



FAMILY LAW
AND PARENTAL
SUPPORT AUTHORITY

Statistics on family law 2025

Dnr AD 2025–1606, 2026-06-02

The Family Law and Parental Support Authority (MFoF) is responsible for the official statistics within family law. The statistics are collected from Sweden's municipalities via a web survey provided by Statistics Sweden. Collection occurs once a year and refers to the previous year.

The statistics are available on MFoF's website, together with the survey, technical report, quality declaration, etc. This fact sheet summarizes parts of the statistics for 2025 and is described in comparison to previous years. The results are reported at national level and are stated in total number. Some results are also reported in number per 10,000 inhabitants.

Statistics on family law for 2025 show, among other things, the following:

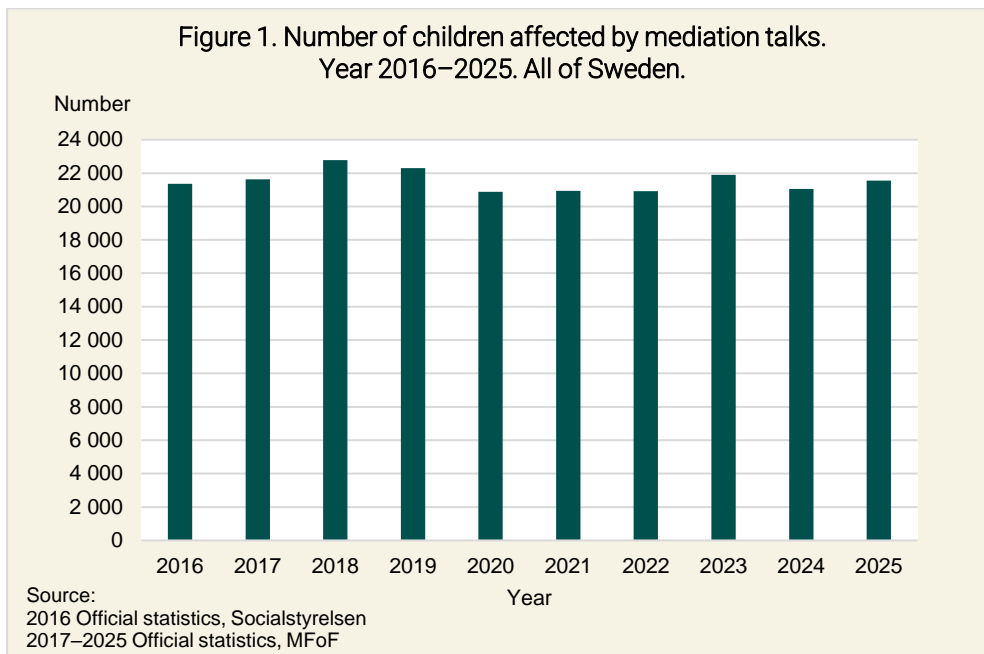
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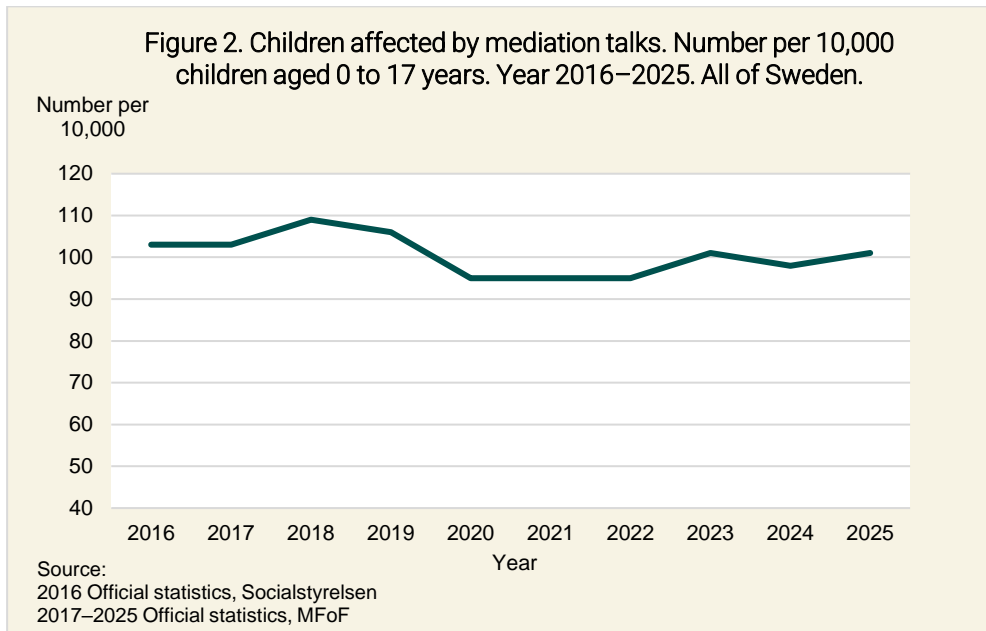
The number of children affected by mediation talks varies slightly over time

