

**Documentation of statistics for  
Children and young persons placed outside own home 2023**

## **1 Introduction**

The statistics provide yearly estimates of the municipalities' initiated placements and placements of children and young persons in out-of-home care. The figures are classified by provinces, municipalities, type of measure, place of accommodation, cause of placement in out-of-home care, cause of change in the placement of out-of-home care, sex, and age groups. They are published in StatBank Denmark and in a Danish-language article by Statistics Denmark in The New York Times.

The municipalities have not indicated that data regarding placements of children in out-of-home care for the period 2020-2021 are affected by the special circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **2 Statistical presentation**

The statistics contain yearly estimates of the municipalities' initiated placements and placements of children and young persons in out-of-home care. The figures are classified by provinces, municipalities, type of measure, place of accommodation, cause of placement in out-of-home care, cause of change in the placement of out-of-home care, sex, and age groups. The statistics are published in StatBank Denmark and in a NYT article authored in Danish by Statistics Denmark.

The municipalities have not indicated that data regarding placements of children in out-of-home care for the period 2020-2021 are affected by the special circumstances that arose due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 2.1 Data description

These statistics contain information about incidents, events, and the status of placements in out-of-home care. The status is as of December 31st of a given reference year. The statistics are calculated at the municipal level and by province, depending on discretion needs.

The statistics are based on individuals aged 0-22 years old who are registered in Statistics Denmark's accumulated register of placements for children and young people in out-of-home care. They are compiled according to the reporting municipality (administrative municipality), type of measure (legal basis of the measure, including consent criteria), place of accommodation, cause of placement in out-of-home care, sex, and age. Age is calculated at year-end.

Municipalities are obligated to report each time a decision is made that a child or young person is to be placed in out-of-home care. This also applies in the case of reinstatement in out-of-home care after repatriation/termination. Municipalities often cite several reasons for placing a child in out-of-home care.

The statistics are published annually as 12 separate statistical tables, 3 registers, and a NYT article. Statistical tables contain information on the number of initiations and placements in out-of-home care classified by province/municipality, type of measure, place of accommodation, age, and sex. The registers contain the above-mentioned information on an individual level. Furthermore, the registers contain information on changes in placements in out-of-home care, the cause of termination of out-of-home care, and the location of a child/young person after the termination of foster care.

Between July 1st, 2019, and December 31st, 2020, there has been a change in the categorization of foster families. These have been changed to common, reinforced, and specialized foster families. This information has been retrieved from the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing, and Senior Citizens.

## 2.2 Classification system

These statistics are grouped geographically by [municipalities and provinces](#). In addition, the children and young persons placed outside own home are grouped by age, sex and by:

### Measure

- Decision by the administration with consent
- Committee for children and young people without requirement of consent
- Foreigners under the age of 15 years (Aliens Acts §36 and 37)
- Provisional decision (the chairman of the committee for children and young people)
- Sentence (juvenile sanction)
- Sentence (imprisonment)
- Surrogate custody
- The Social Appeals Board's own initiative/ruling
- Decision/ruling by the Board for Juvenile Delinquency with consent
- Decision/ruling by the Board for Juvenile Delinquency without requirement for consent
- Provisional decision, (the chairman of the committee for children and young people, juvenile delinquency)
- Not stated

### Place of accommodation

- Foster family from the family network

- Ordinary foster family
- Municipal foster family
- Common foster family
- Reinforced foster family
- Specialized foster family
- Foster family according to section 76a (functionally impaired adolescents)
- Residential institution, general ward
- Partly closed residential institution or partly locked ward in open residential institution
- Residential institution, locked ward
- Residence for children and young persons
- Boarding school and/or continuation school
- Own room, student residence, facility similar to student residence
- Not stated

### **Cause of placement in out-of-home care**

- Addictive behavior in a child/young person
- Criminal behavior of a child/young person
- School problems with a child/young person, e.g. absence
- Other behavior of a child/young person causing concern, e.g. aggressive behavior
- Considerably or permanent reduced physical or mental capacity in a child/young person
- Health conditions of a child/young person
- Molestation of a child/young person, e.g. sexual or violent
- Other types of neglect of a child/young person
- Addictive behavior on parents
- Criminal behavior in parents
- Other behavior of parents causing concern
- Considerably or permanently reduced physical or mental capacity in parents
- High level of conflict or violence in the home between adults
- Inadequate parental care and control
- Enforcement proceedings or eviction
- Other
- Not stated

### **2.3 Sector coverage**

Not relevant for these statistics.

### **2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions**

Placement measure: Placement of a child or a young person outside the home, with or without the consent of the parent/s.

Administrative municipality: The municipality, which is obligated to provide assistance or support according to regulations on special support for children and youth pursuant to the Consolidation Act on Social Services.

