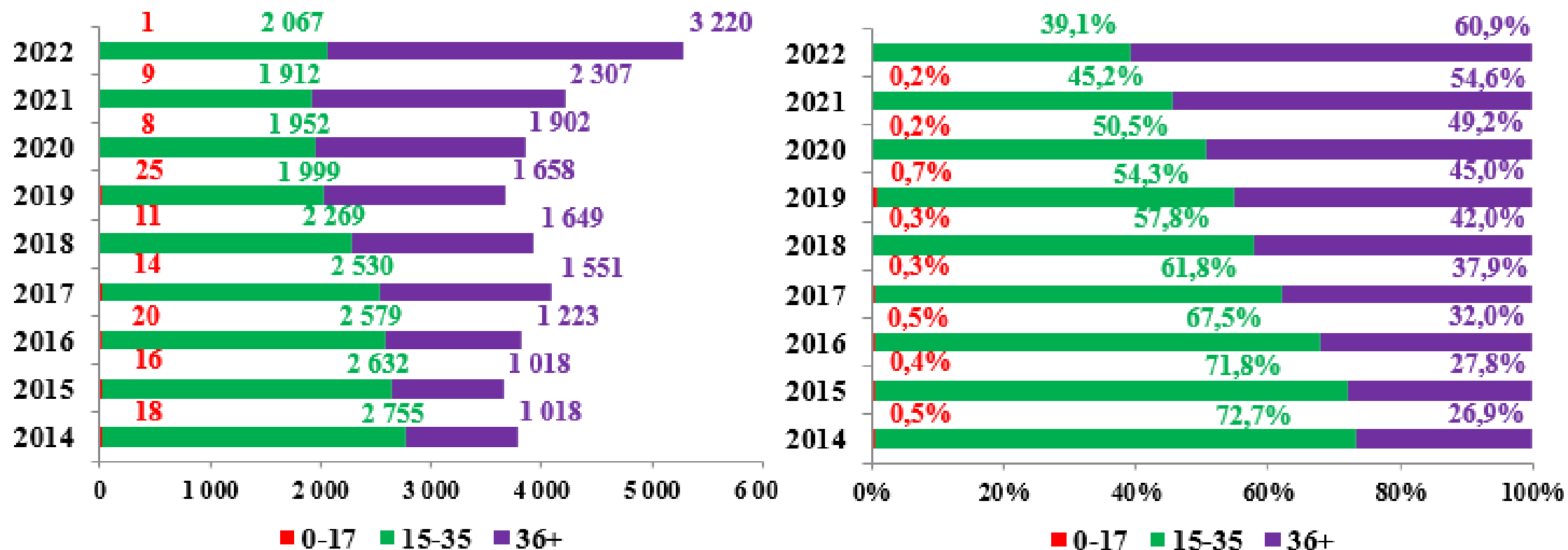
## Persons who were under surveillance, by age group



- ✓ In 2014-2016, the highest proportion of substance treatment entrants was among the age group 15-35, and in 2017 it was equal to the patients of the age group 36+, and then it has been decreasing.
- ✓ As of 2017, the treatment demand proportion of people from the age group 36+ has been increasing.
- ✓ The treatment demand proportion of people from the age group 0-17 has been remaining unchanged (0,03%).

