

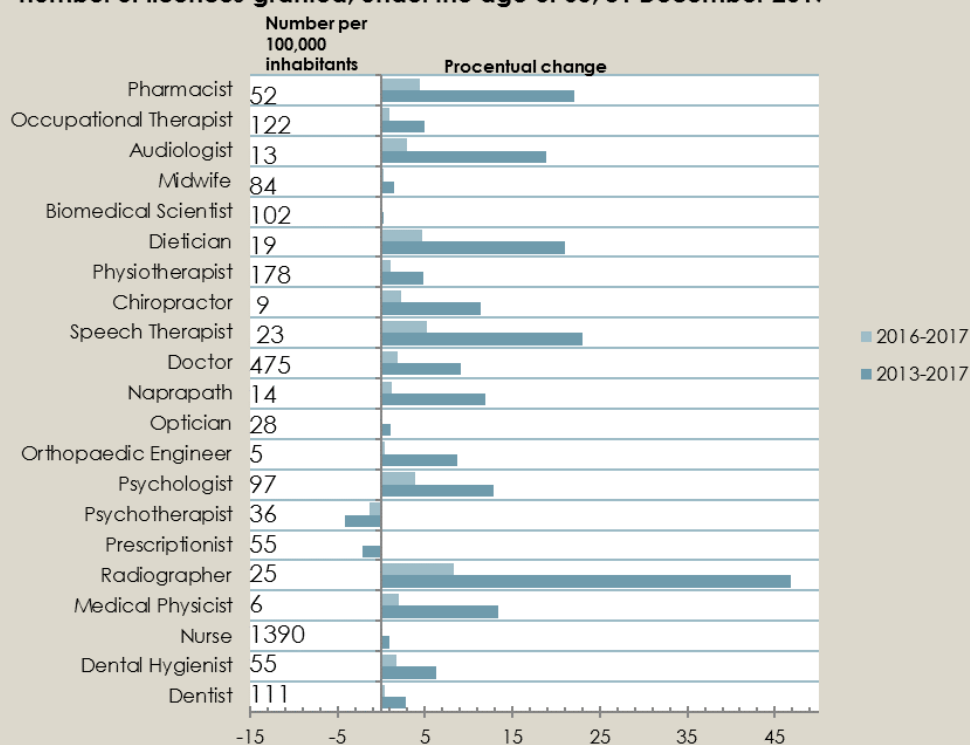
Statistics on licensed healthcare personnel 2017 and Workforce status 2016

For most healthcare professions, the number of issued licenses increases and more females than males are licensed. For midwives, dental hygienists, prescribers, occupational therapists and dieticians, the proportion of female professionals was 94 percent or more. Regional differences in the per capita share among professions appear, but differences are smaller among doctors, midwives, nurses and dentists, compared to pharmacists and psychologists.

The number of licenses continues to increase

The number of licenses continues to increase for most professions in the healthcare sector. Over the past five years, the number of licensed pharmacists has increased by 22 percent. At the same time, the number of prescriptionists decreased by just over two per cent during the corresponding period.

Figure 1. Number per 100,000 inhabitants and procentual change in total number of licences granted, under the age of 65, 31 December 2017



Source: Register of Licenced Health Personnel, National Board of Health and Welfare

The number of psychotherapists decreased by about four percent during the last five years, of which close to one and a half percent during the last year. The number of speech therapists has increased by about 23 percent since 2013, while the number of dieticians and physiotherapists increased by 21 and close to 5 percent during the corresponding period.

In terms of the most recent comparison year 2016, the number of pharmacists increased by just over four percent. The number of audiologists increased by three percent during the same period. In terms of the number of prescriptionists, the level in 2017 was largely unchanged compared with 2016. Radiographer is a relatively new licensed profession with low levels of retirement, which explains the rapid rate of increase in this profession (Figure 1).

Regional differences among the professions of legitimacy

The number of professionals in different legitimate professions varies between regions. Table 1 shows the number of professionals in a selection of professions in relation to the population in the regions.

Table 1. Regional distribution of licenced professionals in a selection of healthcare professions, November 2016, per 100,000 inhabitants.

Region	Pharmcist	Midwiwes	Physio-therapist	Doctor	Psy-cho-logist	Nurse	Dentist
Stockholm	50	83	139	447	112	954	87
Uppsala	47	86	141	506	114	1 220	86
Södermanland	22	65	129	321	52	934	78
Östergötland	17	60	126	415	65	1 086	74
Jönköping	23	75	116	342	50	1 125	80
Kronoberg	7	60	116	316	50	1 142	76
Kalmar	13	62	128	335	54	1 092	71
Gotland	12	85	128	422	74	1 136	81
Blekinge	25	72	104	370	44	1 291	86
Skåne	24	64	139	407	86	1 063	80
Halland	27	81	112	343	70	997	70
V:a Götaland	28	80	136	393	90	1 135	88
Värmland	14	69	116	307	46	1 102	71
Örebro	21	83	122	392	69	1 200	81
Västmanland	23	70	132	315	63	1 042	70
Dalarna	23	68	123	324	56	1 163	65
Gävleborg	16	61	123	339	48	1 146	69
Västernorrland	13	74	123	313	66	1 155	69
Jämtland	19	87	172	359	76	1 336	72
Västerbotten	12	78	173	477	92	1 388	90
Norrbottn	8	66	159	278	41	1 124	84
Sweden	29	75	134	393	82	1 085	81

Source: Licensed Care and Occupational Groups' Labor Market Status (LOVA), National Board of Health and Welfare.

