

# Multidisciplinary cross-sectorial collaboration improves quality of follow-up of children with cerebral palsy

Christina Esmann Fonvig<sup>1</sup>, Gija Rackauskaite<sup>2</sup>, Kirsten Nordbye-Nielsen<sup>2</sup>, Mette Johansen<sup>3</sup>, Christina Malmose Stapelfeldt<sup>4</sup>, Line Carøe Sørensen<sup>5</sup>, Christina Hoei-Hansen<sup>1</sup>

1. Copenhagen University Hospital - Rigshospitalet, Denmark 2. Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark 3. Aalborg University Hospital, Denmark 4. SundK – The Danish Clinical Quality Program, National Clinical Registries, Aarhus, Denmark 5. Odense University Hospital, Denmark

## INTRODUCTION

The Cerebral Palsy Follow-up Program (CPOP) is a cross-sectorial program for children with cerebral palsy (CP) in Denmark. Since 2016, it has been a part of tax-financed public health services, based on the collaboration agreements between the five regions, responsible for the hospitals, and 98 municipalities.

Regional coordinators provide education, support, and professional feedback to the occupational- and physiotherapists in the municipalities during and between annual multi-professional consultations in hospitals.

The CPOP clinical quality database collects data on ten quality indicators (QI), outlined by the CPOP Steering Committee and approved by national societies for physiotherapy, occupational therapy, orthopedic surgery and neuropaediatrics.

## METHODS

Annually, the quality was analyzed and presented to all 98 municipalities and 18 hospitals. Auditing the results, initiated discussions and actions on quality development.

Multidisciplinary QI describes proportion of children, where both gross motor function and fine motor function was reported, and X-ray of hips was performed according to the guidelines.

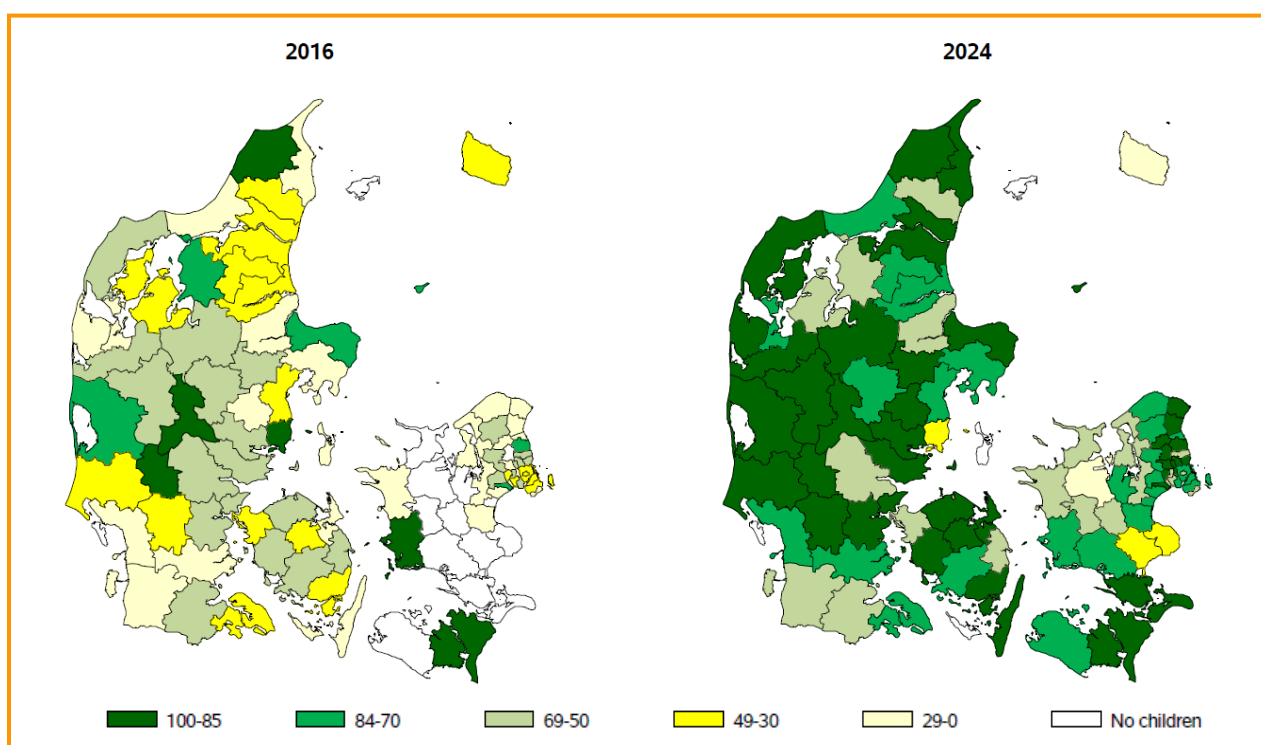


Figure 1. Map of Denmark showing percentage of quality indicator achievement for the multidisciplinary quality indicator for each of the 98 municipalities in 2016 vs. 2024. 'No children' indicates that there were no children with cerebral palsy living in the municipality.

## RESULTS

Prevention of hip dislocation was successful in 98-99% of children with CP in 2016-2023.

The proportion of children evaluated by physiotherapists and occupational therapists has steadily increased since 2016, surpassing 85% for physiotherapeutic evaluation in four out of five regions and for occupational therapy in two regions in 2024.

The multidisciplinary QI increased from 62% in 2016 to 80% in 2024 (Figure 1).

## CONCLUSION

Multidisciplinary follow-up improves the quality of public health care services for children with CP in Denmark. The structure of the program provides opportunity to set new developmental goals for the CPOP.