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Inadequate Care, Abuse and Neglect in Norwegian Nursing Homes

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Norway

- The Kingdom of Norway (King Harald V)
- System of government: Constitutional monarchy & Parliamentary democracy
- 5.2 mill inhabitants
- Not member of EU
- The capital is Oslo
- 13.5 inhabitants/km²

<https://www.ssb.no/befolkning/artikler-og-publikasjoner/attachment/225814?ts=14d005aeb20>



The 2016 Global AgeWatch Index: Winners and losers

- **96 countries are ranked according to the social and economic wellbeing of older people. This represents 91 per cent or nine out of ten people over 60 across the world**
- **This year, the Index shows that Norway is the second best country to be old in. Apart from Japan, all the top 10 countries are again in Western Europe, North America and Australasia. USA is ranked as number 9**

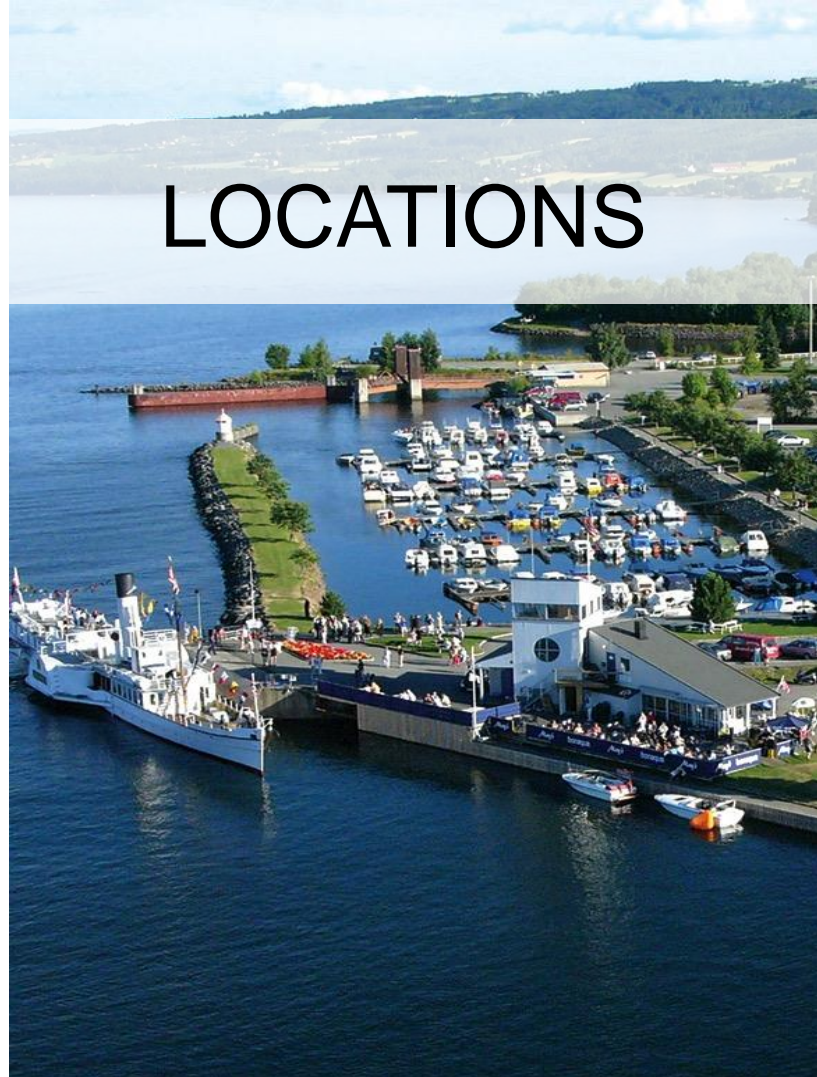
<http://www.helpage.org/global-agewatch/population-ageing-data/global-rankings-table/>

About NTNU

- **NTNU, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, has as its mission “Knowledge for a better world”**
- **NTNU is Norway’s largest university**
- **NTNU also has the broadest study offerings of any Norwegian university in the different technological and artistic and aesthetic disciplines**



TRONDHEIM



GJØVIK



ÅLESUND

Some facts about NTNU

- **14 faculties**
 - **70 departments and divisions**
- **Approx. 40 000 students**
- **FTE: 6700, of which 4053 are in teaching, research and outreach positions (39% female)**



2014 Nobel Prize

NTNU professors May-Britt Moser and Edvard Moser were awarded the 2014 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discovery of cells that constitute an “inner GPS” in the brain.



Norwegian Health Care System



- **National level**
 - **Parliament**
 - **Government**
 - **Prime minister and 18 ministers**
- **Local level**
 - **19 counties**
 - **428 municipalities**

Who is responsible for what?

- **The local government (the municipalities);**
 - Home care (Home assistance and home nursing)
 - Respite care
 - Service housing and group living-arrangements
 - Nursing homes
 - Rehabilitation (physiotherapy, occupational therapy, mental health care etc.)
 - Family medicine/ general practitioners etc.
- **The central government (the state);**
 - Hospitals
 - Specialized rehabilitation
 - Ambulant specialists

Institutional care / Nursing homes

- **Around 14% of 80+ live in an institution (approx. 44 000)**
- **24 hour skilled care services**
- **A statutory obligation for the municipalities**
- **Provide medical and nursing care, rehabilitation and respite care**
- **Mostly owned and run by the municipalities**
- **Staff: 31% RNs, 45% LPN (high school), 24% aides/assistants**
- **Nursing home departments are required to be managed by RNs**
- **Single room reform (> 95%)**

