

YOUTH

IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES:
a statistical portrait



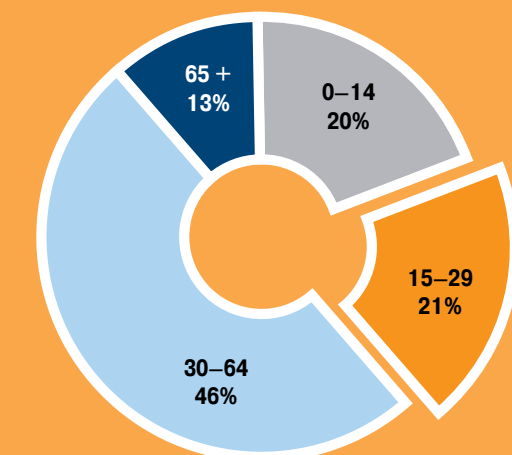
Around 60 million young men and women between the ages of 15 and 29 live in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). They comprise the first generation born and raised in these newly independent countries.

Young people in CIS countries enjoy equal rights guaranteed by national constitutions and are notable for their high level of education, active role in the labour market, high level of interest in modern information and communication technologies, and growing commitment to a healthy lifestyle.

At the same time, both young people and members of older generations in CIS countries face serious social and economic challenges, including unemployment, poverty, a high cost of living, and a growing incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Improving the quality of life of young people and using their capacities to their full advantage requires further strengthening of the support they receive from the government and from society at large.

In doing so, it is important to ensure greater involvement of youth in decision-making processes related to their well-being. Currently, deputies aged under 35 years old comprise just 7% of the total number of senior-level lawmakers in national single-seat legislatures or in lower chambers of parliaments of the CIS countries.

Age composition of the CIS population, 2016



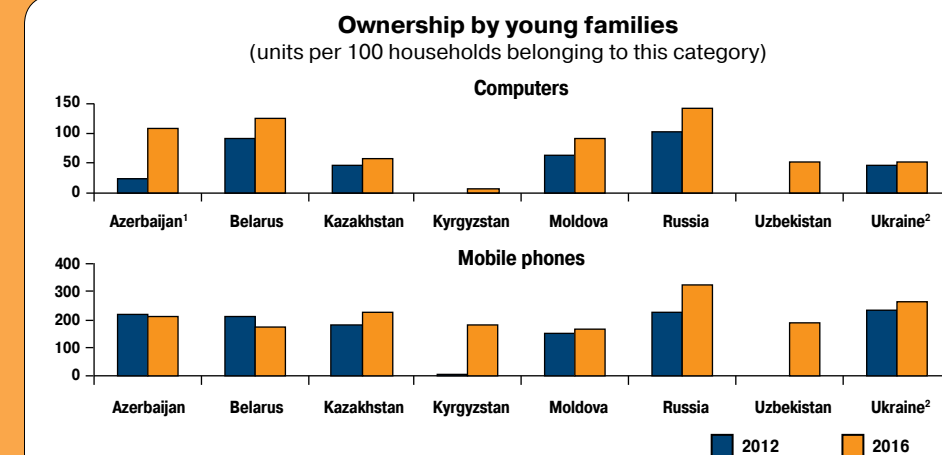
Young families tend to own most necessary durable goods.

Ownership of durable goods by young families, 2016
(estimated number of items per 100 households belonging to this category)

	TV sets	Refrigerators	Washing machines	Electric vacuum cleaners	Microwave ovens
Azerbaijan	110	100	83	91	7
Belarus	110	114	89	73	80
Kazakhstan	116	103	94	91	80
Kyrgyzstan	98	69	52	24	9
Moldova	100	94	90	62	38
Russia	180	113	99	91	136
Uzbekistan	138	101	81	59	44
Ukraine ¹	115	103	93	85	64

