

**Documentation of statistics for  
Lending of assistive products 2023**

## 1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistics Lending of assistive products is to shed light on the municipalities' lending of assistive products from the municipalities' aid depots. These are assistive products allocated according to selected sections in the Act of Social Service, the Working Environment Act and the Health Act. The statistics are used to account for how many people are given assistive products and for the type of product that is handed out. The statistics are published for the first time for 2023.

## 2 Statistical presentation

The statistics of lending of assistive products is an annual inventory of assistive products that are allocated according to selected sections in the Act of Social Service, the Working Environment Act and the Health Act. The statistics contain information on how many assistive products have been handed out and the type of product. In addition, there is information on the number of people who have been given a assistive product. The statistics can be broken down by municipality, age and gender.

### 2.1 Data description

The statistics highlight municipalities' lending of assistive products from the municipal aid depots. These are assistive products which are allocated according to selected sections in the Act of Social Service, the Working Environment Act and the Health Act. Statistics Denmark receives data regarding lending of assistive products from each municipality. The data deliveries contain information about the reporting municipality, payment municipality, the specific assistive products, social security number of the recipient, legal section for the assistive product as well as the delivery and possibly returning date for the product. The assistive product is reported by the reporting municipality. A number of assistive products which have been reported are paid for by other municipalities. The statistics provide information on how many people are granted and given a assistive product and contain information about the type of product based on the assistive product's HMI number and ISO class in The Danish Authority of Social Services' database.

The statistics cover the period from 1st of July 2022 onwards. This means that all assistive products that are loaned out as of 1st of July 2022, as well as assistive products that are delivered and/or returned as of 1st of July 2022 and onwards, will be included in the statistics. The statistics are published annually and are published for the first time for 2023 at the end of June 2023.

The statistics will contribute to strengthening the breadth of the data base in the social area by collecting data and publishing statistics on reusable assistive products. This data must contribute with better national knowledge about the social area and citizens who receive reusable assistive products, to support the prioritization of social efforts.

## 2.2 Classification system

The selected assistive products refer to sections in the Social Services Act, the Working Environment Act and the Health Act. The sections are:

- Personal help and care etc., § 83 of the Social Services Act
- Rehabilitation course, § 83 a of the Social Services Act
- Rehabilitation and maintenance training that is not treated in connection with hospitalization, § 86 of the Social Services Act
- Support for assistive products, § 112 of the Social Services Act
- Help for the purchase of consumer goods, § 113 and § 113 b of the Social Services Act
- Support for the purchase of a car, § 114 of the Social Services Act
- Help for home furnishing, § 116 of the Social Services Act
- Use of fabric harnesses, § 128, § 128 b of the Social Services Act
- Equipment and technical assistive products that ensure sound working conditions in terms of safety and health, § 15 of the Working Environment Act
- Home nursing care, § 138 of the Health Act
- Rehabilitation after discharge from hospital, § 140 of the Health Act

Data can also be calculated by municipality, gender and age.

In The Danish Authority of Social Services' [database](#) you can find a detailed overview of types of assistive products based on HMI numbers and ISO class in the Social Service database.

## 2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

## 2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

**Payment municipality:** Municipality code for payment municipality and the municipality code for the reporting municipality will often be the same. In certain cases, aids are provided to citizens, where the assistive product is paid for by other municipalities than the reporting municipalities.

**Assistive products:** Assistive products is a product that optimizes the functional capacity of a person and reduces the handicap of a person. This is a product that will be returned after being used and allocated to another person. Lending of assistive products are allocated from municipal aid depots. Assistive products are allocated according to selected sections in the Service Act, the Working Environment Act and the Health Act.

**Reporting municipality:** Municipality code for the reporting municipality. Some municipalities are part of an inter-municipal collaboration, where one municipality is responsible for reporting to Statistics Denmark on behalf of the other municipality or municipalities. Only the municipality code of the reporting municipality will appear in the variable.

**Statistics bank municipality:** As a general rule, the statistics bank municipality will be the reporting municipality, which is reported by the municipality. For municipalities that are part of a cross-municipal collaboration, and where the municipality is not specified correctly, the statistics bank municipality code will be specified as the citizen's municipality of residence at the time of delivery based on Statistics Denmark's population register. If there is no municipality of residence at the time of delivery via the population register, the municipality code will be indicated with the reporting municipality's municipality code.

