



# YOUTH INDEX

## REPORT

Georgia, 2020



# YOUTH INDEX

## Report

Georgia, 2020

---

The present study was conducted by UNPFA CO Georgia and the UN Joint Program for Gender Equality, funded by the Government of Sweden. The project was carried out in close partnership with the Youth Agency. The views expressed in this report belong to the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the UNFPA

© UNFPA 2020

**Authors: Rati Cheishvili, Nina Gogoladze**

## YOUTH INDEX

### Table of Contents

Introduction.....	5
The Purpose of the Youth Index.....	6
The Domains of the Youth Index.....	6
The Youth Index Methodology.....	7
General Information about Young People in Georgia.....	9
Domain 1: Education.....	12
Domain 2: Employment.....	17
Domain 3: Participation.....	21
Domain 4: Safety and Security.....	25
Domain 5: Health.....	29
Domain 6: Gender.....	34

## Introduction

Young people are of special value for the long-term, democratic and sustainable socio-economic development of any country. The vision<sup>1</sup> developed by the Government of Georgia recognizes the important role young people play in this process. Accordingly, the national policy envisages the creation of an appropriate environment for the full development of young people, which will enable them to fully realize their potential and be actively involved in all areas of public life.

According to the 2019 data, the number of young people aged 15-29 living in Georgia is 688,792 - 18.5% of the total population of Georgia. The number of young people has been steadily declining over the past few decades and decreased by 98,011 (12.5%) from 2014 to 2019<sup>2</sup>. Available evidence suggests that young people face a number of problems and challenges in all areas, such as employment, education, participation, healthcare, healthy lifestyle, crime prevention, etc. Decreased number of young population and tackling the challenges they face require an effective youth policy that is impossible to develop or implement without sufficient evidence and reliable information.

The Youth Index helps to gather comprehensive information on the situation of young people enabling policymakers and other stakeholders to assess the impact of the youth policy, the progress made with regard to its implementation and, based on the evidence gathered, to make appropriate strategic decisions ensuring healthy development for young people and enabling them to achieve their full potential.

### WHAT IS YOUTH POLICY?

Youth policy is one of the categories of public policy, which aims to support a specific target group - young people. "Youth policy is a strategy implemented by the authorities to provide young people with opportunities and enable them to acquire experience that will help them to successfully integrate into society and become active and responsible members of society and agents of change. It includes 4 areas that cover all aspects of young people's lives: a) being (both physically and mentally) fit; b) education and training (formal, informal and non-formal); c) participation; and d) inclusion. Youth policy serves all young people, but special attention should be paid to those who are socially, economically or culturally vulnerable."<sup>1</sup>

The development of an efficient youth policy is possible only through constant assessment and evaluation of the state of youth, based on reliable evidence and data, which has become significantly easier due to the introduction of a comprehensive Youth Index.

---

<sup>1</sup> The 2014 National Youth Policy Document of Georgia.

<sup>2</sup> National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat).

## The Purpose of the Youth Index

The purpose of the Youth Index is to assess the extent to which the existing environment and national policies contribute to youth development, success and well-being.

### WHAT IS WELLBEING?

Wellbeing is a multidimensional concept that includes a person's physical and mental health, educational status, economic position, physical safety, access to freedoms, and ability to participate in civic life. It is, in a sense, the abundance or scarcity of opportunities available to an individual.

(The 2017 Global Youth Wellbeing Index.)

Through a system of indicators integrated into thematic areas or domains, the Youth Index provides a broad picture of the overall state of young people. Accordingly, it helps governments and other stakeholders to identify a wide range of issues that contribute to or hinder the wellbeing and development of young people and to identify areas where more investment is needed. The Index is a universal tool of assessing the development of young people and the impact of policies on their state. It does not measure outcomes achieved through policy priorities, although it may influence the process of defining policy priorities.

Therefore, the purpose of the Youth Index is to assess the achievements and impact of the National Youth Policy on the overall state of young people, as well as to identify areas that require more attention and investment.

## The Domains of the Youth Index

The Youth Index in Georgia measures the situation of young people using 29 indicators in 6 domains. These domains are: education, employment, health, safety and security, participation and gender. Both quantitative and qualitative indicators are incorporated (see the Table of domains and indicators in Annex N1).



## The Youth Index Methodology

The concept of youth development and well-being is discussed in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. On September 25, 2015, the United Nations General Assembly approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is a comprehensive framework for global development. It includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the associated 169 targets and its fulfilment will be impossible without investing more in young people. Although the document does not single out young people, their needs and role are reflected in some of the Goals and indicators. The Agenda also recognizes the commitment to promote the realization of the rights and opportunities of young people, as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals substantially depends on the development of the capabilities and competencies of those who are young today.

The Global Youth Indices are based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The first such index was developed in 2013 by the Commonwealth of Nations. In 2014, the International Youth Foundation developed the Global Youth Wellbeing Index, the revised version of which was published in 2017. It covers 30 countries, where about 70% of the world's 15-29-year-old population live; it is based on 7 domains and 35 indicators and in addition uses data gathered from direct surveys of young people globally<sup>3</sup>.

---

<sup>3</sup> Global Youth Wellbeing Index, 2017.

International experience has highlighted the need for the development of similar comprehensive indices at the national level in order to more clearly and thoroughly describe the situation of young people and to select more available and appropriate domains and indicators for each country or region. Since 2015, Georgia has nationalized all of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which further strengthens the basis for the development of the Youth Index at the national level and emphasizes the need for policies which will have a long-term positive impact on young people.

The Youth Index in Georgia is developed according to the method provided by global indexes for data collection and analysis at the national level, described in the guide published by the Commonwealth of Nations in 2016 - „Commonwealth Youth Development Index; National and Regional Toolkit (A Guide for Developing Regional and National Youth Development Indices)“<sup>4</sup>.

Domains and indicators for the Youth Index in Georgia were selected taking into account certain issues:

- The United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development and the National Document for the Nationalization of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- The Global Youth Indices;
- Strategic Directions of the National Youth Policy Document of Georgia;
- Existing situation in Georgia and the quantitative and qualitative data available at the time of compiling the index, reflecting the current situation of young people in the country.

Although the proposed indicators may not fully reflect the picture in each domain, they are the optimal set of indicators for global youth indices, on the one hand, and, of indicators for the challenges faced by young people in Georgia, on the other hand (for more detailed information on the methodology, see Annex N2).

The quantitative indicators in the document of the Youth Index of Georgia are accompanied by the general assessment and analysis of each domain based on the available evidence. In accordance with the methodology given in the Global Index, the assessment is based on a comparison with the ideal reality (e.g. youth unemployment - 0%, youth literacy - 100%, etc.); However, for the purpose of illustration, comparisons with the situation of young people in EU countries are also used.

---

<sup>4</sup> Commonwealth Youth Development Index, National and Regional Toolkit: A Guide for Developing Regional and National Youth Development Indices, 2016.



The document also presents general recommendations based on the analysis of the current situation and the study of international best practices. Given that Georgia does not currently have complete data corresponding to all the desired indicators required for the Index, the document also contains a list of indicators for which data should be collected and which should be integrated into the very first updated version of the document of the Youth Index of Georgia.

**Note:** The use of the latest data (2019-2020) is a priority in the Youth Index, however, in some cases, due to the lack of data, earlier information (2018-2017) is used. The results of older studies are mainly cited to illustrate the dynamics of the changes.

## General Information about Young People in Georgia

According to the National Youth Policy Document of Georgia<sup>1</sup>, persons aged between 14 and 29 are regarded as young persons. The policies and actions implemented by the Government of Georgia with regard to the youth cover the population representing this age group. However, the National Youth Policy Document of Georgia stipulates that in order to ensure the effective implementation of its goals and objectives and the development of young people, the resources, services and programmes provided as part of the Youth Policy should cover school age children as well.

The National Youth Policy Document of Georgia also covers some groups of young people with special needs, such as young people with disabilities; out-of-school young people; underage pregnant girls/parents; young people living and/or working on the street; young people deprived of parental care; young people in state care and those who transitioned out of state care; young people with severe and incurable diseases; young victims of trafficking; young drug addicts and psychotropic substance abusers; young people who consume excessive amounts of alcohol and tobacco; young people in conflict with the law; former convicts; young victims of violence; young people from the families of internally displaced persons; young people residing in the occupied territories of Georgia –in accordance with the State Strategy of Georgia on Occupied Territories: Engagement through Cooperation and Action Plan for Engagement Strategy; young people living in the settlements adjacent to the occupied territories; young people living in mountainous regions; children of war heroes and veterans with disabilities.

According to the 2019 data, the number of young people aged 15-29 in Georgia is 688,792, constituting 18.5% of the total population of Georgia. From this 51.9% (357,510) are male, and 48.1% (331,282) – are female<sup>5</sup>.

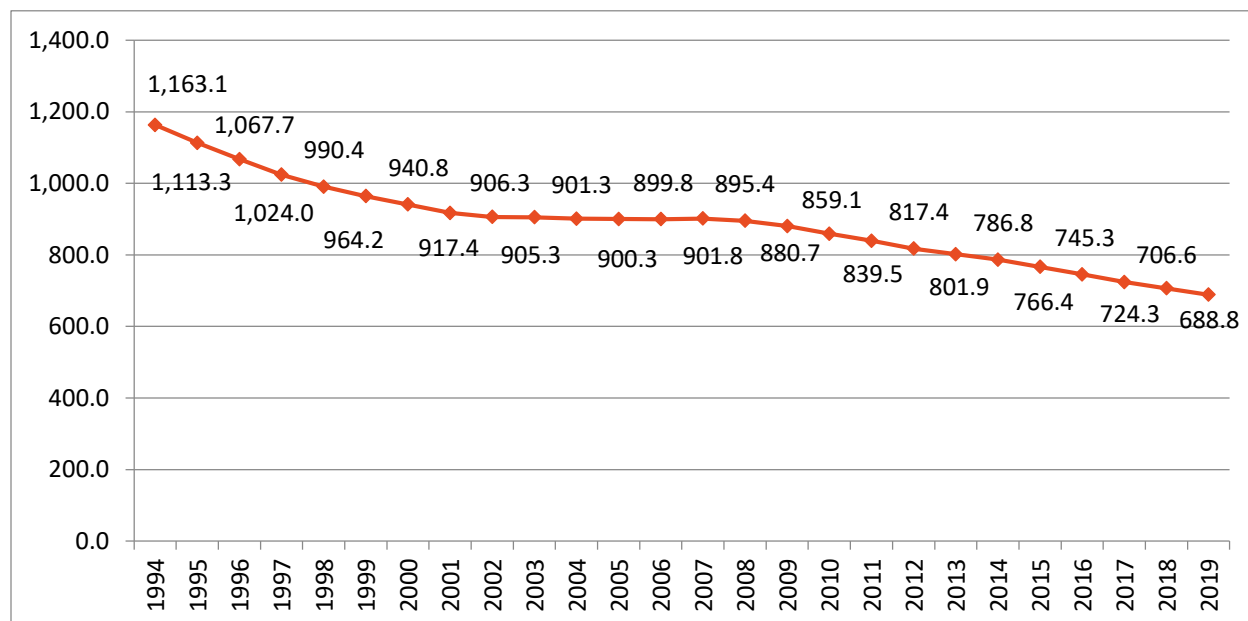
*Number of young people aged 15-29 by age groups and sex, as of January 1, 2019, in thousands*

