

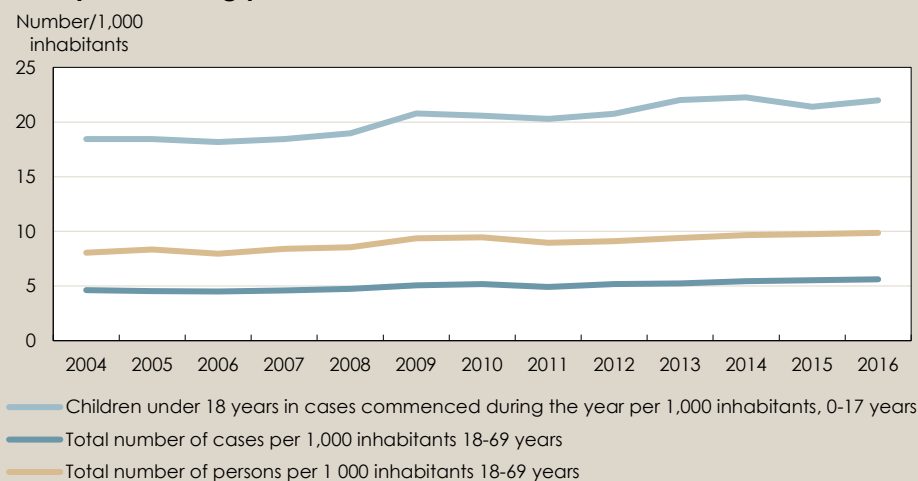
# Statistics on Municipal Family Counselling in 2016

**In total, there were just over 36,500 cases of municipal family counselling in 2016, which represents a slight increase compared to 2015. Of the cases closed in 2016, almost half were about resolving problems involving couples and being able to continue living together.**

## Increased occurrence of municipal family counselling since 2004

The occurrence of municipal family counselling has increased since 2004. The number of cases increased from 5 to 6 per 1,000 inhabitants aged 18–69 in the period 2004–2016. The number of persons per 1,000 inhabitants aged 18–69 who visited municipal family counselling increased from 8 to 10 during the same period and the number of children affected in cases commenced during the year from 18 to 22 per 1,000 inhabitants (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Number of cases, persons and affected children in municipal family counselling per 1,000 inhabitants in 2004–2016**



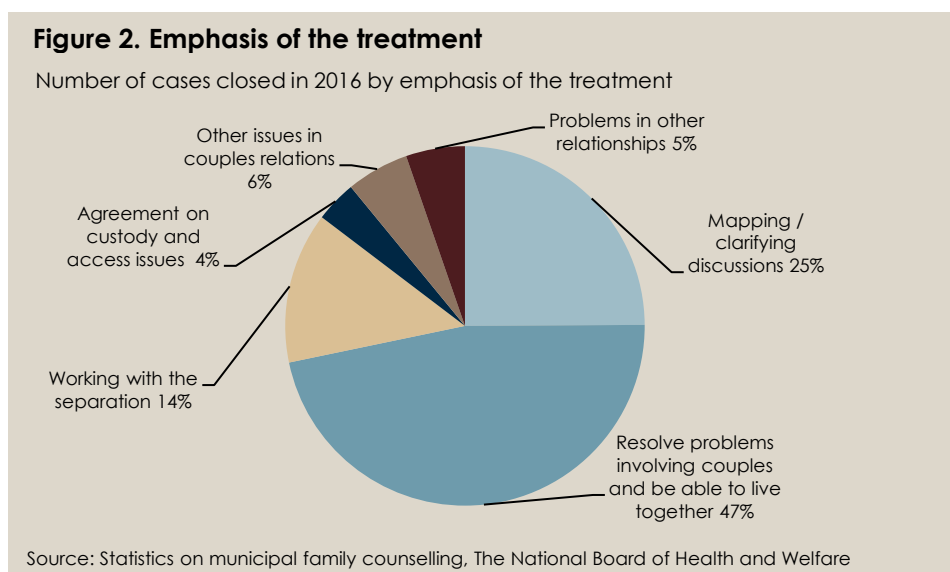
Source: Statistics on municipal family counselling, The National Board of Health and Welfare

## Couples most often involved

Municipal family counselling can involve different relationships between couples, but also other relationships, such as sibling relationships or child and parent relationships. In 2016, relationships involving couples were most common and accounted for more than 95 per cent of the cases commenced during the year. Among these, married people and cohabitants accounted for 46 and 39 per

cent of the cases, respectively. The couples had typically been together between 5 and 9 years.