## **2.5 Statistical unit**

Persons.

## **2.6 Statistical population**

Persons that receive reusable assistive products according to the following section of the Social Services Act: §83, §83a, §86, §112, §113, §114, §116, §128 and Working Environment Act: §15 and Danish Health Care Act: §138, §140.

## **2.7 Reference area**

Denmark.

## **2.8 Time coverage**

These statistics cover the period from the 1st of July 2022 till 31st of December 2023.

## **2.9 Base period**

Not relevant for these statistics

## **2.10 Unit of measure**

The unit of measurement can be the number of persons or the number of services.

## **2.11 Reference period**

01-01-2023 - 31-12-2023.

## **2.12 Frequency of dissemination**

Annual.

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

The information is collected in accordance with the Act on Statistics Denmark § 6.

## **2.14 Cost and burden**

The statistics are mainly based on the use of system-to-system solutions that automatically report data to Statistics Denmark quarterly. Some municipalities report the data via Statistics Denmark's online reporting service. Some municipalities may experience technical difficulties when reporting the data which might cause some reported burden associated with these statistics. The municipalities must approve their data at a summarized level before publication.

## **2.15 Comment**

Further information can be found at the [Subject page](#) for these statistics, or by con-tacting Statistics Denmark directly.

## **3 Statistical processing**

Data for the statistics on assistive products are collected quarterly from the municipalities via automatic reports from the professional systems or via a web-based reporting solution. The collected data goes through an error-finding procedure, where the municipalities receive aggregated data, which they must approve. When the data has been validated by the municipalities and finally approved, Statistics Denmark processes the collected data and removes invalid data.

### **3.1 Source data**

Lending of assistive products is primarily registered in the municipalities' aid depots. Data on the granted products are reported by the trading municipality, i.e. the municipality that has searched the individual citizen for the product. In this connection, it should be noted that some municipalities have entered into an administrative collaboration, where a municipality, in addition to reporting on its own behalf, also reports on behalf of one or more municipalities.

### **3.2 Frequency of data collection**

Data are collected quarterly.

### **3.3 Data collection**

Data are mainly reported directly from the administrative systems used by the municipalities through system-to-system solutions. The automatic reporting is developed and maintained by the municipalities' tech suppliers. Alternatively, data can be reported manually via an online reporting service provided by Statistics Denmark. In the web-based reporting solution, the municipalities maintain their data alongside their regular administration of the services, typically because the municipal professional system cannot report directly to Statistics Denmark.

### **3.4 Data validation**

Statistics Denmark sends approval reports to the municipalities once a year, where they must approve summary statements of the distribution and submission of assistive products. Together with the approval reports, a report for validation of the distribution of the legal sections is sent. See the legal sections in the section Classification system. If the municipalities cannot approve the data, they are asked to correct any errors and resend the data. After this, the municipality will again be asked to approve the new summary data on distribution and submission as well as the distribution of the legal sections.. If the municipality does not respond to inquiries from Statistics Denmark, it is followed up with two written reminders and one telephone reminder. For municipalities that do not respond to inquiries from Statistics Denmark, Statistics Denmark can ask the Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing and Senior Citizens to contact the municipality with a view to further dialogue on approval of data. Statistics Denmark works to ensure that all municipalities report data on assistive products distributed by the legal sections. Statistics Denmark has contacted all municipalities and asked them to report the legal sections and attach a section to each assistive product. Statistics Denmark will develop and continuously implement validation on the legal sections used to grant the assistive products.

### **3.5 Data compilation**

Statistics Denmark receives data regarding assistive products from each municipality from the system suppliers or an alternative reporting system made available to the municipalities by Statistics Denmark.

Data is collected with full load in each quarter. Statistics Denmark sends two written reminders and one telephone reminder. For municipalities that do not respond to Statistics Denmark's inquiry, Statistics Denmark can ask the Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing and Senior Citizens to contact the municipality with a view to further dialogue about reporting data.

Once the data has been received, the data is compiled into a single data set, which forms the basis for the statistics.

