



**Institute for Development
of Freedom of Information**

Medical Care Expenses of Patients Living in the Occupied Territories

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Key findings

- In 2014-2017, 16,935,074.81 GEL was spent from state budget on the medical expenses of Abkhazian and Ossetian patients. 6,188 patients received medical services.
- In 2014-2017, more Abkhazians (3,595) were using state-funded medical treatment than Ossetians (2,650).
- In 2014-2016, the number of patients receiving state-funded medical treatment financed by the state budget increased 2.4 times and the budgetary allocations almost doubled.
- In 2014-2016 the number of patients using state-funded medical transportation increased by 50% and the the budgetary allocations almost doubled.
- In 2014-2017 the number of Abkhazian patients (3,595) receiving medical treatment financed by the state budget was higher than the number of Ossetian patients (2,650). Therefore, medical expenses on Abkhazian patients were higher (9,759,689 GEL on Abkhazian patients and 8,098,078 GEL on Ossetian patients).
- Patients living in the occupied territories most often refer to Georgian medical institutions in case of oncological, onhematological diseases or for requesting medicines.

Introduction

According to the Georgian policy towards the occupied territories of Georgia, the state is obliged to develop peace initiatives and formats vis-à-vis the occupied territories, carry out and participate in the peace processes. This policy also involves funding treatment of patients living in the occupied territories (tempoary occupied Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and Former South Ossetia A/R) from the state budget. More precisely, the state budget finances the medical services for non-Georgian citizens (Abkhazian and Ossetian patients) living in the occupied territories, which is implemented within the "State Program for Referral Service".

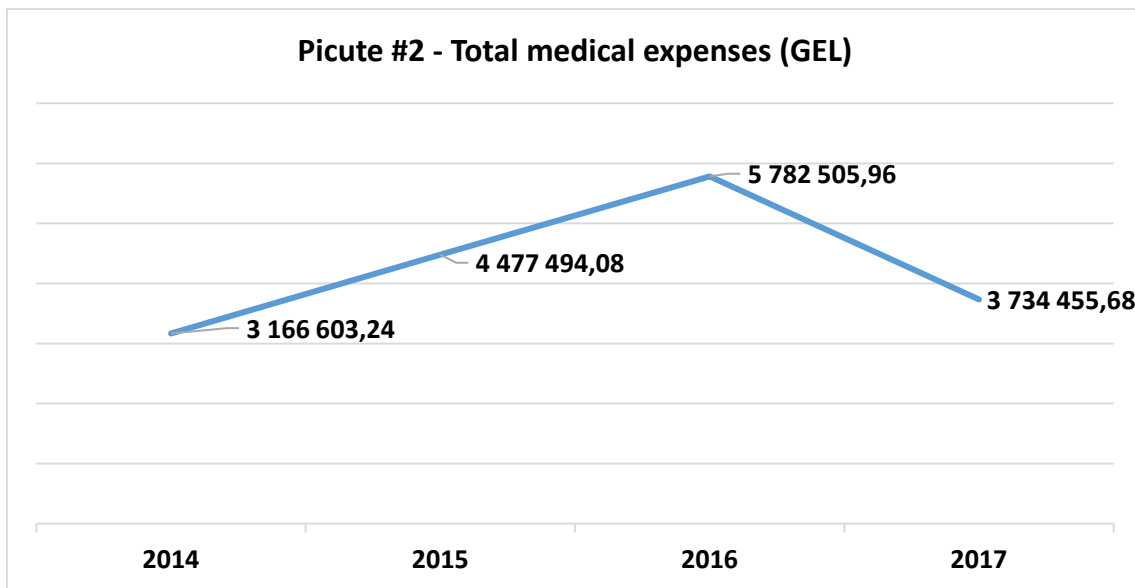
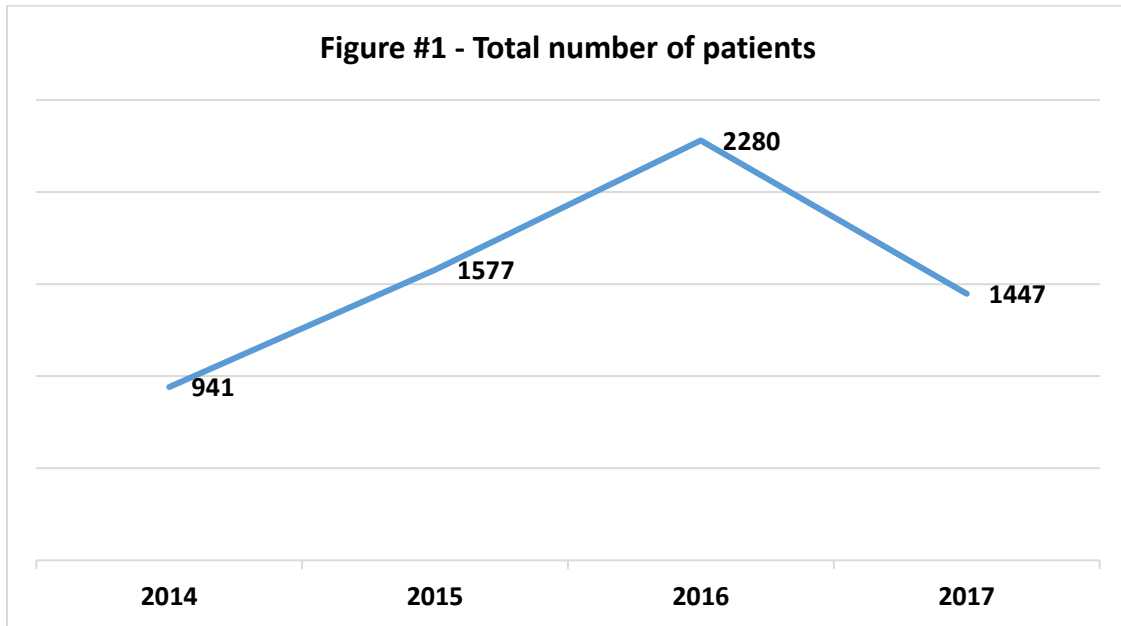
Due to the importance of the issue, IDFI requested public information from the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs regarding statistical data of 2014-2017, on patients living in the occupied territories, receiving stationary services provided by the medical institutions of Georgia. The ministry has fully provided [requested information](#).

