

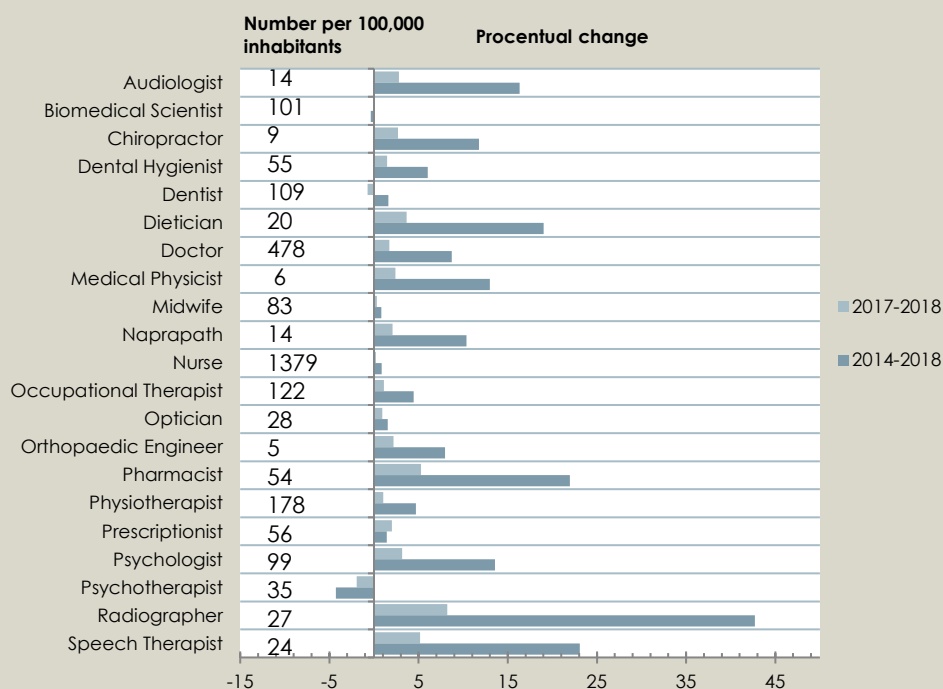
Statistics on licensed healthcare personnel 2018 and Workforce status 2017

For most health care professions, the number of granted licenses increased and more women than men were licensed. For midwives, dental hygienists, prescriptionists, occupational therapists and dieticians, the proportion of female professionals was 94 percent or more. There were regional differences in the per capita share among health care professions.

The number of licenses continues to increase

The number of licenses continues to increase for the majority of professions in the healthcare sector. Over the past five years, the number of registered pharmacists has increased by 22 percent. The number of prescriptionists has increased by about one and a half percent during the corresponding period.

Figure 1. Number per 100,000 inhabitants and procentual change in total number of licenses granted, under the age of 65, 31 December 2018



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

The number of speech therapists has increased by about 23 percent since 2013, while the number of dieticians and physiotherapists increased by 19 and close to five percent respectively during the corresponding period. In the last comparison year 2017, the number of pharmacists increased by just over five percent. The number of audiologists increased by close to three percent during the same period. Regarding the number of prescriptionists, the level in 2018 represents a two percent increase compared to 2017. Radiographer are a relatively new licensed profession with a low level of retirement so far, which explains the rapid growth rate for this group. The number of psychotherapists has decreased by just over four percent during the past five-year period. The decline for the last year of comparison was two percent (Figure 1).

Regional differences among healthcare professions

The number of employed licensed persons within different professions varies between different regions. Table 1 shows the number of persons within a selection of professions, in relation to the population in the regions. The table illustrates the upward or downward trend with arrows next to the numbers (see table note for further description).

Table 1. Regional distribution of licensed professionals in a selection of healthcare professions, November 2017, per 100,000 inhabitants

County	Dentist	Doctor	Mid-wife	Nurse	Pharmacist	Physio-therapist	Psychologist
Stockholm	87	448	82	943	52▲	139	113▲
Uppsala	85▲	515	90▲	1 205	50▲	148▲	119
Södermanland	76	321	66▲	937	23▲	129▲	56
Östergötland	70	429▲	57	1 089	18▲	130▲	68▲
Jönköping	79	344▲	78	1 129	24▲	118▲	52
Kronoberg	82	322	59▼	1 150	10▲	108▼	52▼
Kalmar	70▼	335	66▲	1 113	14▲	129	49▲
Gotland	80▼	434▲	72▼	1 142	12▲	133▲	63▼
Blekinge	80	366	74	1 320	24▲	100	52
Skåne	81	408▲	66	1 057	25▲	137	87▲
Halland	71	352	83▲	994▼	26▲	117	67▲
Västra Götaland	89	395▲	80	1 128	28▲	138▲	96▲
Värmland	70▼	311	67	1 127▲	19▲	116	47▲
Örebro	80▲	393▲	84	1 226	21▲	123	74
Västmanland	68▼	323	73▲	1 035	24▲	136	65
Dalarna	66	335▲	70	1 140	21	123	56
Gävleborg	67	335	63	1 164	14▲	123	49▼
Västernorrland	67▼	300	75▲	1 161	13	128▲	72▲
Jämtland	74▼	379	89▲	1 329	18	175	72▲
Västerbotten	91	491▲	76▲	1 405	12	175▲	101▲
Norrbottn	82	272	67	1 154	7▲	157	39▲
Sweden	81	395	75	1 084	30▲	135	84▲

Source: Licensed Care and Welfare Personnel Workforce Status (LOVA) register, National Board of Health and Welfare. Note: Changes between 2013 and 2017 are indicated in the table, ▲ equals an increase of more than five percent, and ▼ a decrease greater than five percent.

