

Coordinating Analytical Centre for “Environmental Health” (Ukraine)

The international syndicate of assistance to the liquidators of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and the victims of nuclear effects (France)

Rehabilitation Centre for victims of the Chernobyl disaster of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine (Ukraine)

CONFERENCE

"SUPPORTING THE POPULATION LIVING IN THE AREAS AFFECTED BY THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER: SOCIAL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT OF THE LIQUIDATORS AND VICTIMS OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER"

**UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
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Working session materials within the frame work of the project “The Model of integrated lievehoods in the area of radioactive contamination”

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International project "Model of integrated life-support in the area of radioactive contamination", as one way of change to improve the health of people affected by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Yu Bandazhevsky, Republic of Belarus

The demographic situation in areas affected by the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is now catastrophic. The death rate is several times higher than the birth rate. In the Republic of Belarus, the demographic index (the difference between fertility and mortality) has shown negative values since 1994, representing in 2005, -5.9%. A similar situation has been observed in most regions of Ukraine that have been affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

The increased mortality has been closely associated with cardiovascular disease and malignant neoplasms, which have increased steadily each year.

Decline in fertility is due to a dysfunction of male and female reproductive systems, which induce pathological foetal development.

At present, this complex radiation environment in the most affected areas is worrisome to say the least. The main danger for human health is caused by radio-nuclides Cs-137 and Sr-90, which enter the organism through food.

Many areas in Ukraine and Belarus are also contaminated by agents of a chemical and physical nature such as lead, pesticides, and nitrogen compounds. When these are combined with radioactive elements, they are extremely dangerous to human and animal health.

The constant presence of radio-nuclides Cs-137 in humans induces a complex set of changes affecting the vital organs and systems which they govern. This includes the processes of destruction and reconstruction. As a result, persons living in areas affected by the Chernobyl accident have certain characteristics of their metabolism

and the functioning of their vital organs that do not allow us to classify them as healthy. In these circumstances, the approaches to treatment, prevention and rehabilitation of specific diseases (infectious diseases, injuries, etc.) should take these specificities into account.

When developing diets of the population, it is necessary to take into account the specificities of the metabolism of people who have been exposed to radiation agents. It is assumed that the metabolism of persons living in areas polluted with radioactive elements has substantially changed. This requires the development and the introduction of diets that provide a correction of existing dysfunctions. Food should not contain any radioactive elements whatsoever.

The populations now living in areas polluted with radioactive elements are in a very difficult situation, not only because of the lack of material and social support from the state, but also because of the lack of prospects for the future of the region in which they live. In areas contaminated by radioactive elements, it is forbidden to build and set up industries- which provide sources for new jobs, and material and financial support.

This situation undoubtedly affects the morale of those forced to remain under continuous radiation exposure in the absence of adequate logistical, medical and social welfare. Governments, such as the one in the former USSR, and in the current republics of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia, have not been able to solve the main humanitarian problems resulting from the Chernobyl accident, the consequences of which has been the current state of health of the population in the affected regions.

The problems of Chernobyl should be brought to the attention of the whole world, primarily because of the lack of awareness of how very serious these problems are. Objective scientific information must be provided and widely disseminated.

The position of concealing the true extent of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and the reluctance to implement the necessary measures to protect the health of people is inhumane.

Objective information is urgently needed. Indeed, real action to ensure adequate protection of the health of the population constantly in contact with radiation agents is desperately needed.

Unilateral acts (in the field of medicine or the socio-economic sphere), taken over the past 20 years in this region, have not yielded positive results in terms of improving people's health. This, in our opinion, is due to the lack of a comprehensive life-support program in the areas affected by the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The difficult economic situation in the former Soviet Union, including Belarus and Ukraine, does not allow for state-level anti-radiation measures to be taken in full. This lack of action will undoubtedly exacerbate the demographic situation and health status of the populations.

We conclude therefore that the only possible way out of this situation is through help from the international community based on democratic principles of cooperation. This requires providing reliable scientific information on health to the international community. It also requires active participation of the international community in promoting the adoption of effective measures to overcome the humanitarian consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

In this regard, the main goal of the Centre for "Ecology and Health", established in Ukraine, is to inform the international community about the situation in areas affected by the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The Centre also seeks to coordinate the efforts of doctors, ecologists, economists, industrialists, politicians etc. as well as to develop a set of measures aimed at ensuring the safety of people living in the contaminated areas. The project, entitled "Integrated Model of livelihoods in the area of radioactive contamination", aims to coordinate the efforts of the international community to devise measures for the population to live safely when exposed to radiation in one of the most highly contaminated areas of Ukraine. The lessons learned in the region will subsequently be disseminated to other contaminated areas.

The main objective of the project is to create an effective model of livelihood in conditions of radiation exposure, as a way to

improve the demographic situation and the health of people living in the affected areas.

After analysing the situation created after the Chernobyl disaster, and in consultation with representatives of regional authorities, it was decided that the Ivankov District in the Kiev Region would be chosen to serve as the main pilot area. This district is one of the most heavily contaminated in the region, with very high levels of Cs-137 and Sr-90 radio-nuclides.

The main objectives of the project are the following:

1. To study scientifically the causes and consequences of the current environmental and demographic situation in areas affected by the Chernobyl disaster, and to assess the possibilities of change. This involves studying health indicators of the population living in areas contaminated by radioactive elements (the Ivankov district) to obtain objective information about the longstanding humanitarian consequences of the Chernobyl disaster over time. An annual report will be prepared and published.

2. Environmental factors and the existing socio-economic situation will be taken into account to analyse and make forecasts about health effects in the affected areas.

3. The public will be informed about the serious health issues facing the population living in the contaminated zones. The goal of this initiative is to attract international attention and humanitarian support, especially given the current government's policy of misinformation.

A news and information service will be set up within the Centre for Ecology and Health. Publications will include an international scientific journal "Chernobyl: health and ecology", a newsletter "The Voice of Chernobyl", and a series of monographs. The Centre will also set up a website.

4. A modern medical healthcare centre will be set up which will provide systematic and thorough medical examinations and adequate treatment, along with appropriate preventive measures for the patients.

The Central Regional Hospital in the city of Ivankov, with all necessary medical and diagnostic equipment, will make treatment available to patients who have been exposed to radioactive contaminants. The Regional Hospital will also work towards the prevention of diseases associated with exposure to radioactive elements.

5. To protect the health of the liquidators of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and the victims of nuclear contamination, new, advanced methods of treatment and prevention will be developed for diseases caused by exposure to radiation. To this end, the Centre for Rehabilitation of victims of the Chernobyl disaster in Kiev must be renovated. The Centre will bring together the experience and knowledge acquired over the years in the rehabilitation of persons affected by external and internal radiation exposure.

6. Annual radiometric studies of the population living in the contaminated areas will be conducted. Personal dosimeters should be made available to all affected individuals. More advanced methods of dosimetry should of course be developed.

7. Public opinion needs to be kept informed regarding the need for individual and collective radiation protection. Dissemination of health education knowledge in the field of individual and collective radiation protection among adult and child population in the district must also be organised.

8. The need to implement a system for individual and collective radiation protection among adults and children in the contaminated regions is urgent. A system of radiation control of foodstuffs must be set up, equipped with devices to determine the amount of radio-nuclides in food products used by the public. In case high levels of radio-nuclides are detected in humans, medicines such as pectin, capable of adsorbing and ridding the body of radio-nuclides, will be used.

9. Providing food not containing radioactive elements is the main mechanism for protecting the health of people living in areas affected by radiation exposure. A local system to ensure that food does not contain radioactive elements must be set up.

10. The project "Radiation Protection of the mother-foetus" will be undertaken in the areas affected by the Chernobyl disaster. It will provide the necessary medical care for pregnant women, the foetus and newborn babies. Medical-genetic counselling and clean food for women living in areas contaminated with radioactive agents will also be provided.

11. Technologies must be developed to obtain clean food, not containing any radioactive elements. Such technologies should be capable of eliminating radioactive agents from foods of animal and vegetable origin, from farm animals, and from fruits and vegetables. An international competition for the best project should be organised.

12. Technologies should be developed to produce environmentally friendly food intended for consumption by persons who have been subjected to chronic, prolonged exposure to radioactivity over long periods of time. Cattle and poultry should be raised without the use of highly active chemical and bactericidal agents (low intensity infrared laser radiation).

13. Industrial technologies to create new jobs in the area must be developed. Such industries must not create adverse effects on human health and the environment. Organize an international competition for the best project.

14. Socio-cultural and educational activities should be set up to promote the intellectual development of children and the adult population of the district. European lyceums, secondary schools, music concerts of popular artists, popular science lectures, seminars, art exhibitions, modern film festivals can be scheduled.

15. Establishing greater international cooperation between the populations of the affected areas and the European Union. Humanitarian exchanges between the inhabitants of towns and villages in the affected area and the residents of French regions and cities will be set up. Community organizations, including children, women, youth teachers, sports associations, the disabled and liquidators of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant may participate. Competition for the best project.

16. a) The Centre for Ecology and Health can set up summer university seminars with a view to training specialists in problems of human health and the environment.

b) An international contest for the best student work on the effects of Chernobyl and the best work for young researchers under 35 years of age may be launched.

17. To carry out the activities described above, international scientific conferences and humanitarian initiatives should be organised on the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster in Kiev.

The project facilitates the development of initiatives; in collaboration with NGOs and environmental associations from countries the world over. Embassies from all countries accredited in Ukraine will be cordially invited to participate.

The difference between this project and those projects which have already been completed, or projects which are proposed for implementation.

1) The project which proposed the organization of the focal analytical center for "Ecology and Health", which was initiated with the help of the European Parliament The Supervisory Board of the Centre includes deputies of the European Parliament.

2) The project's main objective is to achieve the complete cessation of uptake of Cs-137 in humans, and especially pregnant women and children.

3) The project based on a comprehensive solution: the main task of which is to improve the health of people living in areas contaminated with radioactive elements.

4) The project provides broad international awareness at every stage of its implementation.

5) The project provides for close international cooperation in order to obtain the necessary human, material and legal assistance at all stages of its implementation.

