



NATIONAL YOUTH SURVEY

ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION AND NEEDS OF YOUTH IN GEORGIA

This present report prepared by the National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat) takes into account suggestions of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia (MSY), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

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National Youth Survey in Georgia
Analysis of the Situation and Needs of Youth in Georgia

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Foreword

For the past 20 years, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Georgia has been working closely with the Georgian Government and other partners to address significant problems faced by children and young people – boys and girls – throughout the country.

In recent years, the Government has taken important steps to promote the creation of the most appropriate environment for the comprehensive development of youth – an environment where young people will be able to fully realize their potential and be actively involved in all aspects of society. Since 2010, UNICEF and the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) have been providing technical support and policy advice to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia (MSY) for the development of the first-ever National Youth Policy. With the recent adoption of this policy, the Georgian Government has now placed young people’s issues in the heart of its policy-making.

In addition, guided by evidence and knowledge-based approaches in its interventions, in 2013 UNICEF and MSY commissioned a nation-wide study on the situation of young people in Georgia, simultaneously engaging line Ministries and other key stakeholders in the process.

It is an honour to present the findings of the “National Youth Survey” – an analysis of the situation and needs of young people in Georgia. The study findings will inform the development of the National Youth Action Plan – a fundamentally important initiative – providing an example of a comprehensive and holistic policy approach to youth-related matters in Georgia and focusing on the following thematic areas:

- Youth participation in social, economic, cultural and political activities;
- Promotion of youth education, employment and mobility;
- Health care;
- Special support and protection.

Young people aged 15-29 comprise an estimated 25 per cent of the Georgian population. Behaviour that begins in adolescence can critically shape the course of a young person’s life as well as the future of society as a whole. Despite recent positive developments, adolescents and young people clearly face challenges. Many who leave formal education are unable to find work at a time when they need to feel valued, productive and independent. The highest unemployment rate among the working age population is also recorded in young people (31 per cent). While the majority of young people in Georgia believe that young people have a right to participate in decision-making processes concerning them, over the past 12 months, only 10.9 per cent of young people in the population have participated in such processes. The Government recognizes the vital importance of enabling all young women and men to make the best of their potential, upholding the right of young people to participate in the development of policies affecting them by means of a continuous structured dialogue with young people and youth organizations. UNICEF stands ready to support these efforts by means of continued technical support and by providing policy advice that is based on the findings of the “National Youth Survey”.

We hope that this report will be of interest to many organizations and policy-makers and that the study findings will serve as a basis for initiating further changes aimed at ensuring the full realization of the rights and potential of youth in Georgia.

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1. Executive summary

The “National Youth Survey” was conducted by the National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat) in accordance with the Grant Agreement signed with UNICEF in July 2013, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia and UNFPA. The study aims to promote identification of the basic needs and problems faced by young people in Georgia as well as promote knowledge and evidence-based youth policy development.

This quantitative study covered 2,500 households across all regions in Georgia, with the exception of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. In each household, one 15- to 29-year-old member was interviewed by means of a personal questionnaire.

The report, which is based on an analysis of the findings of the fieldwork and information provided by a number of administrative sources, is divided into five core thematic areas, namely: Youth participation, Education and employment, Health care, Special Support and Protection and Youth engagement in sport activities. Additionally, the last part of the report contains results from My World, the UN Global Survey for a Better World, which is designed to ascertain what kind of world people want to live in and what issues are most important to them.

The first part of the “National Youth Survey” reveals that there is an alarmingly low level of participation by young people in Georgian society. Young people have limited knowledge about their rights and their duties, and although the great majority (90.4 per cent) of those surveyed believes they have the right to participate in the resolution of youth-related issues, only 10.9 per cent actually participate in the decision-making processes affecting them.

The second part of the report looks at the education and employment of young people in Georgia, and shows that the majority of young people have completed secondary education. In this regard, there are significant differences between urban and rural areas. Almost one-third of young people living in urban areas have received higher education, a figure that is two and a half times higher than the corresponding figure for young people in rural areas. In addition, a higher percentage of young women than young men achieve higher education. When the employment rates of young people are compared, an interesting contradiction worth noting is that the rate of employed young people is significantly higher among young men than among young women, and significantly higher among young people in rural areas than in urban areas, meaning that the picture is the opposite of that in education. Consequently, there seems to be a mismatch between the level of education available and being availed of and opportunities to work. In the ‘My World’ survey, an increase in the number of available jobs is listed by 83.1 per cent of young people as the most significant factor that would contribute to building a better world, while 57.5 per cent of young people cite quality of education as the fourth most significant factor.

The study reveals a significant level of poverty among young people in Georgia, with the relative poverty rate higher for those who have 15- to 29-year-olds living in their household. Across Georgia, 23.5 per cent of young people were below 60 per cent of the median consumption in 2012, while 10.4 per cent were below 40 per cent of the median consumption. Moreover, there is a clear connection between this situation and how young people experience affordability of care in medical facilities. The proportion of young people in Georgia as a whole who needed access to, but did not secure a referral to, a medical facility over the past 12 months was 26.6 per cent. This is about the same as the proportion in the Tbilisi region, where nearly a third of young people cannot afford to pay for medical facility care when they need it. With regard to the ‘My World’ survey, 78.6 per cent of young people cited health care improvement as the second most significant factor that would contribute to building a better world, while 65.95 per cent of young people cited availability of affordable and adequate food as the third most significant factor.

Young people need information and details on the availability of preventive services in relation to reproductive health, and specifically in relation to HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancy. Only 17.4 per cent of young people in Georgia have correct knowledge about the ways HIV/AIDS is transmitted. Furthermore, the majority of young

people have never used any method of contraception and nearly half of registered abortions are obtained by women aged 15 to 29. In relation to the lowest age group, 15- to 19-year-olds, the highest proportion of abortions is recorded in the Tbilisi, KvemoKartli and Imereti regions.

In general, the study suggests there is a need to increase the availability of quality information for young people in Georgia, as well as a need to mobilize young people to increase their participation in different aspects of society. In addition, information is required in relation to young people's general rights and duties as citizens of Georgia and also in relation to the above-mentioned health issues. In addition, there is a clear suggestion that young people need work opportunities in order to fully realize their potential.

Finally, it is worth noting that 53.4 per cent of young people list honest and accountable government as only the fifth most important factor that would contribute to building a better world. Combined with the overall low participation of young people in society, there seems to be a gap between young people's understanding of, and their belief in, political and societal participation in order to improve general conditions in their country.

Summary of key findings

- 1. The majority of young people in Georgia (69.2 per cent) are not familiar with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.** The young people who are familiar with the Convention are primarily informed about the survival category of the Convention as opposed to the development, protection and participation categories. Only one in four (24.9 per cent) have a broad knowledge of and are informed about at least two of the rights included in all four categories.
- 2. Young people in Georgia have limited knowledge about the rights and duties of citizens and civic duties.** 11.6 per cent of 15- to 29-year-old people in Georgia are aware of their civic duties, namely observance of the law, payment of taxes and participation in elections. Observance of the law is regarded by most young people as their civic duty. On the question of whether young people regard the payment of taxes as their civic duty, the greatest differences recorded were between urban areas (62.1 per cent) and rural areas (53.7 per cent).
- 3. Only 10.9 per cent of young people participate in the resolution of youth-related issues.** In Georgia, young people are rather inactive in society. The overwhelming majority (90.4 per cent) believes that they have the right to participate in the resolution of youth-related issues; however, in 2013 only 10.9 per cent of young people took part in decision-making processes related to such issues.
- 4. Only 11.9 per cent of young people aged 15-29 participated in voluntary activities in Georgia and/or abroad over the past 12 months.** With regard to the types of voluntary activities that young people participate in, there is a notable difference between urban and rural areas. In urban areas, young people mainly volunteer to help people with disabilities, whereas in rural areas they are more involved in environmental-related issues.
- 5. Almost 10 per cent of young people aged 15-29 suspended their studies in various educational institutions. Of these young people, the majority (90.4 per cent) are aged 15-17 years.** The highest proportion of young people who left school prematurely was recorded in the Kakheti region, followed by the Adjara and Samegrelo regions. Between July 2012 and June 2013, 17,089 young people left secondary school early; the majority of this group (10,153) were male, and a total of 13,899 were aged 15-17 years.
- 6. The level of education achieved by women in urban areas is relatively high.** Most young people aged 15-29 received only general secondary education. With regard to primary vocational, secondary higher vocational and higher education, the level of attained education is generally higher among young women

than that attained by young men. With regard to young people living in urban areas, 29.7 percent received higher education, a figure that is 2.4 times higher than the proportion of young people living in rural areas (12.3 percent) who received higher education.

7. **There is a mismatch between level of education and opportunity to work.** Among the working age population, young people have the highest unemployment rate, and this rate is highest among women and among young people in urban areas. 30.7 per cent of the young labour force is unemployed; the majority of this group (33.2 per cent) has received higher education. In urban areas, the youth unemployment rate is two and a half times higher than in rural areas; the lower rate in rural areas is due to self-employment in agriculture. The employment rate for men is 53.3 per cent compared to 30.4 per cent for women.
8. **Almost one-third of employed young people usually work 40 hours or more per week.** Among the next largest percentage of this cohort (17 per cent), working time varies from 30 to 39 hours per week.
9. **The relative poverty rate is higher for those who have 15- to 29-year-old people living in their household.** Across Georgia, 23.5 per cent of young people were living below 60 per cent of the median consumption in 2012. Furthermore, the poverty rate in rural areas is 12 percentage points higher than the rate in urban areas among young people living below 60 per cent of the median consumption.
10. **21.6 per cent of 15- to 29-year-old people in Georgia claim that they are regular smokers,** and the majority of this group are men. A total 39.6 per cent of men surveyed stated that they smoke on a regular basis, while only 4.1 per cent of women stated that they smoke regularly. Among young people aged 15-29 in Georgia, the average age at which they start to smoke is 17. Young people in Georgia smoke an average of 18 cigarettes a day.
11. **With regard to substance abuse among young people, there are striking gender differences.** Almost 40 per cent of young men interviewed as part of this study stated that they smoke on a regular basis, while only 4.1 per cent of young women stated that they do so on a regular basis. In general, there are no significant differences between urban and rural areas in the rate of substance abuse. Among young men who have consumed an alcoholic beverage at least once in the past 12 months, the rate is 81.3 per cent, while among women in this cohort the rate of substance abuse is only 45.9 per cent. The proportion of young people who consume alcohol 1-2 days per week is 11 per cent, and the proportion of young people who consume alcohol 3-7 days per week is 2.8 per cent.
12. **Young women refer themselves to medical facilities more frequently than young men.** This gender pattern was observed in all regions. The referral rate of young people of both sexes to medical facilities is quite high in Tbilisi compared to other regions in Georgia.

More than half of young people aged 15-29 (52.2 per cent) approached a healthcare service provider in the past 12 months. Of those seeking health care, the highest proportion was reported in Tbilisi (62.9 per cent), while the lowest proportions were observed in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region (24.4 per cent)

13. **Most young people aged 15-29 in Georgia have heard of HIV/AIDS, but have limited or incorrect knowledge about the ways it is transmitted.** Of those surveyed, 89.9 per cent have heard of HIV/AIDS, but only 17.4 per cent have correct knowledge about the ways HIV is transmitted, and 17.2 per cent still believe that HIV can be transmitted by mosquito bite.

- 14. Most young people have never used contraception and nearly half of registered abortions are obtained by women aged 15-29.** Most young people have heard of contraception, know how to use it, but have not used methods of contraception. The condom is the method of contraception that young people are most informed about (85.9 per cent). Just over half of young people disagree that only women are responsible for ensuring that they protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy. The highest rate of abortions in the 15- to 29-year-old age group is recorded in the Tbilisi, KvemoKartli and Imereti regions.
- 15. The majority of young people (82.9 per cent) do not agree that women should have to endure physical abuse in order to preserve the family unit.** However, there are significant differences in two regions: in Samtskhe-Javakheti, only 54.4 per cent disagree and in KvemoKartli only 57.3 per cent disagree.
- 16. Slightly more than half of 15- to 29-year-old people estimate that acts of violence and coercion committed by their peers and/or towards them have decreased in the past 10 years.** Of the young people who applied to the State Fund for Protection and Assistance of Victims of Human Trafficking in connection with acts of violence, two-thirds are women; among victims of violence registered by the police, two-thirds are men. Of the young people surveyed, 57.9 per cent disagree with the view that corporal punishment is an integral part of child rearing. However, 25 per cent of young people express the opposite opinion.
- 17. 43.3 per cent of young people perceive the stigma of disability as the social norm.** 45.9 per cent of young people from urban areas stigmatize disability; the corresponding figure for young people from rural areas is 40.3 per cent. The stigma of disability is higher among females than among males (45.5 per cent versus 41 per cent) and it is higher in the capital, Tbilisi, than in the rest of the country (47.8 per cent versus 41.4 per cent). These differences are statistically significant.
- 18. Physical activity and participation in sport is very low among 15- to 29-year-old people, although almost 40 per cent would like to participate in sport.** Only 17.5 per cent of young people are regularly engaged (i.e., at least two hours a week) in physical activity. In urban areas, young people are unable to engage in any sport, mainly due to lack of time (62.5 per cent). In rural areas, financial barriers (42.4 per cent) constitute the main hindrance to participation in sport.
- 19. Young people in Georgia consider an increase in the number of available jobs as the most significant factor that would contribute to building a better world.** They list health care improvement, affordable and adequate food, quality of education, and honest and accountable government as the other four most significant factors.

2. General Demographic data

The composition of the population of the country, both in terms of gender and age, is formed as a result of the natural movement indices. The more the natural indices increase, the greater the proportion of young people in the population, and vice versa. However, this pattern may be disrupted as a result of migration processes and wars. An indicator of average median age is a clear expression of the population age structure. The lower the average mean age, the younger the nation is demographically. Conversely, if the mean age is high, the nation is at a stage of demographic ageing. The age structure of the population is also affected by the average life expectancy ratio. If this ratio is high, it indicates that the nation's socio-economic conditions and health care status are at a high level; it also means that the proportion of elderly in the population is increasing.

According to 2013 data, the average age of the population of Georgia is 38 years. The average age of women (40 years) exceeds the average age of men (36 years). 13.8 per cent of the population is 65 years of age and older. With regard to the rate of natural increase in population, according to 2012 data, the natural increase rate (per thousand persons) was 1.7, while the expected average life expectancy at birth was 74.7 years.

The proportion of 15- to 29-year-old people in the total population is 22.5 per cent, and the majority of this cohort (50.8 per cent) is male. The majority of young people (53.1 per cent) lives in cities, and of these 27.7 per cent live in Tbilisi city.¹ The proportion of young people in the population in the regions is highest in Kvemo-Kartli, where the rate is 25.4 per cent; in contrast, the proportion is lowest in the Samegrelo region (19.1 per cent). Only 29.5 per cent of all young people in Georgia are married. 40.6 per cent of young women are married, while the corresponding figure for young men is only 18.1 per cent.

More than one-fifth of the population (22.5 per cent) comprises 15- to 29-year-old people. The proportion of the 20-24 and 25-29 years age groups is almost equal in the total population, at 8.1 per cent and 8.0 per cent respectively, while the proportion of those in the 15-19 age group is relatively low compared to the other two age groups, and is 6.3 per cent of the total population.

The majority of the population of Georgia (52.3 per cent) is female. With regard to 15- to 29 year-olds, the majority (50.8 per cent) are male. The number of young men as a proportion of the total number of men is 23.9 per cent, while the number of young women as a proportion of the total number of women is 21.1 per cent.

The distribution of the population of Georgia, and within that the distribution of 15- to 29-year-old people by region, is as follows: over a quarter of the population and 29.0 per cent of 15- to 29-year-old people live in Tbilisi; 16.7 per cent of the total population and 15.4 per cent of young people live in the Imereti region. 11.4 per cent of the total population live in the KvemoKartli region, and the proportion of young people in this region constitutes 12.0 per cent of the total number of young people. The structure of the total population and the 15- to 29-year-old population of Georgia by regions is presented below in Table 1.

¹Here, and subsequently, Tbilisi (city) is implied (excluding rural settlements that are associated with Tbilisi).

Table 1. Distribution of the total population of Georgia, by regions, %

| | Population of Georgia | 15- to 29-year-old people |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Kakheti | 9.0 | 8.2 |
| Tbilisi | 26.1 | 29.0 |
| ShidaKartli | 7.0 | 7.5 |
| KvemoKartli | 11.4 | 12.0 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 4.8 | 4.6 |
| Adjara A.R. | 8.8 | 8.5 |
| Guria | 3.1 | 2.9 |
| Samegrelo | 10.6 | 9.3 |
| Imereti | 16.7 | 15.4 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 2.4 | 2.7 |
| Georgia | 100.0 | 100.0 |

In the regions, the proportion of young people in the population varies from 19.1 per cent to 25.4 per cent. In the Tbilisi and KvemoKartli regions, the proportion of young people exceeds 25 per cent of the population. The proportion of young people in the population is lowest in the Samegrelo region (19.1 per cent).

Chart1 Proportion of 15- to 29-year-old people in the total population,by regions, %



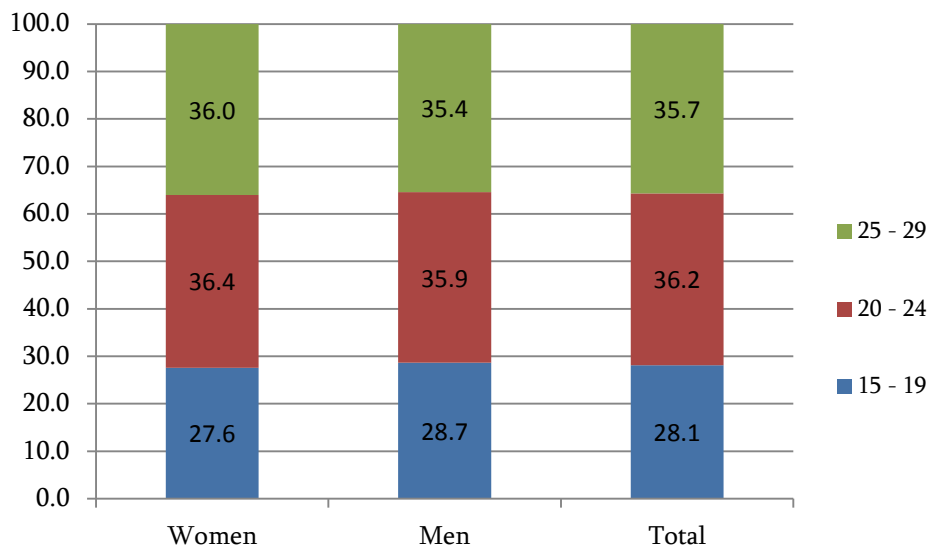
The majority of the population of Georgia (53.8 per cent) lives in urban areas. The picture for young people is similar, namely 53.1 per cent of those aged 15-29 live in urban areas. 27.7 per cent live in Tbilisi city, 25.4 per cent live in other cities, and 46.9 per cent live in rural areas.

The proportion of 15- to 29-year-old people living in Tbilisi city is 24.6 per cent of the general population. In other cities the proportion of 15- to 29-year-old people is 20.8 per cent, while in rural areas it is 22.0 per cent.

28.1 per cent of young people in Georgia are in the 15-19 age group, which is a relatively low proportion compared with the proportion of 20-24 and 25- to 29-year-old people in the population. The proportion of 20-to 24-year-old people slightly exceeds the proportion of 25- to 29-year-olds. A similar picture emerges for proportions by gender.

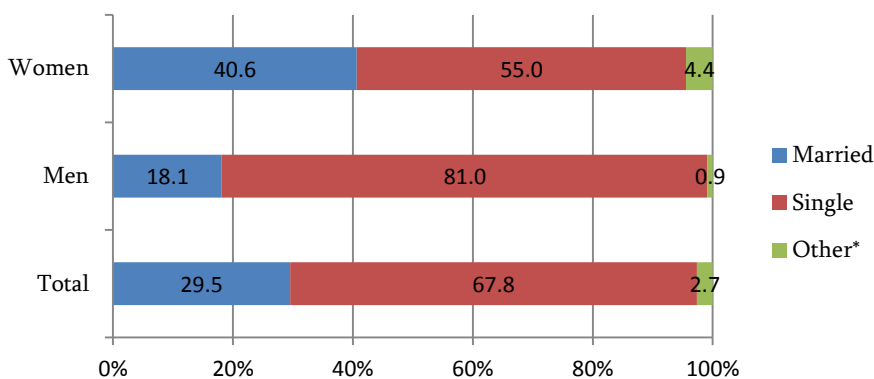
The proportion of 15- to 19-year-old women and men in the 15- to 29-year-old age cohort is relatively low compared with the same indicator for the other two age groups.

Chart 2 Distribution of 15- to 29-year-old people by gender and age groups, %



Only 29.5 per cent of 15- to 29-year-old people are married; most of them (69.7 per cent) are women. Women in Georgia start a family earlier than men. 40.6 per cent of women aged 15-29 already have their own families, while only 18.1 per cent of men of this age are married. In addition, young people living in urban areas start a family at an earlier age than young people living in rural areas. 30.0 per cent of 15- to 29-year-olds in Tbilisi are married, while in all other cities the figure is 30.6 per cent and in rural areas the proportion is 28.6 per cent. The proportion of married young people by age groups is broken down as follows: 58.5 per cent are 25-29 years old, 36.7 per cent are 20-24 years old, and 4.7 per cent are 15-19 years old.

Chart 3 Distribution of people aged 15-29, by marital status and gender, %

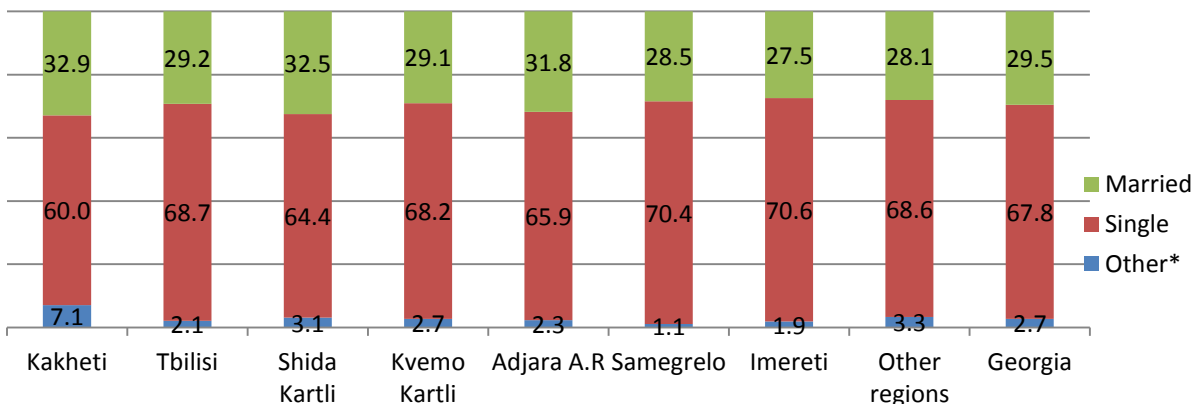


* Non-registered marriage, divorced, widowed

By regions, the proportion of married young people among all young people varies from 27.5 per cent to 32.9 per cent. This figure is highest in the Kakheti and Shida Kartli regions, respectively, at 32.9 per cent and 32.5 per cent,

and it is lowest in Imereti and ‘other regions’ at 27.5 per cent and 28.1 per cent, respectively. The majority of married young people in every region are female.

Chart 4 Distribution of people aged 15-29, by marital status and regions, %



* Non-registered marriage, divorced, widowed

3. Part I. Participation

In Georgia, the majority of 15- to 29-year-old people (69.2 per cent) are not familiar with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Only 21.4 per cent of young people have general knowledge of documents containing the rights and duties of citizens and civic duties.² In Georgia, 15-29 year-old people are rather inactive in society. The overwhelming majority (90.4 per cent) believe that they have the right to participate in the resolution of youth-related issues. However, based on 2013 data, only 10.9 per cent took part in the resolution of similar issues, and most of these young people were only partially involved in decision-making processes. Only 23.0 per cent of young people use Internet forums to express their opinions on political, social, economic, or other issues of public importance.

The low level of involvement of young people in public life in Georgia is confirmed by 2013 data. Only 11.9 per cent of young people participate in voluntary activities. Of these, 12.1 per cent participate in creative/amateur arts-related activities, and 12.4 per cent in cultural heritage-related activities. However, it is interesting to note that the biggest involvement of young people in any voluntary activity was in the 2012 parliamentary elections.

In 2013, 57.4 per cent of young people attended cultural activities on at least one occasion for the purpose of entertainment, recreation or acquiring knowledge. In the urban-rural context, the number of young people attending cultural events is quite different. In 2013, in urban areas, 72.1 per cent of young people attended cultural events, whereas only 40.6 per cent of those in rural areas did so. The latter is due to the small number of such events taking place in rural areas.

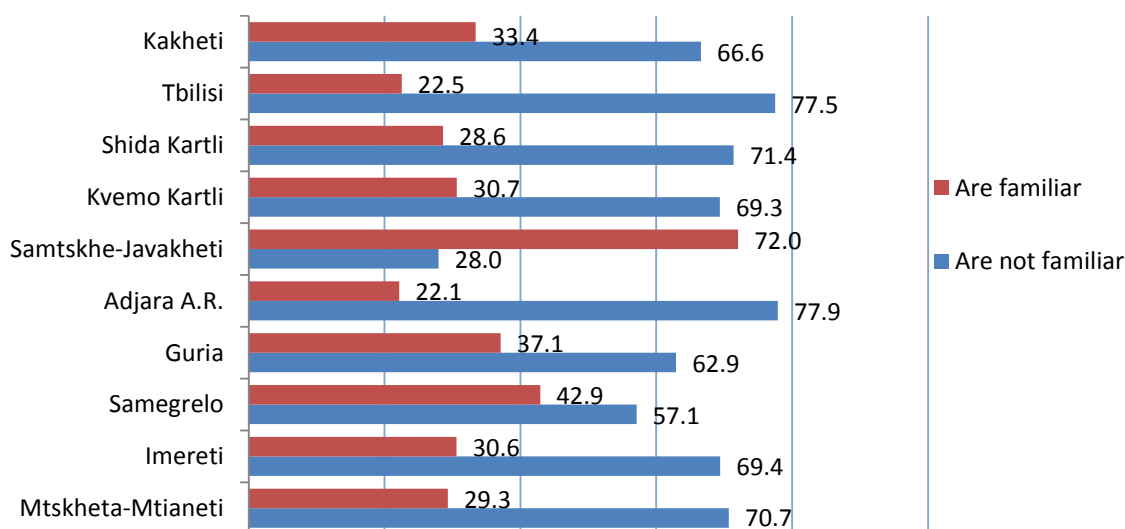
²The proportion of young people is implied. Two correct answers out of the three correct answers on the questionnaire on the documents deal with the rights and duties of citizens and civic obligations.

4.1 Civil rights and duties

The United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child³ on 20 November 1989, and it came into effect on 2 September 1990. The Convention comprises 54 articles, the first 42 of which refer to the basic principles of protection of a child – a child’s rights, obligations of the state and duties of a person related to the upbringing of a child. Articles 43-54 deal with issues which both the state and adults must address in order to fulfill obligations under the Convention. A total of 193 countries have signed the Convention, which means that these countries must take legal responsibility for the fulfillment of their obligations under the Convention. Georgia acceded to the Convention in 1994.

In Georgia, the majority of young people aged 15-29 (69.2 per cent) are not familiar with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. With regard to the urban/rural dimension, the picture is similar. However, it is noteworthy that 27.9 per cent of young people in urban areas are familiar with the Convention, whereas in rural areas 34.1 per cent of young people who believe they are familiar with the Convention are in the 15-17 years age group. Young people in the Adjara region (22.1 per cent), Tbilisi (22.5 per cent) and the Samtskhe-Javakheti region (22.0 per cent) are less familiar with the Convention. In the Samegrelo and Guria regions, respectively, 42.9 per cent and 37.1 per cent of young people note that they are familiar with the Convention. In all remaining regions, this figure ranges between 29 per cent and 33 per cent.

Chart 1.1 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia depending on whether they are familiar or not with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, by regions, %



The rights of a child encompass all aspects of life, and may be grouped into four main categories: survival, development, protection and participation.

The category of ‘rights necessary for survival’ includes the right to satisfy the basic necessities of life (e.g., adequate conditions for life, shelter, food, medical care).

³According to the first article of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, anyone who has not reached 18 years is considered a child.

In Georgia, among 15- to 29-year-old people who believe that they are familiar with this Convention, only 7.1 per cent are aware of the entire 'rights necessary for survival' category, including rights such as: the right to life and survival, the right to use medical services, the right to safe drinking water and sanitation systems. 53.7 per cent of young people correctly named at least two of the enumerated rights. In this particular cohort, the majority (89.5 per cent) refers to the right to life and survival, 53.5 per cent refer to the right to use medical services, and 27.6 per cent refer to the right to safe drinking water and sanitation systems. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, the same trend is observed in relation to naming the elements of the 'rights necessary for survival' category. Specifically, 35.2 per cent and 30.4 per cent of young people named rights not included in the 'rights necessary for survival' category (i.e., the right to protection from exploitation, the right to express views freely). The number of young people who could not correctly cite any right in this category is very small (2.9 per cent). The proportion of young people who believe they are familiar with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, but who find it difficult to specify the rights included in this category of the Convention, is 2.6 per cent.

Table 1.1 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who claim that they are familiar with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, by the rights enumerated in the Convention 'rights necessary for survival' category, by regions,%

| Regions | Right to life and survival | Right to protection from exploitation | Right to use medical services | Right to express views freely | Right to safe drinking water and sanitation systems |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Kakheti | 94.9 | 33.0 | 67.4 | 40.8 | 25.3 |
| Tbilisi | 96.4 | 31.9 | 47.2 | 21.5 | 25.5 |
| Shida Kartli | 83.8 | 47.8 | 59.3 | 52.7 | 39.0 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 83.7 | 29.5 | 42.2 | 26.9 | 18.5 |
| Adjara A.R. | 90.1 | 33.9 | 49.7 | 33.5 | 8.2 |
| Samegrelo | 84.0 | 26.1 | 41.3 | 17.5 | 27.2 |
| Imereti | 86.9 | 30.0 | 52.9 | 29.5 | 24.3 |
| Other regions ⁴ | 90.7 | 51.8 | 71.3 | 39.2 | 43.9 |

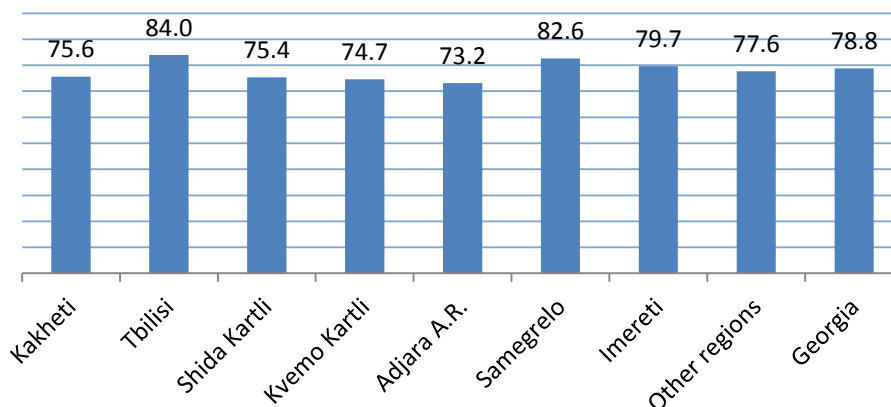
With regard to the same issue, the authors can state that in the questionnaire responses received, out of five possible answers relating to the 'rights necessary for survival' category, three were correct: the right to life and survival, the right to use medical services, the right to safe drinking water and sanitation systems. There is a possibility that young people who gave four or five answers could accidentally have guessed three correct answers. In order to exclude this possibility, the researchers focused on those who gave three or fewer answers. Based on this principle, it can be stated with certainty what percentage of young people are aware of the 'rights necessary for survival' category.

It should be noted that the proportion of young people who gave three or fewer correct responses equals 77.2 per cent of young people who answered this question. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, this indicator equals 82.2 per cent and 72.5 per cent, respectively.

⁴Here, and subsequently, 'Other regions' refers to the Samtskhe-Javakheti, Guria and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions.

Chart 1.2 Proportion of correct answers among answers enumerated in the ‘rights necessary for survival’ category, by people aged 15-29 in Georgia, by regions, %

(Young people who claimed that they are aware of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and named three or fewer correct answers relating to the ‘rights necessary for survival’ category of the Convention)



In Georgia, 15- to 29-year-old people are primarily informed about the ‘rights necessary for survival’ category of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Among the questionnaire responses received, the percentage of correct answers is highest for this category (78.8 per cent). The situation is almost the same across the regions, with the proportion of correct answers ranging between 73 per cent and 80 per cent. The exceptions to this are the Tbilisi and Samegrelo regions, where the rates are 84 per cent and 82.6 per cent, respectively.

The ‘development category’ includes rights that allow children to develop their potential (for example, education, entertainment and recreation, cultural activities, access to information and freedom of thought, freedom of religion).

In Georgia, among 15- to 29-year-old people who believe they are familiar with the Convention, a very small number (1.8 per cent) are, in fact, aware of all rights included in the ‘development category’ (i.e., the right to education, the right to individual development, the right to develop mental and/or physical abilities to the fullest potential). 51.6 per cent of young people correctly named at least two rights from the enumerated rights. In this cohort of young people, the majority (88.6 per cent) named the right to education, while 40.4 per cent named the right to individual development and 42.2 per cent named the right to develop mental and/or physical abilities to the fullest potential. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, the same trend is observed in relation to naming the rights in the ‘development category’. Specifically, 54.2 per cent and 50.9 per cent of young people referred to rights not included in the ‘development category’ (e.g., the right to have one’s own opinion and the right to receive necessary information). The proportion of young people who could not correctly name any right included in both the ‘development category’ and the ‘rights necessary for survival’ category is very small (2.8 per cent). The proportion of those who believe they are familiar with the Convention (but are not aware of the specific rights, or find it difficult to specify the rights included in this category) is 2.3 per cent.

Table 1.2 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who claimed that they are aware of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, by the rights enumerated in the Convention 'development category', by regions, %

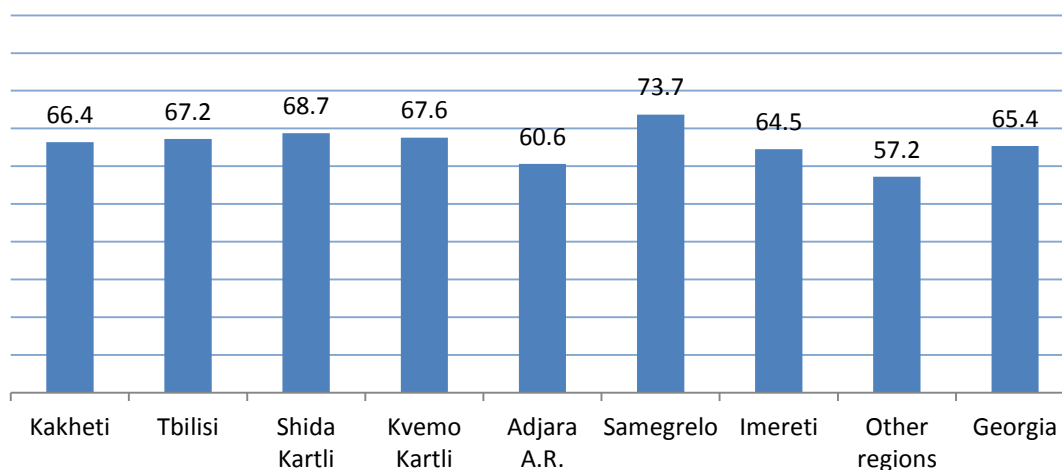
| Region | Right to education | Right to have own opinion | Right to receive necessary information | Right to individual development | Right to develop mental and/or physical abilities to the fullest potential |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Kakheti | 91.3 | 61.6 | 58.5 | 49.5 | 48.5 |
| Tbilisi | 86.1 | 51.3 | 46.9 | 43.3 | 36.8 |
| Shida Kartli | 89.7 | 63.7 | 56.3 | 48.4 | 59.5 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 94.6 | 45.5 | 42.2 | 23.7 | 33.7 |
| Adjara A.R. | 86.5 | 57.1 | 37.4 | 23.7 | 28.0 |
| Samegrelo | 85.7 | 39.5 | 42.1 | 34.5 | 44.4 |
| Imereti | 82.4 | 49.7 | 50.1 | 39.2 | 41.1 |
| Other regions | 94.3 | 70.6 | 68.3 | 52.1 | 49.3 |

With regard to the same issue, the authors can state that of the five possible answers on the 'development category' rights listed in the questionnaire, three answers were correct: the right to education, the right to individual development, the right to develop mental and/or physical abilities to the fullest potential. There is a possibility that the young people who gave four or five answers accidentally guessed the three correct answers. In order to exclude this possibility, the researchers focused on the number of young people who gave three or fewer answers. Based on this principle, it can be stated with certainty what percentage of young people are aware of the rights included in the 'development category'.

Interestingly, the proportion of young people who gave three or fewer responses is 65.8 per cent of young people who answered this question. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, this figure is 71.4 per cent and 60.6 per cent, respectively.

Chart 1.3 Proportion of correct answers among answers enumerated in the 'development category', by people aged 15-29 in Georgia, by regions, %

(Young people who claimed that they are aware of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and who gave three or fewer answers relating to the Convention 'development category')



The proportion of 15- to 29-year-old people who are familiar with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and who are partially informed about these rights, is included in the proportion of answers in the development category. Among given answers, the proportion of correct answers in this category is 65.4 per cent. When the responses were analysed by regions, the highest figure (73.7 per cent) was observed in Samegrelo. In the remaining regions, this figure ranges between 65 per cent and 69 per cent. However, it should be noted that with regard to the rights included in this category, young people in Adjara and other regions are least informed. Specifically, in these regions, the proportion of correct answers does not exceed 61 per cent.

The 'protection category' includes rights which are mainly aimed at the protection of children and teens from any form of abuse and negligent treatment and exploitation (for example, special care for refugee children and children's protection against involvement in armed conflict, as well as prohibiting child labour, sexual abuse, becoming a victim of torture and drug abuse).

Among 15- to 29-year-old people in Georgia, the majority (8.1 per cent) are aware of all rights included in the 'protection category' (i.e., the right to protection from all forms of discrimination, the right to protection from exploitation, the right to protection from war and poverty), compared with the other above-mentioned rights categories in the Convention. However, it is worth noting that the proportion in the 'protection category' is quite high (9.9 per cent) as is the proportion of young people who cannot correctly name any of the rights included in this category and the proportion of those who believe that they are familiar with the Convention but are either not aware of the 'protection category' or find it difficult to specify the rights included in this category (5.2 per cent). Among the enumerated rights, at least two rights were correctly cited by 47.9 per cent of the young population. In this category, the majority of young people (74.8 per cent) correctly named the right to protection from any kind of discrimination; 45.2 per cent named the right to protection from exploitation, and 39.8 per cent named the right to protection from poverty and war. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, the same trend is observed in relation to naming the rights included in the 'protection category'. The rights not included in the 'protection category' (the right to life and survival, and the right to use medical services) were cited by 57.2 per cent and 41.2 per cent of respondents, respectively.

Table 1.3 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who claimed that they are aware of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, by the rights enumerated in the Convention 'protection category', by regions, %

| Region | Right to protection from any kind of discrimination | Right to life and survival | Right to use medical services | Right to protection from exploitation | Right to protection from war and poverty |
|--------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | |

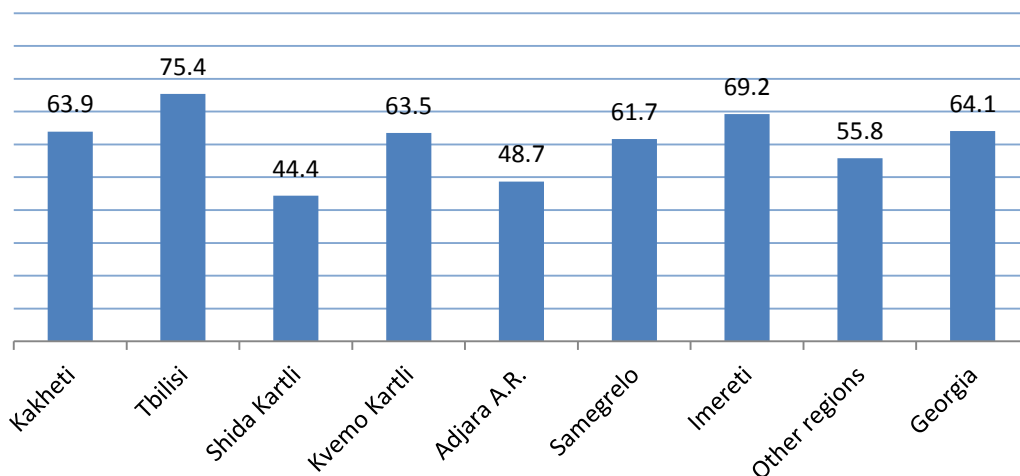
| | | | | | |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 78.2 | 58.8 | 32.9 | | 40.1 |
| Kakheti | | | | 42.8 | |
| Tbilisi | 84.3 | 43.1 | 32.6 | 48.7 | 40.8 |
| Shida Kartli | 71.5 | 73.7 | 63.7 | 50.0 | 53.1 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 65.7 | 53.7 | 29.8 | 40.7 | 29.6 |
| Adjara A.R. | 71.5 | 70.2 | 36.7 | 20.4 | 23.7 |
| Samegrelo | 61.1 | 51.0 | 30.7 | 33.1 | 29.3 |
| Imereti | 76.0 | 48.0 | 39.5 | 45.7 | 35.6 |
| Other regions | 79.4 | 78.3 | 66.6 | 61.1 | 57.7 |

With regard to the same issue, the authors can state that in the questionnaire responses received, out of five possible answers relating to the ‘protection category’ three were correct: the right to protection from any kind of discrimination, the right to protection from exploitation the right to protection from war and poverty. There is a possibility that young people who gave four or five answers accidentally guessed the three correct answers. In order to exclude this possibility, the researchers focused on the number of young people who gave three or fewer answers. Based on this principle it can be stated with certainty what proportion of young people are aware of the ‘protection rights’ category.

It is worth noting that the proportion of young people who gave three or fewer answers is 69 per cent of young people who answered this question. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, this indicator is 73.6 per cent and 64.8 percent, respectively.

Chart 1.4 Proportion of correct answers among answers enumerated in the ‘protection category’, by people aged 15-29 in Georgia, by regions, %

(Young people who claimed that they are aware of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and who gave three or fewer answers relating to the Convention ‘protection category’)



The proportion of 15- to 29-year-old people in Georgia who are least informed about the rights included in the ‘protection category’ also corresponds with the lowest proportion of correct answers in this category (64.1 per cent). In the ‘protection category’, as compared with other categories, the proportion of correct answers among given answers presents quite a different picture of the regions. The young people who are least informed about

rights included in the ‘protection category’ are those who live in the ShidaKartli (44.4 per cent) and Adjara (48.7 per cent) regions and, predominantly, those who live in the capital Tbilisi (75.4 per cent).

The ‘participation category’ includes rights that allow children and adults to actively engage in processes in society,(for example, the right to freedom of expression, the right to vote on matters relating to the decision-making processes that affect their lives, the right to join associations).

A very small proportion of people in Georgia aged 15-29 (2.8 per cent) are familiar with all rights included in the ‘participation category’ (the right to have one’s own opinion, the right to express views freely, the right to receive necessary information). However, 51.9 per cent of young people named at least two rights enumerated in this category. It is also noteworthy that in the ‘participation category’ as well as in the ‘protection category’, the number of young people who cannot correctly cite any right included in these categories is 6.8 per cent. Moreover, the proportion of those who believe they are familiar with the Convention, but do not know the rights included in these categories (or find it difficult to specify those rights) is 7.4 per cent. Among young people who believe they are familiar with the Convention, 67.9 per cent named the right to have one’s own opinion, 58.2 per cent named the right to express views freely, and 33.2 per cent named the right to receive necessary information. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, the same trend in relation to citing the ‘protection category’ rights is observed. The rights not included in the ‘participation category’ (the right to education and the right to develop physical and/or mental abilities to the fullest potential) were named by 44.2 per cent and 38.4 per cent, respectively, of respondents.

