

PENSIONERS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN KYIV: GENDER COMPOSITION AND INEQUALITIES

Iryna Kurylo^{©1}; Dr. Sc. (Economics); Head of Department,
Ptoukha Institute for Demography and Social Studies of NAS of Ukraine
Svitlana Aksyonova^{©2}; PhD (Economics); Leading Researcher,
Ptoukha Institute for Demography and Social Studies of NAS of Ukraine

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Abstract. *The purpose of our study was to determine the features of gender and age composition of retirees, people with disabilities in Kyiv and evaluate the gender gap in pensions. To see gender differences we analyzed corresponding statistical indicators including using demographic and cartography methods. Some indicators were compared by gender and age, types of pensions and by districts of the city. Obtained results proved the significant gender gap in the majority types of pensions. The determining factors were also stated. Our analysis showed that despite of higher average pension size in Kyiv comparing with other cities, rather large share of pensioners receive pensions lower than actual subsistence level. The share of persons receiving too small pensions is much higher among women in all districts of Kyiv. We have identified need to improve methods to collect official statistical data about people with disabilities and their necessities. The issue of gender statistics on people with disabilities is especially critical. The paper focuses on changes in structure of people with disabilities by disability groups and gender characteristics of newly recognized persons with disabilities. A notable trend has been the increase in the share of women among newly recognized persons with disabilities over the last decade. We hope that our research will broaden the understanding of gender inequalities in the economic status of pensioners and situation of persons with disabilities in Ukraine on the local level.*

Key words: pensioners, persons with disabilities, gender, inequality, pension, Kyiv.

JEL classification: I1:I3; J1:J7.

Introduction. Nowadays the problems of inequality are one of the most pressing. There are at least two purposes among the sustainable development goals (SDG), which are directly related to the reduction of inequality: reducing inequalities between countries and achieving gender equality.

They reflect the most common general statement of issues about reducing inequality. This problem is more often considered at the macro level and the issue of gender gaps – for all men and women.

In the meantime attention must be paid to the inequality, including its gender aspects, on the local level (within settlements or territorial communities) and also within some population groups, especially the vulnerable ones. Such population group (which is growing due to demographic aging) is pensioners.

¹ © Iryna Kurylo, iryna.kurilo2017@gmail.com.

² © Svitlana Aksyonova, Svitlana_Aksyonova@yahoo.com.

For example, in the capital of Ukraine the share of pensioners among residents of different districts of Kyiv ranges from 18.2% - in Solomyansky to 27.2% - in Shevchenkivskyi district. In the largest districts by population number (namely Darnytskyi, Desnianskyi, Dniprovskyi, as well as Sviatoshynskyi) every fourth inhabitant now belongs to the population group receiving pensions.

Literature review. In most cases the situation of pensioners and people with disabilities in Ukraine is studied at the national level and mainly - in the context of their pensions, reforming the pension system etc. (Пищуліна, Коваль, Бурлай, 2017; Лібанова et al., 2010; Ткаченко, 2014). There are also integrated research on demographic aging and various aspects of older persons' life in our country (Населення України, 2014; Курило, 2013), as well as studies on the situation of older women (Situation of Older Women in Ukraine: Analytical Report, 2014). Gender inequality (both in Ukraine and in the international context) is often considered for women and men in reproductive or working age and in the context of their employment, wages, etc. (Empowering Women at Work. Policies and Practices for Gender Equality in Supply Chains, 2020; Трохим, 2017, сс. 36-58).

Thus, the issues of gender inequalities affecting older people in Ukraine require more attention, including situation at the local level.

Data and methods. The purpose of study is to determine the gender composition characteristics of pensioners and people with disabilities in Kiev and to identify gender gaps in their socio-economic situation. The methods of comparison and elementary theoretical analysis were used in our research. The study is based on data from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, data from the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, Main Directorate of the State Statistics Service in Kiev and the Pension Fund of Ukraine. Statistical methods are widely used (relative and average values, indicators of mortality tables and life expectancy, etc.), as well as graphical and cartographic methods.

Results and discussions. Now women are almost 65% of all pensioners in Kyiv. The significant numerical prevalence of women is formed primarily due to the largest category of people receiving an old-age pension. Life expectancy of women in Kyiv is much higher than men (the gender gap is above 8.5 years). So women have higher level of aging than men: among women the share of people aged 60 and older at the beginning of 2020 was almost 25%, and among men – a little more than 17%. This is also manifested in the gender ratios of pensioners by age groups: proportion of women in the number of pensioners is increased with age. This share is 63% among persons under 70 years old, 66% – between 70 and 79 years old and more than 71% – among the oldest persons (80 and above).