The role of radionuclide Cs-137 in the induction of pathological processes

Yu. Bandazhevsky, Republic of Belarus

When assessing the humanitarian consequences of the accident at Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986, we must take into account the pronounced effects of radionuclides, primarily Cs-137, on the human population of the European part of the former Soviet Union since the 60-ies [2].

Radionuclides Cs-137, penetrating the human body, incorporated in vital organs (Fig.1), with varying degrees of severity [1]. In this case, the cells are dystrophic and necrobiotic changes associated primarily with the violation of energy mechanisms occur and lead to violations of vital body functions. The severity of the damage is directly dependent on the number of Cs-137 incorporated in the body and in the individual organs [5,6,8,9,10,11,13].

As far as radioactive elements are concerned (gamma and beta radiation from the decay of radionuclides), the amount of Cs-137 contained in the body of people living in areas contaminated by radionuclides as from the the 1960's, can be dangerous, especially as inducers of mutations in the genetic apparatus of sexual and somatic cells.

The ability of Cs-137 to cause mutations in germ cells, will in future generations be the cause of the appearance of intra-uterine death of the fetus, congenital malformations, diseases of the fetus and newborn babies and diseases of adults associated with lack of gene activity.

This internal irradiation of the organism is also extremely dangerous. In addition this is combined with the ability of Cs-137 radionuclides, as well as their decay products in the form of barium, to affect the biological structure to interact with the receptor apparatus of the cell membrane, change the regulatory processes. A striking example of this is the violation of biophysical processes of the cell

membranes of cardiomyocytes under the influence of this radionuclide, based on changes of ion permeability, and leading, ultimately, to a breach of conduction of electrical impulses in the heart [5,8,9,10,11,12].

The dependence between the frequency of cardiac activity disorders in children and the amount of radionuclides in their organisms exists. We should pay particular attention to the fact that the presence of even relatively small amounts of Cs-137 in children from 10 to Bq / kg (then in heart tissue concentration of this radionuclide is much greater) leads to a doubling in the number of children with electrocardiographic disorders [5,7,12]. In our view, the explanation of this phenomenon lies in the understanding of the existence of regulatory processes in humans and animals, including, and regulation of gene activity. In this regard, environmental factors that inhibit the function of systems that regulate (stimulate) the activity of the genetic apparatus of cells, will become inducers (generators) that will increase the occurrence of many diseases.

In relatively small amounts Cs-137 is capable of suppressing the activity of regulatory systems, and above all, the immune system. However, in the presence of genetic defects, distorted processes of realization of genetic information in the form of changes in the antigenic landscape on cell membranes, lead to disrupted cell functioning and differentiation, creating the basis for the emergence of specific pathological processes, including cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

This hypothesis has been confirmed by the results of the research conducted by staff of the French scientific center IRSN which revealed the ability of radionuclides Cs-137 to alter gene expression in cells of the myocardium in experimental animals [14].

The fact expressed radionuclides Cs-137 population of the Republic of Belarus, the Baltic countries, Russia and Ukraine, from 60-ies [2], explains the high level of disease due to damage to the cell genome, especially malignant neoplasms. This mutagenic effect is confirmed by medico-genetic studies [3,4].

Following after the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986, the intake of radioactive elements in the human organism has contributed to the rapid development neoplastic processes, which, above all, destroyed the regulatory processes that ensure the functioning of vital organs and systems in a genetic disadvantage. A clear illustration of this conclusion is the occurrence of thyroid cancer in young people and children 2-3 years after the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and a huge rise in the incidence of cancer of the organs that actively incorporate Cs-137. Radiometric study autopsy material held in the Gomel State Medical Institute (1990-1999), have shown pronounced ability of the thyroid gland of children and adults to incorporate radionuclides Cs-137 [1] There is a strong correlation between the frequency of the occurrence of thyroid cancer and the contamination density of Cs- 137 according to territory of residence of the population [15].

Contrary to scientific predictions based only on the study of external radioactive effects in genetically stable individuals, in real life situation manifested a monstrous effect of radionuclides Cs-137 in respect of the human population in contact with them for over 40 years. In this regard, it is absurd to take into account the attempt by some researchers to calculate the radiation risks to people living in the European part of the former URSS, based solely on the quantity of radionuclides that entered the biosphere after the Chernobyl accident, completely ignoring the previous one, more than 20 years earlier, which also contaminated the population. The impact of radionuclides Cs -137 on the human population of the European part of the former URSS during the period from 1960 to 1985 has laid the foundation for the emergence of pathological processes in the post-Chernobyl period (malignant neoplasms, including thyroid cancer, pathology of the cardiovascular system), taking into account the effects of radionuclides from Chernobyl. Thus, we can rightly consider the Cs-137 as:

- 1) a source of the mutation process in somatic cells, which is one of the main reasons for the growth of malignant diseases;

2) a source of mutational processes in germ cells, which is the basis for the pathological processes of antenatal and postnatal development of future generations.

3) a factor, which violates the energy processes in the cells of vital organs, resulting in:

a). in relatively small doses (20-30 Bk/kg), a breach of regulatory processes in the body, contributing to the emergence of pathological processes and diseases, based on the latent genetic predisposition due to the mutagenic action, including the same Cs-137, on gametes of parental generation (deregulator effect of Cs-137).

b) in large doses (>50 Bk/kg), the development of necrobiotic changes in the tissues which have incorporated these radionuclides which has in turn destroyed their energy system. This, in our view, is the main reason for the increased frequency of many diseases of the population living in areas affected by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

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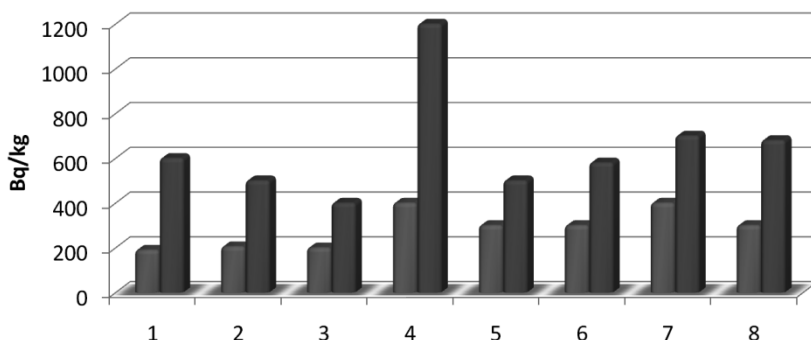


Fig.1 Ingested from chronic intake of food, Cs-137 accumulates in several vital organs

1 - Myocardium; 2 - Brain; 3 - Liver; 4 - Thyroid Gland; 5 - Kidneys; 6 - Spleen; 7 - Skeletal Muscles; 8 - Small intestine.

Accumulation of Cs-137 in the internal organs of the adults and the children of the region of Gomel, measured during the autopsies in 1997 and 1998 (Yu. I. Bandazhevsky, 1999, 2003).

The state medical industry in Ivankov district of kiev region. Problems and Solutions

O. Kadun, Ukraine

As of 01.01.2009 the territory of the Ivankov district comprised an area of 3,6 thousand square km., in which the small town of Ivankov and 80 villages are located. Administration is exercised by one town council and 26 rural councils

Area Features:

- the largest area in the Kyiv region (and in Ukraine)
- a service radius of up to 100 kilometers
- the majority of settlements are located at a considerable distance from one another
- all the settlements of the region assigned to the III - IV zone of enhanced radiological controls
- is bordered by the exclusion zone
- the density of living of the population - 9 persons per sq. km (in mid-Region – 61 per 1 km.2)

Population of the district as of 01.01.2009 totaled to 31966 persons (17,597 women, 14,369 men)

Of which: rural population - 21492 persons (67,2%), (women- 11,860 , men - 9632), urban population - 10474 persons (32,8%) (women-5737, men - 4737). Adult population - 26,096 people, Children - 5870, among them: adolescents - 1149, children - 4721.

In accordance with the Ukrainian statute) of 27.01.1991, "On the status and social protection of the territories affected by the Chernobyl accident," the population of the Ivankov district belongs to the III - IV zone of intensified radiological control. In this connection, the population of the Ivankov district is distributed by groups as follows:

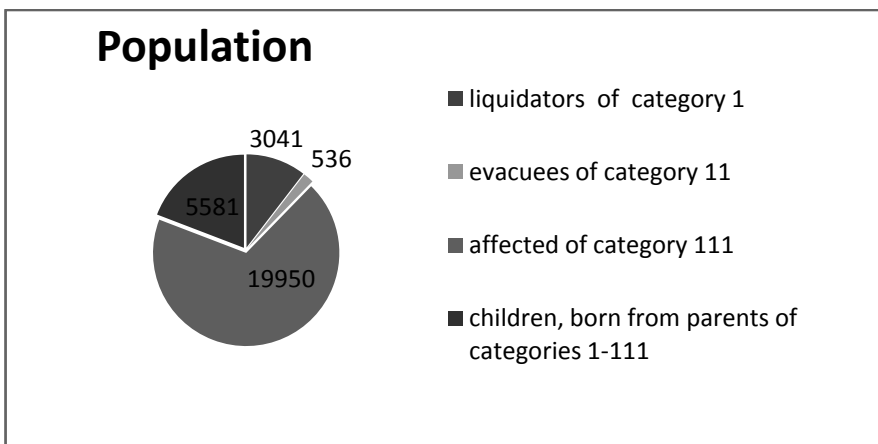
I Group - Liquidators - 3041 people - 9,97%

II group - the evacuees - 536 people - 1,75%

III group – residents - 19950 - 65,45%

IV group – children, born from parents of II - III Group accounting - 5581 people - 18,3%.

Fig.1. Distributing of the population to the groups of account.



The network of medical facilities district is represented by the following agencies:

1. Ivankiv's'kyi central district hospital of 185 beds, outpatient department for 350 visits per day.
2. Rozvazhevskaya local hospital to 15 beds and 100 visits.
3. Makarovskaya outpatient family medicine.
4. Fenevitskaya outpatient family medicine.
5. Sidorovitskaya medical dispensary.
6. Obuhovitskaya medical dispensary.
7. Priborskaya medical dispensary.
8. Gornostaypolskaya medical dispensary.
9. Kuharskaya medical dispensary.

