

Accessibility of pharmacies and pharmaceutical services in different areas of Latvia

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Nowadays, providing of pharmaceutical care is one of the main tasks for each pharmacist in his or her everyday work. Not only the attitude of any pharmacist to this task but also other factors, such as national pharmaceutical legislation, ownership of pharmacies and equal accessibility of pharmacies to all citizens of the country, are important. This time we would like to analyze the accessibility of pharmaceutical care and pharmaceutical services in different areas of Latvia. The opinion exists that the population in big cities can have a better care and a wider list of pharmaceutical services (PS) than the people in rural areas and towns.

Objective

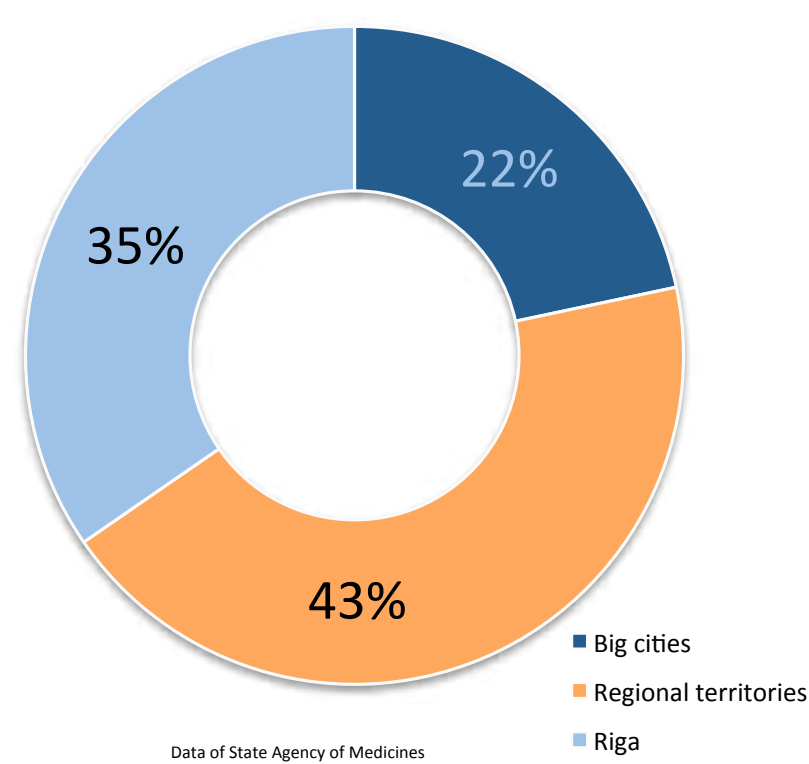
The aim was to clarify the distribution of pharmacies all around Latvia and compare the list of PS provided and the qualification of pharmaceutical staff in different areas of the country.