Table 1.4 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who claim that they are aware of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, by rights enumerated in the ‘participation category’ of the Convention, by regions, %

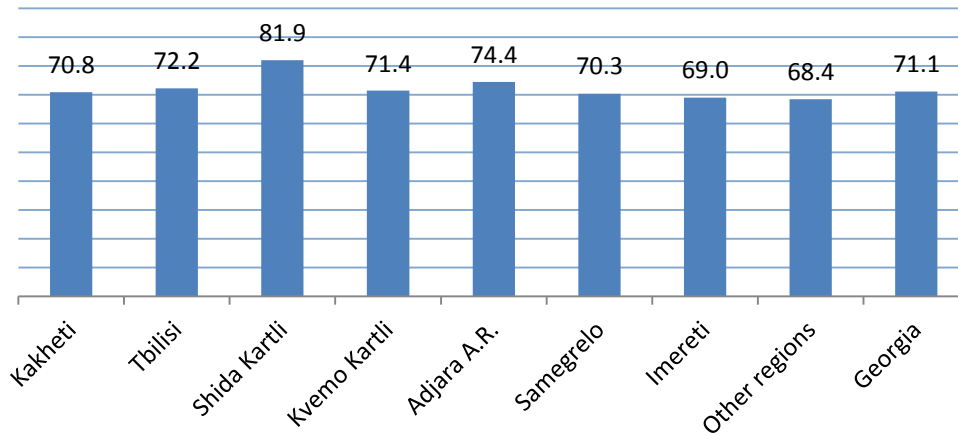
| Region | Right to have own opinion | Right to express views freely | Right to education | Right to develop mental and/or physical abilities to the fullest potential | Right to receive necessary information |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Kakheti | 63.3 | 75.2 | 41.9 | 46.6 | 38.9 |
| Tbilisi | 63.4 | 64.0 | 39.9 | 36.8 | 29.7 |
| ShidaKartli | 80.5 | 60.5 | 50.2 | 45.6 | 42.9 |
| KvemoKartli | 52.0 | 55.1 | 35.5 | 31.7 | 34.9 |
| Adjara A.R. | 66.3 | 57.7 | 38.1 | 21.2 | 14.2 |
| Samegrelo | 69.6 | 29.9 | 37.0 | 30.2 | 30.5 |
| Imereti | 63.2 | 56.5 | 42.7 | 38.0 | 30.2 |
| Other regions | 86.0 | 66.4 | 63.7 | 50.8 | 40.9 |

With regard to the same issue, the authors can state that in the questionnaire responses received, out of five possible answers relating to the ‘participation category’, three were correct: the right to have one’s own opinion, the right to express views freely and the right to receive necessary information. There is a possibility that young people who gave four or five answers accidentally guessed the three correct answers. In order to exclude this possibility, the researchers focused on the number of young people who gave three or fewer answers. Based on this principle, it can be stated with certainty what percentage of young people are aware of the ‘participation category’ rights.

It should be noted that the proportion of young people who gave three or fewer correct responses equals 68.1 per cent of young people who answered this question. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, this figure equals 72.5 per cent and 64 per cent, respectively.

Chart 1.5 Proportion of correct answers among answers enumerated in the ‘participation category by people aged 15-29 in Georgia, by regions, %

(Young people who claimed that they are aware of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and who gave three or fewer answers relating to the Convention ‘participation category’)

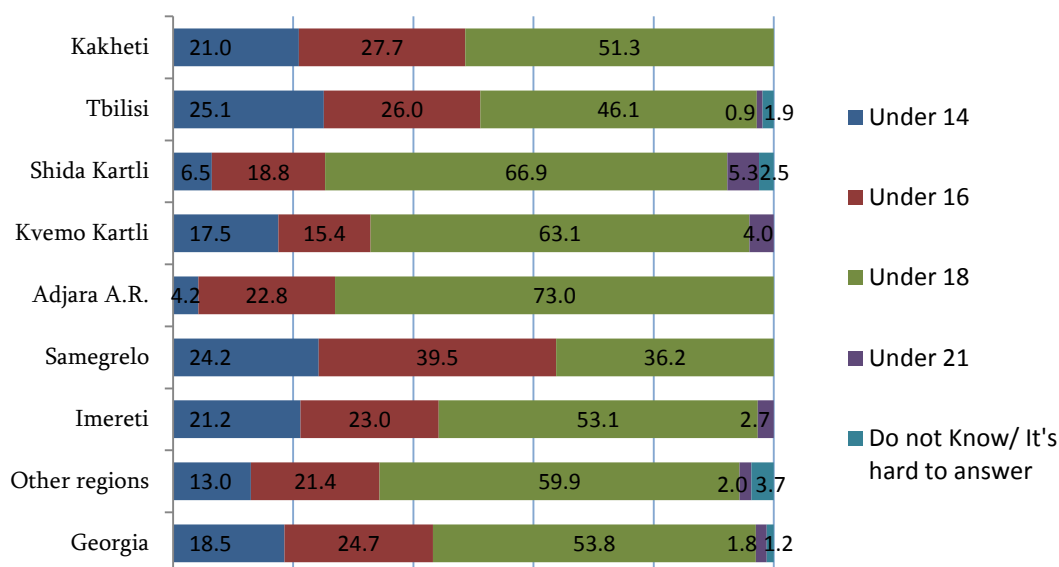


The proportion of correct answers given by 15- to 29-year-old people in the ‘participation category’ equals 71.1 per cent, which is seven percentage points higher than the proportion in the ‘protection category’. In the regions, the level of awareness about this category is almost similar, and ranges between 68 per cent and 74 per cent. However, the ShidaKartli region is notable in that the proportion of correct answers is highest, and equals 81.9 per cent.

In Georgia, among 15- to 29-year-old people who believe they are familiar with the Convention on the Rights of the Child none of those interviewed could correctly name all rights included in the survival, development, protection and participation categories of the Convention. Moreover, the percentage of young people who were informed about at least two of the rights included in all four categories was just 24.9 per cent.

According to the first article of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a person who is under 18 years of age is considered to be a child. In Georgia, among 15- to 29-year-old people who believe they are familiar with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 58.8 per cent correctly stated the age (under 18 years) at which a teenager is considered to be a child; 24.7 per cent stated ‘under 16 years’, and 18.5 per cent stated ‘under 14 years’. The percentage of respondents who stated ‘under 21’ totals just 1.8 per cent. With regard to urban-rural areas, the percentage of young people who stated ‘under 18’ is 48.5 per cent in urban areas and 58.7 per cent in rural areas, respectively. Interestingly, when urban areas are compared with rural areas, more young people consider a teenager to be a child who is under 14 or 16 years of age. In Georgia, the majority of young people aged 15-18 (62.9 per cent) who believe they are familiar with the Convention on the Rights of the Child consider a teenager to be a child aged under 18. In contrast, 18.6 per cent and 16.6 per cent, respectively, of young people in this age group consider a teenager to be a child under 16 and 14, respectively.

Chart 1.6 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who stated that they are aware of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and who named the age when a teenager is considered to be a child, by regions, %



The survey showed that in Georgia a very small number (5.6 per cent) of 15- to 29-year-old people are aware of all enumerated documents which set out the rights and duties of a citizen, namely the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Constitution of Georgia. However, 26.2 per cent of young people are nevertheless able to specify at least two documents containing the rights and duties of a citizen. The majority of young people in Georgia (48.7 per cent) know that the rights and duties of a citizen are described in the Constitution of Georgia; 44.0 per cent are aware of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and 16.1 per cent are aware of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. 22.7 per cent of young people aged 15-29 are not aware of, or find it difficult to specify, the documents containing the rights and duties of a citizen. The percentage of young people who could not correctly cite any document is very small (2.7 per cent).

Table 1.5 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia, by awareness of documents containing the rights and duties of a citizen, by urban/rural areas, %

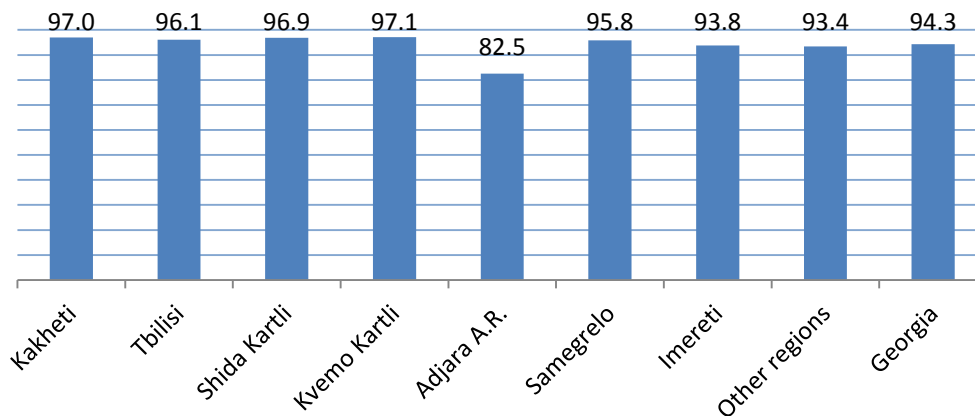
| | Urban areas | Rural areas | Georgia |
|---|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Universal Declaration of Human Rights | 48.0 | 39.5 | 44.0 |
| Convention on the Rights of the Child | 14.5 | 17.8 | 16.1 |
| Bill of Rights on freedoms granted to the human being by the nature | 7.2 | 8.5 | 7.8 |
| Constitution of Georgia | 49.8 | 47.5 | 48.7 |
| Kyoto Protocol | 0.7 | 1.4 | 1.0 |
| None of these | 1.3 | 0.4 | 0.9 |
| Do not know/It's difficult to answer | 17.1 | 29.1 | 22.7 |

With regard to the same issue, the authors can state that in the questionnaire responses received, out of five possible answers relating to the documents containing details of the rights and duties of a citizen, three were correct: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Constitution of Georgia. There is a possibility that young people who gave four or five answers accidentally guessed the three correct answers. In order to exclude this possibility, the researchers focused on the number of young people who

gave three or fewer answers. Based on this principle, it can be stated with certainty what percentage of young people are aware of the documents containing details of the rights and duties of a citizen.

It should be noted that the proportion of young people who gave three or fewer responses equals 74 per cent of young people who answered this question. It should also be noted that this was due to the fact that 22.7 per cent of respondents found it difficult to answer the question.

Chart 1.7 Proportion of correct answers regarding the documents containing details of the rights and duties of a citizen by people aged 15-29 in Georgia, by regions, % (young people who gave three or fewer answers)



It can be stated that although 15- to 29 year-old people found it quite difficult to specify documents containing details of a citizen's rights and duties, of those who named three or fewer documents, the overwhelming majority are informed about this issue. This statement is supported by the fact that the proportion of correct answers from given answers equals 94.3 per cent. An almost identical situation is observed in regions where the proportion of correct answers exceeded 93 per cent. However, the exception is the Adjara region, where the proportion of correct answers is lowest and equals 82.5 per cent.

In Georgia, of the 15- to 29-year-old people who responded to the question on the issue of human rights and freedoms considerations, most agree with the statement⁵ 'Everyone has the right to life.' (98.9 per cent). More than 97 per cent of young people in all regions across the country agree with this view, while in the Kakheti, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Samegrelo and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions, 100 per cent of young people agree with this view.

⁵Here, and subsequently, the responses 'strongly disagree' and 'moderately disagree' are combined into one response i.e., 'disagree', while the responses 'strongly agree' and 'moderately agree' are combined into one response i.e., 'agree'.

Table 1.6 Proportion of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who agree with human rights and freedoms considerations, by urban/rural areas, %

| | Urban areas | Rural areas | Georgia |
|--|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Everyone has the right to life | 98.5 | 99.3 | 98.9 |
| Everyone has the right not to be subjected to torture | 96.8 | 96.0 | 96.4 |
| Everyone has the right not to be subjected to forced labour | 92.2 | 92.2 | 92.2 |
| Everyone has the right to liberty and security | 95.5 | 97.3 | 96.3 |
| Everyone has the right to a fair trial | 95.3 | 94.5 | 94.9 |
| Everyone has the right not to be judged without the process of law | 91.9 | 89.3 | 90.7 |
| Everyone has the right to respect for private life and family life | 98.7 | 96.4 | 97.6 |
| Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, conscience and religion | 94.1 | 93.4 | 93.8 |
| Everyone has the right to freedom of assembly and association | 77.3 | 83.5 | 80.2 |
| Everyone has the right to marry | 65.9 | 81.4 | 73.2 |
| Everyone has the right to divorce | 86.6 | 85.2 | 85.9 |
| Everyone has the right not to be subjected to any kind of discrimination (ethnicity, sex, age, religion, etc.) | 83.3 | 84.7 | 84.0 |
| All rights are equally important and no preference is given to any right over another. | 71.8 | 73.8 | 72.8 |

In Georgia, 97.6 per cent of people aged 15-29 agree with the right to respect for private and family life. In the regions, more than 96 per cent of young people agree with this opinion. The exceptions are the Kakheti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions, where the rate is 100 per cent.

In Georgia, almost equal numbers of people aged 15-29 agree with the following two statements on human rights and freedoms: 'Everyone has the right not to be subjected to torture' and 'Everyone has the right to liberty and security'. The percentages for this age cohort are 96.4 per cent and 96.3 per cent, respectively. In the regions, this figure is not much different; the exception being Mtskheta-Mtianeti, where 100 per cent of young people agree that everyone has the right not to be subjected to torture. In contrast, when compared with the other regions, the Kvemo Kartli region has the lowest proportion of young people (89 per cent) who agree with this statement.

94.9 per cent of people aged 15-29 in Georgia agree with the statement that 'everyone has the right to a fair trial'. When the data are examined by regions, this rate is higher than 92 per cent. The exception to this is the Kvemo Kartli region, where 87.3 per cent of young people agree with this statement.

93.8 per cent of people aged 15-29 in Georgia agree with the statement that 'everyone has the freedom of expression, conscience and religion'. In all regions with the exception of Imereti the proportion of young people who agree with this view is higher than 90 per cent. In Imereti, 83.8 per cent of young people agree with the statement.

92.2 per cent of young people aged 15-29 in Georgia agree with the statement that 'everyone has the right not to be subjected to forced labour'. In the regions, more than 91 per cent of young people agree with the statement. The exceptions to this are the Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions, where the lowest rates of agreement with the statement are 84.6 per cent and 85.1 per cent, respectively. In contrast, the highest rate of agreement with this statement is recorded in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region (100 per cent).

90.7 per cent of young people aged 15-29 in Georgia agree with the human rights and freedoms statement that 'everyone has the right not to be judged without due process of law'. This figure varies in the regions, namely among young people in the Kvemo Kartli region, where 76.8 per cent of those surveyed agree with this opinion. Also in the Kvemo Kartli region, the highest proportion (15.2 per cent) of young people, compared to respondents in other regions, stated that they did not agree with this view. In addition, relatively fewer young people agree with this statement in the regions Samtskhe-Javakheti (85.4 per cent), Adjara (86.5 per cent) and Guria (88.2 per cent). Conversely, the highest percentage of agreement was recorded in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region (98.5 per cent). In all other regions, this figure ranges between 89 per cent and 96 per cent.

With regard to the statement 'Everyone has the right to divorce', 85.9 per cent of 15- to 29-year-olds in Georgia agree with this statement. However, a different picture emerges in the regions: in Samtskhe-Javakheti it is worth noting that only 60.2 per cent of young people agree with this statement and 37.2 per cent disagree. In Kvemo Kartli (77.2 per cent) and Imereti (77.3 per cent) a relatively low percentage of young people agree with this statement, while in the Kakheti region the figure is 84.7 per cent. In the remaining regions, 90-96 per cent of young people agree with the statement that everyone has the right to divorce.

84.0 per cent of people aged 15-29 in Georgia agree with the statement that 'everyone has the right not to be subjected to any type (ethnic, sex, age, religious, etc.) of discrimination'. When analysed by regions, this figure varies, with the lowest rate recorded in the Kvemo Kartli region, where only 70.5 per cent of young people agree with the statement and 11.0 per cent do not agree. A low rate of agreement (76.1 per cent) is also observed in the Imereti region. This index ranges between 80 per cent and 87 per cent in other regions, with the exception of the Kakheti (93.7 per cent), Samegrelo (97.0 per cent) and Mtskheta-Mtianeti (97.9 per cent) regions, where the rate of agreement is quite high.

80.2 per cent of young people aged 15-29 in Georgia agree with the statement in relation to human rights and freedoms, that 'everyone has the right to freedom of assembly and association'. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, this figure is different: 77.3 per cent of young people in urban areas agree with this statement, while in rural areas this proportion equals 83.5 per cent. With regard to the regional dimension, among young people who express agreement that everyone should have the right to freedom of assembly and association, the smallest proportion is in the Imereti region (63.1 per cent), the next lowest proportion (69.6 per cent) is in the Kvemo Kartli region, while in all other regions this figure ranges between 79 per cent and 82 per cent. The proportion of young people who agree with the statement is 93.4 per cent in Adjara and 98.1 per cent in Mtskheta-Mtianeti.

Among young people aged 15-29 in Georgia, the question that received the most varied response was around the statement: 'Everyone has the right to marry'. Across the country, only 73.2 per cent of young people expressed agreement with this statement. Of the 20.2 per cent of young people who not agree with this statement, 11.7 per cent strongly disagree and 8.6 per cent moderately disagree. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, the range of responses varied, with only 65.9 per cent of young people in urban areas agreeing that everyone has the right to marry, compared with 81.4 per cent of young people in rural areas who agree with this statement. When the data from the regions are analysed, the Imereti region stands out. It recorded the highest proportion of young people (53.3 per cent) confirming that they do not agree with this statement; the second highest proportion of young people who do not agree with the statement is observed in Tbilisi (26.7 per cent) and in Kvemo Kartli and Shida Kartli, where the figures are 18.3 per cent and 13.3 per cent, respectively. In all other regions, more than 90 per cent of young people agree with the statement.

In the case of the statement ‘All rights are equally important and no preference is given to any right over another’, 72.8 per cent of 15- to 29-year-old people in Georgia agree with this statement, while 11.5 per cent have a neutral view.

Only 11.6 per cent of 15- to 29-year-old people in Georgia are aware of all⁶their civic duties, namely observance of the law, paying taxes and participation in elections. Of these young people, 6.2 per cent live in urban areas and 5.4 per cent live in rural areas. In Georgia, a very small proportion of young people (5.1 per cent) cannot correctly name any of their civic duties. Moreover, 1.5 per cent of young people are not aware of, or find it difficult to cite, these duties, while the majority (68.2 per cent) are aware of at least two duties.

Table 1.7 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia, by citing civic duties, by regions, %

| Region | Observance of the law | Receiving education | Participation in elections | Expressing views openly | Paying taxes |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Kakheti | 90.5 | 59.2 | 63.2 | 35.0 | 69.1 |
| Tbilisi | 91.4 | 56.9 | 57.9 | 33.2 | 69.8 |
| Shida Kartli | 77.9 | 56.0 | 54.3 | 38.3 | 60.5 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 87.7 | 77.6 | 50.3 | 44.6 | 42.6 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 89.7 | 83.0 | 64.3 | 52.2 | 52.2 |
| Adjara A.R. | 87.8 | 70.6 | 54.3 | 41.1 | 58.8 |
| Guria | 81.0 | 51.3 | 65.9 | 24.6 | 55.0 |
| Samegrelo | 95.0 | 39.1 | 55.1 | 17.8 | 45.0 |
| Imereti | 86.2 | 66.2 | 56.3 | 39.5 | 46.8 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 97.8 | 42.4 | 81.1 | 48.1 | 85.7 |
| Georgia | 88.9 | 61.1 | 57.5 | 36.3 | 58.2 |

Across the country, the biggest proportion of young people (88.9 per cent) regards observance of the law as their civic duty. In this regard, a similar picture was observed in both urban areas and rural areas, where the figures are 89.7 per cent and 88.1 per cent, respectively. With regard to the regional dimension, the findings from Shida Kartli and Guria are worth noting. Here, 77.9 per cent and 81.0 per cent, respectively of young people consider observance of the law as their civic duty. The figures recorded in Shida Kartli and Guria are the lowest percentages recorded across the regions. In all other regions, the figures are in the 86 per cent to 98 per cent range.

Throughout the country, the next highest proportion of young people believes that receiving education is their civic duty. 62.4 per cent of young people in urban areas and 59.6 per cent of young people in rural areas also believe this. When the figures are analysed by regions, the situation varies. For example, Samegrelo (39.1 per cent) and Mtskheta-Mtianeti (42.4 per cent) recorded the lowest proportion of young people who believe that receiving education is their civic duty. In contrast, the figure for the Samtskhe-Javakheti region was 83.0 per cent and the figure for the Kvemo Kartli region was 77.6 per cent.

Interestingly, only 57.5 per cent of young people regard participation in elections as their civic duty. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, this figure is not much different, and equals 58.3 per cent and 56.6 per cent,

⁶Five statements were listed in the questionnaire; of these, only three were correct.

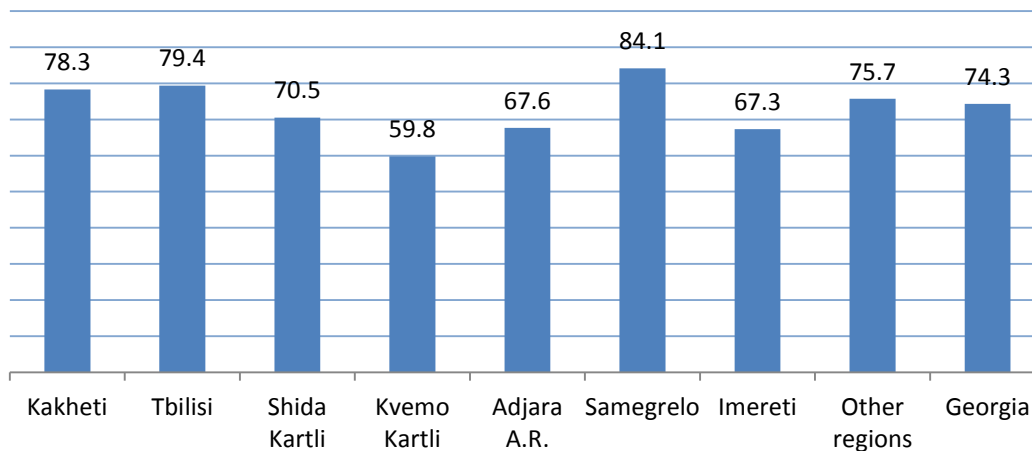
respectively. When the figures are analysed by regions, the highest proportion (81.1 per cent) was recorded in Mtskheta-Mtianeti, and the lowest (50.3 per cent) was recorded in KvemoKartli.

Across the country, 58.2 per cent of young people regard paying taxes as their civic duty. However, with regard to the urban-rural dimension, a significant difference was recorded when the findings for urban and rural areas were compared. Specifically, 62.1 per cent of young people living in urban areas believe that paying taxes is their duty whereas the corresponding figure for young people living in rural areas is 53.7 per cent.

With regard to the same issue, the authors can state that in the questionnaire responses received, out of five possible correct answers relating to the 'civic duties' issue, three were correct: observance of the law, participation in elections and paying taxes. There is a possibility that the young people who gave four or five answers accidentally guessed the three correct answers. In order to exclude this possibility, the authors focused on the number of young people who gave three or fewer answers. Based on this principle, it can be stated with certainty what percentage of young people are aware of their civic duties.

It should be noted that the proportion of young people who gave three or fewer responses equals 61.2 per cent of young people who answered this question.

Chart 1.8 Proportion of correct answers on civic duties by people aged 15-29 in Georgia, by regions, %
(young people who gave three or fewer answers)

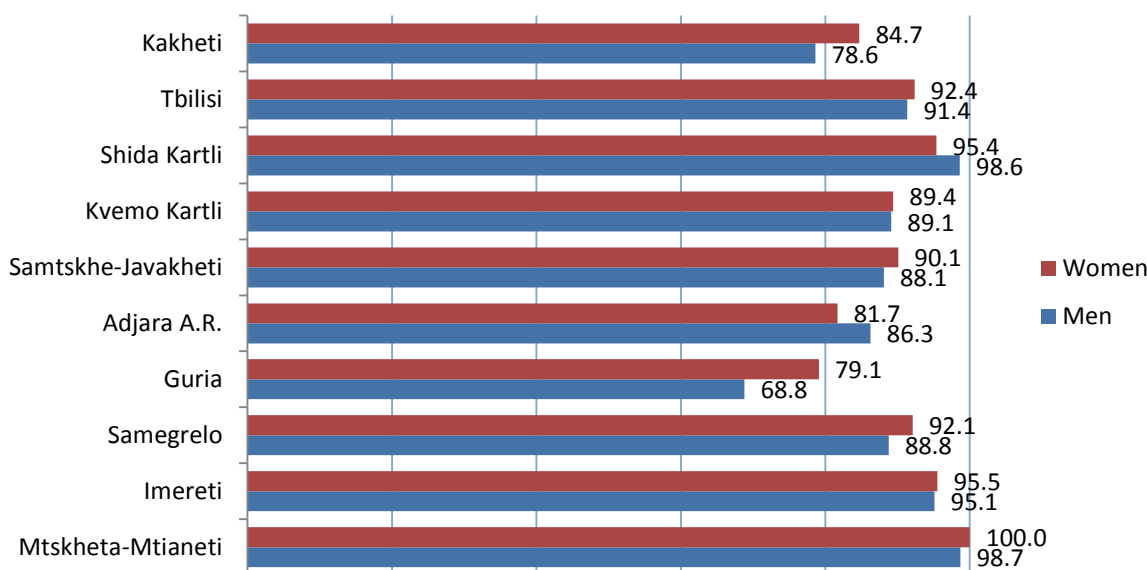


In Georgia, 15- to 29-year-old people are partially aware of their civic duties. This is demonstrated by the fact that the proportion of correct answers among given answers on civic duties is 74.3 per cent. This figure is quite diverse across the regions. For example, the highest proportion of correct answers (84.1 per cent) was recorded in the Samegrelo region. This is in sharp contrast to the Kvemo Kartli region, where the proportion of correct answers equals only 59.8 per cent. In the Adjara and Imereti regions the proportion of those who are partially aware of their civic duties is almost equal, 67.6 per cent and 67.3 per cent, respectively, whereas in all other regions this figure exceeds 71 per cent.

4.2 Youth participation in decision-making processes

The majority of 15- to 29-year-old people in Georgia (90.4 per cent) believe that young people have a right to take part in resolving issues that concern them. In an urban-rural context this figure is almost equal to 90-91 per cent. The Mtskheta–Mtianeti region is noteworthy in a regional context; here, almost all young people believe they have the right to take part in resolving issues that concern them.

Chart 1.9 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who believe that young people have a right to participate in resolving issues that concern them, by regions, by gender, %



Over the past 12 months, only 10.9 per cent of people aged 15-29 took part in decision-making processes related to issues that concern young people in Georgia. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, the figures are quite similar, with only 10.1 per cent of young people in urban areas and 11.9 per cent of young people in rural areas participating in such decision-making processes. With regard to the regional dimension, the findings from Samegrelo and Tbilisi are notable in that, over the past 12 months, involvement of young people in such decision-making processes was very low i.e., 6.8 per cent and 7.5 per cent, respectively. When the overall figures nationwide are examined by gender, they show that 10.4 per cent and 11.5 per cent, respectively, of young women and young men participated in these processes.

Chart 1.10 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia depending on whether they took part in decision-making processes on youth-related issues over past 12 months, by regions, %

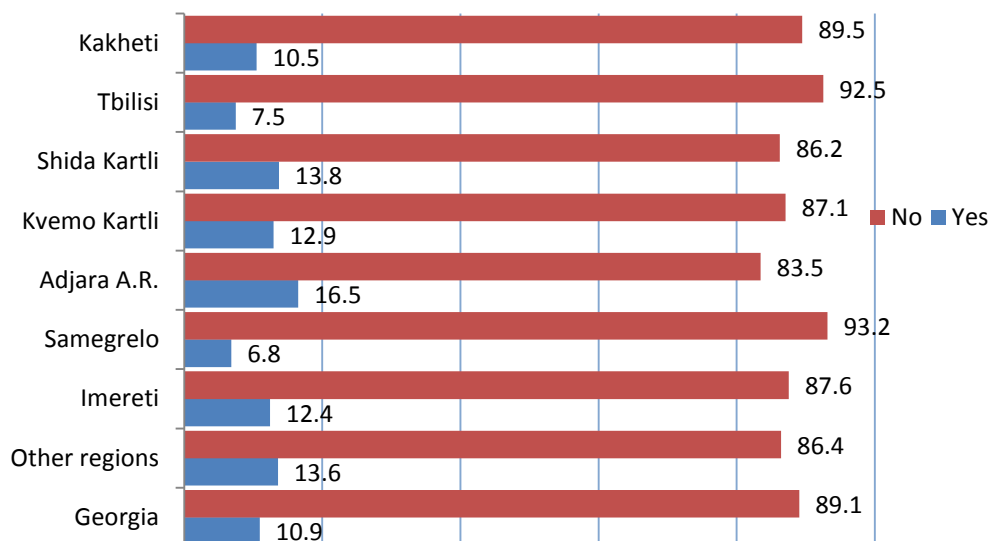
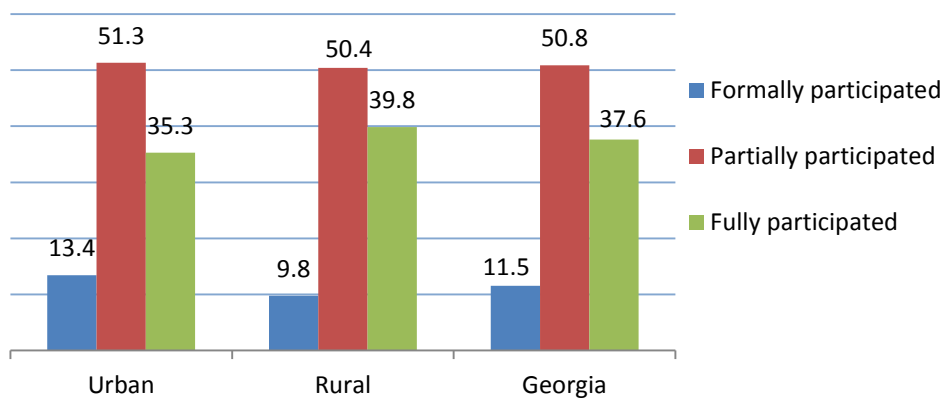


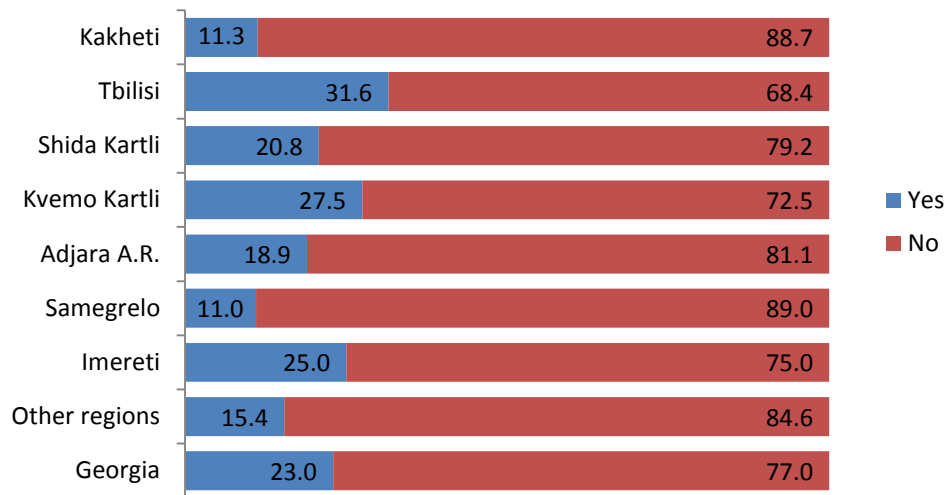
Chart 1.11 makes it clear that, over the past 12 months, of those who participated in decision-making processes related to issues that concern young people, the majority (50.8 per cent) were partly involved in such processes. Only 37.6 per cent of young people fully participated in such processes, while 11.5 per cent were formally involved.

Chart 1.11 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who, over the past 12 months, took part in decision-making processes related to issues that concern young people, by regions, %



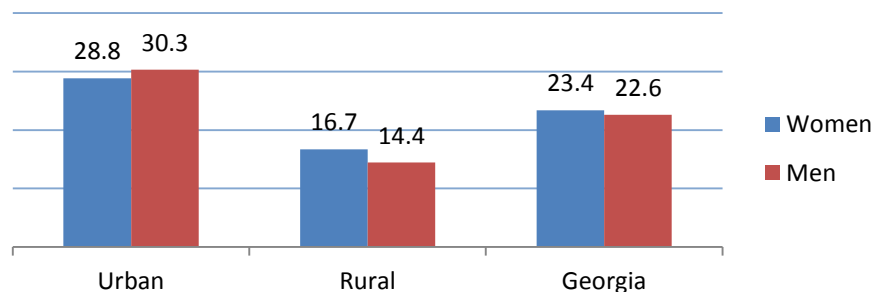
In Georgia, only 23.0 per cent of young people aged 15-29 use Internet forums to express their opinions on political, social, economic and other issues of national importance.

Chart 1.12 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia depending on whether they used Internet forums to express their opinions on political, social, economic and other issues of national importance, by regions, %



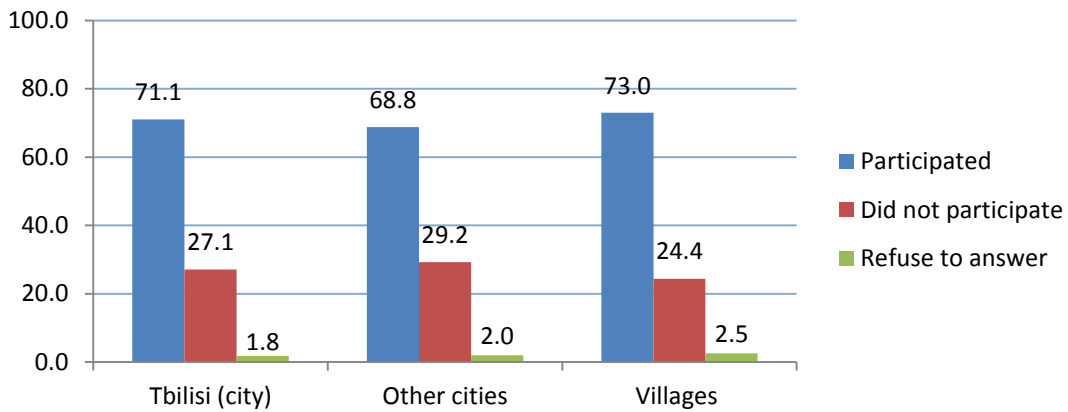
In Georgia, 23.4 per cent of young women and 22.6 per cent of young men use Internet forums to express their opinions. When the data are analysed by regions, the findings for Tbilisi are notable, as 31.6 per cent of young people here use Internet forums to express their opinions. However, this can be explained by the fact that in Tbilisi young people have more opportunity to access the Internet than their counterparts in the other regions.

Chart 1.13 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who use Internet forums to express their opinions on political, social, economic and other issues of national importance, by urban-rural context and by gender, %



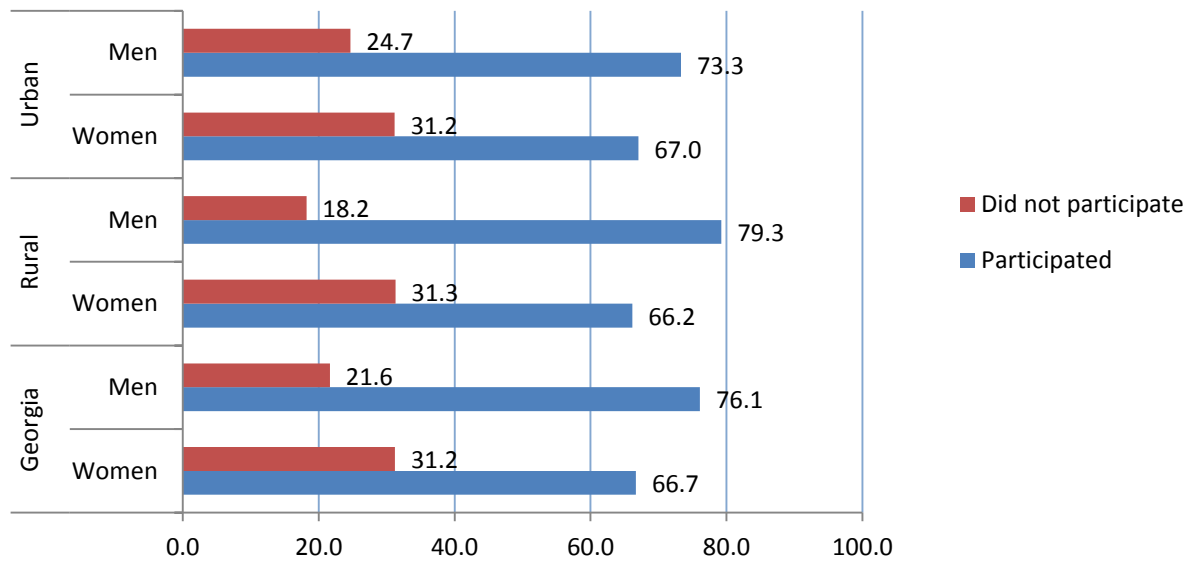
As outlined at the beginning of this report, a field survey was conducted in the period October-November 2013, in which young people aged 15-29 were interviewed. As those under the age of 18 were not eligible to vote in the 2012 parliamentary elections, only the answers of survey respondents aged 18 and over on 1 October 2012 were taken into consideration when analysing the degree of involvement of young people in parliamentary elections. Analysis of these data showed that 71.3 per cent of 19- to 29-year-old people in Georgia participated in the 2012 parliamentary elections, while 26.5 per cent did not participate. It should be noted that 28.1 per cent of respondents in urban areas did not participate, while in rural areas this figure was 24.4 per cent. Only 2.2 per cent of respondents failed to answer this question.

Chart 1.14 Distribution of people aged 19-29 in Georgia, by participation in the 2012 parliamentary elections, by urban-rural context, %



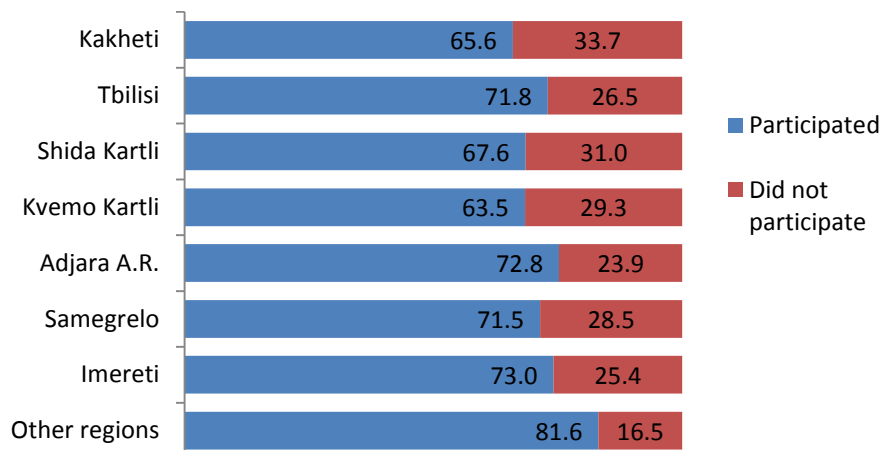
With regard to the gender dimension, of the 19- to 29-year-old people who did not participate in the 2012 parliamentary elections, 15.8 per cent were female and 10.7 per cent were male.

Chart 1.15 Distribution of people aged 19-29 in Georgia by participation in the 2012 parliamentary elections, by urban-rural context and by gender, %



With regard to the regional dimension, the lowest participation rates of 19- to 29-year-old people in the 2012 elections were in Kakheti (33.7 per cent) and Shida Kartli (31 per cent).

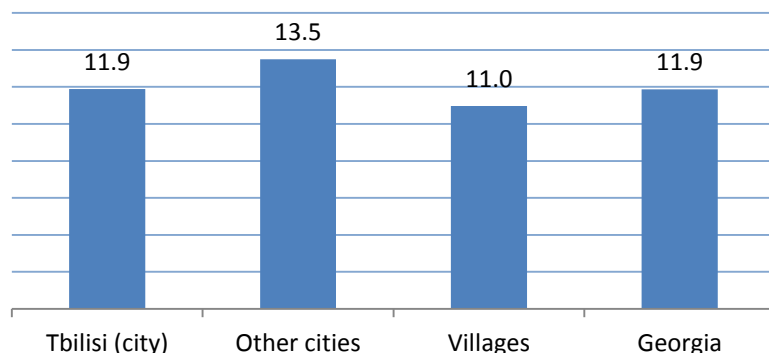
Chart 1.16 Distribution of people aged 19-29 in Georgia by participation in the 2012 parliamentary elections, and by regions, %



4.3 Voluntary activities

Only 11.9 per cent of people aged 15-29 took part in voluntary activities⁷ in Georgia and/or abroad over the past 12 months. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, there was no significant variation, the figures being 12.7 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively.

Chart 1.17 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia by participation in voluntary activities in Georgia and/or abroad over the past 12 months, in urban-rural context, %

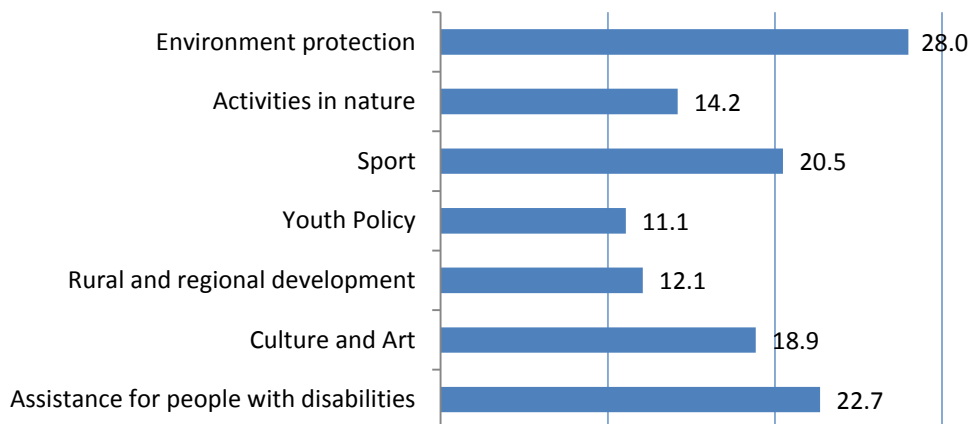


The area of voluntary activity most frequently cited by participants was protecting the environment (28.0 per cent). However, in Tbilisi and other cities the area of voluntary activity most frequently engaged in was providing assistance to people with disabilities. Sports accounted for 20.5 per cent of voluntary activities while a very small number of young people were involved in other voluntary activities. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, it is noteworthy that the majority of participants in voluntary activities in urban areas (30.1 per cent) were engaged

⁷Does not imply carrying out certain activities in favour of family or relatives, or motivated by financial or material benefits.

in assisting disabled persons, while in rural areas the majority (34.4 per cent) was engaged in environment-related activities.

Chart 1.18 Distribution of people aged 15-29 engaged in voluntary activities in Georgia by the most frequently mentioned field of voluntary activity, %

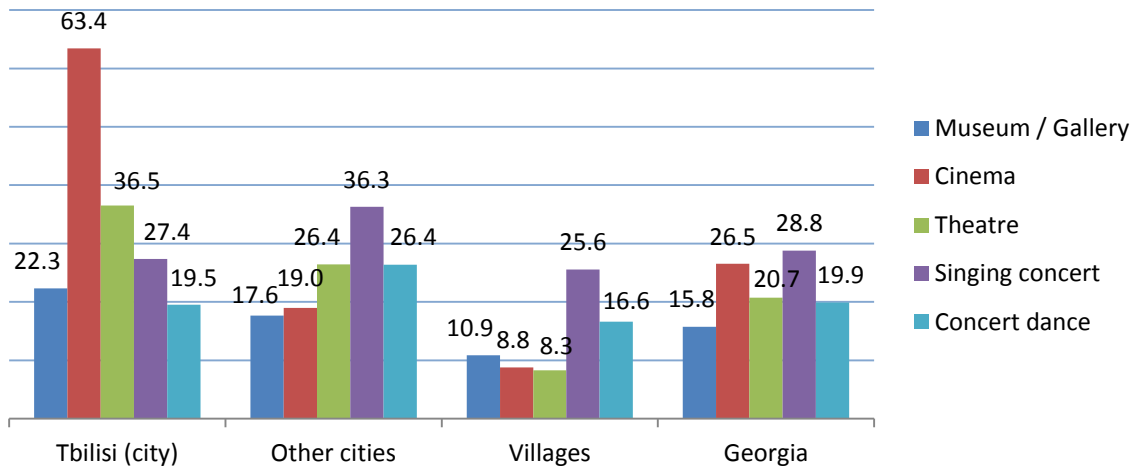


4.4 Culture, art and recreation activities

Over the past 12 months, only 12.1 per cent of 15-29-year-old people in Georgia took part in creative/amateur⁸ arts activities. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, there was no significant variation, with non-participation rates of 87.3 per cent in urban areas and 88.6 per cent in rural areas. The activities with the highest participation rates were dance events (5.7 per cent) and concerts (3.6 per cent). While the proportion of 15- to 29-year-old people participating in amateur arts events and volunteer activities over the past 12 months was 57.4 per cent, the proportion who took part in cultural activities was much greater. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, there was a significant variation, with 72.1 per cent of young people in urban areas attending at least one cultural event; the corresponding figure for young people living in rural areas was 40.6 per cent.

