

**Ptoukha Institute for Demography and Social Studies  
of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine  
Ukrainian Center of Social Reforms  
United Nations Population Fund**

**YOUTH AND YOUTH POLICY  
IN UKRAINE:  
SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC  
ASPECTS**

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The monograph covers a range of issues related to the system of values, lifestyles, demographic behaviour, social and economic structure and situation of youth in Ukraine. The publication analyses value orientations of young people in different spheres of life. It contains results of the research into the dynamics of the number and structure of youth, gender relations and marital situation in youth and childbearing orientations of Ukrainian young people. Determinants of the current health status of Ukrainian youth are studied comprehensively with a focus on behavioural risk factors. Youth reproductive health issues and the problem of mortality in young age groups are given special attention.

The monograph examines major social and economic characteristics of youth: educational level, specific features of youth economic activity, occupational structure of youth etc. The research analyses educational and labour orientations of young people, including attitudes towards labour migrations. The monograph also looks into the peculiarities of internal and international migration of Ukrainian youth.

This publication contains results of study and generalization of the national youth policy experience as far as solutions to social and demographic problems are concerned. The monograph offers a number of recommendations on improvement and development of the youth policy in our country.

This scientific publication is addressed to demographers, economists, sociologists and experts in state administration and social policy.

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# INTRODUCTION

*'Even though the world as a whole progresses, youth must always start again from the beginning.*

J. Goethe

*Youth should be given every opportunity to realize its highest potential; young people should have a great goal; they should have great dreams and they should know that they have great talents.*

F. Hesselbein

Social and economic and spiritual renaissance of Ukraine will not be possible without the efforts and attention being centered on problems of youth as the future of our country and the guarantor of social and economic progress, since it is an absolute truth that further development of the existing society to the highest possible extent depends on whether appropriate starting conditions are ensured for life of young generations. Although this idea is well-realized, the majority of countries entered the new millennium with a significant burden of unsolved youth problems, a range of which, for example, youth inequality, unemployment and marginalization of youth, spread of illegal social practices and asocial manifestations in the youth environment, youth health problems and some marriage and family problems etc. currently demonstrate a trend towards aggravation.

In the situation of deep economic and demographic crisis and the crisis of culture and ideology observed in the post-Soviet countries, including Ukraine, today youth problems in different spheres of life develop some specific features and are characterized by hard and long-term consequences and, therefore, require thorough analysis and regulation as well as development of a realistic, well-balanced and weighted policy in respect of young generations.

The traditions of studying youth problems and youth policy are rather well-established and date as far back as the times of Pythagore and Hippocrates who worked on determining the time framework of the youth age. Again, as long ago as in the Ancient Greece it was acknowledged that the state (polis) should take an active part in socialization of youth - sharing life experience and world outlook with young people.

This publication submitted for the attention of our readers follows the national tradition of research into social and demographic aspects of formation, development and realization of youth potential in the interdisciplinary context which was established and further developed in our country by national demographers, economists and sociologists Yu. Korchak-Chepurkovskiy, A.Roslavskiy-Petrovskiy, B.Urlanis, S.Pirozhkov, I.Lukinov, O.Balakirieva, V.Pich and others.

The authors of this survey aimed at making an in-depth analysis of the current situation as well as social and demographic problems of Ukrainian youth and at developing certain directions of improvement of the state social and demographic youth policy on the basis of this analysis. In this monograph, youth is researched as a social and demographic population group marked out on the basis of age characteristics and social status peculiarities.

Within the framework of the survey, trends in the most recent changes of the social and demographic portrait of Ukrainian youth and the specific nature of demographic processes (marriage and family processes, fertility, changes in the general and reproductive health status, mortality) in the youth environment as well as youth migrations were analyzed; an attempt was made to identify youth position in the social and economic structure of society and to forecast the number and structure of youth contingents in Ukraine in the long-term.

In order to gain an insight into the genesis of social and demographic problems of young people and to formulate the hypotheses concerning respective changes, along with using statistical data on natural and migration movement of the population and the sample surveys carried out by the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, the survey widely used the results of special representative sample social and demographic youth survey “Youth of Ukraine: Lifestyles and Values”. The survey was carried out by the team of sociology specialists of the Social Monitoring Center headed by O. Balakirieva, Ph.D. in Economics (interview of 1800 respondents aged 15–34 was held in April 2010 in all regions of Ukraine). Materials of the survey provided the basis for examining a range of behaviour aspects of young people’s life, for getting an idea of values and life plans of young people in different areas

(matrimonial, childbearing, educational and occupational, social and labour spheres), peculiarities of lifestyles, in particular, vital behaviour of young people, familial relations and gender roles in modern young families, for analyzing migration attitudes and for identifying the opinion of youth on government youth policy and the needs of young people in this respect.

Identified youth problems of social and demographic nature in Ukraine and forecasts of their further development formed the basis for recommendations on the betterment of youth situation in Ukraine, optimization of their life orientations and improvement of quality characteristics.

This publication is the result of the research work carried out by the team of authors headed by Academician of the National Academy of Sciences E. Libanova and consisting of: Ph.D. in Economics S. Aksyonova (Chapter V, cl.2.3, 2.4), Ph.D. in Political Sciences V. Golovenko (cl.6.1), Yu. Klymenko (Chapter IV), B. Krimer (cl.2.4, 6.2), Doctor of Economics I. Kurylo (Introduction, Chapter IV, cl.1,1, Conclusions), Ph.D. in Economics N. Levchuk (cl.3.2.2), Academician E. Libanova (Chapter VI, Conclusions), Ph.D. in Economics S. Nychyporenko (cl.6.2), Ph.D. in Economics O. Paliy (cl.3.1, 3.2.3), Doctor in State Administration Sciences N. Ryngach (cl.3.1, 3.3, 3.4), S.Sydyak (cl.3.2.1), Ph.D. in Economics L. Slyusar (cl.2.1, 2.2), Ph.D. in Economics P. Shevchuk (cl. 1.2).

The research, preparation of the monograph for publication and its publication have been implemented within the framework of the project of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) “Research on Demographic Factors of Social Transformations” which is a part of the technical cooperation program between UNFPA and the Government of Ukraine for the period 2006-2011.

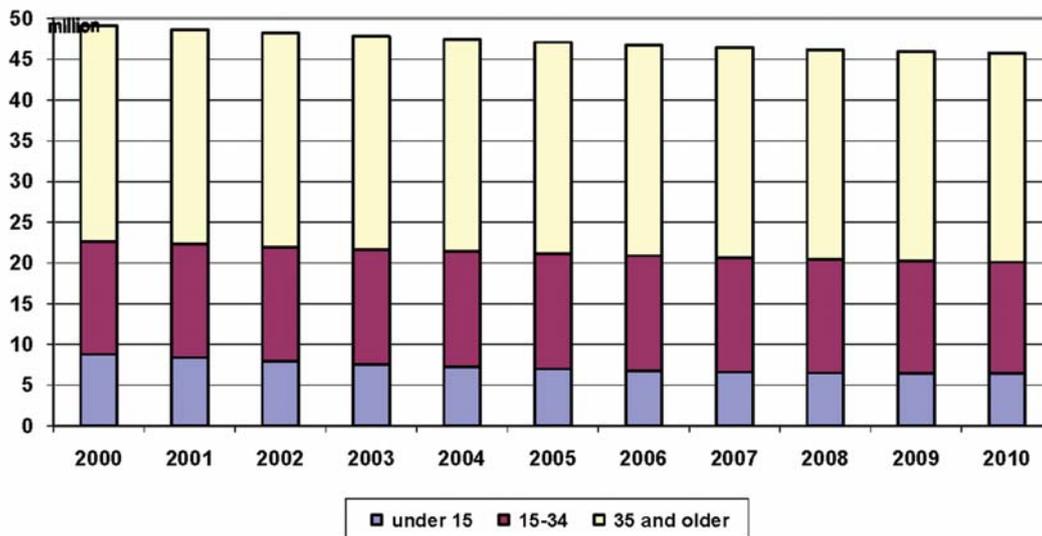
# YOUTH IN UKRAINE TODAY AND TOMORROW: DEMOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT

## *1.1. Population dynamics and demographic characteristics of youth*

In Ukraine, youth within the currently defined age range (the Ukrainian legislation defines youth as being in the age range 15–34) accounts for a considerable proportion of the total population of the country. In demographic terms of family formation, childbearing and population reproduction in general, recent dynamics of youth in Ukraine can not be described as a favorable one. At the background of total population declining over the years of the country's independence, during the 1991–2000 decline in the contingent of persons aged 15–35 was also observed, but in the first half of the current decade it grew, therefore, in 2005 as against 2000 its number grew by 2.2%. However, over the last five years youth contingents in Ukraine significantly decreased again (almost by 4.0%), mostly due to the youngest age groups (age 15–19) born at the times of socio-economic transformations (Fig. 1.1).

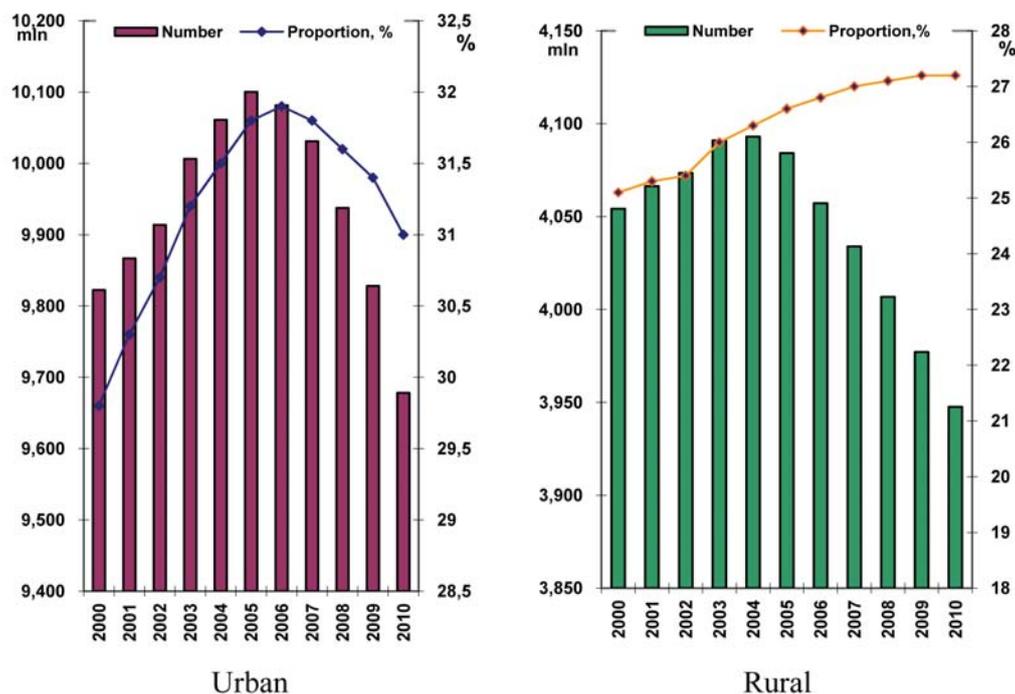
As a result, at the beginning of the XXI century (2010 as compared with 2000) the youth aged 15–34 in our country dropped by 1.8%. However, at the same time, the rate of reduction of the youth did not exceed the rate of other age contingents declining and, consequently, the proportion of the youth in total population grew from 28.3% to 29.8%.

Recent dynamics of young population size by type of settlement also clearly reflects the impact of demographic waves and, particularly, specific features of inter-settlement migration characterized by mass outflow of young people from rural area (Fig. 1.2).



**Fig. 1.1.**  
**Number of population by particular age groups in Ukraine in 2000–2010**  
 (at the beginning of the year)

Source: data of the State Statistics Committee



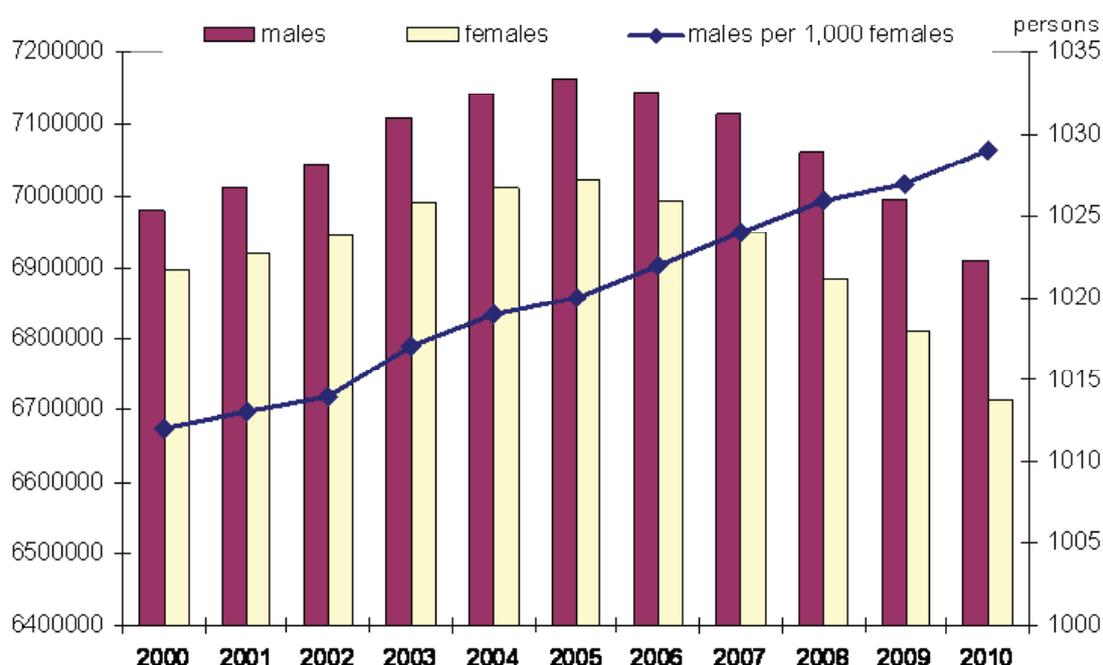
**Fig. 1.2.**  
**The number of youth people aged 15–34 and its proportion in population**  
**of Ukraine by type of settlement in 2000–2010**

Source: calculations according of the State Statistics Committee data

Presently, the proportion of young urban residents in total youth contingents is 71%, with the percentage of total urban population in Ukraine slightly exceeding 68%. Over the first seven years of the decade under study, the “contribution” of urban residents in the total number of Ukrainian

youth grew slowly (with total increase of almost 0.6 percentage points), with an insignificant decline over the recent years (by 0.3 percentage points).

The gender balance of population in respective age groups is an essential condition for implementation by youth of certain demographic functions (family formation, childbearing and upbringing etc.). Over the recent decades the situation with the gender balance of population in Ukraine, particularly the young, changed markedly: a certain “shortage” of young males observed in Ukraine several decades ago was replaced by some “excess” of young males that is more natural for this age group (Fig. 1.3).



**Fig. 1.3.**  
**Number of young people aged 15–34 by gender in Ukraine, 2000–2010**  
 Source: calculations according of the State Statistics Committee data

Presently, in Ukraine the age at which the number of males and females becomes equal is 30 years in a whole, however, due to specific character of inter-settlement migration, today deficiency of males in urban area is recorded in the age group 25–27, while in rural area there is a shortage of brides for males in age groups almost up to the age of 50. While at the beginning of the current decade there were 1012 males (of which

992 – in urban and 1,063 – in rural) per every 1,000 young females, at the beginning of 2010 there were 1,029 males (1,012 – in urban and 1,073 – in rural).

The ratio of males to females in different age groups of youth shows that numerical advantage of males resulting from their natural excess at birth steeply decreases with age. This numerical advantage is most pronounced among youth under 25 and least pronounced in the 25–29 age group, while in the 30–34-age group the excess of females is recorded in most cases (Table 1.1), this being the result of a destructive influence of high rate of male excess mortality upon the natural sex proportion. The mentioned sex ratios by certain age groups and by type of settlement are defined as the specific of survival of generations in certain periods of their life and the gender disparity of inter-settlement migration flows.

**Table 1.1**  
**The ratio of young males to females in Ukraine by type of settlement in 2000 and 2010**

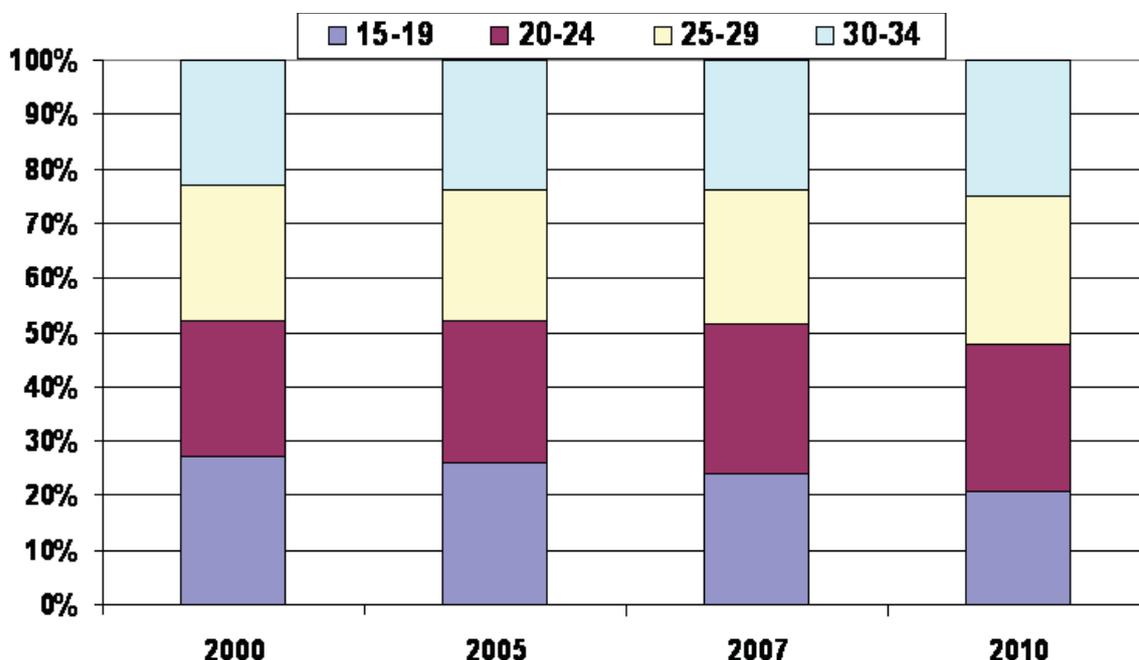
Age group	Males per 1,000 females					
	Total		Urban		Rural	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
<b>15–34</b>	1,012	1,029	992	1,012	1,063	1,073
15–19	1,041	1,051	1,042	1,030	1,037	1,103
20–24	1,021	1,043	1,005	1,020	1,062	1,100
25–29	1,006	1,032	983	1,025	1,061	1,050
30–34	977	994	927	971	1,095	1,054

Source: calculations according of the State Statistics Committee data

In general, the dynamics of the recent decade shows that the numerical advantage of males in younger contingents grew owing to the same advantage in three younger age groups of the youth population (aged under 15–19, 20–24 and 25–29). At the same time, certain differences can be seen in the dynamics of the gender parity in cities and villages by different age groups of youth.

Presently, the youth contingent in Ukraine is demographically heterogeneous as it consists of population groups within wide age range:

from teenagers (aged 15–19) to age groups of persons significantly more experienced and mature in terms of age and social relations aged 30–34. The age structure of Ukrainian youth and its changes over the decade are presented on Figure 1.4. It illustrates a trend towards a certain “ageing” of the youth contingent which has become especially pronounced within the recent five years as a consequence of re-distribution of young people between age groups with a shift towards comparatively older age groups (persons aged 30–34 and recently even those aged 25–29) which comprise larger generations of persons born at the times of the Soviet Union, at the pre-transformation period when birth rates in Ukraine were comparatively higher.

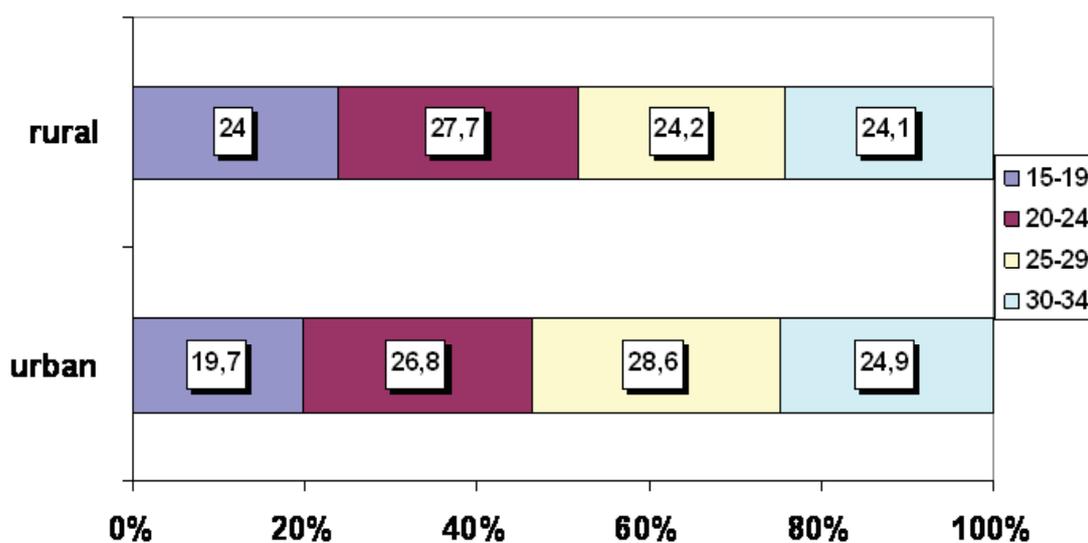


**Fig.1.4.**  
**Distribution of youth aged 15–34 by age groups in Ukraine in 2000, 2005, 2007 and 2010 (at the beginning of year)**

Source: calculations according of the State Statistics Committee data

A comparison of modern age structure of youth population by type of settlement demonstrates that villages which are characterized by comparatively higher birth rates have a higher percentage of younger persons as compared with cities, while urban settlements, which are a kind of the center of gravity for youth with university degrees and certain work experience, currently show a more pronounced structural advantage of

more older age groups of youth (Fig. 1.5).



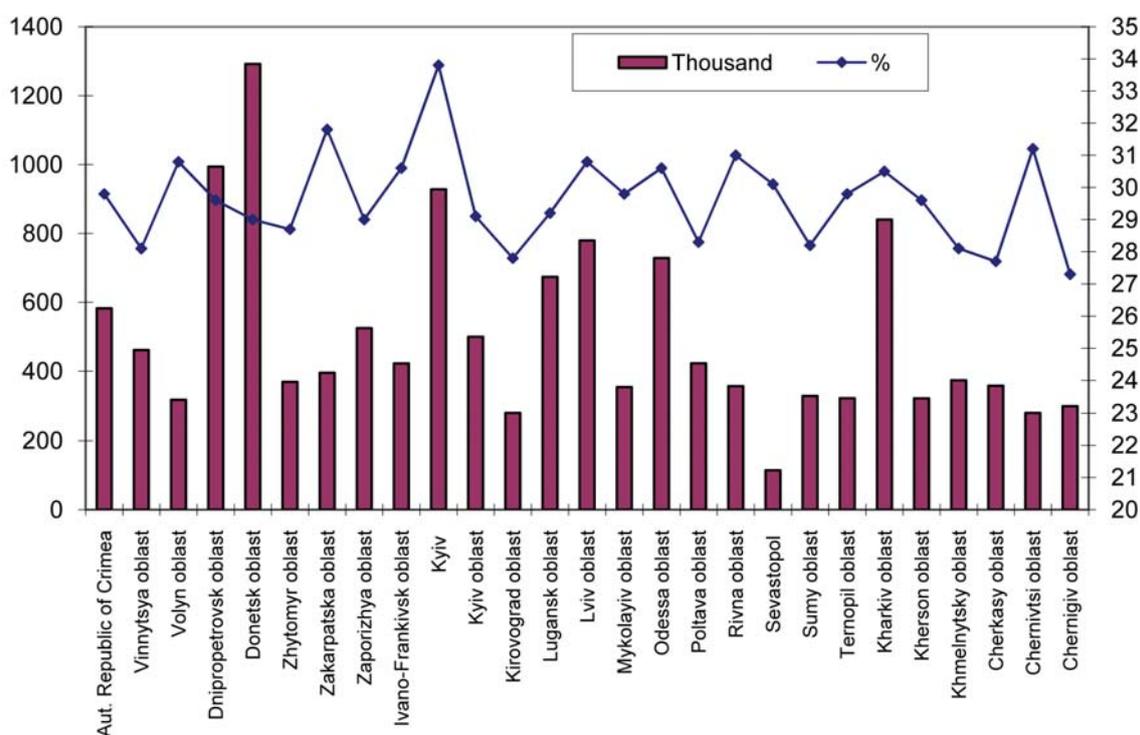
**Fig. 1.5.**  
**Distribution of youth aged 15–34 of urban and rural areas by age groups in Ukraine in 2010 (at the beginning of year)**

Source: calculations according of the State Statistics Committee data

Densely populated industrial regions (such as Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Kharkiv oblasts and the capital city) account for the largest contributions in the total number of youth in Ukraine (Fig. 1.6). The number of youth people in each of the above-mentioned regions exceeds 800,000 persons (in Donetsk oblast, for example, this figure is exceeded more than 1.5 times) and these four regions in total account for about 30% of total youth of the country. Another five rather large regions of Ukraine (Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Zaporizhya, Lugansk, Lviv and Odesa oblasts) account for almost a quarter of the total youth contingent of Ukraine, with the youth of each of these regions exceeding half of million persons. Among other regions, Kyiv oblast takes the lead in terms of the number of persons in the youth contingent (about 500,000 persons).

Figure 1.6 shows that higher proportions of youth in the total population of region are recorded in localities with higher level of development and more attractive life prospects and employment opportunities, such as Kyiv city, Kharkiv and Odessa oblasts, on the one part, and, on the other part, western regions of the country with a comparatively young population (such as Volyn, Zakarpatska, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Rivne and

Chernivtsi oblasts) owing to traditionally higher fertility and the resulting potential for renewal of youth contingents, counting the long term prospective.



**Fig. 1.6.**  
**Youth aged 15–34 and share of youth in total population of regions in 2010 (at the beginning of year)**

Source: calculations according of the State Statistics Committee data

## 1.2. Prospected changes in the number, age and sex structure of youth contingent in Ukraine

It is known that changes of the total number of population and its particular age and sex groups in the long term prospective depend on the dynamics of the basic processes of natural and migration movements of the population. Prospective figures of the number and structure of youth contingents in our country have been calculated based on the renewed version of the comprehensive demographic projection for Ukraine for the

period until year 2050<sup>1</sup>. The demographic projection (as amended in 2010)<sup>2</sup> is prepared with due regard for the fact that after several years of stagnation of basic demographic indicators, recent years (2008 and 2009) demonstrated dramatic changes. Over one calendar year, life expectancy at birth grew by 2 years for males and almost by 1 year for females. Such a growth was not observed since the well-known non-drinking campaign in the USSR in 1985–1986. As a matter of fact, the increase in life expectancy of males broke a record for the whole period for which reliable and comparable statistical data are available.

It is clear that changes in the number of young persons will depend on the mortality at young age, structural and qualitative peculiarities of younger and older cohorts, intensity and directions of migration, and starting with 2025 such changes will also depend on the fertility of prior years. Let's analyze the influence of projected trends associated with each of the basic demographic processes upon the number and demographic structure of Ukrainian youth.

The projection of **fertility** was made with a view to take into account childbirth preferences of women of fertile age (based on results of the social and demographic survey “Ukrainian Youth: Lifestyle and Values”, April 2010), most recent changes of age-specific birth rates in Ukraine and in the European countries, as well as prospective correlations of cohort and period total fertility rates.

It is worth mentioning that the three options of the fertility projection – high, low and average – should not be considered as independent ones. The average option is based on the correlation of fertility of hypothetical and real generations of females. However, as we know, even if cohort total fertility rates are identical, the period total fertility rates are considerably more exposed to situational influences. This may result in significant fertility rate fluctuations in the adjacent calendar years. For this reason, fertility rates of the low or high options of forecast form a certain interval

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1 Комплексний демографічний прогноз України на період до 2050р. / за ред. Е. М. Лібанової. – К.: Ін-т демографії НАНУ, УЦСР, 2006. – 138 с.

2 Since presently in Ukraine there are quite a lot of demographic projections made for different periods and using different statistical bases, it is suggested to make an add-on *n-year review* for determining the year when a projection is completed. The calendar year will indicate that data on recent actual age structure is as of January 1 of the same year.

within which temporary influences may be realized.

For the **„average” option** of fertility projection, age-specific birth rates were calculated by gradual matching of period and cohort fertility. Thus, it is well-known that age-specific birth rates are characterized by the following general trend: growth at the age above 25 and stagnation or decrease in the younger age groups. Moreover, the birth rate under 25 is expected to rise in 2010, as compared with post-leap 2009 (through births in first marriages). Profiles of age-specific birth rates of all cohorts which will account for the largest contribution to total fertility (years of birth 1981–1987) are also known and it is not difficult to extrapolate age-specific birth rates for cohorts born before 1970s because they are completing their childbearing (according to the “old” fertility model). For cohorts born after 1987, we applied the hypothesis about the continued trend towards “ageing” of motherhood and gradual approximation of the profiles of age-specific birth rates to the model typical for the developed countries of Europe.

It should be emphasized that “ageing” of motherhood is the factor owing to which the total fertility rate of this projection option does not exceed 1.70 (Table 1.2), although according to the above-mentioned hypothesis, the total fertility rate of the majority of cohorts which will have children during the projection period will be about 1.75.

**Table 1.2**

**Total fertility rate projection, different options**

Year Option	2009	2010	2011	2012	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
<b>Average</b>	1.46	1.52	1.54	1.56	1.60	1.57	1.51	1.60	1.65	1.68	1.67	1.68
<b>High</b>	1.46	1.55	1.60	1.65	1.76	1.86	1.94	1.98	2.02	2.04	2.08	2.10
<b>Low</b>	1.46	1.40	1.41	1.42	1.40	1.35	1.32	1.30	1.28	1.27	1.25	1.24

Source: 2009 – calculated on the basis of data of the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, other calculations made by the authors

**„High”** and **„low” options** of the fertility rate projection outline likely boundaries within which the period total fertility rate may fluctuate as a possible result of specific influence of situational factors in some years: realization of childbirth preferences by different cohorts of women within

a shorter or more extended period of time (and age).

It should also be noted that uncertainty is likely to rise at the end of the projection period, since starting after mid of 2030s, a major contribution in total fertility rate will be mostly endowed by cohorts of women who are not born yet and whose childbirth preferences are yet unknown.

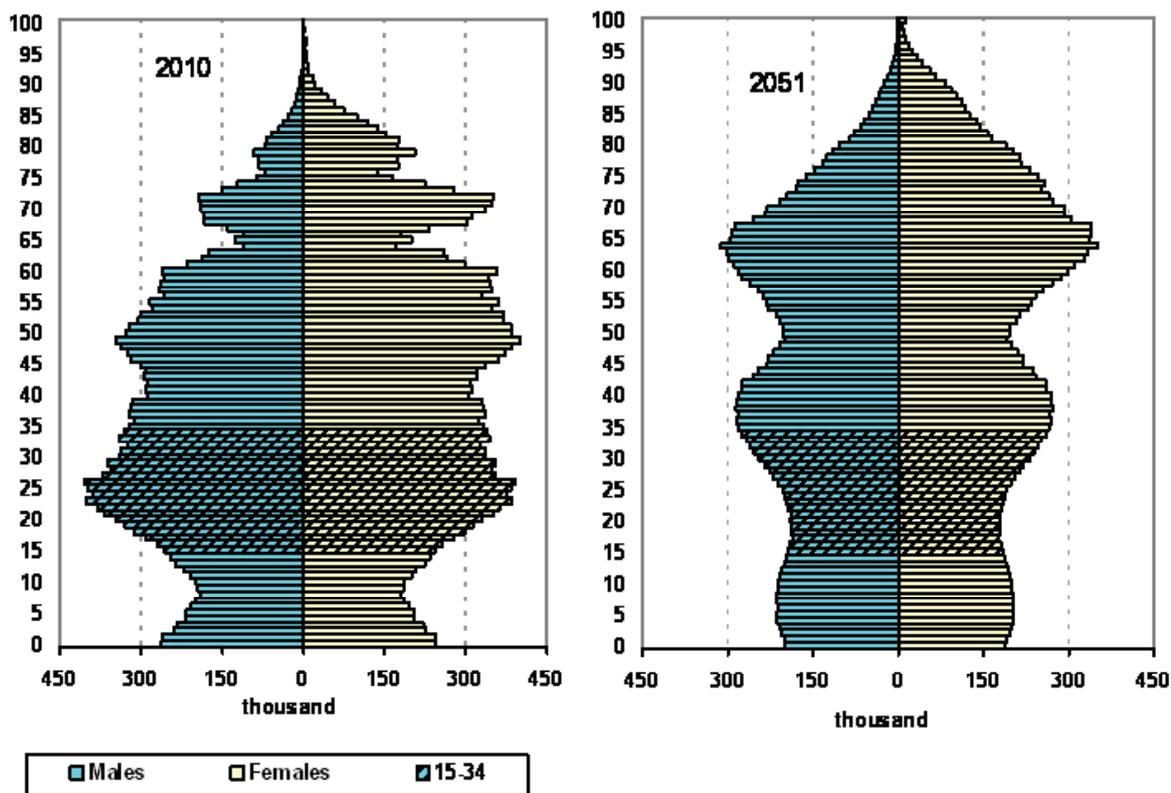
**The number of births** in the projection period is expected to change under the influence of the following factors:

- changes of age-specific birth rates;
- dynamics of the number of persons of reproductive age (15–49);
- transformation of the age structure of persons of reproductive age.

In the next several years of the projection period, the intensity of births is expected to rise both as a result of the compensation wave of births which were delayed in the end of the XX – at the beginning of the XXI centuries and a gradual shift towards a new fertility model with an older average age of mother at childbirth (“ageing” motherhood). This is likely to have an effect as a faster rise of birth rates in the age above 25 and especially 30, as compared with a slower rise or even a decline of birth rates of the younger women. In Ukraine, since the beginning of the XXI century – almost for 10 years – we observe a clear trend towards changes in the age-specific fertility model in favor of older women, which is in line with the general European trend and results from a range of complex interactions of economic, social and psychological factors.

Within the projected period, the number of women in the reproductive age is expected to drop, except for the “high” option which is expected to comprise the most favorable trends of all demographic components (this option projects stabilization of the number of women of reproductive age at the end of the projection period). Therefore, this factor will reduce the expected number of births.

Transformation of the age structure of women is expected to have an ambiguous nature at different times of the projection period. Thus, in recent years the largest contribution to birth rates was endowed by women of 23–25. They are also the largest cohorts (Fig. 1.7).



**Fig. 1.7.**  
**Age/sex structure of Ukraine’s population at the beginning of 2010 (according to data of the State Statistics Committee) and at the beginning of 2051 („average” projection option)**

Although over time these cohorts will shift towards older age, transformation of the age-specific profile of childbirths will partially catch up with them and they will still account for a considerable contribution in total fertility rate. However, from the mid of 2020s the population group in the most active reproductive age will be comprised of the generations born in 1999–2003, which are considerably smaller. For this reason, the structural factor is likely to become unfavorable until a comparatively large number of persons born in 2008–2016 “enter” the most active reproductive age groups.

Therefore, according to the average projection option, the number of births is expected to rise to 533.7 thousand in 2012, and according to the high projection option – to 574.6 thousand in 2015. There is also a probability that the number of births will drop due to reduced intensity of births, which is reflected in the low option (Table 1.3).

Table 1.3

**Projected number of births in Ukraine, different options (thousand)**

Year Option	2009	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
<b>Average</b>	512.5	528.1	522.6	455.0	372.6	357.7	376.9	412.2	415.9	388.8
<b>High</b>	512.5	539.5	574.6	541.8	486.7	453.0	473.2	525.5	572.7	581.2
<b>Low</b>	512.5	488.5	441.6	356.3	295.5	280.1	281.5	271.9	241.2	207.4

Source: 2009 – calculated on the basis of data of the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, other calculations made by the authors

**Mortality** is characterized by the following specific features: wavy changes, high excess male mortality in young and middle working age, particular causes of death structure and general disparity between the Ukrainian trends over the last decades and the European trends. These circumstances induced to limit applying the extrapolation method and use just some of its elements.

Stabilization of life expectancy at birth in 1999–2008 in the narrow span about 62 years for men and 73–74 years for women obscured dissimilar mortality trends. While the mortality rate for children under 15 generally demonstrated a declining trend, the trend for persons aged 15–25 was less pronounced and in 25–49 it demonstrated dramatically growing mortality rates.

An extremely sharp drop of mortality in 2009 against 2008 is likely to be explained by the accumulated potential for mortality rate decrease in Ukraine. Even compared with the prior rates recorded in Ukraine, the mortality indicators at the beginning of the XXI century are rather high, to say nothing of the cumulated gap between Ukraine and developed countries and even countries of the former Soviet block.

Concluding from the analysis, in most of age groups mortality rate fluctuation by more than 70% is explained by few major classes of causes of death (two or three in the bulk of cases). There is more heterogeneous structure of causes of death only in the younger working age (15–34). In 2009, the first rank among causes of death in this age bracket belonged to external causes (43.5% of variation), the second rank – to infectious and parasitic diseases (16.3%), the third – to **diseases of the circulatory system** with 9.9%

(this cause of death is an absolute leader in the older age groups), almost the same percentage (9.8%) results from diseases of digestive system. One of the reasons why this heterogeneity exists is the sex-specific differences in the mortality structure. While the rank of the first and second most significant classes of causes of death for this age is identical for both genders, male's third rank make **diseases** of the **circulatory system** and regarding females – neoplasm. For males, the last cause is less frequent than diseases of digestive system and ranks just the fifth position. For females, the fifth rank is taken by **diseases** of the **circulatory system** and the fourth – by diseases of digestive system.

As we can see, the specific nature of mortality structure in 15–34 results from a gradual decrease of impact of external causes of death and infectious diseases and a growth of influence of mostly endogenous causes – **diseases** of the **circulatory system** and neoplasm, with a rather strong impact of diseases digestive system. A growth of excess mortality rates in 25–34, as compared with developed countries (Fig. 1.8), may be explained by the fact that in these countries degenerative causes of death shift towards older age. For this reason, if adequate measures against **diseases** of the **circulatory system** and diseases of digestive system as well as prevention of malignant neoplasm are implemented, significant changes both in the structure and mortality rate may be expected in the age 25–34.

Males of 35–59 and females of 40–64 have the largest potential for increase of life expectancy by reducing to zero the deaths from diseases which can be prevented. Finding the historical minimum of age-specific mortality is an efficient and unsophisticated approach allowing to estimate a potential for mortality reduction. Outcome reliability may be increased by applying age-specific probabilities of death from life tables for the period after 1960. For males, this approach virtually confirms the results obtained by above method (age 30–59). For women, it is possible to obtain some different age interval (25–44).

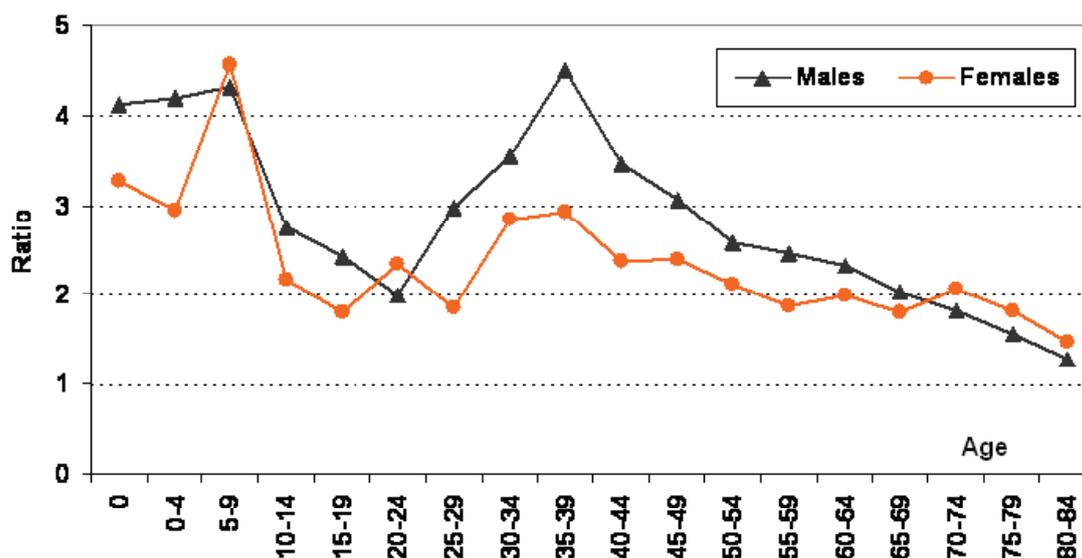


Fig. 1.8.

**Ratio of mortality of Ukraine and Sweden, Sweden=1 (2009)**

Source: calculated in the basis of data of the State Statistics Committee and SCB Statistics Sweden (<http://www.scb.se>)

Therefore, despite a generally rather high rate of youth mortality, in the future the greatest mortality reduction should not be expected in the young age (except for a certain potential for mortality reduction in 25–34). This conclusion is confirmed by a comparison of mortality rates of Ukraine and developed countries, in particular, Sweden. Thus, excess mortality rate of males of 20–24 and females of 15–19 and 25–29 is comparatively low (see Fig. 1.8). At the same time, within the age range 35–39 the mortality rate of Ukrainian males more than four times exceeds the same rate for the Swedes.

**The average option** of life expectancy projection takes into account the long-term prospect of improvement of mortality situation. This hypothesis may be realized in case of moderate economic growth and the resulting increase of people income, enhancement of the quality and access to health care uppermost in rural area. Reforms of the health care system are also necessary. This projection option does not envisage any far-reaching change in the structure of causes of death.

In the short-term (by 2015) and middle-term (by 2020–2025) perspective, the most probable potential may be found in reduction of mortality from exogenous causes. In such a case, tangible results can be achieved

most promptly by reducing mortality from injuries and poisoning, as well as infectious and parasitic diseases. However, after that the situation is not likely to improve without eradication of endogenous causes. By 2030 a drop of mortality from diseases of digestive system can be expected, under condition that living standards gradually rise, respective positive changes in the nutrition and the quality of drinking water will take place.

It should be mentioned that a fall down the exogenous mortality and a growth of the average age of endogenous mortality are expected to overlap in time. However, if no tangible shift towards forming a responsible attitude of the people to their health and promoting healthy lifestyle occurs in the nearest years, a drop of the exogenous mortality and a considerable growth of the average age of endogenous mortality by 2030 is doubtful. The impact of endogenous causes is unlikely to decrease even in the long-term perspective, if no positive changes take place in the environmental policy and if control over environmental pollution and quality of food stuff etc. is not intensified. In the first years of the projection period, the largest life expectancy increase is probable mostly owing to a drop of mortality from classes of diseases which can be prevented (first of all, exogenous), and subsequently – owing to positive changes in the rate of deaths from causes mostly of endogenous nature. Thus, under this projection option, life expectancy at birth will be almost 65.2 years for males and 75.2 for females as soon as in 2010. The sharpest drop in mortality rate is expected for persons aged 30–55. In particular, life expectancy at the age of 15 will be 51.2 and 61.0 years for males and females, respectively (Table 1.4). Therefore, it is possible to achieve the most considerable decrease of at the working age. In general, the “average” option takes into account the possibility of gradual overcoming of health crisis in Ukraine and bridging the gap between mortality rates of Ukraine and European countries.

The probability of death under the age of 1 is expected to drop from 10.3‰ in 2009 to 5.8‰ in 2050 for males and from 8.4‰ to 4.5‰ for females, respectively. Mortality at working age is expected to drop, first of all, owing to prevention of diseases and other causes which may be prevented and as a result of shifting of the average age of death from the major

rity of causes to the older age.

Table 1.4

Projected life expectancy in Ukraine by sex and age, different options

Option \ Year	2009	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
<i>Males at birth</i>										
<b>Average</b>	64.4	65.2	67.6	68.5	69.4	70.3	71.0	71.9	72.4	72.7
<b>High</b>	64.4	66.0	69.7	71.6	73.5	75.1	76.2	77.5	78.3	78.7
<b>Low</b>	64.4	63.9	62.9	63.2	63.8	64.3	64.8	65.4	66.1	66.7
<i>Females at birth</i>										
<b>Average</b>	74.8	75.2	76.5	77.1	77.7	78.3	78.8	79.4	79.8	80.0
<b>High</b>	74.8	75.5	77.8	79.2	80.5	81.6	82.4	83.4	84.0	84.3
<b>Low</b>	74.8	74.5	73.3	73.5	73.9	74.2	74.5	74.9	75.3	75.7
<i>Males at 15 years of age</i>										
<b>Average</b>	50.4	51.2	53.5	54.4	55.2	56.0	56.7	57.6	58.1	58.3
<b>High</b>	50.4	51.9	55.5	57.3	59.1	60.6	61.6	62.8	63.6	64.0
<b>Low</b>	50.4	49.8	48.9	49.2	49.7	50.3	50.8	51.4	52.0	52.7
<i>Females at 15 years of age</i>										
<b>Average</b>	60.7	61.0	62.2	62.8	63.4	64.0	64.4	65.0	65.3	65.5
<b>High</b>	60.7	61.4	63.4	64.7	66.0	67.1	67.8	68.7	69.3	69.6
<b>Low</b>	60.7	60.4	59.3	59.5	59.8	60.1	60.5	60.8	61.2	61.5

Source: 2009 – calculated on the basis of data of the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, other calculations made by the authors

To realize the **high option** of life expectancy projection, as well as improvement of living standards, the efficiency of social and economic policies should be enhanced and responsible vital behaviour should be promoted. Joint efforts of all social institutions aimed at forming the stereotypes of life-sustaining behaviour will contribute to this issue. It should be necessary to ensure that responsibility for compliance with safety regulations at industrial and production sites (especially in the agricultural sector) is more heavy and unavoidable.

The efforts of society aimed at increasing of life expectancy should be focused particularly on persons of working age. In this respect, special attention should be paid to younger and middle-aged groups of working age (25–44). Although calculations demonstrate that the largest potential for increasing of life expectancy is observed within the age range 35–59 for males and 40–64 years for women, it appears that the age of 25–44 years

is particularly the time when considerable success can be achieved in terms of reduction of mortality owing to measures aimed at decreasing traffic accident injuries and alcohol-related losses as well as efficient anti-tuberculosis efforts. Particularly notable success in mortality reduction can be achieved for males. This projection option envisages that by 2025–2030 life expectancy at birth is likely to grow faster than it is envisaged by the average option specifically as a result of faster dropping of mortality from causes which can be prevented.

If the hypotheses of the high option of life expectancy projection are realized, a fast drop in mortality mostly from exogenous causes may be expected as soon as in the nearest years. In 2010 we may expect a rise in life expectancy at birth to 66.0 and 75.5 years for males and females respectively, and at the end of the projection period average life expectancy at birth under this option may be expected to reach 78.7 and 84.3 years, respectively. On at the age of 15 respective figures will be 64.0 and 69.6 years.

The **low option** of the projection is built with the aim of reflecting a possibility that the uncertain trend of mortality rate continues in the situation of prevalence of negative processes in the social sector and slowing-down of social and economic development. This option may be realized if the quality of health care remains unsatisfactory in the nearest future and healthy lifestyle and life-sustaining behaviour standards do not find wide acknowledgment in society; labour safety in the industrial and agricultural sector is at the low level and no reforms of the health care system are carried out, in particular, the crisis situation of the health care in rural area does not change for the better significantly.

Under such conditions, the average age of death of young persons from diseases of circulatory system and neoplasm will continue to drop. Negative changes in the human mortality dynamics and structure (especially for age 30–39) may be initiated by such a factor as growing mortality from HIV-related diseases. Special research proved that if infected persons do not have wide access to antiretroviral therapy, this age group will account for the largest percentage of human losses which will have a negative impact on life

expectancy.

Thus, under the low projection option, life expectancy at birth in 2010 is accounted as 63.9 years for males and 74.5 for females (see Table 1.4.). The minimum is expected in 2014 with the figures 62.9 and 73.3 years for males and females, respectively. In a longer perspective a gradual decrease of mortality is expected as a result of the compensatory increase accumulated by that time. Therefore, this projection option envisages that in 2050 the average life expectancy at birth in Ukraine will be 66.7 and 75.7 years for males and females, respectively.

The dynamics of life expectancy on the attainment of the age of 15 will be the same, since the highest rates of mortality growth (as well as mortality decrease) may be expected in the working age.

In the long-run prospective, changes in size of population of certain age will depend on migration, in particular, on the balance of external migrations and sex-age structure of immigrants and emigrants. A predicted rapid population increase in countries of the South and South-East Asia and its respective decline in the Central and Eastern Europe may result in increased migrations from the East to the West. A certain percentage of these migrants will find their final destination point in Ukraine; migrants for some reasons unable to cross our western border will settle in Ukraine.

According to projection, net migration in Ukraine is likely to rise and the total result for the projection period (from 2010 to 2050) will be 2,105,000 under the average option, 2,995,000 – under the high option and 421,000 under the low option (Table 1.5). Youth aged 15-34 will account for more than a half of total migrants.

Considering above mentioned perspective demographic trends, it is possible to expect that population of Ukraine will decrease over the whole projection period (except for the last 1.5 decades under the “high” option). Under this option, a growth of population after the mid of 2030s will result from “overlapping” of most favorable trends in fertility, mortality and migration and total population of the country is expected to reach 47.1 million at the beginning of 2051 (Table 1.6).

Table 1.5.

### Projected net external migration in Ukraine under different options (thousand)

Option \ Year	2009	2010 – 2014	2015 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2029	2030 – 2034	2035 – 2039	2040 – 2044	2045 – 2049	2050
<i>Total net migration</i>										
<b>average</b>	13.4	105.8	130.7	288.7	341.9	318.4	304.8	290.8	272.2	52.0
<b>high</b>	13.4	124.5	180.3	255.7	326.6	399.8	464.5	526.1	591.4	126.3
<b>low</b>	13.4	-43.7	-77.8	38.7	90.0	117.4	105.2	93.2	82.7	14.9
<i>youth aged 15–34</i>										
<b>average</b>	3.3	38.7	62.6	167.3	199.2	184.3	176.5	169.6	160.8	31.0
<b>high</b>	3.3	45.0	86.0	138.6	177.4	217.5	253.0	287.2	324.5	69.5
<b>low</b>	3.3	-23.2	-23.6	39.3	77.1	100.0	97.6	95.3	94.1	18.4

Source: 2009 – calculated on the basis of data of the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, other calculations made by the authors

Table 1.6

### Population of Ukraine under different projection options (as at the beginning of a respective year), thousand

Option \ Year	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2051
<i>Total</i>										
<b>Average</b>	45,782.6	45,139.1	44,544.2	43,795.2	42,832.0	41,879.0	41,027.3	40,252.4	39,386.8	39,188.5
<b>High</b>	45,768.4	45,465.2	45,638.4	45,789.7	45,782.9	45,810.4	46,006.3	46,453.4	47,004.3	47,107.9
<b>Low</b>	45,782.6	44,360.8	42,485.5	40,463.8	38,410.4	36,439.6	34,522.8	32,589.6	30,607.9	30,207.4
<i>15–34</i>										
<b>Average</b>	13,625.6	12,385.9	10,652.2	9,467.5	9,383.5	9,760.6	9,895.4	9,341.7	8,515.9	8,371.7
<b>High</b>	13,622.4	12,399.6	10,696.0	9,484.1	9,533.6	10,297.7	11,015.8	11,092.6	10,703.3	10,626.2
<b>Low</b>	13,625.6	12,289.1	10,459.8	9,180.7	8,774.3	8,686.3	8,384.8	7,476.3	6,524.8	6,370.5

Source: 2010 – calculated on the basis of data of the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, other calculations made by the authors

The average and low options project a continuous decline (Fig. 1.9) of population down to 39.2 million and 30.2 million, respectively, at the beginning of 2051 (see Table 1.6).

The dynamics of **youth contingent** demonstrates some variations resulting from the structural factor and to a certain extent, migration. In particular, under the “average” projection option, the number of persons aged 15–34 will be decreasing till 2027 and then rising till 2038, and then drop again; this process is determined by the specific nature of the age structure. The first stage of population decline is explained by the fact

that cohorts born in 1990s which enter this age, annually are ever less and later, that large cohorts born in the middle of 1980s leave this group. Likewise, the stage of youth population growth, which is expected in 2030, is explained by comparatively large cohorts born in 2010 or about that time who enter the youth age group. The time when this demographic wave leaves this age contingent will start a new stage of youth population decline at the end of the projection period. These considerations are illustrated by Fig. 1.9 – it distinguishes young age groups and demonstrates demographic waves which will form the youth contingent dynamics.

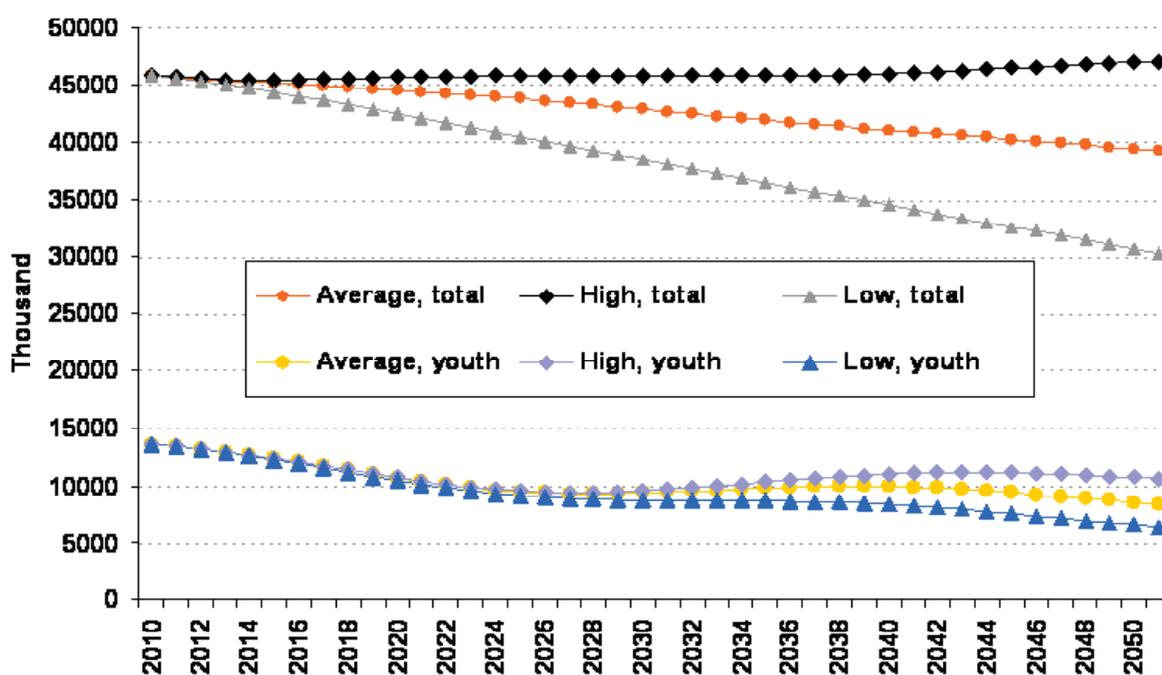


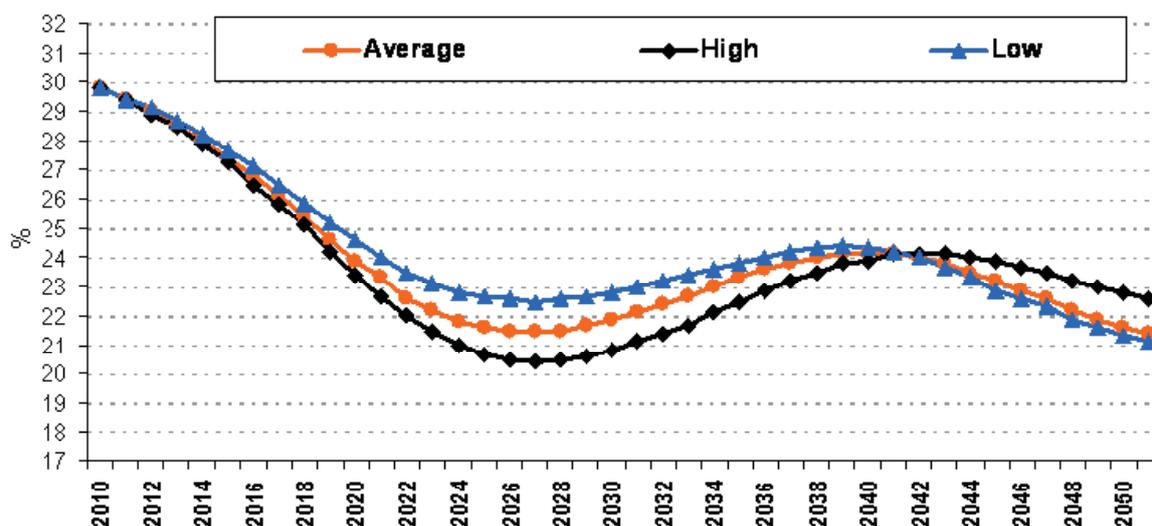
Fig. 1.9. Dynamics of Ukraine's total population and youth under different projection options (as at the beginning of respective year)

Source: 2010 – calculated on the basis of data of the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, other calculations made by the authors

These factors also determine the dynamics of youth population under the high projection option. Only at the end of the period it is expected to be significantly improved by immigrants, the largest proportion of which will be young people.

Under the low option, the youth population will be declining till the end of the period, with the decline rate expected to slow down to a certain

extent only in 2030s. However, under this option the proportion of youth in total population may be the highest, thus rejuvenating the age structure of Ukraine’s population for a certain period (Fig. 1.10). It is clear that this scenario will be realized under conditions of high death rates, mostly of the elderly population.



**Fig. 1.10.**  
**Proportion of youth in total population of Ukraine under different projection options (as at the beginning of a respective year)**

Source: 2010 – calculated on the basis of data of the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, other calculations made by the authors

At the same time, under more optimistic assumption, starting from 2040s, the percentage of youth in the population will outweigh the questionable advantages of the low option. Finally, it should be mentioned that under different options of the demographic projection, the general trend of structural changes both in the short- and long-term perspective will be characterized by a certain (larger or smaller, under different scenarios of demographic events) decline in the proportion of youth contingent in total population of Ukraine.

# FAMILY AND MARRIAGE IN THE LIFE OF UKRAINIAN YOUTH

## *2.1. Youth values and attitudes towards family and marriage*

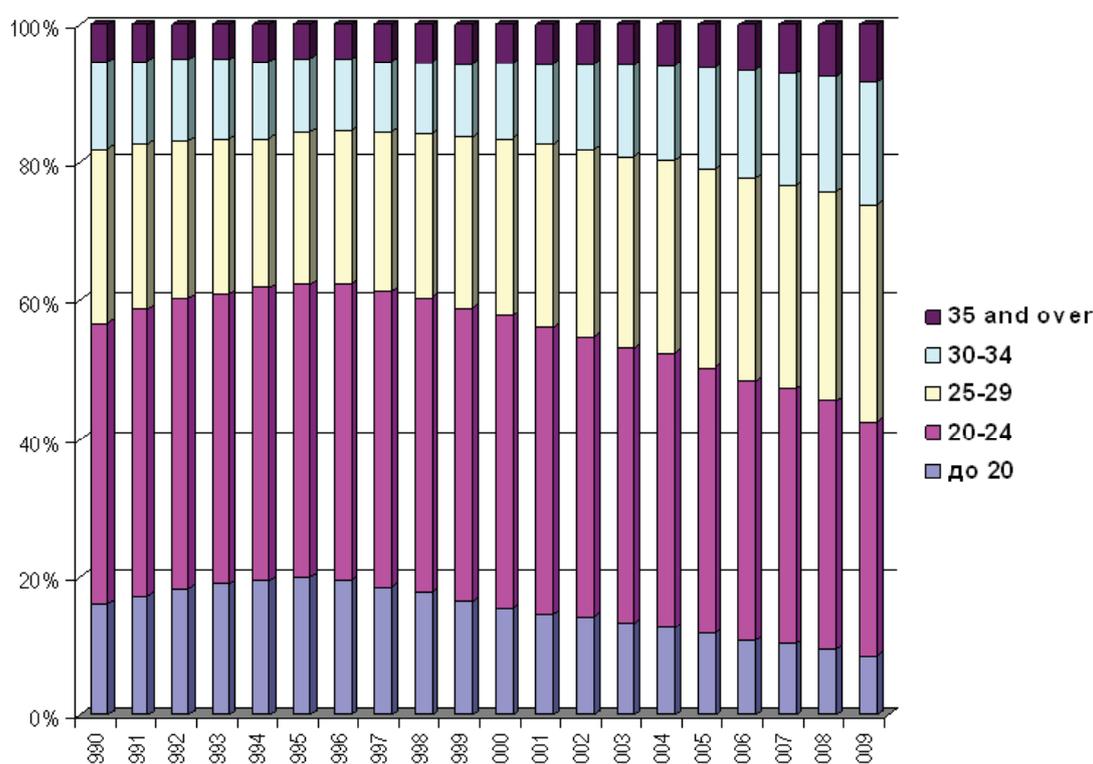
The family as the basic institution of society and the major center of population reproduction is built on interaction of different generations, their solidarity and complementarity. However, the future of the family depends on youth, primarily, on the system of life values, preferences and attitudes of youth towards family and marriage, marriage forms and gender relations, relationship in the family etc. The behavioural pattern chosen by youth today will determine the family model of the future.

Today in Ukraine the marriage and childbearing situation is mostly conditional on marriage and childbearing behaviour of youth, since in Ukraine more than 90% of children are born to mothers aged under 35 (in 2009 – 91.7%) (Fig. 2.1).

In our country total nuptiality is conditional on the intensity of youth nuptiality, since persons aged under 35 account for over 80% of those entering into marriage; as for first marriages, the proportion of young people here exceeds 93% (Table 2.1).

The social and demographic survey “Youth in Ukraine: Lifestyles and Values” provided information about priorities in the value system of present-day young people, their attitudes towards family and marriage and demographic plans for the future. The results of the survey show that today **health** is at the top of life priorities of youth: 99% of respondents characterized it as important, including 87% – very important. Thus, spread of the healthy lifestyle pattern and personal responsibility for own health under the condition of favorable social and economic environment has

promising perspectives in Ukraine today. At the same time, both universal values (*family, children, love* were characterized as very important by 81%, 72% and 70% of respondents) and material priorities (*economic well-being, good employment opportunities and occupational activities* – 77% and 70%, respectively) are rated very high by young people. In other words, today’s young people are unlikely to prefer family and children to professional activity or economic well-being, they want to combine these types of values.



**Fig. 2.1.**  
Distribution of births by mother’s age in Ukraine in 1990–2009, %

**Table 2.1.**  
Distribution of persons who have married by age, Ukraine, 2002–2009, %

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
								total marriages	first marriages
males									
under 20	4.3	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.2	2.7	3.6
20–24	40.2	39.9	38.5	37.2	37.8	37.4	35.2	33.2	43.3
25–29	25.9	26.8	26.4	27.6	27.6	28.1	28.1	29.8	35.2
under 30	70.4	70.6	68.5	68.2	68.8	68.7	66.5	65.7	82.1
30–34	10.4	10.8	11.2	11.7	11.9	12.4	12.7	13.4	11.3
35 and over	19.2	18.6	20.3	20.1	19.3	18.9	20.8	20.9	6.6

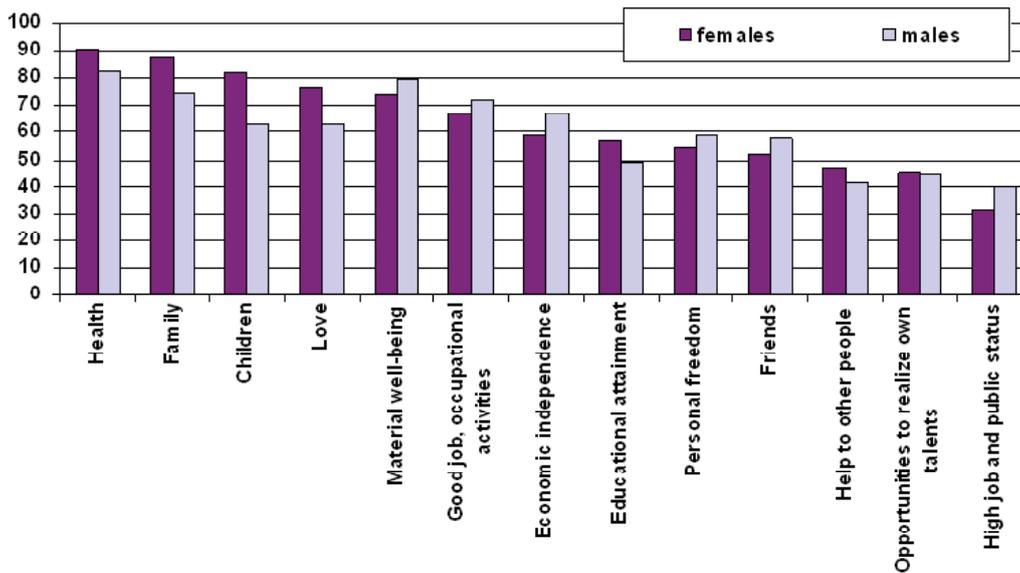
females									
under 20	23.0	21.1	20.0	18.0	17.3	16.1	15.3	13.8	18.1
20–24	40.7	42.2	41.4	42.1	43.2	43.6	41.5	41.0	51.3
25–29	15.1	16.0	16.2	17.4	17.8	18.6	19.5	21.2	21.5
under 30	78.8	79.3	77.6	77.5	78.3	78.3	76.3	76.0	90.9
30–34	6.9	7.0	7.3	7.9	7.8	8.2	8.8	9.3	5.7
35 and over	14.3	13.7	15.1	14.6	13.9	13.5	14.8	14.7	3.4

Source: calculated using data of the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine

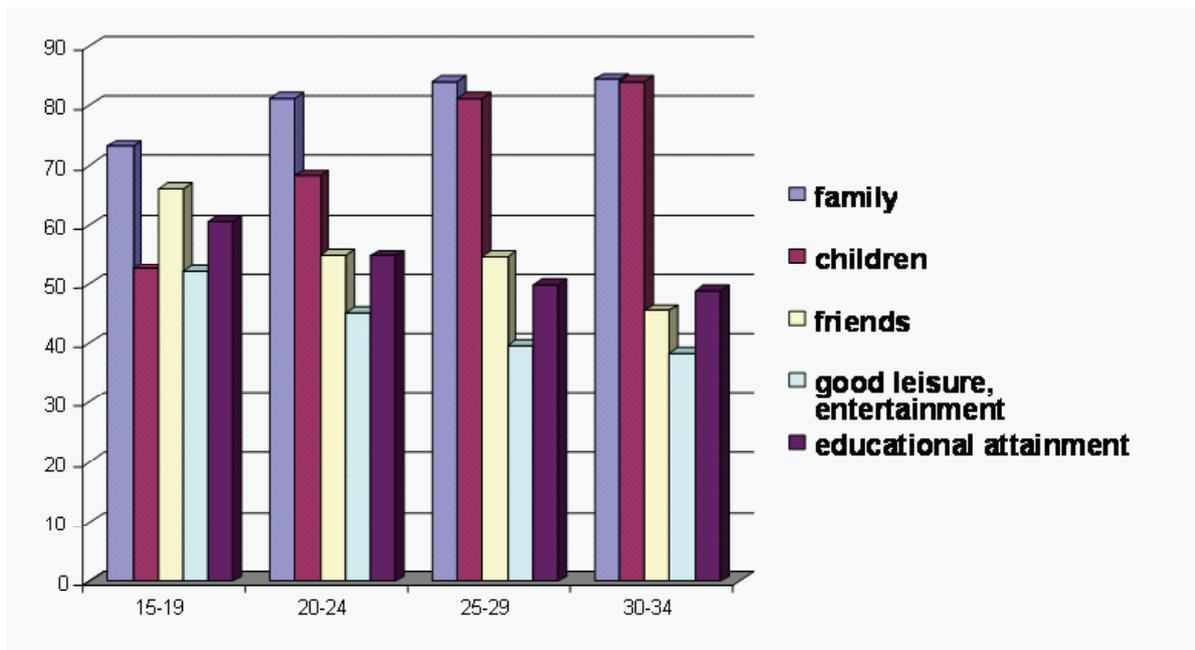
The least valued by youth are such values as “**high job and public status**” evidencing that the majority of young people are not ambitious (this value is ranked very high only by 36% of respondents and 22% of respondents characterized it as unimportant), and “**opportunities for development and realization of own talents and abilities**” (very important for 45% of respondents, unimportant for 12%). Therefore, today personal development is, unfortunately, underestimated by the majority of young people. **Leisure activities and entertainment** is not main priority for young (very important for 44%, unimportant for 11%).

