

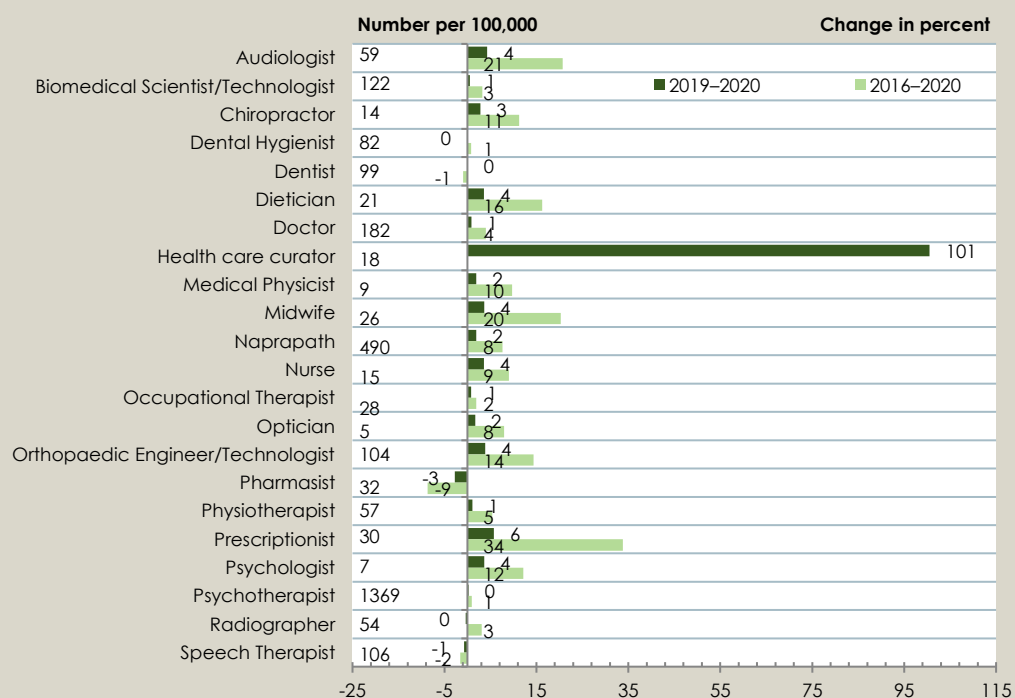
Statistics on licensed health care personnel 2020 and Workforce status 2019

For most health care professions, the total number of granted licenses continued to increase 2020 and more women than men were licensed. For midwives, dental hygienists, prescriptionists, occupational therapists and dieticians, the proportion of licenses granted to women was 94 percent or more at the end of 2020. There are still regional differences in the per capita share among employed health care professions in 2019.

Licenses 2020

The number of granted licenses continues to increase for the majority of professions in the health care sector. Over the past five years, the number of licensed pharmacists increased by 21 percent. The number of licensed prescriptionists has increased by about four percent during the corresponding period.

