

Statistics on municipal family counselling 2017

In total, there were over 37,000 cases in the municipal family counselling system in 2017, which is an increase compared to 2016. Of the cases that were closed in 2017, almost half related to resolving issues in couple relationships and being able to continue living together.

Increased prevalence of municipal family counselling since 2004

Municipal family counselling has increased since 2004. The number of cases has increased from 5 to 6 per 1,000 residents aged 18–69 over the period 2004–2017. During the same period, the number of people per 1,000 residents aged 18–69 who sought municipal family counselling increased from 8 to 10, and the number of children involved in the cases rose from 18 to 22 per 1,000 residents by 2017 (Figure 1).

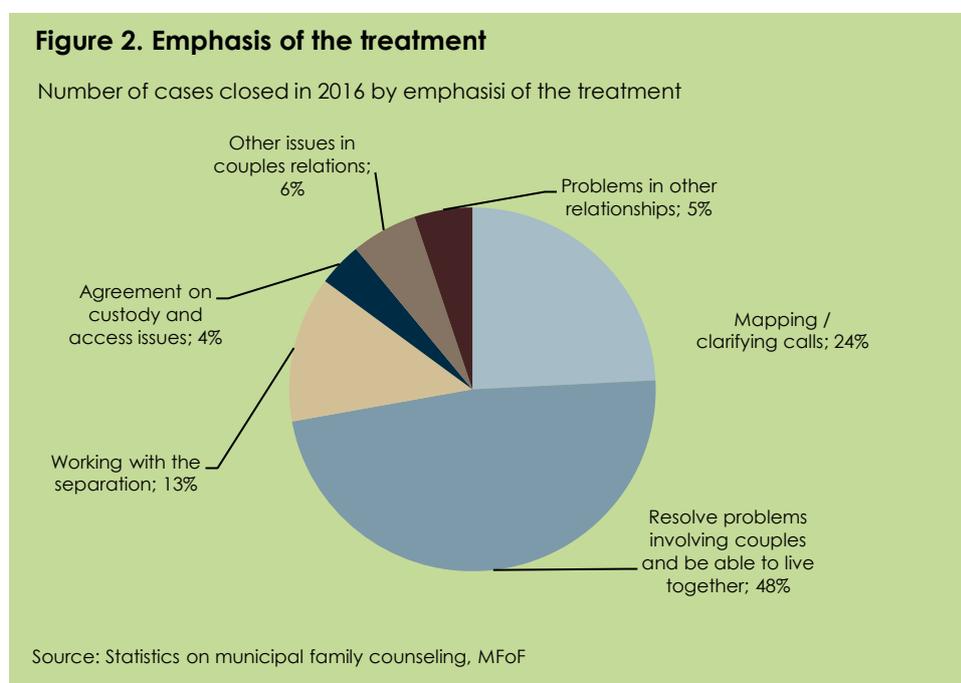
Figure 1. Number of cases, persons and concerned children in municipal family counseling per 1,000 inhabitants in 2004-2017



Source: Statistics on municipal family counseling, MFOF.

Couple relationships most common

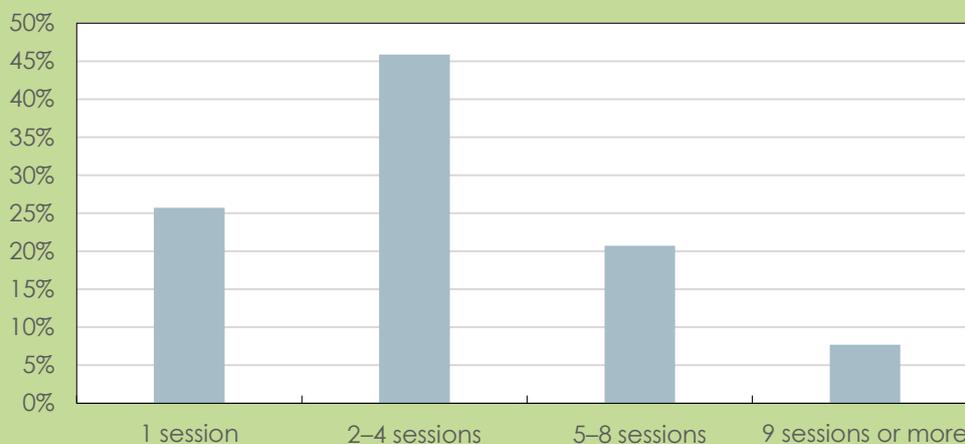
Municipal family counselling can relate to various couple relationships as well as other relationships, such as sibling relationships and parent/child relationships. In 2017, couple relationships was the most common type, accounting for 86 percent of the cases initiated during the year. Of the couple relationships, married couples and cohabiting couples accounted for 44 and 37 percent of the initiated cases, respectively. The most common time span of the couple relationship was between 5 and 9 years. In practice, a case may be made up of multiple issues at the same time. From a perspective of what was considered the focus of treatment, repair work (counselling to resolve cohabitation issues in a couple relationship and be able to continue living together) followed by identifying/clarifying sessions were most common among the cases that were closed in 2017 (Figure 2). The percentage distribution is almost identical to the figures from the preceding year.