In Kiev, there are 184 women per 100 men receiving a pension. This gender ratio varies from 174 (Darnytskyi district of the capital) to 193 women

(Dniprovskyi district) per 100 men receiving pensions. The largest numerical predominance of women is in the oldest age group of pensioners: the number of women over 80 exceeds the number of men in districts of Kyiv by 2–3 times.

Fig. 1 demonstrates the differences in the age composition of Kyiv's pensioners by gender. Thus, the age composition of women pensioners is characterized by a relatively higher proportion of older age groups (due to the higher life expectancy of women).

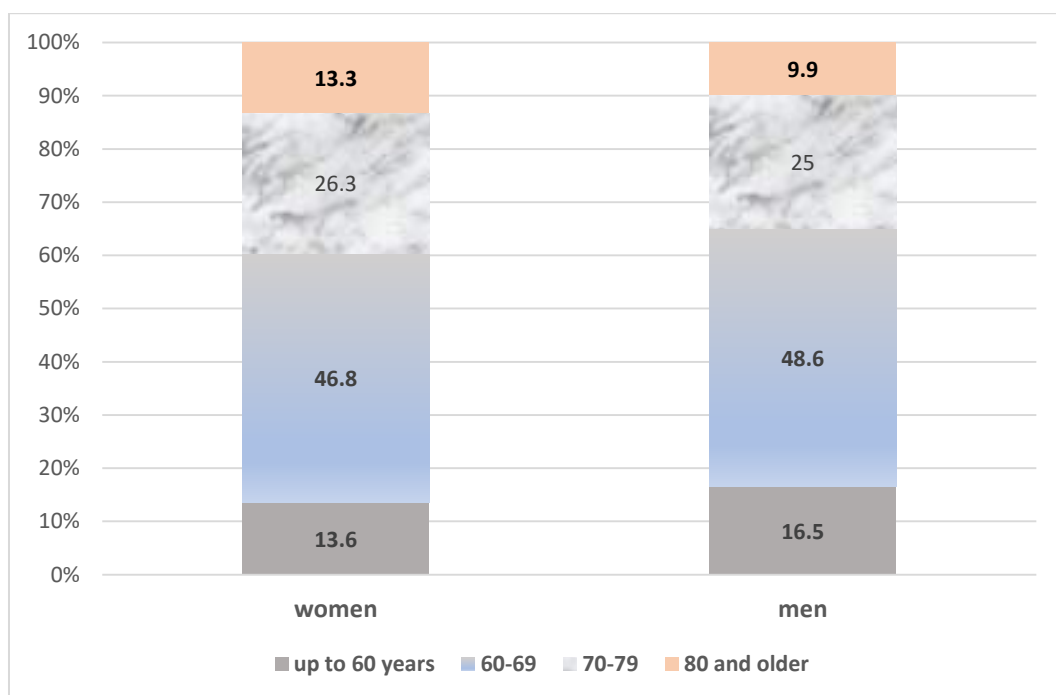


Figure. 1. Age group distribution of pensioners (women and men) in Kyiv (2020)

Source: According to Pension Fund of Ukraine (in Kyiv) data

In general the number of pensioners in Kyiv, according to the dynamics of recent years, has been slowly but steadily declining, mainly through raised the retirement age for women.

The most numerous of all categories of Kyiv's pensioners is the category of old-age pensioners. They are currently represented by 85.5% of all women receiving pensions and 81.5% of all pensioners (women and men) in Kyiv.

The share of persons receiving Disability Support Pensions is almost one tenth of all Kyiv pensioners and it has significant gender differentiation. The share of pensioners with disabilities among retired women is 7.6%, but among men - 13.8%.

On the other hand, survivor pensions are much more common among women-pensioners in Kyiv than among men: although in general the share of

people receiving this type of pension is very low (about 3.6%), among women-pensioners it is almost twice as high (4.3%) as among men (2.2%). Even less numerous is the category of pensioners who receive long-service pensions (1.8% of women and about 1.3% of retired men). The smallest group is retirees who have only a social pension (1% of men and less than 0,5% - among women).

