Documentation of statistics for
Notifications of concern for children and young people 2021

1 Introduction

The purpose of this statistics is to monitor progress and identify patterns in the reports/notifications of concern, received by the municipalities, regarding children and juveniles in Denmark. The statistics are used in preparation of governmental policies, the public debate and research. The statistics were initially started in the Ankestyrelsen, (the Danish Social Appeals Board). Statistics Denmark has been responsible for the statistics since 2016.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics are a compilation of the notifications of concern, municipalities receive, concerning children below 18 years of age. The statistics are disseminated annually with data from all the municipalities. The statistics include data about the number of notifications, the child's age and gender, date of the notification, the relation of the notifier to the child (who is notifying), the background for the notification (what caused the notification) and which municipality received the notification. The statistics are communicated though a NYT article (News from Statistics Denmark) in Danish and in the StatBank.

2.1 Data description

The purpose of a notification of concern is to make the municipality aware of a concern for a child of 0-17 years, or an unborn child's well-being or development. In Denmark, all citizens have a duty to notify worries and suspicions regarding mistreatment of children. Since 2010, professionals working with children have had a stricter duty to notify. (The Social Service Act §153) When receiving a notification, it is the municipality's responsibility to investigate the matter and, if necessary, provide support for the child. The purpose of the notification is to be able to provide support to the child before the problem grows.

The statistics have been published annually since 2015 and contain 3 tables in the StatBank, a register for researchers and ministries and an article in Danish (Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik). The tables in the StatBank contain data on the amount of notifications, amount of children and youth, for whom there is a notification of concern, the amount of notification causes, who has made the notification and age and sex of the child or juvenile. The information are distributed on a municipal level. Unborn children are registered through the expectant mothers. Broadly speaking, the StatBank tables present an answer to following questions: How many notifications? (UND1). How many children? (UND2). And how many causes? (UND3). The registry contains the same information on an individual level. Statistical variables are described in statistikdokumentationssystemet Times.

2.2 Classification system

The statistics are distributed by municipalities, gender, age, reporter (who is notifying), cause of notification and number of notifications per child within the year. Read more about Statistic Denmark's classification of municipalities (v1:2007-). Age intervals in StatBank tables, regarding the amount of notifications (UND1) and number of children/juveniles (UND2), use intervals of one year, whilst the table presenting the causes for the notifications (UND3) uses 5 year age intervals.

2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Responsible municipality: The municipality that receives the notification and needs to decide which measures, if any, should be taken as a follow-up to the notification. Also called administration municipality.

Notification: A notification to a municipality sent by a citizen or a professional working with children under 18 years of age. The purpose of a notification is to make the municipality aware of a concern for a child of 0-17 years or an unborn child's well-being or development.

2.5 Statistical unit

Notifications.

2.6 Statistical population

All notifications received by municipalities in Denmark concerning children's well-being and development. Children refers to 0-17 year olds or unborn.

2.7 Reference area

All municipalities in Denmark (not including Greenland and the Faroe Islands).

2.8 Time coverage

These statistics cover the time period from 2015 and onwards.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Number.

2.11 Reference period

01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Yearly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Data collection is based on §6 in "Lov om Danmarks Statistik" (Law on Statistics Denmark). The municipalities register notifications based on §§ 152, 153 and 154 in "Serviceloven" (The Social Service Act). Data collection is regulated by the "Bekendtgørelse om dataindberetninger på socialområdet" (The Executive Order on Collection of Data on Social Affairs). These statistics are not EU regulated.

2.14 Cost and burden

These statistics are based on the municipalities' administrative register systems. Therefore, there is no direct respondent burden. However, the municipalities have a workload in regards to the annual data validation.

2.15 Comment

Further information can be found at the subject page or by contacting Statistics Denmark directly.