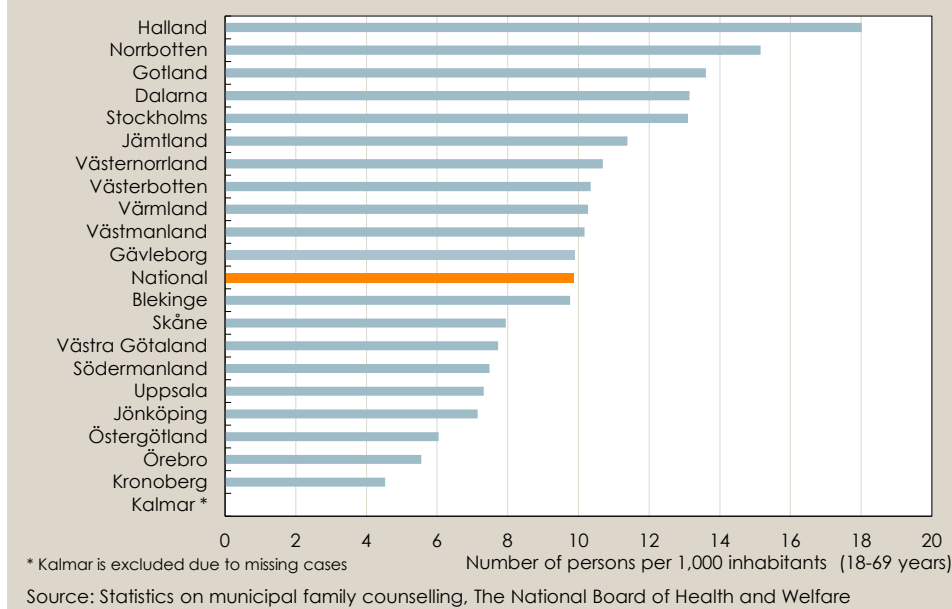
In practice, a case may involve several issues at the same time. Based on what was considered to be the focus of the treatment, trying to resolve problems among couples and being able to continue living together followed by mapping and clarifying discussions were most common among cases closed in 2016 (Figure 2).



## Major differences between counties

Municipal family counselling occurs throughout the country, but the occurrence varies significantly between different counties and municipalities. The percentage visiting municipal family counselling was highest in Halland county, 18 people per 1,000 inhabitants in the age 18–69 years. Kronoberg county had the lowest numbers, 5 people per 1,000 residents in the age 18–69 years visited municipal family counselling in 2016 (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Number of persons per 1,000 inhabitants aged 18-69 who visited municipal family counselling by county in 2016**



The data in Figure 3 indicate major regional variations in persons visiting municipal family counselling. From the statistics, however, it is not possible to determine whether the differences are because of availability, resources, fees or public awareness of local family counselling services. Another factor that may be important for the differences is how well other actors complement the municipalities' efforts in family counselling, for example activities carried out by private or church organizations in the various counties. The latter activities are not included in this survey.

### Scope of the statistics

These statistics contain information about family counselling undertaken or funded by municipalities in Sweden in 2016, regardless of whether the municipalities themselves carried out the activities or procured them from the providers. The report does not include family counselling for which church organizations assumed responsibility or purely private family counselling. Collaborative talks in the area of family law, under expert guidance aimed at helping parents to reach agreement on custody, housing and visiting rights, are not included in the statistic either.

**The family law and parental support authority takes over the statistics on municipal family counseling**

2017 will be the last year in which the National Board of Health and Welfare will publish official statistics on municipal family counseling. As of 2018, this will instead be published by the Family Law and Parental Support Authority (MFoF).

**More information**

You can find more tables, graphs and information in the following Excel file (in Swedish, but with English list of terms):

[www.socialstyrelsen.se/publikationer2017/2017-10-29](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/publikationer2017/2017-10-29)

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