As of 01.01.2010, in the area, there are 200 beds, with a total capacity of 850 visits per day. In the area also function: one ambulance department at the Ivankiv Central District Hospital and two ambulances, at the Rozvazhevskiy district hospital and Gornostaypolskoy medical ambulatory .

Primary care is represented by two obstetric care stations - № 6 and № 44.

The indice of any activity is its final result. In the Medical activity this result reflects the level of public health in a district.

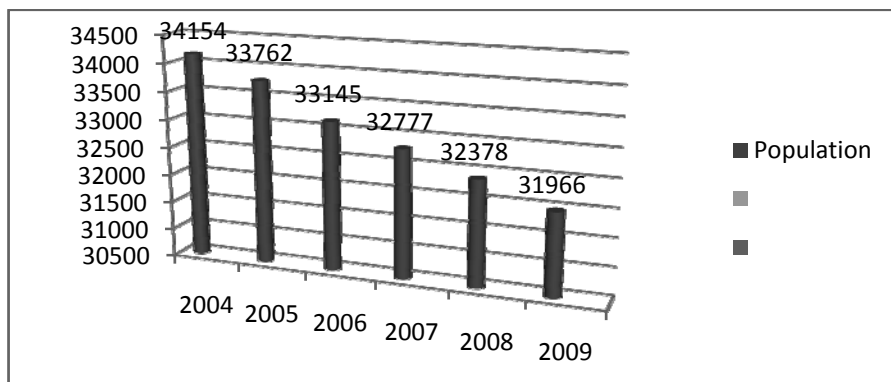
Evaluation of public health is carried out by rating indicators, namely:

- Mortality (total, child, parent)
- Level of primary disability among people of working age
- Level of primary disability among children
- Birth rate.

The higher the mortality and disability rates, the, worse the health status of the district. To determine if these indicators are high or low, they should be considered in comparison with similar indicators for the Kiev region.

Additionally, lets try to find trends, i.e. changes of these indicators over a certain period of time. It should be noted that the number of the resident population in Ivankov district over the past 5 years has decreased significantly (Fig. 2). To some extent this is associated with high mortality.

Fig. 2. The number of the permanent population of the district of Ivankov.



In recent years, mortality rates in the region are much higher than in the Kiev region as a whole, and show no signs of decreasing (Fig.3).

It is noteworthy that 23.6% of deaths were persons of working age (Figure 4). The main causes of mortality in the area are cardiovascular disease and malignant neoplasms (Fig. 5).

Fig. 3. Indexes of the death rate in the district of Ivankov (per 1000 of the proper population).

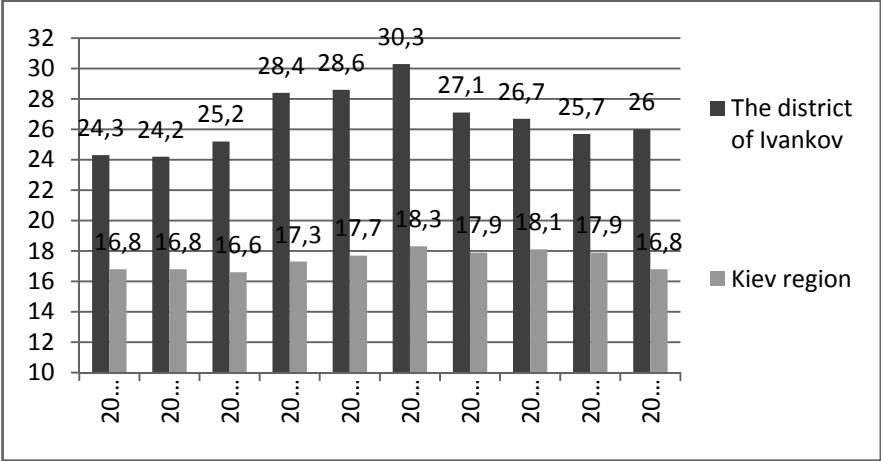


Fig.4. Differentiation of the indexes of the death rate according to the age groups.

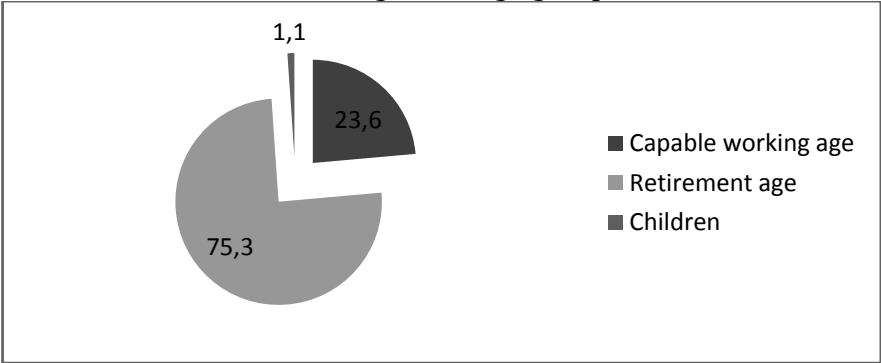
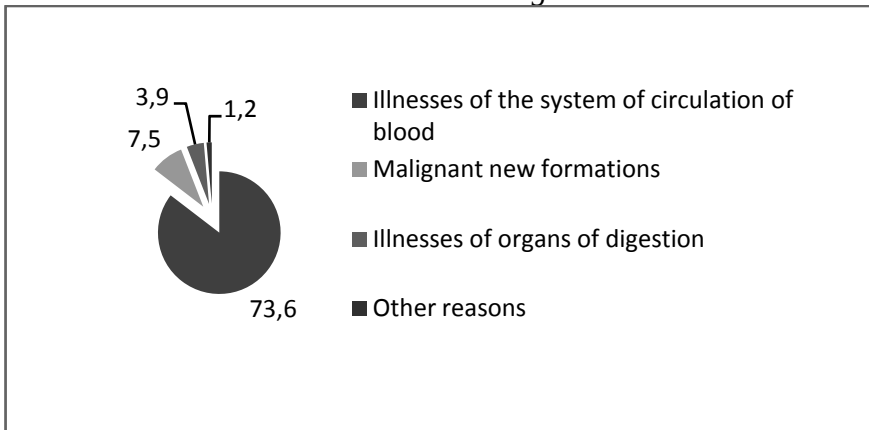
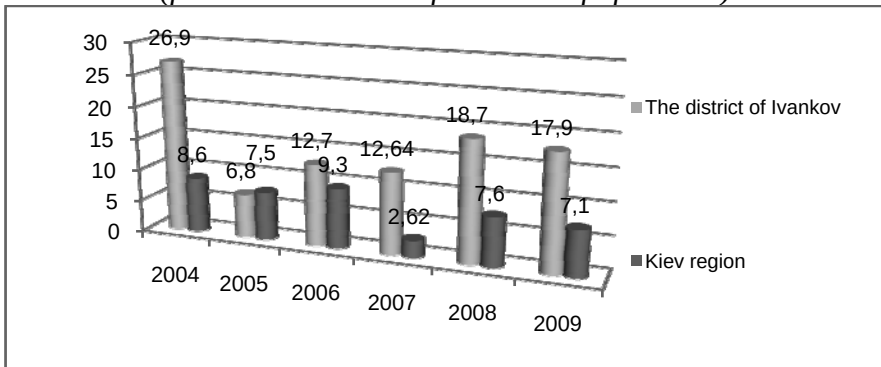


Fig. 5. Distributing of indexes of the death rate among the adult population on nosologies.



The infant mortality rate in the region is high and has a clear trend to decrease (Fig. 6).

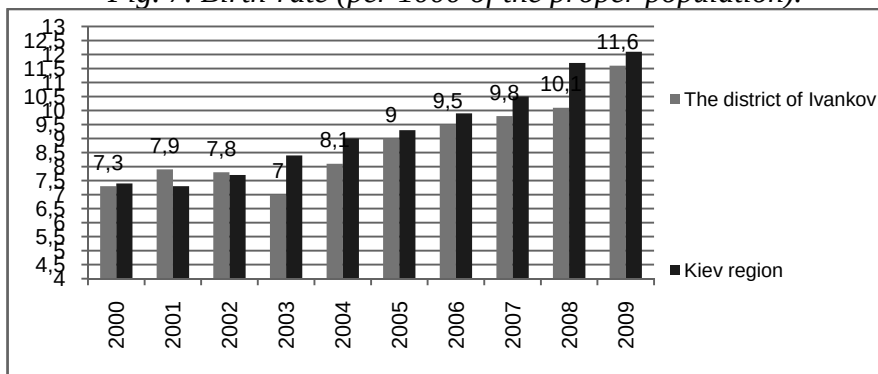
Fig. 6. Relative indexes of children's death rate (per 100 thousands of children's population).



There has been no maternal mortality in the area for many years.

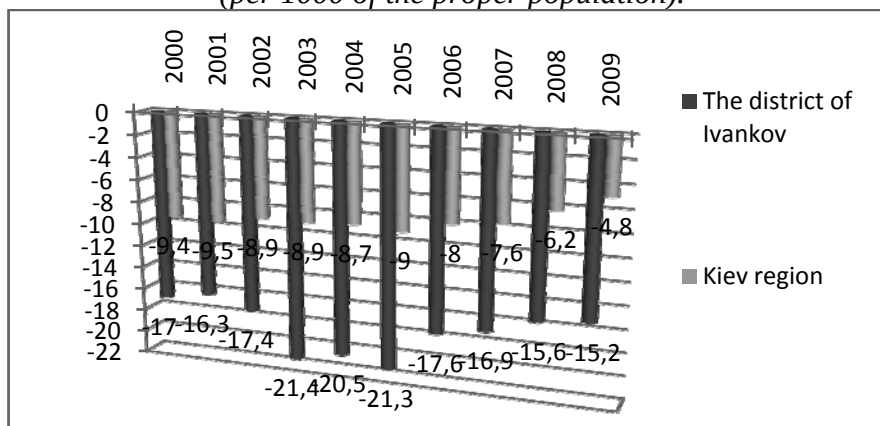
The birth rate in the area is similar to the regional and has tended to increase (Fig. 7).

Fig. 7. Birth-rate (per 1000 of the proper population).