Methods and materials

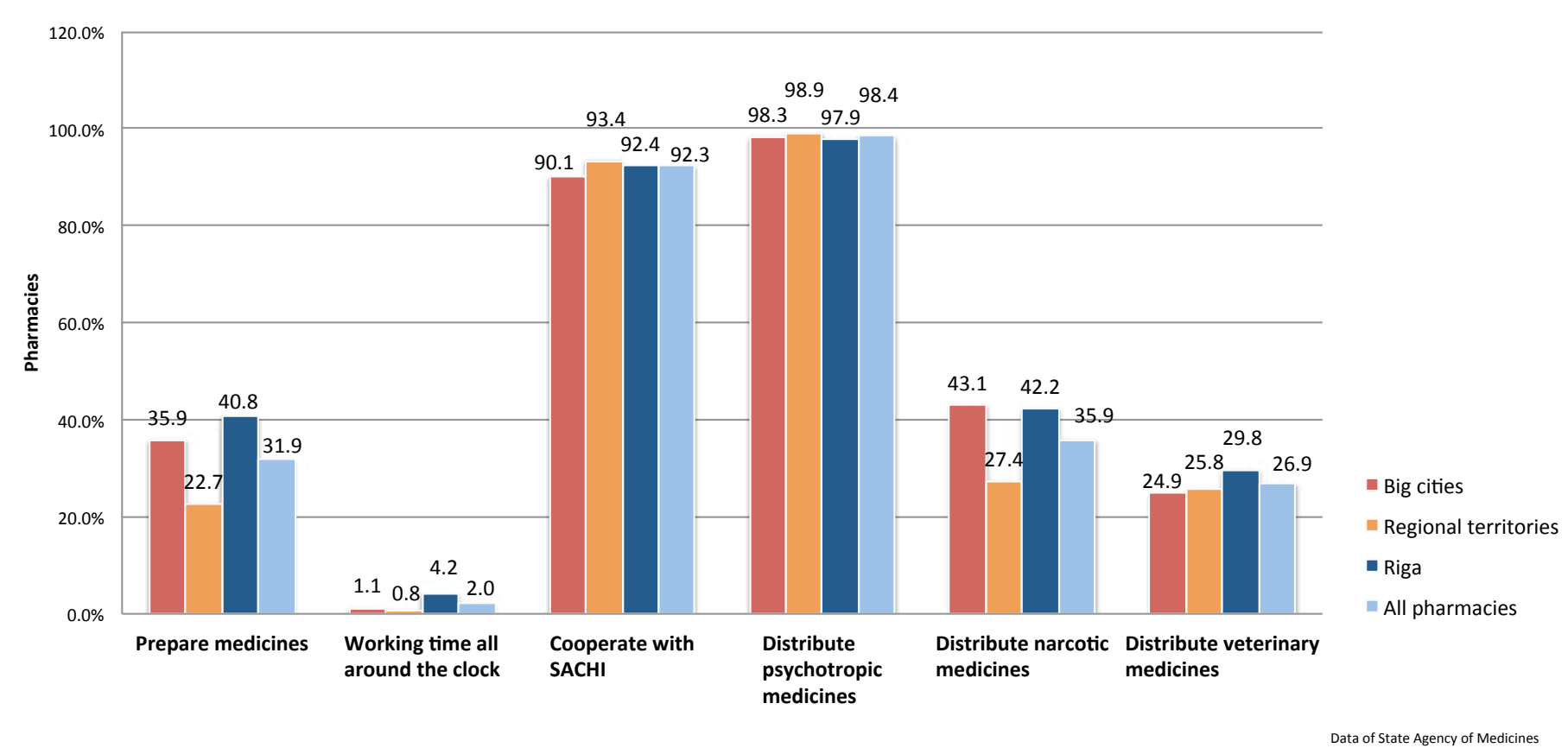
The abstract analysis of the distribution of pharmacies was made and the questionnaire for pharmaceutical staff was applied. For the analysis, the register data of the State Agency of Medicines of Latvia was used. The inquiry involved the pharmaceutical staff of 181 pharmacies (108 from big cities and 73 from towns and rural areas). The questions about PS provided, staff structure in pharmacies, their qualification and education continuation possibilities were included in the questionnaire.

