



**MONITORING THE BEHAVIOUR AND HIV-  
INFECTION PREVALENCE AMONG NEW FOREIGN  
MIGRANTS IN UKRAINE AS A COMPONENT OF  
SECOND GENERATION SURVEILLANCE**

*Analytical report based on the results of bio-behavioral  
survey of 2012*

**Kyiv 2013**

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Report was prepared on the results of the survey “Monitoring the behavior and HIV-infection prevalence among new foreign migrants in Ukraine as a component of second generation surveillance” which was conducted in 2012 by the Centre of Social Expertise of the Institute of Sociology NAS of Ukraine by request of the ICF «International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine». The data described show social and demographic structure of the target group, main indicators of sexual risk behaviors, scale of the alcohol and drugs use practice, level of access to prevention programs and HIV testing.

Special attention is paid to the analysis of prevalence of HIV-infection, Syphilis, Hepatitis C and B. In some key aspects the results are compared to the results of a similar survey conducted in 2011 among Ukrainian labor migrants and of the survey among general population, which were conducted for main indicators’ data collection.

The survey was conducted with the financial support of the ICF «International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine» within the realization of the programme «Building a sustainable system of comprehensive services on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for MARPs and PLWH in Ukraine».

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## INTRODUCTION

Ukraine is one of the Eastern European countries most affected by HIV/AIDS and the scale of the epidemic continues growing. As of 01.01.2014, 139 573 HIV-infected citizens of Ukraine were registered in health care institutions (308.4 per 100 thousand people), including 29 005 patients with AIDS (64.1 per 100 thousand people). Sexual way of HIV transmission is becoming of more significant epidemiological importance in the structure of ways of HIV transmission, which share among people with newly diagnosed HIV made up 65.7% as of the end of 2013.

Groups most vulnerable to HIV infection in Ukraine are injecting drug users, men who have sex with men and female sex workers. According to the data of bio-behavioural surveys conducted in 2013, HIV prevalence among IDU made up 19.7%, among FSW – 7.3%, among MSM – 5.9%. HIV is distributed to the general population through so-called bridge groups – sexual partners of IDU, clients of FSW, female partners of MSM.

Migrants are also recognized worldwide as a potential bridge group because of their risky sexual behavior. Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by all UN member states during the special session of the UN General Assembly (UNGASS) in 2001, calls to implement "national, regional and international strategies that facilitate access to HIV/AIDS prevention programs for migrants and mobile workers"<sup>2</sup>. Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS in 2006 confirms that the full realization of human rights is the basis for global measures in response to HIV. Solving the problem of HIV among international labour migrants is the obligatory contribution to achieve a coherent overall goal in the field of development, formulated in the Millennium Declaration as follows: "... by the year 2015, to stop and begin the reverse process of HIV prevalence"<sup>3</sup>.

According to the IOM, for the years 1990-2010 the number of migrants in the world rose twice and has now reached 214 million people. Ukraine is among the ten countries with high levels of migration. As of July 1, 2012, 31 436 foreign migrants came to Ukraine, which is 11.8 per 10,000 of present population according to Government Statistical Committee of Ukraine, the migration growth made up 23 993 foreign migrants<sup>4</sup>.

Thus, migration is one of the most important social factors that contribute to the development of HIV infection. There is lack of medical information on the health of migrants and their access to health care.

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<sup>1</sup> HIV-infection in Ukraine: informational leaflet / MOH of Ukraine, Ukrainian AIDS Centre, Institute of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases named after L.V. Gromashevskiy of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine. – 2014. – № 41.

<sup>2</sup> Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS [http://zakon1.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/995\\_846](http://zakon1.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/995_846)

<sup>3</sup> Harmonized report of Ukraine on progress in implementation of national response to AIDS epidemic, 2012 // [http://www.aidsalliance.org.ua/ru/library/our/2012/me/garp\\_ru\\_2011.pdf](http://www.aidsalliance.org.ua/ru/library/our/2012/me/garp_ru_2011.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Data of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine // <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/>

An important part in the fight against HIV / AIDS is the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of measures to control the epidemic of HIV / AIDS, as well as conducting behavioral surveys among groups most-at-risk for HIV infection. Indeed, in most cases, a person is exposed to infection because of their behavior. In shaping behaviors different factors play an important role. Among the other ones, close environment and lifestyle are making their impacts. Therefore, information about the behavioral characteristics of so-called bridge groups (migrants) enables better understanding of the causes and mechanisms of HIV spread not only within these groups, but also within the society as a whole, and building further effective strategies to prevent the spread of the epidemic. Therefore, monitoring the behavior of foreign migrants in Ukraine and determining the level of HIV-infection prevalence among this group is an urgent task now.

In 2013 the Centre of Social Expertize of the Institute of Sociology NAS of Ukraine by request of the ICF “International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine” conducted the bio-behavioural survey among immigrants in Ukraine.

## GLOSSARY

- ✓ **Bio-behavioural survey** – sociological behavioural and biological survey related in time and place with one and the same respondent.
- ✓ **Refugees** — people, who due to the well-founded fear of becoming the victim of harassment on the base of religion, nationality, citizenship, belonging to a certain social group or political opinion, stay outside the countries of their citizenship and cannot and do not want to return to such countries because of the mentioned fears<sup>5</sup>.
- ✓ **VCT** – voluntary counseling (from Latin “consultatio” – looking for advice) and testing (from English “test” – trial) – medical and psychological counseling of a person on HIV/AIDS and related medical testing of the person for having antibodies to HIV which is conducted on a voluntary basis of the person.
- ✓ **Foreign migrants** – people who arrived in the country (in this case – Ukraine) from another country of habitual residence ("foreign migrants"). In the Ukrainian context is used primarily for those people who have relatively recently arrived in Ukraine and or nationals of other countries / persons without nationality or citizenship of Ukraine received relatively recently ("new foreign migrants").
- ✓ **Foreign students** - people who are not citizens of Ukraine and stay outside the countries of their citizenship because of getting higher education in Ukraine.
- ✓ **STI** – sexually transmitted infections.
- ✓ **Cross-sectional survey** – basic type of research method in which a large cross-section of the population is studied at one specific time<sup>6</sup>.
- ✓ **Migrant** – a person who changes the country of their usual residence<sup>7</sup>. Most often "migrant" means those who came for the purpose of long stay (over 12 months) – which can still be called "long-term migrants."
- ✓ **Recruitment cell** — total of recruitment waves in their chronological order.
- ✓ **NGO** – non-governmental organization, legalized under the legislation of Ukraine.
- ✓ **Primary respondents (in RDS)** – survey participants recruited by NGOs working with a target group according to the given criteria and are the beginning of other IDU recruitment chain.
- ✓ **Secondary respondents (in RDS)** – survey participants who got the coupon-invitation to participate in the survey from other IDU who have participated in all components of the survey.

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<sup>5</sup> Law of Ukraine “On Refugees and People Who Need Additional or Temporary Protection”. – Document 3671-17, currently in force, the current version — Version as of 29.11.2012

<sup>6</sup>The Oxford Dictionary of Sports Science & Medicine Read more:

<http://www.answers.com/library/Sports+Science+and+Medicine-letter-1C-first-551#ixzz2Opd88Ixm>

<sup>7</sup> Recommendations on the statistics of international migration. - NY.: UN, 1998.

- ✓ **Survey field stage** – process of data collection through respondents’ selection according to the specified criteria, conduction of interviews and all components of the epidemiological component.
- ✓ **Recruiter (in RDS)** – a person who, after being interviewed, received coupons by which three other respondents of the same target group can be recruited.
- ✓ **IDU** – injecting drug users, survey target group.
- ✓ **Labour migration** — movement of an able-to-work person for employment for a certain time period.
- ✓ **Wave (in RDS)** – total number of respondents involved by the recruiters of the same level. For example, a person recruited by a primary respondent is included in the first wave. Persons recruited by participants of the first wave make up the second wave, etc. Sequence of waves makes up a recruitment chain.
- ✓ **Equilibrium** – it is the point which starts from a certain number of a wave at which sample characteristics do not change despite the number of participants included into it. Equilibrium is sometimes called “convergence” or “stabilization”.
- ✓ **RDS (respondent driven sample)** – the sample directed and realized by the respondents.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The *main aim* of this survey was to define the level of prevalence of HIV, syphilis, Hepatitis B and C and behavioural practices of foreign migrants in Ukraine concerning HIV-infection.

*The survey was supposed to check the following hypotheses:*

1. The risk of migrants being infected with HIV is higher among men than among women because of the use of the services of female sex workers.
2. The prevalence of HIV and other STI among migrant women is being influenced by their involvement in the provision of commercial sex services (voluntary or compulsory);
3. The risk factors for HIV-infection include long time without regular sexual partners, a large number of sexual partners, regular alcohol and drug abuse, less awareness about HIV and STI, presence of STI, as well as irregular use of condoms. The low level of awareness about HIV/AIDS on the whole, ways of infection prevention, and places of HIV testing at their temporary residence prevail among migrants.
4. Level of HIV prevalence among students is higher than among other categories of migrants, because they are most of all in contact with the local population and are at the active sexual age.
5. Access of migrants to VCT and other medical services in Ukraine is limited.

*Survey target groups and selection criteria:*

The survey design envisaged conduction of actually three separate cross-sectional surveys (one-single cross sections) of prevalence of HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B and C, knowledge, attitude, practices and behavior among three categories of immigrants:

- ☑ Refugees,
- ☑ Migrants staying in Ukraine on business and other economic purpose (hereinafter referred to as “labour migrants”). For the purposes of this survey the category of “labour migrants” did not include foreign professional employees of transnational business structures and international organizations as well as those invited to Ukraine by employers in order to perform single-discipline professional qualified tasks.
- ☑ Foreign students studying in Ukraine.

The vast majority of interviewed migrants can be classified as "new", because they have been living in Ukraine not more than for the last five years, but survey criteria did not limit investigators in recruiting migrants with longer period of stay on the territory of Ukraine. Getting of this category of respondents into the sample can be justified, because exactly this category is different from the general population of Ukraine by structure and their behavior. Immigrants living in Ukraine for more than five



years are mostly rooted in Ukrainian society despite foreign origin, and have close relationships with Ukrainian citizens. Depending on the official status, the survey included migrants who have retained the nationality of the country of origin or are stateless citizens.

Main criteria for respondents' involvement into the survey were age (18-55 years) and period of staying in Ukraine (last 6 months). Primary respondents were selected according to more rigid criteria:

Among *labour migrants* two primary respondents were selected, who came from different countries, differed by age (one was at the age of 18-30 years old, the other was at the age of 31-55 years old), had different income level (high and low) and both came to Ukraine without sexual partners.

Among foreign students two primary respondents were selected in every city, who were of different age (one is under 20 years old, the other is 21-25 years old), in different years of studying: 1-3 year and 4-5 year, communicated with students from other universities except the one they were studying at and came to the country without sexual partners.

Among refugees and asylum seekers two primary respondents of different age were also selected (one is 18-25 years old, the other is 25-55 years old), who came to Ukraine without sexual partners.

*Sampling and survey geography:*

RDS methodology (respondent-driven sampling – the one directed by the respondents) was selected for sample realization.

Table 1

**Structure of realized samples: number of “secondary respondents”, number of realized waves and equilibrium achievement**

	Number of primary respondents	Total number of secondary respondents	Number of waves	Wave of equilibrium achievement
<b>Labour migrants</b>				
Kyiv	2	98	7	1-2
Odesa	2	99	8	1
Kharkiv	2	98	5	1-3
Donetsk	2	98	5	1-2
<b>Foreign students</b>				
Kyiv	2	98	7	1-2
Odesa	2	98	5	1-2
Kharkiv	2	98	5	1-3
Lugansk	2	98	7	1-4
<b>Refugees</b>				
Kyiv	2	97	8	1-2
Odesa	2	98	8	1-2
Kharkiv	2	98	6	1-3

## *Survey toolkit and respondents' testing for HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B and C*

The survey questionnaire was developed by the Centre of Social Expertize in cooperation with the ICF “International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine” and the SI “Ukrainian Centre for Socially Dangerous Disease Control of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine”.

The questionnaire consists of three parts: the first to determine if a respondent corresponds to the survey eligibility criteria, the second, which is behavioural (the main part), to fill in by the interviewer, the third (the medical one) to fix epidemiological data. Before the beginning of the field stage of the survey, preliminary testing of the survey toolkit and analysis of the questionnaires of pilot interviewing was conducted. In order to realize the field stage, the questionnaire was translated into 5 languages (*English, French, Chinese, Turkish and Farsi*).

Only respondents who agreed to be tested for HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B and C were interviewed. Rapid tests were used to realize the biological component of the survey:

- Rapid test to diagnose Hepatitis C - New Vision Diagnostics «Profitest».
- Immunochromatographic assay to diagnose HBsAg Hepatitis B / CITO TEST HBsAg.
- Immunochromatographic assay to diagnose HIV of 1 and 2 type and subtype 0 / CITO TEST HIV 1/2/0.
- Immunochromatographic assay to diagnose syphilis / CITO TEST Syphilis.

Blood testing was conducted after the interview with the representative of the target group by the following scheme:

- 1) an interview is conducted with the respondent who is a foreign migrant;
- 2) pre-test counseling is conducted;
- 3) testing for HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B and C is conducted;
- 4) post-test counseling is conducted.

### *Data analysis and restrictions of the survey methodology*

All results were calculated with the help of specialized RDSAT software. The calculation was conducted at the level of each city separately for every survey target group (labour migrants, refugees, foreign students). Main indicators, such as HIV testing, level of knowledge about ways of HIV transmission, etc. have been provided both at the city level and for target groups on the whole without disaggregation by city.

However, we have to pay attention to the fact that such calculations for the category can be totally confirmed only if (1) we have reliable statistics of immigrants' number for each of the category in every city from the sample (then we could have additional data for weighting and receiving indicators that can be extrapolated to the whole target group in the city); (2) results differ significantly

for one and the same group in different cities (otherwise when calculating general indicators for the whole target group without disaggregation by the city, we will receive indicators that will “mask” real localized problems). Unfortunately, in the first case there is no reliable statistics (and the data we have are very contradictory) and we had to start on the assumption that the number of immigrants of the category in every city is approximately the same. In the second case the analysis at the level of certain cities shows that in most cases the situation varies a lot depending on the city. As a result the received calculations should be carefully interpreted taken into account serious restrictions given above.

It should be noted that in case of analyzing the samples at the level of a separate category in a separate city we face two important restrictions, which should be taken into account during the interpretation of the results: first of all, in the sample of 98 people even within usual one-stage sample, the deviation would make 10 per cent which is quite a lot, and it makes a rather big range of values. Secondly, when having a small sample, recruitment chains are very likely to be deployed only to certain segments of the target group. Therefore, in other words, representatives of only a certain subgroup that could not fully represent the entire target group could be highly probable to get into the sample.

Also in order to deepen the results of the analysis in some of the cases, different calculations were made among men and women of certain categories in a certain city. However, we have to draw your attention to the fact that the number of men and women separately in the sample for a certain category in a certain city is quite small. If in case of men the amount of such subsamples allows making at least statistically reliable calculations (though with significant deviation), in case of women the amount of subsamples is too small to make statistically reliable calculations and for them we can talk only about some tendencies. Also, as a result, we don't have a possibility to use statistical procedures for examination, if the differences between certain subgroups are reasonably significant; we can only talk about certain tendencies which are to be checked in the future surveys. Various differences between men and women provided further on in the report should be considered as general trends of an appropriate category of foreign migrants in a particular city.

