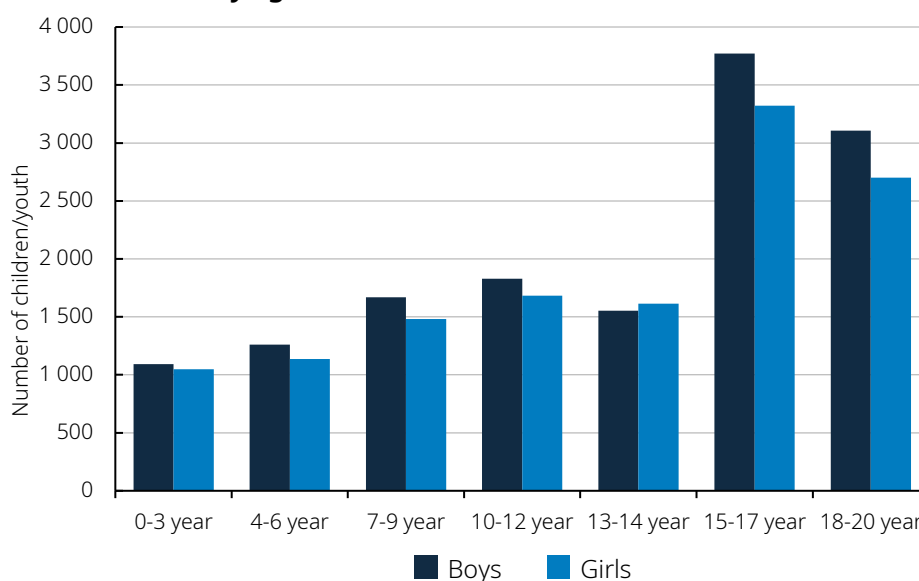


Statistics on Social Services for children and young people

In 2025, just under 27,300 children and young people received residential care at some point during the year, with foster care being the most common form of placement. The statistic include sheltered accommodation. Just under 1,600 children and young people were placed in sheltered accommodation at some point. On November 1, 2025, 34,400 individuals were receiving at least one non-institutional intervention.

Half of all placed children 15 years or older

Figure 1. Number of children and young people who recieved residential care by age and sex, 2025



Source: The register concerning measures to children and young people, the National Board of Health and Welfare.

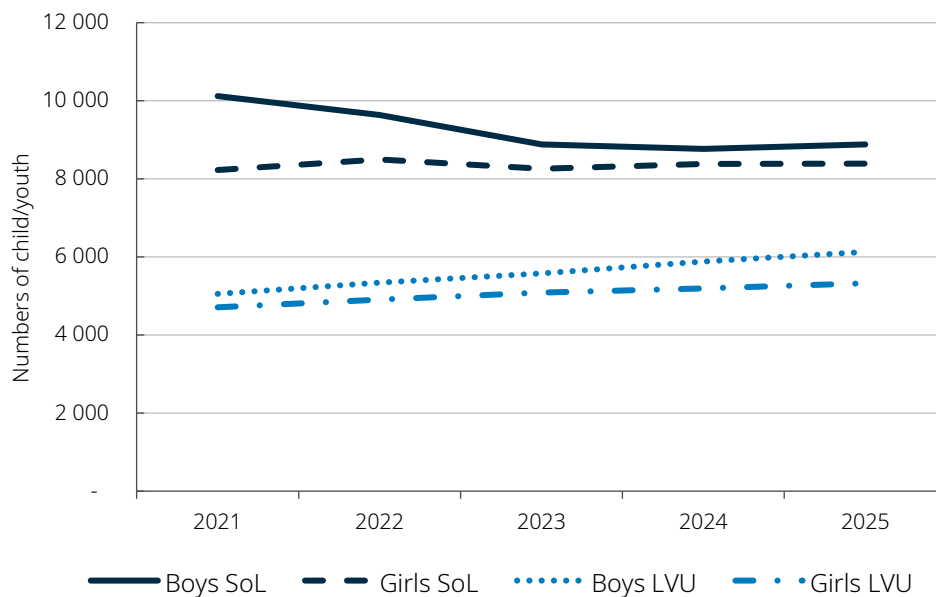
In 2025, 27,300 children and young people received 24-hour care under the Social Services Act (SoL), the Care of Young Persons (Special Provisions) Act (LVU), or the Act on the Placement of Children in Sheltered Accommodation. This was just under 1,000 individuals more than in 2024, an increase of just under four percent.

