



# Youth Index 2015 Ukraine

Policy Paper

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# General overview

Youth comprises a quarter of the whole population of Ukraine (it is more than 12 million people). According to the Ukrainian legislation, the youth in Ukraine considered to be people aged from 14 till 35 years.

Youth-inclusive society is more likely to grow and prosper, while the risks of exclusion include slow development, crime and even unrest. It is very important for young people to have an access to qualified education, health system, labour market, government and authorities (decision-making process).

Nowadays the policy and the investment decisions are increasingly data driven, data on youth development is often fragmented, inconsistent or even does not exist.

As a result, the needs of young people often remain are unexposed and marginalized by their complexity.

The Youth Index Ukraine is developed:

- to promote increased attention to youth and consultation with youth;
- to deliberate dialogue about youth and increase investment in young people as catalysts

## Who can use the Index?

Youth can use the findings of this Youth Index Ukraine to inform and validate their positions and advocate even more powerfully with the government, donors and the international community and in the role of participants in councils, parliaments and other policymaking and advisory structures. Young people are increasingly engaging in local, national and international conversations and decision-making concerning the issues that are on youth topics and the future of Ukraine.

Government officials, authorities, ministries, profile structures can use the results of the Youth Index to better assess the extent to

for development, prosperity and security.

Youth Index Ukraine is being to become a strategic guide for policy and investments in youth, the Youth Index also highlights where it is needed to do more youth-specific surveys and the efficient surveys of age-disaggregated data could enable decision-makers of Ukraine to understand better in which spheres do the youth still need support and more deep surveys and researches.

Youth Index is a tool that shows the gap between the youth compared with the adult population in the framework of the most important socio-economic areas.

Youth Index represents the ratio between the rate of youth and adults calculated for different areas (unemployment, participation, health and risky behaviour).

Youth Index offers data for the development and implementation of evidence-based transversal policies aiming the improvement of the quality of life of young people.

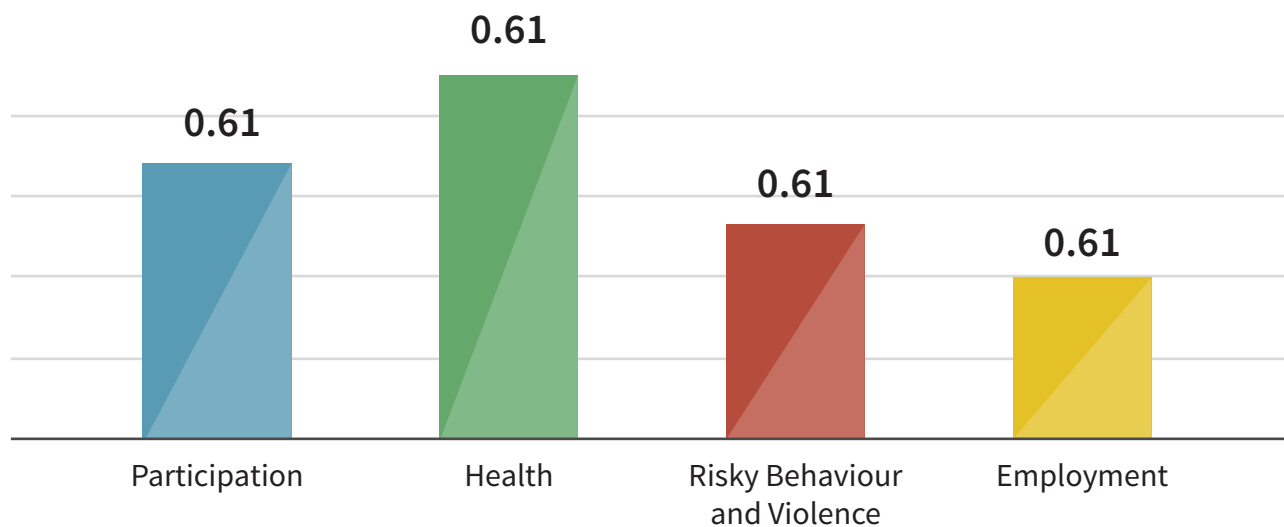
which their policies, institutions and services are meeting the needs of youth and to help to identify areas where reforms or actions may be needed. If the objective and subjective data have big differences, policymakers can take steps to increase more open consultations and engagement with young people to understand this disconnect.

The Youth Index results and findings will help the donors and investors to determine strategic priorities for investments and for the state decision-makers to direct the resources better to the sphere where they may be most needed.

This Youth Index serves as a tool for the youth NGOs better to know the situation of the youth in different spheres, to have the concrete data for writing project applications on different youth issues, to make advocacy

campaigns on youth issues and have more influence in the decision-making process and in the working out of the more effective youth policy in the country.

## Domains<sup>1</sup>



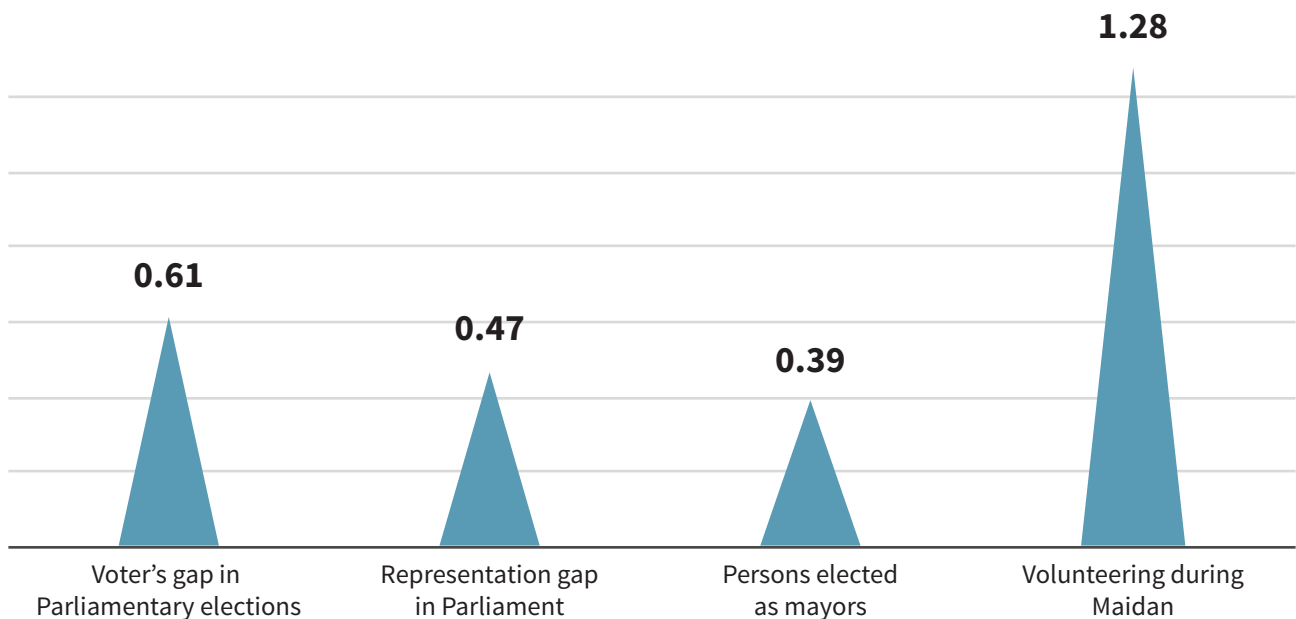
The worst situation is in the sphere of employment, the best situation according to the available data of Statistics is in the sphere of health. But the data do not correspond to reality in some cases because of the outdated

method of calculation. It is needed to change the norms and methodology of the Statistics in Ukraine and do systematic researches and surveys on youth issues and on some specific age groups.

