

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**15. Ms N G Bakubaku-Vos to ask Mr A T Fritz, Minister of Community Safety:**

(a) What is the number of attacks against elderly people that have been reported in the province in (i) 2014, (ii) 2015, (iii) 2016, (iv) 2017, (v) 2018, (vi) 2019, (vii) 2020 and (viii) 2021 to date, (b) how many of these were related to (i) sexual assault and/or (ii) murder and (c) what measures are available in his Department to prevent attacks against elderly people in communities?

**MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY WAS INFORMED AS FOLLOWS:**

**The reply received from the Department of Health:**

**15. (a) and (b)**

The following data was obtained from Forensic Pathology Services and represents homicides in age groups 55 years and older.

**Homicides in the elderly**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>55-59 Years</b>	60	56	54	55	74	88	64
<b>60-64 Years</b>	27	36	31	46	53	38	39
<b>65-69 Years</b>	16	17	16	21	26	17	23
<b>70-74 Years</b>	10	8	17	15	12	7	10
<b>75-79 Years</b>	3	3	6	6	11	9	9
<b>80-84 Years</b>	2	5	3	3	5	4	10
<b>85+ Years</b>	2	4	4	0	3	4	4

**Sentinel Report on Assault**

The following data is a sentinel report on assault in groups 55 and older in emergency centres utilising the HECTIS system in 2021.

**Please note- these data only include information from 2021, from emergency centres utilising the HECTIS system.** Some of these emergency centres would have come online during 2021, so the data from these sites only include the months from which the sites became active. The following emergency centres are utilising the HECTIS system: Du Noon Clinic, Elsies River Community Health Centre (CHC), False Bay Hospital, George Hospital, Groote Schuur Hospital, Gugulethu CHC EC, Hanover Park CHC, Heideveld EC, Karl Bremer Hospital, Khayelitsha Hospital, Khayelitsha Site B CHC, Mitchells Plain CHC EC, Mitchells Plain Hospital, Retreat CHC, Tygerberg Hospital, Victoria Hospital and Wesfleur Hospital. The Department of Health plans to roll out HECTIS to 24 sites across the Western Cape by the end of the 2020/2021 financial year.

Facility	January	February	March	April	May	June	Grand Total
Du Noon Clinic	2	2	3	1	1		9
Elsies River CHC			9	5	12	3	29
False Bay Hospital		2	3	1	7	6	19
George Hospital	6	10	11	17	13	8	65
Groote Schuur Hospital	11	10	7	11	9	3	51
Gugulethu CHC EC				3	10	6	19
Hanover Park CHC	5	6	6	9		3	29
Heideveld	8	3	5	6	6	3	31
Karl Bremer Hospital				6	19	6	31
Khayelitsha Hospital	8	7	4	8	5	4	36
Khayelitsha Site B CHC	1	4	12	7	10	1	35
Mitchells Plain CHC EC	4	1	2	5	4	2	18
Mitchells Plain Hospital	9	7	11	17	8	5	57
Retreat CHC				8	5		13
Tygerberg Hospital	3	13	16	15	11	3	61
Victoria Hospital			4	8	14	3	29
Wesfleur Hospital	2	5	3	5	8	1	24
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>556</b>

Count of folder_number	Column Labels						
Row Labels	January	February	March	April	May	June	Grand Total
<b>Gender Based Violence</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>
55-64	1	2	1	2	1	1	8
65-74	1	1	1				3
<b>GSW</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>44</b>
55-64	3	8	4	4	9	1	29
65-74	1	1	5	4	2	1	14
75+					1		1
<b>Self Harm</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>68</b>
55-64	5	4	11	11	6	2	39

65-74	2	3	6	3	7		21
75+	1		2	4	1		8
<b>Sexual Offence</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>
55-64	1		1	1	3		6
65-74		1	2	2	3	1	9
75+			1	2	1		4
<b>Stab</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>414</b>
55-64	28	38	42	61	65	29	263
65-74	12	7	12	20	23	16	90
75+	4	5	8	18	20	6	61
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>556</b>

Please note- more detailed data on sexual assaults in the elderly is not available from the Department of Health as the data for sexual assault is presently only collected for the following age bands: younger than 18 years old, and 18 years and older as per National Department of Health Guidelines.

**It should be noted that a reply to questions 15 (a) and (b) was also requested from SAPS, however an extension was granted for SAPS to submit the reply.**

**(c) The reply of the Department of Community Safety:**

As a Department and Provincial Government, we are guided by the Western Cape Safety Plan and Recovery Plan. The objective of the Safety Plan is to halve the murder rate over the next ten years and the aim of the Recovery Plan is to address the overwhelmingly negative effects of Covid-19 on the economic and social life of citizens of the Western Cape. The Recovery Plan has three focus areas namely Jobs, Wellbeing and Safety. The Department co-leads the Safety focus and co-chairs the steering committee responsible for overseeing the implementation of safety interventions.

The Recovery Plan uses the Life Course Approach to identify the phases in each person's life from conception to old age and the basic needs that they require at each stage of development. The Department of Community Safety aims to increase safety for all citizens, including the elderly, through various measures which entails the co-ordination of integrated law enforcement, social cohesion and urban design responses through evidence-based and data-led co-ordination and area-based planning and implementation. Three technical work groups have been established for this purpose in which communities' needs and challenges will be identified and addressed through appropriate interventions to uplift the wellbeing of people in communities, the elderly included.

Although the Department of Community Safety does not have safety programmes or projects which are specifically aimed at elderly people, the Department, through its Area Based Teams (ABTs), is able to facilitate and co-ordinate the implementation of programmes and initiatives for the elderly offered by other WCG departments, municipalities and NGOs to ensure that attacks against the elderly are prevented and addressed. The ABTs will be established in 16 areas of which 11 will be in the Metro and one area in each of the 5 District municipalities. The Department continues to work closely with all law enforcement agencies, NHWs, CPFs, NGOs, faith-based organizations and other safety partners. In partnership with the City of Cape, the Department launched the Law Enforcement Advancement Programme (LEAP) which seeks to deploy 1000 law enforcement officers by October 2021 in the crime hotspots for enhanced enforcement capacity and policing to safeguard community members, including the elderly.

Furthermore, the Department has an oversight mandate to oversee the efficiency and conduct of the South African Police Services (SAPS) as well as the Municipal Police Service (MPS). This enables the Minister to lodge complaints and request investigations with investigative bodies such as IPID and the Western Cape Police Ombudsman should any harm be inflicted on the elderly by the SAPS/MPS or if any inefficiencies in police service delivery relating to the elderly are reported.

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