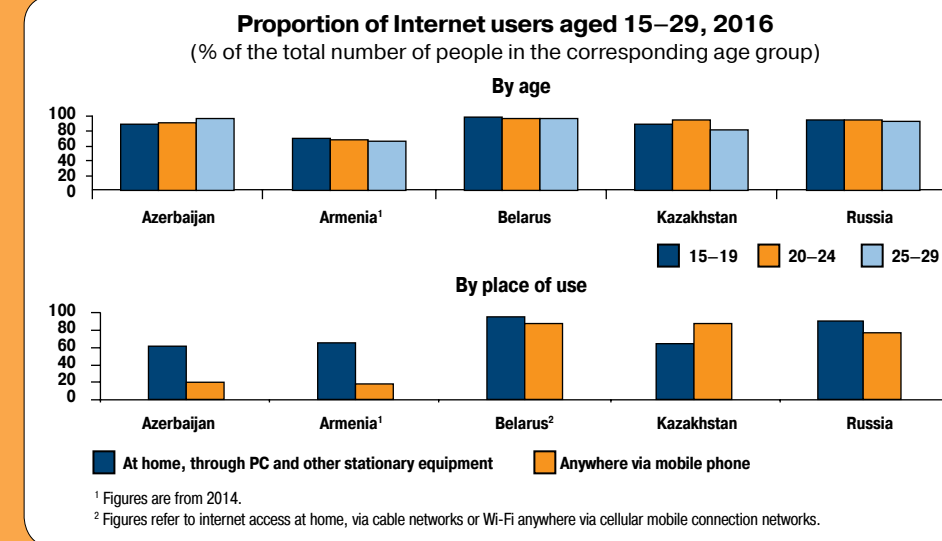
¹ In Ukraine young families are those where both spouses are at age 35 years and younger (inclusively).

Young people are also quickly obtaining computers and mobile phones.



¹ Figures for 2012 do not include portable personal computers (e.g. laptops, netbooks or tablets).
² In Ukraine young families are those where both spouses are at age 35 years and younger (inclusively).

Young people in the CIS member states make extensive use of information and communication technologies in their education, at work and in their everyday lives.



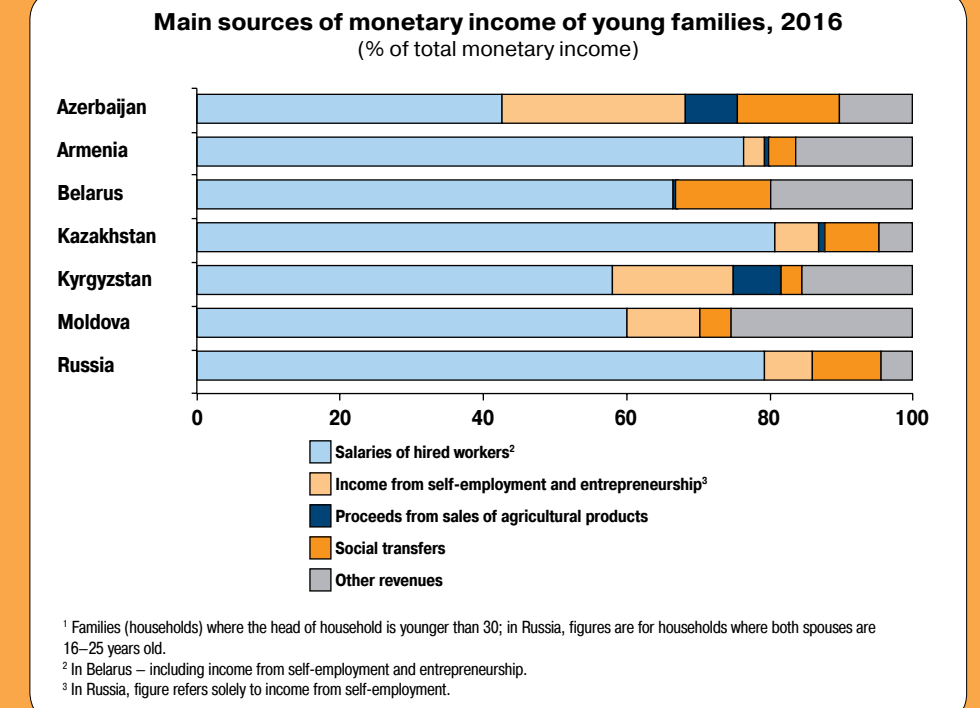
¹ Figures are from 2014.
² Figures refer to internet access at home, via cable networks or Wi-Fi anywhere via cellular mobile connection networks.

Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS Statistical Committee)
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United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
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<http://eece.unfpa.org>

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The main source of income for young families¹ in the CIS member states is remuneration of labour. Furthermore, the role of labour income in family budgets has increased in recent years in the majority of member states. The standard of living in Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan, however, depends significantly on earnings from self-employment.



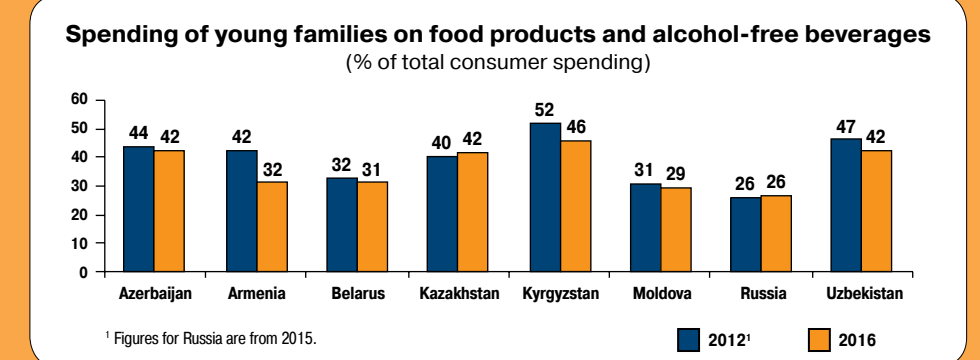
Following the implementation of national programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, the share of youth with income below the officially set national poverty lines has decreased in recent years in CIS countries.