The purpose of mediation talks is to assist the parents in reaching an agreement regarding the custody, residence of, and access to, a child. Mediation talks can be arranged at the request of the parents or be initiated by a court.

The number of children aged 0–17 whose parents participated in mediation talks was 21,550 in 2025. Of these, 893 were initiated by court action. Statistics for the most recent ten-year period show that the number of children affected by mediation talks has varied between approximately 20,800 and 22,800 children per year (Figure 1).

The number of children per 10,000 inhabitants aged 0–17 was 101 in 2025, which is in line with the two preceding years (Figure 2). Over the past ten-year period, the corresponding figure has ranged between 95 and 109. The number was lowest during the years 2020–2022, which may have been due to fewer parents requesting mediation talks during the COVID-19 pandemic.



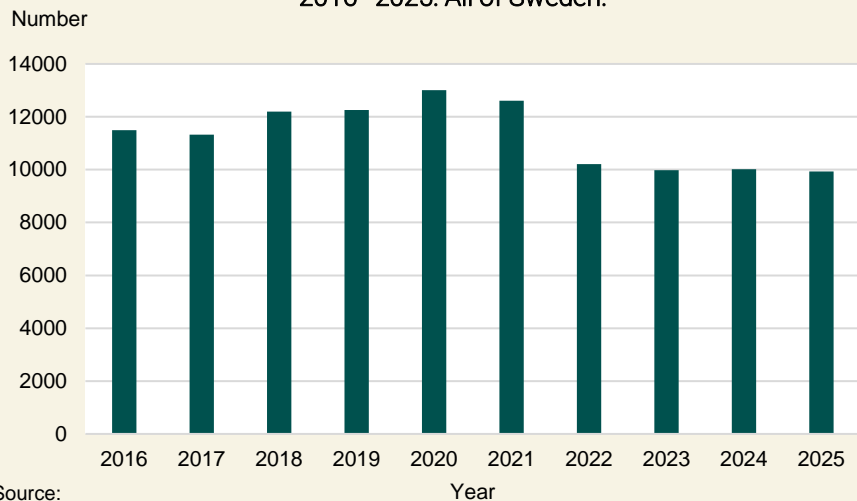


The number of children in retrieval of information remains unchanged and continues to be at a lower level than previously

Before a court makes an interim decision regarding custody, residence and access, the court can request a retrieval of information, also known as expedited information, from the social welfare board.