### **2.5 Statistical unit**

Occurrences, stock of people (0-22 years) per 31.12 and sequences.

## **2.6 Statistical population**

Children and young adults under 23 years of age.

## **2.7 Reference area**

Denmark.

## **2.8 Time coverage**

The statistics cover the time period from 2011 and onwards.

## **2.9 Base period**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **2.10 Unit of measure**

Number.

## **2.11 Reference period**

Calendar year.

## **2.12 Frequency of dissemination**

Yearly.

## **2.13 Legal acts and other agreements**

Data about municipal authorities' placements of children and young persons outside the home (sections 52, 58, 75 and 76 of the Act on Social Services, section 74 of the Criminal Code, section 78 of the Penal Code Enforcement Act, sections 765 of the Administration of Justice Act, section 36 of the Aliens Act and section 14 of the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act) are collected with the warrant in current [Executive Order on Data Transmission in the Social Policy Area](#). The Executive Order and the requirements to report the data are based upon sections 82 and 84 of the Consolidation Act on Legal Protection and Administration in Social Matters and Section 6 of the Act on Statistics Denmark.

The statistics are not subjected to EU regulations.

## 2.14 Cost and burden

These statistics are primarily based on administrative data which stem from the administrative IT-systems of the municipalities. There is thus no direct response burden in relation to the compilation of the statistics. Different digital administrative systems, used by the municipalities to administer and report the data, are subjected to regulations stated in the Executive Order on Data Transmission in the Social Policy Area. This is the case for approx. 90 of the municipalities. Those municipalities, that supplement with manual reporting, do have a non-specific report burden. The statistic does include a process of municipal approval of the reported data. The reporting burden of the municipalities in connection to this is not estimated.

## 2.15 Comment

Further information can be found at the webpage of the statistics, [Disadvantaged children and young people](#), and the [information webpage](#), or by contacting Statistics Denmark directly.

## 3 Statistical processing

Data for these statistics are continually collected from the administrative municipalities. The collected data is then subjected to a meticulous validation process in cooperation with the municipalities. All of the municipalities receive feedback sheets, representing the scope and nature of the reported data, which need to be approved by the municipalities. Data is subsequently gathered in an incident register which forms the basis for a creation of a progress register and a status/stock register.

### 3.1 Source data

Data stem from municipalities' digital systems used for the administration of cases regarding children and young people. In addition, the municipalities can upload data through a [webplatform](#) provided by Statistics Denmark. In the period 2006-2016, Ankestyrelsen, (The Danish Social Appeals Board) was responsible for collecting data on placements in out-of-home care.

### 3.2 Frequency of data collection

Data from the 98 municipalities are collected continuously. It is possible to report on a daily basis.

### 3.3 Data collection

Data are transmitted via different system-to-system solutions. Municipalities can also upload data through a [web platform](#), provided by Statistics Denmark. The system-to-system solutions are provided by several developers, for instance DUBU, DXC, SBSYS and Modulus Social.

For more information on reporting criteria, see: [Bekendtgørelsen om dataindberetning på socialområdet](#).

### 3.4 Data validation

Data are validated yearly in cooperation with the municipalities. For each municipality, a list is extracted from the database based on CPR numbers (social security numbers). The list contains a compilation of yearly initiations and placements in out-of-home care, placements in out-of-home care with consent, and placements in foster family care. The extracted list is then sent to the municipalities for control, and ultimately approval of data, if it corresponds with their activity and records. Reports are sent each quarter to the municipalities in order to correct errors and issues with missing or misleading data.

As a general rule, only validated and approved data is published.

### 3.5 Data compilation

When the municipalities have approved their reports, the reported data are contained in an incident register, which contains the following occurrences: Decision of placement in out-of-home care, initiation of placement in out-of-home care, relocation, change in the legal basis of the placement, transfer and receipt of administrative obligation, establishment of 24-hour stay for persons, who have turned 18 years of age and termination of an out-of-home placement, or repatriation of a child or a young person. If a person turns 18 or 23 years of age, and a termination of an out-of-home placement is not reported, an automatic termination is added one day before the person turns 18 or 23 years old. Age is calculated at the date of the reported incident/occurrence.

On the basis of data in the incident register, a progress register is formed. Decisions and terminations have identical start and end dates. All other incidents end when a new incident occurs. If an incident does not have an end date, the following date is added to the incident automatically: 31st of December 9999. The length of placement in out-of-home care is calculated as the number of days between the start and end dates.

A status/stock register is formed on the basis of the progress register. Status is calculated per 31st of December and indicated by year. Age is also calculated at year-end, i.e. per 31st of December.

