



Statistics on family law 2022

Statistics on family law for 2022 show, among other things, the following:

- The number of children affected by mediation talks remains unchanged since 2020
- The number of children involved in retrieval of information requests is the lowest number in ten years.
- The number of children in investigations involving custody, residence and access has decreased compared with the three previous years
- The number of children affected by implemented decisions of supervised visitation has decreased compared with the three previous years.
- The number of home study investigations has decreased.
- The number of paternity established by social welfare boards has decreased drastically since the possibility was introduced for parents to acknowledge parenthood via the Swedish Tax Agency.

Facts

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

Retrieval of information refers to collected information, stated in chapter 6, section 20 of the Parental Code, 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.

Implemented decisions of supervised visitations means that the social welfare board appoints a person to assist with supervised visitations in accordance with a judicial decision.

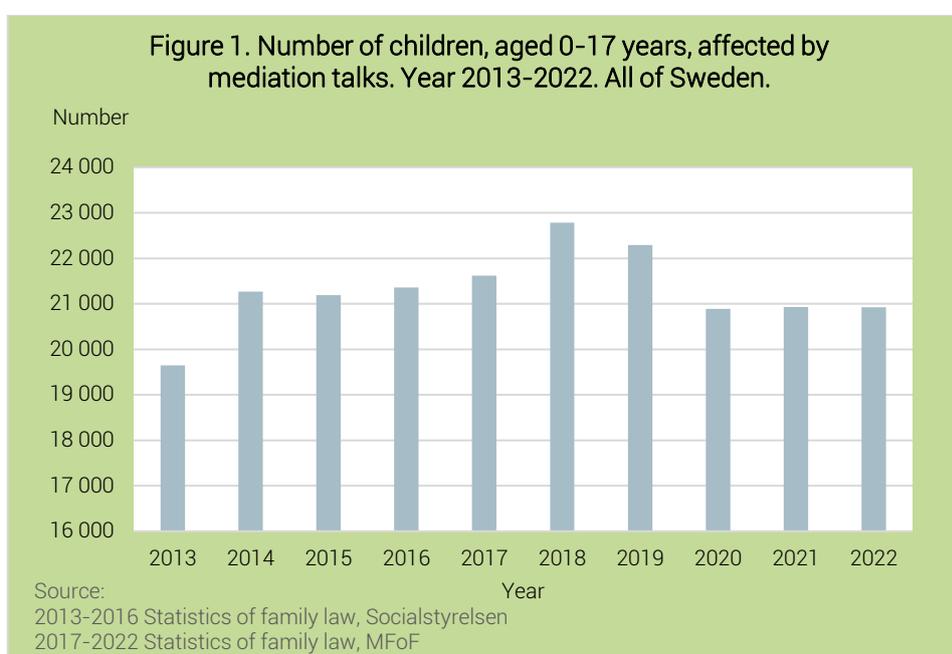
Home study investigations are investigations according to chapter 6, section 12 of the Social Services Act. Such assessments are conducted for the purpose of giving the social welfare board a basis for decisions on consent for a private home to receive a child from abroad for the purpose of adoption.