Population living below poverty lines set at the national level
(% of total population of the corresponding sex and age)

		2005		2016	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
Armenia	15–17	41.4 ¹		37.2	
	18–19	35.3 ¹		36.6	
	20–24	34.9 ¹		29.9	
Belarus	15–19	17.3	18.1	8.4	8.2
	20–24	11.0	12.6	6.3	6.1
	25–29	14.9	14.2	4.5	4.0

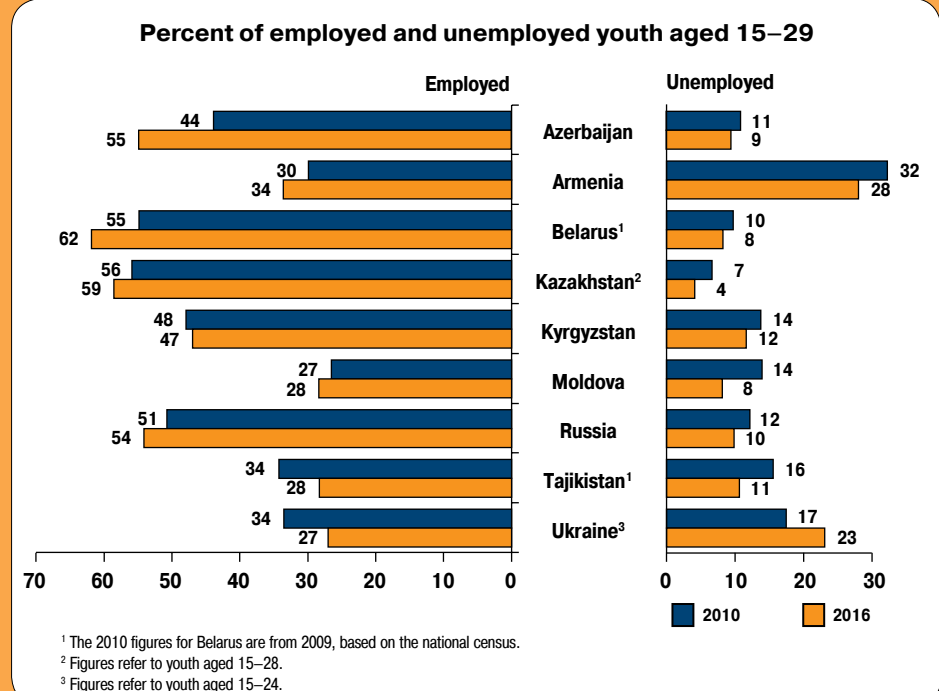
Kazakhstan	15–19	11.1	11.0	3.6	4.1
	20–24	9.0	9.8	2.4	2.3
	25–29	9.1	9.3	1.7	2.1
Kyrgyzstan	15–19	46.5	53.5	22.9	25.8
	20–24	64.5	35.5	18.3	22.5
	25–29	46.5	53.5	21.9	25.7
Russia	16–30	12.0	13.6	12.6	13.3
Ukraine	16–19	5.8	5.9

Young families spend the majority of their budgets on food, limiting their ability to spend on holidays, travel, entertainment and other items.