Youth attitudes vary by gender to some extent: while in the life priority system of women **family and children** take the second place after **health**, with **love** also ranked high by many women, men mentioned **material well-being and occupational activities** as the second priority, with **economic independence** being even more important for many men than children and love (Fig. 2.2). This may be explained by the fact that men consider themselves as breadwinners of the family and children and see this function as the most important factor of self-realization and a precondition for family formation and childbirth.

Although the absolute majority of young people rank **family** very high, the value system of representatives of each age group is conditional upon the tasks and priorities which are their aim at this particular time of their life. With age the significance of universal values – **family and children** – grows for young, while for the youngest group (aged 15–19) **friends, good leisure time** and **knowledge** – the things that fill their life – are often more important than children (Fig. 2.3).



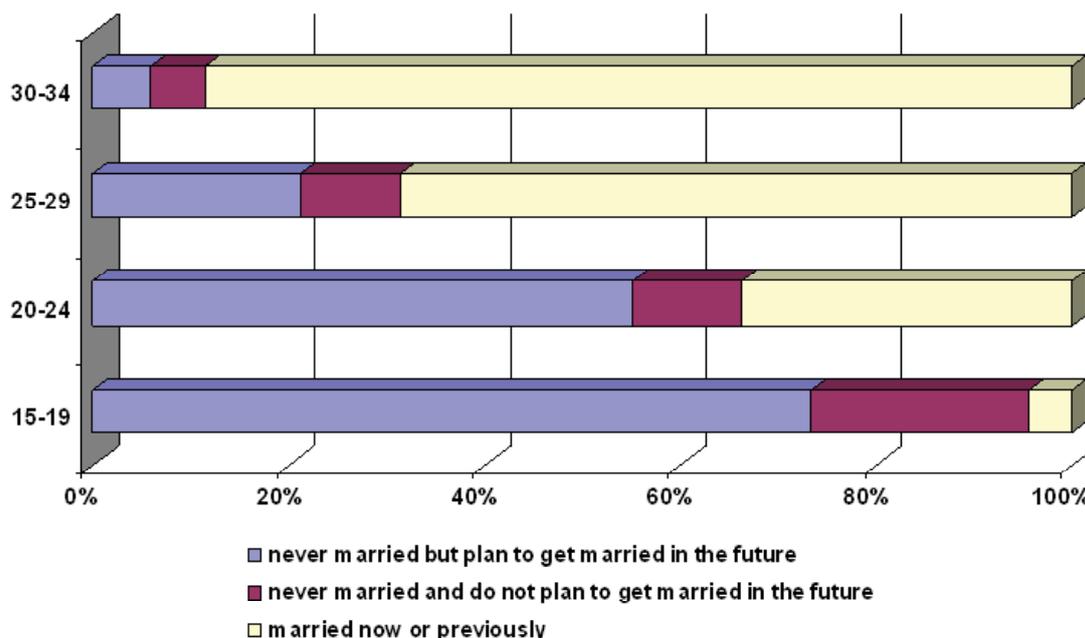
**Fig. 2.2.**  
**Attitudes of young people towards most important life values**  
 (% of respondents who ranked this category as “very important”)  
 Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine”



**Fig. 2.3.**  
**Attitudes of young people of different age towards most important life values**  
 (% of respondents who ranked this category as “very important”)  
 Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

The majority of Ukrainian youth is motivated towards marriage life, own family and children. The results of opinion poll show that at the age of 30–34 nine out of every ten young persons have an experience of marriage life and 75% of respondents who are still unmarried plan to get married

in the future (73% of males and 79% of females). Therefore, in the nearest years nuptiality in the country is likely to be rather high. At the same time it should be mentioned that there is a group of young people who are not married and do not intend to marry in the future; this proportion is quite tangible: 22.4% among youth aged 15–19, 11.1% aged 20–24; 10.1% in the 25–29 age group and 5.5% in the 30–34 age group (Fig. 2.4).



**Fig. 2.4.**  
**Youth distribution by matrimonial plans for the future**  
**(% of respondents who intend or have no intention to married)**

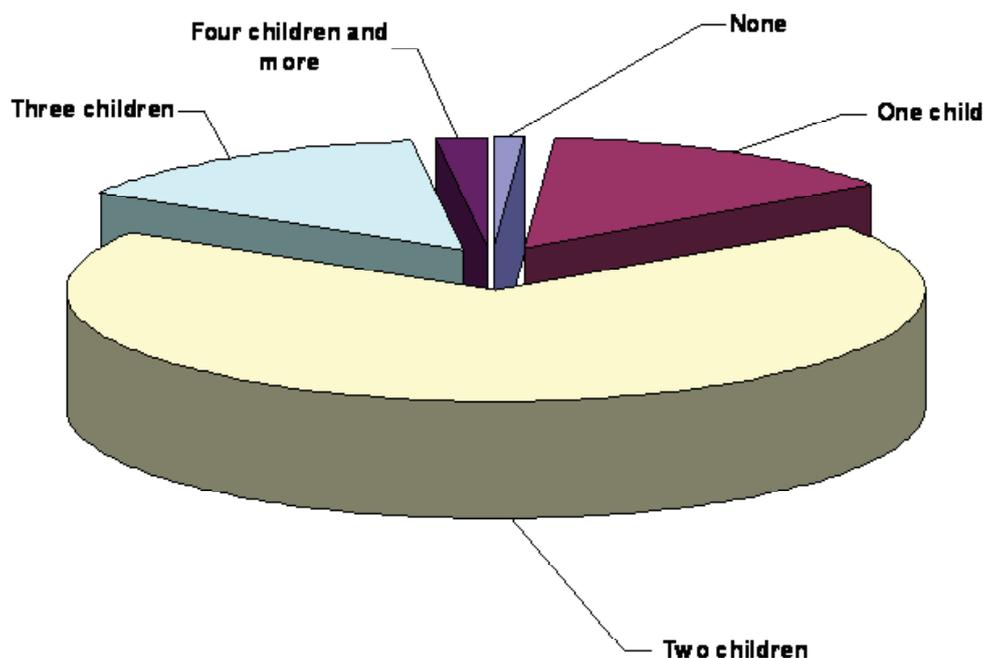
Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

In the majority of cases, the decision to not to marry is explained by intention to be independent and focus on one’s career<sup>1</sup>. In this youth group, males make a larger proportion than females: boys account for 25.1% and girls – for 16.7% of unmarried youth aged 15–19, and the respective correlation among those aged 20–24 is 17.1% and 12.2%, respectively. Plans of unmarried life at this age may be an evidence of certain radicalism of attitudes typical for teenagers or may indicate that marriage is delayed for the time after realization of the nearest future plans focused on education and carrier development. Today, the majority of youth is not inclined to early marriage: 48% of respondents believe that males aged 21–25 are

<sup>1</sup> Шлюб, сім'я та дітородні орієнтації в Україні. – К.: АДФ-Україна, 2008, с. 92-94.

“too young” to marry and 19% of respondents believe that females of this age are “too young” to marry, in other words, traditional attitudes towards different age at marriage depending on the gender are also spread among Ukrainian youth.

Today’s youth recognizes the significance of children for family and individual self-realization. In response to the question “**In your opinion, how many children a modern family should have (ideally, irrespective of your personal plans)?**” only 1% of respondents said “**none**”, i.e. these persons believe that children are not essential for the family. At the same time, 85% of respondents suppose that at least two children should be in the family (Fig. 2.5). Thus, it is possible that the one-child principle dominating in our country may be abandoned provided that all the necessary conditions are available allowing a family to have the desired number of children.



**Fig. 2.5.**  
**Youth attitudes towards the ideal number of children in modern family (respondents distribution by attitudes, %)**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

Thinking about own family, modern youth is guided by moral priorities: **love** and **desire to have someone close beside** are the chief motives for marriage. Mercantile motives sometimes ascribed to young people are

not widespread: **own economic well-being** is one of the least common impetuses for marriage (only 2% of respondents mentioned this as the main motive); such factors as **parents' will, fear of loneliness, desire to be "no worse than others"** or **intention to "legalize" intimate relations** are very rarely mentioned as the motives for marriage (Table. 2.2). Today **intention to have children** is not the chief impetus for marriage; however, it is important motive for one out of every three respondents in all age groups.

Table 2.2.

**Chief motives of young people for marriage  
(% of respondents who mentioned certain motive) (April 2010)**

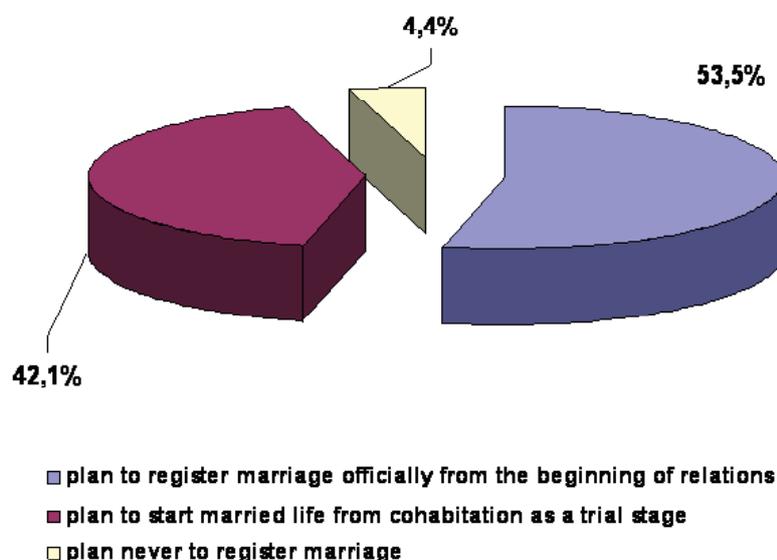
	1 <sup>st</sup> motive	2 <sup>nd</sup> motive	3 <sup>rd</sup> motive	Total choice
Love, desire to be beside the person whom the respondent loves	60.1	12.7	8.5	81.3
Desire to have a close person beside to be together in joy and grief	22.2	31.6	13.0	66.8
Desire to have children	4.3	27.3	30.2	61.8
Own material well-being	2.0	4.6	5.3	11.9
Desire to have a steady sexual partner and legalize intimate relationship	1.5	5.1	8.2	14.8
Fear of loneliness	0.6	1.5	4.5	6.6
Tradition, i.e. to have family and children is a duty of every person (the respondent does not want to be worse than the others)	1.4	3.9	7.3	12.6
Compliance with parents' will (parents insist)	0.2	0.8	1.9	2.9
Desire to have own family and be independent	7.0	11.6	19.0	37.6
Pregnancy	0.7	0.9	2.1	3.7

With age, impetuses for marriage are transformed to a certain extent: while romantic motives prevail at the age of 15–19 (**love** is the first motive for 70.1% of respondents), at a more mature age **desire to have a close person beside to share joy and grief** becomes more pronounced, although **love** still remains the chief motive of marriage for 55% of respondents aged 25–34.

As for gender disparity, the proportion of women who see **love** as

the main motive of marriage is larger than the proportion of men and every one out of ten men enters into marriage because of the desire to have own family and be independent. Although a desire to have children is one of the impetuses of marriage for every one out of three women, it is not the chief motive for Ukrainian women, as well as for men.

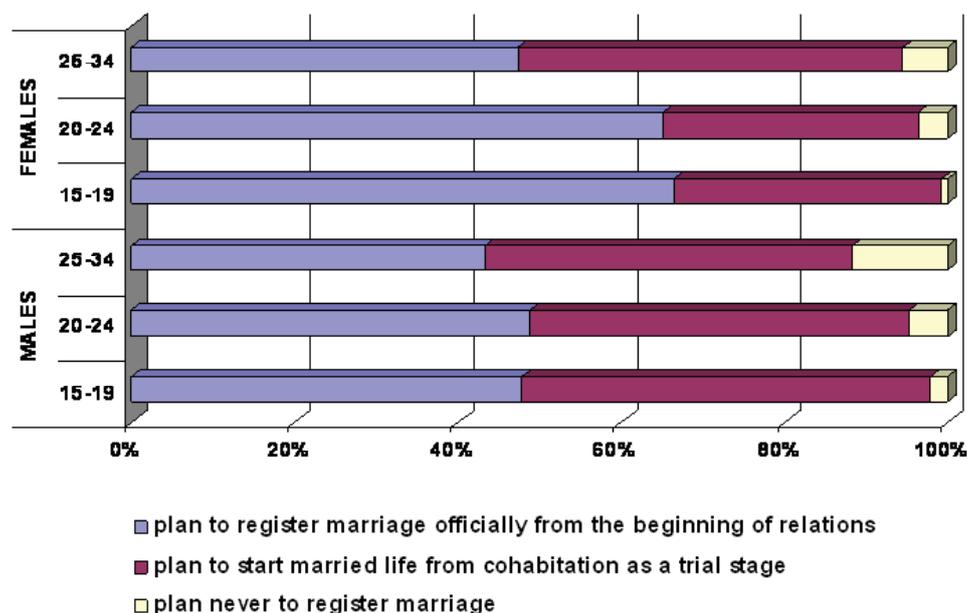
Pluralization of behavioural patterns, including forms of marriage relations existing in the modern world finds a reflection in the matrimonial plans of young people and their attitudes towards different forms of married life. More than a half of young people plan a traditional officially registered marriage in the future. Alongside, a significant proportion of youth (over 40%) intends to start married life from unmarried cohabitation, viewing it as a sort of a trial marriage before entering into officially registered marriage. A certain group of young people (rather small, less than 5%) has more radical attitudes towards marriage and does not plan to register their marital relations (Fig. 2.6).



**Fig. 2.6.**  
**Distribution of young people who intend to marry by forms of marital relations chosen, % (April 2010)**

Attitudes of women towards marital partnership forms are somewhat more traditional than those of men; women more often than men prefer officially registered marriage and this trend is especially pronounced among respondents aged 15–24 (Fig. 2.7). The proportion of persons

choosing unmarried union for the whole of their lifetime is larger among persons aged above 25 who do not have own family. The reason is that persons unmarried at this age have more “modernized” attitudes towards marriage or negative experience of married life: almost 25% of those who prefer unmarried cohabitation for the whole of their lifetime are divorced.

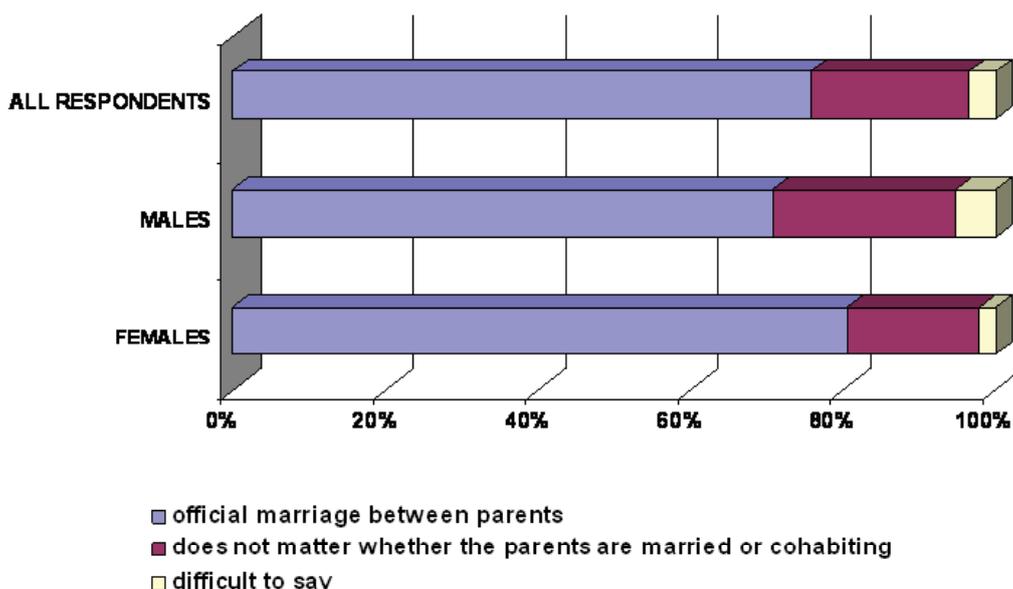


**Fig. 2.7.**  
**Distribution of young people of different age and gender who intend to marry by forms of marital relations preferred, %**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

Although a considerable proportion of youth have a positive attitude towards to officially unregistered marital partnership (lives in such union now or plans it in the future), the majority of young people believe that it is better for a child to be grown in the family where the parents are officially married. When asked a question “**In your opinion, which form of marital relations between parents is the best for a child?**” every three out of four respondents (71% of males and 81% of females) answered “**officially registered marriage of parents**” (Fig. 2.8). This is another confirmation that for the majority of Ukrainians an unregistered marital partnership is rather a trial stage when the couple tries to find out whether they get along together than a pattern of behaviour for the whole life. We obtained the same conclusions based on results of prior social and demographic surveys “Family and Children” (April 2008) and “Family

and Family Relations” (April 2009)<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore, the attitudes towards marriage relationship forms and their effect on upbringing of children are often formed on the basis of personal experience which can also be negative: among those who answered that *it makes no difference for a child whether the parents are married or in an unmarried cohabitation*, 10% were divorced and almost 30% were in a registered marriage at the time of the survey.



**Fig. 2.8.**  
**Distribution of young people by opinion about the best form of parents' marital relationship for the child, %**

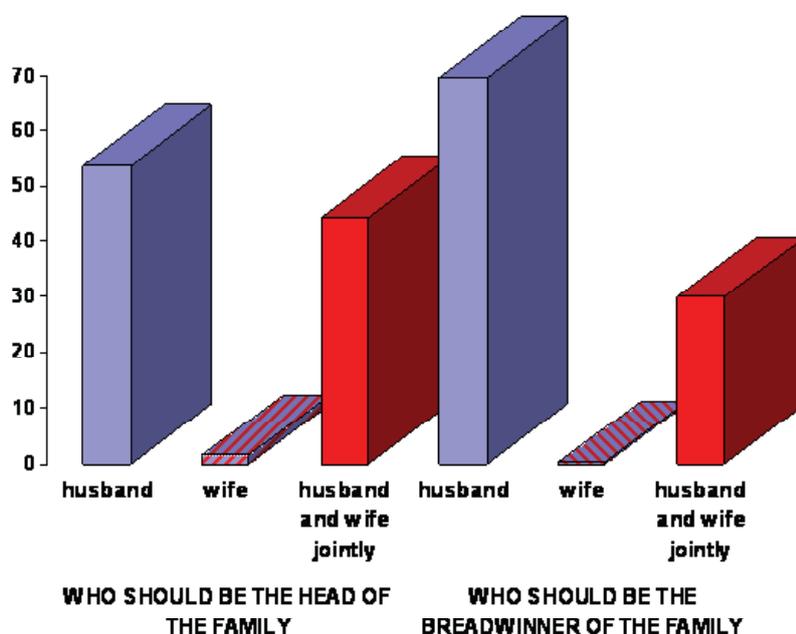
Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

Our study of attitudes of Ukrainian youth towards gender relations, in particular, family leadership, gave interesting results. Today there is a prevailing opinion that in modern society gender differences in social and professional, educational, skill composition of population are gradually minimized and, consequently, power distribution in the family becomes more situational, more decisions are made jointly by husband and wife, in other words, the family acquires partnership and democratic nature (this type of family is sometimes defined as egalitarian).<sup>3</sup> However, the majority of young people stick to traditional views on husband's and wife's roles

2 Шлюб, сім'я та дітородні орієнтації в Україні. – К.: АДФЕФ-Україна, 2008, р. 96-102; Family and Family Relations in Ukraine: Modernity and Development Trends. – К.: Osнова-Print LLC, 2009, р. 115-121.

3 Калабихина И. Гендерный фактор в воспроизводстве человеческого капитала - <http://www.owl.ru/library/041t.htm>

in the family: respondents' attitudes towards this issue divided almost equally between the traditional model with man as head of the family (54%) and the model when husband and wife make all decisions jointly (almost 45%). As for the breadwinner of the family, 70% of respondents believe that this function should be performed by husband and only 30% – by husband and wife jointly. For an insignificant proportion of respondents (less than 2%), the best option is when the family is headed by wife and for a lesser proportion – when wife is the breadwinner on the family. Respondents' answers to the question *“In your opinion, who should be the head of modern family”* and *“In your opinion, who should be the breadwinner of modern family”* are given on Fig. 2.9.



**Fig. 2.9.**  
**Distribution of young people by their attitudes towards the role of husband and wife as head and breadwinner of the family, %**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

If we compare attitudes of respondents of different gender and age, men are more conservative while females are more inclined towards partner relations in marriage and all decisions taken by husband and wife jointly; however, the majority of women believe that husband should be the main breadwinner of the family. An unexpected finding of the survey is that attitudes of the youngest respondents (aged 15–19) are more tradi-

tional than those of the older respondents and the larger proportion of respondents supporting the idea of partner relations in the family are found among those aged 30–34 (Table 2.3). It may be that respondents aged 30–34 possess some actual experience of family life and decide to these issues more reasoned.

**Table 2.3.**  
**Distribution of young people of different age by attitudes towards the role of husband and wife as head and breadwinner of modern family, % (April 2010 p.)**

	Who should be the head of the family			Who should be the breadwinner of the family		
	husband	wife	husband and wife jointly	husband	wife	husband and wife jointly
<b>Men</b>						
15–34	61.4	0.7	37.9	71.6	0.1	28.3
of which 15–19	63.8	1.5	34.7	70.7	0.5	28.8
20–24	60.6	0.0	39.4	73.2	0	26.8
25–29	61.5	0.9	37.6	73.6	0	26.4
30–34	60.2	0.5	39.3	68.1	0	31.9
<b>Women</b>						
15–34	46.1	2.3	51.6	67.8	0.4	31.8
of which 15–19	48.7	3.1	48.2	71.3	0.5	28.2
20–24	43.0	2.6	54.4	68.9	0.0	31.1
25–29	45.3	2.9	51.8	68.7	0.4	30.9
30–34	47.8	0.9	51.3	62.4	0.9	36.7

Therefore, we can make a conclusion that family values take top places in the system of values of today’s Ukrainian youth and attitudes of young people towards marriage, family, children and gender relations are more traditional than it is commonly believed. A considerable majority of young people intend to marry and have children, although attitudes towards forms of marriage and desired number of children in the family may vary. It should be emphasized that family orientations of young people go side by side with plans of career development, material wellbeing and economic independence. Thus, realization of marriage and family orientations of young people is closely interrelated with self-realization in other spheres of life. Alongside, there is a certain group of young people refusing from marriage and children; society should view it as a certain signal indicating that there

is an increasing need for support of family values and enhanced recognition by society of the significance of harmonious family with children and strong marriage as an essential elements of happiness and success in human life.

The need family way of life – the need for marriage, parenthood and family solidarity of all members of the family – is formed by the system of moral and ethical principles, values and preferences and is an integral part of world outlook (of the population, its separate strata and separate individuals) in its widest sense – day-to-day, religious and philosophical outlook. However, this need, like the world outlook on the whole, to a large extent is formed under the influence of material conditions existing in society as well as its economic and social relations. Social and economic environment friendly towards the family, especially family with children, is one of the pre-equisites for formation of demographic needs of today's youth and enhancement of its family orientations.

## **2.2. Family and marital status of today's youth. Forms of marital relations**

**Nuptiality of Ukrainian youth. Forms of marital relations.** The population of Ukraine was traditionally characterized by high nuptiality rates resulting from high youth nuptiality; the specific nature of marital relations in the modern civilization – higher age at first marriage, pluralization of forms marital relations which can be found in Ukraine as well have so far no impact on this traditional feature of Ukrainian youth.

International comparisons show that young people of Ukraine enter into marriage more often and at a younger age as compared with their peers in the majority of the European countries. Table 2.4 demonstrates that according to population census data of round 2000, the proportion of young males and females never married at the age of 20–24, 25–29 and 30–34 in Ukraine is almost the lowest in Europe, with a lower proportion of unmarried youth at the time of census recorded only in Byelorussia.

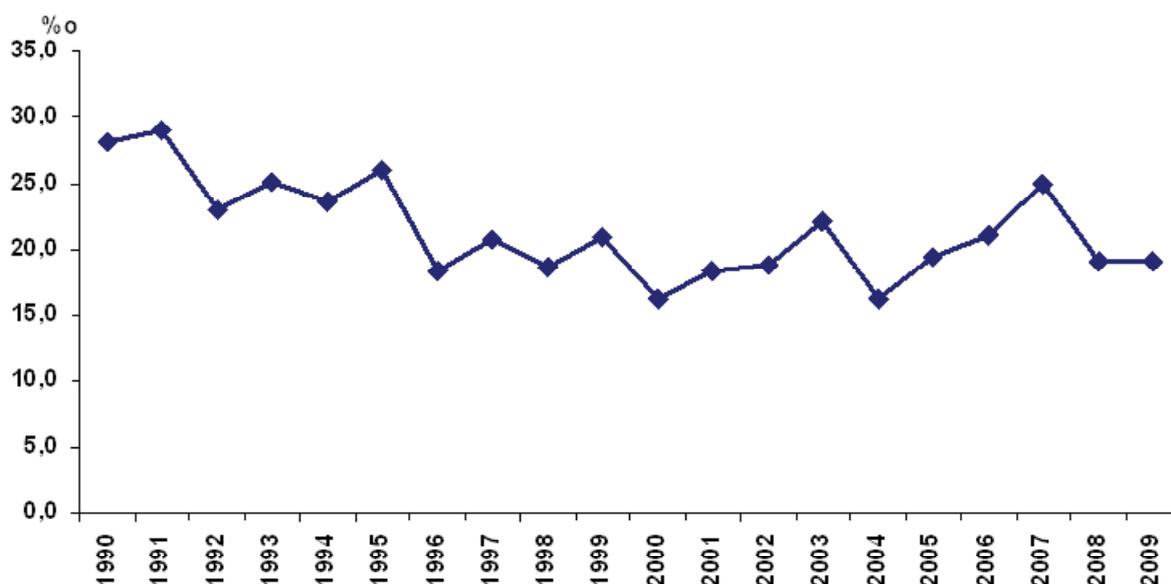
Table 2.4.

**Proportion of never married young males and females in European countries  
according to population census data of round 2000, %**

Country	Census year	20–24		25–29		30–34	
		males	females	males	females	males	females
Albania	2001	86.3	50.0	45.1	19.4	14.7	8.3
Austria	2001	87.3	73.0	60.1	40.6	30.7	22.1
Byelorussia	1999	70.1	45.1	27.6	15.6	12.9	7.5
Bulgaria	2001	81.5	57.8	47.9	25.6	23.0	10.9
Greece	2001	94.0	78.9	73.4	44.8	42.5	20.3
Estonia	2000	75.4	57.8	40.2	28.3	21.5	17.0
Italy	2001	96.8	87.4	79.6	58.5	47.2	30.0
Ireland	2002	98.3	96.0	83.0	73.2	49.6	39.4
Latvia	2000	89.8	79.8	58.9	42.4	28.4	20.2
Lithuania	2001	82.4	65.0	42.0	26.1	19.5	13.1
Netherlands	2002	96.6	88.9	79.4	62.4	51.2	35.4
Germany	2001	94.1	84.1	71.8	52.8	46.7	29.6
Norway	2001	88.5	73.9	57.9	39.3	33.9	20.9
Poland	2002	86.8	71.2	46.7	29.4	23.1	12.9
Portugal	2001	85.1	71.2	51.5	36.2	24.7	16.2
Romania	2002	90.0	66.0	52.5	30.8	26.1	15.2
Russia	2002	73.6	52.6	34.8	21.9	16.8	10.9
Slovakia	2001	86.7	70.7	50.2	31.4	25.4	14.2
<b>Ukraine</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>7.5</b>
Finland	2000	95.3	89.6	76.4	63.1	53.0	40.5
France	1999	97.7	93.1	80.0	66.2	51.2	40.0
Croatia	2001	91.8	74.0	61.6	38.4	33.6	17.8
Czech Republic	2001	90.2	76.5	54.2	31.7	24.6	10.7
Sweden	2003	97.6	93.0	87.8	77.3	67.8	54.2
Switzerland	2000	93.5	84.1	72.9	54.3	44.1	28.7

Source: calculated based on data of Demographic Yearbook Special Census Topics

While during the crisis 1990s nuptiality of the population, including youth, declined, after 2001 youth nuptiality is rising (Fig. 2.10). The nuptiality curve has a wave-like form since leap years are traditionally considered unfavorable for forming of a new family; for this reason there was a peak of nuptiality in the pre-leap year 2007 and its drop in the leap 2008. In 2009, there was no rise in the nuptiality rate which can be partially explained by the economic crisis, on the one part, and partially – by compensation of its peak in 2007, on the other part.



**Fig. 2.10.**  
**Total marriage rate of youth aged 15–34 in Ukraine in 1990-2009, ‰<sup>4</sup>**

Today in Ukraine we see a gradual change in the age-specific nuptiality pattern and a clear trend towards the declining rate of early marriages and growing age at registration of marriage. Under the market conditions, increasingly larger proportion of young people postpones marriage till getting education and a job. Changes in age-specific youth marriage rates (i.e. the number of marriages entered into by males and females of a certain age per 1000 persons of this age) within 1990–2009 are shown on Fig. 2.11.

As shown on Fig. 2.11, in the period 1990–2009 there was a sharp decline in the nuptiality of teenagers, with concurrent gradual rise in nuptiality of women aged 25–34. While before 1997 the largest intensity of female nuptiality was observed at the ages 15–19 and 20–24, with virtually the same rates in those age groups, starting from 1997 we can clearly see that the peak of female nuptiality is observed at the age of 20–24 and the gap between marriage rates of the 15–19 and 20–24 age groups grows each year. Calculations show that over the period 1990–2009 marriage rates of premarital-age teenage girls (15–16 year old) and girls aged 17, 18 and 19 dropped several times.

<sup>4</sup> The calculations were made with an assumption that population aged 15-34 enters into marriage with persons from the same age group.

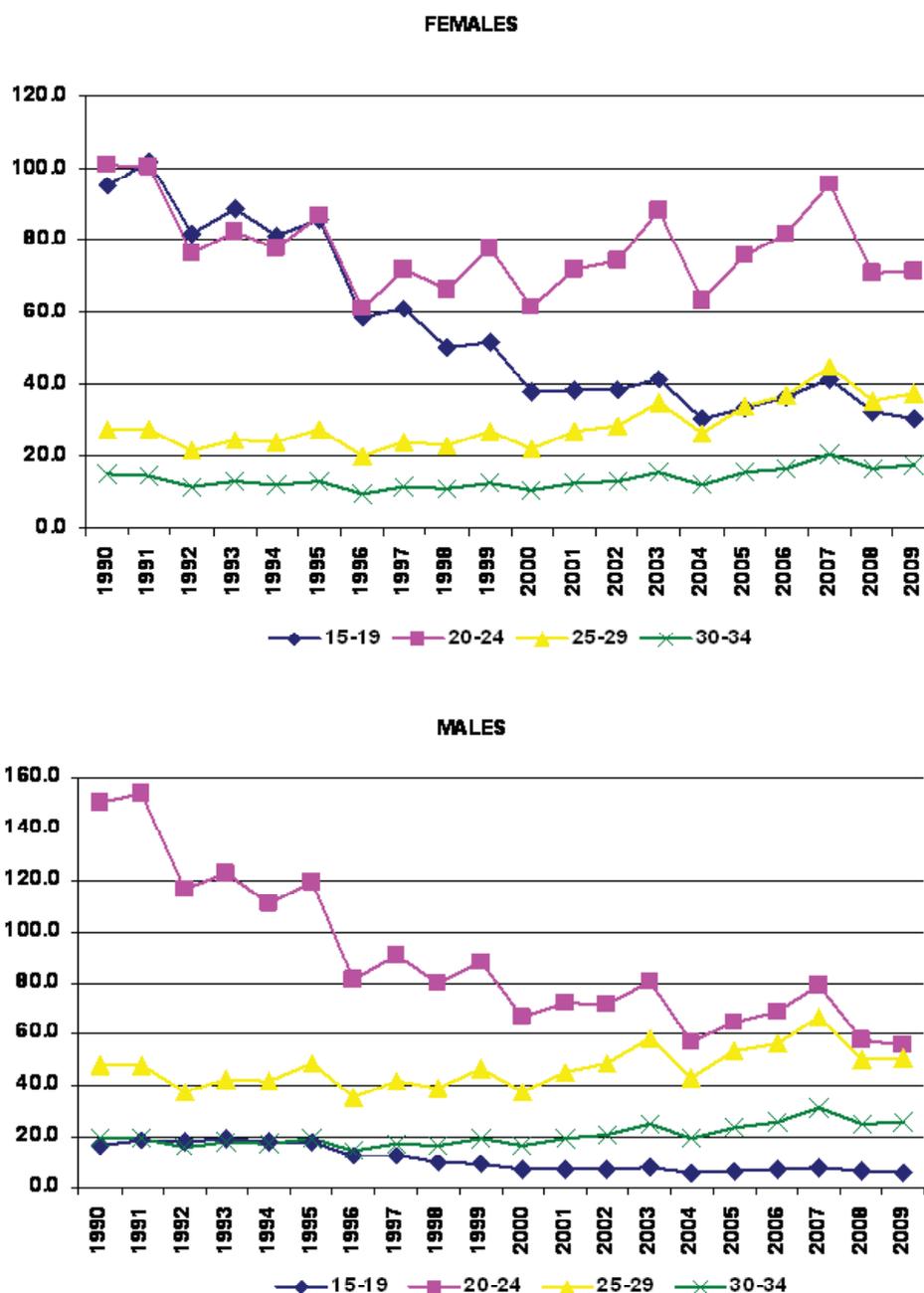


Fig. 2.11. Age-specific marriage rates of young females and males in Ukraine in 1990–2009, %<sup>5</sup>

As for men, a drop in age-specific marriage rates in the 20–24 age group goes along with a rise in nuptiality of persons aged 25–29 and especially those aged 30–34. As a result of these changes, in recent years

<sup>5</sup> Although the Family Code of Ukraine established age at marriage for women as 17 years and 18 years for males, traditionally during population censuses questions about marital status of the population are asked from the age of 15. Furthermore, according to the Family Code, any individual aged 14 and older upon his/her request may be granted the right to get married if it is in his/her interests.

the gap between nuptiality of males aged 20–24 and 25–29 almost disappeared.

Social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine” showed the marital status of youth at the beginning of 2010. According to results of the survey, the majority of youth aged 15–19 (almost 96%) have no married life experience, at the age 20–24 only 66% of those interviewed have no such experience and starting with the age of 25 the majority of young people are already married: 60% in the 25–29-age group and 78% in the 30–34 age group. Traditionally, women begin married life earlier than men; consequently, the proportion of women married at the age of 15–24 is larger (Fig. 2.12).

At the same time, almost one out of every ten young Ukrainians aged 25–34 has a negative experience of married life, i.e. divorced. About 9% are remarried (8.6% of married males and 9.6% of married females). Remarriages are entered into by respondents aged over 25 (very seldom it is their third marriage), and 14% of married persons aged 30–34 are in the second marriage. Therefore, divorce with further remarriage is not an infrequent but customary pattern of behaviour for Ukrainian youth.

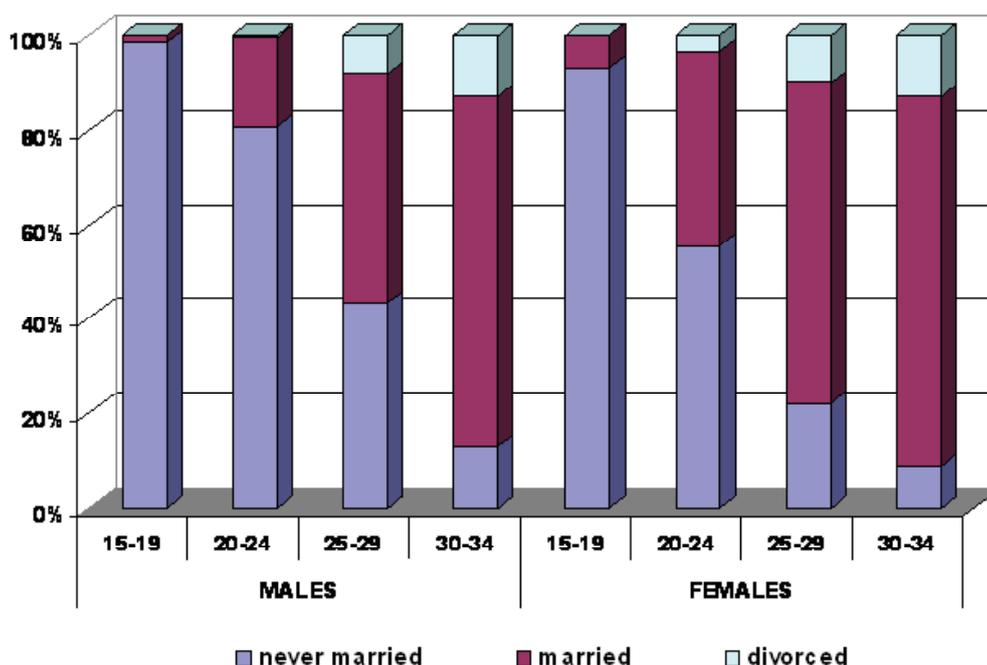


Fig. 2.12. Distribution of respondents of different age and gender by marital status, % (April 2010)

In the modern world, diversity of behaviour patterns and styles and free choice by an individual of his\her lifestyle is one of the most essential features of life. In the marriage and family area, this diversity manifests itself by pluralization of marital partnership forms and by existence of other forms of partnership between man and woman along with traditional formalized marriage, such as consensual union, living apart together relationship, long distance marriage, non-marital partnership. In the words of A.Vyshnevsky, the traditional marriage and family model is sometimes no longer satisfactory for today's individual. Today people look for less strict forms of their private life.<sup>6</sup>

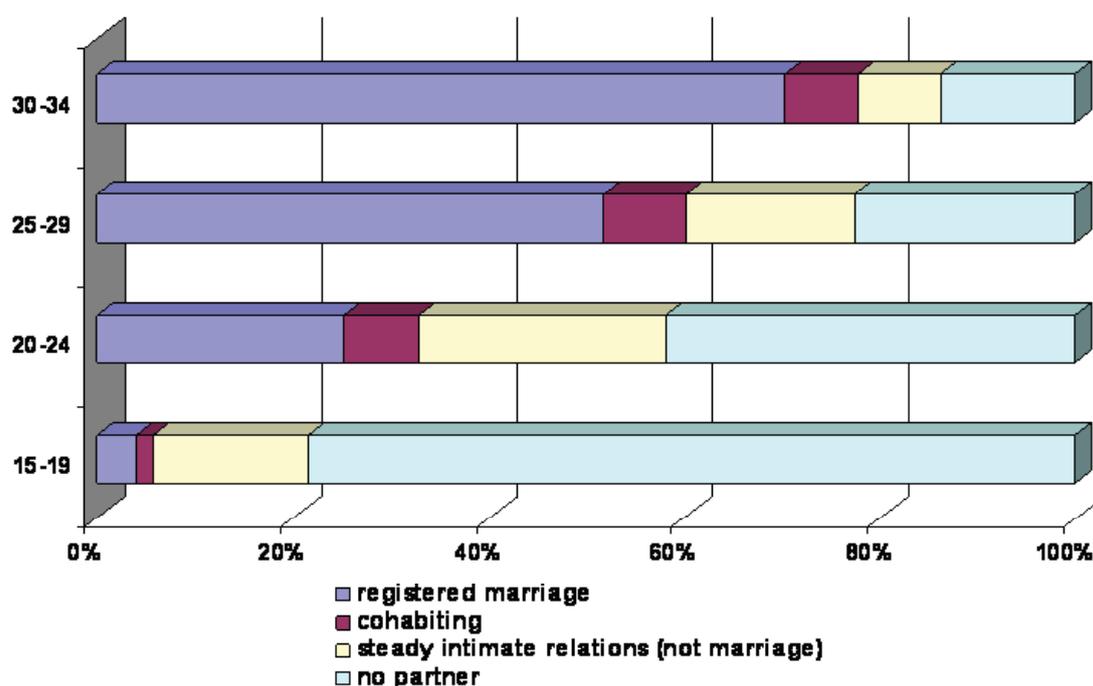
The results of the social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine” show that informal forms of marital partnership are rather widespread in Ukraine, although registered marriage is still the main form of marriage. The majority of young people live in this form of marriage or plan to register marriage in the future, although many of them first intend to test their relationship in informal cohabitating union (see § 2.1). According to opinion poll data, 6.5% of young people characterize their marital status as married although their union is not formally registered. In other words, 14.4% of married respondents have not formally registered their relations.

Furthermore, one third of respondents who were in registered marriage at the time of interview or before it (34.7% of males and 29.2% of females) acknowledged that their relations started with marital partnership not formally registered. The proportion of those who started his/her married life in this manner is almost the same among all age groups, in other words, this behaviour pattern is equally spread among youth aged 15–34. In 76% of cases the duration of this marital partnership form did not exceed one year, in 13% of cases – two years and in 11% of cases – three years and more.

Today, at the times when sexual and marital behaviours are not interdependent as in the traditional society but are autonomous, a considerable proportion of young people have regular sexual relations with a partner but do not look at this relationship as marriage. Vague and indistinct

6 Вишневский А. Г. Демографический кризис в странах СНГ - <http://www.demoscope.ru/weekly/2005/0197/tema03.php>

boundaries between this form of partnership and unregistered marriage aroused special interest of demographers to this stage of relationship in the life of young people<sup>7</sup>. According to data of the survey “Youth of Ukraine”, about 17% of young people (22% of males and 12% of females) said they had a partner with whom they had regular sexual relationship but they did not characterize such relationship as marriage. With age, the proportion of young people who live in marriage (registered or non-registered) increases and the proportion of those with a steady sexual (but not marriage) partner declines (Fig. 2.13).



**Fig. 2.13.**  
**Distribution of respondents of different age by the form of marital partnership, % (April 2010)**

Since there are no clearly defined boundaries of marriage in case if the couple does not formally register it, young people at own discretion define whether their relationship is a non-registered marriage or just a partnership (it should be mentioned that traditionally during population censuses young people are offered to characterize their marital status themselves). We believe that here the determining factor is whether young people live together. Results of the survey show that over 90% of young

<sup>7</sup> Населення України. Народжуваність в Україні у контексті суспільно-трансформаційних процесів. – Київ: АДЕФ-Україна, 2008, с. 166-168.

people who said that they have regular sexual relationship which they did not characterize as marriage reside separately from their partner (in the majority of cases – separately on a regular basis), and at the same time in 90% of cases persons who are cohabiting (i.e. in unregistered marriage) live together always or most of the time. Indeed, if partners live together, their union looks more like the family: mutual care, joint (full or partial) budget, joint living arrangements.

As for registered marriage, less than 2% of young people who have chosen this classic form of marital partnership, live separately from his/her spouse all or most of the time; this is another confirmation of conclusions made in prior surveys in respect of low spread of “living apart together” and long distance marriages in Ukraine<sup>8</sup> (Table 2.5).

**Table 2.5.**  
**Distribution of respondents in different forms of marital partnership by living arrangement form, % (April, 2010)**

	Reside together with the partner:			
	always together	mostly together, sometimes separately	mostly separately, sometimes together	always separately
Registered marriage	96.8	1.6	0.6	1.0
Non-registered marriage	82.9	8.6	5.1	3.4
Steady intimate relationship (not marriage)	2.9	5.2	21.5	70.4

Therefore, marital life pattern of today’s young people looks as follows: steady sexual relations (residing separately) → cohabiting (non-registered marriage) → registered marriage. Although this pattern is quite widespread, it reflects only one of possible styles of marital behaviour since a considerable proportion of young people register their marriage at the beginning of their relationship, another proportion cohabit without registering their union and do not plan to register it in the future, some young people live together but do not characterize their relationship as marriage etc. Preferable model of marital behaviour is conditional upon the world outlook of partners, their attitude towards traditions, childbirth plans, relations with parents; dwelling conditions and material well-being

<sup>8</sup> Шлюб, сім'я та дітородні орієнтації в Україні. – К.: АДФ-Україна, 2008, с. 103; Family and Family Relations in Ukraine: Modern Situation and Development Trends. – К.: Osnova-Print LLC, 2009, p. 121.

are a powerful factor of influence. According to our preliminary data, every one out of five cohabiting couples does not formally register their union because of unavailability of appropriate dwelling conditions<sup>9</sup>.

**Family composition of youth.** The age of 15–34 is the period of intensive changes in human life when an individual's personality is finally formed and he or she gains economic independence. At the same time, it is also the period of demographic transformations and changes in the forms of family relations: on the one part, at the beginning of this period, at the age of 15–17, a person is a teenager residing with the parents who support him or her and, on the other part, with age, getting education and a job, young people become more and more independent, form own family and, when children are born, support own children. At the end of this period, at the age of 30–34, in addition to supporting own family, young people very often start helping their parents. According to data of social and demographic survey “Family and Family Relations” (April 2009), over 76% of young people aged 30–34 support their parents and 42% help their parents financially.

Economic and demographic changes in the life of a young person is a precondition of changes in his or her family status, i.e. the type of his or her family. The teenagers live in their parents' family but their marital and family status changes with age and as they enter into marriage. A young married couple may live with the parents for a certain time and in such a case an extended family is formed, i.e. the family composed of several married couples. However, extended families are not typical for Ukraine, their proportion in the family composition of population is insignificant (according to population census of 2001 this proportion amounted to 4.9% of all families). In our country, like in developed countries, the process of family nuclearization currently occurs – nuclear families become more widely spread since children get married and leave their parents' families. Our researches show that in Ukraine this process started rather intensively in the 1930s<sup>10</sup>, however, its first manifestations were observed in the XVIII

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9 Шлюб, сім'я та дітородні орієнтації в Україні. – К.: АДФ-Україна, 2008, с. 101.

10 Слюсар Л. И. Брак и семья в Украине в 20-30-е годы XX века //Проблемы населения в зеркале истории. Шестые Валентеевские чтения. – М.: МАКС Пресс, 2010, с. 300.

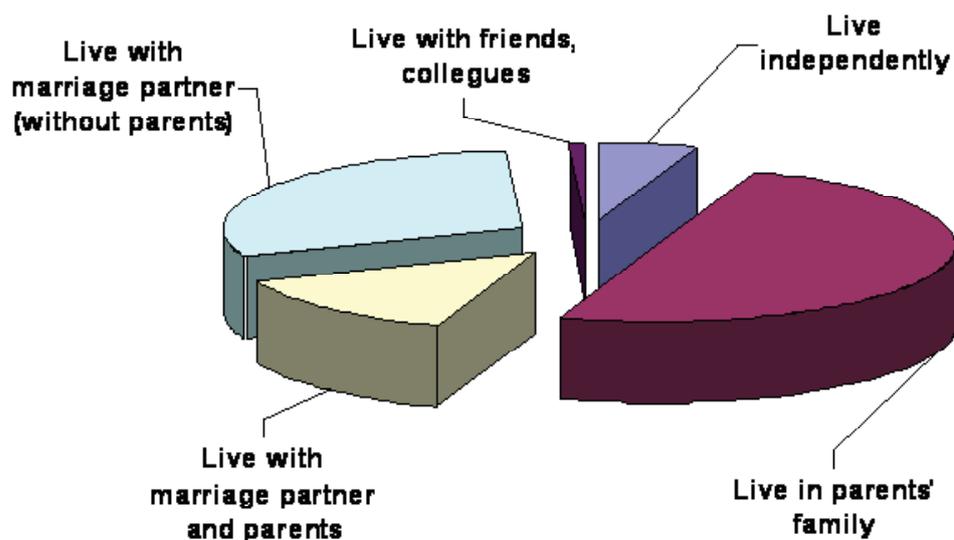
century<sup>11</sup>.

At the end of the XX century in developed countries a clear trend towards young people leaving their parents' families before marriage was observed. This situation is explained by general modern trends of society development – individualization, emancipation, freedom of choice as well as by a possibility for young people to live independently in economical sense before marriage which is delayed to an older age. However, the situation varies considerably across different countries with different history and culture: while in the northern part of Europe and in the United States of America the proportion of young people who were living separately from their parents before marriage is rather large, in the southern European countries the majority of young people traditionally reside with their parents before getting married. The form of youth living arrangements to a considerable extent is conditional not only on family traditions and relations between generations but also on the financial situation and well-being of the family. In the recent decade a trend towards extension of the period during which young people live with their parents is observed in Europe and researchers explain this trend by longer time necessary for getting education and by worsened situation on the employment market, housing market and credit<sup>12</sup>.

The data collected by the survey “Youth of Ukraine” allowed to analyze the types of families where young people live in our country. According to the information provided by respondents, more than a half of them (51.4%) reside in households consisting of 1–3 persons, 30.1% – of four persons, 18.4% – of five and more persons. For today's unmarried Ukrainian youth it is not typical to live independently outside the family of their parents or relatives. 5.4% of respondents are single, i.e. live without a marriage partner, parents or relatives, and less than 1% live with friends or colleagues. 55% of youth live in their parents' families, 44% – with marriage partner. However, one third of married young people reside with their parents (or parents of his/her spouse) – Fig. 2.14.

11 Прибыткова И. М. Из истории развития демографической мысли в Украине в XVIII-XIX вв. // Проблемы населения в зеркале истории. Шестые Валентеевские чтения. – М.: МАКС Пресс, 2010, с. 43.

12 Щербакова Е. Старение населения предъявляет свои вызовы обществу и семьям. - <http://demoscope.ru/weekly/2007/0307/barom02.php>



**Fig. 2.14.**  
**Distribution of respondents by the type of the family in which they live, %**  
 Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

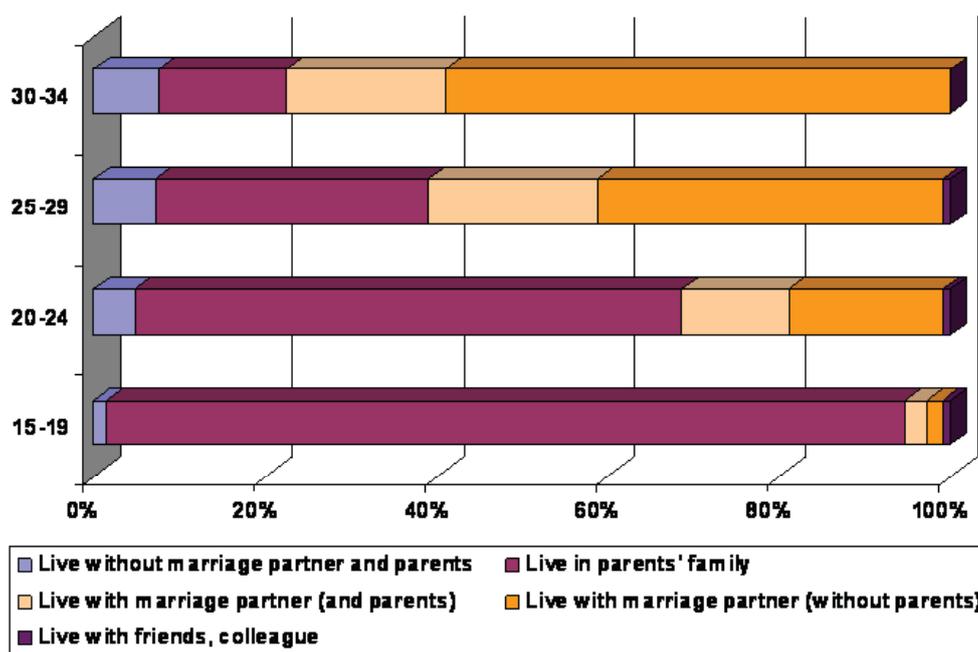
For young people, independent living outside the parents' family and without a marriage partner does not mean loneliness or complete denial of family life: every one out of three respondents (nearly 32%) residing independently lives together with his/her children. These are persons aged 25–34, mostly divorced and sometimes never married females. There are isolated cases of registered long distance marriage and divorced males living with children (rare cases).

82.6% of young people living with a marriage partner as one household already have children in their family. In 96% of cases these are the respondents' children and in 4% of cases – children of respondent's wife/husband. Therefore, these are restructured families formed by remarriage in which a young man or woman faces a difficult task – to love this child as her or his own and to take the place of the child's father or mother (at least partially if the child maintains contacts with his/her father/mother).

Among respondents who are living in their parents' families (without a marriage partner), a little more than 6% live with their children; with age the proportion of such respondents grows: 14.5% in the 25–29 age group and 18.2% in the 30–34 age group. In fact, an incomplete family (usually divorced or never-married mother with a child) lives together with

parents' family. There are isolated cases when such an incomplete family consists of a male and a child.

With age, the proportion of young people living together with a marriage partner grows and among them the percentage of youth living separately from the parents' family grows increasingly today (Fig. 2.15). At the same time, in the 25–29 and 30–34-age groups there is a rather considerable proportion of individuals who, while having own family, live with the parents' family; in the majority of cases the parents' family is a complete family, i.e. consists of father and mother (Table.2.6).



**Fig. 2.15.**  
**Distribution of respondents of different age by type family in which they live, %**

Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

**Table 2.6.**  
**Information about family composition of respondents of different age living with marriage partner, % (April, 2010)**

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	15-34
Respondents living with marriage partner	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
of which:					
living without parents	41.2	59.2	67.2	76.0	68.9
living with one of the parents (own or partner's)	11.7	14.5	15.0	10.5	12.9
living with both parents (own or partner's)	47.1	26.3	17.8	13.5	18.2

Therefore, the process of young married couple’s “moving-out” from the parents’ family is slow and rather difficult; it is slowed down by unsettled housing problems, inability of the majority of the population to buy or lease dwellings and total imbalance between prices on the housing market and real income of young as well as elder people. Many social and demographic surveys show that an unsettled housing problem is one of the main factors of delayed marriage and childbearing.

The majority of young people who live in their parents’ family after getting married do this under the influence of circumstances. Only 4% of young persons support the idea of parents and adult children living together as one family, irrespective of children’s marital status, and 27% believe that they should live together before children get married. The majority of youth said that the best living arrangement is to live separately from the parents (Table 2.7).

**Table 2.7.**

**Opinions of young people about the most appropriate living arrangements for parents and adult children, % (April 2009)**

	% of respondents indicating the most appropriate living arrangement for parents and adult children:			
	living together as one family in one dwelling	living together before children get married	living separately irrespective of the distance	living separately but not far from each other
15-19	5.4	29.3	37.1	28.2
20-24	3.7	23.5	31.1	41.7
25-29	3.5	24.7	28.9	42.9
30-34	4.0	31.0	22.5	42.5
15-34	4.2	27.0	29.8	39.0

Source: based on data of sample social and demographic survey “Family and Family Relations” (April, 2009)

At the same time, the fact that a significant proportion of young people suggested living separately from the parents but not far from them as the best living arrangement shows that an intention to be independent and a desire to maintain family ties go hand in hand, i.e. in the majority of cases the relations of the generations which belong to one family and reside separately do not disappear altogether but change into another, more convenient and flexible form. It may be assumed that a

nuclear family becomes the foundation upon which new forms of integration of different generations are built and sometimes this integration is very close. These conclusions about transformation of family relationship types were made by Western researches in 1970s – 1980s<sup>13</sup>. In Ukraine, parents traditionally helped their children after they got married, especially with care of small children. However, in the market environment the forms of inter-generation family cooperation in Ukraine undergo some changes and these changes require further study.

### **2.3. Fertility and childbearing preferences of youth in Ukraine**

Changes in the intensity of births in Ukraine are observed in all age groups of women of childbearing age. Fig. 2.16 shows a sharp decline of age-specific birth rates of women aged 15–24 throughout 1990s. Over 1992–2001, fertility rates of women aged 18–20 dropped almost twice. At the same time it should be emphasized that before 1995, the birth rate of teenage girls grew despite total drop in fertility. In 1994–1995, teenage fertility rate was the highest for the last four decades and reached 22.1‰, then dropped sharply to 11.2‰ in 2001 and stayed at that level during five years but rose up to 13.1‰ in 2008. In 1990s childbearing intensity of women aged 25–34 also declined but this decline was slower.

Starting from 2002, a growth in childbearing activity was observed in Ukraine in general, however, this growth was unevenly distributed among different age groups of women. Changes occurring in the groups of women of younger childbearing age were insignificant as compared with the rise in childbearing activity of women aged 25–34. Therefore, in 2009, as against 2001, the birth rate of women aged 25–29 grew by 1.5 times and childbearing intensity of women aged 30–34 grew almost twice over this period. It should be noted that in 2009 the total growth of the number of

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13 Семья и общество. – М.: Наука, 1982, с. 42-44.

births was the lowest over the whole period of fertility growth (1.9 thousand children) and was due to childbearing activity of women aged over 25. Unfortunately, the increase in the number of children born to mothers aged 25–34 did not counterbalance decline in the number of births of younger childbearing groups and that is why the women aged 15–34 showed fertility decline, as compared with 2008, while in the prior years (2006–2008) these women accounted for nearly 88% of total growth in the number of births. The reduction in the number of births in 2009 resulted, mostly, from declining childbearing activity of women aged 15–24 (their proportion in population changed insignificantly). Childbearing intensity of women aged 25–34 continued to grow but at a lower growth rate (Table 2.8).

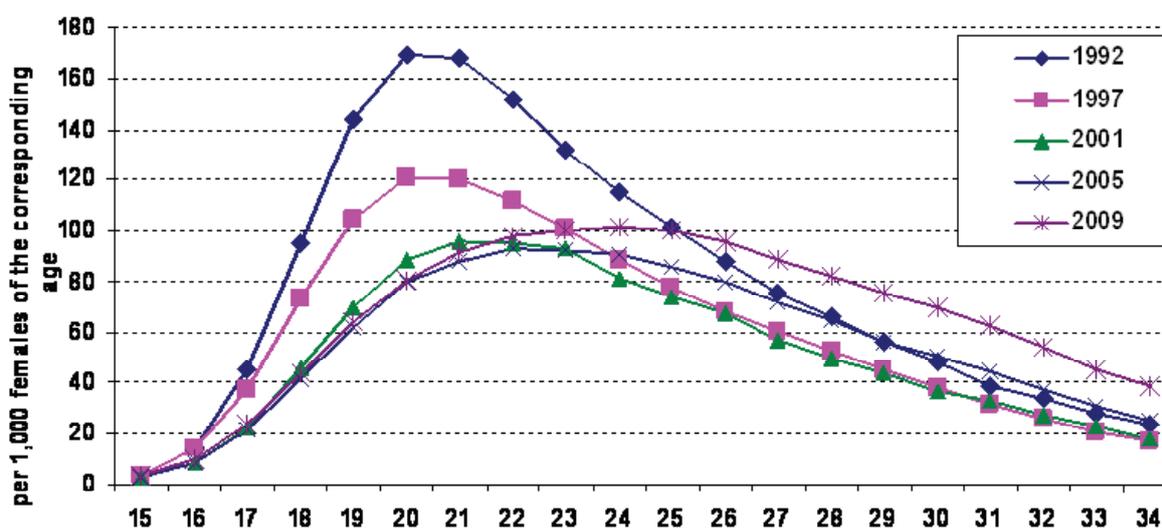


Fig. 2.16. Age-specific birth rates of young women in 1992, 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2009, %

Uneven rates of changes result in re-distribution of the contribution of different female age groups to the total fertility rate. While in 2000 young women aged 15–24 accounted for 57.2% of total fertility, in 2009 their contribution dropped to 42.7%. In contrast to that, in the first decade of the XXI century the percentage of birth rates of women aged 25–34 in the total fertility rate grows continuously: from 38.0% in 2000 to 48.6% in 2009. In general, the proportion of children born to women aged 15–34 gradually declines: 91.7% in 2009 as against 94.7% in 2001. This tendency confirms that a new model of age-specific fertility has already been formed in

Ukraine and it is characterized by an increased contribution of older age groups of mothers and reduced contribution of younger mothers into the total fertility rate resulting in the so-called “ageing” of fertility.

**Table 2.8.**

**Age-specific birth rates in Ukraine in 2001–2009, ‰**

	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34
Birth rates, ‰				
2001	29.2	90.7	58.7	27.6
2002	29.2	91.3	62.7	30.2
2003	29.0	92.3	67.1	33.0
2004	29.6	93.4	70.6	35.4
2005	28.6	88.8	71.7	37.7
2006	29.5	92.2	79.4	42.7
2007	30.3	92.2	81.3	45.4
2008	32.0	97.5	87.8	51.1
2009	31.0	94.6	88.8	54.1
Growth rates, %				
2008 to 2007	105.6	105.7	108.0	112.6
2009 to 2008	97.0	97.1	101.2	105.9
2009 to 2001	106.3	104.3	151.4	196.0

Source: calculations based on statistic data of the State Statistics Committee

Unfortunately, real distribution of women by age and number of biological live born children may be obtained only based on the population census. But the last census was held in Ukraine in 2001. Over the period 2001–2009 significant changes occurred in the demographic situation of the country, mostly resulting from increase childbirth rate. The number of births in 2009 (512.5 thousand children) exceeded the respective indicator for year 2001 by 36.1%. There was also a change in fertility distribution by birth order. While in 2001 the proportion of first-order births was 62.4%, second-order births – 29.4% and third-order births – 5.4%, in 2009 these proportions were 56.5%, 33.6% and 7.1%, respectively. Given that in 2009 the growth in the number of newborns resulted from the increase in the number of second- and next-order births, with a significant drop in the number of first-order births (down more than 10 thousand births), the trend towards structural transformation of fertility, in particular, towards a declining number of first-order births and a growing number of

second- and next-order births is likely to continue in the future.

The period 2001–2009 was characterized both by significant variation of fertility distribution by birth order in urban and rural areas (for example, the percentage of first-order births in urban area considerably exceeded the same figure for the rural – 60.2% and 49.5%, respectively (Table 2.9)) and by pronounced disparity in the rates of structural changes in fertility across different types of settlements. This inter-settlement gap is to a certain extent result more rapid changes in fertility of women residing in urban settlements. Thus, in 2009 as compared with 2001 the number of second-order births in the group of females aged 15–34 in urban area grew by 72.2% and in rural area – by 21.8%; over this period, the number of third-order births by young females in urban area grew twice, while in rural area – by 1.5 times (Fig. 2.9).

Table 2.9.

Birth order structure in urban and rural areas in Ukraine, 2009, %

Age groups	Urban			Rural		
	First	Second	Third and next	First	Second	Third and next
15–19	92.9	6.5	0.6	88.6	10.6	0.9
20–24	80.0	17.7	2.3	64.2	29.3	6.5
25–29	53.9	39.5	6.5	30.7	47.3	22.0
30–34	27.3	56.7	16.1	13.0	43.4	43.5
Total 15–34	60.2	33.2	6.7	49.5	34.4	16.2

Source: calculations based on statistic data of the State Statistics Committee

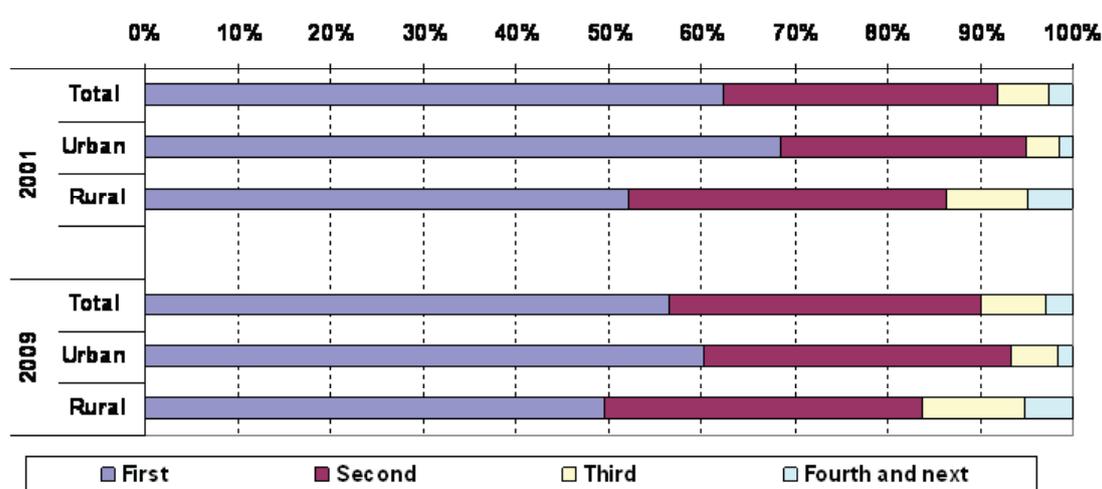


Fig. 2.17. Birth order structure in urban and rural areas in Ukraine in 2001 and 2009, %

In general, urban residents are more sensitive to all changes in social life. This factor may explain why mostly urban area accounted for a decline in the number of first-order births by 80.4% in 2009 as a population's response to the financial crisis which pronouncedly manifested itself in Ukraine in the second half of 2008. Given an increasing spread of the childbirth planning practice and preference for a small family with few children, young people delay childbearing until more favorable times. A decline in the first-order births in cities was so sweeping that a rise in the second- and next-order birth rates could not counterbalance it and, as a result, in 2009 total fertility in urban area dropped. The reduction of the number of first births also resulted in a decline in fertility of youth in urban area, with this decline also covering second-order births in the groups of younger females of childbearing age.