3 Statistical processing

The municipalities send data about notifications to Statistics Denmark through different digital sources. Data is transmitted through different system-to-system software or through a web-based platform, provided by Statistics Denmark: webindberetningen på oplysningssiden om underretninger. Data can also be uploaded via FTP service. An overview of the received data from a given year is sent to the municipalities. In collaboration with Statistics Denmark, data are corrected for eventual errors and subsequently approved by the municipalities as a true expression of the number of notifications for a given year. This process is called data validation.

3.1 Source data

Data about notifications are received from 98 municipalities. Data is reported either directly through different system-to-system software, used by the municipalities, or via manual reporting by using Statistics Denmark's web platform available from the website.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Data is usually sent daily, but few municipalities send data weekly, monthly or annually.

3.3 Data collection

Data is reported either directly through different system-to-system software, used by the municipalities, or via manual reporting by using Statistics Denmark's web platform: web solution available from the website. Some municipalities have reported data to the FTP-server or via a parser in order to overcome issues with direct reporting caused by their IT-systems.

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3.4 Data validation

Data is validated annually in cooperation with the municipalities. Statistics Denmark sends an overview of the registered data to the municipalities. If the municipality finds that their data is correct, they confirm the overview list. If not, Statistics Denmark and the municipality cooperate in order to correct the errors. If errors are not corrected in time before the publication date, Statistics Denmark publishes the data with a note that states which municipalities partly or entirely have not confirmed their data. Furthermore, Statistics Denmark and the municipality will work on correcting the errors before the next publication.

3.5 Data compilation

Data from a relevant year are combined with previous notifications found in Statistics Denmark's register. Each notification must meet the requirements stipulated in the current Executive Order on Collection of Data on Social Affairs. [Bekendtgørelse om dataindberetninger på socialområdet](#).

3.6 Adjustment

Correction is not applied.

4 Relevance

The statistics are relevant to researchers, journalists, social authorities (including ministries and municipalities) and others who are interested in children and youth at risk.

4.1 User Needs

The statistics are primarily used by researchers, journalists and social authorities (including ministries and municipalities).

4.2 User Satisfaction

No systematic user satisfaction survey has been conducted.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for these statistics; these statistics are not EU-regulated.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The accuracy and reliability of these statistics is high.

The numbers are revised two years back in time. The revisions consist of minor corrections and thus do not change the overall picture of the statistics.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The accuracy of the statistics is high. Upon publication typically minor, if any, errors are found. These are corrected upon subsequent releases and validation. In 2017, there was an issue regarding repetitions, however a stricter registry practice is expected to have solved the issue. Furthermore, the large amount of notification causes, does contribute to the risk of underestimation of the causes and differences in local register practices.

Status on municipal approvals: In year 2021, 2020 and 2019, all 98 municipalities have approved data. In 2018, 94 Municipalities have approved data. Aalborg, Gribskov, Horsens and Sønderborg have not approved their data. In case of both Gribskov and Sønderborg, the total number of notifications is underestimated. In 2017, 97 municipalities have approved data. Aalborg could not approve data, due to IT-technical issues.

Comments regarding 2021: Amount of notifications for Randers Municipality is slightly underestimated, ca. 70 cases. The Municipality of Syddjurs has identified and removed ca. 300 duplicates. The total amount of notifications for Syddjurs in 2021 is therefore lesser compared to previous periods.

Comments regarding 2020: The number of notifications in Næstved Municipality is underestimated, ca. 137 cases.

Comments regarding 2019: In 2019 it was established that at lest one municipality had a practice of registering one cause per notification - also in those instances where several causes were the case. The formulation regarding the correct practice of indicating causes of a given notification has been clarified in the Executive Order on Collection of Data on Social Affairs and communicated to the municipalities. It is therefore expected that this cause of underestimation will be minimal in the future.

In 2019, Statistics Denmark has been made aware that at lest one municipality (Randers Municipality) registers notifications of concern in 2 different departments, resulting in one department not reporting their notifications to Statistics Denmark during the whole period. The overall amount of notifications for Randers Municipality is therefore underestimated as follows: 2016: 41, 2017: 19, 2018: 32, 2019: 39, 2020: 78, 2021: 70.