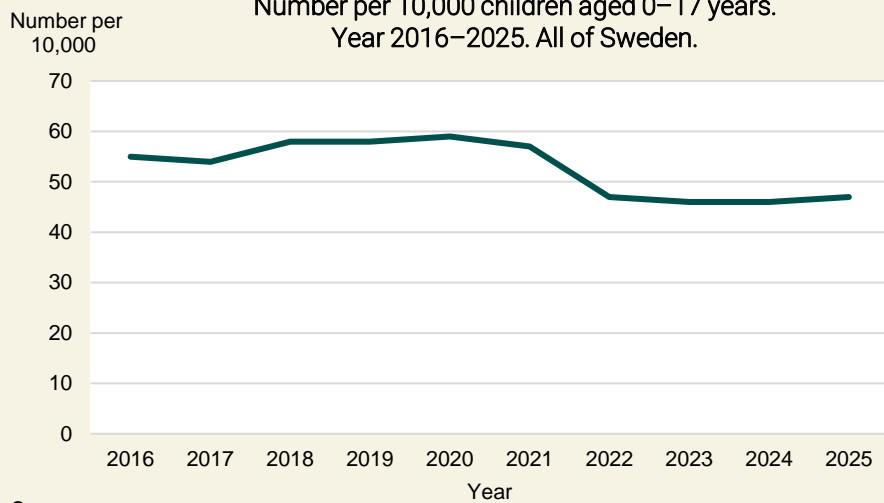
In 2025 there were requests for retrieval of information for 9,936 children aged 0–17 years (Figure 3). This corresponds to 47 children per 10,000 and remains at the same level as in the three previous years (Figure 4). Statistics over the last ten years show that the number of children in requests for retrieval of information have been lowest during the last four years.

Figure 3. Number of children affected by information retrieval. Year 2016–2025. All of Sweden.



Source:
 2016 Official statistics, Socialstyrelsen
 2017–2025 Official statistics, MFoF

Figure 4. Children affected by information retrieval. Number per 10,000 children aged 0–17 years. Year 2016–2025. All of Sweden.

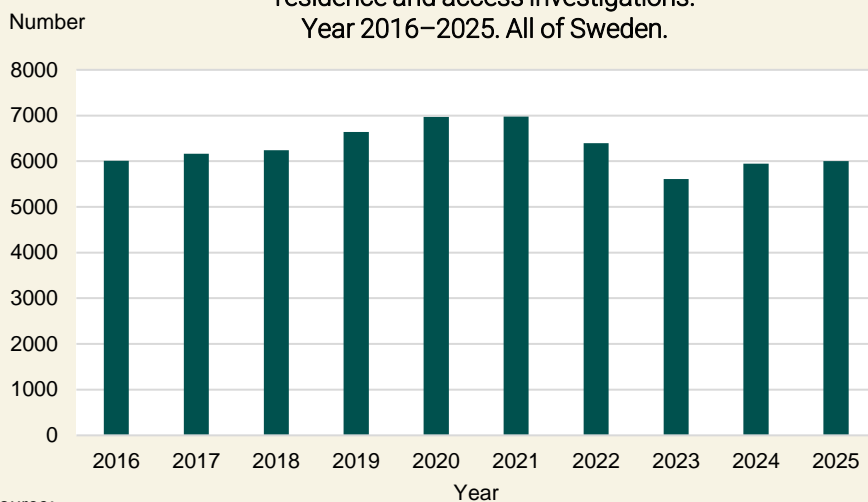


Source:
 2016 Official statistics, Socialstyrelsen
 2017–2025 Official statistics, MFoF

The number of children in investigations involving custody, residence and access remains unchanged

