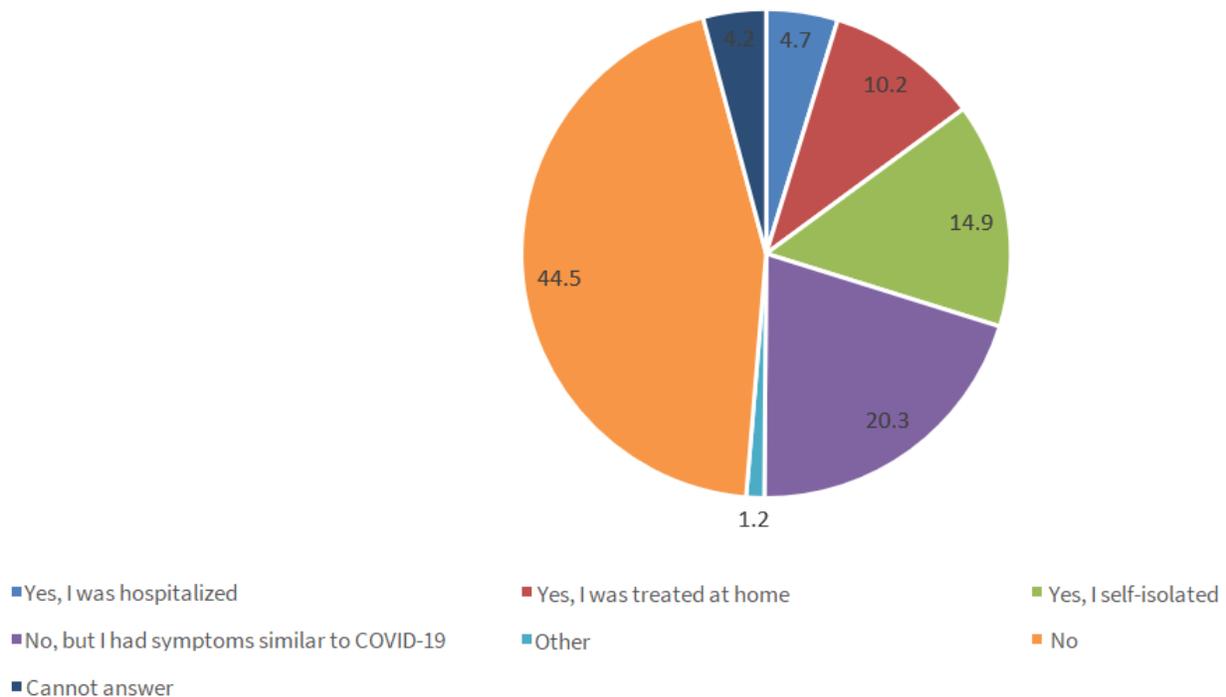


## COVID-19 and information sources about pandemic in Belarus May'2021

This publication presents the results of a representative Internet survey of the Belarusian Internet audience aged 15-74, dedicated to the incidence of COVID-19 coronavirus and news media sources of information about the coronavirus pandemic, conducted in April-May 2021.