<sup>1</sup> The data was calculated without the population of the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol.

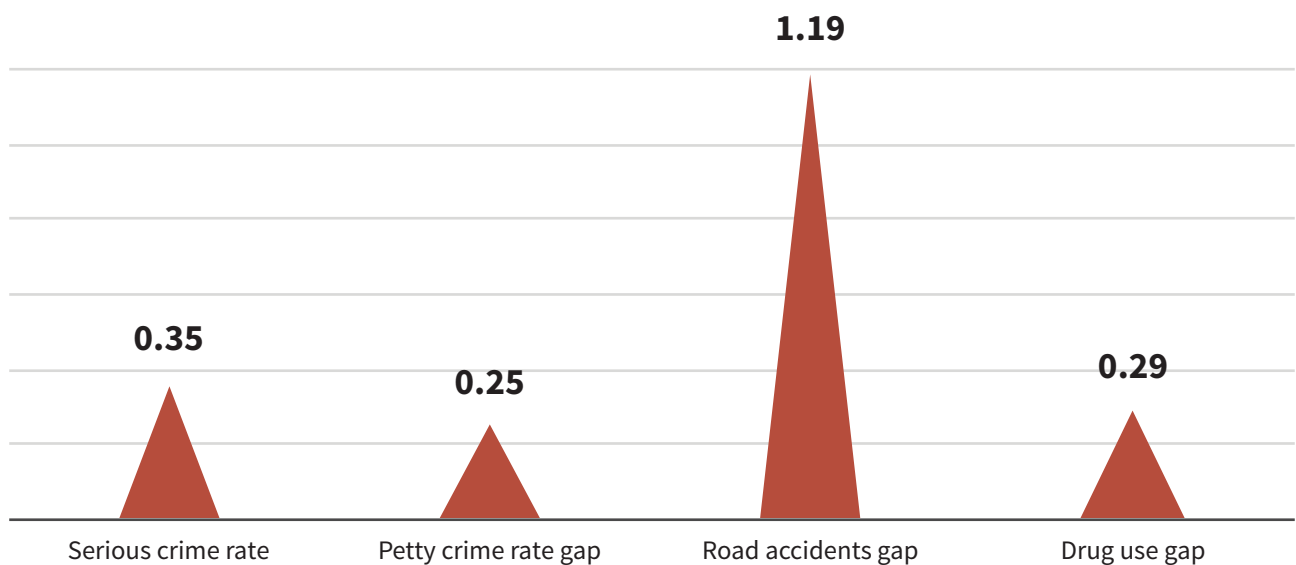
## Gaps between adults and youth in participation, risky behaviour, employment and health

### Gap between youth rate and adult rate - Participation



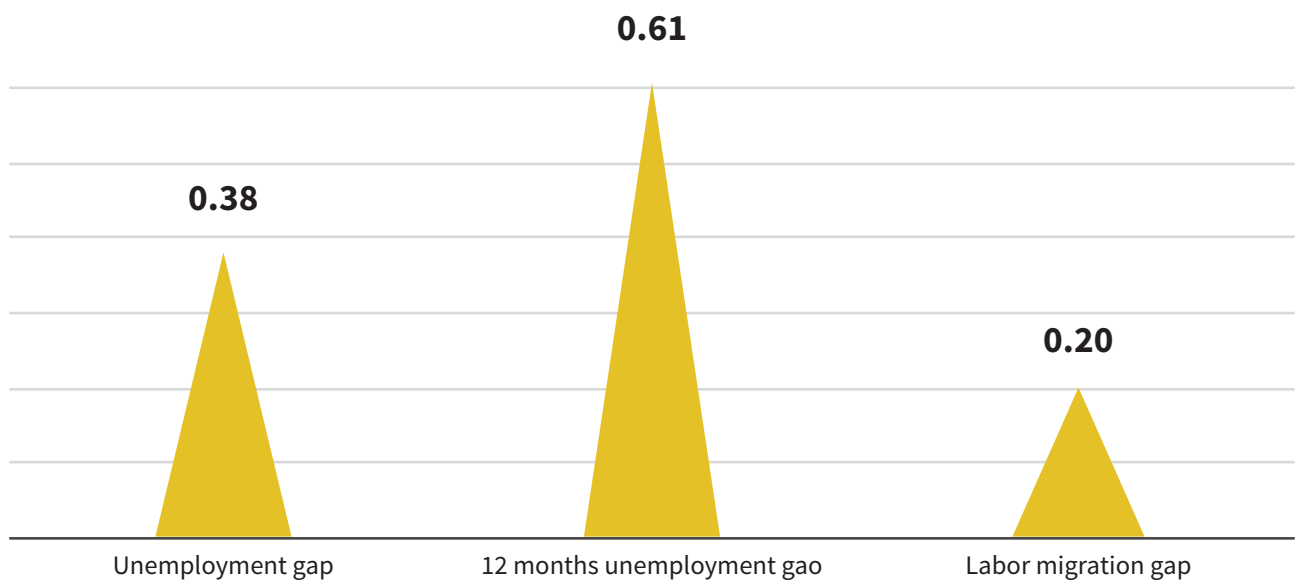
*The weakest field of this domain is the indicator – persons elected as mayors, the strongest one is volunteering during Maidan.*

### Gap between youth rate and adult rate - Risky behaviour and violence



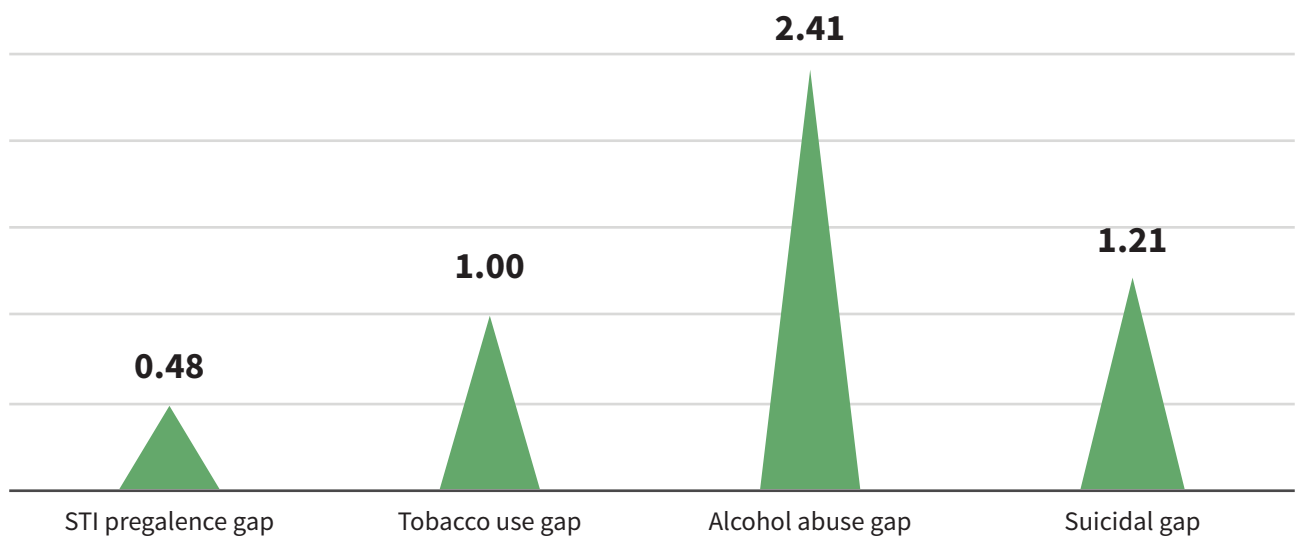
*The worst situation is with the indicator – petty crime gap, the best situation in this domain is with the road accidents gap.*

### Gap between youth rate and adult rate - Employment



*The weakest indicator is labour migration gap, the strongest one in this domain is 12 month unemployment.*

### Gap between youth rate and adult rate - Health



*The weakest indicator is STI prevalence Gap and the strongest in this domain is alcohol abuse gap.*

# 1. Participation



Participation is very important in the development and prosperity of every country. Only proactive society can make changes and influence on the decision-making processes in the country, defend democracy, the rule of law, safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms.

