

Department of Registers and Statistics
Hillevi Rydh

Statistical Register: Production and quality National Register of Measures for Children and Young persons

The register includes children and young people aged 0 to 20 years with societal out-of-home care (OHC) placements under the Social Services Act (SoL) (2001:453) and the Care of Young Persons (Special Provisions) Act (LVU) (SFS 1990:52).

Reference period

The register has been updated annually since 1982. However, changes to the register's scope and the instructions for data submission impact the ability to compare register data over time. Reporting and quality assurance are made in the spring following the reference year. Corrections including late or adjusted data are made even after publication.

Table of contents

<i>Statistical Register: Production and quality</i>	1
F1 Context of the statistical register	3
F2 Design	3
F2.1 Outline of register content	3
F2.2 Data sources.....	3
F2.3 Time frame	3
F2.4 Collection procedure.....	4
F2.5 Processing with review	4
F3 Implementation	5
F3.1 Quantitative information.....	5
F3.2 Deviations from the design	6
<i>Statistical register quality</i>	6
K1 Relevance	6
K1.1 Objectives and information needs	6
K1.2 Register content	6
K2 Reliability	7
K2.1 Overall reliability	7
K2.2 Sources of uncertainty.....	7
K2.3 Provisional register compared to final register	9
K3 Timeliness and punctuality	9
K3.1 Preparation time	9
K3.2 Frequency.....	9
K3.3 Punctuality	9
K4 Accessibility and clarity	10
K4.1 Access to the register	10
K4.2 Dissemination of information	10
K4.3 Documentation	10
K5 Comparability and interoperability	10
K5.1 Comparability over time	10
K5.2 Interoperability with other registers	10
<i>General information</i>	11
U1 Confidentiality and personal data processing	11
U2 Retention and data erasure	11
U3 Obligation to give information	11
U4 International reporting	12
U5 History	12
U6 Contact details	12
Version history	12
<i>Appendix 1. Regulation</i>	13
<i>Appendix 2. Non-response - municipality</i>	13
Coverage rate 2014-2020	13

Production of the statistical register

F1 Context of the statistical register

The National Board of Health and Welfare maintains a number of personal ID number-based registers that are used as a basis for statistics and research on health care and social services. The National Register of Measures for Children and Young Persons (BU)¹ is one of the National Board of Health and Welfare's social services registers. The population of the BU register includes children and young people with societal out-of-home care (OHC) in Sweden. This includes OHC placements according to decisions within the framework of SoL and LVU.

F2 Design

F2.1 Outline of register content

The register is based on individual-level data reported by each municipality. The register includes information regarding the start and end dates of the placement/measure, the section of law for the measure, the type of placement, unaccompanied minors, gender and age. The register includes individuals identified by means of a personal ID number or temporary ID number. Through reference year 2013, information is also available regarding those lacking a full personal ID number, who are identified with Xs in the last four digits. For the years 2014–2016, only children and young people with a complete personal ID number are included. From 2017 onwards, those lacking a complete personal ID number are once more included and are identified by means of a temporary ID number generated by the municipality.²

Data are stored in the register in a multi-file format: information about the measures is described in one table, while the placements are reported in another table. One individual may be connected with multiple measures over time, and each measure may consist of several placements.

F2.2 Data sources

The primary data source is the individual municipalities' data regarding societal out-of-home care (OHC) for individuals aged 0–20 which are the responsibility of the municipality. Municipalities are required to extract this information from their administrative systems and report it to the National Board of Health and Welfare, where it is compiled into a national register.

F2.3 Time frame

Data are submitted by each municipality to the National Board of Health and Welfare no later than 1 February of the year following the calendar year, and are followed by quality-assurance procedures. The register is updated with data for

¹ The register is subject to the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare's regulations (HSLF-FS 2016:3) on the obligation of social welfare committees to provide statistical information regarding measures for children and young persons. The change in section 2 is introduced by the National Board of Health and Welfare's regulations (HSLF-FS 2016:22) amending the regulations (HSLF-FS 2016:3) on the obligation of social welfare committees to provide statistical information regarding measures for children and young persons.

