

**Documentation of statistics for
Children and young persons with preventive measures 2021**

1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistics on children and youth with preventive measures is to analyze relief measures given to children and youth, who receive assistance according to the current legislation regarding special support for children and young people. The statistics are used in preparation of government policies, the public debate and for academic research. The statistics have been produced since the 1th of April 1976. Since the 1th of July 1998 and onwards, the services are granted on the basis of paragraphs stipulated in The Social Service Act. Since the 1th of January 2020, the statistics also contain collected data on services granted in accordance to the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act. In their current form, the statistics are comparable from year 2007 and onwards.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics on preventive measures are annual, updated every year. The statistics present information on relief measures given to children and youth on the basis of specific paragraphs of the Danish Act on Social Service and the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act. The data are distributed by age, sex, and type of measure. The data are also distributed by provinces and municipalities. The statistic is released in the StatBank Denmark and in the publication “Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik”.

2.1 Data description

The statistics on disadvantaged children and youth contain both the information regarding the preventive measures, given to relevant recipients, as well as information on the children placed in out-of-home care. The data are distributed and presented in several statistical tables.

Number of measures given to disadvantaged children and young people

The tables are based on individuals (0-22 years old) registered in the Statistics Denmark's accumulated register of disadvantaged children and young people. The statistics are calculated per 31st of December of the actual year.

The tables are published in the StatBank Denmark in the section [Udsatte børn og unge](#) and consist of the following tables:

- [BUFF01](#): Preventive measures given to disadvantaged children and youth per 31st of December, classified by area, type of measure and period
- [BU04A](#): Assistance given to disadvantaged children and youth per 31st of December classified by area, type of measure, age, sex and period
- [BU43](#): Disadvantaged children and youth as a percentage of the population (0-22 years) classified by area and type of measure
- [BU28](#): Public net expenditures for disadvantaged children and youth classified by type of measure

The statistics on disadvantaged children and youth are compiled of the acting municipalities or regions and the type of measure/assistance given. A recipient can receive several measures simultaneously and thus can occur as both receiving a preventive measure and be placed in out-of-home care. Age of the recipients is calculated per 31st of December of the relevant year.

The table BUFF01 contains information exclusively on preventive measures, while BU04A and BU43 both contain information regarding the preventive measures and on the children placed in out-of-home care. Documentation of statistics regarding the children, placed in out-of-home care, can be found here: [Statistikdokumentation](#)

Public net expenditures for disadvantaged children and young people

This statistical table contains data on the public net expenditures in connection to the disadvantaged children and youth. The data stems from the accounts of municipalities and are stated on a yearly level according to the municipal price- and wage development. The expenditures are classified by following functional levels: 5.25.17 (Special day-care offers and special clubs), 5.28.20 (Places etc. for children and youth), 5.28.21 (Preventive measures for children and youth), 5.28.22 (Foster care), 5.28.23 (24-hour care centers for children and youth), 5.28.24 (Secured 24-hour care centers for etc. children and youth) 5.28.25 (Special day-care offers and special clubs) and 5.28.26 (Decisions and rulings according to the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act).

The table is published in the StatBank Denmark in the section [Udsatte børn og unge](#) as following: - [BU28](#): Public net expenditures for disadvantaged children and young people classified by type of measure

For more information on the statistics regarding the budgets and accounts of municipalities and regions, see [Statistikdokumentation](#)

2.2 Classification system

These statistics are grouped geographically by [Regions, Provinces and Municipalities](#). In addition, the data are distributed by measure, as well as by gender and age in the age groups 0-5 years of age, 6-11 years of age, 12-17 years of age and 18-22 years of age.

2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Support measure: Social support given as actions or amounts granted to disadvantaged children and youth and their families.

Recipient of a measure: The person (a child or a young person) who is the cause of the given measure.

Preventive measure: Preventive effort in own environment, within family framework, given to prevent placement in out-of-home care.

Acting Municipality: The municipality, which rules/decides on providing assistance or support according to the Danish Act on Social Service.

2.5 Statistical unit

Measures granted to children and young people (0-22 years).

2.6 Statistical population

Children and adolescent (0-22 year) receiving supportive measures in accordance to the Danish Act on Social Service and the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act - including children, who live outside of Denmark.

2.7 Reference area

These statistics cover all children and youth who have received measures in accordance to specific paragraphs of the Danish Act on Social Service and the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act – including recipients, who live outside of Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

The most recent publications cover the time period from 2016 and onwards.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Multiple measurement units are used in the compilation of the indicators, including:

- Number of persons
- Number of measures
- Percentage
- Share in percent.
- Expenditures calculated in DKK million

2.11 Reference period

31th of December each year

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Yearly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Section 6 of the Danish Statistics Act. In addition, specific announcements relating to the individual registers used for the formation of the indicators. The statistics are not subject to EU regulation.