Age Group	2019		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female
15-19	205.8	109.1	96.6
20-24	220.6	115.7	104.9
25-29	262.5	132.7	129.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>688.8</b>	<b>357.5</b>	<b>331.3</b>

Source: GeoStat

The number of young people has been steadily declining over the past few decades and decreased by 98,011 (12.5%) from 2014 to 2019:

*Number of young people aged 15-29, as of January 1, 2019, in thousands*



Source: GeoStat

Majority of young people aged 15-29 (59.9%) live in urban areas, and 33.2% of them live in Tbilisi. Apart from Tbilisi, the largest number of young people live in Imereti (12.7%) and

<sup>5</sup> Number of young people aged 15-29 by regions, urban/rural residency and sex (according to the results of the 2014 General Population Census of Georgia), National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat)

Kvemo Kartli (12.5%) regions, while the lowest number of young people live in Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti region - 0.5%<sup>6</sup>:

*Distribution of the total population and young people aged 15-29 by regions (%):*

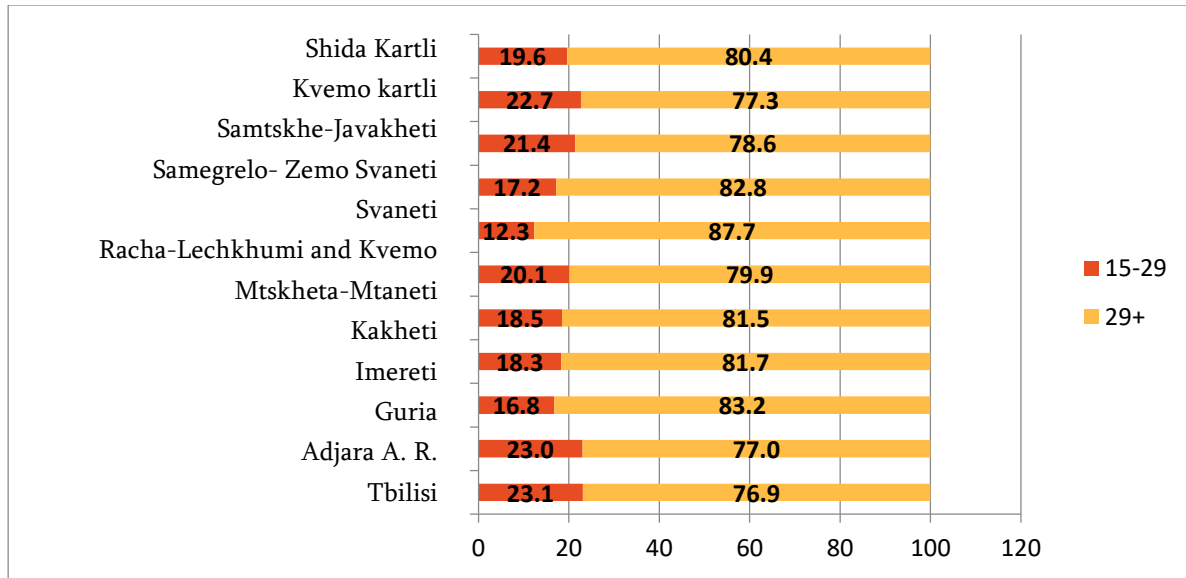
	Total population	Young people aged 15-29
Tbilisi	29.9	33.2
Adjara A.R.	9.0	10.0
Guria	3.1	2.5
Imereti	14.4	12.7
Kakheti	8.6	7.7
Mtskheta-Mtaneti	2.5	2.5
Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti	0.9	0.5
Samegrelo- Zemo Svaneti	8.9	7.4
Samtskhe-Javakheti	4.3	4.5
Kvemo kartli	11.4	12.5
Shida Kartli	7.1	6.7

The proportion of young people is highest in Tbilisi (23.1%) and in the Autonomous Republic of Adjara (23.0%), and lowest in Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti region (12.3%)<sup>7</sup>:

*Proportion of young people aged 15-29 by regions*

<sup>6</sup> Number of young people aged 15-29 by regions, urban/rural residency and sex (according to the results of the 2014 General Population Census of Georgia), National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat)

<sup>7</sup> Population aged 15-29 by regions, urban-rural settlements and sex (according to the results of the 2014 General Population Census of Georgia), National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat).



The data suggest that the number of young people in Georgia has significantly decreased in recent years. The reasons for this are the increased rate of emigration and the low birth rate<sup>8</sup>. More than half of the young people live in urban areas, while their number is relatively small in the mountainous regions of the country.

## Domain 1: Education

Indicators:

- Literacy rate
- Enrolment in secondary education
- Out-of-school young people (dropouts)
- Use of the Internet

<p><b>99.64%</b> of young people can read and write a simple text about their everyday life</p>	<p>Gross Enrolment Ratio in secondary education for young people is <b>105.98%</b></p>
<p><b>8.9%</b></p>	<p><b>96.2%</b> of young people use the Internet</p>

<sup>8</sup> Labor Market Analysis of Georgia, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia. 2018

## of young people drop out of secondary school

The indicators for the domain of education correspond to the Sustainable Development Goal 4 - “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,” and assess the level of access to education for young people, the quality of education, and enrolment rate in educational institutions. All young people should have access to quality education that promotes their development, health, employment and active participation in public life.

The latest source of information about youth literacy is the 2017 data of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), according to which, literacy rate among the population aged 15-24 years in Georgia is 99.64%, for female population the figure is - 99.49%, and for male population - 99,77%. This figure is slightly lower than in previous years: 99.7% in 2014 and 99.83% in 2002<sup>9</sup>. In terms of literacy assessment, the results of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2018<sup>10</sup> are also important; according to the results, the average 15-year-old in Georgia scored 380 points on the PISA reading assessment, whereas the average score for the 79 countries surveyed was 489.

According to the UNESCO 2018 data, Gross Enrolment Ratio in secondary education is 105.98%<sup>11</sup>. The Gross Enrolment Ratio shows the total enrolment within a country in a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population in the official age group corresponding to this level of education. The Gross Enrolment Ratio can be over 100% as it includes students who enrolled late and those who are repeating a grade. Gross Enrolment Ratio among girls is 106.78%, and among boys - 105.27%. The Ratio has shown an annual increase since 2014:

Gross Enrolment Ratio	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total	97.45	99.35	100.91	103.38	105.98
Female	99.14	100.8	101.85	103.96	106.78
Male	95.95	98.08	100.08	102.87	105.27

Source: UNESCO

A high Gross Enrolment Ratio reflects a high level of participation regardless of whether students belong to the general education age group or not. If the rate is close to or above the 100%, it means that the country can provide the school age population with secondary

<sup>9</sup> The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) - <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/ge>

<sup>10</sup> Georgia, Student performance (PISA 2018), <https://gpseducation.oecd.org/CountryProfile?plotter=h5&primaryCountry=GEO&treshold=10&topic=PI>

<sup>11</sup> The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) - <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/ge>

education, although this rate does not determine the level of their enrolment. Therefore, achieving a 100% rate is necessary but not sufficient and the number of cases of early or late school enrolment and repetition of a grade should be reduced in the future.

In this regard, the Net Enrolment Ratio is also important, which is the number of population of the age of a particular level of education that are enrolled in that level of education, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group. According to the UNESCO 2018 data, the Net Enrolment Ratio in secondary education is 95.95% (according to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) for the same year, this figure is 96%<sup>12</sup>). Net Enrolment Ratio among girls is 96.84%, and among boys - 95.16%. The Ratio has shown an annual increase since 2014<sup>13</sup>:

Net Enrolment Ratio	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total	90.22	91.3	92.41	94.21	95.95
Female	91.58	92.79	93.52	95.05	96.84
Male	89.01	89.98	91.44	93.47	95.16

*Source: UNESCO*

However, it should be noted that the quality of education remains as a serious challenge. According to the results of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2018,<sup>14</sup> Georgia ranks 7<sup>th</sup> from the bottom out of 79 countries. PISA is the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment, which measures 15-year-olds' skills necessary for full participation in society. According to the report, compared to the data of 2015, the results of Georgian students in all three main areas (reading, mathematics, science) have deteriorated sharply. Students in Georgia score 380 points in reading literacy (compared to an average of 487 points in OECD countries), 398 points - in mathematics (compared to an average of 489 points in OECD countries), and 383 - in science (compared to an average of 489 points in OECD countries).

In 2019, 8.9% of young people aged 15-29 prematurely dropped out of institutions of secondary, vocational and higher education.<sup>15</sup> The indicator covers cases of young people, who had been enrolled in general, vocational or higher education, but dropped out of the programmes before graduation. 7,219 students dropped out of general education institutions,

<sup>12</sup> The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2019, [https://www.unicef.org/georgia/sites/unicef.org.georgia/files/2019-11/education\\_ge.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/georgia/sites/unicef.org.georgia/files/2019-11/education_ge.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) - <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/ge>

<sup>14</sup> Georgia, Student performance (PISA 2018), <https://gpseducation.oecd.org/CountryProfile?plotter=h5&primaryCountry=GEO&treshold=10&topic=PI>

<sup>15</sup> The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia

including 2,751 girls and 4,468 boys. According to the regions, the most cases were observed in Tbilisi, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti:

Region	Female			Male		
	15-19	20-24	25-29	15-19	20-24	25-29
Abkhazia	20			23		
Adjara A.R.	204	7		366	10	1
Guria	52	1		102	2	2
Tbilisi	774	9		1419	23	1
Imereti	207	6		362	7	
Kakheti	296	3		474	13	1
Mtskheta-Mtaneti	36	2		96	2	
Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti	3			13		
Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	156	3	1	228	2	
Samtskhe-Javakheti	97		1	118		
Kvemo kartli	723	9	1	941	15	
Shida Kartli	137	3		238	8	1

Source: The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia

According to the GeoStat 2019 data, 96.2% of young people aged 15-29 have used the Internet within last 3 months<sup>16</sup>:

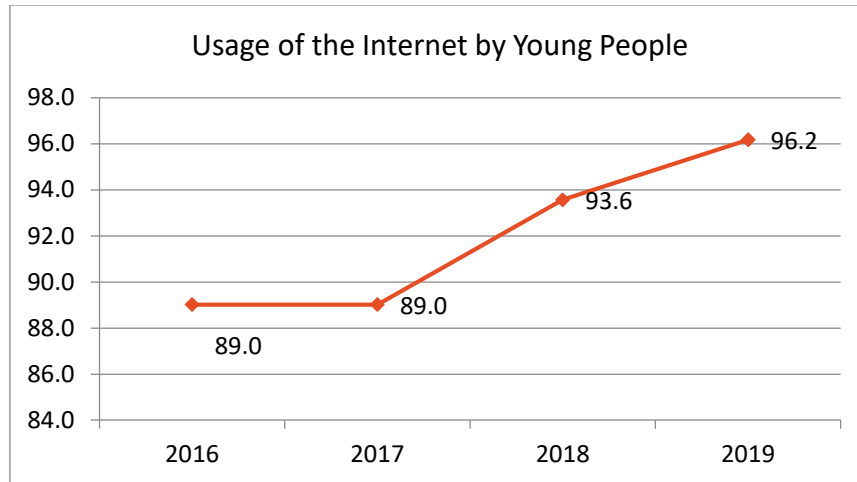
July, 2019	Within last 3 months	96.2
	More than 3 months ago	0.4
	Never used	3.4

Source: GeoStat

On average 99% of young people in the EU (28 countries) have access to the Internet<sup>17</sup>. Although this percentage is about 3% lower in Georgia, according to the data of last 3 years, there has been a significant improvement - compared to 2016 data, the use of the Internet by young people has increased by 7.2%:

<sup>16</sup> Information and Communication Technologies Usage in Households, National Statistics Office of Georgia.