In connection with the municipalities changing system suppliers, data supplied from the old and new system must be processed and compiled into a single report for the municipality.

The statistics cover the period from 1st of July 2022 onwards. This means that all assistive products that are loaned out as of 1st of July 2022, as well as assistive products that are delivered and/or returned as of 1st of July 2022 and onwards, will be included in the statistics. Other data that are not active in this period are deleted from data.

Each assistive product is registered with a social security number. All social security numbers are validated on the basis of Statistics Denmark's population register, and invalid social security numbers are removed from data. In some cases, assistive products are delivered to institutions where they can be used by several citizens. These assistive products are registered with a fictitious social security number and are removed from data if possible.

Each assistive product is associated with a reporting municipality and a paying municipality. A number of municipalities have inter-municipal collaborations, which means that a group of municipalities is part of a collaboration on custodial solutions for assistive products. One municipality will be responsible for the reporting of assistive products on behalf of the other municipalities that are part of the collaboration. In these cases, the paying municipality will not always be correct, but will be registered with the municipality responsible for the report. Based on Statistics Denmark's population register, the citizen's municipality code is registered based on the citizen's municipality of residence at the time of delivery. In a few cases, there is no municipality of residence at the time of delivery. Here, the municipality code is set to the reporting municipality's

municipality code.

Some assistive products are registered as being active even though the citizen is dead. In these cases the death of the citizen is registered as the returning date. Some assistive products are registered with a returning date that is much later than the death of the citizen. If a returning date is registered but the returning date is more than 31 days after the death of the citizen, the death of the citizen is registered as the returning date. Assistive products with a returning date registered before the delivery and deliveries that are registered after the death of the citizen are removed from data. After these corrections of data some assistive products are no longer active at the 1st of July 2022 and they are removed from data.

After correcting the delivery date some assistive products are still registered as active even though they are delivered many years ago. It is not assessed that assistive products are still active after many years of use. Assistive products that are delivered more than 20 years back in time are removed from data.

The municipalities have to attach a legal section to each assistive product. This should be reported in the variable 'lov\_navn' using specific codes but is not always done. The municipalities can use the variable 'lov\_tekst' to write a free text and attach a legal section to the assistive product. If a free text is attached to lov\_tekst and the free text is included in the mandatory legal sections, the legal section is attached to the variable lov\_navn\_opret using the specific codes.

Age and sex is calculated using the birth date and is calculated at the end of the year. For citizens that have died prior to end of the year, the age is calculated using the death of the citizen.

### **3.6 Adjustment**

No corrections of data are made, other than the ones described in the section Data Validation and Data Compilation.

## **4 Relevance**

The statistics are relevant for ministries, researchers, nongovernmental organizations and municipalities and as a basis for analyzes of the development in the number of services provided and the recipients characteristics and living conditions.

### **4.1 User Needs**

The need among users of the statistics is primarily to be able to calculate the development in the number of allocated services and the number of recipients of assistive products. Furthermore there is a need to link information about the recipients backgrounds in order to illustrate what effect the services have on the citizens' living conditions. Users of the statistics include ministries, researchers, nongovernmental organizations and municipalities. The statistics contain data on the recipients who receive the selected services in accordance with the Social Services Act, the Working Environment Act and the Health Act.

## **4.2 User Satisfaction**

A working group has been set up under the statistics, which follows the ongoing operation, maintenance and development of the statistics. Representatives from Statistics Denmark, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing and Senior Citizens, the Danish Social Agency and the National Organization of Municipalities participate in the working group.

## **4.3 Data completeness rate**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **5 Accuracy and reliability**

This publication is based on data from 97 municipalities where 97 municipalities have approved all data concerning data on distribution and submission of assistive products. Precision and reliability are primarily affected by inadequate reports from the municipalities, especially concerning the legal section. Further more the assistive products that are reported might differ between municipalities and the municipalities might register the delivered assistive products differently.

### **5.1 Overall accuracy**

The publication for 2023 includes 97 municipalities. 97 municipalities have approved the entire report concerning the number of deliveries and submissions. 8 municipalities have not approved the legal sections.

