

Drug Related Deaths in Ukraine 2018-2021

based on identified evidence of substances in the biological material

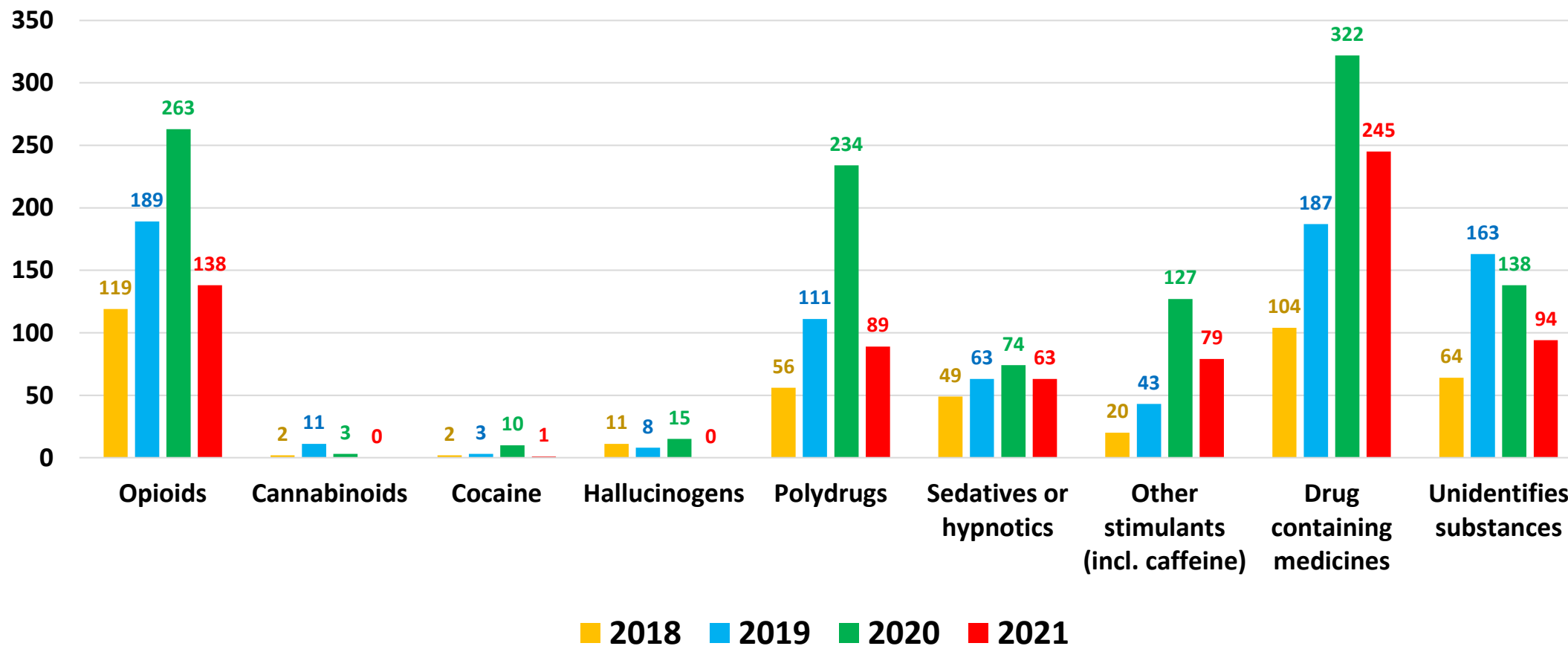
Source: Bureaus of Forensic Medical Examination

Data collection issues

- Unlike the [State Statistics Service of Ukraine](#) that provides quantitative data on people who died as a result of using substances in terms of gender, age group and cause of death, according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems ([ICD-10](#)), Bureaus of Forensic Medical Examinations within the Ministry of Health of Ukraine are the providers of data on deaths with the identified evidence of substances in the biological material (during the autopsy only under the request of prosecutor's office investigator).
- The DRD-data collection from Bureaus started in 2019, and these data shall be provided by the Bureaus from each Region of Ukraine according to the [Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 689 of 10 July 2019 "Issues of Monitoring Drug and Alcohol Situation in Ukraine"](#).
- At that, the data provided by these Bureaus are inaccurate and therefore hard to be called illustrative for the following reasons:
 - Lack of human and financial resources for collecting and consolidating accurate statistics
 - No liability envisaged for providing inaccurate data
 - Lack of reagents and other laboratory stuff for high-quality and accurate tests
 - Russian Federation's aggression, i.e. occupation of part of Ukraine in 2014 and the invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