## Voter's gap in the Parliamentary elections

*It was taken the data from the last pre-term elections to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in October 2014. The data was used from the following sources: Exit poll "The Razumkov Centre" (think tank), Fund "Democratic initiatives named Ilko Kucheriv".*

The voting age in Ukraine starts from 18 years according to the law of Ukraine "On Election of the People's Deputies of Ukraine".

According to the available data, Ukrainian youth<sup>2</sup> was very passive during the last elections to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, only 35% of the youth aged 18-30 voted during the last Parliamentary elections. It is possible to see the tendency of lowering of the youth participation in Ukraine in every elections.

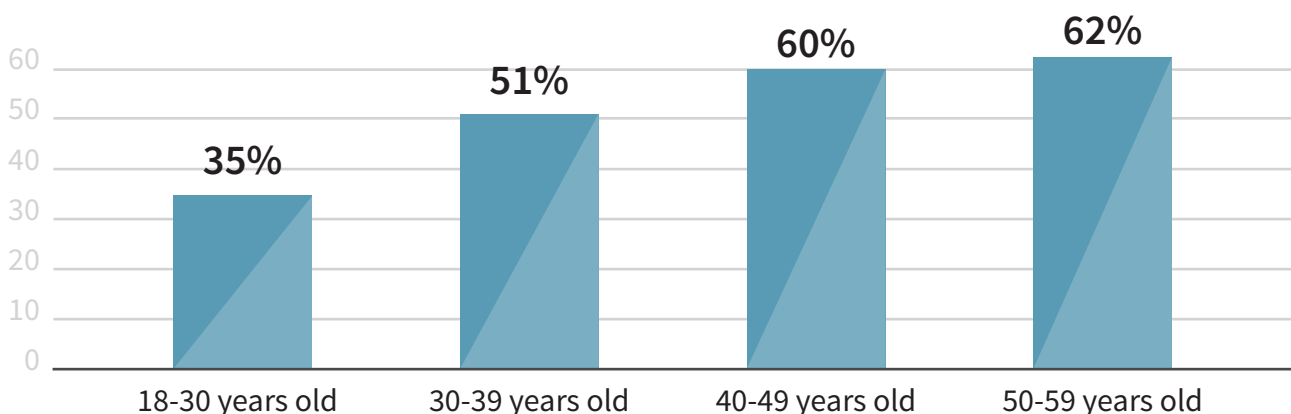
The reasons of this are the following factors:

- disappointment in politics;
- youth do not see the alternative among the proposed candidates and do not go to vote (as a form of protest);
- civic irresponsibility.

The most active were people aged 50-59 years, 62% of this age group voted. According to the polls, voters aged 40-49 years were also very active in these elections, 60% of this age group voted. Votes aged from 30 till 39 were also active, 51% of this age group voted.

The reason for the low turnout during the Parliamentary elections can be the fact that Ukraine is in the war and the elections could not be held on the whole territory of Ukraine.

Figure: Age groups of voters during the parliamentary elections in 2014



2 Youth in Ukraine are people aged from 18 till 35 years according to the Ukrainian legislation

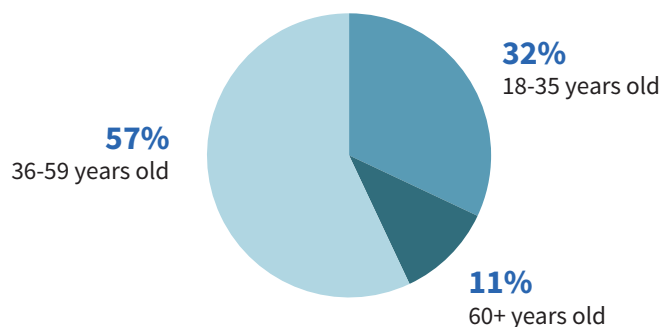
## Representation gap in Parliament

The data was used from the following sources: Civil Network “OPORA”, official web-site of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

Elected age of the young people in Ukraine for the People’s Deputies starts at 21 years. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine consists of 450 People’s Deputies. The last Parliamentary

elections was in October 2014. According to the elected People’s Deputies, 32% is young people from 18 till 35 years, the age group from 36 till 59 years has the representation in the amount of 57 %. There is no law that regulates the amount of young people in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

Figure: Age groups of voters during the parliamentary elections in 2014



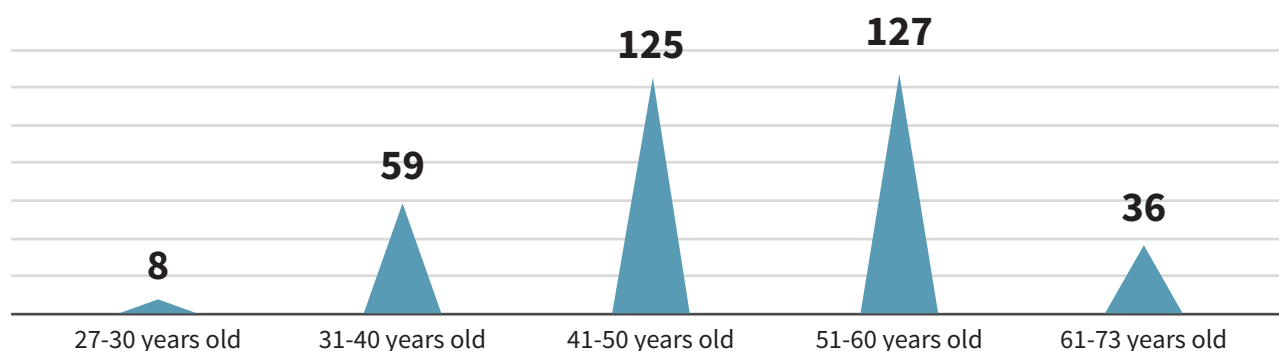
## Voter’s gap in local elections

The data was used from the following sources: Information agency “Slovo I dilo”, Center for Political Studies and Analysis.

There was elected 357 mayors in Ukraine, among them - 24 women and 331 men. More

than a third of mayors, namely 152 - self-nominated. The amount of young people among elected mayors is 8 persons. It is very low representation of young people in the decision-making process.

Figure: Age groups of voters during the parliamentary elections in 2014





## Volunteering during Maidan (Revolution of Dignity)

*The data was used from the following sources: Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation, Kiev International Institute of Sociology, GfK Ukraine, UN.*

It could be seen the visible growth of the volunteer movement in Ukraine during the Revolution of Dignity (2013-2014). By Revolution of Dignity most relevant areas of activity were assistance to vulnerable groups and improvement of public space. Help the wounded and the army has become the most common form of volunteer activity in Ukraine in 2014. The most active in volunteering were young women, Kiev City and Western Part of Ukraine. According to the survey, more than half of the volunteers are university graduates, 43% of volunteers belong to the middle class.