Chart 1.19 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who, over the past 12 months, attended cultural events, by urban-rural context, %

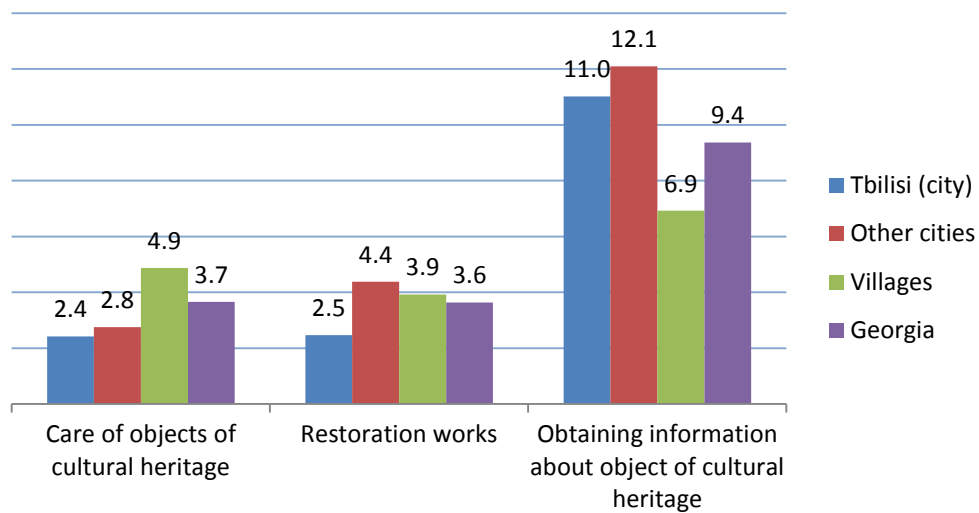
⁸Activity performed before an audience or intended for consumers, e.g. on stage, for exhibitions, for readers, (playing a musical instrument, singing, dancing, performing a role, writing fiction, photography, film-making) is implied.



The majority of young people in Georgia (28.8 per cent) went to a concert in 2013. The figure for concert attendance in other cities was 36.3 per cent and in rural areas 25.6 per cent. However, in the capital city Tbilisi, where there is a greater choice of cultural events on offer, the most popular activities for young people were going to the cinema (63.4 per cent) and going to the theatre (36.5 per cent).

A small number of young people (12.4 per cent) participated in cultural/heritage-related activities in 2013. These activities were mainly related to obtaining information about objects of cultural heritage (9.4 per cent).

Chart 1.20 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia by participation in cultural/heritage-related activities over the past 12 months, %



4.5 Youth initiatives

Between January 2012 and June 2013, youth organizations from around the country submitted a total of 82 projects to the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia. Of the 16 projects that the Ministry supported, the majority were initiated and submitted by youth organizations in Tbilisi. A total of 860 beneficiaries in the 15- to 29-years age group across Georgia participated in these projects during this period.

Table 1.8 Total number of projects submitted to the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia and number of supported projects and beneficiaries in regional context (from January 2012 to June 2013)

| | Kakheti | Tbilisi | Shida Kartli | Kvemo Kartli | Samtskhe-Javakheti | A.R. Adjara | Guria | Samegrelo | Imereti | Mtskheta-Mtianeti |
|--|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------------------|
| Number of projects initiated and submitted by youth organizations to the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia | 6 | 31 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| Number of projects supported by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Number of beneficiaries aged 15-29 of the supported projects | | 120 | | | 320 | | | 300 | 120 | |

Source: Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia

4. Part II. Education and employment

5.1 Education

In recent years the educational system in Georgia has undergone significant changes. These are linked to a wide range of socio-political and economic processes in Georgia, coupled with the transition to a market economy, integration with the European educational system, and the implementation of the Bologna Process. Georgia became a member of the latter in May 2005. Since then, the system of management, financing and quality management models, and the structure of the education system have changed.

The main components of the educational system in Georgia are:

- A) pre-school education;
- B) general secondary education, which includes primary, basic and secondary education;
- C) vocational education;
- D) three-stage higher academic education.

The educational system in Georgia includes 12 years of education, of which nine years are considered to be compulsory (six years of primary and three years of secondary education (basic level)). Upper secondary education lasts for three years and includes the tenth to twelfth grade. Pupils are admitted to primary school at the age of six. General education is financed by the government according to the rule established by the law.

After completion of basic education, pupils have an opportunity to obtain primary vocational education (VET). A necessary condition for higher education is middle school completion. The higher education system consists of three levels: bachelor, masters and doctoral programmes. Higher vocational education is the so-called short cycle, or a sub-step to a bachelor's degree.

5.1.1 Attained level of education

In Georgia, the majority of the population aged 15 and older (41.5 per cent), including a majority of 15-29-year-olds (40.0 per cent), have received only general secondary education. Vocational education seems to be relatively unpopular among young people; more than one-fifth of all young people (21.6 per cent) have received higher education and slightly more than one-tenth (11.0 per cent) have received vocational education. The level of education attained is relatively high in urban areas, and among women. Of young people living in urban areas 29.7 per cent have received higher education, a figure 2.4 times higher than that for young people living in rural areas (12.3 per cent). With regard to the gender dimension, 22.7 per cent of young women have received higher education compared with 20.4 per cent of men.

21.1 per cent of 15-29-year-olds study in general educational institutions. Their age ranges from 15 to 19, of which the number of men is higher by 2.4 percentage points than the number of women. 52.3 per cent of young people who study in general educational institutions live in rural areas. 10.1 per cent of young people study at higher education institutions. With regard to gender, 11.5 per cent of young women and 8.7 per cent of young men study at higher education institutions. The majority of 15-29-year-olds (66.9 per cent) do not attend any educational institution.

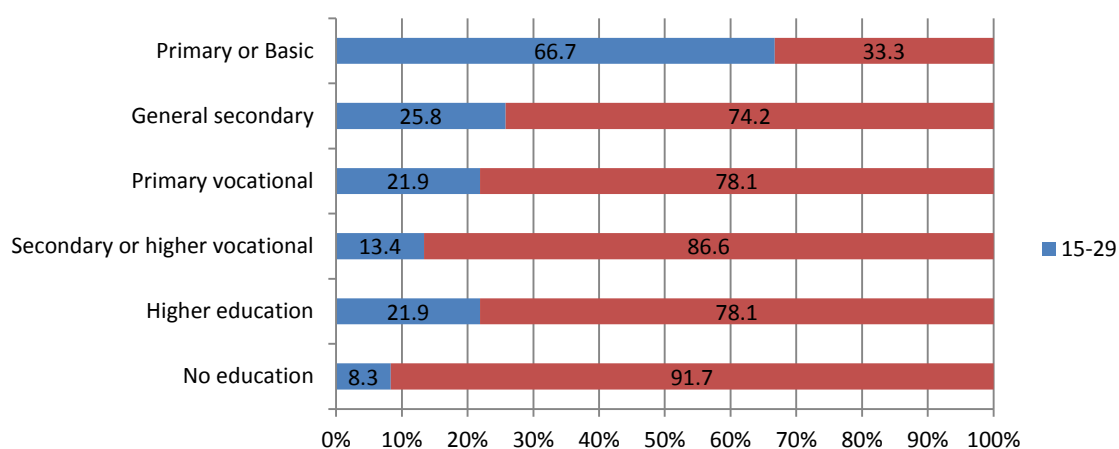
As Table 2.1 shows, the majority of people aged 15 and older (41.5 per cent) attained a level of general secondary education, while more than a quarter of this age cohort has received higher education (26.3 per cent). A small proportion of the population (10.8 per cent) received only primary or basic education, of whom one-third (33.33 per cent) are aged 30 or older. Of those whose level of educational attainment is general secondary education, 43.6 per cent are male and 39.6 per cent are female. Of those who have graduated from higher education institutions, the proportion is 26.9 percent female to 25.6 per cent male. Similarly, relatively more women have received vocational education than men (primary vocational, secondary or higher vocational).

Table 2.1 Distribution of population aged 15 and older in Georgia by attained level of education, %

| Level of education | Women | Men | Total |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Primary or basic | 10.6 | 11.1 | 10.8 |
| General secondary | 39.6 | 43.6 | 41.5 |
| Primary vocational | 1.9 | 3.2 | 2.5 |
| Secondary or higher vocational | 19.9 | 16.0 | 18.1 |
| Higher | 26.9 | 25.6 | 26.3 |
| No education | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

By level of education among those aged 15 years and older, the proportion of 15-to 29-year-old people varies in several respects. Of those who received only primary or basic education, the proportion of 15-to 29-year-old people is 66.7 per cent. Of those who received only general secondary education, the proportion is 25.8 per cent, and of those who received primary vocational and higher education, the proportion is 21.9 per cent. These figures are not surprising, as some people in the 15-29 age group are still studying in various educational institutions.

Chart 2.1 Proportion of people aged 15 and older by attained level of education, %



The majority of 15-to 29-year-old people (40 per cent) received only general secondary education, and 21.6 per cent received higher education. Vocational education is relatively unpopular with young people, specifically primary vocational education (2 per cent).

With regard to the gender dimension, both the majority of young women and young men, 36.7 per cent and 43.4 per cent, respectively, received only general secondary education. More than one-fifth of women and men, 22.7 per cent and 20.7 per cent, respectively, received higher education. The proportion who received vocational (primary vocational, secondary or higher vocational) education is relatively low among both women and men, but the rate for young women (14.3 per cent) is still higher than the rate for men (7.8 per cent). The authors can state that, overall, the level of education is relatively higher among young women than young men.

Table 2.2 Distribution of people aged 15-29, by attained level of education and by gender, %

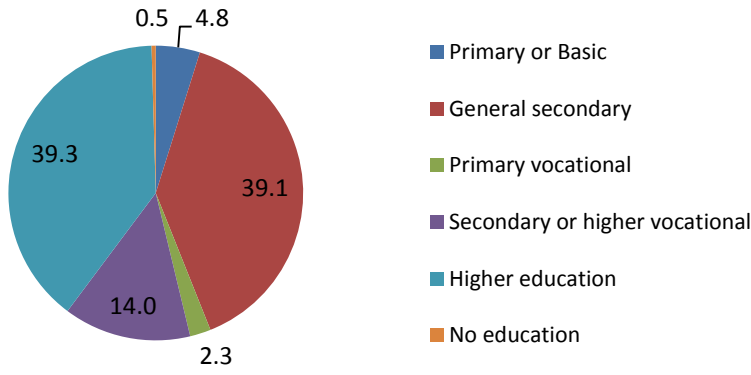
| Level of education | Women | Men | Total |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Primary or basic | 26.0 | 28.2 | 27.1 |
| General secondary | 36.7 | 43.4 | 40.0 |
| Primary vocational | 2.4 | 1.7 | 2.0 |
| Secondary or higher vocational | 11.9 | 6.1 | 9.0 |
| Higher | 22.7 | 20.4 | 21.6 |
| No education | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

In the 15-29 age group, it is interesting to compare the level of educational attainment among 22-to 29-year-old people, who have largely completed their formal education⁹, with that of 15- to 21-year-olds. Of those in the 15-21-years age group, the highest level of education received by 93.7 per cent of this age cohort does not go beyond general secondary education; 56.1 per cent of these young people received only primary or basic education. In contrast, almost two-fifths (39.3 per cent) of 22-to 29-year-old people have received higher education, 39.1 per

⁹Formal education is a structured educational system from primary through to higher education, which may also include technical and vocational training programmes.

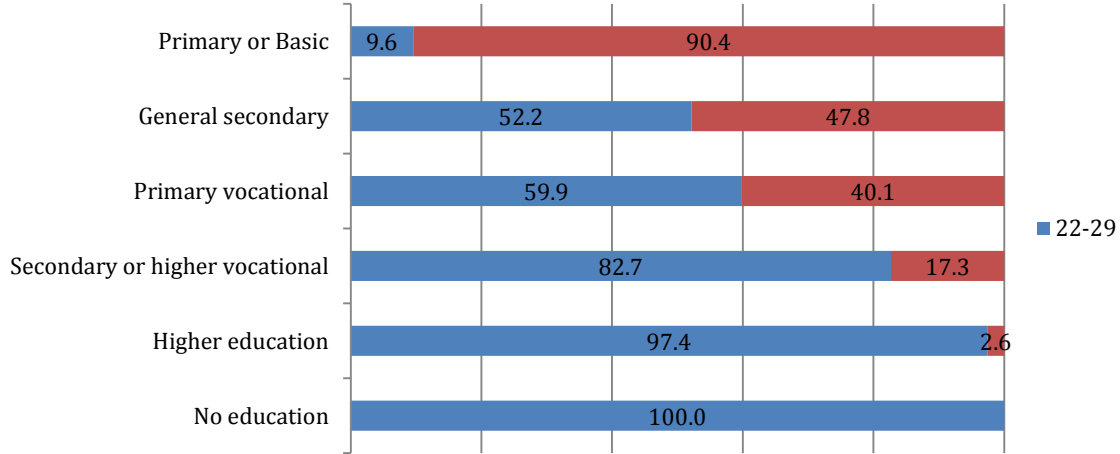
cent have received general secondary education, and the proportion with only primary or secondary education is just 4.8 per cent.

Chart 2.2 Distribution of people aged 22-29, by attained level of education, %



As Chart 2.3 shows, 22- to 29-year-old people represent a significantly greater proportion of those with the highest level of educational attainment in the 15-29years age group. They represent 97.4 per cent of those who graduated from higher educational institutions and 82.7 per cent of those who graduated from secondary vocational institutions. In line with this, they represent the smallest proportion of those who received only primary or secondary education (9.6 per cent).

Chart 2.3 Proportion of people aged 22-29 among people aged 15-29, by attained level of education, %



With regard to the urban-rural dimension, the level of education attained among those aged 15 and older is significantly higher in urban areas, with 39.3 per cent of the population receiving higher education compared with only 12.5 per cent in rural areas. The majority of young people living in rural areas (50.5 per cent) received only general secondary education.

Table 2.3 Distribution of population by attained level of education in urban-rural context, %

| Level of education | Population aged 15 and older | 15- to 29-year-old people |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | |

| | Urban areas | Rural areas | Urban areas | Rural areas |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Primary or basic | 8.0 | 13.8 | 22.6 | 32.1 |
| General secondary | 33.1 | 50.5 | 35.8 | 44.8 |
| Primary vocational | 1.9 | 3.1 | 2.1 | 2.0 |
| Secondary or higher vocational | 17.2 | 18.9 | 9.8 | 8.2 |
| Higher | 39.3 | 12.5 | 29.7 | 12.3 |
| No education | 0.4 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Across regions, most 15- to 29-year-old people received only general secondary education and this figure varies from 31.3 to 46.3 per cent. The highest rates were observed in KvemoKartli and Kakheti (46.3 per cent and 45.6 per cent, respectively), while the lowest rate was seen in Adjara (31.3 per cent). The highest proportion across all regions to receive only primary or basic education was 35.9 per cent, in KvemoKartli. The lowest (17.9 per cent) was observed in Tbilisi. The proportion of graduates from higher educational institutions varies from 9.1 per cent (in the Kakheti region) to 33.2 per cent in Tbilisi. The second highest proportion was observed in Adjara (26.8 per cent).

Table 2.4 Distribution of people aged 15-29 by attained level of education and regions, %

| | Primary or basic | General Secondary | Vocational | Higher | No education |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Kakheti | 30.2 | 45.6 | 15.1 | 9.1 | 0.0 |
| Tbilisi | 17.9 | 40.4 | 8.6 | 33.2 | 0.0 |
| ShidaKartli | 31.5 | 41.8 | 10.2 | 16.5 | 0.0 |
| KvemoKartli | 35.9 | 46.3 | 4.5 | 11.6 | 1.8 |
| Adjara A.R. | 24.6 | 31.3 | 17.2 | 26.8 | 0.0 |
| Samegrelo | 32.1 | 35.4 | 16.4 | 16.1 | 0.0 |
| Imereti | 33.1 | 34.6 | 11.9 | 20.2 | 0.2 |
| Other regions | 25.6 | 45.6 | 12.2 | 16.7 | 0.0 |
| Georgia | 27.1 | 40.0 | 11.1 | 21.6 | 0.2 |

5.1.2 Premature termination of studies

The survey found that 9.4 per cent of 15- to 29-year-old people did not complete their studies at various educational institutions. Of these, 4.3 per cent left school early and 60.9 per cent were living in a rural area. 3 per cent left higher education institutions, the majority of whom (69 per cent) lived in an urban area. No significant gender difference was observed.

According to data from the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (See Table 2.5), 17,089 young people left secondary school early between July 2012 and June 2013. The majority (10,153) of these were men, 89.9 per cent of them were 15- to 29-year-olds, while the remainder were less than 15 years old.

Table 2.5 Number of young people who left secondary school early by regions, persons

| | Kakheti | Tbilisi | A.R. Abkhazia | Shida Kartli | Kvemo Kartli | Samtskhe-javakheti | A.R. Adjara | Guria | Samegrelo | Imereti | Mtsketa-Mtianeti | Georgia, total |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| Total number of early school leavers | 1,870 | 4,320 | 132 | 1,131 | 2,570 | 636 | 1,674 | 422 | 1,792 | 2,193 | 349 | 17,089 |
| Women | 756 | 1,718 | 63 | 426 | 1,112 | 291 | 691 | 173 | 749 | 828 | 129 | 6,936 |
| Men | 1,114 | 2,602 | 69 | 705 | 1,458 | 345 | 983 | 249 | 1,043 | 1,365 | 220 | 10,153 |
| Aged 15-29 | 1,664 | 3,655 | 108 | 1,057 | 2,226 | 567 | 1,597 | 402 | 1,692 | 2,067 | 332 | 15,367 |
| Women | 656 | 1,411 | 52 | 399 | 939 | 264 | 656 | 163 | 705 | 770 | 126 | 6,141 |
| Men | 1,008 | 2,244 | 56 | 658 | 1,287 | 303 | 941 | 239 | 987 | 1,297 | 206 | 9,226 |
| Aged 15-17 | 1,468 | 3,336 | 87 | 1,006 | 1,998 | 502 | 1,413 | 367 | 1,558 | 1,860 | 304 | 13,899 |
| Women | 565 | 1,272 | 43 | 371 | 843 | 229 | 591 | 150 | 644 | 683 | 117 | 5,508 |
| Men | 903 | 2,064 | 44 | 635 | 1,155 | 273 | 822 | 217 | 914 | 1,177 | 187 | 8,391 |
| Aged 18-29 | 196 | 319 | 21 | 51 | 228 | 65 | 184 | 35 | 134 | 207 | 28 | 1,468 |
| Women | 91 | 139 | 9 | 28 | 96 | 35 | 65 | 13 | 61 | 87 | 9 | 633 |
| Men | 105 | 180 | 12 | 23 | 132 | 30 | 119 | 22 | 73 | 120 | 19 | 835 |

Source: Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

With regard to the regional dimension, the proportion of 15- to 29-year-olds who left school prematurely varies from 84.6 per cent to 95.4 per cent. The highest proportion was observed in Adjara (95.4 per cent) and the lowest (84.6 per cent) in Tbilisi.

If we compare the number of 15- to 29-year-olds who left school prematurely to the total number of people in this age group we can see that, on average, the dropout rate is 15 per 1,000. Across the regions this figure ranges from 11 to 21. The highest rate was recorded in the Kakheti region (21) and the lowest in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region (11). With regard to the gender dimension, the dropout rate for women was, on average, 12 per 1,000 and this figure ranges across regions from 9 to 17. The highest rate was observed in the Kakheti region (17), and the lowest in Tbilisi (9). The dropout rate for men was higher, with 19 per 1,000 giving up their studies. The highest rate for men (25) was also recorded in the Kakheti region and the lowest in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region (12).

Table 2.6 Average number of people aged 15-29 who abandoned school prematurely among the total in this age group, by regions (per 1,000 persons)

| | Women | Men | Total |
|--------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| Kakheti | 17 | 25 | 21 |
| Tbilisi | 9 | 16 | 12 |
| Shida Kartli | 11 | 17 | 14 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 15 | 20 | 17 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 11 | 12 | 11 |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Adjara A.R. | 15 | 23 | 19 |
| Guria | 12 | 18 | 15 |
| Samegrelo | 15 | 22 | 19 |
| Imereti | 11 | 18 | 14 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 10 | 16 | 13 |
| Georgia | 12 | 19 | 15 |

As Table 2.7 shows, of the 15- to 29-year-old people who left school prematurely, 90.4 per cent were between 15 and 17 years of age. Across regions, the proportion varied from 88.2 per cent in the Kakheti region to 95.2 per cent in the Shida Kartli region. With regard to the gender dimension, of women aged 15 to 29 who left school prematurely, 89.7 per cent were between 15 and 17 years of age. The highest rate in the 15-17 years age group (93 per cent) was observed in Shida Kartli, and the lowest was observed in the Kakheti region (86.1 per cent). Across regions, the overall figure for men was 90.9 per cent. The highest proportion, as for women, was recorded in the Shida Kartli region (96.5 per cent), while the lowest was in Adjara (87.4 per cent).

Table 2.7 Proportion of people aged 15-17 who left school prematurely among 15-to 29-year-old people with the same status, by regions, %

| | Women | Men | Total |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Kakheti | 86.1 | 89.6 | 88.2 |
| Tbilisi | 90.1 | 92.0 | 91.3 |
| Shida Kartli | 93.0 | 96.5 | 95.2 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 89.8 | 89.7 | 89.8 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 86.7 | 90.1 | 88.5 |
| Adjara A.R. | 90.1 | 87.4 | 88.5 |
| Guria | 92.0 | 90.8 | 91.3 |
| Samegrelo | 91.3 | 92.6 | 92.1 |
| Imereti | 88.7 | 90.7 | 90.0 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 92.9 | 90.8 | 91.6 |
| Georgia | 89.7 | 90.9 | 90.4 |

The survey shows that 66.9 per cent of 15-to 29-year-old people have information on the school enrollment mechanism and its services, while 56.8 per cent have information on the enrollment mechanism for higher education institutions and their services. The proportion of this age group who does not have this information on any type of educational institution is 17.7 per cent.

With regard to the gender dimension, it was found that 15- to 29-year-old women are more informed on the enrollment mechanism in the different types of institutions and their services than men. 73.9 per cent of young women have information on the school enrollment mechanism and its services compared with only 59.8 per cent of young men. Awareness of the higher education system stands at 60.2 per cent among women compared with 53.3 per cent among men.

Table 2.8 Awareness of people aged 15-29 on the enrollment mechanism in educational institutions and their services, %

| | Women | Men | Total |
|--|-------|-----|-------|
|--|-------|-----|-------|

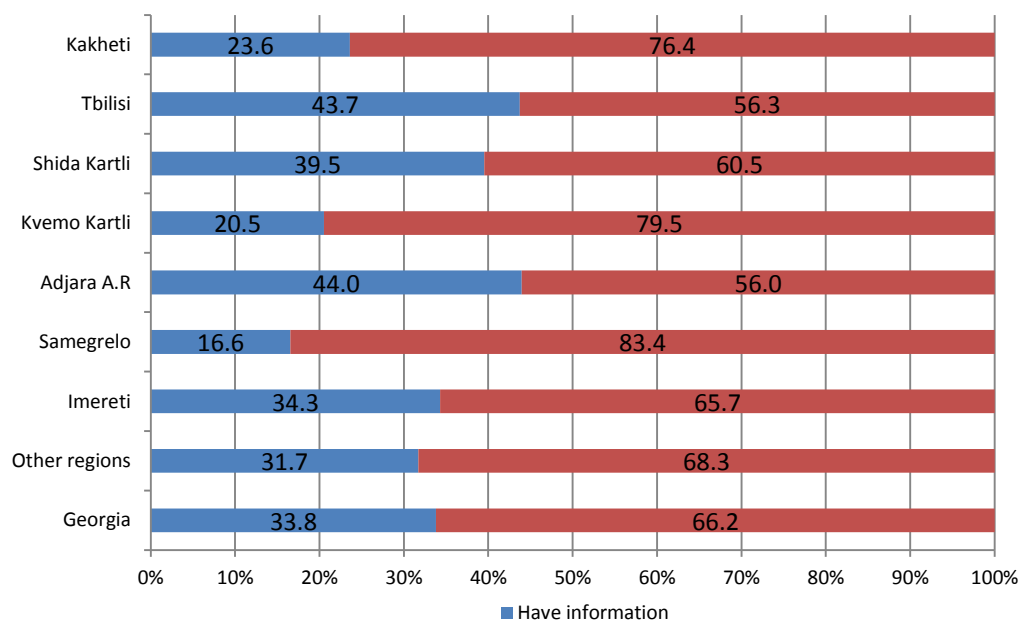
| | | | |
|--|------|------|------|
| School | 73.9 | 59.8 | 66.9 |
| Lyceum (Vocational educational institution) | 24.6 | 21.7 | 23.2 |
| College | 33.0 | 29.7 | 31.4 |
| Higher educational institution (BA, MA, PhD) | 60.2 | 53.3 | 56.8 |
| None | 13.4 | 22.1 | 17.7 |

5.1.3 Youth awareness of mobility

A lot of young people in Georgia are willing to study in universities outside the country. Through receiving education in a foreign country, students acquire important knowledge and skills, increasing their competitiveness in the labour market. In addition, education received in a foreign country gives them a chance to secure employment abroad.

Only 33.8 per cent of 15-to 29-year-old people have information about projects supported by the state that are designed to enable young people to continue their studies abroad. With regard to the gender dimension, 39.1 per cent of young women have this information compared with only 28.4 per cent of young men. Across regions this figure varies from 16.6 per cent to 44 per cent. The most informed young people are those in Adjara and Tbilisi (44.0 per cent and 43.7 per cent, respectively), and the least informed are those in the Samegrelo region, where only 16.6 per cent have this information.

Chart 2.4 Awareness of people aged 15-29 on projects supported by the state that are designed to enable young people to continue their studies abroad, by regions, %



25.8 per cent of 15- to 29-year-old people attempted to find information about projects supported by the state that are designed to enable young people to continue their studies abroad. Of those young people, 57.7 per cent

tried to find information on these projects through the Internet, 21.7 per cent through friends, 12.7 per cent from educational institutions, and 7.3 per cent through the press. In searching for this information, women were relatively more active, with 27.9 per cent of them trying to find the information compared with 23.6 per cent of men. However, no significant gender difference was observed in the means used to try to find the information: 56.9 per cent of women and 58.7 per cent of men used the Internet, 21.2 per cent of women and 22.4 per cent of men tried to get information through friends, 13.8 per cent of women and 11.3 per cent of men tried educational institutions, while the press was used by 7.3 per cent of both women and men.

5.2 Employment

The transition from the education system to inclusion in the labour market is a challenge that all young people have to deal with. Many young people are facing unemployment for months and years before they find their first job after finishing formal education. While this transition period is not unusual, a slow or complicated assimilation into the labour market may affect a person’s future career and their financial position in the long term.

5.2.1 Youth economic activity

Young people have the highest unemployment rate among the population of working age. This is understandable, as young people who have recently completed their formal education are actively seeking a job commensurate with their qualification(s) in order to achieve financial independence. However, they face a competitive labour market where, due to the lack of jobs and their professional inexperience, getting a foothold in the labour market is relatively difficult. The economic activity rate of 15-to 29-year-olds is 60 per cent. 30.7 per cent of the young labour force are unemployed; the majority of this group (33.2 per cent) have completed higher education. The unemployment rate is highest in the 20-24 age group, with 36.3 per cent of these young people unemployed. The 25-29 age group has a relatively high unemployment rate (55.6 per cent), while the majority of 15- to 19-year-old people (67.1 per cent) are economically inactive. The unemployment rate for young people is two and a half times higher in urban than in rural areas, while the employment rate for men (53.3 per cent) is much higher than that for women (30.4 per cent).

Chart 2.5 Activity rate of people aged 15-29 by age groups, %

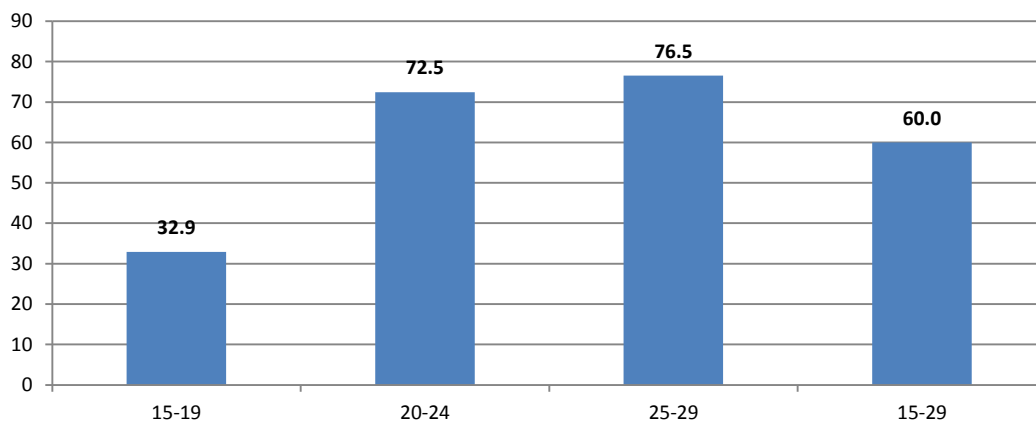
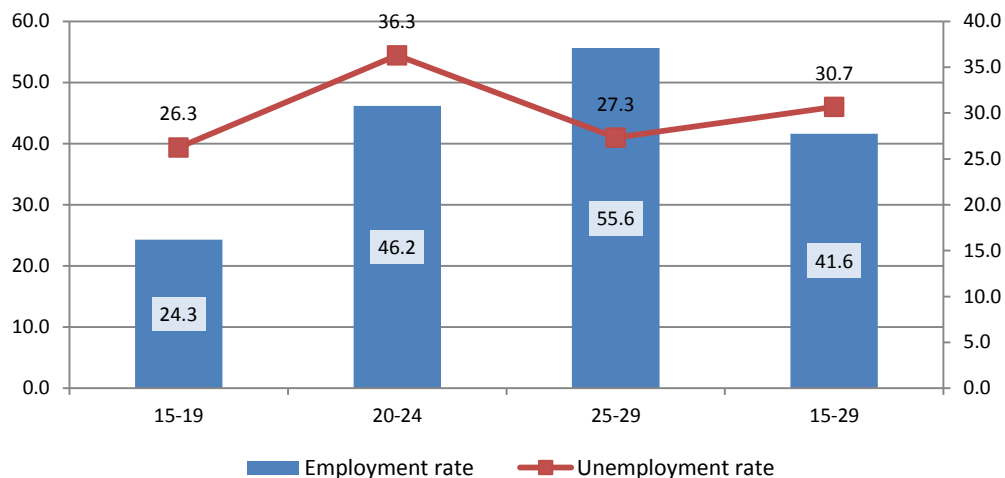
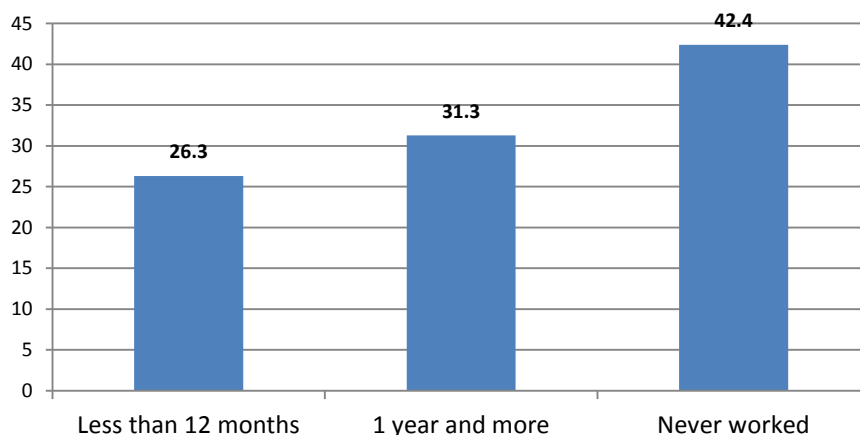


Chart 2.6 Employment and unemployment rate of people aged 15-29 by age groups, %



Activity and employment levels among young people increase with age. This is to be expected; as a large portion of young people, mostly 15- to 19-year-olds, are involved in studies and is not therefore part of the labour force. While the economic activity rate for 15- to 29-year-olds is not dramatically low, at 60.0 per cent, it is particularly important to take into account the high unemployment rate of young people in this age group (30.7 per cent). A large proportion of the labour force in this age group is actively seeking work, but without success. 31.3 per cent of them are long-term unemployed – for one year or more – while 42.4 per cent are trying to get their first job (see Chart 2.7).

Chart 2.7 Distribution of unemployed people aged 15-29 by duration of unemployment, %



When 15- to 29-year-old people are sub-divided into different age groups (15-19, 20-24, 25-29, see Table 2.9), it becomes evident that the activity rate of 15- to 19-year-olds (32.9 per cent) is lower than that of either of the other two age groups. As mentioned above, part of the reason for this is that many of these young people are still in full-time education, and therefore economically inactive. Only 24.3 per cent of this age group are employed, a much lower figure than that for the other two age groups. Finally, 8.6 per cent of young people aged 15-19 are actively looking for work and ready to start working.

The unemployment rate is particularly high in the 20-24 age group, where more than a quarter of young people (26.3 per cent) are actively seeking work. This figure represents more than one-third (36.3 per cent) of the labour force in this age group, and it includes a large proportion of recent graduates from vocational and/or higher education. The activity rate of people in this age group (72.5 per cent) is much higher than that of 15- to 19-year-old people where 462 in 1,000 are employed, 263 in 1,000 are unemployed and 275 in 1,000 are inactive.

The activity rate of 25- to 29-year-old people (76.5 per cent) is much higher than that of the other two age groups. Almost three-quarters (72.7 per cent) of the labour force are employed. The employment rate is 55.6 per cent, which is 9.4 percentage points higher than the same figure for the 20-24 age group, and 31.3 percentage points higher than the rate for the 15-19 age group. The unemployment rate among 25- to 29-year-old people (27.3 per cent) is nine percentage points lower than that of 20- to 24-year-old people. Of 1,000 people in this age group, 765 are active, 556 are employed and 209 are unemployed.

Table 2.9 Distribution of people aged 15-29 by economic status and age groups, %

| | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | Total |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| People aged 15-29, total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Active population (labour force) | 32.9 | 72.5 | 76.5 | 60.0 |
| Employed | 24.3 | 46.2 | 55.6 | 41.6 |
| Hired | 5.3 | 25.3 | 27.6 | 19.1 |
| Self-employed | 18.9 | 20.8 | 28.1 | 22.5 |
| Uncertain | 0.1 | 0.1 | - | - |
| Unemployed | 8.6 | 26.3 | 20.9 | 18.4 |
| Economically inactive | 67.1 | 27.5 | 23.5 | 40.0 |
| Unemployment rate | 26.3 | 36.3 | 27.3 | 30.7 |

The activity rate of 15- to 29-year-old men is 71.3 per cent, significantly higher than that for women in this age group (49.0 per cent). As Table 2.10 shows, 51 per cent of young women are inactive while 37.9 per cent of the labour force (active) is unemployed. The unemployment rate of young women is 12.3 percentage points higher than that of young men. More than half (53.1 per cent) of young men are employed, compared with only 30.4 per cent of young women.

Table 2.10 Distribution of people aged 15-29 by economic status and gender, %

| | Women | Men |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| People aged 15-29, total | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Active population (labour force) | 49.0 | 71.3 |
| Employed | 30.4 | 53.1 |
| Hired | 15.9 | 22.4 |
| Self-employed | 14.4 | 30.7 |
| Uncertain | 0.1 | - |
| Unemployed | 18.6 | 18.3 |
| Economically inactive | 51.0 | 28.7 |
| Unemployment rate | 37.9 | 25.6 |

A high unemployment rate is evident in urban areas among 15- to 29-year-old people, and throughout Georgia among those aged 15 years and older. The unemployment rate among young people is two and a half times higher in urban areas than in rural areas. In the city of Tbilisi, 44.2 per cent of the active labour force are unemployed, while unemployment rates in the other cities are slightly lower than that in Tbilisi. Young people in Tbilisi are less active compared not only with young people in rural areas but also in other cities; their activity rate is 55.0 per cent, while the employment rate is 30.7 per cent. The activity rate in other cities is four percentage points higher than in Tbilisi city, while the employment rate is 2.8 percentage points higher. The majority of young people living

in rural area are employed (52.5 per cent), 11.1 per cent are actively looking for work and the unemployment rate is 17.4 per cent.

Table 2.11 Distribution of people aged 15-29 by economic status and urban-rural areas, %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Rural areas |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| People aged 15-29, total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Active population (labour force) | 55.0 | 59.0 | 63.5 |
| Employed | 30.7 | 33.5 | 52.5 |
| Hired | 25.1 | 21.0 | 14.5 |
| Self-employed | 5.6 | 12.3 | 38.0 |
| Uncertain | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Unemployed | 24.3 | 25.5 | 11.1 |
| Economically inactive | 45.0 | 41.0 | 36.5 |
| Unemployment rate | 44.2 | 43.3 | 17.4 |

Across regions, the level of activity of young people ranges from 55.3 per cent to 72 per cent. The highest level of activity is in 'other regions' (72 per cent), as well as in the Kvemo Kartli (64.8 per cent) and Kakheti regions (61.9 per cent). The employment rate of young people in these regions is high when compared with other regions. In the Kvemo Kartli region only 14.3 per cent of the active labour force are unemployed compared with 15.3 per cent in 'other regions', while in the Kakheti region the figure is 26.7 per cent. The lowest level of activity (55.3 per cent) is in Imereti, although only one-fifth (19.3 per cent) of active young people are unemployed.

The highest unemployment rates were recorded in Tbilisi (46.3 per cent) and Adjara (43.6 per cent). 30.7 per cent of young people in Tbilisi and 33.4 per cent in Adjara are employed.

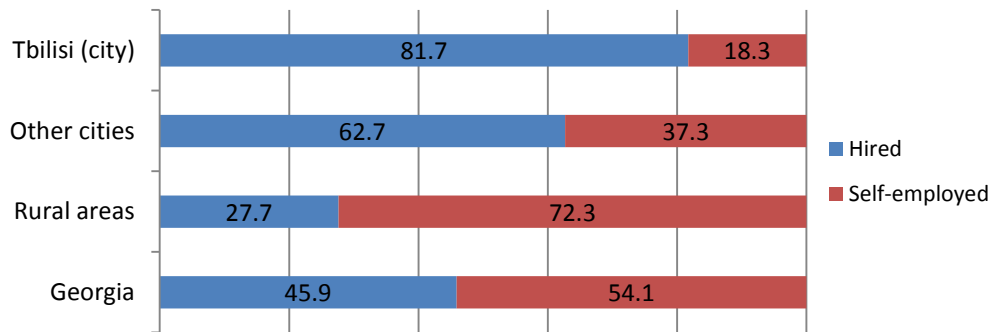
Table 2.12 Indicators of economic activity of people aged 15-29 by regions, %

| | Kakheti | Tbilisi | Shida Kartli | Kvemo Kartli | Adjara A.R. | Samegrelo | Imereti | Other regions |
|-------------------|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Unemployment rate | 26.7 | 46.3 | 31.6 | 14.3 | 43.6 | 36.4 | 19.3 | 15.3 |
| Activity rate | 61.9 | 57.1 | 60.5 | 64.8 | 59.1 | 56.4 | 55.3 | 72.0 |
| Employment rate | 45.4 | 30.7 | 41.4 | 55.5 | 33.4 | 35.8 | 44.7 | 61.0 |

As noted above, the unemployment rate among young people is much lower in rural areas than in urban areas. The reason for this is that many young people in rural areas are self-employed, mostly engaged in agriculture.

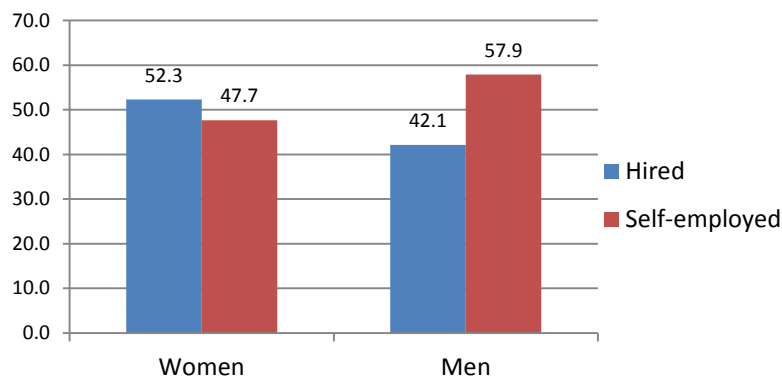
In the 15-29 age group 54.1 per cent are self-employed. A large proportion of self-employed young people (65.7 per cent) are unpaid (contributing) family workers and 83.1 per cent of these live in rural areas. The majority of young people employed in the cities are hired; in the city of Tbilisi the proportion is 81.7 per cent, while in other cities it is 62.7 per cent.

Chart 2.8 Employment status of people aged 15-29, %



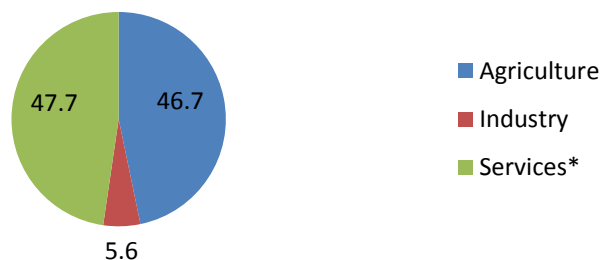
The majority of hired employees and self-employed in the 15-29 age group are men, 57.8 per cent and 67.5 per cent, respectively. Of the total employed men, self-employed workers exceed hired employees by 15.8 percentage points. In contrast, of the total employed women, hired employees exceed self-employed workers by 4.6 percentage points.

Chart 2.9 Distribution of people aged 15-29 by employment status and gender, %



Most of those in the working-age population (15+), as well as 46.7 per cent of those in the 15-29 age group, are employed in the agricultural sector, with most young people working as unpaid (contributing) family workers. 47.7 per cent of young people are employed in various sectors of services and only 5.6 per cent are in the industry sector. About 15 per cent of young people are employed in the public sector, with the remaining 85 per cent in the private sector.

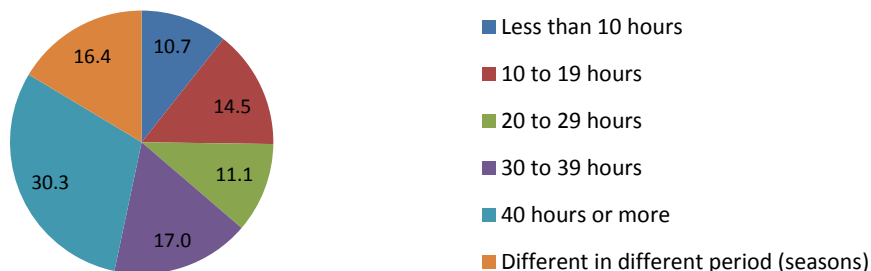
Chart 2.10 Employed people aged 15-29 by main field of economic activity, %



*Includes construction

For 30.3 per cent of employed young people the length of the usual working week is 40 hours or more. For 17 per cent the working time varies from 30 to 39 hours, 16.4 per cent have different working times at different periods (seasonal), and 10.7 per cent work less than 10 hours per week.

