

Outpatient and day patient treatment of children with surgical conditions is performed by otolaryngologists, ophthalmologists, orthopaedist and surgeons from various surgical specialities. All hospital referral areas have specialists in private practice in several of the surgical areas in addition to hospital outpatient clinics. Much of the surgical outpatient and day patient treatment of children concern treatment of injuries, but surgical outpatient clinics also insert ear grommets, perform tonsillectomies and provide check-ups after surgery for congenital abnormalities.

Sample

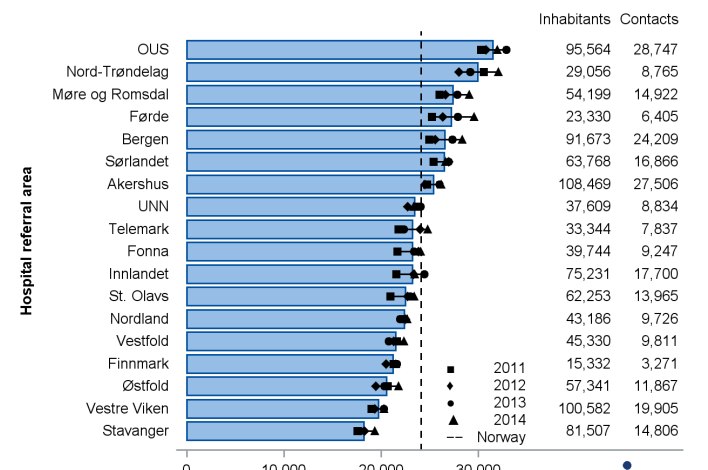
The sample consists of all surgical contacts (outpatient and day patient services) for children in the somatic specialist health service, including specialists in private practice under public funding contracts.

By surgical consultations is meant consultations for conditions that are normally treated by a surgical department, see the report for a more detailed definition.

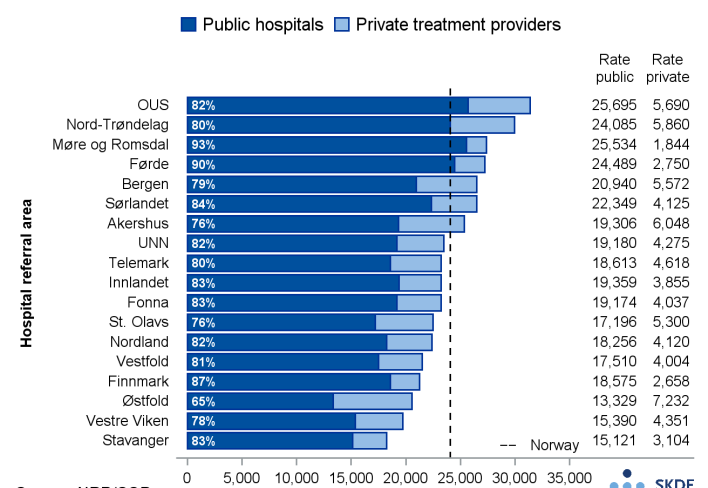
Comments

Each year, 150,000 children have a total of just over 250,000 outpatient and day patient consultations. This accounts for 32% of the total use of children's outpatient and day patient treatment. The usage and patient rates for OUS hospital referral area are 1.7 times higher than for Stavanger. The contact frequency varies from 1.58 in Finnmark hospital referral area to 1.87 in Sørlandet area. The differences in contact frequency mean that there are 290 more consultations per 1,000 patients per year in Sørlandet hospital referral area than in Finnmark.

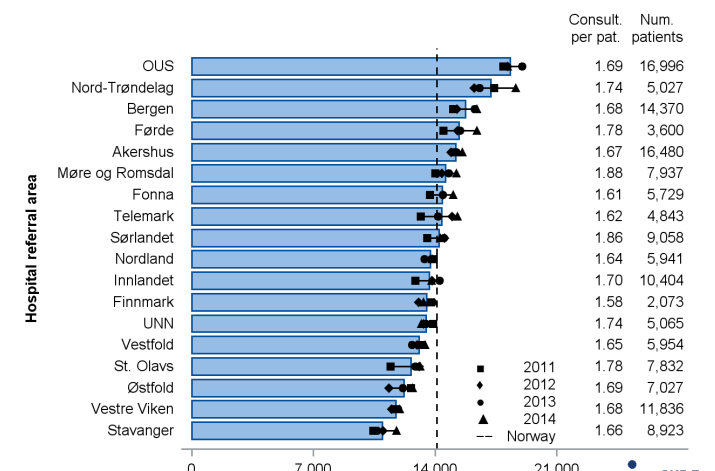
Between 7% and 36% of all surgical consultations take place with specialists in private practice under public funding contracts. The distribution between specialists in private practice and hospitals does not appear to have any effect on the overall use of such health services.



Source: NPR/SSB
Outpatient services, surgical conditions, age-adjusted usage rates per 100,000 children 0-16 year, per hospital referral area, per year and as an average for the period 2011-2014.



Source: NPR/SSB
Outpatient services, surgical conditions, broken down by public or private treatment providers, age-adjusted usage rates per 100,000 children 0-16 year, per hospital referral area and as an average for the period 2011-2014.



Source: NPR/SSB
Outpatient services, surgical conditions, age-adjusted patient rates per 100,000 children 0-16 year, per hospital referral area, per year and as an average for the period 2011-2014. Average number of contacts per patient (contact frequency) and number of patients.

The variation in usage and patient rates are not negligible and should give reason for further studies and discussion in the specialist communities.