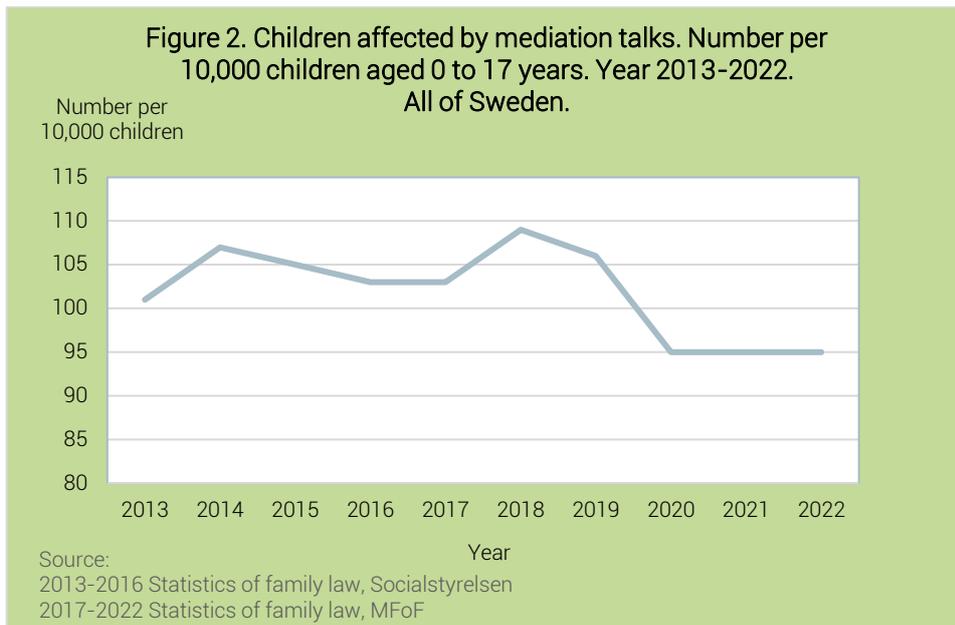
Investigations of paternity and parenthood are assessed by the social welfare board in order to determine who is the child's other parent, when the person who gives birth to the child is unmarried. An investigation may concern paternity, parenthood, single parenthood, or fatherhood/motherhood if either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

The number of children affected by mediation talks remains unchanged since 2020

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

In 2022, the number of children aged 0-17 years whose parents participated in mediation talks was 20,922. Of these, 1,299 were initiated by court action. Statistics for the last ten-year period show that the number of children affected by mediation talks has decreased during the last three years (Figure 1). Figure 2 shows the number of children affected per 10,000 children between 0 and 17 years of age. For the period between 2020 and 2022, this figure was 95, compared to previous years where the number has ranged between 101 and 109.

