



Statistics on municipal family counselling services for 2021

Statistics on municipal family counselling services for 2021, show among other things, the following:

- The number of cases dealt with by municipal family counselling services, per 1 000 inhabitants aged 18–69, is lower than the previous six years.
- The number of people per 1 000 inhabitants aged 18–69, who used municipal family counselling services, is the lowest number since 2013.
- The number of children affected by municipal family counselling continues to decrease.
- Married couples and cohabitants are still the most common relationships encountered by municipal family counselling services and 'repair work' is the most common focus of the treatment.
- It is still most common with 2–4 sessions per case.
- The number of people aged 18–69, who used municipal family counselling services, varies from 4 to 19 per 1 000 inhabitants depending on the county.

The extent of the statistics

The statistics contain information on family counselling services provided by, or paid for by, Swedish municipalities in 2021. This is 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. Mediation talks within family law, whereby a professional mediator attempts to help parents reach an agreement in issues related to custody, residence and access, are not included in the statistics.

The number of cases dealt with by municipal family counselling services has decreased

In total, there were 34 796 cases handled by municipal family counselling services in 2021, which corresponds to 5 cases per 1 000 inhabitants aged 18-69¹. This is a decrease compared with the years 2015-2020, where the corresponding number was 6 cases per 1 000 inhabitants (Figure 1).

The number of people who use municipal family counselling services continues to decrease

In 2021, the number of people aged 18-69 who used² municipal family counselling services was 62 953. This corresponds to 9 people per 1 000 inhabitants which is the lowest number since 2013 (Figure 1).

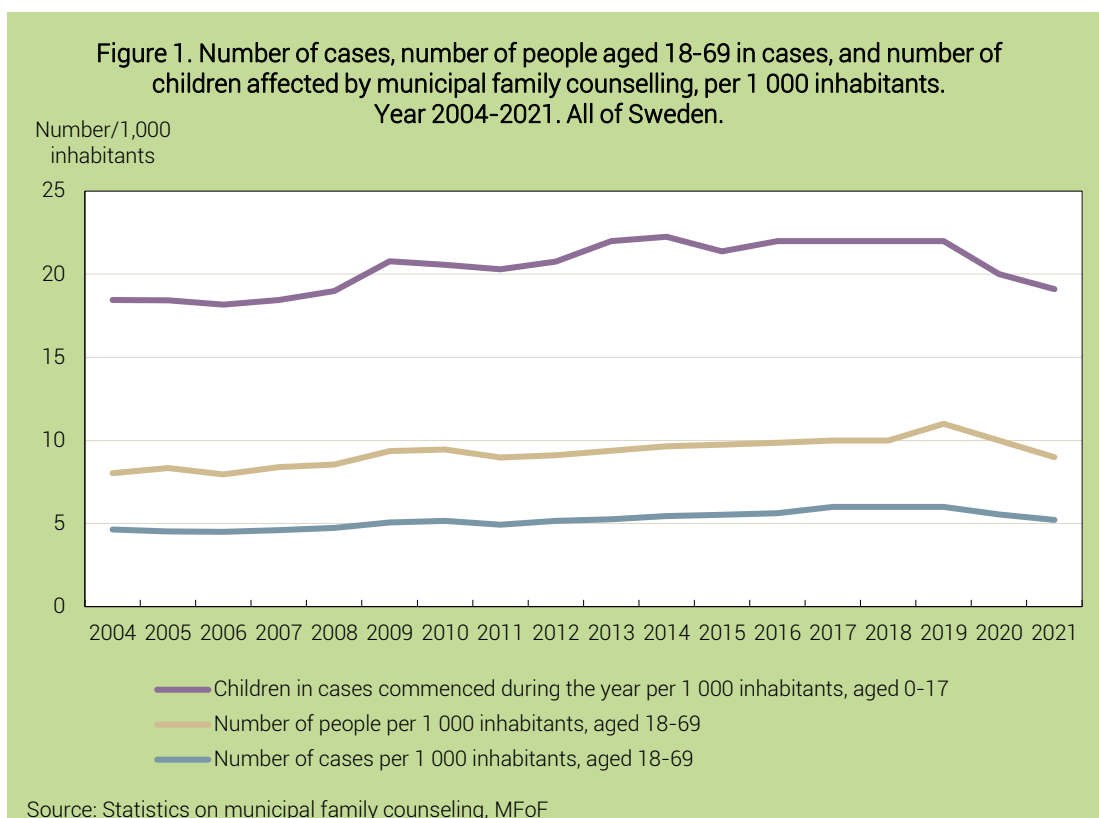
The number of children affected by municipal family counselling services continues to decrease

The number of children aged 0-17 affected by cases that started during 2021, was 41 977³. This corresponds to 19 children per 1 000 inhabitants¹, which is the lowest number since 2008 (Figure 1).