Given the unavailability of updated statistical data and in view of the inexpediency to use the materials dated last decade, information obtained in the course of special social and demographic surveys gains special significance. So, materials of the survey "Youth of Ukraine" show how many children the respondents already have.

***Distribution of respondents by the number of living children.*** The largest proportion of young respondents had no children at the time of the survey (58.6%); about 28% of all respondents had one child, 11.5% had two children and only 2% had three and more children. Naturally, the proportion of respondents without children in the older age groups gradually decreased. Here, gender disproportions in the number of living children are clearly manifested: the percentage of respondents without children among young males significantly exceeded that among females (69.4% and 47.6%, respectively). 34.5% of female respondents aged 20–24 had one child, while the percentage of males with one child in this age group was 10.0%. In the oldest group of young females (age 30–34), 13.3% had no children, with respective percentage of males being twice as high (Table 2.10). One of the factors determining this disparity is different age of males and females at marriage. So, average age at marriage of male respondents calculated on the basis of survey materials exceeded the same indicator for female respondents by two years.

Table 2.10.

**Distribution of respondents by gender, age groups and number of living children, %**

Age groups	No children	One child	Two children	Three children	Four and more children	Total
<b>Females</b>						
15–19	96.2	3.3	0.5	0	0	100
20–24	59.7	34.5	5.3	0.5	0	100
25–29	28.4	52.2	17.4	2.0	0	100
30–34	13.3	45.5	33.5	6.2	1.5	100
Total females 15–34	47.6	35.3	14.6	2.2	0.3	100
<b>Males</b>						
15–19	99.6	0.4	0	0	0	100
20–24	89.2	10.0	0.4	0.4	0	100
25–29	60.3	29.8	8.8	0.7	0.4	100
30–34	27.5	42.5	26.1	3.5	0.4	100
Total males 15–34	69.4	20.7	8.5	1.1	0.3	100

Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

In addition to the gender-specific variations in the number of living children, there is also a significant difference across settlements. Thus, among female respondents aged 25–29 in rural area, every one out of ten has no children yet, as against every one out of five rural residents without children. In rural area, the proportion of females aged 25–29 with two children by 1.6 times exceeded the same proportion among females in urban area. The proportion of females with two children among respondents aged 30–34 in rural area was twice as high as among urban female residents of the same age (Table 2.11).

Table 2.11.

**Distribution of female respondents by type of settlement, age groups and number of living children, %**

Age groups	Urban				Rural			
	No children	One child	Two children	Three and more children	No children	One child	Two children	Three and more children
15–19	97.0	3.0	0	0	94.8	3.7	1.5	0
20–24	62.7	33.5	3.8	0	51.2	37.5	9.4	1.9
25–29	31.2	52.5	14.9	1.4	20.8	51.5	24.3	3.4
30–34	15.1	51.5	25.8	7.6	8.5	29.6	54.1	7.8
15–34	48.9	37.1	11.7	2.3	44.1	30.5	22.1	3.3

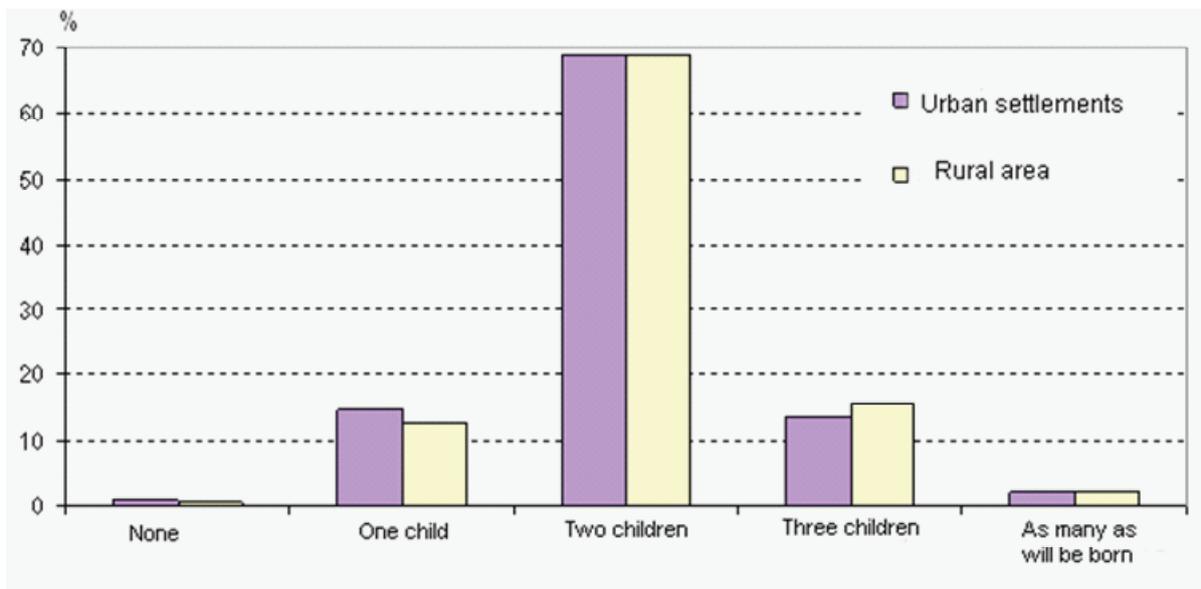
Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

The mentioned discrepancies are mostly explained by the fact that women residing in rural area start their childbearing activity earlier than urban female residents. The average age of mother at birth of the first child in rural area which we calculated on the basis of current statistical materials was by 1.7 years lower than in urban area; age at birth of the second child – by 2.7 years. Other surveys show that the type of settlement “is a determining factor for first- and second-order births, but for next-order births it is not so important”<sup>14</sup>. To a certain extent, this thesis is confirmed by results of our survey, since the proportions of women aged 30–34 with three and more children were almost the same in urban and rural areas (Table 2.11).

Based on materials of the survey “Youth of Ukraine” we established that the average spacing between the first- and the second-order births of female respondents who had two children at the moment of the survey is 4.8 years in urban area but in rural area this figure is lower – 4.0 years. Across the young respondents aged 15–34 with children, the average age at first birth was 22.2 years for females and for males – 24.2 years; the average age of mother at second birth was 25.6 years and of father – 27.3 years. Across the total population of females, in 2009 the average age of mother at first birth was 25.3 years and 28.6 years at second birth; calculations were made based on data of the current state statistics.

***Ideal number of children in the family.*** The ideal number of children is the number of children which is most appropriate, in respondent’s opinion, for the family and for a child irrespective of preferences and plans of respondent. 68.7% of young respondents associated the ideal family with a two-child family. The proportions of respondents who suggested that the ideal family is a one-child family and who believed that the best option is to have three children were almost the same (14.1% and 14.2%, respectively). Only 2.2% of respondents expressed an opinion that the ideal modern family should have at least four children. Distribution of responses of urban and rural residents concerning the ideal number of children in the family does not show significant variations (Fig. 2.18).

14 Сім’я в умовах становлення незалежної України (2001–2003 роки): Державна доповідь про становище сімей в Україні (за підсумками 2003 р.). – К.: Державний ін-т проблем сім’ї та молоді, 2004. – Р. 68

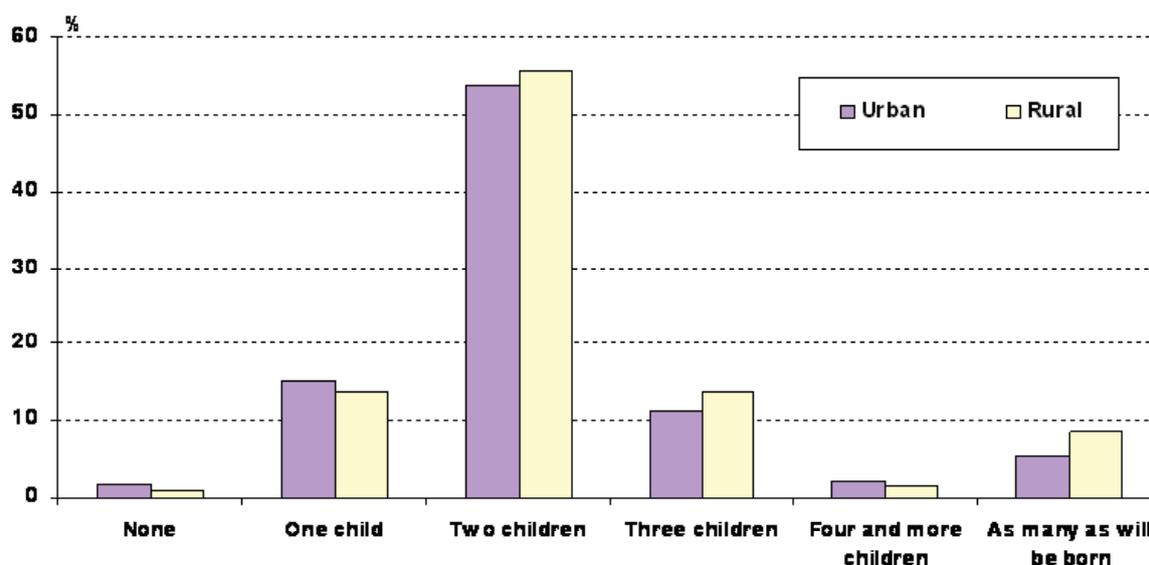


**Fig. 2.18.**  
**Distribution of responses of urban and rural residents concerning the ideal number of children in the family, %**

Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

**Desired number of children.** The desired number of children is the number of children a respondent would like to have if necessary conditions were available, depending only on the respondent's personal preferences and irrespective of his/her specific life circumstances (first of all, material well-being) and personal biography.

The largest group of respondents said they would like to have two children if appropriate conditions were available (54.2%). About 15% of respondents mentioned they would prefer to have only one child if such conditions existed; 11.9% said they would like to have three children and an insignificant proportion (2.0%) – four and more children. A large group of respondents were unable to give a clear answer to the question about the desired number of children – those respondents said that if appropriate conditions were available, they would have “*as many children as will be born*” (6.3%) and 9.1% of respondents said they “*do not know*” how many children they would like to have, although they planned to limit the number of children in their family. As compared with young residents of cities, youth in rural area more often expressed an intention to have two or three children or not to limit the number of children at all provided that appropriate conditions were available (Fig. 2.19).



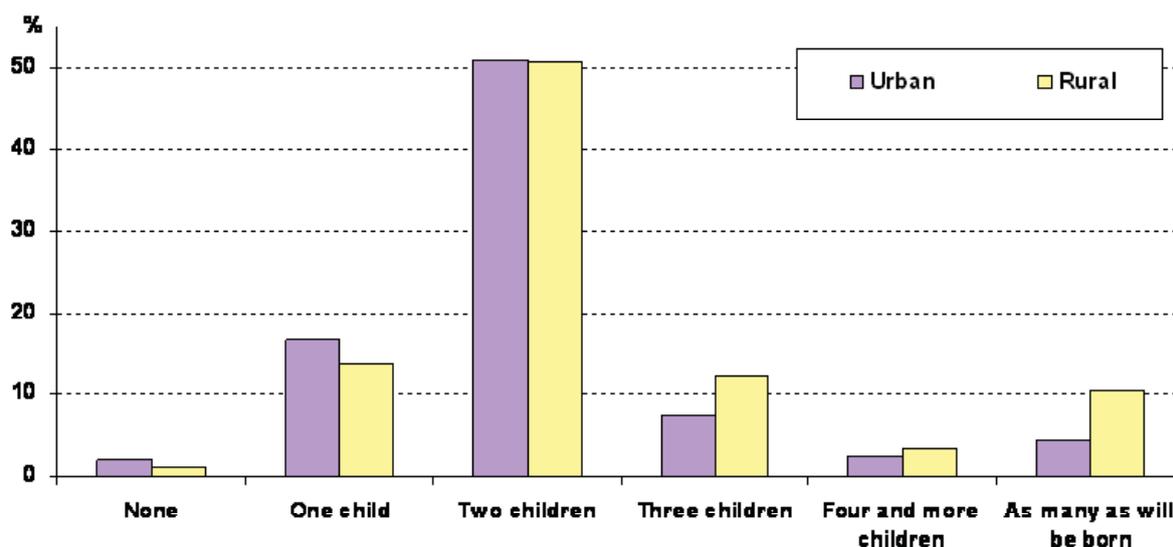
**Fig. 2.19.**  
**Distribution of answers of respondents by the desired number of children, %**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

**Planned number of children.** The planned (or expected) number of children as the characteristic of a person’s childbearing behaviour represents the number of children this person plans (expects) to have before expiration of his\her childbearing period considering his\her specific life circumstances, including financial resources and well-being, and personal preferences. Therefore, unlike *ideal* and *desired* number of children, the indicator *planned number of children* is more specific, although it may be considerably different from the real number of children that a respondent will have during his/her life.

Results of social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine” show that half of respondents from urban area as well as from rural area plan to have two children. Under the existing circumstances, 16.7% of urban residents and 13.6% of rural residents would like to have one child. As compared with urban dwellers, rural residents were to a greater extent inclined to have three and four or more children – 12.4% and 3.5%, respectively, as against 7.5% of urban residents who wanted three children and only 2.6% who wanted four and more children. Respondents in rural area said they do not intend to limit the number of children in their families and plan to have “*as many children as will be born*” twice as often as respondents in

urban area (Fig. 2.20).



**Fig. 2.20.**  
**Distribution of answers of respondents by the planned number of children, %**

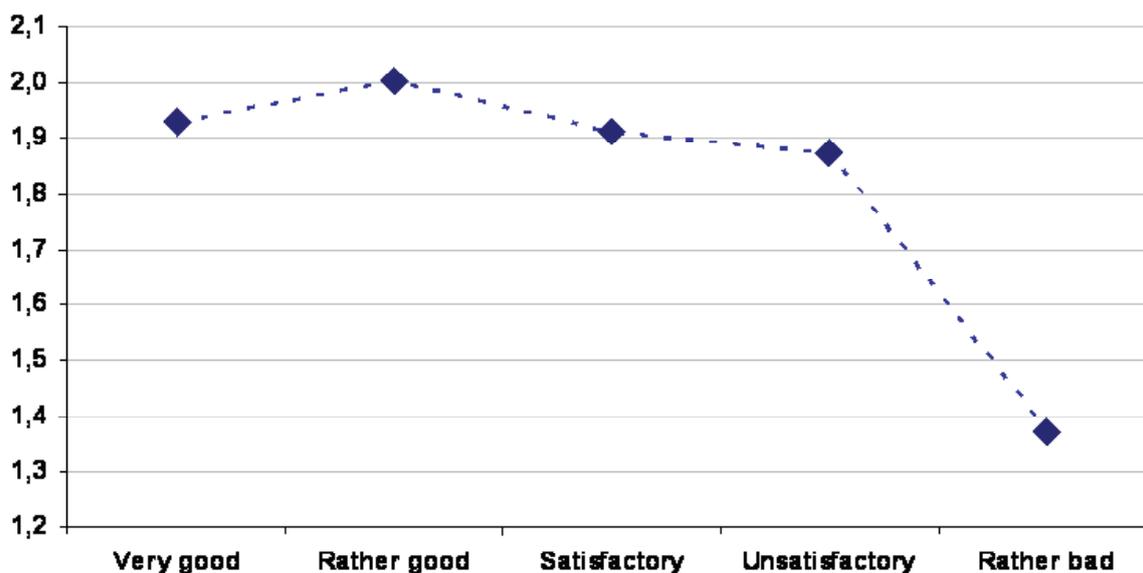
Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

The average planned number of children of young women was 2.00 children, with a slightly lower number for men being 1.91 children. As expected, this figure was higher for respondents from rural area as compared with respondents from urban area – 2.06 and 1.92 children, respectively.

Young people mentioned *health* as one of the most important value. The condition of health was also mentioned as the most important factor determining an individual’s readiness for motherhood/fatherhood. So, it would be logical to assume that childbearing plans of respondents depend on their assessment of own health. This survey to a certain degree confirmed this assumption: the average number of children of respondents who assessed own health as “*rather good*” was 2.00 children, respondents with *satisfactory* state of health planned 1.91 children on the average and respondents with *unsatisfactory* health – 1.87 children; respondents who characterized the condition of own health as “*rather bad*” considerably differed from the above-mentioned groups, with the average number of children being 1.37 (Fig. 2.21).

The survey discovered a certain interrelation between respondent’s occupation – *whether he or she studies, is employed or unemployed* –

and his/her childbearing intentions. It may be that uncertain life plans (in particular, occupational ones) of those who study or combine job and studies (extramural or evening-time study) have an impact on the average planned number of children, especially among males, who are more inclined to be guided by social characteristics in assessing own readiness for fatherhood as compared with females.



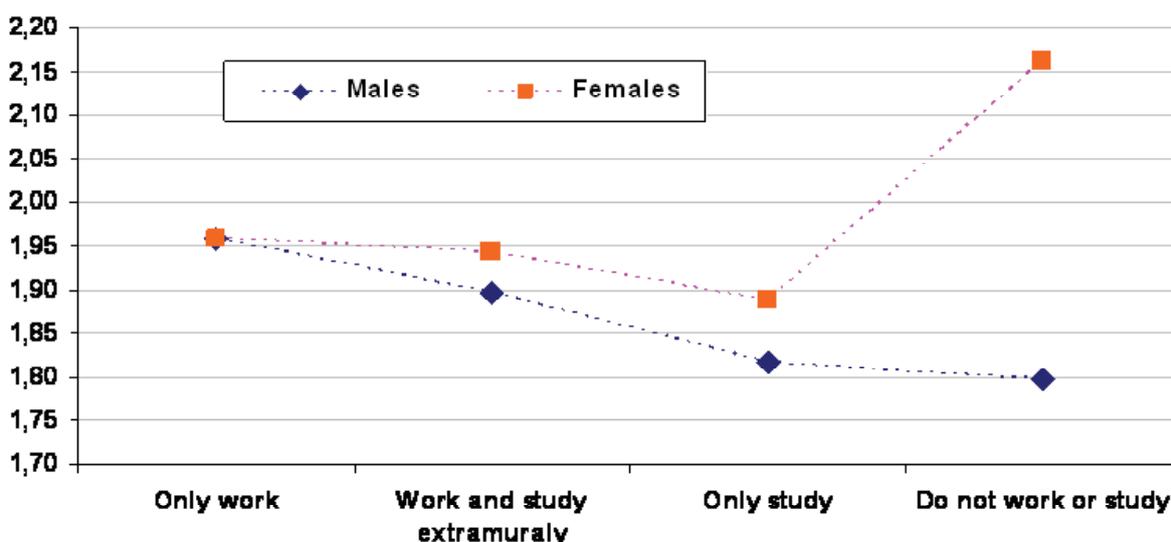
**Fig. 2.21.**  
**Average planned number of children depending on respondent's assessment of own health.**

Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

Men who were not employed and didn't study more often than other prefer to have only one child in their family. At the same time it is worth mentioning that this group has the largest proportion of males who were undecided as to their childbearing intentions, in contrast to females who were not employed and didn't study as they most probably saw their self-realization in motherhood, demonstrating the highest average planned number of children (Fig. 2.22).

Another sample social and demographic survey – "Family and Family Relations, 2009" – showed that the factors determining childbearing decision of women both younger and older reproductive age, along with such factors as "state of mother's health", "both parents desire to have a child", also included "stable employment of the father". Therefore, 79.3% of women aged 18–29 characterized this factor as "very important", 16.6%

mentioned it as “rather important” and 4.1% said it was “not important”. It should be mentioned that “confidence that birth of child will not affect mother’s career” as a factor determining decision to have child was mentioned as “very important” by 46.1% of young women, “rather important” by 25.8%, with every one out of five women aged 18–29 believing that such confidence is not mandatory for childbearing decision and another 8.0% assessing this factor as “absolutely insignificant”. Therefore, the majority of young women prefer to combine career and motherhood but certain proportion of women see their sense of life in children – for them professional skills is not the top priority but stable employment of child’s father as the main breadwinner in the family becomes increasingly important. On the one part, according to social expectations a man should be able to maintain and support his family but, on the other part, unavailability of appropriate job opportunities lowers his self-esteem affecting a man’s childbearing plans.



**Fig. 2.22.**  
**Average planned number of children depending on respondents' occupation**  
 Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

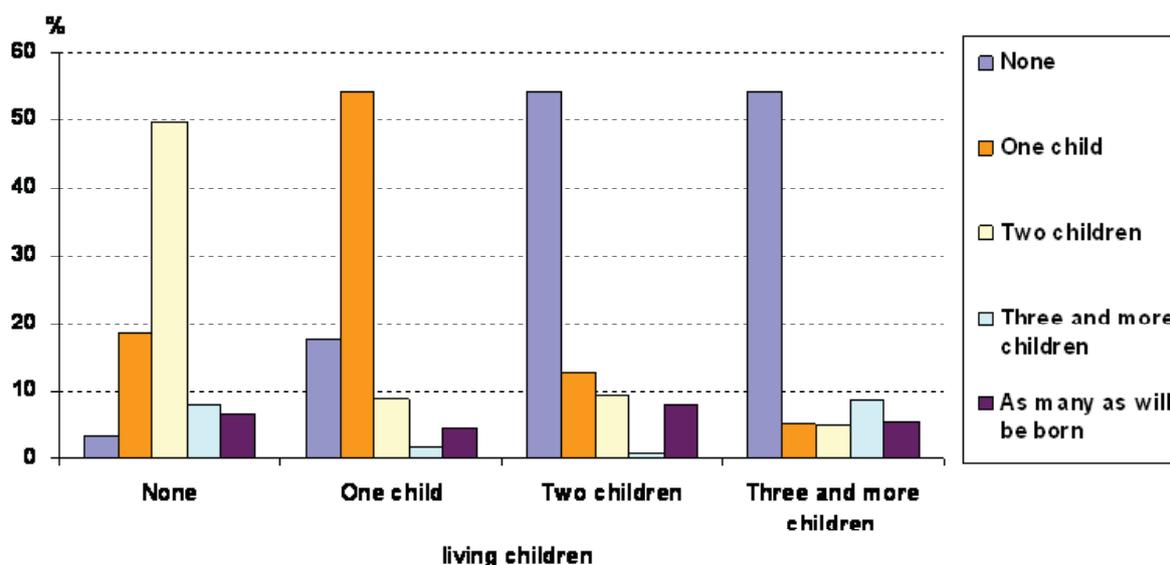
**Expected more number of children.** Along with the question about planned number of children, respondents were asked about the number of *expected more number of children* except the children already born. The number of living children was the strongest factor determining further childbearing plans, so, it would be expedient to analyze the variations in

answers depending on the number of respondents' children.

Distribution of answers given by respondents without any children at the moment of the survey was similar to general distribution of answers concerning *planned number of children*: almost a half of these respondents would like to have two children, 18.4% plan to have one child, and this proportion considerably exceeding the proportion of respondents preferring a family with many children (with three and more children). Among respondents with one child, 17.7% intended to stop their child-bearing activity, 54.3% planned to have another child, 8.8% – two children (i.e. to have a family with three children) and mere 1.6% mentioned they would like to have another three children (i.e. to have four children in total). Among respondents with two children, 54.2% already fulfilled their childbearing plans (it should be mentioned that the same proportion of respondents with three children indicated they have completed their childbearing plans), 12.7% said they would like to have a family with three children and thus planned more child; two more children were planned by 9.3% of respondents and 1% said they would like to have three more children (Fig. 2.23). It is indicative that irrespective of the number of living children, in these groups the proportion of respondents answering “*as many as will be born*” was almost the same. This confirms the assumption that the experience of growing two or three children has almost no effect on the plans of individuals who do not intend to limit the number of children in their families.

Among all young respondents, 71.7% planned to have a child, 14.0% were undecided about the number of another children they would like to have, however, those respondents, on the one part, did not say they totally excluded the possibility of having (an)other child(ren) and, on the other part, they did not say they planned to have “*as many children as will be born*”. Among those who wanted at least one more child, 45.2% intended to realize this intention ***within the next three years*** (35.3% of all respondents). In this group the proportions of respondents intending to have one more child and another two children were almost equal (41.3% and 41.8%, respectively); 7.7% would like to have another three or more children. It is

to some extent surprising that less than a half of respondents desiring three more children expressed an intention to start the realization of their childbearing plans in the nearest three years. However, the fact that only 3.2% of respondents could not clearly answer the question about whether they plan to have a child in the nearest three years may indicate that young people accepted the practice of family planning (at least, in the short-term perspective).



**Fig. 2.23.**  
**Distribution of respondents by the number of expected more children depending on the number of born children, %**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

Marital status of respondents is a significant determining factor of childbearing in the nearest three years. Among young never-married respondents almost 27% nevertheless plan to birth a child in the nearest three years (their plans most probably include getting married in a short time). Every nine out of ten respondents in a registered marriage mentioned they are ready to have a child in the next three years and the same intention was expressed by every six out of ten respondents with cohabiting partner. On the one part, significant variations in the short-term plans of married and cohabiting respondents indicate that young people do not regard these forms of marriage relations as equal. Special sample social and demographic survey of the childbearing-age population “Family and Children, 2008” showed that “in the majority of cases cohabitation is a trial

stage before officially registered marriage, especially for young people”<sup>15</sup>, and, therefore, the couple may delay having a child until their marriage is officially registered or until they feel more confident about their relationship. On the other part, only 42.7% planned to have a child in the group of respondents who have a steady sexual partner but characterize their family status as “*never married*”. So, if a cohabiting couple regards its relations as officially unregistered marriage, their intention to have a child is stronger.

Age of children is the factor determining the childbearing plans of respondents who already have an experience of parenthood. 56.0% of parents who had one child of preschool age but planned two children expressed an intention to have another child in the nearest three years. If the child was of the primary school age (6-9 years old), the proportion of respondents planning another child in the next three years rose almost to 65%, and if the child was of the middle school age, this proportion rose to 70%.

Current official statistics show that in 2009 20.5% of young women (age 15–34) had a child outside marriage. This percentage is slightly less than a respective figure for all women (21.2%). In rural area, the proportion of children born to young women who were not in registered marriage exceeded a respective proportion for urban area (21.7% and 19.9%, respectively). However, we can assume that a certain percentage of “out-of-wedlock” children were born in full families and will be raised by mother and by father who for some reasons delay official registration of their relationship. The state statistics do not give any data on consensual marriages. This gap is partially filled by social and demographic surveys. So, according to results of survey “Youth of Ukraine”, 7.5% of respondents with children mentioned that they are in unregistered marriage (cohabiting) (8.4% in urban and 5.5% in rural area). Among all female respondents with children only 3.8% said they were never married. There were 89 children per every 100 women who were in registered marriage at the moment of the survey; 64 children per every 100 women who said they were cohabiting; and 79 children per every 100 divorced women.

15 Шлюб, сім'я та дітородні орієнтації в Україні. – К.: АДЕФ-Україна, 2008. – Р. 104.

Respondents were asked their opinion about the **age before which a woman / a man is too young to become a mother / a father**. 11.6% of all respondents indicated that at the age of 14–16 a woman is too young to become a mother; this opinion is supported by another 5.6% of respondents believing that the age of 17 is also too young for motherhood. One out of every four respondents suggested that full age should be the age limit until which a woman should be deemed too young to have a child. Almost one third of respondents were convinced that in this sense the age of 19–20 is a turning point; 22.2% of respondents believed that women aged 21–25 are still not ready for motherhood and another 1.2% extended this period till the age of 30. As for the age of men before which they are too young to become a father, 23.8% of respondents of both genders said an under-age man is not ready for parenthood. One out of every five young respondents believed that the age under 20 is too young for a man to become a father. In the opinion of respondents, another “age landmark” marking a man’s readiness for the role of a father is the age of 25 (19.7%). In general, the age of readiness for fatherhood indicated by respondents was higher than for motherhood. Finally, the age indicated by 65% of respondents as the age until which a man is too young to become a father was higher than the same age for a woman (in 73.8% of these answers the difference between these two ages did not exceed 5 years, and in 24.6% it was within the limits of 5–9 years).

Therefore, the survey “Youth of Ukraine” was another confirmation of the peculiarity discovered by prior social and demographic surveys: in Ukraine young people mostly tend towards a two-child family. At the time of the survey, every one out of ten respondents with clear childbearing preferences was sure he/she would not be able to have the desired number of children, other young people hoped they would be able to fully realize his/her intention to have a certain number of children, other young respondents hoped they would have the opportunity to realize their desire to have a certain number of children to a certain extent. Almost a half of respondents who have not stopped their childbearing activity plan to have a child in the next three years.

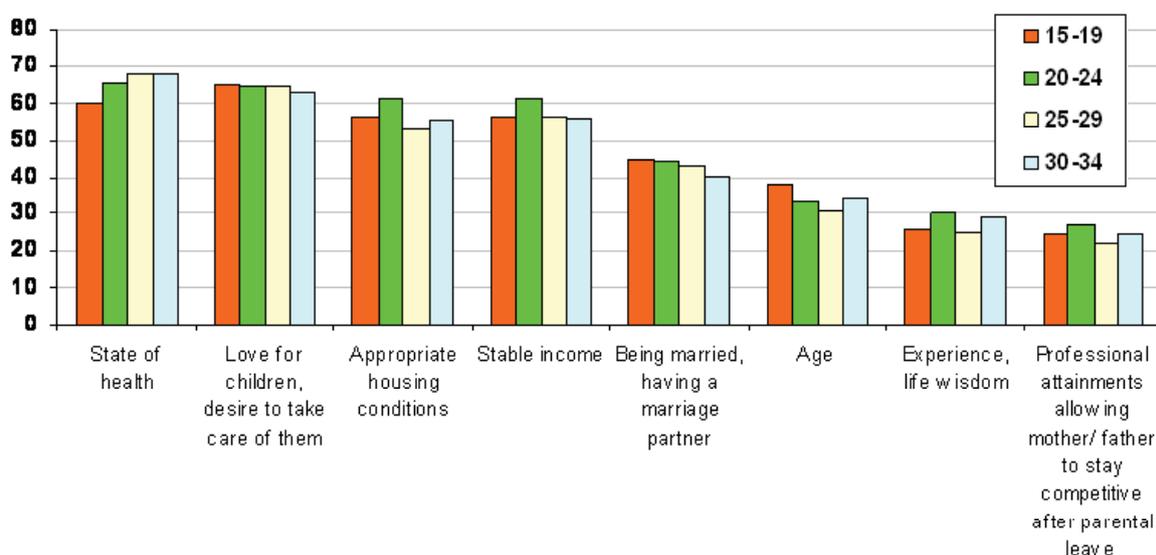
## 2.4. Factors determining a decision to have a child

In addition to finding out reproductive intentions of youth, it is also important to establish the factors which had or could have an impact on respondent's decision to have a certain number of children in his/her family (actual or hypothetical). Examination of these factors is crucial for policy makers in the demographic sector. The demographic situation may be considerably improved in terms of fertility by facilitating the factors which encourage to have more children and preventing the factors which hinder full realization of childbearing intentions.

**Readiness for motherhood / fatherhood.** Birth planning is spreading among young families of Ukraine and becomes a common practice for them. In this context it is important to find out how, in the opinion of modern youth, readiness for the next stage of their life – having a child – can be established and which factors are first of all taken into attention by young people when they determine the time for realization of their childbearing plans. Respondents were asked to assess some factors which to a certain extent have an impact on childbearing decision-making using the scale “*crucial*”, “*important*”, “*has no influence*”; answer “*it is difficult to say*” was also allowed. In the ranking of respondents' answers, **state of health** was most often mentioned as “*crucial*”. Almost 2/3 of respondents put it on the top; another 31.1% believed this factor to be *important* and only 1.9% suggested that state of health has no impact of the readiness for parenthood. The frequency of mentioning this factor as “*crucial*” for entering the new stage of life – the stage of being a mother or a father – increased with age of respondents (Fig. 2.24). Along with assessing parents' health as highly important for having a child, respondents did not associate it with **age** as a “*crucial*” factor determining readiness for parenthood: 15% of respondents suggested age does not make a person ready for parenthood.

The second place in the rating of factors assessed as “*crucial*” was **love for children, desire to take care of them**: 64.1% of respondents characterized this factor as fundamental for being ready to motherhood /

fatherhood. 32.4% of respondents, although they considered this factor “*crucial*”, rated it as “*important*”. 2.3% of respondents saw no connection between readiness for having a child and love for children. Surprisingly, the proportion of respondents indicating **love for children** as a *crucial* factor was the largest among the youngest age group (age 15–19); they placed it at the top of the “rating”, above state of health. It is worth mentioning that women gave higher assessment to **state of health** and **love for children, desire to take care of them** in terms of readiness for parenthood than men. At the same time, men to a larger extent associated their readiness for fatherhood with “**appropriate housing conditions**” and “**stable income**”. Young men regard this factor as *crucial* as love for children.



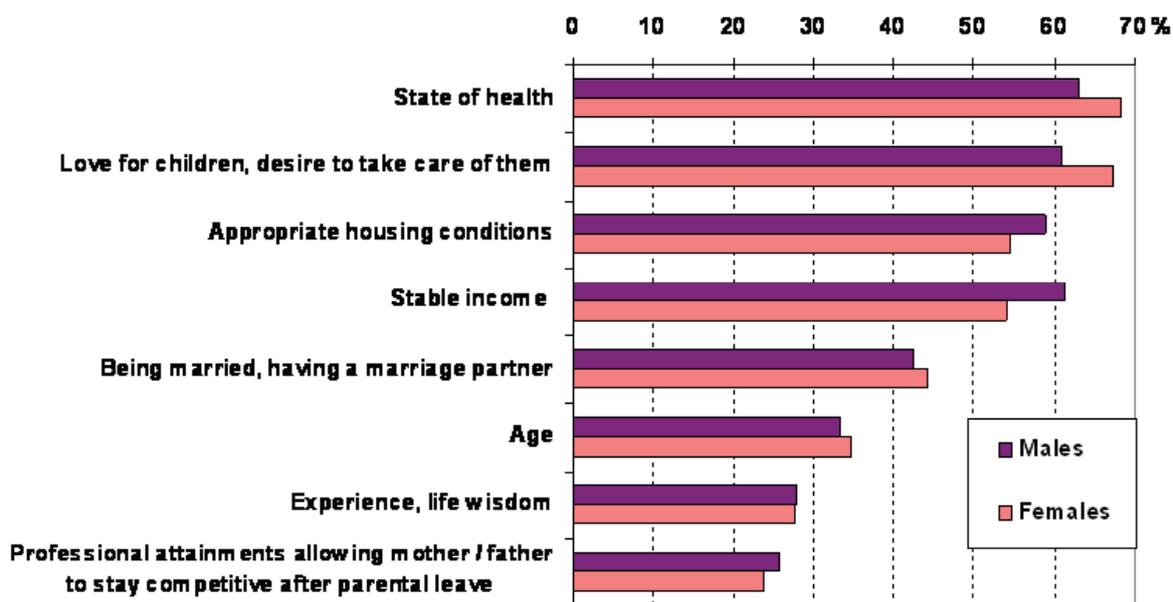
**Fig. 2.24.**  
**Proportions of respondents from different age groups who characterized the mentioned factors as “*crucial*” for readiness for motherhood / fatherhood, %**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

**Being married, having a marriage partner** 43.2% of respondents characterized this factor as crucial for motherhood / fatherhood; 14.0% indicated it had no impact on readiness for having a child. This distribution of responses to a certain extent reflects tolerant attitude of youth towards childbearing outside marriage.

Our survey gave an unexpected result: while plans to get education and make certain steps towards building a carrier before having children are

increasingly spread among youth, only a quarter of respondents assessed the factor of *professional attainments allowing a mother or a father to stay competitive after parental leave* as “crucial” in terms of readiness for parenthood; the same number of respondents believe this factor has no impact on childbearing decision-making (Fig. 2.25).



**Fig. 2.25.**  
**Respondents’ answers about crucial factors determining readiness for motherhood/fatherhood, %**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

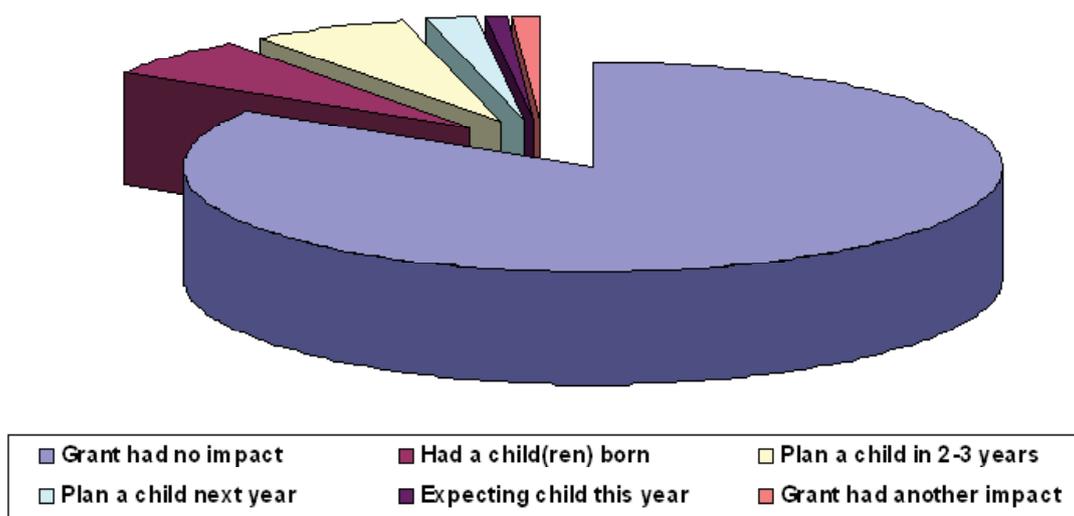
***Impact of pronatalist measures on childbearing behaviour of youth.***

The interrelation between family and youth policies is undoubted: the majority of family policy initiatives are aimed first of all at young people. In recent years, the most significant element of Ukraine’s family policy is childbirth grant; its nature is obviously pronatalist. As almost 5 years have past since the introduction of this grant, it would be expedient to characterize its impact on childbearing intentions. The results of three consecutive surveys allow to ascertain the efficiency of this financial assistance in Ukraine in the context of assessment by young people of the family policy implemented in the country in view of their childbearing plans.

It should be mentioned that it is rather difficult to analyze the efficiency of pronatalist measures and it is hardly possible to give a clear answer whether the increase in birth rate directly results from these measures

(excluding any other factors). It is explained, first of all, by transformation processes in age fertility pattern and, on the other part, by a number of factors of “non-demographic” nature. However, sociological surveys make possible at least approximate assessment of the impact of pronatalist measures on the childbearing activity.

In response to the question about whether introduction of the significant childbirth grant had any impact on their childbearing intentions, only 16% of respondents gave a positive answer (Fig. 2.26).



**Fig. 2.26.**  
**Impact of significant childbirth grant on childbearing plans of young people, %**

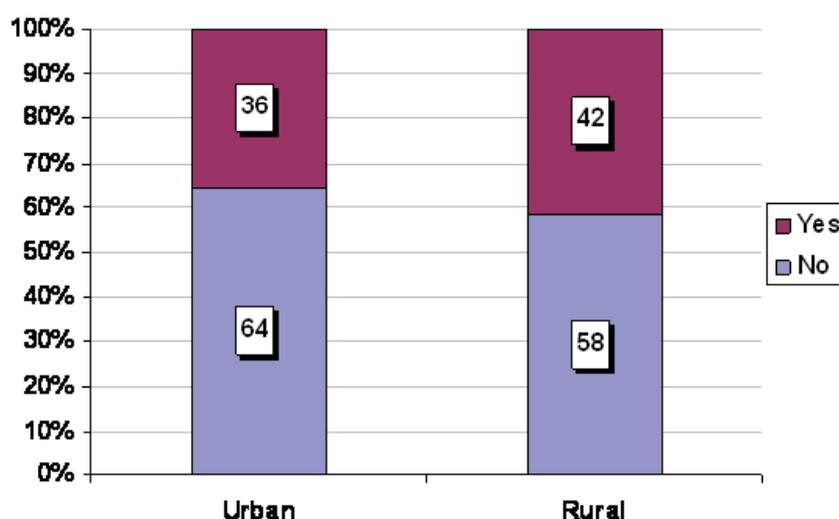
Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

Therefore, a certain proportion of the population feels the effect of financial assistance from the government and adjusts childbearing plans respectively. In the group of respondents who indicated that introduction of significant childbirth grant influenced their intentions, 6% of respondents said they had a child in the period after introduction of the grant; this gives us grounds to maintain that some rise in birth rates in recent years results directly from the fertility promotion policy. It is quite possible that if no grant was paid, financial difficulties would contribute to delaying childbirth or having no children in the family at all. Another 2% of young respondents indicated they plan to have a child next year and 1% of respondents expect a child this year; 6% plan a child in the next 2–3 years. Although the efficiency of this grant is much lower than desired, under

conditions of low fertility even an insignificant rise in birth rate is urgently needed and, thus, justified.

The impact of childbirth grant on childbearing plans of respondents with children was more pronounced: 25% in urban and 27% in rural areas. So, we have another confirmation that rise in birth rate observed in recent years does not exclusively result from the government pronatalist policy, because it had no impact on childbearing plans of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of youth. It should be noted that respondents are young people – individuals who realize their childbearing plans now. It is young people who are the focus of the fertility promotion policy. However, excessive hopes on the efficiency of financial factor and disregard of other factors in total leads to a lower response of the population to measures taken by the government than it was initially expected.

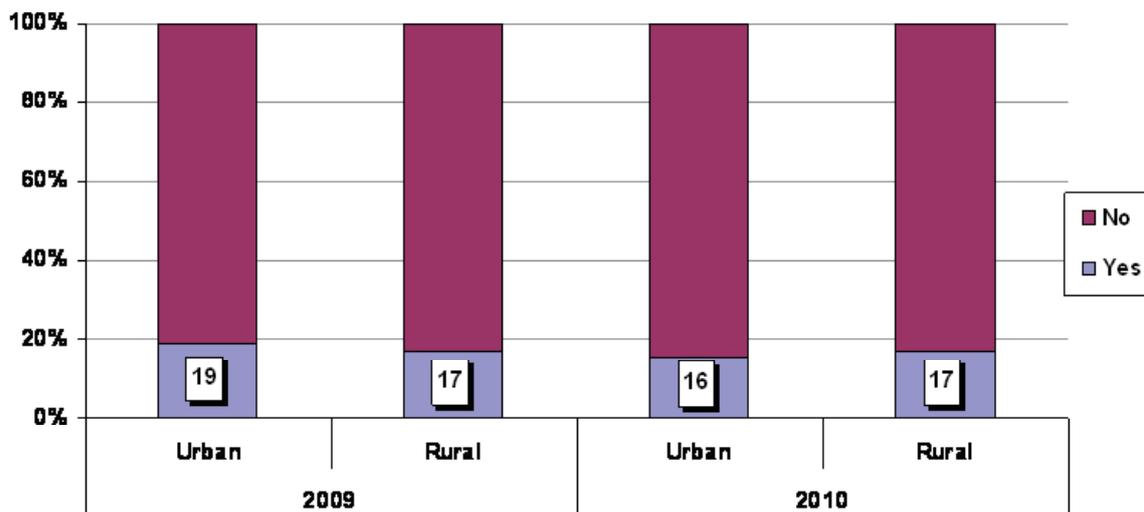
It is also obvious that in rural area the effect of the grant is stronger than in urban area. Low income and high poverty rates of rural residents increase their need for financial assistance. Maybe, for this reason in the group of respondents from rural area who felt the effect of introduction of the childbirth grant the proportion of respondents who had a child was somewhat higher than for urban residents – 42% and 36 %, respectively (Fig. 2.27).



**Fig. 2.27.**  
**Proportion of persons who gave birth to a child after the introduction of significant childbirth grant, among those who reported the effect, %**

Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

In the surveys “Family and Children, 2009” and “Youth of Ukraine, 2010” questions about the impact of the grant on childbearing plans had identical wording – this allows to compare opinions of young respondents and to see changes in attitudes towards the policy triggered by the financial and economic crisis. The results show that the impact on plans of rural residents remained unchanged while in urban settlements there was a decline in the proportion of respondents who indicated that the grant had impact of their childbearing plans (Fig. 2.28). An explanation to this may be that industries concentrated in cities (construction, financial sector, manufacturing etc.) were hit by the crisis most hard. Crisis phenomena in the country’s economy made a certain proportion of youth review their childbearing plans and government grant is no longer a weighty argument for them since it would be impossible to meet all of the needs of a young family with a small child only at the expense of this allowance. There may be a delay in childbearing until certain improvement of own wellbeing, which usually occurs in the context of general stabilization of a country’s economic situation.

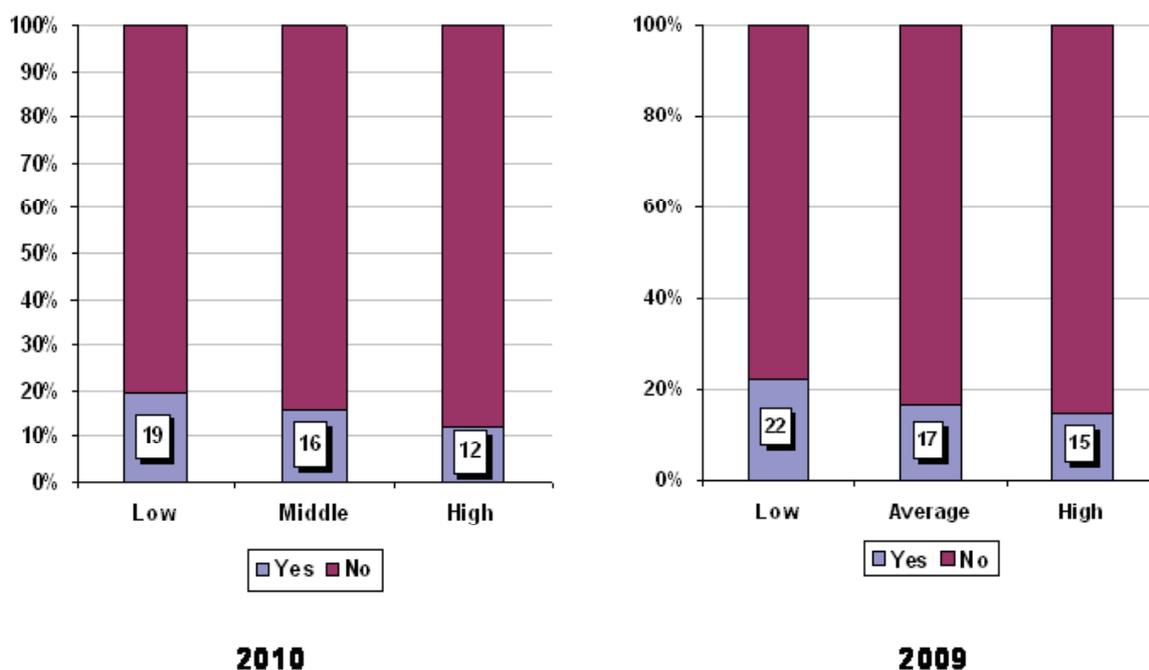


**Fig. 2.28.**  
**Proportion of young respondents whose childbearing plans were influenced by introduction of significant childbearing grant, %**

Source: social and demographic surveys “Family and Children, 2009” and “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

As expected, the effects of the childbearing grant were strongest for respondents who categorized themselves as belonging to the lower than middle social stratum. While among young respondents who charac-

terized their social status as higher than middle only 12% indicated that introduction of significant grant had impact on their plans, a respective percentage among respondents who identified themselves with the middle social stratum was 16%. In the group of respondents who characterized themselves as belonging to the lower than middle social stratum the percentage of respondents who gave a positive answer to the question whether the grant had any effect on their childbearing plans was even higher – 19% (Fig. 2.29). Since identification of own place in social strata most often is conditional on an individual’s well-being, most probably, the persons who identify themselves with the low social stratum feel the strongest shortage of financial resources for realization of their intention to have a child. For the most part, financial assistance had a positive impact on realization of an intention to have a child among representatives of poor population strata.



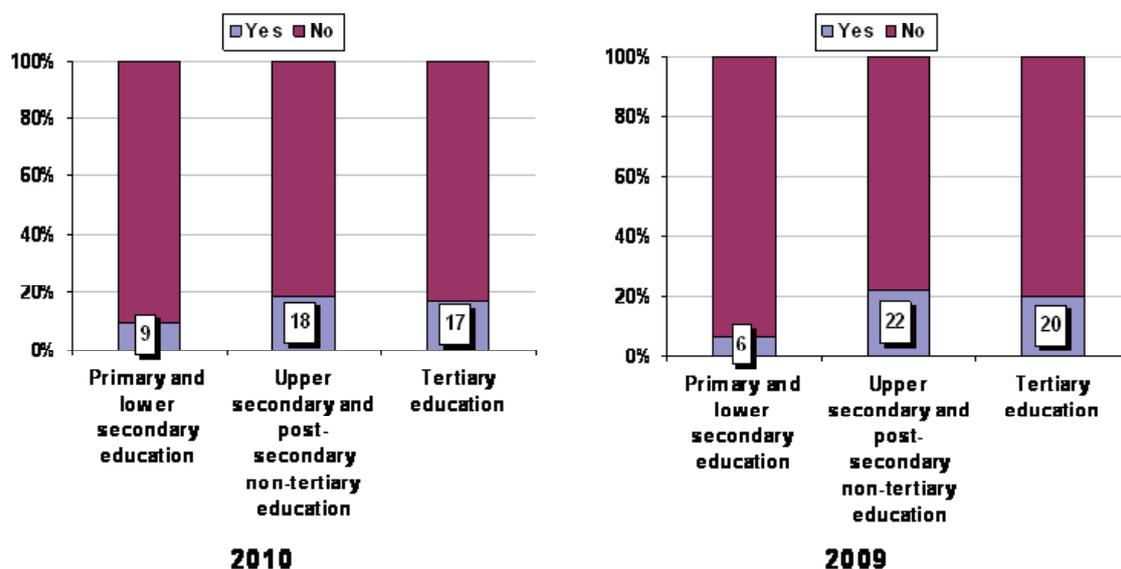
**Fig. 2.29.**  
**Proportions of young respondents whose childbearing intentions were influenced by significant childbearing grant, by assessment of own social stratum, %**

Source: social and demographic surveys “Family and Children, 2009” and “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

As compared with 2009, in 2010 the proportion of positive answers about the impact of the grant dropped in all social strata and this, most probably, can be explained by the financial and economic crisis. Today in

Ukraine stratification of population by income level is significant. General stabilization of economic situation in the country is crucial since it will result in improvement of the population’s assessment of own well-being in all social strata.

According to data of the survey “Youth of Ukraine”, the childbirth grant had the smallest effect on persons with low educational attainment. This may be explained by the fact that the group of respondents with low educational attainment consisted of teenagers of school age who are not sure about their childbearing plans yet and mostly look at government allowances in an abstract way. In groups of respondents with middle and high educational attainment, there was a drop in the proportions of respondents who indicated that their childbearing plans were influenced by childbirth grant, as compared with previous survey “Family and Children, 2009” (Fig. 2.30). A lower impact of the childbirth assistance on respondents with a university degree as compared with those with secondary and post secondary non-tertiary education may be explained by their greater financial independence and, thus, the ability to rely on own strength.

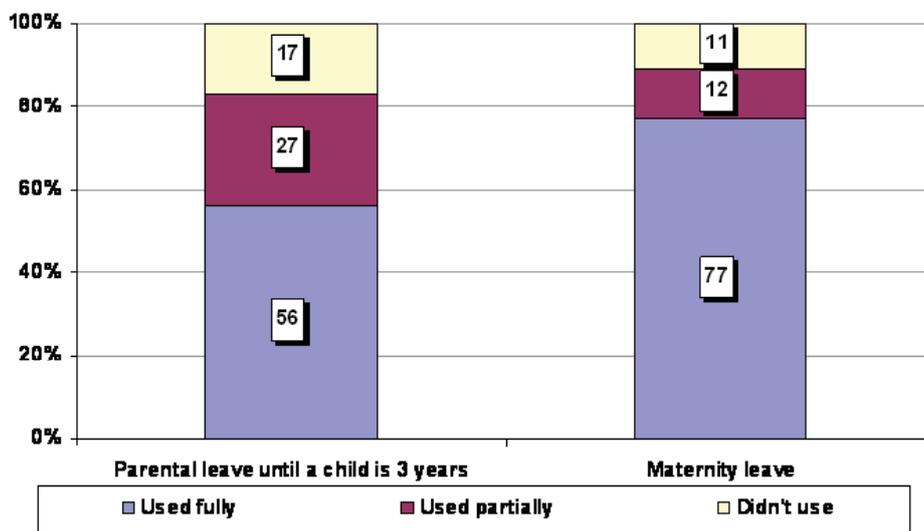


**Fig. 2.30**  
**Proportions of young respondents whose childbearing intentions were influenced by significant childbearing grant, by educational level, %**

Source: social and demographic surveys “Family and Children, 2009” and “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

Among other components of family policy studied in the survey “Youth of Ukraine”, attention should be aim to the problem of combining

employment with the birth and rearing a child. Results of the survey show high rates of using parental leave until a child is 3 years old and maternity leave (Fig. 2.31). The rate of using the first type of leave is almost equal for urban and rural areas: respectively, 55% and 57% of respondents used it in full and 27 and 26% – partially.



**Fig. 2.31.**  
**Young people using parental leave until a child is 3 years old and maternity leave, %**

Source: social and demographic surveys “Family and Children, 2009” and “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

In general, it is quite natural to use maternity leave, so, it is not surprising that 77% of respondents with children used it in full. At the same time, the proportion of young people who fully used parental leave until a child is 3 years old, which is 56%, in view of a low amount of childcare allowance until a child is 3, mostly evidences that the decision to have a child was made under conditions of economic stability and permanent source of income.

Another weighty instrument allowing to combine employment with parental duties is an opportunity to work part-time dedicating the rest of the day to family issues. However, presently only a small proportion of respondents use the opportunity of part-time employment: only 13% of respondents aged 15–34 with children.

As for distribution by occupational groups, the opportunity to work part of the day / week was mostly used by white-collar and highly qualified workers (managers, public servants, qualified technical

employees), their proportion being 15–20%, and students, average executives and persons staying at home, their proportion being slightly smaller - 12–15%. Blue-collar and low-qualified workers mostly did not use the opportunity to work part of the day / week (5–8%). The proportion of persons using this opportunity grows with age: while a respective percentage for those aged 20–24 is 11%, at the age of 25–29 the proportion is 13% and at the age of 30–34 - 14%.

Therefore, the results of the survey “Youth of Ukraine” as well as the data of the survey “Family and Children, 2009” show that the impact of the considerable government childbirth grant on respondents’ childbearing plans is less than expected, however, it is traced rather clearly. This impact varies across different social and demographic groups; however, these variations are of no cardinal nature. Over the recent year, the impact of the childbirth grant dropped to a certain extent because of the financial and economic crisis. Under the condition of crisis phenomena in economy, the grant becomes a less powerful factor influencing a decision to have a child as compared with period of stable economic development.

In the opinion of respondents, readiness to motherhood / fatherhood is first of all determined by **state of health** of potential parents, their **love for children, desire to take care of them** and **stable income** in the family. More than a half of respondents mentioned these factors as very important for making a decision to have a child.

# YOUTH HEALTH DETERMINANTS. HEALTH STATUS OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION

## 3.1. Youth health determinants

The social significance of health, especially of children and youth, cannot be overestimated since it is the factor shaping the future of the nation. Health maintenance and promotion, growing up of a healthy generation are the tasks which to a large extent determine the development of the country, its defense, industrial, economic and intellectual potential.

Indeed, health is ranked rather high in the value system of young people. The survey “Youth of Ukraine” demonstrates that for the majority of young people (about 88%) health is “very important” and for 11% – “rather important”, in other words, virtually all of young people put health very high in their value system. However, there is a certain variation in attitudes towards health by sex and age (Fig. 3.1).

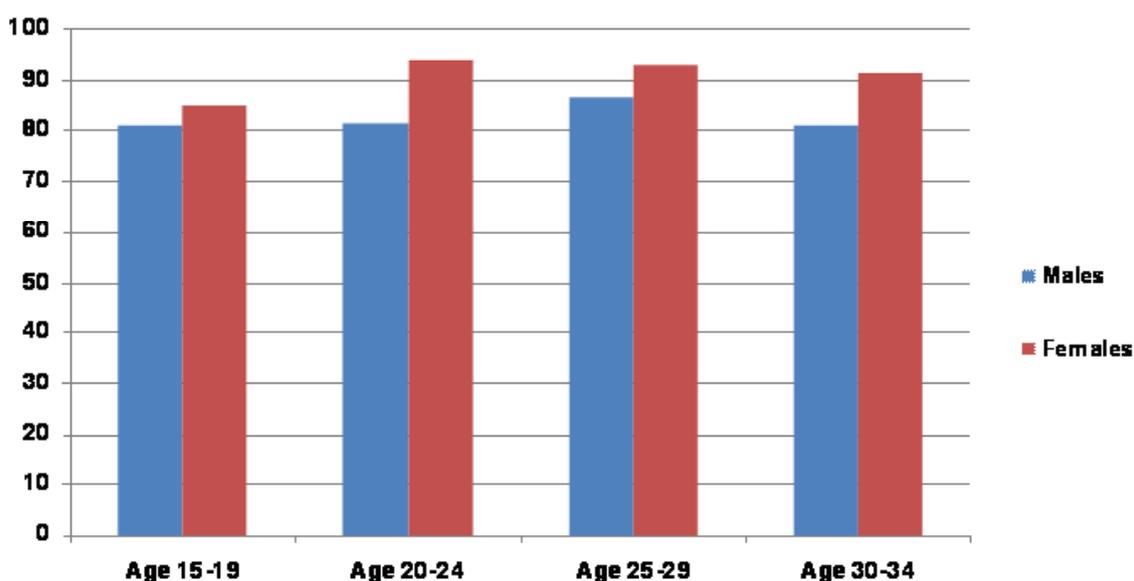


Fig. 3.1.  
Proportion of youth who ranked health as “very important”,  
by sex and age

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

Girls and women, as compared with men, have a more responsible attitude towards their health. Naturally, teenagers rank the value of health lower than young people aged 20-24. However, in the course of time, when young people have their own families, children and ambitious professional interests, health, while not losing its significance for the absolute majority, for some people becomes less important and is ranked as “rather important”.

Nevertheless, young people do not regard their health as a capital which should be kept and augmented. At young age health problems, if any, infrequently make everyday life uncomfortable. For this reason, along with acknowledging individual and social importance of health, young people perceive it rather abstractly, impersonally and do not associate it with own life strategies and everyday behaviour standards. Thus, many respondents indicated that irrespective of “some harmful habits” they believe that “in general, they take care of their health”. This answer was given by 51.8% of males and 30.5% of females. A mere 4.9% of males and 2.6% of females mentioned that their lifestyle “could not be characterized as healthy” and only 0.5% of male respondents said their lifestyle was unhealthy. Persons aged 25–29 accounted for the largest proportion of respondents who did not characterize their lifestyles as healthy.

The basics of a young person’s health are formed starting from his or her birth and in the childhood. Non-compliance by future mothers with the basic hygienic rules -quitting smoking and alcohol consumption during pregnancy, and also unfavorable environmental conditions and illnesses at early stages of pregnancy – lead to an infant’s health problems which sometimes can be incurable and affect his or her future life in general.

1,604.8 cases of diseases per 1,000 of Ukrainian young children are recorded during the first year after birth, although it should be mentioned that morbidity of children aged under 1 dropped by 20% as compared with 1999<sup>1</sup>. At the same time, over the period from 1999 no changes occurred in the morbidity pattern of this age category, with the following ranking: diseases of respiratory system on the first place (52.6%), certain conditions originating in the perinatal period on the second place (10.5%),

1 Стан здоров’я дітей в Україні. 06.07.2010 // <http://www.moz.gov.ua/ua/main/press/?docID=20987>

diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs (5.5%) on the third place. Respiratory diseases are most frequently recorded among infants, with a considerable percentage of them caused by external factors (contamination of atmospheric air or air inside the premises, including with tobacco smoke), non-compliance with temperature regime etc. Some health problems of newborns are triggered by irresponsible behaviour of parents and relatives, malnutrition, first of all, lack of breastfeeding. An absolute majority of such health problems could be prevented.

Environment has a significant impact on children and youth health, while the external factors have a good deal more influence on a young and growing body than on that of an adult. Atmospheric air contamination, low quality of food and drinking water, increased noise and electromagnetic field levels, unsatisfactory hygienic conditions at schools lead to pathological changes of health.

Morbidity and mortality of children in large industrial cities is higher than on an average. The researches prove an increasing of children's morbidity as well as shifts in its pattern towards such pathologies as hypotrophy, anemia, perinatal injuries to nervous system, acute respiratory diseases and pre-nosological conditions<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore, healthy residents of large industrial cities have changes in their homeostasis similar to that of ill children, although to a much lesser extent. Such changes found among healthy children should be the signal for timely intervention to prevent future diseases, with due regard for the percentage of certain diseases. For instance, in Zaporizhya – a large industrial city, infants aged under 1 have a higher rate of incidence of intestine dysbacteriosis which may trigger a number of health problems for these children in the future.

Over the recent years, there is a rise in morbidity of total childhood age population, especially that of chronic diseases. Thus, in 2009 approximately two diseases were recorded for every child in Ukraine (1,938.9 per 1,000 of children aged 0-17)<sup>3</sup>. The data provided by O.M. Marzieiev Institute

2 Резніченко Ю. Г. Порушення стану здоров'я дітей раннього віку великого промислового міста та медичні шляхи його корекції [Electronic resource]/ Ю. Г. Резніченко, Г. І. Резніченко // Здоров'я ребенка: електрон. наук. фак. вид. – 2006. – № 2(2). <http://pediatric.mif-ua.com/archive/issue-922/article-943>.

3 Стан здоров'я дітей в Україні. 06.07.2010. Матеріал МОЗ України. // <http://www.moz.gov.ua/ua/main/press/?docID=20987>

of Hygiene and Medical Ecology of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine show that up to 11% of school-age children have some disturbances of locomotive system, 25% – epipharynx disturbances and allergic reactions; 30% - disturbances of nervous system and digestive system. During the time span from school year 1 to 9, the incidence of diseases of the digestive system grows by 1.4 times; the rate of visual acuity decrement and faults of posture - by 1.5 times; the incidence of endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases – by 2.6 times<sup>4</sup>.

A reduction in the scope and quality of sanitary and disease prevention activities over the recent decade affected the population awareness about risks of diseases, sanitary culture etc. Hygienic habits should be developed from the early childhood age when it is natural for a child to imitate adults (relatives, teachers etc.). However, in everyday life some essential routine hygienic actions do not become a common practice, even if general awareness of children grows more. For a child, cultivation of a habit to wash hands before meals is extremely important in terms of prevention of certain infectious and parasitic diseases; it may serve as a powerful indicator of compliance with all of the necessary hygienic procedures. However, the sociological surveys prove that slightly more than half of three-year-old children (59.8%) always wash hands before meals, as against one in every two teenagers (55.1%, with girls complying with this hygienic rule more often than boys: 59.5% and 47.8%, respectively)<sup>5</sup>.

In high social disparity in Ukraine of to-day, social determinants of health become increasingly important. There are many of them; along with having a direct impact on health, they also interact in a complex way resulting in indirect effects on health through other determinants. In this connection, material factors gain top priority. Material well-being or its deficiency determines a person's lifestyle to a considerable extent. In the context of Ukraine, poverty also means no opportunities for healthy recreation, physical exercise, rational leisure, access to good education and job, cultural advance etc. In this sense, poverty has a negative impact on

4 Про стан здоров'я сучасних школярів // LIKAR INFO, 5 грудня 2008 р. <http://www.likar.info/news/17379/> .

5 Моїсеєнко Р. О. Вплив деяких соціально-економічних чинників на формування здоров'я та смертність дітей / Р. О. Моїсеєнко / Перинатологія и педиатрія. – №3 (39). – 2009. – С.17-20.

health in an indirect way, by forming behaviour stereotypes characteristic of low-status population strata, such as negligent attitude towards own health, high smoking prevalence, alcohol and drug abuse, acts of violence etc. At the same time, healthy lifestyle is a precondition for future self-actualization of young people, higher educational attainment, efficient activity, ability to marry someone and have healthy children, creativeness and socio-political activity.

Furthermore, health is negatively affected by psychological and emotional strains caused by growing unemployment, uncertainty of the future and aggravation of social disparity. Poverty and diseases generate a vicious circle: poverty results in poor health but, on the other part, it is also its consequence. Bad housing, unavailability of appropriate sanitation and harmful working conditions are the most common factors causing spread of diseases among poor urban population. While in the Ukrainian situation it is impossible to measure the morbidity accurately (morbid events are mostly recorded if a person visits a doctor on his or her own initiative), mortality and length of life figures give a more precise picture of health status and its changes in time and space. As mentioned by E.Libanova, mortality and life expectancy of a healthy person are the most reliable indicators of poverty relative to a country or a large region in general, and premature mortality is nothing else but an indication of poverty.

In Ukraine, it is young families that have the highest exposure to the risk of poverty. According to the data of the M.V. Ptoukha Institute for Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, children under 16 and families with children under 3, i.e. families with young parents<sup>6</sup>, have the highest poverty rates<sup>7</sup>. The poverty rate of young people aged 25–34 are higher than average poverty rate since it is the age when people found a family and have children. A decline in the poverty rate is observed in the 20–25 age group: young people get employment at this age and live an independent life not being burdened with a duty

6 Лібанова Е.М. Бідність населення України: методологія, методика та практика аналізу : монографія / Е.Лібанова. – К. : КНЕУ, 2008. – С. 64.

7 Демографічні чинники бідності (колективна монографія) / за ред. Е. М. Лібанової. – К. : Інститут демографії та соціальних досліджень НАН України. – 2009. – 184 с. С. 59, 81.

to maintain children or elderly relatives. The territorial profile of poverty shows higher poverty rates of youth in rural area, with the gap between the rural and urban life standards becoming increasingly greater.<sup>8</sup>

Improper diet, insufficient consumption of vegetables, juice and fish results in the deficit of basic nutrients, vitamins and minerals, hampers the growth and development of a young organism, causes immunity decrease, visual impairment, obesity, chronic diseases of gastrointestinal tract, increases the rate of acute disease transformation into recurrent and chronic forms and the incidence of primary and chronic pathologies of internals.

Despite excessive calorie diet on the average, the composition of food is imbalanced, especially among the poorer population strata, in particular, in families with many children. In 2009, per capita consumption almost of all basic food stuff in households with many children was significantly lower than that in one-child households: meat and meat products, fish and fish products, fruit, berries, nuts, grapes, eggs, vegetables, melons and gourds, vegetable oil and other vegetable fats – lower by 32–13%, sugar – by 11%, milk and milk products – by 1.7%, bread and bakery products – by 1.3%. At the same time, average per capita consumption of potato in households with three and more children by 16% exceeded that in one-child households<sup>9</sup>. A sample survey conducted by the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine revealed that 20% of the most wealthy households covered by the survey consume by 2.6 times more fruit than 20% of the poorest households, vegetables, melons and gourds – by 1.6 times more and meat – by 2.2 times less.<sup>10</sup>

According to data of 2006–2008 epidemiological surveys of families with children conducted by the Ministry of Health Care jointly with the Institute of Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, the majority of those families do not make a proper account to nutrition of their children and balancing their diet, this being an evidence of low nutrition culture and

8 *Ibidem*. P. 64, 65.

