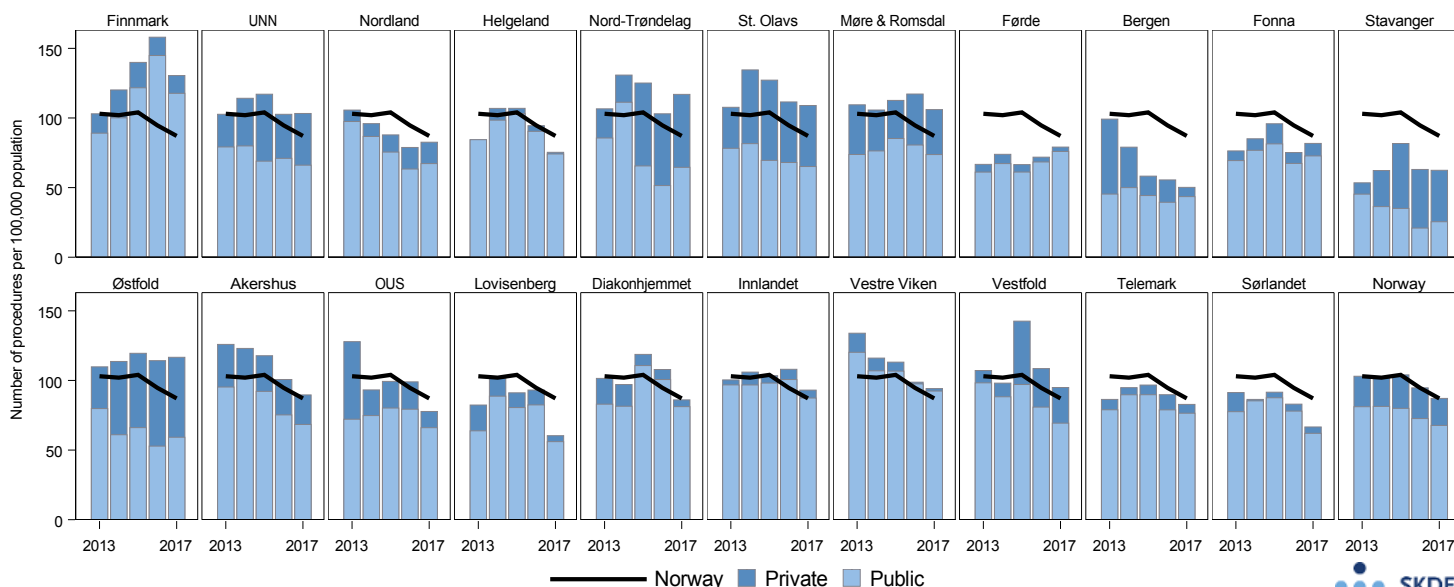


# Day surgery in Norway 2013–2017

## Hallux valgus and hammer toe

Hallux valgus is a deformation of the big toe, which is angled towards the little toe. Hammer toe is when the innermost joint is bent upwards and the outermost downwards. The treatment consists of removing part of the bone near the joint. Screws are placed in the big toe and metal pins in the smaller toes to correct the angle.



Source: NPR/SSB

Hallux valgus and hammer toe, 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.

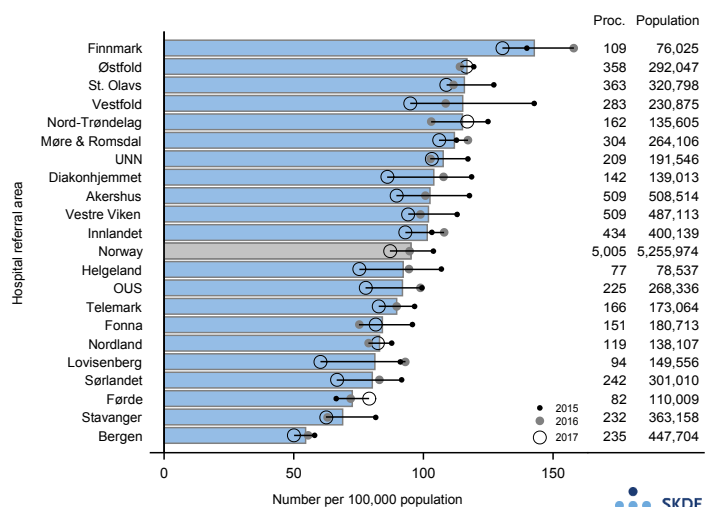
### Development since 2013

The 2015 day surgery atlas showed a fairly high geographical variation in surgical treatment of hallux valgus and hammer toe during the period 2011–2013. Inhabitants of Vestre Viken hospital referral area had more than twice as many procedures per 100,000 population than those in the Bergen area. The latter had Norway's lowest average rate per year during the period 2011–2013, despite a doubling from 2012 to 2013. In 2013, just over 5,200 procedures (adjusted rate: 103 per 100,000) were performed in Norway.

From 2014, the rate decreased considerably again for inhabitants of Bergen hospital referral area, mainly due to reduced activity at publicly funded private hospitals and specialists in private practice under public funding agreements. During the period 2015–2017, the hospital referral areas of Førde, Stavanger and Bergen had the lowest number of procedures per 100,000 population in Norway. Finnmark hospital referral area experienced a clear increase from 2013 to 2016, mostly at public hospitals. Vestre Viken hospital referral area, which had the highest rate during 2011–2013, showed a steady decrease from 2013 to 2017. Other hospital referral areas had some variation from year to year, but no clear trends.

The ratio between the highest and lowest rates during 2015–2017 was 2.6, which was greater than during 2011–2013. If we exclude the extremes (Finnmark and Bergen hospital referral areas), there was little variation during the period 2015–2017.

From 2015 to 2017, the number of procedures per 100,000 population decreased by 16% on the national level, and most of this reduction took place at public hospitals. In 2017, 4,600 procedures (adjusted rate: 87 per 100,000) were performed in Norway. A quarter of the procedures were performed by publicly funded private hospitals or specialists in private practice under public funding contracts.



Source: NPR/SSB

Number of procedures for hallux valgus and hammer toe per 100,000 population, adjusted for gender and age. Average per year for the period 2015–2017.

### Comments

It is assumed that the need for surgical treatment of hallux valgus and hammer toe is evenly distributed regardless of where one lives. There was considerable variation between the health trusts' hospital referral areas during the period 2015–2017, as well as some variation from year to year. This suggests that the indications for these procedures may be unclear. The observed variation is therefore deemed to be unwarranted and could possibly be due to the fact that supply has a certain influence on the use of such procedures.