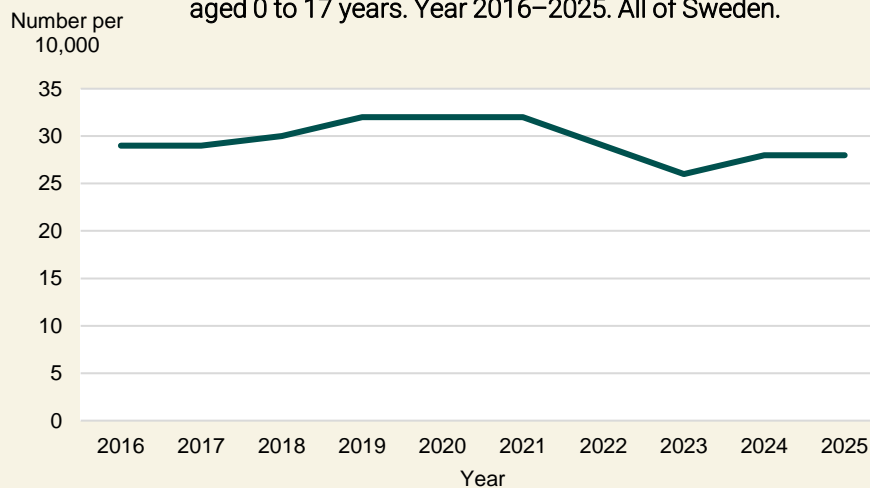
In 2025, a total of 5,999 children aged 0–17 years were subject to investigations of custody, residence and access (Figure 5), which corresponds to 28 per 10,000 and thus remains at the same level as the previous year (Figure 6). Over the most recent ten-year period, the number of children has been at its lowest during the past three years.

Figure 5. Number of children, aged 0–17 years, affected by custody, residence and access investigations. Year 2016–2025. All of Sweden.



Source:
 2016 Official statistics, Socialstyrelsen
 2017–2025 Official statistics, MFoF

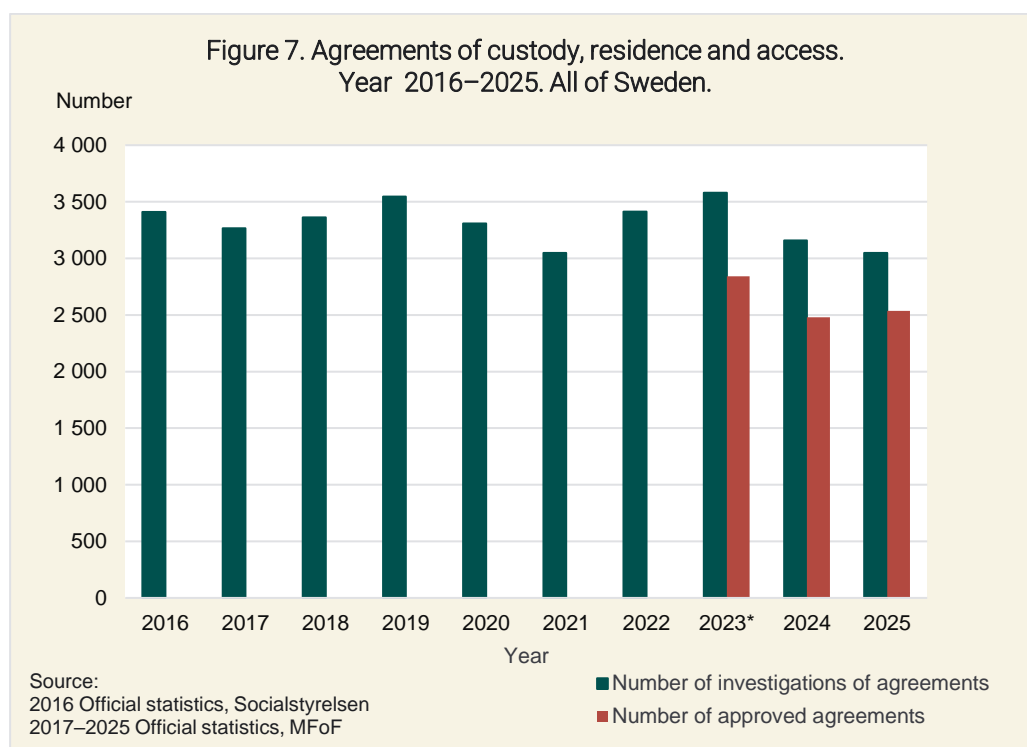
Figure 6. Children affected by custody, residence, and access investigations. Number per 10,000 children aged 0 to 17 years. Year 2016–2025. All of Sweden.