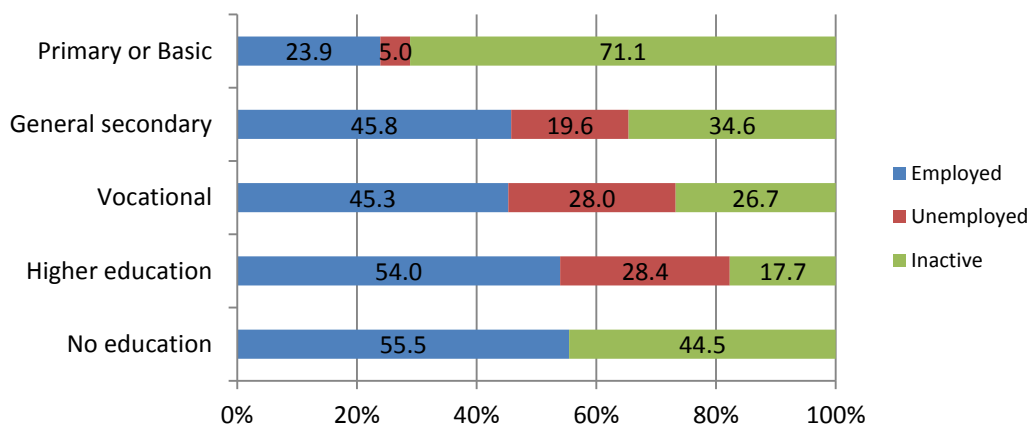
Chart 2.11 Distribution of people aged 15-29 by working hours per week, %



5.2.2 Attained level of education and economic status of young people

Among 15- to 29-year-old people who have higher education, 54 per cent are employed and they represent 28 per cent of the total number employed (see Charts 2.12 and 2.13). Of those in this age group whose attained level of education equates to general secondary education, 45.8 per cent are employed and they represent a high proportion (over 44 per cent) of the total number employed. It is interesting to note that the majority of 15- to 29-year-olds have attained a level of education that equates to general secondary education; this is almost twice as high as the number who has graduated from higher educational institutions. 12.1 per cent of those employed received primary vocational or secondary/higher vocational education, and they represent 45.3 per cent of those young people who attained this level of education. Of young people whose level of education is primary or basic, only 23.9 per cent are employed, and they represent 15.6 per cent of the total employed.

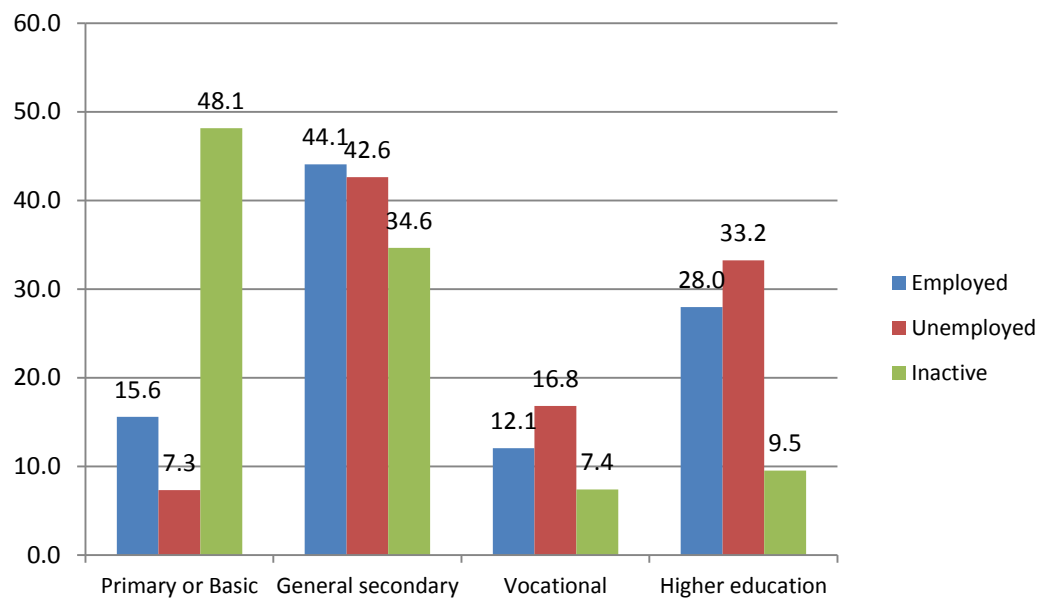
Chart 2.12 Distribution of people aged 15-29 by attained level of education and economic status, %



In common with employed young people, the majority of unemployed young people (42.6 per cent) received only general secondary education, and they represent 19.6 per cent of those who attained this level of education. The rate of unemployment is particularly high among young graduates (33.2 per cent). One in every three unemployed

young people has higher education, which is 5.2 percentage points higher than the proportion of employed graduates among the total employed.

Chart 2.13 Distribution of people aged 15-29 by economic status and attained level of education, %



In Georgia, 31.2 per cent of young people are neither employed nor studying at an educational institution to acquire further qualifications (or taking a course to develop a professional skill or craft). The majority of these young people (65.4 per cent) are women; 40.3 per cent of young women fall into this category; this figure is twice as high as the corresponding figure for young men (21.9 per cent).

With regard to the urban-rural dimension, more than a quarter of young people (26.6 per cent) living in rural areas neither study nor work. The proportion of such young people in the city of Tbilisi is 34 per cent, while the proportion in other cities is 2.5 percentage points higher than that in Tbilisi.

5. Part III. Health care

This section presents data on a range of health-related factors among 15- to 29-year-old people. These include: height and weight; referral levels; tobacco and alcohol consumption; and awareness of HIV and contraceptives. It also provides data on the number of abortions, accidents, violence, suicide by poisoning or violence, and new cases of HIV in this age group.

The study revealed that most 15- to 29-year-old people in Georgia are of normal weight; 67.4 per cent of women are of normal weight compared with 61 per cent of men. The average female height is 162.8 cm and average male height is 175.1 cm.

More than half (52.2 per cent) have received medical services in the past 12 months. However, young women visit medical facilities more frequently than their male peers.

The list of medical facilities attended is quite diverse. Those most frequently visited were polyclinics (27.6 per cent) and general hospitals (23.2 per cent).

The proportion of young people in Georgia who needed to but could not attend medical facilities over the past 12 months was 26.6 per cent. The main reason for this was the high cost of medical services (cited by 63.8 per cent of respondents).¹⁰

21.6 per cent of 15- to 29-year-old people are regular smokers. The proportion who said they had drunk alcoholic beverages over the past 12 months was 63.4 per cent, while 66.8 per cent drank alcoholic beverages once a month or less.

Most 15- to 29-year-old people in Georgia have heard about HIV/AIDS (89.9 per cent). However, of these, only 17.4 per cent correctly answered all the interview questions about the ways in which HIV can be transmitted from one person to another.

With regard to contraception, 85.9 per cent are aware of condoms as a means of contraception. The two other methods with the highest awareness levels are the pill (54.2 per cent) and the intrauterine device – IUD or coil – 49.9 per cent. Despite awareness of and knowledge of how to use, contraceptive methods, the numbers of young people who have actually used some form of contraception are very low.

Nearly half of all registered abortions (47.7 per cent) were obtained by women in the 15-29 age group.

According to 2012 data for deaths in this age group, there were: a recorded 17 cases of death caused by an accident, poisoning or violence, two suicides and one case of death caused by traffic accident (per 100,000 young people in Georgia).

Between July 2012 and June 2013, 126 new cases of HIV/AIDS infection were identified among 15- to 29-year-old people; 31 per cent of these cases were identified among women and 69 per cent among men.

6.1 Healthy lifestyles

6.1.1 Height and weight of young people

The majority of women, and some men, dedicate a large amount of time and effort to caring for their appearance, including weight control. The standard measure that scientists and doctors use to determine whether an individual's body weight corresponds to the biological norm is body mass index (BMI).¹¹

The survey found that 67.4 per cent of 15- to 29-year-old women have normal weight, while the figure for men in the same age group is 61 per cent. Across regions, the highest proportion of women of normal weight is in Mtskheta-Mtianeti (75.2 per cent), followed by Kvemo Kartli (72.3 per cent) and Guria (72.2 per cent). The lowest proportion (58.4 per cent) was observed in the Samegrelo region. It is worth noting that in Samegrelo the number

¹⁰The survey was conducted before universal health care was introduced in Georgia. Therefore this indicator may not be relevant to the current country context.

¹¹Body mass index (BMI) is a number calculated from a person's weight and height. BMI provides a reliable indicator of body fatness for most people and is used to screen for weight categories that may lead to health problems. The current value settings are as follows: a BMI of 18.5 to 25 indicates normal weight, a BMI lower than 18.5 suggests the person is underweight, a number above 25 may indicate the person is overweight, a number above 30 suggests the person is obese.

of overweight women is higher (25.3 per cent) than in other regions. Guria has the lowest proportion of overweight women (7.1 per cent) and this is 2.7 times lower than the corresponding figure across the entire country. Tbilisi has twice as many overweight women (15.3 per cent) as Guria, while the proportion of overweight women in other regions varies from 19-23 per cent.

Table 3.1 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia, by the categories of body mass index, by regions, %

| | Kakheti | Tbilisi | Shida Kartli | Kvemo Kartli | Samtskhe-Javakheti | Adjara A.R. | Guria | Samegrelo | Imereti | Mtskheta-Mtianeti | Georgia |
|---------------|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------------------|-------------|
| Women | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Underweight | 5.6 | 11.1 | 4.6 | 3.4 | 7.7 | 5.9 | 8.8 | 7.2 | 4.9 | 1.7 | 7.1 |
| Normal weight | 67.0 | 69.2 | 66.6 | 72.3 | 68.3 | 66.9 | 72.2 | 58.4 | 64.1 | 75.2 | 67.4 |
| Overweight | 19.7 | 15.3 | 22.8 | 21.3 | 20.3 | 22.7 | 7.1 | 25.3 | 20.8 | 21.4 | 19.4 |
| Obese | 7.6 | 4.4 | 6.0 | 3.0 | 3.7 | 4.5 | 11.9 | 9.0 | 10.3 | 1.7 | 6.1 |
| Men | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Underweight | 4.0 | 6.5 | 4.8 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 6.9 | 3.6 | 0.6 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 3.6 |
| Normal weight | 61.5 | 54.5 | 68.4 | 70.8 | 65.3 | 58.5 | 60.5 | 61.6 | 58.4 | 74.7 | 61.0 |
| Overweight | 24.9 | 28.0 | 23.1 | 21.4 | 26.5 | 26.4 | 26.4 | 25.7 | 30.0 | 21.2 | 26.2 |
| Obese | 9.6 | 10.9 | 3.7 | 6.2 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 9.5 | 12.2 | 10.4 | 4.1 | 9.1 |

6.1 per cent of 15- to 29-year-old women in Georgia are in the obese category. This figure is highest in the regions of Guria (11.9 per cent) and Imereti (10.3 per cent), slightly lower in the Samegrelo region (9 per cent), and in the remaining regions it falls within the 3-8 per cent range. The proportion of women who are obese is lowest in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region (1.7 per cent), where the rate is 3.6 times lower than the corresponding figure across the country. The proportion of young women who are underweight is highest in Tbilisi (11.1 per cent). This figure is also relatively high in the Guria region (8.8 per cent) and is five times higher than in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region, where the lowest proportion of underweight women (1.7 per cent) was observed. This figure ranges from 3 per cent to 8 per cent in the remaining regions.

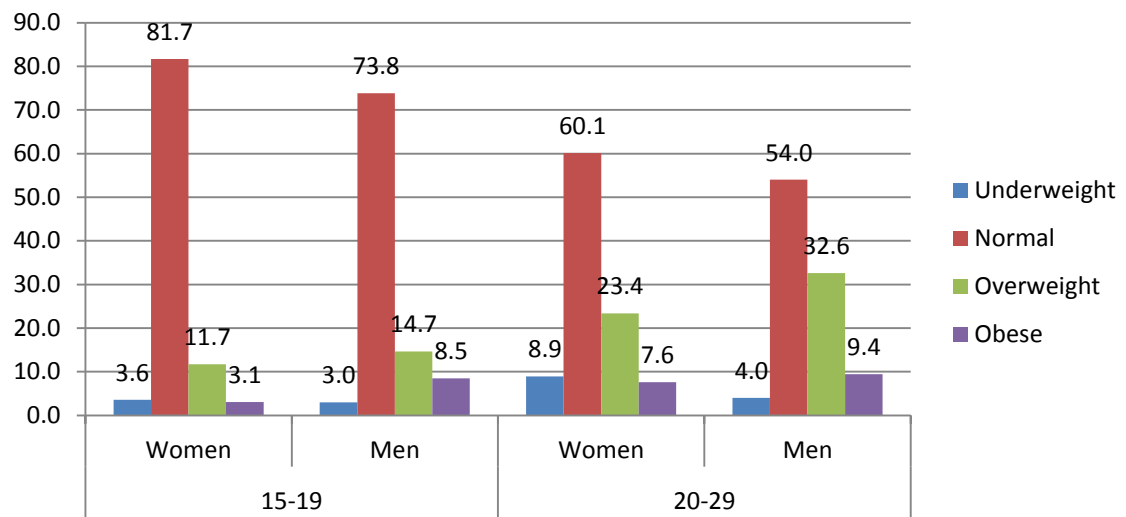
With regard to the gender dimension, it was found that the proportions of obese (9.1 per cent) and overweight (26.2 per cent) young people are higher among men than among women of the same age group. However, the majority of men (61 per cent) are of normal weight. The Mtskheta-Mtianeti region is distinguished from the other regions by a high proportion (74.7 per cent) of men and women of normal weight. The lowest proportion of men of normal weight (54.5 per cent) is recorded in Tbilisi, followed by the Adjara and Imereti regions where the proportion is four percentage points higher. In the remaining regions this figure falls within a 61-71 per cent range.

The study shows that the proportion of underweight women exceeds the proportion of obese women in the obesity category. When data for men are analysed, the opposite results are found. Specifically, the proportion of men in the obese category is (9.1 per cent) almost three times higher than the proportion of underweight men (3.6 per cent). The highest proportions of underweight 15- to 29-year-old people were observed in the Adjara (6.9 per cent) and Tbilisi (6.5 per cent) regions.

Body mass index varies across age groups; the proportion of young people of normal weight is significantly higher in the 15-19 age group, (women 81.7 per cent, men 73.8 per cent), than the corresponding figure in the 20-29 age

group (women 60.1 per cent, men 54 per cent). It should be noted that in both age groups the proportion of women with normal weight exceeds that of men with normal weight.

Chart 3.1 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia by the categories of body mass index in age groups, %



The average height of 15- to 29-year-old people in Georgia is 162.8 cm for women and 175.1 cm for men. Across regions, the average height for both women and men is highest in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region – 166.4 cm for women and 178.9 cm for men. No significant regional differences were observed. The lowest average height of young women was recorded in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region (161.0 cm), and of young men in the Guria region (172.4 cm).

Table 3.2 Average height of people aged 15-29, by gender, by regions (cm)

| | Woman | Man |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Kakheti | 162.1 | 174.3 |
| Tbilisi | 163.9 | 176.8 |
| Shida Kartli | 162.0 | 176.7 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 162.7 | 174.0 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 161.0 | 172.8 |
| Adjara A.R. | 162.4 | 175.2 |
| Guria | 163.5 | 172.4 |
| Samegrelo | 162.4 | 173.4 |
| Imereti | 161.6 | 174.3 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 166.4 | 178.9 |
| Georgia | 162.8 | 175.1 |

6.1.2 Tobacco use among young people

21.6 per cent of 15- to 29-year-old people in Georgia claim that they are regular smokers.¹²The majority of these are men (39.6 per cent) compared with women (only 4.1 per cent). With regard to the 15-19 age group, 10.2 per cent are regular smokers (women 0.9 per cent and men 19.4 per cent).

Distribution of people aged 15-19 by smoking a cigarette on a regular basis, %

| | Total | Women | Men |
|------------|-------|-------|------|
| Smoker | 10.2 | 0.9 | 19.4 |
| Non-smoker | 89.8 | 99.1 | 80.6 |

This figure varies considerably across regions. The highest proportion of regular smokers was found in the Tbilisi region (26.9 per cent) and the Kakheti region (26.5 per cent). This figure is almost twice as high as the number of smokers in the KvemoKartli region (13.8 per cent) and Samtskhe-Javakheti region (14 per cent), which are distinguished by having the lowest proportion of regular smokers.

Table 3.3 Distribution of people aged 15-29 by smoking a cigarette on a regular basis, by regions, %

| | Kakheti | Tbilisi | ShidaKartli | Kvemo Kartli | Samtskhe-Javakheti | Adjara A.R. | Guria | Samegrelo | Imereti | Mtskheta-Mtianeti | Georgia |
|--------------|---------|---------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| Smoker | 26.5 | 26.9 | 20.6 | 13.8 | 14.0 | 21.3 | 24.7 | 21.7 | 18.1 | 17.1 | 21.6 |
| Non-smoker | 73.5 | 73.1 | 79.4 | 86.2 | 86.0 | 78.7 | 75.3 | 78.3 | 81.9 | 82.9 | 78.4 |
| Women | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Smoker | 2.0 | 10.1 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 5.9 | 7.1 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 4.1 |
| Non-smoker | 98.0 | 89.9 | 100.0 | 99.1 | 100.0 | 94.1 | 92.9 | 100.0 | 99.7 | 100.0 | 95.9 |
| Men | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Smoker | 50.2 | 45.7 | 40.0 | 26.5 | 27.3 | 37.5 | 43.0 | 43.9 | 35.8 | 33.7 | 39.6 |
| Non-smoker | 49.8 | 54.3 | 60.0 | 73.5 | 72.7 | 62.5 | 57.0 | 56.1 | 64.2 | 66.3 | 60.4 |

The Tbilisi, Adjara and Guria regions are distinguished by a high percentage of regular female smokers compared with the other regions. The Kakheti region has the highest proportion of regular male smokers (50.2 per cent) followed by Tbilisi where the corresponding figure is (45.7 per cent).

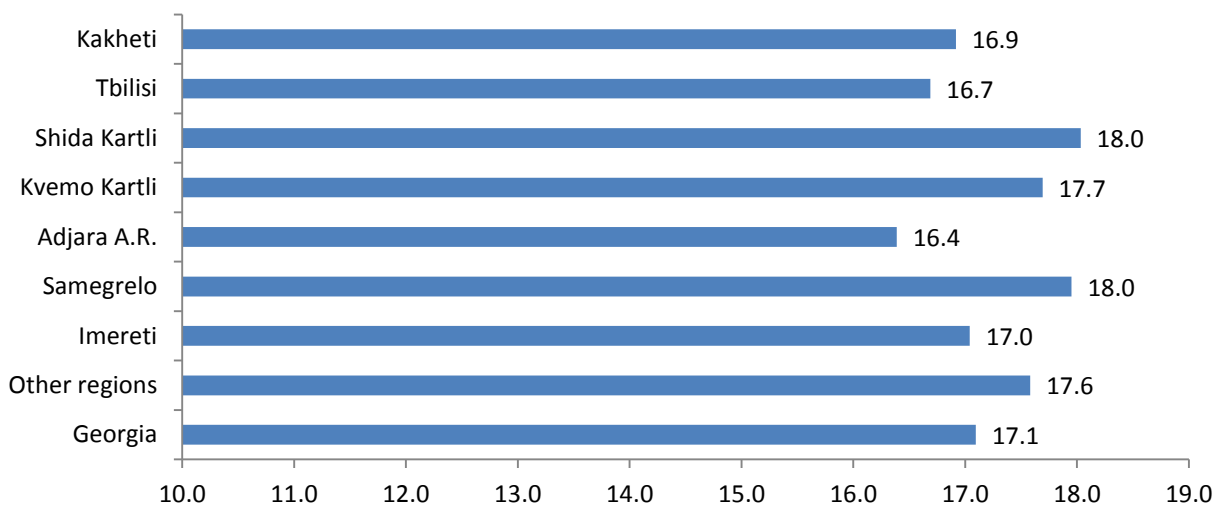
With regard to the urban-rural dimension, 23.1 per cent of young people living in urban areas say they are regular smokers, while the figure for rural areas is slightly lower (19.9 per cent). With regard to gender, young men again represent the majority of smokers. 41.3 per cent of men living in cities are regular smokers compared with 37.7 per cent of men living in rural areas. The proportion of regular female smokers is very low (1.1 per cent), while the same rate for urban areas is 6.5 per cent.

The average age of starting regular smoking among 15- to 29-year-old people in Georgia is 17. The average age of starting to smoke is higher in the regions of ShidaKartli and Samegrelo (18 years), while young people living in Adjara start to smoke regularly at the earliest age of any region, with an average age of 16 years. With regard to

¹²Regular smoking is to be understood as daily smoking, even if only small amounts of tobacco are involved.

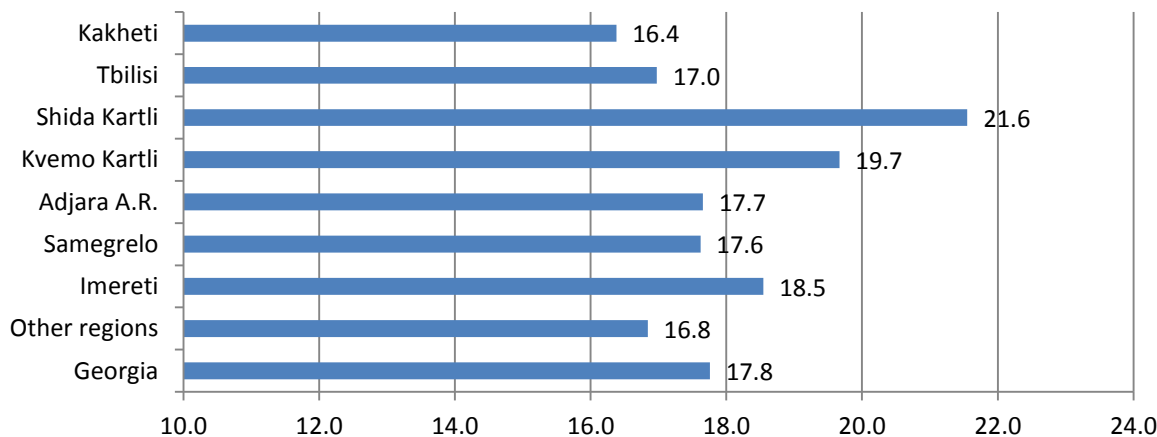
gender, it was found that the average age of starting tobacco smoking among women is 18, while the same index in men is 17.

Chart 3.2 Average age of starting regular smoking among people aged 15-29 (years)



Young people in Georgia smoke on average 18 cigarettes per day. Across the regions, the highest daily smoking average (22 cigarettes) was recorded in the ShidaKartli region, while the figure for Kakheti was 1.3 times lower (16 cigarettes), the lowest among all the regions. In the remaining regions, the average daily consumption was 17-20 cigarettes.

Chart 3.3 Average number of cigarettes smoked per day by people aged 15-29 (among regular smokers)



It should also be noted that the great majority of smokers (57.8 per cent) smoke between 10 and 20 cigarettes per day, 27.8 per cent smoke 10 cigarettes or fewer, while only 14.4 per cent smoke more than 20 cigarettes per day.

Regular smokers in the 15-19 age group smoke on average 14.3 cigarettes per day.

6.1.3 Alcohol consumption among young people

The proportion of young people across the country who say they drank alcohol over the past 12 months amounts to 63.4 per cent. Alcohol consumption among women is 45.9 per cent, while the proportion of young men who have consumed at least one alcoholic drink in the past 12 months is almost twice as high at 81.3 per cent.

Table 3.4 Distribution of people aged 15-29 by alcohol consumption over the past 12 months, by regions, %

| | Kakheti | Tbilisi | Shida Kartli | Kvemo Kartli | Samtskhe-Javakheti | Adjara A.R. | Guria | Samegrelo | Imereti | Mtskheta-Mtianeti | Georgia |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------------------|-------------|
| Consumed alcoholic drink | 71.9 | 76.4 | 75.1 | 0.6 | 60.0 | 50.4 | 55.2 | 50.5 | 65.9 | 50.7 | 63.4 |
| Have not consumed alcoholic drink | 28.1 | 23.6 | 24.9 | 9.4 | 40.0 | 49.6 | 44.8 | 49.5 | 34.1 | 49.3 | 36.6 |
| Women | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Consumed alcoholic drink | 55.8 | 63.5 | 59.3 | 1.3 | 31.2 | 28.9 | 36.1 | 22.9 | 46.1 | 13.8 | 45.9 |
| Have not consumed alcoholic drink | 44.2 | 36.5 | 40.7 | 8.7 | 68.8 | 71.1 | 63.9 | 77.1 | 53.9 | 86.2 | 54.1 |
| Men | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Consumed alcoholic drink | 87.5 | 90.8 | 90.0 | 9.8 | 87.2 | 73.1 | 74.9 | 78.8 | 85.6 | 86.4 | 81.3 |
| Have not consumed alcoholic drink | 12.5 | 9.2 | 10.0 | 0.2 | 12.8 | 26.9 | 25.1 | 21.2 | 14.4 | 13.6 | 18.7 |

The highest figure for consumption of at least one alcoholic drink in the past 12 months was recorded in the Tbilisi region (76.4 per cent). This figure is slightly lower in the Shida Kartli (75.1 per cent) and Kakheti (71.9 per cent) regions, while in the remaining regions this indicator ranges between 50 per cent and 66 per cent. The lowest proportion of young people in this category is in the Kvemo Kartli region (40.6 per cent).

The proportion of 15- to 19-year-old people who consumed alcohol over the past 12 months is 60.5 per cent – 48.5 per cent of women and 72.4 per cent of men (see Table 4 below).

Table 4. Distribution of people aged 15-19 by alcohol consumption over the past 12 months, %

| | Total | Female | Male |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Consumed alcoholic beverages | 60.5 | 48.5 | 72.4 |
| Have not consumed alcoholic beverages | 39.5 | 51.5 | 27.6 |

Chart 3.4 Distribution of people aged 15-29 by alcohol consumption over the past 12 months, by urban-rural dimension and gender, %

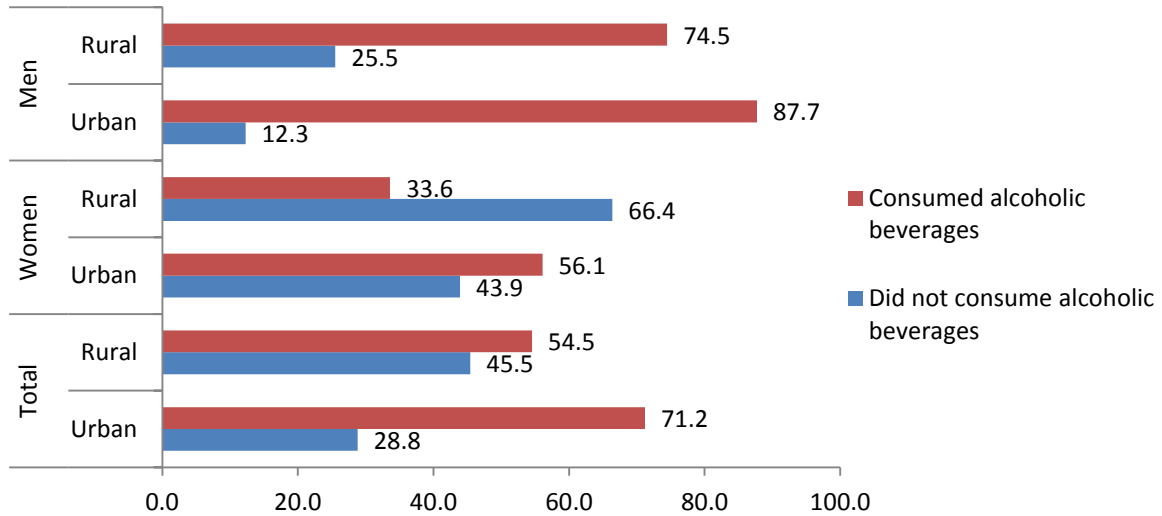


Chart 3.4 shows that young people increasingly take an alcoholic drink when they are in a city rather than when they are in a village. When the data are analysed by gender, they show that a higher proportion of women living in a city, compared with women who live in a village, consumed alcohol over the past 12 months; specifically, the proportions were 33.6 per cent of women living in a village and 56.1 per cent of women living in a city. Urban areas are still noteworthy for the rate of alcohol use among young men (87.7 per cent) over the past 12 months. The corresponding figure for rural areas is 74.5 per cent.

Despite the fact that more than half of young people consumed alcohol in the past 12 months, their alcohol consumption frequency is quite low. The majority of young people aged 15-29 across the country who consumed alcohol over the past 12 months (66.8 per cent) consumed alcoholic beverages once a month or less frequently. The proportion of young people who consumed alcohol over the past 12 months and drank 1-3 days a month is 19.4 per cent. A relatively small proportion of these young people drank alcohol 1-2 days a week (11 per cent), and a very low proportion drank alcohol 3-7 days a week (2.8 per cent).

Table 3.5 Distribution of people aged 15-29 who used alcohol at least once, by alcohol consumption over the past 12 months, by frequency, %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Rural areas | Georgia |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|---------|
| Everyday | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| 5-6 days a week | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| 3-4 days a week | 2.0 | 1.8 | 2.6 | 2.2 |
| 1-2 days a week | 8.9 | 12.1 | 11.9 | 11.0 |
| 1-3 days a month | 23.5 | 19.4 | 15.9 | 19.4 |
| Once a month or less frequently | 64.7 | 66.2 | 68.9 | 66.8 |

The frequency of alcohol consumption for adolescents in the 15-19 age group does not differ significantly from the frequency of alcohol consumption for young people in the 15-29 age group. See table 3.6.

Table 3.6 Distribution of people aged 15-19 who consumed alcohol at least once over the past 12 months, by frequency, %

| Georgia | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Everyday | 0.1 |
| 5-6 days a week | 0.5 |
| 3-4 days a week | 0.8 |
| 1-2 days a week | 4.1 |
| 1-3 days a month | 10.0 |
| Once a month or less frequently | 84.4 |

The majority of young people (64.7 per cent) living in Tbilisi who consumed alcohol over the past 12 months claim that they consumed alcoholic beverages once a month or less frequently. It should be noted that the proportion of young people who consumed alcohol 1-3 days a month was highest in Tbilisi (23.5 per cent). This rate is 7.6 percentage points higher than the same figure for rural areas, whereas in other cities this figure is equal to 19.4 per cent. The highest proportion of those who drank alcohol 1-2 days per week was recorded in other cities (12.1 per cent) and villages (11.9 per cent), whereas in the capital city this figure is only 8.9 per cent.

Of those 15- to 29-year-old people who declared that over the past 12 months they had consumed alcoholic beverages, most consumed large amounts of beer (2.4 litres), wine and champagne (1.7 litres), and relatively small amounts (0.6 litres) of strong alcoholic beverages (vodka, cognac, whiskey, etc.) and only 0.2 litres of medium-strength spirits (liqueur martini, port wine, etc.).

Table 3.7 Average monthly consumption of alcoholic beverages over the past 12 months by people aged 15-29, by litres

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Rural areas | Georgia |
|---|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Strong alcoholic beverages (vodka, cognac, whiskey, etc.) | 0.3 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.6 |
| Medium-strength alcoholic beverages (liqueur, martini, port wine, etc.) | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Relatively weak alcoholic beverages (wine and champagne) | 0.8 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 1.7 |
| Weak alcoholic beverages (beer) | 2.1 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 |

As the tables above show, the consumption of all type of alcoholic drinks (strong, medium strength, relatively weak and weak) is much higher in rural areas than in Tbilisi and other cities.

Table 3.8 Average monthly consumption of alcoholic beverages over the past 12 months by young people aged 15-19, litres

| Georgia | |
|---|------------|
| Strong alcoholic beverages (vodka, cognac, whiskey, etc.) | 0.3 |
| Medium-strength alcoholic beverages (liqueur, martini, port wine, etc.) | 0.2 |

When this indicator is examined in a gender context, it can be stated that the amount of alcohol consumed by women is much lower than that consumed by men. Specifically, women living in other cities consume more strong alcoholic drinks and beer (0.2 litres and 0.8 litres, respectively) than women living in the capital city (0.1 litres and 0.7 litres, respectively) or women living in rural areas (0.1 litres and 0.5 litres, respectively).

6.2 Seeking of health care services by young people

More than half of 15- to 29-year-old young people (52.2 per cent) approached a healthcare service provider over the past 12 months. The highest rate of health care seeking was reported in the Tbilisi region (62.9 per cent), while the lowest figure was observed in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region (24.4 per cent).

Table 3.9 Seeking of health care services by young people aged 15-29 over the past 12 months, by regions, by gender, %

| | Kakheti | Tbilisi | Shida Kartli | Kvemo Kartli | Samtskhe-Javakheti | Adjara A.R. | Guria | Samegrelo | Imereti | Mtskheta-Mtianeti | Georgia |
|--------------|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| Referred | 51.2 | 62.9 | 55.0 | 40.6 | 38.1 | 58.0 | 46.7 | 44.4 | 52.1 | 24.4 | 52.2 |
| Not referred | 48.8 | 37.1 | 45.0 | 59.4 | 61.9 | 42.0 | 53.3 | 55.6 | 47.9 | 75.6 | 47.8 |
| Women | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Referred | 61.2 | 68.5 | 71.9 | 48.6 | 59.0 | 63.3 | 60.3 | 47.1 | 62.7 | 31.3 | 60.9 |
| Not referred | 38.8 | 31.5 | 28.1 | 51.4 | 41.0 | 36.7 | 39.7 | 52.9 | 37.3 | 68.7 | 39.1 |
| Men | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Referred | 41.5 | 56.6 | 39.1 | 32.9 | 18.4 | 52.3 | 32.6 | 41.6 | 41.5 | 17.6 | 43.4 |
| Not referred | 58.5 | 43.4 | 60.9 | 67.1 | 81.6 | 47.7 | 67.4 | 58.4 | 58.5 | 82.4 | 56.6 |

The study findings show that young women attend medical facilities more frequently than young men. This pattern was observed in all regions.

The above indicators differ in rural and urban areas. 60.9 per cent of young people living in urban areas and only 42.4 per cent of young people living in rural areas have attended a medical facility over the past 12 months. In contrast, the rate for young men living in cities is much higher (52.9 per cent) than the rate for young men living in rural areas (33.2 per cent).

The list of medical facilities visited by young people aged 15-29 is quite diverse. Throughout the country, they most frequently visit polyclinics (27.6 per cent) and general hospitals (23.2 per cent). The highest proportion of young people (39.5 per cent) visited polyclinics in Tbilisi. Almost equal rates of visits to dental clinics are recorded in the capital city and in rural areas (between 11.7 per cent and 11.8 per cent), with slightly lower rates in other cities (9.4 per cent).

Table 3.10 Distribution of people aged 15-29 by the health facilities they most recently visited, %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Rural areas | Georgia |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Doctor's visit at home | 1.8 | 4.1 | 4.9 | 3.6 |
| Rural ambulatory | 0.0 | 0.7 | 11.4 | 4.4 |
| Polyclinic | 39.5 | 27.3 | 16.5 | 27.6 |
| Women's consultation | 9.2 | 16.4 | 12.3 | 12.4 ¹³ |
| General hospital | 19.0 | 24.6 | 26.2 | 23.2 |
| Maternity hospital | 3.8 | 3.3 | 7.4 | 5.0 |
| Other specialized hospital | 4.5 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 3.3 |
| Dental clinic/office | 11.7 | 9.4 | 11.8 | 11.1 |
| Diagnostic centre | 5.3 | 5.4 | 1.0 | 3.8 |
| Private office/home of a specialist | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Other institution | 3.1 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.5 |

In response to the question: 'Where required, did you receive the information you should have received in relation to further services (specifically medical, psycho-social)?'¹³ the majority of young people surveyed (52.1 per cent) responded that they had no need for such services. Of those young people who did need further services, 83 per cent received comprehensive information, and only 10.6 per cent received partial information. It should be noted that a very small proportion of young people (6.5 per cent) who required further medical care did not receive any information about it.

In Georgia, the proportion of young people who at some point over the past 12 months needed to be referred to a medical facility, but did not obtain such a referral, equals 26.6 per cent. Almost one-third of young people in Tbilisi cannot afford to go to a medical facility when they need to.

Table 3.11 Visit to medical facility by people aged 15-29 over the past 12 months, %

| Region | Total | | Women | | Men | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| | Did not/ could not refer | Referred | Did not/ could not refer | Referred | Did not/ could not refer | Referred |
| Kakheti | 25.7 | 74.3 | 29.9 | 70.1 | 21.6 | 78.4 |
| Tbilisi | 32.3 | 67.7 | 38.9 | 61.1 | 25.0 | 75.0 |
| Shida Kartli | 28.2 | 71.8 | 36.0 | 64.0 | 20.9 | 79.1 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 22.9 | 77.1 | 26.8 | 73.2 | 19.1 | 80.9 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 19.0 | 81.0 | 13.0 | 87.0 | 24.6 | 75.4 |
| Adjara A.R. | 25.4 | 74.6 | 24.8 | 75.2 | 26.1 | 73.9 |
| Guria | 22.7 | 77.3 | 17.4 | 82.6 | 28.2 | 71.8 |
| Samegrelo | 21.6 | 78.4 | 24.9 | 75.1 | 18.3 | 81.7 |
| Imereti | 23.6 | 76.4 | 32.5 | 67.5 | 14.9 | 85.1 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 35.4 | 64.6 | 44.3 | 55.7 | 26.8 | 73.2 |
| Georgia | 26.6 | 73.4 | 31.4 | 68.6 | 21.7 | 78.3 |

¹³ This question was posed to women.

When these data were analysed by gender, it was found that a higher proportion of young women, compared with young men, cannot afford to visit a doctor when they need to.

With regard to the urban-rural dimension, the proportion of young people who needed to visit a medical facility over the past 12 months is quite different. Specifically, the proportion of urban young people who could not/did not attend a doctor when they needed to equals 30.3 per cent, while the proportion of young people living in rural areas (22.4 per cent) who could not attend a medical facility when they needed to is relatively lower than that.

Most of the 15- to 29 year-old young people living in Georgia (63.8 per cent) named the high cost of medical services as the main reason why they could not visit a medical facility/doctor when they needed to. 19.3 per cent of young people surveyed noted that they did not consider the situation to be serious, 11.6 per cent soon recovered and therefore did not need to visit a doctor for treatment; 10 per cent cited lack of time as the main reason for not visiting a medical facility. The maximum proportion of other reasons why patients did not refer to a medical facility does not exceed 3 per cent.

Table 3.12 Distribution of people aged 15-29 who needed to visit a doctor/and did not/could not do so by main reasons, %

| | |
|---|------|
| Did not consider the situation serious | 19.3 |
| Soon recovered | 11.6 |
| Could not attend the medical facility due to its location | 1.7 |
| Could not attend the medical facility because it was inconvenient | 2.6 |
| Too expensive/do not have enough money | 63.8 |
| Could not find a good specialist/doctor | 3.2 |
| Did not know who to refer to | 0.7 |
| Do not trust the health care system | 1.1 |
| I am myself (or a household member is) a doctor | 0.1 |
| I know (or household member knows) how to treat | 0.8 |
| I had no time | 10.0 |
| Fear of a doctor and/or treatment | 2.3 |

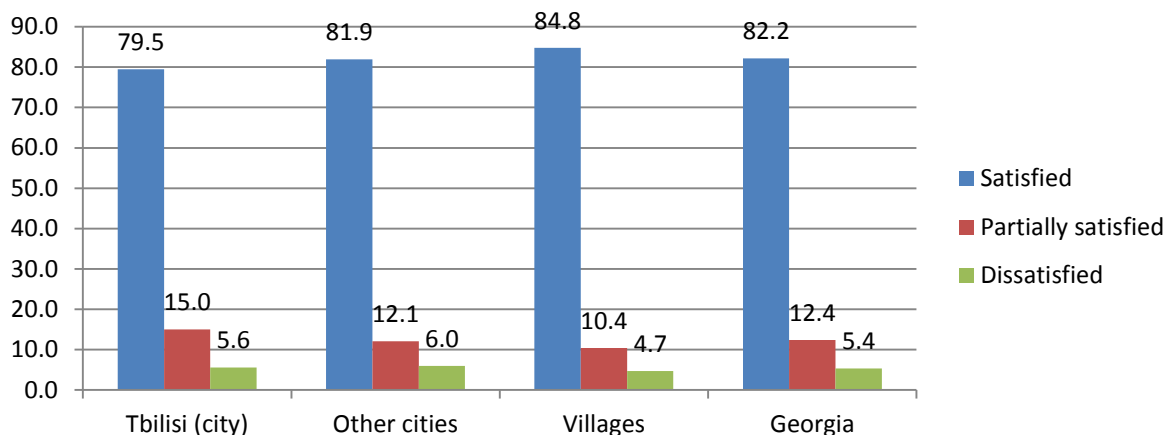
Note: The reason for not visiting a doctor may have been more than one. This explains why the sum of the data exceeds 100 per cent.

At the regional level, the three main reasons identified for 'did not/could not visit a medical facility when needed' were: medical services are very expensive for the vast majority of young people and they do not have enough money; did not consider the illness serious; soon recovered and therefore did not visit a medical facility. At the country level as well as at the regional level, the high cost of the service still dominates these three reasons.

6.3. Youth-friendly environment in medical facilities

The largest proportion of young people aged 15-29 (82.2 per cent) in Georgia stated that they found a youth-friendly environment in the medical facilities they last visited. When similar indicators for Tbilisi and other cities and villages are compared, it is evident that in Tbilisi the proportion of young people who are slightly less satisfied with services received in medical facilities is 79.5 per cent.

Chart 3.5 Level of satisfaction with services received in medical facilities, by young people aged 15-29, %



82.6 per cent of young women and 81.6 per cent of young men aged 15-29 years declared that they are satisfied with the service they received on their last visit to a medical facility. Among adolescents aged 15-19, 84.8 per cent declare that they are satisfied with the level of medical service received. Some 10.2 per cent were partially satisfied and only 5.1 per cent declared that they were not satisfied. See Table 3.13:

Table 3.13 Level of satisfaction with the service received at medical facilities, by people aged 15-19, %

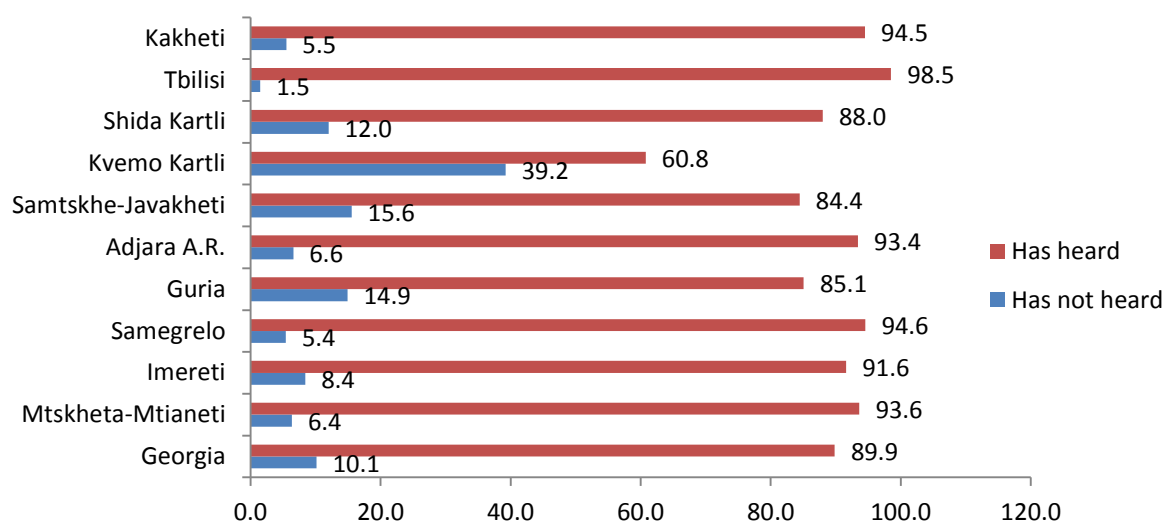
| Georgia | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Satisfied | 84.8 |
| Partially satisfied | 10.2 |
| Dissatisfied | 5.1 |

6.4 Sexual and reproductive health

6.4.1 Sexually transmitted infections

The overwhelming majority of young people aged 15-29 in Georgia have heard about HIV/AIDS (89.9 per cent). This indicator is highest in Tbilisi (98.5 per cent) and lowest in the Kvemo Kartli region, where 60.8 per cent of young people note that they have heard about HIV/AIDS.

Chart 3.6 Distribution of people aged 15-29, who have heard about HIV/AIDS, %



When the figures are analysed by gender, they are almost equally distributed. However, the proportion of 15- to 29-year-old women who have heard about HIV/AIDS is slightly higher (91.2 per cent) than the proportion of young men aged 15-29 who have heard about HIV/AIDS (88.4 per cent). Among adolescents aged 15-19, 85.9 per cent have heard about HIV/AIDS (i.e. 87.6 per cent of adolescent females and 84.2 per cent of adolescent males). See Table 3.14.

Table 3.14 Distribution of people aged 15-19 who have heard about HIV/AIDS, %

| | Total | Female | Male |
|----------------|-------|--------|------|
| Have heard | 85.9 | 87.6 | 84.2 |
| Have not heard | 14.1 | 12.4 | 15.8 |

In Georgia, among 15- to 29-year-old people who have heard about the HIV virus, only 17.4 per cent specified all the correct answers about the ways HIV is transmitted, namely, unprotected sex, by syringe sharing in injection drug users, from HIV-infected mother to child. With regard to adolescents aged 15-19, only 14.6 per cent of those who have heard about HIV/AIDS correctly specified all the correct answers. The vast majority of young people aged 15-29 (85.8 per cent) correctly specified at least two of the listed correct answers. This indicator is almost the same for adolescents aged 15-19 (83.6 per cent). The majority of young people believe that HIV can be transmitted through unprotected sex (94.6 per cent) or as a result of injection drug users sharing contaminated syringes (87.8 per cent). Almost one-third of young people believe that HIV can be transmitted from HIV-positive mother to child.