² See appendix to HSLF-FS 2016:3.

each calendar year in August/September of the following year. Updates and corrections occur even after an annual constituency is first made available, but to such a limited extent that it should not affect register use.

F2.4 Collection procedure

F2.4.1 Data collection methods and providers

The obligation to report data to the register is based on Section 4 of the Ordinance regarding the obligation of social welfare committees to provide statistical data (1981:1370) (*Förordningen om skyldighet för socialnämnderna att lämna statistiska uppgifter*). What must be reported, and how, is specified in the National Board of Health and Welfare's regulations (HSLF-FS 2016:3). The regulations have been drawn up after consultation with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions.

The data are collected annually at the individual level from municipal social welfare committees to the National Board of Health and Welfare. Reporting includes all granted and executed round-the-clock measures, regardless of whether the measure was carried out by a private or public organisation. The process of extracting data from their administrative systems is the responsibility of the municipalities and may therefore differ from one municipality to another. The data are collected directly from municipalities but also via municipal system suppliers.

A single measure may consist of several placements. All ongoing measures during the calendar year, including all placements (even if these placements occurred before the calendar year), must be reported until the child reaches the age of 21.

F2.4.2 Measurement

Data are collected in accordance with current regulations. Clarification of what must be collected can be found on the National Board of Health and Welfare's website (reporting). The municipalities themselves control the administrative systems used to hold this information as well as the processes for extracting information from them.

F2.4.3 Defective deliveries

The municipalities report by submitting data in the form of text files via the *Filip* portal on the National Board of Health and Welfare's website. During reporting, automated feedback reports any irregularities in the form of an error/warning. If the feedback indicates errors, the reported file will not be accepted. Comparisons with previous years' reporting are also made and sent to the municipalities, which then have the opportunity to correct both new and old material. Reminders for non-deliveries or unresolved errors are mainly sent by e-mail, but telephone contact from the National Board of Health and Welfare's reporting function also occurs.

F2.5 Processing with review

F2.5.1 Coding

Not applicable

F2.5.2 Duplicate check

Duplicate checks are carried out to prevent municipalities from submitting files containing several lines with identical content. Please note that it is possible to receive several measures and placements simultaneously (on the same date).

F2.5.3 Reasonableness check

Upon reporting, the data provider receives a comparison report with the previous year's reporting. The parameters returned to the data submitters are the number of unique individuals, measures and placements. For measures, a comparison is provided that includes the number of measures in previous years, broken down by unaccompanied minors, gender, type of measure, legal guardian or equivalent, when the decision regarding the measure was made or terminated, and the child's situation after the measure was terminated in comparison with the previous year. For placements, a comparison with previous years is provided regarding the number of placements broken down by type. Finally, placements given with a municipality other than the responsible municipality in the current year are compared with the previous year.

F2.5.4 Imputations

Imputations are not made in the register.

F2.5.5 Model-based calculations

No model-based calculations are used in the register.

F2.5.6 Comparisons with other registers and data sources

No comparisons with other data sources are relevant.

