STATISTICS DENMARK

Documentation of statistics for Children and young persons placed outside own home 2024

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1 Introduction

The statistics shed light on the activities of municipal authorities regarding placements outside the home.

The statistics are used to account for the scope of placements of children and young people outside their own homes. The statistics are comparable from 2011 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.

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2.1 Data description

These statistics contain information about incidents, events, and the status of placements in out-of-home care. The status is as of December 31st of a given reference year. The statistics are calculated at the municipal level and by province, depending on discretion needs.

The statistics are based on individuals aged 0-22 years old who are registered in Statistics Denmark's accumulated register of placements for children and young people in out-of-home care. They are compiled according to the 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 is made that a child or young person is to be placed in out-of-home care. This also applies in the case of reinstatement in out-of-home care after repatriation/termination. Municipalities often cite several reasons for placing 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 change 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.

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

From 2024 the statistics contain extended information about the place of accommodation (the variables p-number and afdelings-uuid administrated by the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing). Since 1st of January 2023 these informations have had to be reported for initiations and changes of placement of out-of-home care. Therefore, these informations might be missing for out-of-home care with no changes in placement since 2022.

Until 2023, the statistics covered placements pursuant to:

- Sections 52, 58, 65, 75, and 76 of the Consolidation Act on Social Services (Social Services Act)
- Section 74a of the Danish Penal Code
- Section 78 of the Act on Enforcement of Sentences, etc.
- Section 765 of the Administration of Justice Act (Judicial Procedure Act)
- Section 36 of the Aliens Act
- Section 14 of the Act on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

With the introduction of the Child's Act (Barnets lov), from 2024 the statistics cover placements pursuant to:

- Sections 46, 47, 49, 62, 143, and 151 of the Child's Act
- Section 14 of the Act on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

Upon the entry into force of the Child's Act, ongoing placements and residential stays continue under the legal basis of the original decision and are only transferred to the Child's Act when a new decision is made pursuant to the legal basis of the Child's Act, cf. Section 213 of the Child's Act.

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2.2 Classification system

These statistics are grouped geographically by municipalities and provinces. In addition, children and young people placed outside the home are grouped by sex and age, as well as by the following categories::

Type of Measure - Decision with consent made by the municipal council (Section 52 of the Social Services Act / Section 46 of the Child's Act) - Decision without requirement of consent made by the Children and Youth Committee (Section 58 of the Social Services Act / Section 47 of the Child's Act) - Provisional decision made by the chair of the Children and Youth Committee (Section 75(1), cf. Section 58 of the Social Services Act / Section 143(1), cf. Section 47 of the Child's Act) - Decision on placement in a secure residential institution as part of a court-ordered measure (Section 74a of the Penal Code / Section 62(2)(3) of the Child's Act) - Decision on placement in a secure residential institution as part of sentence enforcement (Section 78(2) of the Act on Enforcement of Sentences / Section 62(2)(2) of the Child's Act) - Decision on placement in a secure residential institution as a substitute for pre-trial detention (surrogate detention) (Section 765 of the Administration of Justice Act / Section 62(2)(1) of the Child's Act) - Decision concerning a child or young person under 15 years deprived of liberty under Sections 36 or 37 of the Aliens Act, or Section 16 of the Return Act (cf. Section 62(2)(4) of the Child's Act) - Decision or provisional decision made by the Danish Social Appeals Board, which has taken up the case on its own initiative (Section 65 of the Social Services Act / Section 151(1–4) of the Child's Act) - Decision made by the Juvenile Crime Board with consent (Section 14(1) of the Act on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency) - Decision made by the Juvenile Crime Board without requirement of consent (Section 14(2–4) of the Act on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency) - Provisional decision concerning juvenile delinquency made by the Children and Youth Committee (Section 14(2–4) of the Act on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency / Section 143(2) of the Child's Act) - Decision without requirement of consent regarding an unaccompanied minor foreign national for placement in a secure institution, made by the Children and Youth Committee (Section 62.1(1) of the Aliens Act / Section 9b of the Aliens Act, cf. Section 62 (2)(5) of the Child's Act) - Provisional decision regarding an unaccompanied minor foreign national for placement in a secure institution, made by the Children and Youth Committee (Section 62.1(3) of the Aliens Act / Section 9b of the Aliens Act, cf. Section 62(2)(5) of the Child's Act) - Decision concerning an unborn child with consent (Section 46(4) of the Child's Act) (from 2024) - Decision concerning an unborn child without requirement of consent (Section 49 of the Child's Act) (from 2024)