9 Соціально-економічне становище домогосподарств України у 2009 році (за даними вибіркового обстеження умов життя домогосподарств) 16.09.2010. Матеріал Держкомстату України // [http://ukrstat.gov.ua/operativ/operativ2010/gdn/nttk/soc\\_dom\\_2009.zip](http://ukrstat.gov.ua/operativ/operativ2010/gdn/nttk/soc_dom_2009.zip)

10 Статистичний щорічник України за 2008 рік. Держкомстат, 2010. – С. 425.

their insufficient concern about their health issues in general<sup>11</sup>. In particular, more than one-third of children do not comply with nutrition regimen and eat snacks between meals, those snacks not being the most healthy ones (cookies, sandwiches, bakery products, sweets, more seldom - fruit) and eat fast food too often (thus, 37.3% of all children are regular visitors to fast food restaurants). The surveys have demonstrated that consumption of food of animal origin (meat, fish, sea products) and vegetable origin (garden stuff, fruits, cereals and beans) by the majority of children of primary school age is insufficient for their normal growth and development and, as a consequence, their diet has an excessive proportion of carbohydrates and inevitably affects their health in a negative way. The official statistics of disease frequency among the children recorded 1 million and 201 thousand incidence of digestive system diseases, or 146 morbid events per each 1,000 children. In 2009, the incidence rate of endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases was 95.14 per 1,000 children, including diabetes mellitus – 0.94, obesity – 12.58<sup>12</sup>.

Unhealthy diet is accompanied by hypodynamia. Hygienic standards for teenagers recommend at least 4-12 hours of muscle activity weekly, depending on the exertion, sex and age. If this standard is systematically neglected, biochemical processes in a teenager's body are disturbed resulting in reduced body resistance to infections, exposure to cold or sudden stress situations. A study of health status of schoolchildren in Kyiv revealed that less than a quarter of children (23.3%) may be placed into Health Group I<sup>13</sup>. One in every three children has chronic tonsillitis, 57.0% – posture faults, 18.1% – flat-footedness, 13.9% – scoliosis. More than 1/3 of children have different types of vegetovascular dystonia.

Overweight and obesity are typical external symptoms of unhealthy diet and sedentary lifestyle. Presently, obesity has become a global challenge. The World Health Organization regards child obesity as one of the

11 Моїсеєнко Р. О. Вплив деяких соціально-економічних чинників на формування здоров'я та смертність дітей / Р. О. Моїсеєнко / Перинатологія і педіатрія. – №3 (39). – 2009. – С.17-20.

12 Показники здоров'я населення та використання ресурсів охорони здоров'я в Україні за 2008–2009 роки : статистичний довідник. – К. : МОЗ, Центр медичної статистики Міністерства охорони здоров'я України, 2010. – 330 с.

13 Стан здоров'я школярів великого міста / В. П. Неділько, Т. М. Камінська, С. А. Руденко, Л. П. Пінчук // Здоров'є ребенка [Electronic resource]: електрон. наук. фах. вид. – 2006. – № 1(10). <http://pediatric.mif-ua.com/archive/issue-4269/article-4287>

most serious health challenges of the XXI century<sup>14</sup>. This problem is increasingly spread in low- and middle-income countries, especially in cities. So far, Ukraine is behind the majority of European countries in terms of overweight and obesity prevalence in children and youth<sup>15</sup>, however, the Ukrainian society does not acknowledge the potential threat of this issue and does nothing to prevent further development of this trend.

Sexual behaviour is an essential element of youth lifestyles and the factor determining the rate of sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies, in particular, a rise in teenage pregnancies. Today, institutions responsible for education and medical and sanitary care are unable to efficiently prevent the harm caused to health of young people by liberalization of sexual relations. Significant social disparity of the population and early start of sexual life should be mentioned as the reasons of a dramatic rise in the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases.

However, increasing spread of drug addiction should be considered the most serious threat to the health and life of youth. Young people are the group with the highest vulnerability to drugs since drug addiction is most often developed as a result of curiosity and imitation of older friends' behaviour which is quite natural for this age. Not infrequently drug use is preceded by smoking or alcohol drinking.

Therefore, it may be said without exaggeration that youth is the major group exposed to the risk of possible negative impacts of social factors on health. Furthermore, today's youth culture includes such negative phenomena as alcohol abuse, drug use and smoking. Young people often lack skills necessary for efficient organization of their work, studies, day routine, nutrition, as well as basic elementary hygienic and psychohygienic habits. Young families face many problems which also affect demographic indicators and upbringing of healthy children. Unhealthy lifestyles at the background of such social phenomena as urbanization, automation, computerization, physical activity below recommended

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14 Available at <http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/childhood/en/> Accessed August 5, 2010.

15 I. Janssen, P. T. Katzmarzyk, W. F. Boyce, C. Vereecken, C. Mulvihill, C. Roberts, C. Currie, W. Pickett and The Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children Obesity Working Group. Comparison of overweight and obesity prevalence in school-aged youth from 34 countries and their relationships with physical activity and dietary patterns. // 2005 The International Association for the Study of Obesity. *obesity reviews* 6, 123–132.

standards, increased nervous and psychological stress and information overload lead to pathological changes of health – first functional and then morphological ones and cause acute and chronic diseases.

Lately, there has appeared a tendency towards requesting medical care only in emergency situations, with less serious health problems remaining beyond the official statistical records. No need for documentary evidence supporting absence from work or classes may explain why people lack motivation to visit a physician. A significant proportion of people intentionally limit visits to medical institutions because they cannot afford buying medicines and paying for services etc. For this reason, subjective assessments of own health by respondents in sociological surveys are very important and should be taken into account since they allow to examine the impact of risk factors as well as behaviour and attitudes of respondents.

## **3.2 Major health risks at young age**

### **3.2.1. Alcohol and drug use**

Teenage drinking is one of the greatest challenges of public health today<sup>16</sup>. Furthermore, presently young people in many European countries have access to a wide range of substances which are often used with alcohol<sup>17</sup>.

#### ***Alcohol use among youth***

According to the survey “Youth of Ukraine”, 96.1% of respondents aged 15–34 drank any alcoholic beverages at least once in their life. Accordingly, only 3.9% of respondents indicated they never drank any alcohol. Beer is the most popular alcoholic beverage tasted by respondents at least once in their life. This was reported by 88% of youth. 74% of respondents drank strong alcoholic beverages and 48% – home-distilled vodka or other home-made alcoholic beverages (Fig. 3.2).

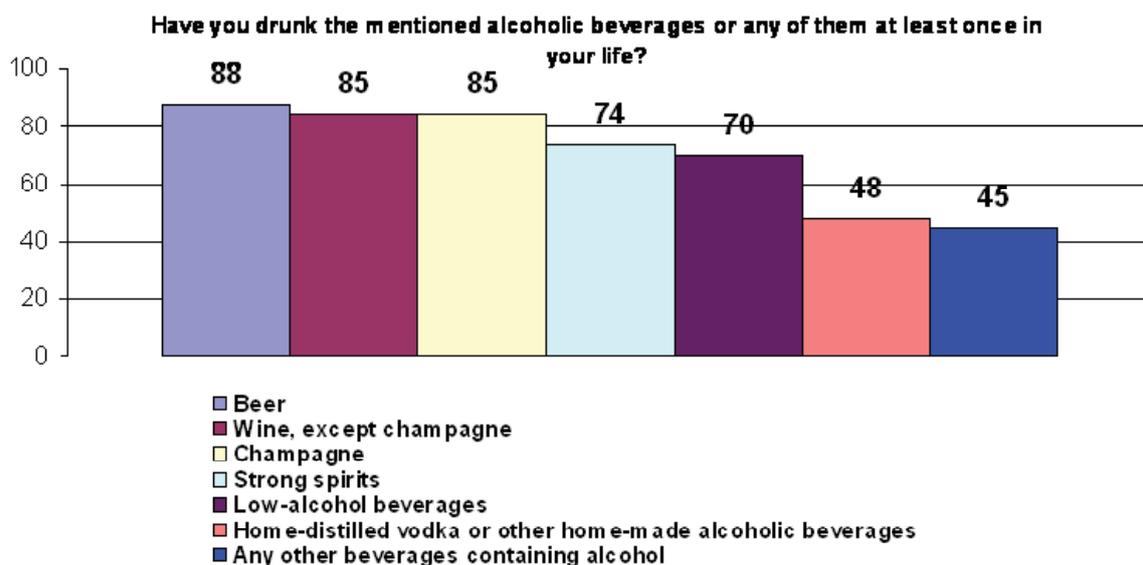
As for sex disparities in the frequency of alcohol use, men generally

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16 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2007. Available at <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/topics/underagedrinking/>. Accessed March 28, 2008.

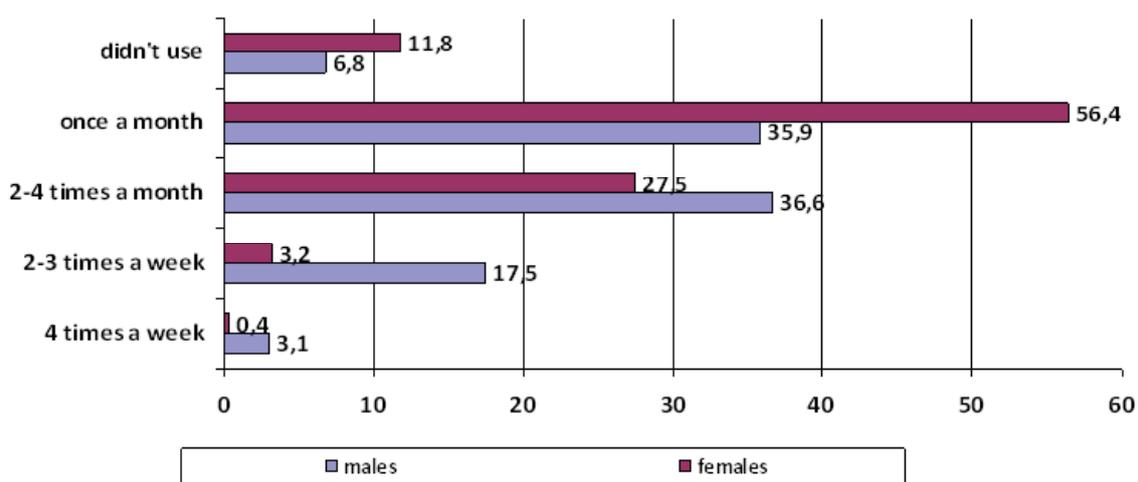
17 Childresn's voice. EMCDDA.

drink more often than women. Thus, 17.5% of male respondents as against 3.2% of female respondents indicated they drink alcoholic beverages 2–3 times a week; 2–4 times a month – 36.6% of men and 27.5% of women. The proportion of woman is higher than men only by the answer “once per month”, in particular, it is 56.7% of females against 35.4% of males (Fig. 3.3).



**Fig. 3.2.**  
**Alcoholic beverage consumption by young people at least once in their life, %**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”



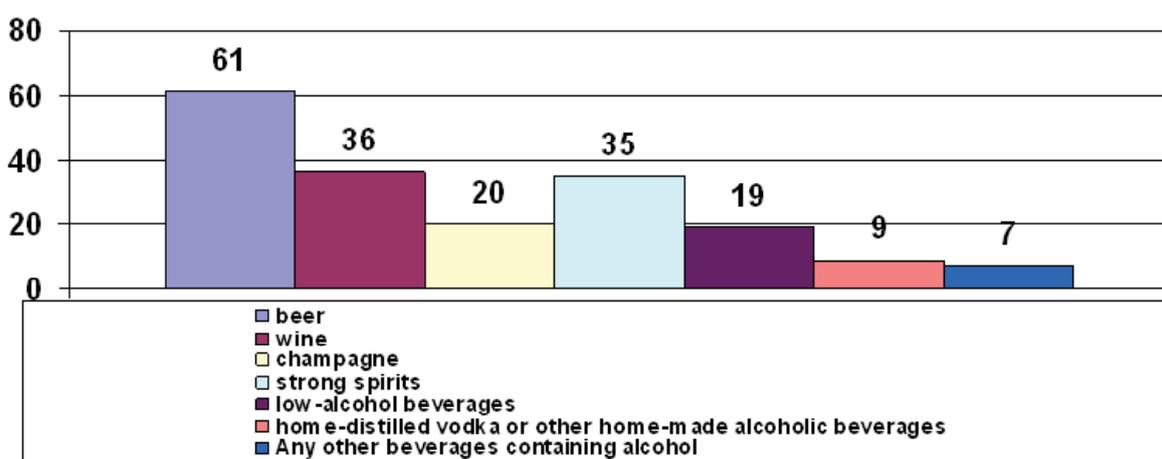
**Fig. 3.3.**  
**Frequency of alcohol consumption by males and females, %**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

Alcohol consumption by respondents aged 15–34 during the last 12 months has the following structure: 74% drank beer, 64% and 62% –

wine and champagne, respectively, 53% – strong alcohol and 37% – low-alcohol beverages.

Data on alcohol consumption during the period of 30 days before the interview demonstrates that beer is again the leader in the consumption structure. Thus, 61% of respondents said they drank beer, 36% – wine, 35% – strong spirits. Champagne and low-alcohol beverages take the third and the fourth rank with 20% and 19% of respondents, respectively (Fig. 3.4).

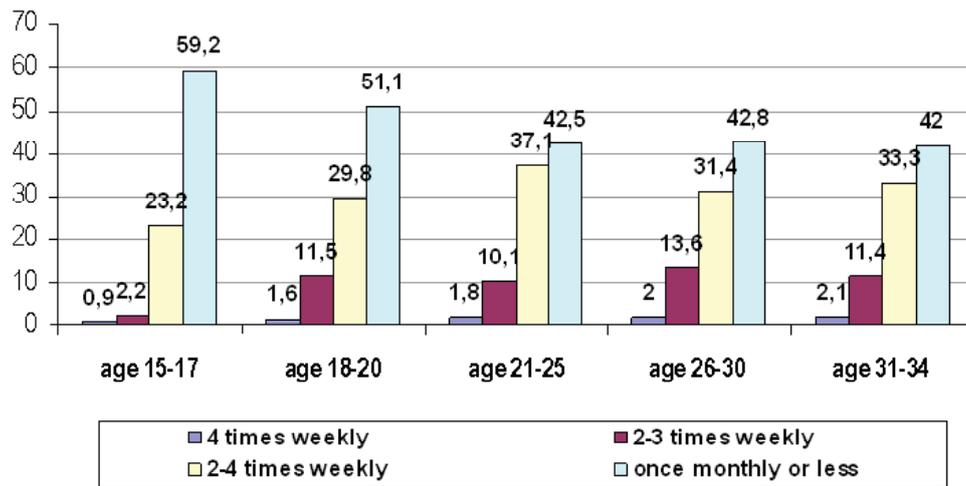


**Fig. 3.4.**  
**Alcoholic beverage consumption by young people during the period of 30 days before the interview, %**

Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

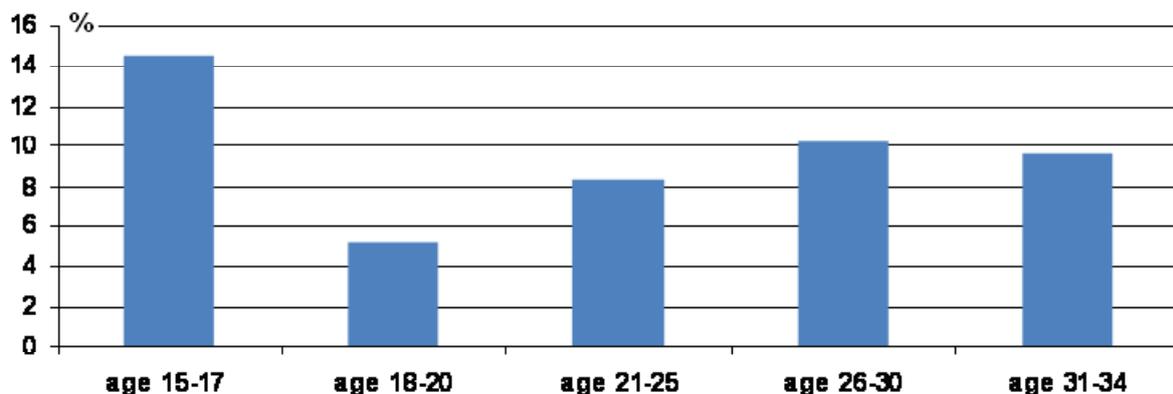
As for the frequency of alcohol consumption by young people of different age, the survey revealed that among those aged 15–17, 59.2% of respondents drank alcoholic beverages once per month or less frequent and 23.2% – 2-4 times per month. Among respondents aged 18–20, 51.1% drank alcohol once per month or less frequent and 29.8% – 2-4 times per month, with 11.5% of respondents aged 18–20 indicating regular alcohol consumption 2-3 times per week.

In the older age groups of respondents aged 21–25, 26–30 and 31–34, almost the same proportions of respondents indicated alcohol consumption once per month – 42.5%, 42.8% and 42.0%, respectively (Fig. 3.5).



**Fig. 3.5.**  
**Frequency of alcoholic beverage consumption by young people in different age groups, % of respondents of respective group**  
 Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

14.5% of teenagers aged 15–17 drank no alcohol at all. Respondents aged 18–20 make a striking contrast as this answer was given only by 5.2% in this age group. In the older age groups the figure ranges from 8.3% to 10.2% of respondents (Fig. 3.6).



**Fig. 3.6.**  
**Proportion of respondents who never drank any alcohol, % of respondents of respective group**  
 Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

The age at first alcohol taste is important at least for two reasons. First of all, as demonstrated by one of the surveys conducted in the USA, the younger the age at first alcohol taste, the higher the probability of this person's becoming dependant on alcohol in future life (Grant & Dawson 1997). Secondly, persons who started consuming alcohol at teenage face a higher probability of alcohol-related accidents and injuries,

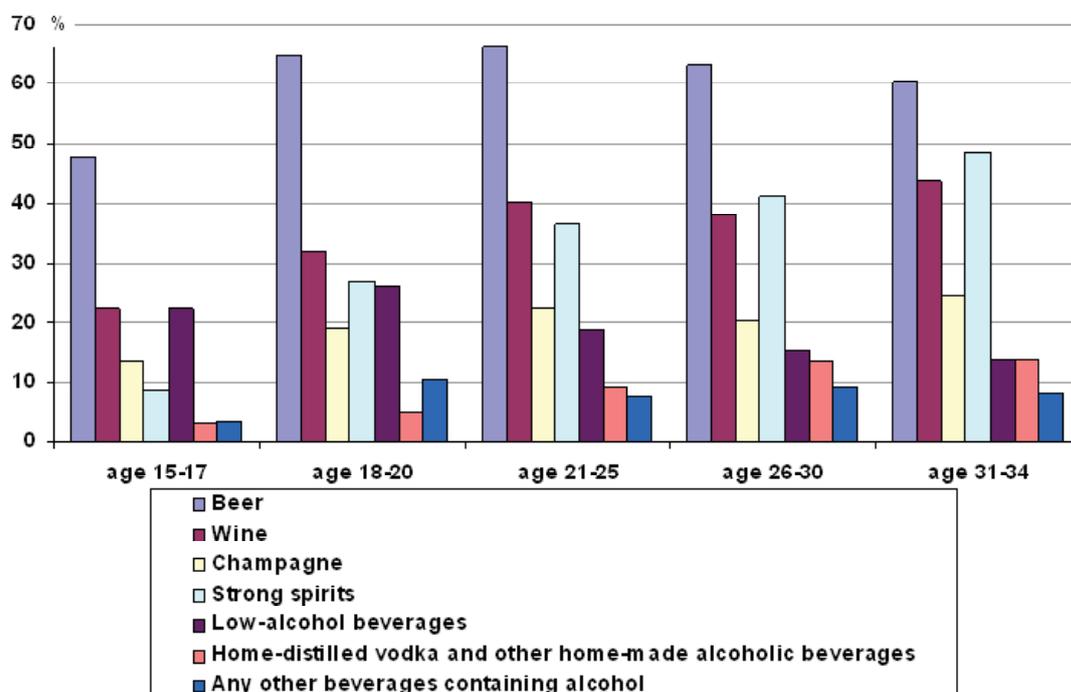
in particular: traffic accidents, falls, burns etc. as compared to those who first tasted alcohol in an older age (Hingson et al. 2000).

The most common age at first alcohol taste is 17–18 years – this age was reported by 25.4% of respondents as the age when they first tasted alcohol. 20.6% of young people tasted alcohol even earlier – at the age of 16, and 15.1% of respondents – at the age of 6–13.

A significant proportion of teenagers mentioned that after the first taste of alcoholic beverage they started drinking regularly. As for the frequency of alcohol consumption, during 30 days preceding the interview 59.1% of respondents drank alcoholic beverages less than once a week. Among teenagers aged 15–17, 11.8% indicated alcohol intake at least once weekly and 64.0% mentioned they drank less than once a week. Among respondents aged 18–20, 10.8% drank alcohol several times a week and 18% – at least once a week. In the older age group (age 21–25), 6% of young people consumed alcoholic beverages several times a week and 23% – at least once a week. The largest proportion of persons drinking alcohol several times a week (11.4%) was recorded among those aged 31–34.

In the 21–35 age groups, only about 11% of respondents did not drink any alcoholic beverages during the last month, with this figure among those aged 15–17 being 21.1%. In a slightly older age group (age 18–20) only 8.2% mentioned they did not drink during the last month.

As mentioned above, beer is the most popular beverage among teenagers and youth of all age groups. According to respondents' responses, consumption of beer ranges from 47.8% in the 15–17 age group to 60.4% in the 31–34 age group. With the years young people tend to drink stronger alcoholic beverages, while low-alcohol beverages lose their positions. Home-distilled vodka and other home-made alcoholic beverages account for about 13% in the alcohol consumption structure of youth aged 21–34. On the average, 9.6% of respondents aged 15–34 reported consumption of home-distilled vodka and other home-made alcoholic beverages during 30 days preceding the interview (Fig. 3.7).



**Fig. 3-7.**  
**Alcoholic beverage consumption by youth in different age groups,**  
**% of respondents of respective group**

Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

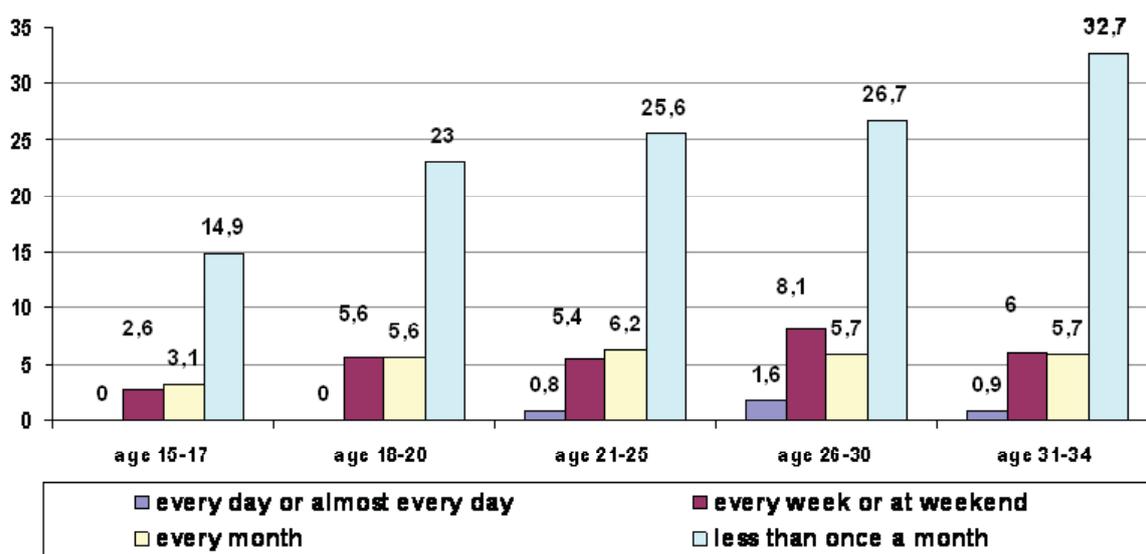
At the same time, the analysis of the contingents of persons who consulted a narcologist within the last five years evidences significant changes in the alcohol consumption pattern of the population. Home-distilled vodka loses its positions gradually but markedly which may be explained by exceptionally low prices on commercial alcoholic beverages. In addition to that, young people start imitating western patterns of behavior: recently there emerged a trend towards visiting restaurants and bars, the range of beverages consumed by young people becomes wider, with a trend towards higher prevalence of low-alcoholic beverages. At the same time, in practice we see that for a significant proportion of people the manner and aim of alcohol consumption is "drinking to get drunk", which is most dangerous for young people<sup>18</sup>.

<sup>18</sup> In 1980-90 of the XX century specialists of WHO (World Health Organization) and scientists developed the concepts of "safe alcohol consumption limits" and "standard dose of alcohol". The standard dose of alcohol is 1 U (unit, sometimes one drink) which is 8 g or 10 ml of pure alcohol. Accordingly, the number of standard doses contained in different beverages is calculated (for example, 1 bottle of ordinary strength beer is 2.0 U, strong beer – 3.0 U, 1 bottle of an alcoholic beverage of 40% alcohol by volume is 20.0 U etc). Recommended safe limits of alcohol consumption have been established as the following rules: no more than 20 U in one week for men and no more than 14 U in one week for women.

1. No more than 4 U of alcohol in one day for men and no more than 3 U in one day for women.
2. Do not use alcoholic beverages at least 3 days a week.
3. Never exceed the limit of 5 U on any occasion of alcohol consumption.

Keeping within the safe limits of alcohol consumption allows to prevent increased health risks related to drinking. However, teenage drinking, even in considerably smaller amounts, poses an essential threat to the growing organism of a teenager.

The following answers were received to the question about the frequency of consuming six and more units of alcohol<sup>19</sup> in a single session – so-called “binge drinking”. For the population under study in general, 62.2% of respondents indicated they never drank six or more units in a single session; 25.4% mentioned they did it less than once a month; about 5.5% of respondents indicated they drank 6 or more units in a row each month or each week. In the 15–17 age group, 78.9% of respondents said they never drank such amounts of alcohol. However, 14.9% of respondents in this age group said they drank 6 or more units in a row less than once a month, in other words, this risky behaviour can be seen even in the life of teenagers (Fig. 3.8).



**Fig. 3.8.**  
**Frequency of consumption of six and more units of alcohol in one session by respondents of different age groups, % of respondents of respective group**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

The study of sex disparities in the frequency of consuming six and more units in a single session shows that 31.9% of men and 18.8% of women indicated they do it less than once a month. 10% of men and only

<sup>19</sup> One unit of alcohol means one bottle or tin of beer, one glass of wine or one pub measure of strong alcohol (vodka, brandy, home-distilled vodka).

1.6% of women reported drinking six or more units in a row each week (or during weekend). Such amounts of alcohol were consumed every day or almost every day by 1.3% of men and 0.2% of women.

The effects of alcohol consumption on the human body and the consequences of it vary depending on sex, individual physiological features and many other factors. They include: the amount of alcohol consumed, the time interval during which alcohol was consumed, general health status, height, weight and digestion peculiarities and whether alcohol was consumed with or without food or with any other substances.

Women, as well as children and young people, are generally more sensitive to alcohol; with the same dose of alcohol, they get intoxicated faster and have higher alcohol concentrations in blood than men. The reason is that women have smaller liver and larger fat to muscle ratio.

### Drug use

The experience of using any drugs was reported by 9% of respondents aged 15–34. The most popular drug is marijuana, or hashish, its use was reported by 8% of young people. Ecstasy is less common, however, its use was reported by 2% of young people (Fig. 3.9). 30% of respondents mentioned they personally know people who use drugs (for example, marijuana or others).

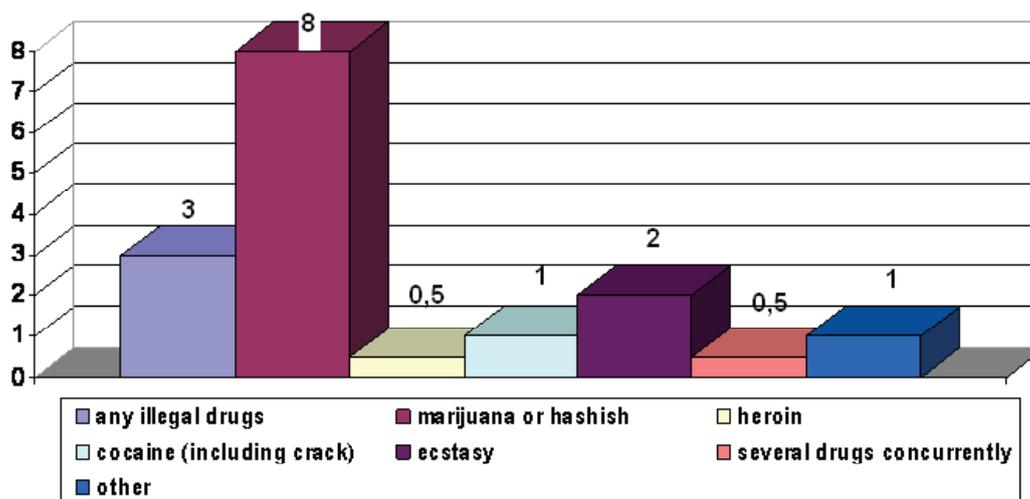
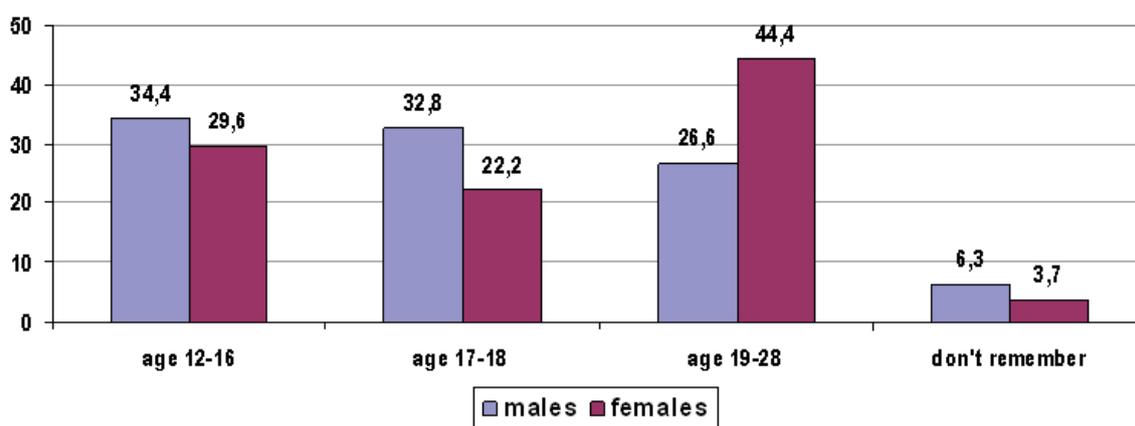


Fig. 3.9. Drug use experience of respondents aged 15–34

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

32.0% of respondents had the first drug use experience at the age 12 - 16, another 32.0% – from 17 to 18, and 30% of young people - at the age of 19–28 (Fig. 3.10) More than 1/3 of male respondents (34.4%) first used drugs at the age from 12 to 16, and the largest proportion of female respondents – at the age 19–28 (44.4%). Therefore, young males have the first experience with drugs earlier than females and the age 12 – 18 is the most risky period in terms of experiments with alcohol and drugs.

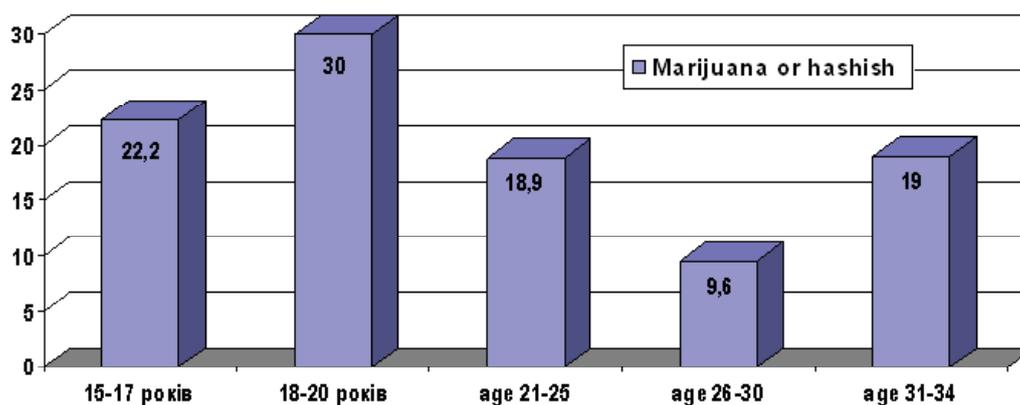


**Fig. 3.10.**  
**Distribution of respondents by age at first experience with drugs, %**  
 Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

Regular drug use by young people is confirmed by the following data. 31.5% of respondents with experience of drug use reported using marijuana or hashish during 12 months preceding the survey (8.4% mentioned ecstasy use and 10% – use of any other drugs); 2% of respondents reported using any drugs; 16% of respondents used marijuana or hashish, 1% of young people said they used cocaine (including crack) and 0.5% – ecstasy.

Drug use at least once a week during 30 days before the survey was reported by 4% of respondents with the experience of drug use, and 13% mentioned drug use less than once a week. As for drug use sex pattern, 3.1% of males and 0.1% of females indicated they used any drugs during the preceding 30 days, of which 20.3% of men and 3.7% of women reported marijuana use. As for age pattern of respondents using marijuana, teenagers aged 15–17 account for the largest proportion – 22.2% and youth aged

26–30 – for the smallest proportion – 9.6% (Fig. 3.11).



**Fig. 3.11.**

**Distribution of respondents using marijuana or hashish during the preceding 30 days by age groups**

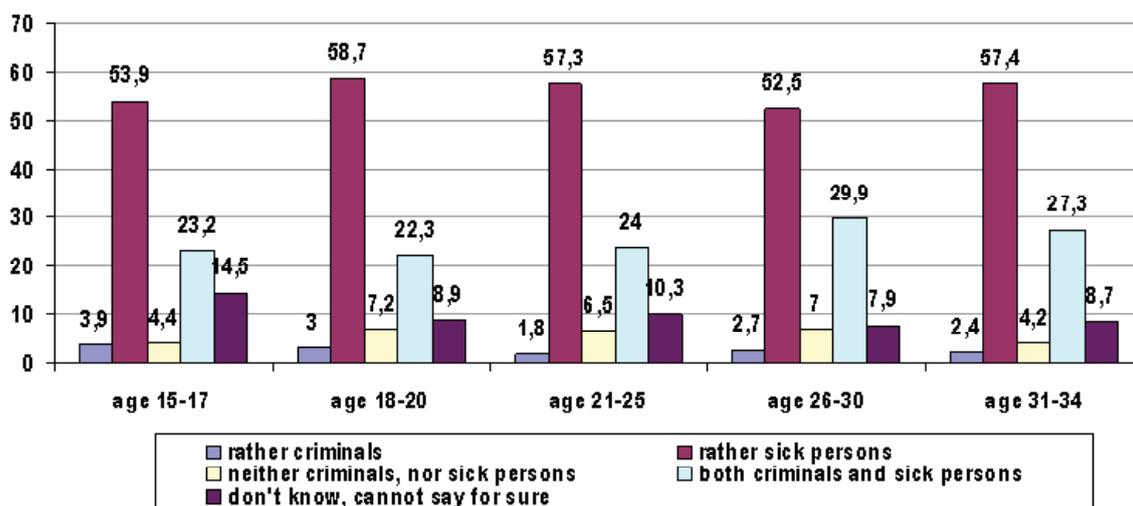
Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

To evaluate the accessibility of illegal narcotic substances, the survey asked respondents’ opinion on whether it is difficult to buy drugs. The opinion of respondents on whether it is easy to buy drugs split as 45 to 55. In other words, 45% of respondents believe that it is rather easy and very easy to buy drugs for anyone. Answers of respondents with drug use experience were broke down as follows: 50% of respondents were sure that it is rather easy and easy to buy any drugs, with 77% believing that marijuana or hashish are easy to buy; heroine and cocaine – 25% each; and 38% of young people believing ecstasy easy to buy. 30% of respondents with drug use experience indicated it was easy and very easy to buy several narcotic substances at a time.

With the aim of identifying public opinion and attitudes towards the problem of drug addiction among youth, the survey contained a question on whether respondents regard drug addicts as criminals or just sick persons. The responses show that the majority of respondents, in particular, 56%, believe that drug addicts are rather sick persons and 25.7% think that drug addicts are both criminals and sick persons (Fig. 3.12).

In recent years there is an opinion in our society that “drug addiction epidemic” is on the move in Ukraine. Our survey identified the opinion of young people on how serious the drug problem is in the place where they live. As it turned out, 30.1% of young people believe this

problem to be very serious for their locality and 34.7% - rather serious. 55.1% said they saw used syringes scattered on the street in their locality, 22.1% of respondents saw persons who smoked drugs wrapped in foil, 13.2% of young people saw drug users lying on the ground and 11.9% of respondents were contacted by people who offered drugs for sale.



**Fig. 3.12.**  
**Youth attitudes towards drug addicts**  
 Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

The above-mentioned results point to an urgent need to intensify the efforts of law-enforcement authorities against illegal sale of drugs. There is a need to extend the range of preventive programs and activities which would be directly aimed at developing a young person’s individual skills of protection against attempts of peers or older friends to induce to psychoactive substance use before a young person achieves the risky age when he or she becomes interested in psychoactive substances and first attempts of their use, and which would contribute to personal competency of children and youth on alcohol- and drug-related issues with the purpose of assessment of risks and consequences of psychoactive substance use.

### 3.2.2. Smoking and its consequences

The WHO data and national sociological surveys indicate that smoking prevalence in Ukraine is very high. As a result, smoking is ranked

the third among the factors forming the burden of disease in Ukraine: it accounts for almost 13% of DALY (disability-adjusted life-years) losses, i.e. loss of years of life through temporary or permanent incapacity for work and disability<sup>20</sup>. Furthermore, smoking results in substantial economic losses and thus is a heavy socio-economic burden for some families and society in general<sup>21</sup>.

Various sociological surveys confirm that smoking prevalence among Ukrainian men keeps steadily high, furthermore, they show a new trend which is a sharp rise in female smoking rates resulting in a rise of smoking prevalence in general<sup>22</sup>. According to the National Tobacco Control Report, in the period from 2001 to 2005 there was an annual increase in smoking prevalence among persons aged 15 and over by 3–4% for men and 1.5–2% for women<sup>23</sup>. According to the WHO data, in 2005 smoking prevalence among Ukrainian males was the highest for the European region being 66.8%, with a respective figure for females being 20.0% (Fig. 3.17).

Similar high smoking prevalence figures were observed in the industrialized countries of the world in 1960s but since that time they dropped significantly. For example, according to the General Household Survey – 2006, in the UK smoking prevalence among males dropped from 52% in 1972 to 20% in 2006, and among females – from 41% to 21%, respectively. In terms of smoking, today's epidemiological situation in Western countries is characterized by stabilization or decline in smoking prevalence both among males and females and a relatively equal distribution of smokers by sex in the teenage as well as adult age groups. Today 24% of males smoke in the USA, 28% - in France and Italy and 33% - in Germany. In some countries, for example, in Sweden, the proportion of smoking

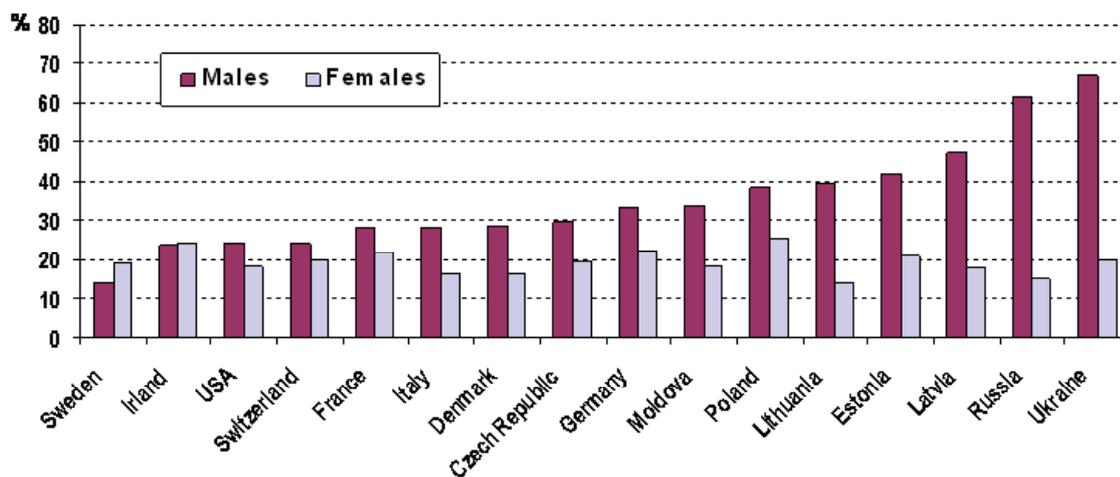
20 The European health report 2005: public health action for healthier children and populations. – Copenhagen : WHO; Regional Office for Europe, 2005. – 345 p.

21 Москаленко В.Ф. Поширеність тютюнопаління серед молоді: проблеми та шляхи вирішення /В.Ф. Москаленко, Т. С. Грузева, Л. І. Галієнко // Східноєвропейський журнал громадського здоров'я. – 2008. – Вип. 4. – С. 71–77; Трагедія, якої можна уникнути: подолання в Україні кризи здоров'я людини. Досвід Європи / [Менон Р. (кер. групи), Озалтін Е., Понякіна С. та ін.]. – К. : Світовий банк, 2009. – 72 с.

22 Andreeva T. I. Changes in smoking prevalence in Ukraine in 2001–5 / T. I. Andreeva, K. S. Krasovsky // Tobacco Control. – 2007. – Vol. 16 (3). – P. 202–206; Andreeva T. I. Correlates of smoking initiation among young adults in Ukraine: a cross-sectional study / Andreeva T. I., Krasovsky K. S., Semenova D. S. // BMC Public Health. – 2007. – № 11 (7). – P. 106–113.

23 Контроль над тютюном в Україні. Національний звіт [Electronic resource]. – К. : МОЗ України, Європейське регіональне бюро ВООЗ, 2009. – 128 с. – Режим доступу : <http://moz.gov.ua/ua/main/docs/?docID=12871>

women even exceeds that of men (Fig. 3.13). Overall, in the majority of Western European countries 1/3 of adult males smoke on the average, in contrast to almost 2/3 of Ukrainian males. Among youth, cigarettes with beer are regarded not only as essential elements of having a good time but also as a usual lifestyle.



**Fig. 3.13.**  
**Smoking prevalence among adult population in different countries of the world in 2002–2005.**

Source: The European Tobacco Control Report 2007.

The survey “Youth of Ukraine” proves that smoking prevalence among Ukrainian youth is rather high, especially among males. In particular, 57% of male respondents aged 15–34 said they smoked and only 27% never smoked. Among female respondents 23% said they smoked and 60% reported never trying to smoke. It is of interest that the proportion of respondents who smoked but quitted is equal among both sexes, being 17% according to the survey data (Table. 3.1).

**Table 3.1**

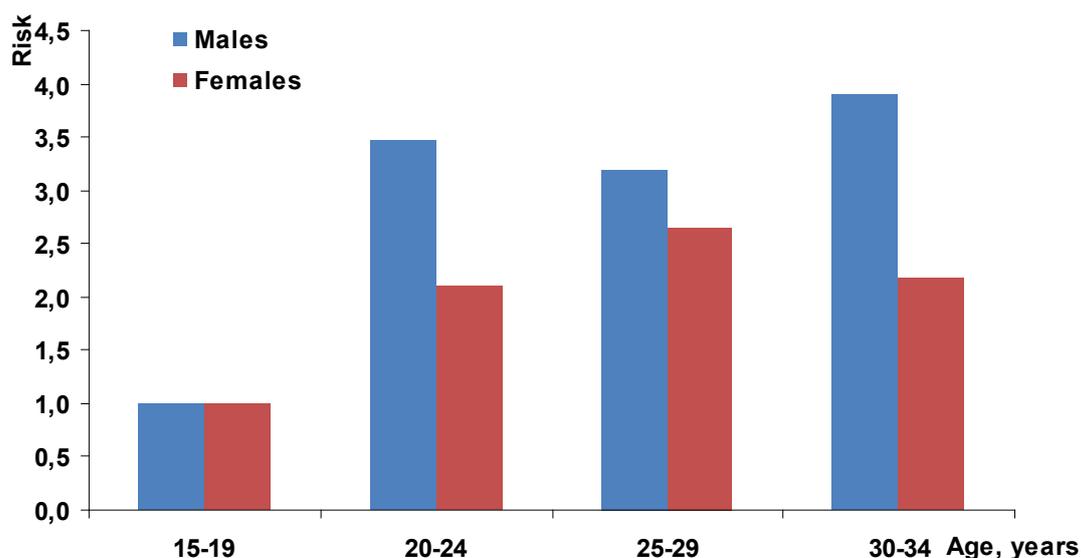
**Distribution of answers of respondents aged 15–34 to the question “Did you ever smoke?” %**

Answer options	Males	Females
I smoke	56.6	23.0
I smoked but quitted	16.6	17.0
I never smoked	26.8	60.0
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

In Ukraine, people start smoking at a rather young age. According to the survey, the average starting age of smoking is 14.9 for men and 16.8

for women. Fig. 3.18 shows smoking risk depending on age, with the reference group being respondents aged 15-19 and their smoking risk being 1 for each of men and women<sup>24</sup>. This Figure demonstrates a change in the smoking risk with age as compared with the smoking risk at the age of 15-19. As we see, the probability of starting smoking for males increases sharply after the age of 20 reaching its peak at the age of 30–34. In particular, the risk of starting smoking at the age of 20–24 is by 3.5 times higher than at the age 15–19, and at the age of 30–34– almost by 4 times higher.



**Fig. 3.14.**  
**Smoking risk among persons aged 15–34 depending on age**

\* smoking risk at the age 15–19 is taken as 1

Source: authors' calculations based on the survey "Youth of Ukraine"

Data of other surveys show that the main characteristic of the age smoking profile of Ukrainian males is that the smoking risk keeps steadily high almost till 60, with a gradual decline only in the elderly age, while in the western countries such a decline is observed after the age of 35. A decline in the smoking prevalence among elderly males in Ukraine is accompanied by an increase in the number of those who quitted smoking and those who never smoked, this apparently being a reflection of a disproportionate share of persons who died in the group of smokers

<sup>24</sup> The risk was calculated as odds ratio. This index by its nature shows the risk that a certain event will happen in the main group as compared with the risk of the same event happening in the reference group of comparison and, in such a way, characterizes an extent of relative impact of a certain factor on the final assessment. Since in the Ukrainian literature this term is used only to present the probability of a negative events, for the sake of convenience it was decided to use the terms "risk" and "chance" for the probability of events with negative and positive consequences, respectively. For example, the risk of starting smoking but the chance of having good health.

as compared with non-smokers and former smokers<sup>25</sup>.

The age profile of females is somewhat different. The highest risk of smoking is observed for women aged 25–29, then the risk drops substantially at the age of 30–34 (Fig. 3.18). In particular, at the age of 25–29 the risk of smoking is 2.6 times higher than that at the age of 15–19. Data of other surveys also confirm a decline in the smoking prevalence among Ukrainian women after the age of 25–30<sup>26</sup>. There may be two reasons for that.

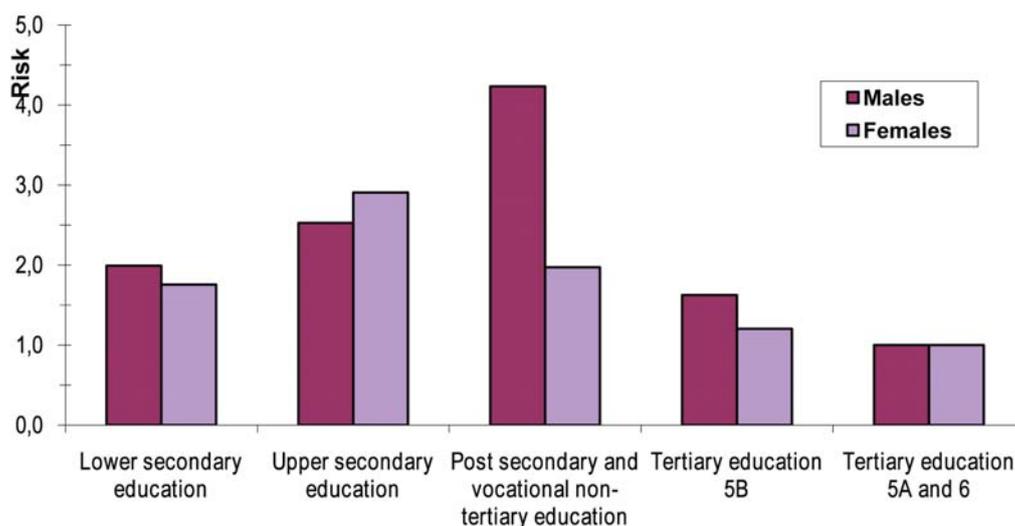
Firstly, after the period of experiments at a younger age, a certain proportion of women quit smoking. This decision may result from the intention to marry and have children. Secondly, there are grounds to expect a certain cohort effect: younger cohorts of girls are significantly more likely to smoke than women from older cohorts. Although smoking prevalence among Ukrainian women is on the average lower than that in many industrialized European countries, in the recent two decades its figures grew significantly and are still rising. It is young girls and women, mostly from urban area, who were the target group of a powerful and quite successful advertising campaign organized by tobacco manufacturers in the 1990s – at the beginning of the 2000s which was centered on an attractive image of a modern successful lady with a cigarette.

Education is an important factor determining the probability that a person will start smoking. Many international studies prove that smoking prevalence is higher among persons with low educational attainment. The survey of Ukrainian youth confirmed this association: the risk of starting smoking is substantially reduced if a person has higher education (Fig. 3.15). The highest risk of smoking is recorded for males with vocational education and females with completed secondary education. In particular, the risk of becoming a smoker for men with vocational education is 4 times higher than for persons with higher education. For females, a diploma of high school reduces the risk of becoming a smoker three times against the women with secondary education.

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26 Epidemiology of smoking in Ukraine, 2000 / [A. B. Gilmore and oth.] // Preventive Medicine. – 2001. – № 33 (5). – P. 453–461.



**Fig. 3.15.**  
**Smoking risk among persons aged 15–34 depending on educational level**

\* smoking risk of persons with higher education is taken for 1

Source: authors' calculations based on the survey "Youth of Ukraine"

Another important indicator is the number of cigarettes smoked daily. According to the survey, it is 14 cigarettes for men and almost 9 cigarettes for women (Table. 3.2). While almost 1/3 of female smokers are quite satisfied with up to 5 cigarettes daily, the proportion of men smoking this quantity is just 11%. A rather considerable proportion of smokers, in particular, 35% of males and 47% of females smoke 6–10 cigarettes daily on the average. Another 1/3 of males smoke from 20 to 40 cigarettes daily, with only 8% of females having from 20 to 30 cigarettes per day. These figures indicate low probability of quitting for persons who smoke a high number of cigarettes daily, since there is a correlation between the number of cigarettes per day, the starting age of smoking and the development of tobacco addiction.

**Table 3.2.**

**Distribution of answers of respondents aged 15–34 to the question "How many cigarettes have you smoked during the last day?", %**

Number of cigarettes	Males	Females
0–5	11.48	33.14
6–10	35.17	46.61
11–19	18.57	12.02
20–30 (for females)	–	8.23
20–40 (for males)	34.78	–

Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

There is an evidence that in Ukraine and other post-soviet countries the development of smoking epidemic is different from that general model in the industrialized countries which was suggested by A. Lopez and co-authors and includes four stages: 1) a rise in smoking prevalence among males; 2) growing smoking rates among females which usually lag behind that of males by 1-2 decades; 3) stabilization of smoking prevalence among males and females; 4) a gradual decline in smoking prevalence as a consequence of a rise in smoking-attributable mortality reaching its peak a decade later<sup>27</sup>. Presently in Ukraine no noticeable post-peak decline in the male smoking prevalence figures is observed so far, although some surveys conducted after 2005 recorded a certain downward trend. A rise in smoking prevalence among women started much later than among men in Ukraine and women in industrialized countries and currently demonstrates a high growth rate. A. Gilmore and co-authors<sup>28</sup> believe the tobacco epidemic in Ukraine is currently between the third and the fourth stage.

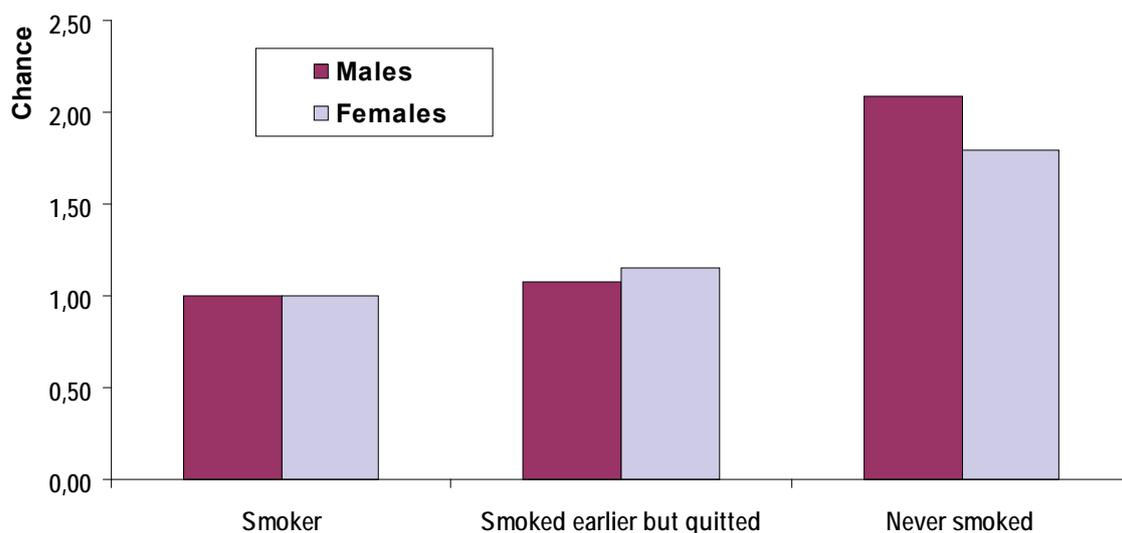
Smoking is the cause of a number of diseases and premature deaths. First of all, here we should mention lung cancer and other types of cancer diseases, cardiovascular pathologies, acute forms and complications of many other pathological conditions (pneumonia, emphysema, chronic bronchitis etc.). No less harmful is passive smoking for persons who live or work in the smoking environment. In the survey, the question “does anybody smoke in your room?” was answered positively by 13% of respondents. The comparative analysis of health self-assessment depending on the smoking status demonstrates that the chances of having good health for male and female smokers are significantly lower than for persons who do not have this harmful habit. In particular, the chance of having good health is twice as high for male non-smokers as compared with male smokers and by 1.8 times – for female non-smokers (Fig. 3.16).

Lung cancer morbidity and mortality rates are to the largest extent related to the population smoking prevalence rates. The majority of persons who died of lung cancer were smokers although smoking was not their

27 Lopez A.D. A descriptive model of the cigarette epidemic in developed countries / Lopez A.D., Collishaw N.E., Piha T. // Tobacco Control. – 1994. – № 3. – P. 242–247.

28 Gilmore A. Prevalence in smoking in 8 countries of former Soviet Union: Results from the Living conditions, Life styles and Health Study / A. Gilmore and oth. //American Journal of Public Health. – 2004. – 12. – P. 2177–2187.

only cause of death. Certain industrial or environmental factors may also cause cancer diseases in non-smokers. However, the lung cancer incidence rate closely correlates with the level of smoking prevalence, with positive changes in case of a decline in smoking prevalence being prolonged in time – from 5 to 15 years. The earlier the starting age of smoking and the more cigarettes smoked daily, the higher the risk of having lung cancer.



**Fig. 3.16.**  
**Chances of having good health by self-assessment of persons aged 15–34 depending on their smoking status**

\* chances of having good health for smokers are taken for 1

Source: authors' calculations based on the survey "Youth of Ukraine"

Trachea, bronchi and lung cancer is the leader of oncologic pathologies of Ukrainian males. Only 1/3 of patients with diagnosed lung cancer live for more than one year after the diagnosis for the following reasons: late diagnosis (75.8 % of patients are diagnosed at stages III and IV of the pathological process); low pathology identification rate during preventive medical checkups (a mere 18 % of lung cancer cases are identified by X-ray imaging) and insufficient coverage of patients with specific treatment (chemical and chemotherapeutical treatment is received only by 35.6% of those who needs it)<sup>29</sup>.

At the same time, calculations made on the basis of current statistics data prove that despite very high male smoking prevalence, mortality from

<sup>29</sup> Кундієв Ю. І. Професійне здоров'я в Україні. Епідеміологічний аналіз /Ю. І. Кундієв, А. М. Нагорна. – К.: Авіцена, 2006. – 316 с.

smoking-attributable neoplasm is comparable with respective figures in the EU countries, with the rate of death from the mentioned pathology among women being markedly lower (Table 3.3). During the 1980s trachea, bronchi and lung cancer death rates in Ukraine were rising but starting with 1992 their decline is recorded both for men and women almost in all age groups. This is interesting since in Ukraine over this period total mortality and cardiovascular mortality grew significantly.

**Table 3.3**

**Standardized death rates trachea, bronchi and lung cancer in Ukraine and the EU countries in 2008, per 100 000**

Age groups, years	Ukraine		European Union	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0–14	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01
15–29	0.40	0.28	0.13	0.10
30–44	6.02	1.81	4.38	2.82
45–59	85.35	9.15	70.42	26.39
60–74	248.58	24.65	250.81	65.50
75+	201.40	31.62	442.10	109.41

Source: calculations by authors based on the data of the State Statistics Committee and WHO (HFA-DB).

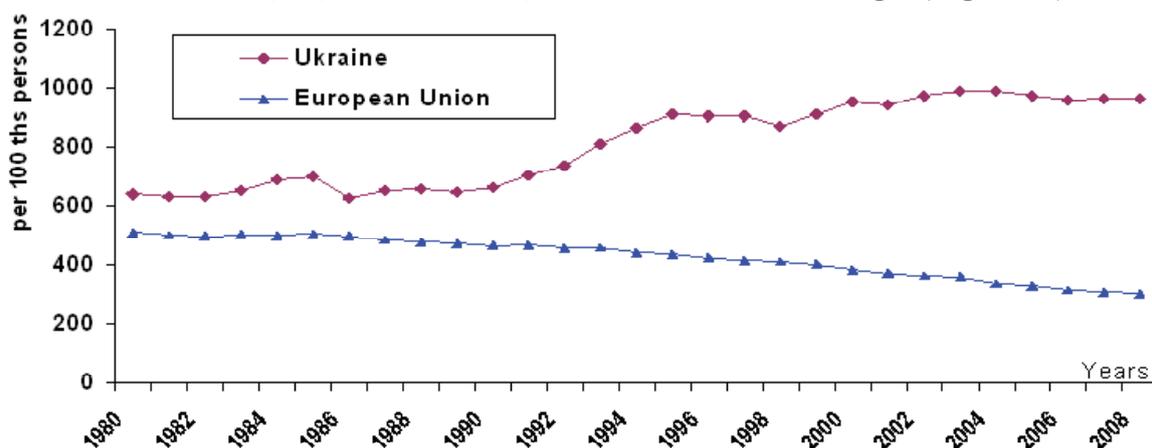
We may suggest several explanations of this phenomenon. Firstly, it may be the consequence of faults in death cause registration in the 1990s when deaths from cancer were recorded as deaths from other causes. This may be confirmed by a comparison of age trends in lung cancer death rates of Ukraine and the EU countries. In particular, while in the western countries the exponential growth of death rates is recorded within the total age range, in Ukraine it unnaturally stops after the age of 75 (Table 3.3).

Secondly, a decline in the lung cancer mortality may be interpreted as a result of a prevailing impact of mortality from other causes, primarily, cardiovascular diseases and accidents, poisonings and injuries among young and middle-aged populations. Since in Ukraine a considerable proportion of males die prematurely before the elderly age – the age of cancer exposure, the lung cancer mortality and its contribution to low life span is not as significant as that of external death causes.

Thirdly, Ukrainian women have a shorter smoking history and a

smaller impact of external causes. Currently female death rates from lung cancer are characterized by a declining trend. However, considering a sharp rise in female smoking prevalence, this trend may change in the opposite direction. If young women who smoke now smoke when they are middle-aged, a considerable rise in the tobacco-attributable female mortality may be expected in Ukraine in the next 10–15 years.

Tobacco-attributable mortality is not limited just to bronchi, trachea and lung cancer. For assessment of smoking-related mortality, WHO uses a rather wide list of death causes which include: malignant neoplasm of lips, mouth cavity, throat, esophagus, larynx, bronchi, trachea and lungs; chronic obstructive bronchi diseases; coronary heart disease and cerebrovascular diseases. It should be mentioned that this assessment is rather rough because not all of coronary heart disease and cerebrovascular morbid events are caused by smoking. However, a comparison of these figures calculated for Ukraine and the EU countries gives a picture of today’s excess mortality in Ukraine which can be prevented. While at the beginning of 1980s the standardized tobacco-attributable death rate (according to the WHO list) in our country exceeded a respective rate for the EU countries by 1.3 times, today it is three times as high (Fig. 3.17).



**Fig. 3.17.**  
**Standardized tobacco-attributable male death rates\* in Ukraine and the EU countries in 1980-2008.**

\*According to WHO list

Source: calculations by authors based on data of the State Statistics Committee and the WHO (HFA-DB).

Estimations made by Peto&Lopez look more reliable; the method they used is based on indirect assessment of tobacco-related mortality

when lung cancer mortality is taken as the smoking prevalence indicator and certain ratios between lung cancer death rates in total population, smoking and non-smoking population are used. The resulting Smoking Impact Ratio is used to assess the proportion of tobacco-related deaths among other death causes at the age of 35 and older<sup>30</sup>. Tobacco-related mortality estimates by the method of Peto&Lopez are given in Table 3.4.

**Table 3.4**

**Percentage of tobacco-related deaths, by different death causes in Ukraine in 2000, %**

<i>Death cause, age group, years old</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
All causes, 35–69	32.0	3.2
Neoplasms, 35–69	49.0	3.0
Neoplasms, 70+	35.0	3.0
Lung cancer, 35–69	100.0	33.0
Lung cancer, 70+	89.0	35.7
Cerebrovascular diseases, 35–69	33.7	3.0
Cerebrovascular diseases, 70+	11.0	1.2
Diseases of the respiratory system, 35–69	64.0	16.0
Diseases of the respiratory system, 70+	56.0	19.0
Other causes, 35–69	12.0	1.5
Other causes, 70+	16.0	0.7

Source: calculations are based on: Mortality from tobacco in developed countries: indirect estimation from national vital statistics / R.Peto and oth. // Lancet. – 1992. – № 339. – P. 1268–1278.

These estimates demonstrate that in Ukraine 32% of male deaths and about 3% of female deaths at the age of 35–69 are smoking-related. Smoking causes a half of neoplasm-related deaths among men, 34% of deaths from cerebrovascular diseases and 64% of death from diseases of the respiratory system.

Tobacco-related losses among women are lower but, as already mentioned, the figure may rise dramatically within the next two-three decades if smoking prevalence continues to grow. Targeted complex efforts of the government and society focused on tobacco control are needed to overcome this trend.

<sup>30</sup> Mortality from tobacco in developed countries: indirect estimation from national vital statistics / R. Peto and oth. // Lancet. – 1992. – № 339. – P. 1268–1278.

### 3.2.3. Hypodynamia, excess weight and obesity

Because of total computerization, wide use of Internet by many young people in every-day life and spread of computer club networks and television virtually in every family, sitting at a computer or watching TV is a common form of leisure for the majority of teenagers and young people. Even group leisure very often take the form of computer games or chats. This behaviour pattern inevitably leads to a decline in physical activities of young people. About 5% of respondents gave no answer to the question whether they take physical exercise or go in for sports, and the remaining 43% indicated they do not do it at all. At the same time, teenagers and young people under 20 reported having more physical activities and sports (Fig. 3.18).

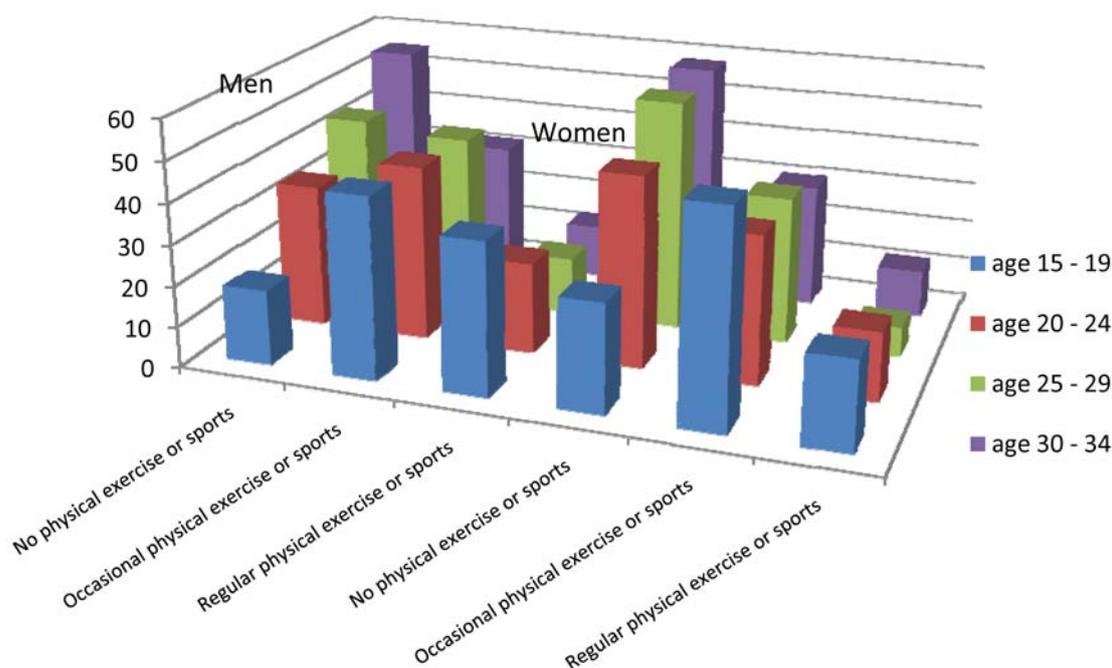


Fig. 3.18.

