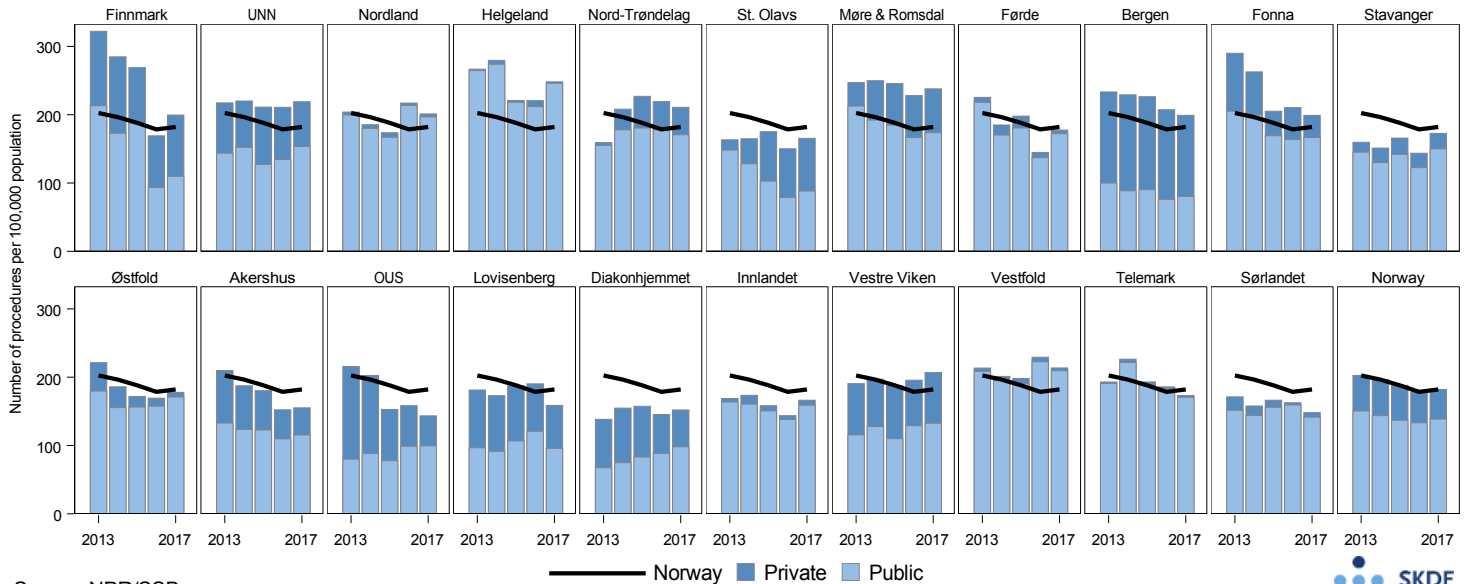


Tonsillectomy is one of the operations most commonly performed on children and young adults. The reason for a tonsillectomy (complete removal of the tonsils) is usually recurring or chronic throat infections. Tonsillotomy (partial tonsillectomy) is usually performed when the palatine tonsils are so big that they make sleeping or eating difficult. Tonsillotomy is less painful than tonsillectomy and carries a lower risk of bleeding in the days following the operation.



Source: NPR/SSB

Tonsillectomy, 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.

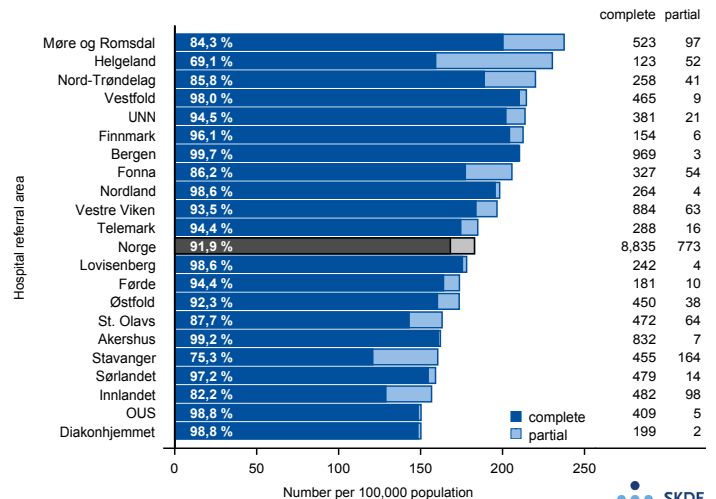
Development since 2013

The 2015 day surgery atlas included procedures on both the tonsils and adenoid tissue (the adenoids). Based on feedback from the Norwegian Tonsil Surgery Register, only procedures on tonsils are included in this healthcare atlas. For this reason, we will not comment further on the results from the 2015 day surgery atlas. In 2013, just over 10,600 procedures (adjusted rate: 203 per 100,000) were performed on tonsils in Norway. In that year, more than twice as many procedures per 100,000 population were performed on inhabitants of Finnmark hospital referral areas as on those resident in the Diakonhjemmet area.

During period 2015–2017, 1.6 times as many procedures were performed on tonsils per 100,000 population in Møre og Romsdal hospital referral area as in the OUS and Diakonhjemmet areas. The total number of procedures per 100,000 population in Norway has decreased steadily from 2013 to 2016. In 2017, about 9,600 procedures (adjusted rate: 182 per 100,000) were performed. The number of procedures per 100,000 population remained stable or decreased in all hospital referral areas in Norway during this period. The greatest reduction was in Finnmark hospital referral area.

For Norway as a whole, 30% of tonsillectomies took place as inpatient procedures. The proportion varied from 64% in Nord-Trøndelag hospital referral area to 9% in the Østfold area.

In Sweden, 44% of procedures performed on tonsils during the period 2013–2015 were tonsillotomies. In Norway, a tonsillotomy procedure was used in about 10% of procedures performed on tonsils during the period 2015–2017. The proportion varies somewhat between hospital referral areas. The low number of tonsillotomies means that random variation can have a considerable impact.



Source: NPR/SSB

Tonsillectomy (complete and partial), per 100,000 population, adjusted for gender and age. Average per year for the period 2015–2017.

Comments

The variation between the health trusts' hospital referral areas in the number of procedures performed on tonsils per 100,000 population was clearly lower during the period 2015–2017 than in 2013. The geographical variation between hospital referral areas is deemed to be low, and this health service appears to be reasonably equitably distributed in the population regardless of where people live.