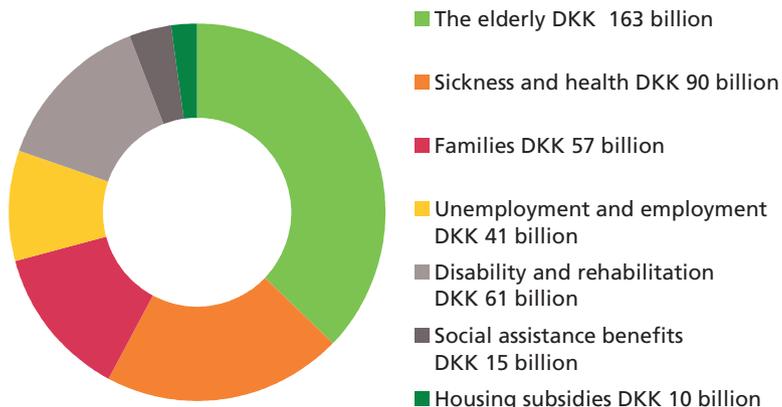


Danes contribute to taking care of each other through the social security system of the welfare society. Almost all Danes will sooner or later receive social services.

EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES 2004



Total social service and health expenditure amounted to DKK 437 billion in 2003. This corresponds to almost one-third of Danish GDP. 68 per cent of the expenses were paid by the public sector, while the remaining expenses were paid by the employers (11 per cent) and the employees (21 per cent); the latter primarily through the special contribution to labour market funds.

The elderly receive the major part of social services through pensions, nursing homes, home help, etc. Sick Danes receive the second-largest part in the form of primarily hospitals and health insurance. The disabled and handicapped receive services in the form of, for example, early retirement pension and assistance in their homes. Families with children receive services in the form of, among other things, day-care institutions and child benefits. Almost all Danes will therefore receive social services sooner or later.

Unemployed adult Danes are entitled to transfer payments. Most transfer payments are permanent payments to adults who will not return to the labour market, such as pensioners and persons on early retirement. The remaining part is received by those who are temporarily outside the labour market, for example due to illness, maternity leave or unemployment.

••• DID YOU KNOW THAT

42 per cent of men and 50 per cent of women aged 60-66 received early retirement payments in 2004. Ten years earlier this was true of 33 per cent of men and 25 per cent of women. •••

TRANSFER PAYMENTS – WHOLE-YEAR RECIPIENTS

	Unit	1985	1990	1995	2000	2004
Total	1 000	1 353	1 451	1 641	1 531	1 582
Temporary, total	persons	367	421	559	423	453
Unemployment benefit		195	210	231	124	149
Sickness benefit		33	42	42	54	67
Maternity benefit		25	32	36	34	54
Cash benefit		101	115	102	89	102
Rehabilitation		13	22	17	28	23
Activation		...	...	53	70	46
Leave benefit		...	...	79	24	3
Unemployment allowance		...	...	...	...	8
Permanent, total		956	1 000	1 081	1 108	1 130
Old-age pension		641	669	678	671	682
Early retirement pension		229	245	267	258	258
Early retirement pay		86	87	136	179	190