#### Physical exercise and sports at different age

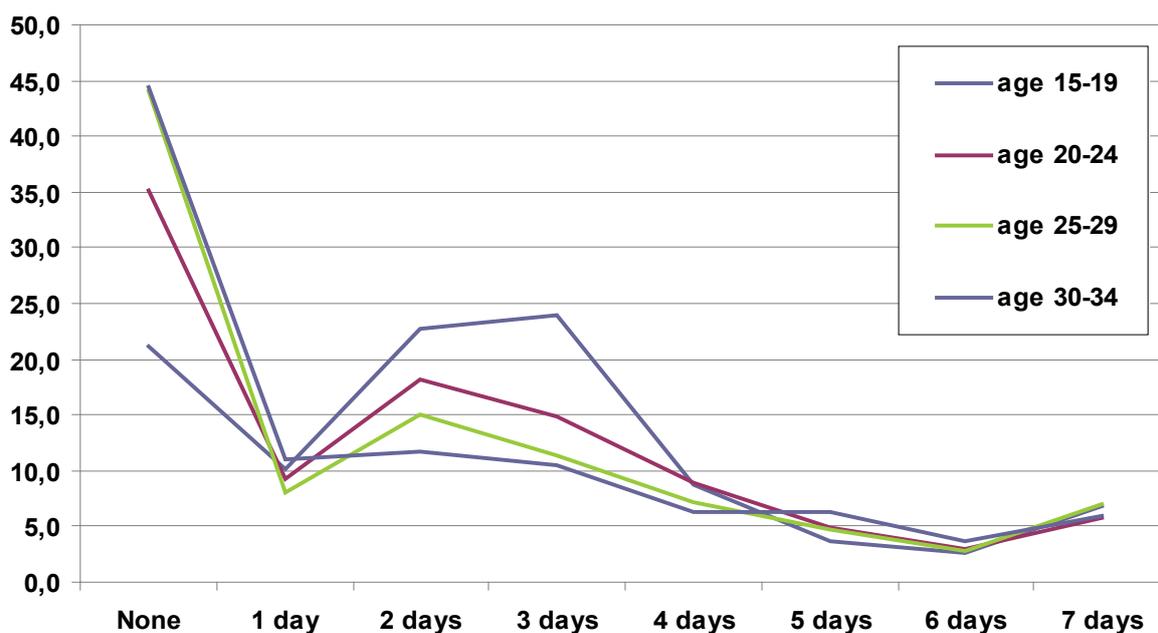
Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

Women have less opportunities of physical exercise because of housework and family responsibilities in a whole, however younger girls also display less interest in physical activities.

More than 1/3 of respondents gave a negative answer to the question "How many times in the past 7 days did you have physical exer-

cise or take part in sport games or have any other physical activity of at least 20 minutes which made you sweat or breathe harder (it may be basketball, football, jogging, swimming, cycle racing, sport dance, aerobics, brisk walking, bicycling, skating/roller-skating, and also washing the floor or any other works in the house or in the courtyard etc.)?”, in other words, there was no day of the week when they had some physical activity. It is of interest that the absolute majority of them (96%) believed that they led a healthy (or generally healthy) lifestyle. 17.6% of respondents with sedentary lifestyles who said they had bad habits mentioned hypodynamia as a bad habit and, on the contrary, 16% said they engaged in physical activities or sports.

The pattern of physical activity duration during a week is similar for all age groups. Most often people engage in some physical activity 2-3 days a week and only 6% take physical exercise every day (Fig. 3.19).



**Fig. 3.19.**  
**Distribution of responses on physical activity during a week by age, %**  
 Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

The survey showed no significant variations in physical activity (or its absence) by respondents’ social status or educational attainment. The behaviours of the majority of representatives of all strata of Ukrainian society clearly demonstrate that physical activity has not yet become the element of lifestyles of an educated person.

Both physical activity and healthy food prevents excess weight and obesity. Although all this is possible without large expenses and just some efforts and readiness to overcome natural laziness and food cravings are needed, wealthy people have more opportunities for physical exercise and sports (they can go to gyms, swimming pools etc.) and healthy food and do not have to limit the range of healthy products purchased at a food store. However, the obesity rate and the living standard are not always in inverse relationship. While in the United States this relationship is proven by dozens of surveys,<sup>31</sup> in the UK poverty researches do not support this idea, although overall spread of obesity in the country is an incontestable fact<sup>32</sup>.

Excess weight and obesity are established by calculating body mass index. This index was invented in 1869 by a Belgian sociologist and statistician A. Quetelet and is defined as the individual's body weight in kilograms divided by the square of his or her height in meters (and is measured in kg/m<sup>2</sup>).

**Table 3.5**

**Body mass index**

Body mass range	Basic range of body mass index	Additional range
Underweight	<18.50	<18.50
Severe underweight	<16.00	<16.00
Average underweight	16.00 – 16.99	16.00 – 16.99
Acceptable underweight	17.00 – 18.49	17.00 – 18.49
Normal weight	18.50 – 24.99	18.50 – 22.99
		23.00 – 24.99
Excess weight	≥25.00	≥25.00
Pre-obesity	25.00 – 29.99	25.00 – 27.49
		27.50 – 29.99
Obesity	≥30.00	≥30.00
Obese class I	30.00 – 34.99	30.00 – 32.49
		32.50 – 34.99
Obese class II	35.00 – 39.99	35.00 – 37.49
		37.50 – 39.99
Obese class III	≥40.00	≥40.00

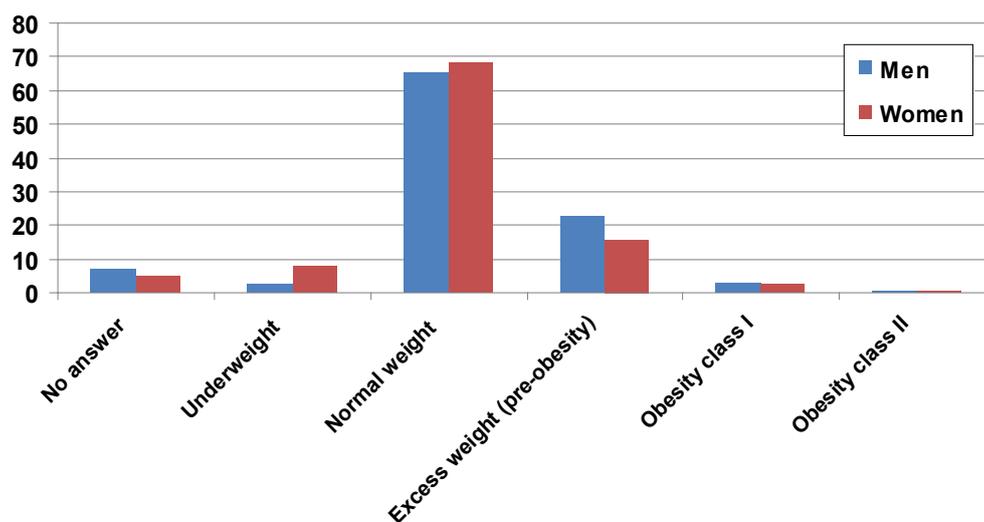
Source: WHO. Physical status: the use and interpretation of anthropometry. Report of a WHO Expert Committee. WHO Technical Report Series 854. Geneva: World Health Organization, 1995; WHO. Obesity: preventing and managing the global epidemic. Report of a WHO Consultation. WHO Technical Report Series 894. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2000; WHO expert consultation. Appropriate body-mass index for Asian populations and its implications for policy and intervention strategies. The Lancet, 2004; 157-163.

These figures may be used only for adults .

31 Obesity, Poverty, And Participation In Nutrition Assistance Programs: Summary / USDA. Office of Analysis, Nutrition and Evaluation. February, 2005. – 2 p.

32 United Kingdom Obesity. The Poverty Site. <http://www.poverty.org.uk/63/index.shtml>.

Body mass index in the survey “Youth of Ukraine” was calculated based on respondents’ answers about their height and weight. The following weight range was applied: underweight, normal weight, excess weight (pre-obesity), obesity class I, obesity class II, obesity class III. The survey shows high incidence of excess weight and even obesity among teenagers and young people of Ukraine. It is significant that a rather high proportion of survey respondents did not answer the question about their height and weight at all. Those were 6.8% of male respondents and 5.0% of female respondents, this being the evidence of a greater interest of women to their physical parameters. These figures also correlate with a higher incidence of excess weight and obesity among young men (25.8%) as compared with women (18.5%). Distribution of respondents of both sex by body mass index is given on Fig. 3.20. It is of interest that women are inclined to the extremes – both underweight and more extreme obesity.

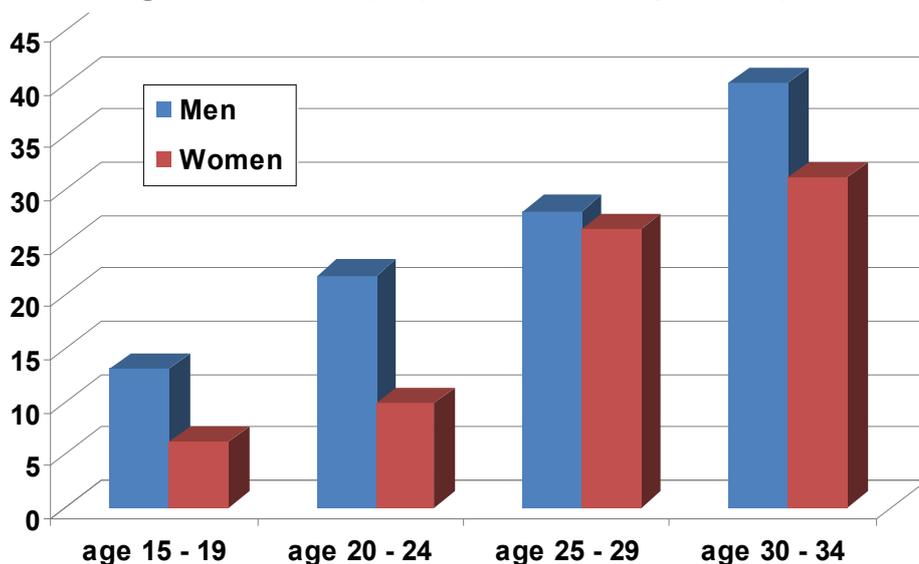


**Fig. 3.20.**  
**Distribution of respondents by excess over normal weight and by sex**  
 Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

The proportion of young people whose weight exceeds the norm grows with age (Fig. 3.21).

It is significant that a large proportion of young people, especially men, do not regard excess weight as something negative. About 6% of respondents gave no answer to the question whether they think their weight is normal or not. Another 5.5% said it was difficult for them to

answer. In general, 2/3 of men and just 27% of women who really had excess weight or even obesity according to body mass index figures said their weight was normal for their height. Weight was not important in terms of health for 42% of all male respondents and 29% of female respondents. Naturally, this proportion was somewhat smaller among persons with excess weight and obesity – 38 and 27%, respectively.



**Fig. 3.21.**  
**Proportion of persons with body mass exceeding the norm, by age and sex**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

A certain proportion of young people are rather indifferent about their weight both in terms of appearance. Answers to the question “Does weight have any significance for you in terms of appearance?” were distributed as follows: “does not matter” for 46% for all male respondents and 21% of female respondents. The distribution of these answers among persons with excess weight and obesity was 47 and 23%, respectively.

The survey did not find any regularity in the spread of excess weight and obesity among youth by social strata or income. Therefore, healthy diet is not a common practice even if it is easily available. More than a half of youth aged 15–24 have excess daily calorie intake and 80% – excess fat intake (Table 3.6).

The difference in nutrition of young males and females fully correlates with respective deviations from normal weight. Malnutrition among

girls correlates with underweight which is more typical for girls and, on the contrary, excessive fat and calorie intake by men in general correlates with a higher incidence of excess weight among men than among women.

**Table 3.6**

**Nutrition peculiarities of young people aged 15–24**

Sex	Malnutrition	Underconsumption of protein	Excess consumption of fat	Overeating
Men	13.9	94.0	84.6	61.8
Women	19.5	97.4	80.5	52.3
Men to women ratio, %	71.3	96.5	105.1	118.2

Source: calculations by M.V. Ptoukha Institute for Demography and Social Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

However, almost half of men and 20% of women see no problems in their excess weight and do not want to acknowledge that with age it may cause a range of diseases which will accompany them till the end of their days.

### **3.3. Reproductive health and its determinants**

Reproductive health, as well as general health of the Ukrainians, remains unsatisfactory. A range of factors have a negative impact on the health status: unfavorable social and economic situation, environmental problems, severe influence of risks, first of all lifestyle-related ones, spreading epidemics of socially dangerous diseases etc. Alongside, there exists a range of factors directly related to reproductive realm, the most threatening of which being health problems of pregnant women, high abortion rates and growing incidence of illnesses associated with sexual behaviours. All these factors correlate with risky sexual behaviour which is currently typical for a certain part of young people.

Youth is the social group for which reproductive health is particularly important since, on the one hand, it is the age of the most active

sexual life and, on the other hand – the time of realization of child-bearing intentions. The national survey of reproductive health of Ukrainian women and the official statistics data demonstrate that the absolute majority of women complete their childbearing activity before the age of 35.

Health of future children is to a considerable extent determined by mother's health directly during pregnancy and during the period preceding conception. Currently, almost all pregnant women in Ukraine take regular medical checkups starting from early stages of pregnancy (before the 12<sup>th</sup> week)<sup>33</sup>. In the recent years, the rate of coverage of pregnant women by regular checkups is kept at the level of 90%. However, unsatisfactory health status of pregnant women raises concern. Per every 100 pregnant women which were under the observation of maternity welfare centers of Ukraine's Health Care Ministry in 2009, anemia was recorded in 27 females, urogenital system diseases - in 15 females, circulatory system diseases – in 6 females, thyroid gland dysfunction – in 10 females<sup>34</sup>. Anemia in one of every four pregnant women raises concerns since this pathology largely depends on the quality and adequacy of nutrition (which is conditional, first of all, on social and economic situation in the family and awareness about healthy diet in general and during pregnancy, in particular). At the same time, there are positive changes. As compared with 2001, anemia prevalence dropped almost by 1/3 and prevalence of urogenital system diseases - by 10%.

Female health problems (somatic and reproductive) impede family's reproductive plans. Thus, in the national social and demographic survey, 16.9% of female respondents indicated health problems as main obstacles to having a desired number of children<sup>35</sup>. According to data of the survey "Youth of Ukraine", 11.0% of respondents mentioned they had inflammatory diseases of genitals at least once in their life (17.4% of total

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33 According to order N 503 of the Health Care Ministry dated 28.12.2002 "On improvement of ambulatory obstetric and gynecologic care in Ukraine", the optimal number of a pregnant woman's visits to a doctor during the antepartum period is 10-12 visits.

34 Акушерсько-гінекологічна допомога в Україні за 2006-2008 роки : статистично-аналіт. довідник. – К. : Міністерство охорони здоров'я України, Центр медичної статистики МОЗ України. – 238 с.

35 Шлюб, сім'я та дітородні орієнтації в Україні. — К.: АДЕФ-Україна, 2008. — 256 с.

female respondents and 5.7% of male respondents). The proportion of such respondents in the 30–34 age group was 42.5%, i.e. almost half of respondents had such disorder.

A decline in the rate of abnormal childbirth (from 68.0% in 2000 to 36.8% in 2009) and a growth in the rate of normal delivery with the lowest risk for mother and child is a positive development<sup>36</sup>. However, it should be mentioned that experts put the validity of the last figure under reasonable doubt given the health indices of pregnant women and the number of cases of abnormal childbirth recorded in medical obstetric institutions.

The practice of labour with a partner – currently about half of all births - contributes to a decline in the number of abnormal childbirth. The National Action Plan for implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Children<sup>37</sup> sets a goal to increase the percentage of normal childbirth up to 70% by 2010 by way of introduction of modern perinatal technologies.

Fewer medicines used during labour, presence of family members and birth partners, thermal protection of newborns, early breast-feeding after birth and promotion of breast-feeding have a parallel positive effect on prevention of maternal mortality as well as infant mortality.

The abortion rate per 1,000 of women of childbearing age dropped from 32.1 in 2000 to 16.6 in 2009. There exists a positive dynamics towards a decline in the number of abortions as well as in the abortion-birth ratio (Fig. 3.22).

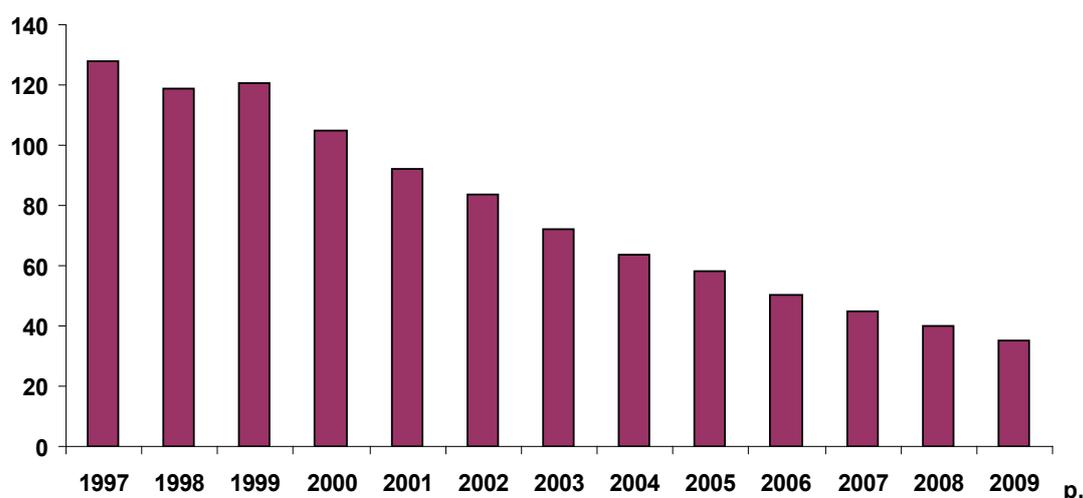
A positive phenomena is that starting with 2001 the number of births exceeds the number of abortions. This trend results from improved activities of reproductive health care services, enhancement of educational and preventive work with future parents, raising of information awareness about means of contraception and availability of necessary contraception methods.

However, the abortion rate in Ukraine is still higher than that in developed countries. Thereafter, economic and social burden of abortion as before is significant which is a very urgent medical and social challenge

36 Показники здоров'я населення та використання ресурсів охорони здоров'я в Україні за 2008–2009 роки : статистичний довідник. – К. : МОЗ, Центр медичної статистики Міністерства охорони здоров'я України, 2010. – 330 с.

37 The Law of Ukraine “On the National-Level Program “The National Action Plan for Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Children” for the period till 2016 dated March 5, 2009, N 1065-V

in our country. It is abortion that is the main factor damaging reproductive health. For a considerable share of Ukrainian women induced termination of pregnancy is one of the basic family planning methods. In Ukraine, abortion is often the outcome of the first pregnancy (in 2008 – 12.7% or 27.6 thousand of pregnancies). The society still does not fully realize that the first abortion significantly reduces the chances of a woman to have a baby in the future and increases the probability of various health problems in her future life, including psychological ones.



**Fig. 3.22.**  
**Number of abortions per 100 live and still births in Ukraine, 1997–2008**

Source: according to data of the Medical Statistics Center of the Health Care Ministry of Ukraine

The highest percentage of abortions is concentrated in the 18–34 age bracket – here the abortion rate per 1,000 of women of reproductive age was 24.5 (with this indicator for total childbearing age interval being 15.1). This age group of most sexually active women accounts for the highest number of births and at the same time faces the highest threat to their health related to abortions. In Ukraine, the frequency of pregnancies of women aged 15–19 is 2-4 higher than that in the developed European countries: at the beginning of the century our country was the first among countries of the European region by birth rate as well as by abortion rate in this age interval<sup>38</sup>. A decline in the abortion rate of teenage girls is a positive moment: during the period 1995–2009 the figure per 1,000 girls aged 15–17 dropped by 5.6 times.

<sup>38</sup> The European Health Reportt 2002. – Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2003. – WHO Regional Publications, European Series, No. 97. – 156 p.

Considering this, prevention of unwanted pregnancy remains the most important way in the state strategy of women's health protection. Propagation of modern contraceptive methods is one of the ways to achieve this goal. The rate of contraception use as an alternative to unwanted pregnancy has grown to a rather high level. Thus, according to data of the Medical Statistics Center of the Ministry of Health, 132 of 1,000 women of childbearing age who were under physician's observation at the end of 2009, had intrauterine device and 182 used hormonal contraception. However, it should be emphasized that these figures demonstrate physician's prescriptions of contraceptives and give no picture of their actual use by women. According to the interview data, considerably lower proportion of women used this method for prevention of unwanted pregnancy<sup>39</sup>.

The Ukrainian contraception practice is characterized by an extremely high rate of use of emergency contraception means to prevent unwanted pregnancy. Special studies<sup>40</sup> focused on this issue prove that in the recent years this rate almost doubled, reaching 48.8 per 1,000 of women on childbearing age in 2007. A comparative analysis of use of emergency and regular methods of unwanted pregnancy prevention in Ukraine and in some other countries of the world revealed that in Ukraine the ratio of emergency to regular methods use is 0.97, i.e. almost "one to one", in contrast to the industrialized countries where this method which is quite dangerous for a woman's health is used much more seldom, only in emergency circumstances. Thus, a similar ratio in the USA is 0.02, in Germany – 0.04, in the Czech Republic – 0.05, and this can be explained by the priority use of the regular method of unwanted pregnancy prevention which is preferred to the emergency contraception method.

According to data of the Demographic Health Survey of Ukrainian population of reproductive health (UDHS-2007)<sup>41</sup>, two-thirds (67%) of

39 Горбенко О.В. Ефективність використання засобів планування сім'ї / Горбенко О.В. // Україна. Здоров'я нації. – 2008. – №2(6). – С.136-142.

40 Слабкий Г.О., Горбенко О.В. Екстрена контрацепція : монографія. – Донецьк : Східний видавничий дім, 2008. – 247 с.

41 Ukraine Demographic Health Survey - 2007. – Calverton, Maryland, США : Ukrainian Center for Social Reforms UCSR, the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, the Health Care Ministry of Ukraine and Macro International Inc., 2008. – 336 с.

married women use contraception. As compared with the same survey for 1999, almost no changes occurred in the contraception coverage rate, however, there were positive shifts in its structure: the percentage of modern methods increased with a simultaneous decline in the use of traditional methods.

As to data of the survey “Youth of Ukraine”, 55.5% of young people aged 15–35 who had sexual intercourse within the three months preceding the interview had rather intensive sexual life – 2 times a week or more often. It is quite natural that a considerable portion of those respondents, given their young age and high sexual activity, used these or those contraceptive practices. During the past 6 months 61.0% of respondents who had sexual intercourse (or their female / male partner) used contraceptive means (unwanted pregnancy prevention means). However, the structure of methods used raises certain concern. A considerable part of respondents mentioned withdrawal and rhythm methods (15% and 10%, respectively) which, despite their obvious advantage in terms of cost, are quite risky in terms of pregnancy prevention (Table 3.7). The last method is used quite successfully by steady partners if a woman is of a comparatively older age and has regular monthly period, but it may be very unreliable for girls whose cycle is unsteady.

**Table 3.7**

**Use of contraceptive methods, %<sup>42</sup>**

Contraceptive method	Total respondents	Respondents who had sexual intercourse during the past 6 months
Pill	10	13
IUD	6	7
Condom	45	55
Rhythm	8,5	10
Withdrawal	12	15
Injectables	1	1
Other	1	2
Difficult to answer, don't know	8	9

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

Wide use of condom – the first method by popularity (more than half of respondents – 55%) and the second by cost – is very encouraging

42 Total responses do not make 100% because a respondent could give several answers about the methods used.

given its additional function of protection against sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. However, it should be mentioned that the contraceptive efficiency of this method is comparatively low, with the percentage of “failures” and, consequently, unwanted pregnancies in cases when only this method is used, remaining rather high, especially if its use is occasional and incorrect which is typical for younger and inexperienced people<sup>43</sup>.

Within the survey “Youth of Ukraine”, distribution of contraceptive methods used by respondents by age seems as follows: more than half of women who use an intrauterine device are concentrated in the oldest age group (age 30–34), while respondents who prefer condoms, withdrawal, rhythm and oral contraceptives are rather evenly distributed between all age groups from age 20 to 34, with the exception of the youngest group (age 15–19), in which the rate of these methods use ranged within 10%. As for hormonal contraceptives, there is a dependence of the frequency of their use on respondent’s educational attainment (57.5% of women and 49.5% of men who reported the use of contraception pills had higher education). In general, there exists a clear trend: the higher respondents’ educational attainment, the higher the rate of use of contraceptive means.

The causes of high abortion rates and abortion practices were thoroughly studied by the team of specialists and the public<sup>44</sup>; the study assessed knowledge, behaviour and attitudes of specialists, patients and society to this problem and the quality of provision of basic services in this area. The study emphasized that despite the fact that the majority of population can afford oral contraceptives of the middle price segment, a certain proportion should be provided with such contraceptives free-of-charge.

It is important that in Ukraine the necessity to develop the methods aimed at overcoming high abortion rates is widely discussed and is not limited just to medical aspects. The government’s position is centered

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43 Медицинские критерии приемлемости использования методов контрацепции. – Женева : ВОЗ, 2004. – 169 с.

44 Аборт и контрацепция в Украине. Стратегическая оценка политики, программ и исследований. – К. : МОЗ Украины, ВООЗ, 2008. – 88 с.

on a wide interaction of health care, schools, various religious and non-governmental organizations with the aim of abortion prevention rather than its prohibition. This task is primarily implemented by promotion of healthy lifestyles, spiritual, moral, ethical and cultural values, deferred start of sexual life and avoidance of pre- and extra-marital relationship. The importance of responsible sexual behaviour is emphasized since it is the most efficient way of preventing abortions and sexually transmitted diseases. Despite contradicting attitudes and opinions about induced termination of pregnancy existing today, in our country we have a unanimous understanding of high value of a new human life and acknowledgment of social and personal responsibility for preserving it.

High incidence of sexually transmitted infections has an irretrievable negative impact on the reproductive domain. It would be incorrect to suppose that the sexual revolution which came to Ukraine from the West is the only reason of the aggravated situation with STI. A decline in living standards of the majority of people, unemployment, poverty, increased mobility, migration both within the country and abroad, unsteady families, growing numbers of orphans and children who do not get parental care, alcohol and drug abuse, early sex and unsafe sex, irresponsible attitude towards one's health – these are just some of the factors contributing to high incidence of this pathology. In Ukraine, morbidity rates of these infections and, therefore, their contribution to impairment of reproductive health is considerably higher than in the developed countries of Europe. According to data of the Medical Statistics Center, in the recent years there was a decline in syphilis morbidity (which is also indirectly confirmed by a decrease in the number of recorded congenital syphilis) and gonorrhoea morbidity, however, specialists emphasize that the official statistics underestimates the prevalence of these diseases. Nevertheless, a gradual decline in these infections observed in Ukraine since the middle of 1990s raises some concern because of the uncertainty that all the incidences of these diseases may be identified and recorded (especially gonorrhoea). Thus, syphilis to gonorrhoea morbidity ratio demonstrates a higher syphilis morbidity seems unreliable (Table 3.8).

Table 3.8

**Sexually transmitted infections morbidity in Ukraine by separate nosological forms and sex (per 100 thousand of population)**

	Both sexes		Males		Females	
	2006	2009	2006	2009	2006	2009
Syphilis	34.3	20.0	36.6	21.4	32.4	18.9
Gonococcal infection	33.0	23.9	49.0	34.9	19.3	14.6
Chlamydia infection	78.1	72.0	58.7	54.5	94.7	87.1
Urogenital mycoplasmosis	74.2	81.8	49.6	52.4	95.3	106.9
Trichomoniasis	251.0	215.4	111.7	96.4	370.4	317.2

Source: according to data of the Medical Statistics Center of the Health Care Ministry of Ukraine

On the contrary, European countries demonstrate prevailing gonorrhoea morbidity – the situation which existed in Ukraine in the past and was more realistic in epidemiological terms. A growing number of recorded late syphilis is another indication that there are hidden seats of syphilitic infection. A wide-spread practice of self-treatment and illegal treatment and free sale of prescription drugs in pharmacies lead to complications of sexually transmitted diseases and increase the risk of acute disease forms becoming chronic (which are often resistible to drug treatment or asymptomatic), with a persistent threat of this disease being contracted by those with whom a sick person contacts and an increased probability that new persons will be infected.

Information on the incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STI) is not only a useful indicator of unsafe sex spread, but also an additional indicator of HIV transmission risk.

Although condom use is one of the major generally accepted strategies of STI (including HIV) eradication, opinions on youth education in this respect are rather contradictory, since a certain proportion of the people believe that these educational efforts encourage early sexual experience. However, 93% of female and 83% of male respondents of UDHS-2007 supported the idea that condom use should be explained to children as early as at the age of 12–14 in order to prevent the risks of HIV/AIDS.

In addition to forming the self-protection behaviour skills aimed at STI prevention, there is an urgent need to develop a more responsible attitude towards motherhood in society since without it no further changes towards

improvement of mother's health would be possible. The point is that a range of problems (of women as well as children born by them) is triggered by behavioural factors, first of all, a future mother's behaviour. Today, consumption of alcohol, especially beer and low-alcohol beverages, is increasingly spread among young women in Ukraine. As already mentioned, smoking prevalence is also very high among women of active childbearing age. According to the survey of Ukrainian pregnant women, 40% smoked before pregnancy, almost 5% continue to smoke during pregnancy, 57% of respondents mentioned that the future father is a smoker and 23% said other members of their family smoke<sup>45</sup>.

Smoking prevalence among girls and women is a global problem. In 2010, the *World No Tobacco Day* was held with the slogan "Protect women from tobacco marketing and smoke". Public efforts were focused on the harm caused to women by tobacco as well as on the activities which would make men realize their responsibility for non-smoking in places also visited by women be it place of employment, residence or recreation. It is women (as well as children and youth) which are one of the target groups for tobacco product advertising and the largest group of potential consumers of these products – today women constitute one-fifth of all smokers in the world. According to the WHO data, currently 40% of our planet's total male population smoke, as against only 9% of women<sup>46</sup>.

Smoking has a negative impact on a woman's reproductive function, increases the risk of preterm delivery, still birth, infant mortality, cervical carcinoma and is also harmful to lactation. However, as demonstrated by the survey "Youth of Ukraine", a scarcely 6% of women did not quit smoking during pregnancy. One in every four women mentioned that at least one of her co-residents smoked during her pregnancy. It is worrying that 5% of respondents drank alcohol while expecting a child (Fig. 3.23).

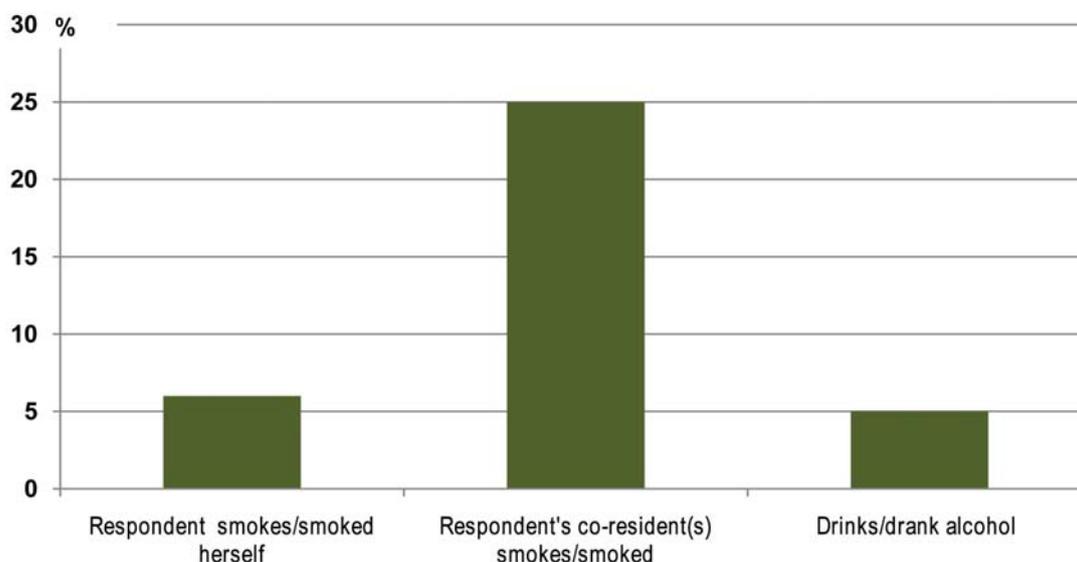
In general, in Ukraine the level of awareness about tobacco-related health problems, especially those of reproductive health, is extremely low. In the course of the 2005 national survey, only 28% of respondents aged

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45 Smoking and Consequences in Pregnant Women in Ukraine, HNP Discussion Paper, 2005

46 <http://www.who.int/tobacco/wntd/2010/ru/index.html>

15–29 knew that smoking is harmful to an unborn child and were aware about the danger of passive smoking<sup>47</sup>.



**Fig. 3.23.**  
**Proportion of respondents exposed to tobacco- and alcohol-related risk factors during pregnancy**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine”

Since youth is the most sexually active social group but, owing to a young age, may lack adequate knowledge or information, young people are exposed to a higher risk of being infected with STI or the risk of unwanted pregnancy. It should be emphasized that a sexual behaviour stereotype formed at young age is, as a rule, used in further life. Thus it is important that young people be provided with respective knowledge at the youngest age and be able to use it in practice to mitigate the risk of harm to their health or even life. It is not without reason that the List of national indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the efficiency of activities in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic includes the “Proportion of young people aged 15–24 who correctly indicate the ways of prevention of HIV-infection sexual transmission and are aware about how the infection is not transmitted”<sup>48</sup>.

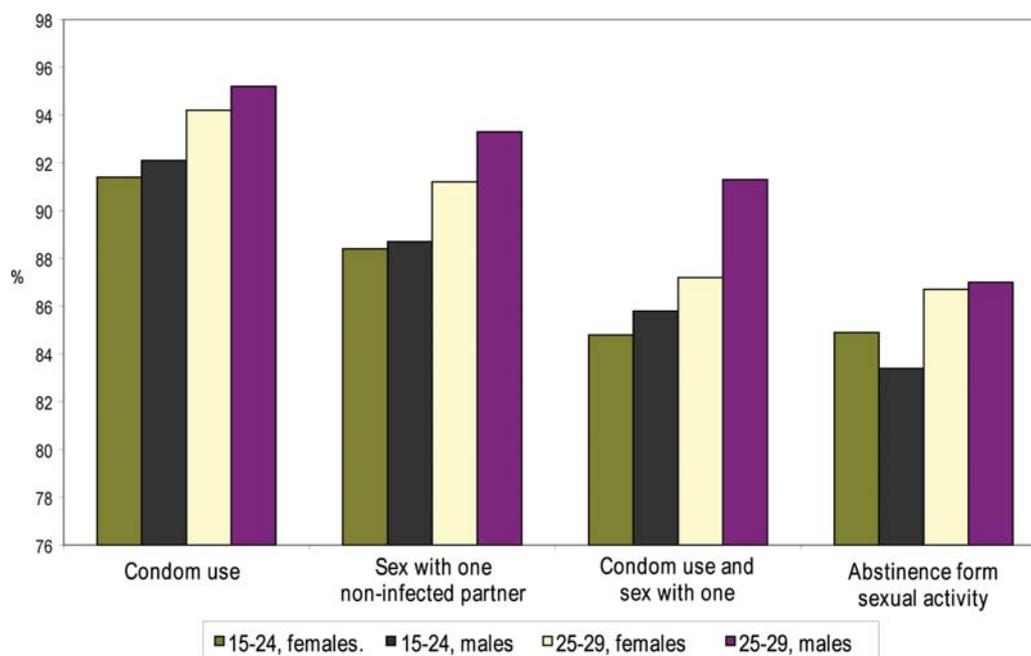
47 Тютюн в Україні: національне опитування щодо знань, ставлення та поведінки. – К.: Міжнародний центр перспективних досліджень, 2005

48 On the approval of the List of national indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the efficiency of activities in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the Guidelines on how to determine these indices : Order of Health Care Ministry № 280 of 17.05.2006 [Electronic resource]. <http://moz.gov.ua/ua/main/docs/?docID=6545>

In the Ukraine Demographic Health Survey (UDHS–2007)<sup>49</sup> the following positions were studied:

- HIV knowledge (ways of transmission, prevention, comprehensiveness of this knowledge);
- attitude towards HIV;
- behaviour in respect HIV;
- HIV tests and advice, including for pregnant women;
- potential risks of being infected.

The survey demonstrated a rather high level of awareness about HIV/AIDS problem – the absolute majority of women and men aged 15–29 reported they heard about HIV/AIDS, 83–95% of respondents were aware about the main ways to prevent HIV, with male respondents being better aware about these issues than their female peers (Fig. 3.24).



**Fig. 3.24.**  
**Awareness of population aged 15–29 about the main ways to prevent the risk of being infected with HIV**

Source: Ukraine Demographic Health Survey - 2007<sup>50</sup>.

Naturally, women have higher awareness of prevention HIV transmission from mother to child. It also evidences the efficiency of work

49 Representative national survey which was held in July-November 2007 and covered over 10.5 thousand persons aged 15- 49 from all regions of the country.

50 Ukraine Demographic Health Survey - 2007. – Calverton, Maryland, USA : Ukrainian Center for Social Reforms UCSR, the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, the Health Care Ministry of Ukraine and Macro International Inc., 2008. – p. 336.

conducted by medical and social care providers with pregnant women. 60% of female and 39% of male respondents knew that HIV may be transmitted at breastfeeding; 33% of female and 31% of male respondents knew that the risk of HIV transmission may be reduced by using special therapy during pregnancy. However, only 26% of women and 15% of men designated these two statements in their combination.

Only half of respondents of reproductive age demonstrated comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS (females – 45.6%, males – 44.9%). Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS means that a respondent has knowledge of the following:

- 1) the risk of being infected with HIV may be reduced by being faithful to one non-infected partner who has no other sexual contacts, and also by use of condom during each sexual intercourse;
- 2) a person who looks healthy may be HIV-infected;
- 3) respondent rejects two most common incorrect ideas about HIV transmission<sup>51</sup>.

However, younger respondents had less knowledge of these issues: comprehensive knowledge was demonstrated by 38.9% of female and 33.2% of male respondents aged 15–19; the deepest knowledge was shown by respondents aged 20 - 30 (49.4% and 52.1% of respondents aged 20–24 and 49.2% and 48.6% of those aged 25–29, respectively).

Respondents' attitudes towards HIV-infected persons varied greatly depending on propinquity of their relationship. Thus,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of respondents said they were ready to take care of HIV-infected family member, while only 22% of females and 11% of males would buy food products from a seller with AIDS. 41% of females and 32% of males said they would agree that a female HIV-positive teacher should be allowed to teach their children. Older respondents, married/ex-married respondents and women with higher education are more likely to take care of an HIV-infected family member. Only 5% of female and 7% of male respondents indicated that if their family member was ill, they would not conceal the fact.

An inquiry into the frequency of receiving advice and having

<sup>51</sup> In Ukraine, the most common incorrect ideas were that AIDS may be transmitted by kiss (1) and by shared tableware and food (2)

HIV-tests showed that 83% of women and 82% of men knew where they could be tested for HIV. However, 55% of women and 79% of men were never tested for HIV or never received test results. The frequency of having HIV-tests is lower for respondents who do not have sexual contacts, rural residents, the youngest population group (aged 15–19) and persons with lower levels of income and education attainment. The highest frequency of tests was demonstrated by residents of the Eastern region, the lowest frequency – the Western region. The proportion of women who took the tests and received results was the highest among female respondents aged 30–39 (84%), urban residents (84%) and female respondents with higher than secondary educational attainment (85%).

Therefore, UDHS-2007 proved a rather high level of Ukrainian population's awareness about HIV/AIDS (almost half of the population aged 15–29 had comprehensive knowledge) and identified a certain gap in this knowledge and prejudices towards HIV-infected people. We believe that here the main problem lies in an inconsistency between their knowledge and their personal deeds thus resulting in the spread of behaviour associated with the risk of HIV transmission.

In the course of the survey "Youth of Ukraine", 62% of respondents reported having a steady sexual partner, with 2/3 of them meaning a marriage partner (62% – in officially registered marriage). 82% of respondents reported having an experience of sexual relations, with the majority of them (74%) getting this experience before the age of 18. In the group of younger respondents aged 15–19, 40% reported having sexual contacts.

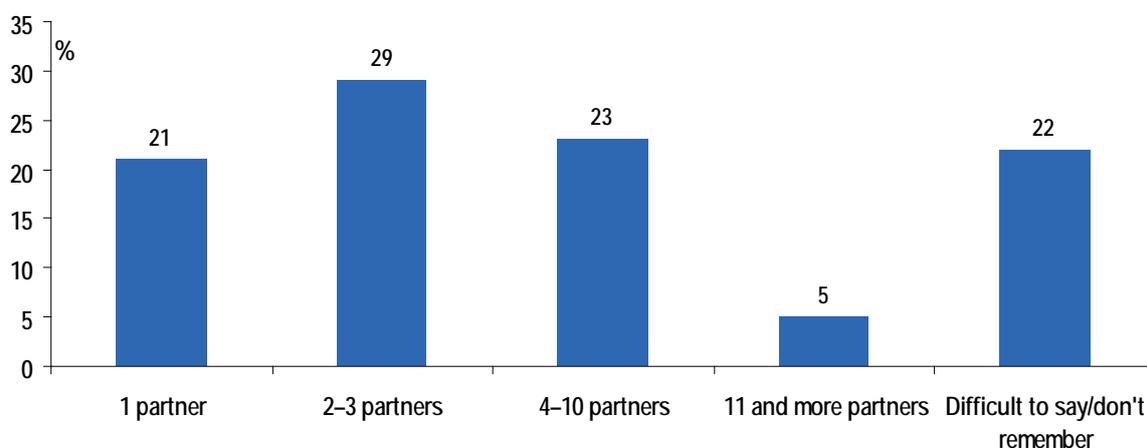
There exists a correlation between an early start of sexual life and educational attainment. Persons with primary education accounted for the largest proportion of male respondents who received their first sexual experience before the age of 15 (44%). Among females with similar educational attainment, 57% had the first sexual experience before the age of 16.

Among persons who had sexual intercourse at least once in their life, 48% used a condom during the first sexual contact. It should be mentioned that the absolute majority of respondents in the 15–19 age group (76%) used a condom, in contrast to 20% of those aged 30–34, which evidences

that at the start of sexual life a younger age group had a relatively higher awareness of the risks pertaining to unprotected sex. Here, it should be pointed out that in UDHS-2007 the youngest respondents (aged 15–19) were also relatively more careful than respondents 5 years older – condom use at the first sexual intercourse was a more common practice in the first group of respondents (57% and 45%, respectively).

Among persons who had at least one sexual intercourse in their life, 44% of respondents reported using a condom at most recent intercourse.

As for the number of sexual partners, only one in every five respondents (21%) who had ever had sexual intercourse, had only one partner during his/her lifetime, with this figure growing to 73% and 77%, respectively, when respondents were asked about 12 months or 30 days preceding the interview. It is worrying that 28% of sexually active young people reported having 4 to 11 and more sexual partners during their lifetime (Fig. 3.25).



**Fig. 3.25.**  
**Distribution of respondents by the number of sexual partners (in the group of respondents who have ever had sexual intercourse)**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

UDHS-2007 demonstrated that a rather high proportion of respondents practices risky sexual behaviour: in the 12 months preceding the survey 22% of female and 43% of male respondents of reproductive age had risky sexual intercourse (i.e. not with the spouse or cohabitant). The highest exposure to risks was recorded among young respondents - 46% of women and 85% of men

aged 15–24, who were sexually active during 12 months prior to the survey, had sexual contacts characterized by high risk. It should be mentioned that about half of respondents mentioned they did not use a condom at most recent risky intercourse.

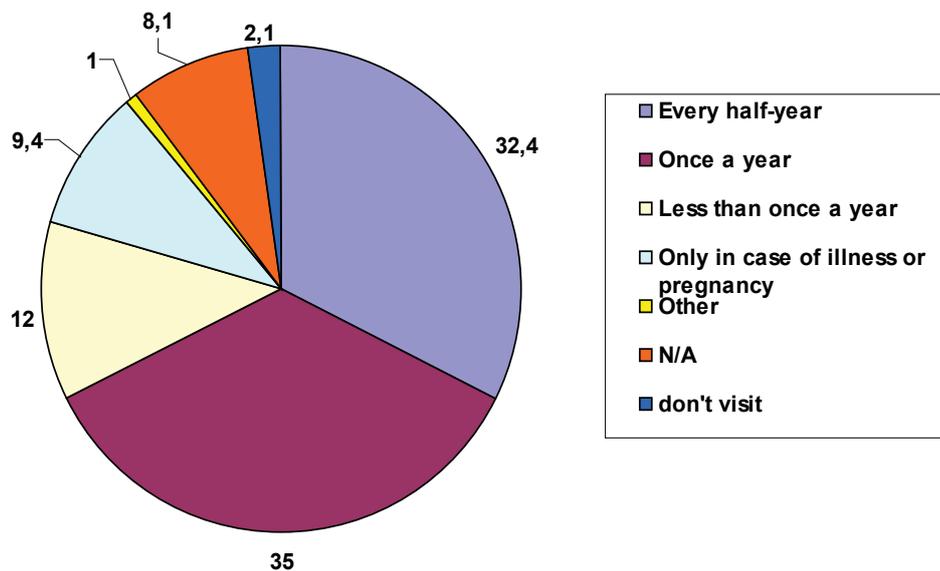
Alcohol and drug abuse at increasing rates is another factor with a dramatically high impact on reproductive health of the nation and childbearing ability. Researchers emphasize that a rise in mortality from unnatural causes, primarily those associated with alcohol and drug abuse, among young people of Russia and Ukraine by several times exceeds that in many post-socialist countries, even the poorest ones. A certain proportion of young women die without having a child. Excess mortality of young males is also a weighty factor bringing about a decline in birth rates. The study of fertility factors based on the data of the Russian Monitoring of Economic Situation and Health proved that if a woman has no husband / steady partner, this is the most powerful factor reducing her chances of having a child<sup>52</sup>. Furthermore, it should be remembered that alcohol and drugs have a negative effect on male's potency as well as on physical and mental health of future children and do not promote a happy family with the psychological climate and relevant welfare favorable for growing up of children, even in case if only one of the parents has alcohol or drug addiction.

It is a positive fact that one in three respondents plans to have a child in the next three years. However, there are some essential preconditions for planning a child, in particular, it is health status of future parents, getting specialist advice and body sanitation before conception, for instance, timely identification and treatment of existing diseases and reproductive health dysfunctions. Considering this, it is very encouraging that 92% of female respondents visit a gynecologist and 32 % of them - rather regularly, once every half-year (Fig. 3.26). However, 28% of women indicated they had woman's diseases and 14% of male respondents had to consult an urologist.

Growing numbers of Ukrainians who are unable to accomplish their childbearing plans due to health problems is another problem which has become especially urgent in recent years. Current infertility rates result

52 Халтурина Д.А. Алкоголь и наркотики как важнейшие факторы демографического кризиса в России и Украине // Демоскоп Weekly. – № 227 – 228. - 19-31 декабря 2005. <http://demoscope.ru/weekly/2005/0227/analit03.php>

from high abortion rate and high incidence of sexually transmitted diseases and inflammatory diseases of genitals. According to official data (i.e. recorded requests for medical care), female sterility ranges within 2.8–3.5‰, male sterility – 0.3–0.8‰, in contrast to sociological survey data which reveals significantly higher figures: the sterility rate ranges within 6%–20% of families, depending on Ukraine’s region<sup>53</sup>. Irrespective of up-to-date technologies for medical treatment of inflammatory diseases of the reproductive sphere and the extracorporal fertilization method available today, it should be remembered and realized that these interventions are quite expensive and the majority of cases of acquired sterility could be avoided by prevention of reproductive health dysfunctions and their timely diagnostics and treatment. Here, it is of primary importance to get medical care as early as possible rather than sit and wait for one’s fate. The survey “Youth of Ukraine” demonstrated that 85% of respondents realize that if a married couple wants children but is unable to have them several years in succession, both partners should take a medical checkup and find the cause. Another 5% of respondents put responsibility on one of the partners: those respondents indicated that only a woman (3%) or a man (2%) should take a medical checkup.



**Fig. 3.26.**  
**Frequency of women’s visits to gynecologist, % of total women**

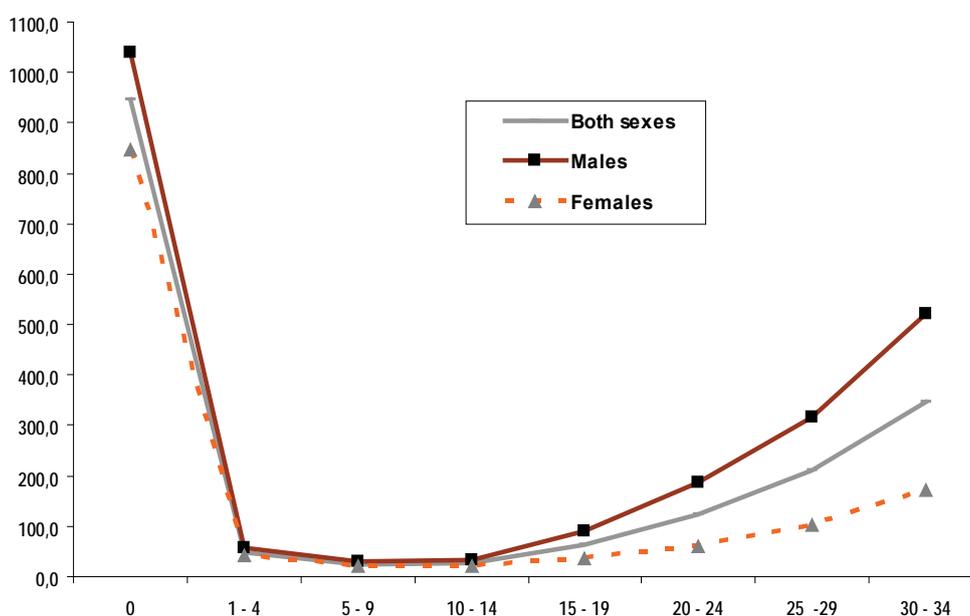
Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

53 Щорічна доповідь про стан здоров’я населення України та санітарно-епідемічну ситуацію. 2008 рік. – К. : МОЗ України, Укр. ін-т стратегічних досліджень МОЗ України, 2009. – 360 с.

In the situation when one of the spouses is unable to have children due to health reasons, half of respondents believe that the couple should “take medical treatment and hope for the better” and another proportion – rather significant, almost equally females (25%) and males (20%) – figured on up-to-date technologies (artificial impregnation, surrogate motherhood etc.). Almost 50% of respondents who entrusted modern technologies were persons with higher education.

### 3.4. Mortality at young age

All developed countries demonstrate rather low mortality rates at young age (as compared with older populations) which is quite natural in peacetime. Mortality is high during the first year of life but as a child grows older, the risk of dying early is considerably decreased. The death rate drops sharply for both sexes (almost by 20 times) when a child is 1-4 years old and steady falls to the minimum at the age of 5–9 (Fig. 3.27), then the rate grows gradually and exceeds the figure for the age under 1 only at the age of 50–54.



**Fig. 3.27.**  
**Mortality by age groups, per 100,000, Ukraine 2009,**  
 Source: data of the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine

After the age of 10, we can see merely a growth of the death rate in each next age bracket, with uneven pattern: mortality increases between age 10–14 and age 15–19 by 2.2 times, between age 15–19 and 20–24 – 2 by times, between age 20–24 and age 25–29 – 1.6 times. Then the increase slows down and in the subsequent age groups the mortality rate grows by 30–40% on the average, with its increase at age 75–79 becoming more intensive reaching 80% at age 85 and over.

The pattern of causes of death at young age is characterized by some specific features. A young body is not yet overburdened with chronic noninfectious diseases, therefore, most deaths are caused by exogenous pathology. External causes account for the highest proportion of deaths of young people in Ukraine as well as in Europe. As a natural outcome, exogenous pathology causes the majority of deaths – in our country about 60% of deaths of young people aged 15–34 result from two classes of causes: external causes and infectious and parasitic diseases. Half of unnatural youth deaths is caused by intentional self-injury (including suicide) and traffic accidents. While for total population the highest percentage of deaths from infectious and parasitic diseases is caused by tuberculosis, 2/3 of deaths of young people are attributable to AIDS. Diseases of the circulatory system and diseases of the digestive system are the main factor of approximately one in every ten deaths.

If, regarding all endogenous causes (except conditions originating in the perinatal period, congenital malformations etc.), endogenous mortality rises with the age, some exogenous causes account for the highest mortality at young age. For instance, in 2009 the largest losses from traffic accidents were recorded in the 20–29 age group; mortality in this interval exceeded total mortality in all older age groups. This can be explained by the fact that young people, being no longer under control of parents and teachers, have more freedom of action and get an opportunity to drive a car, on the one part, but, on the other part, still being immature, have neither the adequate experience nor the instinct of self-preservation and thus are exposed to a higher risk of emergency situations (irrespective of compliance or non-compliance with highway regulations as a driver of a car

or a motorcycle or as a pedestrian).

AIDS-attributable mortality is the highest at the age of 30–34 (42.9 per 100,000) and remains virtually the same in the next age group, dropping to particular cases at the age over 60.

Endogenous pathology is a comparatively less frequent cause of deaths among young people. For instance, the percentage of deaths from the major cause of death in total population – diseases of circulatory system – does not reach 10% at the age of 15–34 (Table 3.9).

**Table 3.9**

**Mortality by cause and selected age group, 2009**

	Total population	Age group, years				Percentage of deaths at the age 15-34, %
		15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	
All causes	1.540.6	63.4	124.1	211.6	346.5	100
Infectious and parasitic disease	33.0	1.6	10.0	36.4	73.7	16.3
Neoplasm	193.2	5.1	8.4	12.5	23.4	6.6
Diseases of the nervous system	13.6	4.0	4.8	7.6	11.2	3.7
Diseases of the circulatory system	1.004.1	3.2	8.8	19.6	42.5	9.9
Diseases of the respiratory system	46.0	1.6	3.7	10.2	15.4	4.1
Diseases of the digestive system	65.6	0.9	6.0	19.8	46.2	9.8
External causes	106.7	42.1	74.3	91.5	115.8	43.4

Source: Data of the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine

As for some nosological forms of neoplasms, it turns out that, in contrast to older people having lung, stomach and female reproductive sphere cancer as foremost death causes, one in every four deaths among young people aged 15–34 is attributable to malignant neoplasms of lymphoid, blood and related tissue.

It should be mentioned that young men, owing to their psychophysiological peculiarities during the period of individual formation and development, tend to more risky and active behaviour associated both with certain activity (occupational activity, military service etc.) and with behavioural

factors in the course of socialization. A pursuit to gain a foothold in the hierarchy of peers and conform to the stereotypes of the masculine behavioral pattern of “macho” or, eventually, a desire to be attractive to the other sex often induces young men to unjustified risk, aggressive behavior, extreme sports and recreation styles etc. leading to a significant number of unnatural deaths at the age of 15–34. It should be noted that in the oldest group of this age (30–34) male mortality from unnatural causes declines since it is the age when a person to marry, has children and assumes a certain responsibility for his family, and these factors have an impact on behaviour and determine a more serious attitude towards own safety.

It is the class of external causes where the highest excess mortality rates (significantly exceeding those from other causes) are recorded, and here certain regularities can be seen depending on a specific cause of death. Thus, at young age murder accounts for the lowest death rate among males since women are comparatively more often become murder victims than men of respective age (Table 3.10).

**Table 3.10**  
**Male excess mortality from external causes, by age group, times, 2009**

	External causes	Of which:							
		Traffic accidents	Falls	Unintentional drowning	Consequences of fire and smoke	Unintentional poisoning	Intentional self-injury (suicide)	Murder	Injuries with unidentified intention
Total population	4.3	3.9	4.2	6.8	2.8	4.5	5.4	2.6	4.2
15–19	3.7	3.2	5.0	6.0	5.0	2.6	4.3	1.3	3.8
20–24	5.4	5.0	5.0	10.1	17.0	2.9	6.8	3.3	4.9
25–29	6.4	5.3	9.2	9.5	4.1	8.7	9.2	2.9	5.3
30–34	5.5	5.4	4.6	9.9	4.3	6.0	7.2	2.7	5.3

Source: data of the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine

Males aged 20–24 get drowned 10 times more often than girls of the same age and become victims of fire and smoke 17 times more often. Death rates from traffic accidents and falls among young males are also significantly higher. Special attention should be paid to such an acute

social problem as male mortality of suicide, which in the age of 25–29 exceeds mortality of females of the same age more than 9 times.

In Ukraine, mortality from all causes among young people in the age of 15–29, which embraces the 15-year interval from pubescence to the time when the majority of persons to marry, is significantly (almost three times) higher than in the EU countries (Table 3.11). It should be mentioned that in 1981 this rate in the given age was 1.6 times higher and in the subsequent years the excess mortality rate grew virtually steadily being three times higher, with its decline down to 2.6 recorded only in the recent two years. For international comparison we took major youth death causes (external causes, infectious and parasitic diseases, neoplasms) and analyzed indicators calculated according to the European standard.

**Table 3.11**

**Mortality at the age of 15-29 from external causes in Ukraine and other countries, standardized death rate per 100,000**

	Ukraine*	Russian Federation	Czech Republic	EU
All causes	133.6	237.0	52.0	50.6
Infectious and parasitic diseases	16.0	13.5	0.47	0.99
Neoplasms	8.7	8.7	4.6	5.5
External causes	69.3	153.8	35.2	30.5

Source: European mortality database (MDB) World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe Updated: January 2010

\* For Ukraine – figures of 2009, calculations by specialists of the Institute for Demography and Social Studies

Over the past years, mortality in the EU countries gradually declined in the majority of age groups, while in Ukraine the highest youth mortality rates as well as the highest rates in older age groups were recorded at the peak of the 1995–1996 demographic crisis; after that they gradually declined, however, never reaching the level of developed countries. While in the neighboring Czech Republic which borders the Western part of Ukraine to-day youth mortality rates insignificantly differ from the European figures, our northern neighbor has the overbalance even higher than Ukraine – in the Russian Federation young people aged 15–29 die 4.7 times more often.

Mortality from unnatural causes is more than two times higher in

Ukraine; both in Ukraine and EU unnatural causes account for the largest percentage of total mortality in this age (about a half). Another exogenous mortality group – infectious and parasitic diseases – has a high percentage in the mortality structure (16 times higher than in the EU countries).

Mortality from neoplasms which are common among the elderly people is double higher. It is, to a certain extent, an evidence of untimely diagnostics and low efficiency of treatment of oncological pathologies. In Ukraine, the percentage attributable to this cause in the overall total mortality structure is 6 times more than in the EU (12% as against 2% in the EU).

A more detailed comparison of mortality from certain causes of the class “Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes” demonstrates that there is almost no disparity between the rates of young female death in motor vehicle crashes in Ukraine and European countries, while male mortality from this cause at this age being just 1.3 higher. However, the percentage of death rates of both sexes from alcohol poisoning is 16 times higher (Table 3.12). Young Ukrainians die from violent actions 4–5 times more often and the suicide rate at this age is 2.6 times higher for males and 1.6 higher for females.

**Table 3.12**

**Mortality at the age of 15–29 from external causes in Ukraine and the EU countries, standardized figure for 100 thousand of population**

	Ukraine*			EU		
	Males	Females	Ratio, times	Males	Females	Ratio, times
External causes, of which:	115.1	21.7	5.3	49.1	11.2	4.4
– traffic accidents	30.6	6.5	4.7	23.0	6.3	3.6
– intentional self-injury / suicide	30.1	4.4	6.8	11.7	2.7	4.3
– murder / assault with the intention of murder or injury	7.6	2.6	2.9	1.5	0.6	2.5
– alcohol poisoning	5.7	0.8	7.1	0.35	0.05	7.0

Source: European mortality database (MDB) World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe Updated: January 2010

\* For Ukraine – figures of 2009, calculations by specialists of Institute for Demography and Social Studies

An inquiry into the dynamics, levels and structure of youth mortality in Ukraine and its comparison with the EU countries gave the following conclusions.

In Ukraine, exogenous pathology causes more than half of deaths of young people at the age of 15–34 and external causes and infectious and parasitic diseases account for about 60% of deaths. Excess mortality of males in this age group is three times higher and is mostly caused by social factors.

Mortality of young people in Ukraine is three times as high as that of their peers in the EU countries, with disastrous excess by some causes (thus, the percentage of lethal outcomes of alcohol poisoning is 16 times higher, of violent actions (murder / assault with the intention of murder or injury) – 4–5 times higher).

# SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH AND SPECIFIC FEATURES OF ITS ECONOMIC BEHAVIOUR

## *4.1. Educational level and educational and occupational orientations of youth*

In any country people associate the future of their state and the prospects of population well-being with life and development of young generations and improvement of their qualitative characteristics. In the situation of the growing role of an individual as a subject of social and economic development and an increasing importance of population's intellectual and activity potential as the factors promoting civilization development, it is the educational level, educational and occupational attitudes and employment opportunities of youth that to a considerable degree determine the quality of the current and prospective human potential of any country.

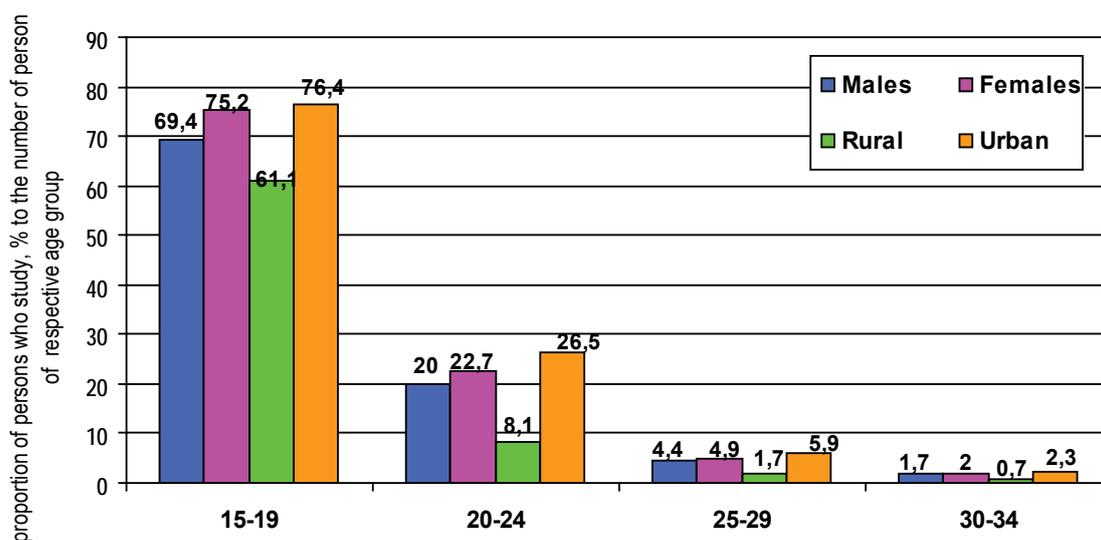
Values related to education and occupational activities are ranked rather high in the life priority hierarchy of Ukrainian youth, as earlier emphasized by other researchers<sup>1</sup> and confirmed by results of the most recent representative sample survey of youth contingents ("Youth of Ukraine", 2010). Thus, 70% of young respondents indicated that *availability of good jobs, professional employment* are "very important" for them. The highest proportion of young people assessed as "very important" such values closely related to economic and occupational activities as *economic independence* ("very important" for 63% of respondents) and *material well-being* (77%). According to results of the interview, the proportion of respondents who

<sup>1</sup> Молодь на порозі самостійного життя / кер. авт. кол. Д.А. Дмитрук. — К.: Державний ін-т проблем сім'ї та молоді, 2004. — 166 с.; Олійник М.В. Динаміка соціальних орієнтацій молоді // Українське суспільство: десять років незалежності / За ред. В.М. Ворони, М.О. Шульги. — К.: Ін-т соціології НАН України, 2001. — С. 492–498.

ranked *education* and *knowledge* as “very important” was 53%, another 38% of respondents characterized these values as “rather important”, with the proportion of young women who characterized these values as “very important” more that 8 percentage points exceeding a respective figure for young men.

Overall, Ukrainian youth is characterized by a rather high educational level and study activities, although the last statement mostly refers to young people under 25. After this age the percentage of persons who study drops rather sharply and becomes very insignificant by the age of 35.

Unfortunately, a comprehensive picture of educational activities of youth by gender and type of settlement may be drawn only based on data of the last population census (Fig. 4.1). As the Figure shows, on the verge of the centuries females demonstrated higher educational efforts as against their male peers, urban residents – as against rural residents, with the settlement and gender disparities concerning high education level being especially pronounced.

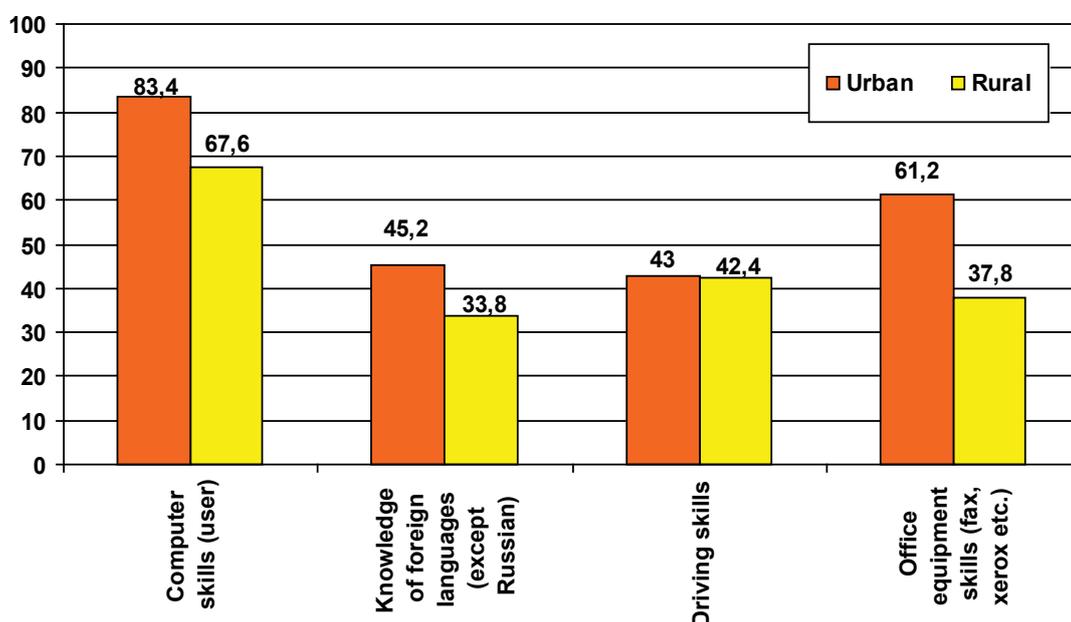


**Fig. 4.1.**  
[Educational activities of persons aged 15-34 by gender and settlement type](#)  
 Source: based on data of the First All-Ukrainian Population Census

Besides, results of the special-purpose sample survey “Youth of Ukraine” may also provide some insight into the current situation with educational activities and self-education of youth. Research showed that today traditions of self-education and knowledge and skills improvement

in Ukraine are rather superficial: comparatively small proportion of young people aims at improving and replenishing own knowledge and skills necessary for work and self-development. Thus, during the past year only 18% of respondents attended training or study courses, lectures or lessons when it was necessary for their work and 20% of respondents reported taking additional courses of study with the aim of self-improvement.