2.14 Cost and burden

These statistics are based on administrative data. There is thus no direct reporting burden in relation to the compilation of these statistics. Municipalities who supplement their records with manual reports do have a non-estimated report burden. Among other, the data are reported by providers such as KOMBIT, CGI and DEDALUS.

2.15 Comment

For further information, contact Statistics Denmark. For more information, see [emneside](#).

3 Statistical processing

Data for these statistics are collected from the 98 municipalities from their IT-systems or by using a web-based register system, provided by Statistics Denmark. The collected data from the municipalities are then linked with active measures already found in the register. Each child or young person in the registry is updated with data, which have been reported during the course of the relevant year. All of the data are subsequently gathered in a register containing all persons who at some point during their first 23 years of life, have received support according to the Danish Act on Social Service and the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act. The reported information is validated in close collaboration with the municipalities, and are subsequently aggregated and supplemented with data from Statistics Denmark's population statistics.

3.1 Source data

Data reported by the 98 municipalities in Denmark. Concerning preventive measures, the municipalities can choose to use a computerized system, which directly transmits data to Statistics Denmark. The municipalities can also choose to report data by using a web-based platform, provided by Statistics Denmark.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Reports on preventive measures from the 98 municipalities are collected continuously.

3.3 Data collection

Data are transmitted via different system-to-system solutions and/or by using a web-based platform, provided by Statistics Denmark.

3.4 Data validation

The statistical data are validated in cooperation with the municipalities on a yearly basis. Each municipality receives a compilation of relevant number of children and youth, classified by the type of measure received, as well as the total amount of preventive measures classified by the type, found in the registry. The compilation is sent to each municipality for validation and approval. In the most recent validation process, a special focus was given to the §11 of the Social Service Act and §12 and 13 of the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act. Furthermore, it is worth mentioning the following: Holstebro Municipality's data for 2020 can be overestimated and Solrød Municipality's data regarding §11 of the Social Service Act is underestimated in 2021.

3.5 Data compilation

The validated data, which stems from the municipal IT- systems and the web-based platform of Statistics Denmark, is integrated. All of the collected data must comply with the regulations stated in the Executive Order on data transmission in the public social sector. The principles defined in the Executive Order allow for an effective integration of collected new data into the base dataset.

The data reported from the municipalities for the current year is linked with "active measures" per December 31st of the last year. Each child or adolescent in the registry is updated with data, which have been collected during the course of the current year. In cases where it is not possible to link the information from the municipalities to the preventive measures for a given child in the register, an error list is printed and such cases are processed manually.

3.6 Adjustment

Any recipients of preventive measures, who are 23 years or older, as well as any duplicate cases, reported from the municipalities, are removed from the final publication of data.

4 Relevance

The statistics are used by municipalities, regions, ministries, the media, researchers and private individuals. The statistics are among other 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 for educational purposes.

4.2 User Satisfaction

The statistics can annually be discussed at the user committee for Welfare statistics.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for these statistics.

5 Accuracy and reliability

Data regarding paragraphs 57a, 57b and 57c of the Social Service Act are underestimated as these are not reported directly in all of the digital systems used by the municipalities. As the municipalities use different digital systems for data reporting and transmission, the data regarding preventive measures are not registered systematically and uniformly. Municipalities can register the same case/phenomenon on differing paragraphs. The extent of such practice is not known. It is also worth mentioning the following: Holstebro Municipality's data for 2020 can be overestimated. Solrød Municipality's data regarding §11 of the Social Service Act is underestimated in 2021.

5.1 Overall accuracy

Data regarding paragraphs 57a, 57b and 57c of the Social Service Act are underestimated as these are not reported directly in all of the digital systems used by the municipalities. Statistics Denmark does not have the necessary knowledge to assess the differences in municipal proceedings regarding preventive measures given to disadvantaged children and youth. Municipalities use different systems for registration of cases and measures. As a result, the registration procedure can differ and is not uniform. For instance, one municipality can post a given measure under a paragraph included in the registry of disadvantaged children and young people, while another municipality can charge the same measure under a different paragraph, not included in the registry. There is also a possibility of uncertainty in data on measures given according to the the Juvenile Delinquency Protection Act (LBU). LBU data is approved, however as there is no possibility of comparison, one cannot be certain that appropriate level has been reached. Furthermore, Holstebro Municipality's data for 2020 can be overestimated and Sønderborg Municipality's data for 2020 can be underestimated. Solrød Municipality's data regarding §11 of the Social Service Act is underestimated in 2021.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

Differences in the municipalities' digital systems, used for reporting, can result in the fact that not all municipalities register cases uniformly. What is posted in one municipality under a section, that is included in the register of disadvantaged children and youth, may in another municipality be registered under another section that is not reported.