<sup>17</sup> Eurostat, 2019.



Source: GeoStat

Young people use mobile phones more (98.1%) than computers (84.7%). 95.9% of the young people, who reported having used the Internet within last 3 months, say that they use the Internet every day or almost every day:

July, 2019	Every day or almost every day	95.9
	At least once a week (but not every day)	3.5
	Less than once a week	0.6

Source: GeoStat

In general education institutions, 100% of students study information and communication technologies in grades I, V, VI, where it is a compulsory subject.

Most frequently, young people use the Internet for participating in social networks (98.6%), for telephoning over the internet/video calls over the internet (89.4%) and for sending/receiving e-mails (67.7%). The use of the Internet by young people for educational purposes, which acquired special significance during the coronavirus pandemic, has not been studied.

Distribution of population aged 15-29 by purposes of the Internet use % (among the young people, who reported having used the Internet within last 3 months)		
July, 2019	Participating in social networks	98.6
	Reading online news sites/newspapers/news magazines	56.4
	Sending/receiving e-mails	67.7
	Telephoning over the internet/video calls over the internet	89.4
	Seeking health-related information	47.1
	Finding information about goods or services	48.1
	Looking for a job or sending a job application	25.6
	Internet Banking	35.2



Downloading software (other than games software)	34.6
--	------

Source: GeoStat

Key Findings:

Almost 100% of young people in Georgia can read and write simple texts (UNESCO). As for reading literacy, students' skills in this regard have deteriorated sharply compared to previous years (the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)). Secondary education is fully accessible to young people; at the same time, the dropout rate among young people is high, which requires more in-depth research to investigate the causes.

According to the available data, access to the Internet for young people exceeds 96%. Compulsory school programmes enable students to master the skills needed to use digital technology, although there is a need for research in the use of digital technology and the Internet for educational purposes by young people, especially in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, which implies obtaining not only quantitative but also qualitative data. In addition, it is important to research the quality of digital skills of young people and/or relevant curricula.

Indicators in the domain of education do not fully reflect the overall situation in the country with regard to education and the impact of this situation on the state of young people. The result of consultations with young people, as well as surveys conducted locally among young people, show that young people are often dissatisfied with the quality of education available to them, although these studies are sporadic and do not provide a complete picture. Accordingly, it is recommended that an in-depth survey of youth satisfaction with the quality of education be conducted and an appropriate indicator be added to the updated Youth Index document.

In addition, one of the indicators of the quality of education is the employment rate and quality among young people. Therefore, the domains of education and employment are closely intertwined.

## Domain 2: Employment

Indicators:

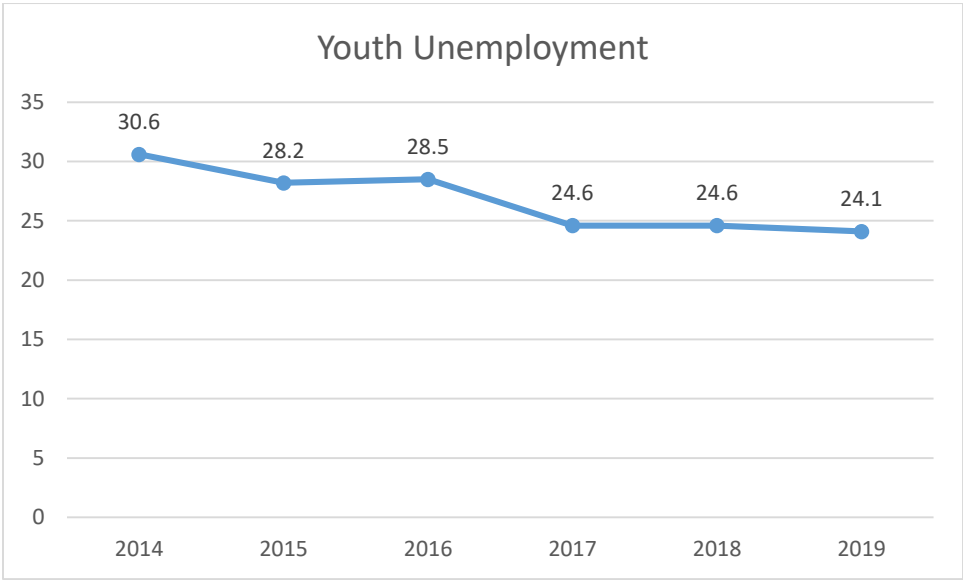
- Unemployment rate
- Long-term unemployment
- Youth not in education, employment, or training (NEET)

<p><b>24.1%</b> of young people are unemployed</p>	<p><b>26.1%</b></p>
--	---------------------

	of unemployed young people have been unemployed for more than 12 months
<b>30.6%</b>	
of young people are unemployed, are not enrolled in an educational institution, are not involved in non-formal educational activities	

The indicators for the domain of employment correspond to the Sustainable Development Goal 8 “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all” and assess the level of employment among young people, whether the transition from education to employment is devoid of major obstacles, availability of opportunities in the event of unemployment, and the level of involvement of young people in education or training that supports their future employment.

According to the GeoStat 2019 data, the unemployment rate among young people aged 15-29 is 24.1%. This figure has been reduced by 6.5% compared to 2014 data:



Source: GeoStat

The economic activity rate among young people living in Georgia is 51.7%. It is highest among young people aged 25-29 (73.9%) and lowest among young people aged 15-19 (15.5%):

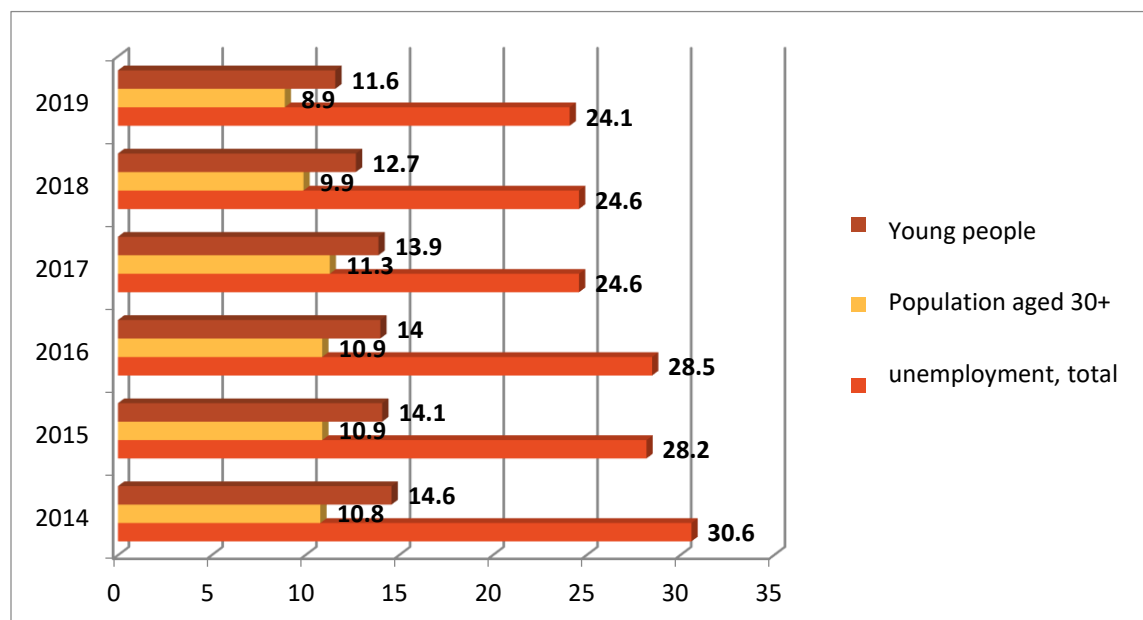
	15-19	20-24	25-29
Total population	206.0	199.7	249.1
Economically active population (labour force)	31.9	122.6	184.0

Unemployment rate (%)	29.7	30.5	18.9
Economic activity rate (%)	15.5	61.4	73.9

Source: GeoStat

In the EU countries (28 countries) the average youth unemployment rate is 11.2%, which is nearly half of the youth unemployment rate in Georgia, although in some countries (Northern Macedonia, Greece and Spain) the figures are higher than in Georgia (30.5%, 28.9% and 24.7%, respectively)<sup>18</sup>.