F3 Implementation

F3.1 Quantitative information

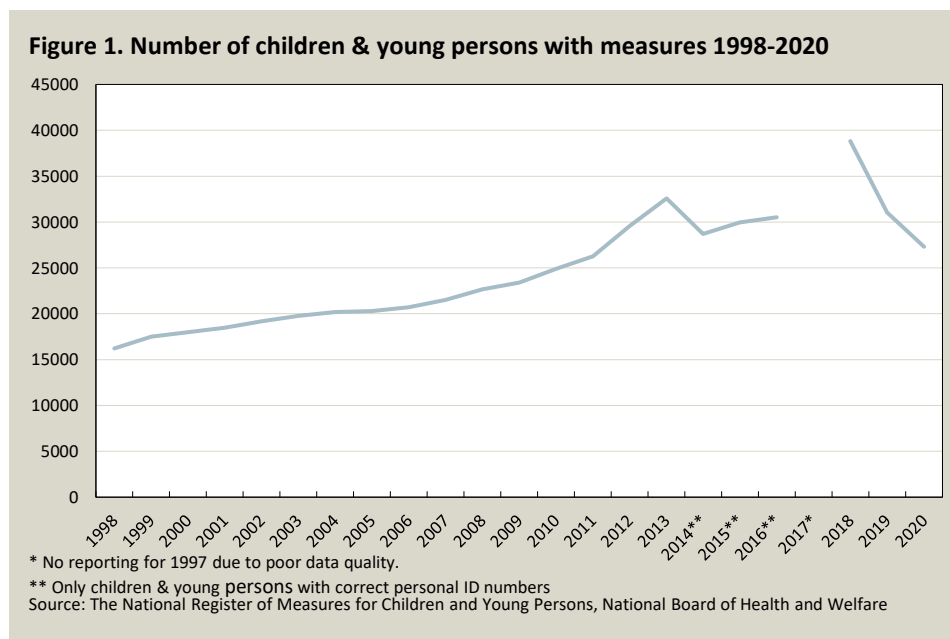


Figure 1 shows the number of persons with measures through 1998, since comparison with previous years is not possible. For the 1998 operational year, major changes were made to the statistics, the most important of which were that the contact person for measures according to SoL and LVU was no longer collected and that the age limit for young persons in care according to SoL was raised, in the register, from 18 to 20 years.

F3.2 Deviations from the design

In 2015, the quality of the register was reduced due to reporting issues. Through the 2018 reference year, the National Board of Health and Welfare commissioned an external company to collect data for the register on behalf of the Board.

Through 2016, only changes, i.e., new or terminated measures or placements, were reported. In 2017, new regulations came into effect that require all ongoing measures to be reported every year, regardless of any changes. In 2017, no register was created, but the register has been created as of 2018 in accordance with the current regulations.

Otherwise, no significant deviations from the design have been made.

Statistical register quality

K1 Relevance

K1.1 Objectives and information needs

K1.1.1 Register objective

The main purpose of the register is to produce register-based statistics regarding societal out-of-home care (OHC) of children and young persons and to provide a basis for research.

K1.1.2 Information needs of register users

The register is used as a basis for producing statistical products at the National Board of Health and Welfare. The register is also used for analysis, investigation and evaluation by the National Board of Health and Welfare, the Government Offices and the media, and in research. The register is also part of the *Kolada* database used by the municipalities.

K1.2 Register content

K1.2.1 Object and population

The target population is children and young persons placed outside their own homes under SoL and/or LVU during the reference year. Measures may have commenced, be ongoing or be completed during the year. Collection covers all persons present in Sweden, thus making it a total data collection. However, in the reference years 2014–2016, only those registered in the population register are included.

Objects are children and young people, with an age delimitation of 0–20 years (0–17 through 1997), who have been subject to a measure. The upper age limit is interpreted such that the specified age may be reached but not the next higher one. The population register covers almost 260,000 individuals born between 1960 and 2019.

The register can be divided into three parts: information about the child/young person and information about the measure as well as about the respective placement. Because an individual in the register can have several parallel measures as well as several parallel placements, it is difficult to verify the reported data.

K1.2.2 Variables

The register contains information about the reporting and placing municipality, personal ID number or temporary ID number and gender. Further, there is information regarding the type of measure and form of placement, and the start and end dates of the measures as well as the placement. Furthermore, it is also stated whether the measure is implemented according to SoL or LVU. For measures according to LVU, the basis for the immediate preventative detention or care according to LVU is also stated. Information about legal guardians, where the child went after the measure ended and whether the child/young person was an unaccompanied minor upon arrival in Sweden is also registered. For a detailed description of the variables included, see the list of variables.

K1.2.3 Reference times

As of 1982, children and young persons between 18 and 20 years of age receiving a measure pursuant to sections 3 or 6 LVU are included. Some individualised outpatient measures were included in the register through 1997. In 1998, the age limit for care according to SoL was changed from encompassing children aged 0–17 to encompassing children and young persons aged 0–20. At that time, the variable 'Family status' was replaced by the variable 'Legal guardian'. The older data have been adapted to the new coding system as far as possible.