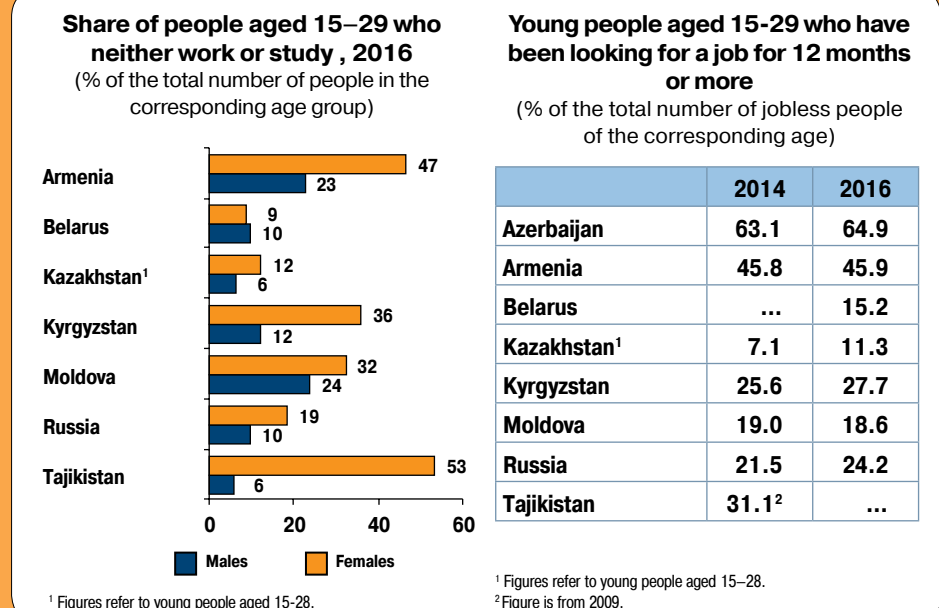


¹ Figures for Russia are from 2015.

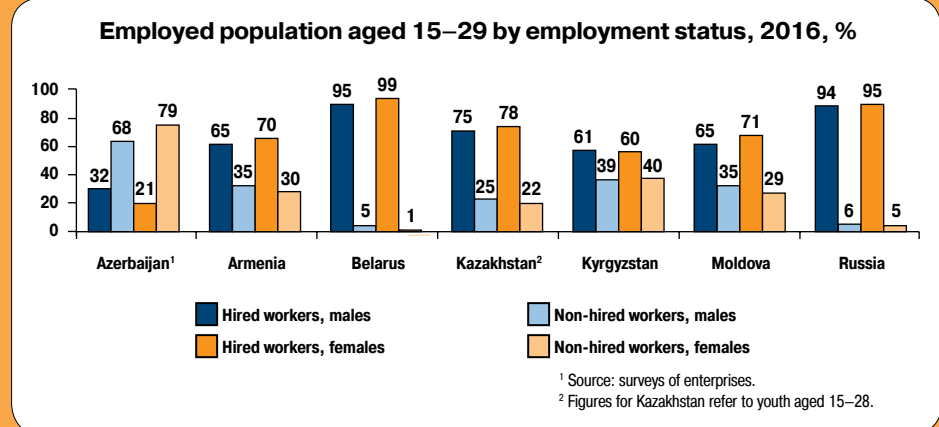
In recent years, employment of young people has begun to rise, though many still face difficulties finding work, often remaining jobless for long periods of time. This is in part due to a mismatch between the needs of the labour market and the number and profile of trained specialists. Except for in Kazakhstan, the youth unemployment rate in CIS countries is 1.4 to 1.9 times higher than the overall unemployment rate.



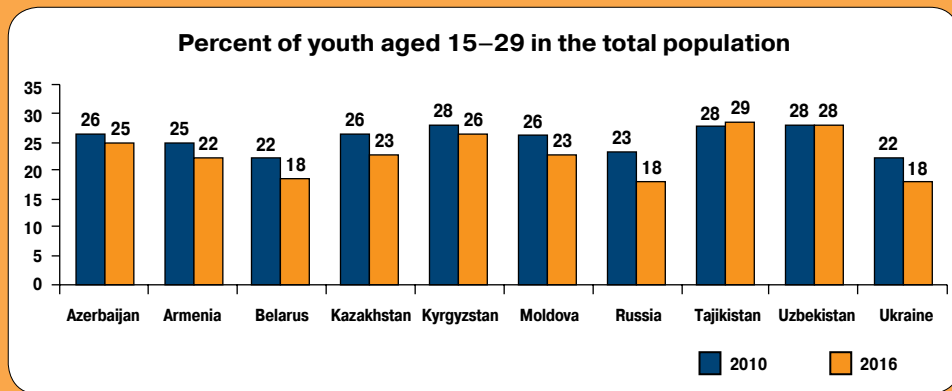
As employment of young people shows an upward trend, the share of young people who neither work or study has been dropping in some countries.



