

Social inequalities in health in Norway

Where we stand and what we do

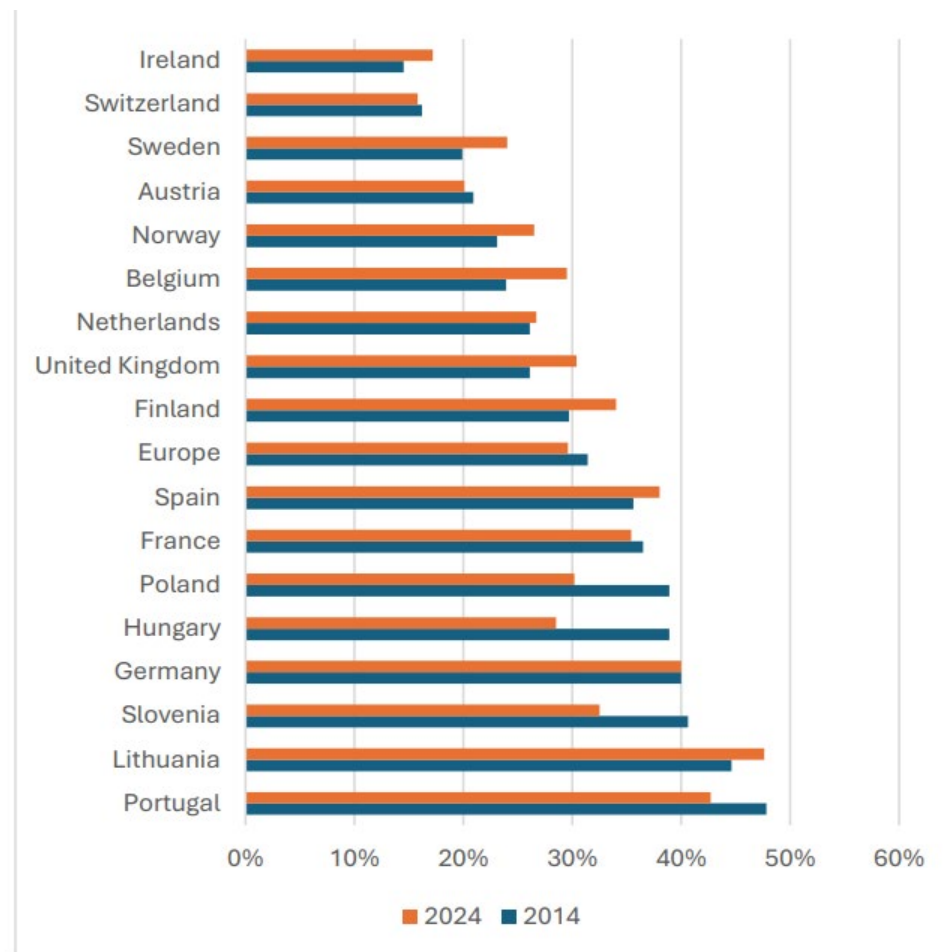
Øyvind Giæver, Director, Dept. for social determinants of health



Relevance for Norway

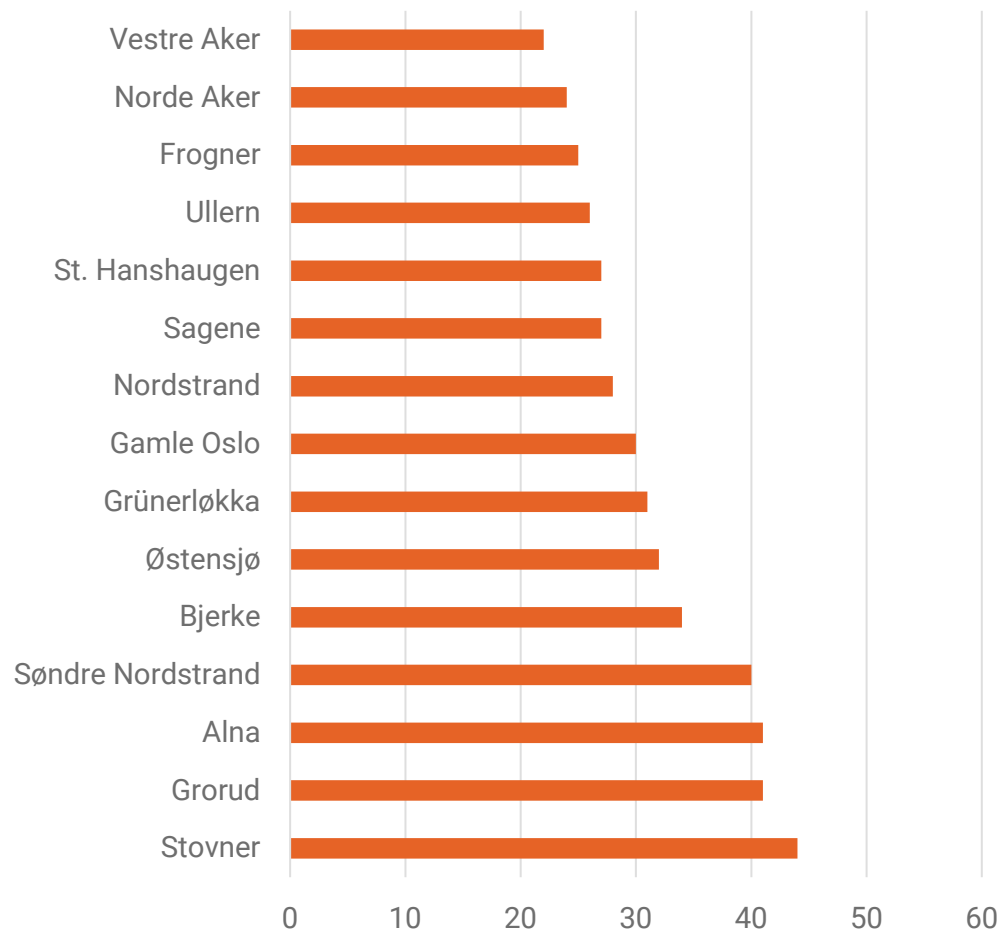
- The findings in the report align with other reports showing considerable health inequities in Norway:
 - *Marmot Review: Rapid review of inequalities in health and wellbeing in Norway since 2014*
 - *Report on social inequalities in avoidable deaths in Norway (Heggebø & van der Wel 2023)*
- Self-reported poor health and widening inequalities in this may lead to an even more uneven burden of premature mortality and higher healthcare expenditures in the future, unless we address these
- To maintain Norway's strong position on life expectancy, we clearly need to focus on which groups experience poor health and the factors associated with it
- Poor mental health and its association with perceived financial strain—though not unique to Norway— highlight the importance of material factors, even in countries with highest income

Rate of poor self-reported health, 25–75-year-olds, 2014-2024 (European countries)



Source: EuroHealthNet & CHAIN (2025).
Social inequalities in health in the EU: Are countries closing the health gap? Brussels, 25 September 2025

Rate of poor self-reported health, adults (18+), 2024 (Oslo neighborhoods)



Source: Folkehelseundersøkelsen i Oslo 2024 [Public Health Survey Oslo 2024]
[Folkehelseundersøkelsen i Oslo 2024 - Folkehelse og miljørettet helsevern - Oslo kommune](#)

Public health possibilities

- Good data and expert advice
 - The «Norwegian Marmot Review» (2023)
 - EuroHealthNet and CHAIN report (2025)
- Revised Public Health Act (2025)
- National Wellbeing Strategy (2025)
- Priorities in public health commission report (2025)

