

**Documentation of statistics for
Relatives 2025**

1 Introduction

The purpose of the Relatives Statistics and the associated Relatives Register is to map the population's relatives in a standardized and well-tested manner. It also aims to assess the closeness of a relatives between two individuals based on distance measured in kilometers, as well as whether the two individuals have at some point shared a residence, or whether they share a residence at the time of reference.

2 Statistical presentation

The register of relatives is created once a year as a status register. The number of persons in the register sums to the population count as of January 1st in the year of measurement. With the register of relatives it's possible to identify which people in the population have relatives and who hasn't. It is further possible to see what type of relatives a person has. The register can be used to shed light on differences in socioeconomic characteristics or use of health care, depending on which relatives a person has. In the register of relatives the geographical distance is calculated between the home address of main character, and relatives.

2.1 Data description

The Relatives Statistics measures the number of family relationships for different age groups. The family relationships are of different types, such as siblings, partners, parents, children, and in-laws. In addition, the distance to the grandparent who lives respectively closest to and farthest from grandchildren aged 0–24 is calculated. The statistics are based on the Relatives Register, which shows relationships between two living persons residing in Denmark. The resident population refers to individuals who have the right and obligation to register in the Civil Registration System (CPR) and who are included in the population figures compiled by Statistics Denmark. Only selected family relationships are included. The register contains a number of variables; some describe an individual's relatives and others describe the relationship between two persons. Variables describing the relationship between two individuals are measurable and may include, for example, the type of relationship and the distance between their places of residence. They may also indicate whether the individuals share a residence or have shared a residence at any time since 1986.

2.2 Classification system

- Type of relation: Holds information on the type of relation between two persons, and can be child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, child-in-law and partner.
- Living together: Holds information on whether two relatives share a homeaddress at the time of measurement.
- Lived together: Holds information on whether two relatives shared a homeaddress at some time after 1986.

2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant to these statistics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Relative: A relative is a partner, half or full sibling, parent, grandparent, child, child-in-law or grandchild. Partners and children-in-law are identified using information such as shared address. The other relative relations are identified solely using parent-child linkages in the Danish Civil Registration System (CPR).

2.5 Statistical unit

Persons, Kilometers

2.6 Statistical population

The population is persons living in Denmark as of January 1st in the year of measurement.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark

2.8 Time coverage

These statistics covers the years from 2019 and onwards.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics

2.10 Unit of measure

- Number (persons, relations)
- Average distance (kilometers)

2.11 Reference period

These statistics are made as of January 1st in the year of measurement.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

These statistics are updated yearly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

There is no EU regulation concerning the statistics.

2.14 Cost and burden

There is no response burden as the data are collected via administrative registers.

2.15 Comment

Further information on these statistics can be found on the page [Relatives](#) or by contacting Statistics Denmark.

3 Statistical processing

The primary source for these statistics are the register of population statistics. From the parent-child relation in CPR, parents, children, siblings, grandparents and - children are identified. Using address and marital status partner and children in law are identified.

3.1 Source data

The primary source for these statistics are internal Statistics Denmark sources including:

- [The Population](#)
- [Urban areas](#)

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Annually

3.3 Data collection

Data are collected directly from administrative registers

3.4 Data validation

The data validation happens in the publishing proses of population statistics, and is documented there.

3.5 Data compilation

Family relatives are identified using the parent-child in CPR and partner-relations using information on shared home addresses.

Children and **parents** are identified directly via the parent-child connection in CPR.

It is a condition that a **partner** shares address with the main character. A **partner** is further found in one of the following conditions:

- Married. The two persons are married (and not divorced again). This is also applicable to same gender couples.
- Cohabiting couples: Two persons, not married to each other, but have at least one shared child according to CPR.
- Couples living together: Two persons, mixed gender, with an age gap of less than 15 years. They don't have a shared child and as far as can be identified in CPR are not close family relatives.

Children-in-law are identified accordingly, as partners of the main characters children.

Siblings might share one or both parents according to the parent-child connection in CPR.

Grandparents are identified by finding the parents of the main characters parents in CPR.

Grandchildren are identified by finding the children of the main characters children in CPR.

