

# Statistics on Care and Services for the Elderly 2025

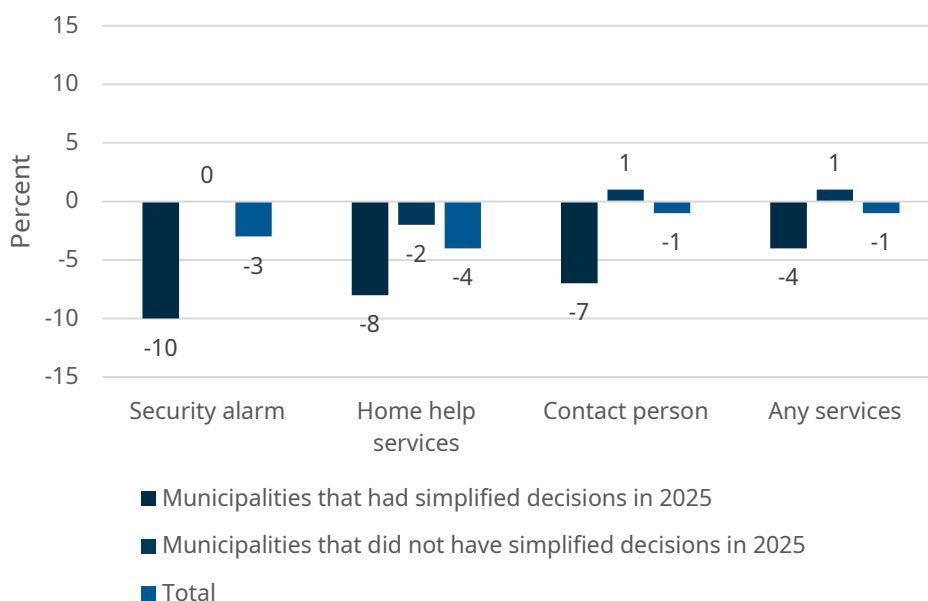
**On 31 October 2025, approximately 350,000 people aged 65 or older had at least one service. The total number is slightly lower than at the same time the previous year. The decrease is found among women, while the number of services for men has increased slightly. The most common services are security alarms, home help services and special housing.**

## New Social Services Act

On 1 July 2025, the new Social Services Act (2025:400) entered into force. One change that may affect the results in the statistics is that the option to grant services through simplified decisions under Chapter 4, Section 2 a of the previous Social Services Act is not included in the new Act. That provision states that municipalities may offer home help services without a formal needs assessment. The National Board of Health and Welfare began collecting these data in June 2022. That month, 44 municipalities reported that they had granted services through simplified decisions. In June 2025, which was the last month these services were collected, 83 municipalities reported that they had at least one service granted through a simplified decision. The proportion of persons in the register for whom the service is provided via a simplified decision has at most been five percent in any given period.

**Figure 1. Percentage change between October 2024 and October 2025.**

Municipalities with (n=71) and without (n=218) simplified decisions in June 2025. National total: n=289.



Source: National Register of Care and Social Services for the Elderly and Persons with Impairments, The National Board of Health and Welfare. In the figure, municipalities that reported data in both October 2024 and October 2025 are included.

The number of people with security alarms and a contact person has decreased in municipalities that had granted at least one simplified decision in October 2024, while in the other municipalities it has remained unchanged or increased. For food distribution, the proportion has decreased in all municipalities, but to a greater extent in those that had granted at least one simplified decision in October 2024.