Source:
 2016 Official statistics, Socialstyrelsen
 2017–2025 Official statistics, MFoF

The number of agreements of custody, residence and access remains unchanged compared with the previous year

In 2025, a total of 3,047 investigations concerning agreements on custody, residence and access were conducted, which is slightly fewer than in the previous year (Figure 7). Of these investigations, 2,536 agreements were approved, corresponding to 83 percent. This proportion is slightly higher than in the two preceding years, when it was 78 percent (2023) and 79 percent (2024), respectively.



* In 2023, the formulation in the survey was reworked to clarify that 'the number of agreements' refers to 'the number of investigations of agreements'. Also, 'the number of approved agreements' was placed as a sub-question. The number of approved agreements has been included in published tables since the 2023 statistics.

The number of certificates to parents participates in information meeting is increasing

Since 2022 the social welfare committee is required to offer an information meeting to parents who are considering initiating court proceedings concerning custody, residence and access. It is also a requirement that any parent who wishes to initiate such proceedings must have first taken part in an information meeting. The meeting can be held jointly with both parents or separately. The aim of the meeting is to inform parents about the options for finding consensual solutions in the best interests of the child, for example through mediation talks and agreements concerning custody, residence and access. The social welfare board issues a certificate to parents who have participated in an information meeting.

In 2025, a total of 11,900 certificates were issued among the country's municipalities. Of these, 90 percent were prompted by individual information meetings and 9 percent by joint information meetings. Compared with the two preceding years, the number of certificates has increased by approximately 1,000. The proportion of meetings conducted individually has also increased over the period (Table 1). Statistics on information meetings have been included in the official statistics since 2023.

Table 1: Certificates issued, 2023–2025.

Year	Number of certificates	certificates prompted by individual information meeting	certificates prompted by joint information meeting	information not available
2025	11,900	90%	9%	1%
2024	10,923	88%	11%	1%
2023	10,861	84%	14%	2%

Source: Official statistics, MFoF

The legislation on information meetings was introduced, with the best interests of the child as a guiding principle, for the purpose of promoting consensual solutions in matters concerning custody, residence and contact, as well as reducing the number of disputes resolved in court.

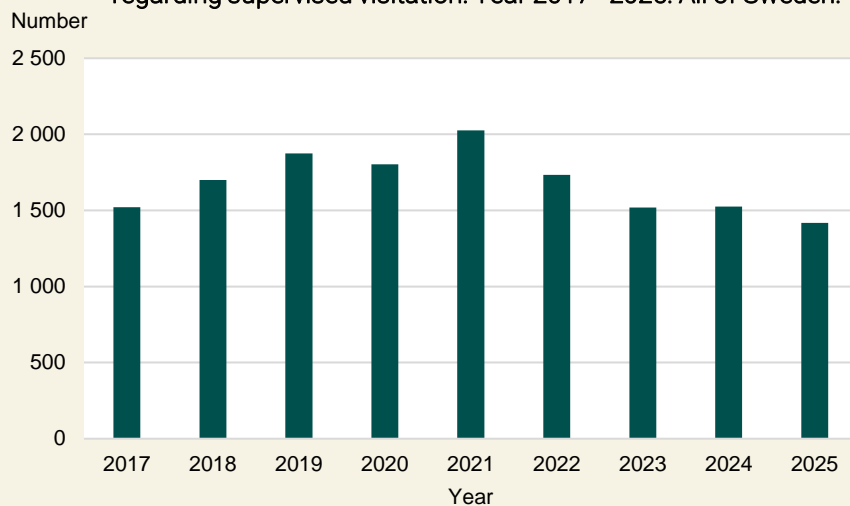
Statistics for the most recent ten-year period show that the number of children involved in retrieval of information and investigations concerning custody, residence and contact has decreased slightly since 2022, when the legislation came into force. However, regarding the number of children affected by mediation talks and the number of investigations concerning agreements, the statistics do not indicate any clear trends. Overall, it is still difficult to assess any potential effects of the information meeting.

