

Elderly patients with substance abuse disorders in inpatient treatment

Alcohol use disorder is the most common substance abuse disorder in Norway, and is most common among young adults between 18 and 35 years. Harmful use of alcohol is more common among men than women. Patients with substance abuse disorders usually have other mental disorders and somatic diseases as well. Persons with substance abuse disorder can have both outpatient treatment and inpatient treatment in the specialist health services.

Sample and definitions

Elderly patients of 65 years and above who in 2014-2018 had at least one inpatient contact in mental healthcare or interdisciplinary specialised addiction treatment (TSB), with substance abuse disorder as the primary or secondary diagnosis are included. Substance abuse disorder is defined by the ICD 10-codes F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F18, F19.

Admissions are defined as stays in / admissions to an institution with a duration of more than zero days registered in mental healthcare or interdisciplinary specialised addiction treatment. Admissions less than eight hours apart have been added together. Admissions with a duration exceeding 365 days were excluded from further analyses. The yearly rates are registered in the year of discharge.

Hospital referral area	Number of patients	Number of admissions	Days per admission
Helgeland	9	11	42.1
Finnmark	7	10	30.8
Nordland	17	28	30.5
Innlandet	33	53	30.5
Vestre Viken	40	50	28.3
Lovisenberg	29	46	26.5
Diakonhjemmet	26	42	26.2
Telemark	31	40	26.2
Stavanger	32	47	25.6
UNN	26	41	25.3
Fonna	15	19	25.1
OUS	46	67	24.3
Bergen	50	74	23.2
Ahus	51	68	22.5
Førde	12	19	22.4
Østfold	26	35	22.3
Vestfold	21	28	22.1
Nord-Trøndelag	15	24	20.9
Sørlandet	31	43	19.5
St. Olavs	34	51	19.1
Møre og Romsdal	32	60	14.1
Norway	584	854	24.1

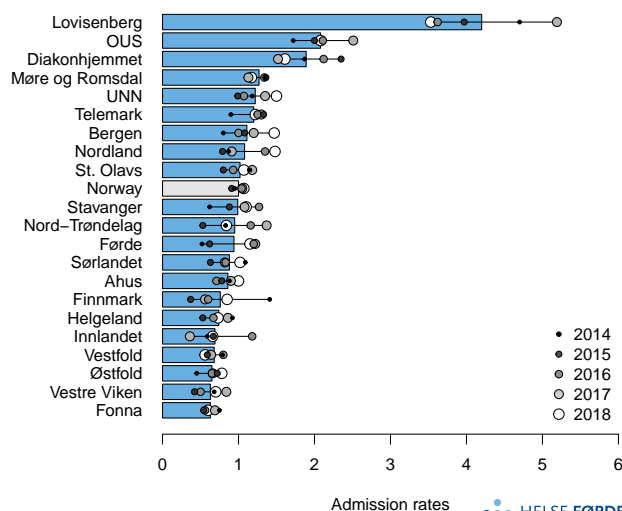
Inpatient treatment for elderly patients with substance use disorder. Includes admissions in mental healthcare and interdisciplinary specialised addiction services. Number of patients, admissions and days per admission, broken down by hospital referral area and for Norway as a whole. The figures represent average values per year for the period 2014–2018 and apply to elderly people aged 65 years and older.

Results

Each year 584 elderly patients with substance abuse disorder were admitted for inpatient treatment in mental healthcare and interdisciplinary specialised addiction treatment in Norway, for 854 admissions yearly in total.

The patient rate varied across hospital referral areas from 0.4 to 2.8 elderly patients with substance abuse disorders each year in inpatient treatment per 1,000 population.

The admission rate varied across hospital referral areas from 0.6 to 4.2 admissions per 1,000 population, with a yearly average rate of 1.0 admission. Admissions for adults with substance abuse disorders varied on average 24 days, and varied across hospital referral areas from 14 to 42 days per admission.



Source: NPR/SSB

Admission rates, elderly patients with substance use disorder receiving inpatient treatment. Number of admissions per 1,000 population, broken down by hospital referral area and for Norway as a whole. The bars show the average values per year for the period 2014–2018, and the dots represent the rates for each year. The rates have been adjusted for age and gender.

Comment

The variation in admission rates is large, but few elderly patients with substance abuse disorders receive inpatient treatment, except from in the capital area. The admission rates may therefore contain a larger share of random variation that makes the rates more uncertain.