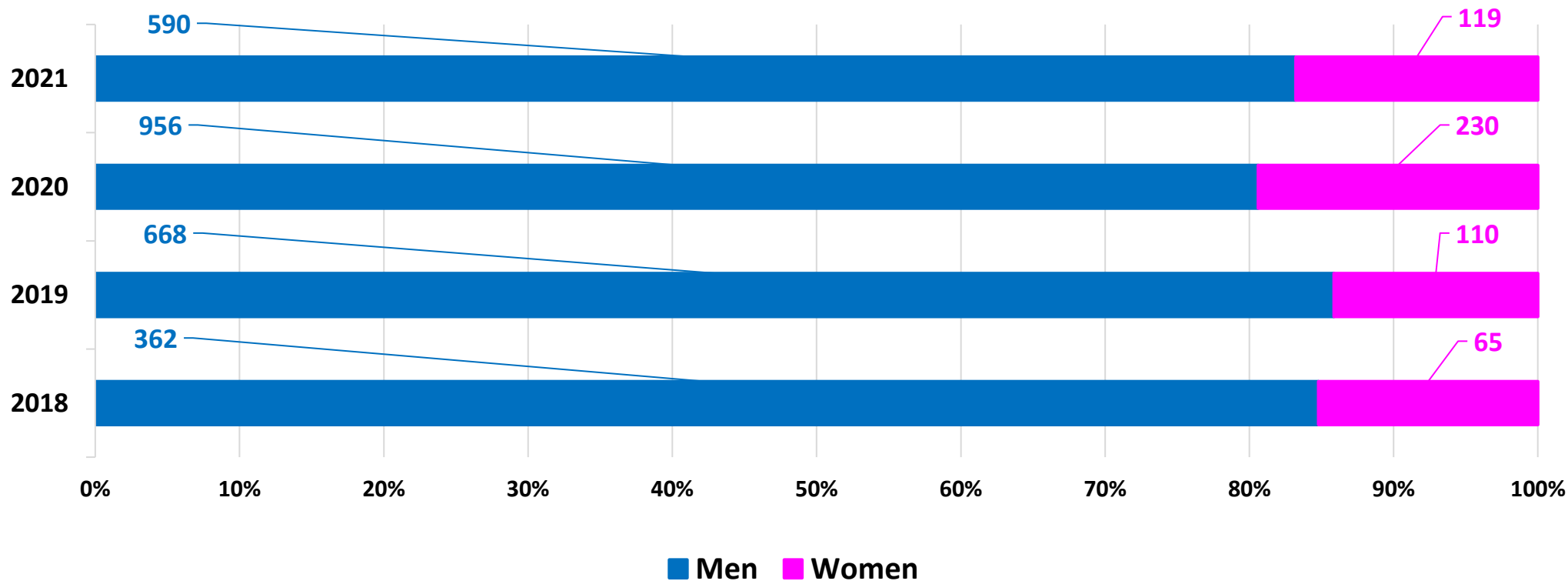
PS: [Document for DRD, based on the data by State Statistics Service 2015-2020](#)

Number of deaths with the identified evidence of psychoactive substances in the biological material, by substance

