

Statistics on Care and Services for the Elderly 2018

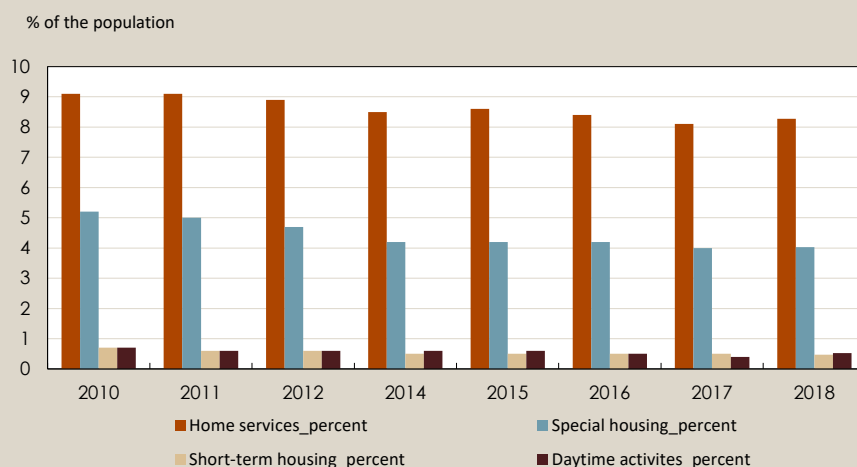
The most common services provided to the elderly in 2018 were security alarm, home help service, special housing and food distribution. Security alarms and companion services were the services provided to the elderly in accordance with the Social Services Act, SoL, with the largest relative increase from 2017 to 2018.

More than 32 1000 elderly have social services

On the 31:st of October 2018, 321 000 elderly people had at least one social service in accordance with The Social Service Act (2001:453), SoL, which corresponds to 15,8 percent of the Swedish population aged 65 or above. The corresponding number in 2016 was 313 000 people, which was 15,6 percent of the population aged 65 or above. The social services for which statistics are presented are: home help services, special housing, short-term housing, security alarms, food distribution, companion services, daytime activities, contact family or person, living support, relief service in the home and other services.

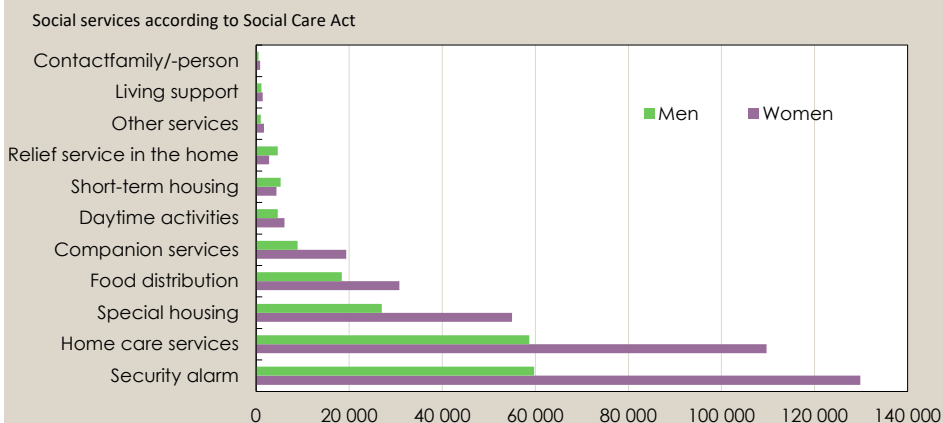
Swedish women live on average about four years longer than men, that is 80,6 years for men and 84,1 years for women [1]. The majority of people aged 65 and more in Sweden are women (54 percent). One in five women aged 65 years or more received social services, whereas the corresponding figure for men was 12 percent.

Over the last nine years the share of elderly with home help services has decreased from 9 to 8,3 percent of the population 65 years and more, between 2010 and 2018. The share of people living in special housing has also decreased from 5,2 to 4,0 percent of the population 65 years and more during the same period (see Figure 1). Similar development can be observed for the share of people living in short-term housing or with daytime activities.

Figure 1. Development of several social care services, 2010-2018.

Source: The register for care and social services for the elderly and persons with impairments. The National Board of Health and Welfare.

The most common social services provided in 2018 were security alarms, home help services, special housing, and food distribution (Figure 2). The services were distributed similarly between the sexes. Women had relatively more security alarms than men. Men had relatively more services than women in the following areas: short-term housing and relief service in the home.

Figure 2. Persons with social services, on the 31st Oct. 2018

Source: The register for care and social services for the elderly and people with impairments. The National Board of Health and Welfare.

Security alarms and food distribution services increased

The most common services had increased by 2 to 8 percent from 2017 to 2018. The number of people living in special housing remained unchanged, 82 000 people had this service on the 31st of Oct. 2018. Services with the largest relative decrease from 2017 to 2018 were other support (Table 1). About 2 700 persons had other forms of support. The number of people having security alarms has increased by 7 000, from 183 000 to 190 000 people had security alarms (see Table 1). The number of people having food distribution services has also increased by 1 700 people, and some 800 more people received companion services.

With increasing age, more people live in homes with special services. Of those living in special housing, about 78 percent were 80 years or more. The majority (two out of three persons) living in special housing were women.

Table 1. Number of people with services 31 Oct. 2018 and change 2017–2018

Service	Women 2017	Men 2017	Women 2018	Men 2018	Change in percent Women (2017=100)	Change in percent Men (2017=100)	Change in percent 65 years and more (2017=100)
Home help	107 422	56 748	109 711	58 730	102,1	103,5	102,6
Special housing	55 464	26 542	55 016	26 966	99,2	101,6	100,0
Living support	1 337	1 055	1 432	1 140	107,1	108,1	107,5
Security alarm	126 282	56 743	12 9832	59 736	102,8	105,3	103,6
Food distribution	29 800	17 673	30 782	18 364	103,3	103,9	103,5
Companion service	19 106	8 319	19 345	8 873	101,3	106,7	102,9
Daytime activities	5 985	4 584	6 096	4 660	101,9	101,7	101,8
Other services	1 676	1 062	1 659	999	99,0	94,1	97,1
Short-term housing	4 314	5 072	4 355	5 247	101,0	103,5	102,3
Relief service in home	27 25	4 293	2 781	4 620	102,1	107,6	105,5
Contact family	779	482	832	509	106,8	105,6	106,3

Source: The register for care and social services for the elderly and persons with impairments. The National Board of Health and Welfare.

Home help services are a common form of service

169 000 people aged 65 years or more had home help services in their regular home on the 31st of Oct. 2018. This equals 8 percent of the population aged 65 years or more and 23 percent of the population aged 80 or more. Half of those having home help services had 25 hours or less help in their home per month. About 12 percent had 80 hours or more per month.

References

1. Folkhälsans utveckling. Årsrapport 2018. Stockholm: Folkhälsomyndigheten, 2018.

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/publikationer2019/2019-5-8

If you want to use our statistical database: (in Swedish)
www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik/statistikdatabas/alldreomsorg

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