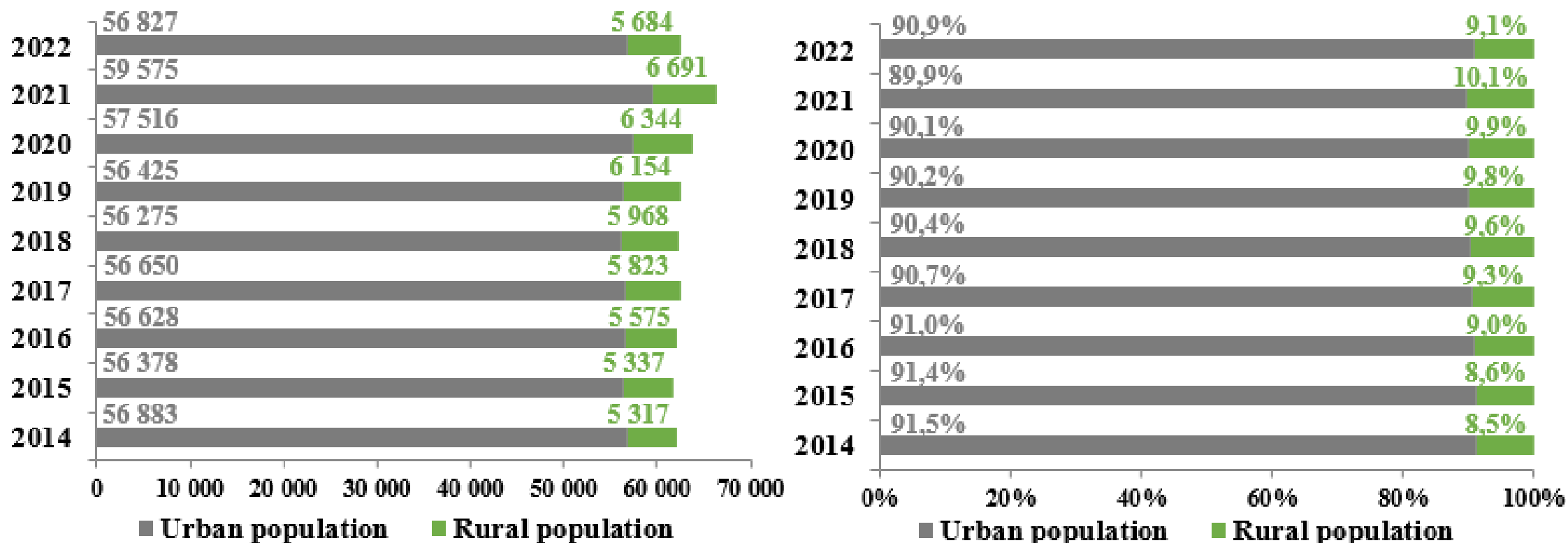


## Persons who were taken under surveillance for the first time, by age group



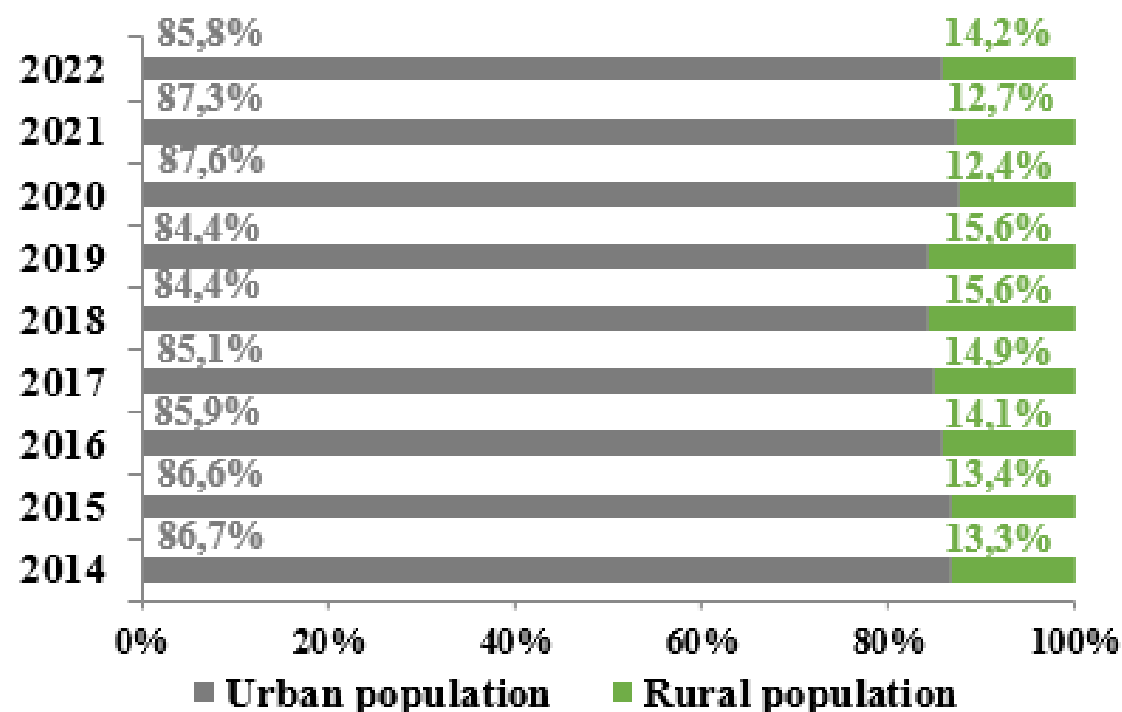
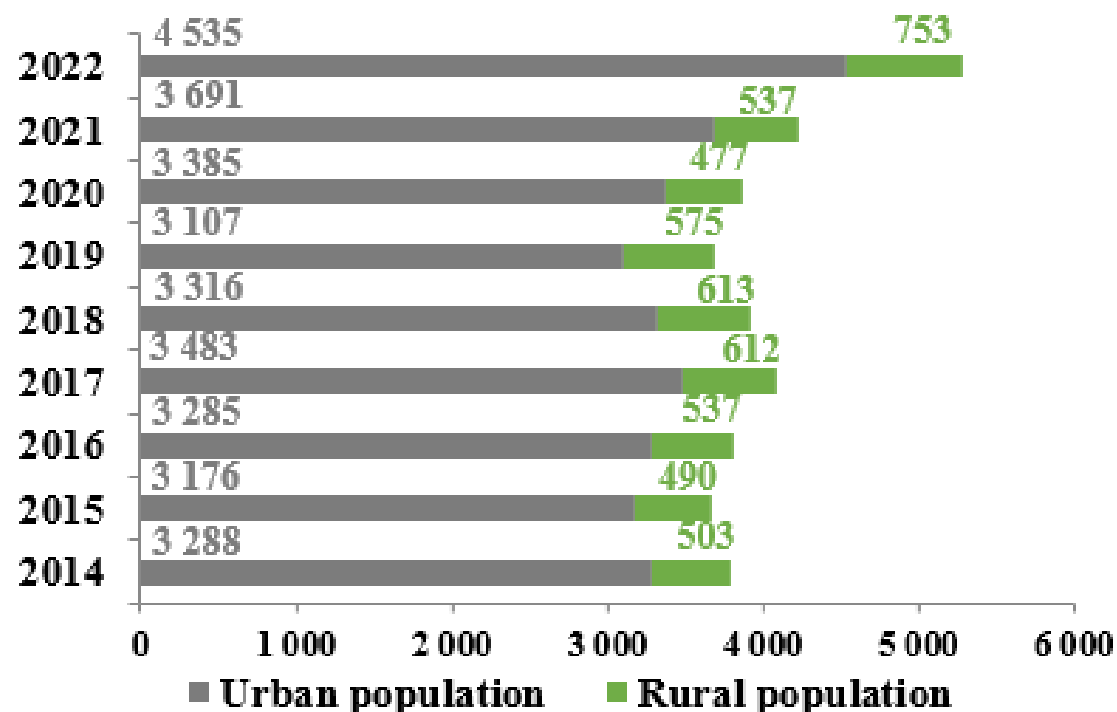
- ✓ The proportion of first-time entrants from the age group 15-35 has been decreasing in 2014-2022, while the proportion of those from the age group 36+ has been increasing, respectively.
- ✓ The proportion of first-time entrants from the age group 0-17 increased in 2019, and then decreased importantly.