Results

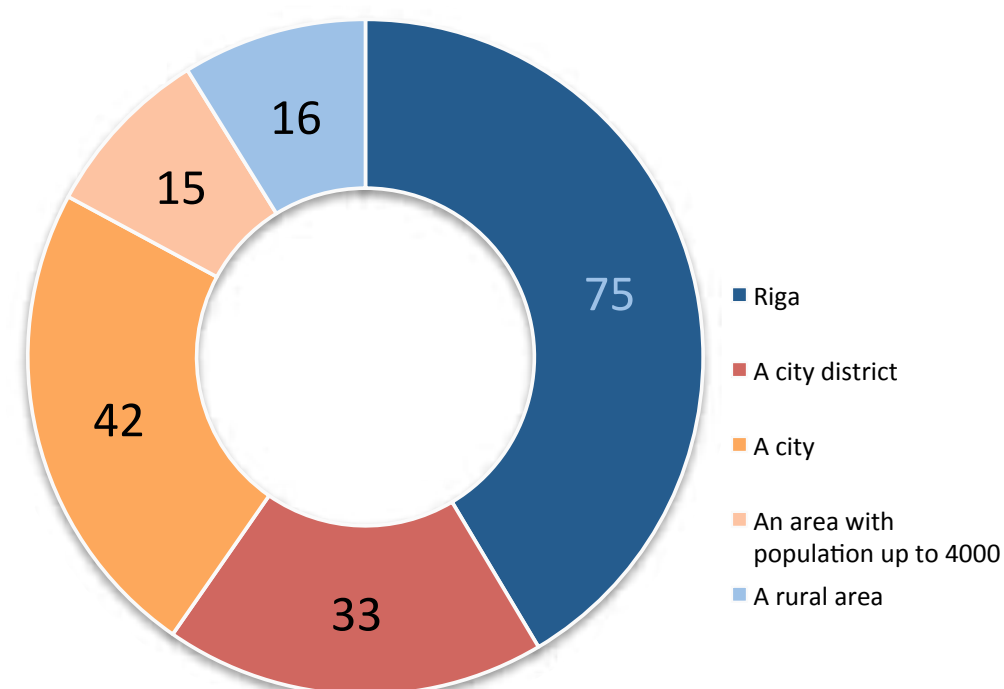
Distribution of pharmacies



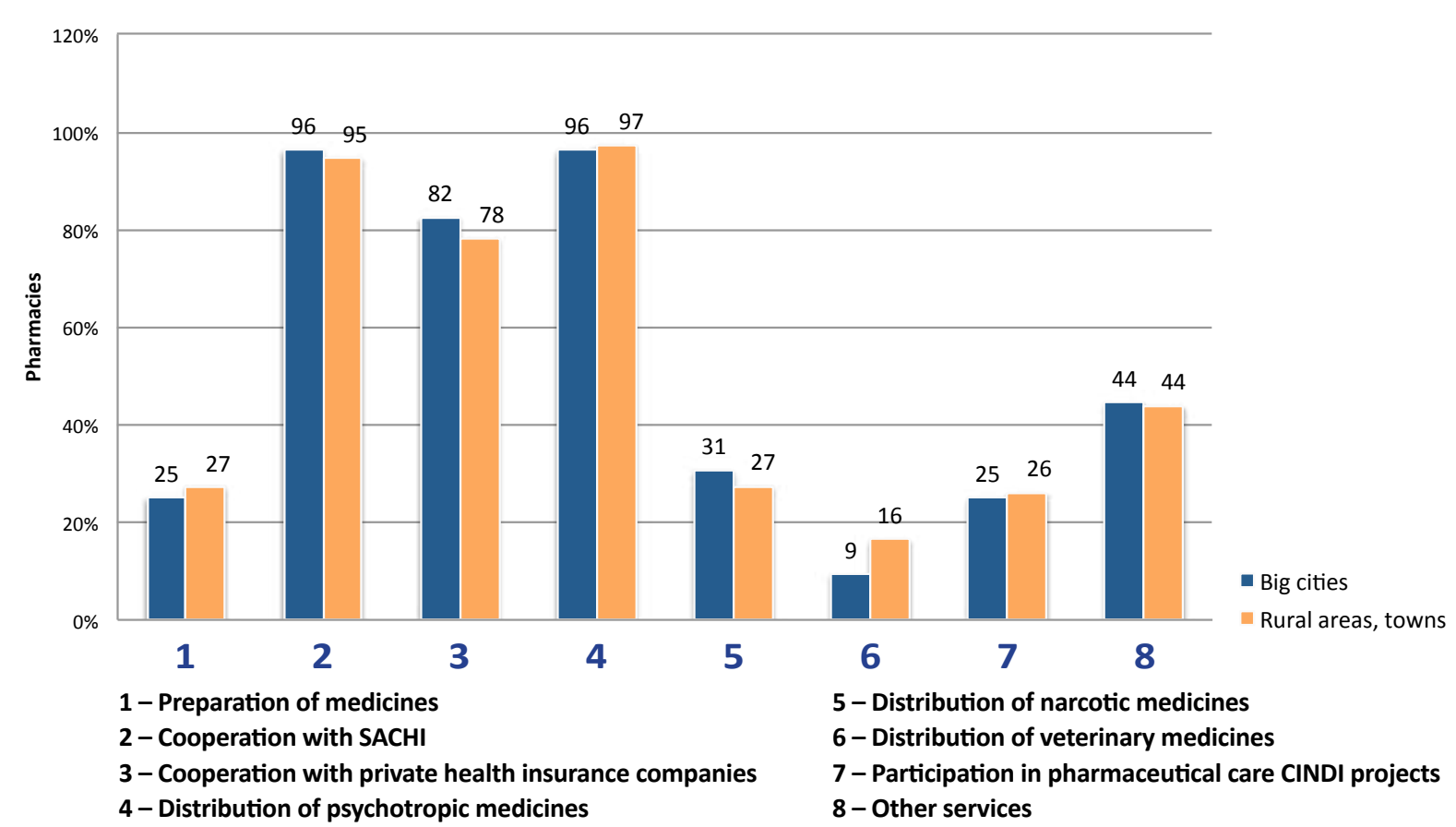
Special conditions in the pharmacy licence