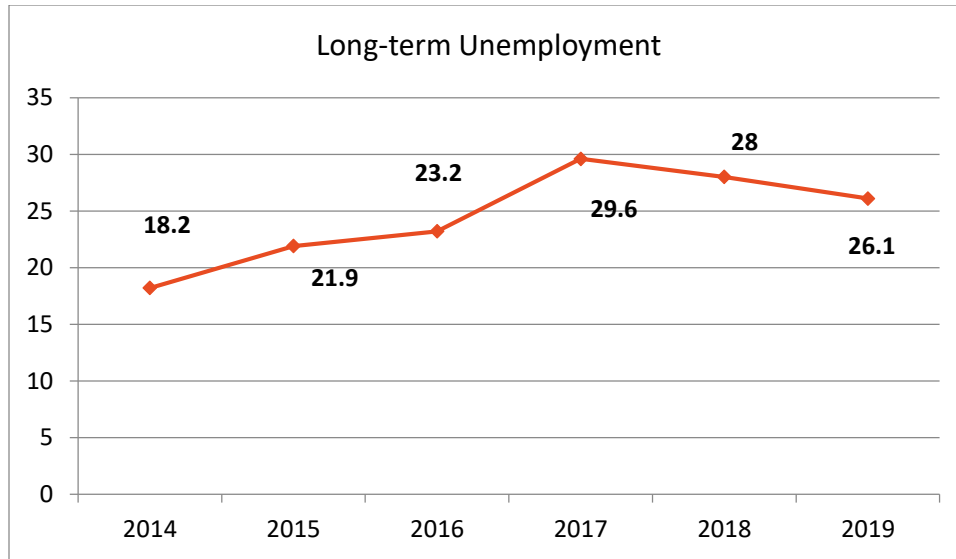
Although the youth unemployment rate in Georgia has slightly decreased since 2014, it is much higher than the unemployment rate among the entire population, as well as among the population over the age of 30. This indicates that young people face more serious employment-related problems compared to other age groups in the population, and the problem has persisted for years:



Source: GeoStat

According to the 2019 data, the share of long-term unemployed (>12 months) 15-29 year olds in the total number of unemployed young people is 26.1%. Although there has been a downward trend in the last two years, this figure is still significantly higher than in 2014:

<sup>18</sup> Eurostat, Youth Unemployment 2019. <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>



Source: GeoStat

According to the GeoStat 2019 data, there are 200.4 thousand young people aged 15-29, who are neither in education, nor in employment or training (NEET) in Georgia - 30.6% of young people of the age group. Even in previous years, the proportion of “NEET” young people was high, accounting for about a third of young people. Particularly alarming in this regard is the proportion of “NEET” young women (36.9%):

Year	Not in Education, Employment, or Training (in thousands)			NEET (%)		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
2014	246.9	145.5	101.4	33.4	40.2	26.8
2015	222.0	134.1	87.9	31.8	40.3	24.0
2016	217.4	126.8	90.6	32.2	39.7	25.4
2017	210.5	119.4	91.0	30.0	35.9	24.7
2018	217.0	127.1	89.9	31.6	38.9	24.9
2019	200.4	114.1	86.3	30.6	36.9	25.0

Source: GeoStat

According to the Eurostat 2019 data<sup>19</sup>, the average rate of “NEET” among 15-29 year olds is 10.3% in 18 EU countries, which is 3 times lower than the rate in Georgia. It is especially noteworthy that, apart from youth unemployment, the number of NEET young people in any EU country is not as high as in Georgia. In the countries where this percentage is the highest (Romania and Bulgaria), it does not exceed 18.8% and 18.1%, respectively.

<sup>19</sup> Eurostat, NEET rates, 2019. <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

### Key Findings:

For years, the problem of unemployment among young people has persisted in Georgia. Although the percentage of unemployed young people has decreased by 6% since 2014, the number of unemployed young people in the country is significantly higher than the unemployment rate among the population over the age of 30. Particularly noteworthy is the number of NEET young people, corresponding to about one-third of the total number of young people, over the last few years, and the fact that the dynamics has shown hardly any improvement in this regard.

For the purpose of assessing the state of young people with respect to their employment, unemployment rate among them and the proportion of NEET young people are not sufficient. It is necessary to add the following indicators to the Youth Index, though not quite possible due to the lack of relevant data:

*First is the number of young job-seekers and the duration of job-seeking:* young people need special support in the process of transition from education to employment. Exploring the first job search will enable us to observe how the environment supports young people to overcome this difficult stage;

*Informal employment,* which gives the full picture of youth employment and helps to assess the extent to which labour rights of young people are protected;

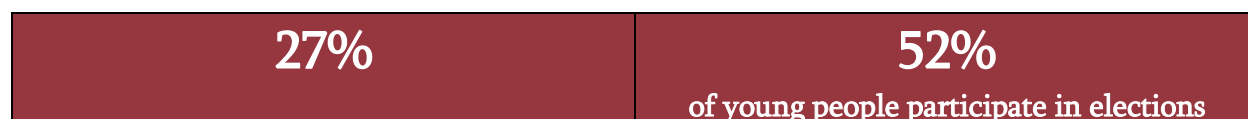
*Job Satisfaction of young people,* which helps to assess youth employment practices and their compliance with employment standards;

*Access and involvement of young people in non-formal education and lifelong learning opportunities:* adding this indicator is important to assess the extent to which existing policies help bring the skills of young people into line with the rapidly changing labour market.

## **Domain 3: Participation**

Indicators:

- Youth volunteering
- Participation in elections
- Promoting youth interests onto the political agenda
- Representation in Parliament
- Existence of the National Youth Policy Document



of young people have performed volunteer work at least once in the past year	
<b>25%</b> of young people think that the political agenda takes into account their interests to a large extent or to some extent	Among the elected members of the Parliament of Georgia <b>0.67%</b> were under 30
<p>The process of <b>updating</b> the National Youth Policy is currently underway</p>	

The indicators for the domain of participation correspond to the Sustainable Development Goal 16 - „Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” and assess participation of young people in political and public life.

The latest data on youth volunteering are provided by a 2016 study - “Generation in Transition, Youth Study 2016 – Georgia”<sup>20</sup> – conducted by Friedrich Ebert Foundation. According to the study, 27% of young people have volunteered in the last twelve months. The data are, in fact, identically distributed by both age and regions. Majority of young people participated in community work locally (36%), 28% helped older people or people with special needs, and about one in five respondents helped their peers with their studies (21%).

According to the same study (“Generation in Transition, Youth Study 2016 - Georgia”<sup>21</sup>), 56% of young people believe that their vote is important or very important for the election outcome. Accordingly, the young people who are eligible to vote, mainly participate in the elections (52%):

*Frequency of voting and importance of participation in elections*

Frequency of voting	%	importance of participation in elections	%
In all elections	23	Very important	28
In most elections	8	Fairly important	28
In a few elections	21	Slightly important	9
Never	16	Not at all important	10
Not eligible yet	32	No opinion	25

<sup>20</sup> "Generation in Transition, Youth Study 2016 - Georgia", Friedrich Ebert Foundation: [http://www.fes-caucasus.org/fileadmin/Publications/2016/Geo\\_YouthStudy\\_Georgia\\_Web.pdf](http://www.fes-caucasus.org/fileadmin/Publications/2016/Geo_YouthStudy_Georgia_Web.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> "Generation in Transition, Youth Study 2016 - Georgia", Friedrich Ebert Foundation: [http://www.fes-caucasus.org/fileadmin/Publications/2016/Geo\\_YouthStudy\\_Georgia\\_Web.pdf](http://www.fes-caucasus.org/fileadmin/Publications/2016/Geo_YouthStudy_Georgia_Web.pdf)

*Source: Generation in Transition, Youth Study 2016 – Georgia*

The above data are based on a youth survey. However, a similar trend is observed in the 18-35 age group, in the 2019 and 2017 results of the “Caucasus Barometer” - the annual household survey about social economic issues and political attitudes conducted by the Caucasus Research Resource Centre (CRRC)<sup>22</sup>:

	Yes	No	No opinion/ Refused to answer
Did you participate in the first round of the presidential elections on October 28, 2018?	61	38	0
Did you participate in the second round of the presidential elections on November 28, 2018?	57	41	2
Did you participate in the parliamentary elections on October 8, 2016?	60	39	1

According to the results of the "Generation in Transition, Youth Study 2016 - Georgia"<sup>23</sup>, young people believe that their interests are either underrepresented or not represented at all in politics. Only two percent of respondents believe that the political agenda takes into account the interests of young people:

*Level of representation of youth issues in Georgian Politics*

Considerably	To some degree	A little	Not at all	No opinion
2%	23%	49%	21%	5%

According to the same study, political parties, parliament, central and local governments are considered as the least trustworthy institutions among young people (25%-26%). In addition, it should be noted that only 1% of respondents express open trust in local political institutions. Religious institutions are considered as the least trustworthy institutions - 81% of young people surveyed trust the church and religious institutions in general (considerably - 58%, to some degree - 23%), followed by the army (76%) and the police (62%). The trust in international and non-governmental organizations is higher than in local political institutions.

As a result of the 2016 elections, only 0.67% of Georgian MPs are under the age of 30, which is a significant imbalance in terms of youth political representation compared to the percentage

<sup>22</sup> Online Data Analysis Website of the Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC), <https://caucasusbarometer.org/ge/>

<sup>23</sup> "Generation in Transition, Youth Study 2016 - Georgia", Friedrich Ebert Foundation: [http://www.fes-caucasus.org/fileadmin/Publications/2016/Geo\\_YouthStudy\\_Georgia\\_Web.pdf](http://www.fes-caucasus.org/fileadmin/Publications/2016/Geo_YouthStudy_Georgia_Web.pdf)

of young people in the total population (almost a quarter). According to the 2018 report of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Georgia also lags behind the global rate of parliamentarians under the age of 30 (2.2%) and Georgia ranks 98th out of 147 countries<sup>24</sup>.

One of the main mechanisms for ensuring youth participation is the youth policy document, the existence of which is an important indicator influencing youth participation.

The National Youth Policy Document of Georgia was approved by the Government of Georgia in 2012, and the revised and updated version of the document was adopted in 2014. In 2015, in accordance with the strategic directions of the policy, the “Action Plan for the Development of the National Youth Policy of Georgia (2015-2020)” was developed and approved. It covers more than 200 specific and time-bound programmes, projects and activities to be implemented by various government agencies to ensure implementation of the Youth policy and to address the challenges facing young people.

Evaluation of the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Youth Policy of Georgia<sup>25</sup> demonstrated that the implementation of the Youth Policy turned out to be a significant challenge in practice and was not fully implemented. It is estimated that 51 of the 207 programmes to be implemented as part of the Action Plan have been completed and 55 are ongoing. Some programmes were suspended (14 programmes), some - not implemented (28 programmes) and some did not allow for the assessment of their status (59 programmes). What is more remarkable is that it is impossible to determine exactly what positive impact the National Youth Policy has had (or is having) on the state of young people. At the moment, the National Youth Policy is being reviewed and a new concept and strategy is being developed.