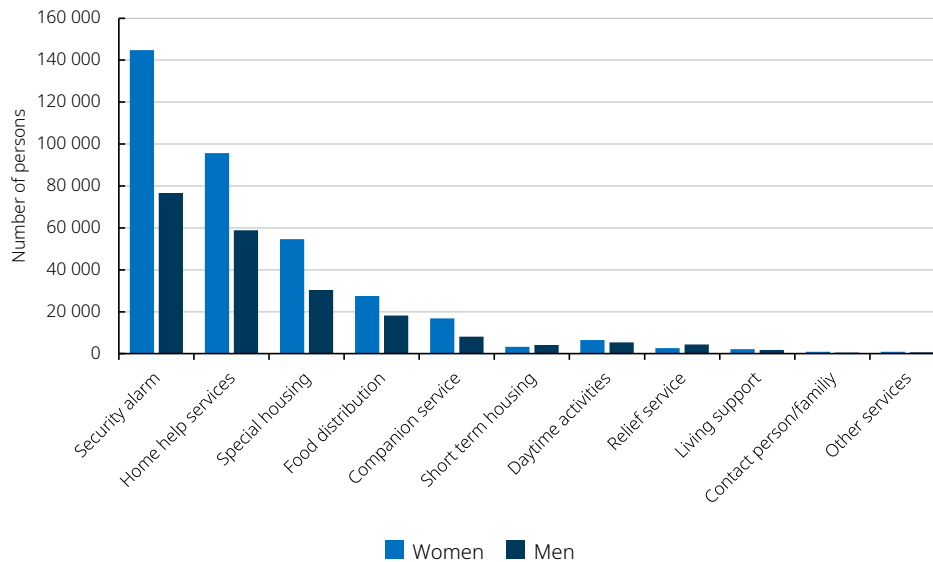
Under the new Social Services Act, municipalities may provide services granted following an individual needs assessment (Chapter 11, Section 1, SoL) and services that are not individually needs-assessed (Chapter 11, Section 5, SoL). Under the current regulation, services granted following a needs assessment are included. Housing services – special housing and short-term housing – cannot be granted without an individual needs assessment. Each municipality decides which services will be offered without an individual needs assessment. Whether these services will be reported in the future is being discussed as part of the preparations for the introduction of a new Act on Social Data Registers.

## Security alarm most common service

On 31 October 2025, just over 350,000 people aged 65 and older had at least one ongoing decision on a service under Chapter 11, Section 1 of the Social Services Act (SoL). The most common service was security alarms (221,000 people), followed by home help services in ordinary housing (155,000

people) and special housing for older people (85,000 people). There were 223,000 women and 127,000 men with a decision on services.

**Figure 2. Number of individuals receiving services October 31st 2025, by age, sex and type of service**

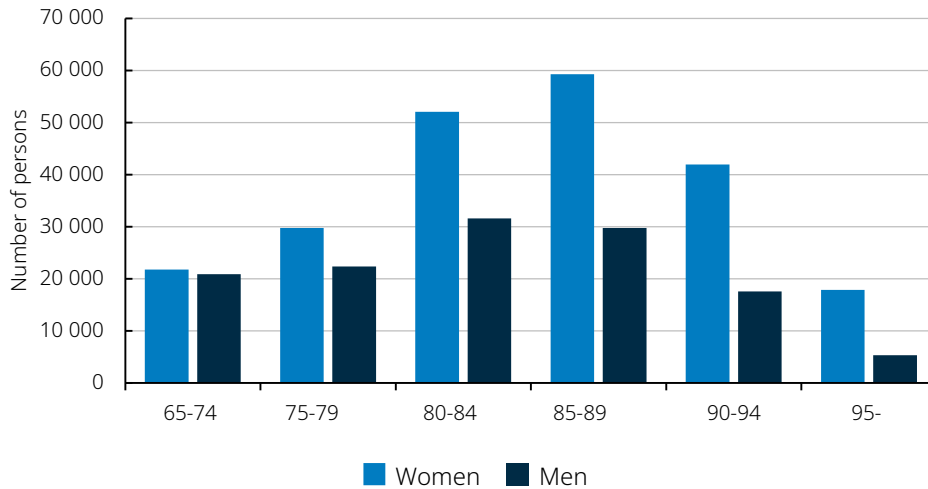


Source: National Register of Care and Social Services for the Elderly and Persons with Impairments, The National Board of Health and Welfare

## More women than men receive services

Among women, the age group 85 to 89 had the highest number of people receiving at least one service. On 31 October 2025, approximately 59,000 women in this age group had at least one service. Among men, the age group 80 to 84 had the highest number of people receiving at least one service from the social services. In this age group, approximately 32,000 men had at least one service.