The majority of these, over 26,800 children, and young people – received 24-hour care under SoL or LVU. Within this group, the number of children and young people increased by two percent.

Just over half (52 percent) of all placed children and young people were boys, and just under half (47 percent) were 15 years of age or older.

Residential care 2021-2025

Figure 2. Number of children and young people who received residential care 2021-2025 by sex and intervention



Source: The register concerning measures to children and young people, the National Board of Health and Welfare.

Children and young people can be placed voluntarily under [SoL](#), or without consent under [LVU](#). Additionally, support is provided under the Act on the Placement of Children in Sheltered Accommodation, see the sheltered accommodation section below.

Just under two-thirds of all children and young people in residential care during 2025 were placed under Chapter 11, Section 1 of (SoL). During the period 2021–2025, the number of children and young people receiving interventions under SoL or LVU increased by 600 people (two percent), from just over 26,200 children and young people in 2021 to just over 26,800 in 2025. There has been a shift in Swedish social care from voluntary care under SoL to non-voluntary care under LVU. Voluntary SoL placements decreased by nearly 1,000 children and youths (from 18,300 to 17,300), while compulsory LVU placements increased by nearly 1,600 individuals (from 9,800 to 11,400).

It is primarily coercive measures among boys that have increased. During the period, the number of boys subject to LVU increased by just over 21 percent (from nearly 5,100 to over 6,100 boys). The number of girls placed under the care of LVU also increased by 13 percent (from just over 4,900 to 5,300 girls) during the 2021–2025 period.

Between 2021 and 2025, the number of boys placed in care under the SoL decreased by 12 percent (from 10,100 to 8,900 boys). For girls, the number of children and young people placed in care under SoL increased by two percent (from 8,212 to 8,384 girls).

Foster care the most common form of placement

In 2025, nearly 19,000 children and youths were placed in family homes under SoL and LVU. Family homes made up nearly 70 percent of placements. Boys outnumbered girls in HVB homes (58 percent) and special youth homes (69 percent), while other forms had an even gender split.

The second most common placement type was a home for care or residential (HVB). In 2025, 5,100 children and young people were placed in HVB care, which was a decrease of just under four percent compared to the previous year. Just under a fifth of all placed children and youth were in HVB care.

Supported housing was the third most common form of placement, with 2,100 children and young people placed (about eight percent of all placed children). Just under 1,600 children and young people were placed in sheltered accommodation, see the Sheltered accommodation section below.

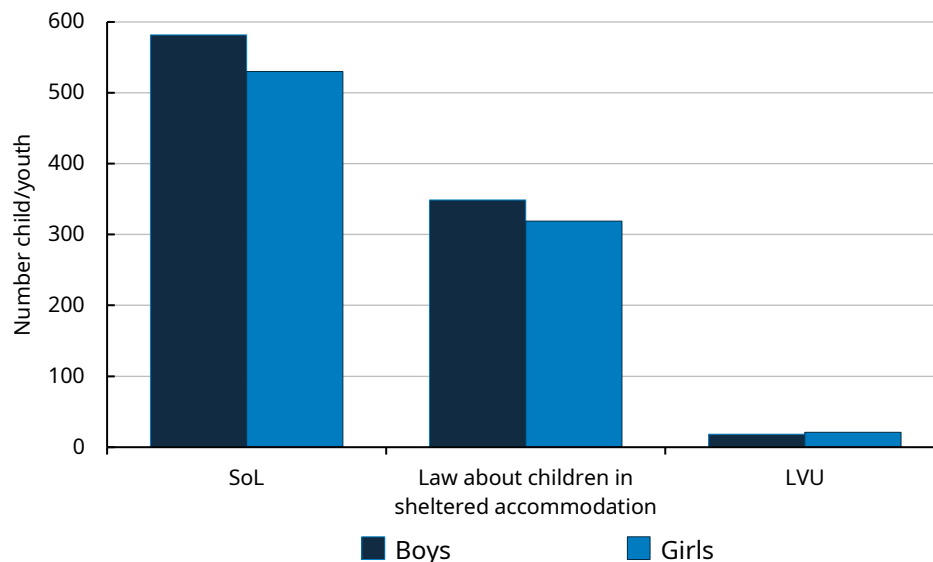
Just over 900 children and young people were placed in special youth homes in accordance with Section 12 of LVU, which was a two percent decrease compared to 2024.