To some extent, differences are likely to depend on different organizational agreements between county councils, which has not been taken into account in this comparison. When the outcome was scrutinized more in detail, it can be noted that the regional distribution of the number of employed per 100,000 inhabitants is greatest for pharmacists and psychologists, while the regional differences are smaller in the case of midwives, physiotherapists, doctors, nurses and dentists.

Few licensed health professions dominated by men

Within most health care professions, women outnumber men. The profession where men are most dominant is chiropractors. The gender distribution of the employed legitimate health and medical personnel largely reflects the gender distribution of the number of granted licenses.

For the largest profession, nurses, women accounted for 88 percent and men twelve percent of the employed staff in 2017 (Table 2). Among nurses licensed in 2018, the proportion was 90 percent women (Figure 2).

The proportion of women who were licensed doctors and dentists in 2018 was 43 and 50 percent, respectively (Figure 2). The gender distribution among employed doctors was relatively even, with 48 percent women and 52 percent men in 2017. Dentists also had an even gender distribution in terms of employment with 57 percent women and 43 percent men (Table 2).

The most female-dominated health care professions in 2018 based on the granted number of licenses were midwives, dental hygienists, prescriptionists, occupational therapists, and dieticians, with a figure of 94 percent or more women (Figure 2).

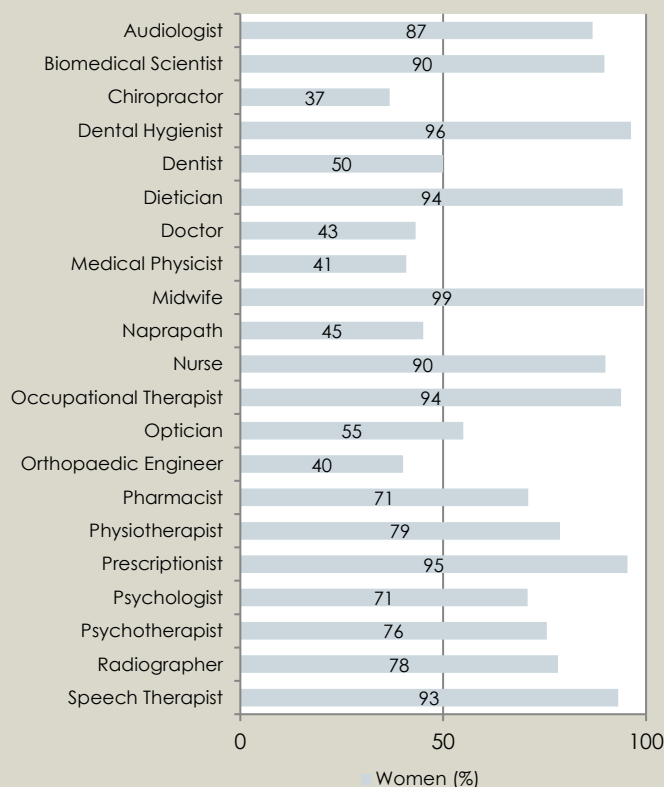
Chiropractors, orthopaedic engineers and hospital physicists were among the health care professions that had the highest proportion of licenses granted to men in 2018. These occupations also had the highest proportion of men among the employed in 2017. Employed chiropractors, orthopaedic engineers and hospital physicists were the occupations where men accounted for around 60 percent in 2017. However, these occupations employ in total the lowest numbers in the health care sector (Table 2).

Table 2. Employed Licensed Personnel by Profession and Percentage Men and Women, November 2017

Profession	Percentage	
	Women	Men
Audiologist	87	13
Biomedical Scientist	89	11
Chiropractor	37	63
Dental Hygienist	96	4
Dentist	57	43
Dietician	95	5
Doctor	48	52
Medical Physicist	43	57
Midwife	100	0
Naprapath	44	56
Nurse	88	12
Occupational Therapist	94	6
Optician	69	31
Orthopaedic Engineer	42	58
Pharmacist	74	26
Physiotherapist	77	23
Prescriptionist	95	5
Psychologist	70	30
Speech Therapist	93	7

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

Figure 2. Proportion women of all licenses granted, under the age of 65, 31 December 2018



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

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/en/statistics-and-data/statistics

If you want to use our statistical database:

www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistics/statisticaldatabase/healthcarepractitioners

Contact information:

Lena Johansson, statistician

Phone: +46(0) 75 247 30 00

Email: lena.johansson@socialstyrelsen.se

Daniel Svensson, Programme Officer

Phone: +46(0) 75 247 30 00

Email: daniel.svensson@socialstyrelsen.se