The precision of the statistics might be affected by inadequate reports from the municipalities, where some municipalities have not reported data and have not approved all or part of the data.

Some municipalities have not attached legal sections to all assistive products, and the completion of this variable will therefore be incomplete in some cases. Further more the municipalities might attach legal sections to the assistive products differently and the municipalities might register the delivered assistive products differently. The assistive products that are reported might consequently differ between municipalities.

In connection with the municipalities changing system suppliers, it can be a challenge to combine data from the new and old system correctly. There may be a risk of repeat offenders/duplicates if assistive products are registered in both systems. Conversely, there may be a risk of non-registration if they are missing in both systems. Consequently the precision of the statistics might be affected.

### **5.2 Sampling error**

Not relevant for these statistics.

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

There may be differences in which data the municipalities report to Statistics Denmark, and in how they register assistive products and process the data. There may therefore be differences in the municipalities' reporting of assistive products, which must be taken into account when comparing data between municipalities.

As per January 1st 2023, it became mandatory for all municipalities to report the legal section, where the municipalities indicate the legal section according to which the assistive product is



granted. Not all municipalities have had a legal section added to the assistive product. Data in this variable may therefore be deficient. Statistics Denmark is continuously working to get legal sections attached to as many assistive products as possible.

An assistive product can further more be registered in different legal sections, even if it is the same product in question. An assistive product can be registered as a single product in one municipality, while in another municipality it is registered as several products. For example can four blocks for a bed be registered as four individual products or a pack of four.

Some municipalities cannot attach a legal section to the assistive product, since some cases already are closed. A case is, for example, closed when the assistive product has been returned, which means that the citizen no longer needs the product or that the citizen has died. The number of assistive products that lack a legal section will in future be smaller, as the closed cases are expected to have a section on them in the future.

Some municipalities have undergone a system change, which means that active cases that are migrated from the old system to the new one will not have a legal section attached. In order to attach a legal section to these reusable assistive products, the municipality must open each individual case and attach a legal section. This is a resource-intensive task and has not happened in all cases. The proportion of missing legal sections will continuously decrease, as a legal section will always be attached to the case in the new system.

In addition, some municipalities report assistive products with legal sections that are not part of the requirement specification. These assistive products are reported by some municipalities and in these cases will not have a section attached. In some cases, the municipalities may, for lack of a better option, attach one of the sections included in the set of values, even if this is not a correct section. In these cases, the legal section variable may also be incomplete or perhaps filled with the wrong section.

A few municipalities also report assistive products that are granted on the basis of regional agreements. These assistive products can therefore not be attached to a legal section in the value set and will lack a legal section specification. The municipalities may have reported this differently. It is not possible to identify these regional assistive products and remove them from the data.

Some municipalities report assistive products with fictitious HMI numbers, which are not included in the Social Service database. Here we are talking about both material aids, but also services such as flexible traffic and other services. These cannot be added to a legal section from the value set, but some municipalities have nevertheless chosen to attach section 112 to e.g. flex traffic. If a valid social security number is not attached to the assistive product, it is sorted out in data.

Some municipalities report assistive products with fictitious social security numbers. These are primarily used when the municipality makes the products available to, for example, schools or care homes without it being linked to a specific citizen. The institutions can thus hand out the assistive products themselves as needed. Legal sections will not always be attached to these assistive products. It differs from municipality to municipality as to whether they report assistive products with fictitious social security numbers. Social security numbers that are not valid will be unsorted in the data.

In connection with the municipalities changing system suppliers, data supplied from the old and new system must be processed and compiled into a single report for the municipality. It can be a challenge to combine data from the new and old system correctly. There may be a risk of repeat offenders/duplicates if aids are registered in both systems. Conversely, there may be a risk of non-registration if they are missing in both systems. System change can therefore cause uncertainty in data. During 2022 and 2023, four municipalities have changed systems.

In addition, a system supplier has updated its system, which has meant that in the new system it has

been difficult to set the correct delivery dates and especially the correct submission dates.

In certain cases, the delivering and returning dates may be registered on dates that do not match the dates on which the assistive products were handed out or handed in. This can happen when the system is changed and where cleaning takes place in the depots.