One of the most important characteristics of the socio-economic situation of Kyiv pensioners is the amount of their pensions, as well as gender differentiation of amount paid (*Fig. 2*).

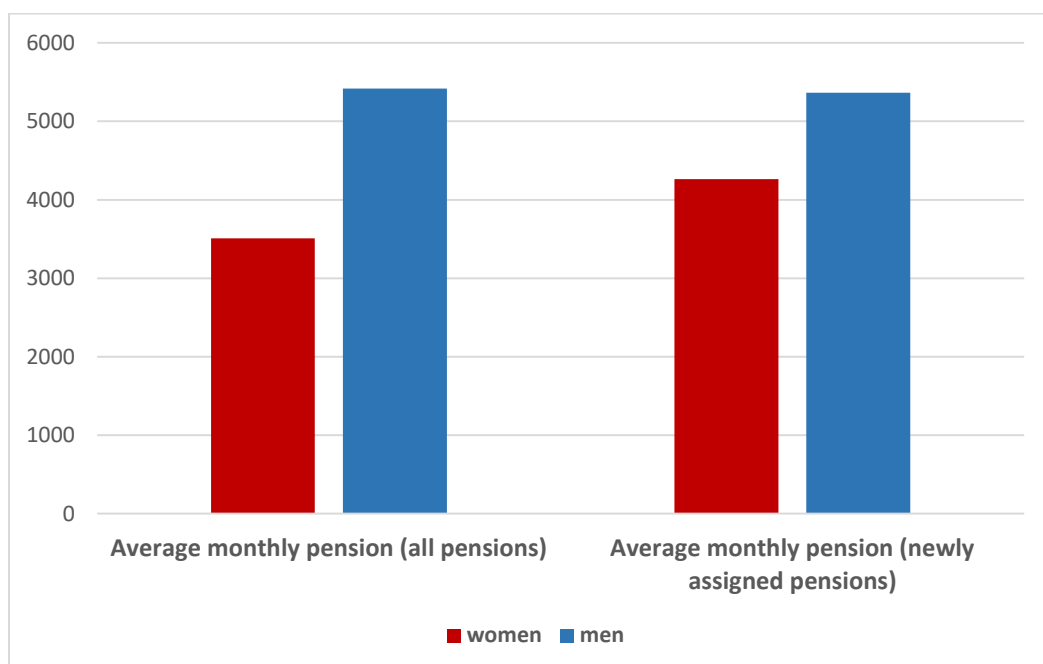


Figure. 2. The average value of assigned monthly pensions of retirees of all categories by gender in Kyiv (1.01.2020 (UAH))

Source: According to State Statistics Service of Ukraine data

Currently, the average monthly pension of women is one and a half times lower than pension received by men. The significant gap largely reflects existing gender imbalances in wages and differences in length of employment. The gender ratio of newly appointed pensions looks more balanced: the newly assigned pensions of men are on average a quarter higher than those of women.

Gender ratio differs significantly by type of pensions. Indicators provided in table 1 give an idea on the core differences and their magnitude.

Table 1. The average amount of pension by type of pension and gender (UAH)

Type of pension	The average amount of assigned pensions	The average amount of assigned pensions	
		men	women
Old-age pension	4 073.71	5 104.16	3 541.52
Due to disability	3 198.71	3 777.22	2 624.71
Survivor pension	3 268.63	2 228.25	3 542.35
Long service pension	4 883.58	10 438.48	2 639.12
Welfare pension	1 640.23	1 638.92	1 641.98
Lifelong monetary allowance to retired judges	62 586.00	69 849.08	52 257.09

Source: According to Pension Fund of Ukraine (in Kyiv) data

The average amount of labor old-age pension for men in Kyiv exceeds amount for women by 1.4 times. The amounts of three other types of pension (Disability Support Pension (DSP), lifelong monetary allowance to retired judges and especially long service pension) are also significantly higher for men than for women. Social pensions are the lowest among all types and the same for men and women in Kyiv. Noticeably only the average amount of payments in case of loss of a breadwinner is significantly higher for women.

Although average pensions in Kyiv are significantly higher than the average Ukrainian amount, some pensioners receive pensions that are lower than the actual subsistence level for people who have lost their ability to work (UAH 3,253 in 2020). At the same time, the share of women whose pension does not "reach" the actual subsistence level in all districts of Kyiv is almost twice as high as the corresponding share of men (*Fig. 3*).

