

Statistics on municipal family counselling services for 2022

Statistics on municipal family counselling services for 2022 show, among other things, the following:

- The number of cases dealt with by municipal family counselling services per 1,000 inhabitants aged 18–69 has increased since the previous year and is at the same level as 2015–2020.
- The number of people per 1,000 inhabitants aged 18–69 who used municipal family counselling services has increased since the previous year.
- The number of children per 1,000 inhabitants aged 0–17 affected by municipal family counselling has increased since the previous year, but is still lower compared to 2012–2019.
- The number of people aged 18–69 who used municipal family counselling services varies from five to 21 per 1,000 inhabitants, depending on the county.
- It is still most common to have two to four sessions per case.
- The most common age for those who used municipal family counselling services is 30–39 years.
- Reconciliation work is still the most common focus of the treatment.
- Married couples and cohabitants are still the most common relationships encountered by municipal family counselling services, and 'reconciliation work' is the most common focus of the treatment.

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 themselves 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 on issues relating to custody, residence and access, are not included in the statistics.

The number of cases per 1,000 inhabitants aged 18–69 is at the same level as 2015–2020

In total, 37,815 cases were handled by municipal family counselling services in 2022 (Figure 1), which corresponds to six cases per 1,000 inhabitants aged 18–69¹. This is an increase compared with the previous year, but is at the same level as 2015–2020 (Figure 2).

The number of people per 1,000 inhabitants aged 18–69 who used municipal family counselling services has increased since the previous year

In 2022, the number of people aged 18 or older who used² municipal family counselling services was 69,299, which is the second highest number since 2004 (Figure 1). The number of people in 2022 corresponds to ten per 1,000 inhabitants aged 18–69. This is an increase since the previous year, but corresponds to the same level as 2014–2018 and 2020 (Figure 2).

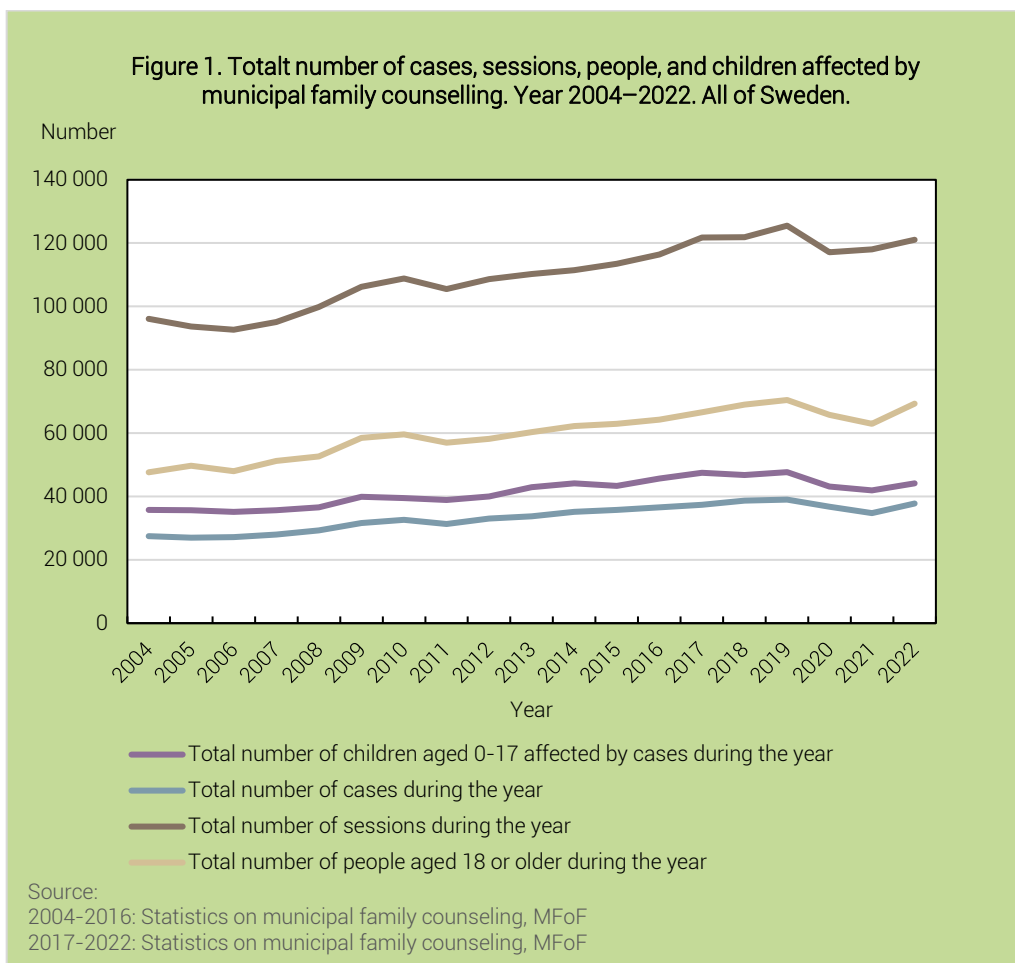
The number of children per 1,000 inhabitants aged 0–17 affected by municipal family counselling services has increased since the previous year