62% of Ukrainians recognize the role of volunteers in political changes, in the East of Ukraine the amount of such people is 41%. Most Ukrainians believe that volunteerism

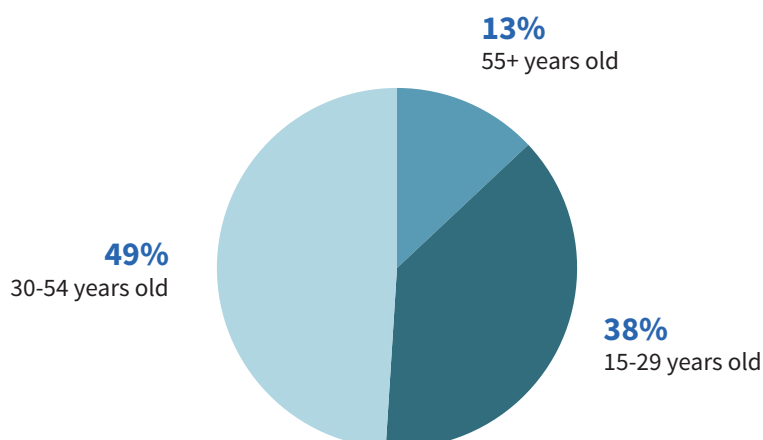
helps to strengthen peace, most of these respondents are from the western regions of Ukraine 87%.

81% of Ukrainians consider that volunteering is a mandatory component of the civil society. Only 11% know about the Ukrainian law on volunteering that was adopted in 2011.

The Law on voluntary is assessed positively among those who know about it, 73% say it has positive impact on the development of volunteering. Volunteers give a slightly different assessment of the law: 61% of the respondents said that it has a positive effect, while 21% believe that the law has no effect on the development of volunteering in the country.

The most active age group was people aged 30–54 years, 49% of this age group were volunteers, than goes youth 15–29 whose part is 38% and the least active was the age group of 55 years and more - only 13%.

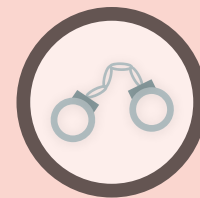
Figure: Age groups in volunteering. Revolution of Dignity (2013-2014)



## Recommendations

- 1.** Support capacity-building of the NGOs
- 2.** invest in participation of youth in the decision-making processes
- 3.** strengthen the financial support for the Ukrainian NGOs, youth NGOs
- 4.** develop the system of non-formal education, support, promote and recognize non-formal education at schools and universities
- 5.** involve youth into social activities and share the responsibilities in implementing activities (support active participation)
- 6.** support civic education at schools and universities
- 7.** involve youth to the discussions of the issues that concern youth ( “No decision on youth without youth”)
- 8.** working out the system of information share for youth in the whole territory of Ukraine( especially on the regional level and in rural areas)
- 9.** do systematic researches and surveys on youth issues and on some specific age groups

## 2. Risky behaviour and violence



### Crime rate

*The data was used from the following sources: State Statistics Service of Ukraine.*

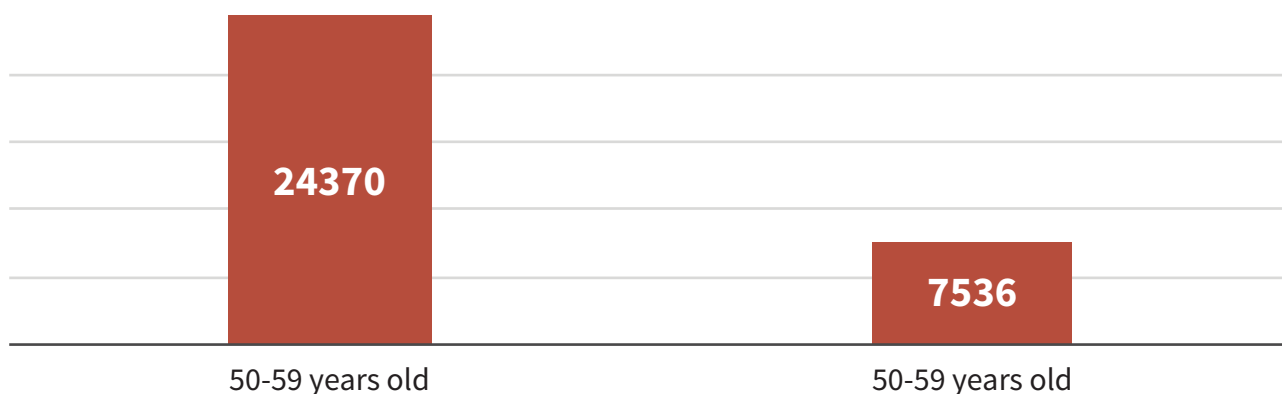
There is no survey on youth aged from 14 till 35 years, there is data from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine for the group ages 16-39 and 40-60. Ministry of Internal affairs announced that there are crime groups comprised of children. The reasons that can involve of minors in criminal gangs can be different. There is the fact that criminals are using minors because they are defenceless and trusting, directly or through trickery force them to commit illegal actions. In turn, it is caused because of its moral social instability

and immaturity, lack of life experience is always a subject of influence: constructive prosocial or destructive antisocial.

The most common reasons of the crimes are significant unemployment, lack of funds to life, low cultural and educational level.

The main factors that provoke crime among young people are socio-economic instability, weakening of levers of state or social influence, weakening the educational function of the school, incomplete families or families with many children, the lack of law and order in the country.

Figure: Amount of crimes among the age groups



### Drugs

*The data was used from the following sources: State Statistics Service of Ukraine, Ukrainian monitoring and medical centre on drugs and alcohol Ministry of health of Ukraine.*

There are two laws that harmonize national drug policy in Ukraine: "On Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors"

and "On measures against illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors and their abuse", implemented the UN Convention on drugs "in 1961, the Psychotropic Substances and the 1971 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

The main subject of the first and second laws of Ukraine is the State Service on Drug Control established in 2010. It forms and ensures the implementation of the State policy in the area of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors and combating illicit trafficking within its powers.

In 2013 there was adopted the National Strategy of Ukraine on Drugs till 2020.

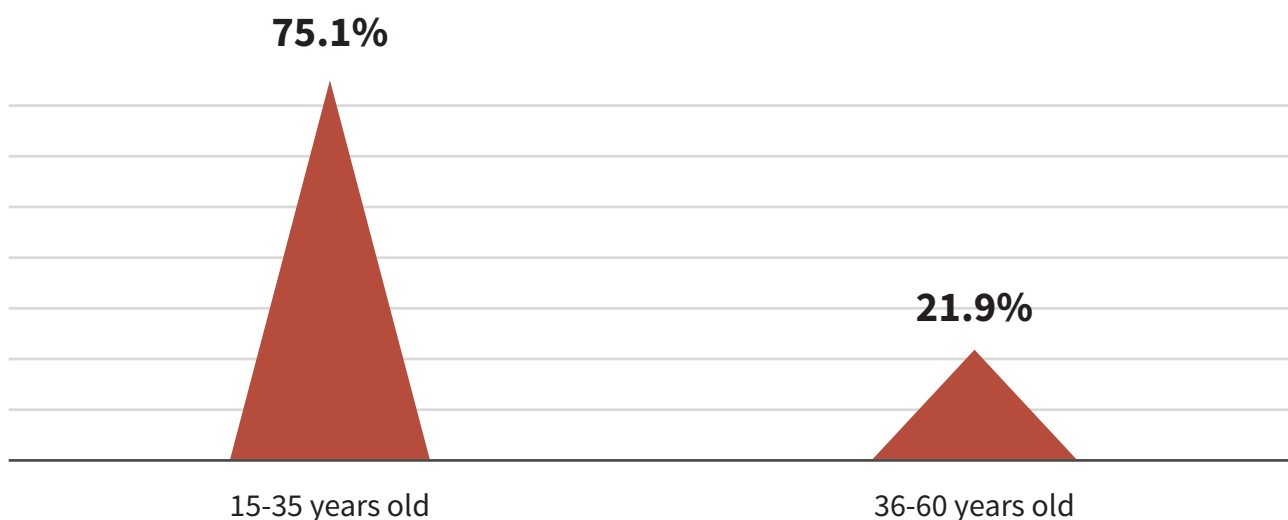
Among young people aged 15-35 years the prevalence of drug use in 2014 decreased by 13.6%