Data for the reference years 2014 and 2015 are of poorer quality than in the past as manual corrections were reduced. On 1 January 2017, new regulations came into force. The new regulations meant, among other things, that all ongoing measures are reported each year, unlike previously when only changes to measures were reported. No register was created for the reference year 2017; data for this year are therefore missing.

Through reference year 2013, all children and young persons are included. The collection years 2014–2016 include only children and young persons registered in the population register, i.e., asylum seekers are not included. As of the 2018 reference year, all children and young persons are included. All placements related to ongoing measures are reported until the child reaches the age of 21. Data are provided to the National Board of Health and Welfare for the full year. As part of the annual data submission, data from previous years can also be revised in the register.

K2 Reliability

K2.1 Overall reliability

The reliability of the register depends mainly on the reliability of the administrative systems from which the municipalities extract data, and their processes for extracting the relevant information. No quality controls have been carried out.

K2.2 Sources of uncertainty

K2.2.1 Coverage

Municipalities failing to report, as well as the years lacking reporting, can be found in Appendix 2. Through reference year 2013, all municipalities reported data to the National Board of Health and Welfare. After 2013, 4–13 municipalities have failed to report each year. The non-response consists of a combination of large and small municipalities.

K2.2.2 Measurement

The extent of measurement error is unknown, and is not possible to evaluate directly in the collected data. In connection with reporting, feedback is provided to the municipalities for correction and completion. These contacts were made manually through reference year 2013. After 2013, this feedback has been gradually transformed into fully automated feedback. At present, an established warning and error protocol is adjusted as needed. If a municipality attempts to report an "error", the report is not accepted. Warnings are accepted, but are indicated in the automatic feedback so that the municipality can validate the reported warnings. In this way, data submitters are notified of obviously incorrect values, and given a chance to correct values, but there is no follow-up on data that looks reasonable.

The data reported are, with a few exceptions, extractions from existing administrative databases. It is also possible to use an Excel template available on the National Board of Health and Welfare's reporting website.

K2.2.3 Non-response

Data for the following variables are missing from the register due to failure to respond.

- Form of placement
 - About 0.1% non-response evenly distributed over years, 2018–2020
- Legal guardian at the beginning and end of the measure
 - About 10% non-response evenly distributed over years, 2018–2020
- District/neighbourhood
 - A voluntary report that should only be used when contacting the municipality in connection with reporting. Input values are selected by the municipality and vary both between years and the three municipalities in which they are used.

K2.2.4 Data processing

A number of variables are derived from other variables in the register, or are given corrected values when measures appear to overlap. These treatments should not introduce errors, but certain assumptions regarding dates for overlapping episodes are important to know. Each derivative or modified variable is described below.

Register section concerning placements

Modified variables:

- `insats_beslut_datumn`: Measure decision date - changed in case of overlapping measures or if the start date of a placement is after the end date of the measures.

Generated variables:

- `fod_datumn`: Date of birth - Retrieved from the personal ID number.
- `insats_ar`: Year of measure - the year to which the collection applies.
- `orig_insats_beslut_datumn`: Original date of the measure decision - Same as the `insats_beslut_datumn` when no data processing is done.
- `andrat_beslut_datum_insats`: The original decision date of the measure is changed - Y = The original decision date of the measure is changed.
Blank = The original decision date of the measure is unchanged.

Register section concerning measures

Modified variables:

- *insats_beslut_datumn*: Measure decision date - changed in case of overlapping measures or if the start date of a placement is after the end date of the measures.
- *insats_avslut_datumn*: Date of completion/termination of the measures - changes measures overlap or if it is blank but another measure follows.

Generated variables:

- *fod_datumn*: Date of birth - Retrieved from the personal ID number.
- *insats_ar*: year of measure - the year to which the collection applies.
- *orig_insats_beslut_datumn*: Original date of the measure decision - Same as the *insats_beslut_datumn* when no data processing is done.
- *orig_insats_avslut_datumn*: Original completion date of the measure - Same as the *insats_avslut_datumn* when no data processing is done.
- *andrat_beslut_datum_insats*: The original decision date of the measure is changed - Y = The original decision date of the measure is changed.
Blank = The original decision date of the measure is unchanged.
- *andrat_avslut_datum_insats*: The original completion date of the measure is changed. Y = The original completion date of the measure is changed.
Blank = The original completion date of the measure is unchanged.