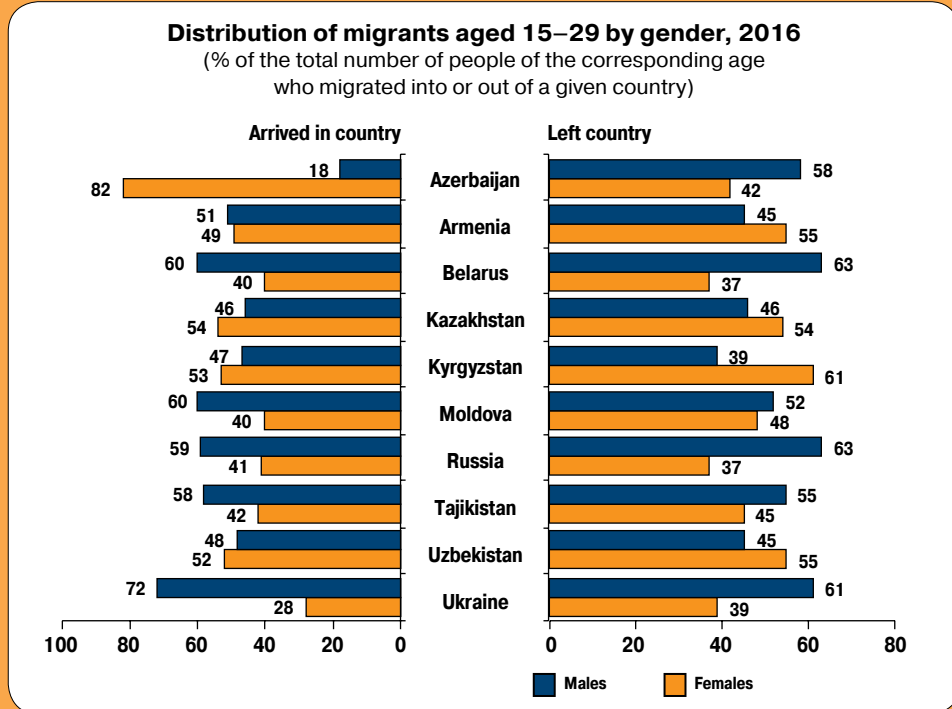
The majority of employed youth are hired workers, though the proportion of young people working as employers is increasing.



¹ Source: surveys of enterprises.
² Figures for Kazakhstan refer to youth aged 15–28.



One in five people among more than 280 million inhabitants of CIS countries is a young person aged between 15 and 29 years. The share of young people in the total population of each country ranges between 18% and 29%, but is gradually decreasing in most countries as life expectancies increase and young people migrate away, mostly to other parts of the CIS region, to seek better work or education opportunities. This trend will have serious consequences in the future, including a major impact on labour-market sustainability and national pension systems. In recent years, young people have made up one third of the total number of CIS migrants who have changed their place of permanent residence.



Average age at first marriage and average age at delivery of first child are both trending higher as more young people believe that it is important to obtain professional education and a steady job with career-development opportunities, or to open their own business, prior to marriage.

Average age

Country	At first marriage				Of mothers delivering first babies	
	Males		Females		2000	2016
	2000	2016	2000	2016		
Azerbaijan	27.3	27.6	23.1	23.7	24.1	23.6
Armenia	27.1	29.6	23.0	26.4	22.3	24.7
Belarus	25.0	27.8	22.8	25.6	23.3	26.3
Kazakhstan	25.6	27.3	22.9	24.8	23.6	24.9
Kyrgyzstan	25.5	27.1	22.1	23.6	22.7	23.0
Moldova	25.3	28.3	22.2	25.6	22.7	24.0
Tajikistan	24.7	25.9	21.6	22.3	21.1	22.9
Uzbekistan	24.2	26.0	21.4	22.6	23.2	23.6
Ukraine	25.3	27.9	22.5	25.3	24.5	25.3

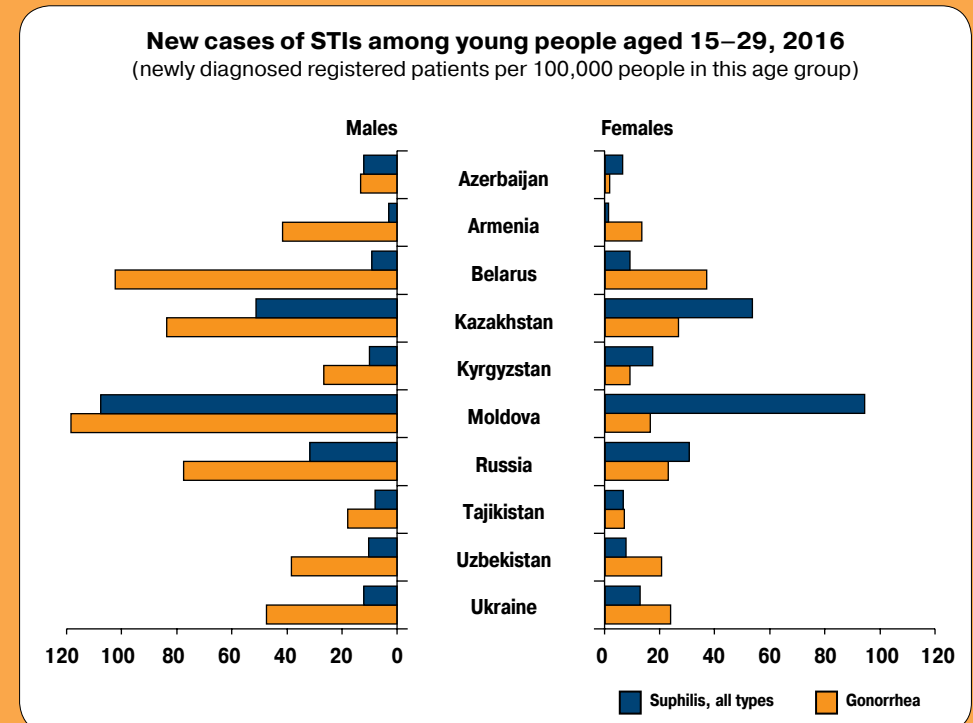
Due to these changing attitudes of young people, the birth rate among young women under the age of 20 has decreased in most CIS countries.