During 2011 - 2014 years there is a reduction

of drug abuse in the age group from 18 till 35, only 12% from the whole amount of the young people aged 18-35, it is from 48 467 to 42 576 people use drugs and it is gradually increasing in the age group from 36 till 60 years - 30,668 people, with a peak in 2013 (31,693 persons).

The largest prevalence of drug addiction in 2014 observed mainly in the southern and south-eastern regions of Ukraine. There are mainly two groups of drug addicted young people: the children of wealthy parents and those whose parents have serious problems with alcohol and drugs.

Figure: Drug addicted people according to the age group (9144 addicted people)



## Road accidents

The data was used from the following sources: State Statistics Service of Ukraine, State Inspectorate of Ukraine on security in land transport.

Analysis of the accidents among drivers according to the age groups, who have committed the accidents showed that most

accidents were committed by the drivers aged from 35 till 50 years, it forms 41.59% accidents of the number of all accidents. Drivers aged from 21 till 35 years admitted failures in amount of 37.86% (711 accidents) of the total number. Older drivers, namely those who are 50 years old or more forms 19.91 % (374 accidents).

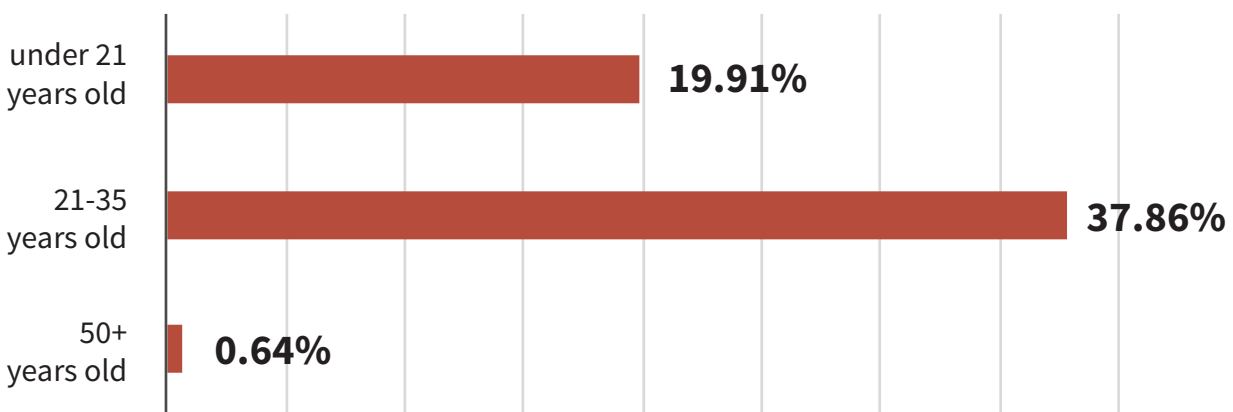
Drivers under 21 admitted failures in amount of 0.64% (12 accidents) of the total number.

The whole amount of the road accidents in 2014 is 3629.

The most spread reasons of the road accidents in Ukraine are: Unjustifiably risky behaviour and conscious violation of traffic rules (ignoring traffic signs and traffic lights, change lanes without the switching on the "indicator", cropping, etc.), driving under the

influence of alcohol. Because of the alcohol in the blood, drivers lose control over their actions (moreover, in most cases there is an unjustified self-confidence, slowing response, blunted attention and impaired ability to analyse what is happening around, over speed, inattentive driving, infraction, violation of the rules on overtaking, inappropriate behaviour in extreme situations.

Figure: Road accidents among age groups



## Recommendations

- 1.** develop complex youth programs on the national and local level to prevent crimes among young people
- 2.** improve the legal framework of crime prevention among youth and working out and implementation of the youth policy in this area
- 3.** increase the level of legal awareness and legal culture of youth
- 4.** develop programs of social and economic development of particular categories youth ( rural youth, "street children")
- 5.** support of organizing of youth leisure with the help of sports clubs and other clubs on interests and on development of intellectual and creative skills of children and young people (inclusive local and rural areas)
- 6.** support involvement of youth in the youth NGOs
- 7.** create consultative centres for young people on providing of psycho assistance to adolescents, their families to eliminate family violence
- 8.** establish system of improving youth employment
- 9.** distribute information about the harm that alcohol and drugs can cause to the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities and societies, society at large, through the activities of public education or the social advertising
- 10.** ensure anti-alcohol and anti-drugs education (starting with school level) and include it in the curricula of pre-school and schools together with relevant training programs for parents and teachers
- 11.** strengthen financial support for youth NGOs that work on the reduction of crime rate and drug abuse and implementation of national programs on these issues
- 12.** implement more effective state policy aimed at overcoming child neglect and homelessness
- 13.** support promoting of healthy lifestyle for the youth
- 14.** do systematic researches and surveys on youth issues and on some specific age groups

# 3. Employment



The data was used from the following sources: State Statistics Service of Ukraine, State employment service, National Institute of Family and Youth Policy

## Unemployment

Unemployment is the common problem for many countries that causes a lot of problems in different spheres. The rate of the unemployment among youth aged 15-24 years in Ukraine is 29,5%.

The low employment rate of young people is due to the fact that:

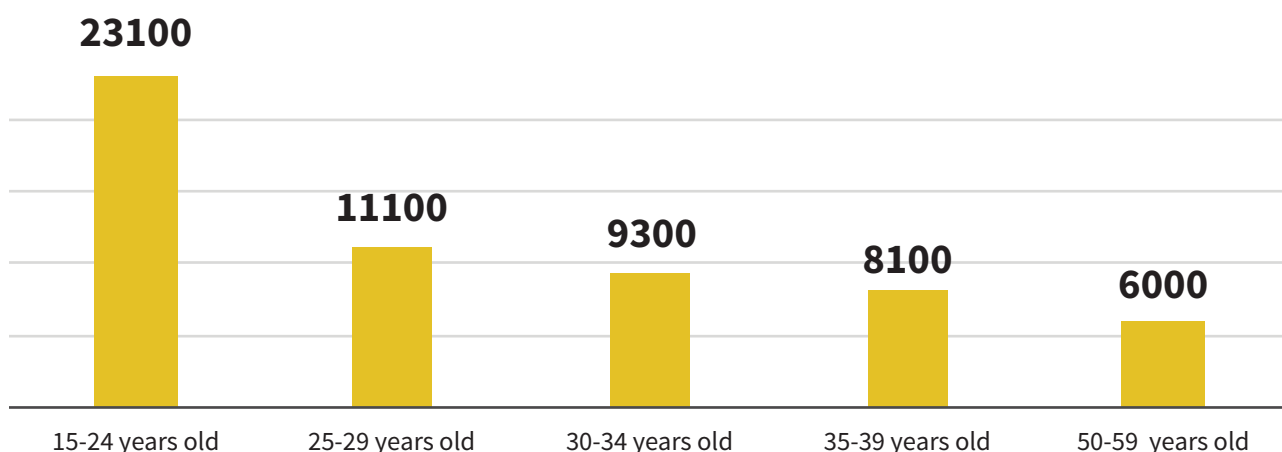
- young people in this age study and has no stable competitive advantages in the labour market.
- young people have weak professional orientation
- there is not-enough qualitative education system in Ukraine
- there is inconsistency of state order according to the needs of real economy. The nowadays need is in workers and technical specialties
- there is lack of motivation for employers to hire young people without or with little experience.