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

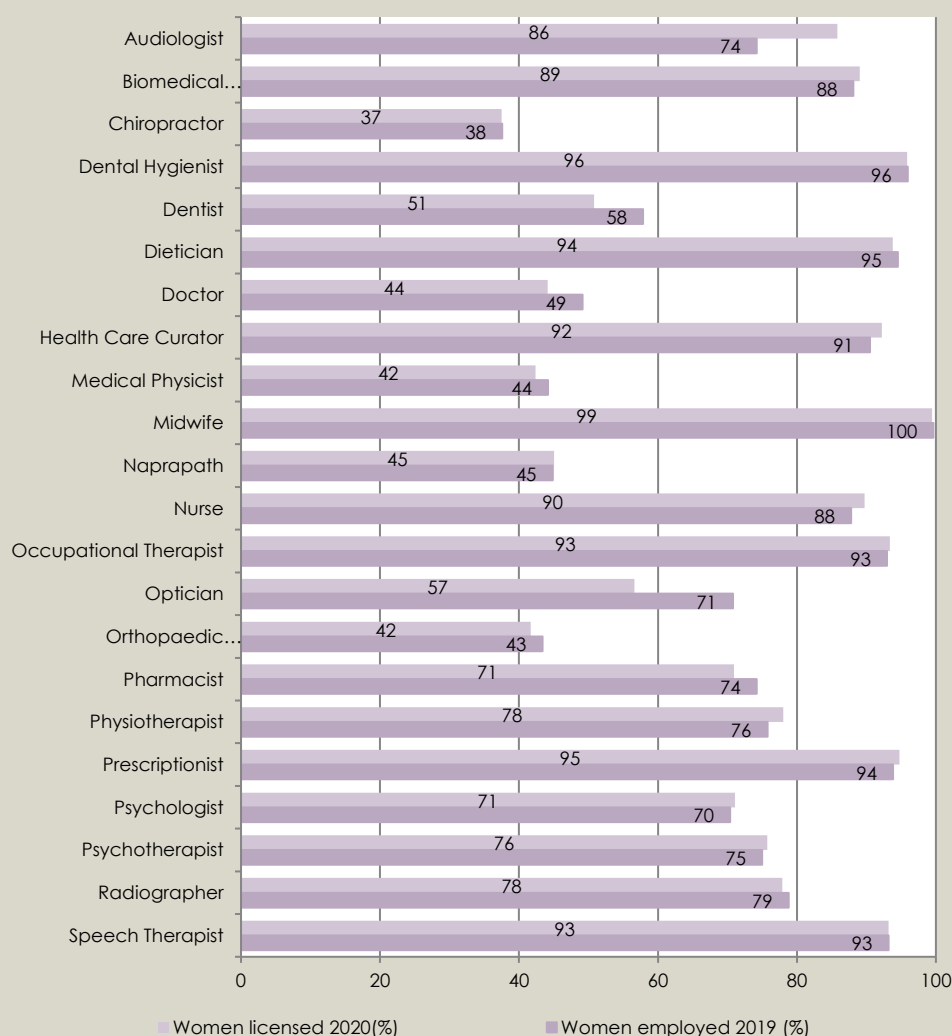


Source: Register of Licensed Health Personnel, National Board of Health and Welfare
*The health curator is a new license, granted from year 2019

The number of speech therapists has increased by about 20 percent since 2016, while the number of dieticians and audiologists increased by 16 and 11 respectively during the corresponding period. The number of psychotherapists has decreased by more than nine percent over the past five-year period. In the most recent comparative year, the decrease was almost three percent. Radiographer is a relatively new profession that still has few retirements, which explains the rapid growth rate for this group.

In terms of the most recent comparison year 2019, the number of pharmacists increased by about 4 percent. The number of speech therapists also increased by almost 4 percent during the same period (Figure 1).

Figur 2.1 Percentage women of total granted licenses per profession 31 December 2020 and percentage women of employed licensed personnel 1 November 2019



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

Note. Audiologist, Biomedical Scientist/Technologist, Dietician, Health Care Curator, Orthopaedic Engineer/Technologist and Radiographer are all licenses created in 2000 or later. Therefore at present, the number of licensed practitioners does not represent the total number of employed persons in these professions.

At the end of 2020, 90 percent of the total nurse licenses had been granted to women. The proportion of licenses granted to women at the end of 2020 when it comes to doctors and dentists was 44 and 51 percent, respectively. The most female-dominated professions, measured by the total number of granted licenses, were midwives, dental hygienists and prescriptionist. For these professions 95 percent or more of all licenses were granted to women. The health care professions that had the lowest proportion of licenses granted to women in the end of 2020 were chiropractors, orthopaedic engineers and medical physicists (Figure 2).

