

SINGLE- OR MULTI-OCCUPANCY ROOMS PATIENT PREFERENCES



Architect Dr. Ing. (Phd) Birgit Dietz,
Founder and CEO

Bavarian Institut for the elderly and cognitively impaired (Bifada)

Background

Hygiene procedures are only one factor when it comes to assessing the merits of single versus multi-patient rooms, but little is known about patients room preferences.

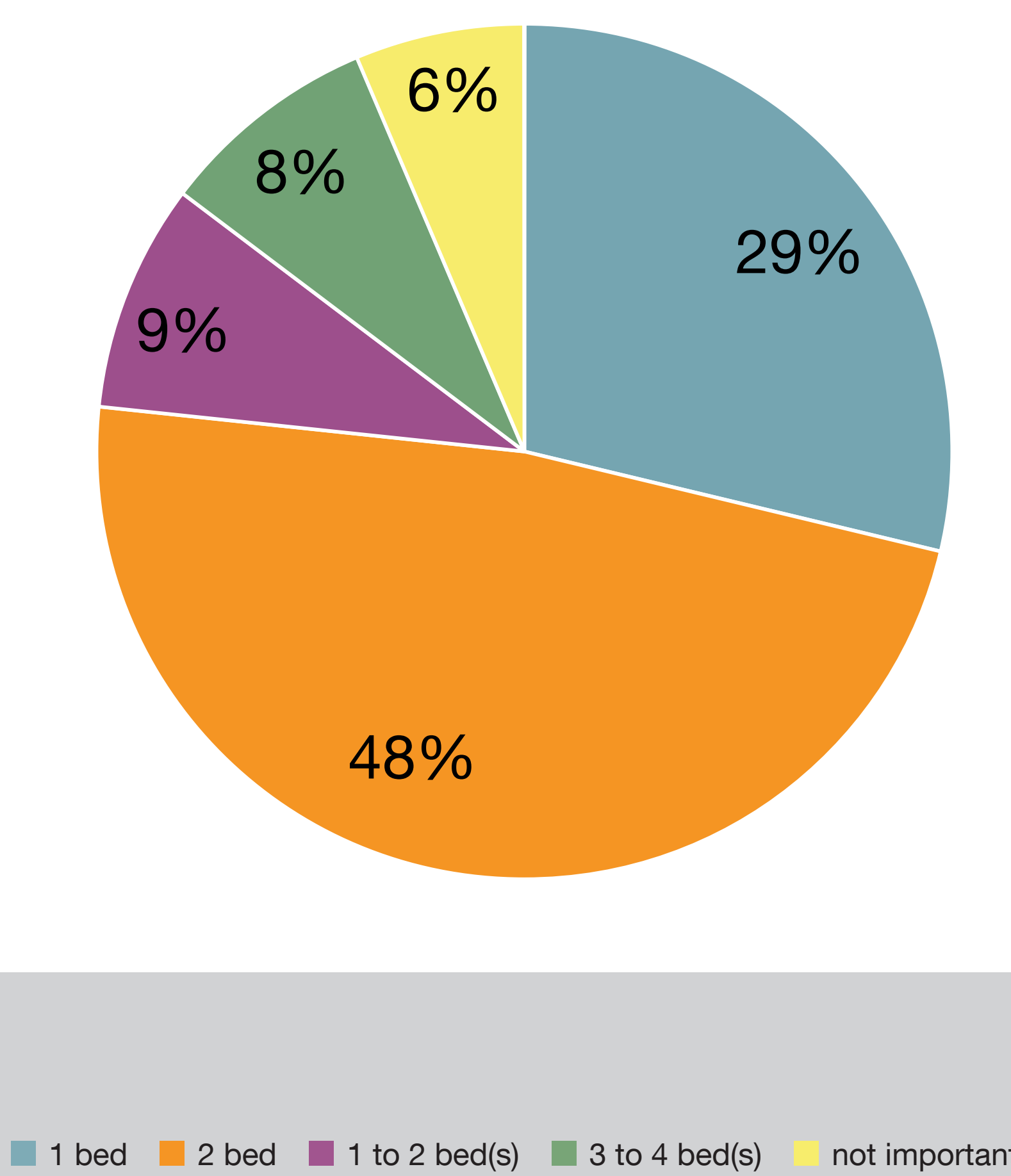
Methodological approach and sample description

Between 2012 and 2020, a total of 313 patients in ten Bavarian hospitals were asked about their room preferences. The study included patients from various departments, such as internal medicine, neurology, urology, geriatrics, oncology, ophthalmology and surgery, accommodated in single, twin and multi-patient rooms.