The vast majority of graduates do not have work experience, skills of its search, but have high expectations with respect wages and working conditions, making it difficult to start working career. During this period the possibility of employment critically affects mismatch qualification and educational structure of the youth and the needs of the economy. As a consequence, every second in this age has problems with finding the workplace.

The main obstacles to find decent work for 27.8% of unemployed youth are higher demands of employers to the level of education and those obtained skills and competence in the process of learning.

The unemployment rate, calculated by the methodology of the International Labour Organization (ILO) among young people aged 25-29 years, forms 13,9%.

Figure: Age groups of unemployment



According to the Law of Ukraine "On Promotion of Social Development of Youth in Ukraine", young people are people aged from 14 to 35 years.

A significant drawback of this method of calculation is understating the real number of unemployed, as in country where social assistance unemployment is low, many people are not registered as unemployed at the labour exchange. The above phenomenon also observed in rural regions, where the working population is engaged in processing (own) land that is not covered by statistics as economic activity.

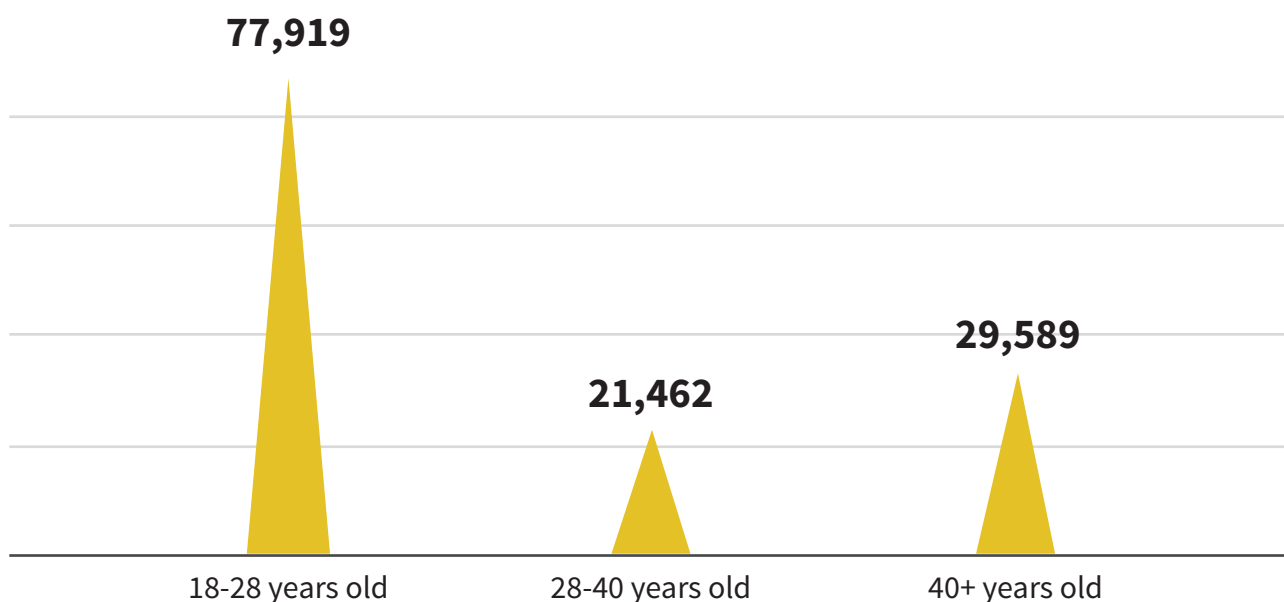
Official statistics in Ukraine is using an outdated method of calculation unemployed citizens. The unemployment rate is calculated as the ratio of unemployed registered in public service employment to able-bodied population. A lot of people do not register their unemployment at the labour exchange, but work not official. In 2014 and 2015 there is still difficult situation with the employment and a big rate of unemployment because of financial crisis and war in Ukraine.

## Migration

Unemployment is a major cause of labour migration in Ukraine. The vast majority of migrant workers who left to work abroad in 2014 are residents of Odessa region (84%), in

addition, much of the inhabitants of the Kyiv City(5%) and Donetsk region (4%), the amount of employees abroad other regions did not exceed 2% of the total.

Figure: Migrant workers who left to work abroad





During the years 2013-2014 the most employment flows of labour migration were to Cyprus, UK, Germany, Greece, Marshall Islands, Poland, Netherlands, USA, Panama, Liberia.

Of the total number of employees abroad accounted for over 90% of men aged over 28 years. Then, as the total number of women migrant workers, two-thirds were under the age of 28 years.

More than half of migrant workers have basic or complete higher education, a quarter - vocational education.

By economic activities 90% of labour migrants from Ukraine work in transport and communication (mostly maritime activities of passenger and freight transport) and temporary accommodation and catering (4.2%), construction (2.5%).

## Recommendations

- 1.** recognition of non-formal education
- 2.** monitoring of the implementation of the programs on employment and support it financially, because most of the regulations are only on the paper
- 3.** work out the tools for the evaluation of the quality of education in Ukraine
- 4.** establish the system of qualitative internships for getting the practical skills and knowledge
- 5.** make state order for the universities more appropriate to the requirements of the labor market
- 6.** support the non-formal education and stakeholders who promote it (youth NGOs)
- 7.** support qualitative professional orientation for the young people at schools, promoting of the UNDP project on unemployment (<http://mycareer.org.ua/>), where young people can pass the test on professional orientation( free of charge) and know more about the possibilities of studying and employment
- 8.** establishment of companies for youth employment in their free time;
- 9.** promote the creation of small youth enterprises
- 10.** support the youth entrepreneurship in rural areas
- 11.** monitor the program on supporting the entrepreneurship among youth and create the consultative centers for youth entrepreneurs
- 12.** create departments promoting youth employment at the universities or in the employment services
- 13.** support life-long learning and retraining
- 14.** do systematic researches and surveys on youth issues and on some specific age groups
- 15.** support youth NGOs that work in the direction of development of entrepreneurship among youth

# 4. Health



The data was used from the following sources: State Statistics Service of Ukraine, Institute of Demography, The GATS Atlas. Global Adult Tobacco Survey. World Health Organization, 2015, Centre of Medical Statistics, Tobacco Control in Ukraine. Second National Report. - A.: Ukraine Ministry of Health, State "Ukrainian Institute of Strategic Research of Ministry of Health of Ukraine", 2014, National Institute of Family and Youth Policy

## STI prevalence Gap

According to the State Statistics service of Ukraine, the rate of Sexual Transmitted Infections are the following:

### Syphilis

15-34 aged people (13,9 - 100000 respondents)  
35-59 aged (10,6 - 100000 respondents);