**Structure of realized samples: gender distribution (number of «secondary respondents»)**

	Female	Male	Total
<b>Labour migrants</b>			
Kyiv	35	63	98
Odesa	23	76	99
Kharkiv	26	72	98
Donetsk	46	52	98
<b>Foreign students</b>			
Kyiv	25	73	98
Odesa	25	73	98
Kharkiv	42	56	98
Lugansk	6	92	98
<b>Refugees</b>			
Kyiv	41	56	97
Odesa	18	80	98
Kharkiv	17	81	98

Survey data cannot be interpreted as those reflecting gender structure of the group, but only show the number of men and women among immigrants, who have been reached within the survey.

*Comparison of the obtained results to the data of other surveys*

Results of the survey among foreign migrants were compared to other available data, in particular, to results of other monitoring surveys – “Monitoring the behaviour and HIV-infection prevalence among Ukrainian labour migrants as a component of HIV second generation surveillance”<sup>8</sup> and “Poll of the population of Ukraine aged 15-49 years to calculate indicators of monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of measures to control HIV/AIDS”. It should be noted that designs of these surveys differ significantly from the design of the survey among foreign migrants, therefore, the given comparison of the results cannot be considered as fully correct. However, comparison of the results can still give an idea of general trends and deepen our understanding of the situation.

Attention should be also paid to the fact that in case of Ukrainian labour migrants (external and internal) our survey results were compared to the results of the whole sample realized for labour migrants. In terms of regional representation, samples of Ukrainian labour migrants and foreign migrants in Ukraine are different, which can lead to some incorrect comparison (and it should be taken into account during the interpretation of results). However, interviewing of Ukrainian labour migrants

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.aidsalliance.org.ua/ru/library/our/2013/migr.pdf>

showed quite high similarity of results across different regions, which to some extent allows using data aggregated at the national level and, correspondingly, carrying out necessary comparisons.

As far as interviewing of the general population is concerned, the number of respondents interviewed in the same cities, where the survey among foreign migrants was conducted, is not sufficient for statistically reliable calculations. However, in this case the high similarity of results among respondents from different big cities (with the population of 100 thousand people and more) allows using the results aggregated at this level to compare to the situation among foreign migrants in Ukraine.

Still, despite given methodological restrictions, we believe that the collected information will be valuable and useful to all people interested in the field of immigration and fight against HIV as well as become grounds for more coherent and effective policy concerning these issues.

#### *Ethical background of the survey*

The survey was based on observance of ethical standards and protected the participants' right for anonymity and confidentiality. The Protocol and the survey toolkit received positive conclusions on the survey ethical background from the Commission of Professional Ethics of the Sociological Association of Ukraine and the Committee of Medical Ethics of the Institute of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases named after L.V. Gromashevskiy of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine.

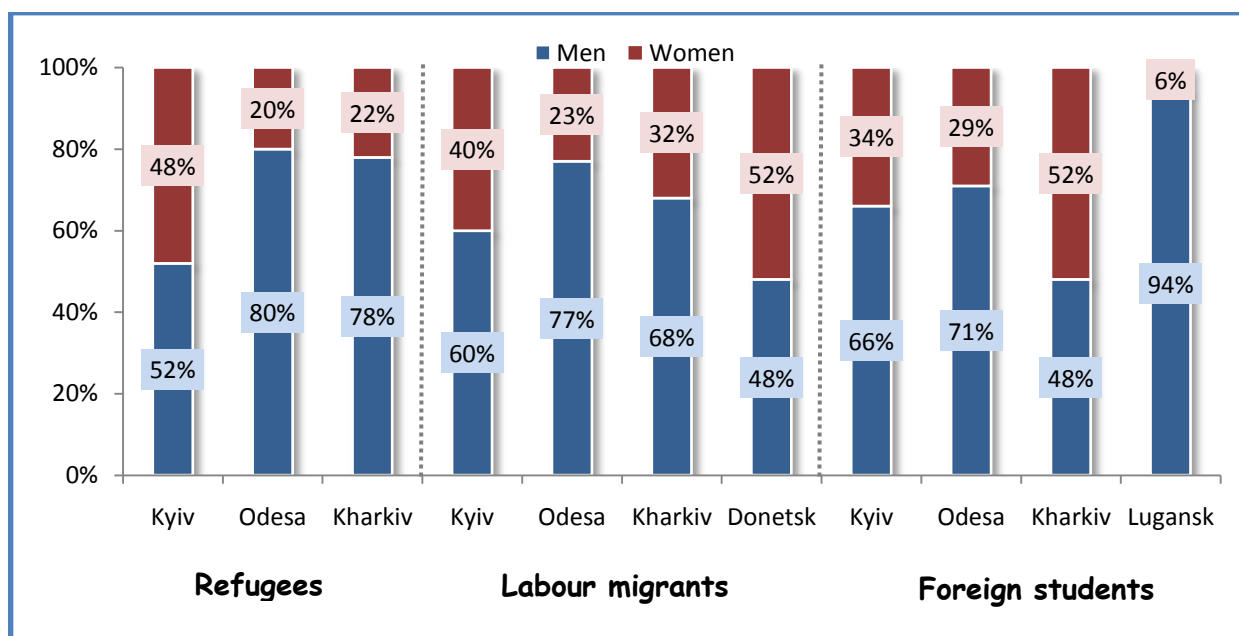
## SECTION I. SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF FOREIGN MIGRANTS IN UKRAINE

In this section we will consider social and demographic structure of foreign migrants in Ukraine, including age, gender and education, financial and family status, place of residence, official status in Ukraine, employment experience, etc. The given results will be compared to the situation among the general population of Ukraine and among Ukrainian labour migrants.

### 1.1 Age, gender and educational structure of foreign migrants

According to the received survey results, the structure of foreign migrants is mostly represented by men (see Pic. 1.1.1). However, on the one hand, there is some regional specificity and on the other hand, the specificity of each separate category of foreign migrants.

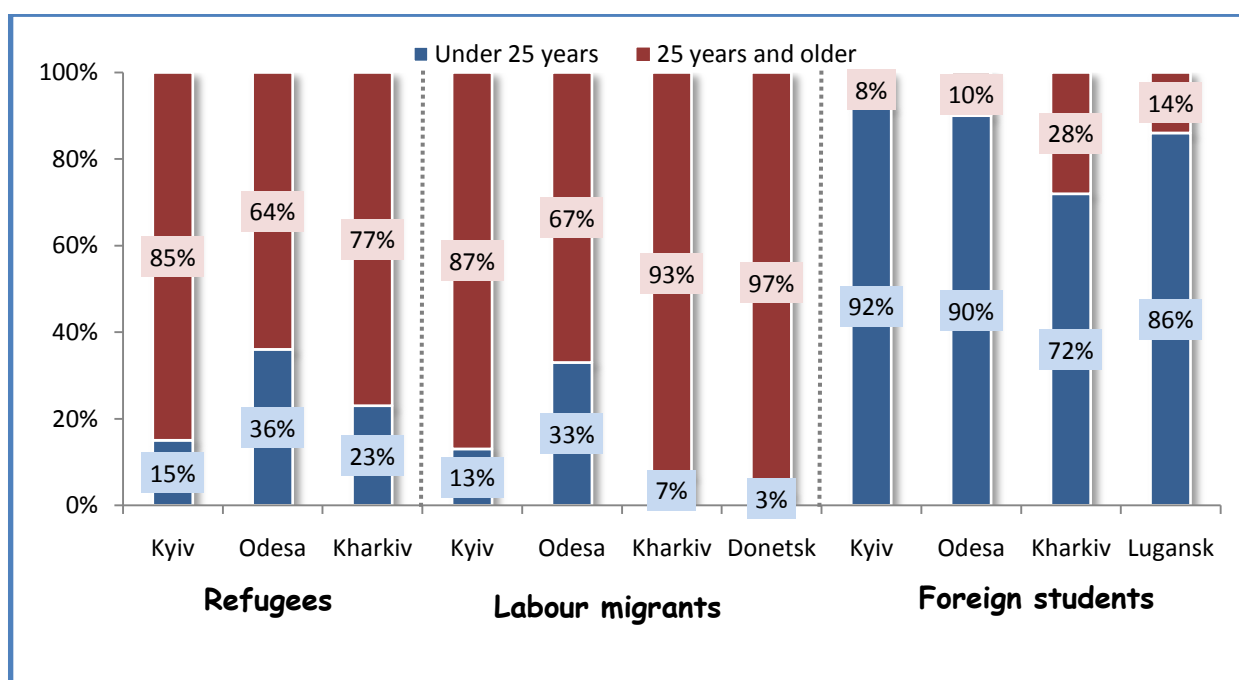
In case of **refugees** in Odesa and Kharkiv, men definitely take precedence over women (4 refugee men vs. 1 refugee woman), while in Kyiv the proportion is almost equal. As far as **labour migrants** are concerned, Donetsk “comes forward” a bit, where there is also almost equal share of women and men. In other cities men significantly prevail (making up from 2/3 to 3/4 of the category’s structure). Among **foreign students**, on the one hand, equal proportion of men and women is observed only in Kharkiv, but on the other hand, students of Lugansk attract much more attention, because almost all of them are men<sup>9</sup>.



Pic.1.1.1. Gender structure of foreign migrants in Ukraine

<sup>9</sup> Obviously, in case of Lugansk, it mostly means the sampling bias towards men, i.e. in this case it should be taken into account during the results’ interpretation that almost all city respondents were men and the received results rather concern “male” part of the target group.

Age structure of foreign migrants is presented at Picture 1.1.2 below. On the whole, middle-aged and older people (25+ years) significantly prevail **among refugees and labour migrants**, while **foreign students** (quite expectedly) are represented by youth (under 25 years). Still, it should be noted that in Odesa every third refugee (36%) is less than 25 years old (as compared to 23% among refugees in Kharkiv and 15% in Kyiv). Among labour migrants in Odesa the share of youth is also the biggest – 33% (vs. 13% in Kyiv, 7% in Kharkiv, and 3% in Donetsk). As far as foreign students are concerned, Kharkiv stands out a bit, where 28% of students are 25 years and older (vs. 14% in Lugansk, 10% in Odesa and 8% in Kyiv).

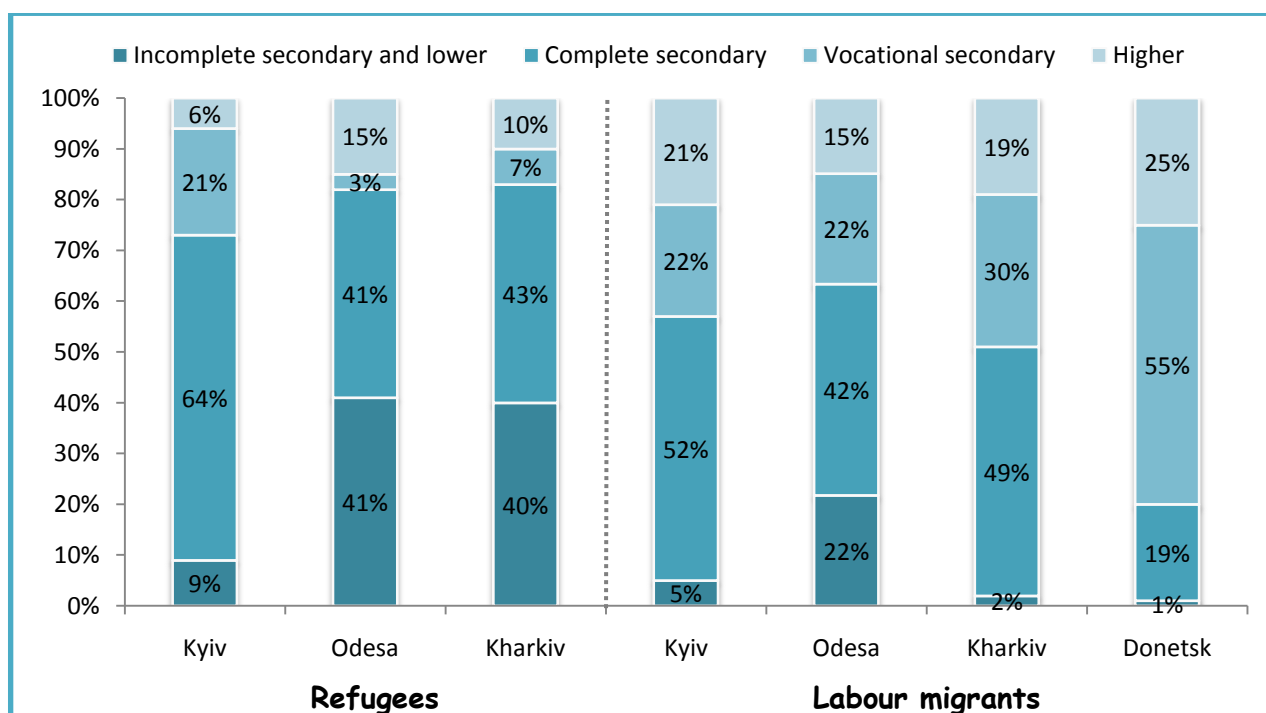


*Pic. 1.1.2 Age structure of foreign migrants in Ukraine*

Among **refugees** in Kyiv every tenth (9%) has very low educational level – incomplete secondary or lower education (see Pic. 1,1,3). The majority (64%) has only complete secondary education. There is a tendency that female refugees are a bit more educated – 36% of them have higher or vocational secondary education, while the share of such people among male refugees makes up 19%. Among refugees in Odesa and Kharkiv 41% and 40% correspondingly have incomplete secondary or lower education and approximately the same percentage of refugees have complete secondary education (however, there is also a tendency that there are more refugees with higher education in these cities). Male refugees are a bit more educated in both of these cities. If 51% among female refugees in Odesa have incomplete secondary or lower education, there are 38% of such among male refugees (at the same time, the share of refugees with complete secondary education makes up 30% and 44% correspondingly). More noticeable differences occur among refugees in Kharkiv, where

78% of women have incomplete secondary or lower education vs. 29% of men (still, at the same time 49% of men have complete secondary and 22% have higher education vs. 22% and 0% of women correspondingly).

The situation is slightly better in case of **labour migrants**. In particular, in Donetsk more than a half of migrants (55%) have vocational secondary education, while 25% have higher education. In other cities the share of people with vocational secondary education makes up from a quarter to a third, while the share of people with higher education – 15-21% depending on the city. Half of labour migrants in Kyiv, Odesa and Kharkiv have only complete secondary education. It should be noted that in Odesa every fourth labour migrant (22%) has only incomplete secondary or lower education. By gender breakdown situation among men and women in Kyiv is quite similar. In Donetsk there are a bit more female labour migrants with higher education – 38% vs.13% among men. The same tendency is observed in Odesa – 28% vs. 12%. Though, the opposite tendency is observed in Kharkiv – only 5% of female labour migrants have higher education, as compared to 26% among men.