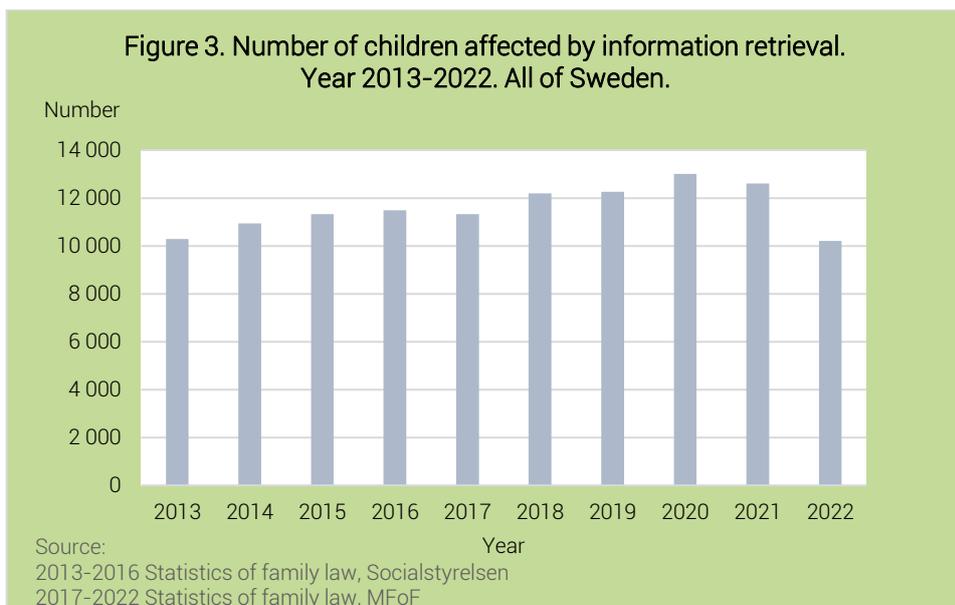


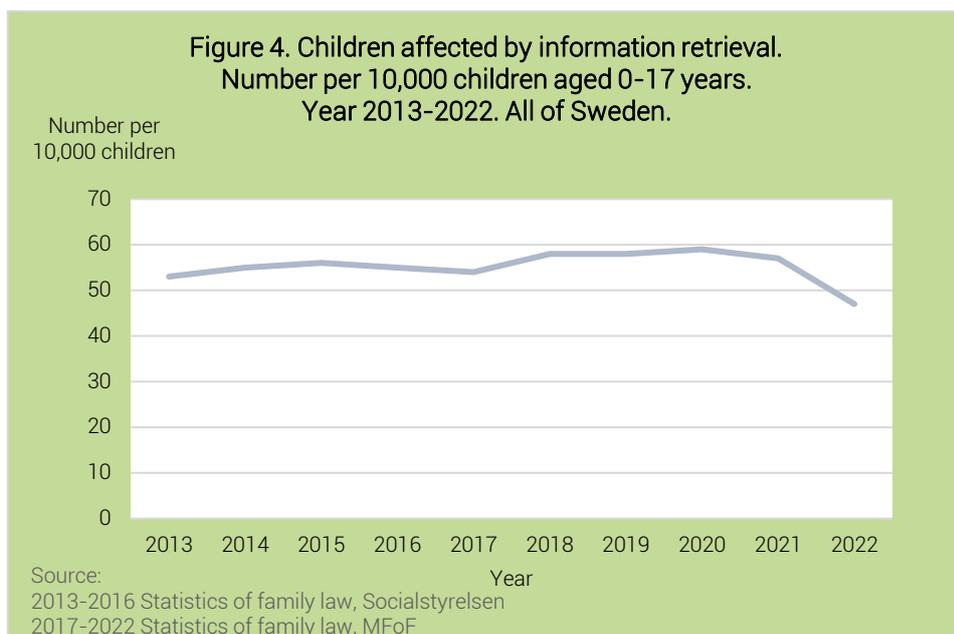


The number of children included in retrieval of information requests is the lowest number in ten years

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

In 2022 there were requests for retrieval of information for 10,215 children aged 0–17 years, which is the lowest number in ten years (Figure 3). The number of children per 10,000 children in that age group has varied from a low of 47 to a high of 59 (Figure 4).





