



# Geriatric assessments 2012–2015



**Tervise Arengu Instituut**  
National Institute for Health Development

National Institute for Health Development

Department of Health Statistics

# Geriatric assessments 2012–2015

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## INTRODUCTION

The analysis provides an overview of geriatric assessments carried out by health care service providers by referrals, results, and patient age groups from 2012–2015.

The data on performed geriatric assessments is collected by means of annual report “Geriatric assessment”. The report form and procedure for submission have been established with a regulation of the Minister of Social Affairs<sup>1</sup>. The National Institute for Health Development has carried out the statistics work on geriatric assessments since 2012. Data must be submitted by all health care institutions, which provided geriatric assessment services in the reporting year. The data on Estonia used in the analysis is available in the Health Statistics and Health Research database of the National Institute for Health Development ([www.tai.ee/tstua](http://www.tai.ee/tstua))<sup>2</sup>.

**Geriatric assessment** refers to assessing the health, functional, and social state of an adult with a multi-problematic coping disorder, or geriatric patient, and preparing an individual service plan by the team, which is composed of a physician (geriatrics-related qualification), a nurse, a social worker, and other specialists (for example, occupational and movement therapists, and others), if necessary.

The persons are considered on the basis of assessment, which means that if persons have been repeatedly assessed over a year, they are also repeatedly reflected in the report.

*The author is thankful to all the people who sent data and substantive comments. I would like to particularly thank my colleague Ingrid Valdmaa, who made it possible to publish the analysis.*

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<sup>1</sup> Valid Regulation No. 51 approved on 7 December 2012 by the Ministry of Social Affairs “Requirements for preparing health care statistics and reports on health care related economic activities, composition of data, and submission procedures”, direct link to *Riigi Teataja*: <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/113122012004?leiaKehtiv> (in Estonian).

<sup>2</sup> Data tables are located under the database topic “Health care service use and treatment reasons” → “Geriatric assessments”.

## 1. Geriatric assessment performers

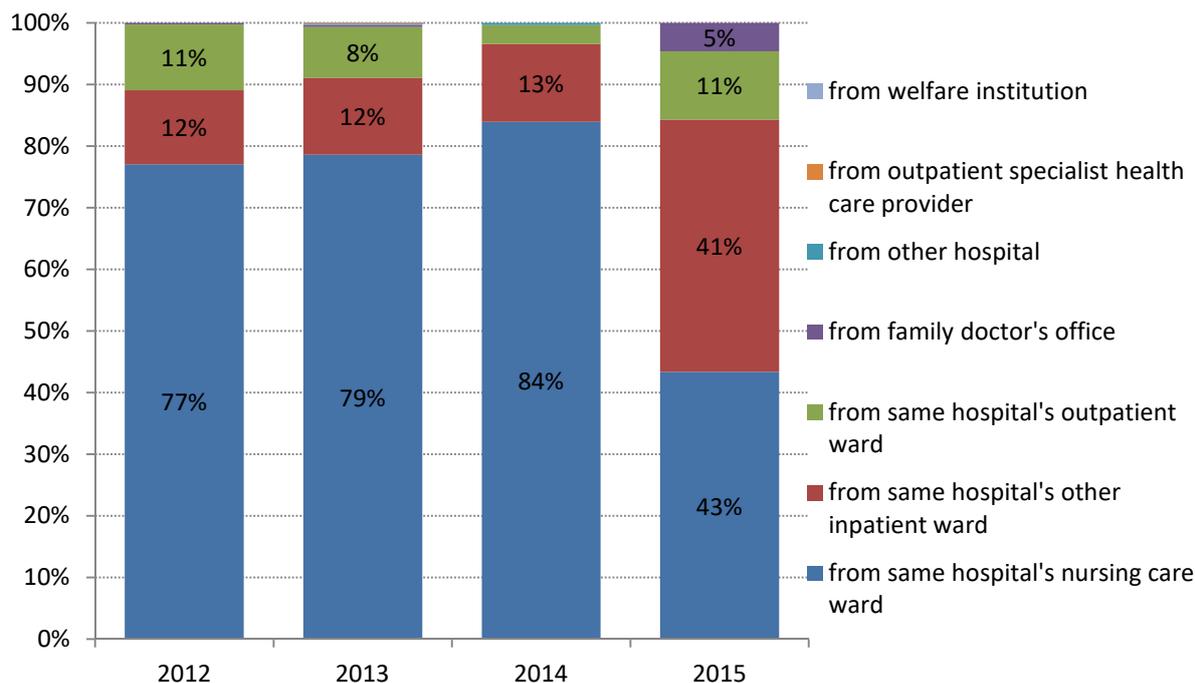
In Estonia, geriatric assessments are only performed by hospitals. The service is not centrally regulated in the state, and the work volumes depend on the availability of a team and an agreement with the Estonian Health Insurance Fund. From 2012–2014, a total of 11 hospitals across Estonia provided the geriatric assessment service. In 2015, the number of service providers decreased to 8. The number of geriatric assessment performers decreased by three was due to the lack of team in required composition and/or the reduced service funding by the Estonian Health Insurance Fund. In this regard, the number of geriatric assessments also decreased by 54% in 2015 compared to the previous year (from 1,402 to 650).