As for the misconceptions about HIV transmission, the indicators are as follows: 17.2 per cent of young people believe that HIV can be transmitted by mosquito bite, 6 per cent believe it can be transmitted by airborne transmission and 13.6 per cent believe that it can be transmitted by sharing a cup used by a HIV-infected person, or through the use of a toilet, swimming pool or sauna that is used by a HIV-infected person. Among those young people who stated that they have heard about HIV/AIDS 1.2 per cent believe that it can be transmitted by shaking hands. The percentage of young people who could not correctly name any of the ways that HIV is transmitted is 1.6 per cent.

Table 3.15 Distribution of people aged 15-29 who have heard about HIV/AIDS, by ways they believe the virus is transmitted, %

| | Kakheti | Tbilisi | Shida Kartli | Ivemo Kartli | Samtskhe-Javakheti | Adjara A.R. | Guria | Samegrelo | Imereti | Mtskheta-Mtianeti | Georgia |
|--|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| By engaging in sexual intercourse without using condoms | 88.4 | 97.7 | 93.5 | 87.7 | 97.5 | 97.3 | 94.5 | 92.5 | 94.1 | 98.3 | 94.6 |
| By syringe sharing in injection drug users | 83.7 | 93.6 | 86.7 | 74.6 | 83.3 | 94.2 | 65.6 | 86.5 | 86.5 | 95.3 | 87.8 |
| From HIV-infected mother to child | 30.9 | 32.4 | 26.3 | 26.3 | 29.5 | 17.8 | 26.1 | 20.1 | 40.8 | 49.0 | 30.3 |
| By shaking hands | 2.5 | 0.4 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 1.2 |
| By airborne transmission | 4.9 | 5.8 | 9.1 | 4.1 | 2.9 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 4.7 | 7.0 | 0.6 | 6.0 |
| By mosquito bite | 38.3 | 17.7 | 23.1 | 9.7 | 6.8 | 10.3 | 10.0 | 8.8 | 19.7 | 13.9 | 17.2 |
| By sharing a cup used by a HIV-infected person, or through the use of a toilet, swimming pool or sauna that is used by a HIV-infected person | 8.8 | 14.9 | 11.8 | 15.4 | 7.6 | 10.9 | 2.8 | 10.6 | 17.2 | 32.2 | 13.6 |
| None of the ways listed | 0.3 | 0.5 | 2.3 | 6.3 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 4.4 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 1.1 |

With regard to adolescents aged 15-19, of those who have heard about HIV/AIDS, 16.5 per cent believe that HIV can be transmitted by mosquito bite, 6.2 per cent believe it can be transmitted by breathing the same air as someone who is HIV infected and 13.8 per cent believe it can be transmitted by sharing a cup used by a HIV-infected person, or through the use of a toilet, swimming pool or sauna that is used by a HIV-infected person. See Table 3.16.

Table 3.16 Distribution of young people aged 15-19 who have heard about HIV/AIDS, by ways they believe HIV/AIDS is transmitted, %

| | Georgia |
|--|-------------|
| By engaging in sexual intercourse without using condoms | 91.3 |
| By syringe sharing in injection drug users | 87.6 |
| From HIV-infected mother to child | 27.7 |
| By shaking hands | 1.2 |
| By breathing the same air as someone who is HIV infected | 6.2 |
| By mosquito bite | 16.5 |
| By sharing a cup used by a HIV-infected person, or through the use of a toilet, swimming pool or sauna that is used by a HIV-infected person | 13.8 |
| None of the ways listed | 1.5 |

The percentage of young people who both correctly identify ways to prevent HIV transmission and reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission is 49.3 per cent nationwide. (See Table 3.17 for details in relation to age groups and gender):

Table 3.17 Percentage of young people who both correctly identify ways to prevent HIV transmission and reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission

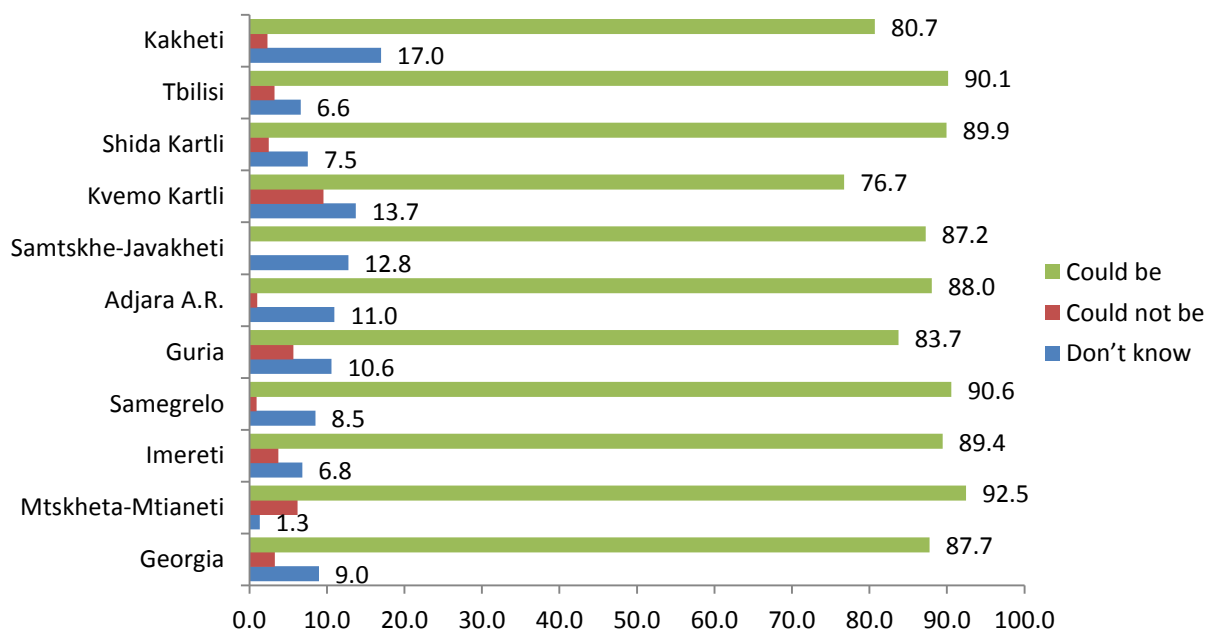
| Age | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 15-29 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Women | 45.0 | 51.9 | 52.8 | 49.8 |
| Men | 44.8 | 52.2 | 49.2 | 48.7 |
| Total | 44.9 | 52.0 | 51.1 | 49.3 |

Numerator: Number of respondents aged 15-29 who gave the correct answer to all five questions: Q58-1, Q58-2, Q58-6, Q58-7, Q-59.

Denominator: Number of all respondents aged 15-29 (includes the whole sample, even those who reported not having heard of HIV/AIDS).

At both the country level and the regional level, the majority of young people (80-90 per cent) agree that a healthy-looking person could be infected with HIV. In the Kvemo Kartli region, a smaller proportion of young people (76.7 per cent) believe this to be the case.

Chart 3.7 Distribution of answers by people aged 15-29 who have heard about HIV/AIDS to the question: ‘Can a healthy-looking person be infected with HIV?, %



Among the five possible answers on how to prevent HIV transmission enumerated in the questionnaire, the following three answers were correct: correct and consistent use of condoms; tattoos and piercings should be carried out only in certified centres; a HIV-infected pregnant woman should take medication to prevent transmission of the virus to her baby. In this regard, the majority of 15- to 29-year-old people cited correct and consistent use of condoms (84.5 per cent). Carrying out tattoos and piercings only in certified centres in order to avoid HIV infection was cited by 42.2 per cent of young people, while 24.2 per cent stated that a HIV-infected pregnant woman should take medication to prevent transmission of the virus to her baby.

Table 3.18 Distribution of people aged 15-29 who have heard about HIV/AIDS, by waysto prevent HIV transmission, by regions, %

| | Kakheti | Tbilisi | Shida Kartli | Kvemo Kartli | Samtskhe-Javakheti | Adjara A.R. | Guria | Samegrelo | Imereti | Mtskheta-Mtianeti | Georgia |
|--|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| Correct and consistent use of condoms | 78.5 | 87.6 | 80.3 | 71.9 | 88.7 | 82.2 | 94.5 | 90.9 | 81.5 | 99.1 | 84.5 |
| Avoiding injection of drugs using syringes/needles | 87.8 | 87.5 | 77.3 | 71.3 | 84.6 | 92.1 | 65.0 | 84.4 | 79.8 | 92.5 | 83.7 |
| Delaying the start of one's sexual life | 16.7 | 18.4 | 18.7 | 25.6 | 22.6 | 35.0 | 6.3 | 8.6 | 20.7 | 43.5 | 20.3 |
| Not having tattoos or piercings carried out in uncertified shops/places/centres | 40.2 | 53.8 | 50.1 | 25.8 | 21.6 | 31.6 | 18.1 | 27.5 | 44.0 | 71.2 | 42.2 |
| If a pregnant woman is HIV positive, she should take medication to prevent transmission of HIV to her baby | 23.4 | 25.6 | 23.6 | 18.7 | 26.8 | 15.8 | 13.5 | 17.2 | 32.3 | 39.2 | 24.2 |
| None of the ways listed | 2.3 | 2.1 | 6.1 | 6.3 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 3.4 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 2.3 |

Note: It was permitted to specify more than one way to prevent HIV transmission. This explains why the sum of responses is more than 100 per cent.

The proportion of young people who named at least two correct answers equals 45.7 per cent across the country. The proportion of young people who gave at least two correct answers is highest in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region (83.5 per cent), followed by the Tbilisi region (56 per cent) and the Imereti region (50.2 per cent). The lowest proportion of young people who gave two correct answers to the above question is in the Guria region (18.8 per cent). A total of 3 per cent of young people could not name a single correct way to prevent HIV transmission.

A high proportion of respondents recognized that HIV can be prevented by avoiding having sexual intercourse without using a condom (84.5 per cent) and by avoiding injection of drugs using syringes/needles (83.7 per cent). The proportion of young people who cited delaying the start of one's sexual life and who also stated that a HIV-positive pregnant woman should take medication as a way to prevent HIV transmission to her baby was 20.3 per cent and 24.2 per cent, respectively.

In order to explore young people's knowledge about the HIV transmission routes from HIV-positive mothers to children, the respondents were given five possible answers to the question: 'In your opinion, can HIV be transmitted from HIV-infected mothers to their children?' three of these answers were correct. They were: during pregnancy, at childbirth, during breastfeeding.

34.7 per cent of young people who have heard about HIV/AIDS stated that it is difficult for them to respond to this question, 3.6 per cent stated that HIV could not be transmitted from mother to child either during pregnancy, or at childbirth, or during breastfeeding. Of the remaining respondents, 47.2 per cent believe that HIV is transmitted from HIV-positive mother to child during pregnancy.

The proportion of young people who named all three right routes of virus transmission from HIV-positive mother to child is 6.5 per cent nationwide. 23.3 per cent of respondents gave two correct answers. The responses of adolescents aged 15-19 does not differ from the responses indicated above for young people aged 15-29. The proportion of 15- to 19-year-old people who named all three right routes of virus transmission from HIV-positive

mother to child is 6.2 per cent nationwide. 22.2 per cent of young people who responded to this question gave two correct answers.

Table 3.19 Distribution of answers given by people aged 15-29 who have heard about HIV/AIDS to the question: 'Could HIV be transmitted from a HIV-positive mother to her child?', %

| | Kakheti | Tbilisi | Shidakartli | Kvemo kartli | Samtskhe-Javakheti | Adjara A.R. | Guria | Samegrelo | Imereti | Mtskheta-Mtianeti | Georgia |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| During pregnancy | 50.2 | 43.4 | 53.8 | 43.7 | 42.3 | 42.1 | 58.6 | 52.4 | 54.0 | 30.6 | 47.2 |
| At childbirth | 31.8 | 22.5 | 25.7 | 13.2 | 22.4 | 16.2 | 14.8 | 20.5 | 28.5 | 26.0 | 22.8 |
| During breastfeeding | 21.4 | 12.7 | 21.4 | 18.7 | 28.6 | 20.7 | 14.4 | 15.6 | 41.6 | 32.7 | 21.4 |
| None of the ways listed | 2.7 | 5.1 | 1.4 | 5.3 | 0.4 | 3.7 | 2.1 | 4.3 | 1.7 | 2.8 | 3.6 |
| It is difficult to answer | 29.1 | 37.4 | 34.4 | 34.0 | 41.6 | 39.4 | 35.7 | 34.8 | 27.3 | 39.6 | 34.7 |

Note: It was permitted to specify more than one answer. This explains why the sum of responses is more than 100 per cent.

The proportion of young people who named all three correct ways of virus transmission from HIV-infected mother to child (during pregnancy, at childbirth, during breastfeeding) is highest in the Imereti region and amounts to 13.7 per cent. This figure is lowest in Tbilisi, where only 3.7 per cent of young people are aware of all three ways of virus transmission from HIV-infected mother to child.

Young people's knowledge about HIV testing and counselling is also low. Only 57.7 per cent of people aged 15-29 and 53.7 percent of adolescents believe that HIV testing is the only way to diagnose HIV infection (see tables below).

Table 3.20 Distribution of answers given by people aged 15-29 who have heard about HIV/AIDS to the question: 'Is HIV testing the only way to determine HIVinfection?', %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Villages | Georgia |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| It is the only way | 53.4 | 60.6 | 58.9 | 57.7 |
| It is not the only way | 13.3 | 17.2 | 11.9 | 13.7 |
| Do not know | 33.3 | 22.2 | 29.2 | 28.6 |

Table 3.21 Distribution of answers given by young people aged 15-29 who have heard about HIV/AIDS to the question: 'Is HIV testing the only way to determine HIVinfection?', %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Villages | Georgia |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| It is the only way | 49.5 | 53.3 | 56.4 | 53.7 |
| It is not the only way | 13.6 | 21.3 | 12.7 | 15.1 |
| Do not know | 36.9 | 25.3 | 30.8 | 31.2 |

Only 12.1 per cent of young people aged 15-29 have ever been tested for HIV, whereas the same indicator for adolescents aged 15-29 is 1.5 per cent. The level of testing is higher in Tbilisi and in other urban areas than in rural areas. See tables 3.22 and 3.23 below:

Table 3.22 Distribution of answers given by people aged 15-29 who have heard about HIV/AIDS to the question: 'Have you ever been tested for HIV?', %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Villages | Georgia |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| Was tested | 14.5 | 13.4 | 9.6 | 12.1 |
| Was never tested | 84.4 | 84.8 | 88.3 | 86.2 |
| It is difficult to answer | 1.1 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 1.7 |

Table 3.23 Distribution of answers given by people aged 15-19 who have heard about HIV/AIDS to the question: 'Have you ever been tested for HIV', %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Villages | Georgia |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| Was tested | 3.2 | 1.8 | 0.4 | 1.5 |
| Was never tested | 96.0 | 97.8 | 98.6 | 97.7 |
| It is difficult to answer | 0.7 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 0.8 |

Of those people aged 15-29 who have not been tested for HIV, 46 per cent stated that they have never thought about it and 72.9 per cent consider that they have very low risk of being infected. The same indicator for adolescents aged 15-19 is 47.6 per cent and 72.7 per cent, respectively. See table below:

Table 3.24 lists the main reasons why people aged 15-29 who have heard about HIV/AIDS have never been tested for HIV, %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Villages | Georgia |
|--|----------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| I have never thought about it | 33.8 | 52.1 | 50.7 | 46.0 |
| I believe that I am not HIV-infected (have a very low risk of infection) | 78.2 | 70.9 | 70.4 | 72.9 |

Table 3.25 lists the main reasons why people aged 15-19 who have heard about HIV/AIDS have never been tested for HIV, %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Villages | Georgia |
|---|----------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| I have never thought about it | 37.7 | 56.6 | 48.7 | 47.6 |
| I believe that I am not HIV-infected (have a very low risk) | 75.4 | 66.9 | 74.2 | 72.7 |

According to the survey, only 31 per cent of young people aged 15-29 and only 21.8 per cent of adolescents aged 15-19 know where to find a HIV testing service. See tables 3.26 and 3.27.

Table 3.26 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who have heard about HIV/AIDS and know where to find a HIV testing service, %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Villages | Georgia |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| Know | 27.4 | 32.8 | 34.1 | 31.7 |
| Do not know | 72.6 | 67.2 | 65.9 | 68.3 |

Table 3.27 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who have heard about HIV/AIDS and know where to find a HIV testing service, %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Villages | Georgia |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| Know | 12.2 | 24.5 | 26.0 | 21.8 |
| Do not know | 87.8 | 75.5 | 74.0 | 78.2 |

Of the ten questionnaire answers listing possible sexually transmitted diseases, the following seven answers were correct: syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, fungal infections, genital herpes, trichomoniasis, and HIV/AIDS. In relation to the question of sexually transmitted diseases, 15- to 29-year-old people are mainly informed about the HIV/AIDS virus (70.5 per cent). Among a list of contagious diseases that are spread through sexual intercourse: syphilis (45.8 per cent) and fungal diseases (47.7 per cent) were also cited by a significant number of young people. A rather small number of respondents believe that gonorrhea (17.5 per cent), genital herpes (12.7 per cent), trichomoniasis (11.8 per cent) and chlamydia (10 per cent) can be spread through sexual intercourse. With regard to the three incorrect questionnaire answers (i.e., meningitis, pneumonia, impotence), a very small proportion of young people (0.5 percent to 1.8 per cent) believe that these are sexually transmitted diseases. Among 15- to 29-year-old people, the proportion of those across the country who gave all correct answers to the sexually transmitted diseases portion of the questionnaire is very small and does not exceed 1.5 per cent.

Table 3.28 Distribution of people aged 15-29, by sexually transmitted diseases named by them, %

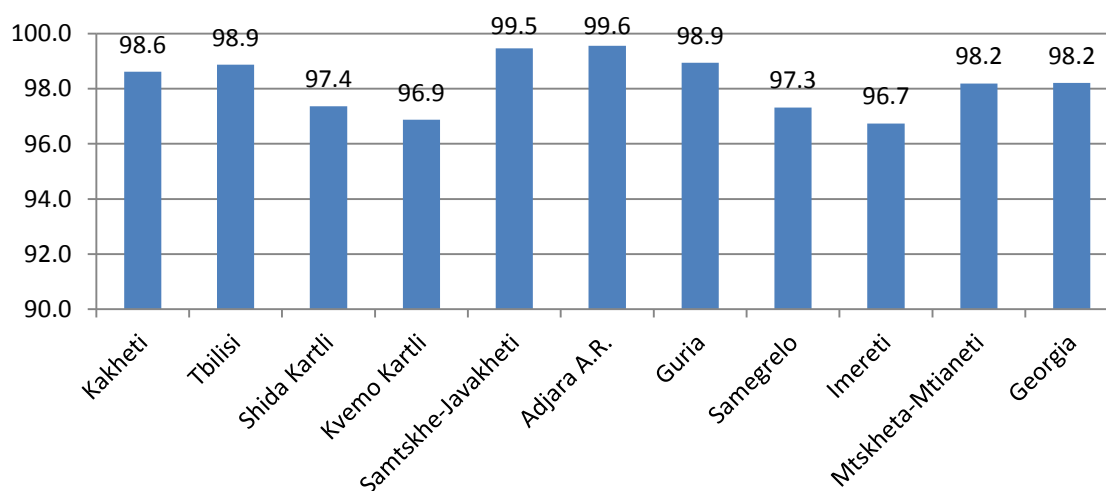
| | Kakheti | Tbilisi | Shida Kartli | Kvemo Kartli | Samtskhe-Javakheti | Adjara A.R. | Guria | Samegrelo | Imereti | Mtskheta-Mtianeti | Georgia |
|-------------------|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| Syphilis | 39.4 | 48.4 | 36.8 | 31.0 | 76.3 | 53.3 | 40.7 | 54.4 | 47.2 | 23.2 | 45.8 |
| Gonorrhea | 22.7 | 14.8 | 23.5 | 9.4 | 25.3 | 23.9 | 38.2 | 12.0 | 15.6 | 22.8 | 17.5 |
| Meningitis | 0.8 | 1.4 | 4.4 | 2.6 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 3.1 | 0.7 | 1.7 |
| Chlamydia | 13.6 | 13.6 | 4.1 | 9.3 | 11.1 | 13.1 | 4.2 | 6.0 | 7.7 | 2.1 | 10.0 |
| Pneumonia | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 0.8 |
| Fungal infections | 42.7 | 56.4 | 53.4 | 46.2 | 58.4 | 40.4 | 37.0 | 35.2 | 44.6 | 36.5 | 47.7 |
| Impotence | 0.5 | 1.6 | 2.9 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 1.8 |
| Genital herpes | 7.0 | 20.5 | 20.3 | 6.6 | 7.6 | 11.0 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 10.7 | 3.3 | 12.7 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Trichomoniasis | 10.0 | 14.9 | 17.0 | 12.8 | 11.3 | 10.0 | 6.9 | 9.0 | 9.3 | 1.8 | 11.8 |
| HIV/AIDS | 66.4 | 81.5 | 75.3 | 42.9 | 56.6 | 74.3 | 46.4 | 73.2 | 76.0 | 69.4 | 70.5 |
| None of the listed diseases | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 1.4 | 0.5 |
| It is difficult to answer | 23.1 | 14.2 | 15.1 | 29.4 | 12.5 | 15.7 | 35.9 | 16.2 | 16.7 | 24.8 | 18.4 |

Note: It was permitted to specify more than one answer. This explains why the sum of responses is more than 100 per cent.

As explained above, out of the ten possible diseases transmitted through sexual intercourse that were listed in the questionnaire, seven were correct. Therefore, it was possible that some respondents, who named eight, nine or ten answers, accidentally might guess the seven correct answers. In order to exclude this possibility, the researchers focused on the number of young people who gave seven or fewer answers. Based on this principle, it can be stated with certainty that the percentage of young people who are aware of diseases transmitted through sexual intercourse equals 76.5 per cent.

Chart 3.8 Proportion of correct answers among the list of sexually transmitted diseases named by people aged 15-29, % (i.e. young people who gave seven or fewer answers)



It can also be stated with certainty that 15- to 29-year-old people in Georgia are informed about sexually transmitted diseases, and that 98.2 per cent of answers given by 15- to 29-year-old people across the country are correct.

It is also worth noting that the proportion of correct answers exceeds 96 per cent in all regions.

Of the six possible symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect men, which were listed in the questionnaire, just three were correct. These were: genital swelling and pain, burning during urination, and discharge. With regard to the list of symptoms cited, the majority of people aged 15-29 (62.3 per cent) stated that it was difficult to give the correct answers, while the remaining respondents (37.7 per cent) named the correct options. Among a list of incorrect answers, some young people (8.8 per cent) named high temperature. The proportion of 15- to 29-year-old people who identified only symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect men is 6.6 per cent nationwide. In addition, at least two correct answers were given by 23.5 per cent of young people. 3 per cent of young people could not specify any correct symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases.

Table 3.29 Distribution of people aged 15-29, by symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect men, %

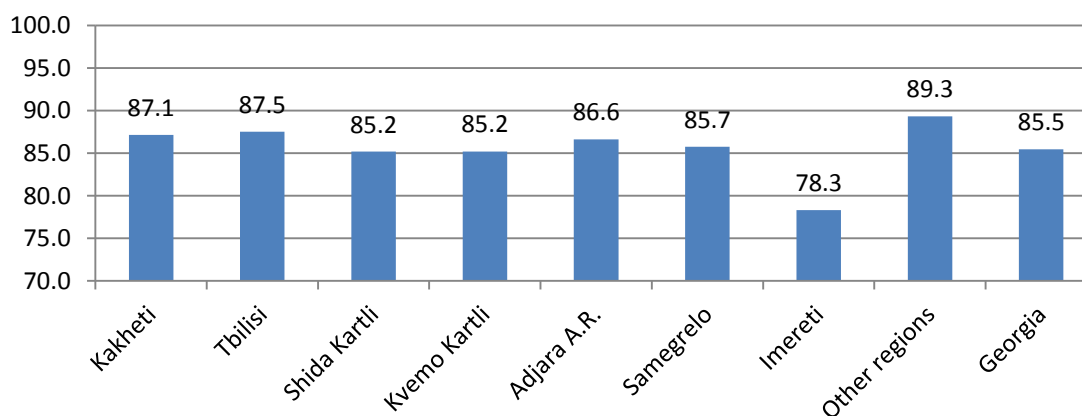
| | Kakheti | Tbilisi | Shida Kartli | Kvemo Kartli | Samtskhe-Javakheti | Adjara A.R. | Guria | Samegrelo | Imereti | Mtskheta-Mtianeti | Georgia |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| Abdominal pain | 2.3 | 1.6 | 8.5 | 4.1 | 2.0 | 4.5 | 3.8 | 4.7 | 3.3 | 0.6 | 3.3 |
| Genital swelling and pain | 24.5 | 26.2 | 31.5 | 20.8 | 25.5 | 34.3 | 29.2 | 35.0 | 24.6 | 7.3 | 26.6 |
| Jaundice in the eye area | 6.8 | 3.9 | 8.4 | 5.6 | 3.6 | 9.2 | 2.9 | 3.5 | 7.3 | 1.5 | 5.5 |
| Burning during urination | 22.0 | 24.5 | 39.7 | 19.2 | 22.5 | 32.7 | 20.6 | 23.3 | 25.9 | 10.8 | 25.0 |
| Discharge | 17.7 | 18.0 | 23.5 | 12.8 | 14.4 | 22.0 | 12.7 | 25.6 | 15.8 | 5.8 | 17.8 |
| High temperature | 5.2 | 9.7 | 13.1 | 4.2 | 5.2 | 8.5 | 7.8 | 8.9 | 13.2 | 1.2 | 8.8 |
| None of the symptoms listed | 3.0 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.8 |
| It is difficult to answer | 65.3 | 67.0 | 53.1 | 66.6 | 66.6 | 53.8 | 63.7 | 47.4 | 60.7 | 89.2 | 62.3 |

Note: It was permitted to specify more than one answer. This explains why the sum of responses is more than 100 per cent.

It is interesting to note what representatives of both genders regard as the main symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect men. The study showed that a very large proportion of women (70 per cent) and a quite high proportion of men (55 per cent) stated that they find it difficult to answer this question. This is despite the fact that representatives of both genders mostly gave correct answers, with men in almost every region in Georgia specifying correct options more frequently than women.

As noted above, among six possible symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect men listed in the questionnaire, only three were correct. Therefore, it was possible that some respondents who named four, five or six diseases accidentally might guess the six correct answers. In order to exclude this possibility, the researchers focused on the number of young people who gave three or fewer answers. Based on this principle, it can be stated with certainty what percentage of young people are aware of the symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect men.

Chart 3.9 Proportion of correct answers among possible symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect men given by people aged 15-29, % (i.e., young people who gave three or fewer answers)



Among 15- to 29-year-old people who could specify the possible symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect men, the proportion of correct answers among those who named three or fewer answers equalled 85.5 per cent. 78.3 per cent of this indicator was reported in the Imereti region, where the proportion of young people who specified the correct symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases in men was the lowest among all regions. In the remaining regions, the percentage of correct answers varies within the 85-88 per cent range. Therefore, we can state that although young people aged 15-29 found it difficult to specify the symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect men, those who did specify the correct list of symptoms are well informed on this subject.

Of six possible symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect women listed in the questionnaire, three symptoms were correct. These were: pain or a burning sensation during urination, milky or purulent vaginal discharge, lower back pain or abdominal pain. The majority of young people aged 15-29 (69.7 per cent), when asked what symptoms a woman who has a sexually transmitted disease may exhibit, said that it was difficult to answer. The remaining respondents (30.3 per cent) gave mostly correct answers. Out of a list of incorrect answers, feeling nauseous was named by only a small proportion of respondents (5.5 per cent). The proportion of 15- to 29-year-old people who specified the correct symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect women is just 4 per cent nationwide. In addition, at least two correct answers were given by 18.4 per cent of young people. A total of 2 per cent of young people could not specify the correct symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases.

Table 3.30 Distribution of young people aged 15-29 by symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect women named by these young people, %

| | Kakheti | Tbilisi | Shida Kartli | Kvemo Kartli | Samtskhe-Javakheti | Adjara A.R. | Guria | Samegrelo | Imereti | Mtskheta-Mtianeti | Georgia |
|--|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| Pain and/or a burning sensation during urination | 17.4 | 21.7 | 23.4 | 15.1 | 19.7 | 27.1 | 16.0 | 14.9 | 23.0 | 7.6 | 20.1 |
| Headache | 4.5 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 8.2 | 3.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 0.0 | 4.0 |
| Milky or purulent vaginal discharge | 22.8 | 25.2 | 15.1 | 20.6 | 14.1 | 35.4 | 19.7 | 26.2 | 20.5 | 7.9 | 22.8 |
| Feeling nauseous | 2.3 | 4.4 | 6.0 | 4.2 | 2.6 | 12.2 | 5.3 | 5.9 | 7.3 | 2.7 | 5.5 |
| Lower back pain or abdominal pain | 12.9 | 10.0 | 9.9 | 6.9 | 6.5 | 23.6 | 11.9 | 8.2 | 12.1 | 7.7 | 11.0 |
| Jaundice in eye area | 4.5 | 3.6 | 2.8 | 3.6 | 0.4 | 6.4 | 0.9 | 2.5 | 5.3 | 0.0 | 3.7 |
| None of the symptoms listed | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 1.4 | 0.5 |
| It is difficult to answer | 73.6 | 69.6 | 71.0 | 69.9 | 78.6 | 53.7 | 73.3 | 68.6 | 70.5 | 85.1 | 69.7 |

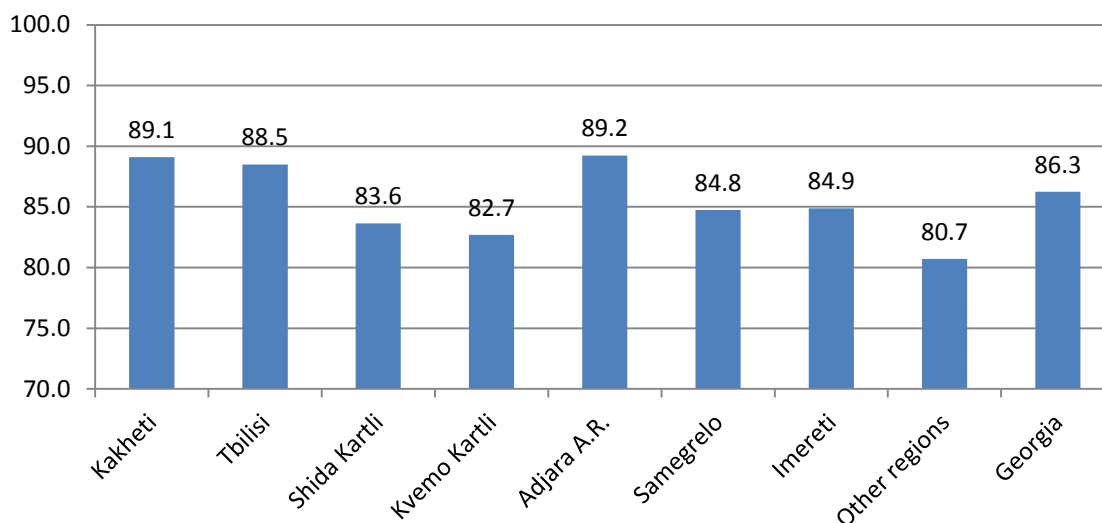
Note: It was permitted to specify more than one answer. This explains why the sum of responses is more than 100 per cent.

Among the regions, young people living in Mtskheta-Mtianeti found it especially difficult to specify symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect both men and women. On the other hand, young people in Adjara are better informed about the symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect women than young people in the remaining regions in Georgia.

The main symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect women are viewed differently by young men and young women. The study shows that a very high proportion of men (81.7 per cent) and more than half of women (58 per cent) stated that it was difficult for them to answer this question. In all regions a higher proportion of women than men specified the correct symptoms.

As noted above, among six possible symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect women listed in the questionnaire, only three were correct. Therefore, it was possible that some respondents who named four, five or six answers accidentally might guess the three correct answers. In order to exclude this possibility, the researchers focused on the number of young people who gave three or fewer answers. Based on this principle, it can be stated with certainty what percentage of young people are aware of the symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect women.

Chart 3.10 Proportion of correct answers about possible symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect women given by young people aged 15-29, % (i.e. young people who gave three or fewer answers)



Among young people aged 15-29 who gave three or fewer answers to the question about possible symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect women, the proportion of correct responses equals 86.3 per cent. Therefore, it can be stated that although 15- to 29-year-old people have difficulty naming the symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases that affect women, though the vast majority of respondents of those who managed to name the symptoms were well-informed on the subject. In fact, the proportion of correct answers is very high in each region, and ranges between 80 per cent and 89 per cent.

In Georgia, during the period July 2012 to June 2013, 112 new cases of HIV infection in young people aged 15-29 were identified. Of these cases, a total of 8 per cent related to 15- to 17-year-olds, 43.8 per cent related to 18- to 24-year-olds, and 48.2 per cent related to 25- to 29-year-olds. When the data are analysed by gender, 22 per cent of the cases reported related to women and 78 per cent related to men.

Table 3.31 Number of newly registered cases of HIV (from July 2012 to June 2013)

| | Kakheti | Tbilisi | Shida Kartli | Kvemo Kartli | Samtskhe-Javakheti | Adjara A.R | Guria | Samegrelo | Imereti | Mtskheta-Mtianeti | Abkhazia | Georgia |
|--------------|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------------------|----------|---------|
| Total | 20 | 174 | 17 | 28 | 4 | 44 | 12 | 76 | 85 | 11 | 34 | 505 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|-----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|-----|
| | | 34 | | 10 | | | 2 | | | | | 124 |
| Women | 6 | | 2 | | 0 | 15 | | 19 | 23 | 3 | 10 | |
| Men | 14 | 140 | 15 | 18 | 4 | 29 | 10 | 57 | 62 | 8 | 24 | 381 |
| 15-17 years old | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 9 |
| Women | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Men | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| | | 23 | | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | 49 |
| 18-24 years old | 1 | | 3 | | 0 | 6 | | 6 | 4 | 0 | 3 | |
| Women | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 12 |
| Men | 1 | 19 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 37 |
| | | 24 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25-29 years old | 3 | | 2 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 54 |
| Women | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Men | 3 | 21 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 45 |

Source: Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Georgia

Of the new cases of HIV infection among 15- to 29-year-old people, the highest number was recorded in the Tbilisi region (44.6 per cent). This number constitutes 28.7 per cent of newly identified cases of HIV infection in all age groups.

11 new cases of AIDS virus infection were revealed for every 100,000 people aged 15-29. This figure was highest in the Tbilisi region (17 cases), followed by the Samegrelo region (15 cases) and the Adjara region (12 cases). The lowest number of new cases of AIDS was recorded in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region (four cases per 100,000 adolescents). Finally, it should be noted that there were no new cases of HIV infection in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region during the period July 2012 to June 2013.

When this index was considered in a gender context, it showed that the number of newly infected women is five per 100,000 women, whereas the corresponding figure for men is 18 per 100,000 men. With regard to the regional dimension, the highest rate of newly identified HIV cases was recorded among women in Samegrelo, with nine newly infected women per 100,000 women. It is worth noting that among women living in the Shida Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions, new cases of infection were not revealed during this period. In addition, in the remaining regions, the newly identified HIV infection rate varies from three to seven cases.

The number of cases of AIDS virus infection among men is highest in the Tbilisi region, where new cases of AIDS reached 31 per 100,000 men. The corresponding figure in the Samegrelo region was 22 per 100,000 men, and in the Adjara region 19 per 100,000 men. This figure is relatively low in the Guria (15), Shida Kartli (13) and Imereti (12) regions. In the remaining regions, AIDS virus infection cases per 100,000 adolescents both male and female, does not exceed 10.

During the period July 2012 to June 2013, new cases of HIV infection were largely acquired by heterosexual (48.4 per cent) and homosexual/bisexual way (30.2 per cent). Among young people aged 15-29, 8.7 per cent acquired HIV infection through intravenous drug use. There was just one case of HIV infection acquired during blood transfusion and the origin of one other case of infection is unknown. Finally, it should be noted that among young people, no new cases of mother-to-child HIV transmission were reported for the period July 2012 to June 2013.

6.4.2 Methods and means of contraception

The overwhelming majority of people aged 15-29 (85.9 per cent) are most informed about condoms as a method of contraception. The other two methods of contraception that people are most informed about are oral contraceptives (54.2 per cent) and the intrauterine device (IUD) (49.9 per cent). A relatively small proportion of young people (i.e., between 4 per cent and 17 per cent) have heard about the other methods of contraception listed (see Table 3.33).

Table 3.32 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia, defined by which methods of contraception they are informed about, %

| | Kakheti | Tbilisi | Shida Kartli | Kvemo Kartli | Adjara A.R. | Samegrelo | Imereti | Other regions | Georgia |
|---|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Pills (oral contraceptives) | 44.5 | 66.1 | 54.3 | 30.0 | 46.0 | 72.2 | 54.3 | 47.0 | 54.2 |
| intrauterine device (IUD) | 48.7 | 58.0 | 48.8 | 30.7 | 56.5 | 62.5 | 48.9 | 35.6 | 49.9 |
| Condoms | 86.3 | 95.5 | 86.7 | 64.3 | 93.1 | 94.2 | 81.1 | 76.8 | 85.9 |
| Foam/gel/ointment/foaming tablets (spermicides) | 7.4 | 12.8 | 7.7 | 10.1 | 19.6 | 17.9 | 13.7 | 7.6 | 12.3 |
| Sterilization of women | 19.7 | 15.7 | 13.8 | 13.3 | 16.6 | 18.0 | 15.4 | 7.1 | 15.0 |
| Vasectomy | 2.9 | 3.5 | 0.6 | 5.0 | 9.1 | 7.8 | 4.1 | 0.5 | 4.1 |
| Injections | 10.9 | 15.3 | 16.6 | 9.2 | 17.4 | 12.2 | 14.1 | 6.8 | 13.1 |
| Emergency hormonal contraception ('morning after pill') | 13.9 | 9.5 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 10.2 | 22.2 | 10.6 | 7.8 | 10.6 |
| Temperature/calendar method | 11.1 | 17.1 | 20.4 | 16.7 | 11.8 | 24.7 | 18.0 | 11.6 | 16.6 |

In all regions, young people are most informed about three methods of contraception: condoms, intrauterine devices and pills. The survey findings for the Kvemo Kartli region are particularly worth noting. Here, only 64.3 per cent of young people aged 15-29 say that the contraceptive they are most familiar with is condom. In all other regions of Georgia, the corresponding figure ranges between 76 per cent and 96 per cent.

More than half of young people (54.2 per cent) throughout Georgia are informed about pills as a method of contraception. A much higher proportion of such young people are in the Samegrelo region (72.2 per cent) and the Tbilisi region (66.1 per cent). Relatively low proportions of such young people (30-54 per cent) are recorded in all remaining regions.

Across the regions, the third distinct method of contraception about which half of young people are informed is cervical internal tools – spiral. The highest proportion of young people (62.5 per cent) who are informed about this method of contraception live in the Samegrelo region. The corresponding figure is slightly lower in the capital (58 per cent), while in the Adjara region it is 56.5 per cent. In the remaining regions, the figure ranges between 30 per cent and 49 per cent.

In the Kvemo Kartli region, compared to other regions, a relatively small proportion of young people are familiar with all of the above-mentioned methods of contraception. In the Samegrelo region, however, the picture is quite the opposite: here the level of awareness among young people about these methods of contraception is relatively high when compared with levels of awareness in the remaining regions.

One of the most interesting conclusions arising from analysis of the data broken down by gender is that the level of awareness of all methods of contraception among young women aged 15-29, both in the regions and across the country, is much higher than the level of such awareness among their male counterparts.

Also interesting is the fact that the proportion of young people who have heard of and know where to obtain the methods of contraception listed differs slightly depending on the urban-rural context.

Table 3.33 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who know where to obtain the methods of contraception listed, drawn from the group of those who have heard about these methods, by urban-rural context, %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Rural areas | Georgia |
|---|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Pills (oral contraceptives) | 85.7 | 89.1 | 85.3 | 86.5 |
| IUD | 74.0 | 78.1 | 78.2 | 76.8 |
| Condoms | 97.6 | 97.8 | 93.2 | 95.8 |
| Foam/gel/ointment/foaming tablets (spermicides) | 82.6 | 81.4 | 78.8 | 80.6 |
| Sterilization of women | 70.1 | 78.7 | 75.2 | 74.8 |
| Vasectomy | 66.6 | 77.1 | 80.6 | 76.0 |
| Injections | 76.4 | 83.8 | 76.1 | 78.5 |
| Emergency hormonal contraception ('morning after pill') | 87.3 | 84.6 | 90.4 | 88.0 |

As Table 3.33 shows, among young people who are aware of different methods of contraception, at least three-quarters know where to obtain such methods. A particularly high proportion of young people stated that they know where to obtain a condom (95.8 per cent). The use of condoms as a method of contraception is highest in cities and villages, accounting for between 93 per cent and 98 per cent of such use. With regard to the use of pills (oral contraceptives), in Tbilisi and other cities and also in rural areas, the proportion of young people who know where to obtain pills ranges between 85.3 per cent and 89.1 per cent.

A similar pattern is observed with regard to the IUD method of contraception. In Tbilisi, as well as in other cities and villages, the proportion of young people who have heard about the IUD and know where to obtain this device is very high (i.e., between 74 per cent and 78 per cent). In addition, a rather high proportion of young people (82.6 per cent) in Tbilisi know where to obtain foam/gel/ointment/foaming tablets. The findings for other cities for both categories are similar (i.e., 81.4 per cent), whereas for rural areas the corresponding figure is 78.8 per cent. In the regions, the figures range between 80 per cent and 100 per cent. The exceptions to this are the Kakheti region and the Kvemo Kartli region, where the figures for both categories are 62 per cent and 53 per cent, respectively.

In both rural areas and Tbilisi, the proportion of young people who know where to obtain injections is virtually identical (i.e., it ranges between 76.1 per cent and 76.4 per cent, respectively). In other cities the proportion of such young people is 83.8 per cent.

The majority of young people (88 per cent) who have heard about emergency contraceptive pills know where to obtain the morning after pill. In villages, the proportion of such young people is very high (90.4 per cent), whereas in Tbilisi and other cities it is slightly lower, at 87.3 per cent and 84.6 per cent, respectively.

As outlined above, among those who have heard of specific methods of contraception, at least three-quarters confirmed that they know where to obtain these methods. Moreover, across the country, between 53 per cent and 80 per cent of this cohort know how to use each method of contraception. A particularly high proportion of young people nationwide (80 per cent) claim to know how to use a condom. The corresponding figure of those who knows how to use a condom for Tbilisi and other cities and villages is almost identical.

Table 3.34 Distribution of young people aged 15-29 in Georgia who have heard of the methods of contraception listed below, and know how to use these methods, %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Rural areas | Georgia |
|---|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Pills (oral contraceptives) | 55.1 | 62.0 | 59.4 | 58.7 |
| Cervical internal tools (spiral) | 47.9 | 55.5 | 57.5 | 53.9 |
| Condoms | 81.0 | 79.6 | 79.6 | 80.0 |
| Foam/gel/ointment/foaming tablets (spermicides) | 57.9 | 62.7 | 52.0 | 56.7 |
| Sterilization of women | 44.8 | 61.1 | 56.3 | 54.3 |
| Vasectomy | 51.3 | 63.4 | 71.9 | 64.0 |
| Injections | 60.7 | 62.9 | 48.5 | 56.8 |
| Emergency hormonal contraception ('morning after pill') | 58.9 | 69.3 | 76.2 | 69.8 |
| Temperature/calendar method | 63.2 | 73.9 | 67.2 | 68.2 |

The proportion of young people who know how to use specific contraceptive methods is slightly higher in other cities than in Tbilisi and rural areas. With regard to pills, this figure is 62 per cent; for foam/gel/ointment/foaming tablets it is 62.7 per cent; for injections it is 62.9 per cent and for the temperature/calendar method it is 73.9 per cent.

It should be noted that when compared to young people in other cities and villages, those in Tbilisi are better informed only on the use of condoms in particular. In contrast, most young people in rural areas are better informed about the use of all three other methods of contraception (intrauterine device or coil, vasectomy and emergency hormonal contraception ('morning after pill')).

