

Statistics on Family Law 2015

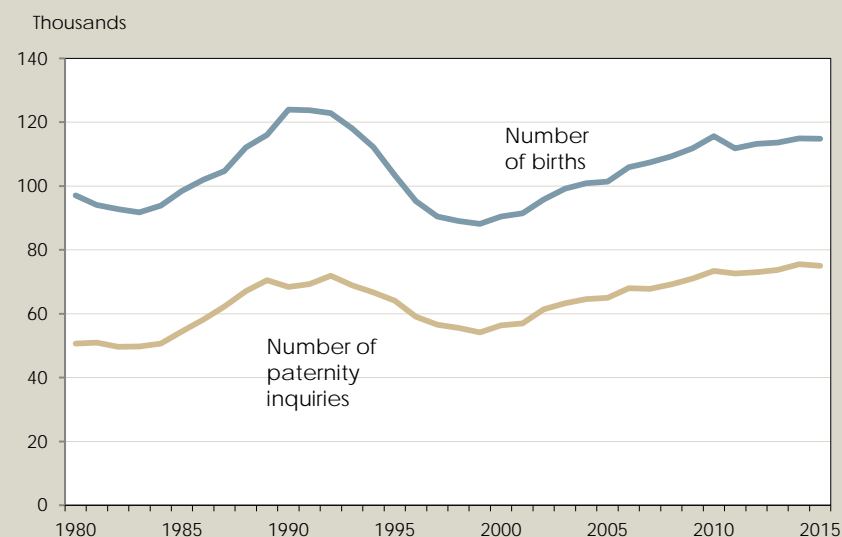
Paternity inquiries are on the rise compared to the growing number of births to couples that are not married. The number of mediation talks in social services and the Court's retrieval of rapid information is increasing.

Paternity inquiries are an increasingly common phenomenon

In 2015, just over 75,000 paternity inquiries were in progress which means that 65 per cent of all children born in the year were subject to a paternity investigation. Of these, the majority or 84 per cent, ended with an acknowledgement of paternity. Both the proportion of ongoing paternity inquiries of children born and the proportion that ended with confirmation was unchanged compared to 2014.

Paternity inquiries have become an increasingly common phenomenon in relation to the number of births over the past 35 years. In 1980 it was shown that the proportion of paternity inquiries in relation to the number of births was 52 per cent, while in 2015 the corresponding proportion was 65 per cent. This is due to an increasing number of parents not being married when they have children: In 1975, the proportion of children born outside marriage was 33 per cent while the corresponding figure in 2005 was 55 per cent [1]. Figure 1 shows the trend for the period 1980 to 2015.

Figure 1. Number of paternity inquiries and the number of live births from 1980 to 2015. All of Sweden. Thousands

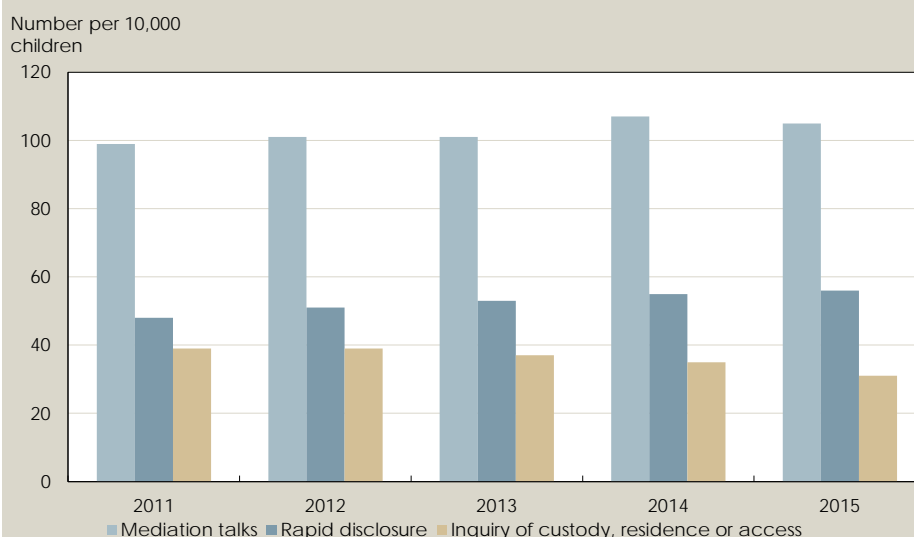


Source: statistics of family law 1980 to 1993, registry total population, Statistics Sweden. Volume statistics Family law 1994 to 2015, the National Board of Health and Welfare.

Mediation talks are slightly on the rise over time

The purpose of mediation talks is that the parents must be agreed in matters relating to a child's custody, residence and access in connection with a separation. Mediation talks can be held at the request of one or both parents or may be initiated by the district court. In 2015 over 21,000 mediation talks were held, which corresponded to 105 talks per 10,000 children aged 0 to 17. The number of mediation talks has risen by 6 per cent over the past five years, see Figure 2 below.

Figure 2. Efforts following custody disputes etc 2011-2015. Number per 10,000 children aged 0 to 17. All of Sweden



The number of inquiries is falling while the retrieval of disclosure is on the rise

In 2015, just over 6,200 children and adolescents were subject to an inquiries regarding custody, residence or access. This corresponds to around 31 children and adolescents per 10,000 in this age group. In the period 2011 to 2015, this proportion has dropped from 39 to 31 children.

Before the court makes any temporary decision in cases concerning custody, residence or access, it is possible for the court to obtain information from the Social Welfare Committee, also referred to as rapid disclosure. In 2015, information of this type was requested for more than 11,300 children and adolescents. Over the past five years, the number of children subject to rapid disclosure has gradually risen on average by about 4 per cent per year. Figure 2 shows this trend over the past five years. The number of rapid disclosure that the Court

considers from the Social Welfare Board before the Court makes decisions in custody cases has risen between 2011 and 2015 from 48 to 56 incidences per 10,000 children and adolescents aged 0 to 17 years.

The statistics also include information about inquiries and agreements on custody, residence and access and pronouncements following national adoptions, see the link to the Excel file below.

Family law includes the following actions

Paternity inquiries conducted by the Social Welfare Committee to determine paternity for children born to unmarried mothers. Paternity can be established through confirmation, that the father acknowledges paternity or through a judgement.

Mediation talks are talks headed by professionals in order to reach consensus on issues concerning custody, residence and access.

Rapid disclosure includes the information as stated in Chapter 6, Section 19 of the Parental Code, that the court considers from the Social Welfare Board before an interim order on custody, residence or access can be made.

A custody, residence and access inquiry is an inquiry that will give the court a basis for decisions on custody, residence or access.

References

1. Generations through the years - a demographic description of those born during the 20th century. Örebro: Statistics Sweden; 2014. Demographic reports 2014:2.

More information

You will find more tables, diagrams and other information in the Excel file: www.socialstyrelsen.se/publikationer2016/2016-5-11

For those of you who want to perform your own searches of the database statistics:

www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik/statistikdatabas/familjeratt

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