General information

In 2014-2017, 6,188 patients living in the occupied territories received medical services (see figure #1). The ensuing medical expenses from the state budget amounted to 17,161,058.96 GEL. The statistical data for 2017 covers the period of up to November 8.

According to [statistical data](#), the number of Abkhazian and Ossetian patients receiving state-funded medical services in 2014-2016 increased anually. During this period the number of patients increased 2.4 times, from 941 to 2,280 (2016). 1,447 patients received medical services by 2017 (up to the period of November 8). In 2014-2016, medical expenses almost

doubled (see figure # 2). In 2016, 83% more was spent (5,782,505.96 GEL) than in 2014 (3,166,603.24). In 2017 (8 November) medical expenses amounted to 3,734,455.68 GEL.



Patients and Medical Expenses Divided by Diseases

Patients living in the occupied territories most often refer to Georgian medical institutions in case of oncological, onhematological diseases or for requesting medicines. In 2014-2017, Georgia's medical institutions received 1,478 such patients, which cost 3,180,638.76 GEL (see figures #3,#4 and #5).

It should be noted that the information provided by the Ministry on the number of patients divided by the diseases in 2014-2015 includes cases of medical transportation, while this data in 2016-2017 is separated.

Figure #3 –Patients and medical expenses divided by diseases		
Diseases	Patients (2014-2017)	Medical expenses (2014- 2017)
Oncology/Oncohematology/Medicines	1478	3,180,638.76
General Surgery/Gynecology	957	1,858,005.34
Neurosurgery/Neurology	673	2,361,900.7
Cardiology/Cardiothoracic surgery	569	2,662,377.76
Hepatitis/Other infectious Pathology	308	655,465.42
Ophthalmology	247	383,863.87
Pulmonology	224	902,166.74
Urology/Nephrology	234	709,049.03
Politrauma /Trauma	223	1,181,173.55
Angiology	100	452,896.13
Benign tumors	28	67,856
Diseases of the digestive system	21	50,390.13
Endocrinology	17	35,590
Systemic	9	22,437.16
Other -various	678	1,269,413.34
Total	6188	16,935,074.81

