

# Statistics on infected and deceased with COVID-19 among the elderly by form of housing

**The National Board of Health and Welfare is continuously monitoring the development of the disease COVID-19. The older segment of the population is a particularly vulnerable group. This fact sheet presents statistics for persons aged 70 and above with home help services or residential arrangements in the form of residential care and who have been confirmed infected with or deceased due to COVID-19**

## Persons over age 70 living in residential care or receiving home help services

In 2019, the number of persons aged 70 and above was approximately 1.5 million, which corresponds to 15 percent of Sweden's population. Out of these, 54 percent were women and 46 were men.

On 1 January 2020, 191 910 people aged 70 and above had received home help services, meaning service and personal care (i.e. other arrangements than just social alarm devices). On the same date, there were 79 410 people over the age of 70 in residential care (see Table 1).

**Table 1. Number of persons 70 years and older receiving social services according to SoL\*, 2019\*\***

Type of service	All 70 years and older	70-84 years	85 years and older
<b>Residential care</b>	<b>79 410</b>	<b>34 256</b>	<b>45 154</b>
- Women	53 719	19 951	33 768
- Men	25 691	14 305	11 386
<b>Home help services***</b>	<b>191 910</b>	<b>97 328</b>	<b>94 582</b>
- Women	124 661	58 709	65 952
- Men	67 249	38 619	28 630

\* Social Services Act (SFS 2001:453)

\*\* 2019 Persons 70 years and older in residential care and those who have received home help services who were alive per 31/12 2019

\*\*\*Does not include home help services in the form of social alarm devices alone.

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

For more information on social services for the elderly in 2019 and information about vulnerable groups at risk of severe symptoms, see link:

- <https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/globalassets/sharepoint-dokument/artikelkatalog/statistik/2020-4-6745.pdf>
- <https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/statistik-relaterad-till-COVID-19/>

## Persons 70 years and older with confirmed COVID-19

On 28 April 2020, 19 430 people were confirmed infected with COVID-19 in Sweden. Among those aged 70 and over, 7 315 people were confirmed infected with COVID-19, which is 38 percent of the total number of infected. Among those over 70 confirmed infected, 3 428 people (47%) were 85 years of age or older.

In the age group 70 years and older who tested positive for COVID-19, 39 percent lived in residential care. The proportion of confirmed infected in the same age group who lived at home and had home help services was 27% (see Table 2). In terms of the total number of people living in residential care, 4% were confirmed infected with COVID-19. The corresponding number for those with home help services was 1 percent.

**Table 2. Number of persons 70 years or older, confirmed infected with COVID-19 and receiving social services according to SoL\***

Type of service	All 70 years and older	70-84 years	85 years and older
<b>Total number of infected</b>	<b>7 315</b>	<b>3 887</b>	<b>3 428</b>
- Women	3 909	1 747	2 162
- Men	3 406	2 140	1 266
<b>Residential care (%)</b>	<b>2 866 (39)</b>	<b>1 076 (28)</b>	<b>1 790 (52)</b>
- Women	1 831	574	1 257
- Men	1 035	502	533
<b>Home help services** (%)</b>	<b>1 972 (27)</b>	<b>838 (22)</b>	<b>1 134 (33)</b>
- Women	1 122	442	680
- Men	850	396	454

\* Social Services Act (2001:453)

\*\* Does not include home help services in the form of social alarm devices alone.

Source: SmiNet, the Public Health Agency of Sweden until 28/4 2020. Register for care and social services for the elderly and persons with impairments, National Board of Health and Welfare.

## Persons 70 years and above deceased due to COVID-19

On 28 April 2020, the total number of deaths due to COVID-19 was 2 075 persons according to cause of death certificates submitted to the National Board of Health and Welfare. Out of these, 1 877 were persons aged 70 and above, corresponding to 90 percent of the total number of deaths from the illness in Sweden. Out of the persons who died, 50 percent lived in residential care, while 26 percent received home help services (see Table 3).

**Table 3. Number of persons 70 years and older with social services according to SoL\*, deceased in COVID-19**

Type of service	All 70 years and older	70-84 year	85 year and older
<b>Total number of deaths</b>	<b>1 877</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>1 000</b>
- Women	896	358	538
- Men	981	519	462
<b>Residential care, total number, (%)</b>	<b>948 (50)</b>	<b>377 (43)</b>	<b>571 (57)</b>
- Women	526	187	339
- Men	422	190	232
<b>Home help services**, total number, (%)</b>	<b>493 (26)</b>	<b>202 (23)</b>	<b>291 (29)</b>
- Women	238	92	146
- Men	255	110	145

\* Social Services Act (2001:453)

\*\* Does not include home help services in the form of social alarm devices alone.

Source: Cause of Death Certificates until 28 April 2020. Register for care and social services for the elderly and persons with impairments, National Board of Health and Welfare.

More information on the number of deceased and COVID-19 deaths [1] can be found here:

- <https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/globalassets/sharepoint-dokument/dokument-webb/statistik/rapportering-av-dodsfall.pdf>

## Deceased persons aged 70 and above by place of death

On the cause of death certificate, the responsible physician indicates place of death. Four different categories may be stated - 'hospital', 'residential care', 'regular housing' or 'other / unknown'. Table 4 shows the place of death for persons aged 70 years and above who died as a result of COVID-19.

Just over half of those aged 70 and above died in residential care (52%). For the age group 70-84, hospitals were the most common place of death (53%). For the oldest age group, ages 85 and above, residential care was the most common place of death (60%). Around 4 percent died elsewhere.

**Table 4. Deceased persons due to COVID-19, 70 years and older, by place of death**

Place of death	All 70 years and older	70-84 year	85 years and older
<b>Total number of deaths</b>	<b>1 877</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>1 000</b>
<b>Hospital (%)</b>	<b>811 (43)</b>	<b>461 (53)</b>	<b>350 (35)</b>
- Women	322	163	159
- Men	489	298	191
<b>Residential care (%)</b>	<b>979 (52)</b>	<b>375 (43)</b>	<b>604 (60)</b>
- Women	536	181	355
- Men	443	194	249
<b>Regular housing (%)</b>	<b>59 (3)</b>	<b>24 (3)</b>	<b>35 (4)</b>
- Women	27	7	20
- Men	32	17	15
<b>Other/unknown (%)</b>	<b>28 (1)</b>	<b>17 (2)</b>	<b>11 (1)</b>
- Women	11	7	4
- Men	17	10	7

Source: Cause of Death Certificates until 28 April 2020, National Board of Health and Welfare.

## References

1. National Board of Health and Welfare, 2020. 'Beskrivning av datakällor för avlidna i COVID-19'. Published 2020-04-27. Fact sheet, Reg.no. 6.7-14923/2020.

### Contact:

Henrik Lysell (statistics)

Telephone: +46 75 247 30 00

E-post: henrik.lysell@socialstyrelsen.se

Almir, Cehajic (statistics)

Telephone: +46 75 247 30 00

E-post: almir.cehajic@socialstyrelsen.se

Stina Hovmöller (social services)

Telephone: +46 75 247 30 00

E-post: stina.hovmoller@socialstyrelsen.se