

# Statistics on Financial Assistance 2019

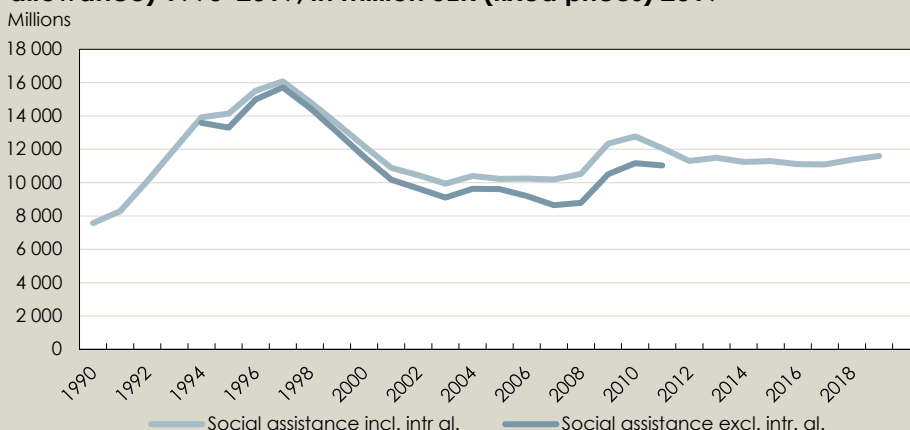
**The number of social assistance recipients and assistance households decreased in 2019. About 202, 000 households received social assistance in 2019. This corresponds to one of twenty households in Sweden. It was the fifth consecutive year that the number of social assistance recipients decreased. The amount of assistance per household increased slightly, as well as the average time period for which the assistance was granted.**

## Assistance over time

The number of assistance recipients and assistance households decreased in 2019. It was the fifth consecutive year that the number of assistance households decreased. The number of social assistance recipients was close to 382, 000. Of these about 116, 000 were women, 133, 000 men and 133, 000 children.

In 2019, the municipalities paid SEK 11.6 billion in financial assistance. The payments increased by 2 percent in fixed prices compared to 2018. One explanation for the increase is that the average period that a household received financial assistance increased slightly, from 6.7 to 6.9 months. In the past two years, assistance expenditure increased after leveling out the years following the financial crisis in 2009–2010, thus at a lower level compared to the years 2009–2010 (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Assistance (Including and excluding introductory allowance) 1990–2019, in million SEK (fixed prices) 2019**



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

## Age and type of municipality matters

The need for social assistance differs between different age groups. The most common age group in 2019 was 30–39 year olds. Close to 40 percent of all the

nation's adult beneficiaries were aged 30–49. Of these assistance recipients, 67 percent were foreign-born.

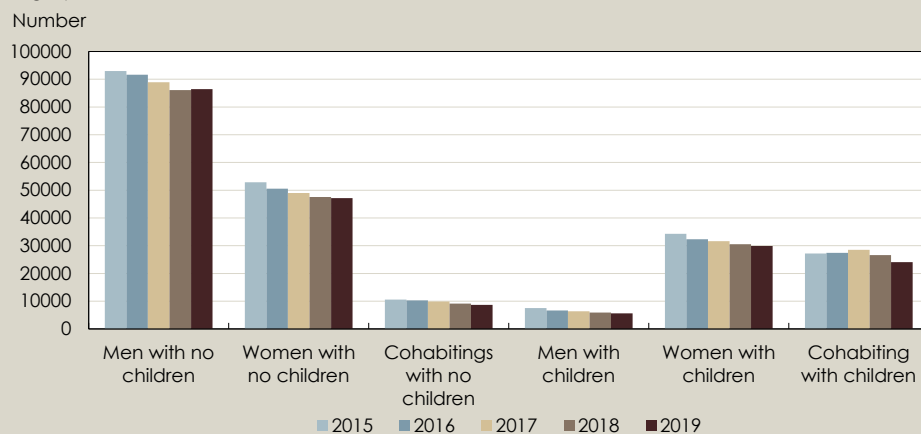
There are many reasons why women and men cannot support themselves and their families, but most often, it is related to unemployment, illness or social barriers of various kinds. About half of all adult beneficiaries were unemployed in 2019 [1].

The proportion of residents with social assistance varies greatly between different types of municipalities. For example, the population composition, the labor market and the education level of the population affect the overall need for social assistance. In Filipstad, Hällefors and Ludvika, more than 10 percent of the population received social assistance. The municipalities Lidingö, Olofström and Solna less than 1 percent received social assistance. The national average was 3.7 percent during 2019. For Stockholm and Gothenburg, the statistics are reported at city district level and show relatively large differences between different districts.