Figure #4 - Patients divided by diseases

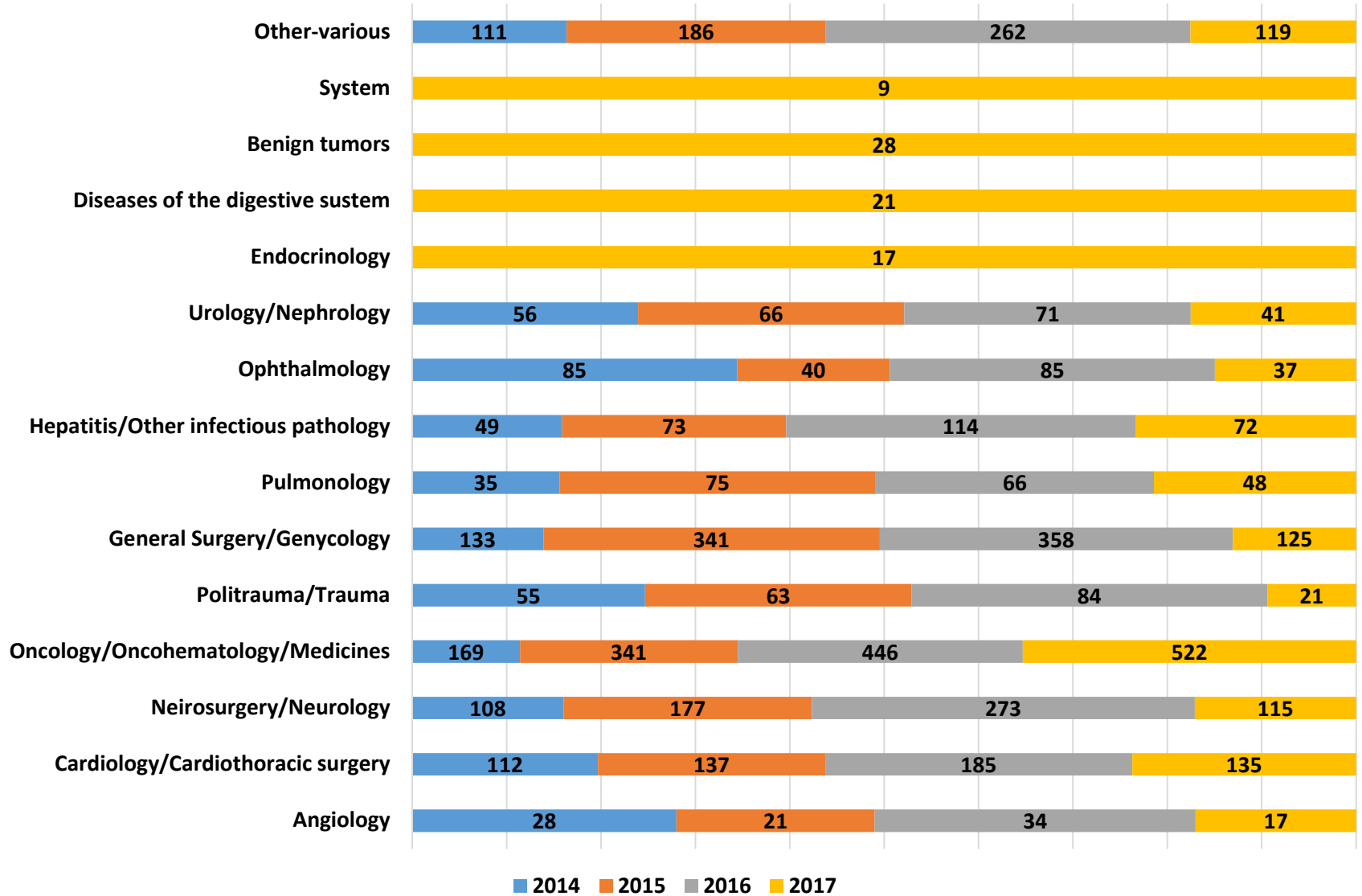
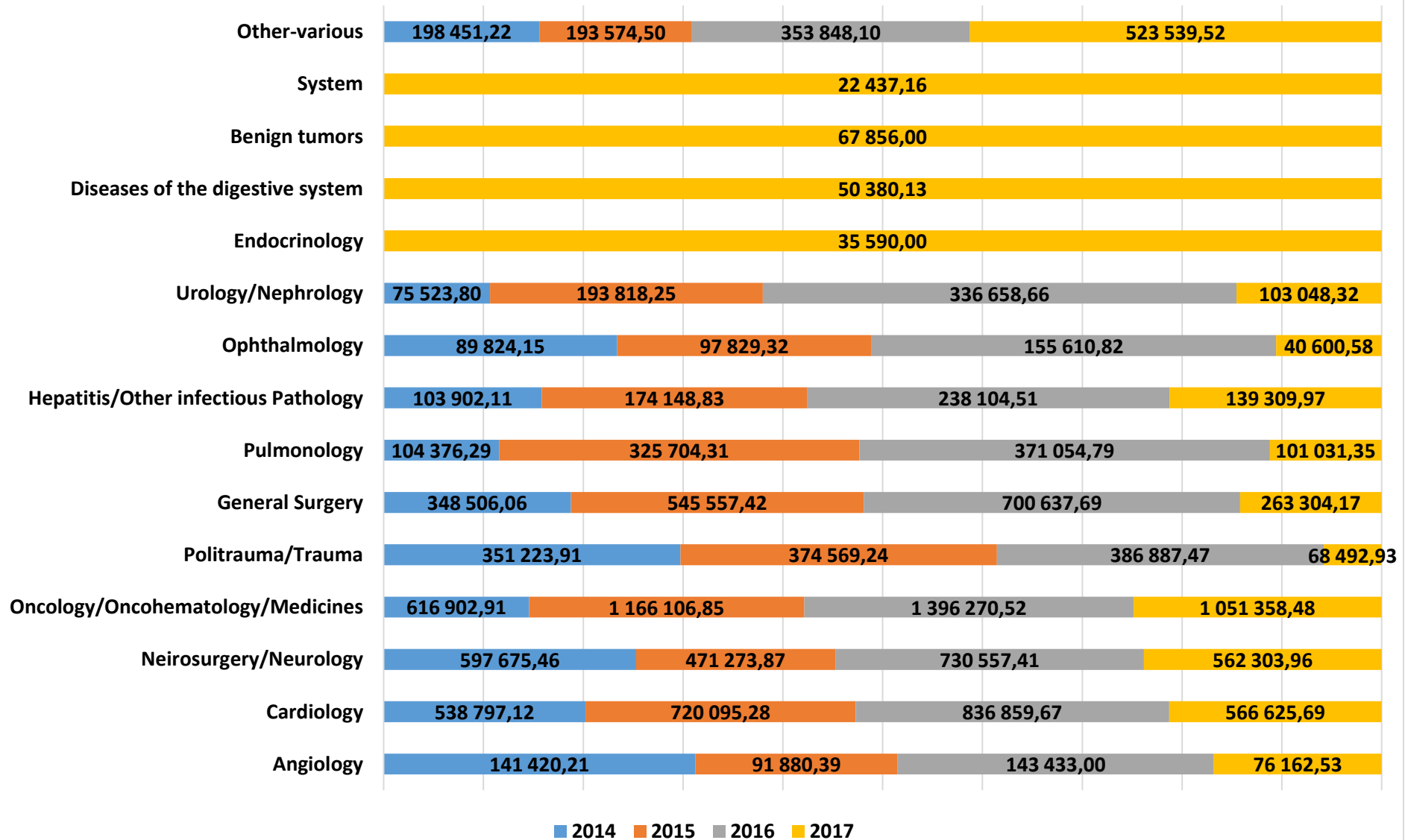