### Gonococcal infection

15-34 aged people (36,6 - 100000 respondents),  
35-59 aged (8,9 - 100000 respondents);

### Chlamydial lymphogranuloma

15-34 aged (128,6 - 100000 respondents),  
5-59 aged (38,9 - 100000 respondents);

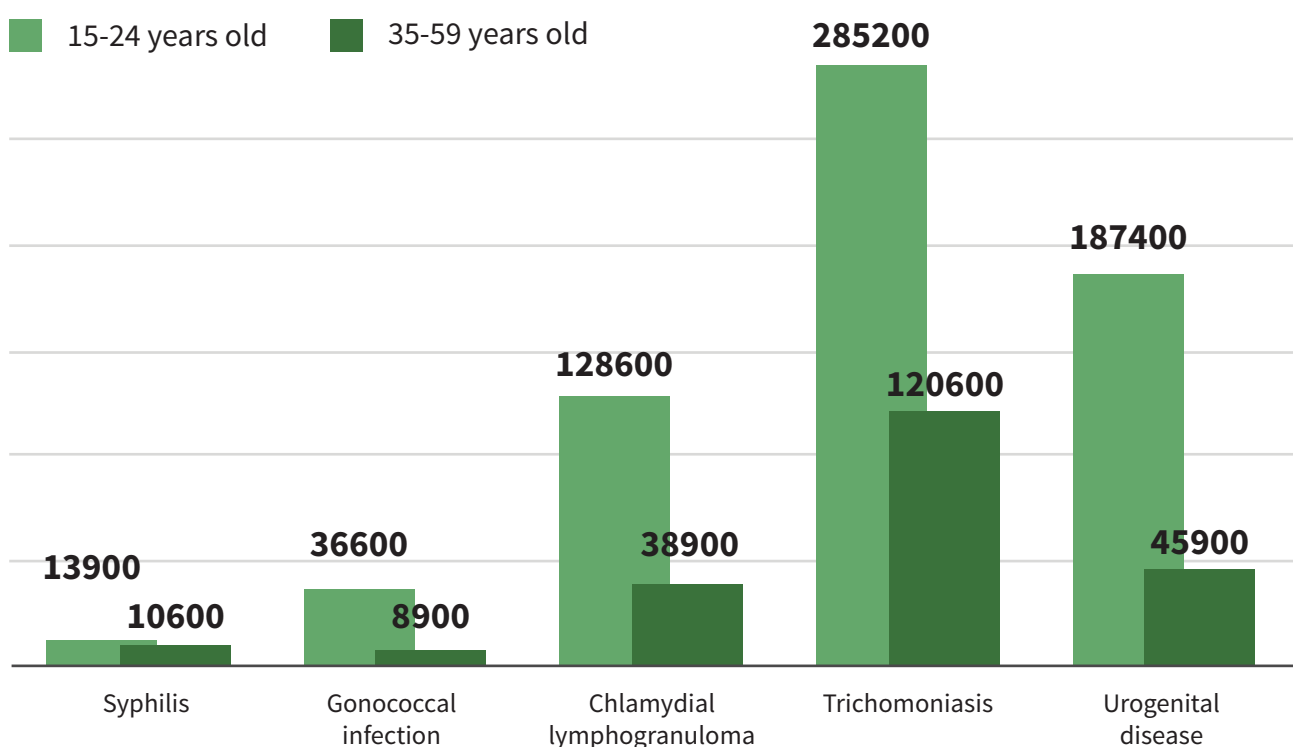
### Trichomoniasis

15-34 aged (285,2 - 100000 respondents),  
35-59 aged (120,6 - 100000 respondents);

### Urogenital disease

15-34 (187,4 - 100000 respondents),  
35-59 aged (45,9 - 100000 respondents)

Figure: Number of people infected with STI

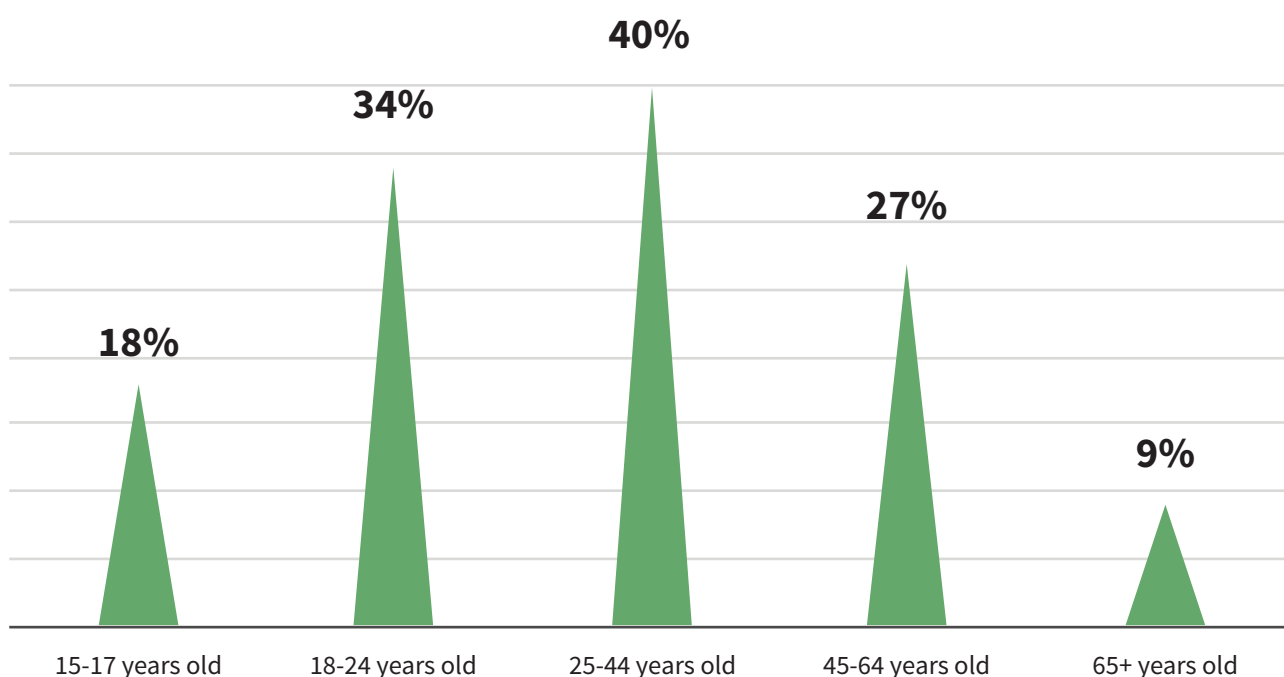


## Tobacco use

It is difficult to get to know the amount of smokers among the youth (14-35 years old), because there is no appropriate statistics on it. There is statistics (2013) on the following

groups: 15-17 aged - 18%, 18-24 aged- 34%, 25-44 aged- 40%, 45-64 aged- 27%, 65+ aged- 9%

Figure: Age groups of smokers



The percentage rate among young people aged 18-29 years has decreased the most in recent years. This decrease was more noticeable among men and women who live in urban areas. According to surveys of 2010 and 2013, the proportion of current smokers among respondents aged 18-30 declined from 57.3% to 52.6%, and for women - from 24.7% to 22.6%.