*Pic. 1.1.3 Educational structure of foreign migrants in Ukraine*

## 1.2 Family status of foreign migrants

A small share of refugees and labour migrants is married (see Pic. 1.2.1, Pic. 1.2.2). If the vast majority of refugees (two thirds and more) have just never been married, the share of such among labour migrants makes up from a third to a half. At the same time it is “balanced out” by a high share



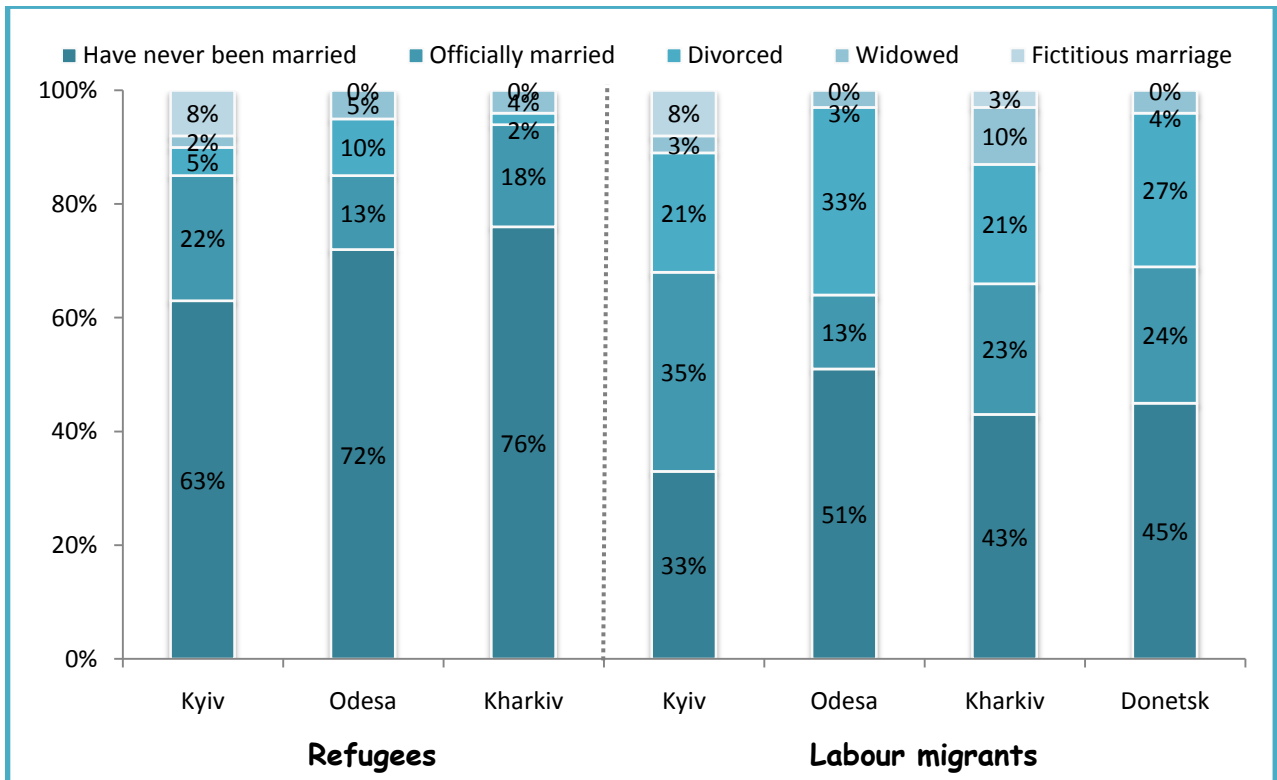
of those who have divorced – from a quarter to a third depending on the region. The vast majority of refugees and migrants also live alone.

Trends are quite similar in terms of separate cities. Half of refugees in Kyiv (52%) do not have official marital relationships, while in Kharkiv the proportion of such refugees makes up 90%.

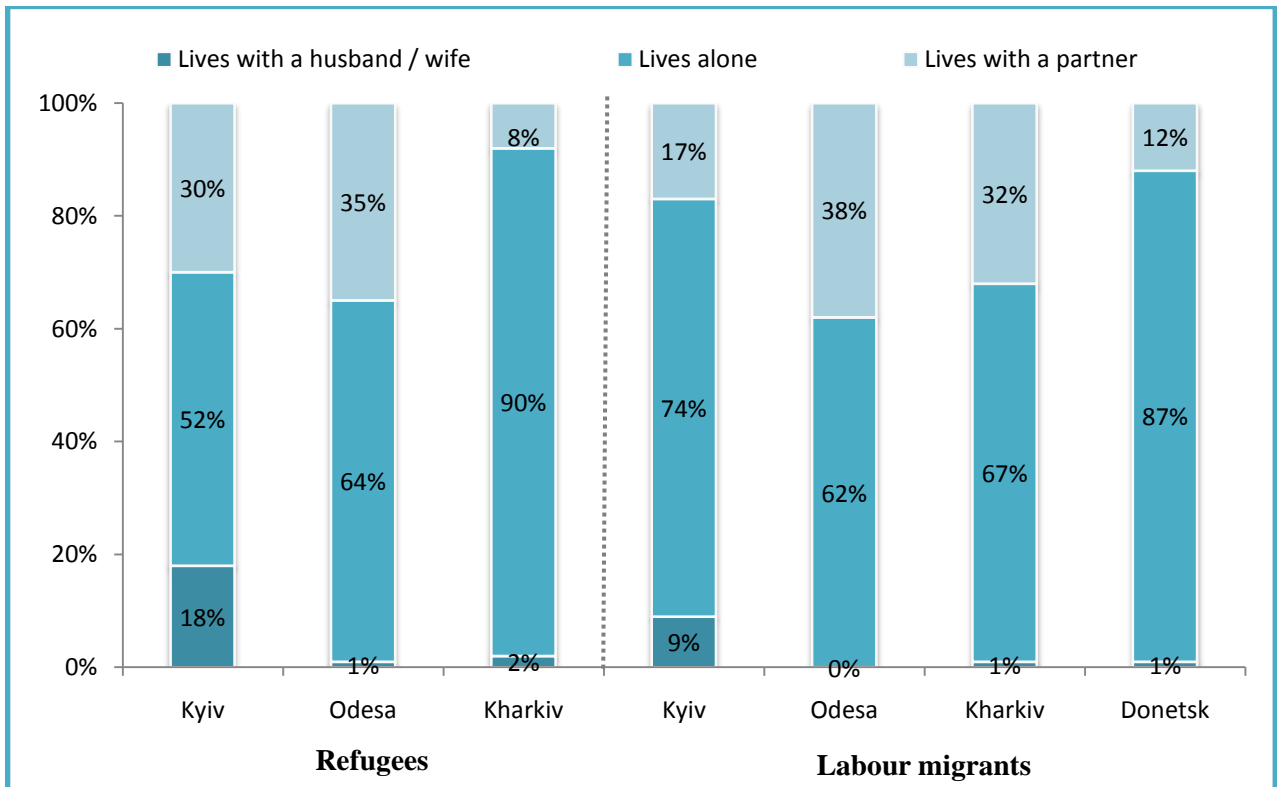
Some differences are observed among categories depending on the sex of labour migrants. In Kyiv the proportion of female and male refugees having marital relationships is approximately the same, while among men there are a bit more of those living alone (64% vs. 40%) and less of those living with a partner (21% vs. 40%). In Odesa there are a bit more of male refugees as compared to female refugees living alone (77% vs. 56%), but less of divorced (4% vs. 32%) and widowed ones (3% vs. 13%). In Odesa the proportion of male and female refugees having official marital relationships is approximately the same (the majority lives alone – 62% and 71% correspondingly). Among male refugees in Kharkiv there are a bit more of officially married (21% vs. 8%) and less of widowed (1% vs. 17%). The absolute majority of male and female refugees in Kharkiv de facto do not have a partner (87% and 99% correspondingly).

As far as **labour migrants** are concerned, not less than two thirds live alone in all four surveyed cities. However, situation in Odesa and Kharkiv is slightly different, where “only” 62% and 67% correspondingly live alone (vs. 74% and 87% in Kyiv and Donetsk correspondingly). As far as gender differences are concerned, the proportion of women and men who reported having official marital relationships or a partner is almost the same among labour migrants in Kharkiv and Donetsk. In Kyiv there are a bit more of unmarried male labour migrants (41% vs. 19%) and a bit less of divorced (13% vs. 32%). The similar tendency is observed among labour migrants in Odesa, where the proportion of unmarried men makes up 60% vs. 21% of women. The proportion of divorced men makes up 23%, divorced women – 64%. Moreover, de facto status significantly differs in Odesa – 69% of men live alone, 75% of women live with a partner.

Almost all **foreign students** (not less than 9 out of 10) have never been married de jure. The relatively lowest proportion of such students is in Odesa – “only” 89% (6% are officially married, 5% are divorced). In Kyiv the proportion of those who have never been married makes up 99%, 100% in Kharkiv, 98% in Lugansk. As far as de facto status is concerned, 73% of students in Odesa live alone, 27% live with a partner. In other cities almost all foreign students live alone: 99% in Kyiv, 99% in Kharkiv, 99% in Lugansk.



Pic. 1.2.1 Family status of foreign migrants in Ukraine (de jure)



1.2.2 Family status of foreign migrants in Ukraine (de facto)

### 1.3 Financial status of foreign migrants

According to the survey results, migrants generally live in quite difficult conditions (see Table 1.3.1). **Refugees** in Odesa are distinguished by the fact that among them there are significantly more of those who often have no money and food – 12% (vs. 1% in Kyiv and 1% in Kharkiv). Kharkiv also stands out against other cities, as 50% of refugees there have enough money only for food (vs. 22% in Odesa and 16% in Kyiv). There are certain differences between men and women. In case of refugees in Kharkiv, almost all women “do not have enough money for food”, while only 8% of men indicated this and 77% of men had enough money for food or had enough money to live. Among refugees in Odesa, women on the contrary feel more endowed – 55% of them have enough money to live (vs. 27% of men). Moreover, 27% of men indicated that they did not have enough money for food or they begged, while no woman chose this option. In Kyiv male and female refugees live in approximately similar conditions.

Among **labour migrants** those living in Kyiv and Odesa distinguish themselves by the highest proportion of those who have enough money for everything necessary (40% and 44% accordingly vs. 14% in Kharkiv and 15% in Donetsk). On the other hand in two latter cities there are significantly more of those who have enough money “just” to live (70% and 57% vs. 35% and 20% accordingly). Men and women live in approximately the same conditions.

As far as **foreign students** are concerned, the overwhelming majority of them in all cities (though, in different proportion) was divided between the options “have enough money to live” and “have enough money for everything necessary, but cannot save it”. Living conditions of men and women are quite similar in Lugansk and Kyiv. Men feel a bit “better” in Odesa, as 20% of them have enough money to live and 50% have enough money for everything necessary, as compared to 42% and 37% of women correspondingly. In Kharkiv men also have better living conditions. If 26% of female students have enough money only for food, there are 7% of such among male students. At the same time 53% of men have enough money to live as compared to 35% of women.

### Financial status of foreign migrants in Ukraine

	Often have no money and food	Do not have enough money for food	Have enough money only for food	In general, have enough money to live	Have enough money for everything necessary, but cannot save it	Have enough money for everything necessary, can save it	Full abundance
<b>Refugees</b>							
→ Kyiv	1	2	16	45	33	3	0
→ Odesa	12	7	22	32	22	0	2
→ Kharkiv	1	9	50	29	9	1	1
<b>Labour migrants</b>							
→ Kyiv	0	0	12	35	40	12	1
→ Odesa	3	10	18	20	44	5	0
→ Kharkiv	0	0	7	70	14	7	2
→ Donetsk	1	1	24	57	15	2	0
<b>Foreign students</b>							
→ Kyiv	0	0	5	30	50	14	1
→ Odesa	0	1	7	25	46	18	3
→ Kharkiv	0	3	16	49	22	7	3
→ Lugansk	0	0	0	55	45	0	0

#### 1.4 Place of residence and existence of registration of foreign migrants

According to the survey results, the place of residence varies significantly depending on the city (see Table 1.4.1). Thus, the overwhelming majority of **refugees** in Kyiv (61%) rent a room, quite a lot rent a flat (30%). On the contrary, in Odesa only 14% rent a room, while the majority lives in a hostel (42%)<sup>10</sup> (28% live in flats). The most popular place of residence in Kharkiv is accommodation shared with other migrants (42%). Every fourth refugee in Kharkiv (22%) lives with relatives or acquaintances (vs. 1% and 2% in Kyiv and Odesa correspondingly). Only 11% rent a room and 10% rent a flat.

The structure of **labour migrants** by the place of residence is more various. The most popular places in Kyiv are flats (39%), rooms (27%) and relatives / acquaintances (16%). Instead, in Odesa the most popular are rooms (29%), flats (26%) and hostels (24%). In Kharkiv the structure by the place of residence reminds of the structure in Kyiv, except for the fact that 20% also live with other migrants

<sup>10</sup> In Odesa there is the only TAFR (Temporary Accommodation Facilities for Refugees) in Ukraine, which can be classified as a hostel.

(vs. only 4% of such in Kyiv). In Donetsk the structure is more or less similar to the structure in Kharkiv.

Among **foreign students** in Kyiv, the overwhelming majority (88%) lives in hostels. In Kharkiv the majority (59%) lives in hostels, but quite a lot lives also in flats (24%). On the contrary, in Odesa and Lugansk only 30% and 32% correspondingly live in hostels. In Odesa 23% rent a flat and 28% rent a room, while in Lugansk the overwhelming majority (63%) rents a flat.

Table 1.4.1

**Place of residence of foreign migrants in Ukraine**

	Hostel	Rent	Among them				Live with relatives / acquaintances	Own dwelling
			Rent a flat	Rent a room	Rent a bed	Rent accommodation with other migrants		
<b>Refugees</b>								
→ Kyiv	0	97	30	61	5	1	1	2
→ Odesa	42	56	28	14	5	9	2	0
→ Kharkiv	9*	66	10	11	3	42	22	3
<b>Labour migrants</b>								
→ Kyiv	4	72	39	27	2	4	16	8
→ Odesa	24	72	26	29	6	11	2	2
→ Kharkiv	8	68	27	20	1	20	20	4
→ Donetsk	1	71	32	19	1	19	23	5
<b>Foreign students</b>								
→ Kyiv	88	12	11	0	0	1	0	0
→ Odesa	30	64	23	28	5	8	6	0
→ Kharkiv	59	38	24	8	0	6	2	3
→ Lugansk	32	66	63	3	0	0	2	0

\* Taking into account that there is no hostel for refugees in Kharkiv, the data obtained can be interpreted as unofficial residence.

Given the fact that all the data were obtained by respondents' self-reporting without checking their documents concerning registration as well as stay and work permit, some contradictory data have been received within the survey. Thus, for example, there are migrants who have work permit without having stay permit, which is legally impossible. Therefore, the following information does not only describe the situation concerning the legal status of migrants, but may be also a sign of respondents' poor awareness about these issues.

According to the respondents, the overwhelming majority of **refugees** in Kyiv (91%) have temporary registration<sup>11</sup> (see Table 1.4.2). In Odesa 50% have temporary registration and 39% have stay permit or stay and work permit. In Kharkiv 22% have temporary registration and 5% have stay permit, while 73% do not have official status at all.

*Facts:* According to the current legislation, all people who have officially received a “refugee status” in Ukraine have the right for employment (Art. 18 and 20 of the Law of Ukraine “On refugees”).

Therefore, all respondents should have indicated the existence of work permit, which indicates a lack of their rights knowledge by the target group.