Geriatric assessments are carried out in some regional, general, and central hospitals. The number of performed assessments differs by hospitals. In 2015, the highest number of performed assessments in a single hospital was 240, and the lowest was one. Geriatric assessments are provided to patients who receive both inpatient and outpatient treatment.

## 2. Referral to geriatric assessment

In 2012, the majority, or 77% of 1,419 patients who had passed geriatric assessment were referred by the independent inpatient nursing care department of the same hospital. A total of 12% of patients were referred by their inpatient departments and 11% by the outpatient department of the same hospital. In 2013 and 2014, when there were a total of 1,444 and 1,402 assessments, respectively, the percentage of patients referred by the nursing care department of the same hospital slightly increased (Figure 1).

In 2015, a total of 43% of 650 geriatric assessments was carried out in the nursing care departments of same hospitals and in 41% of cases, geriatric assessments were carried out with regard to the health, functional, and social state of the elderly staying in same hospital's another inpatient department. The percentage of persons referred by the outpatient department and elsewhere remained at 16%.

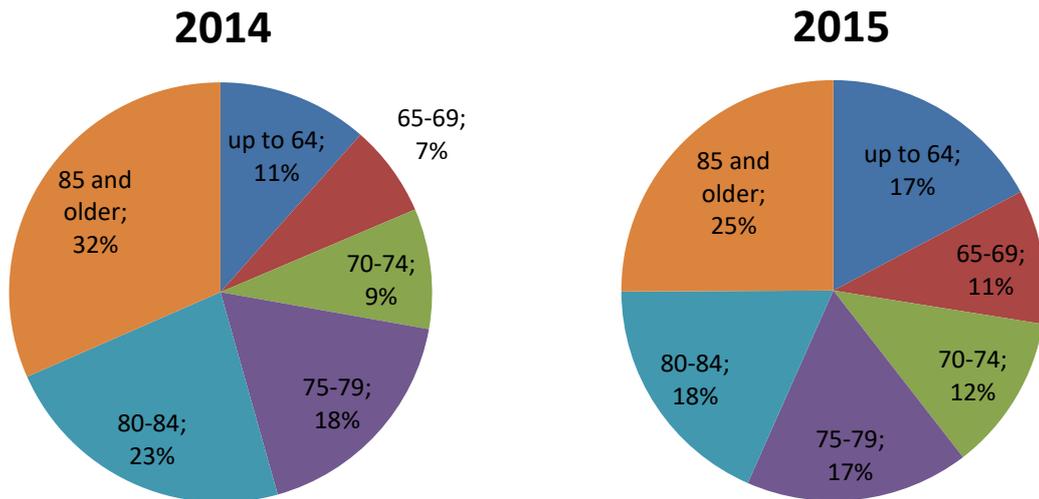


**Figure 1. Geriatric assessments by the type of referral department or other institution, 2012–2015**

Compared to the previous years, there have been changes in 2015 – the patients of geriatric assessment were referred more other inpatient departments of the same hospital and family doctor’s offices, and the share of patients with the referral from the nursing care department of the same hospital decreased significantly.

