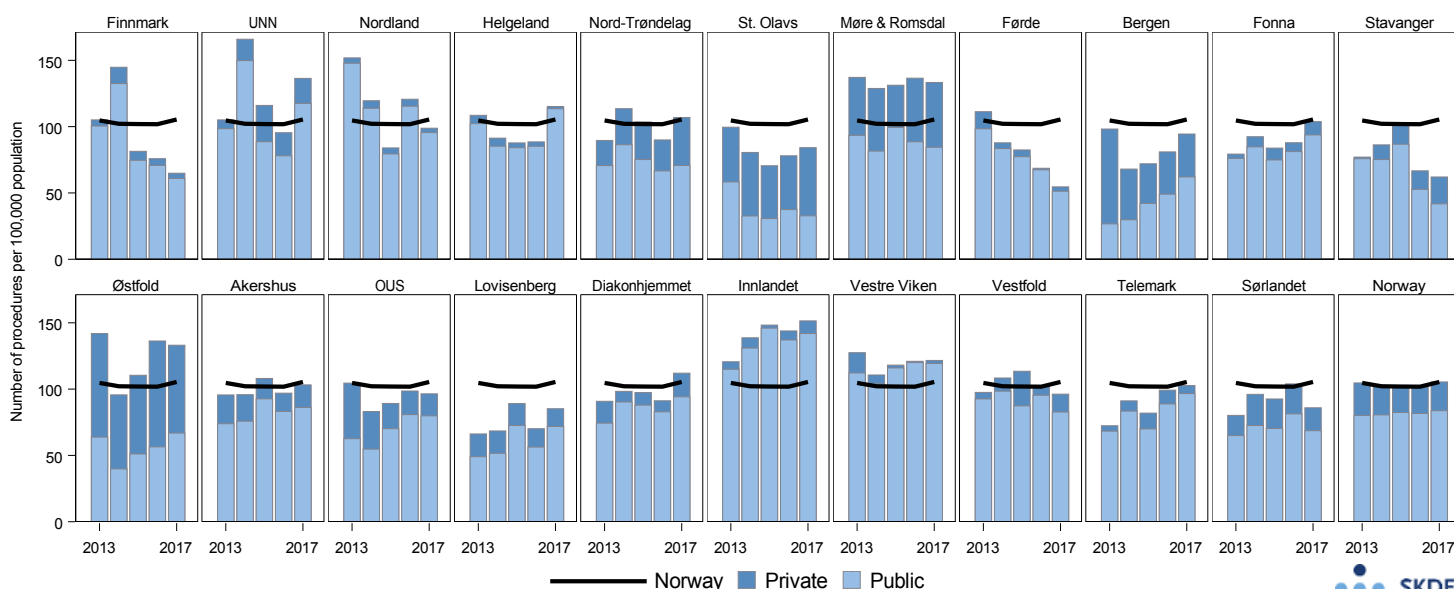


Selected hand surgery includes four conditions. *Dupuytren's contracture* is a condition that involves thickening and formation of cords in the palmar fascia that can result in one or more fingers becoming permanently bent. *Trigger finger* is a condition where swelling around the flexor tendon of a finger results in the finger becoming 'stuck' when moving or becoming stuck in a bent position. *Ganglion* is a fluid-filled cyst or lump, usually at the wrist, that can cause pain and reduced movement. *De Quervain's tenosynovitis* is an inflammation of the sheath covering the thumb's extensor tendons. It can cause pain in the wrist, particularly when gripping with the thumb.



Source: NPR/SSB

Selected hand surgery, development in the number of procedures per 100,000 population during the period 2013–2017, adjusted for gender and age. Broken down by hospital referral areas and public or private treatment providers.

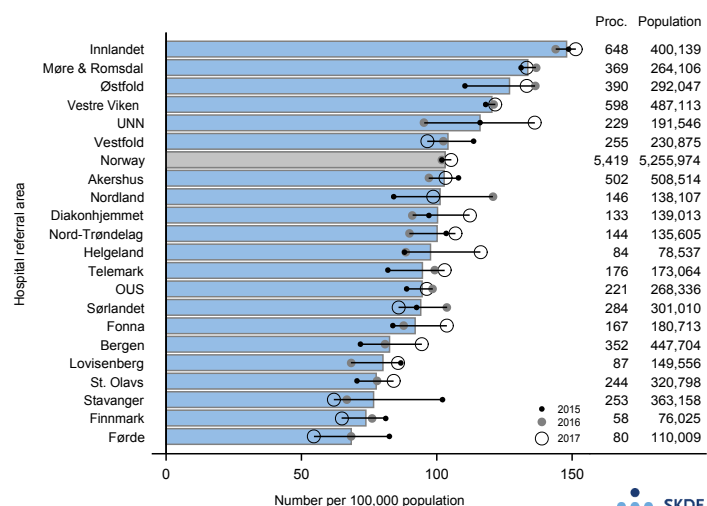
Development since 2013

The 2015 day surgery atlas contained an error in the patient sample for hand surgery conditions. Procedures for Dupuytren's contracture had unfortunately been inadvertently omitted from the material due to a coding error. As a result of this, the figures for hand surgery in the atlas were too low, and the error also had some effect on the variation between hospital referral areas. For this reason, we will not comment further on the results from the 2015 day surgery atlas.

In 2013, just over 5,200 hand surgery procedures (adjusted rate: 105 per 100,000) were performed in Norway. The corresponding figure for 2017 was 5,600 (adjusted rate: 105 per 100,000). Despite a stable rate from 2013 to 2017 for Norway as a whole, there was variation from year to year, in some cases substantial variation, in certain hospital referral areas.

In Innlandet hospital referral area, the number of procedures per 100,000 population increased by approximately 25% from 2013 to 2017. During the same period, the number of procedures per 100,000 population decreased by 38% and 51%, respectively, in the hospital referral areas of Finnmark and Førde. These two areas had the lowest rates in Norway during the period 2015–2017.

The geographical variation between hospital referral areas was moderate during the period 2015–2017. Inhabitants of the Innlandet area had just over twice as many procedures per 100,000 population as inhabitants of Førde hospital referral area.



Source: NPR/SSB

Number of procedures for selected hand surgery per 100,000 population, adjusted for gender and age. Average per year for the period 2015–2017.

Comments

During the period 2015–2017, there was moderate variation in the number of hand surgery procedures per 100,000 population in different hospital referral areas. The need for hand surgery is assumed to be evenly geographically distributed in different parts of Norway, and the variation observed must therefore be deemed to be unwarranted.