## Persons who were under surveillance, by residence



✓ Urban population is the “undisputed leader” in drug treatment demand, and this proportion (90,0%) remains sustainable in years.

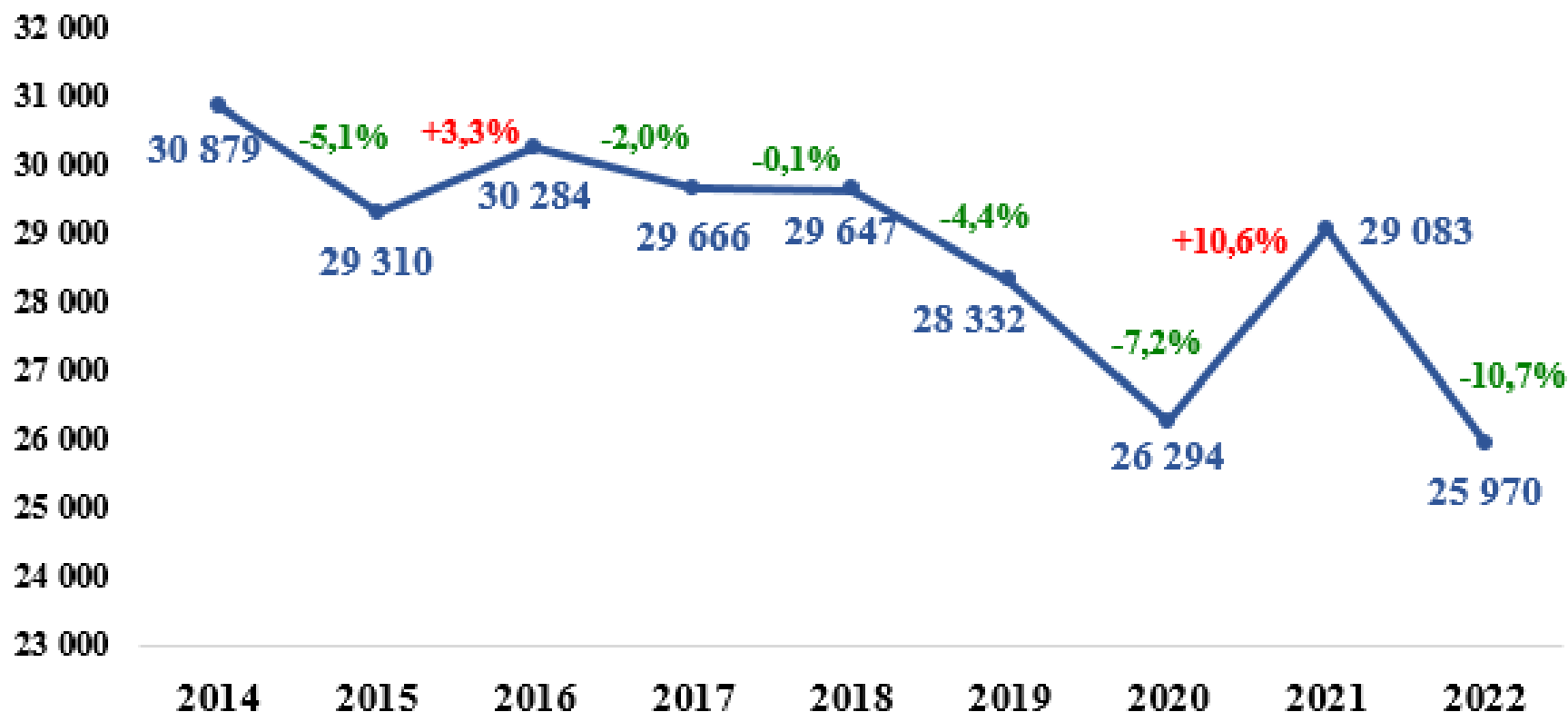
## Persons who were taken under surveillance for the first time, by residence