As far as **labour migrants** are concerned, the overwhelming majority in Kyiv (64%) reported having at least temporary registration and work permit. Quite a lot (24%) has only temporary registration, i.e. they can legally stay at the territory of Ukraine and 2% does not have official status at all. 43% of labour migrants in Odesa reported having temporary registration and 36% reported having stay and work permit (plus 8% have work permit). 9% reported not having official status at all. In Kharkiv labour migrants have significantly less legal status – the relative majority (36%) reported having only temporary registration, only 17% have stay and work permit, 9% have stay permit and 15% have work permit. However, 23% (i.e. every fourth labour migrant in the city) do not have official status at all. Almost all interviewed labour migrants in Donetsk (98%) reported having no official status.

Some gender differences should be additionally noted. In Kyiv among men there are more of those who have both stay and work permit– 70% vs. 52% among women. At the same time among women there are more of those who have only stay permit – 41% vs. 13%. In Kharkiv among men there are also a bit more of those who have both stay and work permit – 26% vs. 6%, while among women there are more of those who have work permit – 33% vs. 8%. The situation among men and women in Odesa and Donetsk is very similar.

All foreign students have received a study visa and temporary registration according to the legislation of Ukraine.

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<sup>11</sup> This refers to the registration received by citizens when crossing the border together with customs card.

Table 1.4.2

### Official status of foreign migrants in Ukraine

	Stay and work permit	Stay permit	Work permit	Temporary registration	Study visa	Have no official status
<b>Refugees</b>						
→ Kyiv	1	3	1	91	0	4
→ Odesa	4	35	0	50	0	11
→ Kharkiv	0	5	0	22	0	73
<b>Labour migrants</b>						
→ Kyiv	64	24	2	8	0	2
→ Odesa	36	0	8	43	4	9
→ Kharkiv	17	9	15	36	0	23
→ Donetsk	0	2	0	1	0	98
<b>Foreign students</b>						
→ Kyiv	0	0	0		100	0
→ Odesa	0	0	0		100	0
→ Kharkiv	0	0	0	0	100	0
→ Lugansk	0	0	0	0	100	0

### 1.5 Employment experience of new foreign migrants in Ukraine

The vast majority of **refugees** in Kyiv and Kharkiv had a job at the moment of interview conduction (92% and 78% correspondingly) (see Table 1.5.1). In Odesa only 45% of refugees had a job. In general, those working in Ukraine, work based on oral agreement (73% among employed refugees in Kyiv, 91% in Odesa, 83% in Kharkiv). It should be also noted that in Kyiv there are quite a lot of refugees (27%) who are self-employed, though not registered. If analyze the situation in terms of men and women, noticeable differences are observed in case of refugees only in Odesa, where the proportion of female workers makes up 21%, while the proportion of male workers makes up 51%. It should be also noted that among male refugees in Kyiv there are a bit more of those, who are self-employed (though not registered) – 36% vs. 16% of women (even though the majority of men and women work based on oral agreement).

Almost all interviewed **labour migrants** had a job at the moment of interview conduction (the relatively least proportion was in Odesa – 85%). As far as the employment status is concerned, the absolute majority in Odesa and Donetsk (81% and 93% correspondingly) worked based on oral agreement. In Kharkiv the majority of labour migrants (64%) also works based on oral agreement, though there are quite a lot of those who also work based on official contract (21%). In Kyiv the proportion of those working based on oral agreement is the least one – “only” 39%. On the contrary, 56% are self-employed (including 34% of registered and 22% of not registered).

According to the received results, **foreign students** are not very much involved into work life – only in Odesa 13% of the interviewed foreign students had a job, in other cities none or almost none of the respondents worked. Altogether in four cities only 15 respondent students worked, only 1 of whom had official contract, 14 worked based on oral agreement (even though these results are statistically unreliable, they still provide an idea of a certain tendency).

Table 1.5.1

### Employment of foreign migrants in Ukraine

	Have a job →→→→	Work (among those, who had a job)...					
		Contract	Oral agreement	Private entrepreneur	Self-employed (not registered)	Self-employed (registered)	Businessman-employer
<b>Refugees</b>							
→ Kyiv	91	0	73	0	27	0	0
→ Odesa	45	1	92	4	3	0	0
→ Kharkiv	78	2	83	9	6	0	0
<b>Labour migrants</b>							
→ Kyiv	90	3	39	2	34	22	0
→ Odesa	85	18	81	1	0	0	0
→ Kharkiv	94	21	64	3	8	2	0
→ Donetsk	100	5	93	0	2	0	0
<b>Foreign students</b>							
→ Kyiv	1	---	---	---	---	---	---
→ Odesa	13	---	---	---	---	---	---
→ Kharkiv	0	---	---	---	---	---	---
→ Lugansk	0	---	---	---	---	---	---

The most popular employment sphere among **refugees** is trade. Thus, 84% of refugees in Kyiv work in this sphere, 85% of refugees in Odesa and 54% of refugees in Kharkiv (see Table 1.5.2). In Kharkiv there are lots of refugees involved in construction (26%) and entertainment sector (18%).

Among **labour migrants** trade sphere undoubtedly “prevails” only in Kyiv (79%). In Odesa the majority (59%) also works in trade sphere, though a lot of people (17%) are employed in construction. In Kharkiv and Donetsk the employment structure is more diverse. Thus, in the capital of Slobozhanshchyna labour migrants are first of all employed in trade (27%), construction (22%) and entertainment sector (18%). In the capital of Donbas labour migrants are first of all employed in trade (28%), construction (20%) and transport, communications (17%).

There are some “gender” peculiarities of the horizontal working structure. In particular, it should be noted that among male labour migrants in Odesa there are significantly more of those



involved in the construction sphere (22% vs. 2%) and in trade sphere (65% vs. 46%). In Kharkiv more men are also employed in trade sphere (33% vs. 13%). At the same time there are more of female labour migrants in Kharkiv taking care after people (29% vs. 1%). In Donetsk much more male labour migrants are involved in construction (41% vs. 3%) and in the sphere of transport and communications (35% vs. 0%). Instead, among women there are more of those taking care after people (19% vs. 0%) and working in trade sphere (41% vs. 13%).

As far as **foreign students** are concerned, 8 out of 15 working respondents have been involved in trade sphere.

Table 1.5.2

### Employment of foreign migrants in Ukraine

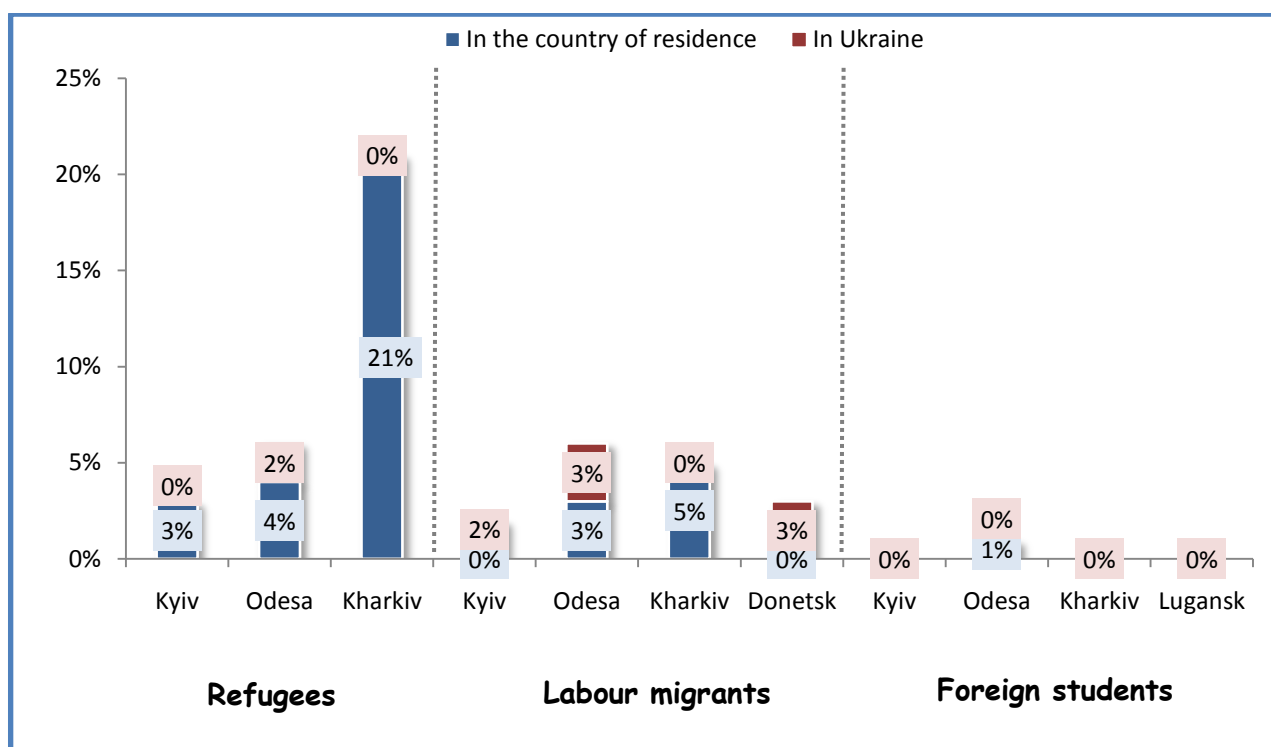
	Construction	Industry	Taking care after people	Entertainment sector	Service sector	Banking sector	Education	Transport, communications	Medicine	Trade	Agriculture	Sex industry
<b>Refugees</b>												
→ Kyiv	1	0	0	10	2	0	0	3	0	84	0	0
→ Odesa	7	0	0	7	3	0	0	3	0	85	0	0
→ Kharkiv	26	3	0	18	8	0	0	11	0	54	1	0
<b>Labour migrants</b>												
→ Kyiv	4	0	1	7	7	0	0	1	3	79	0	0
→ Odesa	17	2	0	5	0	0	4	7	6	59	3	0
→ Kharkiv	22	4	9	18	4	0	5	6	1	27	5	1
→ Donetsk	20	0	11	13	9	0	0	17	4	28	1	0

### 1.6 Imprisonment experience of foreign migrants in Ukraine

According to the survey results, a small share of migrants reported having imprisonment experience (however, it should be noted that this question is very sensitive, i.e. a part of migrants because of their quasi-legal or illegal status in Ukraine (please, see above) could be afraid answering “yes”, therefore the given estimates are rather conservative, i.e. are rather the lowest limit of the prevalence of such experience).

Only **refugees** in Kharkiv stand out among all groups and all cities, as 21% of them had imprisonment experience in the country of residence (0% in Ukraine). 3% of refugees had such an experience in Kyiv, 4% in Odesa. As far as **labour migrants** are concerned, respondents from Kharkiv had the relatively most common imprisonment experience in the country of residence – 5%. In Kyiv and Donetsk labour migrants did not have such an experience in their country (in Ukraine – 2% and

3% correspondingly), while in Odesa 3% had such an experience (in Ukraine – 3%). As far as **foreign students** are concerned, no one had imprisonment experience either in the country of residence or in Ukraine.



*Pic. 1.6.1 Imprisonment experience of foreign migrants in Ukraine*

### Key findings and discussion of the section results

The given social and demographic characteristics describe the structure of the group reached within the survey, so it cannot be perceived as credible information for the whole group of foreign migrants in Ukraine. The data are presented for a clearer understanding of which group among migrants was studied and give a possibility to interpret behavioural practices given below according to certain social and demographic characteristics.

On the whole, men of middle and older age prevail among interviewed new foreign migrants (except for students, among whom youth prevails). Respondents are characterized by quite a low educational level and live in poor financial conditions. As for the family status, those who have never been married and those who have already divorced prevail, and the vast majority of foreign migrants actually live alone. Except for students, new foreign migrants are characterized by relatively high labour activity despite the fact that first of all, they are mostly unofficially employed and secondly, at low qualified jobs.

A similar study conducted in 2011 among Ukrainian labour migrants (internal and external)<sup>12</sup> showed that mostly men of middle or older age (25 and over) prevail among this category as well as among new foreign migrants.,

If a “typical” Ukrainian and foreign migrant are similar by the age and gender structure, according to the educational level Ukrainian migrants take precedence over new foreign migrants (if not taking into account foreign students who continue improving their educational qualifications in Ukraine). Almost a half of Ukrainian migrants (43%) have higher education. As for the foreign migrants, the share of those having higher education ranges from 6% to 25% depending on the category and area of residence. If comparing to the general population of Ukraine, according to the data of the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology<sup>13</sup>, 33% of residents of regional centres have secondary vocational education and 42% have higher education. Accordingly, taking into account the difficult social and economic situation, foreign migrants staying in Ukraine (except for foreign students) are previously disadvantaged.

New foreign migrants also have significantly less permanent relationships (have a husband / wife / permanent partner with whom they live) as compared to Ukrainian migrants. The vast majority of foreign migrants has never been married or has already divorced. At the same time, only 18% have never been married among residents of regional centres (including 4% of those in civil marriage), 64% are now married (including 2% of married de jure, but living apart de facto), 7% of divorced, 11% of widowed<sup>14</sup>. Only 27% of Ukrainian labour migrants have never been married, 42% are now married. 10% also have unregistered marriage, 19% are divorced, 2% are widowed.

An interesting comparison is that there are no significant differences among subjective assessment of their financial status by new foreign migrants, Ukrainian labour migrants and the general population. If refugees live in a bit worse conditions (according to our survey results), labour migrants and foreign students have the same level of life as “native” population and Ukrainian migrants. Obviously, it should be taken into account that the question is formulated in a way that subjective assessment of their own welfare is provided. Due to the fact that Ukrainians can have some reference values for themselves (i.e. “standard” of the welfare to which they compare their situation) and foreign migrants can have different values (based on social and cultural peculiarities of their countries of origin), the subjective level of both Ukrainians and foreign migrants will be on average the same. Except for foreign students, refugees and labour migrants show generally higher labour activity than the general population of Ukraine (in September, 2013 53% of the adult population of

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<sup>12</sup> Hereinafter results of the survey “Monitoring the behavior and HIV infection prevalence among Ukrainian labour migrants as a component of HIV second generation surveillance”, conducted in 2011, are used in case of Ukrainian labour migrants.

<sup>13</sup> All-Ukrainian representative survey “Omnibus”, conducted in May, 2013 by KIIS.

<sup>14</sup> All-Ukrainian representative survey “Omnibus”, conducted in February, 2013 by KIIS.

regional centres were working). At the same time, foreign migrants are at lower level in the employment structure – the vast majority is employed in the sphere of construction, trade, entertainment (as Ukrainian migrants, even though the employment structure among the latter is a bit more diverse). Only a half of the general employed population are employees or servants (performing tasks that do not require higher education), while 39% are specialists (holding positions that require higher education).

It should be also noted that imprisonment experience among foreign and Ukrainian migrants is almost the same (2-4%).

## SECTION II. PRACTICE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE

The second section examines practices that can be considered as factors of risky behavior: alcohol and drug use.

### 2.1 Practice of alcohol consumption among foreign migrants

Practice of alcohol consumption within the last month (30 days preceding the survey) is quite widespread among foreign migrants. Thus, only among respondent **refugees** in Odesa this practice is less common – only 16% of them consume alcohol (see Table 2.1.1). Though, the overwhelming majority of refugees in Kyiv and Kharkiv consume alcohol (60% and 63% correspondingly). There are some noticeable differences among men and women in Kharkiv, where 15% of women and 76% of men consume alcohol.

