

**Documentation of statistics for  
Notifications of concern for children and young people 2022**

## **1 Introduction**

The purpose of these statistics is to monitor notifications of concern received by the municipalities regarding children and youth in Denmark. The statistics are used in the preparation of governmental policies, public debate, and research. The statistics were initially started by The Danish Social Appeals Board (Ankestyrelsen). Statistics Denmark has been responsible for the statistics since the year 2016.

## **2 Statistical presentation**

The statistics are an annual status of notifications of concern, which the Danish municipalities receive, regarding children and youth below the age of 18. The statistics include data about the number of notifications, the age and sex of a child or a young person, the date of the notification, the relation of the notifier to the child, or a young person ( i.e. who is notifying), the background for the notification (i.e. what caused the notification), and which municipality received the notification. The statistics are communicated through an NYT article (News from Statistics Denmark) and in StatBank Denmark.

## 2.1 Data description

The purpose of a notification of concern is to make the municipality aware of a concern for the well-being or development of a child or a young person aged 0-17 years old, or an unborn child. In Denmark, all citizens have a duty to notify the municipality regarding worries and suspicions of mistreatment of children and youth. Since 2010, professionals working with children and youth below the age of 18, have had a stricter duty to notify if there is a concern for the well-being of a child or a young person (cf. The Consolidation Act on Social Services §153). Upon receiving a notification of concern, the municipality is responsible to investigate the matter, and if necessary, to provide support for the child or a young person. The purpose of the notification is to be able to provide preemptive support to the child or a young person before the problems escalate.

The statistics have been published annually since 2015 and contain 3 tables in StatBank Denmark, a register for researchers and ministries, and an article authored in Danish by Statistics Denmark (*Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik*). The tables in StatBank contain data on the number of notifications of concern, the number of children and youth for whom there is a notification of concern, the number of notification causes, who made the notification, and the age and sex of the child or a young person. The information is distributed on a municipal level. Unborn children are registered through the expectant mothers.

The StatBank tables have different populations and answer different aspects about the notifications of concern:

- **UND1:** shows the number of total notifications and their notifiers
- **UND2:** shows the number of children or youth for whom a notification of concern has been received
- **UND3:** shows the number of causes that exist for the notifications
- **LABY16:** shows the share of children and youth for whom a notification of concern has been received

The registry contains the same information on an individual level. The registry also contains data on notifications of concern for unborn children that are registered through expectant mothers. Descriptions of variables and value sets can be found here: [Danmarks Statistiks hjemmeside](#).

## 2.2 Classification system

The statistics are distributed by municipalities, age, sex, notifier (i.e. who is notifying), cause of notification, and the number of notifications per child or young person within the year. Read more about Statistic Denmark's classification of [municipalities](#) (v1:2007-) and [municipality groups](#). Age intervals in StatBank tables, regarding the number of notifications (UND1) and the number of children/youth (UND2), use intervals of one year, while the table, presenting the causes for the notifications (UND3), uses 5-year age intervals.

## 2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

## 2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

**Administrative municipality:** The municipality which receives the notification and is obligated to decide which measures, if any, should be taken as a follow-up to the notification.

**Notification of concern:** A notification which is sent to the municipality by a citizen or a professional working with children and youth under the age of 18. The purpose of the notification is to make the municipality aware of a concern for well-being and development of an unborn child, or a child/young person aged 0-17 years old.

## 2.5 Statistical unit

The fundamental unit of the statistics are individual notifications of concern.

## 2.6 Statistical population

All notifications, received by municipalities in Denmark, concerning the well-being and development of children and youth. Children and youth refers to 0-17 year olds or unborn children. Notifications of concern can also be reported to The Danish Social Appeals Board (Ankestyrelsen). Such notifications are not included in the population of the statistics.

## 2.7 Reference area

All municipalities in Denmark (not including Greenland and the Faroe Islands). The municipality of Læsø reports their numbers through Frederikshavn municipality.

## 2.8 Time coverage

These statistics cover the time period from 2015 and onwards.

## 2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

## 2.10 Unit of measure

In Statbank Denmark, three different units exist:

- **UND1** shows the number of total notifications and their notifier
- **UND2** shows how many children or youth receive a notification yearly
- **UND3** shows the number of causes that exist for the notifications
- **LABY16:** shows the share of children and youth, 0-18 years old, for whom a notification of concern has been received

The registry contains the same information on an individual level.

### **2.11 Reference period**

Calendar year.

### **2.12 Frequency of dissemination**

Yearly.

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

Data collection is based on §6 of the Act on Statistics Denmark (Lov om Danmarks Statistik). The municipalities register notifications pursuant to §§ 152, 153 and 154 of the Consolidation Act on Social Services. Data reporting is based on §§ 82 and 84 of the Consolidation Act on Legal Protection and Administration in Social Matters. Data reporting and collection are also regulated by current [Executive Order on Data Transmission in the Social Policy Area](#).