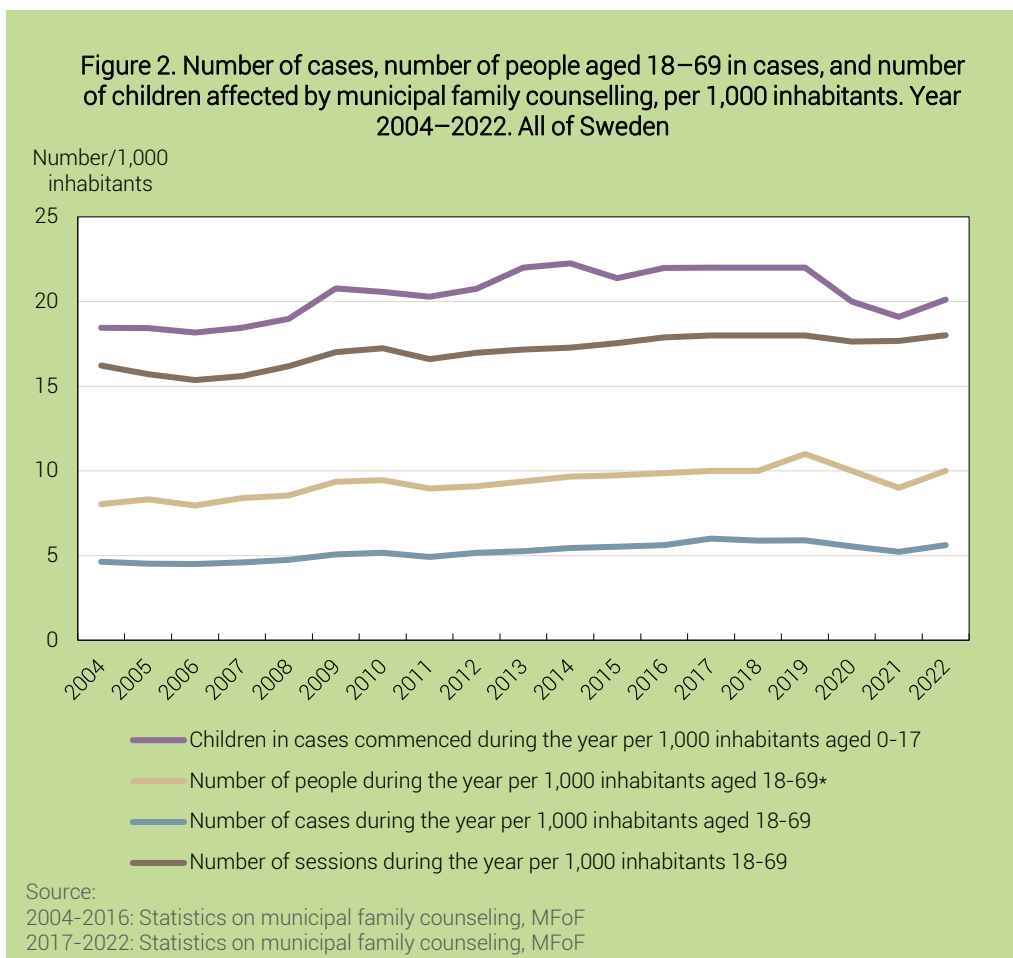
The number of children aged 0–17 affected by cases that started during 2022 was 44,124³. This corresponds to 20 children per 1,000 inhabitants aged 0–17¹. During the last ten-year period, the number of children per 1,000 has been lower in the last three years compared to the previous years (Figure 2).

