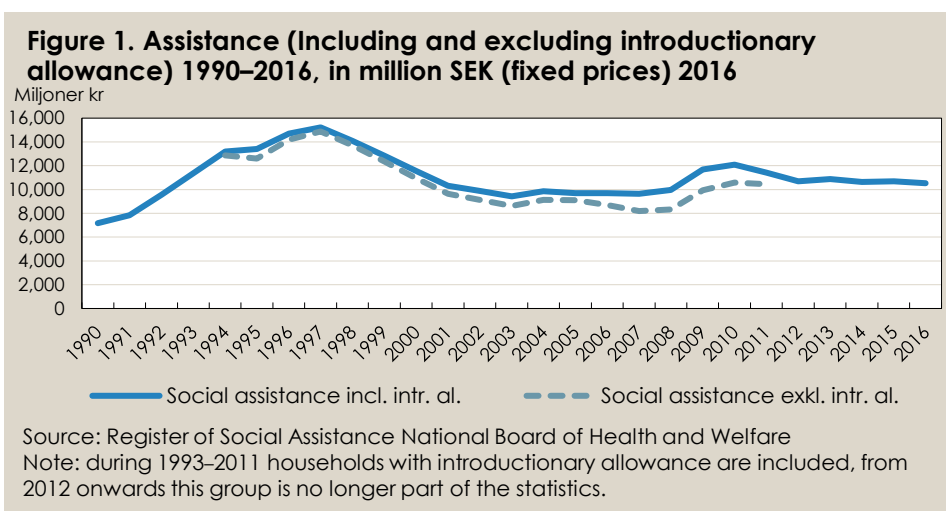


Statistics on Social Assistance 2016

Roughly 220,000 households received social assistance for at least one month in 2016. This corresponds to approximately one of twenty households in Sweden. The total expenditure in the municipalities in 2016 was SEK 10.5 billion. That's about the same amount as in 2015. The number of children in households with social assistance was approximately as many as in 2015. Even in households with long-term assistance, the number of children were about the same number as before.

Assistance over time

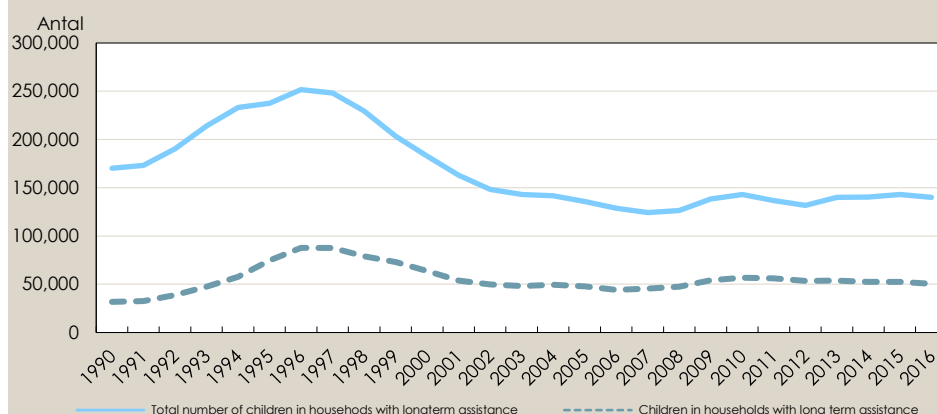
The number of households with social assistance peaked during the '90s, and has since decreased. A small increase can be seen for the years 2008–2010, after which it levels out (Figure 1)



Lower proportion of children with long-term assistance

The number of children in recipient household was roughly the same as in 2015, and the number of children in recipient households with long-term assistance has remained relatively constant during the last 7 years (Figure 2). The proportion of children in households with long-term assistance, relative to children in the population, has decreased somewhat.

Figure 2. Number of children in recipient households in total and in long-term assistance households 1990–2016



Source: Register of Social Assistance National Board of Health and Welfare

Note: during 1993–2011 households with introductory allowance are included, from 2012 onwards this group is no longer part of the statistics.

Age and type of municipality matters

The need for social assistance differs between different age groups. The most common recipients of assistance in 2016 were the younger age groups. More than 36 percent of all beneficiaries were aged 18 to 29 years. Of the adult beneficiaries, around 63 percent were foreign born.

There are many factors that affect why women and men cannot support themselves and their family, but usually it is about unemployment, illness or social barriers. About half of all adult recipients were unemployed.