Number of counselling sessions per case

Of the more than 27,000 cases closed in 2017, 26 percent consisted of just one counselling session. Almost half, 46 percent, of all cases closed during the year had 2–4 sessions. Cases with 5–8 or with 9 or more counselling sessions represented 21 percent and 8 percent of the cases, respectively (Figure 3).

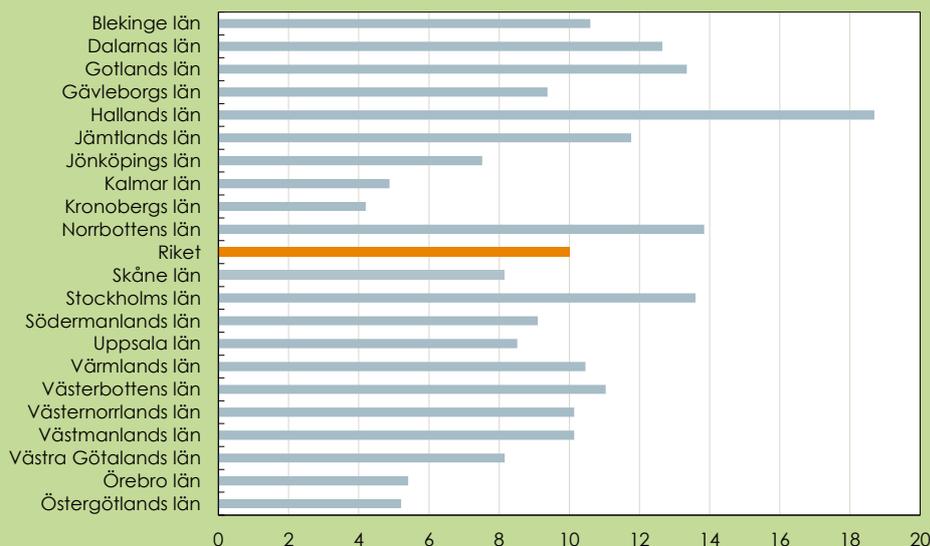
Figure 3. Municipal family counselling, 2017. Number of closed cases during the year, by extent of treatment.



Regional differences

Municipal family counselling is performed throughout Sweden, but the prevalence differs between different counties and municipalities. Halland County had the largest proportion of residents who sought municipal family counselling, with approximately 19 people per 1,000 residents aged 18–69. In comparison, Kronoberg County had approximately 4 people per 1,000 residents aged 18–69 who sought municipal family counselling in 2017 (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Number of persons per 1,000 inhabitants aged 18-69 who visited municipal family counseling by county in 2017



Source: Statistics on municipal family counselling, The National Board of Health and Welfare

Number of people who sought family counselling

The data in Figure 4 show large regional variations in terms of people who sought municipal family counselling. However, it is not possible to determine through the statistics whether the differences are due to the availability, resources, fees or public awareness of the municipal family counselling services. Another factor that may be relevant to differences is how well other actors complement the municipalities' family counselling initiatives. Examples of such include fully private-sector services, i.e. those not procured by the municipality, and church organisations in the different counties. The latter activities are not included in this investigation.

Scope of the statistics

The statistics contain information on family counselling services provided by or paid for by Swedish municipalities in 2017, regardless of whether the municipalities provided the services through their own enterprise or procured them through other providers. The report does not include family counselling provided by church organisations or fully private-sector family counselling services. Moreover, mediation discussions within family law, whereby a mediator attempts to help parents reach an agreement on issues related to custody, residence and access, are not included in the statistics.

More information

Additional tables, diagrams and other information is available in Swedish in the Excel file:

<http://mfof.se/blanketter-och-statistik/statistik/Familjeradgivning/>

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