¹Calculated using data on the total population in the age group. Source: The Statistics Sweden (SCB), Statistical database, Population. Available via www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se

²Includes personal visits to-, or digital meetings with-, municipal family counselling services for counselling and/or treatment.

³The number of affected children aged 0-17 is based on statistics of children living at home, children with supervised visitation and children living alternately between parents (available in the Excel file 2021, tabs: "Tab7" and "Tab8"). In addition, there may be children affected by municipal family counselling services, either through direct or indirect contact, who are not visible in the statistics.



Married couples and cohabitants are the most common relationships encountered by municipal family counselling services

In connection with the first visit to municipal family counselling, the nature of the relationship is categorized into one of the following: married, cohabitant, separate accommodation, separated or other relationships (such as sibling relationships or parent/child relationships.) The most common relationships in cases started in 2021, were married and cohabitants accounting for 40 % respectively 39 %.

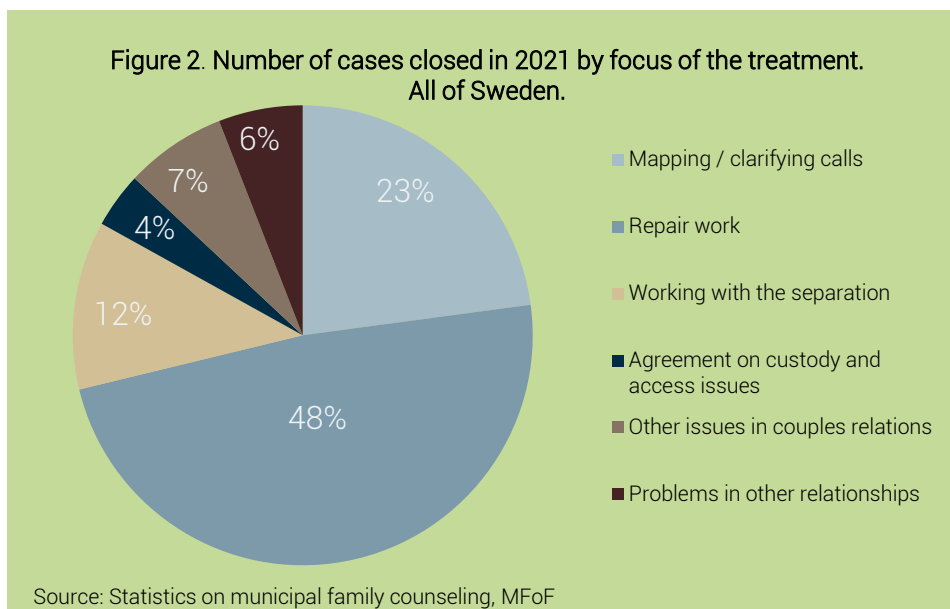
Of the cases relating to couple relationships (married, cohabitants and separated accommodation), it was still most common for the relationship to have lasted between 5–9 years.

Repair work is still the most common focus of the treatment

In the light of what was considered the focus of the treatment, repair work ⁴ was the most common among the closed cases in 2021, followed by mapping/clarifying sessions and then sessions working with the separation

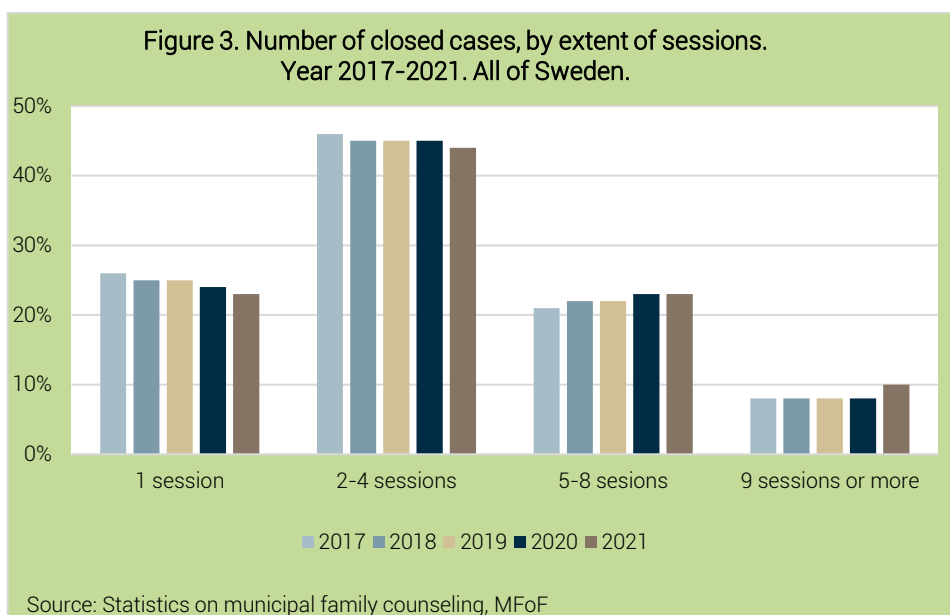
⁴ Counselling to resolve cohabitation issues in a couple relationship, aiming at a continuation of living together.

