Introduction: Adult congenital heart disease (ACHD) centers are created to assure the continuity of the pediatric care and to offer a specialized follow-up in this population. We aimed to describe the characteristics and changes during a decade of ACHD patients care.

Methods: We use our ACHD patient database (n=1107), where active patients has been followed since 2000. Only complex patients were considered for further analysis. Clinical data, complexity of the diagnosis (moderate or severe), age at transfer to ACHD program, and lapse of care (> 3 years) were documented.

Results: Sixty-nine percent of our active ACHD patients were considered complex in severity: moderate, n=425, and severe, n=350. The mean age at last follow-up was 31±10 years, male/female ratio was 1.08. The mean age at transfer to adult care was 27±6 years. In the last decade there was a major increase in the number of patients transferred to the ACHD program, in 2000 there were n=80, and in 2012 n=775 complex patients. The number of new patients/year for 1 physician in 2000 vs. 2012 was 30 vs. 53 respectively. Lapse of care was registered in 15% of patients. During the study period the mortality among the complex patients was 1.7%.

Conclusion: In our tertiary ACHD center 2/3 of patients are complex in severity. The number of new patients/year has almost doubled during the last decade. Despite the disease complexity patients are still transferred to ACHD program very late. However, once they took part in the ACHD program the lapse of care among these patients is low.