Type of placement

- Network foster family
- Ordinary foster family
- Municipal foster family
- General foster family
- Reinforced foster family
- Specialized foster family
- Foster family under Section 76a (for young people with disabilities)
- Open residential institution or open ward at a residential institution
- Semi-secure residential institution or semi-secure ward at an open residential institution
- Secure residential institution or specially secure ward at a residential institution
- Residential care home for children and young people
- Continuation school, free vocational school, or free primary school with boarding facilities
- Own room, student dormitory, or dormitory-like home for children and young people

Reason for Placement

- Substance abuse by the child/young person

- Criminal behavior by the child/young person
- School or educational problems, e.g. truancy
- Other concerning behavior by the child/young person, e.g. aggressive behavior
- Significant or lasting physical or mental disability in the child/young person
- Health conditions of the child/young person
- Abuse of the child/young person, e.g. sexual or physical abuse (discontinued mid-2022)
- Abuse of the child/young person committed by others than the parents (sexual, physical, or psychological violence) (from mid-2022)
- Other forms of neglect of the child/young person (discontinued mid-2022)
- Parental substance abuse
- Parental criminal behavior
- Other concerning parental behavior
- Significant or lasting physical or mental disability in one or both parents
- High conflict level or domestic violence between adults in the home
- Inadequate parental care
- Bailiff proceedings, homelessness, or eviction
- Health conditions of one or both parents (from mid-2022)
- Abuse of the child/young person committed by the parents (sexual, physical, or psychological violence) (from mid-2022)
- Other (discontinued in 2022)-

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 per 31.12 • sequences.

2.6 Statistical population

Children and young people under the age of 23 who are placed or in residential care Until 2023, the statistics cover placements and residential care pursuant to:

- Sections 52, 58, 65, 75, and 76 of the Social Services Act (SEL)
- Section 74a of the Penal Code
- Section 78 of the Act on Enforcement of Sentences
- Section 765 of the Administration of Justice Act
- Section 36 of the Aliens Act
- Section 14 of the Act on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

With the introduction of the Child's Act, from 2024 the statistics include placements and residential care pursuant to:

-Sections 46, 47, 49, 62, 143, and 151 of the Child's Act (BL) -Section 14 of the Act on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

In addition to children and young people registered in the Danish population register, the statistics also include foreign children and young people residing in Denmark who have a personal ID issued by the Danish Immigration Service.

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.

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2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Data on placements pursuant to Sections 52, 58, 75, and 76 of the Social Services Act; Sections 46, 47, 49, 62, 143, and 151 of the Child's Act; Section 74 of the Penal Code; Section 78 of the Act on Enforcement of Sentences; Section 765 of the Administration of Justice Act; Section 36 of the Aliens Act; and Section 14 of the Act on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency are collected pursuant to the Executive Order on Data Transmission in the Social Policy Area.The executive order and its reporting requirements are based on Sections 82 and 84 of the Act on Legal Rights and Administration in the Social Sector, as well as Section 6 of the Act on Statistics Denmark.

The statistics are not subject to any EU regulation..

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 the webplatform http://www.dst.dk/anb 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.

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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. There are several different system providers: DUBU, DXC, SBSYS, and Modulus Social.