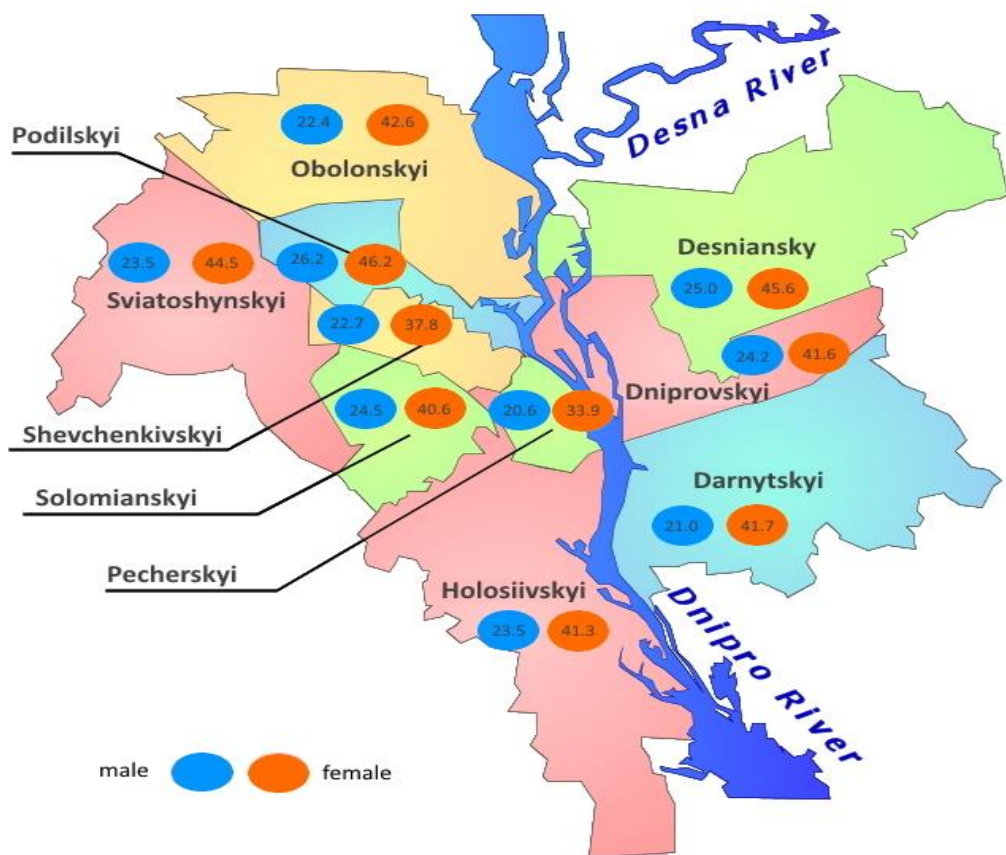


Figure 3. Proportion of women and men aged 60 and over whose pension is lower than the actual subsistence level by the districts of Kyiv, 2020

Source: calculated according to Pension Fund of Ukraine (in Kyiv) data

The abovementioned ratio varies by districts of Kyiv: from 1.6 times in Pechersk district to 2 times difference – in Darnytskyi. The largest number of recipients of pensions, which are below the actual subsistence level, is in Podilskyi district of Kyiv: 46.2% – among women-pensioners and 26.2% among men-pensioners.

According to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and the Pension Fund of Ukraine, regardless of the type of pension received by persons with disabilities, in Ukraine at the beginning of 2021 the total number of people with disabilities was 2724.1 thousand, in Kyiv – 161.0 thousand. The share of people with disabilities living in Kyiv remains at level 6% of the total number of people with disabilities unchanged over the past six years. The increasing number of people with disabilities, on the one hand, and the decreasing population in Ukraine, on the other hand, resulted the growing number of people with disabilities per 1 000 persons (*Table 2*). In

Kyiv, the number of people with disabilities increased along with the total number of residents, so "load" by people with disabilities almost did not change and ranged 54–55 persons with disabilities per 1000 inhabitants.

