

Elderly patients in inpatient treatment

The most common mental disorders among the elderly are the same as for the younger population and can be treated similarly. In addition, the elderly can have other, age-related challenges. In many European countries 35% of the elderly have had a mental disorder during the last year, and Norwegian studies show an increase in the prevalence of depression for the elderly. The prevalence of dementia is 5-10% for the elderly. Mental health issues are often complex, and assessment and treatment occurs both in the primary healthcare service as well as in geriatrics, neurology, geriatric psychiatry and general psychiatry and outpatient clinics. These services are organised differently in different parts of Norway.

Sample and definitions

Patients at the age of 65 and older who in 2014-2018 had at least one inpatient contact in mental healthcare or interdisciplinary specialised addiction treatment (TSB) are included.

Admissions are defined as stays in / admissions to an institution with a duration of more than zero days registered in mental healthcare or interdisciplinary specialised addiction treatment. Admissions less than eight hours apart have been added together. Admissions with a duration exceeding 365 days were excluded from further analyses. The yearly rates are registered in the year of discharge.

Hospital referral area	Number of patients	Number of admissions	Days per admission
OUS	171	230	38.8
Ahus	281	370	35.3
Diakonhjemmet	102	141	34.2
Stavanger	228	322	32.6
Nordland	130	172	26.9
Norway	3,813	5,634	27.4
Diakonhjemmet	102	141	34.2
Stavanger	228	322	32.6
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Norway	3,813	5,63	