If the legal basis for the placement is stated as *provisional decision*, and the placement in out-of-home care has lasted for more than 14 days, the legal basis of the measure is changed to *placement without consent*.

### 3.6 Adjustment

Not relevant for these statistics.

## 4 Relevance

The statistics are used by municipalities, provinces, ministries, the media, researchers, private individuals and organizations. The statistics are used for public planning and administration, research, public debate and education.

### 4.1 User Needs

These statistics are used by municipalities, counties, ministries, the media and researchers for public planning and administration, research, public debate and educational purposes.

## **4.2 User Satisfaction**

No systematic survey of user satisfaction has been conducted. However, Statistics Denmark is in continuous dialogue with users of the statistics in regards to user needs and wishes. User wishes are also discussed in the [Advisory Committee for Personal Statistics](#).

## **4.3 Data completeness rate**

Not relevant for these statistics, since the statistics are not EU-regulated.

## **5 Accuracy and reliability**

Data is reported from the municipalities' administrative systems, which are used for case processing. There may be errors or omissions in the reports, or reports may be missing altogether. The municipalities approve an annual status prior to publication of the statistics. In this context, municipalities are requested to correct any errors and deficiencies.

Changes in placements are generally underestimated because the changes are only indirectly approved by the municipalities based on the reported placement status.

### **5.1 Overall accuracy**

Errors and inconsistencies are corrected as far as possible by the yearly process of data validation. Ultimately, the municipalities approve the reported data as being a true representation of their activity in the field. Relocations and changes in the legal basis of the decisions are not part of the validation process. It is therefore assessed that relocations and legal changes are not necessarily always reported by the municipalities.

Upon the latest revision of the statistics for the period 2011-2023, the revised figures deviated with up to 50 placements out of 13.400-15.000 placements in total. The deviation percentage can be larger with regard to smaller categories/groups (< 200).

### **5.2 Sampling error**

Not relevant for these statistics.



### **5.3 Non-sampling error**

The municipalities' administrative systems are designed in accordance with legislation to ensure that relevant information is submitted automatically. However, since information is entered manually, there is a risk of typographical errors during reporting.

Reports with missing information are included in the register as long as essential information is provided. Reports with invalid social security numbers (or personal IDs for foreigners) or missing event dates are excluded. Dates for events in out-of-home placement processes may vary by up to a month.

Data is corrected based on the assumption that out-of-home placement processes adhere to legislation. It is assumed that a placement for a child or young person begins with the initiation of the process and ends within their 18th year. For 18-22-year-olds, the residential stay can be maintained and terminated no later than their 23rd year. When forming the status register, a provisional decision is assumed to be replaced by a placement in out-of-home care without consent within 7 days if there has been no reported change in the legal basis of the case by the end of the relevant year.

The municipalities annually approve the aggregated number of placed individuals, as well as initiated placements. They strive to correct any errors and deficiencies before approving the data. Only validated and approved data from the municipalities are published. However, not all events and variables undergo the approval process, leading to potential uncertainty at more detailed levels, such as reasons for placement, reasons for return home, changes in placements, and the post-placement whereabouts of the child/young person.

Copenhagen municipality transitioned to a new administrative system in 2020, resulting in incomplete data for implementations in 2019 regarding consent and reasons for placements. Reporting on aftercare in Lejre municipality was incomplete from 2016 to 2020, though the exact extent of the incompleteness is not precisely known.

### **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

All 98 municipalities have received a validation report with key figures. In subsequent dialogue and investigation, a number of municipalities have received further information. The municipalities themselves assess the quality and approve the reported data.

## 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

Revisions for previous years are incorporated when compiling data for a new reference year. As the register is a process register, revisions may extend several years back in time.

Respondents have the opportunity to correct previously reported data or add new information daily. These changes and additions will be included in the next publication. However, only a few revisions are expected for earlier years. Data published in StatBank Denmark are revised back to 2011.

Upon the latest revision of the statistics for the period 2011-2023, the revised figures deviated by up to 950 placements out of a total of 13,400-15,000 placements. The deviation percentage may be higher for smaller categories or groups (< 200).

## 6 Timeliness and punctuality

These statistics are published 6 months after the end of the reference period. The statistics are published without delay according to the scheduled release date.

### 6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

These statistics are published 6 months after the end of the reference period. The statistics are published without delay, with reference to the announced time of publication in the release calendar. Upon each new publication of the statistics, the numbers, published in Statbank Denmark, are revised back to 2011. Since the register is a process register, revisions can range several years back in time. Relatively few corrections are expected with regard to data older than a few years.

### 6.2 Punctuality

These statistics are published on time, as stated in the release calendar.

## 7 Comparability

The statistics are comparable from 2011 and onwards.