Table 2. The number of persons with disabilities in Ukraine and Kyiv
(beginning of the year)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ukraine							
Total, <i>thsd</i>	2568.5	2614.1	2603.3	2635.6	2659.7	2703.0	2724.1
including of the I group	251.8	250.3	240.6	235.4	226.3	222.3	215.0
of the II group	915.9	919	900.5	899.2	896.1	900.8	897.1
of the III group	1249.7	1291.2	1306.2	1341.9	1375.7	1416.0	1449.1
children with disabilities	151.1	153.5	156.1	159	161.6	163.9	162.9
The number of persons with disabilities per 1000 persons*	60.1	61.4	61.4	62.4	63.4	64.8	65.5
Pension-beneficiaries of all categories out of the total number of people with disabilities, <i>thsd</i>	2213.1	2233.2	2208.5	2213.0	2218.7	2241.0	2263.4
c. Kyiv							
Total, <i>thsd</i>	154.1	155.1	155.5	157.1	159.7	160.8	161.0
including of the I group	15.0	14.6	14.1	13.8	13.6	13.3	12.8
of the II group	75.1	74.5	73.9	73.9	74.7	74.3	73.6
of the III group	54.4	56.0	57.3	58.7	60.3	61.7	62.8
children with disabilities	9.5	10.0	10.3	10.7	11.1	11.4	11.8
The number of persons with disabilities per 1000 persons*	54.1	54.1	53.9	54.3	54.9	54.9	55.0
Pension-beneficiaries of all categories out of the total number of people with disabilities, <i>thsd</i>	137.4	137.0	136.4	136.9	138.3	138.3	137.5
* Author's calculations.							

Source: According to State Statistics Service of Ukraine data

In the structure of adults with disabilities in Kyiv, persons with disabilities of II group form the largest share whereas in national structure the biggest share is characterized for people with disabilities of III group. Both in the capital and in Ukraine as a whole, the shares of persons with disabilities of I and II groups are decreased.

In Kyiv the number of children with disabilities is growing rapidly: at the beginning of 2021, their number increased by 24.2% more than at the beginning of 2015 (for comparison – in Ukraine by 7.8% only). In the capital the proportion of children with disabilities under the age of 18 among all persons with disabilities increased from 6.2% in 2015 to 7.3% in 2021.

According to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine in Ukraine among adult population (aged 18 and over) in 2020, 117.7 thousand people were newly recognized persons with disabilities, of which 52.1 thousand are women. The proportion of women among newly recognized people with disabilities has been growing over the last decade (*Table 3*). The number of newly recognized persons with disabilities in Kyiv is gradually declining. However, their share among all persons newly recognized as disabled in the country has changed slightly. The share of women among newly recognized people with disabilities is increasing in Kyiv also.

Table 3. The number of newly recognized persons with disabilities in Ukraine and Kyiv

(persons aged 18 years and older)

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Ukraine									
Total, <i>thsd</i>	215.2	212.2	173.5	138.2	136.3	135.7	138.8	136.3	117.7
Of the total number of people with disabilities – females, <i>thsd</i>	89.6	84.0	67.3	55.7	55.8	58.0	60.6	60.1	52.1
Proportion of women with disabilities among all persons with disabilities, % *	41,7	39,6	38,8	40,3	41,0	42,8	43,7	44,1	44.3
c. Kyiv									
Total, <i>thsd</i>	12.5	12.5	9.6	9.5	9.3	9.1	9.0	8.8	7.1

Of the total number of people with disabilities – females, <i>thsd</i>					4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	3.5
Proportion of women with disabilities among all persons with disabilities,% *					44,1	46,2	45,6	47,7	49.3
* Author's calculations.									

Source: According to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine

It should be noted that the information on the gender distribution of persons with disabilities in the statistical collections of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine is poor and insufficient. Nevertheless even published information indicates the some gender imbalance. For example, according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine at the beginning of 2021 the share of women with disabilities who have the priority right to the provision with a vehicle was only 12.3% in Ukraine as a whole and 4.5% in Kyiv.

Conclusions. In Ukraine the age composition of women pensioners is characterized by higher proportion of older age groups because women have higher level of aging than men. The proportion of women in the number of pensioners is increased with age. In the last years in Kyiv the number of pensioners has been declining primarily due to increasing the retirement age for women. The average monthly pension of women is considerably lower than pension received by men. The largest gender gap is observed in long service pensions. In Kyiv despite of higher average pension amount comparing with other settlements, the large share of pensioners receive pensions lower than actual subsistence level. There are more such pensioners among women than among men. As disturbing trend we consider the increasing proportion of women among newly recognized persons with disabilities. The urgent tasks in Ukraine are improving gender statistics on people with disabilities and studying their actual problems.

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