

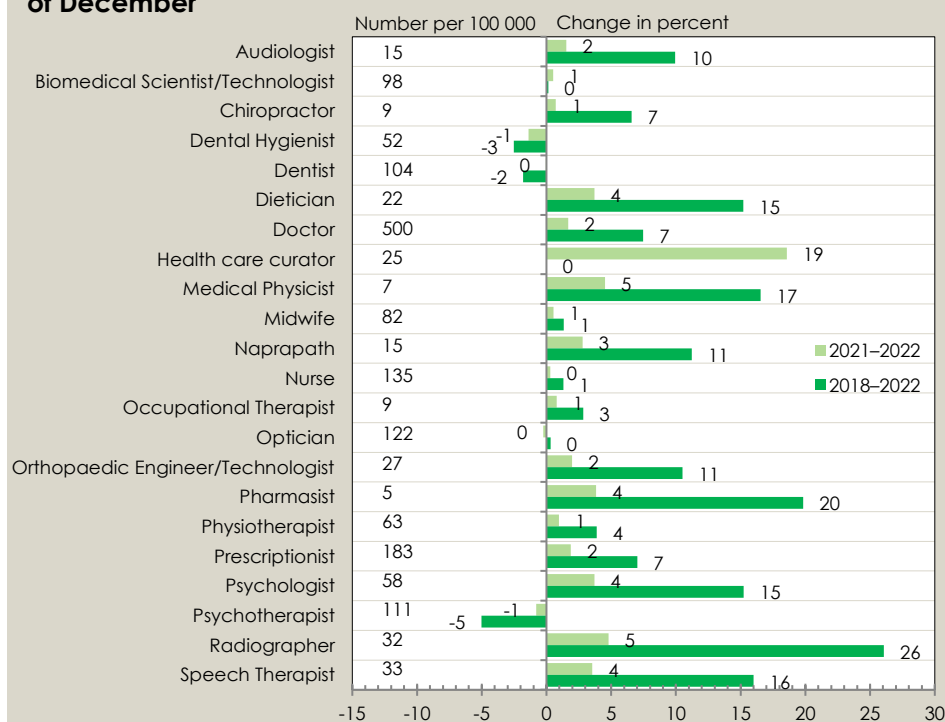
# Statistics on licensed health care personnel 2022 and Workforce status 2021

For most health care professions, the total number of granted licenses continued to increase in 2022 and more females than males were licensed. The proportion of licenses granted to women was at least 93 percent at the end of 2022 for professions such as midwives, dental hygienists, prescriptionists, speech therapists and dieticians. For the most recent entitled license, health care curator, the number of new licences has stabilised around 500 per year.

## Licenses 2022

The number of granted licenses continues to increase for the majority of professions in the health care sector. In the pharmaceutical sector, the number of licensed pharmacists increased faster than licensed prescriptionists - with 20 percent as compared to 7 percent during the last five years.

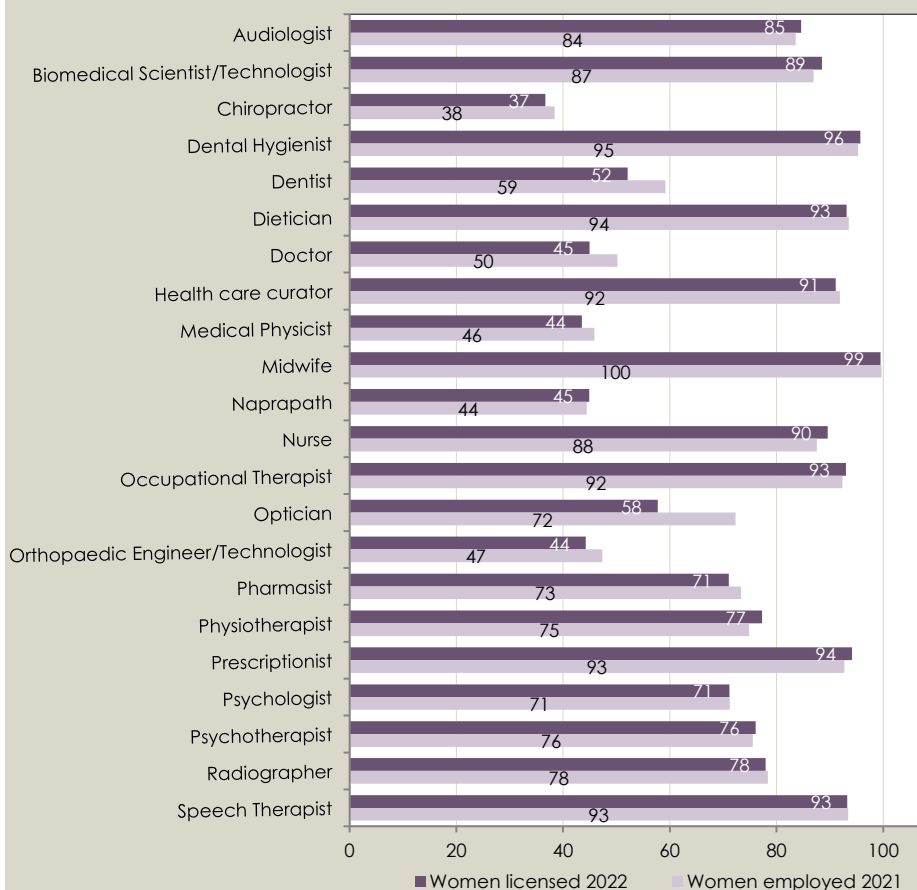
**Figure 1. Number per 100,000 inhabitants and percentage change in total number of licenses granted, under the age of 65, as of the 31st of December**