### *Key Findings:*

“Participation and active citizenship is about having the right, the means, the space and the opportunity and where necessary the support to participate in and influence decisions and engage in actions and activities so as to contribute to building a better society.”<sup>26</sup> Volunteering is one of the most important elements of youth participation, which shows the extent to which young people are engaged in social processes. Given that volunteering is also an important source of personal or professional development for young people, it is essential to involve as many young people as possible in volunteering. According to the available data, the percentage

---

<sup>24</sup> Youth participation in national parliaments: 2018, Inter-Parliamentary Union, <file:///C:/Users/Rati/Desktop/EN%20-%20Youth%20in%20Parliaments-WEB.PDF>

<sup>25</sup>Assessment of the Status of Youth Policy Implementation, 2019 (UNFPA, UNDP) <http://www.parliament.ge/ge/ajax/downloadFile/128473/%E1%83%90%E1%83%9C%E1%83%92%E1%83%90%E1%83%A0%E1%83%98%E1%83%A8%E1%83%98-%E1%83%9B%E1%83%94%E1%83%9D%E1%83%A0%E1%83%94-%E1%83%A1%E1%83%90%E1%83%9B%E1%83%A3%E1%83%A8%E1%83%90%E1%83%9D-%E1%83%95%E1%83%94%E1%83%A0%E1%83%A1%E1%83%98%E1%83%90>

<sup>26</sup> Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life, 2003.



of youth participation is quite low compared to the desired one; in addition, data on youth volunteering are not collected regularly, and available data (2016) are outdated and do not reflect the current situation. In addition to quantitative data, it is important to determine the volunteered time and to identify the extent to which incentive mechanisms of volunteers (2015 Law on Volunteering) contribute to the implementation of both one-time activities and long-term volunteering programmes.

Young people have the right to participate in the decision-making process that concerns them and they need appropriate support in this regard. This goal can be achieved through the introduction of a structured dialogue approach - at the national level, and through youth councils and other platforms - at the local level. Ensuring the participation of young people in the decision-making processes can have a positive impact on the indicator of promoting youth interests onto the political agenda, though the indicator is also far from the desired reality (25%). At present, there is no updated data on the participation of young people in the decision-making process. According to a 2014 survey conducted by UNICEF, the percentage of young people participating in the decision-making process did not exceed 10.9% of young people surveyed; accordingly, it is recommended that youth participation in the decision-making process be measured regularly and that the relevant indicator be integrated into the next updated document of the Youth Index.

The representation of young people in the parliament is much lower than recommended. According to the IPU recommendation, the percentage of youth representation in the central legislative body should be close to the percentage of young voters out of the total number of voters. It is also recommended that surveys reflect youth representation at the local level (in the municipal councils) and that the relevant indicator be added to the list of the Youth Index indicators.

As for the indicator of the existence of a youth policy document, Georgia has had such a document since 2012, however, according to the assessment conducted in 2019, the implementation of the Youth Policy in a proper scale and quality remains a challenge, which requires special attention.

## **Domain 4: Safety and Security**

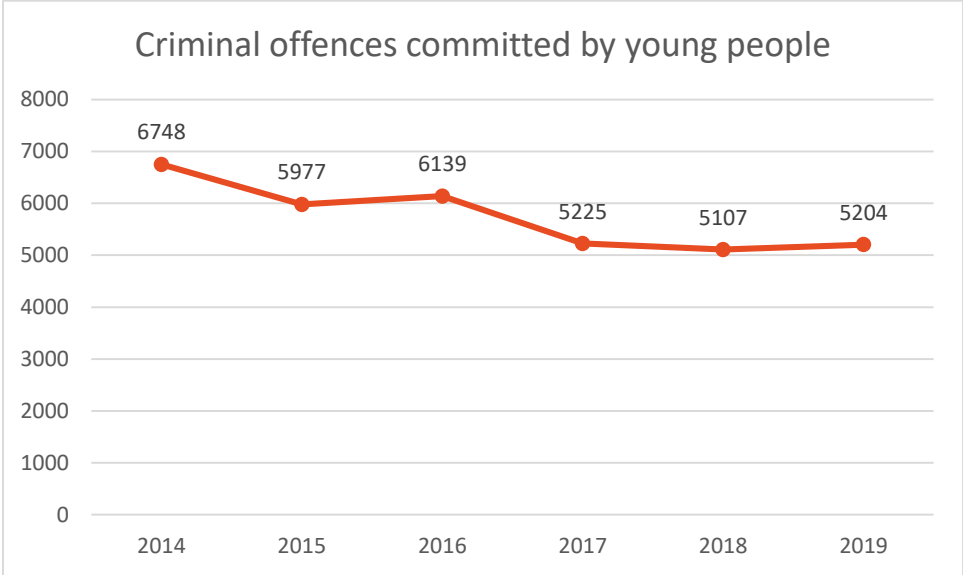
Indicators:

- Crime rate
- Road-related accidents
- Rate of violence
- Young people living in poverty

In 2019, criminal offenses committed by young people equalled to <b>755</b> per 100,000 young people	In 2019, acts of violence committed by young people equalled to <b>76</b> per 100,000 young people
In 2019, <b>19</b> young people were killed in road accidents per 100,000 young people	In 2019, <b>10.4%</b> of young people received subsistence benefits

The indicators for the domain of safety and security correspond to the Sustainable Development Goal 1 – “End poverty in all its forms everywhere” and to the Sustainable Development Goal 16 - „Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” and assess the environment and social conditions in which young people live.

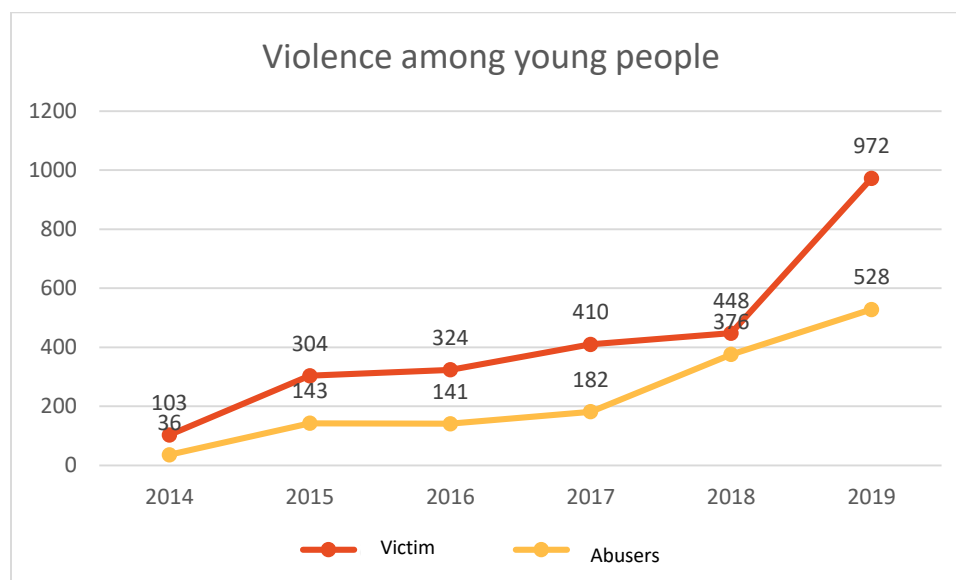
As of 2019, there were 5,204 criminal offenses committed by 14-29 year olds, i.e. 755 criminal offenses per 100,000 young people. In recent years there has been the following dynamics<sup>27</sup>:



According to the 2019 data, there were 528 violent crimes committed by 17-24 year olds, including 409 cases involving young men. Accordingly, the rate of violence per 100,000 young people is 76. It is also important to consider cases of violence where young people aged 17-24 themselves were victims of violence. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia,

<sup>27</sup> National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat), 2019. <https://www.geostat.ge/ka/modules/categories/132/siskhlis-samartlis-statistika>

972 such cases were registered in 2019, in 855 of which young women were victims of violence. In recent years there has been the following dynamics <sup>28</sup>:



According to the data provided by GeoStat, in 2019, 131 young people aged 15-29 died in road-related accidents, while 55 young people in cars were injured as a result of road-related accidents. 19 out of every 100,000 young people die in road-related accidents<sup>29</sup>:

Year	Number of road-related accidents	Young people in cars injured as a result of road-related accidents	Number of road-related accidents, per 100,000 young people
2014	149	74	19
2015	179	107	23
2016	172	99	23
2017	129	53	18
2018	123	56	17
2019	131	55	19

Source: GeoStat

In 2019, 71,513 young people aged 15-29 received subsistence benefits, which is 10.45% of the total number of young people in the age group<sup>30</sup>:

Region	Number of young people receiving subsistence benefits
--------	---

<sup>28</sup> The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, 2019 <https://info.police.ge/page?id=102>.

<sup>29</sup> National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat), 2019.

<sup>30</sup> Social Service Agency, 2019.

	15-20		21-25		26-29	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Tbilisi	3,782	3,862	1,502	2,070	1,166	2,135
Guria	749	776	373	441	358	468
Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti	309	311	183	179	160	148
Kakheti	1,717	1,724	779	982	834	1,252
Imereti	2,222	2,264	1,065	1,240	918	1,436
Mtskheta-Mtaneti	484	474	241	278	170	312
Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	2,109	2,147	1,072	1,274	1,080	1,539
Samtskhe-Javakheti	481	515	172	257	171	287
Kvemo kartli	1,952	1,943	708	1,065	707	1,388
Shida Kartli	1,732	1,708	810	949	765	1,056
Adjara A.R.	1,804	1,937	869	1,345	986	1,321
Abkhazia						
Total	17,341	17,661	7,774	10,080	7,315	11,342

*Source: Social Service Agency*

In 2019, a total of 143,850 young people were registered in the Unified Database of Socially Vulnerable Families of the Social Service Agency, and the number of persons registered as having below 100,000 rating scores was 94,572. 131,416 young people registered in the unified database did not receive salaries when filling out the declaration<sup>31</sup>.

*Key Findings:*

The number of criminal offenses committed by young people is significantly reduced compared to the 2014 data, though the rate is still high and requires additional preventive measures. There are also reports of violence against young people; young victims are almost twice the number of young abusers, and the majority of victims of violence (855 out of 972) are young women aged 17-25. The number of cases of violence among young people has increased significantly over the last 12 months (376 cases - in 2018, and 528 cases - in 2019), and the number of cases of violence against young people has also increased (748 cases - in 2018; 972 cases - in 2019), and the trend requires significant attention. The source of the data is the statistical database and studies conducted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, with the target age group being young people aged 17-24, therefore information for young people aged 15-29 is not available. It is important for state agencies to introduce a unified approach to the process of further research and data collection, and to consider citizens aged

<sup>31</sup> Social Service Agency, 2019

15-29 as the study audience, as defined in the 2014 National Youth Policy document of Georgia approved by the Government of Georgia.

Road-related accidents remain the leading cause of death for children and young people in the age group of 5-29 year olds worldwide<sup>32</sup>. The mortality rate among young people related to road accidents in Georgia is also noteworthy and requires complex actions aimed at ensuring road traffic safety and safety of drivers and passengers.

According to the data of Social Service Agency, 10.45% of young people live in extreme poverty, and the number of vulnerable young people in the country is twice as high. Severe economic conditions and poverty increase social risks and create fertile ground for the increase in crime, deterioration of health or unhealthy lifestyle. Therefore, it is necessary to take complex actions aimed at alleviating poverty among young people and developing special services to support, educate and employ young people living in socially disadvantaged conditions.