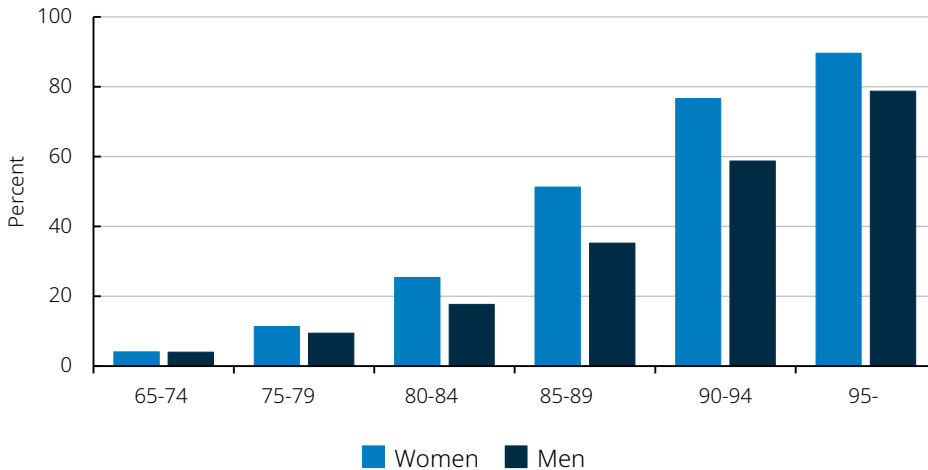
**Figure 3. Number of individuals receiving services October 31 2025, by age and sex. All of Sweden.**



Source: National Register of Care and Social Services for the Elderly and Persons with Impairments, The National Board of Health and Welfare and The Total Population Register, Statistics Sweden

Women have a greater need for social services than men. This applies to all age groups except the 65 to 74 age group, where the proportion of women and men with an ongoing decision on a service is the same. In the oldest age group, 95 years or older, the need is greatest: 90 percent of women and 78 percent of men have at least one service.

**Figure 4. Proportion of individuals receiving services October 31 2025, by age and sex. All of Sweden.**

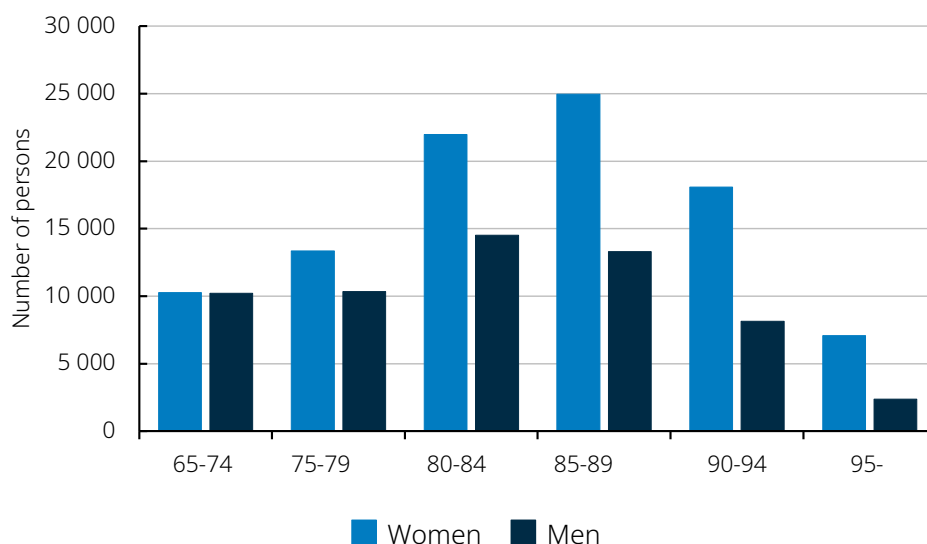


Source: National Register of Care and Social Services for the Elderly and Persons with Impairments, The National Board of Health and Welfare and The Total Population Register, Statistics Sweden. As a measure of the population, the mean population during the year has been used.

