

**Documentation of statistics for
Children and young persons placed outside own home 2022**

1 Introduction

These statistics highlight the activities of municipal authorities' placements of children and young people in out-of-home care (pursuant to sections 52, 58, 75 and 76 of the Consolidation Act on Social Services, section 74 of the Criminal Code, section 78 of the Penal Code Enforcement Act, sections 765 of the Administration of Justice Act and section 36 of the Aliens Act and section 14 of the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act). These statistics are used to explain the extent of placement of children and young people outside their own homes. The figures are comparable from 2011 and onwards.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics contain yearly estimates of the municipalities' initiated placements and placements of children and young persons in out-of-home care. The figures are classified by provinces, municipalities, type of measure, place of accommodation, cause of placement in out-of-home care, cause of change in the placement of out-of-home care, sex and age groups. The statistics are published in StatBank Denmark and in a NYT article, authored in Danish, by Statistics Denmark.

The municipalities have not indicated that data, regarding placements of children in out-of-home care for the period 2020-2021, are affected by the special circumstances that arose due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.1 Data description

These statistics contain information about incidents, events and the status of placements in out-of-home care. Status is per 31.12 of a given reference year. The statistics are calculated at the municipal level and by province - depending on the discretion needs.

The statistics are based on persons (0-22 years old) who are registered in Statistics Denmark's accumulated register of placements of children and young people in out-of-home care. The statistics are compiled according to reporting municipality (administrative municipality), type of measure (legal basis of the measure, including consent criteria), place of accommodation, cause of placement in out-of-home care, sex, and age. Age is calculated at year-end.

Municipalities are obligated to report each time a decision has been made that a child is to be placed in out-of-home care. This also applies in the case of reinstatement in out-of-home care after a repatriation/termination. Municipalities often indicate several reasons for the placement of a child in out-of-home care.

The statistics are published annually as 12 separate statistical tables, 3 registers, and a NYT article. Statistical tables contain information on the number of initiations and placements in out-of-home care classified by province/municipality, type of measure, place of accommodation, age, and sex. The registers contain the above-mentioned information on an individual level. Furthermore, the registers contain information on changes in placements in out-of-home care, the cause of termination of out-of-home care, and the location of a child/young person after the termination of foster care.

In the period between the 1st of July 2019 and the 31st of December 2020, there has been a change in the categorization of foster families. These have been changed to common, reinforced and specialized foster families. The information has been retrieved from the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing and Senior Citizens.

2.2 Classification system

These statistics are grouped geographically by [municipalities and provinces](#). In addition, the children and young persons placed outside own home are grouped by age, sex and by:

Measure

- Decision by the administration with consent
- Committee for children and young people without requirement of consent
- Foreigners under the age of 15 years (Aliens Acts §36 and 37)
- Provisional decision (the chairman of the committee for children and young people)
- Sentence (juvenile sanction)
- Sentence (imprisonment)
- Surrogate custody
- The Social Appeals Board's own initiative/ruling
- Decision/ruling by the Board for Juvenile Delinquency with consent
- Decision/ruling by the Board for Juvenile Delinquency without requirement for consent
- Provisional decision, (the chairman of the committee for children and young people, juvenile delinquency)
- Not stated

Place of accommodation

- Foster family from the family network
- Ordinary foster family
- Municipal foster family
- Common foster family
- Reinforced foster family
- Specialized foster family
- Foster family according to section 76a (functionally impaired adolescents)
- Residential institution, general ward
- Partly closed residential institution or partly locked ward in open residential institution
- Residential institution, locked ward
- Residence for children and young persons
- Boarding school and/or continuation school
- Own room, student residence, facility similar to student residence
- Not stated

Cause of placement in out-of-home care

- Addictive behavior in a child/young person
- Criminal behavior of a child/young person
- School problems with a child/young person, e.g. absence
- Other behavior of a child/young person causing concern, e.g. aggressive behavior
- Considerably or permanent reduced physical or mental capacity in a child/young person
- Health conditions of a child/young person
- Molestation of a child/young person, e.g. sexual or violent
- Other types of neglect of a child/young person
- Addictive behavior on parents
- Criminal behavior in parents
- Other behavior of parents causing concern
- Considerably or permanently reduced physical or mental capacity in parents
- High level of conflict or violence in the home between adults
- Inadequate parental care and control

- Enforcement proceedings or eviction
- Other
- Not stated

2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Placement measure: Placement of a child or a young person outside the home, with or without the consent of the parent/s.