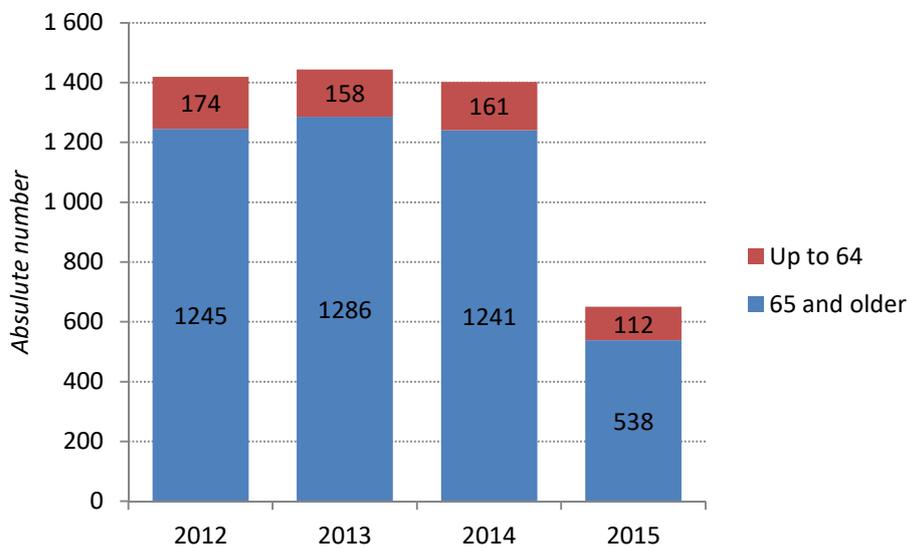
### 3. Geriatric assessments by age groups

Comparing to the year before, in 2015 the share of up to 64, 65–69, and 70–74-year-old persons who had passed geriatric assessment increased. The share of others, that is patients from older age groups decreased (Figure 2). However, the elderly would need more geriatric assessments than is the actual amount of provided service.



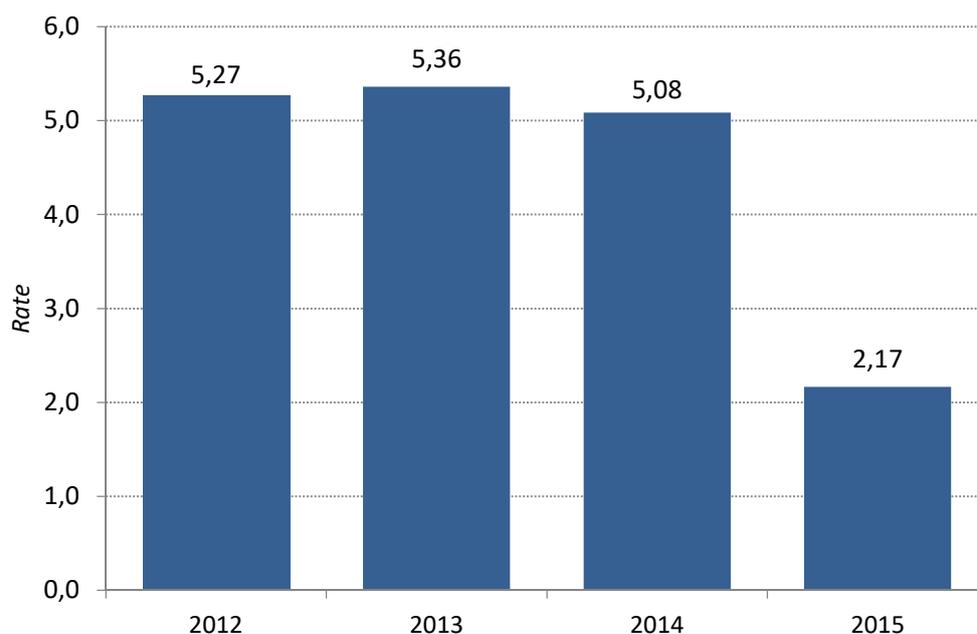
**Figure 2. The share of persons who have passed geriatric assessment by age group, 2014 and 2015**

When during 2012–2014 the number of assessments remained stable, meaning there were slightly more than 1,400 assessments per year, it significantly decreased in 2015, namely to 650 assessments (Figure 3). This is due to the reason that the geriatric assessment service was provided by 11 hospitals across Estonia from 2012–2014, however, in 2015, the service was available only in 8 hospitals. In 2015, there were 2.3 times less assessments than in 2012.



**Figure 3. The number of geriatric assessments by the patient's age group, 2012–2015**

From 2012–2014, approximately five persons out of thousand over 65-year-old residents in Estonia passed geriatric assessment, however, the corresponding number in 2015 was only two (Figure 4).