Age-specific birth rates

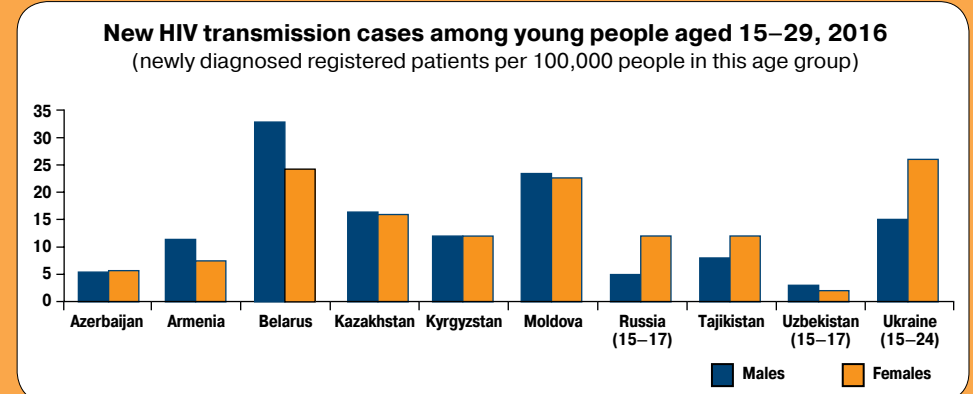
(number of births per 1,000 women in the corresponding age group)

Country	Under age 20		Ages 20–24		Ages 25–29	
	2000	2016	2000	2016	2000	2016
Azerbaijan	29	53	131	165	99	111
Armenia	32	24	120	115	64	102
Belarus	27	16	110	88	76	116
Kazakhstan	33	28	133	162	105	162
Kyrgyzstan	34	38	162	193	133	168
Moldova	36	27	104	78	68	74
Russia	27	22	94	87	67	112
Tajikistan	42	47	208	237	188	168
Uzbekistan	21	21	205	189	161	161
Ukraine	32	25	95	88	58	90

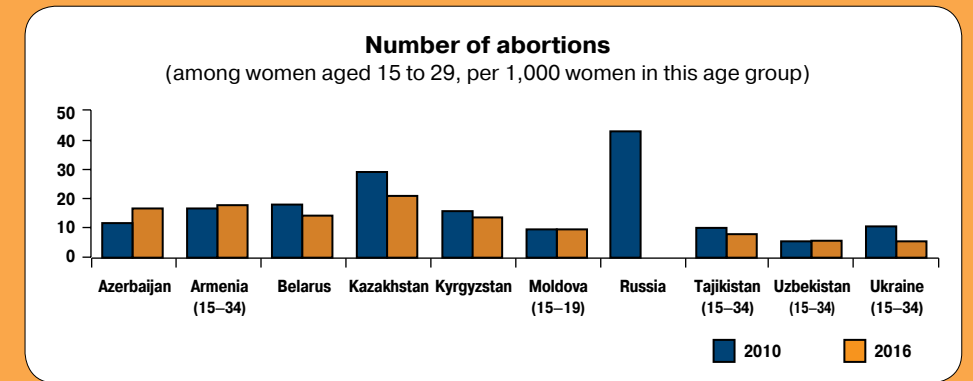
Positive trends related to reproductive health services for young women in CIS countries include the fact that virtually all births are now attended by qualified medical personnel; and that more and more women get registered by medical institutions in the early stages of their pregnancy. STI morbidity rates vary significantly from country to country in the region.