(Figure 2). In reality, however, one case can contain several issues at the same time.



Most common with 2–4 sessions per case

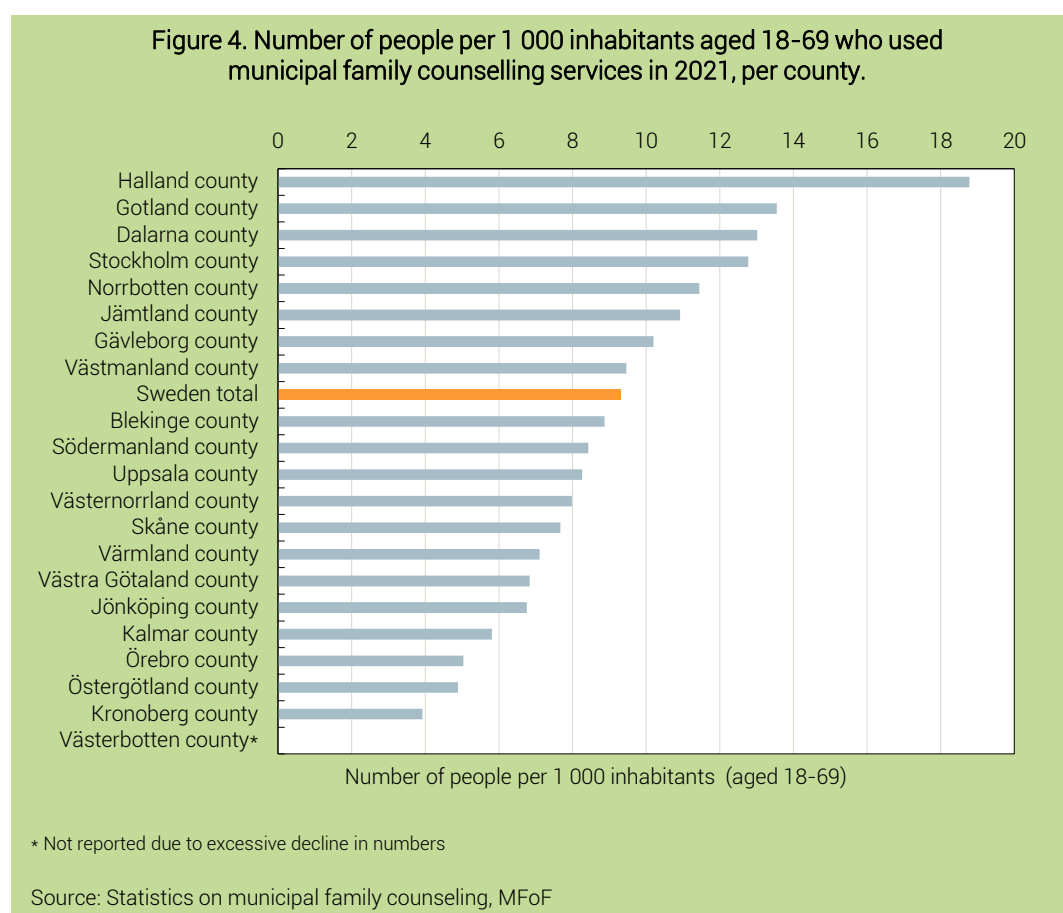
Of the 24 609 cases closed in 2021, 23 percent consisted of one counselling sessions, 44 percent of 2–4 counselling sessions, 23 percent of 5–8 sessions and 10 percent of 9 sessions or more. During the last five-year period, the statistics have been similar. In 2021 however, the number of 9 sessions or more increased slightly compared with prior years (Figure 3).



Regional differences in the number of people who used municipal family counselling services

Figure 4 shows that the number of people per 1 000 inhabitants aged 18–69, who used municipal family counselling services in 2021. The number varies between 19 in Halland county and 4 people in Kronoberg county. The average number for Sweden was 9 people per 1 000 inhabitants (Figure 4).

No analysis of the regional differences has been done. Factors that may be relevant are, for example: municipal family counselling availability, resources, fees or public awareness of municipal family counselling services. Another factor may be how well other counselling service providers, private-sector or church organisations, complement those offered by municipalities in the different counties. The latter activities are not included in this survey.



More information

You will find more charts, diagrams and other information in the Excel-file at: www.mfof.se/statistik_familjeradgivning

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