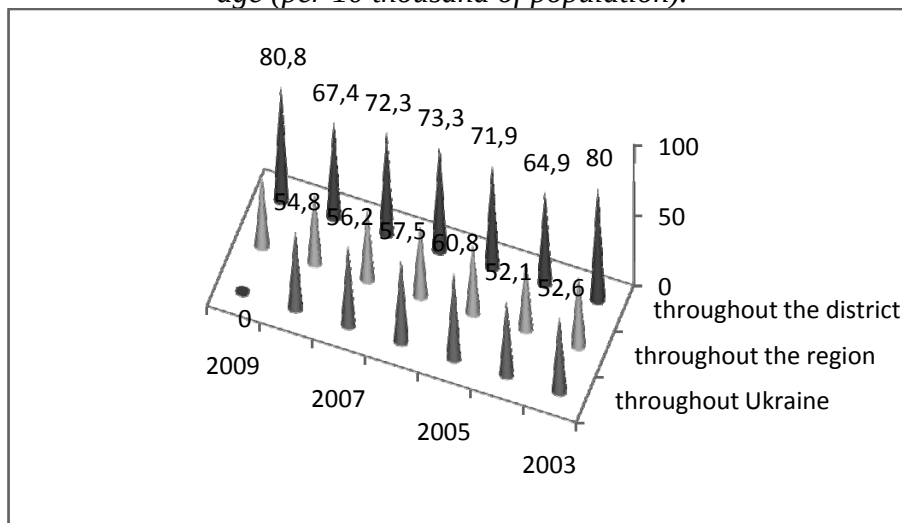
Natural increase is negative, although there has been a slight overall improvement (Fig. 8).

Fig.8. Natural increase of the population (per 1000 of the proper population).



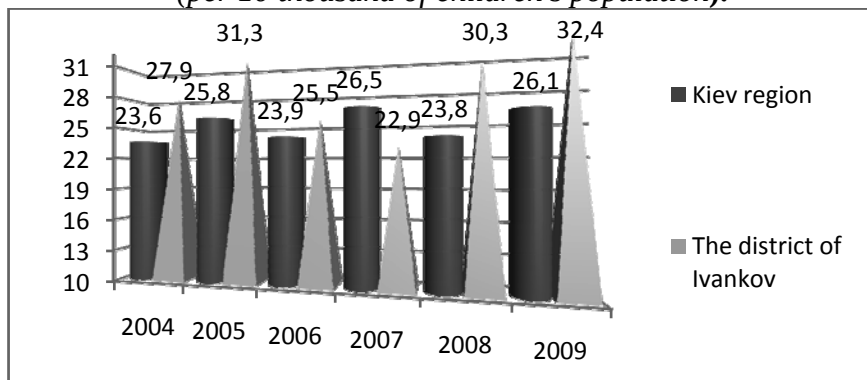
The level of primary disability among persons of working age is much higher than regional and Ukraine levels (Fig. 9).

Fig. 9. Level of the primary disability of persons of capable working age (per 10 thousand of population).



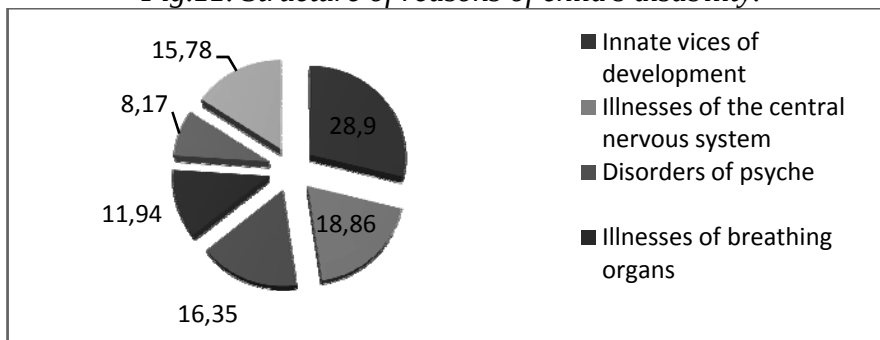
In the structure of primary disability of the adult population 1st and 2nd places are occupied by malignant neoplasms and cardio - vascular disease. In recent years, the level of primary disability among children has grown and is increasing compared with the regional indicators (Fig. 10).

Fig. 10. Level of the primary disability of children's population (per 10 thousand of children's population).



Among the causes of childhood disability, congenital malformations and diseases of the central nervous system occupy a significant place (Fig.11).

Fig.11. Structure of reasons of child's disability.



There is an increased overall incidence of illness among children and adults (Figures 12, 13).

Fig.12. General morbidity of children's population from 0 to 17 years old (per 10 thousand of the proper population).

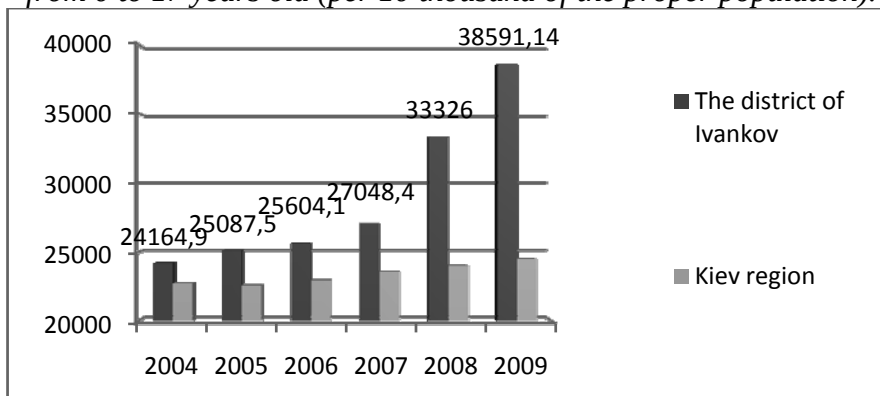
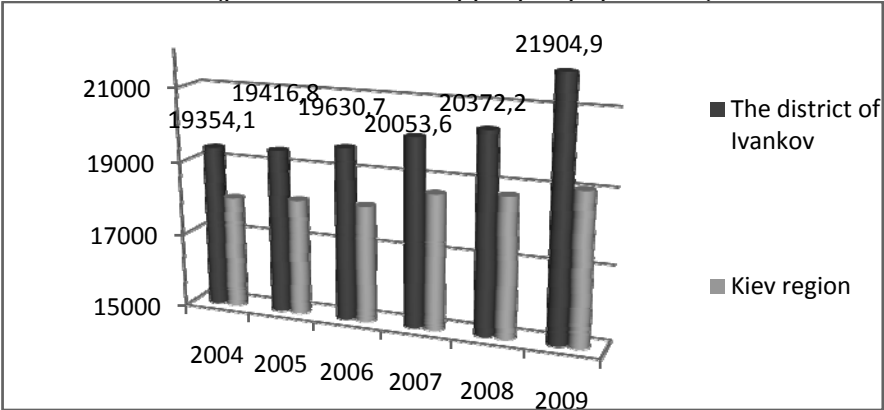
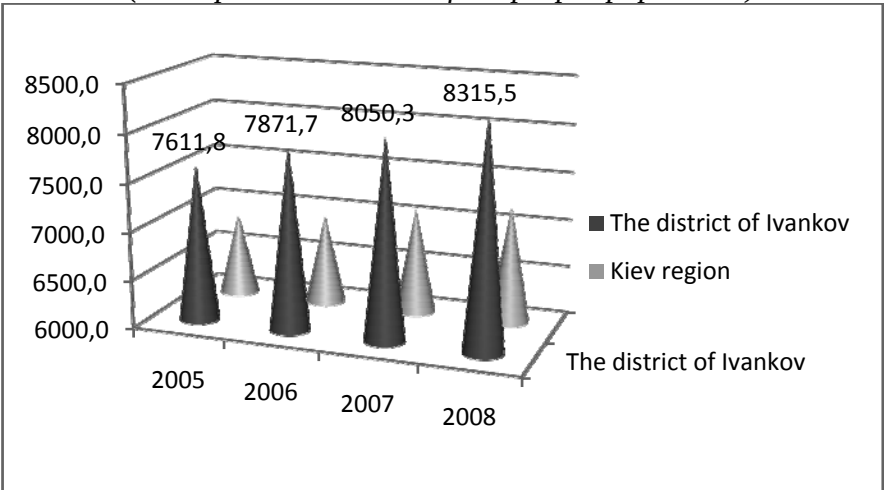


Fig. 13. General morbidity of adult population from 18 to 100 years old (per 10 thousand of proper population).



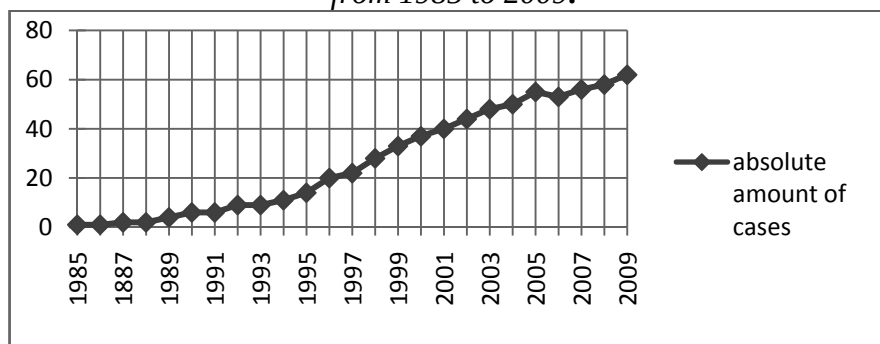
The high incidence of progressive circulatory system diseases among Ivankov district residents, in comparison with the regional indicators (Fig. 14).

Fig.14. Prevalence of diseases of the system of circulation of blood among the adult opulation (index per 10 thousand of the proper population).



Between 1988 and 2009 (when thyroid cancers were recorded separately from the total number of cancer) the incidence of thyroid cancer among the region's population grew 40-fold (from 0.5 per 10 thousand population in 1988 to 20 to 10 thousand population in 2009). In 1995, thyroid cancer was diagnosed in a 10 year old child; in 2001 at in a child 13 years old. There is no doubt that the dynamics of the prevalence of thyroid cancer among the population of the region demonstrates the negative impact of the Chernobyl accident on the health of the area population of (Fig. 15).