In the second national report "Tobacco Control in Ukraine" (2014) it is noted that the tobacco epidemic dynamics in recent years has new positive trends that prove the efficacy of anti-tobacco policy measures implemented in Ukraine since the mid-2000s

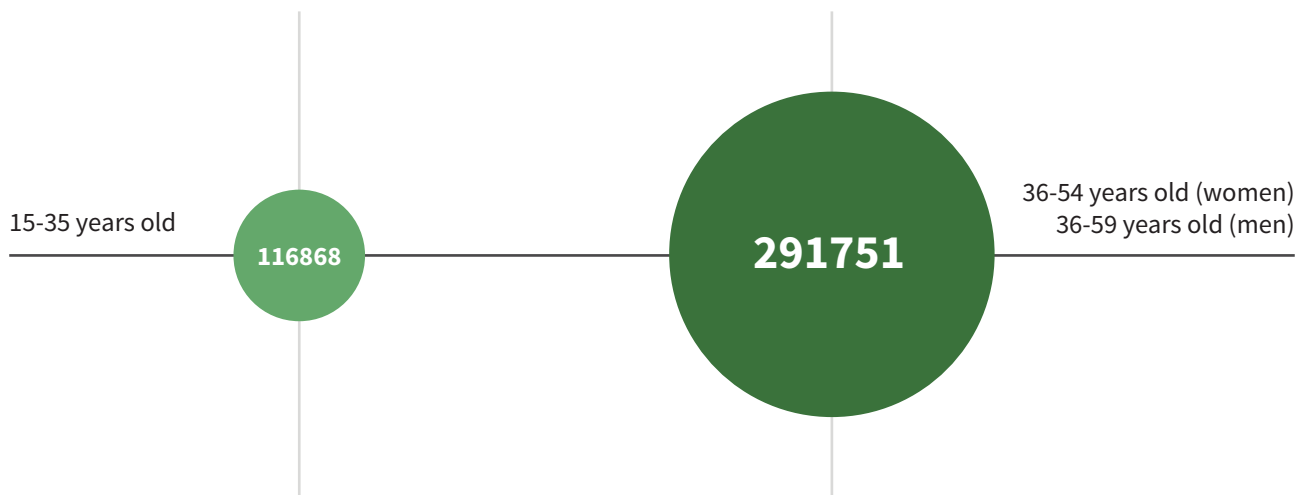
The most amount of smokers in Ukraine is among men.

## Alcohol abuse

According to the survey, alcohol abuse rate was fixed the following: 15-35 aged - 116868 people, women aged 36 - 54, men aged 36-59 years old - 291751 persons. According to the survey the data proved that the first attempt

of any alcohol occurs at the age of 13 years or earlier. The results show that more than half of students who drink alcohol 54% noted that they feel relaxed, 49.6% - feel joy, 49.8% - feel more sociable and friendly.

Figure: Alcohol abuse among age groups



Alcohol consumption is associated with a good pastime, entertainment answered 59.5% of respondents. More than 40 percent (43.3%) believe that they forgot their problems. Students of the same II, III

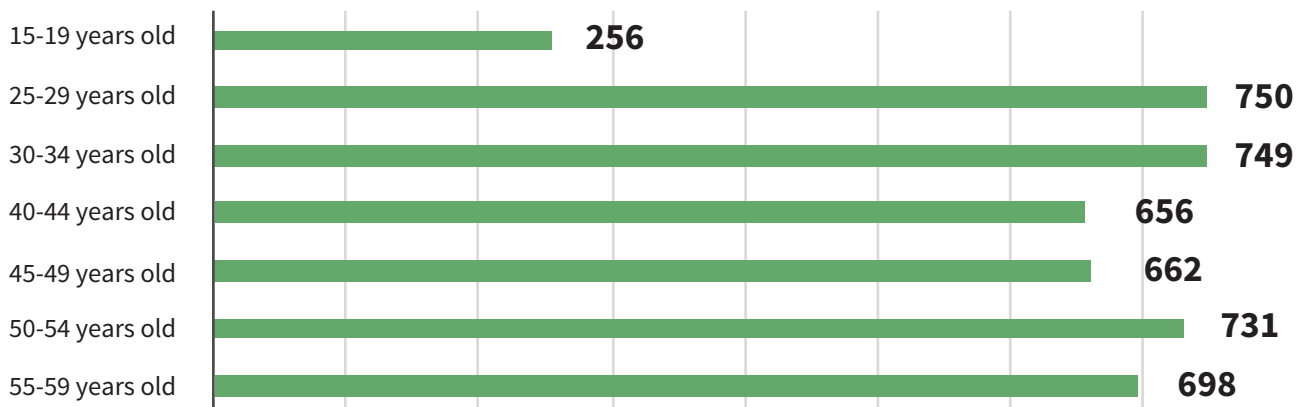
university courses and II levels of accreditation (after 9 cl.) - 53.3% hope to get rid of their problems through drinking alcohol.

## Suicides

The biggest rate of suicides is among people aged 25-29 - 750 persons and people aged 30-34 years - 749 persons, the lowest rate is among young people aged 15 - 19 years - 256

persons. Almost the same rate of suicides is among the age groups 40-44 years - 656 persons, 45-49 years- 662persons.

Figure: Age groups of suicides



Social problems that can provoke suicidal behaviour are unemployment, lack of money, family problems, conflicts with colleagues, marginal status, and so on.

As for the communities that are most prone to commit such acts, the highest rate of suicides found among the mentally ill, chronic alcoholics, drug addicts, the disabled. At risk include the elderly and convicted, as well as children and adolescents. The teenager

motives of suicidal actions are often selfish. Young people at that age, do not have enough life experience, can not correctly identify the purpose of life and how to achieve it. With common causes of suicide among adolescents include the following: loss of loved one, state of fatigue, wound dignity, destruction of protective mechanisms entity as a result of alcohol, drugs and psychotropic drugs.

## Recommendations

1. coordinate development of legal documents: Strategies healthy lifestyle in Ukraine, the national program "Health 2020: Ukrainian Dimension"
2. implementation of qualitative standards of health care for youth
3. promote healthy lifestyles (including prevention of alcoholism, smoking, drug abuse and other social hazards, etc.);
4. ensuring proper control of advertising of alcohol and tobacco on the streets of cities and towns;
5. inform the public about responsible attitude towards their health (impact on public opinion through media resources);
6. conduct annual monitoring and publication of studies on the health of young people and the spread of negative phenomena among youth
7. develop youth awareness about health as the values and needs of a healthy lifestyle among young people, scientific support and evaluation of legislation, social programs and projects
8. support the monitoring of the health care system in Ukraine by the NGOs and how it is implemented
9. do systematic researches and surveys on youth issues and on some specific age groups
10. involve young people in the youth NGOs

# Sources

- 1 Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine
- 2 National Youth Council of Ukraine
- 3 National Institute of Family and Youth Policy of Ukraine
- 4 State Statistics Service of Ukraine
- 5 Centre of Medical Statistics of Ukraine
- 6 UNDP Ukraine
- 7 UNFPA Ukraine
- 8 UNICEF Ukraine
- 9 Exit poll “The Razumkov Centre”
- 10 Democratic initiatives named Ilko Kucheriv"
- 11 Civil Network “OPORA”
- 12 Official web-site of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine([http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/site2/p\\_deputat\\_list](http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/site2/p_deputat_list))
- 13 Institute of Demography of Ukraine
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- 15 Ministry of Health of Ukraine
- 16 Ukrainian Institute of Strategic Research of Ministry of Health of Ukraine
- 17 State employment service
- 18 State Inspectorate of Ukraine on security in land transport
- 19 Kiev International Institute of Sociology
- 20 GfK Ukraine
- 21 Information agency “Slovo i dilo”
- 22 Center for Political Studies and Analysis