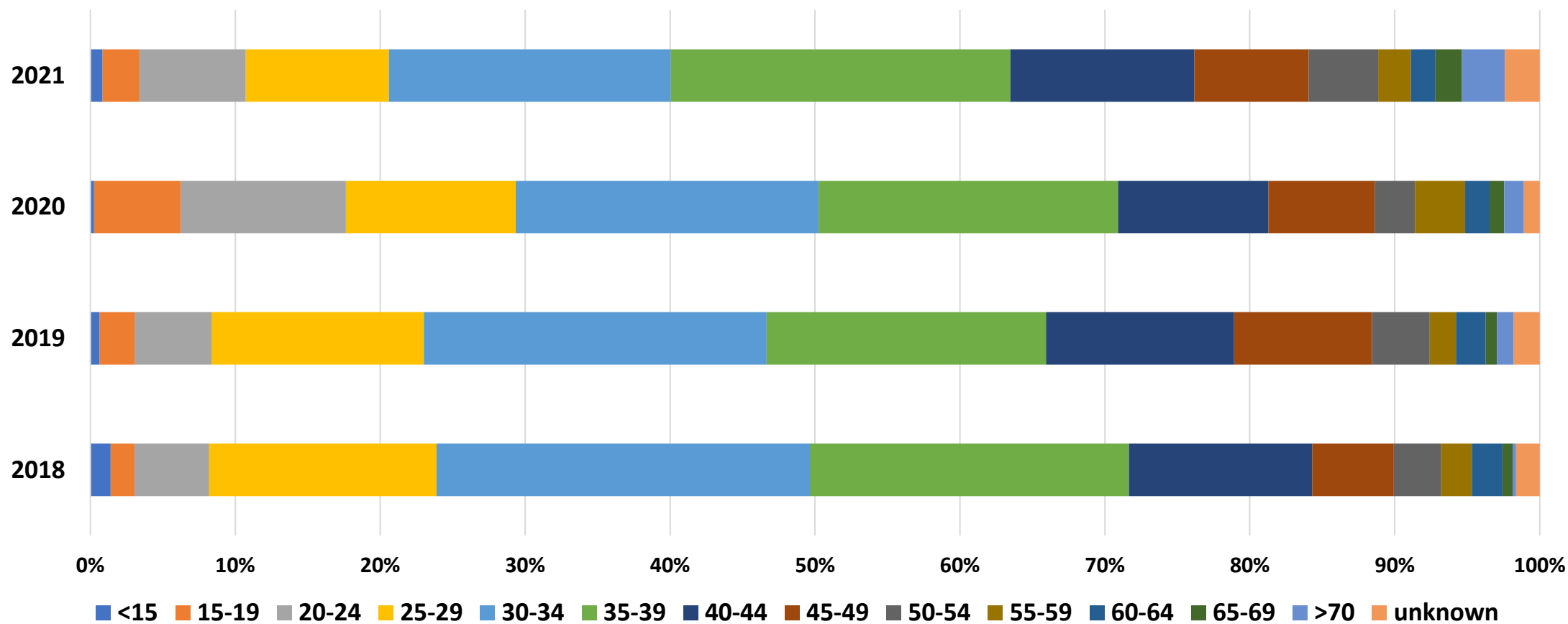


Proportion of deaths with the identified evidence of psychoactive substances in the biological material, by gender

Number of deaths with the identified evidence of psychoactive substances in the biological material, by gender



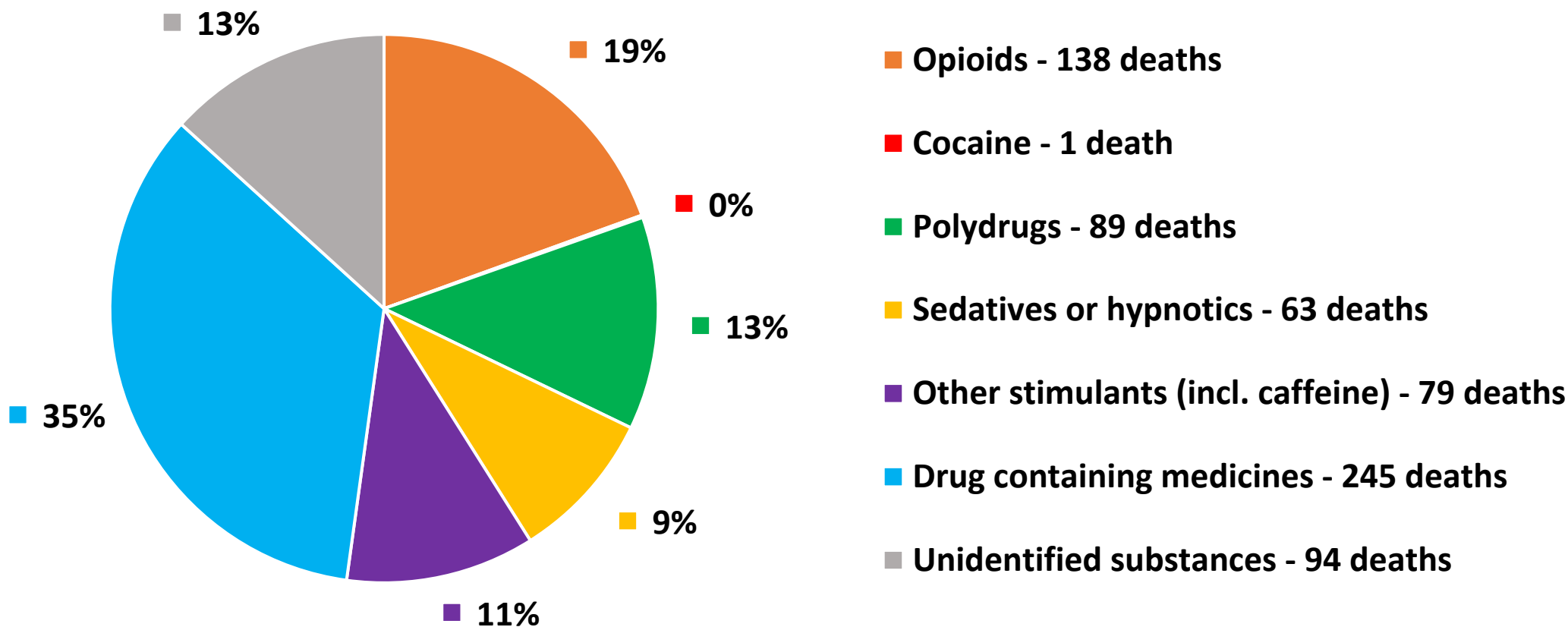
Proportion of deaths with the identified evidence of psychoactive substances in the biological material, by age