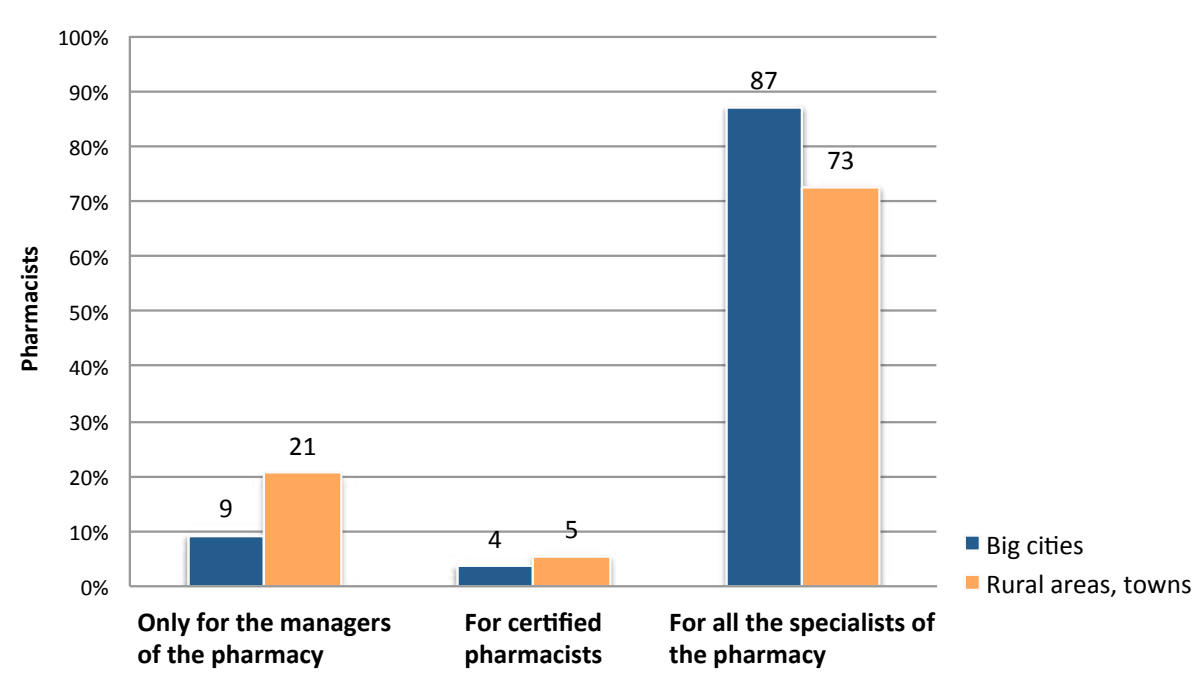
Location of pharmacies involved in the inquiry