The gender distribution was even among children and youth placed in family homes, supported housing, and sheltered accommodation. In contrast, there was a higher share of boys than girls placed in HVB at 58 percent, and especially in special youth homes under Section 12 LVU at 69 percent.

For more information, see table 6a-b in the table appendix.

Sheltered accommodation for children and young people

Figure 3. Children and young people aged 0–20 placed in sheltered accommodation under SoL, LVU and LBSB, presented by sex and type of intervention, 2025



Source: The register concerning measures to children and young people, the National Board of Health and Welfare.

Starting from 2025, municipalities report the placement of children and young people in residential care within sheltered accommodation under SoL, LVU and LBSB. The collection of these data is newly established, and there is reason to interpret the information with some caution.

In 2025, a total of just under 1,600 children and young people (aged 0–20) were placed in sheltered accommodation. A majority of these (over 1,100 children and young people) were placed under SoL, while *668 children* (aged 0–17) were placed under the LBSB.

Finally, 39 children and young people were placed in sheltered accommodation under LVU. During the year, children and young people may have been placed in sheltered accommodation under various types of legislation, including SoL, LBSB and LVU.

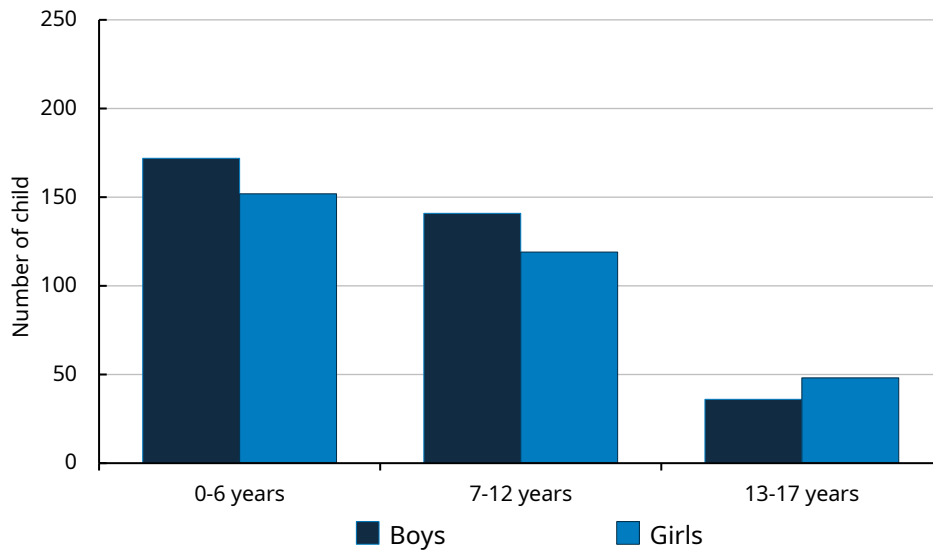
Placement of children in sheltered accommodation

During 2025, just over 1,500 children aged 0–17 were placed in sheltered accommodation under SoL, LVU or LBSB. Of these, 668 children were placed under LBSB.

LBSB

The Act on the Placement of Children in Sheltered Accommodation (LBSB) applies strictly to minors aged 0–17. When both legal guardians consent, a child can enter a safe home under the Social Services Act (SoL). If the non-accompanying guardian withholds consent, the social welfare board can grant placement under LBSB, allowing the child to stay in safe housing with one guardian against the other's will.

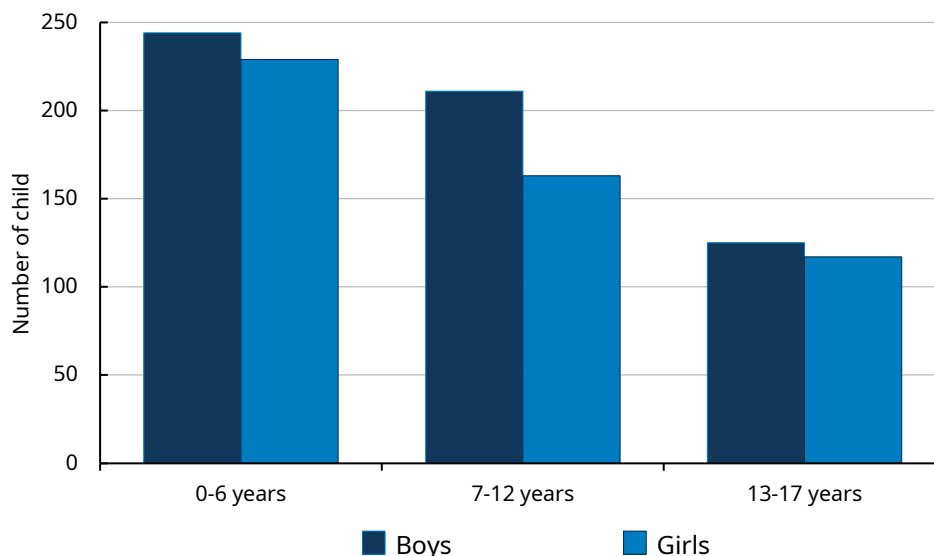
Figure 4a. Placed children aged 0–17 in sheltered accommodation with support from LBSB, presented by sex and age, 2025