### Were you personally sick with COVID-19 coronavirus?

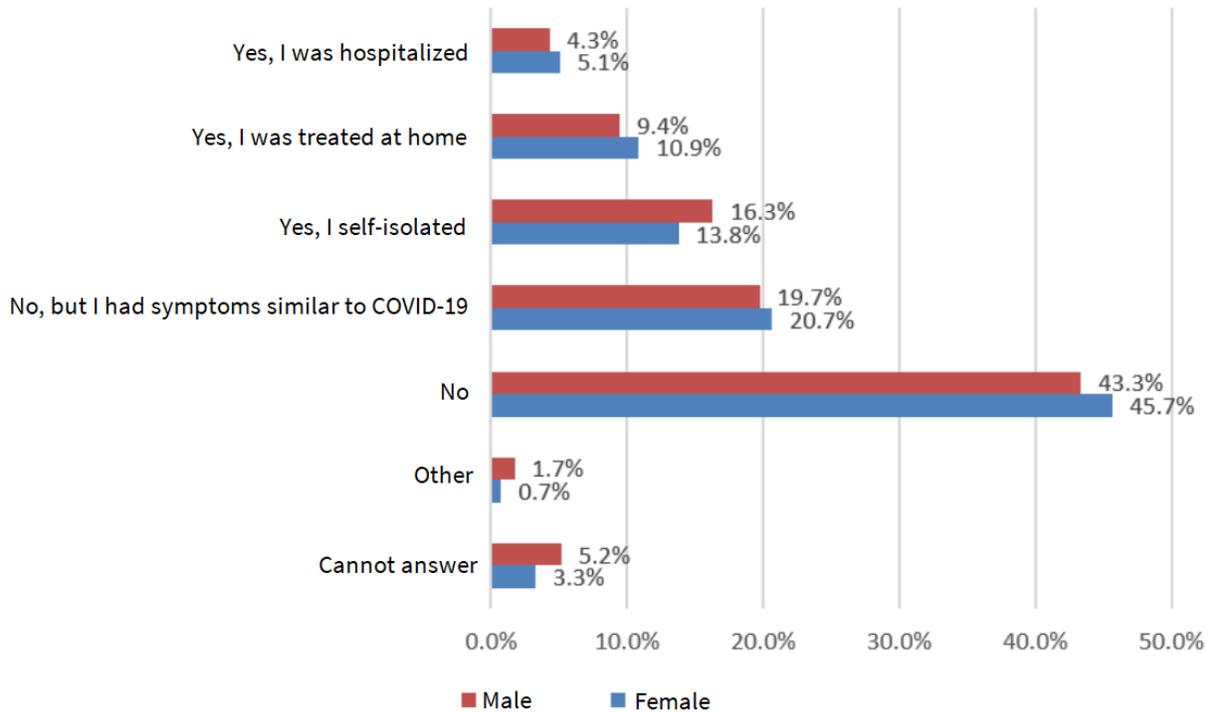


Almost 30% (29.8%) of respondents stated that they were sick with COVID-19 coronavirus.

If we add those who had COVID-19-like symptoms, we end up with 50,1% of Belarusian Internet audience!

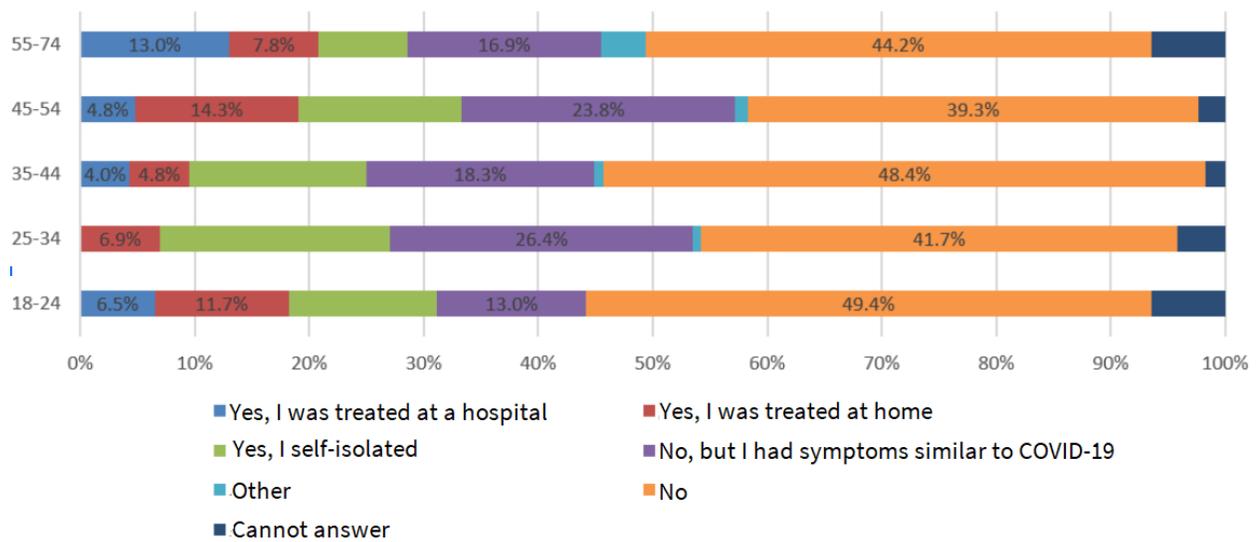
Let's consider socio-demographic characteristics of survey respondents.

