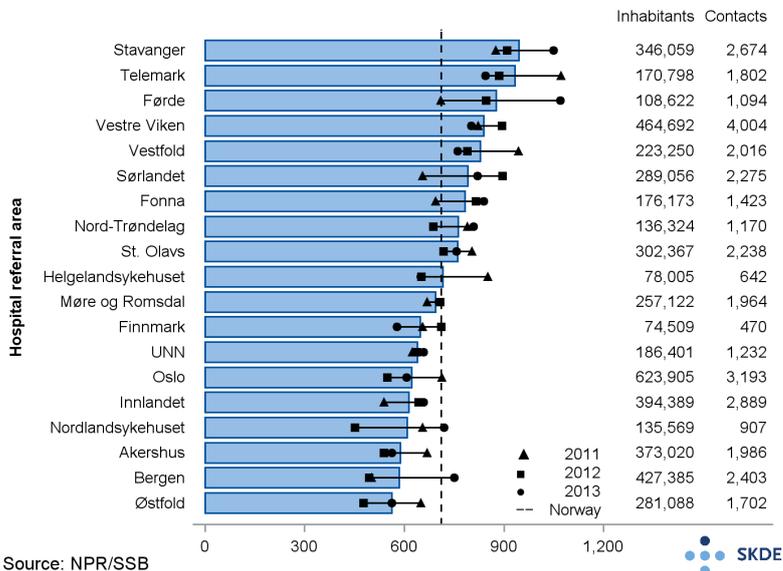
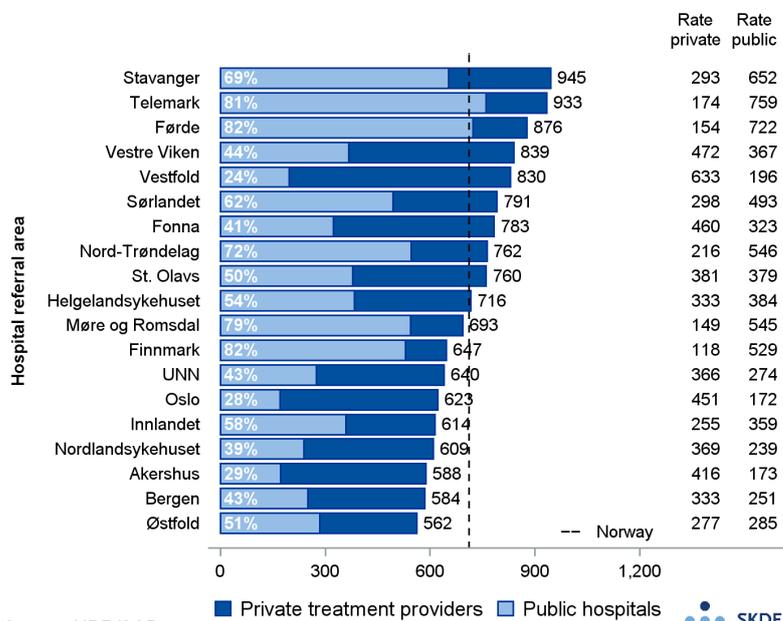


Cataract is an opacity in the lens of the eye that leads to impaired vision. For most patients, this happens as part of the aging process. If left untreated, the condition will result in blindness. The treatment consists of removing the old lens from the eye and inserting an artificial one.



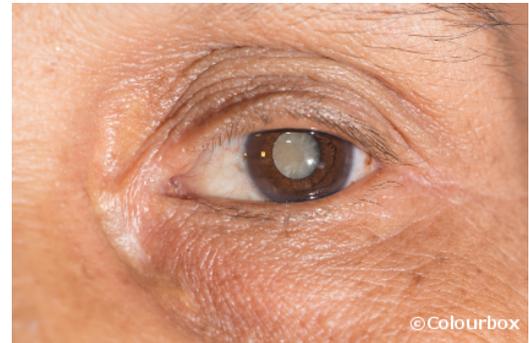
Source: NPR/SSB

Cataracts surgery, 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

Cataracts surgery, 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:

Primary or secondary diagnosis (ICD-10) in code block H25 in combination with the procedure code (NCSP) CJE20 for hospitals with activity-based funding, and the same diagnosis code in combination with the tariff code K01a 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	18,310	19,192	18,283	18,595 (52%)
Private	17,231	15,640	19,593	17,488 (48%)
Total	35,541	34,832	37,876	36,083 (100%)

Procedures per year and average for the period 2011–2013

Comments

Approximately 36,000 operations for age-related cataract are performed each year. About half of them are performed by private treatment providers. The number of operations has increased by approx. 7% during the period, and growth in the number of procedures performed by private treatment providers accounts for the entire increase. The rates were 1.7 times higher for people living in the Stavanger area than for people living in Østfold.

Such variation must be considered moderate, but it is consistent over several years. Although some of this variation is random, it represents a difference in treatment provision by population area for a service that is deemed to be highly useful for the right patients.