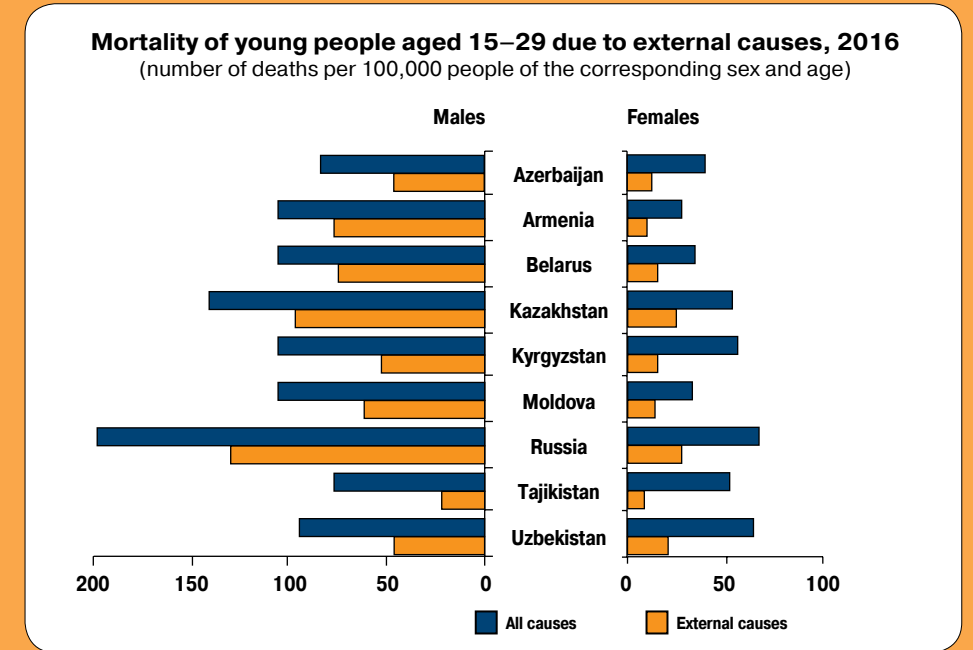
One of the major issues encountered in recent years is growing rates of HIV transmission.



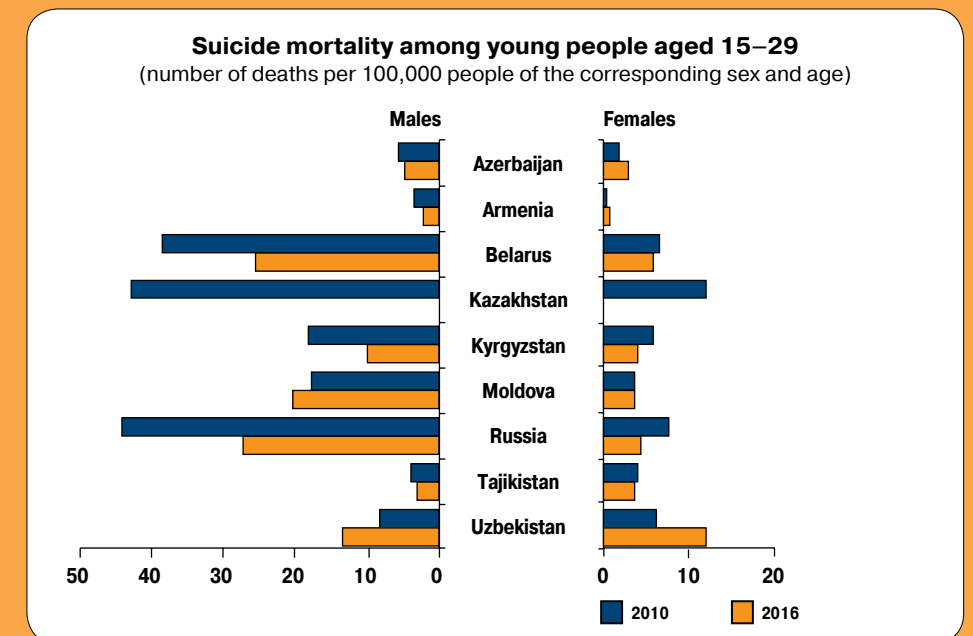
Though the prevalence of abortions is decreasing in the CIS region, it still remains relatively high compared to more developed countries.



Youth in the CIS member states remain at particular risk from mortality due to external preventable causes such as injuries, including those sustained as a result of traffic accidents, poisoning, murder and suicide.

