Braun, B., Brand, H. & Künzel, J. *(2015, September). Older adults with alcohol use disorders in the German addiction care system: Characterisation and specific needs*. Presentation, Lisbon Addictions Conference, Lisbon, Portugal.

Background and aim: Western societies are aging and the consumption of alcohol among persons aged 60 years and older has been increasing in the last decades. Thus, the number of persons with high alcohol consumption will rise, and hence, the demand of treatment is likely to increase. However, up to now only few of the older adults with alcohol use disorders (AUD) seek treatment. It is unclear who presents for treatment and whether – apart from age – they differ from other patients. Also, are there differences between patients with early- vs. late-onset of AUD? In Germany, AUD treatment is offered within a specialized addiction care system, and the respective national treatment monitoring system may provide insight in the characteristics of this clientele.

Method: Data of the year 2014 from expectedly n=800 outpatient and n=200 inpatient addiction treatment centres within the German monitoring system will be analysed (data aggregation and collection is still in progress). Data collection within the treatment facilities is carried out by staff members according to a standardized documentation form (national core dataset) which provides information about, amongst other, patient and treatment characteristics at the beginning and end of treatment. The planned descriptive analyses will focus on treatment seeking older adults (aged 60 or older) with a main diagnosis of alcohol dependency according to ICD-10. The expected sample size consists of about n=8.000 outpatient and n=2.000 inpatient subjects.

Results: Patients will be characterized with regard to (1) socio-demographic information (marital status, employment status, etc.), (2) addiction specific (e.g. age of onset, problem duration, comorbid diagnoses) and (3) treatment specific variables (retention rates, treatment measures, outcome, etc.). Differences to all patients of 2014 will be analysed. Additionally, analyses will focus on the comparison of male and female patients as well as patients with early- vs. late-onset.

Conclusions: This study will give broad insight into the specific features of treatment-seeking older adults with AUD and, thus, will pose hints on how to tailor treatment offers to the specific needs of the clientele.