Nursing home residents

- **More sick and helpless than earlier years (in 2014, 47% of all yearly deaths in Norway happened in NHs)**
- **More than 80% suffer from dementia**
- **More than 80% have extensive care needs**
- **2/3 show clinically significant psychiatric or behavioral symptoms**
- **Submission causes: Cognitive impairment (42%), stroke (15%), mental illness (9%), heart and lung diseases (8%)**
- **Mean age: 85 years, 71% female**
- **Mean number of drugs: 6.7**

Inadequate Care, Abuse and Neglect in Norwegian Nursing Homes

- **A cross-sectional survey**
- **One county in the middle of Norway**
- **Including 616 nursing staff (registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and nursing aides) from 16 nursing homes**
- **The response rate was 79%**

Staff behavior (inadequate care, abuse and neglect) (I)

Emotional

- **Scolded a resident**
- **Entered a resident's room without knocking**
- **Threatened a resident with punishment**
- **Made fun of a resident in front of others**
- **Talked disrespectfully to a resident**
- **Prohibited a resident from using the alarm**
- **Used diapers to prevent toilet visits**

Staff behavior (inadequate care, abuse and neglect) (II)

Neglect

- **Did not wash a resident who needed washing**
- **Omitted giving a resident enough food**
- **Delayed required care longer than necessary**
- **Ignored a resident**
- **Inadequate treatment of wounds or injuries**
- **Neglected oral care**
- **Did not change diapers when needed**

Staff behavior (inadequate care, abuse and neglect) (III)

Physical

- **Held a resident hard**
- **Gave medication “unnecessary”**
- **Restrained/held back a resident**
- **Pressed the nose in order to force the resident to open his or her mouth**
- **Tied down a resident**

Staff behavior (inadequate care, abuse and neglect) (IV)

Financial

- **Taken money or valuables from a resident**

Results (I)

- **87% of the nursing staff reported that they had committed at least one act of inadequate care, abuse and neglect**
- **All types of acts were reported, except taken money or valuables from a resident**

Results (II)

More often than once a month

- **12% reported that they had neglected oral care**
- **7% had ignored a resident**
- **6% delayed required care longer than necessary**
- **5% had restrained/held back a resident**
- **3% admitted to have used diapers to prevent toilet visits**
- **...**

Results (III)

More often than once a month

- **2% had prohibited resident from using the alarm**
- **2% reported that they had talked disrespectfully to a resident**
- **2% said that they had given medication without prescription**
- **1% had threatened a resident**

Variables in the logistic regression models (I)

Three dependent variables:

- Acts of emotional abuse
- Acts of negligent abuse
- Acts of physical abuse.

Variables in the logistic regression models (II)

Eleven independent variables:

- Location
- Size
- Staff density
- Staffs' age
- Education
 - two levels
- Experience
- Job satisfaction
- Resident aggression
- Care-related conflicts
- Non-care related conflicts

Summary of results for the logistic regression models

Hypotheses	Emotional	Neglect	Physical
H1: The probability of inadequate care is influenced by location of the nursing home.	**		**
H2: The probability of inadequate care is influenced by the size of the nursing homes.			**
H3: Lower staff density increases the probability of inadequate care.			
H4: The probability of inadequate care is influenced by the age of the staff.			*
H5: High school level education influences the probability of inadequate care.	**		
H6: University college level education influences the probability of inadequate care.	*		*
H7: The less caregiver experience, the higher the probability of inadequate care.			
H8: The lower the job satisfaction, the higher the probability of inadequate care.	**	*	
H9: The higher the level of resident aggression, the higher the probability of inadequate care.	**	*	**
H10: The higher the level of care- related conflicts, the higher the probability of inadequate care.		**	*
H11: The higher the level of non-care related conflicts, the higher the probability of inadequate care.	**	**	

Logistic regression model

- **Different types of abuse have different correlates**
- **Residents aggression are related to all types of abuse and neglect**

Sexual abuse of older nursing home residents- a Norwegian pilot study

- **The purpose of this study was to illuminate and increase knowledge of sexual abuse of older persons in nursing homes.**
- **Qualitative and quantitative approaches:**
 - **A systematic literature review of published studies specifically on sexual abuse in nursing homes**
 - **One focus group interview with nursing home staff (n=7)**
 - **One survey among nursing home staff in two nursing homes (n= 64)**

Results from the focus group interview

- **This does not happen!! Or does it??**
- **Strong reactions: Anger, sadness, disgusting, mentally unwell and nausea**
- **Still a taboo topic among health professionals**
- **Lack of knowledge**
- **They would have notified a sexual abuse, but it was uncertainty concerning whom or where they should report this**

Results from the survey (n=64)

- **20 respondents reported knowledge of the occurrence of sexual abuse**
- **15 respondents were not certain whether the incidents they had observed was a sexual abuse or not**
- **The largest group of abusers where co-residents, secondly relatives and fewest staff**
- **More than half of the respondents answered that they did not know what to do if a nursing home resident were subjected to sexual abuse**

Concluding remarks

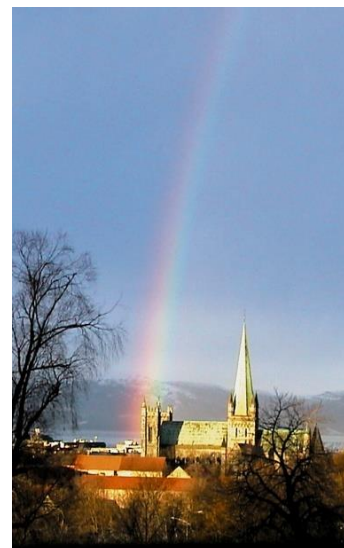
- Recognition of the problem
- **YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE IT TO SEE IT !**
- Follow up by actions
- Legislation
- Knowledge development

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Thanks for your attention





**Your comments and
questions are welcome**