



BMSZKI

Budapesti Módszertani
Szociális Központ és Intézményei

Supporting elderly homeless women

FEHÉR, Boróka - RÁDI, Szilvia



Erasmus+

BMSZKI is the largest provider of accommodation services to homeless people in Hungary. 2500 beds in 15 locations. About 1/3 host women.

- 2 women only shelters
- 5 shelters/hostels – couples
- Mixed day-centers





Needs Assessment

- National survey on homeless people since 1999
- First gendered analysis in 2017
 - Women respondents usually 20-24% - Shelters, hostels, streets

BUT NOT in

temporary accommodation for homeless families/mothers with children
shelters from violence
sofa surfing

BMSZKI women users: 29.6%

Referrals to hostels: 34%

Budapest outreach: 31.5% (!)



Needs Assessment

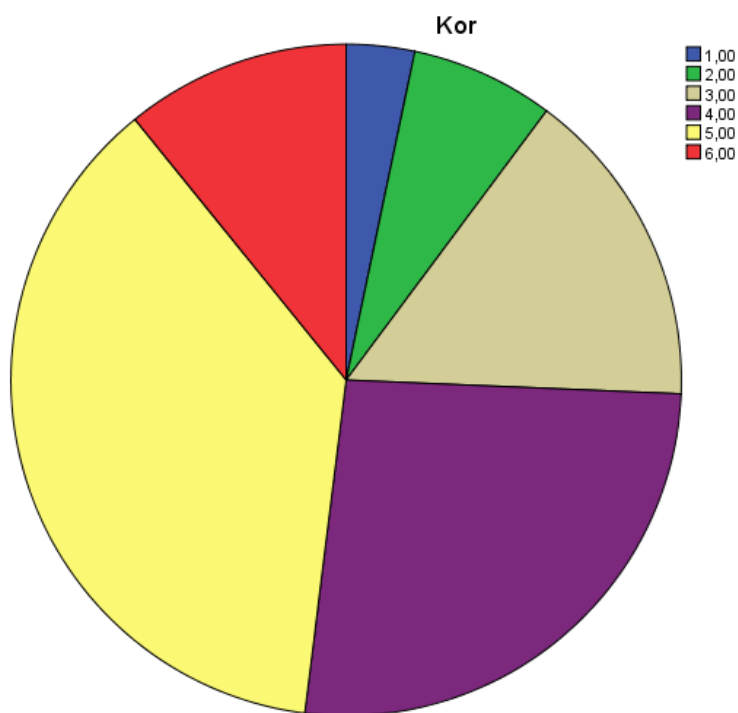
- What are the three main problems service users here face that staff should tackle?
 - Cleanliness
 - Conflicts
 - The physical conditions of the service

- Physical and mental health
- Gynecological health and needs
- Children under 18
- Physical needs





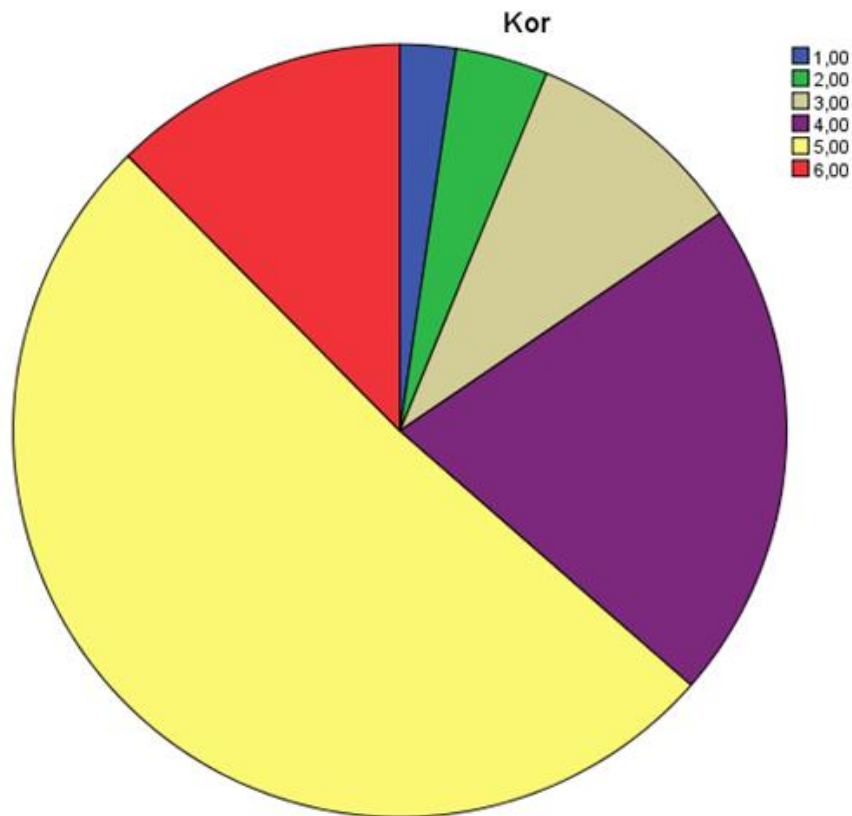
Age distribution of women in BMSZKI services (N=305, Needs assessment 2018)



Code	Age
1	<25
2	26-35
3	36-45
4	46-55
5	56-65
6	65+



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Some specific issues elderly women face

- Abuse
 - modern forms of slavery
 - domestic abuse
- Health
 - Bladder problems
 - Dementia, paranoia
- EU citizens coming for better social services
- Physical accompaniment
- Generational/Digital gap
- Role of children, grandchildren

Dilemma for staff

- notification of next of kin
- user choice - for example with permanent placements
 - what is their best interest?
 - how long can someone stay at a shelter?
 - what housing options do older women have?
- pushing for a diagnosis - and then what?

Case discussion



Thank you!

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