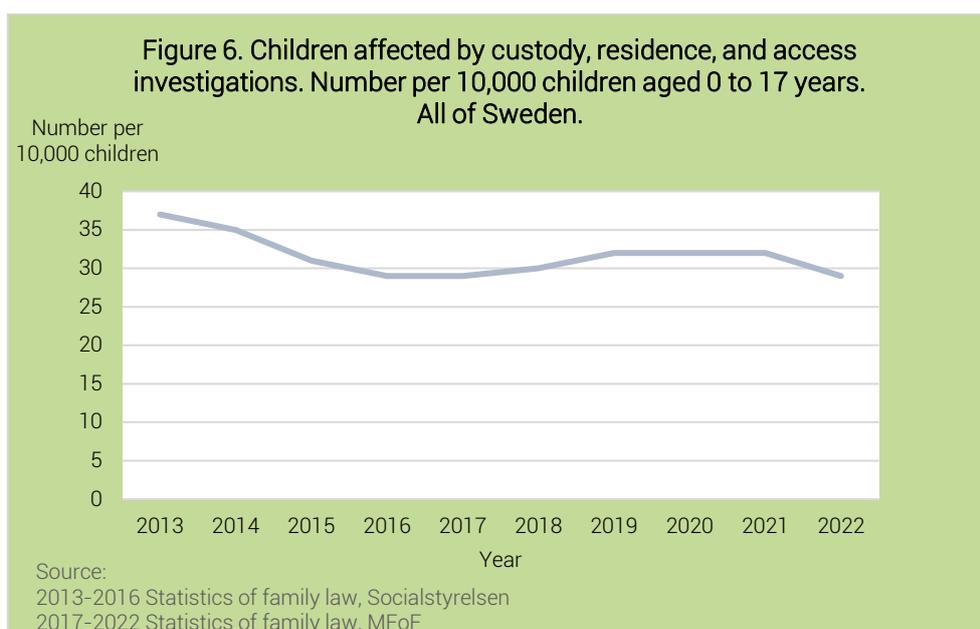
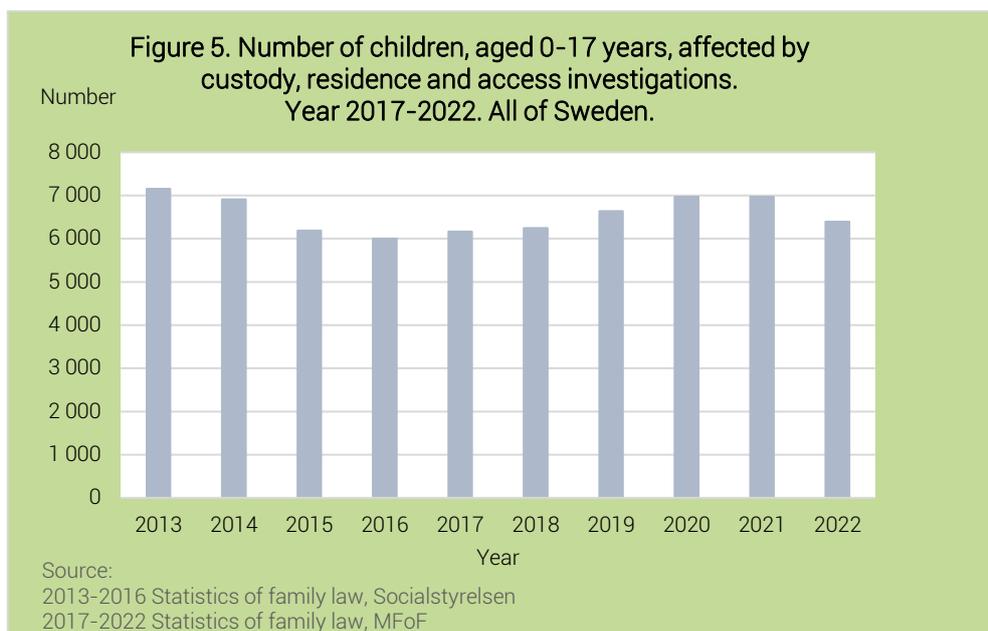
It is not possible to draw any conclusions about why the number of children affected by retrieval requests has decreased in 2022. Fewer cases in the District Courts regarding custody, residence and access may well be a reason. However, official statistics from the Swedish National Courts Administration show an increase in the disposition of civil cases regarding *claims for custody of children, etc.* from 6,066 in 2021 to 6,115 in 2022¹. The National Courts Administration's statistics include both disputes between private individuals and cases in which the social welfare board is the plaintiff. The statistics of the Family Law and Parental Support Authority (MFoF) on information refer to information retrieval requested by the court in civil cases between private individuals. In addition, MFoF's statistics are based on the number of children involved, while the National Courts Administration's statistics are based on the number of civil cases (which may include several children).

The number of children in investigations involving custody, residence and access has decreased

In 2022, in total 6,393 children aged 0–17 years were subject to investigations of custody, residence or access. This is a decrease compared with the two previous years (Figure 5).