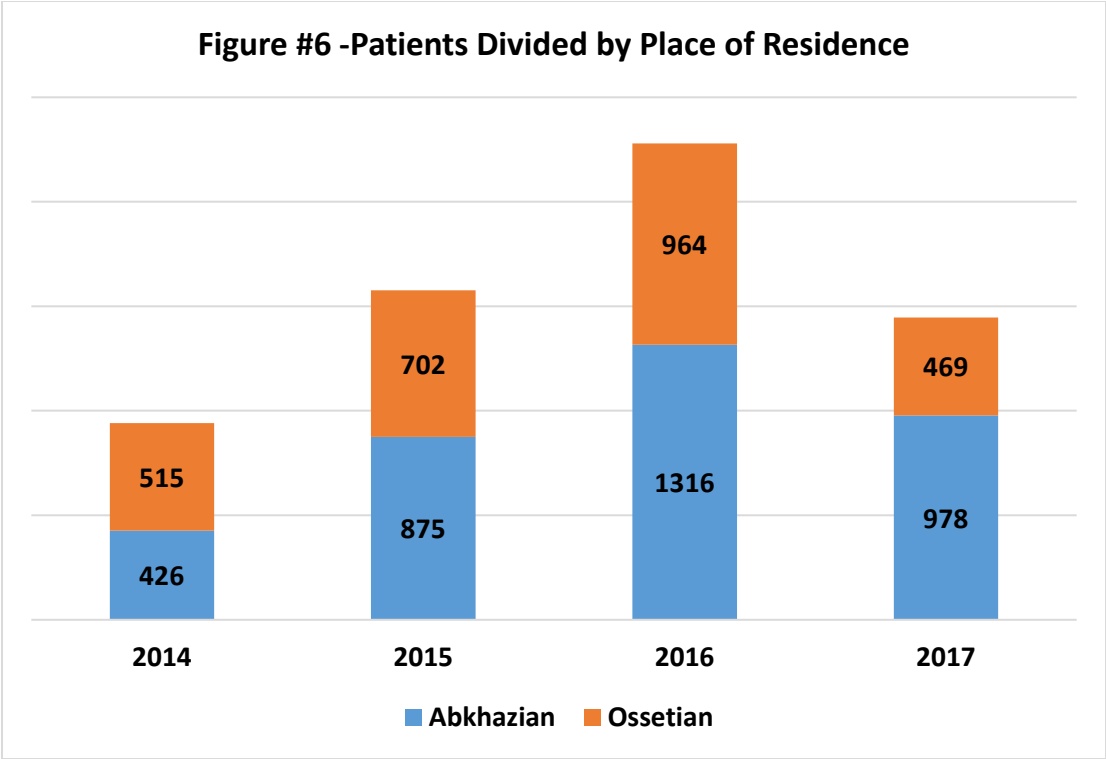
Figure #5 -Medical expenses (GEL) divided by diseases