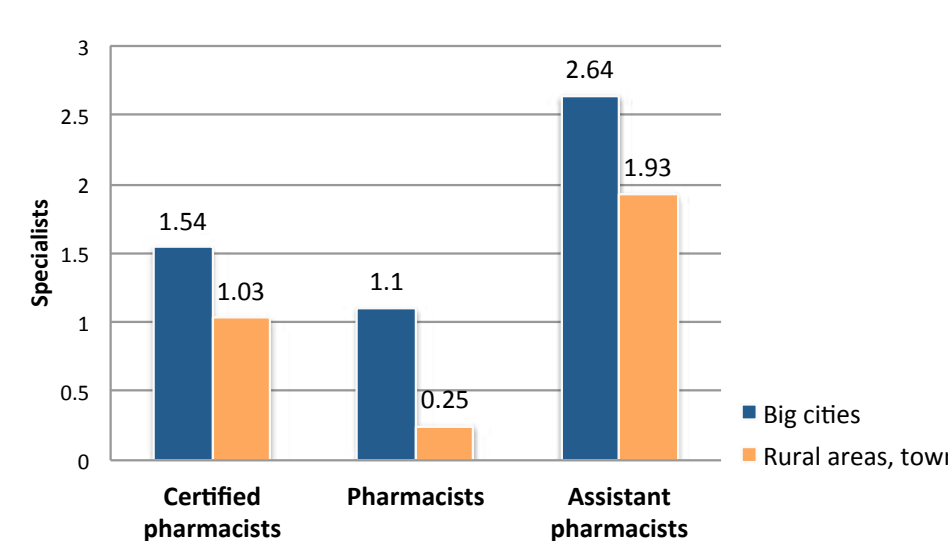
Pharmaceutical services in pharmacies



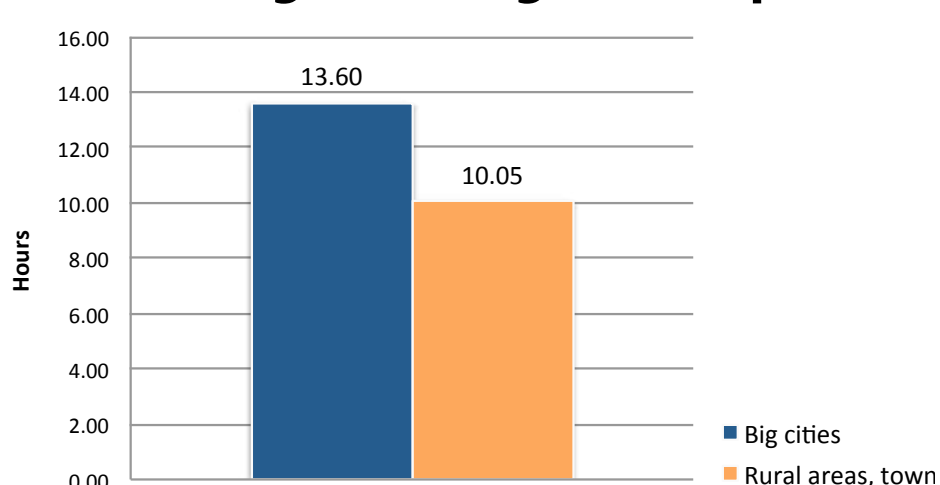
Possibility of involvement in life-long professional education programmes