Municipalities report the following events in a placement process: - Decision on placement - Initiation of a new placement - Change of placement location (relocation or administrative change at the placement site) - Change in the legal basis for the placement - Transfer or receipt of case responsibility - Continuation/reestablishment of residential care between the ages of 18 and 22 - Termination of the placement

For more information on reporting criteria, see: Bekendtgørelsen om dataindberetning på socialområdet.

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 7 days, the legal basis of the measure is changed to *placement without consent*. If the legal basis of the placement is stated as *decision with/without consent, unborn* then the legal basis is changed to *decision with/without consent* when the baby is born.

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. User wishes are also discussed in the Advisory Committee for Personal Statistics.

4.3 Data completeness rate

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

5 Accuracy and reliability

Data is reported from the municipalities' administrative systems, which are used for case processing. There may be errors or omissions in the reports, or reports may be missing altogether. The municipalities approve an annual status prior to publication of the statistics. In this context, municipalities are requested to correct any errors and deficiencies.

Changes in placements are generally underestimated because the changes are only indirectly approved by the municipalities based on the reported placement status.

5.1 Overall accuracy

Errors and inconstancies 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 2011-2024, the revised figures deviated with up to 44 placements out of 13.400-15.000 placements in total.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

The municipalities' administrative systems are designed in accordance with legislation to ensure that relevant information is submitted automatically. However, since information is entered manually, there is a risk of typographical errors during reporting.

Reports with missing information are included in the register as long as essential information is provided. Reports with invalid social security numbers (or personal IDs for foreigners) or missing event dates are excluded. Dates for events in out-of-home placement processes may vary by up to a month.

Data is corrected based on the assumption that out-of-home placement processes adhere to legislation. It is assumed that a placement for a child or young person begins with the initiation of the process and ends within their 18th year. For 18-22-year-olds, the residential stay can be maintained and terminated no later than their 23rd year. 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 7 days, the legal basis of the measure is changed to *placement without consent*. If the legal basis of the placement is stated as *decision with/without consent, unborn* then the legal basis is changed to *decision with/without consent* when the baby is born.

The municipalities annually approve the aggregated number of placed individuals, as well as initiated placements. They strive to correct any errors and deficiencies before approving the data. Only validated and approved data from the municipalities are published. However, not all events and variables undergo the approval process, leading to potential uncertainty at more detailed levels, such as reasons for placement, reasons for return home, changes in placements, and the post-placement whereabouts of the child/young person.

Copenhagen municipality transitioned to a new administrative system in 2020, resulting in incomplete data for implementations in 2019 regarding consent and reasons for placements. Reporting on aftercare in Lejre municipality was incomplete from 2016 to 2020, though the exact extent of the incompleteness is not precisely 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 incorporated when compiling data for a new reference year. As the register is a process register, revisions may extend several years back in time.

Respondents have the opportunity to correct previously reported data or add new information daily. These changes and additions will be included in the next publication. However, 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 2011-2023, the revised figures deviated by up to 950 placements out of a total of 13,400-15,000 placements. The deviation percentage may be higher for smaller categories or 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.

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 placements due to juvenile delinquency are also gathered.

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.

From 2024 initiations of out-of-home care are reported pursuant to the Child's Act. Upon the entry into force of the Child's Act, ongoing placements and residential stays continue under the legal basis of the original decision and are only transferred to the Child's Act when a new decision is made pursuant to the legal basis of the Child's Act, cf. Section 213 of the Child's Act.

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 Calender can be accessed on our English website: Release Calender.

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:

Disadvantaged children and young people - 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

Children and young persons placed outside own home - ANBAAR2: Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by measure, age, sex and time - ANBAAR15: Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by 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 - ANBAAR13: Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by administrative municipality, measure and time - ANBAAR9: Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by administrative municipality, age and time

Initiated placement outside of own home - ANBAAR8: Initiated placement outside of own home of children and young persons by part of the country, measure, 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 - 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

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 Personal Finances and Welfare, Social Statistics. The contact person is Siri Dencker, tel.: + 45 2145 3492, and e-mail: SEN@dst.dk.