## More women than men receive home help services and special housing

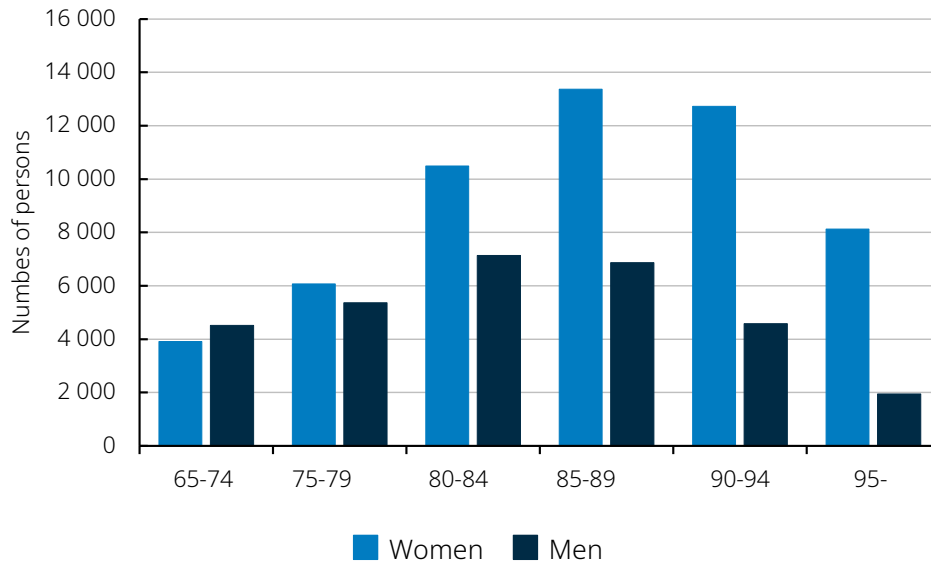
There are significantly more women than men who receive the services home help and special housing. The number of women increases in relation to the number of men with increasing age, which can be explained by the fact that women have a higher life expectancy than men. Home help is an important service to enable older people to remain in their own homes. Special housing is intended for those who have extensive needs for help and support due to age, illness, or disability and who, because of their health condition, can no longer live in their own home.

**Figure 5. Number of individuals receiving home help services October 31 2025, by age and sex. All of Sweden.**



Source: National Register of Care and Social Services for the Elderly and Persons with Impairments, The National Board of Health and Welfare.

**Figure 6. Number of individuals in special housing October 31 2025, by age and sex. All of Sweden.**

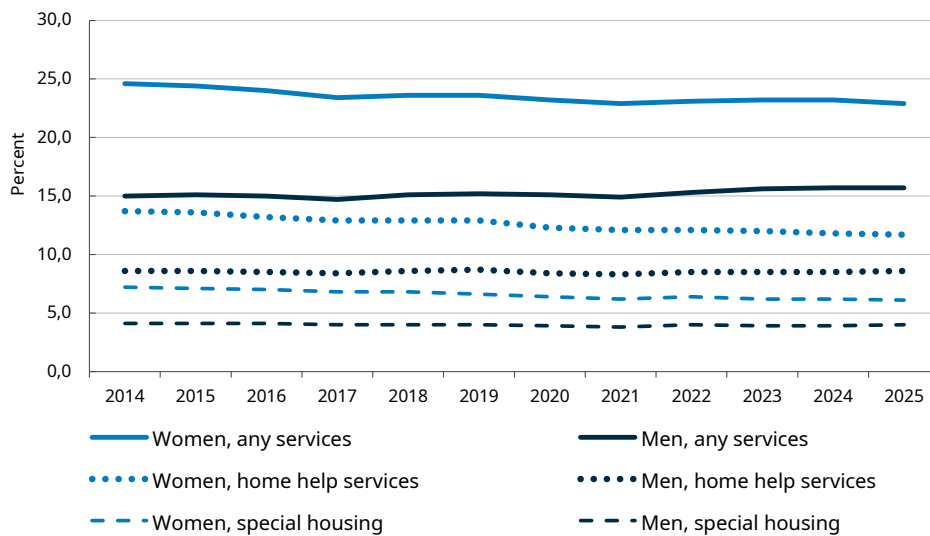


Source: National Register of Care and Social Services for the Elderly and Persons with Impairments, The National Board of Health and Welfare.

## The proportion of women receiving social services has decreased

Since 2014, the proportion of women receiving services from the social services has been higher than that of men. However, the difference between the sexes has decreased somewhat over time. The proportion of women receiving at least one service has decreased, while the proportion has increased slightly for men. The decrease among women concerns both the proportion receiving home help services (-2 percentage points) and the proportion living in special housing (-1 percentage point). For men, the proportion receiving home help services is unchanged, while the proportion living in special housing has increased slightly (+1 percentage point).

**Figure 7. Number of individuals receiving home help services, individuals in special housing and any services, by sex and year 2014–2025. All of Sweden.**



Source: National Register of Care and Social Services for the Elderly and Persons with Impairments, The National Board of Health and Welfare and The Total Population Register, Statistics Sweden. As a measure of the population, the mean population during the year has been used.