Municipalities should report all measures, granted to disadvantaged children and young people, but it must be assumed that there are missing cases. Validation process and yearly meetings with the municipalities minimize such errors.

There may be some measurement errors in the period variable for the given measures. Some municipalities tend to set the start date of a measure as being the date when it is granted, while other municipalities correctly specify the start date as being the time when the measure actually takes effect.

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

Data is generally regarded as reliable. The quality of data on specific paragraphs can be less accurate.

The statistics are published annually, no later than 9 months after the end of the reference period. This ensures that users have actual knowledge of municipal preventive measures and thus an illustration of the scope and the character of support that children and youth at risk receive. The number of measures and children, who receive one or more measures is more accurate than the quality of specific paragraphs. The reason for this is that municipalities have differing procedures in registration of measures to specific paragraphs. Yearly validation process ensures that the data is precise, but can also contribute to minor fluctuations, as data for previous years can on occasions be corrected. In general, such fluctuations are considered as minor, and therefore the statistic is considered to be reliable. Furthermore, Holstebro Municipality's data for 2020 can be overestimated. Solrød Municipality's data regarding §11 of the Social Service Act is underestimated in 2021.

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 register is a progress register, which is updated yearly. The data is revised for current year and previous 3 years. The statistic underwent a major quality review in 2019 and 2020 and during this process the tables were revised from 2016 and onwards.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics are published approximately 9 months after the end of the reference period. There has been delays in the past years due to reorganization of the registration systems in the municipalities, but it is expected that the statistics will be published at the announced times in the future.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

Key figures of the statistics are published during the following calendar year.

6.2 Punctuality

The statistics have in recent years been published with some delays, partly because of reorganization or replacement of the registration systems in the majority of municipalities.

7 Comparability

The statistics have been published since 1977, but due to large changes in legislation in 1985, 1993 and 2006, the statistics are not directly comparable throughout the whole period.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

The statistics cannot be compared directly internationally.

7.2 Comparability over time

These statistics have been compiled since 1977, but due to legislative changes in 1985 and 1993, the statistics are not strictly comparable over the years. Since January 1993 changes in legislation resulted in that certain measures, previously considered as placement in out-of-home care, were transferred to the preventive measures area. At the same time, a number of new preventive measures were introduced.

Many simultaneous legislation changes in 2006, resulted in a significant data breach and contributed to reduction in quality of reporting. 2006-data is not comparable on several areas with previous years and furthermore, the data is not unconditionally comparable to the following year, 2007, due to the same reasons. From January 2020, data on services given on the basis of the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act (LBU) are collected. LBU paragraphs have no influence on the other paragraphs, presented in the statistics.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

Micro-data of the Statistics contain social security numbers, which makes it possible to link the data with other statistics.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Data reported from different sources usually follow the same reporting forms. If changes in the reporting forms are made, differences can occur, as the IT suppliers cannot implement the changes simultaneously. During these periods of transition, the reply categories from the old reporting forms will be "mapped" to new categories.

8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published yearly in a press release on support to the children and young at risk: [Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik om Støtte til udsatte børn og unge](#). At the same time the statistical tables are updated in the StatBank: [Children and youth at risk](#). For further information, see [subject page](#).

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

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 yearly in a Danish press release: *Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik i Støtte til udsatte børn og unge*.

8.5 Publications

These statistics feature in the [Statistical Yearbook](#).

8.6 On-line database

Statistics are published in the StatBank Denmark in the section [Udsatte børn og unge](#) (Children and youth at risk) in the following tables:

Disadvantaged children and young people

- [BUFFo1](#): Preventive measures given to disadvantaged children and youth per 31st of December, classified by municipality and the type of measure
- [BUo4A](#): Assistance given to disadvantaged children and youth per 31 December classified by area, type of measure, age and sex
- [BU43](#): Disadvantaged children and youth as a percentage of the population (0-22 years) classified by municipality and type of measure

Public expenditures for disadvantaged children and young people

The indicator is published in StatBank [Udsatte børn og unge](#) in the table - [BU28](#): Public net expenditures for disadvantaged children and young people classified by type of measure

8.7 Micro-data access

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

8.8 Other

These statistics underlying anonymized Micro-data are made available for service tasks against payment. Read more about [Customized Solutions](#) or get more information by contacting [DST Consulting](#).

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

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

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

Not relevant for these statistics. [Støtte til udsatte børn og unge](#) is documented in [Højkvalitetsvariable](#).

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 location of these statistics is in the office for Welfare and Health statistics. The person responsible is Anne Morsing, tlf.: 39 17 31 97, e-mail: AEM@dst.dk.

9.1 Contact organisation

Statistics Denmark

9.2 Contact organisation unit

Welfare and Health, Social Statistics

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