- ✓ The proportion of drug treatment demand in terms of first-time entrants is a bit lower than in terms of all persons under surveillance (85,8% against 90,9%).

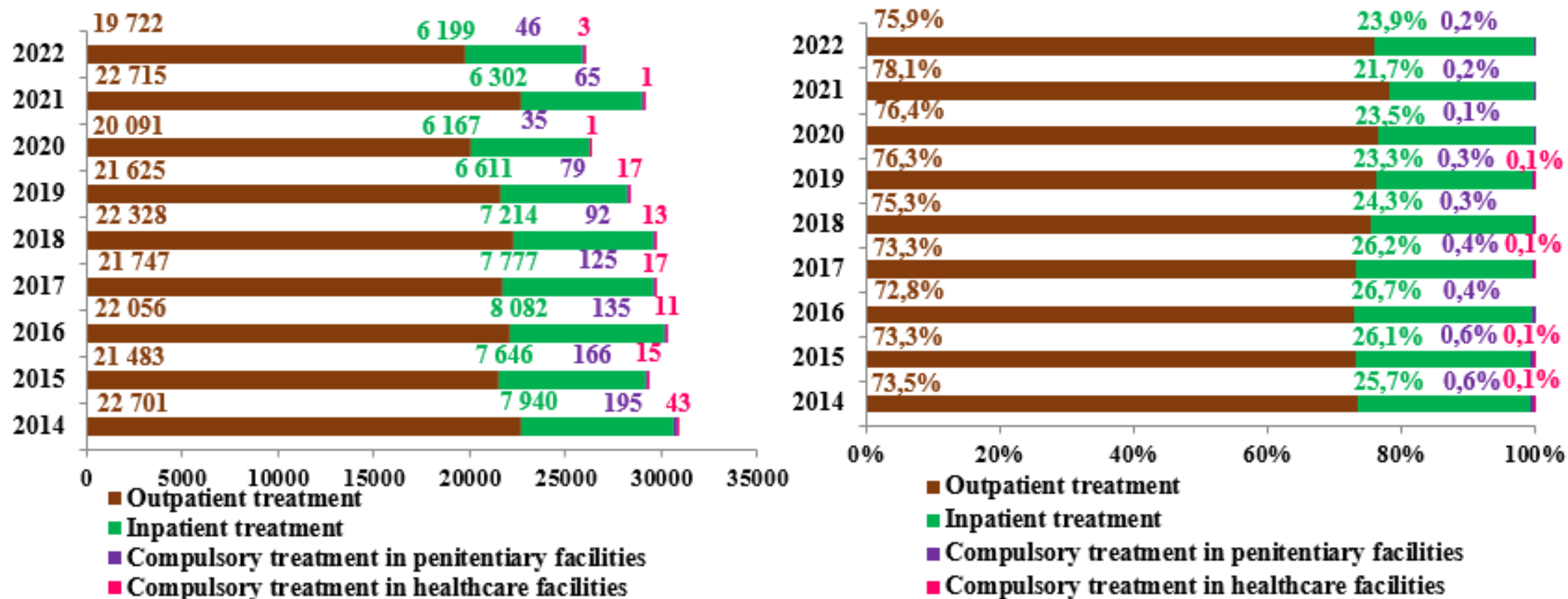
## Persons provided with treatment services

Number of persons provided with treatment services from mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use in 2014-2022