In 2019, Statistics Denmark has been made aware that notifications of concern regarding Læsø Municipality in the period 2016-2018, were calculated as notifications from Frederikshavn Municipality. Number of these is low, and the error is/will be corrected in the future.

Comments regarding 2018: The Municipalities of Gribskov, Horsens and Sønderborg, have not approved their data. In both Gribskov and Sønderborg's case, the total number of notifications is underestimated. In the case of Horsens Municipality the number can be over- or underestimated.

Comments regarding 2017: The amount of notifications for Ikast-Brande Municipality is overestimated.

5.2 Sampling error

The sampling error is zero since the statistic's method is complete enumeration.

5.3 Non-sampling error

The statistics cover all 98 municipalities. However data reported to Ankestyrelsen (The Social Appeals Board) are not part of the population.

Before 2017, inter-municipal notifications have contributed to some duplicates.

Notifications pursuant to section 152 of the Service Act (inter-municipal notices) may be partially regarded as duplicates - and are removed in the total count of notifications.

The large number of notifications can contribute to a risk of municipalities failing to reporting all of the notifications, and therefore a total number of notifications can be underestimated.

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

The annual publication, no later than 9 months after the survey reference period, ensures the users current and relevant knowledge on the subject and indicates the scope and character of problems with children and young persons in need of special support. The division of StatBank tables UND1 (amount of notifications), UND2 (amount of individuals) and UND3 (amount of causes) ensures that the users have a better possibility of answering relevant questions regarding disadvantaged children and young persons.

The statistics are accurate and reliable since it is a complete enumeration and due to the high quality of data. The data quality is ensured though the extensive validation process and annual revisions of earlier published data. The ongoing process of ensuring quality of data can contribute to minor fluctuations. For instance in such cases when errors or non-approved data stemming from previous years are corrected upon a later publication. Such cases are especially relevant if a municipality has not managed to approve data upon a given publication and corrects these issues upon the subsequent publication. On an overall level such fluctuations are minimal and the statistics are thus considered as accurate and reliable.

The gradual process of improvement of data quality has contributed to the fact that comparisons between the earliest and latest periods are less accurate then, for instance, comparisons between two years in a row. However, the data, on an overall level, are comparable over time, when taken into account, the reorganization process completed in 2017. Data is also comparable to similar statistics about disadvantaged children in Statistics Denmark as well as corresponding statistics from other countries.

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

The statistics are revised annually two years back in time. New numbers are published at the same time as the previous two years are republished with corrections reported since the last publication. For example, in 2022, data for census year 2021 and revised data for 2019 and 2020 are published. Republication of previous years consists mainly of minor corrections and does not change the overall picture. Data is generally considered finite, 3 years after the publication.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics are published no later than 9 months after the period of reference.

The statistics for 2020 were scheduled to be published June 22, 2021 but were delayed until August 16, 2021.

The statistics for 2021 are scheduled to be published according to the plan.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The final numbers for these statistics are published no later than 9 months after the period of reference. Preliminary numbers are not published.

6.2 Punctuality

The statistics for year 2020 were published with delay. The statistics were scheduled to be published June 22, 2021 with reference to the announced time of publication in the release calendar but were published on August 16, 2021. The delay is due to significant difficulties in providing data for some municipalities and IT-systems.

The statistics for 2021 will be published on the 27th. of September according to the scheduled publish date. The issues regarding the 2020 publication were corrected by the time of the publication of 2020 data; that is, the 16th of August 2021.

7 Comparability

These statistics have been compiled since 2015 and are comparable throughout the whole period - when taken into account the reorganization in 2017 and a generally higher quality of data, especially from 2016 to 2017.

The statistics deal with notifications during the whole year. The other two statistics about disadvantaged children are status based.

The statistics are comparable to corresponding statistics for Sweden, Norway and in some degree Finland.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

The statistics are comparable to corresponding statistics for Sweden (Anmälningar till socialtjänsten om barn och unga), Norway (Bekymringsmeldinger til barnevernet) and in some degree Finland (lastensuojeluilmoituksen).

