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| **Supplementary Table 1. Number of visits registered according to county in the Swedish Primary Healthcare register.** | | | |
| County  (abbreviation) | County | Number of visits to Primary Healthcare | Percentage of total number of visits to Swedish Primary Healthcare |
| LB | LANDSTINGET BLEKINGE | 3944618 | 1.8 |
| LIV | LANDSTINGET I VÄRMLAND | 4573075 | 2.09 |
| LK | LANDSTINGET I KALMAR LÄN | 3053602 | 1.39 |
| LUL | LANDSTINGET I UPPSALA LÄN | 1724872 | 0.79 |
| LVN | LANDSTINGET I VÄSTERNORRLAND | 6085525 | 2.78 |
| NLL | NORRBOTTENS LÄNS LANDSTING | 5031623 | 2.3 |
| RH | REGION HALLAND | 1512183 | 0.69 |
| RK | REGION KRONEBERG | 2752631 | 1.26 |
| RS | REGION SKÅNE | 21606265 | 9.87 |
| RÖ | REGION ÖSTERGÖTLAND | 12040082 | 5.5 |
| SLL | STOCKHOLMS LÄNS LANDSTING | 115380000 | 52.69 |
| VGR | VÄSTRA GÖTALANDSREGIONEN | 41274282 | 18.85 |
|  |  |  |  |

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| **Supplementary Table 2. Number of visits registered according to year in the Swedish Primary Health Care register.** | | |
| year | n | % |
| 1989 | 143 | 0 |
| 1990 | 13427 | 0.01 |
| 1991 | 17664 | 0.01 |
| 1992 | 23722 | 0.01 |
| 1993 | 53254 | 0.02 |
| 1994 | 78909 | 0.04 |
| 1995 | 45497 | 0.02 |
| 1996 | 156309 | 0.07 |
| 1997 | 215761 | 0.1 |
| 1998 | 196243 | 0.09 |
| 1999 | 158877 | 0.07 |
| 2000 | 784658 | 0.36 |
| 2001 | 1487175 | 0.68 |
| 2002 | 1485746 | 0.68 |
| 2003 | 4985848 | 2.28 |
| 2004 | 7143041 | 3.26 |
| 2005 | 8186602 | 3.74 |
| 2006 | 10910794 | 4.98 |
| 2007 | 11918714 | 5.44 |
| 2008 | 13699043 | 6.26 |
| 2009 | 16228411 | 7.41 |
| 2010 | 18931696 | 8.65 |
| 2011 | 22618457 | 10.33 |
| 2012 | 26670863 | 12.18 |
| 2013 | 30565154 | 13.96 |
| 2014 | 20337155 | 9.29 |
| 2015 | 17147817 | 7.83 |
| 2016 | 4919300 | 2.25 |

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| **Supplementary Table 3. IBS patients with coeliac disease, inflammatory bowel disease, and colorectal cancer were excluded. ICD codes for these differential diagnoses are shown.** | | | | |
|  | ICD-10 | ICD-9 | ICD-8 | ICD-7 |
| Coeliac disease | K900 | 579A | 269.00 | 286.00 |
| Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) | K50, K51 | 555, 556 | 563 | 572 |
| Colorectal cancer. | C18, C19, C20, C21 | 153, 154 | 153, 154 | 153, 154 |

**Supplementary Figure 1**

Number of visits registered according to year in the Swedish Primary Healthcare register.