The number of children in decisions regarding supervised visitations is lower than in the previous year

In 2025, there were 1,419 children aged 0–17 years affected by decisions regarding supervised visitations (Figure 8). This corresponds to 6.7 children per 10,000 and represents a slight decrease compared with 2024 (Figure 9).¹ Statistics for the past nine years show that the number increased up to 2021 and has since been lower.

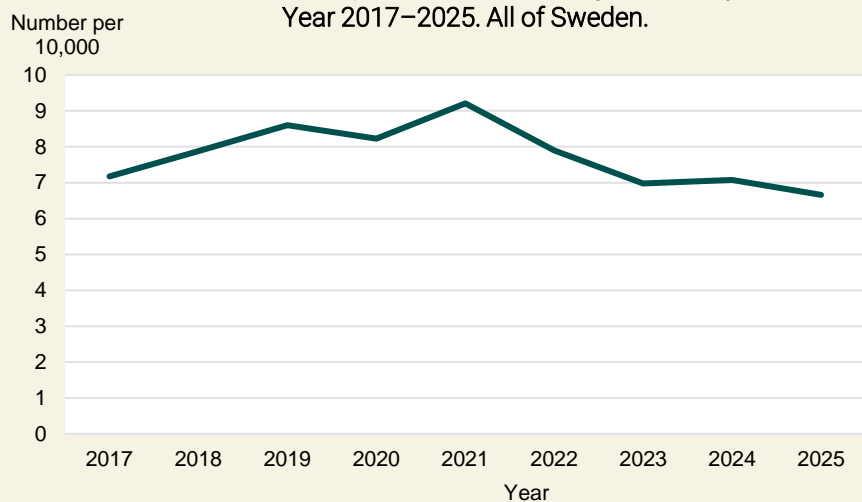
¹ Calculated using data on children 0–17 years in the population, year 2025. Source: Statistics Sweden (SCB), Statistical database, Population. Available via www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se

Figure 8. Number of children, 0–17 years, affected by decisions regarding supervised visitation. Year 2017–2025. All of Sweden.



Source: Official statistics, MFoF

Figure 9. Children affected by decisions regarding supervised visitation. Number per 10,000 children aged 0 to 17 years. Year 2017–2025. All of Sweden.



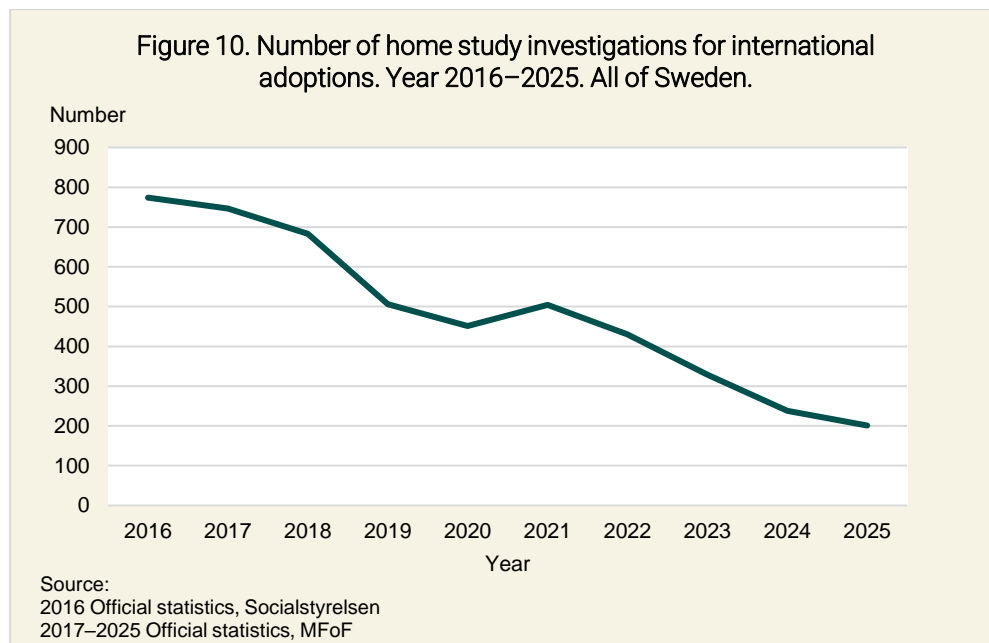
Source: Official statistics, MFoF

The number of home study investigations continues to decrease

Before an international adoption can take place, the person wishing to adopt must apply to the social welfare board for consent to adopt. A home study investigation serves as a basis for the social welfare board to decide on the applicant's suitability as an adoptive parent.