Fig.15. Prevalence of cancer of thyroid during the period from 1985 to 2009.



Tuberculosis incidence is a reflection of population health. In Ivankov district it is significantly higher than in the Kiev region (Figure 16, 17).

Fig.16. Morbidity by all forms of active tuberculosis (per 10 thousand of population).

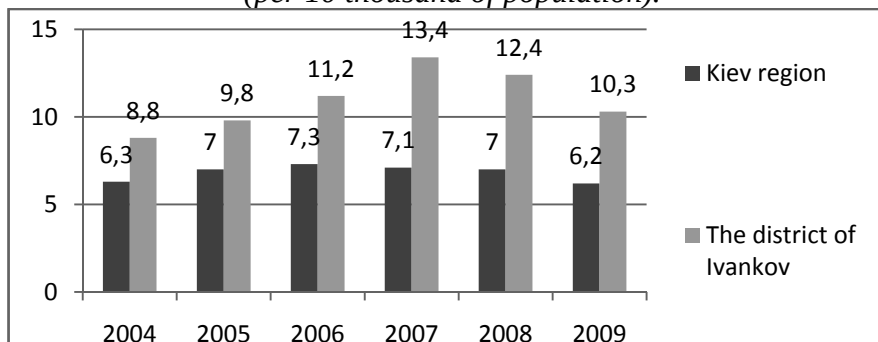
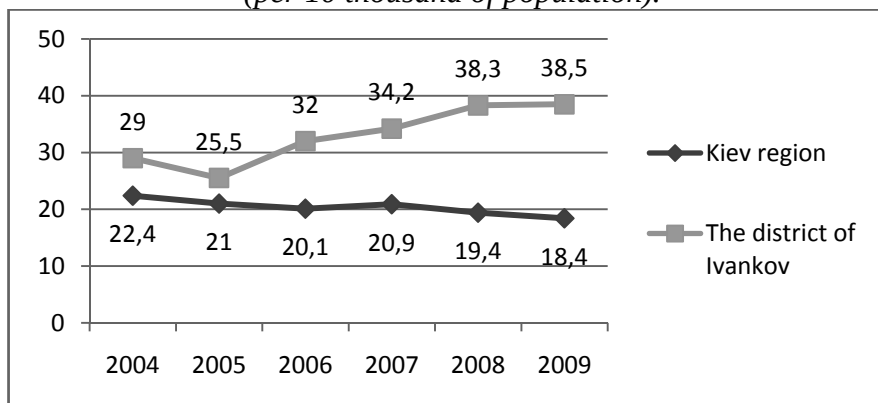


Fig.17. Contingent of patients with all forms of tuberculosis (per 10 thousand of population).



Thus, having considered the main indicators of health, we can conclude that the health of the residents of Ivankov district is worse. These figures are enough to demonstrate the dire necessity of ensuring the region's population access to qualified medical care. To understand how to make a difference, it is necessary to understand the precise negative factors affecting health. Surely, there are a lot of such factors, but I want to highlight a few basic characteristic of our area:

- Socio - economic level of population (primarily due to the lack of production, industrial enterprises, agricultural enterprises, which leads to unemployment, lower incomes, and further reduces the ability of the population to lead a healthy lifestyle, eat rationally, heals, cure, which in turn leads to a decrease in health status, disability, and high levels of mortality);

- Environmental factors - extremely relevant to our area, which has experienced and continues to experience the negative effects of the Chernobyl accident. To this factor, I would classified the harmful effects of food, which we commonly use, namely chemical additives (dyes, stabilizers), antibiotics, hormones, GMOs, which also leads to lowered immunity and the development of many diseases of the digestive system (especially among children).

- The psychological factor - "Ukrainian Mentality"

- Low culture of population in their attitudes to the preservation of their health there is no inclination to prevent disease and there is no location for a healthy lifestyle);

- Lack of interest in personal health (the state had provided social guarantees to patients (in the form of paid sick leave), social benefits for disability, free of charge or with partial payment of health - vacations) and in no way encourages people to be healthy. There is no government program to promote being healthy (e.g., the same free trips to resorts, extra days of leave, if during the year the person was not sick, promotion material), and so on.

- Instead, there is large-scale marketing of unhealthy habits, and, specifically, alcohol and tobacco advertising, to which the child population is most susceptible.

Each of these factors is extremely powerful and difficult to counteract.

Under such conditions, the only factor that might partially reduce the negative impact, appears to medicine, but under such conditions, medical industry in the region should be extraordinarily powerful.

The effective functioning of any production (and medicine entails production, which "produces" health services) requires three components:

Property and equipment, production and a cadre of specialists.

Simply speaking – what, how and who.

Let's see what kind of real possibilities for the effective functioning of medicine and the provision of quality health services to the populations affected by the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, exist in the Ivankov district.

Cadre of specialists – the area is serviced by physicians in 70%, of which 60% are of retirement age or disabled. In addition, only 65% of physicians are certified to the highest 1st , and 2nd levels. In 2010, 12 doctors were demoted to doctors - interns.

Over the past two years 10 young doctors came to work in the Ivankiv district. To encourage them to live and work in the district, it is necessary to ensure their housing. Part of the problem was resolved by the purchase of apartments for official housing to physicians (in 2008, apartments for two doctors were purchased). But this is extremely inadequate.

The situation is even worse with staffing in the rural health care area. Almost half of rural health care areas are not served by therapists. In the best case, there is a dentist. This leads to a significant decrease of primary health-care delivery. If the central district hospital is provided with nursing staff and medical attendants for 100%, then rural health care areas and obstetric stations are provided with paramedical personnel for only 74%. Only 52% of public health care workers are certified to work in their field.

The next component (**fixed assets**) - is a place for providing medical care to area residents.

Ivankov central district hospital is located in adapted buildings far from each other. Virtually none of the hospital buildings meet current health standards. Even the polyclinic, which was constructed on a typical project in 1977-1978, currently needs recon-

struction (especially in regard to the laboratory). The two-story building, which houses the surgical, gynecological, neurological and receiving departments, was built as a hospital for tuberculosis patients in the 60-ies.

Due to the lack of facilities, equipment and staffing constraints there is no intensive care unit in Ivankiv CRH, which greatly complicates the provision of emergency and intensive care.

The buildings housing the infectious disease and maternity wards, were built in the 20-30-ies (during the occupation in WWII they hosted the jail and stable) and do not meet sanitary - epidemiological or hygienic requirements for these departments.

The hospital is not secured with an emergency power or central oxygen supply. Besides this, public utilities (sewerage, water supply, heating system) need repair and replacement. There is an urgent need for the reconstruction and repair of laundry facilities on the territory of CDH. Currently laundry is sent out to be cleaned at an orphanage located outside the city.

Fixed assets include transportation. Given the vast territory and large number of settlements located at a distance from one another, the problem of transport is very serious. The maximum safe performance life of an ambulances is up to 9 years. Nearly 80% of the available number of vehicles need repairs, and some need to be written-off. Maintenance, repair and write-offs need to be accompanied by adequate funding.

The next component (**means of production**) – is the equipment (Laboratory, diagnostic, therapeutic), instruments, medicines, reagents, medical devices, that are necessary for the implementation of the treatment process. The available equipment is ethically and technically outdated, needs continuous financial support for the annual calibration, maintenance and, if necessary, repair. In addition, the provision of modern equipment is not sufficient and significantly impairs the possibility for the early diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Instruments are very rarely updated because of the lack of

funds, which also makes some therapeutic and diagnostic procedures impossible. Medication is only for emergency assistance.

The same problems exist in medical and obstetric centres. Most of the premises are unsuitable adaptations and are not provided with necessary equipment and medicines. All of these problems demonstrate the lack of district financing. In this regard, the need to provide medical care does not match the capabilities of the medical area. And this in its turn leads to an inability to promptly detect and adequately inspect, treat and prevent diseases leading to disability and higher mortality rates. Nevertheless, the level of funding does not allow for the construction, renovation or supply of necessary equipment for the provision of modern medical care.

In addition it must be noted that our doctors not only assist residents of the Ivankov district, but also the Polesie district (specifically, infectious patients, pregnant women, some surgical and gynecological patients, children, etc.). Ivankiv CDH treats the inhabitants of the exclusion zone ("self-settlers") and people who work in the exclusion zone. Another important point - Ivankiv CDH is located on the road between Chernobyl and Kiev, and is the agency that will be used to provide medical care to employees (foreign and Ukrainian), who build the sarcophagus in the town of Chernobyl.

In this regard, to address the issue of improving people's health, it is necessary to build and equip a modern medical complex for the full medical support of people who have suffered as a result of the accident, and who for many years, have not received proper medical care.

This medical complex can be both a scientific research center to study the impact on the health of low doses of radiation, the venue for conferences and exchange of Ukrainian and foreign doctors who deal with issues of medical care to people who have experienced the effects of low doses of radiation and permanently reside in contaminated areas.

The need for this work is extremely high, because, unfortunately, the lack of adequate response to the problem does not lead to

its solution. It is absolutely clear to all that the problem with the consequences of the influence of the Chernobyl accident will not disappear in even a hundred years. And sooner or later it must be addressed.

We have experienced 24-years of inappropriate attitudes to the health of people in contaminated areas as well as outside of contaminated areas. This is the reality, which can't be concealed, and there's no reason to hide it. I think the time has come to understand that the problem must be resolved, not ignored. And not partially, but comprehensively. It is no secret to anyone that the production of nuclear power is rather dangerous, especially given the possibility of accidents.

Therefore, Ivankov district, due to strong powerful objective circumstances, may become a model pilot project for safe living conditions in contaminated territories. To do this it is necessary to create conditions for the full and high-quality medical care for population, to create enterprise and industry, which would improve the socio-economic condition of people and have no harmful effects on health, by providing innovative technologies on growing organic food in the contaminated areas, and innovative projects to clean up the cows milk from radio nuclides, and many other projects that would make such areas able to provide themselves with all necessary without causing harm to health and the environment. But without expecting help from outside, as is now the case. .

This project is important, both for the residents of affected areas, and for those who lobby for the widespread adoption of nuclear energy. Because the opportunity to provide the population of adjacent territories with safe living conditions, even in case of emergency situations, will significantly improve the construction and operation of nuclear power plants. It is understandable that the introduction of a safe life model in contaminated areas requires much time, effort and quite expensive, but ...not more expensive than LIFE.