Patients and Medical Expenses Divided by the Place of Residence of Patients

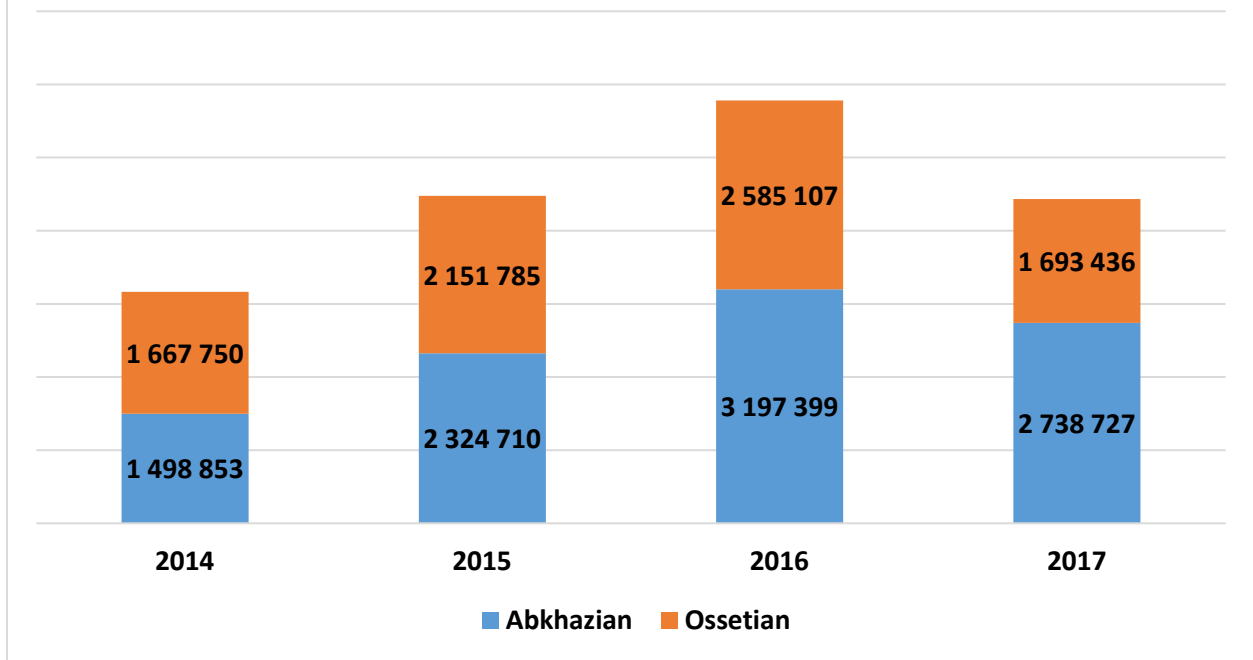
In 2014-2017, the number of Abkhazian patients receiving state-funded medical treatment was higher (9,759,689.25 GEL for 3,595 patients) than the number of Ossetian patients (8,098,078 GEL for 2,650 Ossetian patients).

