

HEALTH OF THE ELDERLY IN CROATIA AT THE PRIMARY HEALTHCARE LEVEL IN 2018 SEEN THROUGH THE CROATIAN CENTRAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM (CEZIH)

Željka Draušnik, Vesna Štefančić Martić, Sandra Mihel, Ana Ivičević Uhernik, Urelija Rodin, Mario Trošelj, Ivan Cerovečki, Danijela Fuštin, Ranko Stevanović



Croatian Institute of Public Health, Public Health Division

Background

The objective of this research was to present the health of the elderly (65 years or older) in Croatia at the primary healthcare level in GPs through the analysis of the data from CEZIH due to a hypothesis that primary healthcare usage in Croatia is higher among the elderly compared to other citizens.

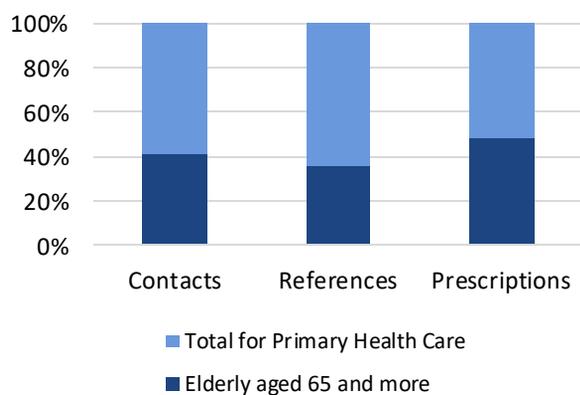
Material & Methods

The data for elderly (65+) for 2018 were collected and analysed through CEZIH with a special focus on the use of primary healthcare services, number of contacts with GPs, references and prescriptions.

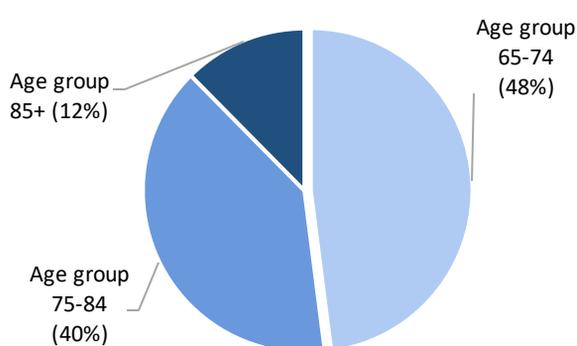
Results

- In 2018, elderly had 17.549.551 contacts with GPs (21 contact per person on average that makes 1,7 times more than the average for the population aged 64 and less)
- The elderly acquired 3.851.002 references (on average 4,6 per elderly person), mostly for the diagnostics tests (43,5%)
- The elderly acquired 26.805.886 prescriptions (on average 32 per person), mostly for beta adrenergic receptor blockers
- Among elderly, the total number of contacts decreases with the increase in age groups.

Share of elderly in Contacts, References and Prescriptions in Primary Health Care



Contacts with Primary Health Care - elderly 65+ by age group



Conclusion

- Data available through CEZIH show that elderly in Croatia acquire more than 41% of all GP contacts
- These results are necessary for an evidence-based creation and improvement of public health policies for elderly in Croatia
- The connection of the data at the individual level through CEZIH creates many possibilities for further data analysis and provides great potential for creating prerequisites for improving the development of health indicators for the elderly.