Administrative municipality: The municipality, which is obligated to provide assistance or support according to regulations on special support for children and youth pursuant to the Consolidation Act on Social Services.

2.5 Statistical unit

Occurrences, stock of people (0-22 years) per 31.12 and sequences.

2.6 Statistical population

Children and young adults under 23 years of age.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

The statistics cover the time period from 2011 and onwards.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Number.

2.11 Reference period

Calendar year.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Yearly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Data about municipal authorities' placements of children and young persons outside the home (sections 52, 58, 75 and 76 of the Act on Social Services, section 74 of the Criminal Code, section 78 of the Penal Code Enforcement Act, sections 765 of the Administration of Justice Act, section 36 of the Aliens Act and section 14 of the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act) are collected with the warrant in current [Executive Order on Data Transmission in the Social Policy Area](#). The Executive Order and the requirements to report the data are based upon sections 82 and 84 of the Consolidation Act on Legal Protection and Administration in Social Matters and Section 6 of the Act on Statistics Denmark.

The statistics are not subjected to EU regulations.

2.14 Cost and burden

These statistics are primarily based on administrative data which stem from the administrative IT-systems of the municipalities. There is thus no direct response burden in relation to the compilation of the statistics. Different digital administrative systems, used by the municipalities to administer and report the data, are subjected to regulations stated in the Executive Order on Data Transmission in the Social Policy Area. This is the case for approx. 90 of the municipalities. Those municipalities, that supplement with manual reporting, do have a non-specific report burden. The statistic does include a process of municipal approval of the reported data. The reporting burden of the municipalities in connection to this is not estimated.

2.15 Comment

Further information can be found at the webpage of the statistics, [Disadvantaged children and young people](#), and the [information webpage](#), or by contacting Statistics Denmark directly.

3 Statistical processing

Data for these statistics are continually collected from the administrative municipalities. The collected data is then subjected to a meticulous validation process in cooperation with the municipalities. All of the municipalities receive feedback sheets, representing the scope and nature of the reported data, which need to be approved by the municipalities. Data is subsequently gathered in an incident register which forms the basis for a creation of a progress register and a status/stock register.

3.1 Source data

Data stem from municipalities' digital systems used for the administration of cases regarding children and young people. In addition, the municipalities can upload data through a [webplatform](#) provided by Statistics Denmark. In the period 2006-2016, Ankestyrelsen, (The Danish Social Appeals Board) was responsible for collecting data on placements in out-of-home care.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Data from the 98 municipalities are collected continuously. It is possible to report on a daily basis.

3.3 Data collection

Data are transmitted via different system-to-system solutions. Municipalities can also upload data through a [web platform](#), provided by Statistics Denmark. The system-to-system solutions are provided by several developers, for instance DUBU, DXC, SBSYS and ModulusSocial.

3.4 Data validation

Data are validated yearly in cooperation with the municipalities. For each municipality, a list is extracted from the database based on CPR numbers (social security numbers). The list contains a compilation of yearly initiations and placements in out-of-home care, placements in out-of-home care with consent, and placements in foster family care. The extracted list is then sent to the municipalities for control, and ultimately approval of data, if it corresponds with their activity and records. Reports are sent each quarter to the municipalities in order to correct errors and issues with missing or misleading data.

As a general rule, only validated and approved data is published.

3.5 Data compilation

When the municipalities have approved their reports, the reported data are contained in an incident register, which contains the following occurrences: Decision of placement in out-of-home care, initiation of placement in out-of-home care, relocation, change in the legal basis of the placement, transfer and receipt of administrative obligation, establishment of 24-hour stay for persons, who have turned 18 years of age and termination of an out-of-home placement, or repatriation of a child or a young person. If a person turns 18 or 23 years of age, and a termination of an out-of-home placement is not reported, an automatic termination is added one day before the person turns 18 or 23 years old. Age is calculated at the date of the reported incident/occurrence.

On the basis of data in the incident register, a progress register is formed. Decisions and terminations have identical start and end dates. All other incidents end when a new incident occurs. If an incident does not have an end date, the following date is added to the incident automatically: 31st of December 9999. The length of placement in out-of-home care is calculated as the number of days between the start and end dates.

A status/stock register is formed on the basis of the progress register. Status is calculated per 31st of December and indicated by year. Age is also calculated at year-end, i.e. per 31st of December.