According to statistical data, the number of Ossetian patients exceeds the number of Abkhazian patients only in 2014. In 2015, the opposite dynamics were observed, and by 2017 (up to November 8) the number of Abkhazian patients is almost twice as much as the number of Ossetian patients (see figure #6).



As for the expenses, in 2014, medical expenses of patients living in Former South Ossetia A/R were higher than the expenses of patients living in temporary occupied Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia. However, in 2015-2017 the opposite dynamics was observed.

Figure #7- Medical Expenses (GEL) Divided by Place of Residence of Patients



Patients and Medical Expenses Divided by Age Groups of Patients

In 2014-2017, 829 children (expenses amounted to 2,298,246.11 GEL) and 5,415 adults (expenses amounted to 14,245,470.83 GEL) used medical services (see figure #8 and #9).

Figure #8 - Patients Divided by Age Groups

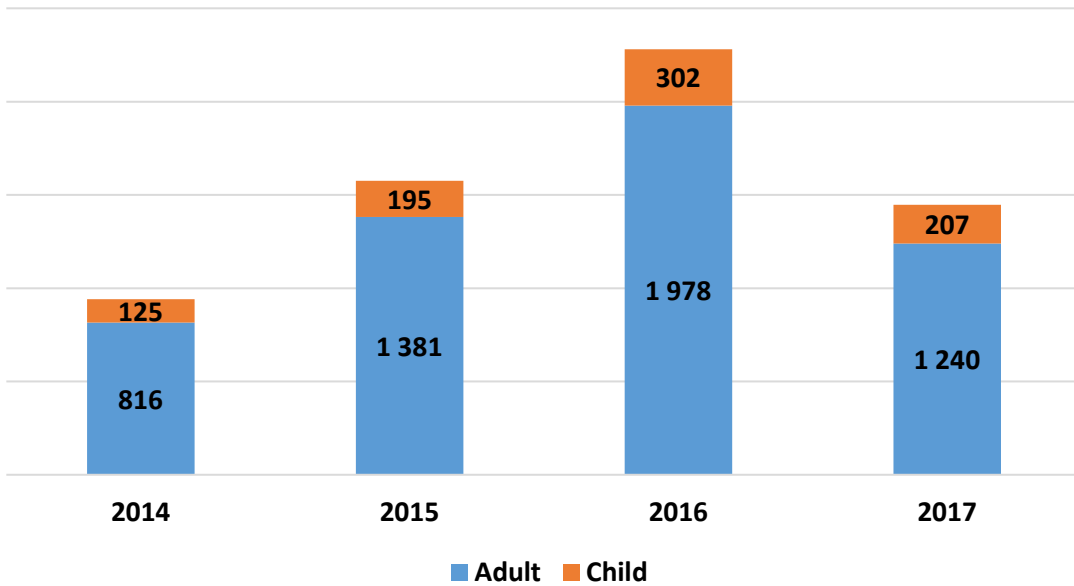
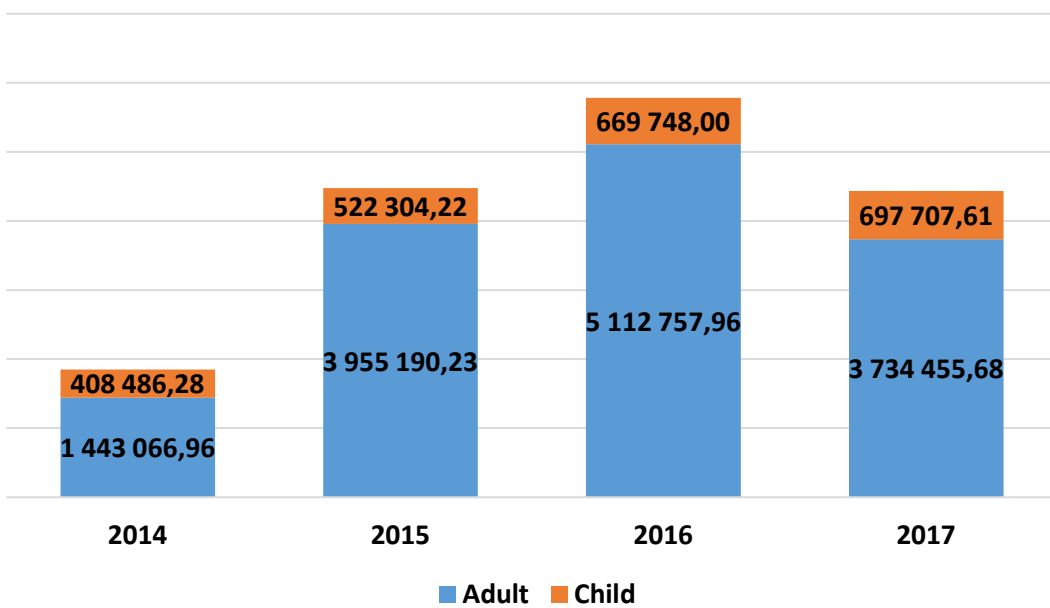