Results of the survey provide the basis for assessment of the level of knowledge, skills and competencies in the youth environment which today are ranked high by employers, in particular: computer skills, knowledge of foreign languages, driving skills etc. (Fig. 4.2).

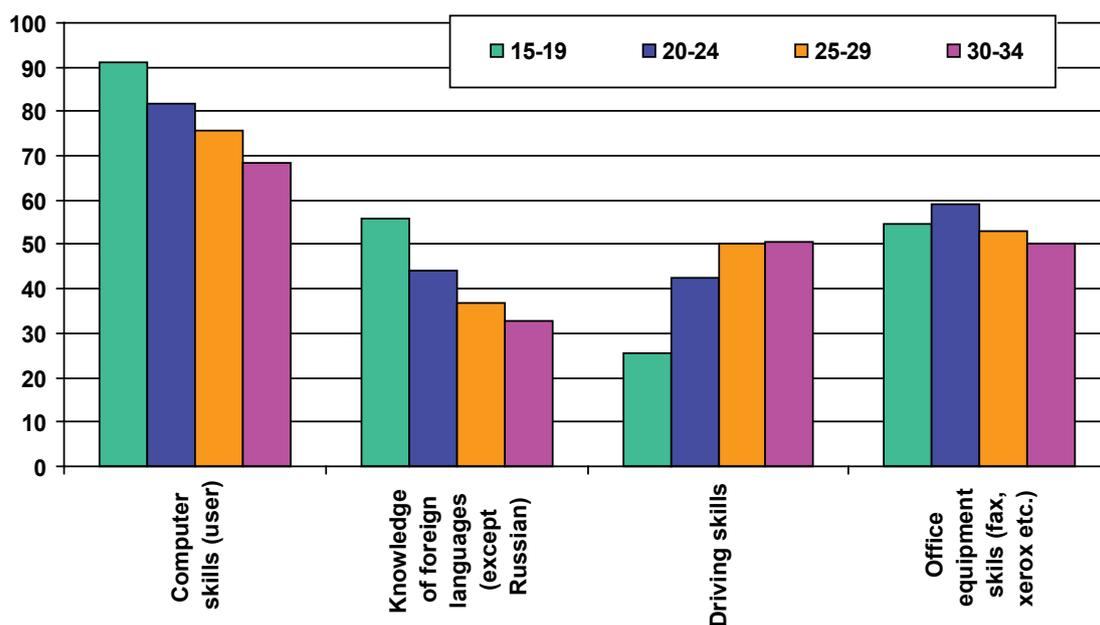


**Fig. 4. 2.**  
**Prevalence of separate innovative skills among youth aged 15–34 in Ukraine by type of settlement, %**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

As we can see, in contrast to the stereotyped view, in Ukraine the level of certain innovative skills (and especially – knowledge of foreign languages) is still rather low, even in the youth environment. Thus, only 37% of respondents reported a *good knowledge* of English (meaning they can understand, read, write and communicate in English). Large settlement disparities in the prevalence of the majority of the above-mentioned skills (except for driving skills) are also indicative – in this sense, young urban residents are in a much more favourable situation. Results of analysis of

disparities in the prevalence of separate innovative skills by age groups of youth also look quite natural and absolutely predictable (Fig. 4.3).



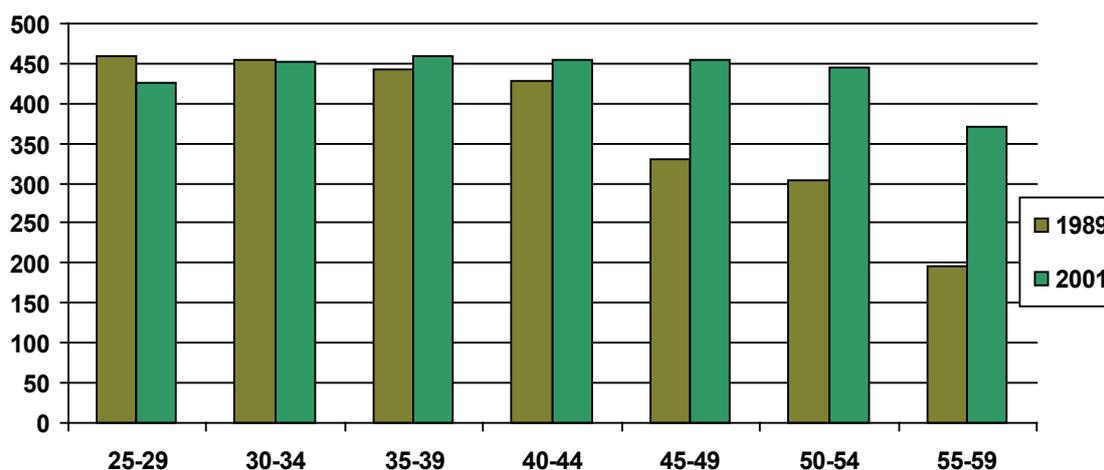
**Fig.4.3.**  
**Prevalence of separate innovative skills by age groups of youth in Ukraine, %**

Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

Changes in educational level of young people (both in quantitative and qualitative sense) are closely interrelated with the trends of the educational infrastructure development observed in Ukraine in the transformational period. In general, over the years of independence, in our country the number of persons with tertiary education grew considerably. However, a decline in the numbers of young people getting education of different levels, except tertiary 5A education, may be characterized as one of ambiguous trends of this period. Eventually, according to results of the First All-Ukrainian Population Census, the proportion of persons with tertiary education in the two oldest groups of youth (age 25–29 and age 30–34)<sup>2</sup> was somewhat lower than at the time of the preceding census which was held as far back as at the Soviet times (Fig. 4.4). This is due, firstly, to notable decline in the proportion of youth with tertiary education 5B and post-secondary non-tertiary education (which correlated with reduction in the number of accredited university/institutions I–II levels in the 1990s), and, secondly, due to high emigration rates of

<sup>2</sup> These persons have completed their educational activities and their educational level will not change.

young people with high education level.



**Fig. 4.4.**  
**Proportion of persons with tertiary education among population aged 25–60 by age groups in Ukraine in 1989 and 2001 (per 1,000 of persons of respective age)**

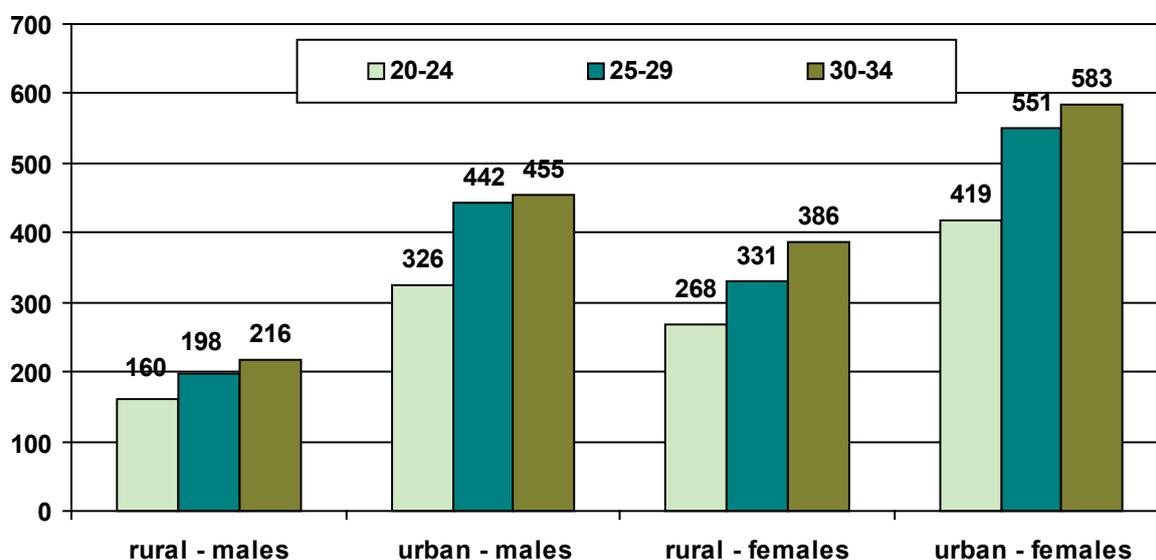
Source: source: based on data of population censuses

Overall, it should be noted that the analysis of age-specific disparities in educational level based on all post-war population censuses shows a gradual rise in educational level of each next generation of youth as compared with the previous, this trend being a manifestation of the law on higher quality of each next generation. Here it should also be mentioned that although the proportion of females with tertiary education first exceeded that of males in the 1990s – at the beginning of the 2000s, it is youth groups where females were more educated than their male peers during several decades.

As for problematic moments and negative aspects related to youth educational level, we should mention a significant gap in educational level between rural and urban areas (Fig.4.5) and increased polarization of the youth environment by this characteristic in the transformation period.

This situation to a great extent results from the outflow of more educated youth of older age groups who leave rural area through lack of professional self-realization opportunities, along with the outflow of the most promising representatives of younger contingents (graduates of general secondary schools) from villages to cities with an intention to study at education institutions/universities and settle permanently in cities

(mostly large cities) after graduation. Another sad fact is that certain share of young people (especially in rural area) terminates studies without obtaining secondary education.

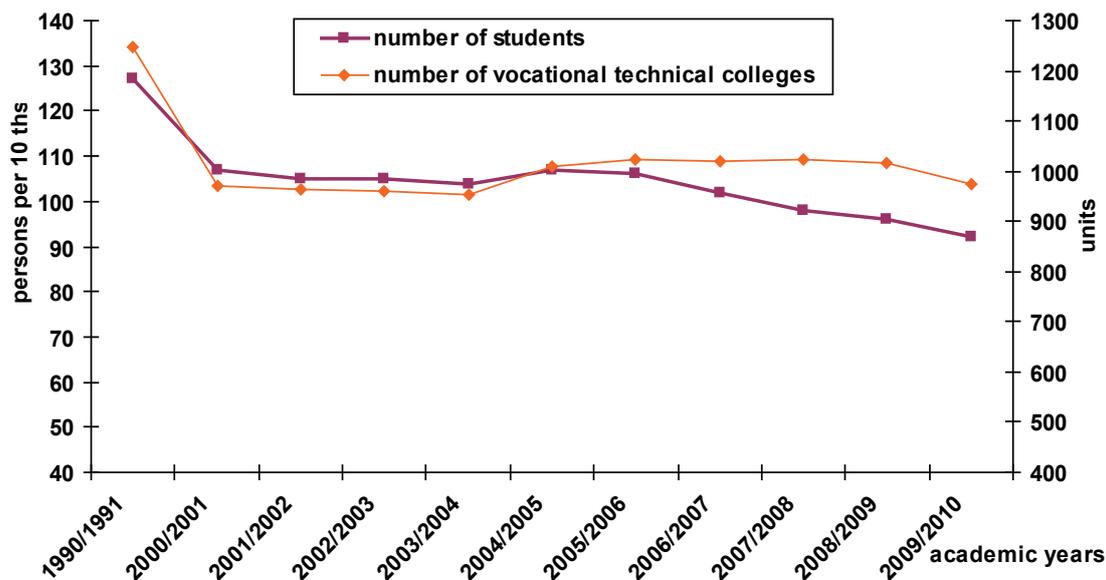


**Fig. 4.5.**  
**Proportion of persons with tertiary education among youth aged 20–34<sup>3</sup> (per 1,000 persons of respective gender and age group)**

Source: based on data of the First All-Ukrainian Population Census

Over the years of our country’s independence the system of post-secondary non-tertiary vocational education suffered a hard blow (both in quantitative and qualitative sense); this may be reckoned among losses with long-term negative impacts on the basic industries of Ukraine’s economy. Therefore, between 1990 and 2009 the number of vocational technical colleges decreased almost by a quarter and the number of students – by more than a quarter (relative index shown in Fig. 4.6. gives a more detailed picture about changes in the contingent of students of vocational technical colleges over this period). In the middle of the current decade certain positive shift seemed to emerge in the unfavorable dynamics of quantitative parameters of vocational technical education development, but this shift turned out to be unstable and short-term and, in addition to that, the increasing crisis phenomena in the country’s economy contributed to the restitution of negative trends in the functioning of system of the vocational technical colleges.

<sup>3</sup> It should be taken into account that for a proportion of youth aged under 20–23 the recorded educational attainment is only provisional and we may speak of completed education only after the mentioned age limit.

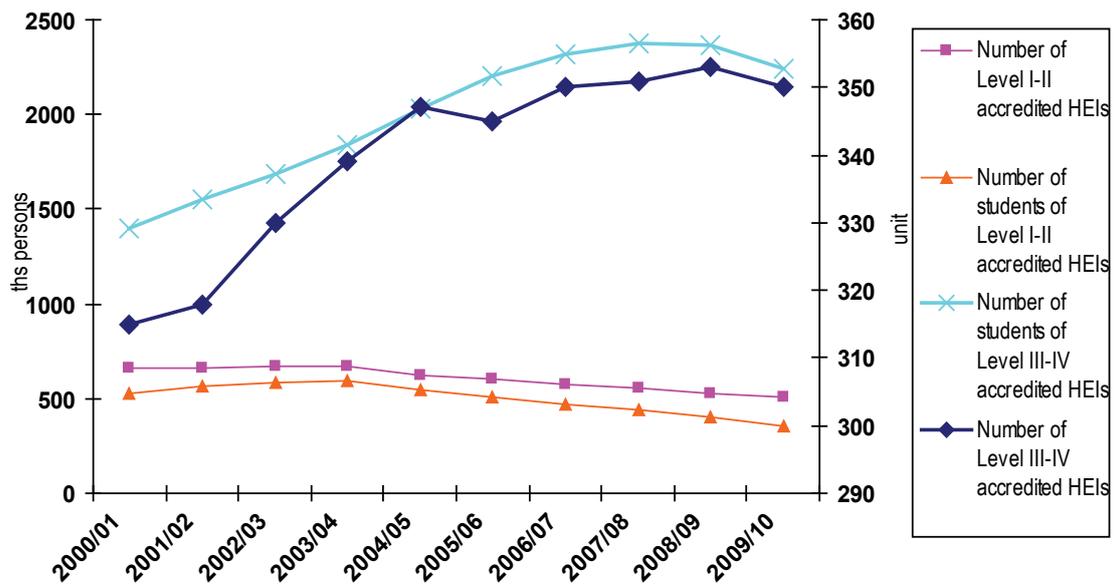


**Fig. 4.6.**  
**Number of vocational technical colleges and number of students in them in Ukraine in 1990 and 2000–2009**

Source: data of the State Statistics Committee

The analysis of the dynamics of the number of I–II level accredited education institutions (tertiary 5B) and the contingent of their students (Fig. 4.7) and the number of students who enrolled in and graduated from these institutions during the transformation period in general and in the current decade in particular (Table 4.1) shows that tertiary education 5B has also suffered some losses. As already mentioned, a decline in the number of persons who graduated from I–II level accredited education institutions in the 1990s had a respective impact on the proportions of youth with tertiary education 5B (thus, 10.6% of persons aged 15–24 had this educational level in 2001, as against 16.2% in 1989) and with tertiary education 5B and 5A (in 2001 a quarter of all persons aged 15–29 had tertiary education as compared with almost one-third in 1989).

A decline in the scope of educational services provided by colleges results both from generally increased requirements to educational level of present-day employees and from a respective orientation of youth towards higher educational level, and also – not to a lesser degree – from decline observed in this educational sphere (especially in engineering and agricultural areas).



**Fig. 4.7.**  
**Number of higher education institutions (HEIs) and number of students in them in Ukraine in 2000–2009**  
 Source: data of the State Statistics Committee

In the developed countries at the time of establishment of post-industrialism the junior colleges demonstrated the highest growth among all educational sectors<sup>4</sup>. Surveys conducted by western specialists show that in peripheral towns with state-owned colleges a significantly higher proportion of young people enrol in such colleges (including persons from families of lower social strata) as compared with towns which do not have such institutions, in other words, presence of educational institutions in the regions contributes to a rise in the number of secondary-school graduates from low-income families enrolling in such institutions<sup>5</sup>. Ukrainian sociological surveys also confirm the intention of village secondary-school graduates and children from low-income families to enrol in Level I–II accredited education institutions<sup>6</sup>. We believe that this fact should be taken into account with a view of further development of Ukraine’s education infrastructure given the notable inter-settlement and regional disparities by population’s educational level and by the proportion of persons with tertiary education, in particular.

Currently in Ukraine the overwhelming majority of students of higher

4 Белл Д. Грядущее постиндустриальное общество: опыт социального прогнозирования. – М.: Academia. – С.336.  
 5 Trow M. The Democratization of Higher Education in America. – N.-Y., 1972. – С. 255-256.  
 6 Молодь на порозі самостійного життя / Д.А. Дмитрук (кер. авт. кол.). – К.: Державний ін-т проблем сім’ї та молоді, 2004.- С. 75..

education institutions are persons who study at Level III–IV accredited HEIs (tertiary 5A). In the transformation period dynamics, there was some short-term drop in the number of such HEIs students in the first three years of the 1990s, with a subsequent growth in this number at rather high rate. After sharp growth of student of Level III–IV accredited HEIs in the second half of the 1990s and at the beginning of the current decade, in recent years we see decline in the number of HEI students in our country. Thus, in Level I–II accredited higher education institutions (tertiary 5B) this decline has started in 2004, with the number of students dropping by 1.5 times in the period 2000–2009 (with drop in the number of institutions by 23%). In Level III–VI accredited higher education institutions (tertiary 5A) decline in student contingents started in 2008, with the number of these educational institutions reduced only last year (by three institutions). Finally, at the beginning of 2009/2010 academic year, 2,245.2 thousand students studied at 350 higher education institutions of III–VI accreditation levels, which is by 127.3 thousand persons down from 2007/2008 academic year. Figures given in Table 4.1 give a more detailed picture of changes in student contingents (including the number of students who enrolled in and graduated from HEIs).

A decrease in the number of students and the number of HEIs in Ukraine occurs under the impact of the demographic factor, in particular, the “demographic waves” effect. Total population of the country is steadily decreasing and currently, as well as in the nearest years, the number of young people of “student” age is also expected to decline. A decrease in the number of secondary-school graduates (and, respectively, of the persons enrolling in HEIs) is already under way and is expected to accelerate in the next five years (as a reflection of catastrophic drop in fertility in the 1990s).

Finally, it should be mentioned that over the years of independence, the number of persons studying to receive the highest degree has increased considerably: the number of postgraduate students – who are mostly young people – increased by 2.6 times.

Table 4.1

**Students who enrolled in and graduated from higher education institutions  
of Ukraine in 2000–2009**

(at the beginning of academic year)

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
<b>Number of institutions, unit</b>										
Accredited Level I-II	664	665	667	670	619	606	570	553	528	511
Accredited Level III-IV	315	318	330	339	347	345	350	351	353	350
<b>Number of students, ths persons</b>										
Accredited Level I-II	528.0	561.3	582.9	592.9	548.5	505.3	468.0	441.3	399.3	354.2
Accredited Level III-IV	1,402.9	1,548.0	1,686.9	1843.8	2,026.7	2,203.8	2,318.6	2,372.5	2,364.5	2,245.2
<i>per 10,000 of population <sup>3)</sup></i>										
Accredited Level I-II	107	115	121	125	116	108	100	95	87	77
Accredited Level III-IV	285	316	352	387	429	470	497	511	512	488
<b>Students enrolled, ths persons</b>										
Accredited Level I-II	190.1	201.2	203.7	202.5	182.2	169.2	151.2	142.6	114.4	93.4
Accredited Level III-IV	346.4	387.1	408.6	432.5	475.2	503.0 <sup>1)</sup>	507.7 <sup>1)</sup>	491.2 <sup>1)</sup>	425.2 <sup>1)</sup>	370.52 <sup>1)</sup>
<b>Students graduated, ths persons</b>										
Accredited Level I-II	148.6	147.5	155.5	162.8	148.2	142.7	137.9	134.3	118.1	114.8
Accredited Level III-IV	273.6	312.8	356.7	416.6	316.2	372.4 <sup>2)</sup>	413.6 <sup>2)</sup>	468.4 <sup>2)</sup>	505.2 <sup>2)</sup>	527.3 <sup>2)</sup>
Number of postgraduate students	2,3295	24,256	25,288	27,106	28,412	29,866	31,293	32,497	33,344	34,115
Number of doctoral students	1,131	1,106	1,166	1,220	1,271	1315	1,373	1,418	1,476	1,463

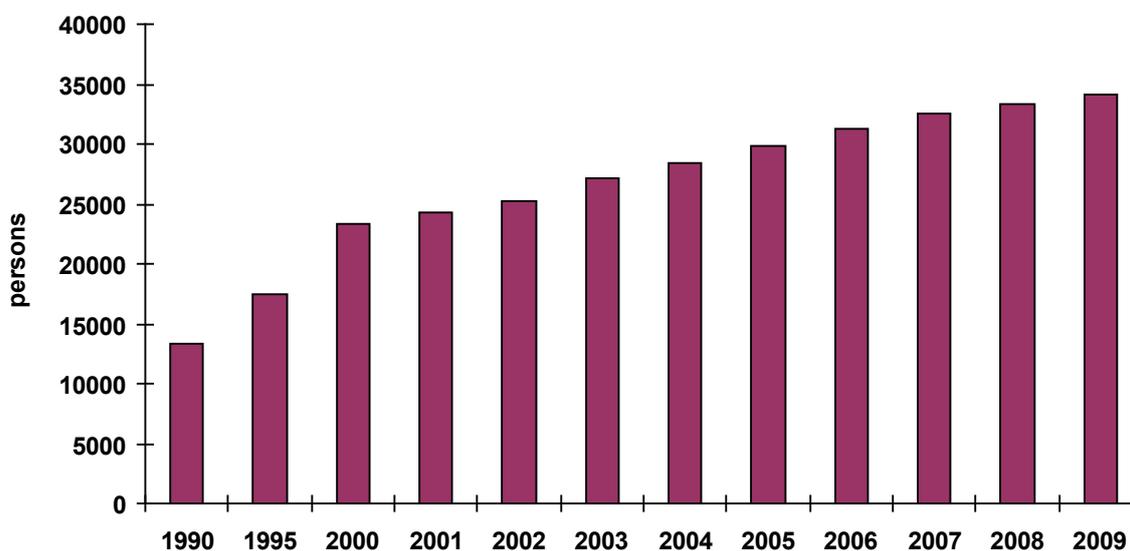
1) Persons enrolled in the initial education stage (not including persons enrolled for continuation of studies with the aim of obtaining higher educational attainment).

2) Specialists graduated (not including persons who graduated a respective educational stage, in particular, bachelor's degree course of studies, and continue their studies with the aim of obtaining higher educational attainment).

3) The calculations are based on the number of current population: for 2005/06 academic year data – as of 1.01.2006, for 2006/07 – as of 1.01.2007, for 2007/08– as of 1.01.2008., for 2008/09 – estimated population as of 1.01.2009.

Source: data of the State Statistics Committee

Although the main growth was observed in the 1990s, after some slowing-down, the number of postgraduate students continues to grow (Fig.4.8). Although not all of them are awarded a Ph.D. degree, even such partially successful (in terms of graduating without Ph.D.) postgraduate studies give a person profound professional skills and competencies.



**Fig. 4.8.**  
**Number of postgraduate students in Ukraine in 1990, 1995 and 2000-2009**  
**(at the end of year)**

Source: the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine

Unfortunately, under positive dynamics of general indices of educational activity of youth is hid out range of problems in this area, in particular, those related to a low quality of professional training and non-compliance of the specialist training system with requirements of the labour market resulting in serious difficulties in their employment. Thus, the main contribution to the overall growth of the university graduates was made by a multiple increase in the number of lawyers and economists: the number of law HEIs graduates grew by 14.5 times, the number of economics, accounting and commerce HEIs graduates – by 5 times (Table 4.2, Fig. 4.9). In contrast to this, the number of engineering and technology specialists who should ensure the introduction of new technologies and develop innovative economy grew only by 15% over the period 1990–2009.

The trend towards growing number of graduates in law and econo-

mics which is not always justified can be explained by the inertia of high prestige of these professions and respective response of the educational service market. Given the high demand for the mentioned qualifications, educational institutions provide enough study opportunities in this respect to everyone who wants it, irrespective of the fact that the demand for these specialists at the labour market is far from being so high. Today, the labour market has enough offers from lawyers and economists. For this reason, persistent high rates of these specialists graduating from educational institutions will inevitably aggravate the problem of their employment. Currently, representatives of economics professions account for the largest proportions of HEIs graduates registered with the State Employment Center of Ukraine.

At the same time, irrespective of the current demand of the country's economy for specialists of engineering professions who would facilitate technological progress, their proportion in total HEIs graduates dropped from 29.2% in 2000 to 20.9% in 2009.

Another factor leading to a certain bias in the structure of training of specialists with tertiary education is the fact that in recent years educational efforts are focused on training for specialist and master degrees (tertiary 5A) (Fig. 4.10), although the last professional category is primarily aimed at research and development work (master is the first academic degree).

In the current Ukrainian situation, a certain redistribution in the structure of specialists trained by HEIs would be expedient in favour of graduates of Level I–II accredited HEIs and bachelors who graduated from Level III–IV accredited HEIs.

Opinions of the student youth about the prospects of finding a suitable job after graduation from an educational institution may serve an indirect evidence of current problems with employment opportunities for young people.

Table 4.2

## HEI graduates by areas of expertise

Thousand persons	1990	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004*	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Growth rate, 2009 to 1990, %	Growth rate, 2009 to 2000, %
Total	365.5	417.2	460.3	512.3	579.5	464.4	515.1	551.6	602.7	623.5	642.1	175.7	153.9
Economy, commerce and business	44.5	118.6	135.6	161.5	190.6	148.1	172.6	183.5	203.2	211.4	214.9	482.9	181.2
Law	3.4	28.9	33.4	41.5	46.1	36.4	39.7	44.8	50.3	50.2	49.6	1,458.8	171.6
Engineering professions	116.1	122.2	122.0	122.5	132.2	108.3	116.9	124.3	133.8	144.6	134.1	115.5	109.7

\*From 2004, total number of HEIs graduates does not include persons who received blue-collar professions.

Source: data of the State Statistics Committee

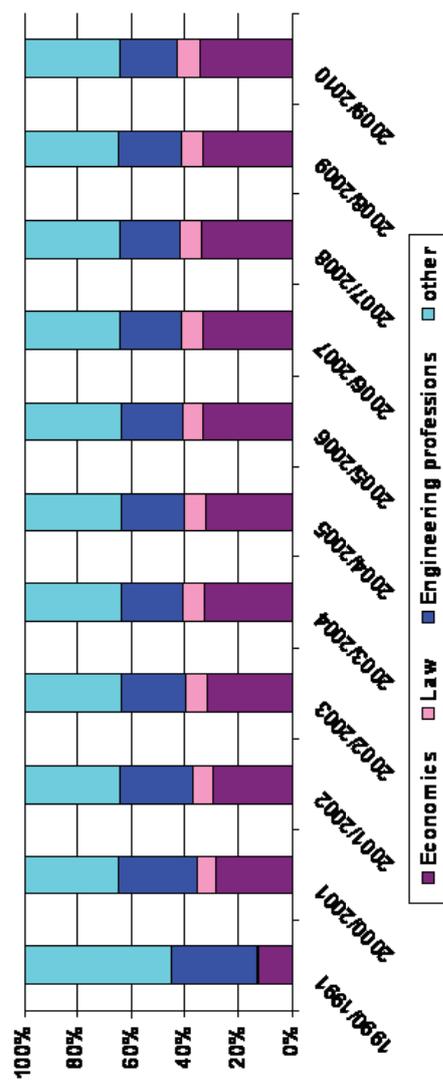
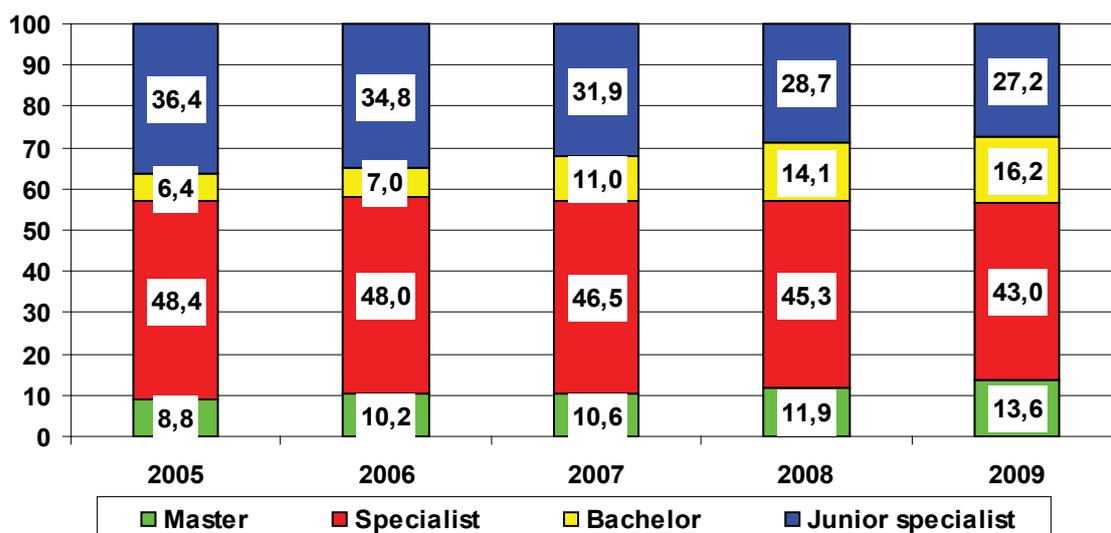


Fig. 4.9. Distribution of HEIs graduates of Ukraine by areas of expertise, %

Source: data of the State Statistics Committee



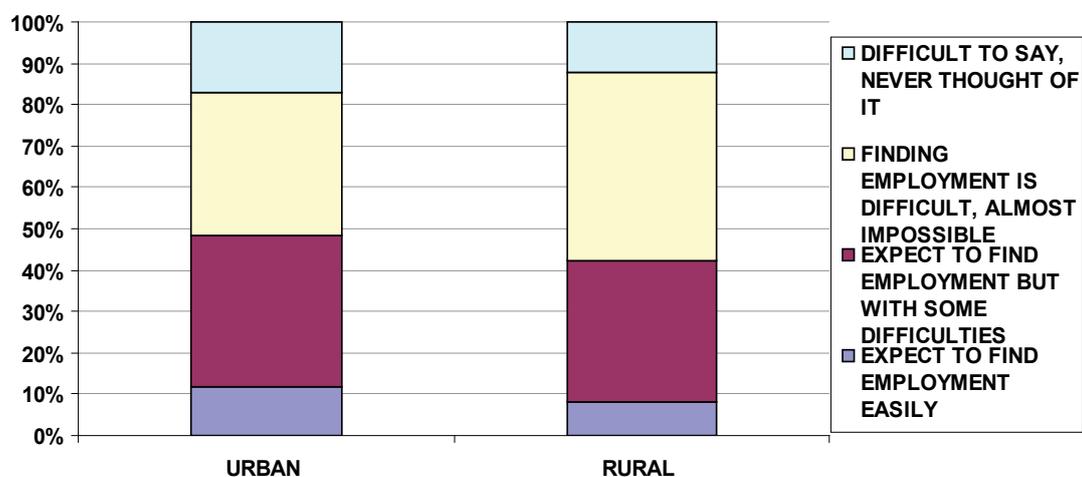
**Fig. 4.10.**  
**Distribution of HEIs graduates of Ukraine by educational level and occupational qualification in 2005-2009, %**

Source: data of the State Statistics Committee

Total respondents of the survey “Youth of Ukraine” included 53% of employed persons (persons who only worked and persons who worked and studied the correspondence department), another 2% were persons who studied and worked after classes, almost a quarter of respondents were students, including secondary-school students, and others were persons who neither worked nor studied (with a larger proportion of persons staying at home and unemployed among them). Respondents who studied at HEIs, vocational training colleges or some other institutions providing occupational training were asked a question: **“In your opinion, will it be easy for you to find a suitable job after graduation?”** As shown in Fig. 4.11, significant proportion of young people realize that they are likely to face certain difficulties in finding employment and in some cases these difficulties are expected to be quite enormous. Young people from rural area give a more pessimistic assessment of their employment opportunities, and this is not without reason.

It is indicative that the share of respondents who said they expected no or insignificant difficulties in finding employment as well as the share of respondents who never thought of employment issues and were unable to assess the complexity of this problem are higher among students from

urban area. It should also be noted that young people from families with high level of well-being<sup>7</sup> are more optimistic than others in the assessment of their employment opportunities after graduation.



**Fig. 4.11.**  
**Opinions of young people getting professional education about the prospects of finding employment after graduation (proportion of respondents who selected a respective answer option)**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

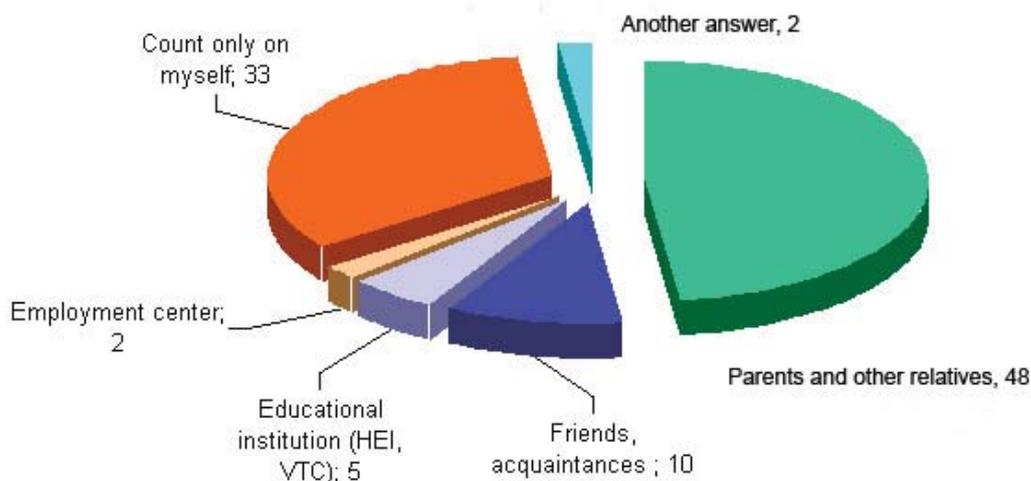
In the above-mentioned context, ideas of young people about job search strategy after graduation are especially interesting, in particular, answers to the question: **“Whose help do you primarily reckon on in finding employment after graduation?”** Almost half of students who were asked this question said that in finding employment after graduation they first of all reckoned on the help of their parents and other relatives (Fig.4.12).

One-third of young people who are currently studying to get professional education will reckon only on own skills and opportunities at finding employment. One in every ten respondents hopes that his / her friends or acquaintances will help to find a job.

We believe that very insignificant proportions of respondents reckoning on assistance of educational institutions at which they study (HEI, VTC) and especially – on assistance of employment center in finding employment may be regarded as indirect evidence of insufficient attention paid by educational institutions to employment of their graduates as well

<sup>7</sup> According to self-assessment of family financial situation.

as inappropriate performance of the employment service in the current situation.



**Fig.4.12.**  
**Distribution of answers of youth studying at HEIs and VTCs to the question “Whose help do you primarily reckon on in finding employment after graduation?”, %**

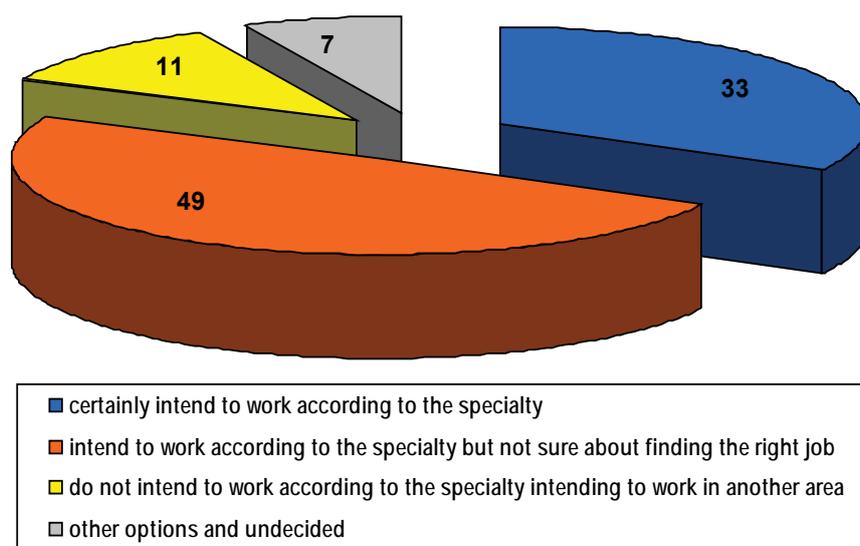
Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

Age differentiation of respondents’ answers to this question seems quite natural: the share of respondents stating they reckon only on themselves in finding employment grows with age. It should also be mentioned that the proportion of persons relying only on own skills with regard to job search issues is higher among students from urban settlements, particularly, those from middle- and low-income families, than among more wealthy respondents (with the latter to a greater extent hoping for the assistance of their parents, friends or acquaintances).

It is widely acknowledged that employment not according to one’s diploma or doing a job which requires a lower qualification is one of the most urgent problems related to application of Ukraine’s labour potential, implementation of educational and occupational plans of young people and use of knowledge and skills acquired by young people during the period of education. Both the official statistics and the data of the representative sample survey “Youth of Ukraine” indicate that this problem is primarily attributable to the above-mentioned imbalanced structures of the labour and educational services markets, as well as to

the current crisis phenomena in the production and financial industries etc. and, therefore, to the difficulties faced by young people with some professional qualifications in finding employment which become almost insurmountable in rural area, small towns and depressive labour regions of the country.

The results of the April survey of Ukrainian youth demonstrate that after graduation from an educational institution the majority of young people intend to work according to their specialty (Fig. 4.13).



**Fig. 4.13.**  
**Distribution of young people currently getting professional education by search job strategy, %**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

While one-third of students who took part in the survey stated a firm decision to use their professional skills and competencies “for intended purpose”, almost half of respondents doubted the chance of implementing their professional plans because of existing difficulties in finding the job according to one’s diploma. At the same time, one in every nine respondents currently getting professional education said he / she had no intention to work according to the specialty (he / she was just interested in obtaining any professional education but preferred to work in some other sphere); one in every fourteen respondents so far had no idea about further professional plans or was unable to answer the question about whether he/she intended to work according to the specialty.

A more detailed analysis of youth participation in the labour force and employment rates, the situation in the youth job market and utilization by young people of knowledge and professional skills acquired during the period of education is given in Section 4.2 of this Monograph.

## ***4.2. Youth economic activity and current situation in the labour market***

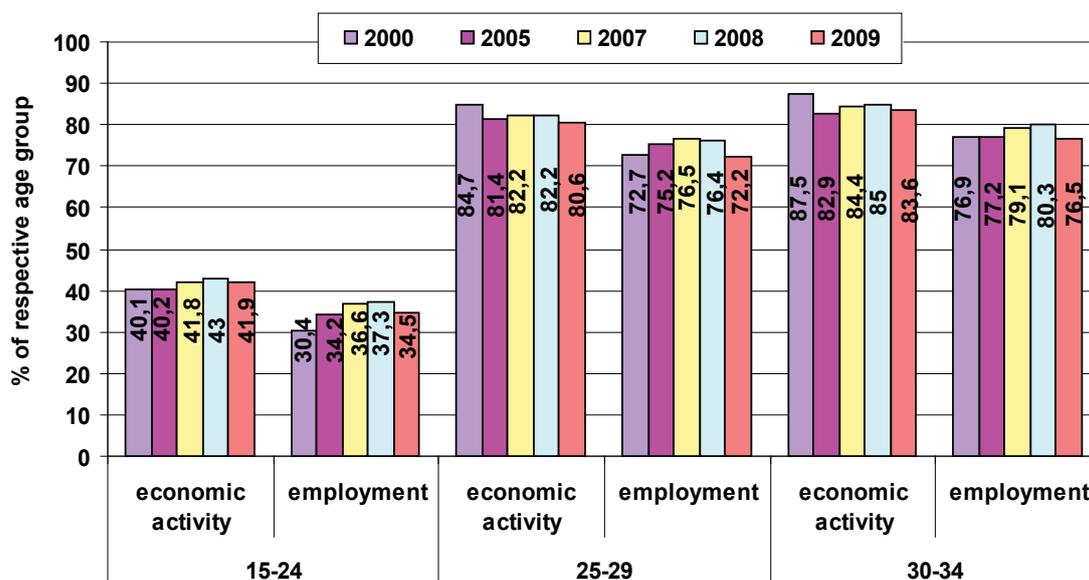
The current and future social and economic potential of any country directly depends on labour activity of young people for whom participation in economic activity is an essential part of socio-cultural and professional development. The market economy, on the one part, has significantly expanded the opportunities for young people to use their skills and talents in the employment sphere but, on the other part, has weakened the assistance provided by the government to youth with regard to social and employment issues and undermined the prior institutional base of young people's socialization in the situation when a new base has not yet been established.

The analysis of the current problems of establishment and application of youth's labour potential, the situation in the youth sector of the Ukrainian labour market, specific aspects of young people's motivation to economic activity and other behavioural aspects of their life related to labour and employment should become a reliable foundation for development of an efficient governmental youth policy in this area.

Young people in Ukraine are traditionally characterized by rather high labour orientations. During the transformation period, areas and forms of employment opportunities for youth have become significantly more diverse, thus making professional training increasingly important for young people and becoming a stimulus for enhancement of own competitiveness on the labour market.

Today, Ukraine has almost 8.6 million economically active young people aged 15–34, this being about 39% of total economically active

population of the country (aged 15–70). The number of economically active young people in 2009 did not change as against 2000, however, as compared with the last year preceding the crisis (2008), it dropped more than by 2.5%. Naturally, the highest level of economic activity of young people is recorded for the persons aged 30–34 and the lowest level – for those aged 15–24, the majority of whom continues to study. The analyzed index for the older youth age group approaches its maximally possible value (Fig. 4.14), since young people at this age have already completed their professional education and initiated economic activity.



**Fig. 4.14.**  
**Economic activity and employment levels of Ukrainian youth by age in 2000, 2005 and 2007-2009**

Source: Економічна активність населення у 2009 р./ Статистичний збірник. – К.: Держкомстат України, 2010. - С.117, 119.

At the same time it should be noted that in Ukraine over the last decade in general the youth economic activity dynamics showed a slight decrease in the age groups 25–29 and 30–34 and some stabilization in the younger age groups.

Within the decade under the analysis, the economic activity of young people demonstrated a multidirectional trend. Thus, after the maximum peak of activity in 2000, economic activity indicators of young people who completed their education – persons aged 25–29 and 30–34 – dropped gradually but steadily over the period till 2005, which

may probably be explained by the general problematic situation in the labour market of Ukraine, inadequate pay scales and lack of motivation of a certain share of youth to work under such conditions. A slow growth in economic activity levels in these groups started in 2006–2007. The situation in the younger age group was somewhat different: after decline in 2000–2003, economic activity was growing in the period 2004–2008.

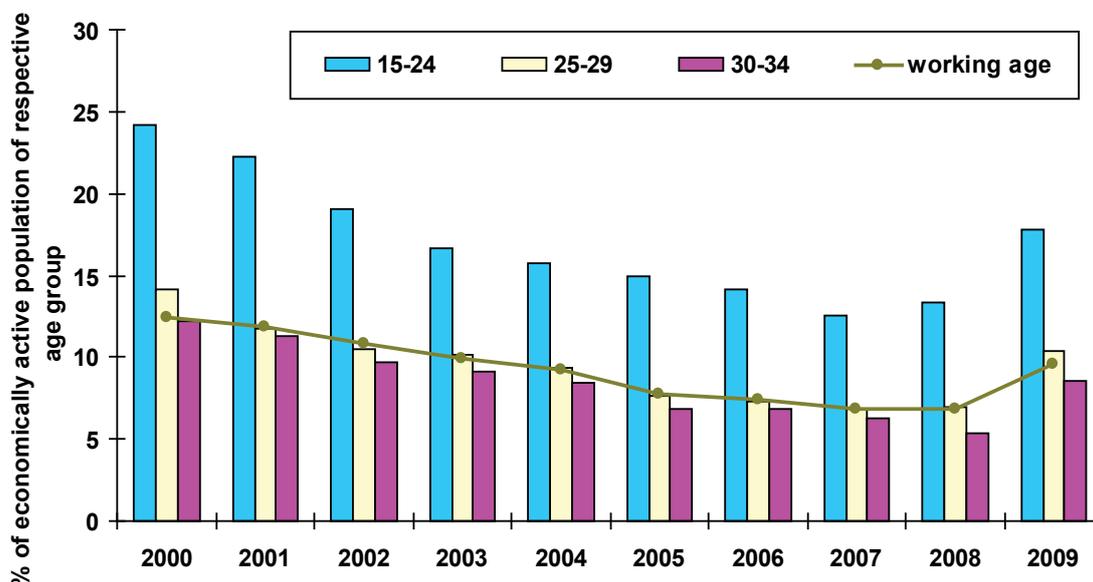
In the current decade a certain increase in the employment rate was observed in all youth age groups: very slow at the beginning of the period, it accelerated in the second three-year period of the decade and lasted till 2008, inclusive, and then it was interrupted by the growing financial and economic crisis (see Fig. 4.14). According to results of 2009, our country had 7.5 million employed youth, this being 37% of total employed population aged 15–70.

The dynamics of the employment rate and the number of employed youth is directly related to specific characteristics of the demographic situation. Thus, in Ukraine currently and at least in the next decade the number of persons entering the working-age group is expected to be less than the number of persons who leave it; this trend, in general, is favourable for high youth employment rates.

A decline in the youth unemployment rate was also observed till 2008, being more intensive in the groups aged 25–34 as compared with the older population, however young people (particularly the youngest age groups) have higher unemployment rates as against total economically active population (Fig. 4.15).

For those under the age of 25, this situation predominantly results from the problems attributable to finding the first job (as young people often have no previous work experience), since a significant proportion of unemployed youth consists of graduates of educational institutions (including HEIs) who have not find employment yet. One of the most unfavourable consequences which youth unemployment brings is impaired labour motivation of young persons whose labour life starts with unemployment, alongside with delayed formation of the lifestyles

of working person. In this connection it should also be indicated that in Ukraine the employment rate of youth aged 15–24 is slightly (by 0.7 percentage points as of 2009) lower than in the EU countries, with the unemployment rate also being lower by 2 percentage points on the average.



**Fig.4.15.**  
**Unemployment rate of youth by age and economically active working-age population in Ukraine 2000–2009**

Source: data of the State Statistics Committee

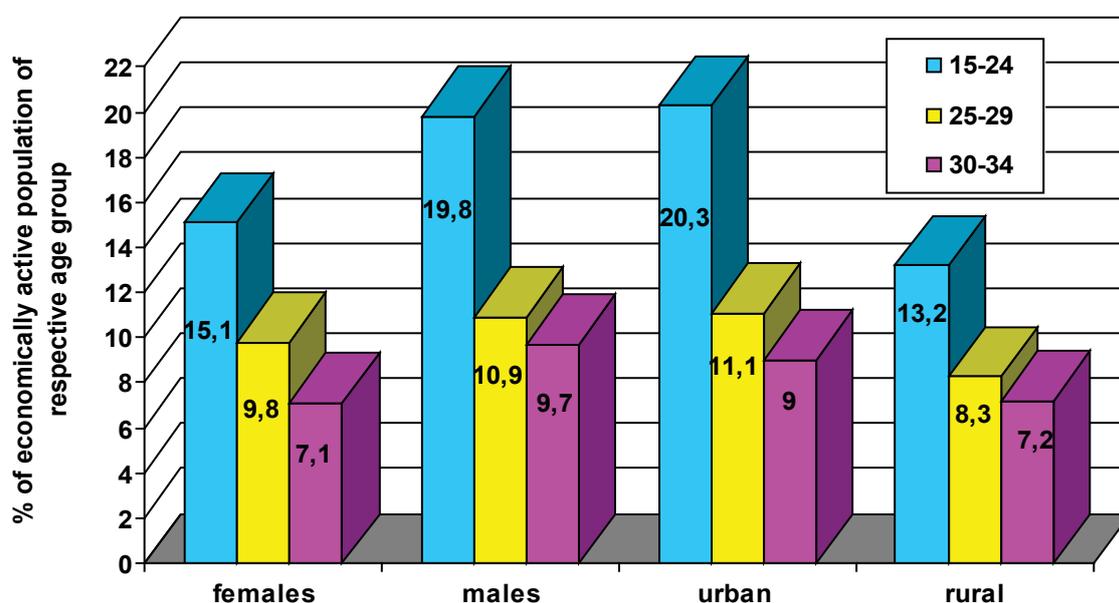
As a rule, older age groups of Ukrainian youth have a more confident position on the labour market, however, here some peculiarities of labour motivation, in particular, preferences for these or those job positions and requirements to employment conditions and to the nature of the job sometimes act as additional factors contributing to rather increased unemployment rate. In the older age groups, dismissal at own request or for economic reasons are weighty causes of unemployment. It should be noted that in the recent years it is young people who account for more than a half of unemployed persons sent by the state employment service to professional training and retraining courses. On the one part, this may be explained by the fact that young persons lack sufficient qualification and, on the other part, by their readiness and ability to learn and acquire new and competitive professions and occupations.

Overall, young people are more open for new ideas and are the

best media for innovative transformations and, therefore, a reduction of the unemployment rate among youth is crucial for ensuring innovative development of the country.

In the crisis conditions, the highest growth of the youth unemployment rate in Ukraine was recorded in the groups of age 25–29 and age 30–34. The total number of unemployed youth in 2009 was more than 1 million or almost 54% of the total number of unemployed population.

According to results of economic activity surveys, the unemployment rate among economically active younger and young males is currently somewhat higher than that of females and the unemployment rate among youth in urban area is higher than that of youth in rural area (Fig. 4.16).



**Fig. 4.16.**  
**Unemployment rate of separate age groups of youth in Ukraine in 2009 by gender and settlement type**

Source: Економічна активність населення у 2009 р./ Стат. збірник. – К.: Держкомстат України, 2010 р.- С.121.

A range of youth problems related to economic activity are attributable to a large gap in conditions of life and work of urban and rural residents of Ukraine. Thus, the need to increase educational level of young rural residents and the problem of more educated youth leaving rural area is closely associated with the need to establish the adequate interrelation between education and the labour market, in particular, the need to

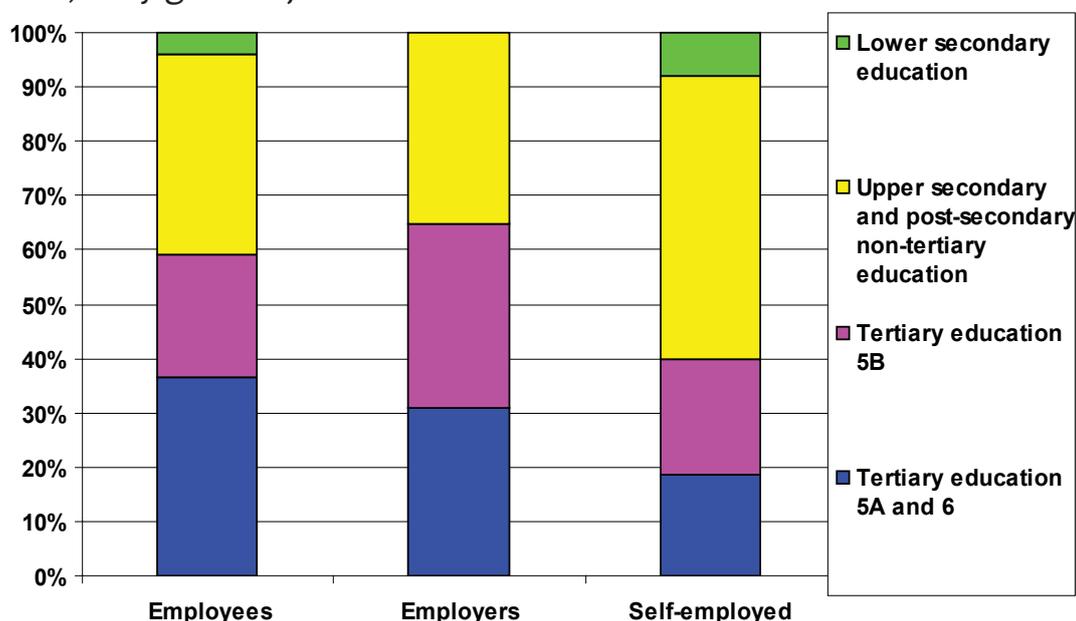
application of the potential of youth with professional education in rural area more efficiently, since today these young people have extremely limited employment opportunities due to insufficient number of workplaces and face the problem of lack of choice of activity forms and types. Although the unemployment rate of youth in rural area is traditionally lower than that in cities, it is explained by their higher engagement in informal employment at owner-operated farms, with chances of finding employment in rural area beyond such owner-operated farms being very small. In general, in 2009 the rate of rural youth's participation in the informal economy sector was as follows: in the 15–24 age group – 54.4%, in the 25–29 age group – 38.9%, in the 30–34 age group – 37.9%; for urban residents this index was 14.3%, 11.1% and 10.1% respectively.

At the same time, for youth the quality of employment is the issue of primary importance, since young people in general have steep requirements to and expectations of pay scales, the nature of occupational activities, employment conditions etc. Admittedly that there is certain share of Ukrainian youth with exorbitant ambitions which, unfortunately, are not corroborated by adequate education or work experience. Not infrequently young people in searching a job are guided only by wages, not even by interest, and sometimes they want all at a time: high job position and high salary and this is the point where the requirements of employers and young employees often contradict. Besides, due to shattered labour ethics and values and inefficient institutional base of labour socialization of youth under current conditions, young people in choosing the area of occupational activities often disregard their specialty and, furthermore, sometimes go beyond the legal rules.

The interrelation between the quality of youth employment and educational level of young people is obvious. The Ukrainian labour market offers only unskilled jobs to young people who do not have specialized professional education (naturally, their proportion is the highest in the youngest age groups). Therefore, persons with secondary education, who are mostly young people aged 20–25 (along with the elderly persons working to earn some additional money to their pensions) account for

the highest share of persons doing the most low-skilled jobs.

A large number of young people without professional education are engaged in the informal economy sector (in particular, persons working at owner-operated farms). Overall, in total working youth, status group of self-employed persons accounts for the highest proportion of youth without tertiary education and young entrepreneurs-employers have the highest educational level (Fig. 4.17). Overall, persons with professional education (particularly, tertiary education) have more chances of finding suitable employment, since demand for highly skilled specialists is rather high. However, in the majority of cases they work not according to specialty, however, they get the job.

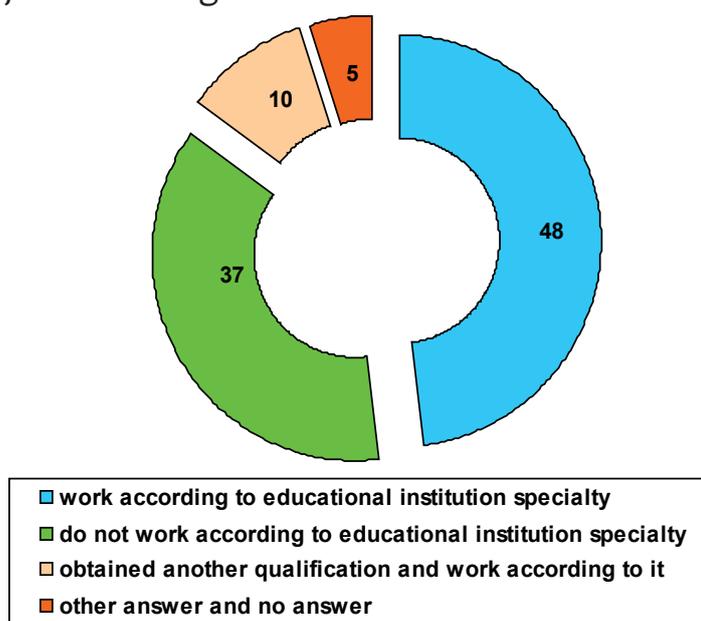


**Fig. 4.17.**  
**Distribution of young people with different employment status by educational level (according to ISCED Classification) in Ukraine in 2009**

Source: calculations by specialists of Ptukha Institute for Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine based on data of population economic activity surveys

Results of the interview (held within the framework of the survey “Youth of Ukraine”) of working young people concerning the issues of youth’s occupational activities show that the proportion of young people who work according to the qualification awarded by the educational institution from which they graduated is slightly lower than a half (Fig. 4.18). A somewhat lower proportion – 2/5 of working young respondents do not work according to the qualification obtained at a HEI or

VTC and one in every ten respondents received another/new professional qualification and job according to it.



**Fig. 4.18.**

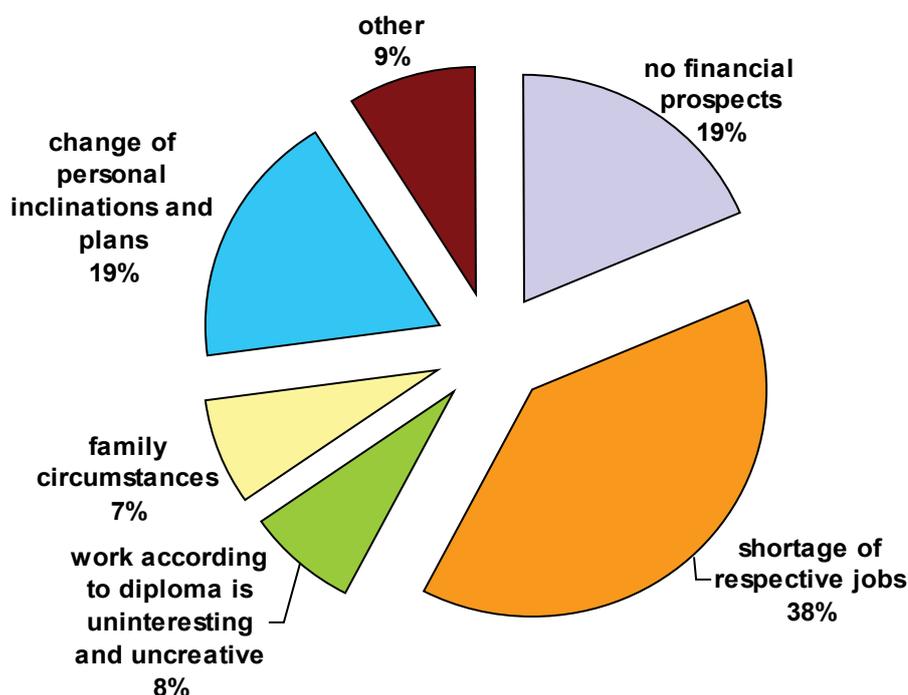
**Distribution of working youth by the nature of occupational activity, %**

Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine"

The analysis of the reasons making employed young people work not according to the professional qualification awarded by an educational institution confirm that currently no efficient mechanism is in place in Ukraine to ensure a link between education and employment. Determining these reasons, the majority of respondents (two in every five) indicated shortage of jobs where their qualification is required (Fig. 4.19). Furthermore, in this sense extremely low pay scales in general and by some occupations in particular are quite a weighty factor bringing about inefficient utilization of youth's labour potential; this is confirmed by answers of almost 1/5 of respondents who stated that working according to their specialty had no financial prospects. Besides, the same proportion of respondents mentioned a change in personal inclinations and professional plans as the reason of working not according to the specialty and almost one in every twelve respondents characterized work according to his/her diploma as uncreative and uninteresting.

Modern Ukrainian youth are mostly persons who obtained education and professional qualification and started their economic biography in

the market period of the country’s social and economic development; therefore, they are more involved into market relations and more integrated into a new social and economic structure of society. Youth is traditionally considered to be more ready for risks pertaining to self-employment or entrepreneurship and young people are, as a rule, also ready to change the place or even the nature of employment and to learn a new or more qualified job. The prestige of entrepreneurship is widely acknowledged in the youth environment and ideas about organizing own business are by far most popular among young people.

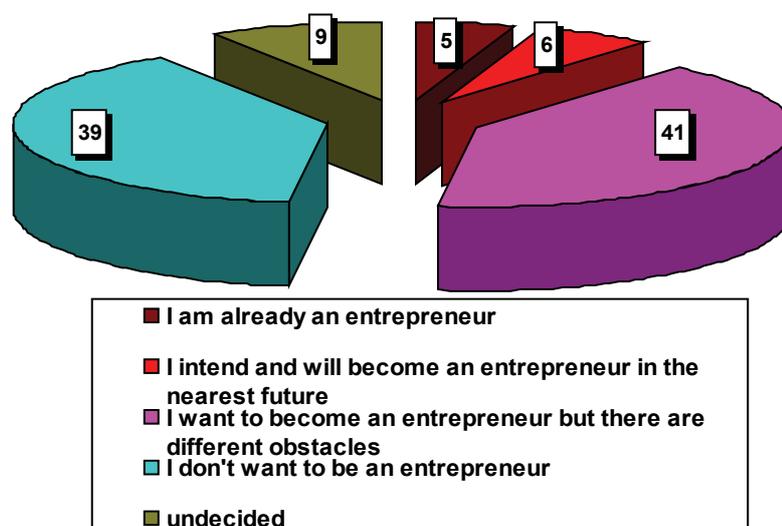


**Fig. 4.19.**  
**Distribution of youth by reasons of working not according to specialty, (% to total number of respondents in this group)**  
 Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

Results of the survey “Youth of Ukraine” show that young people in Ukraine actively choose own business as their life and occupational choice (Fig. 4.20).

As we see, entrepreneurship already is or will soon become a life choice of one in every nine representatives of Ukrainian youth. Respondents stating they want to be entrepreneurs and have own business but currently face different obstacles preventing this intention from beco-

ming true account for the largest proportion (2/5). Almost an equally large number of young people expressed no intention to engage in business and another 9% could not give a definite answer to this question.



**Fig. 4.20.**  
**Distribution of respondents by options of answer to the question about the intention to become an entrepreneur and start own business, %**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

It should be noted that proportion of respondents who were engaged in business or expressed an intention to do it in the future is higher among young males than among their female peers. It is also of interest that with age of respondents the share of entrepreneurs as well as the share of those who have no intention to engage in entrepreneurship or start own business grows.

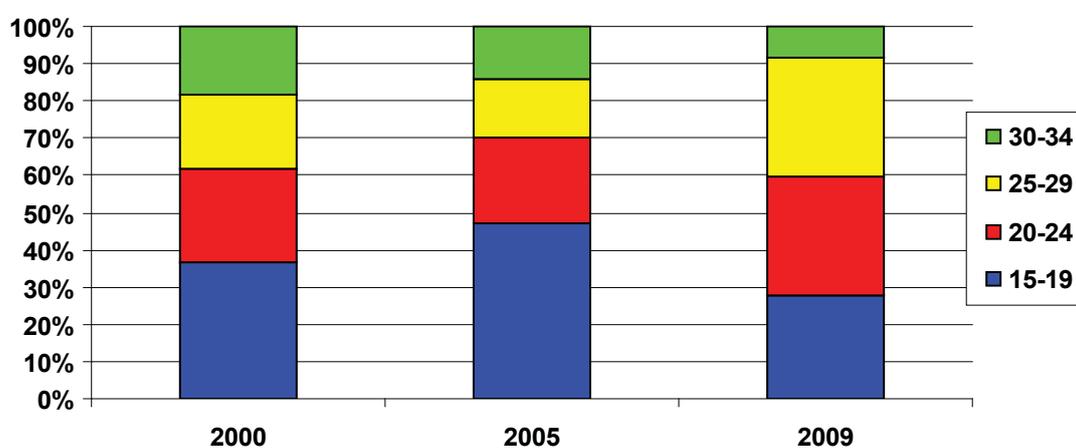
The survey also attempted at identifying major obstacles which, in the opinion of young people, prevent them from establishing and developing own business in Ukraine. Young people specifically mentioned the following factors: no start-up capital necessary to establish own business; hard and unstable economic and political situation in the country; high tax rates; and, to a lesser extent – bureaucratic barriers and insufficient knowledge (education) for organization of own business.

In general, the analysis of the structure of respondents of the survey “Youth of Ukraine” – employed persons by professional and status indicators as well as results of population’s economic activity surveys and data of the most recent population census in Ukraine show that hired employees

account for the largest proportion of employed youth (more than 85%). The key problem of the Ukrainian labour market in general and its youth segment in particular lies in low pay scales for employees which has negative impact on labour motivation, hinder an increase in labour performance and progressive structural changes in employment, extend the period of job search by unemployed persons, aggravate poverty and low income problems and facilitate the spread of illegal practices and a range of asocial phenomena in the youth environment.

Naturally, the youngest age group of persons who work after studies earns the lowest income. This group of persons participating in the labour force mostly includes secondary school graduates and students of first years – they, having only secondary or uncompleted higher education, are unable to find a well-paid job.

One of the employment income level indicators in different social and demographic groups of population is the proportion of persons whose salary is below the minimum. In the period 2000 – 2009, there occurred a redistribution of youth aged 15–34 within age groups of persons whose salary was below the minimum (Fig.4.21).



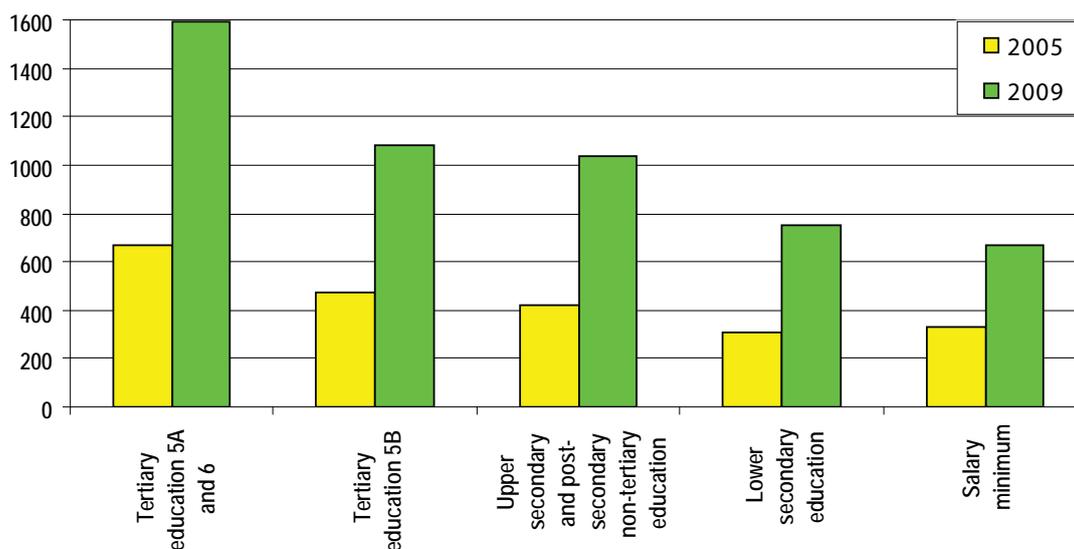
**Fig. 4.21.**  
**Distribution of young people with salary below the minimum level by age groups in Ukraine in 2000, 2005 and 2009, %**

Source: calculations by specialists of Ptukha Institute for Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

It should also be mentioned that a range of structural changes in youth employment (by types of economic activity, professional groups etc.)

demonstrates a clear trend both towards new or more promising areas of activity and more financially attractive ones. In particular, a trend towards a decrease in the number and proportion of youth engaged in material production and social services (especially in health care and welfare sector) originating from the 1990s<sup>8</sup> remains generally unchanged in the current decade as well. In contrast to that, financial activity, commerce, hotel and restaurant business and public governance became a more attractive employment destination for young people.