Among **labour migrants** only respondents from Odesa are characterized by relatively lowest prevalence of this practice (38%), while the overwhelming majority of labour migrants in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Donetsk consume alcohol (61%, 75% and 84% correspondingly). The prevalence of alcohol consumption among male and female labour migrants in Odesa and Donetsk is approximately the same. In Kyiv women consume alcohol more often (76% vs. 51% of men), while in Kharkiv men consume alcohol more often (49% vs. 89%).

**Foreign students** are characterized by the lowest prevalence of this practice. The relatively biggest number of “consumers” is in Odesa, where more than a half (52%) reported consuming alcohol. In Kyiv and Kharkiv 37% and 27% correspondingly consume alcohol, while in Lugansk there is only 9% of such. Men more often consume alcohol: 46% vs. 19% in Kyiv, 60% vs. 35% in Odesa, 43% vs. 10% in Kharkiv.

Table 2.1.1

### Alcohol consumption among foreign migrants in Ukraine

	Consume alcohol →→→	Have consumed alcohol within the last month (among those consuming alcohol)...					
		Every day	2-3 times a week	3-4 times a month	1-2 times a month	Several times a year	Never
<b>Refugees</b>							
→ Kyiv	60	0	5	24	59	12	0
→ Odesa	16	0	7	12	66	5	10
→ Kharkiv	63	0	5	18	30	44	0
<b>Labour migrants</b>							
→ Kyiv	61	0	27	37	36	0	0
→ Odesa	38	0	7	40	34	15	3
→ Kharkiv	75	0	8	13	34	36	0
→ Donetsk	84	0	14	20	39	26	1
<b>Іноземні студенти</b>							
→ Kyiv	37	0	1	3	78	18	0
→ Odesa	52	0	5	38	50	6	0
→ Kharkiv	27	0	3	5	30	57	5
→ Lugansk	9	---	---	---	---	---	---

## 2.2 Drug use among foreign migrants

Table 2.2.1 below provides data on the prevalence of drug use practice. As it can be seen, quite a few migrants use injecting drugs. Use of non-injection drugs is a bit more widespread. Refugees in Kharkiv should be especially noted, 24% of whom have had an experience of using these drugs (although, only 4% are using them now) as well as labour migrants in Odesa, 18% of whom have had such an experience (4% are using them now).

Table 2.2.1

### Drug use among foreign migrants in Ukraine

	Non-injecting drugs		Injecting drugs	
	Is using now	Used before	Is using now	Used before
<b>Refugees</b>				
→ Kyiv	10	0	4	0
→ Odesa	0	3	0	4
→ Kharkiv	4	20	0	4
<b>Labour migrants</b>				
→ Kyiv	2	2	0	0
→ Odesa	4	14	0	8
→ Kharkiv	6	4	1	2
→ Donetsk	3	4	0	0
<b>Foreign students</b>				
→ Kyiv	0	0	0	0
→ Odesa	2	10	0	2
→ Kharkiv	4	1	0	0
→ Lugansk	1	3	4	0

#### Key findings and discussion of the section results

Usage of alcohol and non-injection drugs is not a direct factor of HIV infection. However, these practices are closely related to risky sexual behavior, therefore studying the spread of such practices was one of the tasks for researchers.

On the whole, alcohol consumption is quite a widespread practice among new foreign migrants, but the frequency of its use does not indicate the systematic abuse. As for drugs, very few foreign migrants use them, including very few injecting drug users.

Even though alcohol consumption is quite widespread among foreign migrants, according to the data of the Institute of Sociology in 2010, 80% of adult population of Ukraine consumes alcohol beverages in Ukraine<sup>15</sup>. 74-77% of Ukrainian migrants consume alcohol. Apparently, the prevalence of this practice among migrants does not exceed its prevalence among Ukrainians and can be even lower in some cases.

At the same time, the overwhelming majority of migrants consuming alcohol, do this from 1-2 to 3-4 times per month. Accordingly, 48% of the population of Ukraine (among those consuming alcohol) consumes it from 1-2 to 3-4 times per month, 42% consumes alcohol several times a year. In

<sup>15</sup> Ukrainian societies of 1992 - 2010. Sociological monitoring // [http://i-soc.com.ua/institute/el\\_library.php](http://i-soc.com.ua/institute/el_library.php).

this case we can see that there is a tendency that migrants consume alcohol a bit more often than the “native” population. However, differences can be determined by different demographic and social structure of migrants and “native” population. It should be also added that the general frequency of alcohol consumption among Ukrainian migrants is higher – 9-15% consume alcohol every day, 51-54% - not less than once a week, 28-39% - once a month.

Certain limitations on studying this issue should be noted. Prevalence of alcohol use can be closely connected to religious norms that may be inherent in certain groups of respondents. But researchers did not raise the question of religious identity.

As it has already been noted, the practice of drug use is not very common, there are especially few of those injecting drugs – the biggest share of injecting drug users is among refugees in Kyiv (4%) and foreign students in Lugansk (4%) (even though 8% of labour migrants in Odesa used to inject drugs, but do not use them now). However, the prevalence of this practice is also relatively low among Ukrainian migrants – only 2-3% has ever tried injecting drugs in their lives.



## SECTION III. SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR OF FOREIGN MIGRANTS

The third section is devoted to studying sexual practices of foreign migrants – sexual activity, different types of sexual partners (permanent, casual and commercial) and practice of condom use.

### 3.1 Sexual activity and contacts with permanent partners

The absolute majority of interviewed migrants are sexually active. Students from Kharkiv are the least sexually active, only 55% of them have ever had sexual contacts (see Table 3.1.1). It should be noted that only 52% of female refugees in Odesa are sexually active, while the proportion of such men in the city makes up 70%. There are also much more sexually active people among male foreign students: 80% vs. 45% of women in Kyiv, 91% vs. 57% in Odesa, 95% vs. 18% in Kharkiv (in Lugansk only 6 respondents were women, therefore we cannot even define the tendency, though it should be noted that the proportion of sexually active men makes up 83%).

Within the last year the majority of migrants (from a half to three fourths) have had permanent sexual partners. The only exception was students in Lugansk, only 8% of whom had permanent partners. There also have been some gender peculiarities. Thus, among male refugees in Kharkiv there is bigger share of those who have had a permanent partner – 50% vs. 28% among women. On the contrary, in Kyiv having a permanent partner is more typical for women as compared to men – 86% vs. 61%.

As far as labour migrants are concerned, having permanent partners was also more widespread among women: in Odesa (87% vs. 57%) and Kharkiv (85% vs. 68%). The similar tendency occurs among foreign students: 79% of male students vs. 44% of female students in Kyiv, 98% vs. 83% in Odesa, 56% vs. 44% in Kharkiv.

Condom use varies significantly depending on the categories of migrants and the city. Thus, in case of **refugees** safe sexual behavior is mostly widespread in Odesa, where 83% used condoms during their last sex, 51% had always used them in the last 12 months. In Kharkiv 52% used condoms during their last sexual contact, but only 26% reported having always used them with a permanent partner/s in the last 12 months. In Kyiv 24% of refugees used condoms during their last sexual contact, 7% reported their constant use in the last 12 months.

Among **labour migrants** respondents from Odesa are also characterized by greater consistency – 68% of them used condoms during their last sexual contact and 51% had always used condoms in the last 12 months. Then Donetsk goes having 56% and 38% correspondingly. In Kharkiv a half of labour migrants (50%) used condoms during their last sexual contact, 19% had always used condoms in the last 12 months. The riskiest sexual behavior with permanent partners is in Kyiv, where (as in case with

refugees) only 21% used condoms during their last sex and only 14% had always used them with a permanent partner/s in the last 12 months.

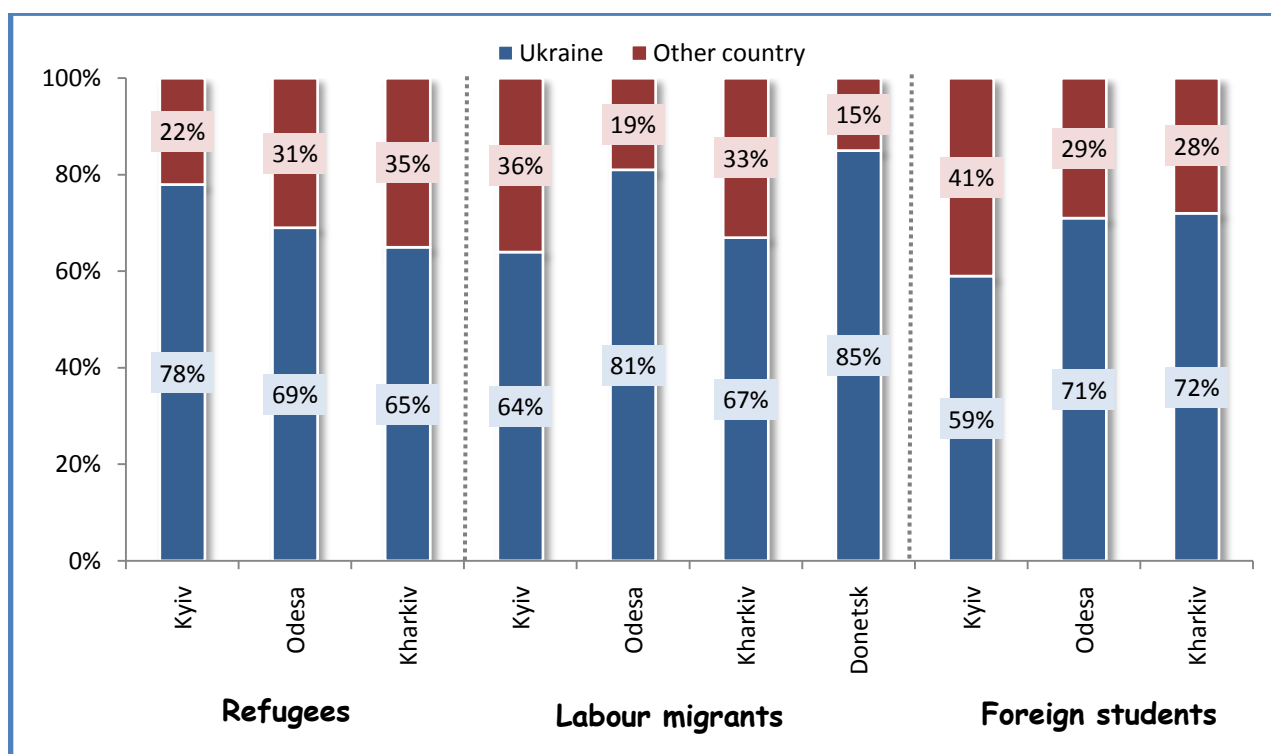
The majority of **foreign students** reported the fact of condom use during their last sexual contact, but only about a half of respondents mentioned the consistency of this practice in the last 12 months (see Table 3.1.1)..

Table 3.1.1

### Sexual activity of foreign migrants in Ukraine

	Sexually active	Had permanent partners within the last year	Used condoms during the last sex	Frequency of condom use within the last 12 months:					
				Always	In most cases	In half of the cases	Rarely	Sometimes	Never
<b>Refugees</b>									
→ Kyiv	98	73	24	7	8	15	14	10	45
→ Odesa	68	65	83	51	11	10	11	5	11
→ Kharkiv	96	46	52	26	18	17	12	18	7
<b>Labour migrants</b>									
→ Kyiv	96	78	21	14	5	11	16	18	36
→ Odesa	88	65	68	51	12	12	10	5	10
→ Kharkiv	96	63	50	19	23	13	24	9	11
→ Donetsk	100	78	56	38	12	14	4	6	27
<b>Foreign students</b>									
→ Kyiv	69	53	69	48	19	29	1	2	1
→ Odesa	80	85	60	28	20	18	17	10	4
→ Kharkiv	55	48	83	43	20	14	15	3	5
→ Lugansk	82	8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

According to the survey results, permanent partners of the overwhelming majority of new foreign migrants were citizens of Ukraine. That is, foreign migrants in this context have close connections with the general population of Ukraine, which means that in case of aggravation of epidemiological situation among this group the problem may rapidly spread to general population (especially taking into account the low prevalence of condom use – see above).



*Pic. 3.1.1 Nationality of the last permanent partner*

### 3.2 Contacts with casual partners

Casual sexual contacts are quite common among foreign migrants. In general, from a third to a half of the respondents have had at least one casual partner within the last year (see Table 3.2.1). Refugees in Kharkiv and students in Lugansk should be noted, as 59% and 69% correspondingly had casual partners (it is appropriate to recall that only 8% of foreign students in Lugansk had permanent partners – see above).

According to the obtained data, men more often have casual partners. In particular, 46% of sexually active men among labour migrants in Kyiv have had such partners within the last year as compared to 15% of women. In case of labour migrants in Odesa the ratio is 45% and 9%, in Donetsk – 66% and 17% (while in Kharkiv the proportion is almost the same). The same tendency occurs among foreign students: 60% vs. 11% in Kyiv, 48% vs. 4% in Odesa, 33% vs. 8% in Kharkiv.

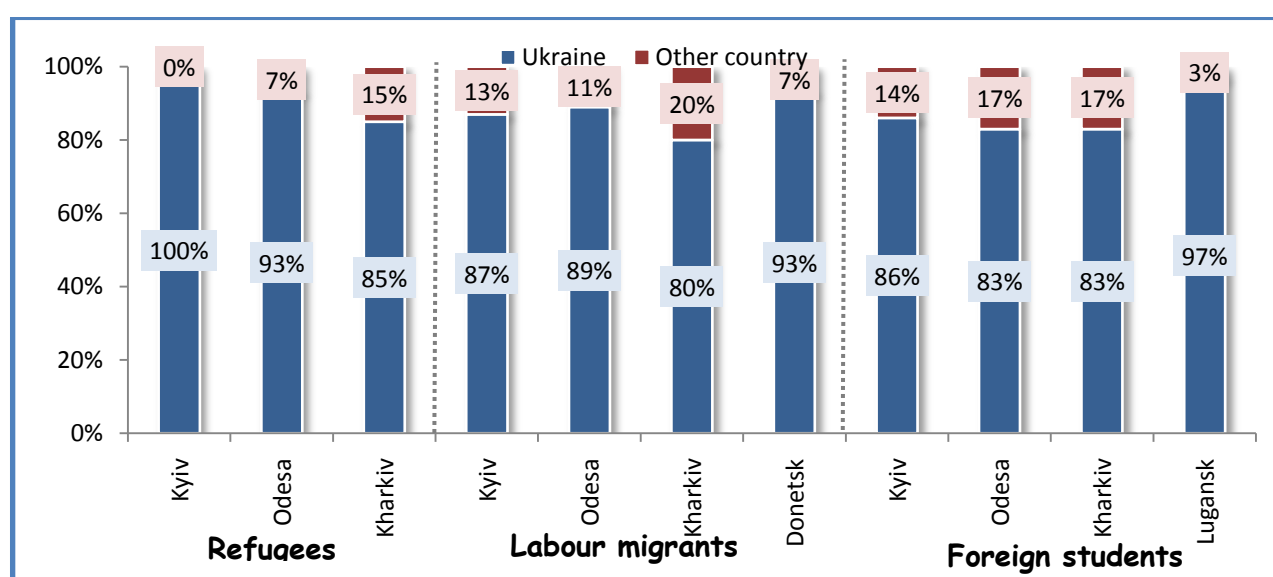
In comparison to permanent partners, the frequency of condom use is much higher, but still a lot of migrants practice unprotected sex with casual partners. Thus, special attention should be paid to refugees in Kyiv, where 73% of the respondents used condoms during their last sexual contact, but only 33% had always practiced safe sexual behavior in the last 12 months. Almost half of labour migrants in Kyiv and Kharkiv reported the cases of not using condoms during the last year (though, 71% and 93% correspondingly used condoms during their last sex) (see Table 3.2.1).