## Gender distribution:



Gender difference by over 1% is noted in two categories: more sick males self-isolated, while female audience had lower rate of sickness.

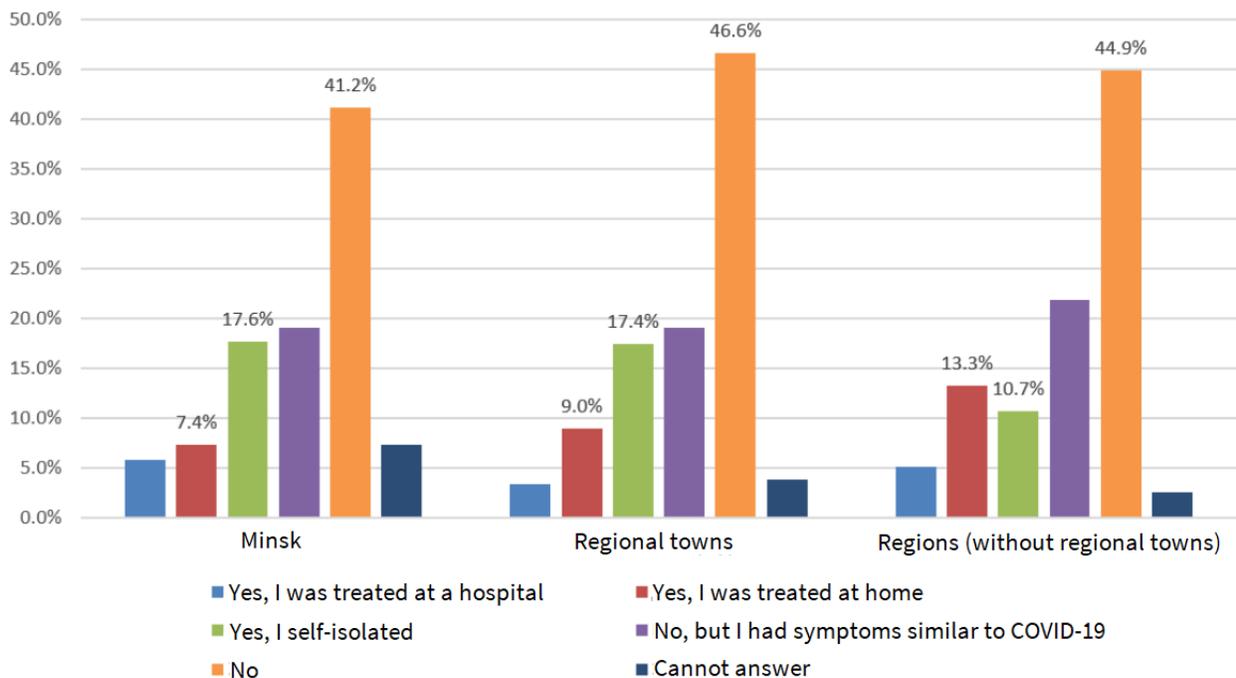
## Age distribution:



Unfortunately, as expected, most of the respondents that were hospitalized belonged to an older age bracket - 13% (55-74 years old).

The group that had the least sick respondents was the young Internet audience (15-24 years old) - 49,4%.