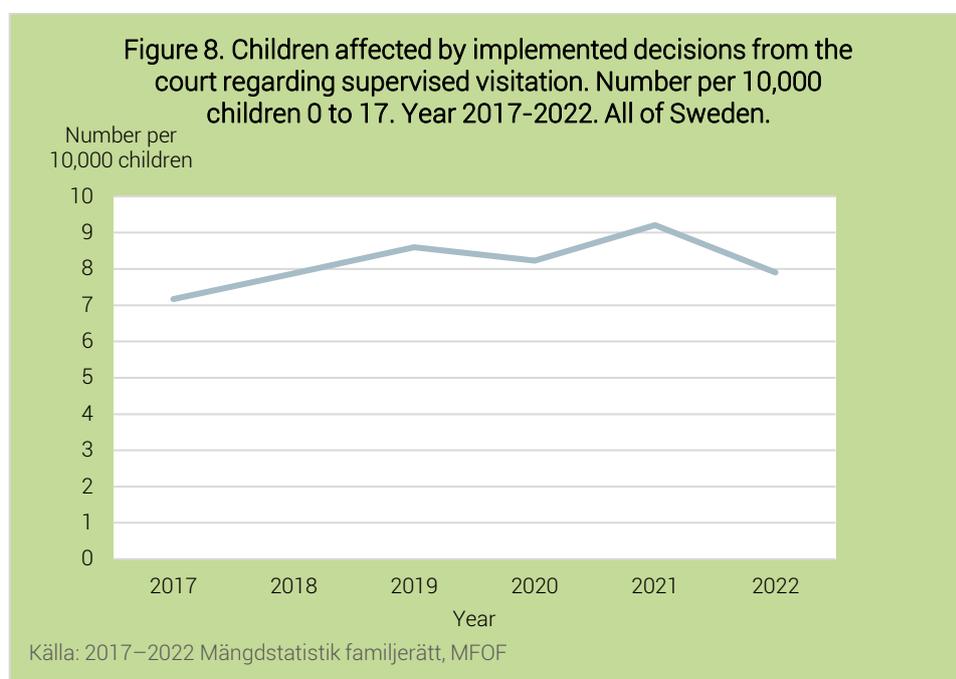
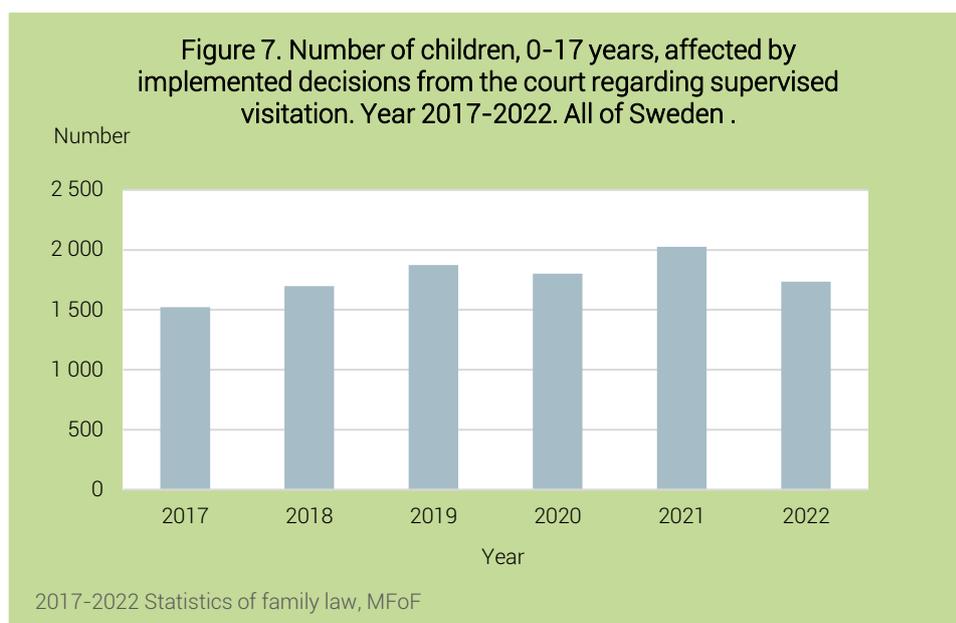
In terms of children involved per 10,000 children aged 0 to 17 years old, the number of 29 in 2022, compared with a corresponding number of 32 for each of the three previous years. During the past ten years, the number has varied somewhat, with a high of 37 children per 10,000 in 2013 (Figure 6).

¹ National Courts Administration, Court statistics 2022.



The number of children affected by implemented decisions of supervised visitations has decreased

In 2022 there were 1,734 children aged 0–17 years, affected by implemented decisions from the courts regarding supervised visitations (Figure 7). The number of children per 10,000 corresponded to 7.9² in 2022 and is a decrease compared with the three previous years (Figure 8).