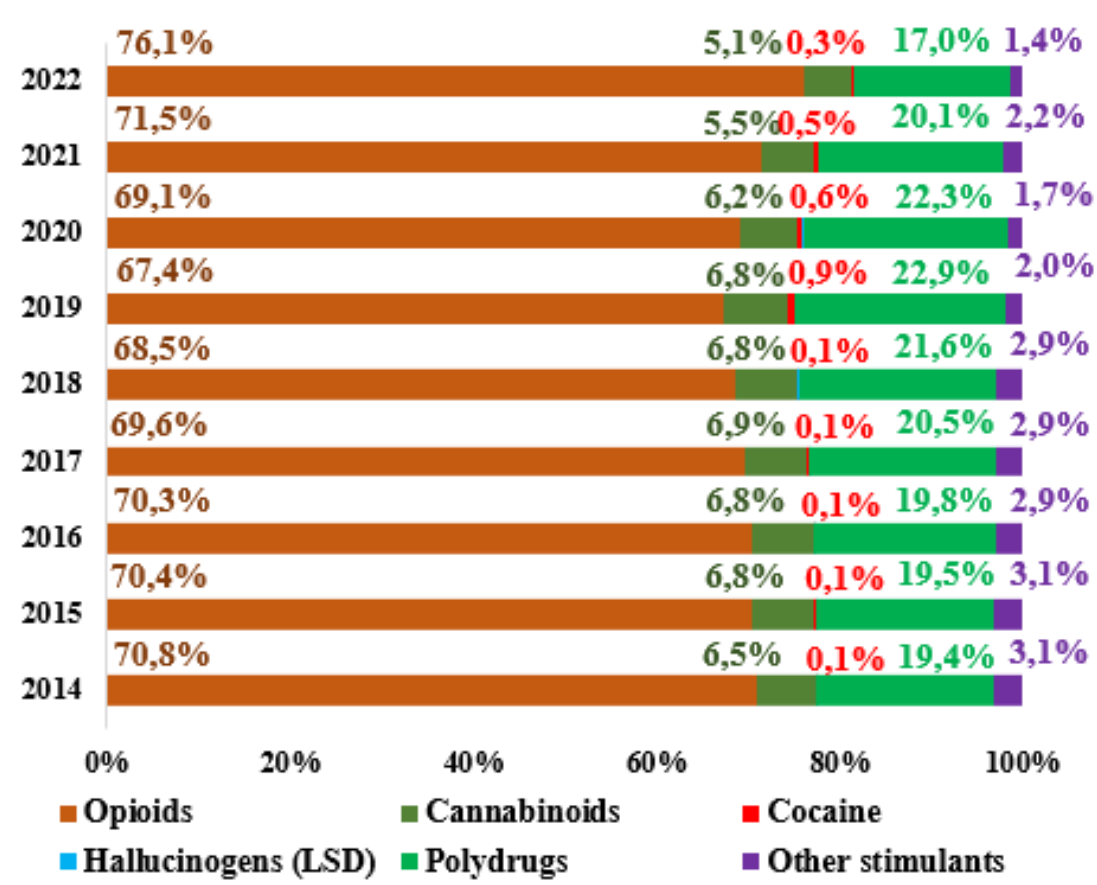
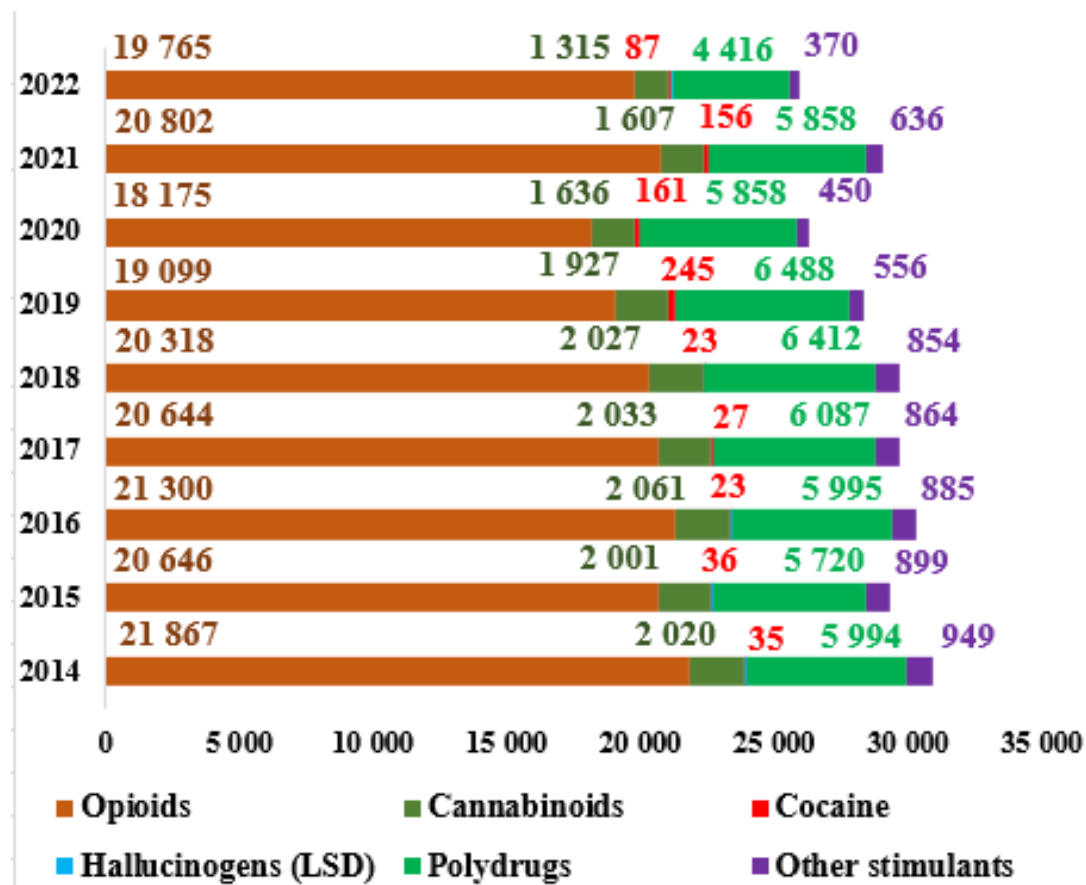
- ✓ From 2016 up to 2020 there was a gradual decrease in number of persons treated from disorders due to substance use.
- ✓ In 2021 there was an important increase in their number (by 10,6%), followed buy a sharp dropdown in 2022 (by almost 11%)