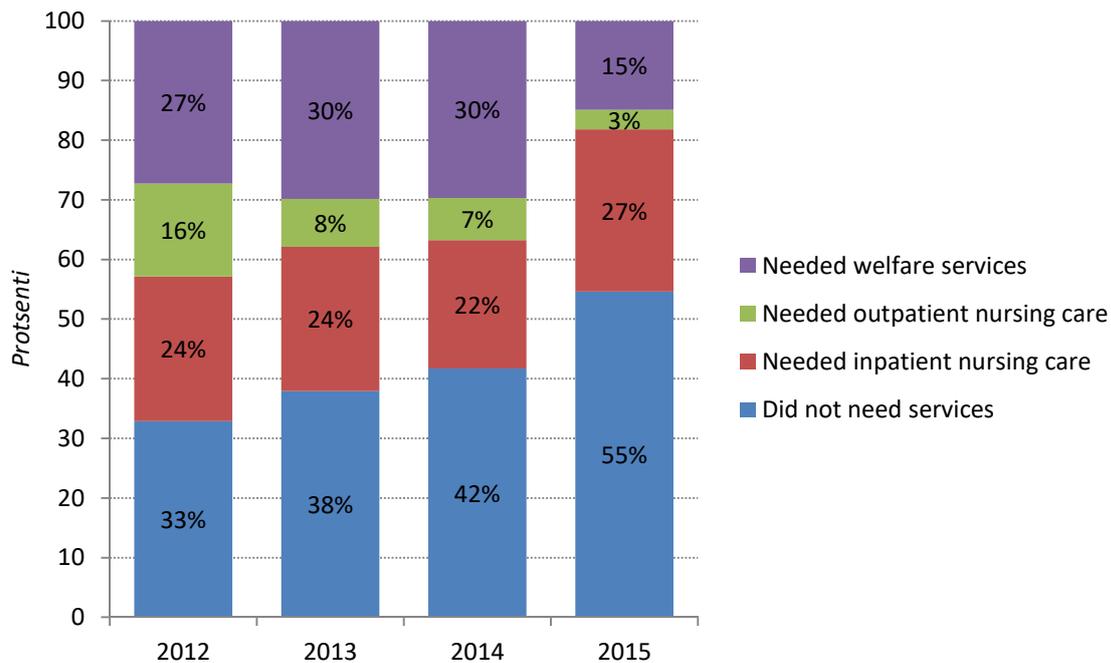
**Figure 4. Geriatric assessments among persons over 65 years per 1,000 population of the same age, 2012–2015<sup>3</sup>**

By observing the number of geriatric assessments per 1,000 population aged 65 and over, one may note particularly great decline in 2015 (approximately 59%). The actual decline is even bigger, as the population in the corresponding age has increased about 2% during the observed period. Therefore, the service has not decreased due to a decline in population.

#### 4. Geriatric assessment results

In 2013, the need for the outpatient nursing care service decreased and the need for the social welfare service increased after geriatric assessment compared to 2012. In 2014, the patients who had passed geriatric assessment were less referred to receive both outpatient and inpatient nursing care service (Figure 5).

<sup>3</sup> Only 65-year-olds and older persons have been observed, since it is not known with regard to the younger population from which age geriatric assessments are carried out.



**Figure 5. Geriatric assessment results, 2012–2015**

In 2015, the percentage of persons needing inpatient nursing care increased again, but the need for the social welfare and outpatient nursing care service decreased by half compared to 2014. In 2015, a total of 27% of assessed patients needed inpatient nursing care (22% in 2014) and 3% needed outpatient nursing care (7% in 2014) as a result of geriatric assessment. A total of 15% of the assessed persons needed the social welfare services (30% in 2014).

Despite the sharp decline in the number of geriatric assessments, the share of those who did not need any additional services has also increased by nearly 67 percentage points over the four years. In 2015, more than a half of patients (55%) did not need any additional services after geriatric assessment. The percentage of patients who did not need any additional services was the highest compared to the previous years.

## Health and health care statistics:

- **Health statistics and health research database**

<http://www.tai.ee/tstua>

- **Website of Health Statistics Department of National Institute for Health Development**

<http://www.tai.ee/en/r-and-d/health-statistics/activities>

- **Dataquery to National Institute for Health Development**

[tai@tai.ee](mailto:tai@tai.ee)

- **Database of Statistics Estonia**

<http://www.stat.ee/en>

- **Statistics of European Union**

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

- **European health for all database (HFA-DB)**

<http://data.euro.who.int/hfad/>

- **OECD's statistical databases (OECD.Stat)**

[http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?DataSetCode=HEALTH\\_STAT](http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?DataSetCode=HEALTH_STAT)