K2.2.5 Modelling assumptions

No modelling assumptions are applicable for the register.

K2.3 Provisional register compared to final register

The register is not made available in provisional form.

K3 Timeliness and punctuality

K3.1 Preparation time

Data must be submitted to the National Board of Health and Welfare by 1 February of the year following the current reference year. Reminders are made mainly in writing, but telephone contact from the National Board of Health and Welfare's reporting function can also be made. The register is usually completed by Midsummer. After the publication of the annual fact sheet and its Excel appendix at the end of August of the year following the reference year, the register is updated. For measures taking place in January, the shortest lead time until they appear in the register is 20 months, for measures taking place in December it is 9 months.

K3.2 Frequency

The register is updated annually.

K3.3 Punctuality

The register has been prepared as planned, except for the reference year 2017 when no register was created.

K4 Accessibility and clarity

K4.1 Access to the register

The data may be disclosed for research and statistical purposes. Each request to the National Board of Health and Welfare for disclosure is subject to a confidentiality assessment. The National Board of Health and Welfare's statistical registers are subject to statistical confidentiality according to Chapter 24, Section 8 of the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400).

Aggregated data from the register are also available in the official statistics and through our commissioning activities.

K4.2 Dissemination of information

Information about the register can be found at socialstyrelsen.se. The official statistics based on the register are published annually. The publication date is indicated in the publication calendar of the National Board of Health and Welfare.

K4.3 Documentation

The register is further documented on socialstyrelsen.se, including detailed descriptions of variables and value sets.

K5 Comparability and interoperability

K5.1 Comparability over time

The objects are identified with a personal ID number or temporary ID number. Through reference year 2013, information is also included regarding those lacking a full personal ID number, who are identified with Xs in the last four digits. For the years 2014-2016, only children and young people with a complete personal ID number are included. From 2017 onwards, those lacking a complete personal ID number are once more included and are identified by means of a temporary ID number generated by the municipality.³

Through 1997, the circumstances of the preparation of the register remained essentially unchanged, and its content had remained more or less the same since 1982, when SoL and LVU replaced the Child Care Act (*Barnvårdslagen*). It was individual-based and reported the following measures: placement for care outside the home according to SoL, placement for care according to LVU, immediate preventative detention according to LVU, contact person/contact family according to SoL and contact person/treatment according to LVU. For the 1998 operational year, major changes were made to the register, the most important of which were that the contact person for measures according to SoL and LVU was no longer collected and that the age limit for young persons in care according to SoL was raised, in the statistics, from 18 to 20 years.

For the above reasons, it is often not appropriate to compare this register over time.

K5.2 Interoperability with other registers

The data in the register can be used with other registers based on personal ID numbers.

³ See appendix to HSLF-FS 2016:3.

General information

U1 Confidentiality and personal data processing

In the special activities of public agencies for the production of statistics, confidentiality applies in accordance with Chapter 24, Section 8 of the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400). However, information needed for research and statistical purposes, as well as information that is not directly attributable to an individual through his or her name, other identity code or similar relationship, may be disclosed if it is clear that the information can be disclosed without causing damage or harm to the individual or someone close to him or her.

When processing personal data, i.e., information that can be directly or indirectly attributed to a living person, the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679⁴ and the Regulation (2018:218) containing supplementary provisions to the EU General Data Protection Regulation.

In addition, the Act regarding official statistics (2001:99) (*Lagen om den officiella statistiken*), the Ordinance regarding official statistics (2001:100) (*Förordningen om den officiella statistiken*) and the Ordinance regarding the obligation of social welfare committees to provide statistical information (1981:1370) apply to the processing of personal data. In the field of social services, there are also supplementary rules in Chapter 12, Section 5 SoL, the Act regarding the processing of personal data in the social services (2001:454) (*Lagen om behandling av personuppgifter inom socialtjänsten*) and the Ordinance regarding the processing of personal data in the social services (2001:637) (*Förordningen om behandling av personuppgifter inom socialtjänsten*).