Source: The register concerning measures to children and young people, the National Board of Health and Welfare.

Of the children placed with the support of LBSB during 2025, there was an even sex distribution, with 52 percent boys and 48 percent girls. Just under half of the children placed with the support of LBSB are in the 0–6 age group, 39 percent in the 7–12 age group, and just under 13 percent in the 13–17 age group.

Figure 4b Children aged 0–17 in sheltered accommodation under SoL and LVU, presented by sex and age, 2025



Source: The register concerning measures to children and young people, the National Board of Health and Welfare.

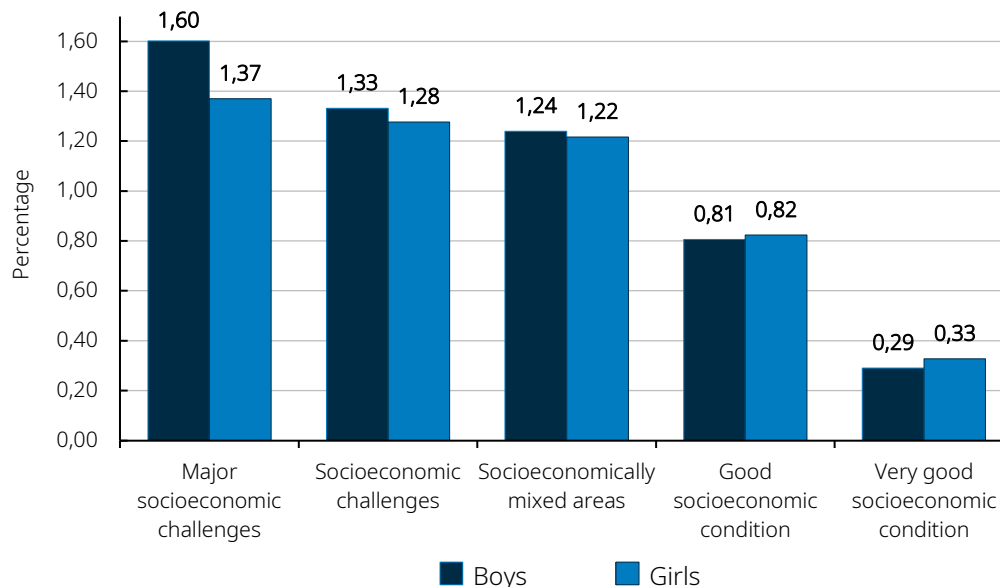
Even among children placed in sheltered accommodation supported by SoL and LVU, there was an even gender distribution, with 53 percent boys and 47 percent girls. The distribution between age groups was slightly more even than for those placed with support from the LBSB: 43 percent aged 0–6 years, 34 percent aged 7–12 years, and finally 22 percent in the oldest group aged 13–17 years. However, differences also existed within this category: children placed with support from the LVU were older than those placed with support from the SoL. Among children placed with support from the LVU, nearly four-fifths of the children were aged 7–17 years and just over a fifth were aged 0–6 years. See also Table 6b in the appendix.

Over two thirds of the children who received support through LBSB received only this type of support and no interventions under SoL or LVU during 2025. One third of the children were also placed in care under SoL or LVU during the year.