Among 15- to 29-year-old people, the proportion who has used the methods of contraception listed above is extremely low. The young people who were interviewed for this study said that they know how to use, but have not used, these methods. Again, the exception is condoms, which 47.4 per cent of young people claim they are aware of and also know how to use). The majority of this cohort is men (75 per cent). The highest proportion of this index was recorded in Tbilisi, where 62 per cent of respondents said that they have used these methods of contraception.

6.4.3 Reproductive health

The survey shows that young people aged 15-29 usually have different opinions on whether or not pregnancy and childbearing at an early age (i.e., before the age of 19) is safe. Specifically, 39.3 per cent believe that it is safe, 34.3

per cent do not know whether it is safe or not, and 26.4 per cent believe that it is not safe. In the case of the latter cohort, their main reason for stating that pregnancy and childbearing before the age of 19 is not safe is because a woman's body is not fully developed at this point.

Table 3.35 Distribution of young people aged 15-29 in Georgia depending on their opinion on whether or not pregnancy and childbearing at an early age (i.e. before the age of 19) is safe, %

| | It is safe | It is not safe | Do not know |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Kakheti | 31.3 | 15.4 | 53.3 |
| Tbilisi | 39.5 | 32.3 | 28.1 |
| Shida Kartli | 36.8 | 19.0 | 44.2 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 40.9 | 28.2 | 30.9 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 21.1 | 13.8 | 65.1 |
| Adjara A.R. | 53.4 | 18.9 | 27.7 |
| Guria | 56.0 | 15.5 | 28.5 |
| Samegrelo | 47.9 | 26.8 | 25.3 |
| Imereti | 27.1 | 35.1 | 37.8 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 69.3 | 15.1 | 15.6 |
| Georgia | 39.3 | 26.4 | 34.3 |

When these data were analysed by regions, a different picture emerged. In the regions, the highest proportion of young people who believe that pregnancy and childbirth for women before the age of 19 is not safe was observed in the Imereti region (35.1 per cent). In contrast, 69.3 per cent of young people in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region believe that pregnancy and childbirth are safe at an early age. This opinion is less common in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region, where only 21.1 per cent of young people feel that pregnancy and childbirth before the age of 19 is safe for a woman. The Samtskhe-Javakheti region also has the highest proportion of young people who stated that they do not know whether pregnancy and childbirth is safe at an early age (65.1 per cent).

It is worth noting that the majority of women in almost every region in Georgia say that pregnancy and childbirth at an early age is safe for women. Men, on the other hand, are less likely to share this view. The exception to this is the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region, where 70.8 per cent of men believe that pregnancy and childbearing before the age of 19 are safe and 67.7 per cent of women agree with this view. The most contrasting opinions are among young people in the Shida Kartli and Kakheti regions, with 44.1 per cent of women in the Kakheti region and 51.3 per cent of women in the Shida Kartli region stating that they consider early pregnancy and childbearing to be safe. The corresponding figure for men is 18.9 per cent, which is significantly lower than that for women (23.1 per cent).

A review of the survey results showed that 41.4 per cent of women aged 15-29 has been pregnant at least once. The highest proportion of pregnancies was reported in the Shida Kartli region (52.4 per cent). The corresponding figures for urban areas and rural areas were 43.2 per cent and 39.2 per cent, respectively. It was also revealed that in most regions the average age of a woman's first pregnancy is 20. The exception to this is the Adjara region, where the age of first pregnancy is 22. For 87.4 per cent of women, their first pregnancy resulted in the delivery of a single live baby.

According to data from the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, nearly half (47.7 per cent) of all registered abortions were obtained by 15- to 29-year-old women. This figure is highest in the Kakheti region, where 53.7 per cent of registered abortions were obtained by women aged 15-29. A large proportion of abortions were obtained by women aged 20-29 years, whereas the corresponding rate for women aged 15-19 is 10 per cent. The

highest proportion of registered abortions obtained by women in the 15-19 age group is 19 per cent, and was recorded in the Imereti region.

Table 3.36 Number of registered abortions obtained by women aged 15-29 (during the period July 2012 to June 2013)

| | Total | Age group | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | 15-19 | 20-29 |
| Kakheti | 2,436 | 123 | 1,308 |
| Tbilisi | 13,383 | 524 | 6,529 |
| Shida Kartli | 4,621 | 149 | 2,043 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 5,702 | 349 | 2,856 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 1,630 | 37 | 750 |
| Adjara A.R. | 4,170 | 143 | 1,922 |
| Guria | 725 | 16 | 341 |
| Samegrelo | 1,404 | 145 | 677 |
| Imereti | 6,092 | 649 | 2,717 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 101 | 5 | 54 |
| Georgia | 40,264 | 2,140 | 19,197 |

Source: Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, National Center for Disease Control and Public Health

Comparing the number of registered abortions made at the age of 15-29, to women of the same age (considering the condition that one woman made one abortion) shows that 4.2% of women aged 15-29 obtained a registered abortion during the last year. This rate was highest in the Shida Kartli region (6.1 per cent), while the lowest proportion of registered abortions was reported in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region (0.5 per cent).

6.5 Accidents and suicides

The number of deaths caused by accidents, poisoning or violence among young people aged 15-29 amounts to 1 per cent of all such cases involving any age group in Georgia. This figure is highest in the Adjara region (3.9 per cent), and is followed by the Samegrelo region (2.1 per cent).

Among young people aged 15-29 whose death was caused by an accident, poisoning or violence, the majority were women (81 per cent).

Table 3.37 Number of deaths due to accidents, poisoning or violence in 2012

| Region | Total | | 15-29 age group | |
|--------------|-------|-------|-----------------|-----|
| | Women | Men | Women | Men |
| Kakheti | 706 | 647 | 14 | 3 |
| Tbilisi | 3,040 | 3,418 | 41 | 10 |
| Shida Kartli | 621 | 588 | 4 | 1 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| KvemoKartli | 1,185 | 1,157 | 13 | 4 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 434 | 424 | 3 | 0 |
| Adjara A.R. | 170 | 109 | 9 | 2 |
| Guria | 236 | 201 | 6 | 1 |
| Samegrelo | 662 | 548 | 21 | 5 |
| Imereti | 1,127 | 1,127 | 20 | 6 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 152 | 123 | 5 | 0 |
| Georgia | 8,333 | 8,342 | 136 | 32 |

The data show that the number of deaths due to accidents, poisoning or violence in 2012 per 100,000 young people was 17. The number of such deaths recorded in Georgia was highest in the Samegrelo region (29) and the Guria region (26), while the lowest number was recorded in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region (6) and the ShidaKartli region (7); in the remaining regions, the same index varied between 13 and 21.

Among 15- to 29-year-old people, the number of deaths by suicide in 2012 was 25, which represents 9.8 per cent of the total number of suicides in Georgia in the same year. This figure was highest in the Adjara region, where 11 cases of suicide among young people aged 15-29 were reported. The ShidaKartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Guria and Imereti regions had no reported case of suicide by a young person in the 15-29 age group in 2012.

Among young people aged 15-29 whose cause of death was suicide, the majority were women (88 per cent).

Table 3.38 Number of suicides in 2012

| Region | Total population | | 15-29 age group | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------|
| | Woman | Man | Woman | Man |
| Kakheti | 40 | 5 | 3 | - |
| Tbilisi | 30 | 11 | 2 | - |
| ShidaKartli | 7 | 1 | - | - |
| KvemoKartli | 30 | 8 | 2 | - |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 6 | 1 | - | - |
| Adjara A.R. | 24 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| Guria | 7 | 0 | - | - |
| Samegrelo | 34 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| Imereti | 31 | 6 | - | - |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 8 | 1 | 1 | - |
| Georgia | 217 | 39 | 22 | 3 |

Among young people aged 15-29 the total number of deaths caused by traffic accidents in 2012 was 12. It should be noted that in the Kakheti, ShidaKartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Guria regions no case of death caused by a road accident for a person in the 15-29 age group was recorded in 2012. Among 12 young persons aged 15-29 whose established cause of death was a road accident, the majority were women (10).

Table 3.39 Number of fatalities due to the road accidents in 2012

| Region | Total | | 15-29age group | |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|----------|
| | Woman | Man | Woman | Man |
| Kakheti | 139 | 29 | - | - |
| Tbilisi | 299 | 128 | 2 | |
| Shida Kartli | 102 | 27 | - | - |
| Kvemo Kartli | 139 | 36 | 2 | 1 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 41 | 13 | - | - |
| Adjara A.R. | 122 | 35 | 1 | 1 |
| Guria | 46 | 21 | - | - |
| Samegrelo | 146 | 36 | 4 | - |
| Imereti | 220 | 61 | - | - |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 53 | 22 | 1 | - |
| Georgia | 1,307 | 408 | 10 | 2 |

When the number of deaths caused by road accidents among young people aged 15-29 was compared with the total number of young people of the same age in Georgia, it was found that there was one recorded case of death caused by road accident per 100,000 people aged 15-29. This figure was highest in the Samegrelo and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions, and when compared with the remaining regions it amounts to a total of four.

6. Part IV: Special support and protection

7.1 Attitudes of young people towards gender equality and violence against women

This chapter describes the views of 15- to 29-year-old people on certain issues relating to gender equality and violence against women. The survey shows that 65 per cent of young people believe that a man's main duty is to provide financial support for the family, whereas a woman's main duty is to bring up the children. Four out of five young people say that women should not have to endure physical abuse or sustained psychological violence in order to preserve the family unit. The majority of young people do not have a view on the fact that equality between men and women has not been achieved.

It should be noted that all opinions expressed in this chapter were assessed by the five-response assessment scale (refusal to answer was not considered to be a response). The five possible responses were as follows:

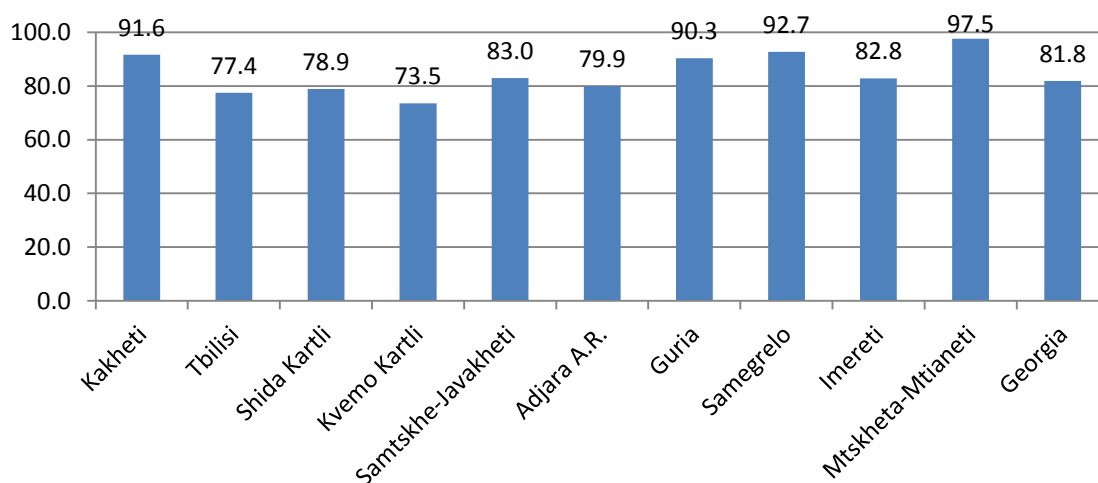
1. Strongly disagree
2. Moderately disagree
3. Neutral
4. Moderately agree
5. Strongly agree
6. Difficult to answer/refuse to answer.

The terms 'do not agree' or 'disagree' includes those who chose the first or second response, and 'agree' includes those who indicated the fourth or fifth response.

The first two issues addressed in this section of the survey interviews relate to the duties of men and women in the family.

It appears that 81.8 per cent of young people across the country agree with the statement that a man’s main duty is to provide financial support for the family. Among this cohort of young people, 57.9 per cent strongly agree with this statement.

Chart 4.1 Proportion of young people in the regions who agree with the view that a man’s main duty is to provide financial support for the family, %



When findings for the individual regions are analysed, the figures show that the majority of young people (74-98 per cent) also agree with the statement that a man’s main duty is to provide financial support for the family. This figure is highest in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region (97.5 per cent). In Tbilisi, ShidaKartli and Adjara, 77-80 per cent of young people agree with this view, while in the KvemoKartli region the figure is 73.5 per cent. For the remaining regions the proportion of young people who agree with this statement falls within the 83-93 per cent range.

Table 4.1 Responses by young people depending on how much they agree with the view that a man’s main duty is to provide financial support for the family, by urban-rural context, %

| | Do not agree | Neutral | Agree |
|----------------|--------------|---------|-------|
| Tbilisi (city) | 15.7 | 6.1 | 77.9 |
| Other cities | 12.3 | 10.6 | 76.9 |
| Rural areas | 6.3 | 6.2 | 86.8 |

Table 4.1 clearly shows that some differences were observed between urban and rural areas. In Tbilisi and other cities this opinion is shared by 77-78 per cent of young people, while in rural areas the corresponding figure is 87 per cent. 6 per cent of young people in rural areas do not agree with this opinion, and at least twice more young people do not agree in Tbilisi and other cities. It should be also noted that the highest level of neutral responses were recorded in other cities, where this figure equals 10.6 per cent.

69.2 per cent of young people in Georgia agree with the statement that a woman’s main duty is to bring up children. Among this cohort of young people, 41.6 per cent strongly agree with the statement and 27.7 per cent agree more with the opinion.

In some regions, a large proportion of young people (58-88 per cent) agree with the statement. The Adjara region (58.0 per cent) and the Tbilisi region (59.9 per cent) recorded the lowest proportions of such young people. In contrast, in the ShidaKartli, KvemoKartli, Imereti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions, 63-77 per cent of young people agree with the statement. The highest rates were observed in Guria (88.2 per cent), Samtskhe-Javakheti (85.7 per cent), Kakheti (84.4 per cent) and Samegrelo (83.6 per cent). With regard to the urban-rural dimension, it should be noted that the proportion of young people who agree that a woman's main duty is to bring up children is higher in rural areas (77.1 per cent). In contrast, in Tbilisi this figure is 17 percentage points lower (59.7 per cent).

Table 4.2 Responses by young people depending on how much they agree with the view that a woman's main duty is to bring up children, by urban-rural context, %

| | Do not agree | Neutral | Agree |
|----------------|--------------|---------|-------|
| Tbilisi (city) | 27.3 | 12.7 | 59.7 |
| Other cities | 19.4 | 15.5 | 65.1 |
| Rural areas | 13.0 | 9.4 | 77.1 |

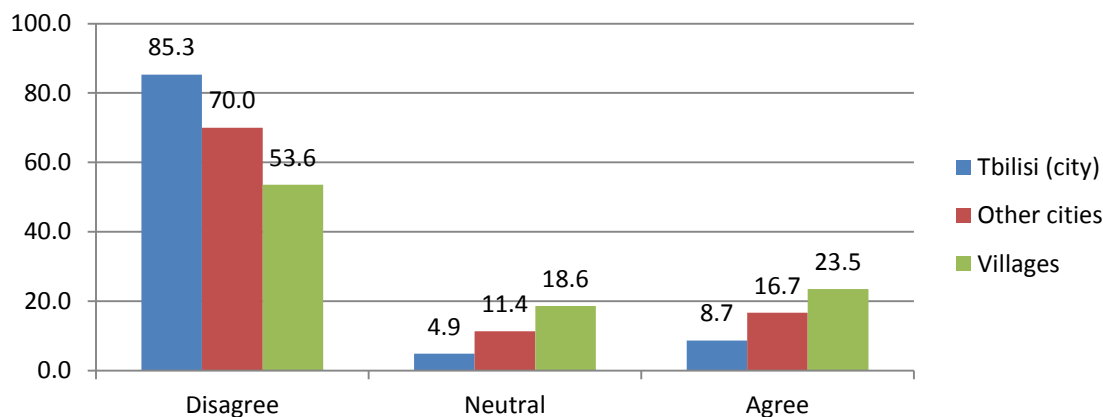
64.9 per cent of young people across Georgia agree with the statement that a man's main duty is to provide financial support for the family, and also agree with the statement that a woman's main duty is to bring up children.

Several following opinions are related to a place of woman and man in a family and society and the relationship between them; also the violence against women and gender equality

It looks like that across the country 67% disagrees with the statement that granting the rights to women means that men lose their rights.

In almost all regions, the majority of young people disagree with the statement. The proportion of such young people in each region ranges between 55 per cent and 85 per cent. The only exception is Samtskhe-Javakheti, where only 29.8 per cent of respondents disagreed with this statement. The highest proportion of those who disagree was observed in the Tbilisi region (85 per cent). It was followed by the ShidaKartli and Guria regions, where these figures are also high and equal 70-71 per cent. In the Adjara, Samegrelo, Imereti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions, the proportions of young people who disagree range between (58 per cent and 63 per cent). After the Samtskhe-Javakheti region (29.8 per cent), the next lowest proportion was recorded in the KvemoKartli region (55.1 per cent).

Chart 4.2 Proportion of young people depending on how much they agree with the statement that granting rights to women means that men would lose their rights, by urban-rural context, %



In Tbilisi as well as in other urban and rural areas, the majority of young people disagree with the statement that granting rights to women means that men would lose their rights. As the graph above shows, the highest proportion of young people who disagree with this statement are in Tbilisi (85.3 per cent) and other cities (70.0 per cent). In rural areas the proportion is somewhat lower (53.6 per cent).

Only one-third of the young people in Georgia believe that equality between men and women has already been achieved.

Table 4.3 Proportion of young people depending on how much they agree with the statement that equality between men and women has already been achieved, by urban-rural context, %

| | Disagree | Neutral | Agree |
|----------------|----------|---------|-------|
| Tbilisi (city) | 49.8 | 20.6 | 27.4 |
| Other cities | 40.8 | 20.5 | 35.1 |
| Villages | 29.0 | 27.1 | 37.6 |

With regard to the urban-rural dimension, the survey findings show that young people have rather diverse opinions on the statement that equality between men and women has already been achieved. As noted above, in Tbilisi 50 per cent of young people do not agree with this statement, while in other cities in Georgia this figure is slightly higher than 40 per cent and in rural areas it is only 29 per cent. The proportion of young people who believe that equality between men and women has been achieved is 37.6 per cent in rural areas and 35.1 per cent in other cities.

The survey findings show that 58.7 per cent of young people agree with the statement: 'Making the final decision on important family matters is up to the man.'

In the regions, a significant proportion of young people agree with the statement and, with the exception of Tbilisi, it exceeds 50 per cent. In Tbilisi the figure is slightly but still less than 50 and is 45.4 per cent. The highest proportion of young people who agree with the statement that making the final decision on important matters for a family is up to the man are in Mtskheta-Mtianeti (79.9 per cent), Kakheti (72.0 per cent), Guria (69.7 per cent) and Kvemo Kartli (68.3 per cent).

Table 4.4 Proportion of young people depending on how much they agree with the statement that making the final decision on important family matters is up to the man, by urban-rural dimension, %

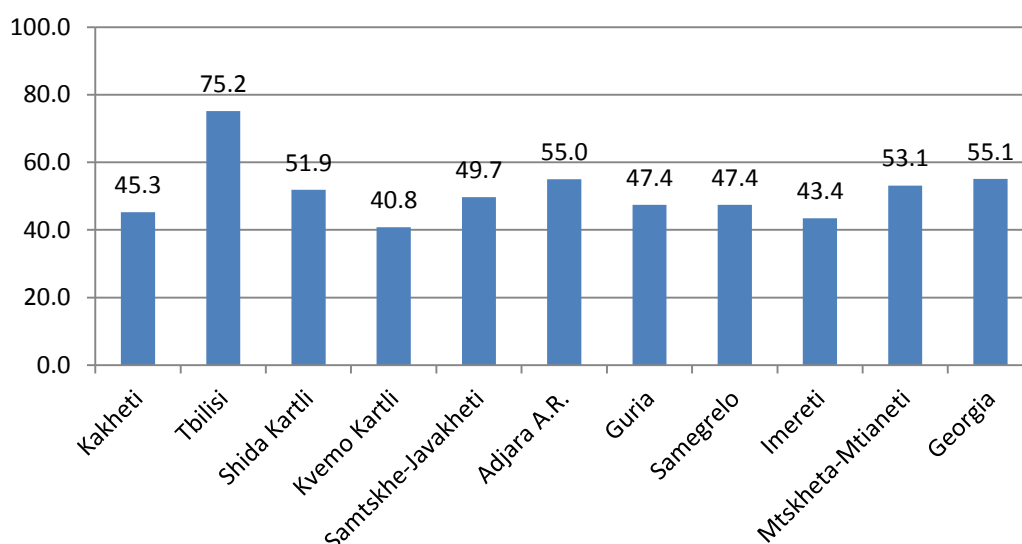
| | Disagree | Neutral | Agree |
|----------------|----------|---------|-------|
| Tbilisi (city) | 33.8 | 22.1 | 43.1 |
| Other cities | 22.8 | 17.1 | 59.0 |
| Villages | 12.6 | 19.0 | 67.7 |

It was expected that there would be quite marked differences in the opinions of young people, depending on whether they lived in urban or rural areas. However, the survey findings show that one in three young people (33.8 per cent) in Tbilisi city disagrees with the statement that making the final decision on important family matters is up to the man. The corresponding figure for other cities is 22.8 per cent, while for rural areas it is 12.6 per cent.

With regard to the next statement: ‘Only women are responsible for protecting themselves against unwanted pregnancy’ the proportion of young people aged 15-29 who disagree with this view is 55.1 per cent. 5 per cent of the cohort who stated this view are women and 10 per cent are men.

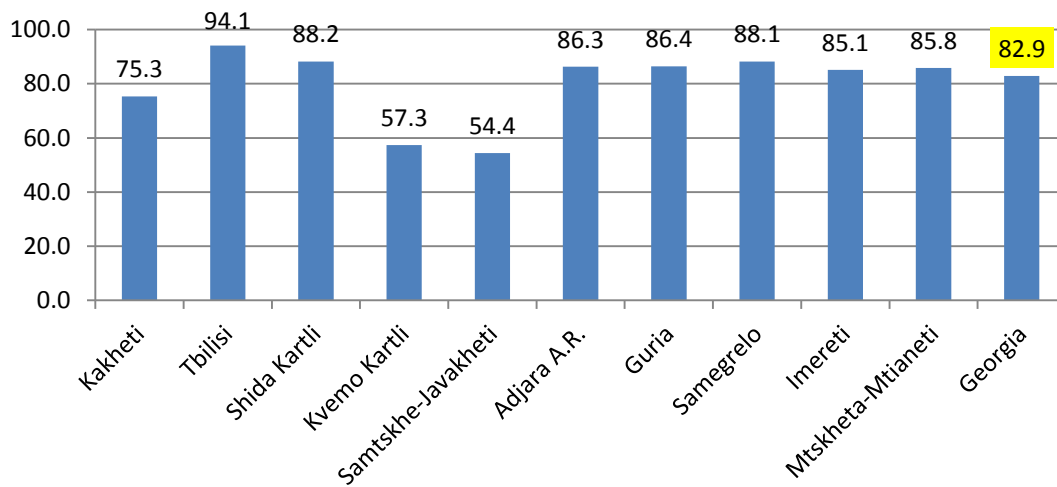
Most of young people do not favor this opinion at the national as well as regional levels. This figure is the lowest in Kvemo Kartli region and equals 40.8%. Almost equal share of youth disagree with this view in Imereti (43.4%), Kakheti (45.3%) regions, and the highest rate (75.2%) was observed in Tbilisi region.

Chart 4.3 Proportion of young people in the regions who disagree with the view that only women are responsible for protecting themselves against unwanted pregnancy, %



The next statement presented to the survey participants relates to young people’s attitudes to domestic violence against women. Here, the findings show that 11.0 per cent of young people across the country agree with the view that a woman should have to endure physical abuse in order to preserve the family unit, while 82.9 per cent disagree. In all regions, the proportion of those who disagree with this view is more than half. The highest proportion was observed in Tbilisi (94.1 per cent), while the lowest proportion was observed in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region (54.4 per cent) and the KvemoKartli region (57.3 per cent). With the exception of Kakheti (75.3 per cent) the proportion in the remaining regions exceeds 85 per cent.

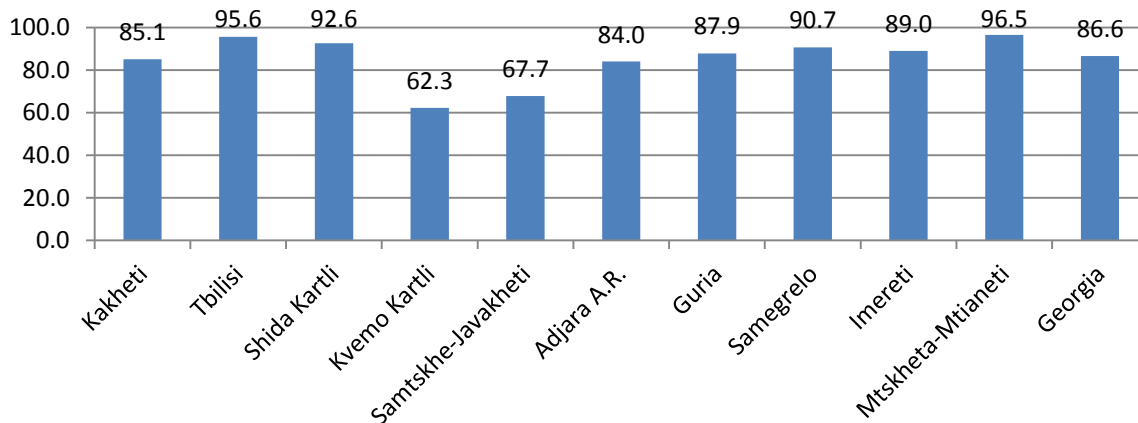
Chart 4.4 Proportion of young people in the regions who disagree with the view that a woman should have to endure physical abuse in order to preserve the family unit, %



90 per cent of young people in urban areas disagree with the view that a woman should have to endure physical abuse in order to preserve the family unit, whereas in rural areas the corresponding figure is 75 per cent.

With regard to the statement that a woman should have to endure regular psychological abuse (verbal abuse, threats, blackmail) in order to preserve the family unit, 7 per cent of young people agree with this view and 86.6 per cent disagree. The majority of young people living in the regions believe that women should not have to endure such abuse in order to preserve the family unit. However, young people in the KvemoKartli region and the Samtskhe-Javakheti region have a different view, with 20.8 per cent and 24.6 per cent, respectively, of this cohort expressing the view that a woman should have to endure regular psychological abuse (verbal abuse, threats, and blackmail) in order to preserve the family unit.

Chart 4.5 Proportion of young people in regions who disagree with the statement that a woman should have to endure regular psychological abuse (verbal abuse, threats, and blackmail) in order to preserve the family unit, %

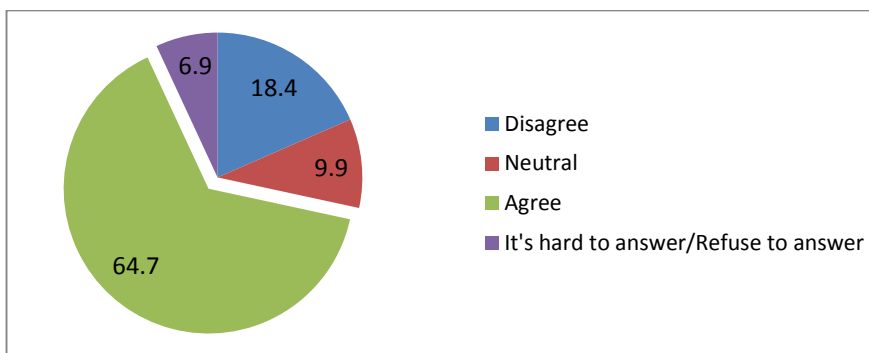


It should also be noted that almost 6.2 per cent of young people in Georgia believe that a woman should have to endure physical abuse/regular psychological abuse in order to preserve the family unit. While the data are

analysed by regions, the findings show that 21.3 per cent of young people from the Samtskhe-Javakheti region and 19.1 per cent of young people from the Kvemo Kartli region also share this view.

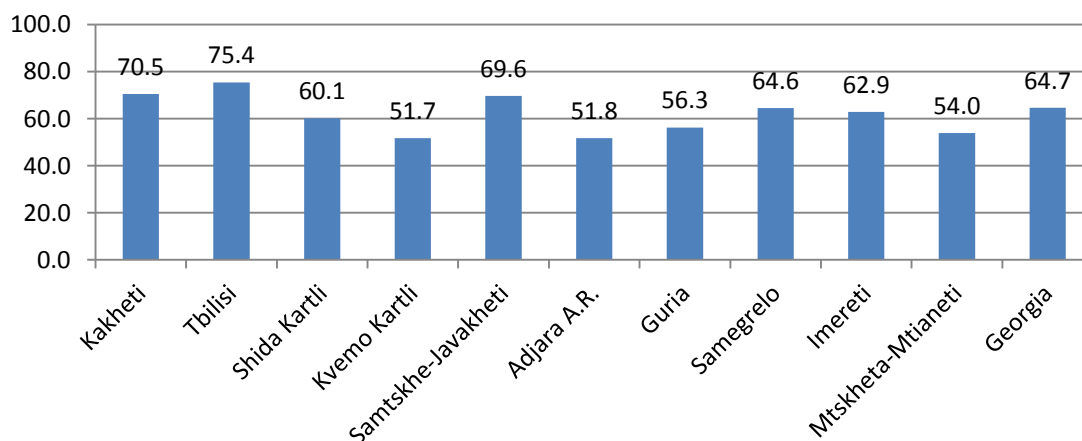
The next statement presented to the survey participants was: ‘It is acceptable for a boy to have sex before marriage.’ With regard to this statement 49 per cent of men stated that they strongly agree, while only 28 per cent of women share this opinion. Below we can see that 64.7 per cent of young people believe that it is acceptable for a boy to have sex before marriage.

Chart 4.6 Distribution of young people depending on whether they agree with the view that it is acceptable for a boy to have sex before marriage, %



In the regions, a higher percentage of young people agree with the view that it is acceptable for a boy to have sex before marriage. Specifically, the highest proportions were in: Tbilisi (75.4 per cent), Kakheti (70.5 per cent) and Samtskhe-Javakheti (69.6 per cent). In contrast, the lowest proportions were in the Kvemo Kartli region (51.7 per cent), Adjara region (51.8 per cent) and Mtskheta-Mtianeti region (54.0 per cent). In the remaining regions, the proportion of young people who agree with this statement is within the 60-65 per cent range.

Chart 4.7 Proportion of young people who agree with the view that it is acceptable for a boy to have sex before marriage, by regions, %

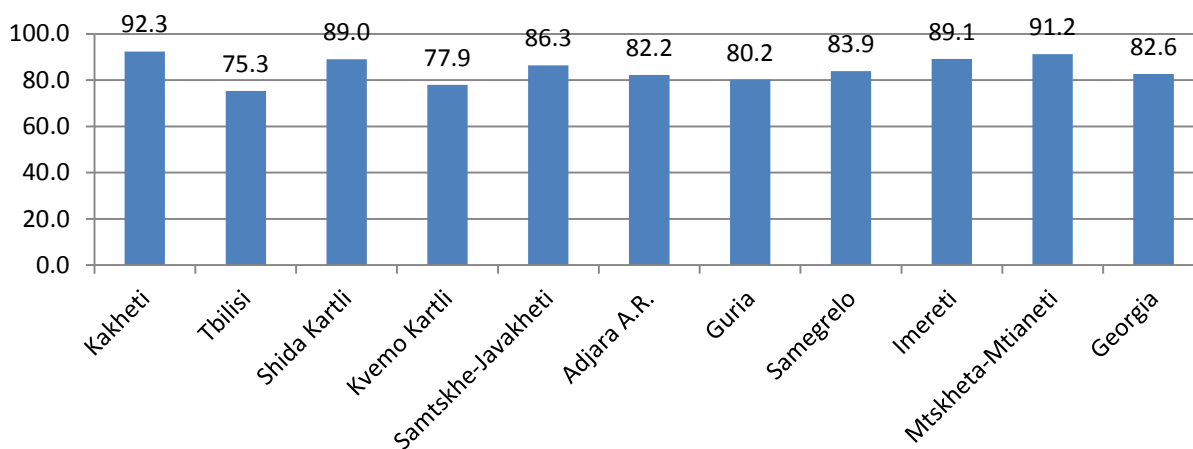


The findings show that the figures for urban and rural areas are quite similar. In Tbilisi, 74.5 per cent of young people agree with the view that it is acceptable for a boy to have sex before marriage, while in other urban and rural areas the proportion is 60-61 per cent i.e. 15 percentage points less.

The next statement presented to the survey participants was: 'It is acceptable for a girl to have sex before marriage.' Here, a radically different picture emerges with regard to the view that it is acceptable for a girl to have sex before marriage. Overall, 82.6 per cent of young people do not agree with this view. Of this cohort, 62.3 per cent strongly disagree.

A similar picture emerges with regard to the regional dimension. Here, the index is highest in the Kakheti region (92.3 per cent) and the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region (91.2 per cent).

Chart 4.8 Proportion of young people who disagree with the view that it is acceptable for a girl to have sex before marriage, by regions %



In urban areas, 77.1 per cent of young people disagree with the view that it is acceptable for a girl to have sex before marriage. In rural areas, the proportion of young people who disagree with this view is 12 percentage points higher (88.9 per cent).

When the findings are analysed from an urban-rural perspective, it is interesting to compare how the attitudes of men and women differ regarding the statement.

Table 4.5 shows how attitudes of women and men vary in response to statements about gender equality and violence against women. In most cases the differences are small, but there are some notable exceptions. For example, 48 per cent of women agree with the statement that making the final decision on important family matters is up to the man, while the corresponding figure for men is 22 percentage points higher (70 per cent). Furthermore, there is a big gap between those who believe that sex before marriage is acceptable for a boy and those who believe it is not acceptable. Specifically, 74 per cent of men believe it is acceptable, while the corresponding figure for women is 56 per cent. With regard to the statement that only women are responsible for protecting themselves against unwanted pregnancy, almost half of the men surveyed (48 per cent) disagree. This figure is 15 percentage points lower than the corresponding figure for women who express the same opinion (63 per cent).

Table 4.5 Distribution of young people by their responses to each statement, by gender, %

| | Disagree | | Agree | |
|--|----------|------|-------|------|
| | Women | Men | Women | Men |
| The main duty of a man is to provide financial support for the family. | 11.3 | 9.5 | 79.5 | 84.2 |
| The main responsibility of a woman is to raise children. | 22.4 | 14.7 | 64.1 | 74.5 |
| Granting rights to women means that men would lose their rights. | 71.7 | 61.3 | 13.7 | 21.7 |
| Equality between women and men has already been achieved. | 39.9 | 35.6 | 31.3 | 37.1 |
| Making the final decision on important family matters is up to the man. | 29.5 | 12.4 | 47.8 | 69.8 |
| Only women are responsible for protecting themselves against unwanted pregnancy. | 62.6 | 47.5 | 14.1 | 19.6 |
| A woman should have to endure physical abuse in order to preserve the family unit. | 87.0 | 78.6 | 8.8 | 13.2 |
| A woman should have to endure regular psychological abuse (verbal abuse, threats, blackmail) in order to preserve the family unit. | 90.4 | 82.7 | 6.1 | 8.7 |
| It is acceptable for a boy to have sex before marriage. | 22.2 | 14.6 | 56.1 | 73.5 |
| It is acceptable for a girl to have sex before marriage. | 84.1 | 81.1 | 5.6 | 8.6 |

7.2 Youth perceptions of the stigma of disability in society

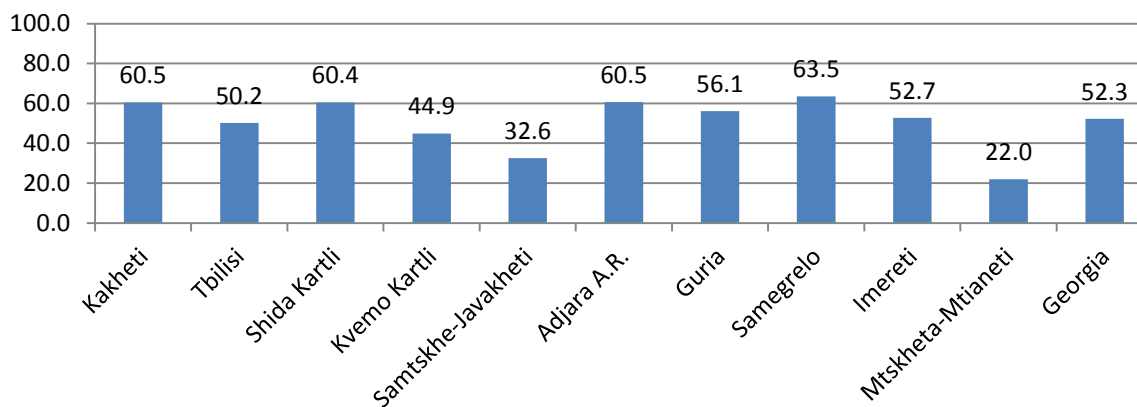
This section describes what young people think about society's attitude towards people with a disability. The survey revealed that 43.3 per cent of young people perceive the stigma of disability as a social norm. 45.9 per cent of young people living in urban areas stigmatize disability; the corresponding figure for young people living in rural areas is 40.3 per cent. Additionally, the stigma of disability is higher among females than among males (45.5 per cent versus 41 per cent) and it is higher in the capital than in the rest of the country (47.8 per cent versus 41.4 per cent). These differences are statistically significant.

During the course of the survey, 15- to 29-year-old people were asked a set of five questions, which were designed to elicit their views concerning people with disabilities. The stigma of disability was calculated based on the Stigma Proxy Indicator methodology and the stigma scale derived from the Explanatory Model Interview Catalogue (EMIC).¹⁴ Responses to the individual questions posed are described below.

In Georgia, almost one fifth of all young people (19.8 per cent) believe that a family would have a concern about disclosing the fact that one of their children has a disability.

Chart 4.9 Proportion of young people who responded negatively to the question 'Would a family have a concern about disclosing the fact that one of their children has a disability?' by regions, %

¹⁴Measuring health-related stigma – a literature review. Wim H. van Brakel, 2005



With regard to the regional dimension, the proportion of those who do not agree that a family would have a concern about disclosing the fact that one of their children has a disability is highest in Samegrelo (63.5 per cent), and lowest in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region (22.0 per cent).

It should be noted that the proportion of respondents who do not agree with the question is almost equal in urban and rural areas. However, in Tbilisi the proportion of those who do not agree is slightly lower (49.4 per cent) than it is in other cities (52.4 per cent) and in rural areas (53.9 per cent).

Table 4.6 In your opinion, would having a family member with a disability pose a problem for a person who is planning to get married?, %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Villages |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Yes | 25.7 | 30.3 | 19.5 |
| Partially | 30.9 | 29.1 | 32.9 |
| No | 35.7 | 32.8 | 35.7 |
| It's difficult to answer | 7.7 | 7.8 | 11.9 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

In Georgia only 35.0 per cent of young people believe that having a family member with a disability would not pose a problem for a person planning to get married. However, answers to this question vary across the regions. For example, in Guria 40 per cent of young people agree that having a family member with a disability would pose a problem for such a person. On the other hand, in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region and the Imereti region 39 per cent and 33.6 per cent, respectively, only partially agree that it would pose a problem. In the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region a greater proportion of young people (35.4 per cent) found it difficult to respond to this question. In the remaining regions the proportion of young people who do not believe that having a family member with a disability would pose a problem for a person planning to get married is higher.

The next question presented by the survey interviewers was whether in the young person's opinion a parent who has a child with a disability would try to prevent people from finding out this information. More than half of the young people throughout Georgia who were interviewed responded affirmatively. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, one in four young people in Tbilisi responded affirmatively to the question, whereas in rural areas only 13.6 per cent of those interviewed did so. In Tbilisi, other cities and rural areas a negative response to the question was given by 45-50 per cent of young people interviewed.

The set of survey questions also included one on the issue of institutionalizing children who have a disability. The young people were asked if they believe that a family with a newborn child with a disability would be expected by society to place the disabled child in an institution. 78 per cent of young people responded negatively to this question, while 10 per cent gave a partial yes. A similar pattern was observed throughout Georgia, with less than 4 per cent of young people responding affirmatively to the question. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, the findings show that the highest proportion of negative responses was observed in cities other than Tbilisi (82.3 per cent). The proportion of those who gave a partial yes is highest in Tbilisi and amounts to 17 per cent.

Table 4.6 In your opinion, would a family who have a newborn child with a disability be expected by society to place their disabled child in an institution? %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Villages |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Yes | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.1 |
| Partially | 16.9 | 6.7 | 7.5 |
| No | 72.7 | 82.3 | 78.1 |
| It's difficult to answer | 6.7 | 7.3 | 11.2 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Across Georgia, the proportion of young people who believe that other people in their community avoid a child with a disability is almost 15.6 per cent. With the exception of the Samtskhe-Javakheti region, the proportion of young people in all regions who gave a negative answer to this question is within the 45-66 per cent range. With regard to the Samtskhe-Javakheti region, slightly over half of the young people interviewed (51.6 per cent) gave a partial yes to the question. Tbilisi has the highest proportion (21.3 per cent) of those who believe that other people in their community avoid a child with a disability. In contrast, only 12.0 per cent of the survey respondents in rural areas and 16.2 per cent of the respondents in other cities hold this view.

Table 4.8 Distribution of young people depending on whether they agree or disagree on specific issues related to children with disabilities, %

| | Yes | Partially | No | It's difficult to answer/ Refuse to answer |
|---|------|-----------|------|---|
| Would a family have a concern about disclosure if one of their children had a disability? | 19.8 | 22.0 | 52.3 | 5.9 |
| Would having a family member with a disability pose a problem for a person who plans to get married? | 24.0 | 31.4 | 35.0 | 9.7 |
| Would a parent who has a child with a disability try to prevent others from finding out this information? | 17.2 | 21.2 | 47.5 | 14.1 |
| Would a family who have a newborn child with a disability be expected by society to place the disabled child in an institution? | 3.4 | 9.9 | 77.7 | 9.0 |
| Would other people in your community avoid a child with a disability? | 15.6 | 24.5 | 52.0 | 7.9 |

Overall, 43.3 per cent of young people believe that the Georgian public stigmatizes disability. The capital city Tbilisi has the highest levels of perceived stigma – 47.8 per cent. Villages have the lowest levels of perceived stigma – 40.3 per cent. More women than men have a perceived stigma towards disability (45.5 per cent versus 41 per cent).

7.3 Poverty among young people

This chapter provides data on 15- to 29-year-old people living in households below the poverty line. The information outlined here is based on the Integrated Household Survey of GeoStat data and on the number of people who receive subsistence allowances for vulnerable families. The Social Service Agency constitutes the source of the latter. According to the Integrated Household Survey data in 2012, in Georgia, the percentage of young people living in households below 40 per cent of the median consumption in the relevant age group equals 10.4 per cent.

In 2012, the proportion of young people living in households receiving subsistence allowance for vulnerable families was 8.4 per cent. The data show that the relative poverty rate (the population living below 60 per cent and 40 percent of the median consumption, respectively) is higher for those who have 15- to 29-year-olds living in their household. These indicators are 3-4 percentage points higher than the relative poverty rates of the population in whose households 15- to 29-year-olds do not live.

Poverty rate among young people (relative poverty): This term implies the proportion of young people aged 15-29 living in households below 60 per cent and 40 per cent of the median consumption.

The Integrated Household Survey data show that across Georgia 23.5 per cent of young people was below 60 per cent of the median consumption in 2012, and 10.4 per cent were below 40 per cent of the median consumption. The tables below show that the rural poverty rate is 12 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate in urban areas among young people who are living below 60 percent of the median consumption. With regard to young people who are living below 40 percent of the median consumption, the same difference between urban and rural areas is two times lower (6 percentage points).

Table 4.9 Poverty rate among young people in 2012, urban and rural context, %

| | Urban | Rural | Georgia |
|--|-------|-------|-------------|
| Proportion of young people living below 60 percent of the median consumption | 17.5 | 29.3 | 23.5 |
| Proportion of young people living below 40 percent of the median consumption | 7.3 | 13.4 | 10.4 |

Interestingly, the poverty rates among young people, when broken down by gender, are almost equal. The chart below clearly shows that, when broken down by gender, the proportion of young people living below 40 percent of the median consumption was identical in 2012. Among young women living below 60 percent of the median consumption, the poverty level was slightly higher (one percentage point) than among men in the same period.