Results

Disregarding financial considerations, almost half of the patients (48%) were in favour of a double-occupancy room. Around 29% preferred a single room and a further 9% said they would be happy with either a single- or a double-occupancy room. A minority (8%)

Room preference generally



expressed a preference for a room with three or four beds, and 6% were indifferent. There were very few differences in room preferences between men and women.

In comparison to patients over the age of 65, a slightly larger proportion of younger patients expressed a preference for a single room, and slightly fewer preferred a double-occupancy room. Shared rooms with three or more beds were more acceptable for the older age group.

Discussion

As the data shows, elderly patients in particular do not like to be alone in the room. They are therefore prepared to accept some disturbances in exchange for company and roommates that can call for help in emergencies.

People with dementia particularly benefit from the company of helpful roommates, though there is also a potential for conflict in this situation and care must be taken not to overload the other patients.

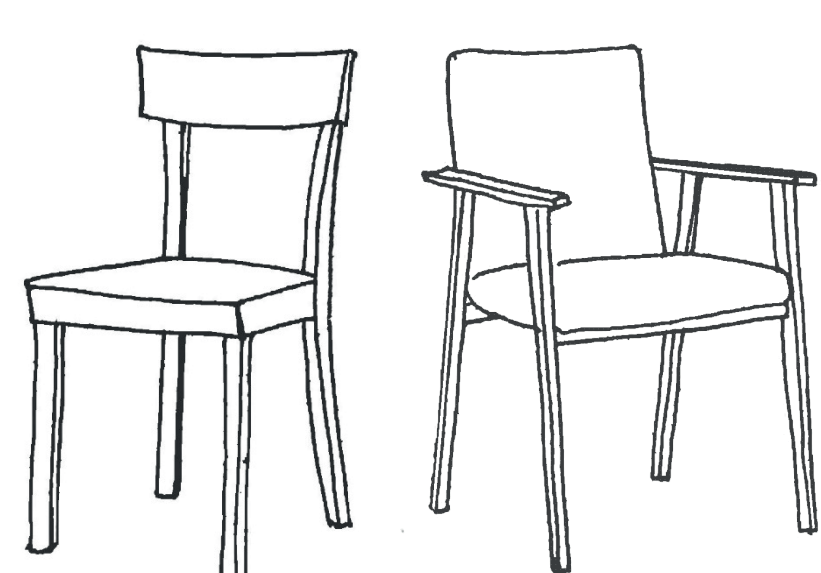
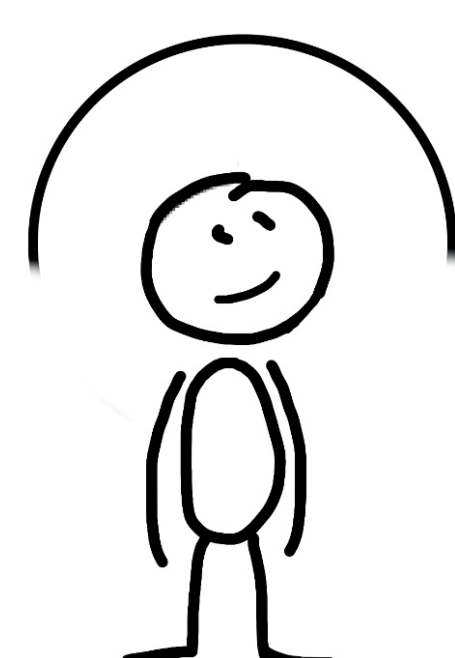
PRO SINGLE-OCCUPANCY ROOMS



better equipment
(7,5%)

