

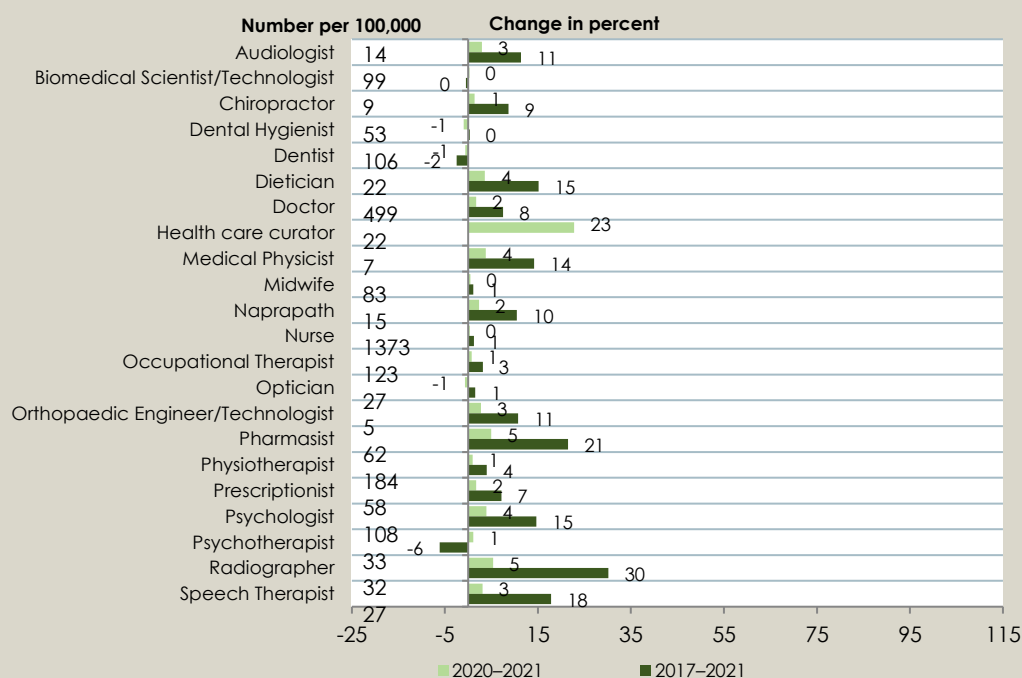
# Statistics on licensed health care personnel 2021 and Workforce status 2020

For most health care professions, the total number of granted licenses continued to increase 2021 and more women than men were licensed. For midwives, dental hygienists, prescriptionists, occupational therapists and dieticians, the proportion of licenses granted to women was 93 percent or more at the end of 2021. There are still regional differences in the per capita share among employed health care professions in 2020.

## Licenses 2021

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 7 percent during the corresponding period.

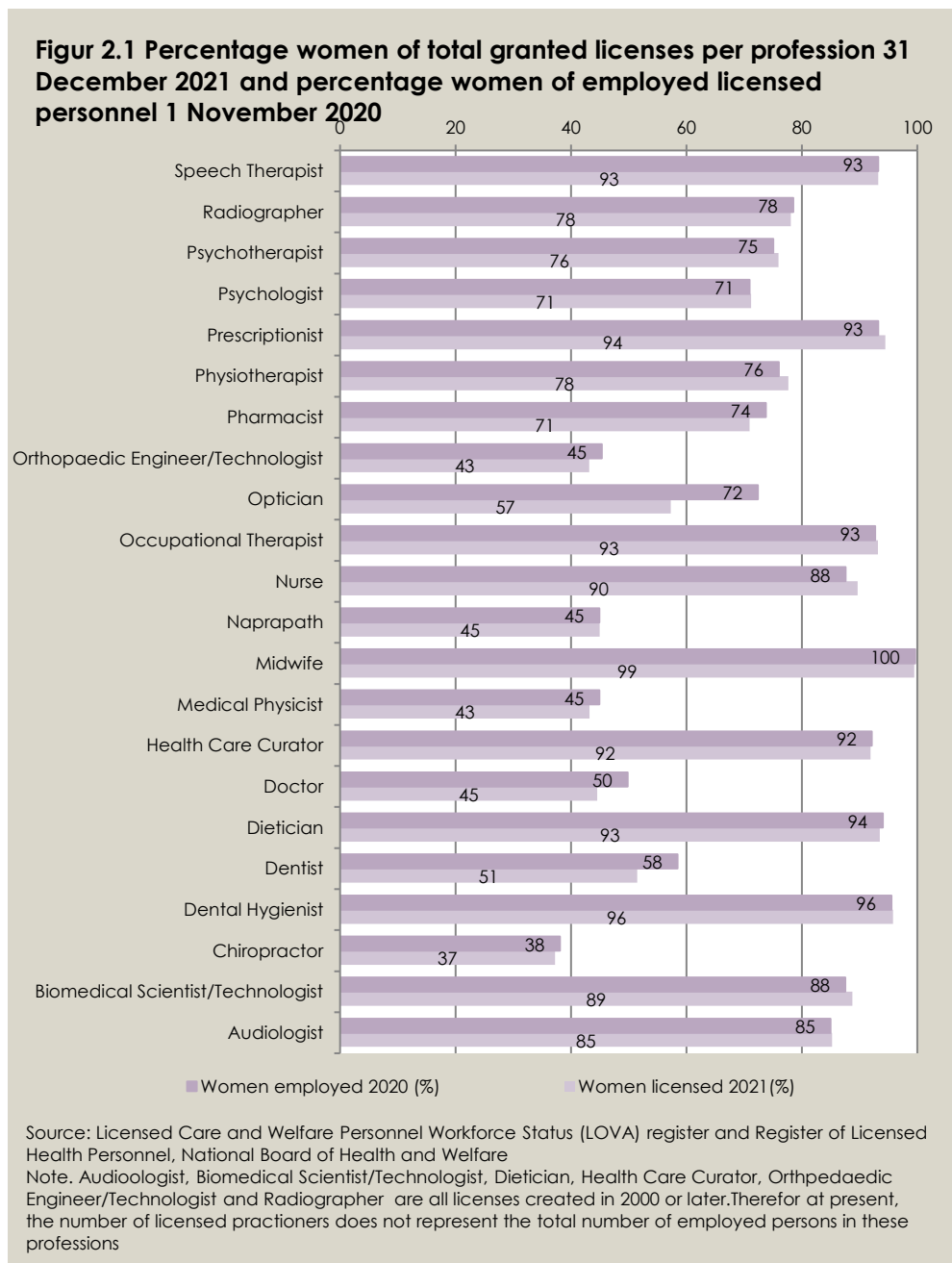
**Figur 1. Number per 100,000 inhabitants and percentage change in total number of licenses granted, under the age of 65, 31 December**