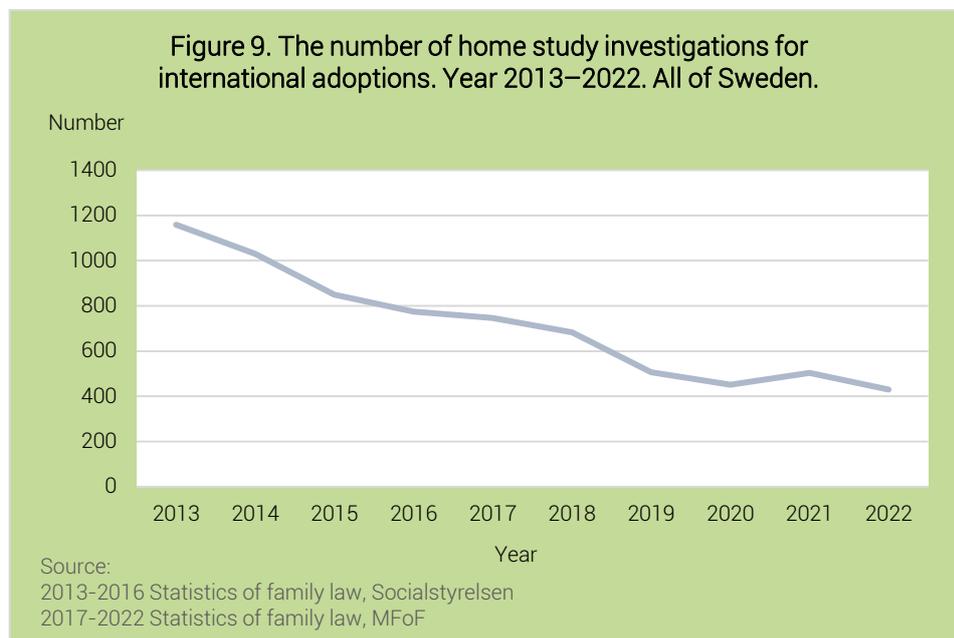


² Calculated using data on children 0–17 years in the population. Source: The Statistics Sweden (SCB), Statistical database, Population. Available via www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se

The number of home study investigations has decreased

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.

The number of home study investigations has decreased significantly over time. In 2013, just over 1,000 investigations were carried out compared to 430 carried out in 2022, representing a 63% decrease in consent investigations over a 10-year period (Figure 9). Of the home study investigations carried out in 2022, 15 investigations resulted in a refusal to grant consent.



As in the case of home study investigations, the number of international adoptions has also decreased. This has been a trend since the early 2000s. The decrease in international adoptions is partly due to the fact that children are more likely to be cared for in their country of origin and therefore not be available for international adoption. Another factor that may be relevant is that there are now more opportunities to start a family, which from an adult perspective may reduce interest in international adoption.

The number of paternity case determined by the social welfare board has decreased

New regulations on determining paternity and parenthood came into force as of October 2021. The changes include the use of only one type of protocol in investigations, the so-called U-protocol. Earlier protocol standards, the S-protocol, MF-protocol and Ä-protocol were still used up until the 1 October 2021.

When submitting statistics for 2021, municipalities were requested not to include information based on the U-protocol, i.e. results from paternity inquiries that

commenced in the period from 1 October to 31 December. The reason being the short amount of time to adjust operating systems for data collection with regard to the U-protocol. Caution should therefore be used when making any comparisons with paternity statistics for 2021.

Since 1 January 2022, an e-service has been available at the Swedish Tax Agency that enables parents to acknowledge their parenthood themselves, as well as report joint custody. One effect of this is that the number of investigations carried out by social welfare boards has fallen drastically. In 2022, social welfare boards determined 17,173 paternity cases, compared to just over 60,000 per year between 2010 and 2020.

With regard to parenthood, the 2022 statistics show that there was 330 cases of parenthood determined via social welfare boards. As MFoF has not previously published statistics on parenthood, no comparisons with previous years are possible.

More information

You can find additional charts, diagrams and other information in the Excel file at: www.mfof.se/statistik_familjeratt

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