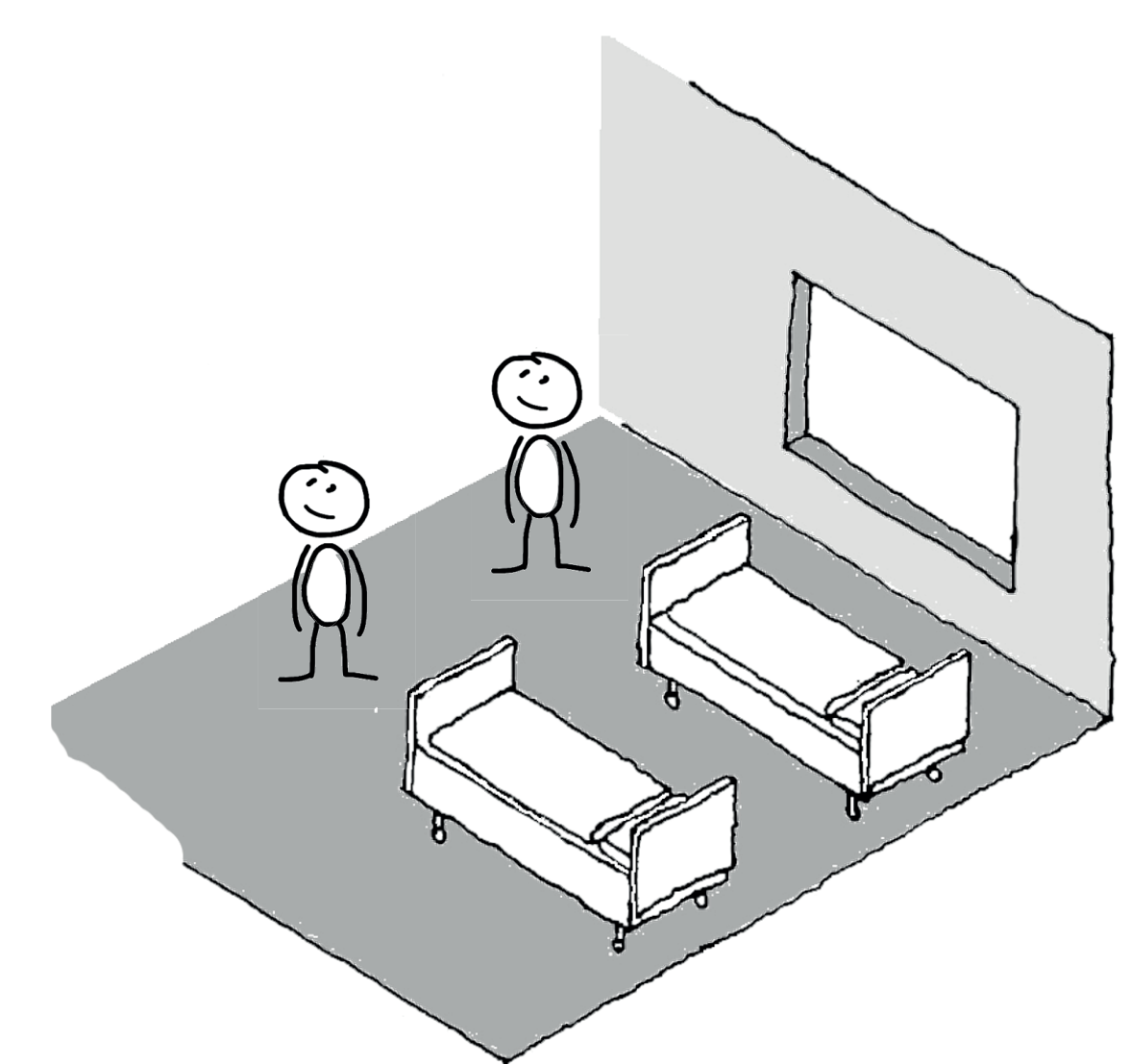
quiet, peace and privacy
(33%)

more space
(10,5%)

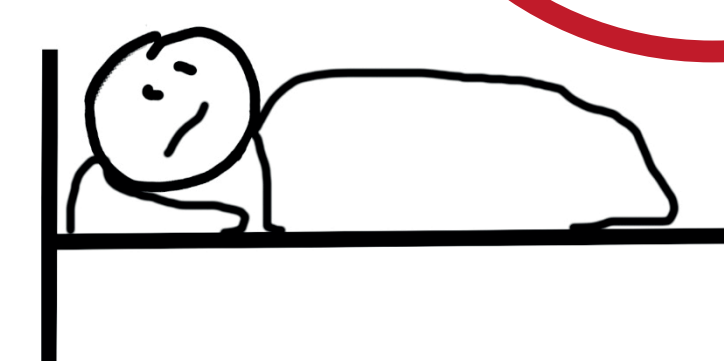


PRO MULTI-OCCUPANCY ROOMS

mutual support
(4%)



not being alone and feeling bored
(11%)



more entertainment and company
(36,5%)