## The most common assistance household

The most common assistance household is single men with no children (Figure 2). If, on the other hand, one takes into account the different types of household in total in the population, then social assistance is most common among women with children.

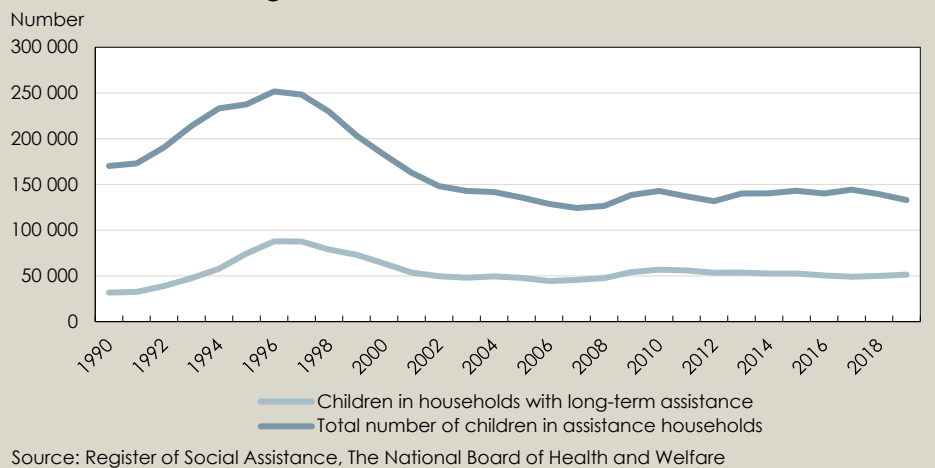
**Figure 2. Number of recipient households, by type of household 2015–2019**



## Children in assistance households

In 2019, the number of children in assistance households was just above 133, 000, a decrease by 4 percent since 2018. The number of children in households with long-term assistance in 2019 increased by 1 300 to just above 50, 000 in 2018. The number of children in household with long-term assistance has been relatively constant over the past years (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Number of children in assistance households, in total and in households with long-term assistance 1990–2019**

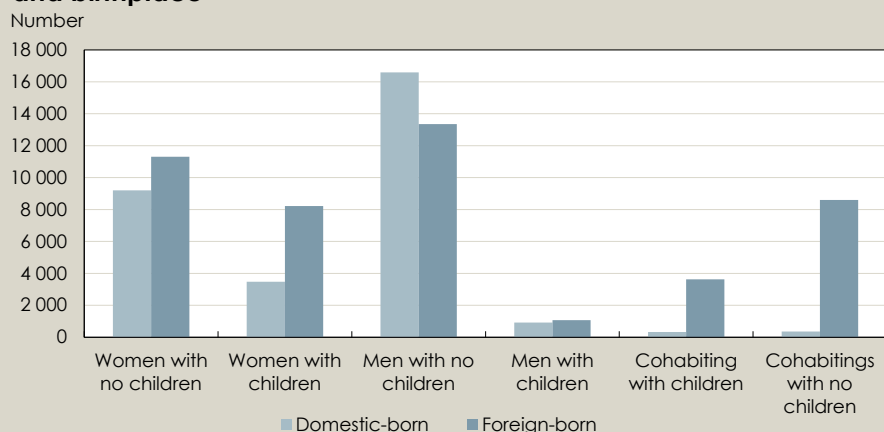


## Long-term assistance

In 2019, 40 percent of the adult beneficiaries received long-term assistance, i.e. assistance for 10 months or more. Of these, about half were women, and two thirds were foreign-born. This corresponds to the levels present in 2018.

The most common long-term assistance household are single men without children, both for domestic and foreign-born households. Long-term financial assistance among cohabiting households with or without children was more common among foreign-born with domestic-born (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Households with long-term assistance by household type and birthplace**



**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, rent, utility bills (electricity, telephone, gas etc.), travel expenses (for work), home insurance and union membership costs. General assistance covers other necessary expenses for childcare, health related, medicine and dental care.

For more information:

[www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik/statistikefteramne/ekonomisktband](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik/statistikefteramne/ekonomisktband)

## References

1. National Board of Health and Welfare. Downloaded 2020-05-29 from website: <https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/globalassets/sharepoint-dokument/artikelkatalog/statistik/2019-10-6405.pdf>

**More information**

You can find more tables, graphs and information in Swedish, but with English list of terms her (select *Tillhörande dokument och bilagor*):

<https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/en/statistics-and-data/statistics/>

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

[www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/statistikdatabasen/](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/statistikdatabasen/)

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