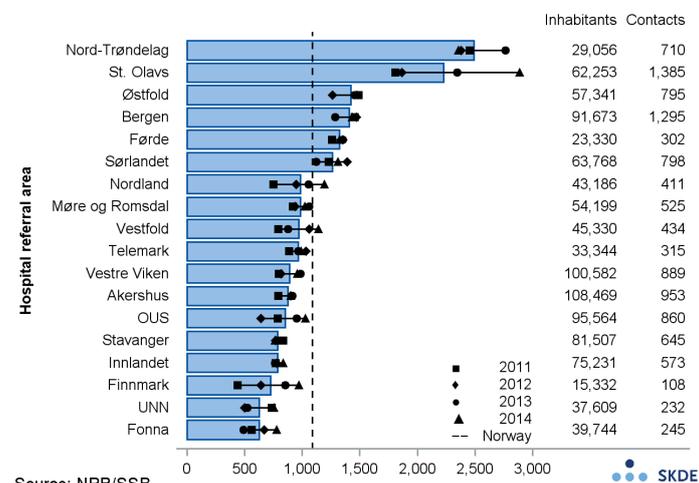


Constipation

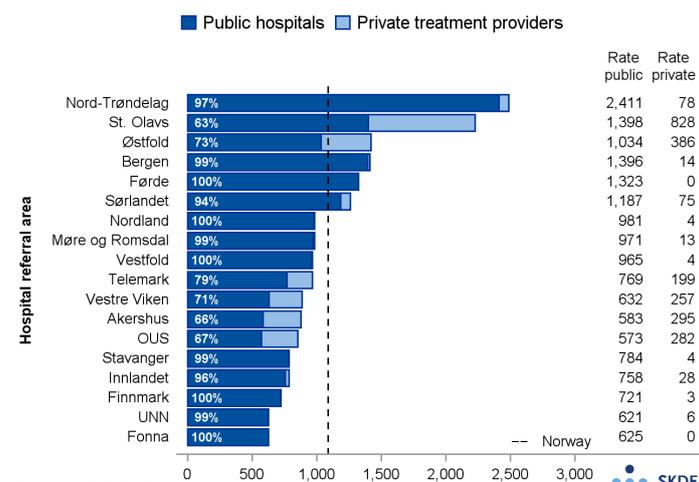
Periods of infrequent bowel movements and constipation are a normal phenomenon in many children. However, in some children this becomes a chronic condition that leads to stomach ache, paradoxical diarrhoea with bowel incontinence, difficulties eating and generally feeling unwell. Chronic constipation can be caused by diseases and abnormalities of the bowels as well as by psychosocial and dietary factors. Treatment involves using laxatives and enemas, in addition to dietary advice. In most cases, the problem can be resolved by a GP or outpatient consultation, but some children have to be admitted in order to completely empty their bowel.

Sample

The sample consists of consultations (outpatient/day patient services) for constipation for children in the somatic specialist health service, including specialists in private practice under public funding contracts. Constipation is defined by a primary or secondary diagnosis (ICD-10) of F98.1 or in code block K59. Since constipation can manifest as different symptoms, all the sub-diagnoses in K59 are included, including functional diarrhoea.



Source: NPR/SSB
Constipation, outpatient services, 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.

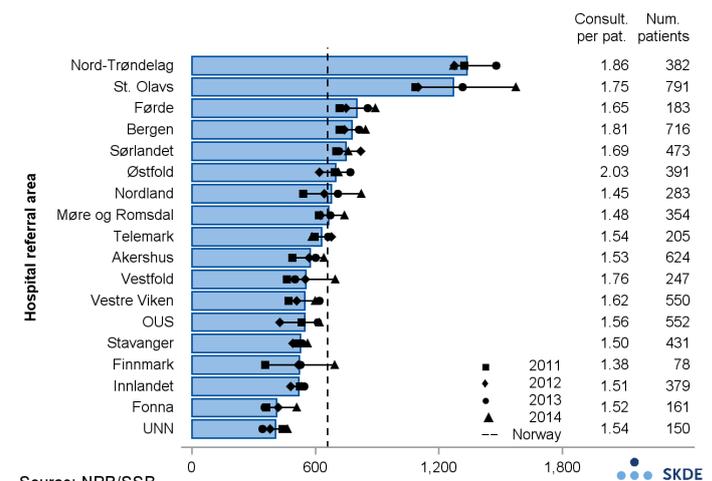


Source: NPR/SSB
Constipation, outpatient services, broken down by public or private treatment providers, age-adjusted usage rates per 100,000 children 0-16 year, per hospital referral area and as an average for the period 2011-2014.

Comments

Consultations for constipation make up approx. 2% of all children's consultations in Norwegian hospitals. Out of all contacts concerning these diagnoses, 88% are outpatient contacts.

Children living in Nord-Trøndelag have about four times as many outpatient consultations for constipation per 100,000 population as children in Fonna hospital referral area. The contact frequency is approx. 1.5 times higher in Østfold hospital referral area than in Finnmark. This corresponds to 650 more consultations per 1,000 patients treated. The contact frequency appears to be somewhat higher in hospital referral areas with high patient rates than in areas with low patient rates. The usage rate has remained stable from 2011 to 2014, with relatively little variation between years.



Source: NPR/SSB
Constipation, outpatient services, 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.

Constipation is a condition where early intervention may be important, and both health visitors and GPs have an important role to play in the early stages.

Two of the hospital referral areas have significantly higher usage and patient rates than the other areas, but even when these two are excluded, there is considerable variation between hospital referral areas. Østfold hospital referral area, which has the third highest usage rate, has twice the rate of Finnmark, which has the third lowest usage rate. It is not a given what is the correct usage rate for health services to children with constipation, but the geographical variation is considerable.