U2 Retention and data erasure

The Register of Measures for Children and Young persons is a register where personal data must be exempt from data erasure. The register is covered by the Swedish National Archives' Regulations regarding exemptions from data erasure and data erasure at the National Board of Health and Welfare (RA-MS 2020:22) (*Föreskrifter om undantag från gallring och gallring hos Socialstyrelsen*). Primary data, i.e., the basis for the register, may be erased five years after the basis has been received by the public agency.

The register is a so-called living register, which means that continuous updates can change data even historically. Immediate erasure of incorrect data is permitted under RA-MS 2020:22, which means that earlier versions of the register are generally not saved by the National Board of Health and Welfare.

U3 Obligation to give information

The social welfare committees' obligation to give information to the National Board of Health and Welfare is established by the Ordinance regarding the obligation of social welfare committees to provide statistical information (1981:1370).

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation).

U4 International reporting

Reports are submitted to the Nordic Social Statistical Committee (NOSOSCO) annually.

U5 History

The National Board of Health and Welfare has been a responsible authority for statistics since 1994. Through 1997, the circumstances of the preparation of the statistics remained essentially unchanged, and its content had remained more or less the same since 1982, when SoL and LVU replaced the Child Care Act (*Barnvårdslagen*). The statistics were individual-based and reported the following measures: placement for care outside the home according to SoL, placement for care according to LVU, immediate preventative detention according to LVU, contact person/contact family according to SoL and contact person/treatment according to LVU. For the 1998 operational year, major changes were made to the statistics, the most important of which were that the contact person for measures according to SoL and LVU was no longer collected and that the age limit for young persons in care according to SoL was raised, in the statistics, from 18 to 20 years.

In the period 2014–2016, the register only contained data on those persons who had a correct/complete personal ID number. In 2017, new regulations came into force⁵, resulting in several changes to the register. Previously, only changes were reported, but as of 2017 all ongoing measures and their placements must be reported annually. The same regulations introduced a new variable: data on unaccompanied minors. Children without a correct/complete social security number are also included in the register from this year onwards. In 2017, no register was created due to quality issues. The first year in which a register was created under the new regulations was therefore the reference year 2018.

U6 Contact details

Questions about the register can be sent to the mailbox of the social services team:

Unit: Statistik 2

E-mail: SOSTAT@socialstyrelsen.se

Telephone: 075247 3000

Version history

Version	Change	Date
1.0	The document is new	15/12/2021

⁵ Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare's regulations (2016:3) on the obligation of social welfare committees to provide statistical data regarding measures for children and young persons.

Appendix 1. Regulation

<https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/globalassets/sharepoint-dokument/artikelkatalog/foreskrifter-och-allmanna-rad/2016-3-26.pdf>

Appendix 2. Non-response - municipality

Coverage rate 2014-2020

Year	Description
-2013	All municipalities reported through 2013
2014	Partial non-response: Stockholm Sdn 03 & 14, Dals-Ed, Färgelanda, Herrljunga, Åmål, Nora, Ragunda. Total non-response: Hörby, Dorotea, Sorsele, Övertorneå
2015	Högsby, Svalöv, Munkedal, Dals-Ed, Färgelanda, Vårgårda, Mellerud, Åmål, Arvika, Kungsör, Ragunda and Sorsele had partial non-response for 2015. Arvidsjaur had non-response for the whole of 2015.
2016	Örkelljunga, Munkedal, Vårgårda and Munkfors had total non-response for 2016.
2017	No register created
2018	Nynäshamn, Flen, Mullsjö, Älmhult and Kungälv had total non-response for 2018
2019	Flen, Älmhult, Halmstad, Tibro, Kristinehamn and Örebro had total non-response for 2019
2020	Non-response: Tyresö, Oxelösund, Vellinge, Hällefors and Kalix for 2020