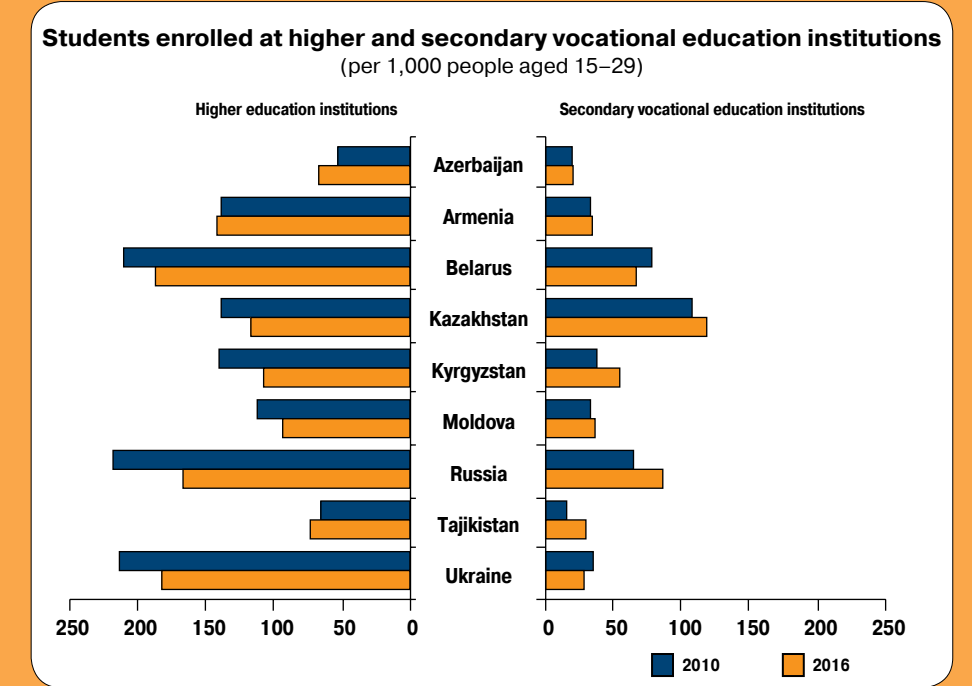


Despite an emerging downward trend, the suicide rate among young people remains relatively high in many CIS member states compared to other countries.

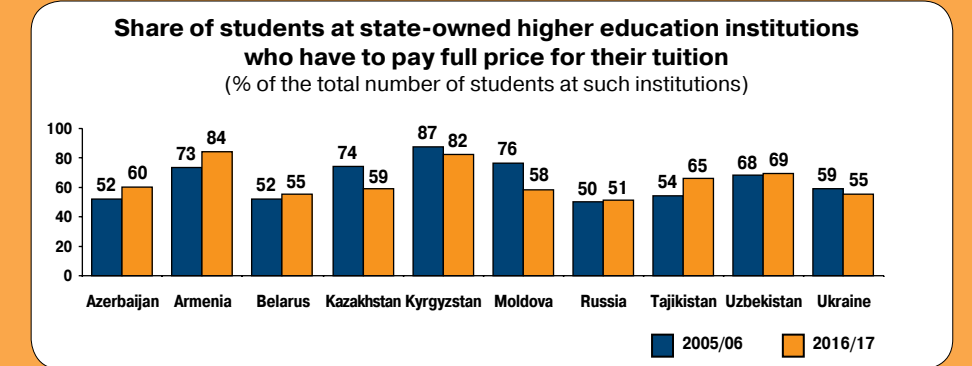


Crime rates in the CIS region are generally in decline, though youth and teenage crime continue to be of particular concern. On the positive side, courts are increasingly less likely to punish juveniles with penalties that isolate them from their families and society, improving their chances of rehabilitation and resuming normal lives.

Equal rights to education for men and women are guaranteed by national laws of CIS countries and implemented in practice. In the majority of member states, females outnumber males among students of higher and secondary vocational education facilities. Traditionally, the population enjoys a high level of education, but in recent years most countries in the CIS region have seen the percentage of young people studying in higher and secondary vocational education institutions begin to decline.



Tuition fees are a barrier for some young people to obtain higher education. The majority of youth in the CIS region attend state-owned higher education institutions, where the proportion of fee-based education is relatively high: from 50% to 80% of students at such institutions are paying full price for their tuition.



Since 2010, the size of the labour force of the CIS region has remained at around 137 million people, while the proportion of youth has dropped from 28% to 23% as the influx of graduates from vocational institutions decreased. The share of young people in the labour force varies significantly from country to country, but generally includes more men than women.

Share of young people aged 15–29 in the labour force, 2016

(% of the total number of young people of the corresponding sex and age)

Country	Total	Males	Females
Azerbaijan	60.4	66.4	54.9
Armenia	46.7	55.8	37.6
Belarus	67.3	68.8	65.8
Kazakhstan	63.7	68.5	58.8
Kyrgyzstan	53.0	66.4	39.3
Moldova	30.9	32.7	28.9
Russia	59.9	65.3	54.3
Tajikistan	31.7	39.2	24.5
Ukraine	53.6	60.3	46.5