

# Lifetime healthcare costs for dogs in Denmark

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## Background

Bringing your dog to the vet is often considered “expensive”. Apart from US, where the AVMA regularly publishes a questionnaire-based study, next to no published data on health care costs for dogs

## Objectives

- 1) Distribution of lifetime healthcare costs (LHC)
- 2) Distribution of LCH by category (basic, acute, chronic, surgery)
- 3) Difference between clinics

## Study design

- Observational study including 7 veterinary clinics of different characteristics
- Review of bills from each dog born 2006-2011
  - Dogs should have received minimum 1<sup>st</sup> basic vaccination in the clinic
  - Regular visit to the clinics, with maximum 3 years in between visits
  - Euthanasia at clinic or the owner-reported death, or dog still be alive
  - Dogs which had gone to other clinics were excluded
- Inflation-corrected costs (index = 2022) used

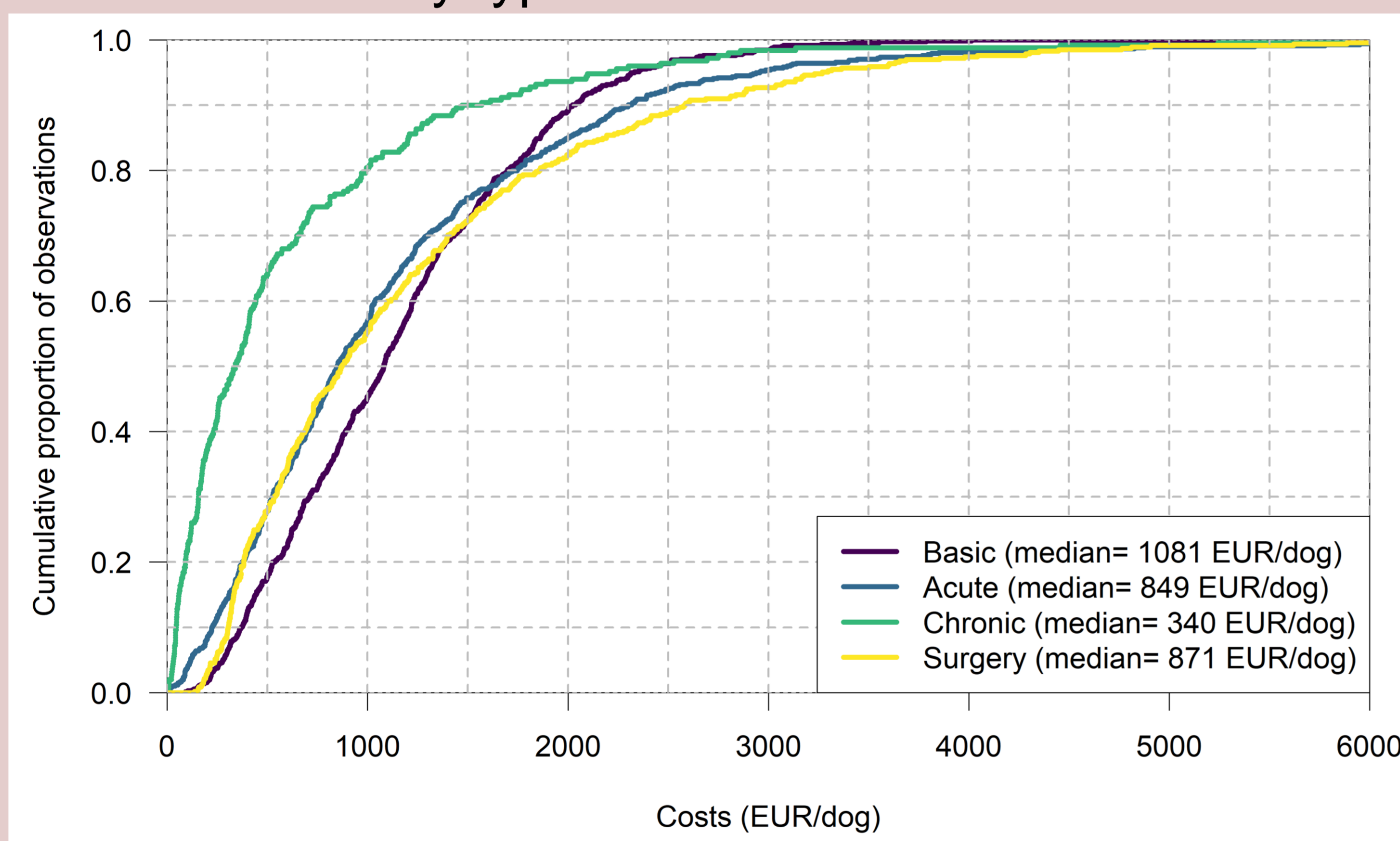


## Results

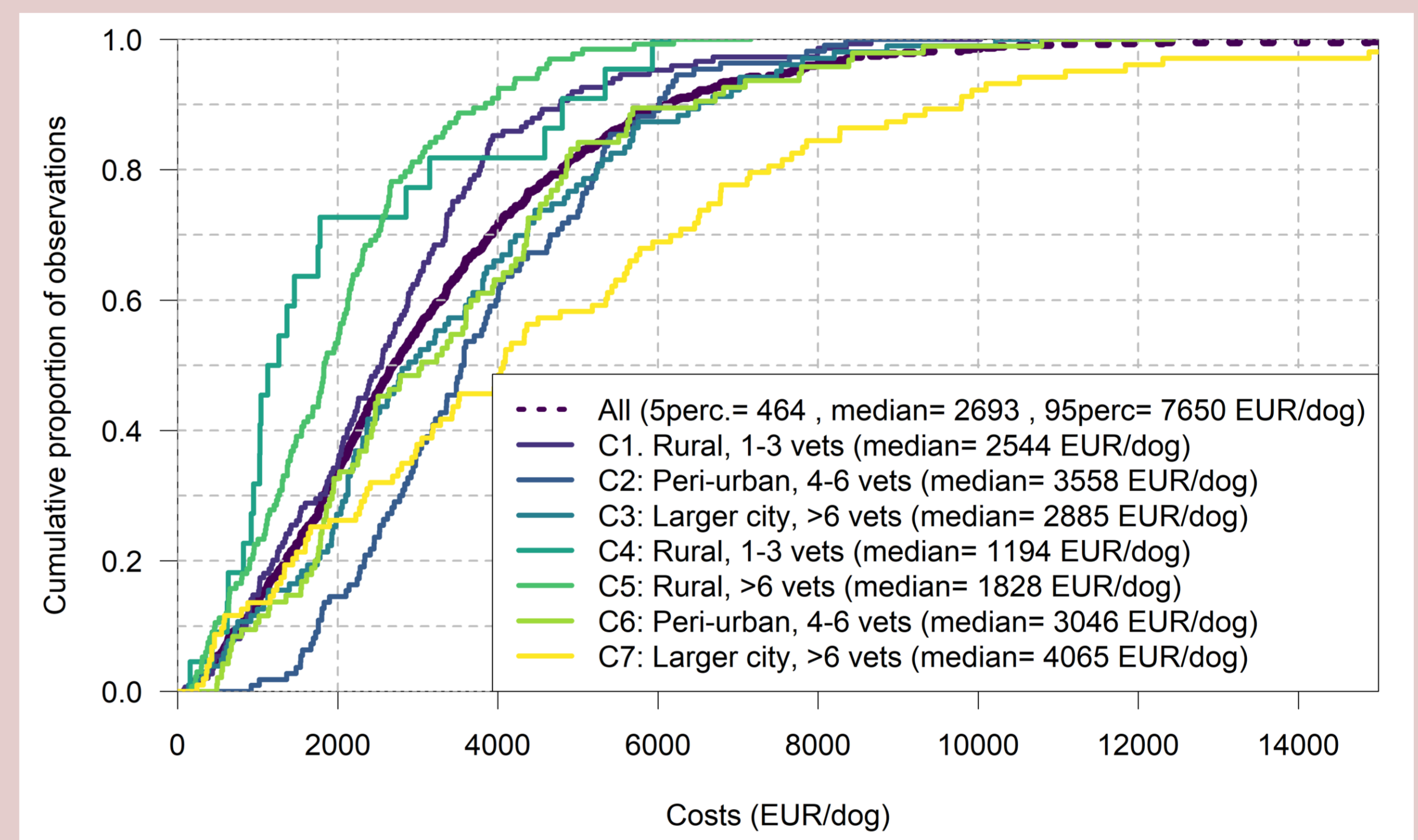
Median age of the dogs was 9.9 years.

Median overall lifetime healthcare costs was 2700 EUR

The distribution by type of consultation is shown below



The costs per clinic differed a lot, with the three rural clinics in the lower end. The median costs /dog were 1200 EUR in Clinic 4 and 4100 EUR in Clinic 7



## Conclusions

The average annual healthcare costs were 272 EUR /dog, varying from 47 to 772 EUR/year for the middle 90% of dogs  
Basic and acute healthcare costs each constituted about 1/3, while the last third is from chronic treatments and surgery

Major differences in costs between clinics were observed

We observed a similar level of health care costs as what has been found in the US



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