



1.1 Prevalence of pressure ulcers (grade II-IV) in older persons (% of residents) (OLD-8)

1.1.1 Documentation sheet

Description	Prevalence of pressure ulcers (grade II-IV) in residential care (prevalence on one day)
Calculation	Numerator: number of residents in a home for older people with a pressure ulcer of category 2, 3, 4 or undetermined on the reference day Denominator: total number of residents in the home for older people on the reference day
Rationale	Residents of homes for older people (rest or rest and nursing homes) are vulnerable to pressure ulcers, also known as bedsores, especially when they are immobile (wheelchair-bound) or bedridden. The occurrence of pressure ulcers has a serious negative impact on the individual's health and quality-of-life. They are difficult to treat, can lead to complications including infections, and treatment is intensive and costly. Pressure ulcers can be prevented with good quality nursing care. The occurrence of pressure ulcers in homes for older people is one of the quality indicators measured in the Flemish project on quality indicators in homes for older people. ^{1,2}
Data source	One-day measurements within the Flemish project on quality indicators in homes for older people. ^{1,2}
Technical definitions	The severity of pressure ulcer can be categorized in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: non-blanchable erythema • Category 2: partial thickness skin loss (blister/abrasion) • Category 3: full thickness skin loss (superficial pressure ulcer) • Category 4: full thickness tissue loss (deep pressure ulcer)
International comparability	Most recent data from OECD (original source: ECDC, CDC) date from 2016/17 and are therefore not included in this report. ³
Limitations	Data on pressure ulcers in rest homes and rest and nursing homes are only available for Flanders and not for the Walloon or Brussels region.
Dimensions	Quality (Safety); Care for older persons
Related indicators	
Reviewers	Kathleen Leemans (Vlaams Instituut voor Kwaliteit van Zorg), Chris Rogier (Departement Zorg)



1.1.2 Results

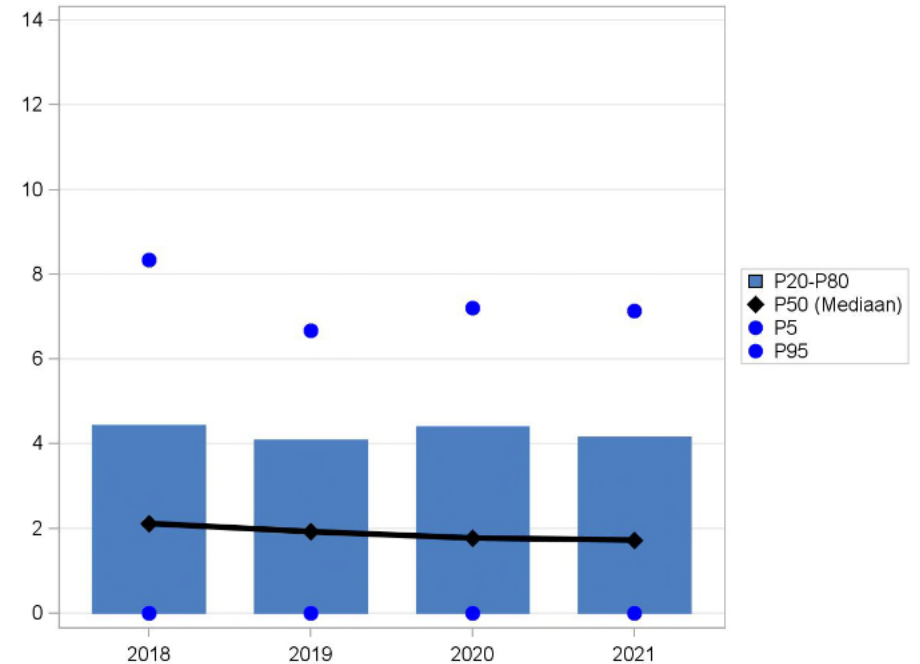
Flanders region

Recent data on decubitus in long-term care for older persons are only available for the Flemish community, where they are measured in the context of the Flemish Indicator Project in the homes for older people. The data are presented in Figure 1 (decubitus category 2 or more) and Figure 2 (decubitus category 2 or more that developed in the home for older people). Pressure ulcers of category 1 are excluded.

