

Statistics on Care and Services for the Elderly 2020

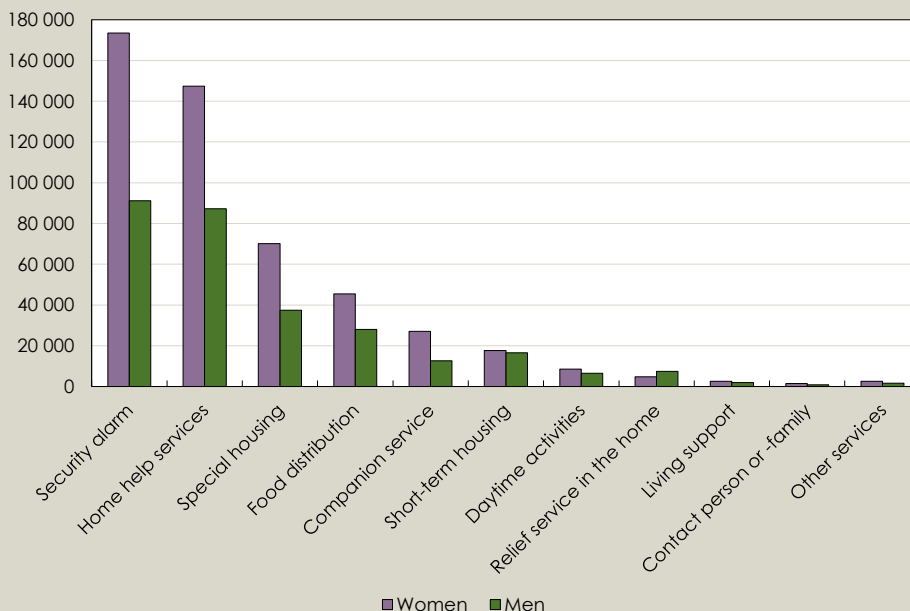
The most common services provided to the elderly (65 years and older) in accordance with the Social Services Act, SoL, in 2020 were *security alarm, home help service, special housing and food distribution.*

Four hundred thousand elderly received at least one social service in 2020

400,000 elderly (65 years or older) people had at least one service under the Social Services Act (2001: 453), SoL, in 2020, corresponding to 18 percent of the population 65 years or older. The social services reported in the official statistics are *Home help services, Special forms of housing, Security alarms, Food distribution, Companion service, Daytime activities, Short-term housing, Contact person or -family, Living support, Relief service in the home, and Other services.* (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Number of men and women 65 years and older whom received service in 2020

Number of people, 65 years and older, whom during any of the year's 12 measurement periods (last day of each month) were reported to receive a service in accordance with the Social Services Act, Chapter 4. § 1. Distributed by gender and service. Sweden



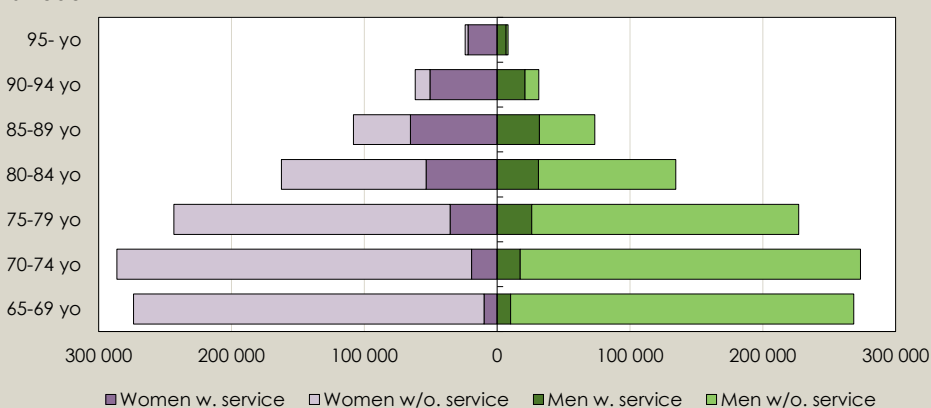
Source: The Register for care and services for the elderly and for persons with impairments according to the Social Services Act. The National Board of Health and Welfare

More women receive social service

In 2020, 18 percent of the population 65 or older received some social service, 22 percent of the women and 14 percent of the men. In the youngest age group (65-69): 4 percent of women and 4 percent of men, and in the oldest age group (95+): 91 percent of women and 83 percent of men. (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Number of men and women 65 years and older whom received service in 2020

Total population of men and women, 65 years and older, whom, during any of the year's 12 measurement periods (last day of each month) were reported to receive (or not receive) a service in accordance with the Social Services Act, Chapter 4. § 1. Sweden



Source: The Register for care and services for the elderly and for persons with impairments according to the Social Services Act. The National Board of Health and Welfare

A relatively stable proportion of the elderly receive social services – if we look year by year

The proportion of the elderly (65 years and older) who receive service at least once at some point during the year has decreased slightly over time; in 2014 it was 19.1 per cent and in 2020 it was 18.4 per cent. (Figure 3)

In Figure 3 below, the share of the elderly population whom received service split into four groups based on what service they received.¹

