

Statistics on Financial Assistance 2022

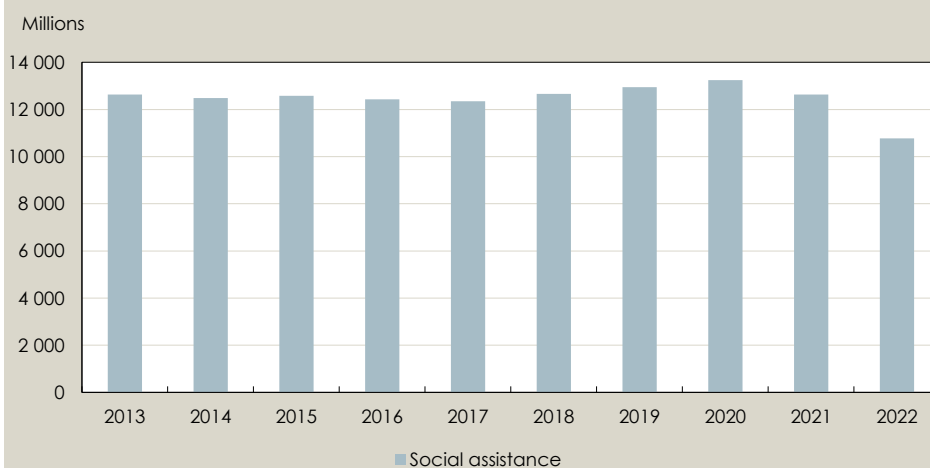
The number of social financial assistance recipients and assistance households decreased in 2022. Around 161.000 households received social assistance in 2022. This corresponds to roughly three percent of households in Sweden. It was the seventh consecutive year the number of social assistance recipients decreased. The decrease of social assistance amounts to 7.6 percent in fixed prices, compared to previous year.

Assistance over time

The number of assistance households decreased from almost 182.000 in 2021 to just under 161.000 in 2022. It was the seventh consecutive year the number of assistance households decreased. The number of assistance recipients also decreased. In 2022, close to 300.000 people received financial assistance. Of these, about 97.000 were women, 101.000 were men, and 102.000 children.

In 2022, the municipalities paid about SEK 10.8 billion in financial assistance. The payments decreased by 7.6 percent in fixed prices compared to 2021 (Figure 1). Although, the amount of payments per household increased slightly. This can partly be explained by the increased need of financial support as a consequence of the increased costs of living.

Figure 1. Assistance 2013–2022, in million SEK (fixed prices) 2022



Source: Register of Social Assistance National Board of Health and Welfare

Age and municipality matters

The payments of social assistance differ between different age groups. The most common age group in 2022 was 30–39-year-olds. Of all adult recipients in the

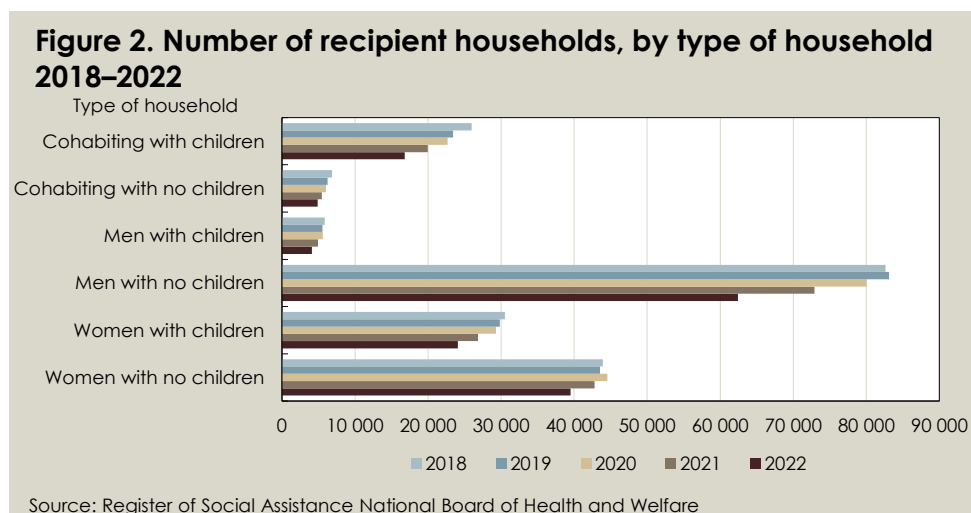
country, just over a fifth were aged 30–39. Of the total number of adult assistance recipients, about 62 percent were foreign-born.

There are many reasons why women and men cannot support themselves and their families, but most often, the need for support was related to unemployment, illness or social barriers of various kinds. Almost half of all adult beneficiaries were unemployed in 2021 [1].

The share of people with assistance varies greatly between different municipalities. For example, the population composition, the local labour market and the education levels of the population are all for social assistance. In Filipstad and Hällefors between eight and nine percent of the population received social assistance, whereas in Arjeplog, Lidingö, Olofström, Solna, Trosa, Täby and Vellinge it was less than one percent. The national average in 2022 was 2.9 percent, which is a decrease compared to previous year.