These statistics are not EU regulated.

### **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 reporting burden in relation to the compilation of the statistics. Those municipalities, which supplement their records with manual reports, do have a non-estimated report burden.

All of the municipalities experience a degree of work burden connected to the yearly process of data validation.

### **2.15 Comment**

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

## **3 Statistical processing**

The municipalities transmit data regarding the notifications of concern to Statistics Denmark through different digital sources. Data are transmitted through different system-to-system software, or through a web-based platform, provided by Statistics Denmark. Data can also be uploaded via the FTP service. An overview of the received data from a given year is subsequently sent to the municipalities. In collaboration with Statistics Denmark, data are corrected for eventual errors and ultimately approved by the municipalities as being a true expression of the number of notifications of concern received in a given reference year. This process is called data validation.

### 3.1 Source data

Data are received from the Danish municipalities by Statistics Denmark, which functions as a data processor for the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing, and Senior Citizens. The Danish Social Appeals Board (Ankestyrelsen) was responsible for data collection in the period from 01/04/2014 to 31/06/2016. Notifications of concern collected from 01/01/2016 and onwards are primarily transferred directly to Statistics Denmark from the administrative data systems of the municipalities through a web-based database. The municipalities can access the database and their data through the information webpage of the statistics, [oplysningssiden](#).

### 3.2 Frequency of data collection

Data is usually transferred daily, but few municipalities send data weekly, monthly or annually.

### 3.3 Data collection

Data is reported either directly through different system-to-system software used by the municipalities or via manual reporting by using Statistics Denmark's web platform available from the information page of the statistics: [website](#).

All of the reported notifications are subsequently gathered in a web-based database, which the municipalities can access as required. In the database, the municipalities can make corrections to the reported data. Some municipalities have also reported data to the FTP server or via a parser in order to overcome issues with direct reporting caused by their IT systems.

### 3.4 Data validation

Data is validated annually in cooperation with the municipalities. Statistics Denmark sends an overview of the registered data to the municipalities. If the municipality finds that their data is correct, they confirm the validity of the overview list. If not, Statistics Denmark and the municipality cooperate in order to correct the errors. If errors are not corrected in time before the publication date, Statistics Denmark publishes the data with a note in the documentation of the statistics, or in Statbank Denmark, stating which municipalities partly or entirely have not confirmed their data. Furthermore, Statistics Denmark and the municipality will work on correcting the errors before the next publication. Usually, non approved data from the municipalities is included in the publication of the statistics, albeit with a mentioned note in the documentation, or Statbank Denmark, on the nature and the scope of the inconsistency.

### 3.5 Data compilation

Data from a relevant year are combined with previous notifications, found in Statistics Denmark's register. Each notification must meet the requirements formulated in the current Executive Order on Transmission of Data in the Social Policy Area ([Bekendtgørelse om data-indberetninger på socialområdet](#)). The uniformity of the requirements enables simple integration of data. Categories and required data are already grouped in accordance with the public release because of the aforementioned executive order. There is for this reason no calculations behind the release of the data.

Data from before the simplification of categories in 2017 are recoded to fit the current overall format for categories. In the validation phase of data collection, eventual missing values are restored.

### **3.6 Adjustment**

Correction is not applied.

## **4 Relevance**

The statistics are relevant to researchers, journalists, social authorities (including ministries and municipalities) and others, who are interested in children and youth at risk.

### **4.1 User Needs**

The statistics are primarily used by researchers, journalists, and social authorities (including ministries and municipalities). A great deal of interest comes from organizations, social authorities, researchers, and citizens who are interested in how the notifications of concern are administered and processed by the municipalities. The statistics have therefore a rich potential to be explored, especially in connection to other statistics on children and youth at risk.

### **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. Previously, the statistics were discussed at Statistic Denmark's [User Committee of Welfare Statistics](#) and [User Committee of Municipalities and Regions](#).

### **4.3 Data completeness rate**

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

## **5 Accuracy and reliability**

The accuracy and reliability of these statistics is high.

The numbers are revised two years back in time. The revisions consist of minor corrections and thus do not change the overall picture of the statistics.

## 5.1 Overall accuracy

The statistics are a good description of the target population, as the municipalities themselves send and validate the summarized numbers. Moreover, Statistics Denmark supplements the validation process by checking for various errors that can occur outside of local notice.

Upon publication, typically minor, if any, errors are found. These are corrected upon subsequent releases and validation processes. Overall, between each yearly release, an error margin of less than 1 pct. is corrected.

Every municipality is obliged to evaluate and approve the total amount of notifications for each year to confirm the data quality before the release. It is worth noting that Læsø municipality reports their received notifications of concern through Frederikshavn municipality.

