197 (74.1%) residents used laxatives

116 (58.9%) residents had normal bowel function
81 (41.1%) residents had altered bowel function

24 nursing homes were invited to participate
11 nursing homes did not want to participate

13 nursing homes with 31 wards participated
Two wards did not want to participate

29 wards with 647 residents participated
381 residents did not participate:
- Informed consent was not obtained
- Did not fulfil inclusion criteria
- Severely ill or dying
- Missing data on bowel function

266 residents gave consent to participate and had complete data
69 residents did not use laxatives