Table 1 shows the density of professionals among a selection of professions. To some extent, differences are likely to depend on different organizational agreements between county councils, which was not accounted for. When the outcome are scrutinized more in detail, it can be stated that the regional distribution¹ of the number of employed per 100,000 inhabitants is greatest in terms of pharmacists and psychologists, while the regional differences are less for midwives, physiotherapists, doctors, nurses and dentists.

Men dominate few licensed health care professions

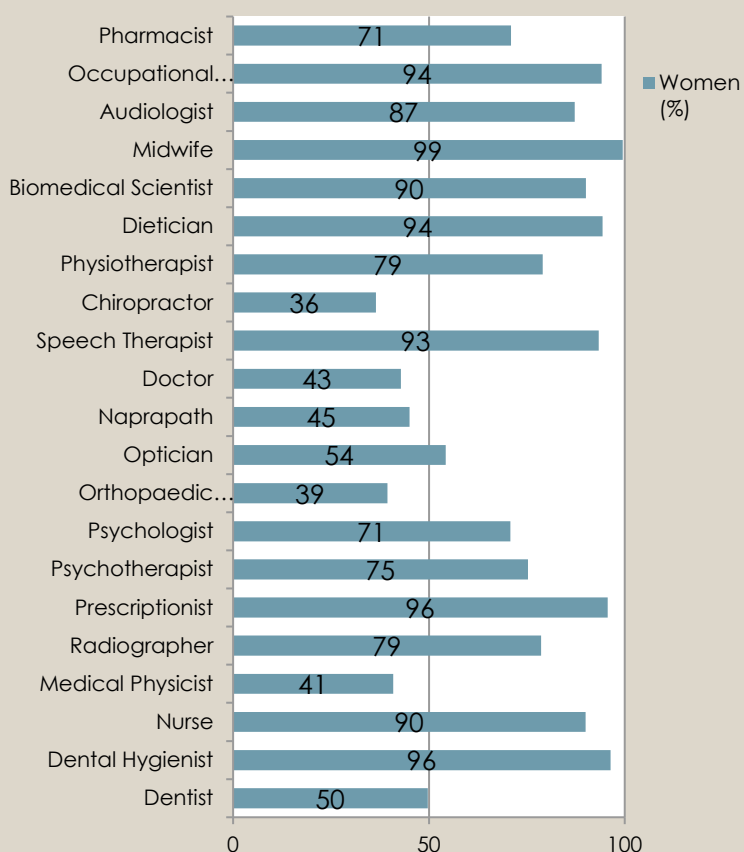
Within most healthcare professions, female outnumber male professionals. The gender distribution of the employed licensed personnel largely reflects the gender distribution for the number of issued licences.

Table 1. Employed Licensed Personnel by Profession and Percentage Men and Women, November 2016

Profession	Percentage	
	Women	Men
Nurse	88	12
Doctor	47	53
Physiotherapist	77	23
Occupational Therapist	94	6
Biomedical Scientist	90	10
Psychologist	70	30
Dentist	56	44
Midwife	100	0
Prescriptionist	95	5
Dental Hygienist	97	3
Pharmacist	74	26
Optician	68	32
Speech Therapist	94	6
Dietician	95	5
Naprapath	44	56
Audiologist	88	12
Chiropractor	37	63
Medical Physicist	42	58
Orthopaedic Engineer	40	60

Source: Licensed Care and Welfare Personnel Workforce Status (LOVA) register, National Board of Health and Welfare

Figure 2. Proportion women of all licences granted, under the age of 65, 31 December 2017



Source: Register of Licenced Health Personnel, National Board of Health and Welfare.

¹ The distribution of observations was analysed using the coefficient of variation (a normalized standard deviation). See table 13 in the Excel file for more detailed information.

For the largest profession, nurses, females accounted for 88 per cent and men twelve per cent of the employed staff in 2016 (Table 2). Among nurses the proportion in 2017 was 90 percent females, leaving the remaining 10 percent males (Figure 2).

The proportion of females who were licensed doctors and dentists in 2017 was 43 and 50 per cent respectively (Figure 2). Employment among physicians was relatively evenly gender distributed with 47 percent female and 53 percent men in 2016. Dentists also showed a quite even gender distribution regarding employment with 56 percent women and 44 percent men (Table 2).

The professions that were most female-dominated in 2017 based on the number of licenses issued were midwives, dental hygienists, prescriptionists, occupational therapists and dieticians, where 94 percent or more were women (Figure 2).

Chiropractor, orthopedic engineer and hospital physicist belonged to the health care professions with the highest proportion of male licensees in 2017. At the same time, these professions had the highest proportion of males employed in 2016. Chiropractor, orthopedic engineer and hospital physicist constituted of males at a level around 60 percent in 2016. However, these occupations employ the lowest numbers of the licensed professionals in the health care sector (Table 1).

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/publikationer2019/2019-1-17

If you want to use our statistical database:

www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistics/statisticaldatabase/healthcarepractitioners

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