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 18 percent since 2017, while the number of dieticians and audiologists increased by 15 and 11 respectively during the corresponding period. The number of psychotherapists has decreased by six percent over the past five-year period. Since the most recent comparative year we see an increase of one 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 2020, the number of pharmacists increased by about five percent. The number of speech therapists increased by almost three percent during the same period (Figure 1).



At the end of 2021, 90 percent of the total nurse licenses had been granted to women. The proportion of licenses granted to women at the end of 2021 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 94 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 2021 were chiropractors, orthopaedic engineers and medical physicists (Figure 2).

## Employed health care personnel 2020

### 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, 2020, per 100,000 inhabitants**

County	Dentist	Doctor	Midwife	Nurse	Pharmacist	Psychologist	Physiotherapist
Stockholm	85	432	81	925	55▲	121▲	130
Uppsala	79▼	516	85	1183	56▲	124▲	143
Södermanland	74	339▲	63	975	30▲	59▲	109
Östergötland	61▼	443▲	58	1091	22▲	78▲	135▲
Jönköping	72▼	357	77	1185	29▲	49	114
Kronoberg	76	323	54▼	1160	14▲	53▲	108▼
Kalmar	69	351▲	67▲	1146	15▲	50▼	122
Gotland	78	454▲	83	1149	12	80▲	141▲
Blekinge	82	356	76▲	1310	27	47▲	104
Skåne	76	414	65	1043	28▲	90	139
Halland	70	351	86▲	1009	31▲	67	115
Västra Götaland	84	405	82	1100	31▲	95▲	142
Värmland	70	319	68	1162	19▲	52▲	121
Örebro	77	408	83	1212	28▲	79▲	120
Västmanland	68	325	77▲	1070	23	72▲	135
Dalarna	64	328	75▲	1146	23	63▲	126
Gävleborg	57	350	61	1161	17	45▼	121
Västernorrland	65	325	73	1131	12	72▲	128
Jämtland	68▼	408▲	91▲	1241▼	21▲	82▲	167
Västerbotten	83▼	508▲	74	1384	11	106▲	170
Norrbottn	70▼	294▲	67	1161	9▲	42	163
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1076</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>88▲</b>	<b>133</b>

Source: Licensed Care and Welfare Personnel Workforce Status (LOVA) register, National Board of Health and Welfare. Note: Changes between 2016 and 2020 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 have not been considered 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 15 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 2020.

Among doctors, the gender distribution was even, with 50 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, hospital physicists and naprapath are professions where men accounted for at least 55 percent of the employed personnel in 2020. 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/](http://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/>

### Contact information:

Petter Otterdal, statistician

Phone: +46(0) 75 247 30 00

Email: [petter.otterdal@socialstyrelsen.se](mailto:petter.otterdal@socialstyrelsen.se)