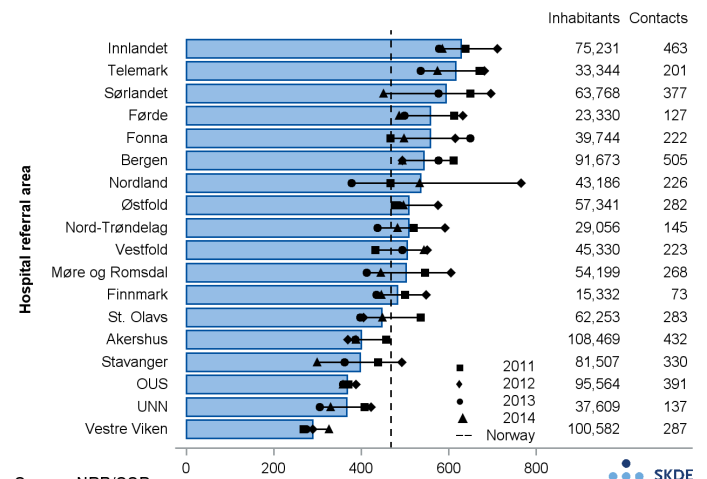


## Viral gastroenteritis

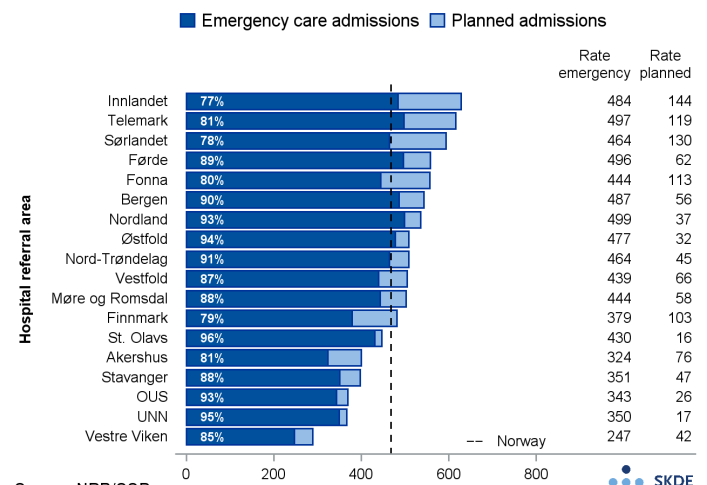
Viral infections in the stomach and digestive system with vomiting, diarrhoea and stomach pain are an important cause of children being admitted to hospital. This condition is much more common in winter than in summer, which contributes greatly to the considerable seasonal variation in admissions to Norwegian paediatric departments. There are a number of different viruses that cause the same set of symptoms. Adenovirus, norovirus and rotavirus are some of the most common ones. There is no effective treatment against these viruses, but if the child cannot drink enough fluids they may need to be treated with fluids either via a tube to the stomach or intravenously. A rotavirus vaccine was introduced in 2014 for the reason that it would reduce the amount of such infections and the number of hospital admissions.

### Sample

The sample consists of children's admissions for viral gastroenteritis in the somatic specialist health service with a duration of at least 24 hours. Viral gastroenteritis is defined by a primary or secondary diagnosis (ICD-10) in code blocks A08-09 or R10-11.



Source: NPR/SSB  
Viral gastroenteritis, admissions, 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.

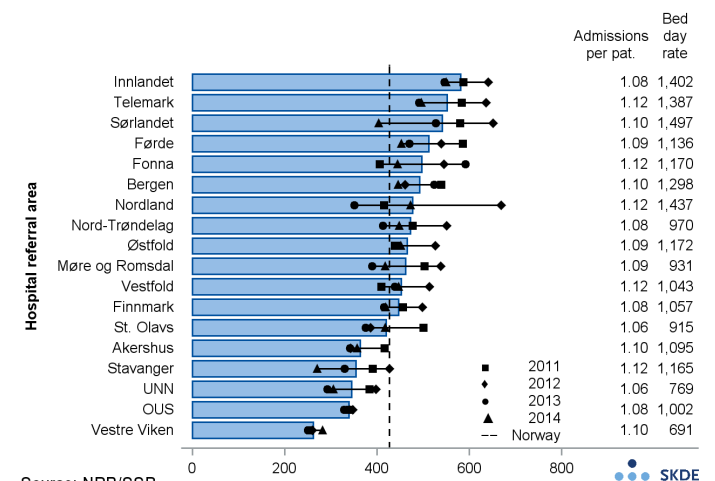


Source: NPR/SSB  
Viral gastroenteritis, admissions, by degree of urgency, age-adjusted usage rates per 100,000 children 0-16 year, per hospital referral area and as an average for the period 2011-2014.

### Comments

This patient group accounts for approx. 11% of all children's admissions for medical diagnoses in Norwegian hospitals. The usage rate of Innlandet hospital referral area is more than twice that of Vestre Viken. Between 77% and 96% of patients in this diagnosis category are admitted as emergency care cases.

There is no clear difference in the number of admissions per patient (contact frequency) between hospital referral areas with high and low usage rates; it is the number of patients admitted for these diagnoses that varies. There is a tendency towards falling admission rates from 2011 to 2014.



Source: NPR/SSB  
Viral gastroenteritis, admissions, 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 admissions per patient (contact frequency) and bed day rate.

There are no known differences in morbidity or framework conditions that would explain the variation between hospital referral areas. There seems to be a trend towards lower usage rates for viral gastroenteritis during the period. There is reason to ask whether there is unwarranted variation between hospital referral areas.