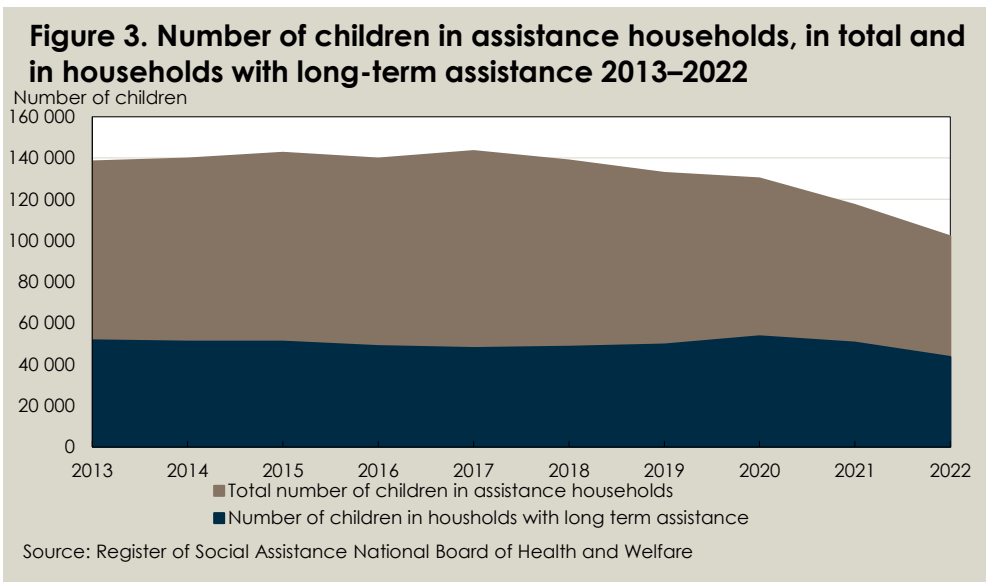
The most common assistance household

The most common assistance households are single men without children (Figure 2). If, on the other hand, one considers the different types of household in total in the population, then social assistance is most common among women with children. About 13 percent of all single women with children received financial assistance in 2022.



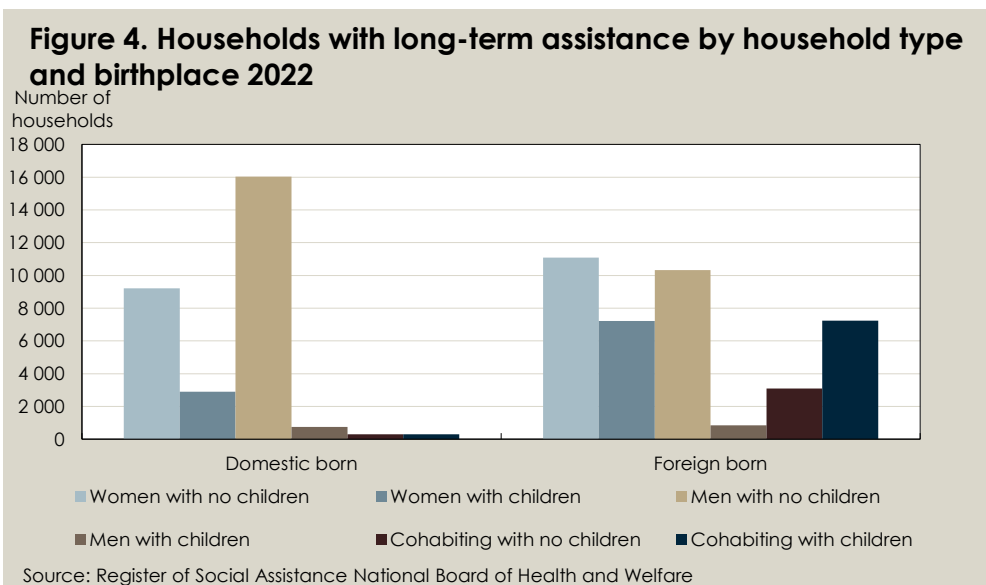
Children in assistance households

In 2022, the number of children in assistance households amounted to 102,000, which is a decrease by almost 13 percent compared to previous year. The number of children in households with long-term assistance in 2022 decreased by almost 6,900 to just over 43,600. The number of children in households with long-term assistance has been relatively constant for a number of years, however there was a decline in 2021 and a continued decline in 2022 (Figure 3).



Long-term assistance

In 2022, the number of adult assistance recipients with long-term financial assistance, i.e. assistance for 10 months or more, has decreased compared with the previous year. The largest decrease compared to 2021 can be found among men 20-24 years of age, with a decrease of 28 percent. About 43 percent of the adult assistance households did receive long-term assistance. Approximately 57 percent of these households consisted of households where one of the applicants or co-applicants were foreign-born. The most common domestic household with long-term assistance was men with no children, while the most common foreign-born was women with no children. Long-term assistance among married couples/cohabiting households is in more than nine out of ten cases, directed to foreign-born recipients (Figure 4).



Social financial assistance

Social financial assistance is composed of two parts: direct assistance and general assistance. Direct assistance is supposed to help cover daily living expenses such as groceries, clothing, rent, utility bills (electricity, telephone, gas etc.), travel expenses (for work), home insurance and union membership costs. General assistance covers other necessary expenses for childcare, health related, medicine and dental care.

For more information (in Swedish):

www.socialstyrelsen.se/ekonomisktbistand

References

1. <https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/globalassets/sharepoint-dokument/artikelkatalog/statistik/2022-10-8173.pdf>

More information

You can find more tables, graphs and information in Swedish, but with English list of terms (select *Tillhörande dokument och bilagor*):

<https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/en/statistics-and-data/statistics/>

If you want to use our statistical database (in Swedish):

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