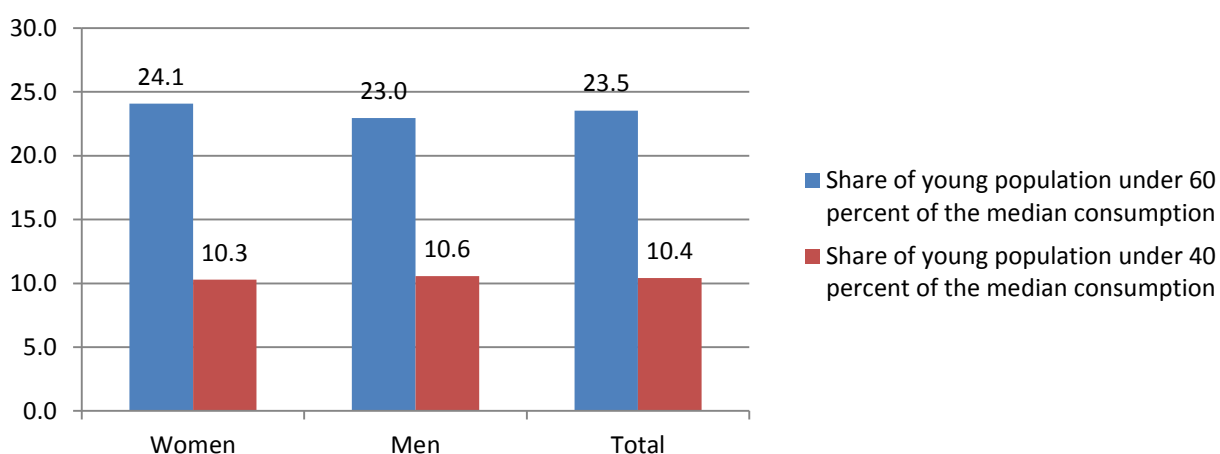
Table 4.10 Poverty rates among young people in 2012, broken down by gender, %

| | Urban | Rural | Georgia |
|--|-------|-------|---------|
|--|-------|-------|---------|

| | | | |
|--|------|------|-------------|
| Share of young population below 60 percent of the median consumption | 17.5 | 29.3 | 23.5 |
| Share of young population below 40 percent of the median consumption | 7.3 | 13.4 | 10.4 |

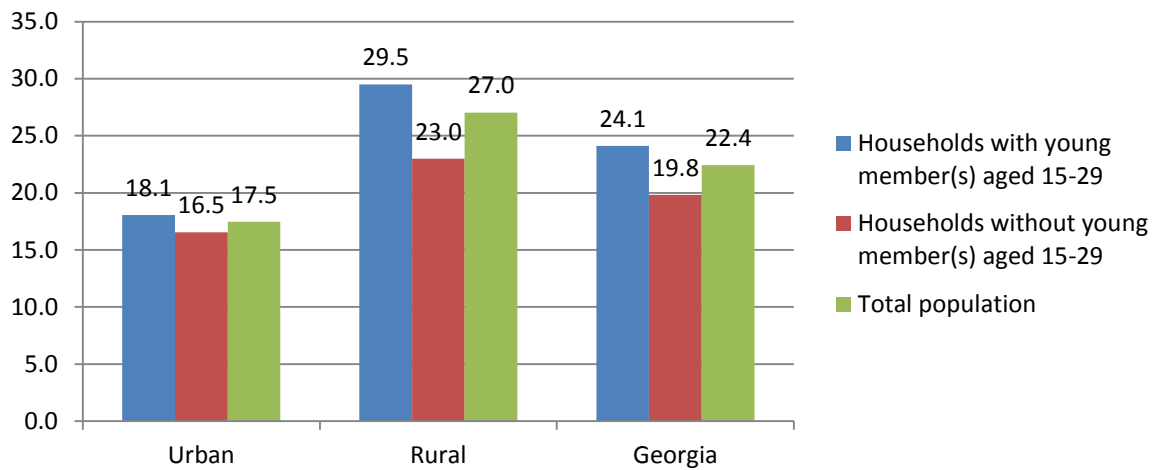
It is also interesting that the poverty rates among young people by sex are almost equal. The following diagram clearly shows that the proportion of youth below 40 percent of median consumption by sex is identical. And among young women below 60 percent the poverty level is slightly (1 percentage point) higher than the same index in men.

Chart 4.10 Poverty rate among youth in 2012, by sex, %



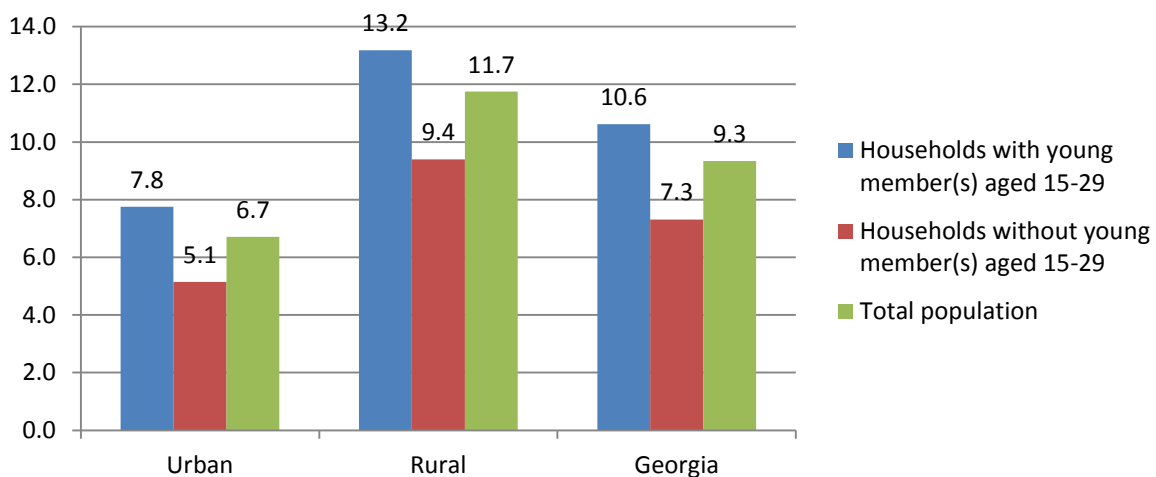
Comparing the population in the households, where at least one 15-29 year old young person lives with the rest of the population, it can be seen that among such households relative poverty rate of the population is higher, with regard to the 60%, as well as 40% of the median consumption.

Chart 4.11 The proportion of the population living below 60 per cent of the median consumption in 2012 depending on whether there was a 15- to 29-year-old person living in the relevant household or not, %



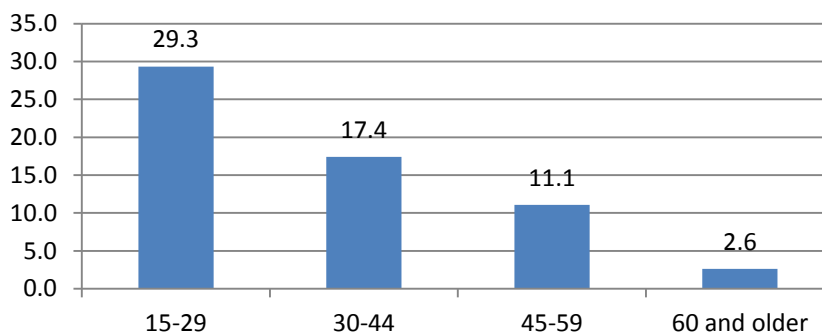
The above chart compares the proportion of the population living below 60 percent of the median consumption in households with at least one 15- to 29-year-old person living there and households which do not have a 15- to 29-year-old person living there. The difference between these two groups is highest in rural areas and is equal to 6.5 percentage points. In urban areas, the difference equals only 1.6 percentage points. The situation is the same for people living below 40 percent of the median consumption.

Chart 4.12 The proportion of the population living below 40 per cent of the median consumption in 2012 depending on whether there was a 15- to 29-year-old person living in the relevant household or not, %



It should be noted that, as a general rule, the rate of unemployment among young people in Georgia is higher than among older people. For example, in 2012, the unemployment rate among 15- to 29-year-old people was 29.3 per cent, while in the same period, the unemployment rate for 30- to 44-year-old people was 12 percentage points less and equalled 17.4 per cent.

Chart 4.13 Unemployment rate in 2012, by age, %



In addition to noting the unemployment rate, attention should be paid to the average size of households. The average size of households where young people live is 4.6 persons, and the average number of young people in these households aged 15-29 is 1.6. The average size of households where persons aged 15-29 do not live 2.7.

The number of young people who received subsistence allowance (registered poverty)-15- to 29-year-old people living in vulnerable households who receive a subsistence allowance is implied.

According to the Social Service Agency (SSA) data for 2012, each month an average of 84,938 15- to 29-year-old men were in receipt of subsistence allowance. This cohort of recipients accounted for 19.5 per cent of all subsistence allowance recipients in 2012. The proportion of this 15- to 29-year-old substance allowance recipients group, as a proportion of all 15- to 29-year-olds in Georgia, was 8.4 per cent.

Table 4.10 Proportion of young people aged 15-29 who received subsistence allowance in 2012, by regions and broken down by gender, %

| Region | Women | Men | Total |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Kakheti | 15.4 | 14.7 | 15.1 |
| Tbilisi | 4.2 | 3.9 | 4.1 |
| Shida Kartli | 17.8 | 15.4 | 16.6 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 4.2 | 3.6 | 3.9 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 4.4 | 3.6 | 4.0 |
| Adjara A.R. | 9.6 | 10.1 | 9.9 |
| Guria | 12.2 | 12.4 | 12.3 |
| Samegrelo | 9.1 | 9.0 | 9.1 |
| Imereti | 12.4 | 12.7 | 12.6 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 10.9 | 10.5 | 10.7 |
| Georgia | 8.5 | 8.3 | 8.4 |

As Table 4.10 shows, the highest proportion of young recipients of subsistence allowance was recorded in the Shida Kartli region (16.6 per cent), and the lowest proportion was recorded in the Kvemo Kartli region (3.9 per cent). In Kakheti (15.1 per cent), Imereti (12.6 per cent), Guria (12.3 per cent) and Mtskheta-Mtianeti (10.7 per cent) the corresponding figure is quite high.

When the figures are broken down by gender, the registered poverty rates are almost identical at both the regional and national levels. This means that almost equal proportions of young men and young women receive subsistence

allowance. In this regard, the highest difference is in the ShidaKartli region, where the proportion of women receiving the allowance exceeds that of men by two percentage points. For the remaining regions this difference is less than one percentage point.

7.4 Young people in foster families and small family-type homes

This chapter discusses the status of 15- to 18-year-old young people under public care who are in foster families and small family-type homes. According to Social Service Agency data, by 30 June 2013 there were two young people per 1,000 young people in Georgia under such care. During the period June 2012 to July 2013, 121 young people left state care. One in three of these young people were adults by the time they left state care.

According to Social Service Agency data, by 30 June 2013 the total number of children living in foster families and small family-type homes was 1,384. Of these children, the total number of 15- to 17- year-olds was 278. As young people leave state care at the age of 18, Table 4.11 includes only the number of young people aged 15-17 years. There are 2 adolescents living in foster families and small family-type homes per 1,000 young persons aged 15-17 in Georgia.

Table 4.11 Number of young people aged 15-17 living in foster families and small family-type homes (by 30 June 2013)

| Region | Women | Men | Total |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Kakheti | 20 | 16 | 36 |
| Tbilisi | 28 | 34 | 62 |
| ShidaKartli | 27 | 18 | 45 |
| KvemoKartli | 6 | 24 | 30 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 4 | 10 | 14 |
| Adjara A.R. | 4 | 9 | 13 |
| Guria | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| Samegrelo | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Imereti | 13 | 20 | 33 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 14 | 13 | 27 |
| Georgia | 123 | 155 | 278 |

According to the Social Services Agency data, by 30 June 2013 the total number of disabled children who were in foster families and small family-type homes was 106. Within that group, the number of disabled young persons aged 15-17 years was 17; they constituted 6 per cent of the total number of children living in foster families and small family-type homes.

As outlined above, the number of young people who left foster families and small family-type homes between July 2012 and June 2013 was 121. As already noted, a young person is obliged to leave state care at the age of 18. Consequently, Table 4.12 includes only the number of 15- to 18-year-old young people.

Table 4.12 Number of young people aged 15-18 who left foster families and small family-type homes (between July 2012 and June 2013)

| Region | Women | Men | Total |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Kakheti | 9 | 4 | 13 |
| Tbilisi | 21 | 12 | 33 |
| ShidaKartli | 12 | 4 | 16 |
| KvemoKartli | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Adjara A.R. | - | 2 | 2 |
| Guria | - | 4 | 4 |
| Samegrelo | - | 5 | 5 |
| Imereti | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 9 | 8 | 17 |
| Georgia | 71 | 50 | 121 |

With regard to those who had already reached the age of 18 at the point of leaving state care during the period July 2012 to June 2013, the number of such young people was 43. This group constitutes 35.5 per cent of the total number of 15- to 18-year-old young people who left foster families and small family-type homes. In other words, the proportion of those who left state care because they had reached the age of 18 was slightly more than one-third.

Table 4.13 Proportion of young people aged 18 among 15- to 18-year-old young people who left foster families and small family-type homes (between July 2012 and June 2013)

| Region | Women | Men | Total |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Kakheti | 33.3 | 25.0 | 30.8 |
| Tbilisi | 38.1 | 25.0 | 33.3 |
| ShidaKartli | 50.0 | 25.0 | 43.8 |
| KvemoKartli | 37.5 | 40.0 | 38.5 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 50.0 | 33.3 | 42.9 |
| Adjara A.R. | - | - | - |
| Guria | - | 25.0 | 25.0 |
| Samegrelo | - | 20.0 | 20.0 |
| Imereti | 37.5 | 33.3 | 36.4 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 44.4 | 37.5 | 41.2 |
| Georgia | 40.8 | 28.0 | 35.5 |

In the regional context, among young people aged 15-18 who left foster families and small family-type homes, the proportion of adults was highest in ShidaKartli (43.8 per cent), Samtskhe-Javakheti (42.9 per cent) and Mtskheta-Mtianeti (41.2 per cent). The corresponding figure was relatively small in Samegrelo (20 per cent) and Guria (25 per cent), while in other regions it was within the 31-39 per cent range. In Adjara, during this period, no young people left foster families and small family-type homes at the age of 18.

In the same period (July 2012 to June 2013), the number of disabled young people over 15 years of age who left foster families and small family-type homes was 10 (nine women and one man). This group constituted 8.3 per cent of the total number of young people aged 15-18 who left foster families and small family-type homes. None of this group was 18 at the time they left state care.

7.5 State youth programmes

According to data from the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia, in 2013 the number of state youth programmes was 41, while the number of 15- to 29-year-old beneficiaries of these programmes was 28,820.

Table 4.14 Number of the state youth programmes and percentage of the beneficiaries in the relevant age group (2013)

| Region | Number of the state youth programmes* | Proportion of 15- to 29 year-old beneficiaries in the relevant age group (%) |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Kakheti | 12 | 2.2 |
| Tbilisi | 33 | 2.6 |
| Shida Kartli | 6 | 4.0 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 22 | 1.4 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 9 | 4.0 |
| Adjara A.R. | 7 | 3.9 |
| Guria | 2 | 2.9 |
| Samegrelo | 4 | 2.3 |
| Imereti | 12 | 3.7 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 4 | 4.2 |
| Georgia | 41 | 2.9 |

* As one state youth programme could be financed in several regions simultaneously (and although across Georgia this was still considered one programme), the sum of these programmes is not equal to the sum of the number of programmes across the country.

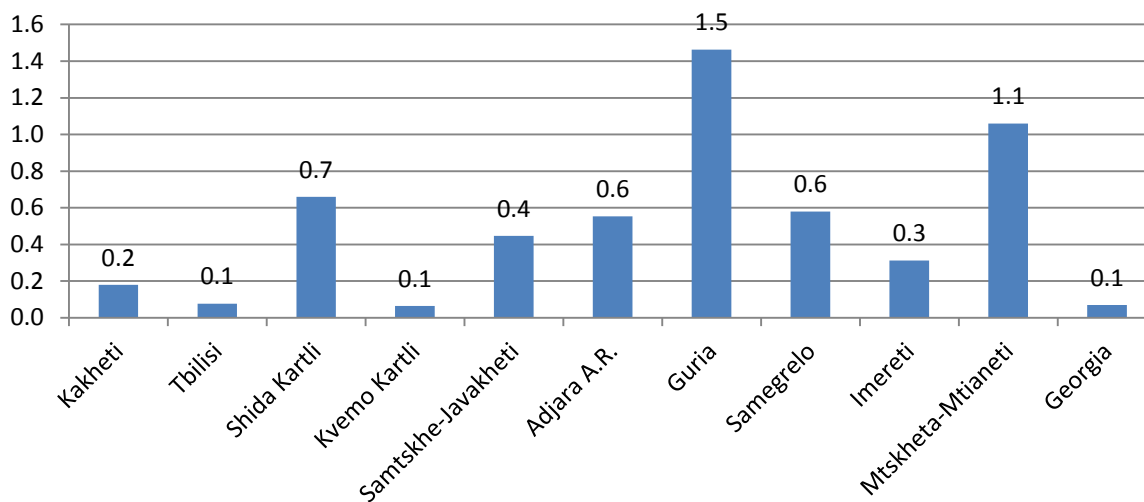
As Table 4.14 shows, in 2013 the number of the state youth programmes was highest in the capital and in the Kvemo Kartli region, and lowest in the Guria region. However, it should be borne in mind that each programme had a different number of beneficiaries.

When the proportion of beneficiaries aged 15-29 involved in state youth programmes is analysed, it is possible to determine that this figure is highest in Mtskheta-Mtianeti (4.2 per cent) and lowest in the Kvemo Kartli region (1.4 per cent). In the remaining regions, the proportion of young beneficiaries is within the 2-4 per cent range. It should also be noted that in 2013 the disabled beneficiaries of these programmes were only located in Tbilisi and their proportion as a proportion of all young beneficiaries in Tbilisi equals 2.7 per cent.

If we calculate how many beneficiaries aged 15-29 there are on average per state youth programme, it is possible to see that their proportion in the relevant age group varies from region to region. For example, in the Guria region this figure is 1.5 per cent. This means that in Guria the number of beneficiaries of one state youth programme on

average constitutes 1.5 per cent of the region’s young people. This figure is also high in Mtskheta-Mtianeti (1.1 per cent), while in the remaining regions the corresponding figure is less than 1 per cent.

Chart 4.14 Proportion of average number of beneficiaries of state youth programmes in the relevant age group, by regions (2013), %

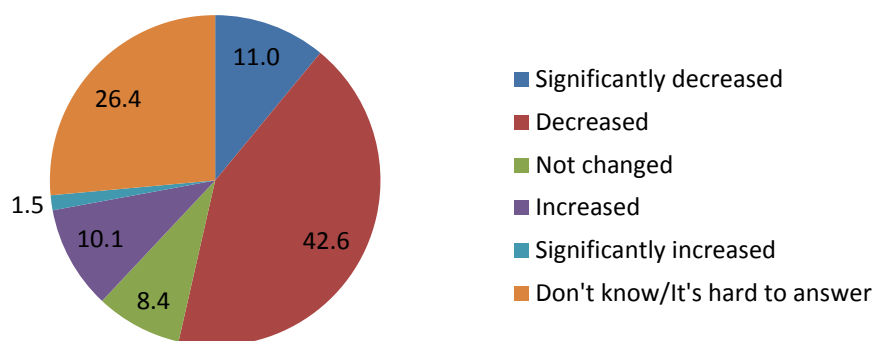


7.6 Violence

This section presents data on acts of violence and what young people believe about how the situation has changed with regard to violence. Slightly more than half of 15- to 29-year-old people estimate that acts of violence and coercion committed by their peers and/or towards them have decreased over the past 10 years. 4.3 per cent stated that they had become the victim of violence or coercion over the past year. Another interesting fact is that of those young people who applied to the State Fund for Protection and Assistance of Victims of Human Trafficking in connection with acts of violence, 2/3 are women, and among victims of violence registered by the police, 2/3 are men. Throughout Georgia, the number of young people in the 15- to 29-year age group who received a sentence for a violence-related offence is less than 1 per cent of this cohort, and 97 per cent of these young people are men.

At the country level, more than a half of young people (53.6 per cent) believe that acts of violence and coercion committed by their peers towards them decreased over the past 10 years. In contrast, 11.6 per cent of those interviewed for this survey stated that they believe acts of violence and coercion among young people have significantly increased.

Chart 4.15 How the situation in Georgia has changed over the past 10 years with regard to acts of violence and coercion committed by young people or perpetrated against young people (%)



When the figures are analysed in an urban-rural context, it appears that the lowest proportion of young people who believe that acts of violence and coercion have decreased is in Tbilisi (48.1 per cent). The corresponding figure is almost 10 percentage points higher in rural areas (57 per cent). The proportion of those who believe that the situation has not changed is highest in other cities (10.5 per cent).

Table 4.15 How the situation in Georgia has changed over the past 10 years with regard to acts of violence and coercion committed by young people or perpetrated against young people (%)

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Villages |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Decreased | 48.1 | 53.2 | 57.0 |
| No change | 9.5 | 10.5 | 6.7 |
| Increased | 15.4 | 13.0 | 8.6 |
| Don't know/It's difficult to answer | 27.0 | 23.3 | 27.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

In almost every region, the majority of young people believe that acts of violence and coercion committed by their peers and/or perpetrated against young people have decreased over the past 10 years. This figure is significantly higher in the Samegrelo (71.0 per cent), Mtskheta-Mtianeti (69.3 per cent), Adjara (61.8 per cent) and Imereti (60.0 per cent) regions. The corresponding figures for Tbilisi (45.9 per cent) and Guria (51.4 per cent) are relatively low. This radically contrasts with the situation in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region, where only 28.7 per cent of young people agree that acts of violence and coercion committed by their peers and/or perpetrated against young people have decreased over the past ten years. Furthermore, 64.4 per cent of those interviewed in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region found it difficult to answer the question. In other regions, the proportion of young people who believe that violence and coercion have decreased falls within the 50-55 per cent range.

7.6.1 Number of victims of violence

In this subsection three sources of data on the number of victims of violence are presented: field survey, the State Fund for Protection and Assistance of Victims of Human Trafficking, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. All three sources provide different types of data. Within the frames of the field survey each respondent as well as each person addressing the State Fund for Protection and Assistance of Victims of Human Trafficking states that he/she is a victim of violence/coercion, but this does not mean that these acts of violence were registered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. Meanwhile, data provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia present the number of registered victims of crimes of violence only.

Based on the survey materials, in Georgia only 4.3 per cent of young people aged 15-29 admitted that they have become a victim of physical, psychological, sexual, economic violence and/or coercion over the past 12 months. 2.3 per cent of these young people were victims of economic violence, and 1.5 per cent were victims of psychological violence. The proportion of young people who stated that they were a victim of physical, sexual abuse or coercion does not exceed 1 per cent. It is interesting to note that while the field survey respondents named several forms of violence which they had become victims of during the past 12 months the sum of the above indicators did not coincide with the overall level of violence (4.3 per cent). Four out of five young people who declared that they had been a victim of a form of violence or coercion over the past 12 months live in urban areas.

During the period July 2012 to June 2013 the Social Service Agency estimates that the total number of applications related to cases of violence was 290, of which the number of applications from young people aged 15-29 totalled 58. In this 15-29 age group the number of applications received from women was twice as high as the number of applications received from men. In the Kakheti, Guria and Adjara regions, of those who applied to the Social Service Agency concerning an act of violence all are women. The only region where the number of applications from men exceeded the number of applications from women is Imereti, where the number of applications from men is three times higher than the number of applications from women.

Table 4.16 Number of applications to the Social Service Agency from young people aged 15-29 concerning acts of violence, by gender and region (from July 2012 to June 2013)

| Region | Women | Men | Total |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Kakheti | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Tbilisi | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Shida Kartli | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 9 | 7 | 16 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Adjara A.R. | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Guria | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Samegrelo | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Imereti | 3 | 9 | 12 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Georgia | 37 | 21 | 58 |

According to Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia data, during the same period (July 2012 to June 2013) the number of victims of violence registered by the police was 369, and among young people aged 15-29 the figure was 175. This figure is three times higher than the number of applications made in the period July 2012 to June 2013 by young people to the Social Service Agency concerning acts of violence (58).

The table below shows that of the total number of young victims of violence registered by the police, the number of men was almost twice that of women. At the level of individual regions, victims of violence among men outnumber women, with the exception of the Guria and Kvemo Kartli regions where the number of women exceeds (Guria) or is equal to the number of men (Kvemo Kartli).

Table 4.17 Number of victims of violence among young people aged 15-29 registered by the police (from July 2012 to June 2013)

| Region | Women | Men | Unknown gender | Total |
|--------|-------|-----|----------------|-------|
|--------|-------|-----|----------------|-------|

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|
| Kakheti | 6 | 13 | 0 | 19 |
| Tbilisi | 15 | 38 | 1 | 54 |
| ShidaKartli | 3 | 14 | 0 | 17 |
| KvemoKartli | 11 | 11 | 0 | 22 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| Adjara A.R. | 10 | 12 | 0 | 22 |
| Guria | 5 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Samegrelo | 0 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Imereti | 6 | 10 | 0 | 16 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 2 | 6 | 0 | 8 |
| Georgia | 59 | 113 | 3 | 175 |

7.6.2 The number of young people sentenced for violence

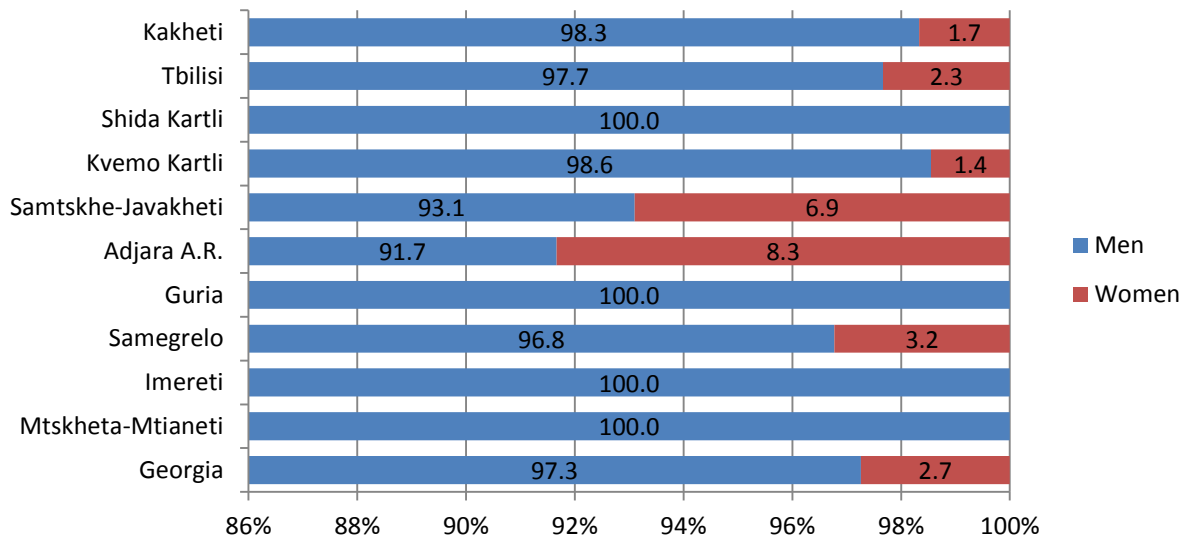
Based on the Supreme Court of Georgia data, it is possible to determine that across Georgia the proportion of young people in the 15-29 age group who received a sentence for violence in excess of one year was less than 1 per cent. There are 7 sentenced per 10,000 persons in average. This figure was highest in Adjara and Tbilisi(10 and nine, respectively) and it was lowest in the Guria and Samegrelo regions, where there are 3 young sentenced of violence per 10,000 persons. In Kakheti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti these data coincide with the rate for Georgia (seven), while in the remaining regions it ranges from four to six.

Table 4.18 Number of young people aged 15-29 sentenced for violence, by gender and regions (from July 2012 to June 2013)

| Region | Women | Men | Total |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Kakheti | 1 | 59 | 60 |
| Tbilisi | 6 | 251 | 257 |
| ShidaKartli | 0 | 41 | 41 |
| KvemoKartli | 1 | 68 | 69 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 2 | 27 | 29 |
| Adjara A.R. | 7 | 77 | 84 |
| Guria | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| Samegrelo | 1 | 30 | 31 |
| Imereti | 0 | 58 | 58 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 0 | 19 | 19 |
| Georgia | 18 | 639 | 657 |

With regard to the issue of gender ratio, it should be noted that among young people sentenced for violence in Georgia 97.3 per cent are men. A similar picture is observed in regions throughout Georgia, with the proportion of men sentenced for violence in each region ranging between 92 per cent and 100 per cent. In the Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Imereti, Guria and ShidaKartli regions, all of those sentenced were men. The highest proportion of those sentenced for violence was recorded in the Adjara (8.3 per cent) and Samtskhe-Javakheti (6.9 per cent) regions. In all other regions the figure did not exceed 3 per cent.

Chart 4.16 Distribution of young people aged 15-29 sentenced for violence, by gender (from July 2012 to June 2013)

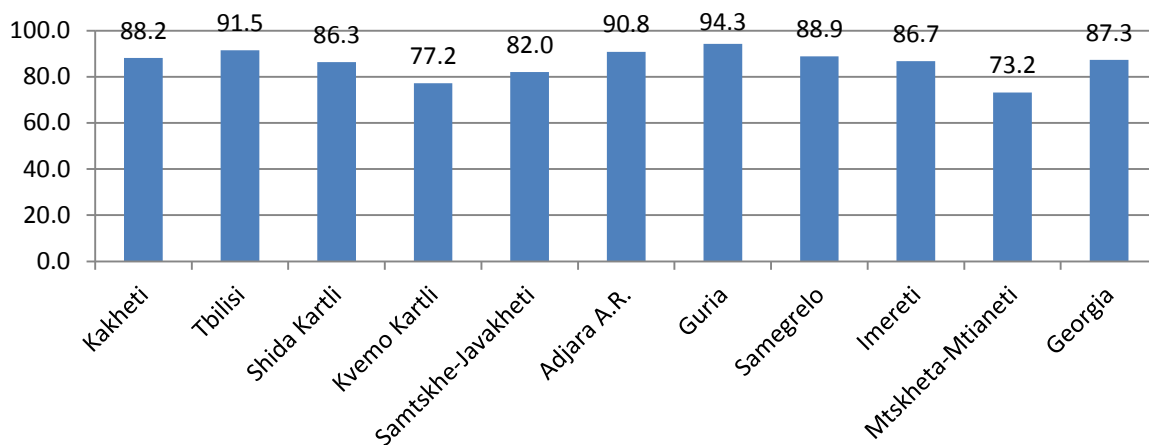


7.7 Attitudes of young people towards violence and disability

It can be stated that with regard to almost every statement contained in this subsection, the majority of young people surveyed either agree or disagree with the statement. For example, the vast majority of young people believe that both threats and beatings constitute violence; that it is not acceptable for a boy to carry a knife; that people with a disability should not live isolated from other members of society. Almost the same number of young people believe that in order to succeed you need to study hard. The number of those who agree with each of these statements is in the 85-93 per cent range. The exception to this general trend is in relation to the statement on whether or not mockery constitutes violence. Here, an equal number of young people (about 40 per cent) express opposite points of view.

Across the country, 87.3 per cent of young people agree with the statement that a threat is a form of violence. The proportion of those who disagree is 7.8 percent.

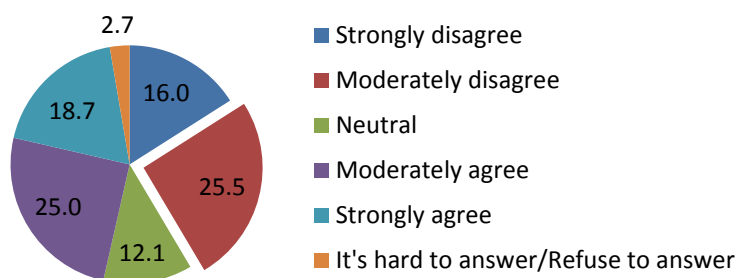
Chart 4.17 Proportion of young people who agree with the statement that a threat is a form of violence, %



In each region, the proportion of young people who agree with the statement that threat is a form of violence dominates by a large margin. The highest proportions were observed in the Guria (94.3 per cent), Tbilisi (91.5 per cent) and Adjara (90.8 per cent) regions, while the lowest proportions were observed in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti (73.2 per cent) and KvemoKartli regions (77.2 per cent). For the remaining regions, the proportion of young people who believe that a threat is a form of violence falls within the 82-89 per cent range.

On a country-wide scale, the proportion of young people who do not agree with the statement that mockery is a form of violence is 41.5 per cent, while the corresponding figure for those who agree is 43.8 per cent. A total of 12.1 per cent of young people have a neutral view.

Chart 4.18 Distribution of young people depending on whether or not they agree with the statement that mockery is not a form of violence, %



In this regard, quite a different picture emerges in the regions. For example, in ShidaKartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Samegrelo and Imereti the proportion of those who do not agree with this view prevails. This index for the regions falls within the 46-53 per cent range. The opposite view dominates in Kakheti (61.5 per cent), Adjara (63.4 per cent), Guria (51.6 per cent) and Mtskheta-Mtianeti (58.9 per cent). In KvemoKartli the proportion of those who agree with this statement is four percentage points higher than the proportion of those who do not agree. Finally, the proportion of those in Tbilisi who express opposite opinions is almost equal (i.e., 43 per cent and 44 per cent).

Across the country, 67.8 per cent of young people agree with the opinion that swearing is a form of violence; among this cohort of young people, 33.8 per cent strongly agree with this opinion. A similar picture emerges at a regional level, where more than half of those surveyed express the opinion that swearing is a form of violence. This proportion is lowest in KvemoKartli (52.3 per cent) and highest in Guria (86.7 per cent). It is relatively high in

Mtskheta-Mtianeti (79.9 per cent), Tbilisi (72.4 per cent), Imereti (72.1 per cent) and Adjara (71.7 per cent), respectively, while in the remaining regions it falls within the 60-69 per cent range.

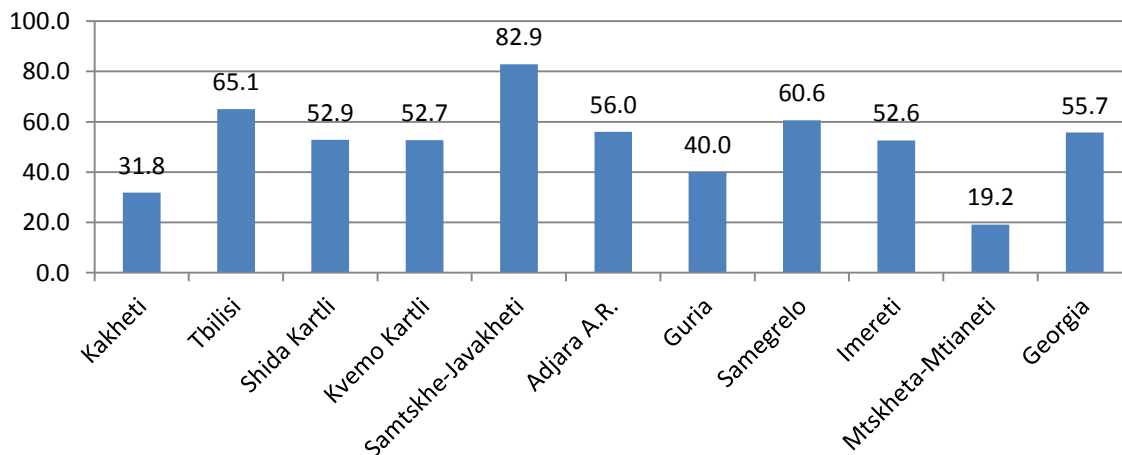
Nationwide, 46.2 per cent of young people disagree with the statement ‘Labelling a person is not a form of violence’, 31.3 per cent agree and 16.0 per cent have a neutral view.

Table 4.19 Distribution of young people depending on whether or not they agree with the statement that labelling a person is not a form of violence, by regions, , %

| Region | Disagree | Neutral | Agree |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Kakheti | 32.7 | 16.6 | 45.9 |
| Tbilisi | 56.3 | 14.0 | 22.8 |
| Shida Kartli | 43.4 | 20.7 | 27.1 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 39.8 | 16.3 | 35.8 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 42.7 | 19.9 | 27.1 |
| Adjara A.R. | 42.3 | 12.2 | 38.7 |
| Guria | 45.2 | 10.5 | 43.4 |
| Samegrelo | 50.0 | 16.0 | 24.6 |
| Imereti | 47.1 | 16.3 | 33.5 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 15.4 | 31.0 | 52.7 |
| Georgia | 46.2 | 16.0 | 31.3 |

In Tbilisi (56.3 per cent), and also in the Samegrelo region (50.0 per cent) and the Imereti region (47.1 per cent), the proportion of young people who believe that labelling a person is a form of violence is significantly higher. In contrast, in the Kakheti region (45.9 per cent) and the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region (52.7 per cent) the proportion of those who express the opposite opinion is higher. In Kvemo Kartli and Adjara the proportion of young people who either agree or disagree with the statement is almost equal. With regard to the statement ‘Touching/caressing without consent is not a form of violence’, almost one-third (30.5 per cent) of young people believe that touching/caressing without consent is not a form of violence. In contrast, 55.7 per cent of young people disagree with this statement; among this group, slightly less than half strongly disagree (23.6 per cent).

Chart 4.19 Proportion of young people who disagree with the statement that touching/caressing without consent is not a form of violence, by regions, %

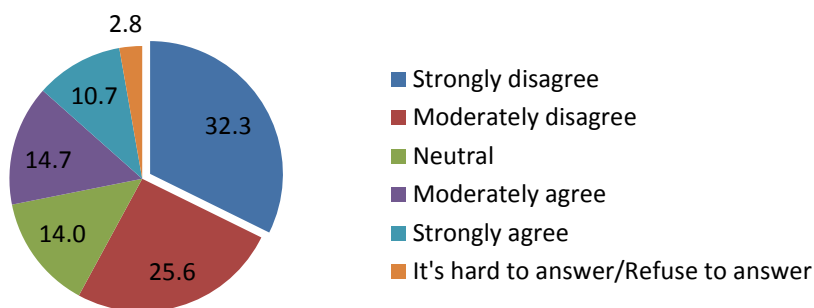


The proportion of those who do not share this opinion is highest in Samtskhe-Javakheti (82.9 per cent), whereas in most of the remaining regions this figure is within the 53-65 per cent range. The exceptions are the Kakheti, Guria and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions, where a higher proportion of young people (46-54 per cent) agree with the statement that touching/caressing without consent is not a form of violence.

With regard to the statement ‘Beating – even in cases where an object is not used to inflict harm – is a form of violence’, the vast majority of young people (92.9 per cent) agree with this statement. As it was expected, almost the same picture emerges regionally. The figure is higher than 90 per cent in virtually all regions, the exceptions being KvemoKartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Adjara, where it equals 87 per cent in all three regions.

With regard to the statement ‘Corporal punishment is an integral part of child rearing’, 57.9 per cent of young people disagree with this statement. However, a quarter of young people express the opposite view.

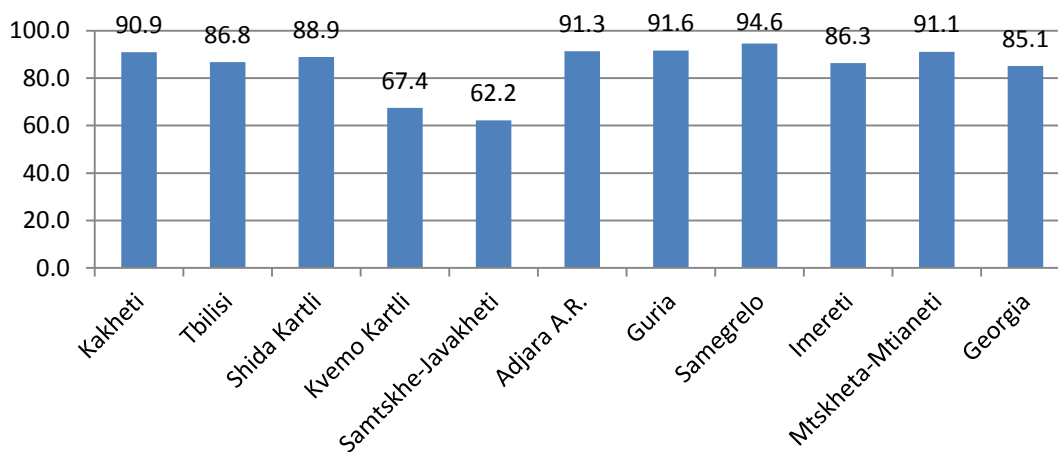
Chart 4.20 Distribution of young people depending on whether or not they agree with the statement that corporal punishment is an integral part of child rearing, %



At the national level as well as in most regions a large proportion of young people do not agree with the statement that corporal punishment is an integral part of child rearing. This figure is highest in the capital (71.3 per cent) and the Imereti region (65.5 per cent). In all other regions, apart from Samtskhe-Javakheti (26.7 per cent), KvemoKartli (36.6 per cent) and Mtskheta-Mtianeti (44.5 per cent), this proportion falls within the 51-60 per cent range. The exceptions are the KvemoKartli (48.0 per cent) and Samtskhe-Javakheti (49.7 per cent) regions, where a higher proportion of young people agree with the statement that corporal punishment is an integral part of child rearing.

With regard to the statement ‘Disabled people should live separately from other members of society’, 85.1 per cent of young people in Georgia do not agree with this statement.

Chart 4.21 Proportion of young people who disagree with the statement that disabled people should live separately from other members of society, by regions, %



In the regions, a similarly high proportion of young people disagree that disabled people should live separately from other members of society. Specifically, the proportions are Imereti (86.3 per cent), Tbilisi (86.8 per cent) and ShidaKartli (88.9 per cent), followed by Samtskhe-Javakheti (62.2 per cent) and Kvemo Kartli (67.4 per cent). In the remaining regions, more than 90 per cent of young people expressdisagreement with the view that disabled people should live separately.

With regard to the statement ‘Nobody should interfere in domestic violence cases’, 57.4 per cent of 15- to 29-year-old people in Georgia disagree with this statement, while a quarter of young people nationwide take the opposite view. When the data are analysed by regions, it is evident that a large proportion of young people disagree with the statement. The maximum value of this index was revealed in the Guria region (77.9 per cent), while the minimum was in the Kakheti region (46.8 per cent). The corresponding figures are also high in Samegrelo (77.0 per cent) and Tbilisi (62.6 per cent). In the remaining regions, the figures are withinthe 47-57 per cent range.

With regard to the statement ‘The people around you should try to avoid communicating with disabled people’, a large proportion young people disagree. Throughout Georgia, the proportion of those who disagree is 57.8 per cent. In contrast, 16.2 per cent of young people take the opposite view and 17.2 per cent are neutral.

Table 4.20 Distribution of young people depending on whether or not they agree with the statement that the people around them should try to avoid communicating with disabled people, %

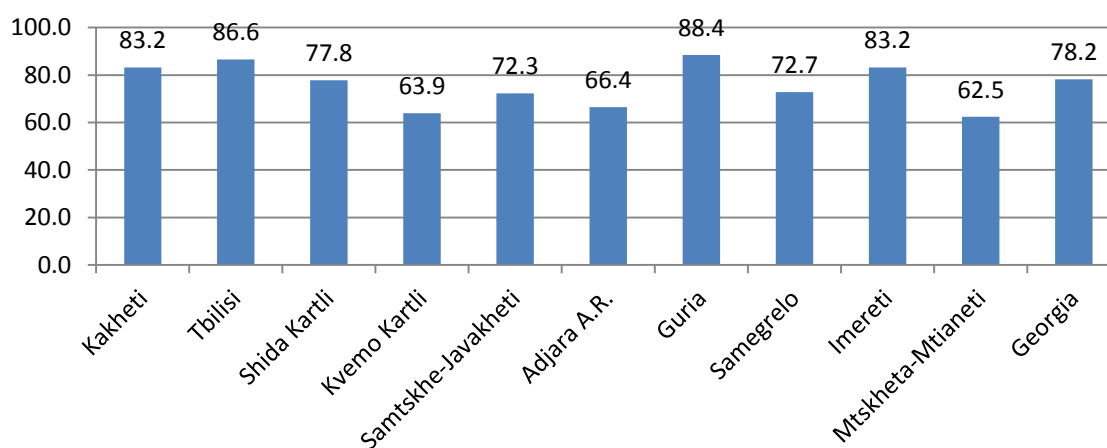
| Region | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Don't know/ It's difficult to answer |
|--------------------|----------|---------|-------|---|
| Kakheti | 67.1 | 9.6 | 13.5 | 9.8 |
| Tbilisi | 57.7 | 19.8 | 17.5 | 5.0 |
| ShidaKartli | 65.2 | 14.7 | 15.7 | 4.4 |
| KvemoKartli | 45.0 | 18.9 | 24.4 | 11.6 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 15.6 | 21.5 | 24.9 | 38.0 |
| Adjara A.R. | 72.1 | 6.5 | 8.8 | 12.6 |
| Guria | 61.4 | 5.7 | 14.9 | 18.1 |
| Samegrelo | 67.7 | 20.1 | 9.6 | 2.7 |
| Imereti | 58.2 | 22.3 | 15.1 | 4.4 |
| Mtskheta-Mtianeti | 50.6 | 10.7 | 16.8 | 21.9 |

| | | | | |
|---------|------|------|------|-----|
| Georgia | 57.8 | 17.2 | 16.2 | 8.8 |
|---------|------|------|------|-----|

The proportion of young people who disagree with the statement that the people around them should try to avoid communicating with disabled people is significantly higher in Adjara (72.1) than in other regions. In the remaining regions, with the exception of Samtskhe-Javakheti (15.6 per cent), this figure exceeds 45 per cent. Samtskhe-Javakheti is the only region where a greater proportion of young people (24.9 per cent) express the opposite opinion. It should be noted that in this region the number of those who found it difficult to respond to the statement is the highest (38.0 per cent) among all regions.