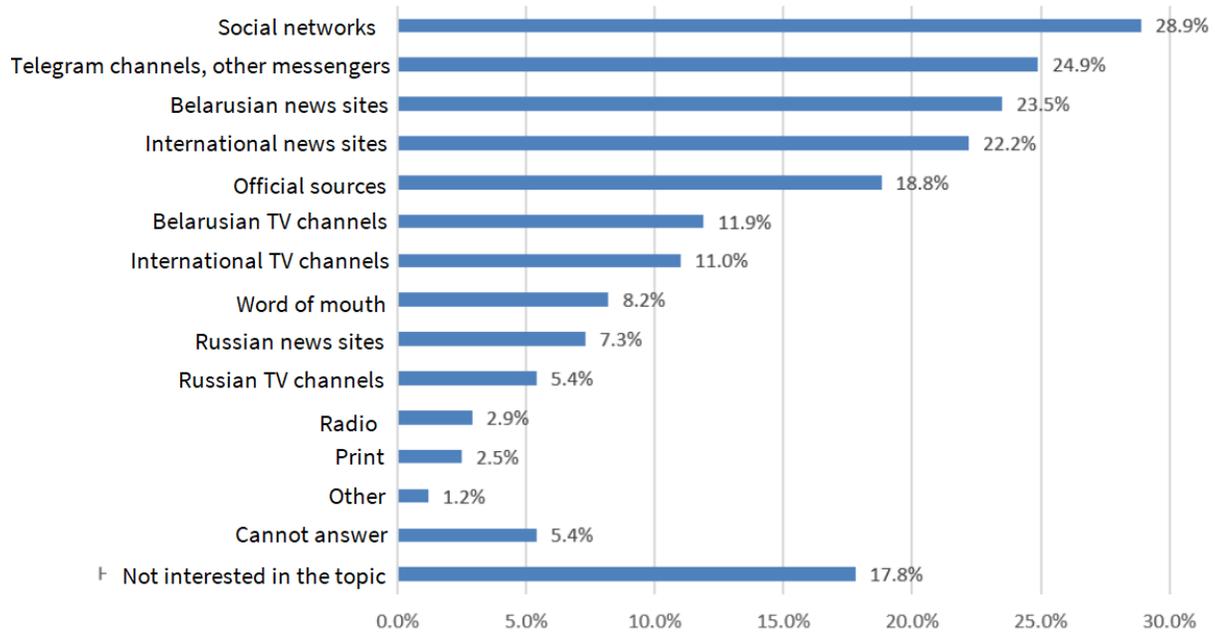
Geographical distribution:



It can be seen that there is an almost twofold difference between Minsk (7.4%) and residents of the regions (13.3%) in the outpatient treatment.

On the other hand, the difference in self-isolation among respondents from Minsk (17.6%) and from regions (10.7%) is the reverse.

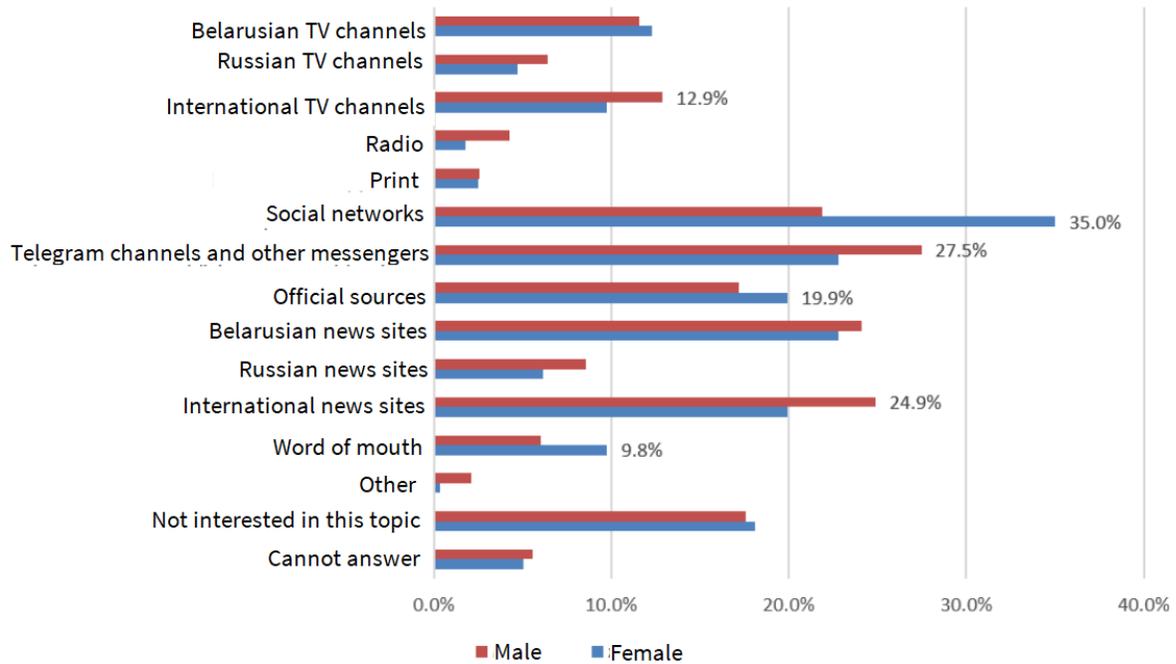
### What sources of information do you use to get news about the coronavirus pandemic?