## Domain 5: Health

Indicators:

- Physical activity
- Mortality rate
- Mental and behavioural disorders
- Comprehensive knowledge about HIV prevention
- Cannabis consumption
- Suicide rate
- Chemical and behavioural addiction

<p><b>19%</b> of young people are engaged in regular physical activity</p>	<p>Mortality rate among young people is <b>74</b></p>
<p>There are <b>175</b> recorded cases of mental and behavioural disorders in young people aged 15-24, per 100,000 young people</p>	<p><b>13.5%</b><sub>b</sub> of 15-29 year olds have comprehensive knowledge about HIV prevention</p>
<p><b>15.7%</b></p>	<p>Suicide rate per 100,000 young people is <b>39</b></p>

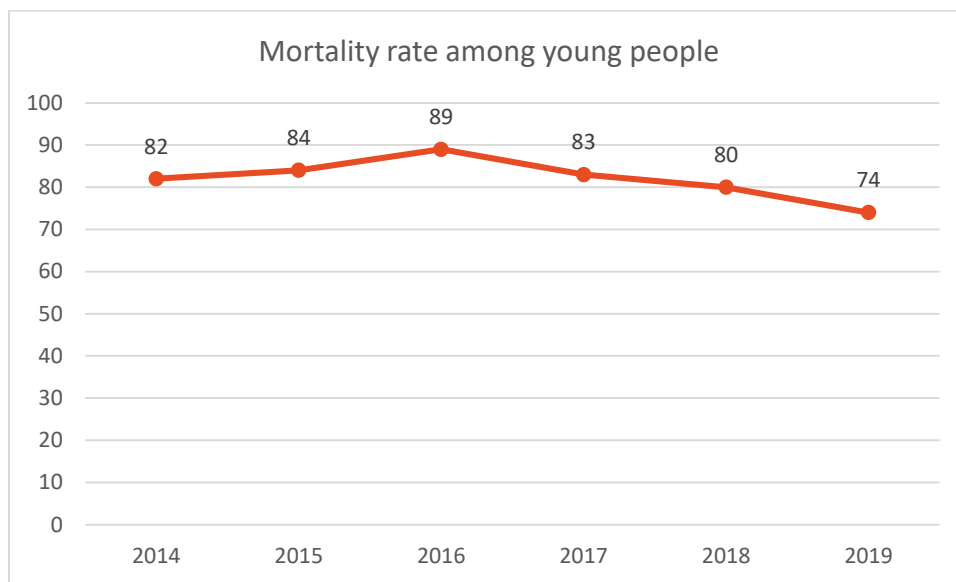
<sup>32</sup> World Health Organization, "Fact Sheet: Road Traffic Injuries," <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs358/en/>.

of 14-24 year olds reported having consumed cannabis during the past 30 days

The indicators for the domain of health correspond to the Sustainable Development Goal 3 – “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages” – and assess affordability and quality of health care opportunities for young people as well as their healthy lifestyle.

The most recent data available on youth physical activity is the 2017 data. According to a survey conducted in 2017 by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia, the rate of physical activity among young people is 19%, which is slightly lower than the overall rate of physical activity of the entire population, which is 22%. Young people aged 18-25 are more often engaged in some kind of physical activity than all other age groups<sup>33</sup>.

According to the GeoStat 2019 data, there were 498 cases of deaths in the age group of 15-29 year olds, including 378 men and 120 women. Accordingly, the youth mortality rate, which measures the number of deaths per 100,000 young people, was 74. Since 2014 to date, the mortality rate has shown the following dynamics:



Source: GeoStat

According to the data available at the end of 2018, 76,508 cases of mental and behavioural disorders were registered in outpatient polyclinics in Georgia, prevalence – 2,053.1, including in children – 3,217 cases, prevalence - 429.1. 4,859 patients diagnosed for the first time with

<sup>33</sup> The Report on the Survey in the Field of Sport in Georgia (2017), the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia

mental and behavioural disorders were registered - the incidence was 130.4, including 779 children - the incidence was 103.9<sup>34</sup>.

In 2018, 758 new cases of mental and behavioural disorders were reported among young people aged 15-24.

Distribution of new cases of mental and behavioural disorders by age: groups:

	15-19	20-24
<b>Mental and behavioural disorders</b>	326	432
Including:		
Organic mental disorders	8	25
Mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use	2	22
Schizophrenia, schizotypal and delusional disorders	77	124
Including: schizophrenia	15	35
Mood affective disorders	27	42
Neurotic, stress-related and somatoform disorders	61	136
Behavioural syndromes associated with physiological disturbances and physical factors	1	4
Disorders of adult personality and behaviour	0	24
Mental retardation	114	49
Intellectual developmental disorder	3	2
Behavioural and emotional disorders in children and adolescents	33	4

Source: National Centre for Disease Control & Public Health, Georgia (NCDC & PH)

In 2018, 672 new cases of HIV infection were registered:

New cases of HIV infection, total (numbers)				
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
564	717	719	631	672

Source: GeoStat

According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) conducted in Georgia<sup>35</sup>, 13.5% of young people aged 15-29 have comprehensive knowledge of HIV prevention.<sup>36</sup> 14.1% of young

<sup>34</sup> Health Care, Statistical Yearbook, Georgia, 2018, The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, National Center for Disease Control & Public Health, Georgia (NCDC & PH)

<sup>35</sup> The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in Georgia, 2018-2019, UNICEF, [https://www.unicef.org/georgia/ka/საქართველოში-მრავალინდიკატორული-კლასტერული-კვლევის-mics-ძირითადი-მიგნებები?fbclid=IwAR0b0njdcK3hG8t3msSkI5o6JrCKd5X0aBM\\_O2f-dWbbUIQRxzRoW58owb0](https://www.unicef.org/georgia/ka/საქართველოში-მრავალინდიკატორული-კლასტერული-კვლევის-mics-ძირითადი-მიგნებები?fbclid=IwAR0b0njdcK3hG8t3msSkI5o6JrCKd5X0aBM_O2f-dWbbUIQRxzRoW58owb0)

men and 13.2% of young women have comprehensive knowledge of HIV prevention. The following distribution has been revealed among age groups:

Age groups, male	%	Age groups, female	%
15-24	10.9	15-24	11.5
15-19	8.3	15-19	9.5
15-17	8.1	15-17	9.7
18-19	8.7	18-19	9.1
20-24	13.6	20-24	12.9
25-29	20.0	25-29	15.2

According to the available data, 15.7% of 14-24 year olds have consumed cannabis during the past 30 days. 9.3% of them are adolescents aged 14-17 (61.2% - boys and 38.8% - girls)<sup>37</sup>. While studying the situation of young people with regard to consumption of psychoactive substances, it is also important to study their situation with regard to the consumption of tobacco and alcohol; according to the same study, 14% of young people aged 14-24 smoke 10 cigarettes or more daily, while excessive alcohol consumption (5 cups or more in a row for the last 30 days) is reported by 36.3% of young people.

70% of young people aged 15-29 consume alcohol, including those who consume it regularly and those who consume it very infrequently. 2% of young people consume alcohol daily. Among young people who consume alcohol on a weekly basis, young men dominate (male - 27%, female - 5%). The rate of weekly alcohol consumption increases with age. Alcohol is acceptable for 49% of young men, while 16% believe that alcohol consumption is necessary to be accepted in a company.<sup>38</sup> Prevalence of alcohol consumption by gender:

	Regularly (every day)	Several times a week	Only at weekends	Rarely	Never	Refused to answer
Male	3%	15%	9%	55%	17%	2%
Female	0%	2%	3%	54%	42%	0%
Total	2%	9%	6%	54%	29%	1%

Source: *Generation in Transition, Youth Study 2016 - Georgia*

<sup>36</sup> Comprehensive knowledge about HIV prevention means that people know about the two ways to prevent HIV (having only one, uninfected sexual partner and using condoms during each sexual intercourse), know that an HIV-infected person might look healthy, and can identify the two most common misconceptions about HIV transmission

<sup>37</sup> Measuring Risk and Protective Factors for Substance Use, and Other Problem Behaviors among adolescents and young people in Georgia, 2019, Association "Bemoni Public Union"

<sup>38</sup> "Generation in Transition, Youth Study 2016 - Georgia", Friedrich Ebert Foundation: [http://www.fes-caucasus.org/fileadmin/Publications/2016/Geo\\_YouthStudy\\_Georgia\\_Web.pdf](http://www.fes-caucasus.org/fileadmin/Publications/2016/Geo_YouthStudy_Georgia_Web.pdf)



According to the data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, in 2019, there were 269 attempts at intentional self-harm among young people aged 15-29, of which 88 ended in death<sup>39</sup>; Accordingly, the suicide rate per 100,000 young people (including both non-fatal and fatal) was 39, the highest rate in three years.

Year	Cases of intentional self-harm	Number of deaths caused as a result of intentional self-harm, from a total number of attempts	Number of cases of intentional self-harm per 100,000 young people
2017	154	105	21
2018	234	92	33
2019	269	88	39

***Key Findings:***

The health of young people requires special attention in many ways. Physical activity of young people is low (19%); the number of new cases of mental and behavioural disorders is high in the 15-24 age group; especially alarming is the growing rate of suicides among young people, which reached a record high in the last three years in 2019 (39 out of every 100,000 young people).

In 2018, 672 new cases of HIV infection were registered among young people, more (+41) than in the previous year. Against this background, the low level of awareness of young people about HIV prevention is worrying - only 13.5% of young people have comprehensive knowledge about HIV prevention.

In international practice, the consumption of psychoactive substances by young people is mainly assessed by the frequency and quantity of the use of tobacco, alcohol and soft drugs (including cannabis); however, following the world practice with regard to indices, only one of the three is selected for the purpose of observing the dynamics. Compared to alcohol and tobacco, cannabis has a stronger impact and, at the same time, it is an illegal soft drug in Georgia. Consequently, studying the dynamics of its consumption shows certain trends in the use of psychoactive substances by young people.

---

<sup>39</sup> The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. <https://info.police.ge/page?id=107>

Along with cannabis, alcohol, and tobacco, gambling and technology addiction can be added to the list of chemical and behavioural addictions. Data on the latter are incomplete, not studied in the 15-29 age group, which, among other reasons, is due to the lack or absence of relevant services and the sensitivity of the issues. Prior to further updating of the Index, it is important to conduct accurate and large-scale studies to reveal the full picture of chemical and behavioural addictions in young people; in addition, ensuring the health of young people requires complex informational and educational preventive actions, offering services tailored to the specifics and needs of youth groups, which should be equally focused on improving both their physical and mental health.