**Status on municipal approvals:** In the years 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019, all 98 municipalities have approved data. In 2018, 94 Municipalities approved their data. Aalborg, Gribskov, Horsens and Sønderborg municipalities have not approved their data. In the case of both Gribskov and Sønderborg, the total number of notifications for 2018 is underestimated. In 2017, 97 municipalities approved their data. Aalborg could not approve data, due to IT-technical issues.

**Comments regarding 2022:** The amount of notifications for Næstved Municipality is slightly off-estimated, approx.. 60 cases.

**Comments regarding 2021:** The amount of notifications for Randers Municipality is slightly underestimated ca. 70 cases. The Municipality of Syddjurs has identified and removed ca. 300 duplicates. The total amount of notifications for Syddjurs in 2021 is therefore lesser compared to previous periods.

**Comments regarding 2020:** The number of notifications in Næstved Municipality is underestimated, ca. 137 cases.

**Comments regarding 2019:** In 2019, it was discovered that at least one municipality had a practice of registering one cause per notification - also in those instances where several causes were the case. The formulation regarding the correct practice of indicating the causes of a given notification has been clarified in the Executive Order on Transmission of Data in the Social Policy Area and communicated to the municipalities. It is therefore expected that this cause of underestimation will be minimal in the future.

In 2019, Statistics Denmark has been made aware that at least one municipality (Randers Municipality) registers notifications of concern in 2 different departments, resulting in one department not reporting their notifications of concern to Statistics Denmark during the whole period. The overall amount of notifications for Randers Municipality is therefore underestimated as follows: 2016: 41, 2017: 19, 2018: 32, 2019: 39, 2020: 78, 2021: 70.

In 2019, Statistics Denmark has been made aware that notifications of concern regarding Læsø Municipality in the period 2016-2018, were calculated as notifications from Frederikshavn Municipality. The number of these is low, and the error is/will be corrected in the future.

**Comments regarding 2018:** The Municipalities of Gribskov, Horsens, and Sønderborg, have not approved their data. In both Gribskov and Sønderborg's cases, the total number of notifications is underestimated. In the case of Horsens Municipality, the number can be over- or underestimated.

**Comments regarding 2017:** The amount of notifications for Ikast-Brandø Municipality is overestimated.

## 5.2 Sampling error

The sampling error is zero since the statistic's method is complete enumeration.

## 5.3 Non-sampling error

Before 2017, inter-municipal notifications contributed to some duplicates.

The relatively large number of notifications can contribute to a minor risk of overseeing registration errors of individual cases. The validation process can catch many mistakes in total, but minor problems can occur in the totals between categories.

The large number of notification causes can contribute to an underestimation of the total number of causes. Furthermore, differing registration practices, in which the municipalities interpret the causes differently, can weaken the possibility to compare the causes of notifications.

## 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 statistics are accurate and reliable since it is a complete enumeration, and due to the high quality of data. The data quality is ensured through the extensive validation process and annual revisions of earlier published data. The ongoing process of ensuring the quality of data can contribute to minor fluctuations that are under 1 pct. in total. Such fluctuations can occur, for instance, if errors, or non-approved data, stemming from previous years, are corrected upon a current publication of the statistics. These instances occur especially if a municipality has not managed to approve their data upon a given publication and corrects these issues upon the subsequent publication of the statistics. On an overall level, such fluctuations are minimal, and the statistics are thus considered accurate and reliable.

The gradual process of improvement in data quality has contributed to the fact that comparisons between the earliest and latest periods of the statistics are less accurate than, for instance, comparisons between two years in a row. The improved data quality is a result of better practices and more precise measures of errors in the validation process. However, the data, on an overall level, are comparable over time, when taking into account, the reorganization process completed in 2017.

## 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

The statistics are revised annually two years back in time. New numbers are published at the same time as the previous two years and are republished with corrections, which have been reported since the last publication. For example, in 2023, data for the census year 2022 and revised data for 2021 and 2020 are published. Republication of previous years consists mainly of minor corrections and does not change the overall picture. Data is generally considered finite 3 years after the publication.

## 6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics are published no later than 9 months after the end of reference period.

The statistics for 2020 were scheduled to be published on June 22, 2021, but were delayed until August 16, 2021.

The statistics for 2021 and 2022 are to be published according to the scheduled release date.

### 6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The final numbers for these statistics are published no later than 9 months after the period of reference. Preliminary numbers are not published.

### 6.2 Punctuality

The statistics for the year 2022 are published as planned.

The statistics for 2021 were published on the 27th. of September 2022, according to the scheduled publish date.

The statistics for the year 2020 were published with delay. The statistics were scheduled to be published on June 22, 2021, with reference to the announced time of publication in the release calendar, but were published on August 16, 2021. The delay was due to significant difficulties in providing data for some municipalities and IT systems.