Table 3.2.1

## Sexual contacts with casual partners

	Have had casual partners within the last year	Used condoms during their last sex	Frequency of condom use within the last 12 months:					
			Always	In most cases	In half of the cases	Rarely	Sometimes	Never
<b>Refugees</b>								
→ Kyiv	30	73	33	21	18	9	4	15
→ Odesa	32	94	84	5	1	5	5	0
→ Kharkiv	59	85	70	11	3	3	0	1
<b>Labour migrants</b>								
→ Kyiv	32	71	57	13	10	2	3	15
→ Odesa	36	83	72	2	12	11	3	0
→ Kharkiv	26	93	58	30	0	2	0	5
→ Donetsk	40	89	78	21	0	0	0	1
<b>Foreign students</b>								
→ Kyiv	48	99	78	16	5	1	0	0
→ Odesa	42	98	83	8	9	0	0	0
→ Kharkiv	30	89	67	10	7	8	1	0
→ Lugansk	69	96	90	10	0	0	0	0

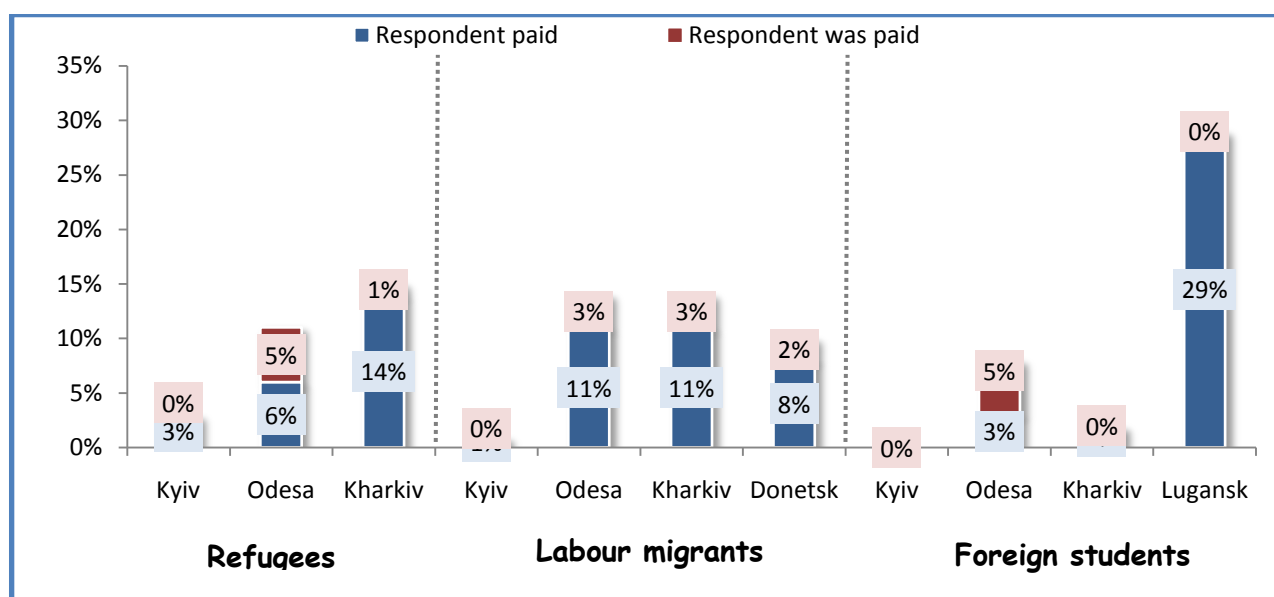
The absolute majority of casual partners were citizens of Ukraine (see Pic. 3.2). Accordingly, as in the case with permanent partners, new foreign migrants are closely connected to the general population.



Pic. 3.1.2 Nationality of the last casual partner

### 3.3 Contacts with commercial partners

Contacts with commercial partners are much less common, but for certain categories of migrants it is essential to use services of commercial sexual partners. Special attention should be paid to refugees in Kharkiv (14% have had commercial partner to whom they paid within the last year), labour migrants in Odesa and Kharkiv (11% each) and foreign students in Lugansk (29%). According to the survey results, foreign students in Lugansk have much more casual and commercial partners than permanent ones.



Pic. 3.3.1 Experience of contacts with commercial partners

#### Key findings and discussion of the section results

The majority of foreign migrants is sexually active and has permanent or casual partners, most of whom are Ukrainian citizens. Quite a few foreign migrants have an experience of commercial partners; in single cases migrants themselves provided such services. Condom use practices vary significantly depending on the category of foreign migrants and the region of residence. But in general, foreign migrants use condoms much more consistently with casual partners, while there are numerous cases of unprotected sexual contacts with permanent partners. The vast majority of sexual partners of foreign migrants are citizens of Ukraine.

Condom use is not an obligatory practice for the majority of migrants despite the type of sexual partners. The presence of risky practices with permanent, commercial and casual partners is proved by the data on condom non-use during last sexual contact with these partners. Even greater proportion of migrants certified cases of condom non-use during the last year preceding the survey.

## SECTION IV. INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND STDs. TESTING FOR HIV

Data on the prevalence of different sexually transmitted infections and infectious diseases will be considered in this section. Information on the experience of HIV testing among migrants and their knowledge about their HIV status will be also provided.

### 4.1 Infectious diseases and STDs

Table 4.1.1 below provides information about the prevalence of different infectious diseases and STDs among foreign migrants. A small share of respondents indicated having such diseases. Taking into account that information about this was received from respondents' words, a situation is possible that, firstly, some of them do not know about their disease, secondly, they suppressed it, because the question is quite sensitive. Accordingly, the given results are conservative estimates, which is rather the lowest limit of prevalence of corresponding infectious diseases and STDs.

Table 4.1.1

#### Having infectious diseases and STDs within the last 12 months

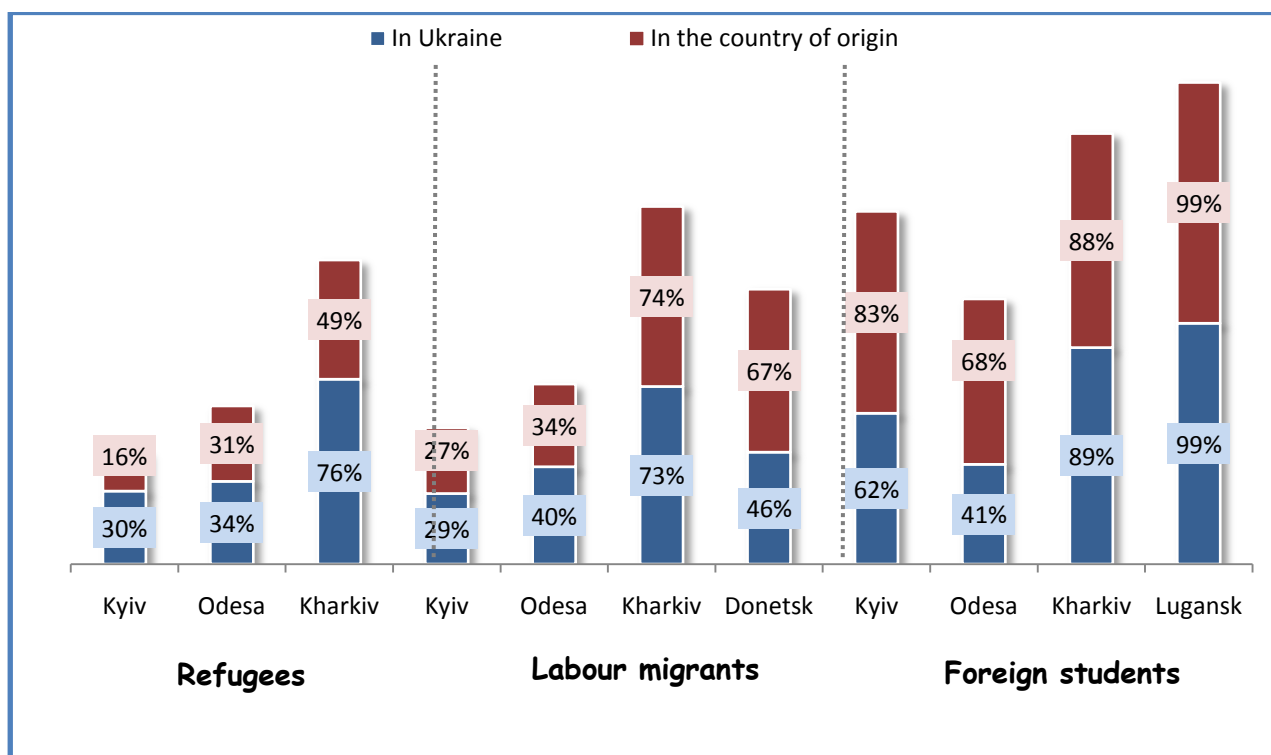
	Tuberculosis	Gonorrhea	Genital herpes	Chlamydia infection	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis C	Syphilis	Trichomoniasis
<b>Refugees</b>								
→ Kyiv	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
→ Odesa	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
→ Kharkiv	0	0	2	3	0	2	0	2
<b>Labour migrants</b>								
→ Kyiv	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
→ Odesa	0	2	2	3	0	0	1	0
→ Kharkiv	0	0	5	3	1	0	1	4
→ Donetsk	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Foreign students</b>								
→ Kyiv	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
→ Odesa	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	3
→ Kharkiv	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
→ Lugansk	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3

## 4.2 Testing for HIV

According to the survey results, knowledge of where a person can be HIV-tested varies significantly depending on the group and the city. Thus, the overwhelming majority of refugees in Kharkiv (76%) know where a person can be tested in Ukraine (only 49% know the same information about their native country) (see Pic. 4.2.1). However, only a third of refugees in Kyiv and Odesa know it (30% and 34% correspondingly).

A similar situation is among labour migrants. Thus, 73% in Kharkiv know where they can be tested for HIV in Ukraine, while less than a half knows it in Donetsk and Odesa (46% and 40% correspondingly). And only 29% know about this in Kyiv.

In this context the situation among foreign students is much better. Only Odesa is the exception, as only 41% of students there know where they can be tested for HIV in Ukraine.



Pic. 4.2.1 Knowledge of where a person can be tested for HIV

According to the survey results, more than a half of respondents had the experience of HIV testing: the minimum indicator is among labour migrants in Odesa (51%), the maximum – among foreign students in Kyiv (100%), which is connected to the fact that testing for HIV is a compulsory condition for getting a study visa.

It is relatively less common among labour migrants in Kyiv (53%) and Odesa (51%) (see Table 4.2.2). In other cities and among other categories of foreign migrants not less than two thirds have had the experience of HIV testing.

The table below also contains reasons for HIV testing. As it can be seen they differ a lot for different groups and different cities, that is, they are likely to reflect the unique situation of the particular city among the specific group and reflect peculiarities of the formed sample.

It should be noted that in terms of gender categories the situation is essentially different only in Donetsk among labour migrants, where 90% of women were tested as compared to 49% of men.

Table 4.2.2

### Experience of HIV testing

	Have ever been tested	Reasons for testing									
		Own initiative	Partner's initiative	Risky behavior experience	Family initiative	Doctor's referral	Pregnancy	Medical examination not connected to work, etc.	Certificate for work / study abroad	Certificate for work / higher educational institution	Other
<b>Refugees</b>											
→ Kyiv	91	20	0	0	1	4	8	66	2	0	0
→ Odesa	68	82	3	2	0	4	0	17	3	7	0
→ Kharkiv	80	15	0	3	1	3	4	20	3	13	33
<b>Labour migrants</b>											
→ Kyiv	53	51	0	0	0	0	8	37	2	2	0
→ Odesa	51	86	5	0	0	0	0	1	28	24	0
→ Kharkiv	74	10	0	7	1	3	4	18	3	52	0
→ Donetsk	70	40	7	3	4	8	25	6	7	4	0
<b>Foreign students</b>											
→ Kyiv	100	4	0	3	0	0	0	1	18	85	0
→ Odesa	78	86	2	0	1	0	0	3	51	2	0
→ Kharkiv	93	4	0	0	0	0	2	11	7	76	0
→ Lugansk	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0

In most cases the absolute majority of migrants were tested for the last time in Ukraine. The only exceptions are labour migrants and foreign students in Odesa, where only 40% and 48% correspondingly were tested in Ukraine (see Table 4.2.3). Attention should be paid to the availability



of pre-test and post-test counseling. In a lot of cases there are very few of those, who received pre-test and post-test counseling, especially among foreign students and refugees.

Table 4.2.3

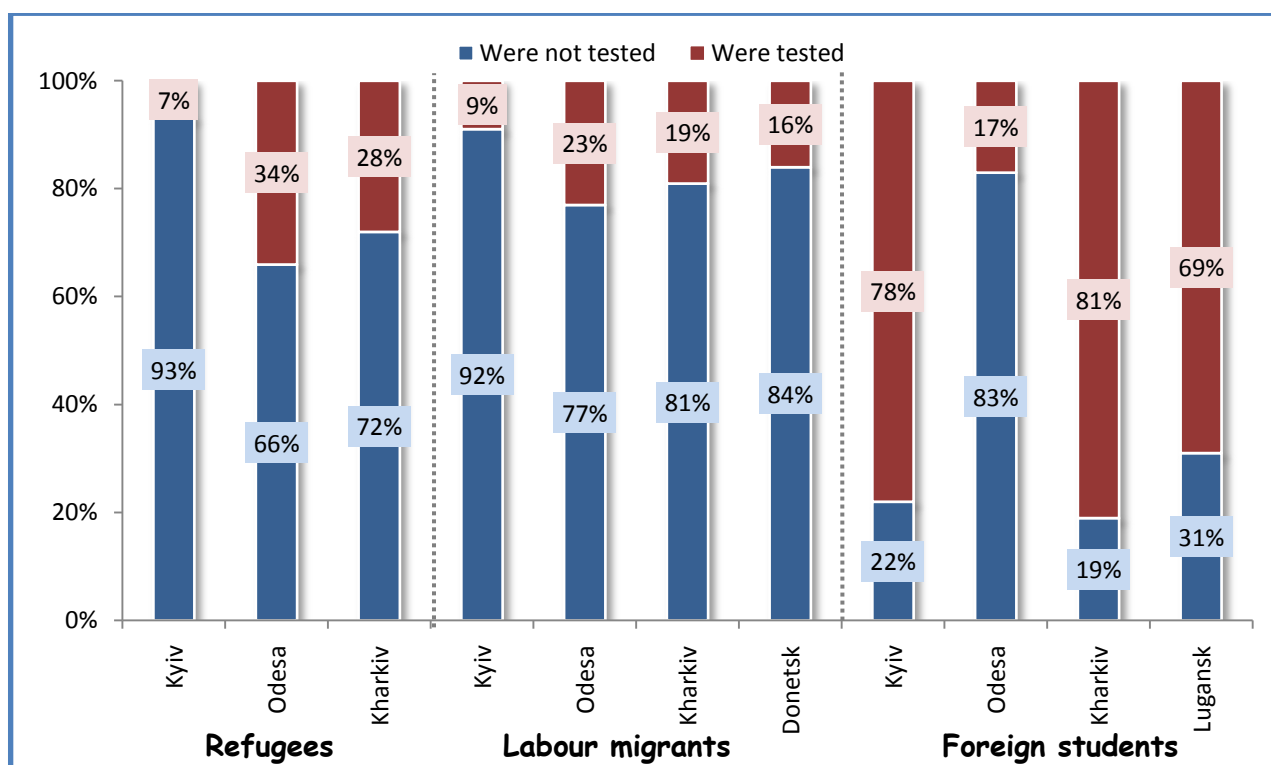
**Conditions of the last testing for HIV**

	Country of testing		Pre-test counseling	Post-test counseling
	Ukraine	Country of origin		
<b>Refugees</b>				
→ Kyiv	96	5	16	7
→ Odesa	83	17	51	68
→ Kharkiv	82	18	52	50
<b>Labour migrants</b>				
→ Kyiv	84	16	42	20
→ Odesa	92	8	87	86
→ Kharkiv	78	22	86	82
→ Donetsk	40	60	55	43
<b>Foreign students</b>				
→ Kyiv	87	13	11	4
→ Odesa	48	52	89	80
→ Kharkiv	90	10	85	86
→ Lugansk	99	1	100	66

Among refugees not more than a third had been tested for HIV within the last year (to be more exact, the period from the beginning of 2012 to the first quarter of 2013 is meant) and received their last test result. The relatively best situation is in Odesa (34%) and Kharkiv (28%), while in Kyiv only 7% of refugees have been tested within the last year. The prevalence of the testing practice is approximately the same among male and female refugees.

