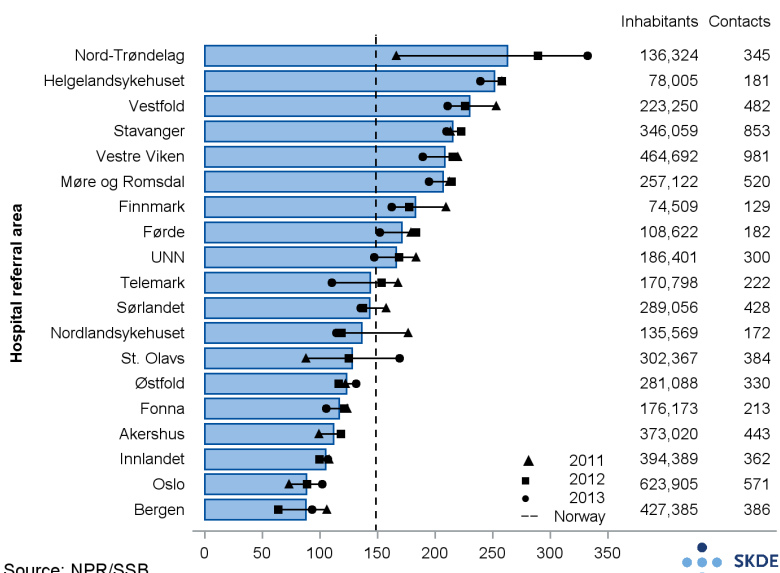
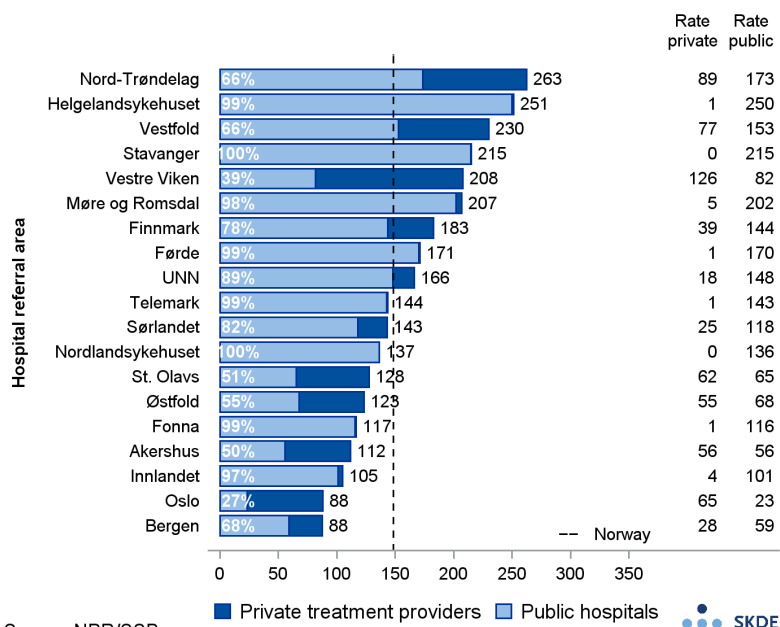


Fluid in the middle ear can lead to impaired hearing and delayed language development in children, and is treated by inserting a ventilation tube in the eardrum. This treatment may entitle patients to necessary health care, and the procedure is performed both by public and private treatment providers.



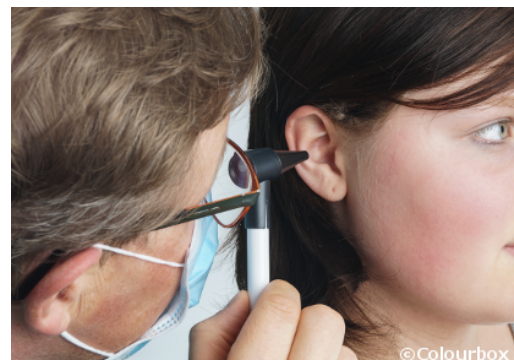
Source: NPR/SSB

Insertion of ventilation tube in the eardrum, rates adjusted for gender and age per 100,000 population per hospital referral area, per year and as an average for the period 2011–2013



Source: NPR/SSB

Insertion of ventilation tube in the eardrum, rates adjusted for gender and age per 100,000 population per hospital referral area, broken down by public or private treatment providers, average for the period 2011–2013



### Definitions

The following combinations of codes define this patient group:

The procedure code (NCSP) DCA20 for hospitals with activity-based funding, and the tariff codes K02c, K02d, K02e or K02g for specialists in private practice under a funding contract with the regional health authorities.

Private treatment providers include private hospitals and specialists under contracts with the public specialist health service.

	2011	2012	2013	Aver. (%)
Public	5,533	5,492	4,986	5,337 (71%)
Private	1,867	1,997	2,576	2,147 (29%)
Total	7,400	7,489	7,562	7,484 (100%)

Procedures per year and average for the period 2011–2013

### Comments

On average, 7,500 procedures were performed each year in the period 2011–2013. The number of such procedures performed at public hospitals decreased in 2013, but an increase in the activity of private service providers kept the number stable throughout the period. In Oslo, 73% are treated by private providers, while the percentage is zero for the hospital referral areas that fall under Helse Stavanger and Nordlandssykehuset health trusts.

The overall rate for the procedure is three times as high among the population in the Helse Nord-Trøndelag health trust area as in the Bergen area. There is no known geographical variation in morbidity, which indicates an unjustified variation in the number of such procedures performed.