Almost 4/5 (78.2 per cent) of young people in Georgia believe that an offensive attitude/name calling/humiliation among peers is not acceptable. When the data are analysed, it is evident that the number of positive and neutral responses is almost identical and equals 9-10 per cent. When the data are analysed, it is evident that the majority of young people at a regional level agree that an offensive attitude/name calling/humiliation among peers is not acceptable. Among this group of young people, the highest proportion is in the Guria region (88.4 per cent) and the lowest proportion is in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region (62.5 per cent). The corresponding figure is relatively high in Tbilisi (86.6 per cent), Imereti (83.2 per cent) and Kakheti (83.2 per cent). It is relatively low in Kvemo Kartli (63.9 per cent) and Adjara (66.4 per cent). For the remaining regions this rate falls within the 72-78 per cent range.

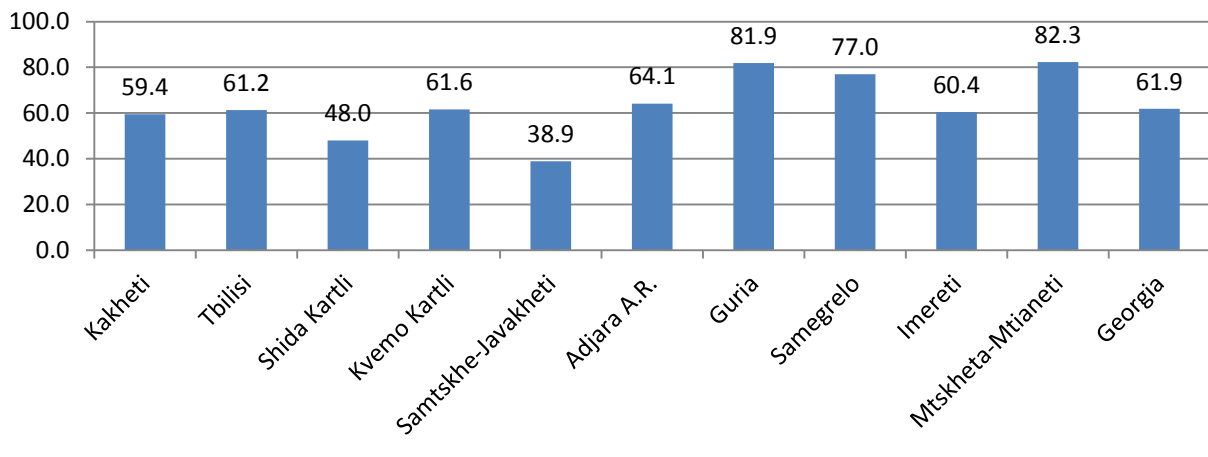
Chart 4.22 Proportion of young people who believe that an offensive attitude/name calling/humiliation among peers is not acceptable, by regions %



As the survey results show, in Georgia 89.3 per cent of people aged 15-29 believe that in order to be successful, you need to study hard. 66.0 per cent of this group strongly agree with this view. More than 80 per cent of young people in all regions also share this view. In this regard, the highest figure was recorded in Samegrelo (96.9 per cent), Guria (95.0 per cent) and Kakheti (94.2 per cent). In the remaining regions this figure falls within the 83-91 per cent range.

With regard to the statement 'In order to be popular you need to be financially strong, 61.9 per cent of young people believe this to be the case, whereas 26.2 per cent express the opposite view. When the data are analysed in an urban-rural context, the highest proportion of young people who agree that in order to be popular, you need to be financially strong live in villages (66.8 per cent). Among those who take the opposite view, the highest proportion (30.8 per cent) are in Tbilisi.

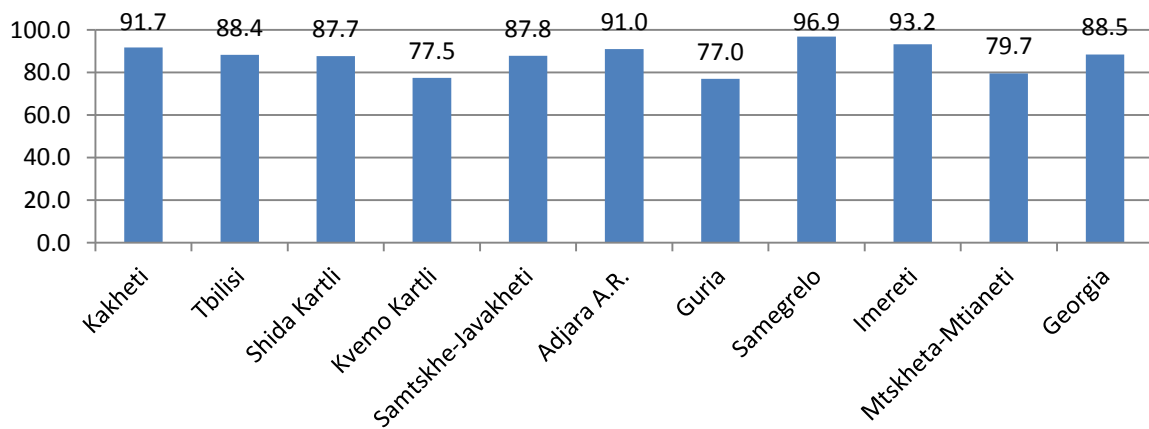
Chart 4.23 Proportion of young people in the regions who believe that in order to be popular you need to be financially strong, %



In majority of the regions a high percentage of young people agree with this view. The figures are highest in Mtskheta-Mtianeti (82.3 per cent) and Guria (81.9 per cent) and lowest in Samtskhe-Javakheti (38.9 per cent). The latter is the only region where young people with the opposite viewpoint prevail; the proportion of such young people is 39.8 per cent.

With regard to the statement 'Carrying a knife is acceptable for a boy', 88.5 per cent of young people disagree with this statement. Among those who do agree, 68 per cent are men.

Chart 4.24 Proportion of young people who disagree that carrying a knife is acceptable for a boy, by regions, %



Both nationwide and throughout the regions, the majority of young people disagree with the statement that carrying a knife is acceptable for a boy. This figure is highest in the Samegrelo region (96.6 per cent), and lowest in the Guria region (77.0 per cent). In the remaining regions, it exceeds 77 per cent.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that the most clear-cut agreement in relation to the various statements outlined above was observed with regard to the statement 'Beating – even in cases where an object is not used to inflict harm – is a form of violence'. The proportion of young people who agree with this statement is 92.9 per cent, and among this group of young people, the proportion who strongly agree with the statement is 65.1 per cent. With regard to the statements 'In order to be successful, you need to study hard' and 'A threat is a form of violence', the proportion of young people who agree with these two statements is 89.3 per cent. With regard to the final statement 'Carrying a knife is acceptable for a boy', the vast majority of young people (88.5 per cent) disagree with this.

Table 4.21 Distribution of young people depending on whether or not they agree with the statements listed below, %

| | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Difficult to answer refused to answer |
|---|----------|---------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| A threat is a form of violence | 7.8 | 3.8 | 87.3 | 1.2 |
| Mockery is not a form of violence | 41.5 | 12.1 | 43.8 | 2.7 |
| Swearing is a form of violence | 20.7 | 10.0 | 67.8 | 1.5 |
| Labelling a person is not a form of violence | 46.2 | 16.0 | 31.3 | 6.5 |
| Touching/caressing without consent is not a form of violence | 55.7 | 10.9 | 30.5 | 2.9 |
| Beating – even in cases where an object is not used to inflict harm – is a form of violence | 4.8 | 1.8 | 92.9 | 0.5 |
| Corporal punishment is an integral part of childrearing | 57.9 | 14.0 | 25.4 | 2.8 |
| Disabled people should live separately from other members of society | 85.1 | 5.5 | 5.0 | 4.3 |
| Nobody should interfere in domestic violence cases | 57.4 | 12.5 | 24.5 | 5.6 |
| The people around you should try to avoid communicating with disabled persons | 57.8 | 17.2 | 16.2 | 8.8 |
| Offensive attitude/name calling/humiliation among peers is acceptable | 78.2 | 9.8 | 9.3 | 2.8 |
| In order to be successful, you need to study hard | 4.4 | 5.0 | 89.3 | 1.3 |
| In order to be popular you need to be financially strong | 26.2 | 10.3 | 61.9 | 1.6 |
| Carrying a knife is acceptable for a boy | 88.5 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 1.7 |

7.8 Non-political person whom 15- to 29-year-old people in Georgia trust

The majority of young people aged 15-29 in Georgia (59.7 per cent) could not name a famous non-political person whom they trust.

During the field survey, young people were asked to name one or two well-known, non-political people in Georgia whom they trust most. Interestingly, the majority of young people (59.7 per cent) could not name such an individual.

Among those who cited a well-known non-politician whom they trust, the most frequently named individuals were the Catholicos Patriarch (41.2 per cent) and Paata Burchuladze (17.6 per cent). The maximum percentage recorded for other named individuals cited by all remaining young people surveyed does not exceed 5 per cent.

7. Part V. Youth engagement in sports activities¹⁵

In Georgia, involvement in sport, or in any kind of physical activity, is very low among 15- to 29-year-old people. Only 17.5 per cent of young people are regularly (i.e., at least two hours a week) engaged in physical activity. It should be noted that the number of young men regularly engaged in sport is almost three times higher than the number of women regularly engaged in sport. The level of participation in physical activity among young people is lower in rural areas and equals 15.6 per cent; in contrast, the same rate of activity in urban areas is 19.2 per cent. The low level of participation in physical activity is largely due to problems with infrastructure in rural areas. However, across the country, a significant proportion of young people (39.3 per cent) have no desire to engage in any kind of physical activity and the proportion of such young people in rural areas and among women is even higher.

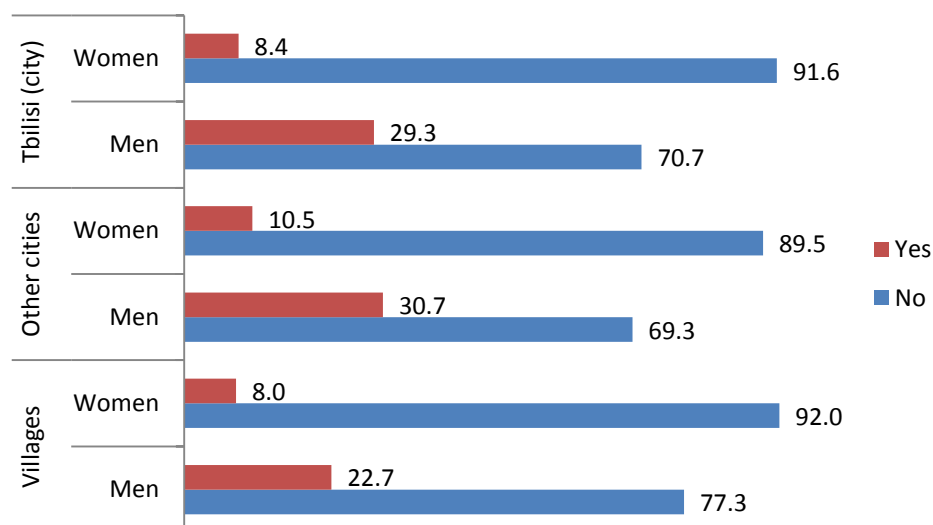
It is worth noting that among 15- to 29-year-old people who do not participate in sport regularly, 43.2 per cent wish to engage in sport or some type of physical activity. However, they are mainly hindered by three factors: lack of time, financial barriers and infrastructure-related problems. The situation differs between urban areas and rural areas: in urban areas, the reason why young people cannot engage in any sport is mainly due to lack of time (62.5 per cent), while in rural areas financial barriers (42.4 per cent) constitute the main hindrance. In addition, in rural areas young people have to contend with obstacles such as lack of infrastructure (32.6 per cent) and travel distance (27.0 per cent). In most cases young people expressed a desire to engage in swimming (44.1 per cent), fitness (25.3 per cent), football (22.7 per cent) and dancing (22.2 per cent).

Young people who are engaged in sport or some type of physical activity have two objectives. Most (81.4 per cent) are involved in sport/physical activity for reasons related to physical fitness, a healthy way of life, and looking after their appearance (e.g., weight control). But only 28.2 per cent of young people are involved in these activities. In Georgia, the majority of young people who regularly are involved in sport (45.8 per cent) devote on average two to three hours to this activity per week; as for the frequency of the sporting activity the majority (53.7 per cent) of the target group exercises two to three times a week.

As outlined above, in Georgia, only 17.5 per cent of young people aged 15-29 are engaged in sport or any kind of physical activity on a regular basis (i.e., at least two hours a week). 26.5 per cent of young men and only 8.8 per cent of women are involved in sports activities. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, more young people are engaged in sport in urban areas compared with rural areas. Specifically, the figures are 19.2 per cent in urban areas and 15.6 per cent in rural areas.

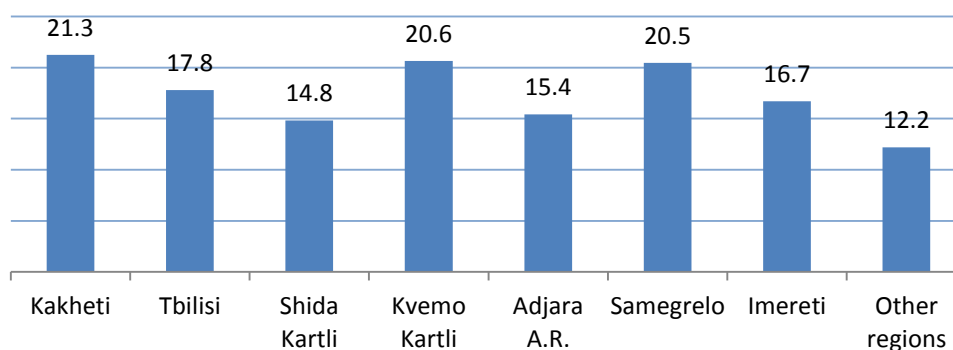
Chart 5.1 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia depending on whether they are engaged in sport or any type of physical activity on a regular basis, %

¹⁵High-performance sports/fitness sports/recreational sports



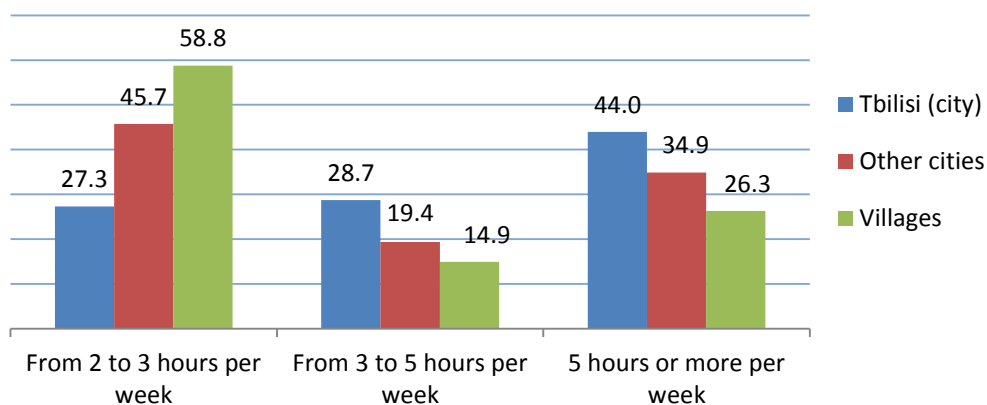
In the regions, the proportion of young people engaged in sport does not exceed 21 per cent. The highest proportions are observed in the Kakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Samegrelo regions.

Chart 5.2 Proportion of people aged 15-29 in Georgia engaged in sport or any type of physical activity on a regular basis, by regions, %



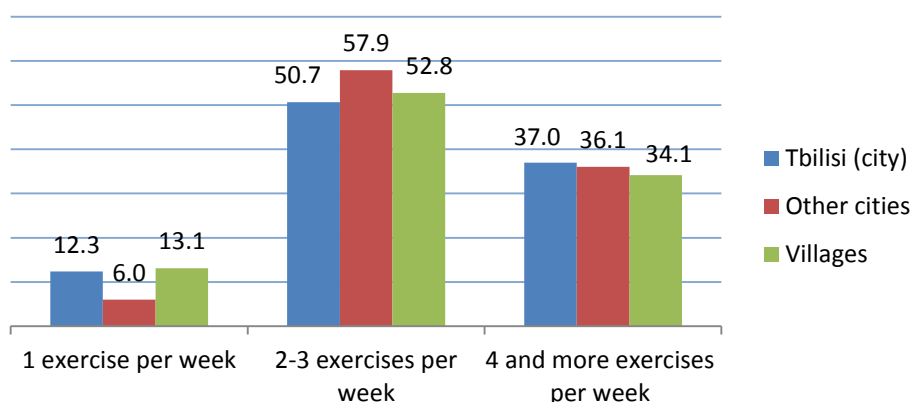
45.8 per cent of young people engaged in sport on a regular basis in Georgia devote an average of two to three hours to this activity each week. 20.2 per cent of young people are involved in physical activity for an average of three to five hours a week, while 34.0 per cent of young people devote five hours or more to such activity. A similar picture is observed in the regions, where the majority of young people who are engaged in sports activities regularly spend an average of two to three hours on this activity each week. However, as chart 5.3 shows, a different situation applies in Tbilisi city, where 44.0 per cent of young people are actively involved in sport and spend five hours or more on this each week. It is worth noting that young people living in villages who are engaged in sport spend less time on physical activities each week compared to their counterparts in Tbilisi city and other cities; only 26.3 per cent of young people living in villages who participate in sport on a regular basis devote five hours or more to sport each week.

Chart 5.3 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who are engaged in sport on a regular basis, by average duration of this activity per week, %



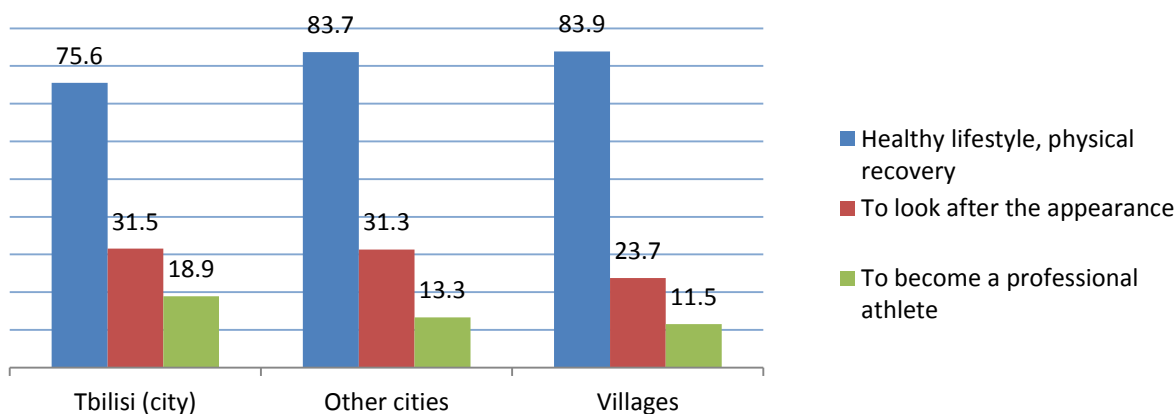
The majority of young people engaged in sport (53.7 per cent) exercise two to three times a week. 35.5 per cent of young people exercise four or more times a week, and only 10.8 per cent of young people exercise just once a week. With regard to the urban-rural dimension, these figures remain unchanged, with most young people exercising two to three times a week. However, the proportion of young people who exercise just once a week is higher in rural areas than in urban areas and equals 13.1 per cent. The corresponding figure in urban areas is 9.1 per cent.

Chart 5.4 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia engaged in sports activities on a regular basis, by average frequency of involvement in this activity per week, %



In Georgia, the vast majority (81.4 per cent) of young people aged 15-29 who are engaged in sport, regularly participate in sports/physical activity for the purposes of physical fitness, healthy lifestyle. Only 28.2 per cent of young people are involved in sports/physical activity for reasons such as looking after their appearance (e.g., weight control). 14.2 per cent of young people participate in sport or physical activity on a regular basis with a view to becoming a professional athlete.

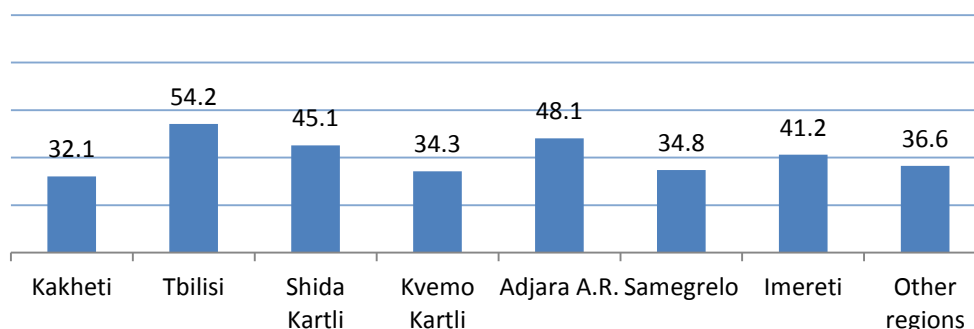
Chart 5.5 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia engaged in sports activities on a regular basis, by most frequently named purpose of their involvement in the named activity, %



It should be noted that a high proportion (31.4 per cent) of young people living in urban areas are engaged in sports for the purpose of looking after their appearance. The corresponding figure for young people living in the rural areas is 23.7 per cent. Compared with other urban areas and rural areas, Tbilisi has the highest proportion of young people who are engaged in sports in order to become professional athletes.

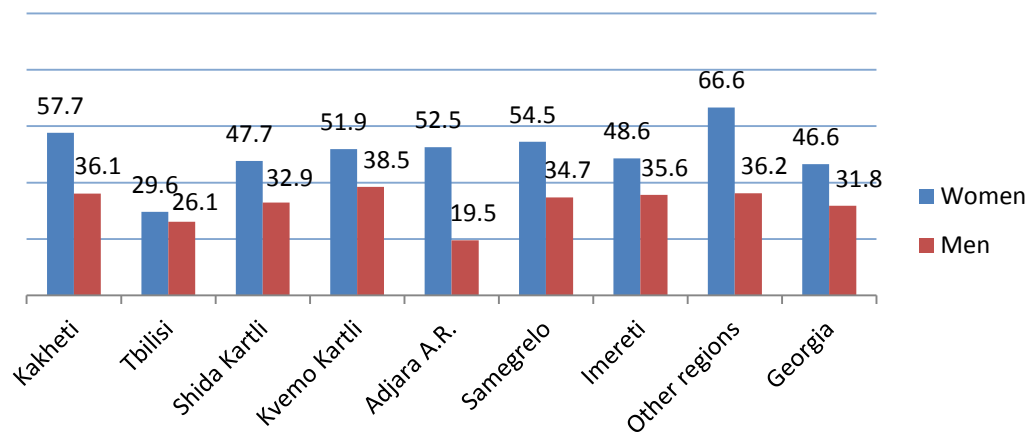
In Georgia, more than half of young people aged 15-29 (55.0 per cent) are willing to engage in any type of sport or physical activity. The majority (43.2 per cent) of this cohort are not currently involved in sport or physical activity, but would like to be involved. A further 11.8 per cent are willing to follow other types of sports or physical activities in addition to the activities in which they are already engaged.

Chart 5.6 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who are not engaged in sport or physical activities on a regular basis and would like to be involved in any type of sport/physical activities, %



A high proportion of young people (39.3 per cent) are not interested in sports activities, are not engaged in sports and are not willing to be involved in any type of sports/physical activity. The majority of them (23.6 per cent) are young women. Urban-rural comparisons make it clear that the proportion of such young people is much higher in villages, and equals 46.8 per cent in rural areas and 32.6 per cent in urban areas.

Chart 5.7 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who are not engaged in sports or physical activities on a regular basis and do not wish to be involved in any type of sport/physical activities, by regions, by gender, %



In Georgia, the majority of young people aged 15-29 (44.1 per cent) would like to be involved in swimming (swimming, diving, synchronized swimming). In addition, when asked to list the most desirable physical activities, young people name gym (25.3 per cent), football (22.7 per cent) and dancing (22.2 per cent). The majority of young people in the regions wish to be involved in these kinds of activities.

Table 5.1 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who would like to be engaged in the types of sports or physical activity listed, %

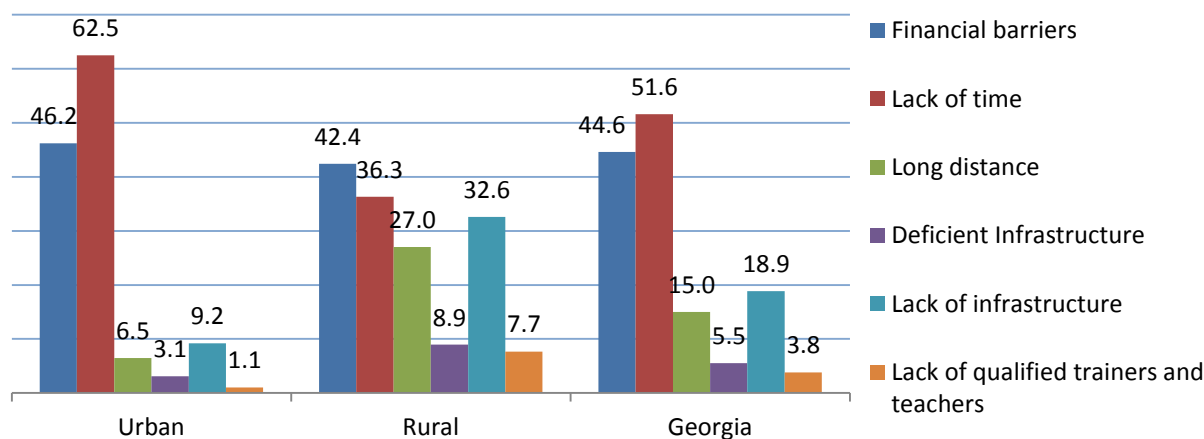
| | Tbilisi city | Other cities | Rural areas | Georgia |
|--|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------|
| Football (mini football, Futsal) | 18.5 | 17.6 | 29.1 | 22.7 |
| Tennis | 16.7 | 12.2 | 8.2 | 12.0 |
| Table tennis | 6.1 | 5.5 | 8.4 | 6.9 |
| Basketball | 10.1 | 12.2 | 15.5 | 12.9 |
| Handball, volleyball | 7.3 | 13.8 | 24.8 | 16.3 |
| Water polo | 5.4 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 5.9 |
| Rugby | 3.7 | 3.7 | 6.0 | 4.6 |
| Wrestling (Georgian, Greek-Roman, free, judo, sambo) | 9.1 | 8.1 | 17.0 | 12.1 |
| Martial arts (Karate, Taekwondo and other oriental martial arts) | 3.6 | 8.9 | 10.0 | 7.7 |
| Boxing | 5.1 | 7.5 | 5.5 | 5.9 |
| Swimmingdiving, synchronized swimming | 59.6 | 42.3 | 33.1 | 44.1 |
| Gymnastics (athletic, artistic, acrobatic, trampoline) | 9.8 | 11.4 | 10.7 | 10.6 |
| Skiing (Olympic, ski jump, mountain skiing) | 8.0 | 4.2 | 3.3 | 5.1 |
| Skating | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 4.3 |
| Autosport | 7.7 | 7.8 | 8.3 | 8.0 |
| Cycling | 9.0 | 8.7 | 5.5 | 7.5 |
| Dancing | 27.2 | 22.5 | 18.2 | 22.2 |
| Riding | 9.0 | 4.8 | 9.7 | 8.2 |
| Chess | 3.8 | 4.6 | 7.0 | 5.3 |

| | | | | |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Hiking in nature | 16.2 | 8.1 | 8.5 | 10.9 |
| Horse racing | 10.2 | 5.5 | 8.3 | 8.2 |
| Fitness | 36.6 | 20.7 | 19.2 | 25.3 |

In Tbilisi, in addition to the above-mentioned sports activities, young people name tennis (16.7 per cent) and hiking in nature (16.2 per cent) as desirable activities, while in other cities they name handball and volleyball (13.8 per cent). However, young people living in villages (24.8 per cent) express more willingness to engage in handball and volleyball than their counterparts who live in cities.

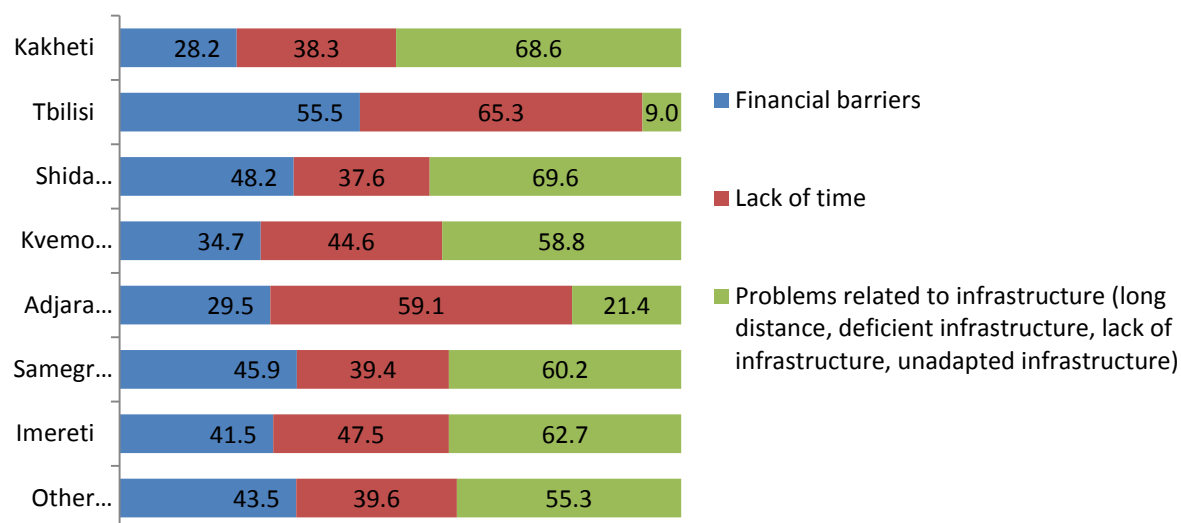
In Georgia, the majority of young people (51.6 per cent) who would like to be engaged in sport, but are not involved, are hindered by lack of time. The second most frequent obstacle is financial barriers (44.6 per cent). Diverse situations are observed in urban and rural areas. For example, young people living in cities are unable to engage in their desired types of sport, mainly due to lack of time (62.5 per cent). In rural areas, in most cases (42.4 per cent) financial barriers prevent young people from participating in sport. Also in rural areas, when compared with urban areas, young people do not have the opportunity to engage in sports activities due to lack of infrastructure (32.6 per cent) and long travel distances (27.0 per cent). All of this may explain why in rural areas a very small number of young people participate in physical activities.

Chart 5.8 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who would like to be engaged in any type of sports or physical activity, bearing in mind the reasons listed below, %



In the regions, those young people who are willing to engage in any type of sport or physical activity are mainly hampered by infrastructure-related problems. The only exception is Tbilisi where, due to infrastructural problems, only 9.0 per cent of young people are unable to engage in their desired sports activity. The Adjara region is also distinguished by the fact that 21.4 per cent of young people are unable to engage in their desired types of sports due to infrastructural problems. However, in both Tbilisi and Adjara the major drawback for young people is lack of time.

Chart 5.9 Distribution of young people aged 15-29 in Georgia who would like to be engaged in any type of sport or physical activity, bearing in mind the reasons listed below, by regions, %



8. Part VI. 'My World' survey

The 'My World' survey is conducted by the United Nations and partners. It is designed to ascertain what kind of world people want to live in and what issues are most important to them. This unprecedented international process is underway around the world in 194 countries, including Georgia. Participants in the survey choose from among 16 enumerated items six priorities that are important to them personally, and which they think are important for improving conditions in the world. The survey results are provided to world leaders to help them with the process of defining the new development agenda for the world.

In Georgia, 15- to 29-year-old people named the following as the six most important issues that would contribute to building a better world: an increase in the number of jobs available, improved health care, affordable and adequate food, quality of education, honest and accountable government, and protection from crime and violence. The majority of young people in Georgia consider increasing job opportunities as the biggest priority for the improvement of conditions in the world.

In Georgia 15- to 29-year-old people believe that in order to improve conditions in the world, the most significant factor would be an increase in the number of available jobs (83.1 per cent). The other factors that young people consider significant are health care improvement (78.6 per cent), affordable and adequate food (65.9 per cent), quality of education (57.5 per cent), honest and accountable government (53.4 per cent), protection against crime and violence (49.2 per cent), and supporting those who are unable to work (45.9 per cent). The proportion of young people who feel that the other issues listed below are less significant falls within the 9-27 per cent range.

Table 6.1 Distribution of young people in Georgia depending on which issues they consider the most significant for improving conditions in the world, %

| | Tbilisi (city) | Other cities | Villages | Georgia |
|--|----------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| Affordable and adequate food | 71.0 | 66.0 | 62.9 | 65.9 |
| Supporting those who are unable to work | 45.9 | 50.2 | 43.5 | 45.9 |
| Access to clean water and sanitation | 20.8 | 30.8 | 26.7 | 26.1 |
| Freedom from discrimination and harassment | 24.1 | 24.1 | 20.9 | 22.6 |

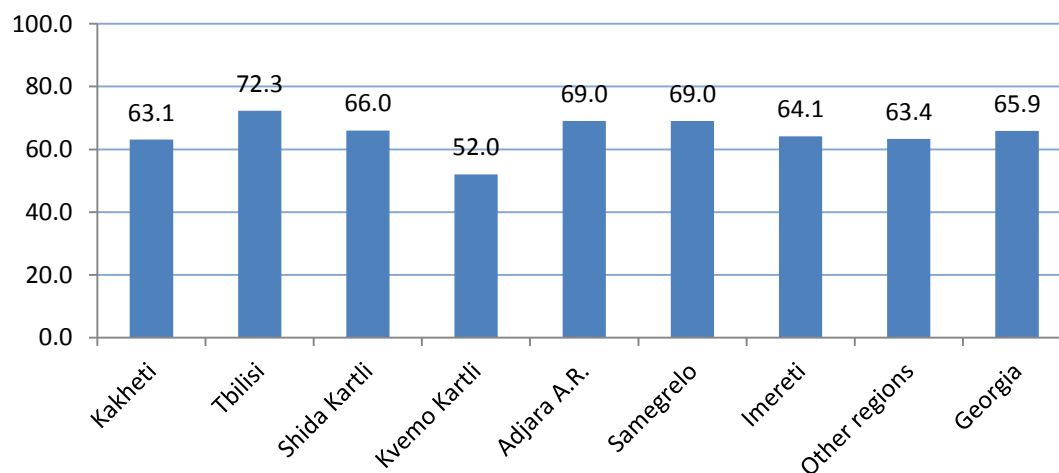
| | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| Health care improvement | 79.9 | 76.3 | 79.2 | 78.6 |
| Activities related to climate change | 7.8 | 11.2 | 8.4 | 8.9 |
| Efficient energy supply to homes | 7.4 | 9.4 | 12.8 | 10.5 |
| Political freedom | 19.0 | 14.9 | 18.7 | 17.8 |
| Telephone and Internet access | 7.5 | 13.0 | 23.6 | 16.5 |
| Equality between women and men | 28.2 | 29.6 | 24.3 | 26.8 |
| Increase in the number of available jobs | 82.3 | 82.0 | 84.1 | 83.1 |
| Honest and accountable government | 61.4 | 49.5 | 50.8 | 53.4 |
| Improvement by the state of transport and road systems | 7.9 | 10.1 | 19.4 | 13.9 |
| Protection of forests, rivers and oceans | 23.6 | 24.6 | 19.9 | 22.1 |
| Protection against crime and violence | 52.3 | 50.3 | 46.9 | 49.2 |
| Quality of education | 59.7 | 55.4 | 57.3 | 57.5 |

Georgia's young people consider efficient energy supply to homes (10.5 per cent) and activities carried out in relation to climate change (8.9 per cent) as the least significant for improving conditions in the world.

In Georgia, almost equal proportions of 15- to 29-year-old men and women consider the above-mentioned issues as significant for improving conditions in the world. By gender, the biggest difference is with regard to the view that equality between women and men is significant for a better future for the world; specifically, 32.1 per cent of young women and 21.3 per cent of young men hold this view.

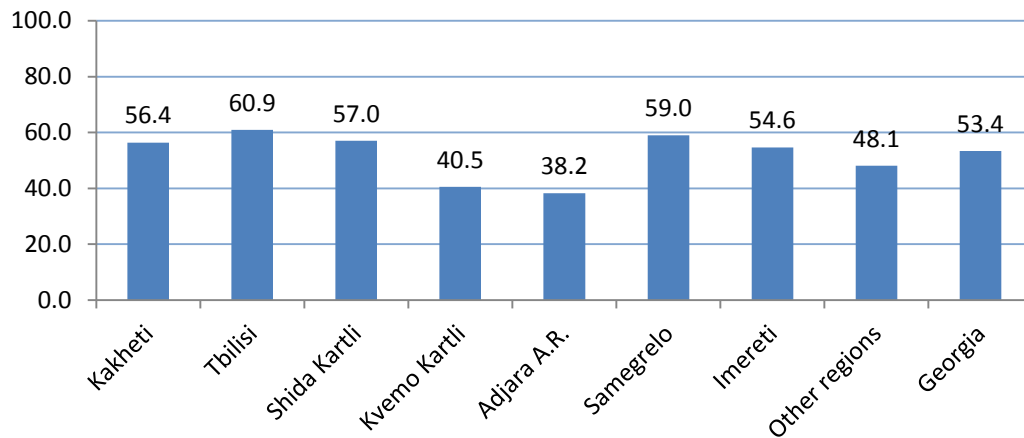
A more or less similar picture emerges by regions. An increase in the number of available jobs and health care improvement were cited by the largest proportion of young people in every region. Health care improvement was named by 79-83 per cent of young people depending on the region, the exceptions being the Imereti and KvemoKartli regions where the proportions are lowest. In these regions 71.0 per cent and 76.1 per cent, respectively, of respondents said that this issue was important for a better future for the world. With regard to the issue of affordable and adequate food, the range of responses differed across the regions, with the KvemoKartli region recording the lowest proportion of young people (52.0 per cent) and Tbilisi recording the highest (72.3 per cent).

Chart 6.1 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who cite affordable and adequate food as important for improving conditions in the world, by regions, %



Depending on the region, quite different proportions of young people cite honest and accountable government as an important issue for improving conditions in the world. Among these regions, the most noteworthy is Adjara, where 38.2 per cent of young people refer to this issue as important for building a better future. A similar picture emerges in KvemoKartli (40.5 per cent), while in Tbilisi it is considered the most important issue (61.9 per cent). It is noteworthy that in Kakheti, Tbilisi, ShidaKartli and Samegrelo young people believe that honest and accountable government is more significant than quality of education in order to improve conditions worldwide.

Chart 6.2 Distribution of people aged 15-29 in Georgia who cite honest and accountable government as important for improving conditions in the world, by regions, %



9. ANNEXES

Annex 1: Research methodology

The research methodology comprised the following components: development and agreement of the survey indicators and questionnaire with the key stakeholders, administration of the survey in the field, and analysis of the survey and the administrative data by the priority areas enumerated in the National Youth Policy Document.

In addition, information was requested from the following administrative sources:

- Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia
- Social Service Agency
- National Center for Disease Control and Public Health
- Central Election Commission
- The Ministry of Corrections, Probations and Legal Assistance of Georgia
- State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking
- The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia
- Supreme Court of Georgia
- Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Scientific-Practical Center
- The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia
- The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia.

Sampling methodology

The respondents were sampled from the 2002 General Population Census frame. Since the survey requirement was to have certain data representative at the regional level, the sample size was defined as 2,500 persons.

At the first stage this number was distributed proportional to the regional population (see Table 1).

Table 1. Distribution of the sample size across regions

| Region | Urban area | Rural area | Total |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| A.R. Adjara | 93 | 82 | 175 |
| Guria | 24 | 63 | 87 |
| Imereti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti | 225 | 274 | 499 |
| Kakheti | 57 | 174 | 231 |
| Mtsketa-Mtianeti | 18 | 52 | 70 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 122 | 128 | 250 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 40 | 60 | 100 |
| Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti | 101 | 138 | 239 |
| Shida Kartli | 67 | 120 | 187 |
| Tbilisi | 650 | 12 | 662 |
| Total | 1,397 | 1,103 | 2,500 |

A two-step sampling method was used, where an enumeration area (primary sampling unit) was selected at the first stage and a household was selected at the second stage. In order to reduce the 'design effect'

for enumeration areas sampled by types of settlement, it was decided to interview five people of the relevant age in urban areas and eight people of the relevant age in rural areas. The smaller number of interviews in urban areas compared with those in rural areas is due to the assumption of a larger variety of responses in urban areas. A smaller number of interviews in an urban area leads to an increase in the number of districts, thus conditioning a reduction in the 'design effect'. Accordingly, the number of people surveyed had to be divisible by five in urban areas and by eight in rural areas.

In addition, according to the above-mentioned assumption (larger variety of responses to the survey issues by the urban population) it was decided that the urban population would have a larger than proportionate representation in the sample, which in turn would provide for a reduction in sampling error.

Based on the above-mentioned assumptions, the final distribution of the sample size across regions and by urban-rural areas was defined (see Table 3).

Table 2. Final distribution of selection volume by regions and urban-rural areas

| Region | Urban area | Rural area | Total |
|--|--------------|------------|--------------|
| A.R. Adjara | 105 | 64 | 169 |
| Guria | 35 | 56 | 91 |
| Imereti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti | 245 | 208 | 453 |
| Kakheti | 60 | 136 | 196 |
| Mtsketa-Mtianeti | 35 | 56 | 91 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 130 | 104 | 234 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 45 | 48 | 93 |
| Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti | 105 | 112 | 217 |
| Shida Kartli | 75 | 88 | 163 |
| Tbilisi | 785 | 8 | 793 |
| Total | 1,620 | 880 | 2,500 |

In addition, considering the above-mentioned conditions, the number of selected enumeration areas by regions and urban-rural areas was defined (see table 4).

Table 3. Numbers of selected enumeration areas by regions and urban-rural areas

| Region | Urban area | Rural area | Total |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| A.R. Adjara | 21 | 8 | 29 |
| Guria | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| Imereti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti | 49 | 26 | 75 |
| Kakheti | 12 | 17 | 29 |
| Mtsketa-Mtianeti | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 26 | 13 | 39 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 9 | 6 | 15 |
| Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti | 21 | 14 | 35 |
| Shida Kartli | 15 | 11 | 26 |
| Tbilisi | 157 | 1 | 158 |
| Total | 324 | 110 | 434 |

The enumeration areas (EAs) in regions were selected proportional to the population size (PPS method), while systematic sampling was used for selecting households within the EAs.

Annex 2: Criteria and definitions used to assess the economic status of young people

Economically active (labour force) – employed and unemployed persons of both sexes in the reference week.

Employed (hired employed and self-employed) – a person who during the reference week has worked (at least for one hour) with the aim of obtaining income (wage, income in kind, profit etc.), or has worked without remuneration in a family enterprise/farm, or did not work for some reason though formally engaged for working.

Hired employed – a person who during the reference period performed certain work for the purpose of obtaining a salary or other type of remuneration (in cash or in kind); also a person with a job but temporarily absent due to vacation, temporary suspension of work, temporary dismissal or other similar reasons.

Self-employed – a property owner, whose goal during the reference period is to get a profit or family income (in money or in kind); unpaid worker in a family enterprise/farm is also included.

Unidentified – a person whose employment status is not identified.

Unemployed – a person who during the reference period was not employed (even for one hour) and who within the previous four weeks actively searched for work and in case of success was ready to start work within the next two weeks.

Economically inactive (out of labour force) – a person who was neither classified as employed nor as unemployed.

Activity rate – percentage share of the economically active population among the relevant aged population.

Unemployment rate – percentage share of the number of unemployed among the relevant aged economically active population.

Employment rate – percentage share of the number of employed among the relevant aged population.