The proportion of those, who had the experience of HIV testing is bigger in Odesa (23%) than in other cities, the difference is particularly noticeable as compared to Kyiv – 9%. As in cases with migrants, men and women are tested almost at the same proportion.

The overwhelming majority of foreign students had been tested for HIV within the last year and received their last test result. The only exception is students from Odesa, among whom the indicator of HIV testing within the last 12 months makes up only 17%. It should be noted that male and female students in Odesa and Kharkiv are almost equally tested. However, the prevalence of HIV testing among students in Kyiv makes up 96% among women and 68% among men.



*Pic. 4.2.2 Integrated indicator «Percentage of foreign migrants who have been tested for HIV within the last year and received their last test result»*

### Key findings and discussion of the section results

The majority of foreign migrants have ever had an experience of HIV testing. From a quarter to a third of interviewed refugees and labour migrants reported having been tested in the last 12 months. Only 7% and 9% of refugees and labour migrants in Kyiv correspondingly have been tested within the last 12 months. The situation among foreign students is much better – the overwhelming majority of them was tested and received the result of the last test. Only foreign students in Odesa are an exception, only 17% of whom have been tested within the last year.

Having quite low prevalence of the practice of HIV testing during the year among refugees and labour migrants, it should be noted that the similar indicator for the general population makes up 13%. In case of Ukrainian labour migrants, the indicator makes up 11% for internal migrants and 27% for external migrants. Therefore, generally refugees and foreign labour migrants are tested as often as Ukrainians or even more often in some cases.

## SECTION V. LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HIV/AIDS AND ATTITUDE TO THE RISK OF HIV INFECTION

### 5.1 Estimation the risk of HIV infection

According to the survey results, quite a lot of foreign migrants consider the risk of HIV infection to be real for them (see Table 5.1.1). Among those who indicated the risk as hardly probable or unthreatening at all, approximately a third of refugees and labour migrants had unprotected sexual contacts with permanent partners (32% and 38% correspondingly), a small share had unprotected sexual contacts with casual and commercial partners. There are also positive tests results for HIV, syphilis, Hepatitis B and C among those, who considered their risk of HIV infection to be hardly probable. Such data comparison provides the opportunity to estimate the extent to which migrants relate the level of riskiness of their behavior to the possibility of being infected with HIV.

Table 5.1.1

#### Subjective assessment of the risk of HIV infection

	Refugees	Labour migrants	Foreign students
Absolutely real or real	21	17	34
Fifty-fifty	20	19	21
Hardly probable or unthreatening at all	59	64	45
<i>Among those who consider the risk to be hardly probable or unthreatening at all:</i>			
Did not use condoms during last sexual contact:			
with a permanent sexual partner	32	38	13
with a casual sexual partner	5	4	1
with a commercial sexual partner	1	0	0
Have suffered from STDs within the last 12 months	2	5	1
Positive HIV test result	1	0	0
Positive syphilis test result	0	0,4	0
Positive Hepatitis B test result	2	2	1
Positive Hepatitis C test result	3	3	1

### 5.2 Level of knowledge about ways of HIV transmission

Level of knowledge about ways of HIV transmission is one of the barriers to HIV infection and motivation for safe behavior. According to the survey results, the majority of respondents are well aware of sexual and injection HIV transmission, while their awareness of the ways how HIV cannot be transmitted is rather poor, which can lead to the low level of tolerant attitude towards HIV-positive people. Foreign migrants are also rather poorly aware of the fact whether HIV can be transmitted from mother to child in different ways (see Table 5.2.1).

Table 5.2.1

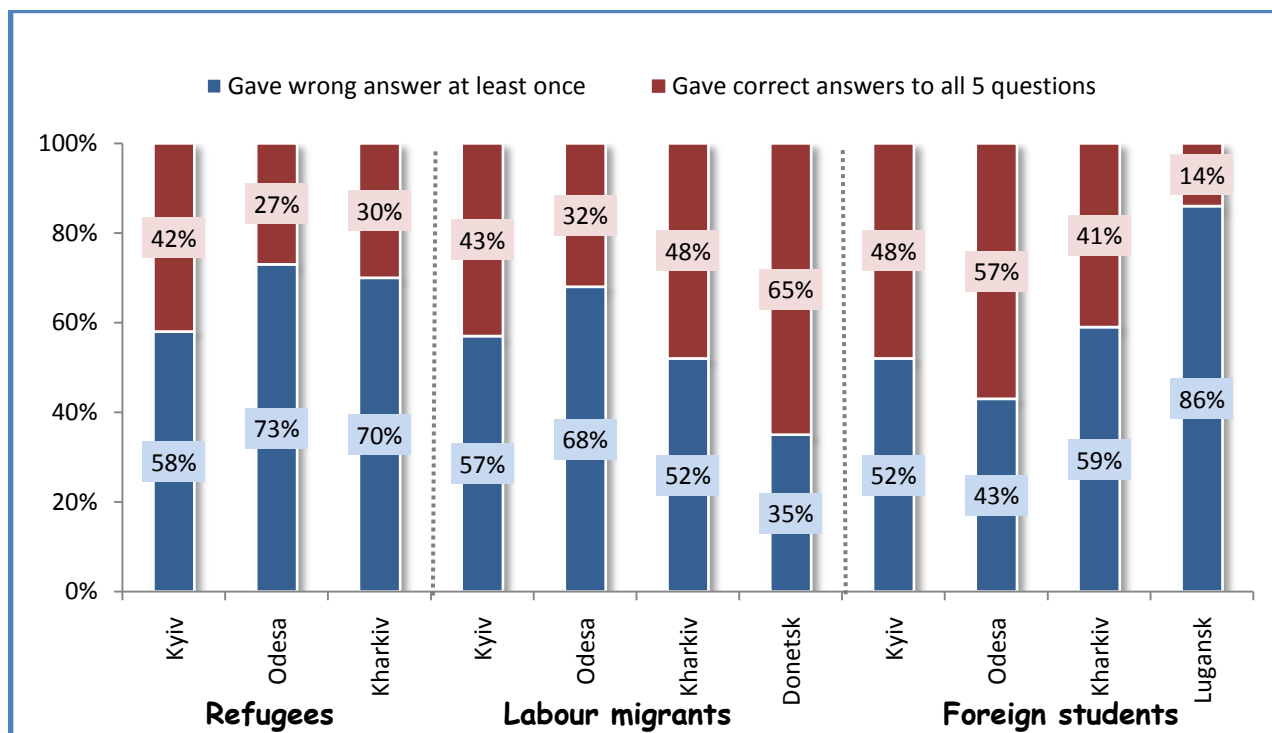
### Knowledge about ways of HIV transmission and prevention of HIV

	Refugees				Labour migrants					Foreign students				
	Kyiv	Odesa	Kharkiv	Total	Kyiv	Odesa	Kharkiv	Donetsk	Total	Kyiv	Odesa	Kharkiv	Lugansk	Total
The risk of HIV transmission can be reduced by having sex with only one uninfected partner who has no other partners	97	89	88	<b>92</b>	95	82	90	94	<b>90</b>	91	95	89	93	<b>92</b>
The risk of HIV transmission can be reduced by using a condom correctly during every sexual contact	96	85	86	<b>89</b>	99	85	92	98	<b>94</b>	95	94	84	92	<b>91</b>
A healthy-looking person can have HIV	89	49	64	<b>67</b>	90	64	67	98	<b>80</b>	93	73	58	82	<b>76</b>
HIV can be transmitted through mosquito bite	54	51	63	<b>56</b>	50	46	67	62	<b>56</b>	53	63	88	31	<b>59</b>
A person can get HIV by drinking in turns from the same cup with an HIV-positive person	57	49	57	<b>54</b>	63	59	84	85	<b>73</b>	66	80	90	29	<b>66</b>
A person can get HIV by sharing bathroom, swimming pool, sauna with an HIV-positive person	56	50	61	<b>56</b>	55	49	82	78	<b>66</b>	59	81	92	31	<b>65</b>
A person can get HIV by eating food from the same plate with an HIV-positive person	67	51	61	<b>60</b>	61	57	78	85	<b>70</b>	65	75	90	30	<b>65</b>
A person can get HIV by sharing a needle for injections with another person	99	85	92	<b>92</b>	94	86	94	99	<b>93</b>	91	96	96	90	<b>93</b>
HIV can be transmitted from an HIV-positive mother to a child during pregnancy	93	67	42	<b>67</b>	88	61	73	82	<b>76</b>	83	81	75	89	<b>82</b>
HIV can be transmitted from an HIV-positive mother to a child during delivery	75	61	46	<b>61</b>	75	69	78	72	<b>73</b>	74	80	75	88	<b>79</b>
HIV can be transmitted from an HIV-positive mother to a child during breastfeeding	59	47	42	<b>49</b>	60	54	71	31	<b>54</b>	54	70	79	87	<b>73</b>

Based on 5 questions<sup>16</sup>, the standard integrated indicator of awareness of issues related to HIV was developed. On the whole, not more than a half of foreign migrants gave correct answers to all 5 questions of the indicator. In case of refugees, the relatively best results were obtained in Kyiv, where 42% gave correct answers to all questions (vs. 30% in Kharkiv and 27% in Odesa). Moreover, female refugees in Kyiv and Kharkiv are a bit better aware of the topic: correspondingly, 56% vs. 30% and 40% vs. 26%, while in Odesa men have better knowledge – 31% vs. 15%.

The best awareness among foreign students is demonstrated by students in Odesa (57%), the worst – by students in Lugansk (14%). Female students in Kyiv have a bit better knowledge (58% vs. 41%), while in Odesa and Kharkiv men show better awareness (correspondingly, 61% vs. 50% and 46% vs. 35%).

As far as labour migrants are concerned, respondents from Donetsk are best aware (65%), while respondents from Odesa are worst aware (32%). The level of knowledge of men and women in Donetsk is almost the same. In other cities there is a tendency that women are a bit better aware – 57% vs. 35% in Kyiv, 41% vs. 29% in Odesa, 54% vs. 43% in Kharkiv.



Pic. 5.2.1. Integrated indicator «Percentage of foreign migrants, who both correctly identify ways of sexual transmission of HIV and reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission»

<sup>16</sup> Proportion of those, who know that “the risk of HIV transmission can be reduced by having sex with only one uninfected partner who has no other partners”, “the risk of HIV transmission can be reduced by using a condom correctly during every sexual contact”, “a healthy-looking person can have HIV”, “a person can get HIV by sharing a needle for injections with another person”, “a person can get HIV by drinking in turns from the same cup with an HIV-positive person”, “a person can get HIV by sharing bathroom, swimming pool, sauna with an HIV-positive person”

### 5.3 Demand for additional information about HIV

Survey results certified that there are significant differences concerning the demand for additional information about HIV/AIDS. Thus, the majority of migrants of all categories in Kyiv indicated that do not feel the demand for information. In other cities much bigger share of migrants reported the demand for information (see Table 5.3.1).

Attention should be paid to the content of information that new foreign migrants need. First of all, they need information on the threat of HIV infection, ways of its transmission and prevention measures (with slightly different intensity depending on the category and city). Refugees in Kharkiv and foreign students in Lugansk need more information about living with HIV, while labour migrants in Donetsk and foreign students in Lugansk – about places of testing for HIV.

Table 5.3.1

#### Demand for additional information about HIV/AIDS

	Feel the demand for information	What information is demanded...					
		Threat of HIV infection	Ways of HIV transmission	Prevention measures	Living with HIV / AIDS (including treatment)	Places of testing for HIV	How often and what for a person should be tested
<b>Refugees</b>							
→ Kyiv	2	---	---	---	---	---	---
→ Odesa	59	77	86	78	6	5	3
→ Kharkiv	53	49	59	59	41	17	9
<b>Labour migrants</b>							
→ Kyiv	2	---	---	---	---	---	---
→ Odesa	56	71	85	79	4	8	15
→ Kharkiv	39	39	33	57	21	2	2
→ Donetsk	20	30	75	63	16	41	17
<b>Foreign students</b>							
→ Kyiv	13	---	---	---	---	---	---
→ Odesa	45	74	89	87	10	21	13
→ Kharkiv	44	51	46	59	21	5	19
→ Lugansk	44	83	96	81	42	40	50

In general, the most appropriate format of information that migrants need are leaflets, pamphlets (see Table 5.3.2). However, quite a lot of migrants would also like to receive information from mass media and during consultations with a doctor. The relatively least popular “source” of information is the outdoor advertising.

Table 5.3.2

### Comfortable form of information on HIV / AIDS

	Mass media	Outdoor advertising	Doctor consultations	Leaflets, pamphlets
<b>Refugees</b>				
→ Kyiv	---	---	---	---
→ Odesa	56	16	38	78
→ Kharkiv	36	0	53	66
<b>Labour migrants</b>				
→ Kyiv	---	---	---	---
→ Odesa	50	28	35	82
→ Kharkiv	24	6	62	56
→ Donetsk	65	6	30	53
<b>Foreign students</b>				
→ Kyiv	---	---	---	---
→ Odesa	64	42	38	77
→ Kharkiv	23	8	58	67
→ Lugansk	100	72	87	38

Table 5.3.3 below provides data on the places, where foreign migrants would like to receive information about HIV/AIDS.