It was a multiple answer question, which means that respondents could mark multiple news sources.

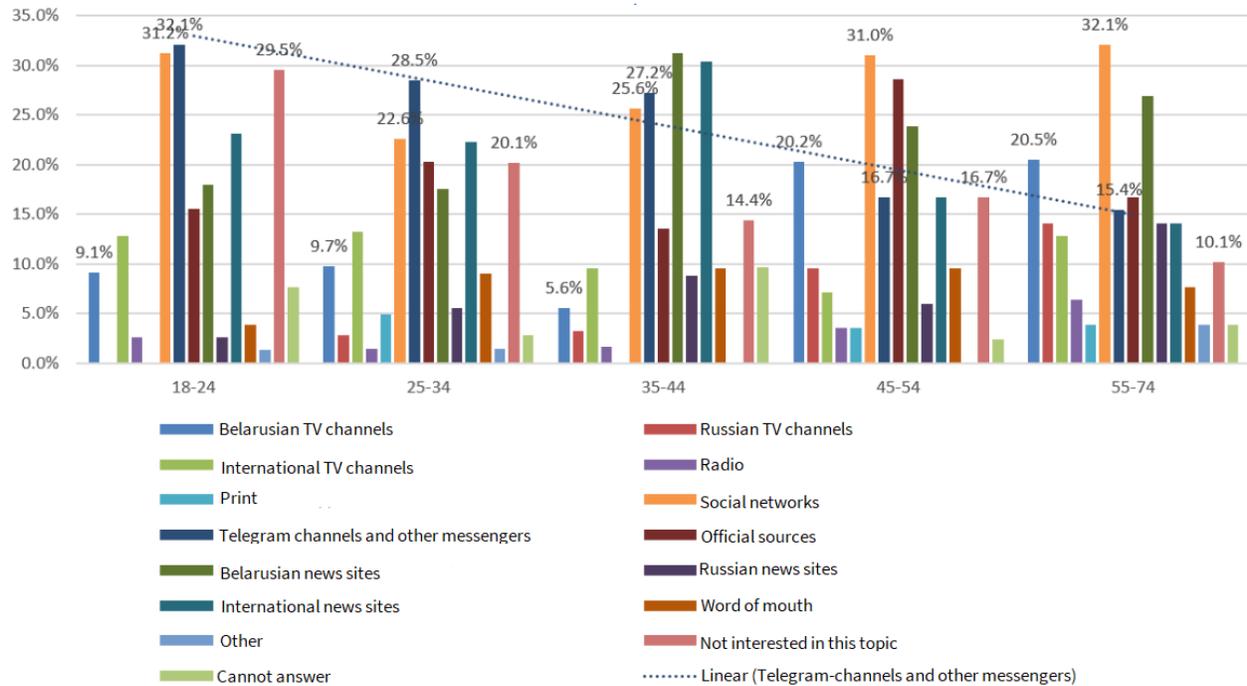
The low percent of using news, print and radio as sources on the COVID-19 pandemic is surprising. A fairly high percentage - 18% (this is 1/5) - of those who are not interested in news on this topic.