¹Calculated using data on the total population in the age group. Source: Statistics Sweden (SCB), Statistical database, Population. Available at 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 2022, tabs: "Tab7" and "Tab8"). In addition, there may be children affected by municipal family counselling services, through either direct or indirect contact, who are not visible in the statistics.



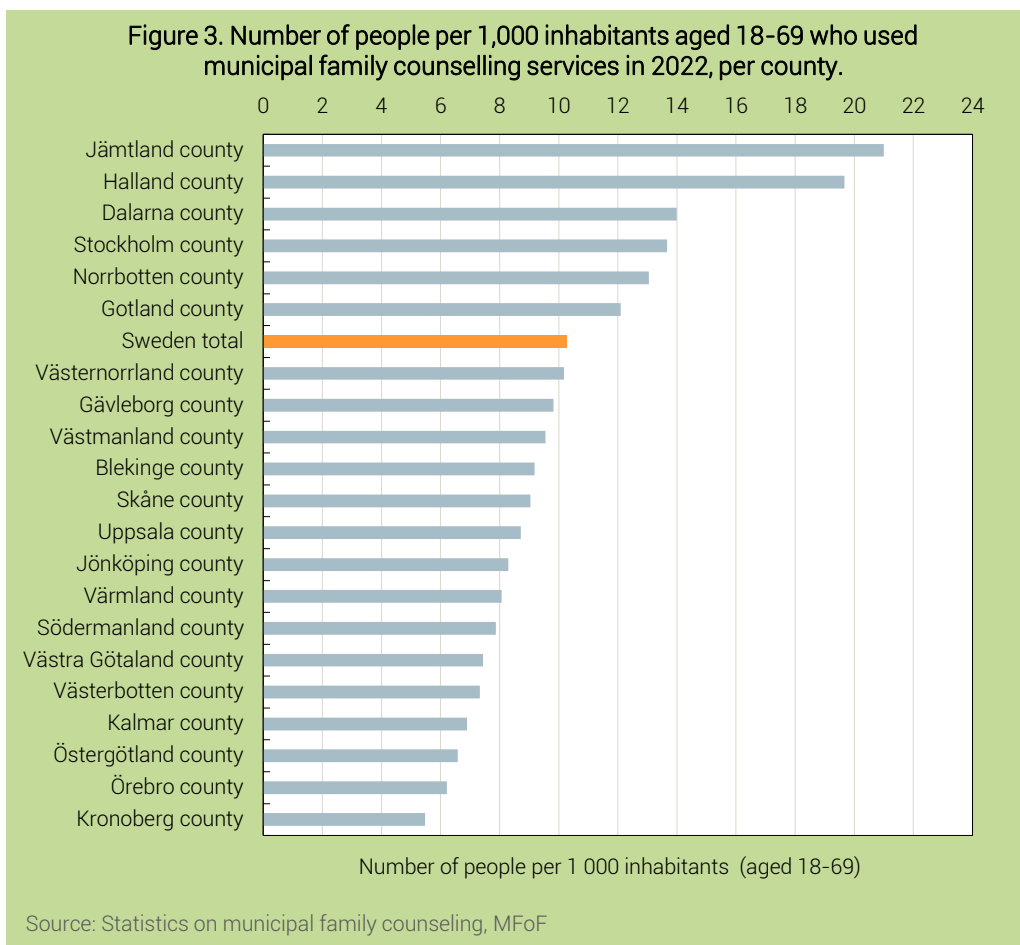


*Between 2003 and 2009, the age group 20–69 was used to calculate the number of people per 1,000 inhabitants. From 2010 onwards, the age group 18–69 has been used for the calculation.