Socioeconomics and residential placements

Figure 5. Children and young people who received residential placements, percentage in population 0-20 year by sex and areatypes (RegSo), 2025

Divided into area type by regional statistical areas



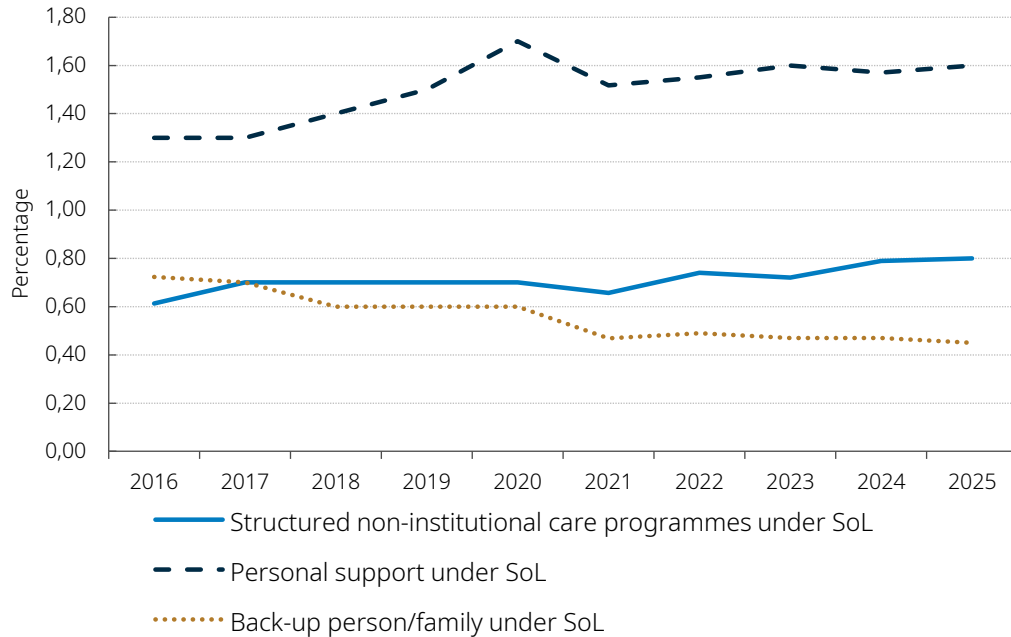
Source: The register concerning measures to children and young people, the National Board of Health and Welfare.

In 2025, it was almost five times as common for children and young people in areas with major socioeconomic challenges to be placed in residential care, compared to children and young people in areas with very good socioeconomic conditions. The difference between the various types of areas has increased since 2024, when it was four times as common for children in areas with severe challenges to receive a residential intervention compared to areas with very good socioeconomic conditions. This can be explained by the fact that children placed in sheltered accommodation were included in 2025 – and that the children and young people who received sheltered accommodation lived to a higher degree in areas with socioeconomic challenges. When these were excluded from the analysis, the difference between the groups was the same as in 2024. The differences between boys and girls were very small.

Fewer people received non-institutional interventions

Figure 5. Children and young people with non-institutional interventions under SoL during 2016–2025, as percentage of the population 0-20 year

Structured non-institutional care programmes, personal support and back-up personal/family



Source: Aggregated data concerning measures for children and young people, the National Board of Health and Welfare.

On November 1, 2025, just under 34,400 children and young people received at least one needs-tested non-institutional intervention under SoL. This was a decrease of about 900 individuals (two percent) since 2024. Just over half of these individuals were boys.

Over the past decade, the proportion of children and young people receiving personal support and structured non-institutional care programs has increased, while the opposite applies to back-up persons/families. Personal support remains the most common intervention – and has been since 2016 – though structured non-institutional care programs have seen the largest relative growth. See the extended time series in the table appendix. [\[1\]](#)

Regional statistical areas (RegSo)

Regional statistical areas (RegSo) and area type RegSo divides Sweden into 3363 areas that follow county and municipal borders and are produced for registered persons on 31 December each year. Area type is based on the socio-economic index (SEI) that is calculated for each RegSo. SEI consists of the average value of three indicators: the proportion (in each area) with at most pre-secondary education (20–64 years), the proportion with a low economic standard (regardless of age) and the proportion with financial assistance and/or long-term unemployment (20–64 years). A higher SEI value indicates higher socioeconomic vulnerability. Based on the number of standard deviations from the average value, a grouped variable, area type, is created, which ranges from major socioeconomic challenges (1) to very good socioeconomic conditions (5).

More information

You can find more tables, graphs and information here:
www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/allstatistikamnen/barn-och-ungdom (in Swedish, but with English list of terms).

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