Employed health care personnel 2019

Regional differences

The number of employed licensed persons within different professions varies between different counties. Table 1 shows the number of persons within a selection of professions, in relation to the population in the counties. 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 health care professions, November 1, 2019, per 100,000 inhabitants

County	Dentist	Doctor	Midwife	Nurse	Pharmacist	Psychologist	Physiotherapist
Stockholm	85	430	72	932	56 ▲	114	132
Uppsala	80	512	110 ▲	1213	55 ▲	125	144
Södermanland	76	331 ▲	46	991	28 ▲	57	118 ▼
Östergötland	63 ▼	441 ▲	105	1100	20 ▲	77 ▲	130 ▲
Jönköping	72 ▼	344	95 ▲	1190	28 ▲	52	114
Kronoberg	81	331 ▲	60 ▼	1201	14 ▲	53	115 ▼
Kalmar	70 ▼	341	73 ▲	1127	15 ▲	48 ▼	121 ▼
Gotland	77 ▼	451 ▲	84 ▲	1184	15 ▲	74	132 ▲
Blekinge	77 ▼	350 ▼	88 ▲	1368 ▲	27 ▲	49 ▲	105
Skåne	77	413	86	1053	27 ▲	87	135
Halland	69	353	57 ▲	1023	31 ▲	71	116
Västra Götaland	85	399	79	1125	30 ▲	99 ▲	140 ▲
Värmland	66 ▼	317	107 ▲	1182 ▲	19 ▲	49	118
Örebro	76 ▼	399	110	1244	26	79 ▲	121
Västmanland	69 ▼	323	66 ▲	1082	25 ▲	67	138
Dalarna	63 ▼	332	55 ▲	1177	22 ▼	60	127
Gävleborg	61 ▼	343	54	1204	16 ▼	48	122
Västernorrland	65 ▼	309	74	1186	13 ▼	71	128 ▲
Jämtland	77	396 ▲	47	1310	23 ▲	77 ▲	170 ▼
Västerbotten	81 ▼	515 ▲	133	1411	11 ▼	105 ▲	168
Norrbottnen	70 ▼	288 ▲	47	1176	10 ▲	38	164
Sweden	78	396	79	1094	32 ▲	86 ▲	133

Source: Licensed Care and Welfare Personnel Workforce Status (LOVA) register, National Board of Health and Welfare. Note: Changes between 2014 and 2018 are indicated in the table, ▲ equals an increase of more than five percent, and ▼ a decrease greater than five percent.

If the outcome is studied more closely, it can be noted that the regional distribution of the number of employed per 100,000 inhabitants was greatest in terms of pharmacists and psychologists in that order, while the regional differences were smaller for midwives, physiotherapists as well as doctors and the least pronounced for nurses and dentists. To some extent, differences can probably be explained by different organizational agreements between regions, which not have been taken into account in this comparison.

Gender distribution among employed personnel

The gender distribution shows great similarity in terms of the total number of granted health care licenses regarding a profession and those employed in the corresponding profession. For some professions, however, the proportion of women differs when it comes to the total number of granted licenses and the number of employed professionals. For opticians, the proportion of women is 14 percentage points more for the employed than for the granted licenses, and for dentists the corresponding difference is seven percentage points. The difference is probably due to the fact that a large proportion of the licensed men in these occupations have reached retirement age and left the labour market. At the same time, more women than men are now granted licenses as opticians and dentists, which means that the proportion of women in these professions increases (Figure 2).

For the largest profession, nurses, women accounted for 88 percent and men for 12 percent of the employed personnel in 2019.

Among doctors, the gender distribution was even, with 49 percent women among those employed. Dentists also had an even gender distribution in terms of employment, with 58 percent women and 42 percent men. Chiropractors, orthopaedic engineers and hospital physicists are professions where men accounted for around 60 percent of the employed personnel in 2019. At the same time, all these professions were minor and the number of employed persons in these professions are small in the health care sector.

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/statistik-och-data/statistik/

If you want to use our statistical database:

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

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