## Gender distribution:



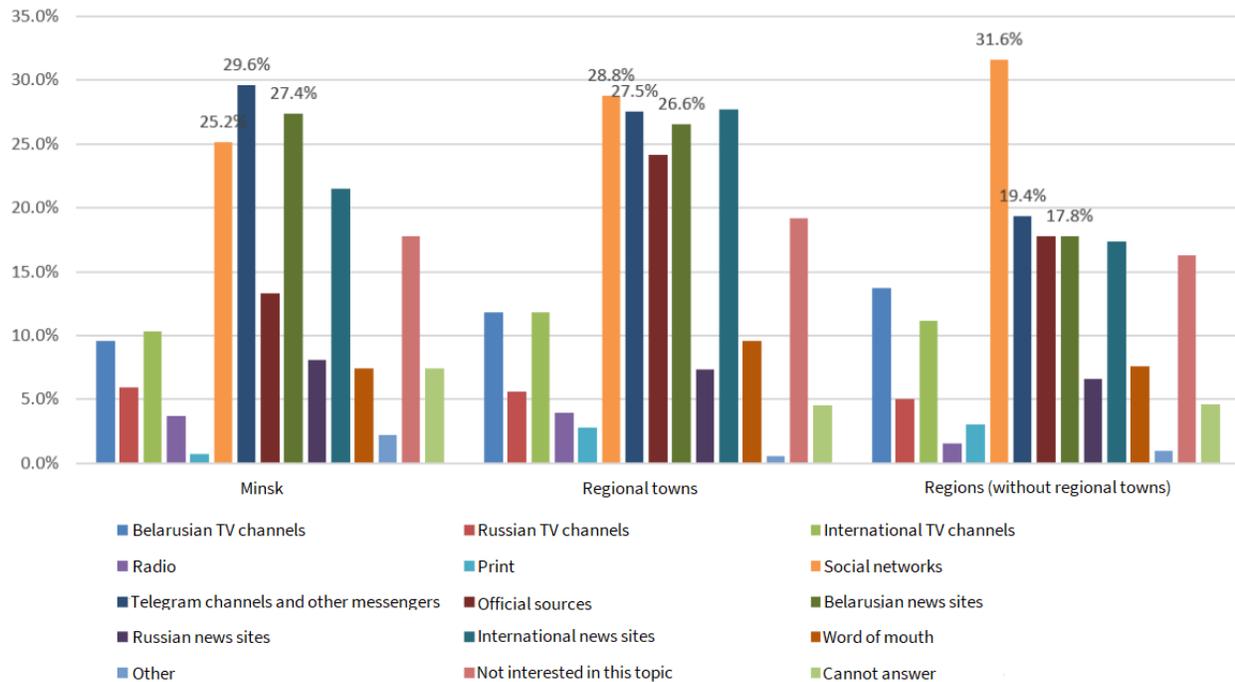
Gender difference in the use of news sources, such as international TV channels (male audience), social networks (female audience), telegram channels and messengers (male), official sources (female), international news sites (male), word of mouth (female) draws attention to itself.

## Distribution by age



Several trends are seen here. One is the use of telegram channels and other messengers as a news source for coronavirus pandemic. Another trend is the linear dependence between lack of interest regarding this topic and age. Almost a third (29.5%) of the young audience (18-24 years) is not interested in the news of the pandemic. It should be noted that 20% of the audience over 45 years old uses Belarusian news channels as the information source. Social networks are important for all age groups except for the 25-34 year old one, for them, telegram channels are most important.

Distribution by geographical location:



Let's highlight three trends:

- An increase in the share of respondents who indicated social networks as a news source about the coronavirus pandemic. For Minsk, the percentage was 25.2%, for regional cities - 27.5%, for regions - 31.6%. In some areas, social media was the most important source of information on COVID-19
- Telegram channels and other messengers have a different trend. They were the main source of information in Minsk - 29.6%, in regional cities - 27.5% and in regions - 19.4%.
- Belarusian news sites were the source of information that respondents from Minsk noted second-most often: 27.4%, but in the regions, only 17.8% noted it.

The survey was conducted in April-May 2021.

The size of the representative sample was 510 people aged 15-74.

The research was carried out by the Baltic Internet Policy Initiative.