

Rural Health Conference in Bodø

12th and 13th March, 2008



National Centre of Rural Medicine (NCRM)

Tromsø



University



Svein Steinert, 12.03.08



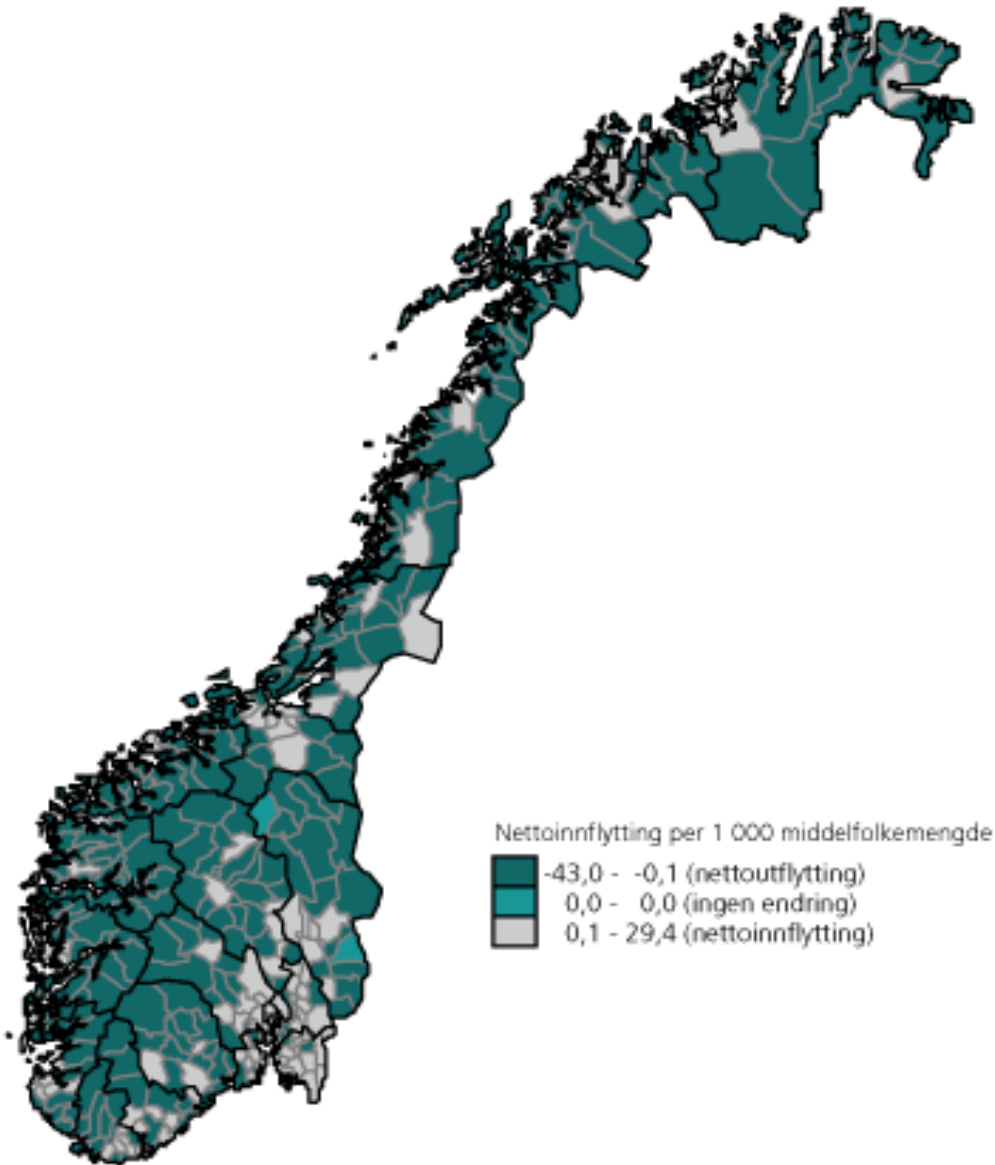
Introduction

- During recent years there has been a persistent instability and shortage of general practitioners in rural and remote areas of Norway
- At the University of Tromsø the situation has been recognised as alarming for the quality of medical education
- *Rural placement of medical students* is a core element of the curriculum, but depends on good mentors in rural practices

University of Tromsø – a Rural University



Innenlandsk nettoinnflytting til kommunene per 1 000 middelfolkemengde, 2005



Kartdata: Statens kartverk.

1996 – 2006:

- 70% of Norwegian municipalities had reduction of population every year
- *100% of these municipalities were rural and/or remote*
- Increasing instability among GPs in rural areas
- Reduced number of properly staffed rural and remote GP offices for placement of medical students and residents

Background for rural projects leading to a permanent **NCRM** from **2007**

National Centre of Rural Medicine (NCRM)



Aims

- bridge the divide between academy and rural medical practice (principal)
- promote **research**, **education** and **network** among professionals (operational)
- contribute to recruitment, stability and quality in rural health care (political)



Are young doctors in Norway prepared for work in rural and remote areas?





In remote areas doctors have few co-workers





Training in emergency medicine – one of many elements in preparing for rural practice





Rural medical education

RB Hays, Rural and Remote Health 7 (online), 2007: 683. :

- Rural communities has different health care needs than urban communities
- The recognition of this has been more successful in North America and in Australia than in Europe.
- In North America and Australia this knowledge has been translated into political support for a range of initiatives in:
 - education
 - workforce
 - service models



Aims of the conference (1)

- **What can Norway learn from North America (Canada)?**
- **How can we educate, recruit and retain doctors in rural areas in Norway?**
- **What changes are needed?**



Aims of the conference (2)

- **Important topics to be discussed:**
 - How to recruit medical students?
 - What kind of Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Programs are needed?
 - What kind of Internship and Postgraduate Programs are needed?
 - Where should the education take place (at universities, hospitals or in the municipalities)?
 - How can telemedicine be a useful tool?
 - How to get a good balance between resources (for instance number of doctors and nurses) in primary care and secondary care?



Enjoy your stay in Northern Norway - and welcome back in summer!