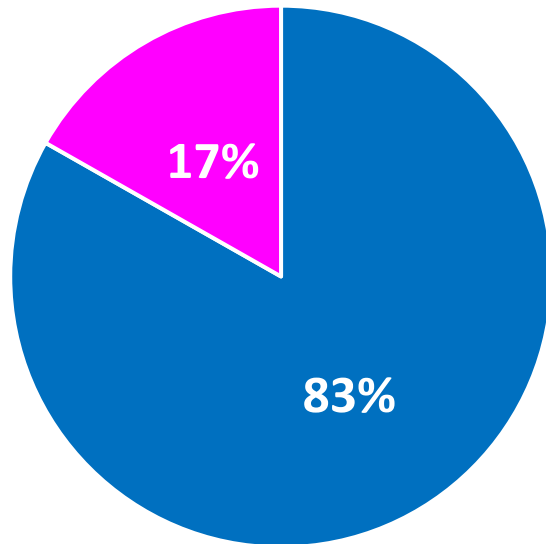
2021: Data by Bureaus of Forensic Medical Examinations

- 5 out of 25 regional Bureaus of Forensic Medical Examination didn't provide data (Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, Mykolaiv) due to military operations and/ or occupation of territories in those regions.
- The data obtained from other regional Bureaus cannot be considered trustful and accurate at 100%.
- At the same time, the data from the State Statistics Service for 2021 was not provided at all, given the data collection failures due to the war in Ukraine.
- 0 deaths due to Cannabinoids and Hallucinogens reported for 2021.