Today, a higher education degree not only provides young people with certain advantages in finding employment but also ensures a comparatively higher level of income (Fig. 4.22) and contributes to poverty risk reduction. At the same time it should be acknowledged that in Ukraine the income level of persons with higher education is still too low as compared with other European countries.



**Fig. 4.22.**  
**Personal average monthly income of young people aged 15–34 depending on educational level in Ukraine in 2005 in 2009 (UAH)**

Source: calculations by specialists of Ptuokha Institute for Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

Aggravated situation in the labour market under the financial and economic crisis had a respective impact not only on wages and salaries but also on the general situation of young people as far as social and labour

8 Онікієнко В.В., Ткаченко Л.Г. Молодіжний ринок праці України: проблеми та шляхи вирішення. – К.:РВПС НАН України, УІСД, 2003. – с.80-81.

sector is concerned and, respectively, on attitudes of young people and their assessment of own employment prospects. Thus, the interview of young people shows that in this situation a certain proportion of employed young people are really anxious about the prospects of losing their jobs. Overall, about one-fifth of respondents indicated they felt uncertain about their jobs and expressed apprehension about the possibility of losing a job within the nearest one-year period. Three in every five respondents believed that losing their jobs was almost or absolutely unlikely and other respondents were undecided.

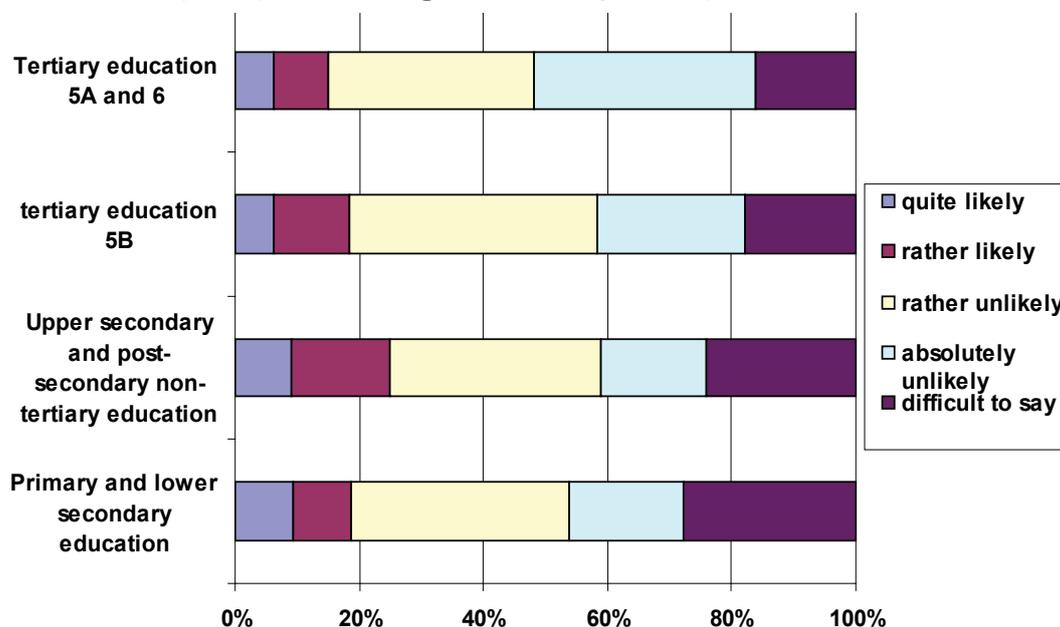
Rural residents as compared with urban residents accounted for a significantly higher proportion of those who pessimistically looked at their near-term employment prospects and this proportion was slightly higher among young males as compared with females.

The analysis of survey results also showed that young people with higher educational level generally feel themselves more confident at the job market and with regard to social and labour issues; this is confirmed by a lower percentage of those who were undecided and those who answered “absolutely unlikely” to the question about the probability of losing one’s job in the nearest year (Fig. 4.23).

And, finally, speaking about the specific features of economic behaviour and adaptation strategies of youth, it should be remembered that given an extremely low pay scales and dissatisfaction with the existing employment prospects, many people (including highly skilled specialists) seek employment in other countries and go abroad for temporary employment or even for permanent residence. This tendency is not just a manifestation of higher readiness of young people for more active learning and utilization of new knowledge but primarily a signal of deep problems with appropriate application of labour and educational skills in own country.

According to the interview of young people upon which the survey is based, 45% of youth would like to work abroad for a certain time (a negative answer to the question about working abroad was given by 44% of respondents and another 11% of respondents were undecided about

temporary labour migration). Here it should be mentioned that in the total number of respondents ready to work abroad the proportion of respondents who would agree to any employment (“whatever the job”) was higher than the proportion of respondents who would agree to work in another country only according to one’s specialty.



**Fig. 4.23.**  
**Distribution of employed persons with different educational level by answers to the question about the probability of losing their jobs in the nearest year, %**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

It is indicative that positive attitudes of Ukrainian youth towards employment abroad and permanent residence abroad are mostly based on higher living standards in other countries and higher pay scales: over 2/5 of those who intend to settle abroad permanently indicated higher material well-being abroad and almost 3/4 of those who plan to work abroad for a certain period of time mentioned the opportunity to earn more. Among respondents – potential labour migrants, the second largest share is group of persons indicating overall difficulties with finding jobs in Ukraine as the reason for possible migration.

At the same time, the survey results show that if no material difficulties and problems with adequate employment existed, the largest proportion of Ukrainian youth would go abroad only with tourist purposes.

However, a more detailed picture of current migration attitudes of Ukrainian youth can be drawn based on the analytical materials contained in the next Chapter of this monograph.

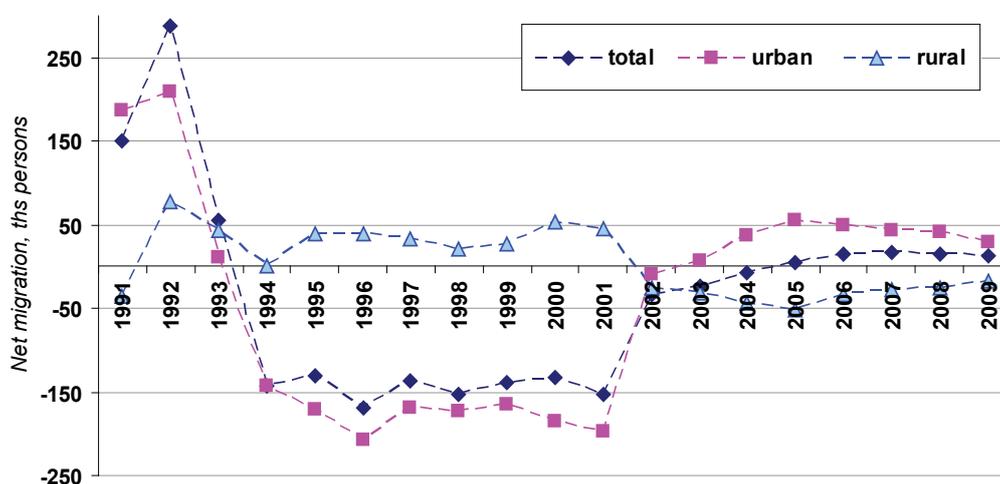
# SPECIFIC FEATURES OF YOUTH MIGRATIONS IN UKRAINE

## *5.1. Migration activity of Ukrainian youth*

The interrelation between migration activity and the functioning of social systems, economic transformation trends and life of population in general suggests the need for the analysis of migrations in the context of determining their impact on society development.

In the second half of the 1980s – at the beginning of the 1990s **total net migration** of Ukraine's population had positive value reaching its peak during the post-war period in 1992 (288.1 thousand persons). In 1993 sharp migration increase was superseded by a dramatic drop and the next year Ukraine experienced considerable migration losses of 143.2 thousand persons. In the period 1994–2001, negative net migrations was attributable to the nature of migration processes in urban areas; excess of in-migrants over out-migrants in rural area had a certain prevention effect on the total migration decline. The migration scenario of 2002 demonstrated a change of “roles”: negative net migrations in rural area opposed positive migration shifts in urban area where migration increase was started from 2003. Over the period after 1992, net migration in urban area reached peak in 2005 when the difference between those who move in and those who move out was 55.7 thousand persons. At the same time, that year decline of migration in rural area had the highest module over the last three decades, however, it did not exceed migration increase in urban area, and for this reason total net migration of population in Ukraine in 2005 had a positive value. The trajectories of changes in net migration occurring in 1994 in settlements of different types mirror each other: in 1994–2001 migration increase in rural area was accompanied by migration decline in urban area; in 2002–2005 there was growth in net migrations of population in urban settlements,

along with decrease in net migrations in rural area; but starting from 2005, in urban settlements net migration decline still keeping a positive value, however, the difference between urban and rural migrations is gradually reduced despite the fact that the number of migrants in rural area still remains lower than the number of out-migrants (Fig. 5.1).



**Fig. 5.1.**  
**Net migration of Ukraine’s population in 1991–2009 by type of settlement**  
 Source: data of the State Statistics Committee

While net migration of total population had positive value in 2005, net migration of youth people aged 15–34 became positive only in the next 2006 year. Table 5.1 demonstrates that change from migration decline to migration growth was hampered by migration processes among young females. The contribution of young migrants in migration growth was about 36% in 2006, 37.5% in 2007, 30.2% in 2008 and 24.6% in 2009. Males accounted for 80–90% of migration gain of the population aged 15–34.

**Table 5.1.**

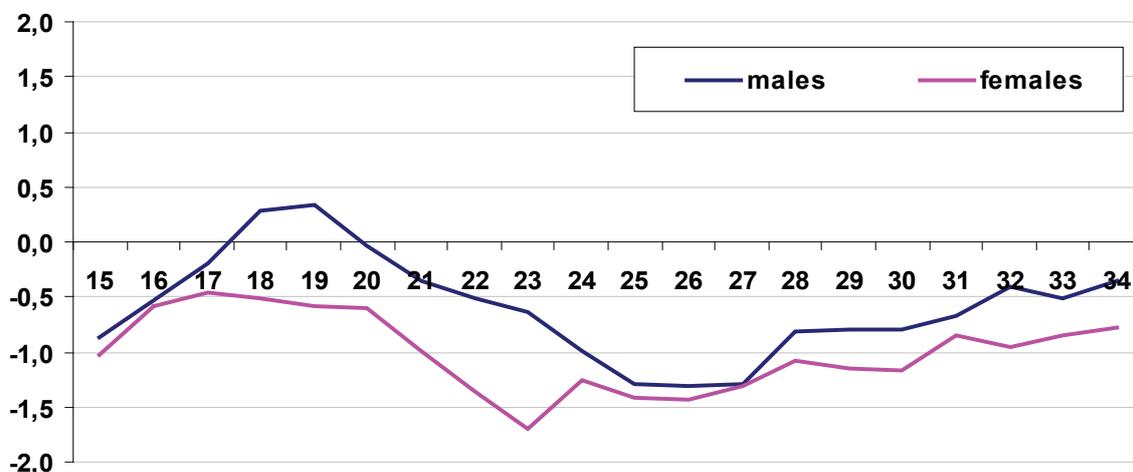
**Net male and female migrations in Ukraine in 2002–2009**

(thousand persons)

Years	Youth aged 15–34			Total population		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
2002	-11.0	-4.1	-6.9	-33.8	-12.6	-21.2
2003	-8.9	-3.5	-5.5	-24.2	-8.8	-15.4
2004	-4.0	-1.1	-2.9	-7.6	-1.4	-6.2
2005	-0.2	0.9	-1.1	4.6	4.5	0.1
2006	5.1	4.5	0.6	14.2	10.7	3.5
2007	6.3	5.7	0.6	16.8	13.0	3.8
2008	4.5	3.5	1.0	14.9	10.1	4.8
2009	3.3	2.4	0.9	13.4	8.6	4.8

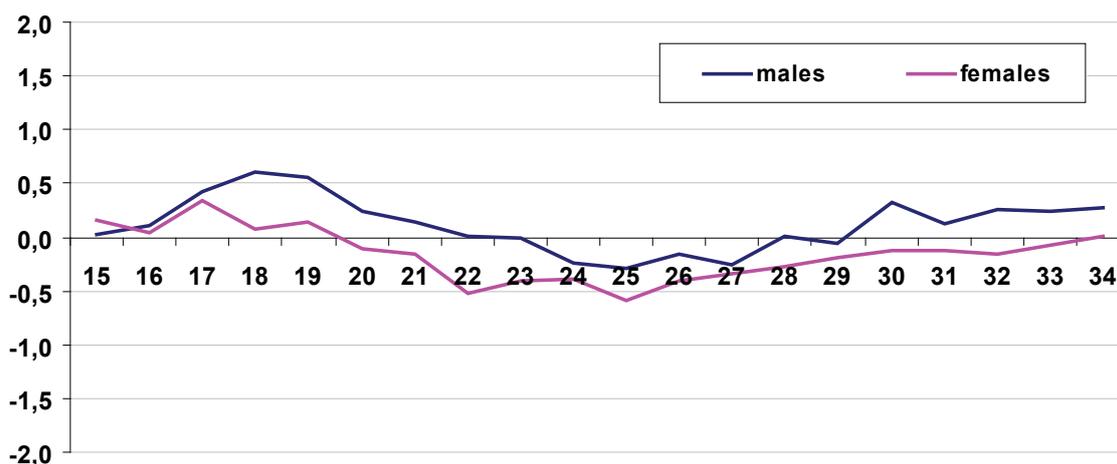
Source: data of the State Statistics Committee

In 2002 **net migration rate** of total population was -0.70‰; net migration rate of youth aged 15–34 was -0.78‰. Only net migration of young men aged 18–19 had positive values (Fig. 5.2). The module of net migration rates of young women in 2002–2004 exceeded that of men.



**Fig. 5.2.**  
**Net migration rate of young people by age and gender in Ukraine, 2002, ‰**  
 Source: the State Statistics Committee

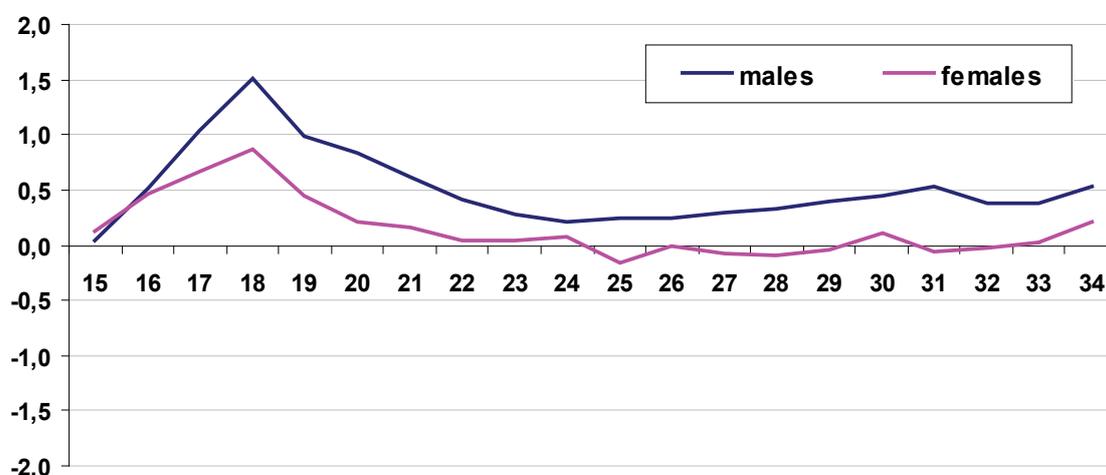
In 2005 the migration situation changed dramatically, however, the balance of youth migrations, although almost reaching zero, remained negative. Positive net migration of males aged under 22 and over 30 were not enough to counterbalance considerable outflow of females aged 22–27 (Fig.5.3).



**Fig. 5.3.**  
**Net migration rate of youth people by age and gender in Ukraine, 2005, ‰**  
 Source: data of the State Statistics Committee

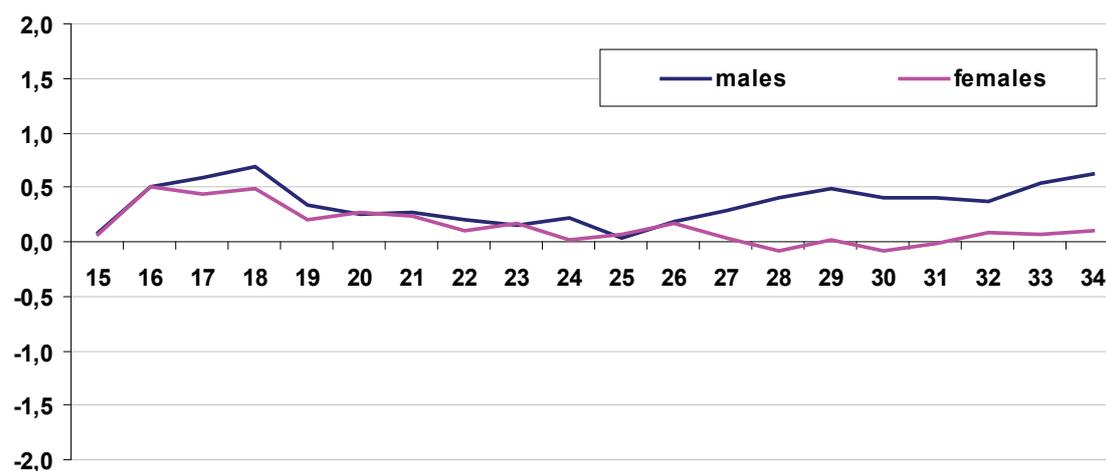
In 2008 negative net migration was recorded mostly among women

aged 25–29 but those values almost reached zero and were regarded rather as an exception (Fig. 5.4). Net migration rates of total population and youth were almost identical (0.32% and 0.33%, respectively).



**Fig.5.4.**  
**Net migration rate of youth people by age and gender in Ukraine, 2008, %**  
 Source: data of the State Statistics Committee

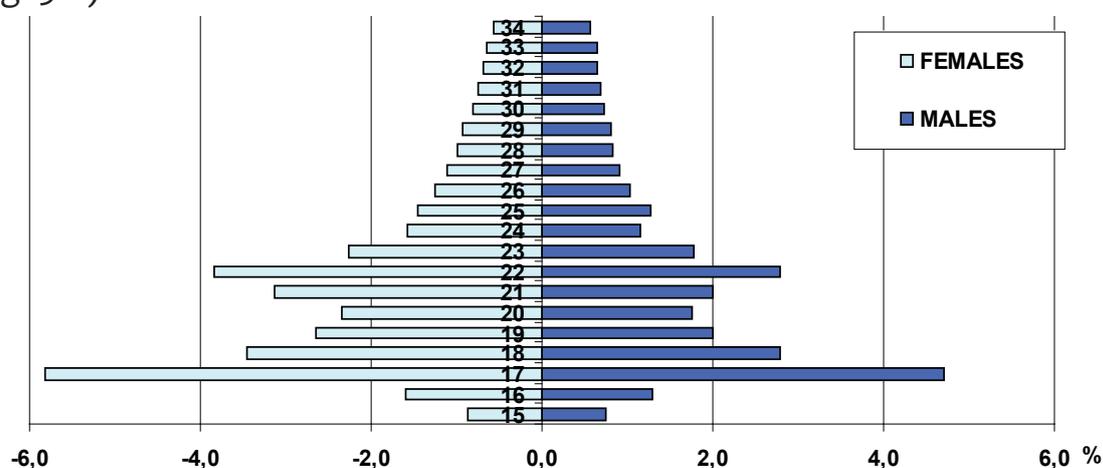
In 2009 age-specific net migration rates were lower than in 2008, with a certain leveling of values for men and women in the group of migrants aged under 25, unlike in the previous years when net migrations of young males significantly exceeded respective indicators for female. Overall, in 2009 the net migration rate of young men was 0.34% and that of females – 0.13% (Fig. 5.5).



**Fig. 5.5.**  
**Net migration rate of youth people by age and gender in Ukraine, 2009, %**  
 Source: data of the State Statistics Committee

According to current statistical data, in 2009 in Ukraine youth aged

15–34 accounted for 65.8% (those aged 18–34 accounted for 50.8%) in the total **migration turnover** (total in-migrants and out-migrants). The sex and age pyramid of active youth migrants presented in Figure 5.6 gives a clear picture of two activity peaks: the first one –17-year old secondary school graduates who become involved in educational migration; the second peak attributable to 22-year old persons who, having graduated from institutions of higher education, seek employment and, in the majority of cases, return to the places where they resided before enrollment in the educational institution. In 2008 the migration mobility<sup>1</sup> rate of youth aged 17 by 3.7 times exceeded respective rate for the group of those aged 16, reaching the maximum value not only for youth, but for total migration stock. In general, young people aged 17–23 are characterized by high mobility and changes of places of residence: although migration mobility rates of young people aged 18–21 were significantly lower than those of youth aged 17 and 22, however, they beat the rates of youth aged 25 by 1.4–1.5. After the 22-age limit, youth mobility drops significantly (Fig. 5.6).



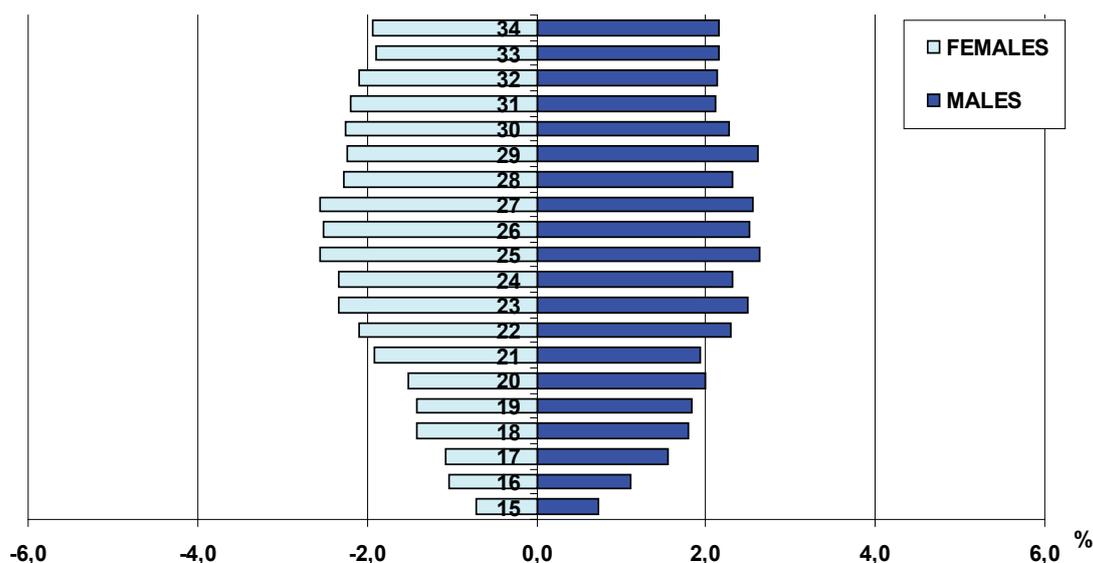
**Fig. 5.6.**  
**Age and sex pyramid of youth migrants aged 15–34 in Ukraine in 2009**  
**(all flows), % of total migration turnover**  
 Source: data of the State Statistics Committee

Migrations with educational purposes may be described in terms of the “push–pull” theory. For young people, lack of opportunities to get profession at educational institutions of the locality where he/she resides

<sup>1</sup> Migration mobility shows intensity of gross migrations and is estimated as a ratio of gross migrations to midyear population.

is a powerful factor “pushing” these young people out. Accordingly, locality with great choice of educational opportunities will attract (pull) secondary school graduates. It is also important that society generally acknowledges and approves this way of decision educational and profession problems.

In 2009 the share of migrants aged 15–34 in the international migration turnover was by 1.7 lower than that in the internal turnover, hardly reaching 40%. At the same time it should be mentioned that the percentage of international migration in the total structure by all migration flows did not exceed 5%. Unlike internal migration, participation in international migration moves grows for youth aged 21 and older and reaches its peak at the age of 25–27, gradually declining after that. The sex and age pyramid of internal migrants aged 15–34 does not demonstrate any sharp changes between adjacent age groups (Fig. 5.7).



**Fig. 5.7.**  
**Age and sex pyramid of youth migrants aged 15–34 in Ukraine in 2009, international migration, % of international migration turnover**

Source: data of the State Statistics Committee

The desire to obtain high-quality education at foreign educational institutions as factor raising competitiveness at the job market is powerful factor encouraging migration of Ukrainian youth to more developed countries<sup>2</sup>. For young people it is the chance of extending their cultural

<sup>2</sup> Kyzyma I.S. Factors of International Labour Migration of Ukrainian population. Collection of scientific works of Kirovograd National Technical University, Economical sciences B.15, 2009

horizons. An intention to obtain a rare profession or study according to a special academic curriculum not offered by any educational institution of Ukraine or to have access to huge resources of foreign universities which can hardly be compared with resources of Ukrainian universities is a influential incentive for young people to move to another country and study there. The number of students from Ukraine studying abroad is gradually increasing. In 2004 the UNESCO Institute for Statistics in its annual digest reported on 25.2 thousand students from Ukraine, as compared with 26.7 thousand in 2007.<sup>3</sup> According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the five top countries with the highest proportions of students from Ukraine are Russia, Germany, Poland, the USA and Hungary. In 2007 the number of internationally mobile students<sup>4</sup>, who were permanent residents of other countries but moved to Ukraine for studying, was 29.6 thousand persons which by 2.9 thousand exceeded the number of persons who moved from Ukraine to other countries for the period of study. Therefore, net migration of internationally mobile students was positive. Persons originating from Eastern Asia and Oceania accounted for 23% of students who moved to Ukraine for studying, persons from Central and Eastern Europe – for 21.2%, and persons from Arabic countries – for 18.0%<sup>5</sup>.

Overall, in 2009 migrants whose final destination was Russia accounted for 82.1% of persons who departed from Ukraine to the CIS and Baltic countries. 8.5% of this flow was received by Byelorussia and 4.3% – by Republic of Moldova. In 2009 Ukraine had positive net migration with all CIS and Baltic countries. The highest excess of in-migrants over out-migrants was recorded in Ukraine–Russia flows. A large contribution to a migration increase was made by migrants from Moldova, Uzbekistan and Armenia. Unlike the situation in the CIS and Baltic states, number of mig-

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3 Global Education Digest 2006: Comparing Education Statistics Across the World. – UNESCO Institute for Statistics. – Montreal, 2006. – P. 132 [www.uis.unesco.org/TEMPLATE/pdf/ged/2006/GED2006.pdf](http://www.uis.unesco.org/TEMPLATE/pdf/ged/2006/GED2006.pdf)

Global Education Digest 2009: Comparing Education Statistics Across the World. – UNESCO Institute for Statistics. – Montreal, 2009. – P. 143 [www.uis.unesco.org/template/pdf/ged/2009/GED\\_2009\\_EN.pdf](http://www.uis.unesco.org/template/pdf/ged/2009/GED_2009_EN.pdf)

4 The UNESCO Institute for Statistics uses the term “internationally mobile students” and defines as students who have crossed a national or territorial border for the purposes of education and are now enrolled outside their country of origin. This marks a departure from the traditional understanding of ‘foreign students’, which is generally based on the criterion of citizenship.

5 Global Education Digest 2009: Comparing Education Statistics Across the World. – UNESCO Institute for Statistics. – Montreal, 2009. – P. 138-139 [www.uis.unesco.org/template/pdf/ged/2009/GED\\_2009\\_EN.pdf](http://www.uis.unesco.org/template/pdf/ged/2009/GED_2009_EN.pdf)

rants to Ukraine from non-CIS countries did not compensate number of migrants to those countries, resulting in negative net migration. The largest migration flow was directed to Germany (22.1% of persons who departed to non-CIS countries), Israel (18.6%), the USA (17.0%) and the Czech Republic (6.4%).

The survey of population migration activity showed that young people under the age of 28 are more likely to seek employment in Poland and the Czech Republic while persons aged over 28 prefer jobs in Russia<sup>6</sup>.

Females account for a larger proportion in the total migration flow: they make up 54.0% of migrants in all age groups and 55.7% of young migrants. The analysis of gender disproportion in different migration flows demonstrated that the larger the migration distance, the higher the proportion of males in migration flows. Thus, while females accounted for 58% in inter-regional movements, males had an undoubted leadership in youth migration to non-CIS countries: 61.4% (Table 5.2).

**Table 5.2.**

**Male to female ratio in different migration flows, Ukraine, 2009, %**

Migration flows	All migrants		Migrants aged 15–34	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Inter-regional migration	44.6	55.4	42.1	57.9
Cross-regional migration	47.5	52.5	46.7	53.3
Former Soviet Union countries	47.3	52.7	48.1	51.9
Non-CIS countries	58.5	41.5	61.4	38.6

Source: calculations based on data of the State Statistics Committee

Migration processes in the youth environment demonstrate certain peculiarities: in total flows, young females demonstrate higher mobility as compared with their male peers; this difference is especially pronounced in peer groups from age 17 to 23. Starting with the age of 25, the migration mobility rates of male and female gradually align. This trend characterizes youth migrations both in urban and rural areas. Thus, in 2008 mobility of 19-year old females from rural area by 1.8 times exceeded mobility of their male peers, while in urban settlements this ratio was lower (1.4 times) (Table 5.3).

<sup>6</sup> International Labour Migrations of Ukraine's population / Edited by Libanova E.M., Poznyak O.V. – K.: Council for Study of Productive Forces of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, 2002. – 206 p. (P. 90)

Table 5.3.

**Migration mobility rates of population by age groups in 2008 in Ukraine, ‰**

Age groups	Urban			Rural		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Total	31.1	31.5	30.8	29.3	29.0	29.5
15–34	64.5	58.0	71.0	62.0	53.0	71.6
15–19	115.4	102.0	129.2	87.9	72.9	104.0
20–24	77.6	66.0	89.4	71.9	55.9	89.5
25–29	41.2	38.4	44.0	51.0	46.8	55.4
30–34	29.6	30.1	29.1	34.9	34.5	35.2

Source: calculations based on data of the State Statistics Committee

There is some cross-settlement differentiation of migration characteristics which is not always revealed by the analysis covering only general indices. For instance, in 2008 the migration mobility rate of population in urban area insignificantly exceeded the same index for rural area. However, there was a striking disparity in the 15–19 age group, in which the intensity of migration of urban residents by 1.3 exceeded the mobility of youth in rural area (Fig. 5.8).

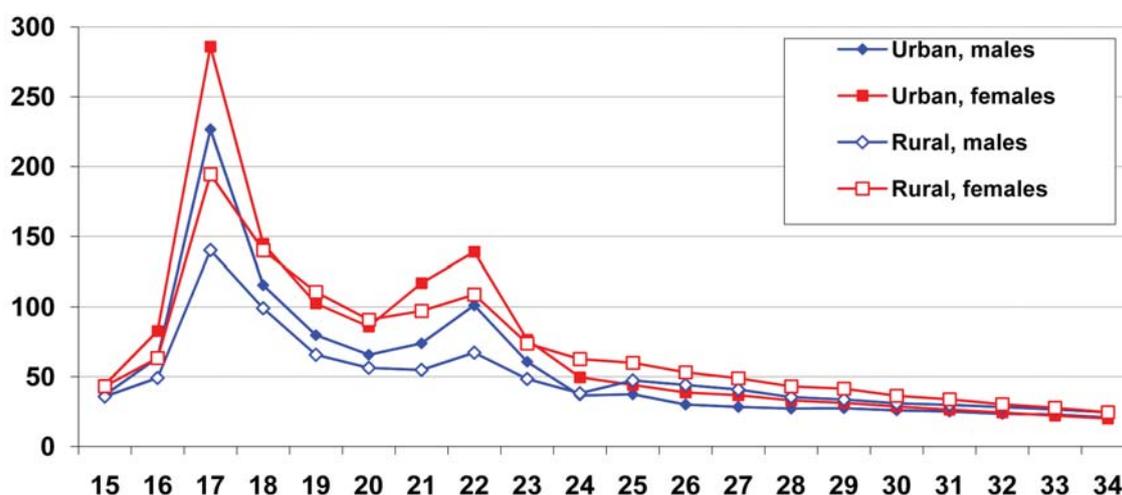


Fig. 5.8.

**Migration mobility rates by age, sex and type of settlement in 2009, ‰**

Source: data of the State Statistics Committee

In the market environment, requirements to professional skills and competencies of employees grow making it crucial for a young person to obtain high-quality education and an interesting profession useful to people and in high demand in the job market. Higher requirements of youth to education services and the level of skills in a specific profession are impor-

tant factors of maintaining the migration activity of urban youth at the same level. Given the increasing requirements to the quality of education and the unchanged territorial organization of the educational system, the role of educational migrations in Ukraine will rise.

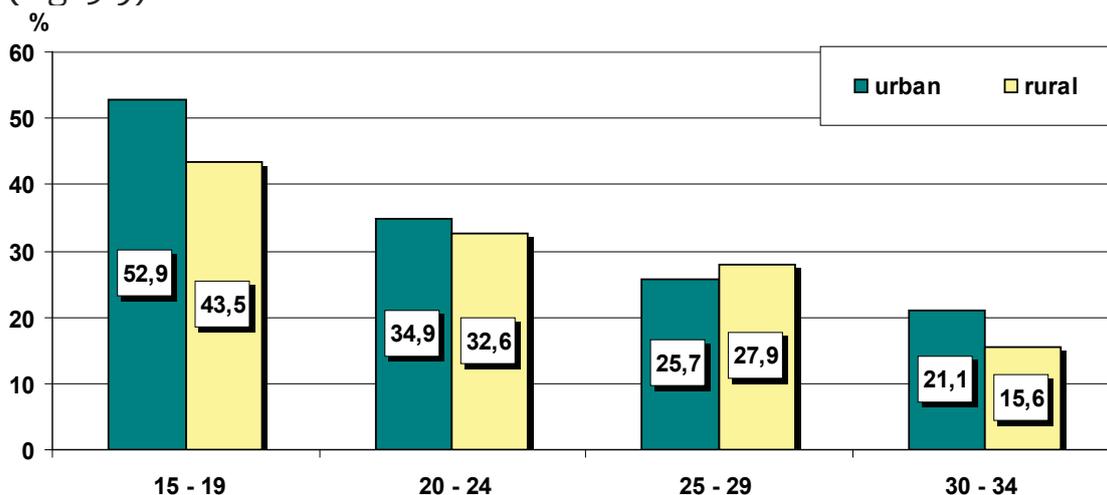
Therefore, in Ukraine positive net migration was observed for total population starting from 2005 and for youth aged 15–34 – from 2006. Youth demonstrates higher migration activity than other age groups of the population: in 2009 young people aged 15–34 accounted for almost two-thirds of migration turnover. Persons aged 17–23 demonstrate the highest mobility in internal migration flows, a trend which may be explained by their movements to places of study and employment after graduation. As for international movements, migration activity increases in the group of youth aged over 21 and reaches its peak in the 25–27 age group. Results of many surveys of international migrations show that this to a large extent is attributable to search of employment abroad since, in the opinion of young people who have a degree in a certain profession and some work experience acquired in their homeland, foreign countries may offer more employment opportunities in terms of pay scales. At the same time, as evidenced by UNESCO statistical data, an intention to obtain high-quality education at institutions abroad is a weighty driver of international migrations.

## ***5.2. Youth migration attitudes***

Considering a significant (direct and indirect) impact of migration processes almost on every sphere of society's life and a high proportion of youth involved in these processes, the survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010" contained a section of questions aimed at identifying migration intentions of young people. Such special-purpose surveys have special importance since their results provide information originating from sources other than the official statistics and, besides, allow to outline the characteristics of a potential phenomenon, giving the opportunity, for example, to identify

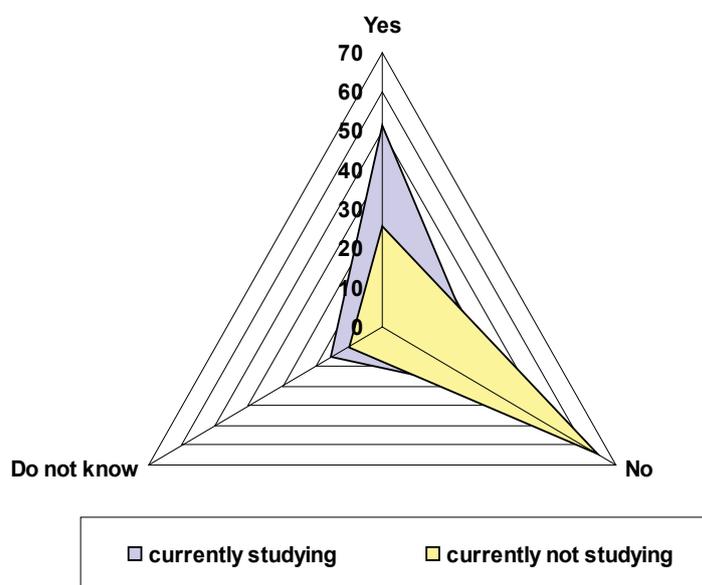
the drivers of actual as well as potential migrations which are only considered by respondents; to give a social and demographic portrait of potential migrants; to assess the impact of migration processes upon some parameters of demographic development; to analyze the link between migration activity and relations in the family; to formulate hypotheses of further development of migration processes with the aim of taking them into account in demographic forecasts.

About 57% of young respondents stated they had no intention to **study abroad** even if there was such an opportunity. Another 11% could not answer the question definitely. Almost one-third of respondents expressed an intention to study abroad if they had such an opportunity. There is certain correlation between the percentage of positive answers and the age of respondents: the older persons, the lower the percentage of those who would agree to go abroad for studying. Thus, among youth aged under 20 one out of every two respondents would like to study abroad; the same intention was expressed by one in every three respondents aged 20–24, one in every four respondents aged 25–29 and one in every five respondents over 30 who are regarded as youth by the current legislation. The largest disparities in attitudes of youth in urban and rural areas towards studying abroad were recorded among respondents aged under 20 (Fig. 5.9).



**Fig. 5.9.** Positive answers of respondents to the question “Would you like to study abroad if you had such an opportunity?”, % of answers in respective group  
 Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

Respondent’s intention to study abroad was to a certain extent conditional on the specific of his/her activities at the moment of the interview, in particular, whether he/she was a student or not. Considering the inhomogeneous distribution of respondents’ answers concerning their intention to study abroad, the interrelation between the intention to go abroad for studying and the current status of a respondent (whether he/she studies or not) was analyzed only for respondents aged 15–24. More than half of respondents who studied (at an educational institution, training courses etc.) expressed an intention to study abroad, while only a quarter of those who did not study at the moment of the interview gave positive answer to this question and 64.2% stated they would surely refuse such an offer. Respondents who were students at the moment of the interview more often hesitated over a clear answer to the question about studying abroad (Fig. 5.10). Among respondents who were students at the moment of the interview and stated an intention to study abroad, students from Level III–IV accredited education institutions accounted for the highest proportion (42.2%). Besides, it should be mentioned that students of general secondary schools often expressed an intention to go abroad to obtain education there.



**Fig. 5.10.**  
**Distribution of 15–24 year old respondents’ answers to the question**  
**“Would you like to study abroad if you had such an opportunity?”**  
**depending on whether they study or not, %**  
 Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

In total respondents who **plan to go abroad for studying** (19.7% of total respondents and 61.7% of those who would go abroad if they had an opportunity to study abroad), 16.3% aimed at *obtaining Bachelor's or Master's degree of one of foreign universities*. The same proportion of respondents stated they planned to go abroad to *gain the experience of studying at a foreign university and also to find out what are employment opportunities abroad*. The most popular purpose of going abroad to study was formulated as *to see other countries and learn their culture* (18.7%). About 7% of respondents who indicated they planned to study abroad stated an intention to visit foreign educational institutions with the aim of *taking certain courses of study and lectures of well-known scientists*.

The proportion of respondents who **plan to go aboard for studying in the next three years** was insignificant (5.2%) (Fig. 5.11). In the age-specific distribution of such respondents, persons aged under 20 accounted for the highest proportion – 37.0% (and almost 10% of total respondents of this age); the proportion of respondents aged 20–24 planning to enroll in a foreign university in the next three years was just insignificantly lower than the same proportion in the previous age group (34.0%). With age the issue of education loses its importance, not disappearing altogether, this being an indication that there are respondents aged 30–34 who plan to leave Ukraine in the nearest future for the period of study. Young males were somewhat more enthusiastic than females about the plans to study abroad in the short term.

In the group of respondents ready to go abroad for studying, 58.7% also expressed an intention to find a temporary job abroad. However, it is unclear whether they wanted to combine studies and employment or intend to find employment after graduation in the country of destination or looked at a temporary job as a “backup option” in case of impossibility to study. In this context, 23.8% of respondents in the mentioned group planned not only to go to another country for studying but also intended to change the place of residence permanently.

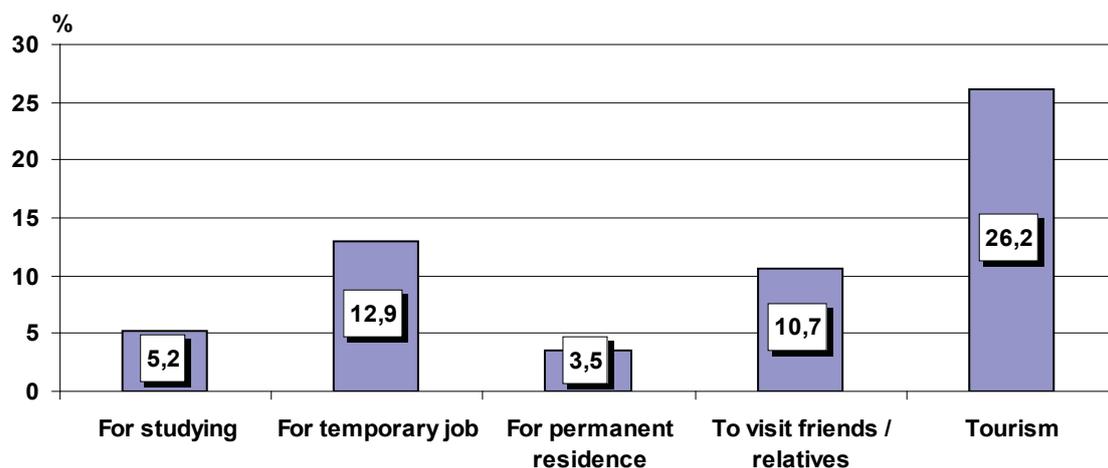


Fig. 5.11.

**Positive answers of respondents to the question about their intentions to go abroad in the nearest three years, % of total respondents**

Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

Young respondents were proposed to specify the country where they planned to study in the next three years. In respondents' answers the countries were ranked as follows: England (this country was mentioned by almost quarter of respondents), the USA (21.0%) and Germany (11.7%) (Table 5.4). The last two countries were also ranked among the top five countries where the largest number of students from Ukraine studied according to the data of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics for year 2007, with Russia taking the first place among these top five countries. In the 2007/2008 academic year, almost 27% of students who left Ukraine for studying graduated at educational institutions of Russia<sup>7</sup>.

Table 5.4.

**Answers of respondents planning to go abroad in the next three years about the countries most attractive for this purpose, % of respective group of respondents**

	Studying		Temporary job		Permanent residence		Visit to friends / relatives		Tourism	
	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%
1	England	24.9	USA	15.6	USA	29.2	Russia	35.7	Egypt	17.4
2	USA	21.0	Russia	14.1	Canada	12.8	Poland	10.6	Turkey	16.2
3	Germany	11.7	Poland	10.3	Germany	8.6	Germany	8.8	France	9.9
4	Montenegro	6.1	Italy	9.4	England	8.1	USA	7.4	Italy	7.4
5	Italy	4.9	Czech Republic	7.7	Montenegro	7.6	Italy	5.6	England	3.9

Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

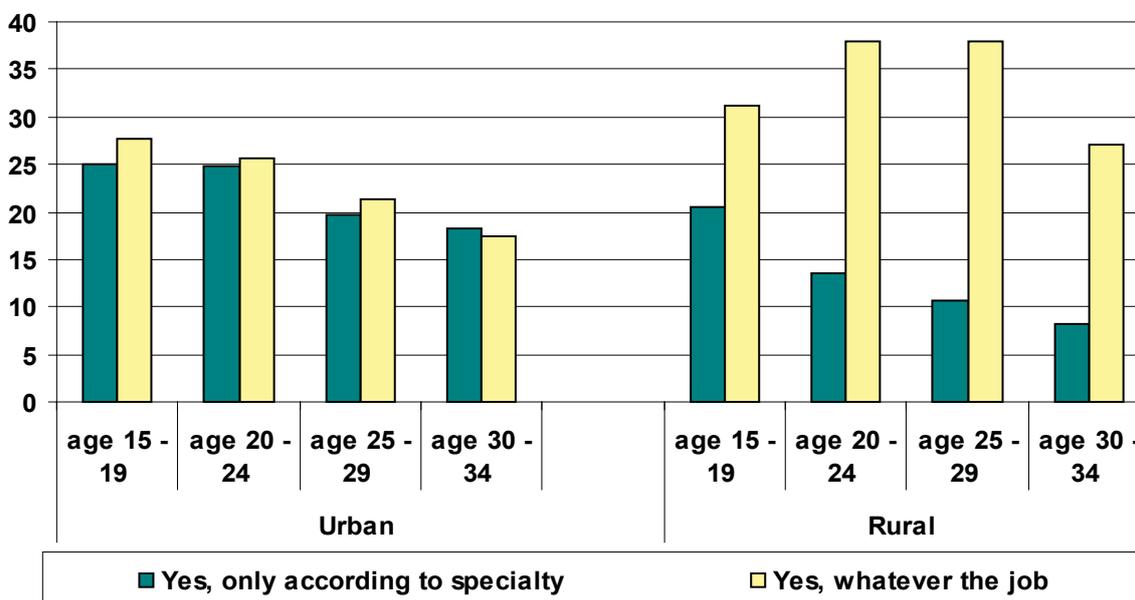
<sup>7</sup> Global Education Digest 2009: Comparing Education Statistics Across the World. – Montreal UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2009. – 262 p.

Another important step in the survey was to identify youth attitudes towards **temporary employment** beyond Ukraine. The question **“Would you accept a temporary job abroad, if you had such an opportunity?”** supposed two positive answers: *“Yes, only according to my specialty”* and *“Yes, whatever the job”*. 45.4% of respondents expressed wish for work abroad for a certain period, of which 19.4% want to work *only according to the specialty* and 26.0% – *whatever the job*. Answers varied significantly depending on the type of settlements where respondents live: while the proportions of young urban respondents who selected the first and the second option were almost the same, the proportion of young respondents in rural area who had wish for work abroad whatever the job was 2.5 higher than the proportion of those who wanted to work only according to the specialty.

It is even more interesting to analyze the proportions of respondents who gave one of the positive answers by separate age groups of respondents. Firstly, the proportion of respondents who want to go abroad for temporary employment *only according to the specialty* decreases with age irrespective of the type of settlement where a respondent resides. It may be that young people in the older age groups, having a certain experience of seeking employment and working according to the diploma, realize that it is not always possible to do the job one likes; this situation is attributable to many circumstances which are often not associated with the nature of professional qualification, for instance, family, housing, financial circumstances etc. Secondly, respondents from rural area aged 20–29 expressed a much stronger intention to work abroad independently of specific of job, if there was such opportunity, as compared with the youngest group of respondents and respondents aged over 30 (Fig. 5.12). A hard social and economic situation in villages, lack of high-paid jobs, unsettled land issues and low prestige of the agrarian profession – all these factors compel rural residents to leave their native villages and seek for employment abroad.

Students of higher education institutions of all accreditation levels were most inclined to temporary employment abroad if there was such

an opportunity. The interviewed students was divided into two almost equal groups: those who wanted to work abroad only according to the specialty and those who agreed to work abroad whatever the job, if there was such an opportunity.



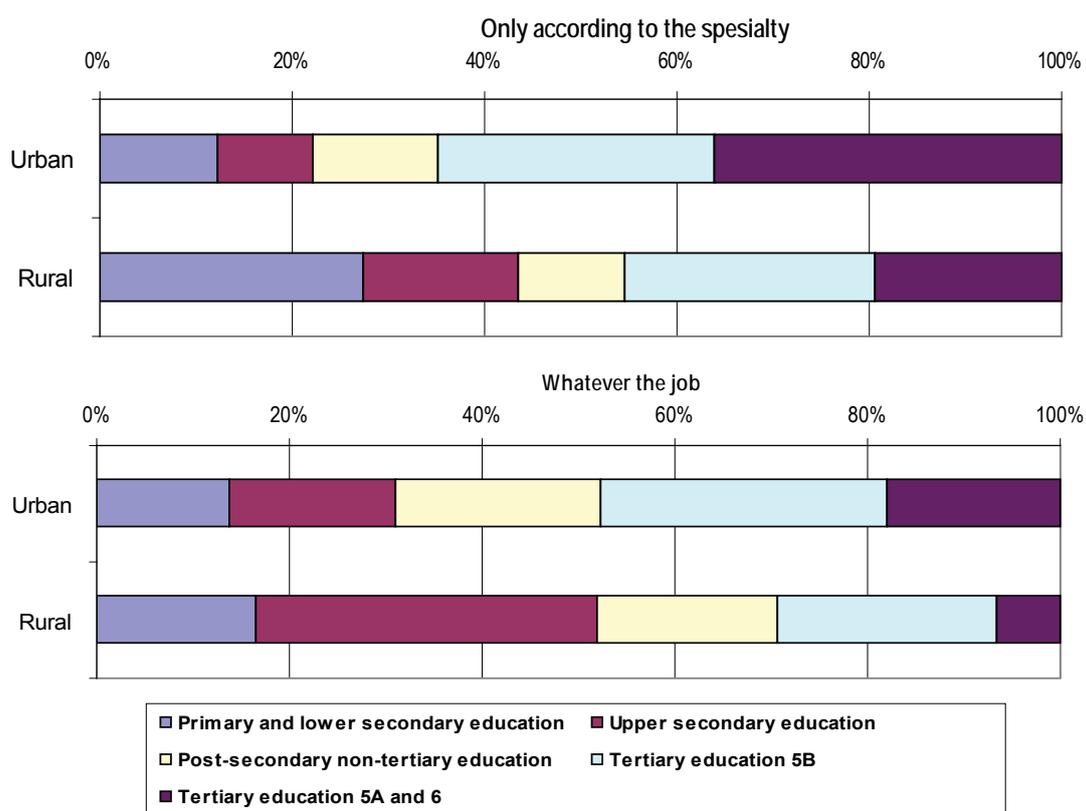
**Fig. 5.12.**  
**Positive answers of respondents to the question “Would you like to have a temporary job abroad, if there was such an opportunity, % of answers in respective group**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

About 60% of high-ranked public servants who took part in the interview said they would like to work abroad for some time. In this survey it is of interest that the proportion of persons who would go and work abroad if there was such an opportunity, irrespective of the job specific, among the unemployed taking part in the survey was higher than the proportions of respondents who gave the same answer in other social and professional groups, and this share almost 4 times exceeded the share of the unemployed (at the moment of the interview) who expressed wish for temporary employment abroad but only according to the specialty. The same large gap was recorded in the group of unskilled and semi-skilled workers between proportions of respondents who would agree to work abroad only according to the specialty and who would agree to any kind of job. In contrast to that, in the group of professionals doing highly qualified

creative intellectual jobs the proportion of respondents who stated an intention to work abroad only according to the specialty was two times higher than the proportion of those who would agree to do any job.

From the distribution of respondents who would agree to temporary employment abroad if they had such an opportunity, by educational level we can see that 36.1% of young urban residents intending to work abroad only according to the specialty had tertiary education 5A; the proportion of such respondents in rural area was 19.3%. The proportion of persons with tertiary education 5A among respondents who would like to work abroad for some time irrespective of kind of job was significantly lower than among those who were inclined to employment abroad only according to the specialty: two times lower for urban residents and three times lower for rural residents, with proportions of respondents with upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education increasing significantly (Fig. 5.13).



**Fig. 5.13.**  
**Distribution of respondents who would like to work abroad temporary, by type of settlement and educational level**

Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

Almost half of respondents who said they would like to work abroad for some time if they had such an opportunity reported that they **really plan to go abroad for studying** (the survey did not ask about the time when a respondent intended to go abroad). The share of those respondents among all respondents was 22.2%. They were additionally asked about the term for which they *intended* to leave home. The term *from 6 months to 1 year* turned out to be most acceptable – one in every three respondents planning to work abroad chose this answer. One in every five respondents stated his/her intentions of long-term employment abroad (*for several years*). However, the same proportion of respondents reported they planned to work in another country *for 3-6 months*. 9.1% of the mentioned group of respondents were inclined to short-term stay abroad. It should be mentioned that almost 19% of respondents had desire to find job abroad but could not decide on the term of staying abroad. It looks like respondents believe that the financial situation of the family may be improved during a 3-month period at the least, otherwise expenses for preparation of documents, transportation, accommodation and life necessities in the destination country will exceed the earnings.

For respondents who had actual intentions of going abroad with the purpose of employment rather than hypothetical speculations on the possibility of doing this, the main reason driving them to work abroad was “*higher earnings abroad*”: this reason was mentioned by 72.5% of respondents. It was more often said by young people in rural area who planned to go abroad with employment purposes than by young urban residents. The survey results support the popularity of the neoclassical theory of migration which suggests that labour migrations are determined by geographic variations in demand and supply at the labour market. “For migrants, pay scales are the major push-out factor in the regions of origin and the main factor of attraction in the destination regions”<sup>8</sup>. Low pay scales in Ukraine resulting in such phenomenon as poverty of working persons forces people search for the jobs providing the opportunity to earn enough to ensure appropriate living standards for the employee and his/her family. Migration

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8 Migration Processes in Ukraine: Modern Situation and Prospects / Edited by O.V. Poznyak – Uman, 2007. – P. 16.

allows households not only to maximize their income but also to “... prevent the risks which may pertain, for example, to shortcomings of the labour market in the country of emigration”<sup>9</sup>. This, to a certain extent, explains why the frequency of choosing other proposed options was several times lower than that of the answer “*higher earnings abroad*”. Thus, “*difficulties with finding employment in Ukraine*” as motive to positive attitude towards employment abroad is ranked the second among other answer options but share of respondents who mentioned it was four times lower than the share of respondents who chose the previous one.

No doubt, some improvement (at least as compared with the 1990s) of the economic situation in the country decreased the significance of such “push-out” factors as unemployment and non-payment of wages, however, today “... people are forced to go abroad under the circumstances when finding a job is not a problem but it is problem to live on the money it brings»<sup>10</sup>. Besides, in rural area both low pay scales and difficulties with finding job remain an urgent problem, and for this reason there is a significant gap between the proportions of respondents from urban and rural areas who chose the answer “*difficulties with finding employment in Ukraine*”: 24.4% of rural residents as against 14.0% of urban dwellers.

An acute housing problem in cities is mirrored in the answers of respondents in urban area who said “*no opportunity to decide the housing problem*” as the major motive to temporary employment abroad more often than rural residents. Besides, respondents from urban settlements more often than rural stated that they preferred employment abroad to employment in their homeland owing to “*lack of social and political protection of people in Ukraine*” (Table 5.5).

Among respondents planning to go abroad for temporary job, 58.3% (or 12.9% of all respondents) would like to realize their intention **in the next three years** (men constitute two-thirds of this group). In the opinion of respondents, the most attractive countries for temporary employment are the USA (15.6%) as well as the neighboring countries: Russia (14.1%)

9 Romashchenko T.I. On the Issue of Neoclassical Concepts of International Labour Migration of the Population. – P. 308-313 [http://www.nbuv.gov.ua/portal/soc\\_gum/pips/2009\\_1/308.pdf](http://www.nbuv.gov.ua/portal/soc_gum/pips/2009_1/308.pdf)

10 Levtsun O. International Labour Migration in Ukraine as a Demographic Problem [http://dialogs.org.ua/project\\_ua\\_full.php](http://dialogs.org.ua/project_ua_full.php)

and Poland (10.3%). It is indicative that the list of countries and the frequency of their choice by respondents who planned to go abroad for studying significantly differs from the list of countries mentioned by those who would like to work abroad (table 5.4). The list of countries preferred for employment abroad agrees with the data of other surveys. For instance, according to results of the survey “Life Roads of Ukraine’s Population” held in 2001, the largest labour migration flows of cross-border regions were directed to Russia, Poland, Czech Republic, Italy and Portugal<sup>11</sup>. The major reasons of migration to these regions are higher opportunities of official employment and much higher pay scales as compared with Ukraine.

**Table 5.5.**

**Motives to positive attitude towards employment abroad among respondents planning to go abroad for employments purposes, % of a respective population of respondents\***

Motives to positive attitude towards employment abroad	Total	Urban	Rural
Higher earnings abroad	72.5	70.7	76.3
Lower inflation rates, higher monetary stability abroad	13.8	14.7	12.0
Difficulties with finding employment according to specialty in Ukraine	10.9	10.6	11.3
Difficulties with finding any employment in Ukraine	17.4	14.0	24.4
No opportunity to decide the housing problem	12.4	15.8	5.6
Lack of social and political protection of people in Ukraine	9.5	12.2	4.1

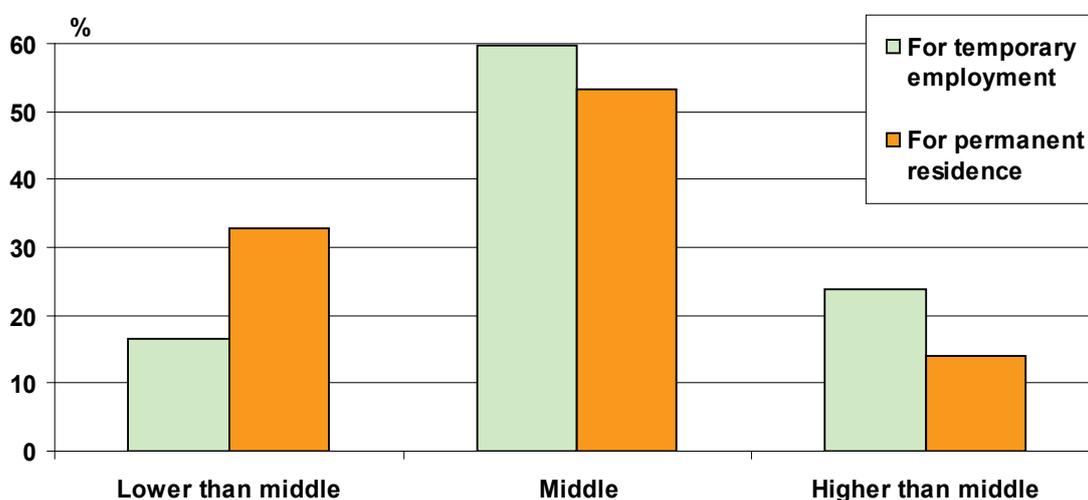
Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

\* Sum total of answers does not make 100% as a respondent may choose two answers

The USA is probably the only country mentioned most often in the answers of persons who took part in the interview. This country is attractive for studying, temporary employment and permanent residence, being an undoubted leader in the last case: the USA was preferred by 29.2% of respondents who planned to change the place of permanent residence. Canada and Germany take the second and the third places, but the proportions of respondents who chosen these countries were 2.3 and 3.4 times lower.

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Among all respondents, 3.5% plan to go abroad **for permanent residence**, with the respective proportions being 4.0% among urban residents and 2.2% in rural area. Respondents aged 20–24 are inclined to change their permanent residence more than other age groups. An intention to improve living standards was the main reason for changing the place of residence for respondents who wanted to migrate. In this connection it is important to know the social stratum with which respondents planning to migrate identify themselves (taking into account personal status, achievements, authority and ability to have an impact on social life). The overwhelming majority of potential migrants identified themselves with the middle social stratum; one in every three identified himself/herself with the lower than middle social stratum; almost 14% said they belonged to the higher than middle social stratum. A comparison of this distribution with the same distribution of the population of respondents who planned to leave the country in the next three years to work in another country for some time shows that respondents who made a decision to change their place of residence gave a much lower assessment to their status than respondents who planned temporary employment abroad (Fig. 5.14).



**Fig. 5.14.**  
**Distribution of respondents planning to go abroad for temporary employment or permanent residence in the next three years, % of respective population**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

10.7% of respondents planned to go abroad in the next three years

to **visit friends or relatives**, with the largest proportion of respondents expressing this intention recorded among respondents aged 25–29. Here, the leaders among destination countries were Russia (35.7%) and Poland (10.6%).

26.2% of respondents planned to visit a foreign country in the next three years **as a tourist**. One out of every five of those respondents was aged 15–19, one in every four – aged 25–29, 23.5% – aged 30–34, and the largest group of respondents who expressed this intention was aged 20–24 – 31.2%. Egypt was the most attractive tourist destination: it was mentioned by 17.4% of respondents who planned a tourist trip in the next three years. Turkey was the second country of choice for tourism (16.2%); and France was the third (almost 10%) (Table 5.4).

Along with finding out potential migration decisions, another important task of the survey was to establish the duration of staying abroad by respondents who had such an experience and the impact of being far from own family on relations with spouse, children, and relatives. This is interesting since in the academic environment there is a prevailing opinion that “... youth outflow has negative demographic consequences due to ruined family ties as well as the specific nature of the “migrant way of life” unfavorable to birth and growing up of children”<sup>12</sup>. According to results of the survey “Youth of Ukraine”, half of respondents who worked abroad for a certain period felt no changes in relations with their relatives; another 36.6% were unable to give a clear answer; 5.3% were sure that their labour migration had a positive impact on relations with relatives and 7.8% reported that their relations worsened. High proportions of respondents who were unable to give a clear answer and who chose “no impact” may be explained by the fact that for every family positive aspects associated with the situation when one of family members goes abroad for temporary employment are “counterbalanced” by negative aspects. For example, when a father leaves a family because of employment abroad, this distances him from upbringing of his children and may result in problems of understanding between the father and the children, on the one part,

12 Levtsun O. International Labour Migration in Ukraine as a Demographic Problem. – 2005. [http://dialogs.org.ua/project\\_ua\\_full.php?m\\_id=4040](http://dialogs.org.ua/project_ua_full.php?m_id=4040)

but, on the other part, improvement of financial situation of the family owing to money earned abroad gives parents the opportunity to fulfill some wishes of their children and this, in its turn, makes children feel that the parents understand them and are sensitive to their needs.

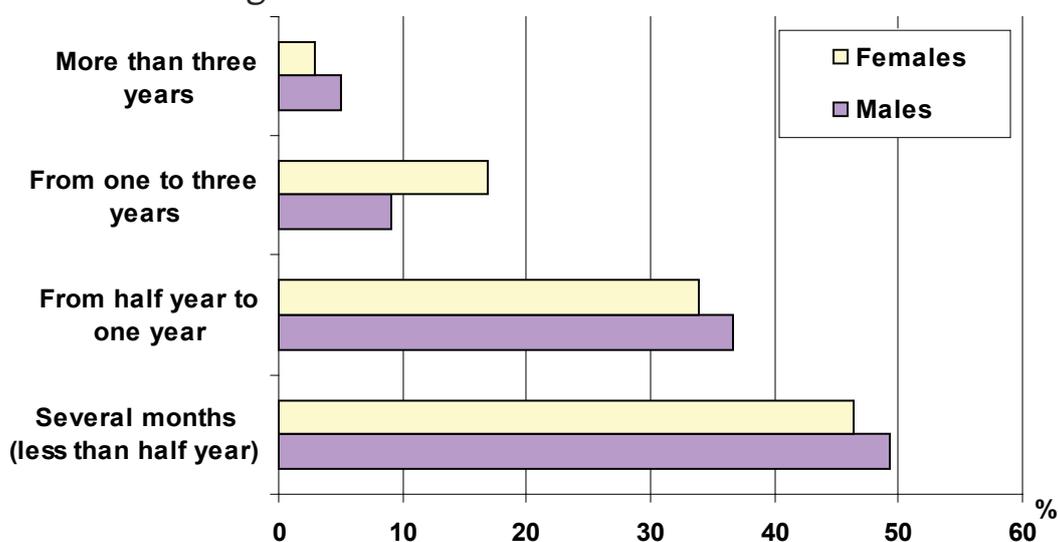
The influence of migration processes on relations in family is conditional on a range of various factors and requires special research. This impact depends on preceding family relations (before migration), duration and frequency of migrations and their efficiency (whether the money earned exceeds related expenses, whether a migrant has any health problems etc.). Finally, the relations in the family of labour migrant may change only for a certain period.

It is logical to assume that short-term migrations have a lesser impact on relations in the family as compared with long-term migrations. 48.3% of respondents with an experience of working abroad indicated that usually they stay abroad for several months, not longer than half year; 35.8% reported that their longest period abroad did not last more than one year; 11.6% of respondents worked abroad for the period from one to three years. At the same time it should be noted that share of females who gave this answer was double that of males (Fig. 5.15). The proportion of respondents who left their homeland for the period exceeding three years was insignificant.

Within the survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010” respondents with experience of working abroad were not asked which country they stayed in. However, based on results of our surveys we established that “labour migrants to Poland usually prefer frequent but short-term migrations” – about 40% of those respondents stayed in Poland for less than one month. In contrast to them, labour migrants to the Czech Republic migrate for a rather long term and with long intervals between migrations<sup>13</sup>. The data of our survey allow to trace changes in the choice of countries most attractive in terms of temporary employment for respondents planning to work abroad in the next three years depending on the duration of a planned trip. As may be seen in Table 5.6, respondents prefer Russia and

13 International Labour Migrations of the Population of Ukraine / Edited by E.M. Libanova, O.B. Poznyak – K.: Council for Study of Productive Forces of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, 2002. – P. 91

Poland for short-term labour migrations and Italy and the Czech Republic for long-term migrations. The USA is an attractive destination for both short-term and long-term potential labour migrants. A certain overlap of preferences of actual and potential migrants most probably results from the fact that labour migration decisions are well-considered and in making such decisions “migrant novices” ponder over it a lot, consult relatives, friends and acquaintances with an experience of working abroad and agencies which assist in legal employment in another country and have arrangements with similar agencies abroad.