Table 5.3.3

### Places, where foreign migrants would like to receive information about HIV/AIDS

	NGO	Medical institutions	Higher educational establishments	Airport, railway station	Public transport	Refugee services	Migration service	Outdoor advertising
<b>Refugees</b>								
→ Kyiv	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
→ Odesa	26	25	5	0	0	54	58	35
→ Kharkiv	71	24	0	0	0	50	33	1
<b>Labour migrants</b>								
→ Kyiv	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
→ Odesa	25	39	1	3	5	32	64	47
→ Kharkiv	45	67	5	0	8	20	20	8
→ Donetsk	12	59	0	43	36	0	0	19
<b>Foreign students</b>								
→ Kyiv	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
→ Odesa	11	43	84	0	10	1	41	44
→ Kharkiv	46	59	50	0	13	14	21	11
→ Lugansk	93	77	91	6	4	0	2	8

## Key findings and discussion of the section results

There are some noticeable problems with the level of knowledge about HIV, as at least a half of foreign migrants have misconceptions concerning prevention of HIV infection and/or ways of HIV transmission. Most problematic are refugees and labour migrants in Odesa and foreign students in Lugansk. However, a lot of foreign migrants believe that their level of knowledge is not sufficient enough and they require additional information on HIV/AIDS.



## SECTION VI. PREVALENCE OF HIV, SYPHILIS, HEPATITIS B AND C AMONG FOREIGN MIGRANTS (results of the linked survey)

According to the results of testing for HIV, cases of infection were found among refugees in Kharkiv (3.2%), labour migrants in Odesa (4.4%) and Kharkiv (3.3%), foreign students in Odesa (3.1%). Cases of syphilis were rarer – among refugees in Kharkiv (0.6%), labour migrants in Odesa (1.1%) and Kharkiv (0.6%). It should be noted for comparison that HIV prevalence among Ukrainian external migrants makes up 4.7%, among internal migrants – 2.7%.

It should be added that among refugees in Kharkiv HIV was found only among men (4.2% vs. 0% among women). As for labour migrants and foreign students in Odesa, cases of HIV were also fixed only among men (5.7% vs. 0% and 3.2% vs. 0% correspondingly).

As far as hepatitis is concerned, its prevalence (first of all – Hepatitis C) tends to be a bit higher than the prevalence of HIV or syphilis. Quite a significant prevalence should be noted among refugees in Kyiv (8.3%) and Kharkiv (5%), labour migrants in Kyiv (7.7%) and Donetsk (8.9%), foreign students in Lugansk (6.6%).

It should be also noted that Hepatitis C among refugees in Kyiv was found mostly among men (12.4% vs. 1.3%), while in Kharkiv such cases happened only among men (6.5% vs. 0%). The prevalence of Hepatitis C among labour migrants in Kyiv and Odesa is approximately the same among men and women (10.4% vs. 6.9% and 2.2% vs. 0.8% correspondingly). In Kharkiv and Donetsk cases of Hepatitis C occurred only among men (2.8% vs. 0% and 16.7% vs. 0% correspondingly). As far as foreign students are concerned, cases of Hepatitis C were fixed only among men: 1.5% vs. 0% in Odesa, 7.1% vs. 0% in Lugansk.

Cases of Hepatitis B were fixed both among men and women. The prevalence of Hepatitis B among male refugees in Kyiv makes up 3.1%, among female refugees – 5.2%. The comparable indicator for Odesa makes up 4.8% and 1.9%, 0% and 0.5% for Kharkiv. As for male labour migrants in Kyiv, the prevalence of Hepatitis B makes up 7%, 3.4% among women. The comparable indicators for Odesa make up 4.1% and 5%. In Kharkiv cases of Hepatitis B were fixed only among men (3.4% vs. 0%). As for foreign students in Kyiv and Odesa, cases of Hepatitis B were also fixed only among men (1.5% vs. 0% and 2.1% vs. 0% correspondingly).

Rare cases of syphilis were fixed both among male and female refugees in Kharkiv (0.6% and 2.2% correspondingly). Among labour migrants in Kharkiv and Odesa such rare cases were only among men (0.9% vs. 0% and 1.3% vs. 0% correspondingly).

**Prevalence of HIV, syphilis, Hepatitis B and C, %**

	<b>HIV</b>	<b>Syphilis</b>	<b>Hepatitis B</b>	<b>Hepatitis C</b>
<b>Refugees</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>
→ Kyiv	0.0	0.0	2.7	8.3
→ Odesa	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0
→ Kharkiv	3.2	0.6	0.4	5.0
<b>Labour migrants</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>5.2</b>
→ Kyiv	0.0	0.0	3.1	7.7
→ Odesa	4.4	1.1	4.9	2.0
→ Kharkiv	3.3	0.6	2.4	2.0
→ Donetsk	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.9
<b>Foreign students</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>
→ Kyiv	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
→ Odesa	3.1	0.0	2.1	1.5
→ Kharkiv	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
→ Lugansk	0.0	0.0	1.8	6.6

**Key findings and discussion of the section results**

Although general HIV prevalence rates are not particularly high among foreign migrants, attention should be paid to the fact that first of all cases of HIV infection (as well as other STDs) were observed among men in Odesa and Kharkiv, which shows that this subgroup of foreign migrants in the most vulnerable in these cities. In particular, the hypothesis about HIV prevalence among students has not been proved – in general, HIV prevalence is approximately the same among foreign migrants.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Refugees

→ *Social and demographic profile.* Except for Kyiv, men of middle age and older with quite low educational level (not more than a quarter has vocational secondary or higher education) prevail among refugees. Only a small share of refugees is married, the overwhelming majority lives alone. Refugees live in rather bad conditions, even though according to subjective assessment, their living conditions do not significantly differ from those of the general population. The vast majority of refugees in Kyiv and Odesa have a certain legal status, while the vast majority of refugees in Kharkiv do not have any official status at all. At least half of refugees are employed, though it mostly means unofficial employment in the sphere of trade, construction and entertainment.

Very low educational level (both compared to the general population and to Ukrainian migrants) causes disadvantage for refugees in Ukraine not allowing holding more profitable and better paid jobs. Difficult working conditions may cause increased stress, which can result in dangerous behavioural practices. On the one hand, the fact that most migrants do not have a family / live with a permanent partner can deepen the stress, and on the other hand, it can cause dangerous sexual practices.

→ *Alcohol and drug use.* Practice of alcohol consumption is widespread only among refugees in Kyiv and Kharkiv, even though even in these cases refugees rarely consume alcohol– no more than 1-2 times a month. Therefore there is no alcohol abuse. Practice of drug use, injecting drugs in particular, is also not especially widespread. Only in Kyiv single cases of injecting drug use were fixed.

As refugees do not consume alcohol very often and are generally characterized by low prevalence of drug use practice, they are less vulnerable to HIV from the standpoint of these behavioural practices.

→ *Sexual practices.* The vast majority of refugees are sexually active and the overwhelming majority has permanent partners. At the same time not more than a half of refugees always use condoms with permanent partners, particularly refugees in Kyiv rarely use condoms. Even though the share of refugees having casual partners is significantly lower (from a third to a half) and the frequency of condom use is higher, cases of unprotected sex are still very often. As in the previous case, refugees in Kyiv use condoms particularly rarely. Contacts with commercial partners are not

widespread at all, except for Kharkiv, where 14% of refugees received commercial sex services. It should be noted that only in single cases foreign migrants provided commercial sex services. In most cases refugees had citizens of Ukraine as their partners.

Current sexual practices are potentially dangerous, as quite a significant share of them is not protected. As refugees have the majority of contacts with citizens of Ukraine, in case of aggravation of epidemiological situation among refugees, they can become a bridge group to the general population. At the same time in case of refugees the assumption about danger of commercial contacts has not been confirmed because of their fewness.

→ *Testing for HIV and awareness of the problem of HIV.* Only the majority of refugees in Kharkiv know where they can be tested for HIV, while not more than a third of refugees in Kyiv and Kharkiv know it. However, if the vast majority of refugees have ever been tested, not more than a third has been tested within the last year. Generally, not more than a third of refugees correctly define ways of HIV transmission and know how HIV cannot be transmitted.

Low knowledge about where a person can be tested for HIV can be potentially a risk factor and make the epidemiological situation worse. Low awareness of HIV problematic is also added here, which complicates the situation.

→ *HIV prevalence.* HIV prevalence among refugees is not high and such cases were observed only among men in Kharkiv.

According to these data, at least for now refugees are not a group with notable problem of HIV, but the above-mentioned conditions of staying in Ukraine, widespread practices of unprotected sex and low awareness may be grounds for worsening of the situation in future.

### **Labour migrants**

→ *Social and demographic profile.* Men of middle age and older mostly prevail among labour migrants, as in case with refugees. Even though according to educational level they predominate over refugees, but are significantly “inferior” to the general population and Ukrainian labour migrants. Only a small share of labour migrants is married, the overwhelming majority lives alone. Labour migrants live in rather low than average conditions, even though according to subjective assessment, their living conditions do not significantly differ from those of the general population. The vast majority of labour migrants except for Donetsk have a certain legal status, while the vast majority of labour migrants in Donetsk do not have any official status at all. 9 out of 10 labour migrants are employed, though it mostly means unofficial employment in the sphere of trade, construction and entertainment.

As in the case with refugees, the most problematic are lower educational level and relevant opportunities of labour migrants for adaptation and integration into the Ukrainian society. Absence of a family is mostly an additional risk factor.

→ *Alcohol and drug use.* Practice of alcohol consumption is widespread among all labour migrants except for Odesa, even though even in these cases labour migrants quite rarely consume alcohol– not more than 3-4 times a month. Therefore there is no alcohol abuse. Practice of drug use, injecting drugs in particular, is also not especially widespread. Only in Kharkiv single cases of injecting drug use were fixed.

As in case with refugees, labour migrants are less vulnerable to HIV from the standpoint of these behavioural practices.

→ *Sexual practices.* The vast majority of labour migrants are sexually active and the overwhelming majority has permanent partners. At the same time not more than a half of labour migrants constantly use condoms with permanent partners, particularly labour migrants in Kyiv and Kharkiv rarely use condoms. Even though the share of labour migrants having casual partners is significantly lower (up to a third) and the frequency of condom use is higher, cases of unprotected sex are still very often (in some cases – up to a half). Contacts with commercial partners are not widespread at all. It should be noted that only in single cases labour migrants provided commercial sex services. In most cases labour migrants had citizens of Ukraine as their partners.

Current sexual practices are potentially dangerous, as quite a significant share of them is unprotected. As labour migrants have the majority of contacts with citizens of Ukraine, in case of aggravation of epidemiological situation among labour migrants, they can become a bridge group to the general population. At the same time in case of labour migrants the assumption about danger of commercial contacts has not been confirmed because of their fewness.

→ *Testing for HIV and awareness of HIV problem.* Only the majority of labour migrants in Kharkiv know where they can be tested for HIV, while not more than a half knows it in other cities. However, if not more than a half of labour migrants have ever been tested, not more than a quarter has been tested within the last year. Generally, not more than a half of labour migrants correctly define ways of HIV transmission and know how HIV cannot be transmitted.

Low knowledge about where a person can be tested for HIV can be potentially a risk factor and make the epidemiological situation worse. Low awareness of HIV problematic is also added here, which complicates the situation.

→ *HIV prevalence.* HIV prevalence among labour migrants is not high and such cases were observed only among men in Kharkiv and Odesa.

According to these data, at least for now labour migrants as far as refugees are not a group with notable problem of HIV, but the above-mentioned conditions of staying in Ukraine, widespread practices of unprotected sex and low awareness may be grounds for worsening of the situation in future.

### **Foreign students**

→ *Social and demographic profile.* Except for Kharkiv, men of younger age prevail among foreign students. The vast majority of foreign students has never been married and is living alone now. Foreign students live in average financial conditions. The vast majority of foreign students has a certain legal status and almost in all cases they stay in Ukraine based on the study visa. Only in single cases foreign students are employed.

Unlike refugees and labour migrants, foreign students increase the level of their qualification to quite a high one and could hold better positions in perspective.

→ *Alcohol and drug use.* Practice of alcohol consumption is relatively widespread only among foreign students in Odesa. Still, in all cases foreign students quite rarely consume alcohol– no more than 1-2 times a month. Therefore there is no alcohol abuse. Practice of drug use, injecting drugs in particular, is also not especially widespread. Only in Lugansk single cases of injecting drug use were fixed.

As foreign students do not consume alcohol very often and are generally characterized by low prevalence of drug use practice, they are less vulnerable to HIV from the standpoint of these behavioural practices.

→ *Sexual practices.* The vast majority of foreign students are sexually active and the overwhelming majority (except for Lugansk) has permanent partners. At the same time not more than a half of foreign students constantly use condoms with permanent partners. Even though the share of foreign students having casual partners is significantly lower (except for Lugansk, where low availability of permanent partners is compensated by casual partners) and the frequency of condom use is higher, cases of unprotected sex are still very often. Contacts with commercial partners are not widespread at all, except for Lugansk, where 29% of foreign students received commercial sex services. It should be noted that only in single cases foreign students provided commercial sex services. In most cases foreign students had citizens of Ukraine as their partners.

Current sexual practices are potentially dangerous, as quite a significant share of them is unprotected. As foreign students have the majority of contacts with citizens of Ukraine, in case of aggravation of epidemiological situation among foreign students, they can become a bridge group to the general population. At the same time in case of foreign students in Kyiv, Odesa, Kharkiv the assumption about danger of commercial contacts has not been confirmed because of their fewness. At the same time, it can really become a problem for Lugansk, as this practice is quite widespread there.

→ *Testing for HIV and awareness of the problem of HIV.* The vast majority of foreign students in Kharkiv and Lugansk know where they can be tested for HIV in Ukraine. There are two thirds of such foreign students in Kyiv and less than a half in Odesa. The vast majority of foreign students have been both ever tested and tested within the last year. Only foreign students in Odesa are an exception, among whom 1 out of 5 has been tested within the last year, but the vast majority has still ever been tested. Generally, up to a half of foreign students correctly define ways of HIV transmission and know how HIV cannot be transmitted.

As far as availability and frequency of testing is concerned, the situation is relatively worse among foreign students in Kyiv and Kharkiv, though still much better as compared to refugees and labour migrants.

→ *HIV prevalence.* HIV prevalence among foreign students is not high and such cases were observed only among men in Odesa.

According to these data, at least for now foreign students are not a group with notable problem of HIV, but the above-mentioned widespread practices of unprotected sex and low awareness may be grounds for worsening of the situation in future.

### **Recommendations on the conduction of the survey among migrants in future**

→ *Sample design.* Even though the sample directed by the respondents is a popular method of sampling formation among hard-to-reach populations, it is proposed in the future to move to the target sample in terms of small samples and high probability of concentration of chain deployment in certain segments of the surveyed group. It is proposed to use data of experts and available statistics in order to form quotas for the selection of foreign migrants depending on the country of origin as well as to recruit respondents at a maximum disperse number of locations (at different city locations). Therefore, the sample will be more dispersed and will better cover different segments of the surveyed group.

→ *Respondents' selection*. Criteria of respondents' belonging to one or another surveyed group should be more clearly defined, in particular by their official status in Ukraine.

→ *Questionnaire*. Taking into account the current results, survey hypotheses and clarification of the aspects that should be studied require correction. As practices of unprotected sex are potentially most dangerous, particularly in the context of regular contacts with general population, this issue should be firstly considered in more details.