## Persons provided with treatment services, by form of treatment



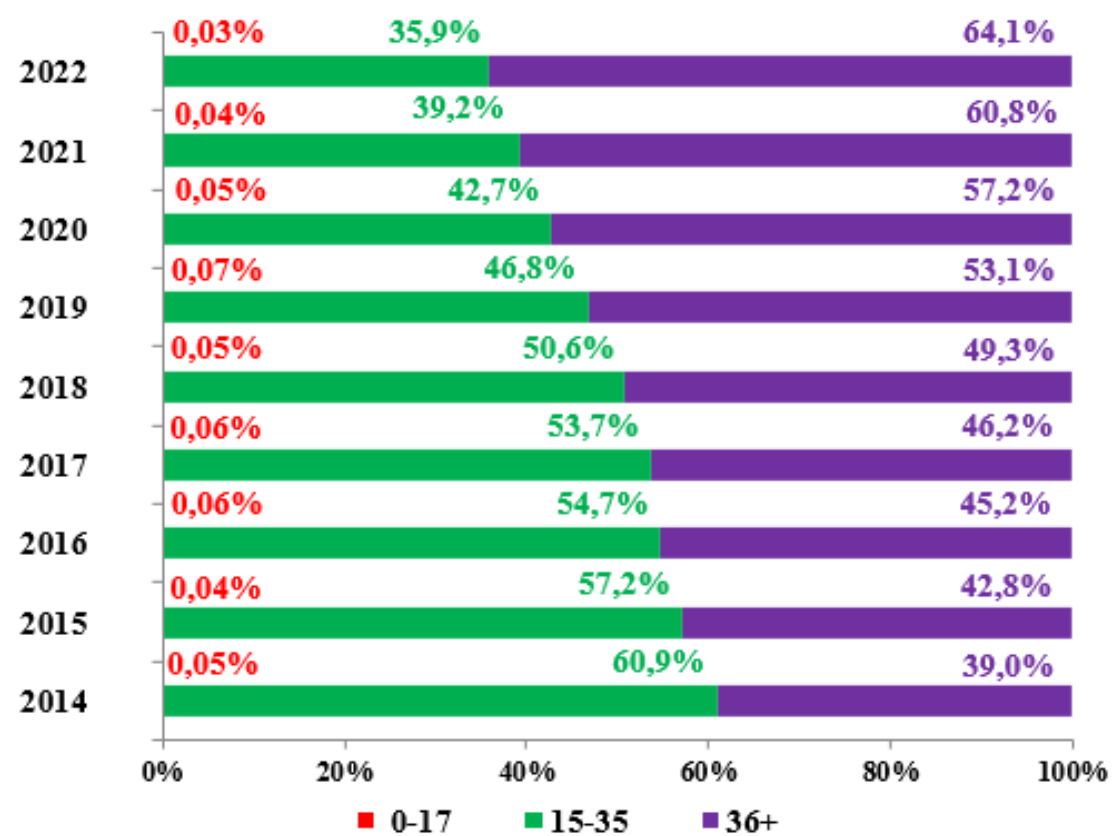
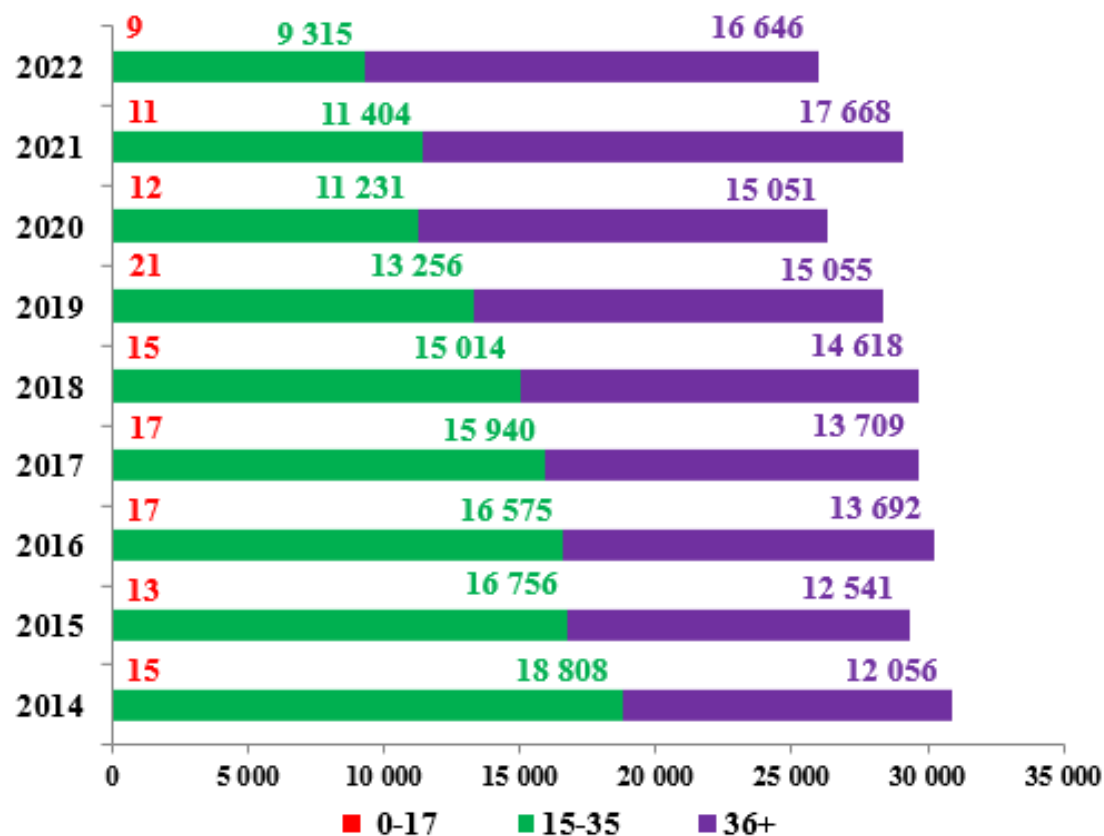
- ✓ The outpatient services are the dominant form of dispensary treatment, and the proportion has been slightly increasing from 2018.
- ✓ The proportion of compulsory treatment of patients in the penitentiary facilities has been decreasing in years.
- ✓ From 2020, the proportion of patients treated in the facilities of the Ministry of Health dropped down significantly (by 94,1%).