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Some aspects of a state of health of the population of the Republic of Belarus after the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

G. Bandazheuskaya, Republic of Belarus

Belarus was the most suffered country from the Chernobyl accident. About 70% of radioactive substances released to the atmosphere as a result of the accident at the 4th block of the Chernobyl NPP contaminated 53 districts or 23% of the territory of the republic (Fig.1).

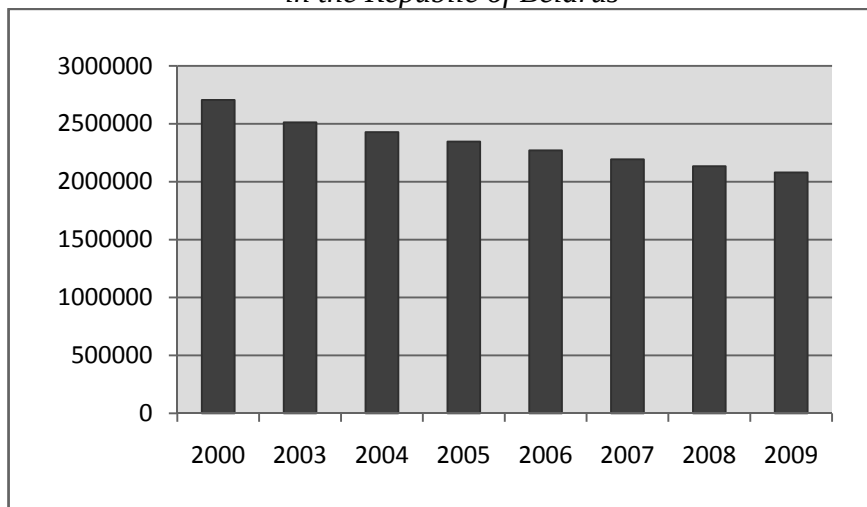
Fig. 1 Consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant



For time which has passed after the Chernobyl accident, becomes more and more obvious that its influence is much more difficult, than it was originally supposed. First of all, there were the problems connected with health of the population living or evacuated from the most suffered from radiation territories.

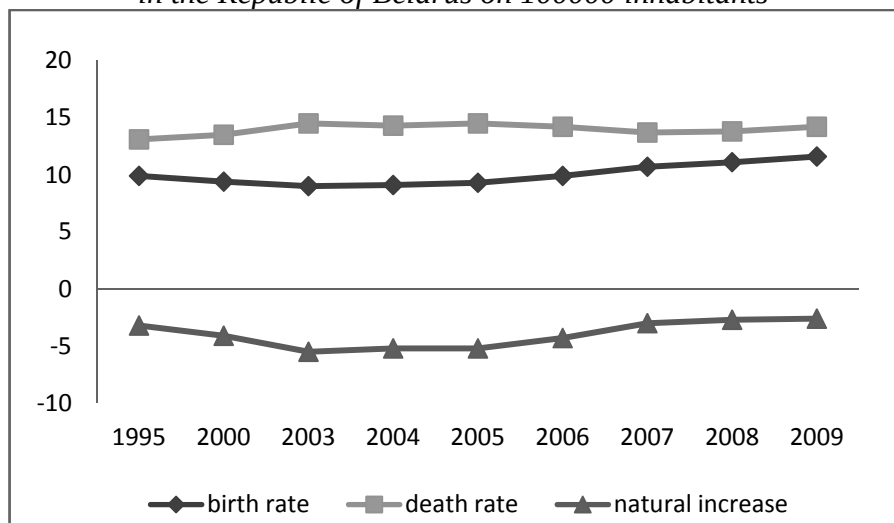
Since 1994 the population of Belarus was reduced on 607, 4 thousand people (about 5,9 %), and on the beginning of 2009 there were 9671,9 thousand people (only in 2008 year the population has decreased on 41, 7 thousand people). Also the number of children till the age 15 decrease on 290 thousand since 2000. (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2 The dynamics of the count of the children in the Republic of Belarus



Since 2003, positive dynamics of increase in birth rate was outlined, in particular, in 2009 the birth rate was 11,6 ‰ and in 2008 – 11,1‰. However, along with birth rate increase, death rate of the population of the Republic has grown from 13,8‰ in 2008 to 14,2 ‰ in 2009. (Fig. 3).

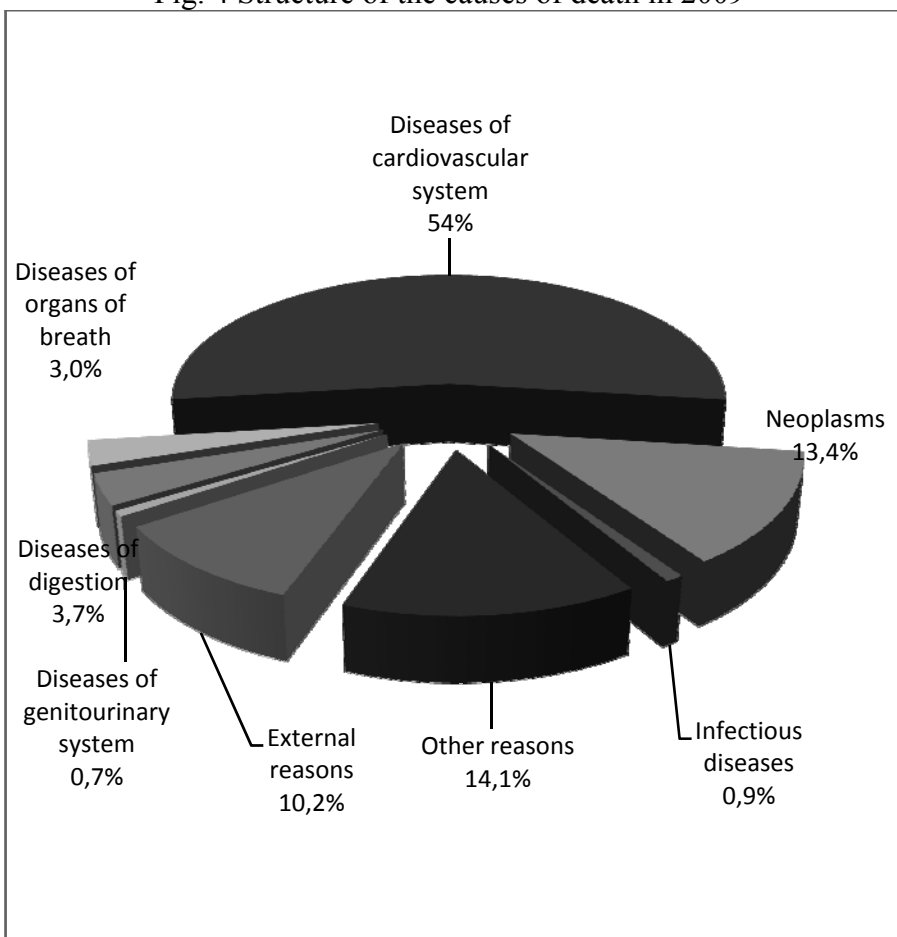
Fig. 3 Birth rate, death rate, natural increase of the population in the Republic of Belarus on 100000 inhabitants



In 2009 children's death rate increased (57,4 cases on 100 thousand children's population) in comparison with 2008 (53,2 cases on 100 thousand children's population). The highest level of children's death rate was registered in Gomel region – 66,3 cases on 100 thousand children's population.

Cardiovascular diseases are the base cause of death rate of adult population. In 2009 the number of death, from cardiovascular diseases increased on 2,9 % in comparison with 2008 and was 54 % from total number of death. The new growths, the reason of death rate-13,4 of % second for the importance from total number died (Fig. 4)

Fig. 4 Structure of the causes of death in 2009



Last years the number of primary disease of adult population was grown (Fig. 5), and especially in such basic groups of diseases as: cardiovascular diseases (Fig. 6) and tumors (Fig. 7).

Fig. 5 Primary incidence of the adult population of the Republic of Belarus (per 100000 inhabitants)

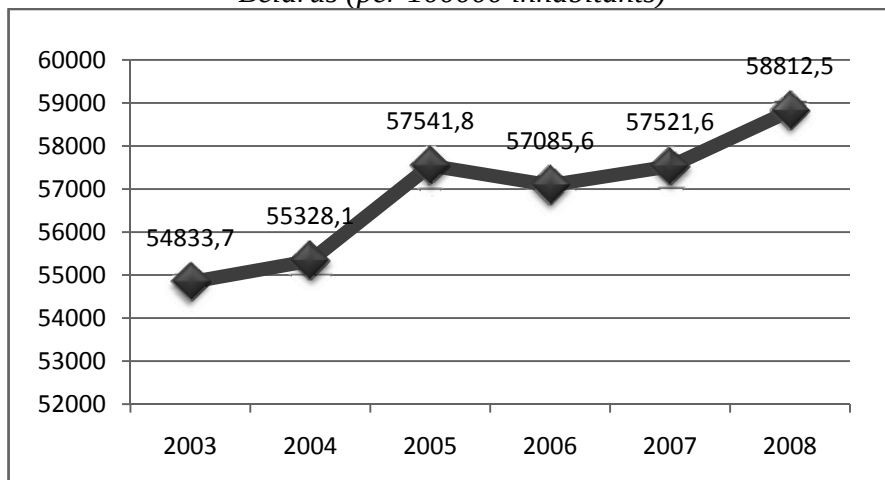


Fig. 6 The dynamics of the primary incidence of the adult population with the diseases of blood circulation system in different regions of Belarus (per 100000 adults)