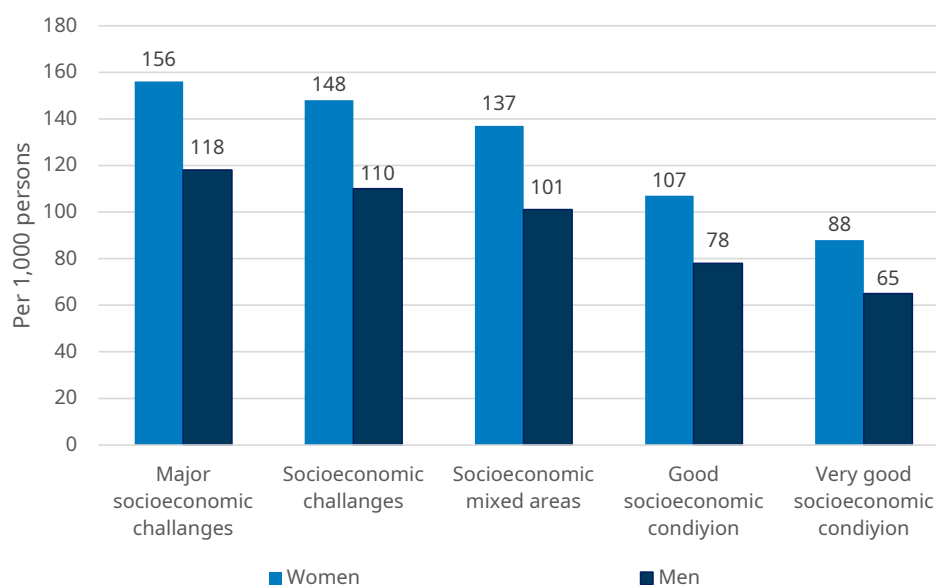
## More people receive home help services in areas with socioeconomic challenges

### Regional Statistical Areas and Area Type

This fact sheet presents statistics based on area type, a socioeconomic classification derived from Regional Statistical Areas (RegSO). RegSO divides Sweden into 3,363 areas that align with county and municipal boundaries and are compiled based on the Swedish population as of December 31 each year—that is, all living individuals registered in Sweden. Area type is based on the Socioeconomic Index (SEI), which is calculated for each RegSO. The SEI consists of the average of three indicators: the proportion (within each area) of people aged 20–64 with less than upper secondary education, the proportion of individuals with low economic standard (regardless of age), and the proportion of people aged 20–64 receiving economic assistance and/or classified as long-term unemployed. A higher SEI value indicates greater socioeconomic vulnerability. Using the number of standard deviations from the mean, a grouped variable—area type—is created. This ranges from areas with significant socioeconomic challenges (Area Type 1) to those with very favourable socioeconomic conditions (Area Type 5).

In residential areas with different socio-economic conditions, the number of people per 1,000 receiving home help services differs. In areas with major socio-economic challenges, more people receive home help services. This difference decreases at higher ages; among those aged 90 or older, the need is equally great across the socio-economic groups.

**Figure 9. Number of people receiving home help services per 1,000 inhabitants as of 31 October 2025, by sex and type of socio-economic area**



Source: National Register of Care and Social Services for the persons with Impairment, The National Board of Health and Welfare. Statistics Sweden.

### More information

You can find more tables, graphs and information here (select Tillhörande dokument och bilagor): [www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/alla-statistikamnen/socialtjanstinsatser-till-aldre/](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/alla-statistikamnen/socialtjanstinsatser-till-aldre/) (in Swedish, but with English list of terms).

If you want to use our statistical database (in Swedish): [https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if\\_ald/](https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if_ald/)

## Contact information:

My Raquette (questions regarding statistics)

E-post: [sostat@socialstyrelsen.se](mailto:sostat@socialstyrelsen.se)

Kursat Tuncer (questions regarding statistics)

E-post: [sostat@socialstyrelsen.se](mailto:sostat@socialstyrelsen.se)

Michaela Prochazka (questions regarding the subject matter)

E-post: [michaela.prochazka@socialstyrelsen.se](mailto:michaela.prochazka@socialstyrelsen.se)

Phone: +46 (0)75-247 30 00