Figure #9 - Medical Expenses (GEL) Divided by Age Groups of Patients



Medical Transportation

Not only medical treatment of the patients living in the occupied territories is financed by the state budget, but medical transportation too. In 2014-2016, the number of patients transported to medical institutions of Georgia increased. Particularly, if this number was 201 in 2014, it was 231 in 2015 and in 2016, it increased to 302. (see figure # 10). Proportionally, in 2014-2016, expenses on medical transportation almost doubled. More precisely, the expenses increased from 70,007.45 GEL (2014) to 132,583.3 GEL (2016) (see figure #11).

Figure #10 - Number of Patients Transported to Medical Institutions of Georgia

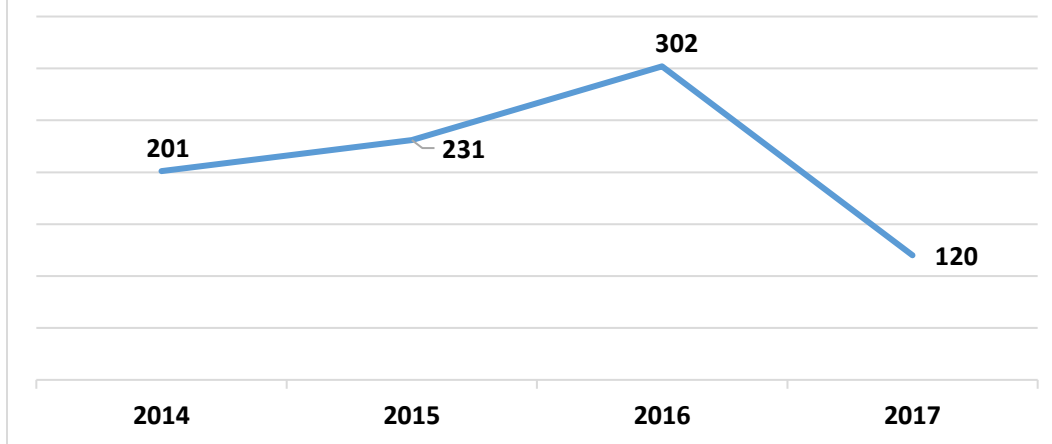


Figure #11 - Expenses of Medical Transportation (GEL)