**Fig. 5.15.**  
**Distribution of respondents who worked abroad by duration of the period of migration, by gender (in case of several migrations – by duration of the longest one), %**

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

Contacts and relations between current, former and potential migrants are “... a peculiar form of social capital allowing an international migrant to significantly reduce the expenses and risks pertaining to the move to another country” considerably increasing the material, social and psychological benefits of migration<sup>14</sup>.

The survey rejected the hypothesis suggesting that employment abroad is conducive to an intention to change a place of residence. Only 7.2% of respondents who worked abroad for some time had a firm intention of moving abroad for permanent residence.

<sup>14</sup> Romashchenko T.I. On the Issue of Neoclassical Concepts of International Labour Migration of the Population. – P.309  
[http://www.nbu.gov.ua/portal/soc\\_gum/pips/2009\\_1/308.pdf](http://www.nbu.gov.ua/portal/soc_gum/pips/2009_1/308.pdf)

Table 5.6.

**Opinions of young respondents planning employment abroad about the countries most attractive for temporary employment depending on duration of planned migration**

Duration of migration	Top three countries chosen by respondents planning temporary employment abroad
One-two months	Russia, Poland, USA
3–6 months	USA, Russia, Poland
From 6 months to 1 year	Italy, Russia, Poland
Several years	Italy, USA, Czech Republic

Source: social and demographic survey "Youth of Ukraine, 2010"

Therefore, almost one-third of respondents had intention to go abroad for studying; here certain regularity was observed: the older the respondents, the weaker the intention to go abroad for studying. Respondents who studied at the moment of the interview expressed more interest in studying abroad, if there was such an opportunity, as compared with those who did not study at the time of the survey. Even under the existing circumstances one out of every five respondents aged 15–34 planned to go abroad for studying, however, only 5.2% of respondents intended to do that in the next three years. Almost 13% of young respondents planned to go abroad for temporary employment in the next three years and two times higher proportion of respondents expressed a preference for visiting foreign countries as a tourist. The proportion of respondents who would like to leave Ukraine and work in another country for a certain period provided there were no obstacles to employment abroad reached 45.4%. Expectations to earn more were the main driver of a positive attitude towards employment abroad. An intention to raise one's living standards encouraged 3.5% of respondents to go abroad for permanent residence in the next three years.

# YOUTH POLICY IN UKRAINE: CURRENT SITUATION AND DIRECTIONS OF IMPROVEMENT

## *6.1. Problems of formation and implementation of youth policy in Ukraine*

The level of youth socialization to a considerable degree forms the present as well as the future of any country. This thesis, if realized, is a driver for the state and society on the whole to outline respective areas of life which are directly related and facilitate social development of the younger generation. At certain stage of development, there appear the structures performing a special-purpose function, which is to implement a range of tasks covered by the term “youth policy”.

Youth policy is rooted deep into the centuries. Some authors believe that Great Britain of the XVI century is the beginning of the contemporary history of development and implementation by the state of specific measures which were focused on regulation of the conditions under which young people reached the “adult” status and the procedure of establishing that this status was achieved and which facilitated gradual start by young people of independent life. Another example of the state’s attempts to regulate the relations with the younger generation may be found in the history of the German legislation, in particular, starting with the *Regulativ über die Beschäftigung jugendlicher Arbeiter in den Fabriken* (Regulations on the employment of young workers in factories) of 1839<sup>1</sup>.

However, the 60–70s of the XX century are generally recognized as the time when in the majority of countries of the West youth policy formed

<sup>1</sup> Ковалева А.И. Социология молодежи : теоретические вопросы / Ковалева А., Луков В. – М. : Социум, 1999. – С.303-304.

a stand-alone direction of the state activity. It was the time characterized by an especially severe crisis of traditional youth socialization institutions (first of all, family and school). The social status of young people was also harmed by the technological and structural rearrangement of society which started under the influence of the economic crisis dated the middle of the 1970s; this impairment was marked, first of all, by a dramatic rise in youth unemployment, with concurrent intensification of the subjective role of youth in society and the rising criteria of social maturity. In other words, in the second half of the XX century society faced the youth problem of unprecedented scope. Every industrialized country without any exception had an urgent need for comprehensive state intervention with the aim of solving that problem on its agenda. As a consequence, as soon as in the second half of the 1980s – at the beginning of the 1990s complex state youth policy directed at the development of the legislative framework and the institutional base was formed in many countries. According to the UN data, at the beginning of this century national cross-sectoral youth policy was developed in 155 countries, or in 82% countries – UN members; national youth coordination mechanisms (such as ministry, department, council or committee) were established in 168 countries (89%)<sup>2</sup>.

Countries of the former Soviet Union also pay certain attention to the state youth policy. It should be noted that in the CIS countries state youth policy is implemented at a rather high level with due regard for respective requirements of the international community. This implementation, in particular, takes the following forms:

- development and adoption of an efficient legislative and regulatory framework covering implementation of the state youth policy;
- establishment of structures responsible for coordination of actions in the area of state youth policy in the context of public authorities;
- attempts at involving young people and youth non-governmental organizations into implementation of the state youth policy.

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As against other CIS countries, Ukraine has achieved considerable  
<sup>2</sup> Implementation of the UN World Youth Program of Action to the Year 2000 and Beyond: report of UN Secretary General at the session of the UN General Assembly on July 12, 2001 [electronic resource]. – Available at : <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N01/457/55/PDF/N0145755.pdf?OpenElement>

success both in the development of a respective legislative and regulatory framework and in the operation of governmental executive authorities in this area. During almost 20 years of its independence, the Ukrainian state makes certain efforts aimed at formulating and implementing of a principally new youth policy. The preceding period, despite a controversial assessment of its results, has left a discernible trace in youth policy development, bringing Ukraine closer to contemporary landmarks; it was the time of establishment of the basic values which could not be the matter of compromise or political bargaining in determining the ways of social and political development of Ukrainian youth. Based on these strategic goals, the state youth policy was determined as:

- the priority direction of state activity serving both the interests of young persons and the state and society on the whole, with due regard for Ukraine's potential, the level of its economic, social, historical and cultural development and the world experience of youth support by the state;
- activity which should on the one part, create conditions for enhancement of legal and material guarantees of exercising by young people of their rights and freedoms and for provision to each young person of the social services of education, upbringing, spiritual and physical development, professional training and, on the other part, which should assist young individuals in realization of their creative potential and initiatives and ensure their direct participation in formation and implementation of the policy and programs centered on society on the whole and youth in particular.

Development and implementation of youth policy in Ukraine based on the following basic principles:

**Participation principle.** This principle means that the leading role in youth policy development and implementation is performed, first of all, by young people, their associations and organizations. This principle assigns special part to non-governmental youth and child organizations and organized youth movement structures in general. In line with the world practice, the state in cooperation with these entities realizes the so-called subsi-

diarity principle, i.e. allocates funds to them not by way of state patronage but as financing for participants of the activity which is crucial for the state and is capable of developing the younger generation's potential.

**Equality and availability principle.** This principle recognizes the rights and obligations of every young individual in respect of equal opportunities and equal allocation of services and resources. Young people have equal access to the necessary programs and services irrespective of gender, place of residence, social, cultural and economic factors.

**Guarantee principle.** According to this principle, the state provides every young individual with minimal state social services in the area of education, upbringing, spiritual and physical development, professional training and employment. Development of an individual and his/her self-realization is primarily the result of efforts of this individual and his/her self-perfection. It may be enhanced in different ways, including loans, the system of rational benefits, identification and encouragement of the best stakeholders and the best activity.

**Social compensation principle.** This principle envisages legal and social protection of young persons who are unable to take care of themselves due to their social status and health (children from incomplete families or families with many children, orphans, young disabled persons etc.). The state has assumed an obligation to provide active support of youth innovations and implementation of programs and projects carried out primarily by efforts of youth.

**Priority principle.** In the course of youth policy implementation, those projects, programs and initiatives that help solve the thorniest problems of youth are promoted and supported primarily. In the past years the priority directions of the state youth policy in Ukraine were determined by the Nationwide Program of Youth Support for the period 2004–2008. Currently the work is carried out according to the State Target Social Program “Youth of Ukraine” for the period 2009–2015.

**Inheritance principle.** The state youth policy should not depend on organizational changes in the state administration system or a change of state power, political figures or officials of public authorities. Strategic lines

of the state youth policy, once accepted, should not be reviewed more often than every 10–15 years. The fate of the nation and the country should not be the target of opportunistic interests and actions.

Over the years of development of the independent Ukrainian state, the following directions and activities of youth policy formation and development have become crucial:

**1. Establishment of the legislative framework of the state youth policy.** In the independent Ukraine, the foundations of youth policy were laid by Declaration “On General Principles of State Youth Policy in Ukraine” (December 15, 1992) and the Law of Ukraine “On Promoting Social Formation and Development of Youth in Ukraine” (February 5, 1993) adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. The following laws have also become fundamental in the area of youth policy implementation: “On Youth and Child Non-Governmental Organizations” (December 1, 1998), “On Social Work with Children and Youth” (June 21, 2001), “On the Nationwide Program of Youth Support for the period 2004–2008” (November 18, 2003). Over the years of independence, Ukraine adopted over 700 laws and about 800 by-laws and regulations aimed at solving youth problems to this or that extent<sup>3</sup>. The Ukrainian juvenile legislation is recognized as one of the best-structured legislations both in the post-Soviet countries and in Europe.

**2. Hearings in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine about youth situation and presentation of a respective report to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the President of Ukraine.** During 1995–2009, 8 Parliament hearings were held and 10 youth situation reports were presented.

**3. Establishment of structural subdivisions dealing with youth problems as part of public authorities and governmental bodies.** Starting with 1991, the system of structural subdivisions which ensure implementation of the state youth policy and administration of the area under their control and which are responsible for its state and development is formed within the system of executive bodies of Ukraine. The central executive body for social formation and development were the Ministry of Ukraine for Youth and Sports (1990–1996 and 2005), the Ministry of Ukraine for Family and

<sup>3</sup> Головенько В.А. Молоде покоління України в алгоритмі суспільних процесів / Головенько В.А. // Український соціум. – 2006. – № 2. – С. 20–34.

Youth (1996–1999), Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Children and Youth (2004–2005), the State Committee of Ukraine for Family and Youth (1999, 2001–2004), the State Committee of Ukraine for Youth Policy, Sports and Tourism of Ukraine (2000–2001). Currently it is the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports (hereinafter – FYS Ministry); as mentioned in the President’s Decree dated August 18, 2005, it is “the main (leading) authority in the system of central executive authorities responsible for implementation of the state policy on family, children, youth, physical training and sports”<sup>4</sup>.

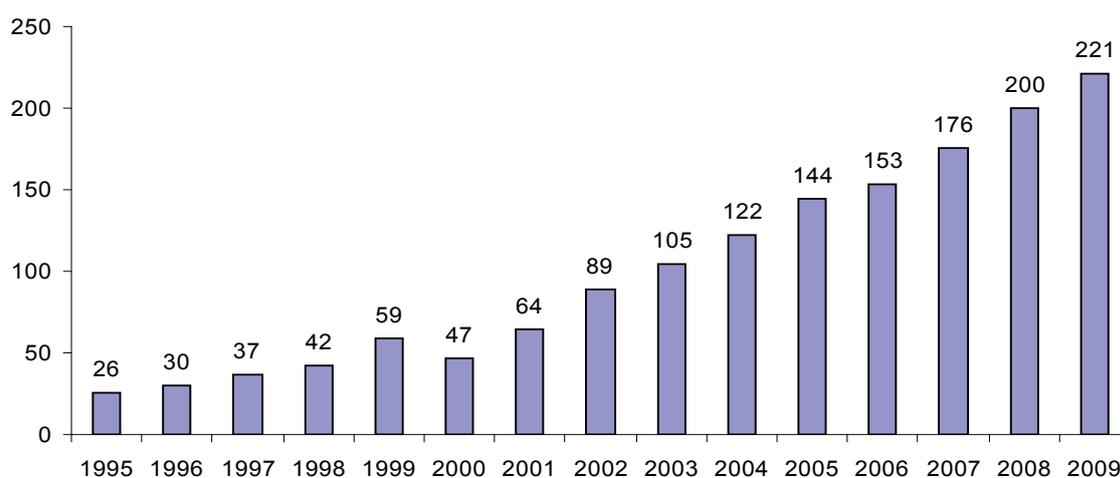
**Solutions to youth unemployment problem.** According to the data of the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports, currently 100 youth employment centers operate in the regions, of which 20 oblast centers, 21 district (rayon) centers, 14 city centers and 45 student employment sectors in higher education institutions; during one year (2009) they found job for 15,978 persons and provided over 74 thousand consulting services. The issue of youth secondary employment remains critical. For this purpose, in 1999 FYS Ministry has resumed the operation of youth labour brigades. In 2009 2,520 labour brigades operated in Ukraine with nearly 70,000 persons involved. Regional labour and employment authorities, jointly with youth organizations within their competence, take measures to facilitate temporary employment of youth, including students and school students, after classes. In particular, local governmental bodies, with participation of the state employment service, organize public works which involved almost 72,000 young persons in 2009.

**5. Establishment of social services for youth.** Currently in Ukraine there are 1,888 operating centers of social services for family, children and youth with 5,390 social workers. These centers are open for all young persons who need help, understanding or information – here they can get various social services, support, assistance and care. The structure of these centers includes social service institutions: social hostels for orphans and children deprived of parental care, social and psychological assistance centers, mother and child centers, centers for HIV-positive children and youth, centers of social and

<sup>4</sup> Decree of the President of Ukraine “On the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports” [Electronic resource]. – Available at : <http://www.gdo.kiev.ua/files/db.php?st=2029&god=2005>

psychological rehabilitation of children and youth with functional disabilities.

**6. Facilitation of establishment and activity of non-governmental youth and child associations.** The number of all-Ukrainian and international youth and child organizations grows year after year (Fig. 6.1). At the same time, over the recent years the share of youth and child organizations in total non-governmental organizations decreased to a certain extent: being 13.5% at the beginning of 2005, it was 12.9% at the beginning of 2008 and 12.6% at the beginning of 2009<sup>5</sup>.



**Fig. 6.1.**  
**Number of international and all-Ukrainian non-governmental youth and child organizations registered according to the applicable legislations, organizations (at year beginning)**  
Source: data of the State Statistics Committee

The process of establishment of youth movement structures at the local level intensifies: over 2001–2008 the total number of youth and child associations legalized in the country grew by 2.4 times from 3,540 to 8,441<sup>6</sup>. Cooperation between governmental bodies and the youth movement is increasing by involvement of youth non-governmental organizations in the development of national youth programs and in the work at advisory bodies, tender committees etc. In recent years, nearly 100 all-Ukrainian non-governmental youth and child associations actively cooperated with the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports on an annual basis, submitting for consideration of the Ministry's tender committee proposals on financing of almost 300 of their programs and

5 Громадські організації в Україні у 2008 році : Стат. бюл. – К. : Держкомстат України, 2009. – С.8.

6 Ibid., P.22.

activities aimed at solving youth and child social problems. However, the crisis had a negative impact on this cooperation: today financing of youth and child organizations decreased almost two times and the number of programs which the tender committee recommended to support decreased almost three times.

**7. Implementation of Target Comprehensive Youth Programs.** In November 2003 the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the law “On the Nationwide Program of Youth Support for the period 2004–2008” mentioned above. In January 2009 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the State Target Social Program “Youth of Ukraine” for the period 2009–2015.

**8. Earmarking of funds for financing of the state youth policy, raising of material and financial resources of enterprises, institutions and organizations, associations of citizens interested in working with young people; activity of special-purpose youth funds.** In the pre-crisis period, the amounts allocated from the state and local budgets for implementation of youth programs, activities of central and local executive authorities, youth and child organizations grew year after year. In 2005 the state budget expenditure for the above-mentioned purposes increased almost 7.2 times as compared with 2001<sup>7</sup>. However, this process was negatively affected by the financial and economic crisis: according to the data of the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports, the State Target Social Program “Youth of Ukraine” for the period 2009–2015 required financing from the state budget in the amount of UAH 21.5 mln in 2009, however, only UAH 2,488 thousands was actually allocated, this being 11.5% of the planned amount of financing. Among special-purpose youth funds, the State Fund for Facilitation of Youth Housing Construction draws special attention. As of the beginning of 2009, during the whole period of its operation this Fund provided 9,547 preferential long-term loans, including UAH 740.3 mln at the expense of funds from the state budget and UAH 250.6 mln at the

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<sup>7</sup> Про становище молоді в Україні: (Щодо підтримки молоді сім'ї, посилення соціального захисту дітей та молоді у 2001–2006 рр.): Щорічна доповідь Президентів України, Верховній Раді України, Кабінету Міністрів України”. – К.: Гопак, 2006. – С.244.

expense of funds from local budgets<sup>8</sup>.

Although during the years of independence the Ukrainian state has undoubtedly taken some efforts aimed at formation and implementation of the youth policy based on new principles, they are still obviously insufficient. It is almost impossible to solve urgent youth problems if even in 2005, which was a “productive” year for youth policy, the state budget expenditure for this purpose was only 0.3% and in 2009 the state budget expenditure for implementation of the basic state youth policy program – the State Target Social Program “Youth of Ukraine” (for the period 2009–2015) amounted to mere UAH 2.5 mln, which is UAH 0.17 per every young person aged 14–35.

These attitudes of the state in respect of youth policy are naturally reflected (as confirmed by sociological surveys) in opinions of young people. According to the data of the sociological survey conducted by the State Institute for Family and Youth Problems in May 2002, 64% of young people aged 14–28 stated they did not feel any state support<sup>9</sup>. In the sociological youth survey “Youth Situation in the Eyes of Youth” conducted by the Center of Social Expert Examinations of the Institute for Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine within the framework of the project of the UN Development Program “Establishment of Safe Environment for the Youth of Ukraine” among youth aged 15–23, only 7% of respondents characterized the state youth policy of Ukraine as *efficient*, 27% – *rather efficient* and 28% of respondents believed it was *rather inefficient* and 21% – *inefficient*<sup>10</sup>.

Answers given by respondents within the survey “Youth of Ukraine” show that in April 2010 the opinions of young people about the state of implementation of the state youth policy in the country did not change as compared with the previous years (Table 6.1).

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8 Report on the performance of the State special-purpose financial institution „The State Fund for Facilitation of Youth Housing Construction” for 2008 and on the compliance with the scheduled indices of the State Program for Housing Provision to Youth for the period 2002-2012 [Electronic resource]. – Available at : <http://molod-kredit.gov.ua/zvit.php>

9 Нове покоління незалежної України (1991–2001 роки): Щорічна доповідь Президентів України, Верховній Раді України, Кабінету Міністрів України про становище молоді в Україні (за підсумками 2001 р.) /Кол. авторів: В. А. Головенько, О. О. Яременко (керівники) та ін. – К.: Державний інститут проблем сім’ї та молоді, 2002. – С.38.

10 Молодь в Україні. Дослідження молодіжного сектора: проблеми та перспективи. – К.: Програма розвитку Організації Об’єднаних Націй в Україні, 2006. – С.74.

Table 6.1

**Distribution of respondents of different age by answers to the question  
“Do you feel any effects of implementation of the state youth policy  
in Ukraine”, %**

Answer options	Age 15–19	Age 20–24	Age 15–28	Age 28–34	Age 15–34
Yes	10	10	10	7	9
No	75	79	77	82	79
Hard to say	15	11	13	11	12

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

It should be emphasized that there is no significant disparity in assessments of the state youth policy implementation between young people in rural and urban areas (for instance, respondents who stated they did not feel any effects of the policy accounted for 81% of residents of oblast centers and 75% of residents of rural area). There is also no disparity in assessments between the regions (about 9–13% said they felt the effects of the policy, with youth in the capital city being more critical: a mere 1% of respondents residing in Kyiv stated they felt effects of implementation of the state youth policy).

While analyzing the attitudes of young people towards youth policy, it is interesting to find out whether young people have any interest in this policy in general. According to the monitoring of public opinion conducted by O.Yaremenko Ukrainian Institute for Social Research, in recent years 15–20% of respondents aged 18–34 always state that they do not care for politics at all. At the same time, young people, nevertheless, remain rather politicized: according to the survey of October 2009, one in every ten respondents watched the political life in Ukraine regularly (in August 2009 this answer was given by 11% of respondents) and more than one-third of respondents (33% in August 2009 and 36% in October of the same year) kept abreast of the main political developments (while paying no attention to political events of secondary importance) (Table 6.2). However, young people are less politicized than older respondents: while only 10% of youth aged 18–28 and 12% of respondents aged 29–35 follow the political life on a permanent basis, a respective proportion among respondents aged 36–59 was 21% and 31% – among those aged 60 years and over.

**Table 6.2**

**Dynamics of distribution of answers of respondents aged 18–35 to the question: “Are you interested in the political processes in Ukraine and to what extent?”, %\***

Answer options	December 2006	December 2007	December 2008	August 2009	December 2009
I always keep abreast of the political life in Ukraine	9	9	13	11	10
I follow the major developments in the political life, paying no attention to events of secondary importance	46	34	37	33	36
I take interest in the political life very seldom	29	36	33	38	37
I do not care for politics at all	15	20	15	17	16
Hard to say	1	1	2	1	1

\* According to data of the public opinion monitoring conducted by the Ukrainian Institute for Social Research / Social Monitoring Center.

The monitoring held by the Ukrainian Institute for Social Research / Social Monitoring Center confirms that today we have the crisis of credibility of the population in general and youth in particular for the basic social institutes, especially to governmental bodies of different levels (Table 6.3). This lack of credibility reached its peak at the end of 2008 under the impact of the economic crisis as the main factor. Over 2009, the level of credibility started to rise insignificantly, however, in December of the same year it did not exceed the level of December 2007.

Over the whole period of the research among all age groups, youth demonstrates less credibility almost for all society institutes. For example, in December 2007 the level of credibility (total of answers “I trust fully” and “I rather trust than not”) for political parties was 21% of total respondents and 15% of youth aged 18–35; for the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine – 23% and 20%, respectively; for the President of Ukraine – 35% and 32%, for oblast councils – 32% and 27%, for head of state district administrations – 36% and 31%, etc. This trend was maintained in December 2009. It is very disturbing that the proportion of young people who do not trust all society institutions, except for the Armed Forces and the

mass-media, is significantly higher than the proportion of those who trust. For example, in December 2008 the number of respondents who did not trust the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine was 12.5 higher than the number of those who trusted it (in December 2009 – by 7.6 times), the National Bank – by 8.2 times (5.6 times), political parties – by 7.5 times (4.5 times), the President of Ukraine – by 5.7 times (8.6 times).

**Table 6.3**

**Dynamics of the level of credibility for the basic society institutes, (total share of answers “I trust fully” and “I rather trust than not”), %\***

Society institutions	December 2007		December 2008		December 2009		
	Among total respondents	Among respondents aged 18–35	Among total respondents	Among respondents aged 18–35	Among total respondents	Among respondents aged 18–35	
Political parties	21	15	12	11	18	17	
Head of state oblast administration	33	32	22	22	26	23	
Oblast council	32	27	20	20	29	23	
Head of state district administration	36	31	25	25	28	26	
Chairman of city (settlement, village) council	49	43	34	33	39	36	
District council	37	30	25	25	36	26	
City (settlement, village) council	48	42	33	32	29	33	
Religious organization	47	42	40	39	41	36	
Armed forces of Ukraine	61	57	46	43	50	47	
State Security Service of Ukraine	46	43	32	34	37	35	
Militia	35	30	22	23	26	24	
Judicial authorities	33	30	21	23	24	22	
Public prosecutor's office	39	34	23	25	27	25	
Mass media	Newspapers	56	54	51	56	50	48
	Radio broadcast	62	57	54	59	52	50
	Television	66	61	62	65	56	55
The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine	23	20	7	7	12	11	
The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine	31	28	16	16	17	15	
The President of Ukraine	35	32	14	14	11	10	

\* According to data of the public opinion monitoring conducted by the Ukrainian Institute for Social Research / Social Monitoring Center.

Young people of all age groups give mostly negative assessments of efforts taken by governmental authorities with the aim of solving youth problems in all crucial areas (Table 6.4). In this connection it is worrying that these attitudes do not change over time. According to data of the monitoring held by the Ukrainian Institute for Social Research /Social Monitoring Center, the most critical assessments were given to activities of governmental bodies in the area of housing and law: in May 2002 negative assessments were expressed by 80% and 77% of respondents aged 15–28, respectively, and in April 2010 – by 74% and 71%, respectively. A slightly more loyal assessment is given on a permanent basis to efforts taken by the state with a view to solving education, physical training, sports and leisure problems.

Table 6.4

**Answers of respondents aged 15–34 to the question  
“What is your assessment of efforts taken by the governmental bodies  
with the aim of solving youth problems in the area of...?”, %**

Answer options	Posi- tively	Nega- tively	I don't care	Hard to say
Physical training and sports	30	45	13	12
Education	32	49	9	10
Leisure	23	58	10	9
Cultural needs	21	59	9	11
Law breach prevention	20	56	9	15
Upbringing	20	58	9	13
Health care	19	66	6	9
Labour	11	72	7	10
Housing provision	8	79	6	7
Support of socially disadvantaged youth groups (orphans, disabled persons etc.)	17	63	6	14

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

It should be mentioned that less youth from rural area which is exacting gives higher assessments of governmental bodies’ efforts, as compared with young people from urban area (Table 6.5).

No considerable disparities in assessments are observed by regions of respondents’ residence (however, with the exception of youth of Kyiv). So, while in other regions 19–20% of respondents gave positive assess-

ment of the efforts of governmental bodies ensuring material support of socially disadvantaged youth groups (orphans, disabled persons etc.), in Kyiv a respective proportion was just 3%; in the regions efforts of the state in the area of housing provision were positively assessed by 10–12% of youth and in Kyiv – by a mere 3%; health care was positively assessed in the regions by 18–25% of respondents and in Kyiv – again by 3%. The state’s response to cultural needs of youth is positively assessed by 20% of respondents in the regions, in contrast to 9% of young residents of the capital city who participated in the survey.

**Table 6.5**

**Positive answers of respondents aged 15–34 depending on the place of residence to the question “What is your assessment of efforts taken by the governmental bodies with the aim of solving youth problems in the area of...?”, %**

Answer options	Cities – oblast centers	Other cities and towns	Rural area
Physical training and sports	26	28	38
Education	30	25	44
Leisure	21	18	30
Cultural needs	20	17	29
Law breach prevention	15	18	30
Upbringing	16	15	31
Health care	14	16	29
Labour	7	10	17
Housing provision	6	6	13
Support of socially disadvantaged youth groups (orphans, disabled persons etc.)	14	14	23

Source: social and demographic survey “Youth of Ukraine, 2010”

As shown by results of the survey “Youth of Ukraine”, governmental authorities, in addition to being quite inefficient in solving the state youth policy issues, are rather inaccessible for purposes of obtaining information necessary for the exercise of youth rights. Slightly more than one-third of respondents characterized them as accessible (36%), other respondents were of the opinion that they were inaccessible, with one in every six respondents (16%) stating that governmental authorities were absolutely inaccessible in cases when it was necessary to get some information.

Given this situation, young people prefer to address their problems to parents and relatives (indicated by 74% of respondents) or their friends

(38%). As the last resort, young people solve their problems by own efforts (40%)<sup>11</sup>. A mere 2% of respondents indicated that in case of any problems they would contact governmental bodies with responsibility for youth issues or other governmental institutions.

There are certain age-specific variations in youth behaviour in respect of solving own problems. Therefore, the proportion of respondents who try to solve their problems by own efforts is 22% among respondents aged 15–19; 39% among those aged 20–24; 44% among those aged 25–29; and 51% of respondents aged 30–34. The manner of solving own problems also varies depending on whether respondents are from rural area or urban settlements, and also on the region: 72% of respondents residing in urban area seek help of their parents and relatives, with a respective proportion among rural residents being 79%, in the East of the country – 67% and 85% – in the West. Young men are somewhat more inclined to solve their problems by own efforts (44%) than women (this proportion among women being 35% of respondents). However, different groups of respondents demonstrated virtually identical attitudes towards the opportunity of getting assistance with their problems from governmental authorities with responsibility for youth issues or other governmental bodies: irrespective of gender, age and place of residence etc. only 2% of respondents would ask these authorities for help.

It is worrying that the majority of young people do not know what to do if any problem arises: according to data of the monitoring conducted by the Ukrainian Institute for Social Research / Social Monitoring Center, over three-fourths of youth (78%) do not know how they can take part in solving critical issues of the places where they live, 84% have no idea of how they can have an impact on the activities of local governmental authorities, and 93% – what influence they may have on the state policy formation issues.

There are problems with involvement of youth movement in the implementation of the state youth policy. On the one part, young people realize that participation in the activities of non-governmental associa-

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<sup>11</sup> Answering the question, respondents might choose more than one answer option and for this reason the total of proportions of respondents who chose different answers exceeds 100%.

tions is crucial: almost two-thirds of respondents characterized this function as important (68% of young respondents). Control by non-governmental organizations of activities of governmental authorities was assessed by respondents even higher: more than three-fourths of young people participating in the survey emphasized its significance. However, on the other part, as shown by results of the survey “Youth of Ukraine”, only 1% of young people facing some problems seek assistance of non-governmental organizations.

Because of the difficult social and economic situation, young people are ready to support those youth organizations which operate with a focus on solving social problems. This trend strengthens over time: according to data of the monitoring conducted by the Ukrainian Institute for Social Research /Social Monitoring Center, while in May 2000 quarter of youth aged 14–28 believed that in our time organizations aimed at solving youth problems are most needed, in April 2010 this answer was given by almost half of young respondents (Table 6.6).

**Table 6.6**

**Distribution of answers given by young respondents to the question:  
“In your opinion, which youth organizations are needed today for such young  
people as you?” %\***

	May 2000	April 2010	
	Youth aged 14–28	Youth aged 15–28	Youth aged 15–34
Organizations established with the aim of solving social problems of youth	27	49	49
Youth organizations dealing with youth leisure	16	40	39
Organizations dealing with youth upbringing	18	28	29
Organizations supporting youth entrepreneurship	10	26	25
Environmental youth organizations	7	17	16
Youth trade unions	5	19	19
Political youth organizations	3	7	6
Religious youth organizations	1	5	6
No youth organizations are necessary	2	5	5
<i>Hard to say</i>	6	10	10

Total answers do not make 100% because respondents might choose several answers

\* According to data of the public opinion monitoring conducted by the Ukrainian Institute for Social Research / Social Monitoring Center.

There are, of course, some variations between different age groups of youth in the perception of possible directions of youth organizations’

activities. Thus, 50% of respondents aged 15–19 and 36% of respondents aged 30–34 supported youth organizations arranging youth leisure, and 27% and 32% of respondents, respectively, mentioned organizations dealing with youth upbringing. There are also variations in opinions depending on the region of residence: for example, 11% of young people in the West supported religious organizations, as against 3% in the East and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Activities of organizations focused on youth upbringing were supported by 23% of respondents with lower secondary education and 34% of respondents with tertiary education. Support of youth movement is to certain extent conditional on respondent's well-being: 17% of persons from low-income families said *youth did not need any youth organizations at all*, as against 5% of respondents from families with middle income and 6% from families with higher-then-middle income.

Finally, it should be emphasized that despite the fact that over the years of independence Ukraine in its development as an independent state performed a range of significant activities ensuring implementation of a cardinal new youth policy directed towards the best examples of the western democracy, in the recent years, especially in the period of financial and economic crisis, the situation in the youth environment aggravated.

However, since the younger generation is characterized not only by age-specific peculiarities but primarily by its important social role as the leader of demographic, socio-economical, political and spiritual development and the major actor in the transformations in response to the existing needs and challenges of our time – considering this, the state and society in general has an obligation to pay special attention to youth policy problems. Under the current hard social and economic situation it is crucial to fully comply with the major principles of youth policy stated in the legislation and policy documents, the essence of which is to treat youth as the actor and not only the target of this policy. However, on the other part, it should be remembered that youth needs thorough attention on the part of society and long-term investments without which it would be impossible to realize its powerful potential.

## **6.2. Ways of further improvement of youth policy in Ukraine**

Over the years of Ukraine's independence, our country performed large-scale work with the aim of formation and implementation of a cardinal new youth policy which has already become an integral part of the state policy in the area of socio-economic, scientific and cultural development of the country and is a comprehensive system of legal, organizational and administrative, financial and economic, educational, information and staff issues aimed at creation of appropriate conditions under which young people would be able to make a conscious life choice.

Before examining the ways of improvement of the state youth policy, it is worth paying attention to some critical aspects of its implementation in Ukraine (for a more detailed information in this respect, see the previous Chapter). Along with considerable success in this area, there are also significant problems primarily resulting from the lack of financing. The financial and economic crisis of the past years has worsened the economic and political situation in the country and exacerbated social problems of youth. The situation is made even worse by the fact that today the priorities included into the state youth policy implementation scheme do not always correspond to reality. The international experience shows that it is virtually impossible to solve all youth problems at the expense of state financing not only in the developing countries but also in the industrialized countries, especially in the crisis period. Therefore, youth policy, in addition to providing for allocation of significant amounts from the state budget, should also facilitate the development of self-motivation of young people and their parents to invest in own development. Not infrequently youth-centered state policies and activities do not meet the needs of young people who, in addition to that, do not get any information about these policies and activities. A lacking system approach to assessment of youth policy programs and activities, to some extent, hinders its development. Therefore, despite the current achievements, the state youth policy requires systematic improvement.

1. Considering that *the state youth policy* should be an ongoing rather than an episodic process, *subsequently it should be implemented in all the major strategic directions stipulated by the statutory regulations adopted at the preceding stage of its implementation in Ukraine.*

2. In view of the current difficult socio-economic situation in the country, *certain adjustments should be made to the object of the state youth policy – youth – in the next years:*

- on the one part, all young people should remain and be treated as the value of the state and the object of the state youth policy which should be implemented in full compliance with all of the principles already developed in this respect; this will ensure appropriate conditions for provision of legal and material guarantees in respect of the exercise of rights and freedoms of young people, their broad involvement in active public, economic and social activities, as well as in respect of the provision by the state to every young person of social services of education, professional training, upbringing, spiritual and physical development;
- on the other part, the state and society should devote special attention to talented youth and to those persons who are unable to ensure themselves a worthy life in the current socio-economic situation by own efforts (disabled and ill persons, orphans, young persons released from penitentiary institutions etc.). To achieve this goal, it is necessary to increase state financing or, at least, not to reduce it significantly.

3. *International experience in youth policy implementation should be used on a wider basis, in particular, providing for the following:*

- *enhancement of opportunities*, which means implementation of activities helping young people to acquire, improve and use their knowledge and skills;
- *development of talents and abilities*, with a focus on a young person's ability to choose from available opportunities and on activities within the policy framework aimed at raising information awareness and creating of incentives which encourage young people to make the right decisions;

- *providing a second chance* to bring young people back on the way of enhancing their human capital for the sake of the future, which also envisages correction of undesirable results.

Activities in these directions will facilitate the realization of youth potential and involvement of young people in the life of society, and also allow to expand the opportunities for utilization of the human capital model by attracting young people themselves as potential investors, besides state structures and the family.

4. *Young people should be more actively involved in social life.* Government authorities should learn to communicate with young people, utilize the huge potential of youth as a partner for provision of services and make state programs attractive for youth.

5. *The Law of Ukraine on a respective nation-wide youth program* should be adopted and should identify the priority directions of the state youth policy implementation for the period of next years. This is necessary for several reasons: on the one part, lately UN insistently recommends to implement the state youth policy based on the comprehensive legislative framework (except for efforts of the country's government in promoting this policy); and, on the other part, the preceding Nation-wide Youth Support Program in Ukraine expired two years ago and in January 2009 only the State Target Social Program "Youth of Ukraine" for the period 2009–2015 was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

There is also a suggestion to make changes to the Ukrainian legislation and define youth as persons aged 15–24 in line with the best world standards. Its expediency will be especially apparent in the context of the current lack of money for implementation of youth policy, i.e. the financial imperative.

Having reviewed the general provisions of family policy improvement, we may further proceed to detailed consideration of the ways of policy improvement in specific areas.

Today, young people work and will have to work in the future in the situation of an increasing global competition, an increased role of innovations and the importance of human capital as the basic factor of economic development. In addition to that, young people will have to bear an addi-

tional load due to the ageing of Ukraine's population which is already under way against the background of a rapid growth of population in the developing countries, increasing migration flows and a growing competition with the European and Asian markets for qualified personnel.

The social and economic situation of young families could not be left unaffected by the radical rearrangement of social relations and the economic crisis. These families are in a more unfavourable position in terms of wellbeing; as a rule, they have no own home, no confidence in tomorrow and they need help. In this situation it is necessary to provide a young family with the conditions of life under which this family, based on its potential and supported by the state and society, will become able to perform its social functions and reproductive intentions by own efforts.

Today members of young families need guaranteed support in all spheres of life; this support should cover systematic training aimed at preparing young people for family life, as well as encouragement of a family to determine and implement its own life strategy, cultivation of responsible attitude of youth to childbearing and parenthood, full social and legal protection and support of young families in respect of housing problems, provision of employment opportunities, raising of social and professional status of young employees and promotion of healthy lifestyles etc.

The priority directions of the state youth policy and the ways of improvement for each of them are characterized below taking into account the trends of socio-economic and socio-political development of Ukraine.

The following areas should be given the highest attention:

- 1) youth support in the area of education and upbringing;
- 2) support of economic development of young families, provision of employment opportunities for youth;
- 3) support of young people in difficult life situations;
- 4) prevention of asocial behaviour and dangerous diseases; encouragement and adoption of healthy lifestyles;
- 5) promotion of youth creative talents;
- 6) support of non-governmental youth associations and organiza-

tions;

7) housing policy;

8) family policy;

9) improvement of reproductive health of the young generation.

Below is a more detailed description of directions for upgrading of the current situation and relevant activities for each of the outlined areas.

**1) Education and upbringing.** Education is one of the major preconditions of preparing young people for life and their socialization. Therefore, state support of youth in the area of education and upbringing is priority task embracing the following goals:

- to ensure access to quality higher education, create conditions for equal and adequate education rights and opportunities for population of different categories, in particular, young persons residing in rural area, young persons facing life hardships (disabled persons, orphans and children deprived of parental care) etc.;
- to improve and further develop the system of education loans;
- to increase motivation for educational activities and self-education, to ensure awareness of students about opportunities for realization of own initiatives;
- to coordinate and support the activities of youth and child non-governmental associations in the area of spiritual, moral and environmental education, to develop the feeling of patriotism;
- to support and develop different forms of educational work in special-purpose institutions, teenager and youth clubs at locations of residence, to mitigate negative impacts of social environment on youth;
- to integrate knowledge at the level of separate educational institutions and to pool their informational resources, to assist higher education institutions in receiving access to paid electronic resources and in licensing and patenting of own multimedia educational products.

The following activities are crucial for achievement of the above-mentioned goals:

- development and implementation of activities aimed at provision of employment opportunities to graduates of professional education

institutions with the purpose of ensuring their stable and appropriate labour activity;

- formation and implementation of programs focused on support of youth non-governmental organizations operating at educational institutions;
- development and implementation of activities aimed at support and encouragement of talented youth in the area of education, science, engineering etc.;
- establishment and implementation of the system of activities aimed at raising legal culture of youth;
- introduction of various cross-disciplinary courses providing the opportunity to receive a degree in several areas at one time;
- development of education programs focused on the labour market which should become the key indicator of efficiency of higher education efforts and the quality of youth training.

## **2) *Economic development of young families, youth employment.***

The below-mentioned tasks should become the priority with the view to ensuring economic stability and facilitating employment of young people:

- to assist social adaptation and raise competitiveness of young people at the labour market;
- to improve the system of employment of higher education institutions' graduates whose studies were financed by the state;
- to provide economic impetuses raising motivation of enterprises to hire and help in employment of youth;
- to support special-purpose organizations focused on facilitation of employment, occupational guidance, professional training and re-training of youth, including youth temporary and seasonal centers, youth employment exchanges, student labour brigades, youth associations etc.;
- to ensure financial support of activities aimed at providing employment for youth residing in rural area and young persons requiring social protection;
- to develop and improve the state mechanisms of support of youth

entrepreneurship and youth business activity.

The above-mentioned tasks may be implemented under the following conditions:

- youth involvement in activities of labour associations, student brigades, youth labour exchanges and other forms of youth employment;
- introduction of forms and technologies of professional and socio-legal education and occupational guidance of youth, assistance with planning and development of efficient career for young people at the labour market;
- stabilization of the labour market situation, decrease of unemployment rate, increased social protection of young employees dismissed as result of bankruptcy and structural rearrangement of organizations taking into account family status of employees and the number of their dependants, in particular, children;
- introduction of efficient programs for social competency development necessary for promotion of youth on the labour market;
- development of interaction between the labour market players in solving youth employment issues;
- establishment of conditions for the most flexible involvement of young people in activities which are new to them, with due regard for legal rights and interests of youth.

**Youth support in life hardships.** The tasks listed below are of top priority with the view to ensuring support and providing assistance in respect of social integration of young people facing different life hardships (physically or psychologically disabled young people; young people serving sentences in penitentiary institutions; young people staying in special-purpose educational institutions etc.):

- development of targeted mobile social work with young people facing life difficulty;
- establishment of youth self-help and mutual help groups;
- inclusion of youth with disabilities into the common socio-economic space, socio-political and cultural life;
- improvement of regulatory legal bases for ensuring necessary

assistance and social and legal protection of young persons facing life hardships;

- renewal of regulatory legal framework with the aim of support of non-governmental associations, legal entities and individuals providing assistance and supporting young people who face life difficulty.

In particular, it should be necessary to perform the following tasks:

- development of projects of integration and involvement of youth facing hardships into life of society;

- development and implementation of activities aimed at intensification of social and legal, psychological and pedagogical, informational and advisory assistance to youth in choosing the directions and forms of education, occupational guidance, employment, organization of business activity etc.;

- implementation of programs focused on development of independent life skills for the groups of young people experiencing integration difficulties;

- encouragement of activities aimed at provision of assistance as well as medical, socio-psychological rehabilitation and adaptation of young persons facing life hardships.

**4) Prevention of asocial behaviour, dangerous diseases; encouragement and adoption of healthy lifestyles.** As a consequence of radical reforms of society's life fundamentals, the orderly system of spiritual values and guidelines was ruined and the extension of various social pathologies, in particular, drug and alcohol addiction, prostitution etc., increased. In Ukraine, information and social campaigns against asocial behaviour of youth are mostly held by non-governmental public organizations and funds. The state policy on combating socially dangerous phenomena is, in fact, not implemented: for example, the ban on sale of tobacco and alcohol products to underage persons is ineffective in practice; the same situation may be seen with the ban on smoking in public places. Therefore, the state policy on prevention of asocial behaviour and dangerous diseases and encouragement of healthy lifestyles should be focused on the following:

- increased responsibility for sale of tobacco and alcohol products to minors, in particular, increased fines for the breach of this ban;
- increased administrative responsibility for drinking alcohol and smoking in public places, first of all, within the territory of educational institutions;
- introduction of mandatory testing of school students and students of other educational institutions with the aim of identifying drug, alcohol and tobacco dependency and general health status;
- expansion of the information and promotion campaign aimed at explaining the consequences of alcohol and drug use to young people; raising information awareness on prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS;
- support of public organizations actively involved in anti-alcohol and anti-drug efforts;
- development and implementation of programs of youth reproductive health protection and youth mental health maintenance, and also preventive and rehabilitation programs against socially harmful infections (HIV-infection, viral hepatitises, sexually transmitted diseases etc.) aimed at involvement of youth in systematic physical training and sports;
- establishment of conditions for development of mass youth tourism, support of activities of youth and child non-governmental associations in this area;
- development of the youth leisure and health improvement industry based on the system of sports and health improvement camps etc.

The impact of negative trends may be mitigated if efforts are taken which are aimed at combating and eradicating asocial phenomena and which are concentrated on developing and promoting the healthy lifestyles values in the youth environment, in particular:

- improvement of the state support of healthy lifestyles for young people, creation of appropriate conditions for motherhood, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases;
- intensification of efforts aimed at prevention of alcohol and drug abuse and addiction to drugs and psychotropic substances; efforts

aimed at medical treatment and rehabilitation of young persons suffering from drug addiction; efforts focused on youth psychological health maintenance;

- encouragement of efforts aimed at healthy lifestyles promotion among youth;
- widening of the scope of prevention efforts targeted at youth from social risk groups with the aim of preventing negative behaviour in the youth environment;
- support of activities of child health improvement and education institutions, introduction of innovation technologies and methods conducive to healthy lifestyles, adequate recreation, leisure and creative development.

***Facilitating realization of youth creative talents.*** The following tasks should be fulfilled in order to support talented youth and utilize the results of its innovation activities:

- to develop youth entrepreneurship and business activity;
- to encourage youth to work on the problems crucial for development of the country;
- to get young people involved in creative, scientific and sports associations, innovative international projects in the area of education, science, culture etc.;
- to promote and raise awareness on achievements of Ukrainian youth in the global community.

The priority direction – *facilitation of youth initiative and activity* – should be implemented only *provided that efforts are focused on the following*:

- development and promotion of efficient models and forms of youth participation in public life management, models and programs for training of youth leaders;
- youth involvement in social and public life, in activities of self-government bodies in various areas of social life, in the work of executive and representation authorities, and in research, development and administration activities;

- promotion of ideas of youth participation in the social and political life of the country etc.

For other directions, the following essential tasks should be implemented:

- information support on the full range of issues covering life of young people in society (health, education, employment, career, social and private life, family, housing, leisure, sports, life of youth in other countries etc.);
- more active involvement of youth in development and implementation of innovation projects and programs;
- development of special projects providing equal opportunities to youth residing in cities, towns and rural area in respect of search, use and dissemination of up-to-date information;
- promotion of participation in international information youth projects aimed at mutual enrichment of the values of Ukrainian and world culture.

**Support of youth non-governmental associations and organizations.** Support of *socio-political activities of young people, youth and child non-governmental associations* includes:

- establishment of economic and organizational conditions for development of youth associations, movements as well as initiatives and programs which are significant for society;
- facilitation in establishment of youth volunteer centers and formation of youth programs, wider coverage of their activities in the mass media;
- further improvement of information, scientific and methodological and staff support of activities of youth and child non-governmental organizations;
- involvement of youth associations in discussions of draft statutory regulations relating to the exercise of legal rights and interests of youth etc.

This direction embraces the system of activities aimed at provision of the state support to initiatives introduced by non-governmental

youth associations and to activities of young citizens useful for society. It requires fulfillment of the following tasks:

- development and implementation of activities aimed at information, scientific and methodological support of youth non-governmental associations;
- more active support of initiatives introduced by youth and child non-governmental associations as well as activities of young citizens useful for society, establishment of conditions for creative activities and realization of youth potential in all areas of social life;
- encouragement of efforts providing support to social initiatives aimed at involvement of youth in the advisory activities of legislative and executive authorities within the framework of the state youth policy implementation etc.

The state should pay most attention to young families since it is the family where initial socialization of next generations takes place. Practice shows that families are built at young age – the time when world outlook positions and values of young people are being established, including such values as stable and problem-free family, responsible parenthood and family life values.

**Housing policy.** Despite modernization and reforms of the housing and utilities sector in Ukraine, problems resulting from ageing of the housing stock, low development of residential lease schemes etc. bring about increased prices on residential real estate and its rent. A considerable proportion of young families need improvement of their housing conditions; at the same time, purchase of housing at the current prices which demonstrated a steady rising trend before the crisis is an impossible task for the majority of young families. The following activities should be taken for successful implementation of the housing policy:

- to provide temporary social housing to low-income young families;
- to develop an efficient mechanism of co-financing and preferential housing construction loans with the aim of meeting the needs of families in the active reproductive phase;
- improvement of the procedure for provision of long-term preferen-

tial loans for housing construction;

- partial repayment of interest on loans provided by commercial banks to young families and single young individuals for construction, reconstruction or purchase of housing;
- development of the system of youth residential complexes and youth housing and construction cooperative societies;
- provision of long-term preferential loans for purchase of housing on the secondary market;
- allocation of land to young people for the purpose of housing construction.

**Family policy.** The following recommendations are crucial in the area of youth policy. Ukraine, first of all, needs a stable and consistent strategy for implementation of the family policy: under appropriate information support, in addition to direct benefits, this will also bring about a significant psychological effect. The state should provide maximum assistance to a young family raising two or three children as an integral part of society which is most attractive in social and moral terms. An efficient state policy in respect of young families, including families with many children, should be viewed at as the investment in human capital of present-day and future generations.

The following goals are set with regard to *financial support of families with children*:

- shifting of focus from the one-time childbirth grant to long-term monthly allowances;
- rearrangement of the universal benefits and allowances system to make it more focused on a young individual, material situation of a family with children and its actual needs;
- differentiation of monthly allowances by childbirth order;
- payment of a monthly allowance starting with birth of the second child and significant increase of this allowance for the third child, possibly, without its increase in respect of next-order children;
- shift of the start of childcare allowance payments to the moment of final payment of the childbirth grant;

- introduction of the practice of moderate one-time grant paid to families with children at the periods when they need it most of all (for example, before the beginning of academic year);
- social monitoring aimed at identification of the families who really need help and financial or social assistance and the scope of such assistance;
- expansion of the list of tax benefits provided to families with children; extension of the scope of tax loan provision;
- restoration of the practice of granting discounts on goods and services for children or free-of-charge provision of some services for children and families of some categories (in the manner of the practice adopted in the former USSR).

The following goals are set with regard to combining employment, childbirth and childcare:

- more flexible childcare leave by providing more opportunities for taking this leave by several comparatively small blocks;
- introduction of several-day leaves for the father in the period when the child is expected to be born;
- development of the system of pre-school institutions, the increase of number places in them;
- introduction of flexible attendance by children of pre-school institutions;
- increased powers of non-governmental structures with regard to support of the sector of childcare social services;
- development of the individual childcare sector;
- partial reimbursement of expenses incurred by a family to hire baby-sitter.

The significance of consistency in implementation of the family policy should be especially emphasized. Initiatives aimed at fertility increase will not achieve any success without stabilization of the social and economic situation, increase in the population living standards and finding solutions for many other problems which impede appropriate birth and upbringing of the number of children planned by a family and needed

by society. The housing problem, low population income, corrupt practices in the education and health care sectors and in many public authorities, populism in the development of reform strategies etc. – this is just a partial list of circumstances negatively affecting the childbearing activity of Ukraine's population today.

***Improvement of reproductive health of the younger generation.***

Improvement of reproductive health of potential mothers and fathers is an urgent task today. It is also crucial to ensure a wider use of up-to-date medical technologies of infertility treatment and to increase the quality of health care services provided to pregnant women etc. From the moment it is formed, a young family should be placed under thorough supervision of family medicine centers (family doctors) or, in case any pathology is identified – reproductive health centers. It is necessary to establish the system of family doctors which would be centered not only on medical treatment of every family member but also on the prevention of diseases and promotion of healthy lifestyles. The following activities should become central in improvement of the younger generation's reproductive health:

- development of the family planning service, protection of family reproductive health and provision of socio-psychological assistance in upbringing of children;
- theoretical training of school students on parenthood issues, introduction of respective mandatory disciplines in the school curriculum; development of a responsible attitude to formation of own family and parental responsibilities at every stage of personality development by establishment of informational and educational programs forming responsible attitude towards family and parental responsibilities;
- wider scopes of social advertising in the mass media on the need to adopt healthy lifestyles;
- encouragement of medical knowledge on healthy lifestyles and modern contraception methods etc.

In the context of society modernization and increased requirements to human capital, the state youth policy should become the

instrument of development and transformation of the country. For this purpose, development and consistent implementation of approaches concentrated on involvement of youth in solving own problems as well as nation-wide tasks is required from all stakeholders of the youth social development process.

The proposed system of priority directions in the state youth policy will ensure an improvement in the youth situation and an increase of youth contribution to the country's competitiveness, at the same time compensating and minimizing the consequences of mistakes typical for young people.

# CONCLUSIONS

Humanity was concerned about youth problems at all times. There is a close link between the state of society, its development prospects and society's attitude towards its younger generations and the opportunities which they get at the start line. Youth situation, its qualitative characteristics, values and life plans are the mirror capable of reflecting the future of any society.

Youth is a specific social and demographic community, with its major characteristics and features being at the stage of development, in contrast to that of the older generations. Currently, there are more than 13.6 mln persons aged 15–34 in our country; during the current decade it dropped almost by 2%. The rate of decrease in the number of young people was slower than the decrease rate for other age contingents; owing to that the share of youth contingent in total population grew insignificantly over this period. However, several options of the demographic forecast demonstrate that the proportion of young people in population of Ukraine is expected to decrease in the future at the background of the progressing ageing of Ukraine's population, at least in the midterm.

Since the youth position and activity is the precondition for survival of society today and in the nearest future, this survey aims at comprehensive coverage of the characteristics of youth contingents and at revealing specific youth problems in different areas of life: marital and family, childbearing, educational, social and labour areas.

The matrimonial behaviour of Ukrainian youth, its attitudes towards marriage and family, marriage forms and gender relations in the family are more traditional than it is usually believed. The majority of Ukrainian youth is motivated towards marriage life, own family and children, although attitudes towards forms of marriage and the desired number of children in the family vary considerably. Traditional family values – love, family and children – are very important for young people, however, their family orientations go side by side with plans of career development, material

wellbeing and economic independence. The youth nuptiality level in Ukraine is higher than that of their peers in the majority of European countries. For Ukrainian youth, love and the need to have someone close beside are the main motives for entering into marriage. At the same time, termination of marriage (divorce) among youth and subsequent re-marriage are quite common for Ukraine. Furthermore, there is a specific group of young people who are not married and do not intend to marry in the future; their proportion is quite significant, this being an evidence of possible unfavourable changes in the course of the nuptiality process in the country in the short term.

Officially registered marriage is still the main form of marriage in Ukraine – the majority of young people live in this form of marriage or plan officially registered marriage in the future. At the same time, sexual partnership as the stage of marriage partner search and marriage partnership (cohabitation) are also common as trial stage before official marriage; young people tend to delay marriage registration till expiration of a certain period (completing one's education, getting a job, achieving a desired level of wellbeing etc.) and believe that it is better to have a child in a registered marriage.

It is not typical for modern Ukraine when young unmarried males or females live independently outside the family of their parents or relatives, although this practice is widespread in many countries. Furthermore, considerable proportion of young people who are already married (according to data of the survey “Youth of Ukraine” – one in every three persons) live with parents of one of the spouses. However, the majority of young married couples who live with the parents do it because of some circumstances and not of their own will. The process of separation of young families from the parents' families is slowed down by the unsettled housing problem, lacking opportunities for the majority of young people to purchase or lease dwellings. Results of the survey show that today young people would like to live separately from their parents but not far from them and maintain family ties.

At the background of growth of total fertility in Ukraine from

the beginning of the current decade women from different age groups demonstrate different levels of childbearing activity. Two groups of young women with significant variations in the dynamics of birth characteristics may be marked out: young women aged 15–24 and women aged 25–34. Women of younger childbearing age are characterized by slow rates of birth intensity growth in the period 2002–2008 and its drop in 2009. Women aged 25–34 demonstrated rather high rates of fertility growth in the current decade resulting in an increased contribution of this group to total fertility, in contrast to the decreased contribution of women aged 15–24. In 2009, as compared with 2008, the decrease in the childbirth intensity of women aged 15–24 resulted in drop in the number of children born to all young women, although in the period 2002–2008 youth accounted for 90% of total increase in the number of newborns. Results of the survey “Youth of Ukraine” as well as materials of the current statistics demonstrate that females from rural area are characterized by an earlier start of childbearing activity, a larger number of children and smaller intergenetic intervals.

The most popular answer of young people to the question about their childbearing intentions (ideal, desired and planned number of children) was the answer “*two children*”. However, the share of respondents who believe that a two-child family is ideal, significantly exceeds the proportion of respondents who would like to have two children if they had appropriate conditions; but this proportion, in its turn, is higher than the proportion of respondents who plan to have two children under the real circumstances. At the same time, today, as compared with results of social and demographic surveys of preceding years, there is increase in the proportion of respondents who would like to have and raise only one child. More than one-third of all young respondents stated they intended to have a child in the next three years. Childbearing intentions of respondents are conditional on their self-assessment of own health: persons who believed they had some health problems planned to have a smaller number of children as compared with respondents who believed they were healthy.

Despite a gradual transformation of social roles of men and women

in the family and society, the opinion that a man should be the main breadwinner of the family still dominates in the youth environment. In this context, the provisions of the social expectation theory may be mentioned as the best explanation of the fact that the smallest number of planned children was indicated by males who did not study or work at the moment of the survey, while women who did not study or work were inclined to a larger (as compared with other women) number of children.

In the view of respondents, readiness to motherhood/fatherhood is first of all determined by **state of health** of potential parents, their **love for children, desire to take care of them** and **stable income** in the family. More than a half of respondents mentioned these factors as very important for making a decision to have a child.

Although in the value system of young people health is nominally ranked rather high, the significance of health is not manifested in everyday life behaviour of youth. Young people often do not acknowledge that their lifestyle is unhealthy even if they smoke and drink alcohol. Besides purely personal preferences and behaviour in everyday life, youth health is also influenced by a range of other factors, in particular: material wellbeing, labour conditions, housing conditions, specifics of environmental situation, access to high-quality health care services. The most wide-spread risks for youth health, in particular, reproductive health, are alcohol and drug abuse, smoking, excess weight and obesity, risky sexual behaviour and disregard for personal safety rules. The prevalence of such harmful elements as beer and cigarettes in the modern youth culture is very high today due to aggressive advertising of these products targeted at young people.

As a consequence, health indices of Ukrainian youth lag considerable behind those of youth from the industrialized countries and mortality of Ukrainian youth exceeds respective European figures. The analysis of the dynamics, levels and structure of youth mortality in Ukraine and its comparison with the EU countries demonstrates the following peculiarities: mortality of young people in Ukraine is three times as high as that of their peers in the EU countries, with disastrous excess by some causes (thus, the percentage of lethal outcomes of alcohol poisoning is 16 times

higher than respective EU figures); mortality of males aged 15–34 is three times as high as female mortality, with social death causes dominating over other causes of this excess mortality; exogenous pathology accounts for the largest proportion of deaths at young age – in Ukraine about 3/5 of deaths of persons aged 15–34 are brought about by two causes: external death causes and infectious and parasitic diseases.

Today, the importance of educational and labour activity in the life of Ukrainian youth could not be overestimated. Although young Ukrainians have a generally high educational level and are eager to obtain education and build a career, however, the development of educational infrastructure, as well as continuous education, self-education and the interaction between the educational services market and the labour market in our country are marked by acute problems and certain tendencies displaying some contradictions. They are, in particular: a decline in the system of vocational training and the network of Level I–II accredited higher education institutions; deeper inequality of youth access to quality education; a persisting and sometimes increasing gap between educational level of youth from rural and urban areas “in favour” of the latter; no perceptible progress in the development of continuous education and establishment of self-education and occupational advanced training (mostly in the 1990s) and persistent and long-term shifts (in the current decade) in the structure of educational services provided by higher education institutions by areas of knowledge “in favour” of courses in economics and law “at a disadvantage”, to a certain extent, for training of engineering and natural science specialists.

The imbalanced structure of the Ukrainian educational services market and the labour market (in addition to other factors described in the survey, particularly, specific attitudes and requirements of young employees in respect of employment conditions and payment terms; inadequate quality of professional training; peculiarities of the institutional environment of the labour market; certain macroeconomic factors etc.) brings about rather acute problems with youth employment after graduation, increased (as compared with working-age persons from

other age groups) unemployment level among young persons aged 15–24 and results in inefficient use of youth professional potential; this is manifested, in particular, by a wide prevalence of employment not according to specialty and widespread youth orientations towards external labour migration etc.

According to results of the survey “Youth of Ukraine”, almost 35% of youth in urban area and over 45% of youth in rural area currently studying at higher education or vocational training institutions, believe that it will be “*difficult, almost impossible*” to find employment after graduation; the largest proportion (almost a half) of young people reckon on their parents or other relatives in finding a job after graduation, one-third of respondents plan to solve this problem by own efforts and only 5% reckon on assistance of the educational institution and 2% – on assistance of the employment service. Although the majority of young people who studied for a professional degree at the time of the survey indicated they would like to work according to their specialty, almost a half of current students of vocational training and higher education institutions are not sure they will be able to find the job for which they are trained. Besides, today a significant proportion of young people participating in the labour force work not according to the specialty obtained from educational institutions, with the most common reasons for this being shortage of respective job opportunities and lack of financial prospects of employment according to specialty.

The financial and economic crisis had a negative effect on youth situation (as well as on other groups of economically active population) at the job market and in the social and labour sector. Therefore, a certain proportion of employed young people worry about the possibility of losing their jobs: almost one-fifth of respondents of the survey “Youth of Ukraine” indicated they felt anxious about the future of their job and were afraid they might lose it in the next year.

As compared with other age groups of Ukrainian population, youth is characterized by increased migration activity. In Ukraine, youth aged 15–34 accounted for 2/3 in the total migration turnover in 2009, while

in the international turnover youth migrants were under 2/5. The survey “Youth of Ukraine” to a certain extent disproved a rather wide-spread opinion of lacking patriotic attitudes in the Ukrainian youth environment: a mere 3.5% of young respondents mentioned they intended to leave Ukraine in the next three years. As for travelling abroad, here young people are mostly attracted by an opportunity to increase their cultural level, reconsider their life values and find a confirmation that their life plans and orientations are correct.

Young people are especially interested in going abroad with the aim of temporary employment: 45% of respondents aged 15–34 expressed an intention to work abroad for a certain time if appropriate opportunities were available. Respondents with a positive attitude towards temporary employment abroad believed that it was the only chance of getting a worthy pay for their labour, with the majority of them ready to do any job abroad even if it was not according to the specialty.

The survey demonstrates that labour migrations have a mixed effect on relations in a family: respondents often mentioned that they either felt no changes in relations with their relatives or were unable to give a clear answer. A mere 5.3% of young respondents with an experience of employment abroad were sure that their labour migrations had a positive impact on relations with their relatives, while 7.8% indicated their relations worsened.

Over the years of independence, Ukraine has taken rather significant efforts aimed at formulation and implementation of the youth policy based on new principles with the following main directions: formulation of the legislative framework of the state youth policy; establishment of structural subdivisions dealing with youth problems as part of governmental agencies and public bodies of all levels; holding of annual hearings in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in respect of the youth situation and submission of reports on this issue to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the President of Ukraine; solving of youth employment problems; establishment of youth social services; facilitation in the establishment and operation of non-governmental youth and child associations; implemen-

tation of comprehensive youth programs; activities of special-purpose youth funds.

Despite the fact that Ukraine has made a number of important steps towards formation of the new youth policy, today these efforts are apparently not enough. Unfavourable health care and demographic situation, aggravated employment problems and problems with appropriate labour conditions for young employees, increased poverty and low income risks at the time of the financial and economic crisis require increased attention to such issues as formation and implementation of youth policy in our country, its modernization with due regard for the existing shortcomings as well as for current day-to-day realities. In this context, a number of problems result from lacking and irregular financing of respective programs and activities. In addition to this, there is the inability to choose correct priorities for financing and implementation of target comprehensive programs and lack of wide-ranging approach to solving of separate youth programs.

Another obstacle to the development of the state youth policy in Ukraine is nonsystematic assessment of respective programs and activities. Not infrequently youth-centered state programs and activities do not meet the needs of youth and, besides, young people know nothing about them. Furthermore, our state has no systematic dialogue with the population in general and young people, in particular. This is the main reason of insufficient awareness of young people about activities and opportunities offered within the framework of the youth policy and also the reason of mostly critical or sceptic attitudes towards the steps taken to solve the issues which are important for youth. Thus, it is worrying that the majority of young people do not know what to do to solve serious social problems, the proportion of young people who do not trust many social institutions is considerably larger than the proportion of those who trust them and activities of governmental bodies in respect of solving youth problems mostly get a negative assessment from young people.

With the aim of improvement and further development of the youth policy in Ukraine, it is crucial to realize that policy formation and

implementation should be a regular rather than an occasional process. The youth policy should be further implemented in all strategic directions stipulated by the statutory regulations adopted at the previous stage of its implementation in Ukraine provided that priorities are clearly outlined. Besides, the international experience of youth policy implementation in all directions requires a more thorough study and wider use. Active involvement of youth in social life and solving of own problems is also crucial.

The majority of areas of the state youth policy need improvement. However, today the activity aimed at maintenance and improvement of youth health and adoption by youth of healthy lifestyles is one of undoubted priorities. A real improvement of population health, including youth health, is possible only provided that the government and society act side by side: targeted social changes and acceptance of these changes by population, with a respective modification of every individual's behaviour are needed for that. Young people are a relatively more "rewarding" object for such an influence and investments both in terms of efficiency of intervention and the time framework of results since, on the one part, young people do not have significant health problems which reduce the opportunities of improvement (or make it impossible) and, on the other part, they are more open to changes, including changes in own life position.

Considering the fact that young people give (or will give) birth to new citizens whose health to a considerable extent is conditional on their parents' health, special attention should be paid to the issues of youth reproductive health and training of potential parents with the view to conception and childbearing. Here the point is in the establishment of the foundations of responsible parenthood, healthy lifestyles of parents without harmful habits before and during pregnancy, improvement of health of future mothers, acknowledgement of the need for medical checkup before planning pregnancy and medical supervision during pregnancy and provision of conditions for healthy and well-balanced diet during the period of pregnancy and breastfeeding. It is also crucial to ensure a more easy access to reproductive health and family planning services and

improve the quality of their operation; to ensure equal access of women (irrespective of the place of residence and social status) to high-quality health care during pregnancy and labour and to provide appropriate conditions for safe motherhood.

One of preconditions for youth health improvement is availability and easy access to certain services and goods (safe food products, medicines, conditions for mass sports and physical exercise, necessary prevention and medical treatment aimed at combating different dependencies – tobacco, alcohol or drug dependency, including advisory assistance) and state control over compliance with applicable legislation on life safety, i.e. the whole range of opportunities which are provided by society to citizens and which may be used by the latter for making a healthy choice. At the same time, relevant social changes implemented in the country will mean only the opportunity for health maintenance and improvement which may remain unrealized without its understanding, acceptance and active support by ordinary people. There is a need for approval and acceptance of behaviour aimed at health maintenance and improvement in the direct environment of an individual, as well as like-minded persons, public opinion support and establishment of a favourable moral and psychological climate.

As for other youth policy directions, which require close attention of the state and society today and may be recognized as priorities, the following ones should also be mentioned: youth support with regard to social and labour, education and upbringing issues; prevention of asocial behaviour in the youth environment; youth housing and family policy; support of youth non-governmental associations and organizations. Improvement and development of the state youth policy in the above-mentioned directions is one of pre-requisites for fulfilment by Ukrainian youth of its important social mission as the driver of demographic, socio-economic, political and spiritual development, the determining factor of transformations in response to the existing needs and challenges of our time.

Наукове видання

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