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

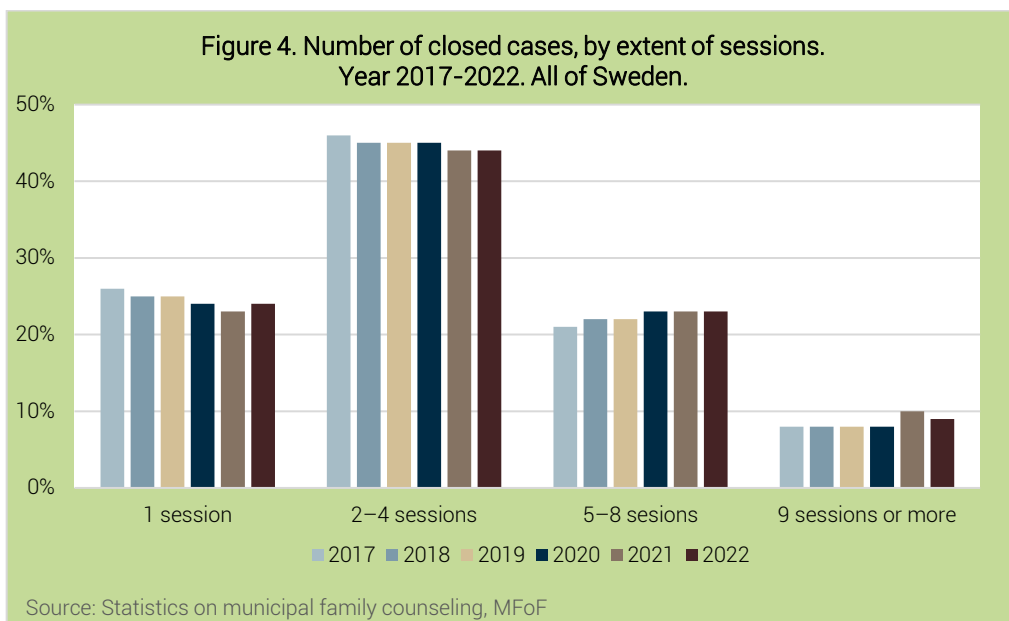
Figure 3 shows the number of people per 1,000 inhabitants aged 18–69 who used municipal family counselling services in 2022. The number varies between five in Kronoberg county and 21 in Jämtland county. The average number for Sweden was ten people per 1,000 inhabitants (Figure 3).

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



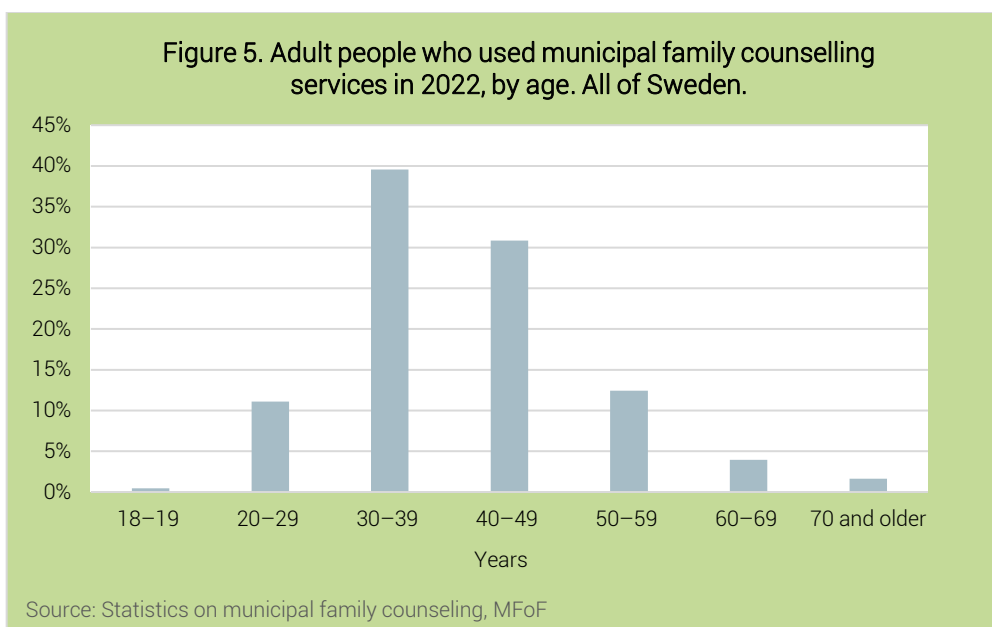
Most common to have two to four sessions per case