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

In most cases, the number of licenses increased by 10 to 20 percent per 100 000 inhabitants between 2018 and 2022. The number of psychotherapists decreases slightly (- 5 percent) as well as the number of dental hygienists (- 3 percent) during the same period. The number of occupational therapists, biomedical scientists, midwives, physiotherapists, opticians and nurses has remained roughly constant compare to the Swedish population. Newer licenses such as radiographers has few retirements, which explains the rapid growth rate for this group. The newest license, health care curator, increase with 19 percent between 2021 and 2022, but the number of new licences was 500, roughly half as many as the 900 licenses granted between 2019 and 2020.

**Figure 2. Percentage women of total granted licenses per profession 31 December 2022 and percentage women of employed licensed personnel, 1 november 2021**



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

The most female-dominated professions, measured by the total number of granted licenses, were midwives, dental hygienists and prescriptionists. 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 2022 were chiropractors, orthopaedic engineers and medical physicists (Figure 2).

## Employed health care personnel 2021

### Regional differences

The number of licensed employees 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, 2021, per 100,000 inhabitants**

County	Dentist	Doctor	Midwife	Nurse	Pharmacist	Psychologist	Physiotherapist
Stockholm	85	437	82	949	56▲	129▼	124▲
Uppsala	79▼	515	89	1166	51	142	127▲
Södermanland	73	346▲	65	990	32▲	111▼	61▲
Östergötland	62▼	459▲	63▲	1135	22▲	138	81▲
Jönköping	71▼	366▲	83▲	1213▲	30▲	117	50
Kronoberg	75▼	327	58	1182	14▲	103▼	57▲
Kalmar	67	356▲	65	1147	15	120▼	52▲
Gotland	77	454	97▲	1208	11	139	74▲
Blekinge	80	362	81▲	1321	27▲	99	42▼
Skåne	77	423	67	1051	30▲	135	92▲
Halland	70	360	85	1040	31▲	116	69
Västra Götaland	84▼	416▲	83	1123	33▲	142	100
Värmland	77▲	326	67	1169	20	123▲	58▲
Örebro	75▼	418▲	85	1235	28▲	125	86▲
Västmanland	66	335	79▲	1084	24	137	70▲
Dalarna	62▼	339	81▲	1165	26▲	126	70▲
Gävleborg	60▼	352	63	1210	19▲	123	47
Västernorrland	64	333▲	76	1160	13▼	130	67▼
Jämtland	70▼	427▲	91	1284	22▲	173	85▲
Västerbotten	87	518▲	74	1431	14▲	170	104
Norrbottn	69▼	303▲	65	1171	8▲	163	43▲
<b>Sweden</b>	77	408	77	1096	34▲	133	91▲

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, ▲ marks 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 differences of the number of employed per 100,000 inhabitants was the greatest for pharmacists followed by psychologists, while the differences were smaller for midwives, physiotherapists as well as doctors and the least pronounced for nurses and dentists.

## 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 7 percentage points higher. 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 or 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 2021.

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 59 percent women and 41 percent men. Chiropractors, orthopaedic engineers, hospital physicists and naprapaths are professions that men accounted for at least 55 percent of the employed personnel in 2021. In the same year, the newest licensed profession, health care curator, was dominated by women with 92 percent of the employed personnel.

### 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:

[www.socialstyrelsen.se/en/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistical-databases/](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/en/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistical-databases/)

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