7.2 Comparability over time

Data are available from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2021. Initially from Ankestyrelsen, (The Social Appeals Board) and from 2016 onwards from Statistics Denmark. The statistics is comparable throughout the whole period when taken into account the reorganization in 2017 and a generally higher quality of data, especially from 2016 and 2017. The quality of data has increased as a consequence of intensified validation.

In 2017, the statistics underwent a considerable reorganization where the categories regarding among other the notifyer and notification causes were reduced from 16 to 11 and from 29 to 16 categories. During the process previous categories were converted to new ones, which are applicable after the reorganization. Furthermore, two new notification causes were added. For more information, see underretningsårsager and underretter-kategorier.

Comments and status on municipal approvals from 2017-2021:

2021: All 98 municipalities have approved data. Amount of notifications for Randers Municipality is slightly underestimated, ca. 70 cases. The municipality of Syddjurs has identified and removed ca. 300 duplicates. The total amount of notifications for 2021 is therefore lesser compared to previous periods.

2020: All 98 municipalities have approved data.

2019: All 98 municipalities have approved data. In 2019 it was established that at lest one municipality had a practice of registering one cause per notification - also in those instances where several causes were the case. The formulation regarding the correct practice of indicating causes of a given notification has been clarified in the Executive Order on Collection of Data on Social Affairs and communicated to the municipalities. It is therefore expected that this cause of underestimation will be minimal in the future. In 2019, Statistics Denmark has been made aware that at lest one municipality (Randers Municipality) registers notifications of concern in 2 different departments, resulting in one department not reporting their notifications to Statistics Denmark during the whole period. The overall amount of notifications for Randers Municipality is therefore underestimated as follows: 2016: 41, 2017: 19, 2018: 32, 2019: 39, 2020: 78, 2021: 70. Furthermore, Statistics Denmark has been made aware that notifications of concern regarding Læsø Municipality in the period 2016-2018, were calculated as notifications from Frederikshavn Municipality. Number of these is low, and the error is/will be corrected in the future.

2018: 94 municipalities have approved data. Aalborg, Gribskov, Horsens and Sønderborg Municipalities could not approve their data for the year 2018. In cases of Gribskov and Sønderborg, the number of notifications is underestimated. The numbers concerning Horsens Municipality can be over or underestimated.

2017: 97 municipalities have approved data. Municipality of Aalborg could not approve their data, due to IT- issues. The number of notifications for 2017 in Ikast-Brande Municipality is overestimated.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

This statistics deal with notifications during the year. The other two statistics about disadvantaged children are primarily status-based, per 31th of December.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Not relevant for these statistics.

8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published annually in a Danish press release, at the same time as the tables are updated in the StatBank. The numbers can be found in the StatBank as tables UND1, UND2 and UND3. For further information, go to the subject page on disadvantaged children and young people. Contact DST Consulting for access to micro-data.

8.1 Release calendar

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

8.2 Release calendar access

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

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.

8.4 News release

These statistics are published annually in a Danish press release.

8.5 Publications

Not relevant for this statistic.

8.6 On-line database

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

- UND1: Notifications of concern for children by administrative municipality, reporter (who is notifying), age, sex and time
- UND2: Children who there are recieved notifications of concern about by administrative municipality, notifications of concern, age, sex and time
- UND3: Causes for notifications of concern for children by administrative municipality, cause, reporter (who is notifying), 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

Contact the Research Office in Statistics Denmark.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

Data Confidentiality Policy at Statistics Denmark is applied.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

Discretion is not necessary for this statistics.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

There are no separate method descriptions 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, Social Statistics. The person responsible is Rebecca Beatrix Clarke, phone +45 39 17 39 74 , e-mail: rbc@dst.dk

9.1 Contact organisation

Statistics Denmark

9.2 Contact organisation unit

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9.3 Contact name

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