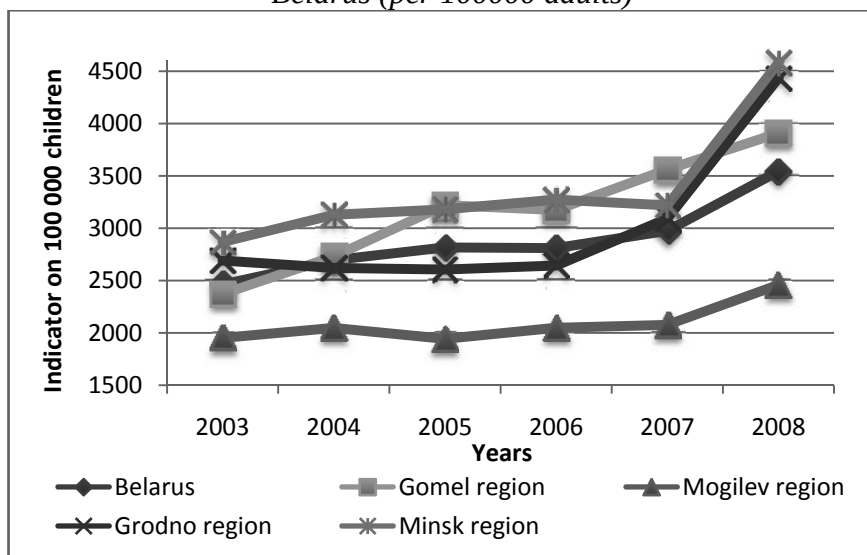
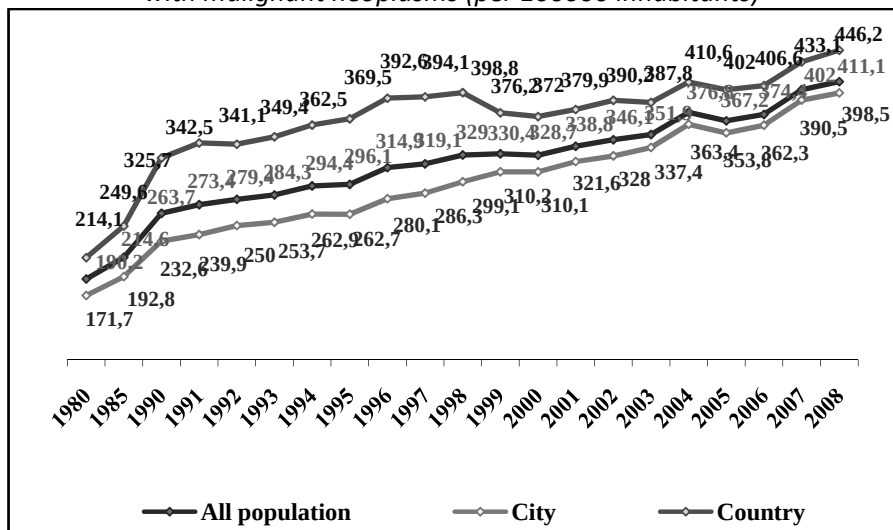
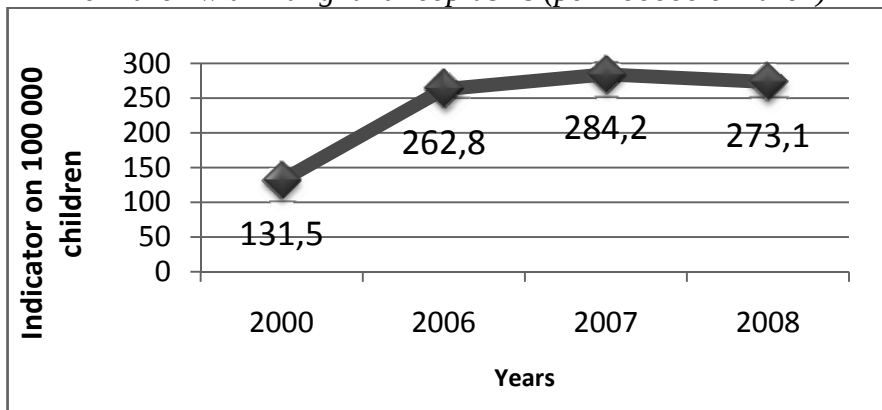


Fig. 7 Incidence of the population of the Republic of Belarus with malignant neoplasms (per 100000 inhabitants)



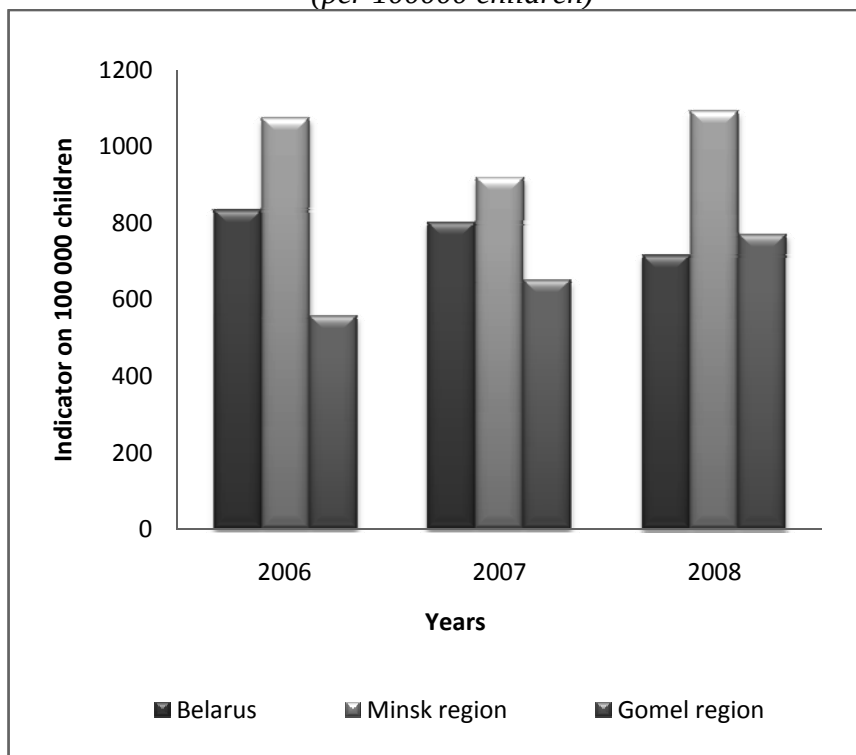
The similar tendency is traced and in children's population. For the last 8 years the number of tumor increased in the country more than in 2 times (Fig. 8).

Fig. 8 The dynamics of the primary incidence of the Belarusian children with malignant neoplasms (per 100000 children)



From 2006-2008 the high primary sick rate of cardiovascular system among children from Gomel and Minsk districts is marked (Fig. 9).

Fig. 9 The dynamics of the primary incidence of the children with the diseases of blood circulation system in different regions of Belarus (per 100000 children)



Among children from Gomel and Mogilyov districts (the most polluted areas) the primary sick rate of endocrine system is above average republican level (Fig. 10).

The primary sick rate of congenital anomalies and developmental anomalies (Fig. 11) are grown.

Fig. 10 The dynamics of the primary incidence of the children with the diseases of endocrine system in different regions of Belarus (per 100000 children)

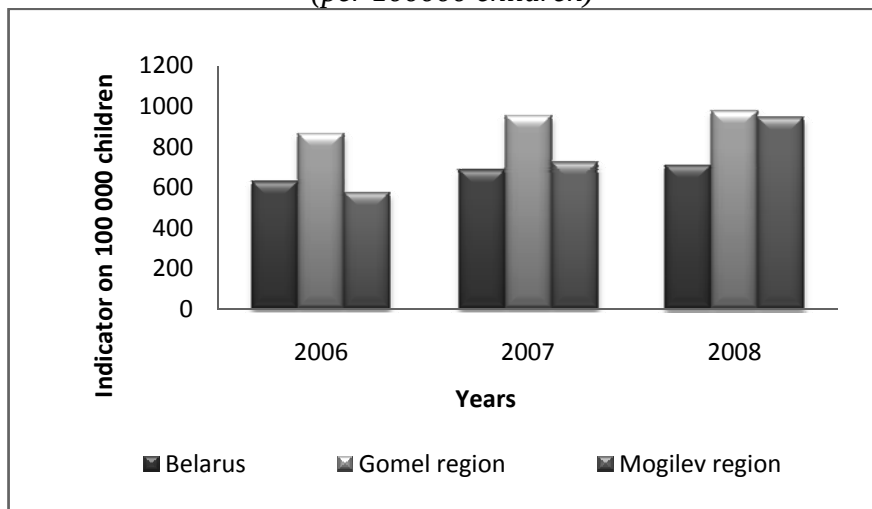
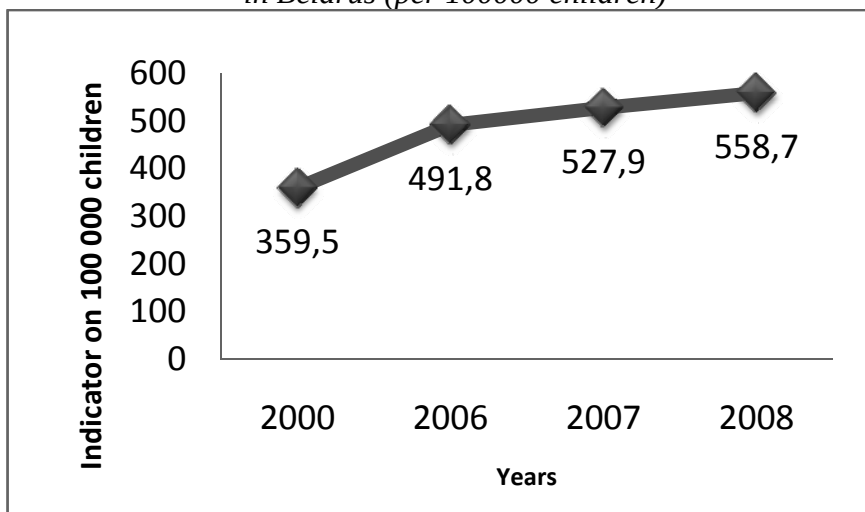
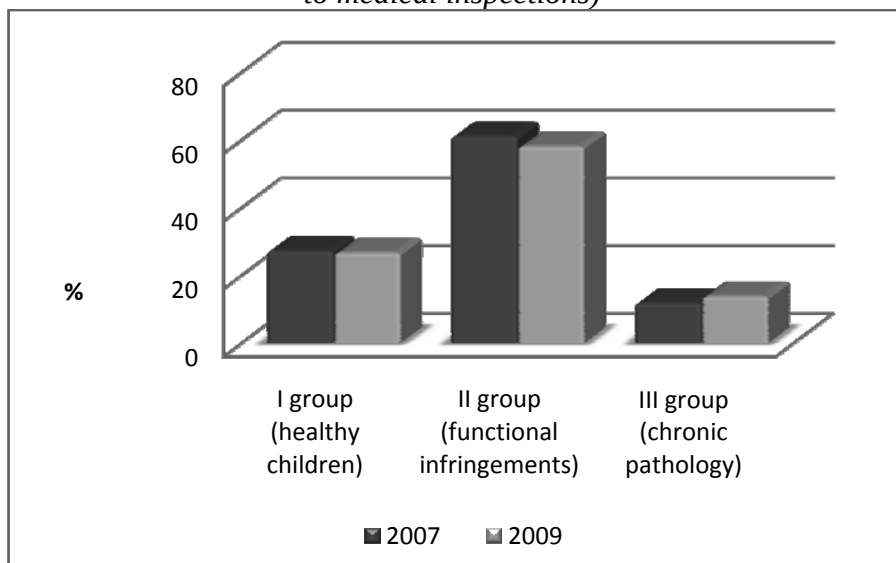