## Persons provided with treatment services, by substance



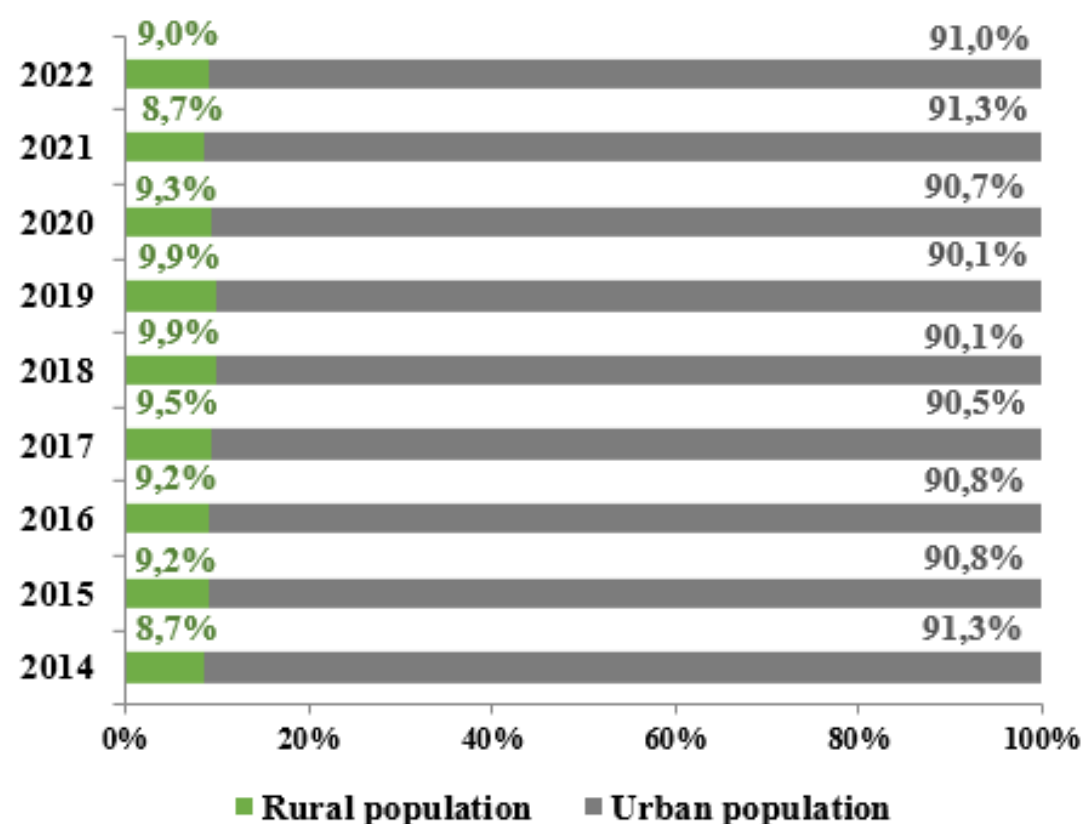
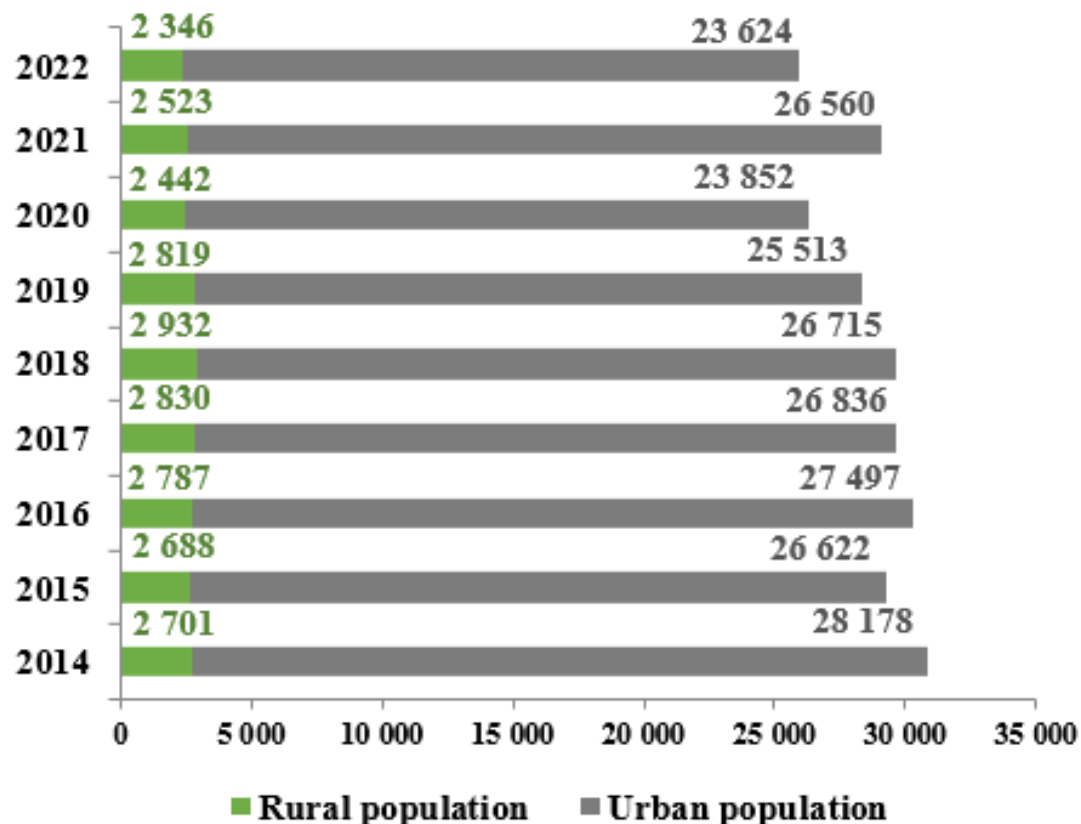
- ✓ In 2019-2022), there observed an annual increase in the proportion of persons provided with treatment from opioids-induced disorders.
- ✓ During same period, the proportion of persons provided with treatment from disorders due the us poly drugs and cannabinoids has been decreasing annually.

## Persons provided with treatment services, by age group



- ✓ From 2017, the proportion of treated persons in the age group of 36+ has been growing, while the proportion of those in the age group of 15-35 has been decreasing.

## Persons provided with treatment services, by residence



- ✓ The largest proportion of persons who were treated from mental and behavioral disorders in 2014-2022 lived in urban areas (90+%).
- ✓ In rural areas the availability of substances and accessibility to healthcare services is poorer.



## Findings

- The Form 32 of the Ministry of Health is not ideal, but the most relevant and illustrative one (compared to other data collection forms) to monitor and analyze the prevalence of drug use.
- The most widespread addictions are the opioid and poly drug ones (in average: 66,2% and 23,2%, respectively).
- Treatment from mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use is more demanded by the adult population, so the proportion of people from the age group 36+ has been increasing from year to year. Adults have fewer barriers to treatment demand than young people (problems with health, stigma, personal and social fears and phobias).
- The population who mainly apply for treatment reside in urban areas (some 90%). It can be explained not only by better accessibility of substances there, but also by higher income and higher availability of treatment services.
- Outpatient services are the most popular form of treatment from mental and behavioral disorders due to substance use. The most problematic and/or socially dangerous patients are treated in the penitentiary facilities by court decision.