Calculating the distance: For the measurement year 2023 in calculating the precise distance between inhabited address a road map and the GIS-program ArcGis is used. This method of calculation takes into account that the shortest distance might include bridges and ferries. For all other years of measurement, it is only the birds-eye-view that is calculated. See more in the chapter "Corrections".

3.6 Adjustment

In publishing the register of relatives 2025, a correction was made to all previously published years, including the birds-eye-view distance between all relatives. Previously birds-eye-view was only calculated for the year 2023. The calculations has been made to improve quality and does not affect the number of relative relations nor the number of individuals. It is the intent to publish distance by roadmap in the future. This means there 's expected to be published a version two of the register for 2025. It is not expected that this will affect already published statistics.

4 Relevance

These statistics are relevant for municipalities, regions, ministries, other government organisations and private companies in analyses of a number of conditions of society and as a basis for planning of e.g. services for the elderly, questionnaires etc. Statistics Denmark also uses the basic data and results of the statistics for a number of other assessments.

4.1 User Needs

With these statistics published for the second time with the year 2025 these are a fairly new area of statistics in Statistics Denmark. These statistics and register was made with funding from TrygFonden, aiming to help spread easy accessible knowledge on who relatives in Denmark are.

In the making of these statistics there has been an ongoing dialog with future users of these statistics throughout the process to uncover concrete wishes to statistics and contents in the register. A number of the wishes have been met, some have however not been able to meet. Further the project has had a steering committee with future users. The Steering committee has also provided direction and feedback on the development and future needs.

The users are expected to by municipalities, regions, ministries, other government organisations and private companies.

It is expected that the statistics and register first and foremost will be used for analysis- and research purposes. Secondary use is expected to take place as well, where these statistics are used to enrich other statistics and questionnaires.

4.2 User Satisfaction

The users hold great expectations to the register. It is the expectation that when these statistics and the register has been used by internal and external uses, new and different demands to content and variable than those identified in the development of these statistics.

4.3 Data completeness rate

There is no regulations or guidelines on this area. However, these statistics are very closely related to the population statistics where regulations control the content.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The statistics are based on the population registered in the Civil Registration System (CPR). Since correct registration in CPR is a condition for being able to lead a normal life in Denmark, the general quality and reliability of the register is regarded as very high. Failure to report immigrations and emigrations means that the published population is considered to be overestimated by 10,000 people or 0.14 per cent. Further cases of missing parent-child registrations have been made especially for the older generations and immigrants. As these statistics are based on an administrative register, wrong registrations of parent-child relations may occur leading to unintended linking persons as relatives. It can also lead to two persons having more than one type of relation. It is estimated that this margin of error is small in the big picture.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The general quality and reliability of the Civil Registration System is regarded as very high. However, looking at relation one has to take caution for certain groups in the population.

Older generations

When CPR was established in 1968 only people alive at the time was given a CPR-number. Thereby the number of parents, grandparents and siblings (since siblings are found through shared parents) for the older generations in the population are underestimated. Further CPR was intended for tax purposes in the early years of CPR, at the time every family was a tax-unit. When a child moved away from home or turned 18 they were considered their own tax-unit and the link between parent and child were annulled. This results in persons born before 1967 the number of siblings and parents are underestimated. For persons born before 1935 the number of parents, siblings, children, children-in-law and grandchildren may be very underestimated, and caution is warranted looking at the mentioned types of relations for these age groups. Attempts are made to correct the missing parent-child relations and this has improved the number of relations created.

Immigrants

All types of relatives, not established by shared home address or children born in Denmark, are underestimated for immigrants. This is due to lack of knowledge of family members who have never been a part of the danish population. It is also due to lack of linking parent child at immigration to Denmark. The latter is to some extent corrected over time.

Connecting couples

When connecting couples it is assumed the two people are a couple when they are mixed-gendered, sharing an address and the age gap is less than 15 years. It has not been checked how many of these couples living together are actually a couple. Some will probably be eg. two students sharing an apartment.

Two same-gendered persons, without shared children, will not be counted as a couple. Hence, the number of same-gender couples are underestimated.

Some comparing have been made on self reported couples in questionnaires and and those couples identified with Statistics Denmark's e-familytype. These comparisons shows that for statistical purposes, the register definition is representative.

