

Mortality from thyroid cancer in Belarus is significantly lower compared to the incidence. At the same time, there is a decrease in mortality for papillary thyroid cancer (APC) ( $APC = -2.1 (-3.91-0.24)\%$ , ( $p > 0.05$ )), for other forms of changes in the dynamics of mortality was not.

Papillary thyroid cancer in the early stages (I-II) is detected in 74.3% of cases (in stage I in 68.1%), follicular thyroid cancer - in 75.1% of cases (in stage I in 52.4%), medullary thyroid cancer - in 57.7% of cases (with stage I in 34.5%). Anaplastic thyroid cancer is characterized by late diagnosis, in stage I-II only 9.3% of cases are detected (with stage I in 0.8%). 83.9% of cases of anaplastic thyroid cancer are detected in the presence of distant metastases.

In the analysis of survival rates, it was found that the best prognosis is observed for papillary thyroid cancer and medullary thyroid cancer.

Anaplastic thyroid cancer is the most aggressive form of thyroid cancer (less than 30% of patients survive in the first year).

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AS THE MAIN AREAS OF STUDENT VOLUNTEERING**

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Environmental protection is a prerequisite for ecological safety, sustainable economic and social development of the state [2]. Measures to protect the environment can be taken by individuals, organizations and government. The negative impact of the current lifestyle on the environment makes it necessary to pay more attention to the analysis of human environmental behavior and its social interaction. The main component of the Sustainable Development Concept is universal responsibility. The participation of young people in environmental protection plays an important role [1]. One of the most effective forms of work with young people to form their active life position is to involve them in the work of various public organizations.

The purpose of this work is to analyze the environmental activities of the "Environmental Patrol" group from the point of view of a public ecologist for the period of work from 2005 to 2019.

**Material and methods.** The analytical, comparative and classification research methods were used. The analysis of reports and published materials of the work of a group of public ecologists for 2005-2019 was carried out. The community ecologists group includes 42 students and is divided into 8 sections. The work is carried out in close cooperation with the Vitebsk Regional Committee for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. The work experience is summarized, the main directions and forms of the organization and participation of students in environmental protection are determined. The data of personal participation of authors in events from 2016 to 2020 are also provided.

**Findings and their discussion.** In 2005, on the basis of Vitebsk State University named after P.M. Masherov, a volunteer detachment "The Environmental Patrol" was founded. The members of the group are students in the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> year majoring in Bioecology. The activities and work of the group are regulated by the regulation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection on the public ecologist [3]. The main areas of work of the detachment are: volunteer work in the field of ecology, participation in actions, educational activities. The goal of the group is to assist the bodies of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, to participate in active environmental protection. I am a 4th year student of the Faculty of Chemistry, Biological and Geographical Sciences of Vitebsk State University named after P.M. Masherov. I have been a member of the Environmental Patrol group since 2016 and a public ecologist since 2017.

The activity of the volunteer squad is aimed at active participation in environmental protection campaigns. The main areas of work are as follows: cleaning and improvement of the urban area; greening of the urban environment; cleaning the forest; tree planting; attracting birds to artificial nests; environmental awareness of the population; control of the sanitary state of the territory of industrial, household, residential and other city facilities; monitoring the state of vegetation in the urban environment. The work includes both practical activities and the dissemination of environmental information among the population (Table 1).

Table 1 - Areas of work of students - public ecologists

Areas of work	Examples of activities
Environmental activity	
Participation in a number of annual environmental campaigns	"Forest Week", "Earth Hour", "Clean Forest", "Car-Free Day", "Bird Day", "Let's Do It"
Participation in greening activities in Vitebsk	Planting trees in the park named after the Soviet Army; along the river embankment; on the territory of the M. Chagall Museum

Participation in grounds maintenance	Cleaning of the public garden near the shopping center "Korona"; Frunze Park, the shores of Lake Beloe
Practical solution of issues of ecology and nature protection, participation in environmental projects	"Green City" eco-project
Educational activities	
Preparation of materials in the areas of work of the group	Presentation with a report at conferences, seminars, environmental festivals and forums
Development of materials on ecology of Vitebsk and Vitebsk region	Making reports to the public and employees of organizations
Conducting environmental classes for pupil of gymnasiums and schools in Vitebsk	Work of a circle on ecology for students on the basis of the Vitebsk Zoological Park.
Discussion of issues on ecology and nature protection	participation of students in the work of the Public Coordination Council for Ecology; round table "Environmental problems of the Western Dvina basin"

Based on the results of the work, the best students are annually awarded certificates of public ecologists. In 2014, the group took 1st place in the nomination "The best commander of a volunteer squad" and 2nd place in the nomination "The best volunteer squad among students" in the Republican competition "Youth for the cleanliness of cities and villages." And also in 2017 1st place, and in 2018 2nd place in the nomination "The best volunteer squad among students" in the same annual competition.

**Conclusion.** The main areas of work of our volunteer team are activities for the preservation, cleaning and improvement of areas suitable for plants and animals in the urban environment and suburban areas; environmental education. The experience of work organization can be used in other institutions of secondary and higher education.

1. Environmental Awareness of the Young in a Rural Community in the Sierra Tarahumara, Chihuahua, Mexico Journal of Education and Practice Vol.5, No.4, 2014. -P. 197 – 201.
2. Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 1982-XII of November 26, 1992.
3. Regulations on the procedure for the activities of public ecologists. Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of June 20, 2013 No. 504.