If the legal basis for the placement is stated as *provisional decision*, and the placement in out-of-home care has lasted for more than 14 days, the legal basis of the measure is changed to *placement without consent*.

3.6 Adjustment

Not relevant for these statistics.

4 Relevance

The statistics are used by municipalities, provinces, ministries, the media, researchers, private individuals and organizations. The statistics are used for public planning and administration, research, public debate and education.

4.1 User Needs

These statistics are used by municipalities, counties, ministries, the media and researchers for public planning and administration, research, public debate and educational purposes.

4.2 User Satisfaction

No systematic survey of user satisfaction has been conducted. However, Statistics Denmark is in continuous dialogue with users of the statistics in regards to user needs and wishes. Previously, the statistics were discussed at Statistic Denmark's [User Committee of Welfare Statistics](#) and [User Committee of Municipalities and Regions](#).

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for these statistics, since the statistics are not EU-regulated.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The statistics showcase all placements of children and young persons (aged 0-22 years) in out-of-home care. There can be a few missing observations or observations with missing information. Such errors are minimized by the yearly validation process in cooperation with the municipalities. The validation process involves correcting errors and inconsistencies and ultimately approving the reported data by the municipalities. The statistics also contain data on foreign children and youth, who are located in Denmark. Foreign citizens, located in Denmark, are included in the statistical tables published in Statbank Denmark, even if they do not have a CPR number (social security number). Changes in placements of out-of-home care are generally underestimated.

5.1 Overall accuracy

Errors and inconsistencies are corrected as far as possible by the yearly process of data validation. Ultimately, the municipalities approve the reported data as being a true representation of their activity in the field. Relocations and changes in the legal basis of the decisions are not part of the validation process. It is therefore assessed that relocations and legal changes are not necessarily always reported by the municipalities.

Upon the latest revision of the statistics for the period 2011-2021, the revised figures deviated with up to 50 placements out of 13.400-15.000 placements in total. The deviation percentage can be larger with regard to smaller categories/groups (< 200).

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

Only approved data from the municipalities are published. The municipalities approve data on a summarized level. There are, however, variables that are not included in the approval procedure. Therefore, some uncertainty can occur on a more detailed level; for instance, the causes or changes in placement in out-of-home care, repatriation cases, or in instances where the child or young relocates after the termination of out-of-home care.

In 2020, the municipality of Copenhagen changed its digital system for data reporting. As a consequence, there is a deficiency in data for 2019 concerning the initiations, consent and decisive causes of placements in out-of-home care.

Data from Lejre municipality, regarding aftercare in the period 2016-2020, were incomplete. The scope of the inconsistency is not known.

5.4 Quality management

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

5.5 Quality assurance

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

5.6 Quality assessment

All 98 municipalities have received a validation report with key figures. In subsequent dialogue and investigation, a number of municipalities have received further information. The municipalities themselves assess the quality and approve the reported data.

5.7 Data revision - policy

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the [Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark](#). The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

5.8 Data revision practice

Revisions for previous years are implemented upon compiling the data for a new reference year. Since the register is a process register, revisions can cover several years back in time. Respondents can make corrections to already reported data or additions of new information daily. Such changes and additions will be included in the next publication. Only a few revisions are expected for earlier years. Data published in StatBank Denmark are revised back to 2011.

Upon the latest revision of the statistics for the period 2011-2021, the revised figures deviated with up to 50 placements out of 13.400-15.000 placements in total. The deviation percentage can be larger with regard to smaller categories/groups (< 200).

6 Timeliness and punctuality

These statistics are published 6 months after the end of the reference period. The statistics are published without delay according to the scheduled release date.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

These statistics are published 6 months after the end of the reference period. The statistics are published without delay, with reference to the announced time of publication in the release calendar. Upon each new publication of the statistics, the numbers, published in Statbank Denmark, are revised back to 2011. Since the register is a process register, revisions can range several years back in time. Relatively few corrections are expected with regard to data older than a few years.

6.2 Punctuality

These statistics are published on time, as stated in the release calendar.

7 Comparability

The statistics are comparable from 2011 and onwards.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

Similar statistics are compiled in many other countries. However, the statistics are not subject to any EU regulation or compiled in accordance with other international guidelines. Therefore, these statistics can be compared internationally, but not necessarily directly.