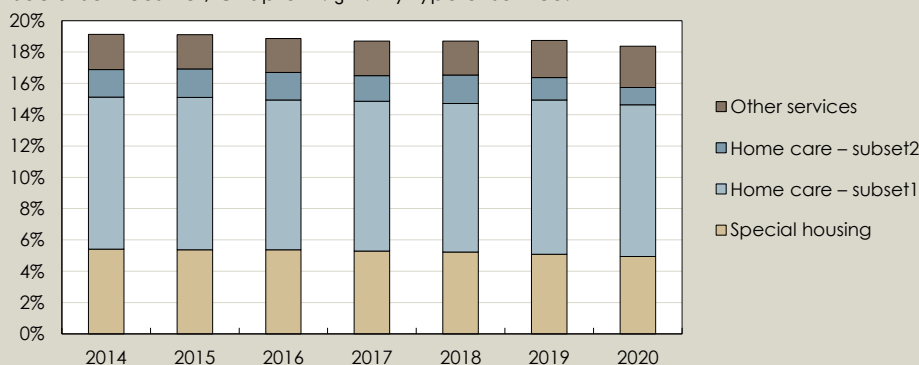
The proportion with special housing has decreased from 5.4 percent in 2014 to 4.9 percent in 2020. The proportion with “Home service – subset1” (see footnote 1) is the same in 2020 as in 2014, namely 9.7 percent, while the proportion with “Home service – subset2” (see footnote 1) has decreased from 1.8 per cent in 2014 to 1.1 percent in 2020. This decrease is mainly due to the municipalities

¹ Those in *special housing* form one group. Those with *home care in ordinary housing* have been divided into two groups; those who have home care in the form of service and / or personal care – which does not only consist of security alarms and / or food distribution – are reported in the group “Home care – subset1”, others with home care decisions are reported in the group “Home care – subset2”. The remainder of elderly with some service are in the group “other services”.

being able to report *security alarms* and *food distribution* either as part of a “home care decision” or as a “separate aid decision”. Over time, more municipalities have chosen to report these decisions separately, which is why the proportion reported with "Home service – subset2" decreases while the group “other services” increases. Table 4 in the excel-appendix describes this in more detail.

Figure 3. Share of total population 65 years and older receiving services, 2014–2020. Sweden

Share of total population 65 years and older receiving a service in accordance with the Social Services Act, Chapter 4. § 1. By type of service.



Source: The Register for care and services for the elderly and for persons with impairments according to the Social Services Act. The National Board of Health and Welfare

The pandemic's impact is clear when looking month by month

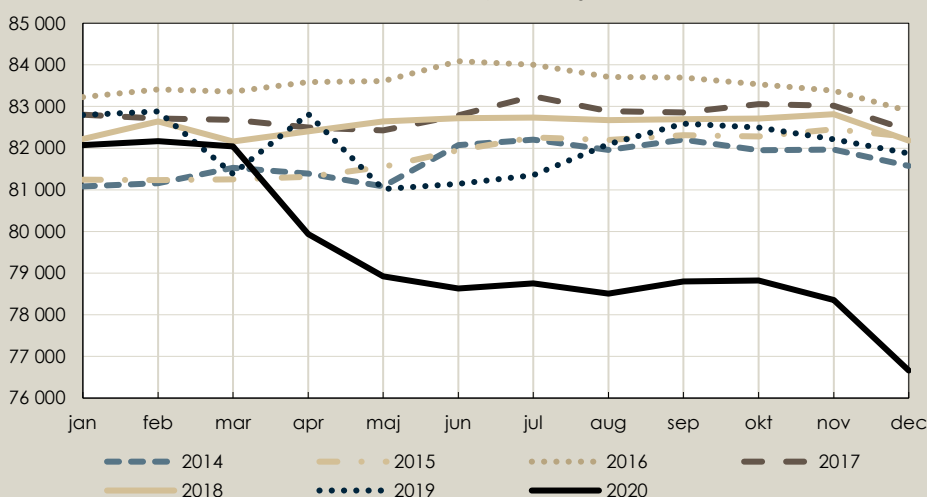
In the previous figure 3 above, we showed the proportion of the elderly who received a service, including *special housing*, at some point during *each year*. Figure 4 below instead shows the number of elderly people in *special housing* per month. Here you can see clear declines in April and December in 2020; months that roughly corresponds to the pandemic's first and second wave in Sweden. The large decrease in *special housing* as seen per month in 2020 (figure 4) is in stark contrast to the small decrease in the proportion of elderly in special housing per year (figure 3). The difference is probably explained by the following:

1. Those who died in special housing had usually lived there for some time and were registered some month before they died (and are therefore included in Figure 3).
2. The rate of people *moving in* to special housing to fill vacancies must have *decreased* – otherwise we would see an increase in the proportion of older people in special housing over the year, which we do not (Figure 3). That the influx to special housing has in fact decreased during the pandemic is supported by an earlier report from the National board of Health and Welfare. [1]

To find the monthly amount of all social services to the elderly please find Table 11 in the excel-appendix.

Figure 4. Number of elderly (65 years and older) in special housing. By month. 2014–2020. Sweden

Number of elderly (65 years and older) whom, during any of the year's 12 measurement periods (last day of each month) have been reported to receive special housing in accordance with the Social Services Act, Chapter 4. 1 §.



Source: The Register for care and services for the elderly and for persons with impairments according to the Social Services Act. The National Board of Health and Welfare.

References

1. Prochazka M. Vård och omsorg för äldre – Lägesrapport 2021. Stockholm: Socialstyrelsen; 2021. Tillgänglig: <https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/globalassets/sharepoint-dokument/artikelkatalog/ovrigt/2021-3-7249.pdf>

More information

You can find more tables, graphs and information here (select *Tillhörande dokument och bilagor*):

www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/statistikammen/social-tjanstinsatser-till-aldre/ (In Swedish, but with English list of terms).

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

www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/statistikdatabasen

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