

# Statistics on Health Care Personnel with Licence or Vocational Certificate (2024) and Workforce status (2023)

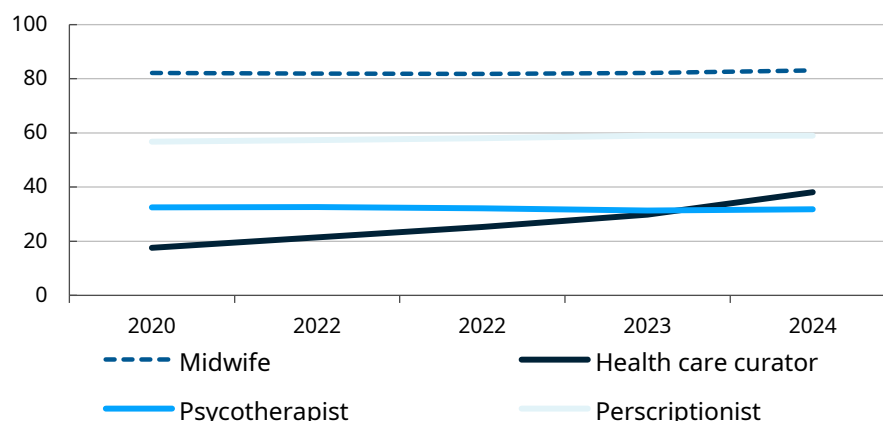
In most healthcare professions, the total number of licences issued continues to increase, with more women than men obtaining licences. There are significant regional differences in employment among licensed personnel. Assistant nurse is now a protected professional title, and the number of approved applications was approximately 60,000 in 2024.

## Number of professional licences continues to rise

The total number of licences issued continued to increase in 2024 for all professions within healthcare. For some, such as psychotherapists, the increase is not sufficient for the number of licensed professionals under the age of 65 to compensate for the population increase.

**Figure 1. Number of total granted licenses, under 65 years**

Per 100 000 inhabitants, selected professions



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

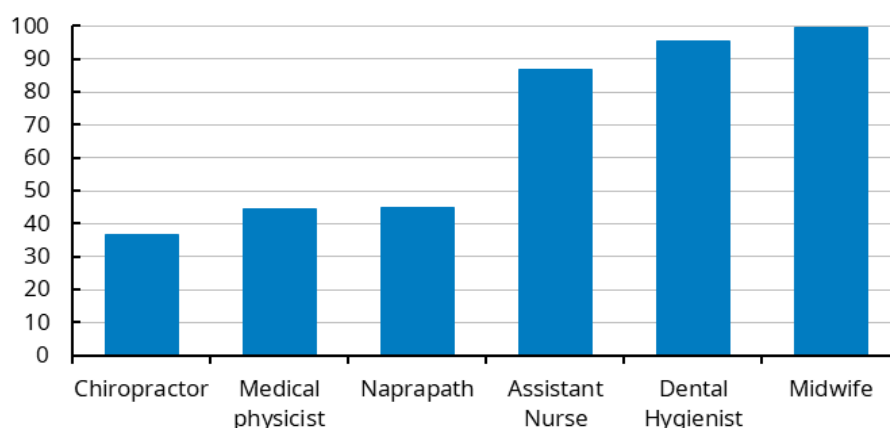
Newer professions such as health care curators and radiologists have few retirements, which explains the rapid increase in these groups. Despite reports of a shortage of midwives in maternity wards, the number of midwives under the age of 65 is increasing slightly in relation to the population. The number of occupational therapists, biomedical analysts,

physiotherapists, opticians and nurses remains essentially unchanged per capita.

The most female-dominated professions, in terms of the total number of licences or vocational certificates issued, were midwife, dental hygienist and perscriptionist, where 94 per cent or more of all licences had been issued to women. The healthcare professions with the lowest proportion of women among the total number of licences issued in 2024 included chiropractors, medical physicists and naprapaths (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Licences and vocational certificates, proportion Women**

Percentage of total, selected group



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

## Clear regional differences among employed personnel

The number of professionals in licensed professions varies between counties. Table 1 shows the number of professionals in a selection of licensed professions in relation to the population in the counties. The trend is illustrated in general terms with arrows (see table note for a more detailed description).

A closer study of the results shows that the regional differences<sup>1</sup> of the number of employees per capita was greatest for pharmacists and psychologists in that order, while the differences were smaller for midwives, physiotherapists and doctors, and least of all for nurses and dentists.