### **7.1 Comparability - geographical**

Similar statistics are compiled in many other countries. However, the statistics are not subject to any EU regulation or compiled in accordance with other international guidelines. Therefore, these statistics can be compared internationally, but not necessarily directly.

### **7.2 Comparability over time**

The statistics have existed since 1977, but due to legislative changes in 1985, 1993, 2006 and 2019, respectively, the statistics are not directly comparable throughout the whole period. Since the 1st of January 2018, the statistics and the collection of data are based on the Executive Order on Data Transmission in the Social Area (current). The Executive Order is updated semi-annually and changes in regulations can thus occur every half year.

Following the changes of the State Social Support Act in January 1985, legal regulations, regarding placements of persons in 24-hour stay, were moved to regular legislation on placements in out-of-home care. (i.e. the 24-hour stay was henceforth included as part of the sections on placement in out-of-home care with or without the consent of the parent/s).

From January 1993, changes in legislation resulted in some forms of social support, which were previously considered as being a part of placement in out-of-home care procedures, being moved to the group of preventive measures. At the same time, a number of new preventive measures were introduced. In 2006, many simultaneous changes regarding data transmission and reporting - such as local government reform, a reform of the out-of-home care policy, and an introduction of new method for data reporting - contributed to a significant data breach and caused difficulties with regards to the quality of reported data.

In the period between 2019 and 2020, there has been a change in the categorization of foster families. These have been changed to common, reinforced and specialized foster families. The change has, accordingly, contributed to a decrease in the number of placements in generally approved foster families.

From 2020 and onwards, data regarding placements due to juvenile delinquency are also gathered.

### **7.3 Coherence - cross domain**

The statistics are related to statistics about preventive measures for children and young people, as the family and the child/young person must be offered relief measures before the municipality initiates a procedure to place the child or young in out-of-home care. The statistics are also related to statistics on notifications of concern for children and young people, as a notification can occur before a child is placed in out-of-home care.

### **7.4 Coherence - internal**

Reported data from different sources usually follow the same reporting forms. Changes in the forms may result in differences as a result of the suppliers not being able to implement the changes at the same time. During these transition periods, the response categories from the old forms will be mapped to the new categories.

## **8 Accessibility and clarity**

These statistics are published in a Danish press release, [Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik](#). The figures are also published in Statbank Denmark in [Disadvantaged children and young people](#). Further information can be found at the webpage of the statistics [Udsatte børn og unge](#) or by contacting Statistics Denmark directly.

### **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**

These statistics are published yearly in a Danish press release: [Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik](#), titled *Støtte til udsatte børn og unge*.

### **8.5 Publications**

The statistics are featured in the [Statistical ten year overview](#).

## 8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subjects in the following tables:

- [ANBAAR2](#): Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by measure, age, sex and time
- [ANBAAR8](#): Initiated placement outside of own home of children and young persons by part of the country, measure, age, sex and time
- [ANBAAR9](#): Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by administrative municipality, age and time
- [ANBAAR14](#): Initiated placement outside of own home of children and young persons by administrative municipality, age and time
- [ANBAAR10](#): Decisive causes related to initiated placement outside own home by part of the country, cause for placement outside the home, age, sex and time
- [ANBAAR17](#): Initiated placement outside of own home of children and young persons by part of the country, place of accommodation, age, sex and time
- [ANBAAR16](#): Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by part of the country, place of accommodation, measure, age, sex and time
- [ANBAAR12](#): Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by administrative municipality, place of accommodation and time
- [ANBAAR15](#): Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by place of accommodation, age, sex and time
- [ANBAAR13](#): Children and young persons placed outside of own home per 31st December by administrative municipality, measure and time
- [BU43](#): Children and young people who receive support per 31st December (share of 0-22-year-olds) by region, measure and age
- [BU04A](#): Support to children and young people per 31st December (net statement) by region, measure, age and sex

## 8.7 Micro-data access

Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions, can be granted access to the underlying micro-data by contacting [Research Services](#).

## 8.8 Other

Not relevant for these statistics.

## 8.9 Confidentiality - policy

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

## 8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

Due to discretion, persons are grouped into age groups. In addition, certain tables in the StatBank are published only for provinces rather than municipalities. See more on the classification page for [Regions, Provinces and Municipalities](#).

## **8.11 Documentation on methodology**

There is no separate documentation on methodology 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 Welfare and Health. The person responsible is Bente Ottosen, tel.: + 45 3917 3102, e-mail: bbo@dst.dk.

### **9.1 Contact organisation**

Statistics Denmark

### **9.2 Contact organisation unit**

Welfare and Health, Social Statistics.

### **9.3 Contact name**

Bente Ottosen

### **9.4 Contact person function**

Responsible for the statistics

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N/A