It is generally expected that the systems used to register assistive products will increasingly use barcodes for registration. In the long run, this will minimize the risk of measurement errors.

#### **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**

The publication for 2023 includes 97 municipalities. 97 municipalities have approved the entire report concerning the number of deliveries and submissions. 8 municipalities have not approved the legal sections.

Some municipalities have not attached legal sections to all assistive products, and the completion of this variable will therefore be incomplete in some cases. In some cases some legal sections have not been attached to a assistive products at all and in other cases it might be uncertain whether the correct legal sections have been attached to the assistive products. The quality of the legal sections is assumed to be improved in the future.

When comparing municipalities one should be aware of the fact that the municipalities might register the assistive products differently. It might differ between municipalities after which legal sections the assistive products are granted. The assistive products that are included in data might differ when comparing municipalities and the assistive products might be attached to different legal sections.

The data concerning these statistics are relevant, current and available. The assistive products are unambiguously defined in the classification in The Danish Authority of Social Services' database. Data are published annually.

## **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**

Any revisions of previously released data will, by the default, be made at each new release. Revisions occur because the municipalities have performed quality assurance on their data or Statistics Denmark has improved their data processing.

## **6 Timeliness and punctuality**

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

### **6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results**

The statistics are published on a yearly basis at the end of June following the reference period. Only final figures are published.

### **6.2 Punctuality**

These statistics are published without delay, with reference to the announced time of publication in the release calendar.

## **7 Comparability**

The statistics cover the period from 1st of July 2022 onwards and are published for the first time for a whole year for 2023. No comparable data has therefore been published. Data cannot be directly compared with international statistics.

### **7.1 Comparability - geographical**

The statistics are not directly comparable to any international statistics because the services included in the statistics are defined by Danish law.

### **7.2 Comparability over time**

The statistics will be published for the first time for a whole year for 2023 and therefore no comparable data has been published.

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing and Senior Citizens launched a pilot project in 2017, the aim of which was to collect information on people who are registered in the municipalities' assistive technology systems. The experiences from this project were so good that the ministry initiated permanent statistics on assistive products from 2021, when it was voluntary for the municipalities to report data. From 1st of July 2022, it became mandatory for the municipalities to report to the statistics. Data from the previous projects have not been published.

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

Statistics Denmark is not aware of other statistics in this area

### **7.4 Coherence - internal**

It is estimated the internal consistency of the data is high. However, there may be a difference between the municipalities' registrations of assistive products and which products the municipalities register and send to Statistics Denmark. Some municipalities, for example, include assistive products according to legal sections that are not listed in the requirement specification. Some include fictitious assistive products and products with fictitious social security numbers in the data. However, invalid social security numbers are excluded from the published data. Some municipalities report assistive products that are granted on the basis of regional agreements.

## **8 Accessibility and clarity**

These statistics are published once a year in a Danish press release, at the same time as the tables are updated in the StatBank. In the StatBank, these statistics can be found under the subject [subject](#). Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions, can be granted access to the underlying Micro-data by contacting [Research Services](#). For further information, go to the [subject page](#).

### **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 once a year in a Danish press release.

### **8.5 Publications**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## 8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject Assistive products in the following tables:

[Assistive products](#):

Hjalp1: Lending of assistive products by municipalities Hjalp2: Recipients of lending of assistive products by municipalities, sex and age

## 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

Anonymized basic statistics of the statistics can be made against payment. Read more about costume-made solutions or get more information by contacting DST Consulting.

## 8.9 Confidentiality - policy

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

## 8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

Data with less than 3 observations are discretioned. Further data are discretioned to make it impossible to figure out how many people are hiding behind a discretioned number.

## 8.11 Documentation on methodology

An extensive description of the reporting requirements are defined in the requirement specification which can be found here [Udlån af hjælpemidler](#) \*\* Please note:\*\* only available in Danish.

## 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 *Welfare and Health*. The person responsible is Birgitte Lundstrøm, tlf. + 45 39 17 34 01, email: [bls@dst.dk](mailto:bls@dst.dk).

### 9.1 Contact organisation

Statistics Denmark

## **9.2 Contact organisation unit**

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## **9.4 Contact person function**

Responsible for the statistics

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