In 2025, a total of 201 home study investigations were conducted, indicating a continued decrease compared with the previous year. Over the period 2016–2025, the number of home study investigations has declined from 774 to 201, corresponding to a decrease of 74 percent (Figure 10). Compared with earlier years, the decrease is even bigger. For example, 1,830 home study investigations were conducted in 2000 and 1,483 in 2010.²

Of the home study investigations carried out in 2025, 11 investigations resulted in a refusal to grant consent.



The number of paternity and parenthood investigations by social welfare boards continues to decrease

When an unmarried person gives birth to a child, the parenthood of the other parent must be established through confirmation or a court judgement. The social welfare boards are obliged to investigate who the child's other parent is. Since 2022, however, parents have been able to acknowledge their parenthood themselves and to register joint custody via an e-service at the Swedish Tax Agency. As a result, the number of investigations conducted by social welfare boards has decreased considerably.

During the period 2010–2021, approximately 60,000 paternities were established each year through the social welfare boards. Since then, the number has decreased significantly. In 2025, 8,437 paternities were established through the social welfare boards, of which 75 percent registered joint custody. In the same year, 146 parenthood

² Official statistics on family law, Socialstyrelsen. Available at www.socialstyrelsen.se

cases were established, of which 69 percent registered joint custody (Table 2). Statistics on parenthood have been published since 2022, which means that comparisons with earlier years are not possible.

Table 2: Paternities and parenthood, 2022–2025.

Year	Number of paternities established via social welfare boards		Number of parenthood established via social welfare boards	
		number of joint custody		number of joint custody
2025	8,437	6,309 (75%)	146	101 (69%)
2024	9,007	6,522 (72%)	212	146 (69%)
2023	9,972	7,518 (75%)	269	177 (66%)
2022	17,173	13,896 (81%)	330	263 (80%)

Source: Official statistics, MFoF

Facts

Mediation talks are talks held by professionals in order to reach consensus on issues concerning custody, residence, access and livelihood.

Retrieval of information refers to collected information which the court receives from the social welfare board before an interim decision is made concerning custody, residence or access.

Custody, residence and access investigations are reports that provide the court with a basis for decisions concerning custody, residence or access.

Agreements of custody, residence and access are agreements that are drawn up between parents who agree on custody, residence and access. The agreement becomes legally binding when it is approved by the Social Welfare Committee.

Information meetings are talks with parents in conflicts over custody, residence and access, who are considering going to court. The social welfare board is responsible for offering an information meeting. The meeting can be held jointly with both parents or separately. A certificate is issued to parents who participated in information meeting.

Supervised visitation means that a person assists in the child's visitation with a parent. The court makes a judicial decision on supervised visitation and the social welfare board implements the decision by appointing a person to be custody support.

Home study investigations are conducted for the purpose of giving the social welfare board a basis for decisions on consent for a private home to receive a child from abroad for the purpose of adoption.

Investigations of paternity and parenthood are assessed by the social welfare board in order to determine who the child's other parent is, when the person who gives birth to the child is unmarried. An investigation may concern paternity, parenthood, single parenthood, or fatherhood/motherhood if either or both parents have changed their gender. Paternity and parenthood can be established through acknowledgement or through a judicial decision. Since January 2022, parents have been able to confirm parenthood using an e-service at the Swedish Tax Agency.

More information

Statistics on family law are available on MFoF's webpage. Most of the statistics are available per municipality and/or county.

www.mfof.se/statistik_familjeratt

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