Fig. 11 The dynamics of the primary incidence of the children with the congenital anomalies and the developmental anomalies in Belarus (per 100000 children)



In 2009 in Byelorussia (according to the data of medical inspection of more than 1 million pupils) 26, 7% of children were considered healthy (the 1st group of health), 58, 1% - the group with functional infringements and risk of development of a chronic pathology (the second group of health), 13,8 % children with a chronic pathology (the third group of health). In comparison with 2007, in 2009 the number of pupils with a chronic pathology has increased, and the number of healthy children has decreased (Fig. 12.)

Fig. 12 State of health of pupils of the Republic of Belarus (according to medical inspections)



Conclusions:

1. It is necessary to recognize, the state of health of the population of Byelorussia has become worse since the failure at Chernobyl nuclear station in 1986.

2. The main problems are:

a/. the growth of death rate of adults (among the death rate reasons the illnesses of system of blood circulation and tumor take the main place), as well as of children population during the year.

b/. the increasing of the primary and general disease, caused by tumor, illnesses of endocrine system, cardiovascular, congenital anomalies and developmental anomalies.

3. The existing unfavorable health situation of the population of Byelorussia predetermines the acceptance of active actions from public authorities, practical public health services and scientists concerning elaborations and establishing of preventive measures and treatment of the serious illness caused by an unfavorable ecological situation.

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The role of the Chernobyl victim rehabilitation center in the development of rehabilitative treatments for persons affected by radiation

A. Mostepan, Ukraine

According to current statistics, the Ministry of Public Health has registered two million six hundred fifty thousand victims of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (NPP) accident. Of these, more than two million people continue to live in contaminated areas (including four hundred seventy thousand children under the age of fourteen).

One out of every ten victims is disabled.

The incidence of disease among the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear power is one of the world's highest among population groups affected by the harmful impact of technologically related accidents (World Health Organization) and includes:

- participants in the liquidation - 91,5%;
- Evacuees - 87%;
- People living in contaminated areas - 76,6% (the majority of this group has not been examined);
- Children, who were evacuated - 83,7%;
- Children born to participants of the liquidation - 76,1%;
- Children continuing to live in contaminated areas - 76,6%.

In 2001 pursuant to the Instruction of the President of Ukraine of 20.04.2001 № 14/460; the decree of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of 20.04.2000, № 1681-III, 14.12, 2000 № 2147-III, 26.04.2001, № 2404 - III, respectively, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 26.04.2001 № 577/2, of 26.01.2002, 10.06.2002g., 06.08.2002 № 1017/96; of 17.08.2002 № 1121; by Order of the President of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine of 20.07.2000, № 34, the Rehabilitation Center for persons affected by the Chernobyl accident (Rehabilitation Center) was established.

About ten years ago the Rehabilitation Center was engaged in the treatment and rehabilitation of patients affected by the Chernobyl disaster, as well as those living in radiation contaminated areas, who have non-specific respiratory, nervous system, cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal tract, and hemopoietic diseases. In particular, patients who require rehabilitation after bone marrow transplantation should be admitted.

After restoration of the rehabilitation center, specialists from the Research Center for Radiation Medicine AMS, Kiev Medical University of the Ukrainian Academy of Traditional Medicine and other specialized medical institutions of the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Emergencies will be involved in providing highly skilled medical and rehabilitative care.

It is assumed that the main methods of treatment by the Rehabilitation Centre will be a combination of drug therapy and non drug therapy (nontraditional) therapies (e.g., physiotherapy, the use of physical treatment, balneology, psychotherapy, acupuncture, homeopathy, herbal medicine, nutritional therapy using radiation protectors, juices, fruits, vegetables, lipotropic substances, etc.)

The training level of medical technicians who serve the residents of contaminated areas is insufficient. In this regard, a partnership agreement has been signed with the Kiev Medical University UAFM for the training of higher and secondary medical staff who will work in these areas. In addition, university professors and leading researchers from the Research Centre for Radiation Medicine (RCRM) are prepared to create a set of theoretical lectures and practical lessons to improve the skills of medical staff working in health care institutions in the contaminated areas.

One of the main tasks of the Rehabilitation Centre will be the collection and organization of medical and environmental data which will be collected during the work process to minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. The Rehabilitation Center will be available to provide a forum for international seminars, conferences, congresses, etc., to share experiences with interested organizations,

academics and environmental Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The Rehabilitation Center is located on an area of 4.5 hectares in a pine forest in a sanatorium-resort area near Kyiv.

The Rehabilitation Center will be composed of the following departments:

- Therapeutic;
 - Psycho-neurological;
 - Hemato-immune-endocrinology;
 - Department of rehabilitation therapy;
 - Physiotherapy;
 - Administrative Supervision, engineering-technology and other personnel necessary for the functioning of the treatment facility.
- Total 200 beds (first in line).

The Rehabilitation Center is scheduled to be composed of 210 staff positions:

- Doctors - 38;
- low-grade medical workers - 63;
- medical attendants- 38;
- Pharmacists - 3;
- Other staff - 68.

(Staffing drafted in the light of the Phase I Rehabilitation Centre)

The list of buildings and their capacity:

- Building 1 - 220 hospital beds, area - 3756 m².
- Building 2 - 220 hospital beds, area - 3756 m².
- Medical diagnostic housing for 500 visits per shift (therapeutic pool, gym) - 1918m²;
- Administrative building, 500 seat dining room, 234 seat conference hall -2550m².

Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding, the Rehabilitation center building and structures have deteriorated, medical equipment had become obsolete and they can not be used for diagnosis and treatment at the present time. It is my hope that the implementation of the international project "Model of integrated life support in the area of radioactive contamination" will allow for the full reconstruction of the Rehabilitation Center.

Organization of the project "The Model of integrated livelihoods in the area of radioactive contamination"

V. Makarenko, Ukraine

Participants in the project "Model of integrated life support in the area of radioactive contamination" believe that the most important aspect of solving the problem is the dissemination of full, accurate and timely analytical information on the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, the current stage of overcoming them and the prospects for Ukraine and the world in the future. Only truthful information from independent sources and professional research companies can provide a basis for constructive dialogue between authorities and societies in the states affected by the worst technological disaster in the history of mankind. Only this will prevent the cooling of the world's attention to the fate of the millions of Europeans who are forced to survive on contaminated territories in the center of the Continent. Today, as far as we, the participants of project "The Model of integrated life support in the area of radioactive contamination" know, there exists no such consolidated segment in the information fields of Ukraine, Europe, or the world. Our goal is to break through this wall of silence and inaction in order to minimize the Chernobyl negatives in all spheres of life and the unacceptable recurrence of any such catastrophe in the future.

Project description

The unique character of the project consists in this, that it is not subject to any state or corporate censorship. Media freedom is combined with the independent perspectives of international experts, doctors, human rights defenders, victims and liquidators of the Chernobyl accident, and the representatives of public organizations and government legislative bodies. Opening up this theme and informing society about the course and stages of environmental solutions, public health services, and Chernobyl related social problems will promote the development of democracy, formation of the civil society, and promote the progressive reform in the post-Soviet space.

The whole range of questions have been highlighted on television, radio, in printed media and on the internet. This work is being carried out by the experienced journalists and editors at the information department of the coordinating analytical center "Ecology and Health" whose staff have experience in the performance of international projects, e.g., USAID, TACIS, international fund "Возрождение" etc.

The Centre expects to create and broadcast on the national TV and radio channels short TV films at least twice per month, and to publish information in national newspapers about the activities of the Centre and its partners. The same applies to work with regional newspapers, radio and TV stations, where time will be purchased for the airing of thematic subjects.

In continuation of its function as a mouthpiece, the center is also expected to publish two Bulletins quarterly, which will be distributed in the Parliament, the Cabinet of Ministers, the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Population Protection from the Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Public Health of Ukraine, regional, district, town and village councils in the affected areas and, in international public organizations represented in Ukraine. Once every quarter an illustrative magazine "We can not forget Chernobyl" will be published in

Ukrainian, Russian and English. Distribution addresses for organizations of the European Union, United Nations, diplomatic missions of the former Soviet Union countries, Chernobyl regional social organizations, etc., will be added.

The Information and PR departments shall also prepare and conduct presentations, local seminars, meetings, press conferences, press-releases, etc. Accomplishments, future plans and announcements will be summarized on the rehabilitation Centre's website, which will be constantly maintained and updated. A video report summing up the Center's activities will be created annually. All materials on the web site shall be available to both domestic and international users. The department shall be provided with modern technical facilities sufficient to maintain its effectiveness and efficiency.

The project's intended results:

- the creation of an alternative civilized information space informing Ukraine and the world community;
- the establishment of a Computer database bank (video materials) on Chernobyl which archives in the interactive communication which can be used interactively by both governmental and public organizations and foundations;
- the connecting of Chernobyl health care and environmental agencies, combining efforts in research, overcoming the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station and preventing the recurrence of such global man-made disasters;
- the initiation of a stage in the formation of a united European family of nations, professing universal values, which are predicated, in particular, on the development of freedom of speech and support for human rights;
- the positive promotion of the activities of EU institutions in Ukraine and throughout the former Soviet Union.