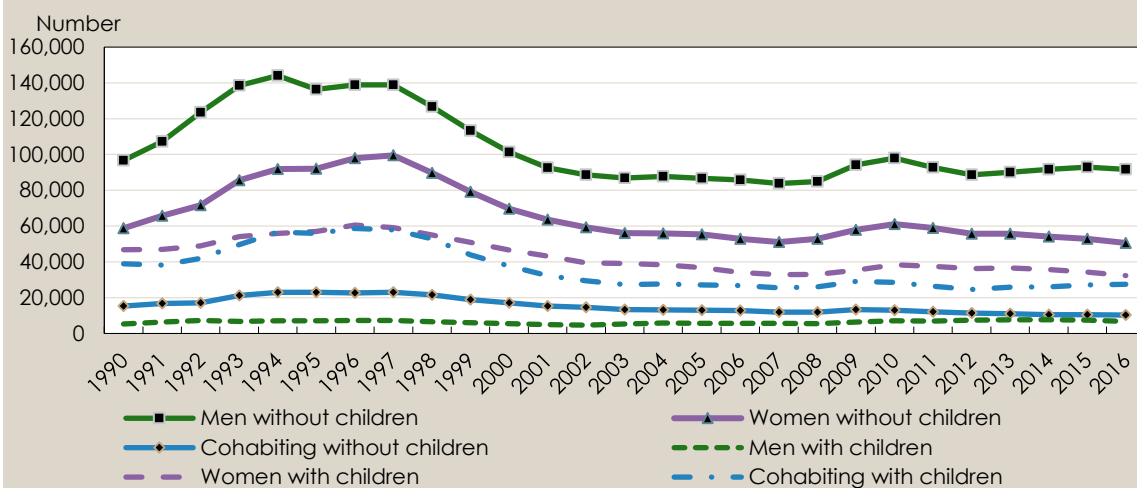
The percentage of residents with social assistance varies widely between different types of municipalities. Factors that affect the aggregate demand are for example the composition of the population, the labor market and the population's education.

In some municipalities, as Eskilstuna, Malmö and Filipstad, about ten percent of the population received social assistance, and in some, like Lidingö, Danderyd Solna, Krokholm and Vellinge the proportion was less than one percent.

In Stockholm, Malmö and Gothenburg, where the statistics are reported at the district level, you can also see big differences between different neighborhoods.

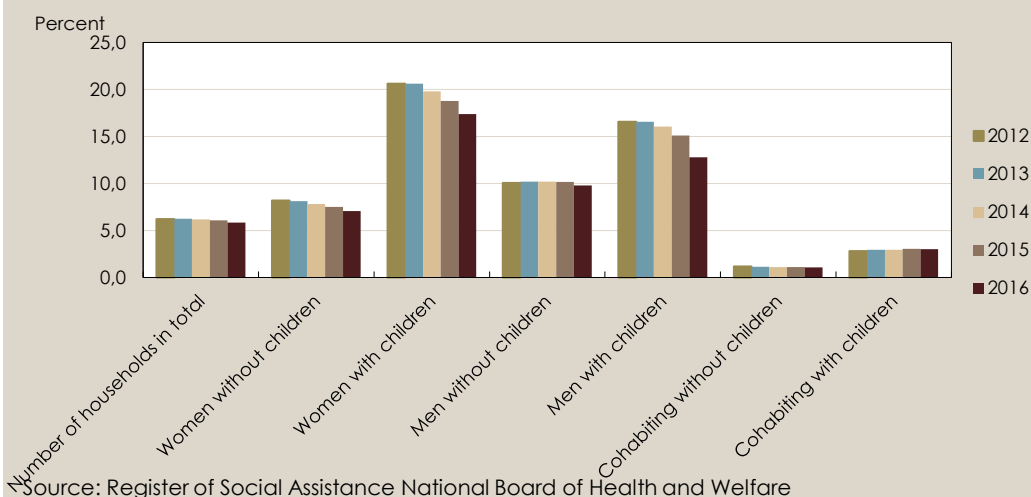
The most common assistance household

The most common assistance household is a single man without children (Figure 3). However, if one takes into account the number of households in the total population, the proportion of recipients is clearly highest among single women with children (Figure 4)

Figure 3. Number of recipient households, by type of household 1990–2016

Source: Register of Social Assistance National Board of Health and Welfare

Note: during 1993–2011 households with introductory allowance are included, from 2012 onwards this group is no longer part of the statistics.

Figure 4. Proportion of recipient households in comparison to households in the population 2012–2016

Source: Register of Social Assistance National Board of Health and Welfare

Long-term assistance unchanged

How long a household is in need of assistance varies over time. On average households received assistance for 6.4 months during 2016

During 2016, almost 40 percent of recipients received social assistance for 10 months or more, which is about the same as in year 2014 and 2015.

Social assistance

Social assistance is composed of two parts: direct assistance and general assistance. Direct assistance is supposed to help cover daily living expenses such as groceries, clothing, and rent payments, utility bills (electricity, telephone, Radio/TV license, gas etc.), travel expenses (for work), home insurance and union costs. General assistance covers other necessary expenses such as child care costs, health related costs, medicine and costs for dental care.

For more information see

www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik/statistikefteramne/ekonomisktbistand

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/publikationer2017/2017-9-17

If you want to use our statistical database (in Swedish):

www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik/statistikdatabas/ekonomisktbistand

Contact information:

Andreas Petersson (questions regarding statistics)

Phone: 075-247 30 00

E- mail: andreas.petersson@socialstyrelsen.se

Anette Agenmark (subject specialist)

Phone: 075-247 30 00

E- mail: anette.agenmark@socialstyrelsen.se