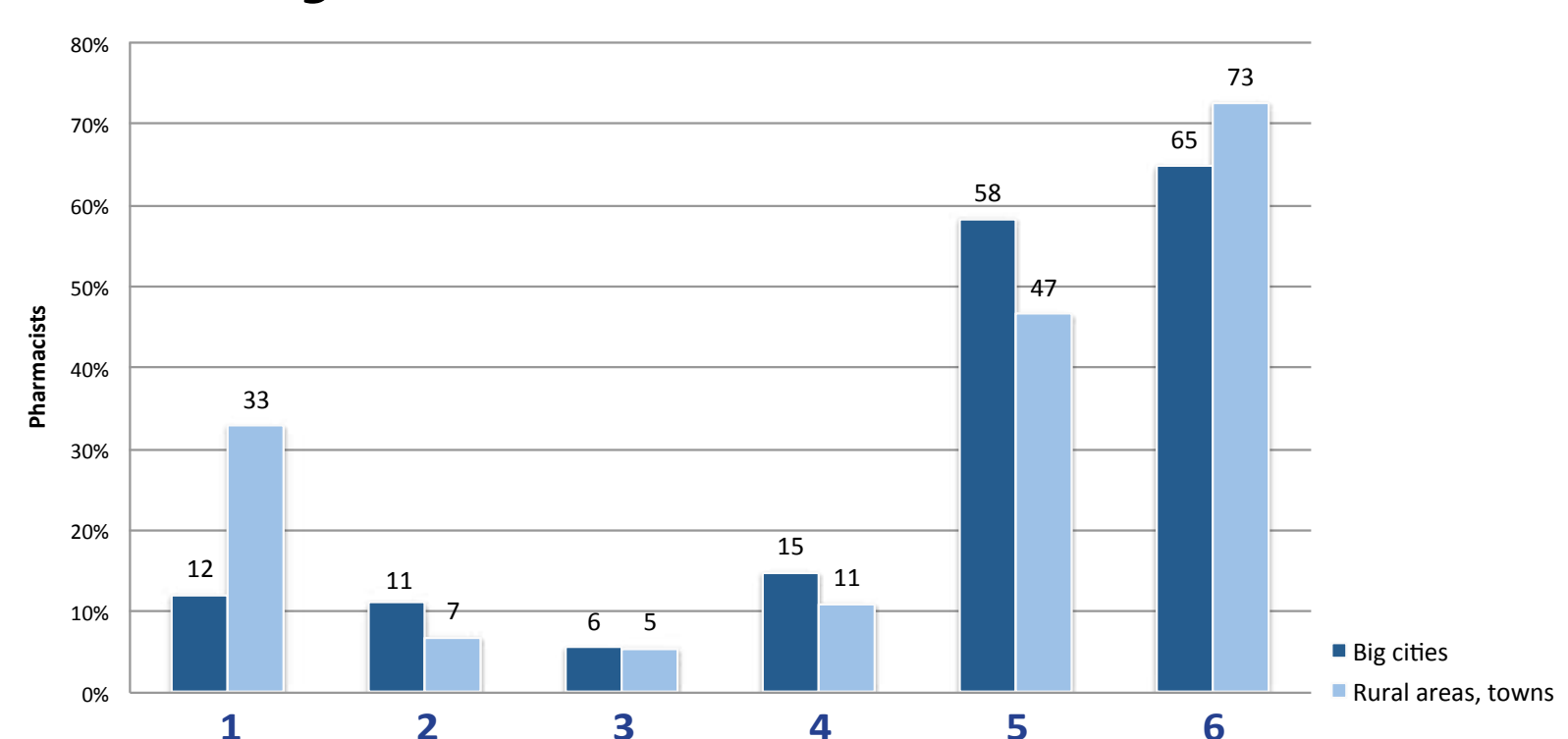
Average number of specialists in pharmacies



Average working time of pharmacies



Offering the OTC medicines



Conclusions

- The number of pharmacies in big cities is more appropriate regarding the number of population.
- The list of PS provided doesn't depend on the location of the pharmacy.
- Pharmacies in big cities have more specialists with higher qualification.