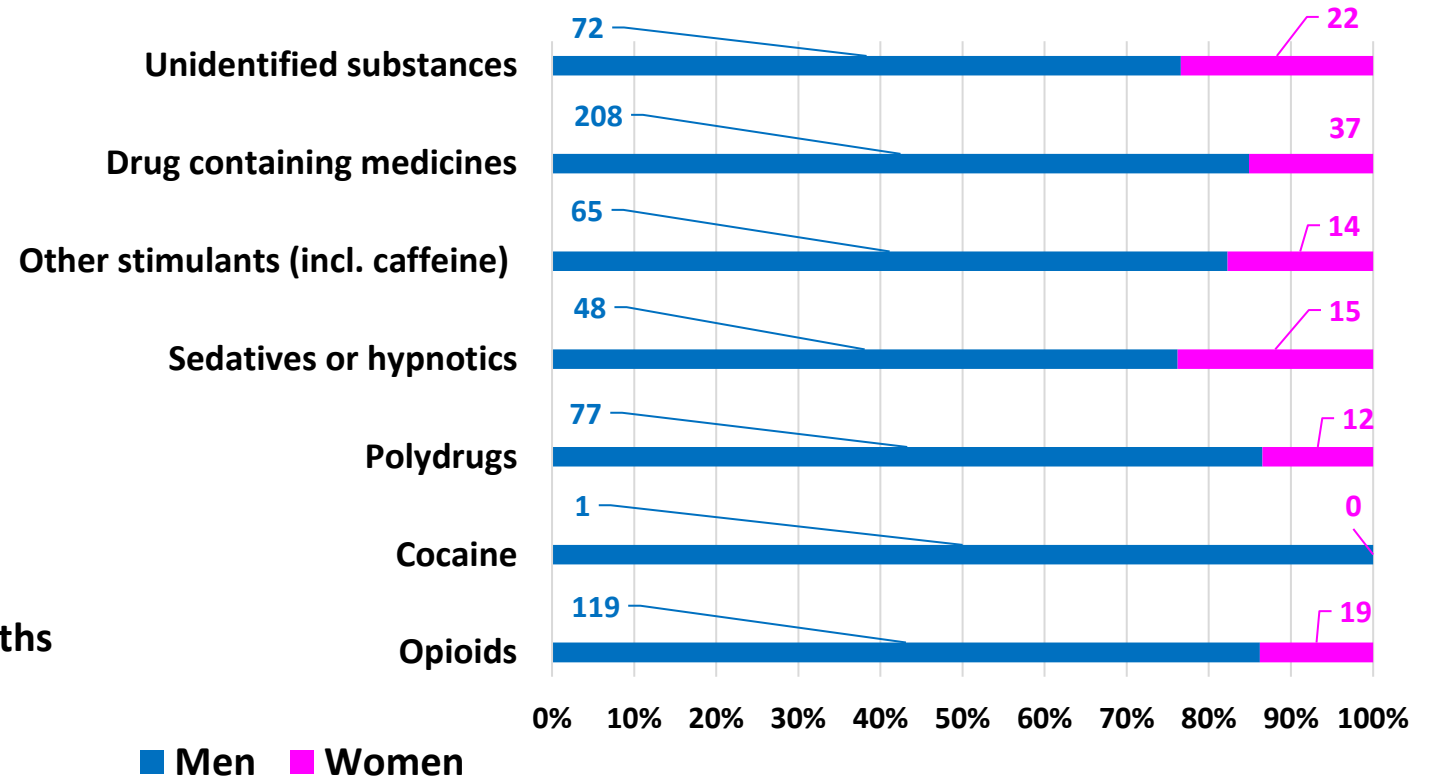
2021: Proportion of deaths with the identified evidence of psychoactive substances in the biological material, by substance