## Domain 6: Gender

Indicators:

- Early childbearing
- Abortion rate
- Child marriage
- Perceptions of safety among women

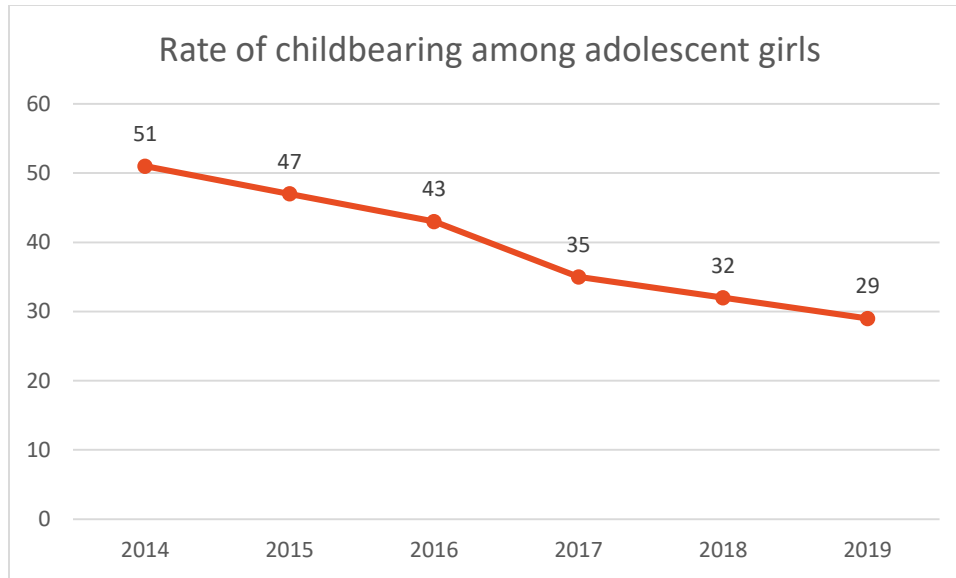
<p>Rate of childbearing is</p> <p><b>29<sup>40</sup></b></p> <p>per 1,000 15-19-year-old adolescent girls</p>	<p>Abortion rate is</p> <p><b>30</b></p> <p>per 1,000 15-29 year olds</p>
<p><b>13.9%</b></p> <p>of 20-24-year-old women had been married before their 18th birthday</p>	<p><b>78%</b></p> <p>of young women aged 15-29 feel safe walking alone in their own neighbourhood at night</p>

The indicators for the domain of gender correspond to the Sustainable Development Goal 5 – “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” and assess the existence and accessibility of equal opportunities for young women and men and the state of young women.

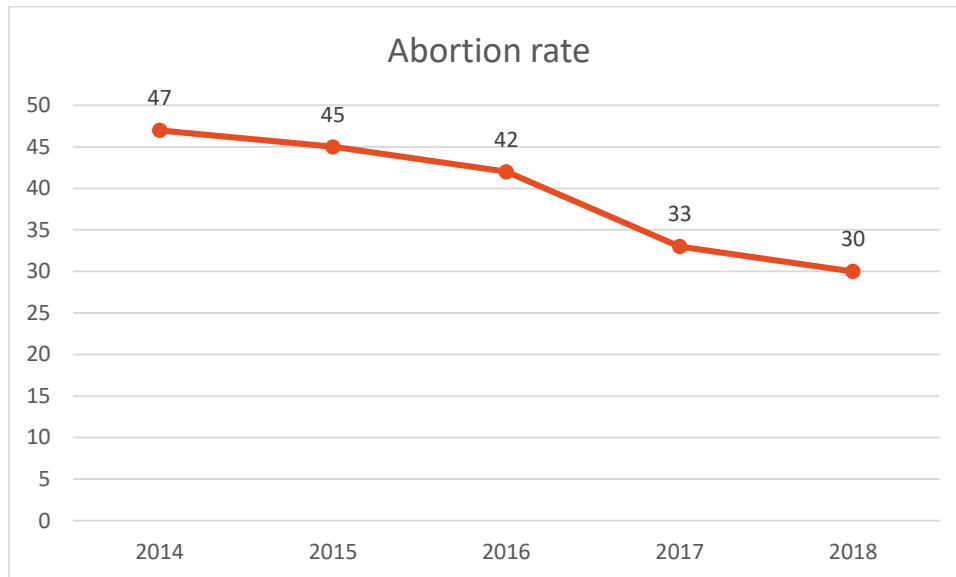
Pregnancy during adolescence has a strong impact on the health of young women and their opportunities. According to the GeoStat 2019 data, the number of live births among 15-19-year-old mothers was 2,839, hence the birth rate among adolescents was 29 per 1,000 women aged 15-19. Compared to the 2014 data, this figure has decreased significantly:

<sup>40</sup> According to the 2019 report on the State of the World Population of the the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, the weighted data for 2006-2017 was 44.

[https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA\\_PUB\\_2019\\_EN\\_State\\_of\\_World\\_Population.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA_PUB_2019_EN_State_of_World_Population.pdf)



According to the data of the National Centre for Disease Control & Public Health, Georgia (NCDC & PH)<sup>41</sup>, The abortion rate among young women aged 15-29 has also dropped significantly since 2014, with the latest available data showing 10,243 abortions in 2018, bringing the rate to 30 per 1,000 women in the age group<sup>42</sup>:



<sup>41</sup> Geostat receives abortion data from the NCDC, which in its turn receives data from clinics. The significant decrease in the number of abortions, as a MICS research suggests, may be related to the underreporting of abortions as well as to the fact that medical abortions are often not registered as abortions.

<sup>42</sup> It should be noted that the share of abortions among women under the age of 20 decreased to 2.2% of the total number of abortions. NCDC (2018) <https://www.ncdc.ge/Pages/User/News.aspx?ID=a9ee8a02-ef7a-4d3a-b510-39aefd5872da>; NCDC collects the data for two separate age groups: 15-19 and 20-29.

According to the results of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Round 6 (MICS6) conducted in Georgia, the Total Induced Abortion Rate (TIAR) was 0,9094 in 2018 in Georgia. In 1999, the Total Induced Abortion Rate (TIAR) was 3,7, in 2005 - 3,1; and in 2010 - 1.643. Based on the data, it can be concluded that, in the country, there is a trend of rapid decline in the average number of abortions per woman during their lifetime. However, such a decline in abortion rate is unexpected and requires further research.

According to the results of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) conducted in Georgia<sup>44</sup>, 13.9% of women aged 20-24 were married before the age of 18, 11.2% of young women aged 15-19 and 0.3% of adolescents under the age of 15 were married. In terms of the prevalence of child marriage, there is a difference between urban and rural settlements, age groups, standards of living, regions, and highest attained levels of education. According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) conducted in Georgia, child marriage is more common in rural areas - where 25% of women aged 20- 24 were married before the age of 18 - than in urban areas (8%). Girls in the two bottom wealth quintile are most likely to face this problem, which suggests a link between child marriage and poverty: 24.9% of girls aged 15 to 19 in the bottom wealth quintile reported being married or in an unregistered marriage, compared to only 0.5% of girls in the same age group from the top wealth quintile. The attained level of education is also an important factor: 46.5% of women aged 20-24, who married before the age of 18, had only attained primary or incomplete secondary education, while 3.1% of women in the same group were either studying in a higher education institution, or had already completed tertiary education.<sup>45</sup>.

Georgia's rate was 2.5 times higher than the highest rate in Western Europe (specifically in the UK). Which indicates that although the rate of early marriage has fallen rapidly over the last two decades, this rate still remains very high, by European standards (MICS 2018).

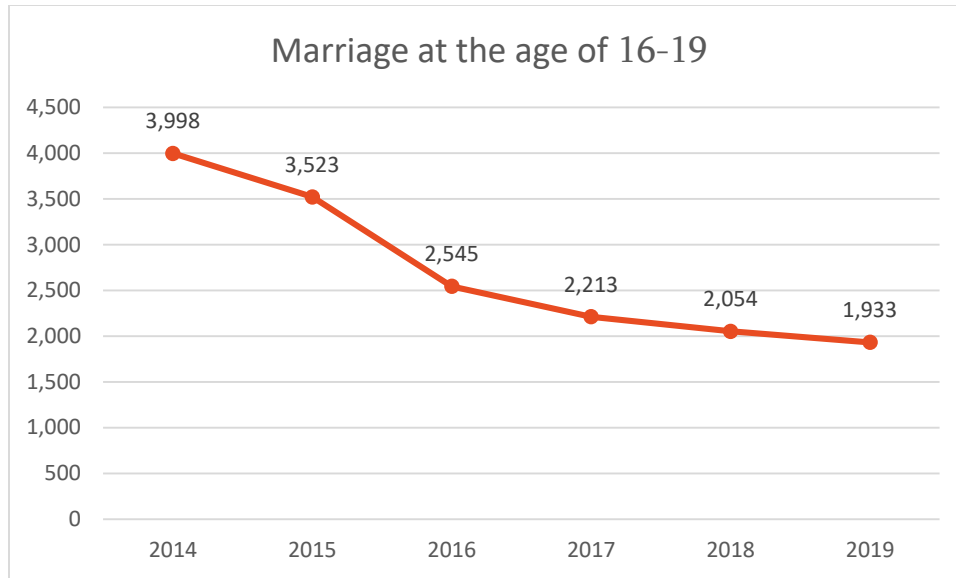
Marriage statistics among girls aged 16-19 from 2014 to date are as follows:

---

<sup>43</sup> The figures given are the arithmetic mean of the data of three years prior to the survey; For example, the 2010 data actually correspond to the average figure calculated using the data from 2007 to 2010.