**Table1. Regional distribution of employed dentists, doctors, midwives, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists and physiotherapists.**

Per 100 000 inhabitants, 1 november 2023

<sup>1</sup> The spread among the county observations has been compared on the basis of the so-called coefficient of variation, which can be described as a normalised standard deviation. See Table 11 in the Excel attachment for more detailed information.

County	Dentist	Midwife	Nurse	Pharmacists	Physician	Physioterapist	Pschycologist
Region Stockholm	89	84	962	54	462▲	130	134▲
Region Uppsala	82	90	1144▼	53	551▲	139	142▲
Region Sörmland	78	71▲	1036	35▲	383▲	115	61▲
Region Östergötland	64	63	1127	27▲	489▲	146▲	81
Region Jönköpings län	75	81	1206	29	383▲	123▲	56▲
Region Kronoberg	76▼	61	1183	20▲	343	101▼	63▲
Region Kalmar län	73	69	1183	16	374▲	125	57▲
Region Gotland	80	97▲	1219	13▼	506▲	138	80▲
Region Blekinge	82	86▲	1376	30▲	363	108	48
Region Skåne	83▲	65	1066	32▲	448▲	140	101▲
Region Halland	73▲	86	1050	34▲	382▲	117	77▲
Västra Götalandsregionen	85	82	1118	37▲	437▲	141	106▲
Region Värmland	77▲	73	1197	24▲	358▲	128▲	69▲
Region Örebro län	77	92▲	1306	31▲	432▲	126	98▲
Region Västmanland	68	79	1075	24	352▲	136	75▲
Region Dalarna	60▼	78	1187	29▲	350▲	117▼	63▲
Region Gävleborg	60	63	1203	18	366▲	123	52▲
Region Västernorrland	63	76	1196	16▲	360▲	128	69
Region Jämtland Härjedalen	77	92	1354	29▲	456▲	184▲	100▲
Region Västerbotten	89▲	74	1417	14▲	531	176	114▲
Region Norrbotten	77▲	68	1195	12▲	323▲	165	48▲
Sweden	80	78	1107	35▲	431▲	134	99▲

Källa: Licensed Care and Welfare Personnel Workforce Status (LOVA) register, National Board of Health and Welfare. Note: Changes between 2019 and 2023 are indicated in the table, ▲ marks an increase of more than five percent, and ▼ a decrease greater than five percent. The table was corrected 2025-09-30

## Assistant nurse has become a protected professional title

Since 1 July 2023, you need a vocational certificate from the National Board of Health and Welfare to use the title Assistant nurse. However, those who had permanent employment as an Assistant nurse when the new rules came into force may continue to use the title until 30 June 2033 without

certification. Since the introduction of the rules until the end of 2024, 105,121 people have received vocational certificates as Assistant nurse from the National Board of Health and Welfare, making them the second largest group in the Register of Authorised Healthcare Professionals (HOSP). has investigated the prevalence of various non-licensed professions in healthcare, and in 2022, 175,305 people were found to have the professional code Assistant Nurse<sup>2</sup>. The number of people with professional certificates can therefore be expected to increase.

The latest definitive data on employment among Assistant Nurses is from 1 November 2023 and therefore only applies to approximately 33,000 people. This group works to a greater extent within the branch code Residential care activities (SNI code 87) than healthcare professionals such as doctors and nurses. They are also less likely to be retired or unemployed.

## Preliminary data in the Excel attachment and in the database

The data for final employment figures is collected on 1 November each year and takes Statistics Sweden over a year to complete. This means that the previous year's data is not ready when work on this publication begins and therefore cannot be included. Statistics Sweden now supplements this data with preliminary data collected on a monthly basis, which is published more quickly. In this year's publication, they are used to create time series up to 2024. This applies to Tables 8, 9 and 10 in the Excel attachment and in our open statistics database.

The statistics database for employed personnel also contains statistics from 2020 onwards on all healthcare personnel, i.e. both licensed and unlicensed. It is possible to break this down by level of care, licensed personnel and personnel in 25 unlicensed professions, such as nursing assistants, dental technicians and managers.

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<sup>2</sup> Information on occupation comes from Statistics Sweden's occupational register and is based on the information that employers submit about their employees to the Swedish Tax Agency on 1 November each year

**More information**

You can find more tables, graphs and information here (select Tillhörande dokument och bilagor):

<https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/alla-statistikamnen/halso-och-sjukvardspersonal/> (in Swedish, but with English list of terms).

If you want to use our statistical databases:

[https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if\\_per/val\\_eng.aspx](https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if_per/val_eng.aspx) (Employed personnel)

[https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if\\_utfleg/](https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if_utfleg/) (granted licenses, in Swedish)

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