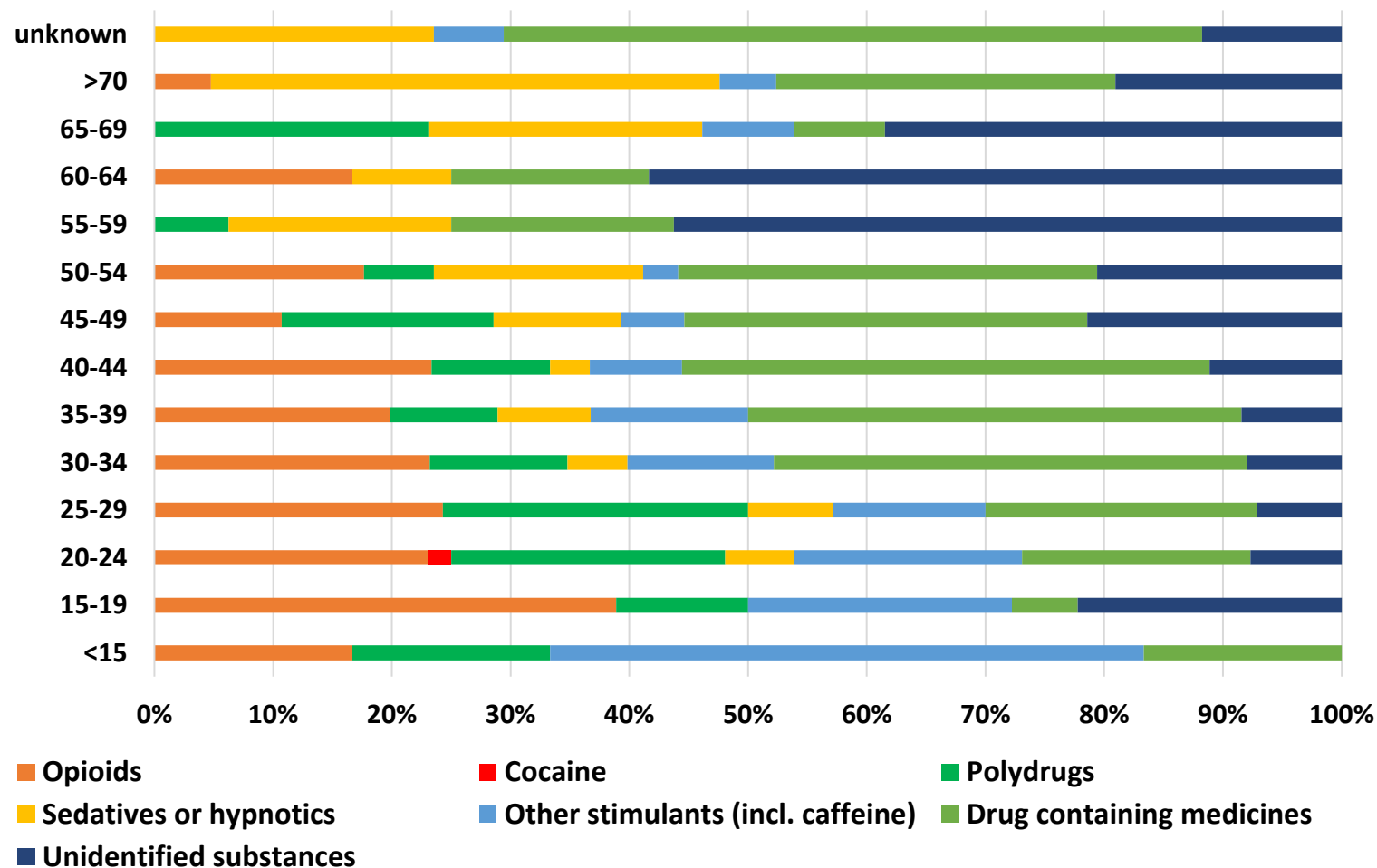
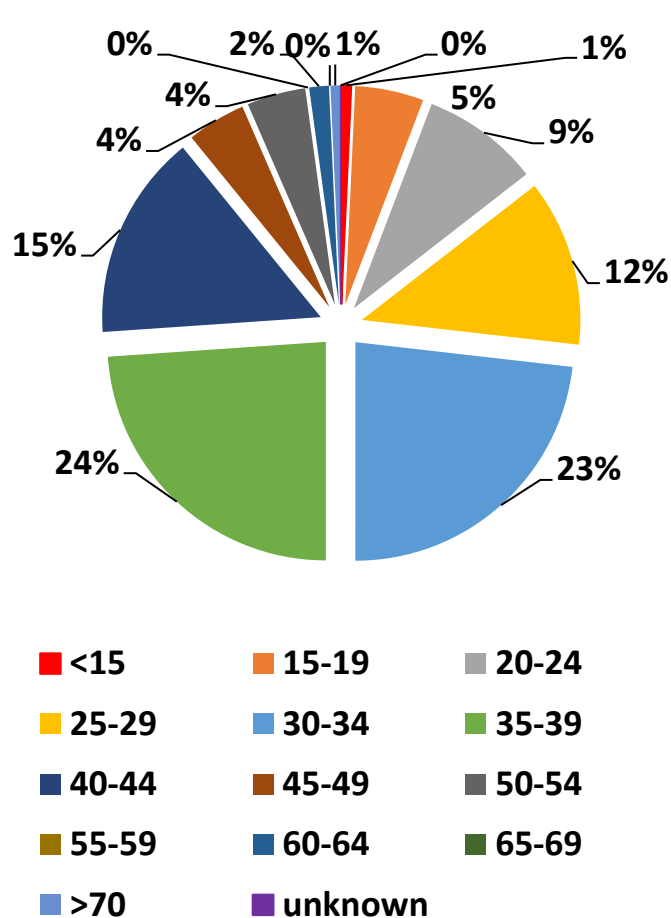
2021: Proportion of deaths with the identified evidence of psychoactive substances in the biological material, by gender



■ Men - 590 deaths ■ Women - 119 deaths



2021: Proportion of deaths with the identified evidence of psychoactive substances in the biological material, by age



DRD Indicator Findings and Challenges

Findings:

1. Trend of drug-related deaths' growing from year to year (NB: without considering the data for 2021 that are not full, given data collection problems due to the war in Ukraine).
2. Men deaths are predominant (80+% according to Bureaus, and +-90% according to the Ukrstat).
3. The largest number of deaths are due to drug-containing medicines (30+%), followed by opioids (+-20%), polydrugs (+-13%) and unidentified substances (+-13%).
4. The greatest number of deaths are in the age group of 30-39 (some 50% of total ages).

Challenges:

1. Two data collection sources in Ukraine (State Statistics Service and Bureaus of Forensic Medical Examinations) provide data that differ by substances breakdown and number of death cases.
2. Data collection problems due to the war in Ukraine.
3. Staff, equipment, institutional and funding issues of the Bureaus of Forensic Medical Examinations.