

SELF-REPORTED UNMET NEEDS FOR HEALTH CARE AMONG URBAN AND RURAL ELDERLY POPULATION IN CROATIA

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Background

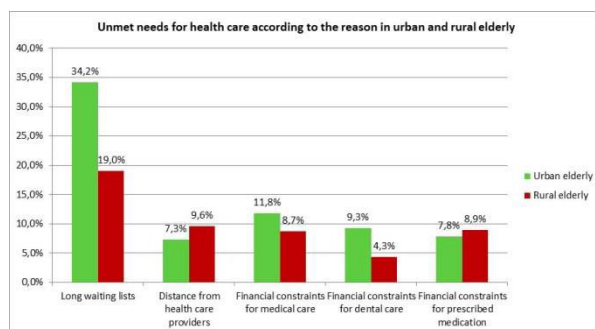
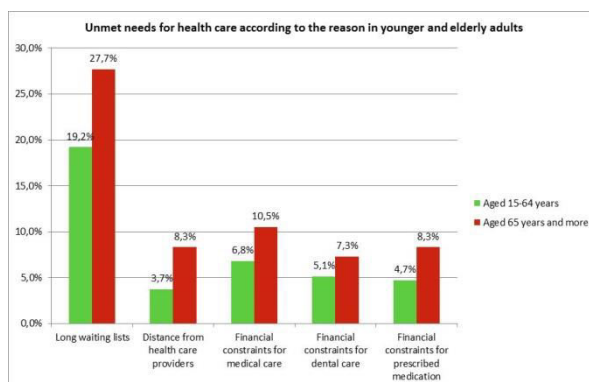
- Aim of this research was to analyse self-reported unmet needs for health care among urban and rural elderly.

Methods

- Data from the European Health Interview Survey wave 2 conducted in 2014/15 on 5,446 respondents out of which 1,453 were 65 years old and older, were used for analysis.

Results

- Unmet needs for health care were higher among elderly (aged 65 years and more) compared to younger population (15-64 years) for all analysed causes.
- Rural elderly :
 - reported more unmet needs due to distance from health care providers and more financial constraints in approach to prescribed medication.
 - reported less unmet needs due to long waiting lists as well as less financial constraints in use of medical and dental care .



Conclusion

- Elderly in general reported more unmet needs for health care compared to the rest of population which points out the importance of focusing on health needs of this particular age group.
- More problems due to distance and transportation reported by elderly living in rural settings, emphasise the need to improve options for transportation and increase availability of health care providers in rural areas.
- Considering the health and social care needs of the increasing numbers of elderly in Croatia is the prerequisite of ensuring that all people and communities receive the quality services they need without financial hardship.