On June 1 2021, on average 2.9% of the residents had decubitus category 2 or more, whilst for 1.6% of residents the decubitus developed at the home for older people. The median for decubitus category 2 or more overall (1.7%) is lower than the average (2.9%), which means that the distribution of the data is skewed to the right: there is a cluster of lower scores (many homes have a zero percentage) and a flat tail for the higher scores. The median for decubitus category 2 or more developed at the home is 1.1%; also here the distribution is skewed to the right.

Over the years 2018-2021 we observe a small decrease in the median percentage of residents with decubitus. However, when only considering decubitus that developed in the home, the evolution over time of the median appears more or less stable.

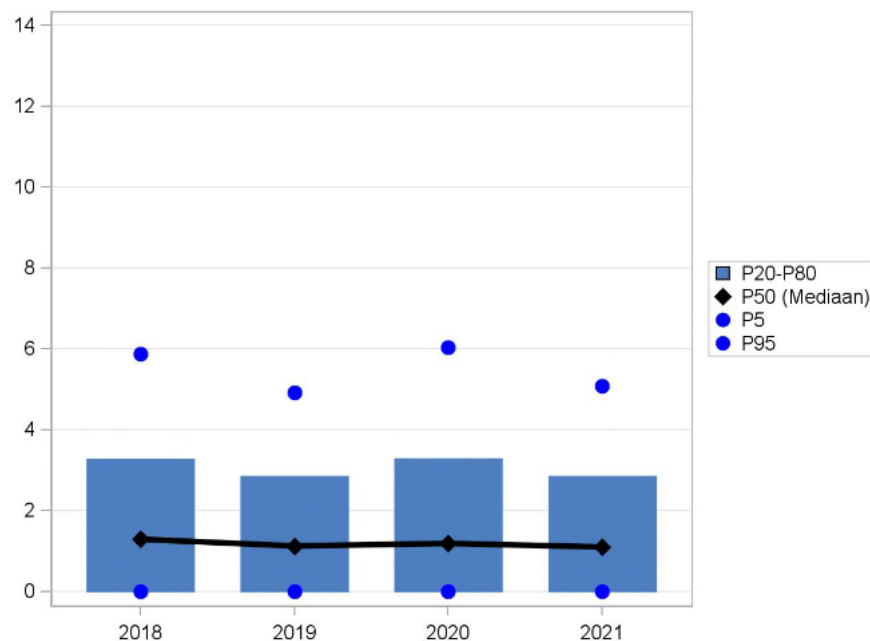
Figure 1 – Prevalence of pressure ulcers (category 2 or more) in homes for older people - Flanders (2018-2021)



Source: Vlaams Instituut voor Kwaliteit van Zorg⁴



Figure 2 – Prevalence of pressure ulcers (category 2 or more) that developed in the home – Flanders (2018-2021)



Source: Vlaams Instituut voor Kwaliteit van Zorg⁴

Key points

- Data from Flanders show that on average 2.9% of the residents of a home for older people had a pressure ulcer of category 2, 3, 4 or undetermined in 2021. Only in on average 1.6% of the residents the pressure ulcer developed at the home.

References

- Vlaams Agentschap voor Zorg en Gezondheid. Vlaams Indicatorenproject Woonzorgcentra: Kwaliteitsindicatoren 2016 Deel 1. Sectorrapport. Available from: <https://www.zorg-en-gezondheid.be/sites/default/files/atoms/files/Resultaten%20kwaliteitsindicatoren%20woonzorgcentra%20-%202016%20deel%201.pdf>
- Vlaams Agentschap voor Zorg en Gezondheid. Vlaams Indicatorenproject Woonzorgcentra: Kwaliteitsindicatoren 2017 Deel 1. Sectorrapport. Available from: <https://www.zorg-en-gezondheid.be/sites/default/files/atoms/files/Rapport%20VIP%20WZC%202017deel1.pdf>
- OECD. Health at a Glance. 2019. Percentage of long-term care facility residents with at least one pressure ulcer, 2016-17 [Web page].2019. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1787/888934018545>
- Vlaams Instituut Kwaliteit van Zorg. Resultaten van de kwaliteitsmetingen in woonzorgcentra. Kwaliteitsindicatoren 2021 [Web page].2022. Available from: <https://zorgkwaliteit.be/woonzorgcentra>; https://zorgkwaliteit.be/sites/default/files/imports/Publieksrapport2021_Residenti%20ouderenzorg.pdf