<sup>44</sup> The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in Georgia 2018-2019, UNICEF, [https://www.unicef.org/georgia/ka/საქართველოში-მრავალინდიკატორული-კლასტერული-კვლევის-mics-ძირითადი-მიგნებები?fbclid=IwAR0b0njdcK3hG8t3msSkI5o6JrCKd5X0aBM\\_O2f-dWbbUIQRxzRoW58owb0](https://www.unicef.org/georgia/ka/საქართველოში-მრავალინდიკატორული-კლასტერული-კვლევის-mics-ძირითადი-მიგნებები?fbclid=IwAR0b0njdcK3hG8t3msSkI5o6JrCKd5X0aBM_O2f-dWbbUIQRxzRoW58owb0)

<sup>45</sup> The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in Georgia, 2018-2019, გაეროს ბავშვთა ფონდი, [https://www.unicef.org/georgia/ka/საქართველოში-მრავალინდიკატორული-კლასტერული-კვლევის-mics-ძირითადი-მიგნებები?fbclid=IwAR0b0njdcK3hG8t3msSkI5o6JrCKd5X0aBM\\_O2f-dWbbUIQRxzRoW58owb0](https://www.unicef.org/georgia/ka/საქართველოში-მრავალინდიკატორული-კლასტერული-კვლევის-mics-ძირითადი-მიგნებები?fbclid=IwAR0b0njdcK3hG8t3msSkI5o6JrCKd5X0aBM_O2f-dWbbUIQRxzRoW58owb0)



According to the results of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) conducted in Georgia<sup>46</sup>, 78% young women aged 15-29 feel safe walking alone in their own neighbourhood at night. The survey revealed the following attitude in different age groups:

Age	Very safe %	Safe %	Unsafe %	Very unsafe %	Never walk alone %	Feel safe, total %
15-19	53.7	23.8	17.0	0.1	5.3	77.4
20-24	49.6	28.8	15.5	0.3	5.8	78.0
25-29	48.1	30.1	14.3	1.7	5.8	78.0

### Key Findings:

Comparison of existing gender indicators with previous data shows a significant downward trend in key areas such as birth rate among adolescents and abortion rates; as for child marriage, unfortunately, the prevalence of early/child marriage in Georgia seems to remain unchanged compared to the 2010 RHS data. The latest Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) data also suggest that, among European countries, Georgia still has the highest rate of child marriage, which affects girls and women, thus adopting a multi-sectoral approach to tackling the problem is highly important. The National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat) provides significant data on the growing trend of violence against young people, according to which, in 2019, 855 out of 972 cases of violence against young people aged 17-24, were

<sup>46</sup> The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in Georgia, 2018-2019, გაეროს ბავშვთა ფონდი, [https://www.unicef.org/georgia/ka/საქართველოში-მრავალინდიკატორული-კლასტერული-კვლევის-mics-ძირითადი-მიგნებები?fbclid=IwAR0b0njdcK3hG8t3msSkI5o6jrCKd5X0aBM\\_O2f-dWbbUIQRxzRoW58owb0](https://www.unicef.org/georgia/ka/საქართველოში-მრავალინდიკატორული-კლასტერული-კვლევის-mics-ძირითადი-მიგნებები?fbclid=IwAR0b0njdcK3hG8t3msSkI5o6jrCKd5X0aBM_O2f-dWbbUIQRxzRoW58owb0)

committed against young women<sup>47</sup>. Therefore, the efforts to ensure gender equality and to eliminate violence against women, to ensure that youth policy provides equal opportunities for young women and men, and that both enjoy the same benefits created by the Policy, are of high importance.

---

<sup>47</sup> National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat), 2019 <https://info.police.ge/page?id=102>.

## Appendix 1. Youth Index Domains & Indicators

Domain	Indicator	Description	Source
<b>1. Education</b>	Literacy rate	Percentage of 15–24-year-olds who can both read and write with understanding a short simple statement on everyday life	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
	Enrolment in secondary education	Total enrolment in secondary education, expressed as a percentage of population of official secondary education age	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
	Dropouts	The number of young people who dropped out of institutions of secondary, vocational and higher education	The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia
	Use of the Internet	The number of young people aged 15-29, who have used the Internet within last 3 months	National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat)
<b>2. Employment</b>	Youth unemployment rate	The number of unemployed 15-24 year-olds, expressed as a percentage of the youth labour force (economically active young people)	National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat)
	Long-term unemployment	The number of young people who have been looking for a job for the last 12 months or more, expressed as a percentage of the total number of unemployed young people	National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat)
	NEET young people	Percentage of young people who are neither in education, nor in Employment or training (NEET)	National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat)
<b>3. Participation</b>	Volunteering	Percentage of young people in the age group, who have performed volunteer work at least once in the past 12 months	Generation in Transition, Youth Study 2016 - Georgia
	Participation in elections	The number of young people who participate in elections, expressed as a percentage of the	Generation in Transition, Youth Study 2016 - Georgia

		total number of young people in the age group	
	Promoting youth interests onto the political agenda	The number of young people, who think that the political agenda takes into account their interests to a large extent or to some extent, expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people in the age group	Generation in Transition, Youth Study 2016 - Georgia
	Representation in Parliament	Percentage of young people under 30 in the total number of elected members of the Parliament of Georgia	The Central Election Commission
	Existence of a national youth policy	0 = No national youth policy, 0.5 = Under development or existing in the form of a draft, 1 = Existing youth policy.	The Government of Georgia
<b>4. safety and security</b>	Crime rate	The number of criminal offenses committed by young people per 100,000 young people	National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat)
	Road accidents	Number of young people killed in road accidents per 100,000 young people	National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat)
	Rate of violence	The number of acts of violence committed by young people per 100,000 young people	The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia
	Young people living in poverty	The number of young people living on the edge of or below the poverty line receiving social assistance (subsistence benefits), expressed as a percentage of the total number of young people in the age group	The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
<b>5. Health</b>	Physical activity	The number of young people engaged in regular (3 days/3 hours per week) physical activity	The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia



	Mortality rate	Mortality rate of young people aged 15-29 per 1,000 population in the appropriate age group	National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat)
	Mental and behavioural disorders	Cases of mental and behavioural disorders in young people aged 15-24, per 100,000 population in the appropriate age group	The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
	Comprehensive knowledge about HIV prevention	Percentage of 15-29 year olds in the total number of young people in the age group, who know about the two ways to prevent HIV (having only one, uninfected sexual partner and using condoms during each sexual intercourse), know that an HIV-infected person might look healthy, and who can identify the two most common misconceptions about HIV transmission	The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in Georgia
	Cannabis consumption	Cannabis consumption during the past 30 days	Measuring Risk and Protective Factors for Substance Use, and Other Problem Behaviours among adolescents and young people in Georgia, 2019, Association " Bemoni Public Union"
	Suicide rate	Cases of attempted intentional self-harm and resulted deaths in young people aged 15-29 per 100,000 young people	The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia
<b>6. Gender</b>	Early childbearing	Cases of childbearing among 15-19 year old girls, per 1,000 female adolescents in the appropriate age group	National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat)
	Abortion rate	Number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-29	National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat)

	Child marriage	Percentage of young women aged 15-19 in the total number of young people in the age group who are married	The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in Georgia
	Perceptions of safety among women	Percentage of young women aged 15-29 who feel safe walking alone in their own neighbourhood at night	The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in Georgia

## Appendix 2. Methodology

The selection of indicators for the Index is based on the following principles:

- They should be youth-friendly, measurable and easy to understand
- Where possible, they should allow availability of data of previous years to enable analysis of the dynamic;
- They should be based on a reliable source and, where possible, allow to be verified using several sources;
- There should be reference literature to help analyse the data;
- They should have a conceptual basis.

Data analysis is performed by regions, urban-rural areas, age groups and gender, taking into account borderline and highland settlements; where possible, the data are compared to the similar data of previous years to show the dynamics. In addition, the data analysis should take into account the situation of young people with special needs (as defined by the National Youth Policy Document of Georgia), young people with disabilities and members of ethnic minorities.

All the indicators are not equally important in assessing the situation of young people. To account for this difference, each domain and indicator is assigned a certain weight, which determines its percentage composition in the total score. There are different ways of weighing indicators. The method used in the Index determination is based on existing evidence and practice, expert opinions, data reliability and normative evaluation:

Domain	Domain weight (%)	Indicator	Indicator weight (%)
<b>1. Education</b>	<b>20</b>	Literacy rate	6
		Enrolment in secondary education	5
		Dropouts	5

		Use of the Internet	4
<b>2. Employment</b>	<b>19</b>	Youth unemployment rate	6
		Long-term unemployment	6
		NEET young people	7
<b>3. Participation</b>	<b>15</b>	Volunteering	3
		Participation in elections	4
		Promoting youth interests onto the political agenda	3
		Representation in Parliament	3
		Existence of a national youth policy	2
<b>4. safety and security</b>	<b>13</b>	Crime rate	3
		Road accidents	3
		Rate of violence	3
		Young people living in poverty	4
<b>5. Health</b>	<b>21</b>	Physical activity	3
		Mortality rate	5
		Mental and behavioural disorders	3
		Comprehensive knowledge about HIV prevention	3
		Cannabis consumption	3
		Suicide rate	4
<b>6. Gender</b>	<b>12</b>	Early childbearing	3
		Abortion rate	3
		Child marriage	3
		Perceptions of safety among women	3

To compare and combine indicators with different values into a single score, the method of normalizing indicators is used. The data for each indicator is rated from 0 to 1, where the highest (or lowest) value gets 1 point and the lowest (or highest) value gets 0. In any case, “1” is the highest rating for assessing the state of young people, and “0” is the lowest. For example, a higher rate of physical activity equals to 1, but that of tobacco use - 0, because the former reflects a positive aspect, and the latter - a negative one.

The index for each domain is calculated as the average score of relevant indicators, and the final index - as the average of the domains:

$$\text{Education Index} = \frac{6 \times \text{Literacy} + 5 \times \text{Enrolment in the Secondary Education} + 5 \times \text{Dropouts} + 4 \times \text{Use of the Internet}}{20}$$

$$\text{Youth Development Index} = \frac{20 \times \text{Education} + 19 \times \text{Employment} + 15 \times \text{Participation} + 13 \times \text{Safety} + 21 \times \text{Health} + 12 \times \text{Gender}}{100}$$

The rules for calculating the indicators, including the rules for combining positive and negative indicators, are described in detail in the 2016 guide “Commonwealth Youth Development Index, National and Regional Toolkit: A Guide for Developing Regional and National Youth Development Indices”<sup>48</sup>.

---

<sup>48</sup> Commonwealth Youth Development Index, National and Regional Toolkit: A Guide for Developing Regional and National Youth Development Indices, 2016.

### Appendix 3. Index Calculation

Domain	Domain weight %	Indicator	Indicator weight %	Indicator estimates	Total	Index
1. Education	20	Literacy rate	6	99.64%	19.3814	0.97
		Enrolment in secondary education	5	105.98%		
		Dropouts	5	8.9%		
		Use of the Internet	4	96.2%		
2. Employment	19	Youth unemployment rate	6	24.1%	13.846	0.73
		Long-term unemployment	6	26.1%		
		NEET young people	7	30.6%		
3. Participation	15	Volunteering	3	27%	4.841	0.32
		Participation in elections	4	52%		
		Promoting youth interests onto the political agenda	3	25%		
		Representation in Parliament	3	0.67%		
		Existence of a national youth policy	2	0.5		
4. safety and security	13	Crime rate	3	755 (per 100,000)	7.469	0.57
		Road accidents	3	19 (per 100,000)		
		Rate of violence	3	76 (per 100,000)		
		Young people living in poverty	4	10.4%		
5. Health		Physical activity	3	19%	9.719	0.46
		Mortality rate	5	74 (per 100,000)		
		Mental and behavioural disorders	3	175 (per 100,000)		

	21	Comprehensive knowledge about HIV prevention	3	13.5%		
		Cannabis consumption	3	15.78%		
		Suicide rate	4	39 (per 100,000)		
6. Gender	12	Early childbearing	3	29 (per 1,000)	9.153	0.76
		Abortion rate	3	30 (per 1,000)		
		Child marriage	3	13.9%		
		Perceptions of safety among women	3	78%		
Youth Development Index = <b>0.6426</b>						