Of the 24,906 cases closed in 2022, 24 percent consisted of one counselling session, 44 percent of two to four counselling sessions, 23 percent of five to eight sessions, and 9 percent of nine sessions or more. During the last six-year period, the statistics have been similar (Figure 4).



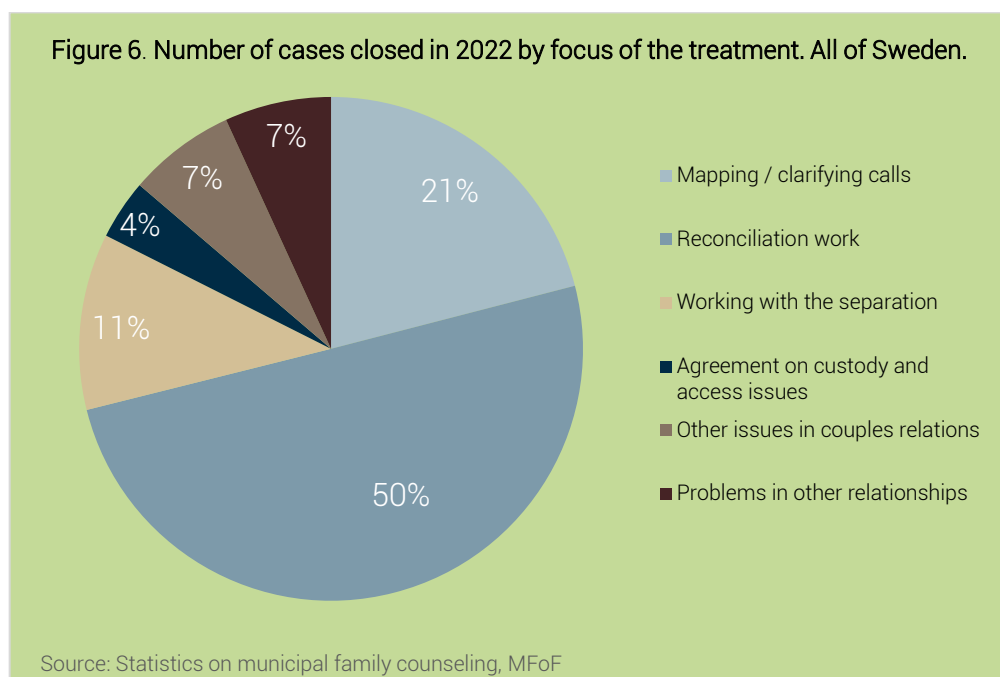
The most common age for those who used municipal family counselling services is 30-39 years

Of those aged 18 years or older who used municipal family counselling services in 2022, most were aged 30-39 (40%). The second most common age range was 40-49 years (31%), followed by 50-59 years (12%), 20-29 years (11%), 60-69 years (4%) and 70 years and older (2%). The proportion of those aged 18-19 was less than one percent (Figure 5). When compared to the previous five years, the statistics have been similar.



Reconciliation work is still the most common focus of the treatment

In terms of what was considered to be the focus of the treatment, reconciliation work⁴ was the most common among the cases closed in 2022, followed by mapping/clarifying sessions and then sessions working with the separation (Figure 6). In reality, however, a case can involve several issues at the same time. The focus of the treatment can also change over time.



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

During the first visit to municipal family counselling, the nature of the relationship is categorised into one of the following: married, cohabitating, living apart, separated or other relationships (such as sibling relationships or parent/child relationships). The most common relationships in cases started in 2022 were married and cohabitating, accounting for 39% and 40% respectively.

Of the cases relating to couple relationships (married, cohabitants and living apart), it was still most common for the relationship to have lasted between 5 and 9 years (26%).

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

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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