Newborns

There will be some new-borns that not yet has a parent 2 in CPR at the time of reference, as there can be up to half a year delay in this registration. This is hence especially a problem with newborns born in the second half of the year before counting, and for newborns where the parents are not married at the time of births. If one is interested in the relatives of newborns, one should not look at the latest year of reference.

Parent-child relations

Parent child relations in CPR is an administrative relations, which cannot necessarily be sided be legal or biological parent-child relations. As no systematic checks are made on parent-child relations in CPR, cases can be made were two persons have more than one type of relation. The number of these cases are however limited.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

Incorrect addresses, which affect the assessment of families and households in particular, involve certain challenges. People without a permanent residence are a source of uncertainty. They are registered under special municipal addresses of a fictitious nature and are managed by the local civil registers. These addresses are reserved for people who cannot be registered at a residence for some reason. E.g. homeless persons, sailors, posted diplomats and certain other posted persons. Read more about the quality of the municipalities address registration in a survey by VIVE (in Danish). For people living on incorrect addresses the distance to their relatives cannot be calculated.

Another source of uncertainty regarding households is communal dwellings (e.g. nursing homes) where the residents are sometimes registered under individual addresses and sometimes with a common address.

As a result of both CPR and shared home address are used in creating relations, cases can be seen where two persons have multiple types of relation. The amount is however limited to about 500 unique relations between any two persons a year.

5.4 Quality management

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

5.5 Quality assurance

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

5.6 Quality assessment

These statistics are based on administrative data sources with full coverage. Undercoverage has been found for certain groups in the population. These statistics are timely, as it covers relative relations that, has not previously been made publicly accessible. In general these statistics are expected to meet user demands. It is however the expectation that there will be a demand for further measurements.

5.7 Data revision - policy

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the [Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark](#). The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

5.8 Data revision practice

A revision has been made for the years 2019-2022 and 2024 in a version 2 of the register. The revisions included the distance in birds-eye-view between two home addresses and was published in march 2026. The revision did not affect already published statistics.

In the future a version 2 of the latest year of measurement is expected to be published. Version 2 will include the distance between homeaddresses measured in roadmap. The exact method for this revision is still under development.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

These statistics were published in march 2025. It is the expectation it will be updated every march.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

These statistics are published three months after the end of the reference period,

6.2 Punctuality

The precision can not be estimated, as the statistics have only been published twice.

7 Comparability

Statistics Denmark are not aware of comparable, publicly available, statistics nationally or internationally. Most other statistics are based on questionnaires focusing on the role as relatives or informal caregivers.

These statistics are comparable over time, one does however have to be aware of the coverage of certain relations in the older generation the further back in time one looks.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

As to the knowledge of Statistics Denmark, no similar international statistics exist.

7.2 Comparability over time

These statistics are comparable over time. On a micro-level some relations might change over time.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The total population on 1st of January are shown in the StatBank table BEFOLK1.

These statistics are not directly comparable with Statistics Denmark's other family statistics. In the Relative statistics the family relations are independent of the home address and is solely build on CPR information. For Statistics Denmark's other family statistics shared address' are a main driver. An exception from this is linking couples, which in both statistics require a shared home address.

7.4 Coherence - internal

There's internal consistency with exception of the selections described in chapter Statistical processing.

8 Accessibility and clarity

The statistics can be found in the StatBank under the [Relatives](#). It has been made sure there's at least 3 observation per cell.

8.1 Release calendar

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

8.3 User access

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

8.2 Release calendar access

The Release Calendar can be accessed on our English website: [Release Calendar](#).

8.4 News release

There's published no separate press-release for these statistics.

8.5 Publications

Not relevant for these statistics.

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject [Relatives](#)

8.7 Micro-data access

It is possible to gain access to de-identified source data of this statistics through [Denmark's Data Portal](#).

8.8 Other

These statistics are solely available in the StatBank.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

[Data Confidentiality Policy](#) for Statistics Denmark is applied.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

These statistics have been anonymised using a threshold of three individuals.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

Not relevant for these statistics.

8.12 Quality documentation

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

9 Contact

The administrative placement of these statistics is in the division of Personal Finances and Welfare, Social Statistics. The contact person is Camilla Østerballe Nielsen, tel.: + 45 2028 5249 and e-mail: CNL@dst.dk.