7.2 Comparability over time

The statistics have existed since 1977, but due to legislative changes in 1985, 1993, 2006 and 2019, respectively, the statistics are not directly comparable throughout the whole period. Since the 1st of January 2018, the statistics and the collection of data are based on the Executive Order on Data Transmission in the Social Area (current). The Executive Order is updated semi-annually and changes in regulations can thus occur every half year.

Following the changes of the State Social Support Act in January 1985, legal regulations, regarding placements of persons in 24-hour stay, were moved to regular legislation on placements in out-of-home care. (i.e. the 24-hour stay was henceforth included as part of the sections on placement in out-of-home care with or without the consent of the parent/s).

From January 1993, changes in legislation resulted in some forms of social support, which were previously considered as being a part of placement in out-of-home care procedures, being moved to the group of preventive measures. At the same time, a number of new preventive measures were introduced. In 2006, many simultaneous changes regarding data transmission and reporting - such as local government reform, a reform of the out-of-home care policy, and an introduction of new method for data reporting - contributed to a significant data breach and caused difficulties with regards to the quality of reported data.

In the period between 2019 and 2020, there has been a change in the categorization of foster families. These have been changed to common, reinforced and specialized foster families. The change has, accordingly, contributed to a decrease in the number of placements in generally approved foster families.

From 2020 and onwards, data regarding juvenile delinquency are also gathered.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The statistics are related to statistics about preventive measures for children and young people, as the family and the child/young person must be offered relief measures before the municipality initiates a procedure to place the child or young in out-of-home care. The statistics are also related to statistics on notifications of concern for children and young people, as a notification can occur before a child is placed in out-of-home care.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Reported data from different sources usually follow the same reporting forms. Changes in the forms may result in differences as a result of the suppliers not being able to implement the changes at the same time. During these transition periods, the response categories from the old forms will be mapped to the new categories.

8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published in a Danish press release, [Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik](#). The figures are also published in Statbank Denmark in [Disadvantaged children and young people](#) Further information can be found at the webpage of the statistics [Udsatte børn og unge](#) or by contacting Statistics Denmark directly.

8.1 Release calendar

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

8.3 User access

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

8.2 Release calendar access

The Release Calendar can be accessed on our English website: [Release Calendar](#).

8.4 News release

These statistics are published yearly in a Danish press release: [Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik](#), titled *Støtte til udsatte børn og unge*.

8.5 Publications

The statistics are featured in the [Statistical ten year overview](#).

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subjects in the following tables:

- [ANBAAR2](#): Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by measure, age, sex and time
- [ANBAAR8](#): Initiated placement outside of own home of children and young persons by part of the country, measure, age, sex and time
- [ANBAAR9](#): Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by administrative municipality, age and time
- [ANBAAR14](#): Initiated placement outside of own home of children and young persons by administrative municipality, age and time
- [ANBAAR10](#): Decisive causes related to initiated placement outside own home by part of the country, cause for placement outside the home, age, sex and time
- [ANBAAR17](#): Initiated placement outside of own home of children and young persons by part of the country, place of accommodation, age, sex and time
- [ANBAAR16](#): Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by part of the country, place of accommodation, measure, age, sex and time
- [ANBAAR12](#): Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by administrative municipality, place of accommodation and time
- [ANBAAR15](#): Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by place of accommodation, age, sex and time
- [ANBAAR13](#): Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by administrative municipality, measure and time
- [BU43](#): Children and young people who receive support per 31st December (share of 0-22-year-olds) by region, measure and age
- [BU04A](#): Support to children and young people per 31st December (net statement) by region, measure, age and sex

8.7 Micro-data access

Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions, can be granted access to the underlying micro-data by contacting [Research Services](#).

8.8 Other

Not relevant for these statistics.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

[Data Confidentiality Policy](#) for Statistics Denmark.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

Due to discretion, persons are grouped into age groups. In addition, certain tables in the StatBank are published only for provinces rather than municipalities. See more on the classification page for [Regions, Provinces and Municipalities](#).

8.11 Documentation on methodology

There is no separate documentation on methodology for these statistics.

8.12 Quality documentation

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

9 Contact

The administrative placement of these statistics is in the division of Welfare and Health. The person responsible is Bente Ottosen, tel.: + 45 3917 3102, e-mail: bbo@dst.dk.

9.1 Contact organisation

Statistics Denmark

9.2 Contact organisation unit

Welfare and Health, Social Statistics.

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