The issues regarding the 2020 publication were corrected by the time of the final publication of 2020 data; that is, the 16th of August 2021.

## **7 Comparability**

These statistics have been compiled since 2015 and are comparable throughout the whole period - when taking into account the reorganization of categories in 2017, and a generally higher quality of data, especially from 2016 to 2017. The reorganization consisted mainly of a reduction in the number of notifier and cause categories. The categories were also corrected back to earlier years to make the statistics more comparable.

New causes for notifications of concern were added in 2022. The addition of these can contribute to weaker comparability. But these additions are minor and do not overlap or replace previously reported data.

The statistics deal with notifications during the whole year. In comparison, the other two statistics on disadvantaged children and youth are status based.

The statistics are partly comparable internationally, for instance corresponding statistics in Sweden, Norway, and to some degree Finland.

### **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 available data cover the period from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2022. The data were initially collected by The Danish Social Appeals Board (Ankestyrelsen), and from 2016 onwards by Statistics Denmark. The statistics are comparable throughout the whole period when taking into account the reorganization in 2017, and a generally higher quality of data, especially from 2016 and 2017. The quality of data has increased as a consequence of intensified validation in cooperation with the municipalities.

In 2017, the statistics underwent a considerable reorganization where the categories regarding, among others, the notifier and notification causes, were reduced from 16 to 11 and from 29 to 16 categories. During the process, previous categories were converted to new ones, which are applicable after the reorganization. Furthermore, two new notification causes were added. For more information, see [underretningsårsager](#) and [underretter-kategorier](#).

*Comments and status on municipal approvals from 2017-2022:*

2022: All 98 municipalities have approved data. Næstved Municipality has a known difference of 60 notifications.

2021: All 98 municipalities have approved data. The amount of notifications for Randers Municipality is slightly underestimated ca. 70 cases. The municipality of Syddjurs has identified and removed ca. 300 duplicates. The total amount of notifications for 2021 is therefore lesser compared to previous periods.

2020: All 98 municipalities have approved data.

2019: All 98 municipalities have approved data. In 2019 it was established that at least one municipality had a practice of registering one cause per notification - also in those instances where several causes were the case. The formulation regarding the correct practice of indicating the causes of a given notification has been clarified in the Executive Order on Data Transmission in the Social Policy Area and communicated to the municipalities. It is therefore expected that this cause of underestimation will be minimal in the future. In 2019, Statistics Denmark has been made aware that at least one municipality (Randers Municipality) registers notifications of concern in 2 different departments, resulting in one department not reporting their notifications to Statistics Denmark during the whole period. The overall amount of notifications for Randers Municipality is therefore underestimated as follows: 2016: 41, 2017: 19, 2018: 32, 2019: 39, 2020: 78, 2021: 70. Furthermore, Statistics Denmark has been made aware that notifications of concern regarding Læsø Municipality in the period 2016-2018, were calculated as notifications from Frederikshavn Municipality. The number of these is low, and the error is/will be corrected in the future.

2018: 94 municipalities have approved data. Aalborg, Gribskov, Horsens, and Sønderborg Municipalities could not approve their data for the year 2018. In the cases of Gribskov and Sønderborg, the number of notifications is underestimated. The numbers concerning Horsens Municipality can be over or underestimated.

2017: 97 municipalities have approved data. Municipality of Aalborg could not approve their data, due to IT- issues. The number of notifications for 2017 in Ikast-Brandø Municipality is overestimated.

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

The statistics are related to statistics on preventive measures and out-of-home placements of children and youth, as a notification of concern can occur before a child or a young person is granted a preventive measure or placed in out-of-home care. It is also worth noting that the statistics deal with notifications during the year. The other statistics on disadvantaged children and youth are primarily status-based for the whole year.

### **7.4 Coherence - internal**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **8 Accessibility and clarity**

These statistics are published annually in a Danish press release, [Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik](#). At the same time, the tables are updated in StatBank Denmark. The numbers can be found in the StatBank as following tables:

- [UND1](#)
- [UND2](#)
- [UND3](#)
- [LABY16](#)

For further information, see the [subject page on disadvantaged children and young people](#).

Contact DST Consulting for access to micro-data.

### **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 annually in a Danish press release: [Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik](#)

### **8.5 Publications**

Not relevant for this statistic.

## 8.6 On-line database

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

- [UND1](#): Notifications of concern for children classified by administrative municipality, notifier (who is notifying), age, sex and time
- [UND2](#): Children for whom a notification of concern has been received, classified by administrative municipality, notifications of concern, age, sex and time
- [UND3](#): Causes for notifications of concern for children, classified by administrative municipality, cause, notifier (who is notifying), age, sex and time
- [LABY16](#): Share of children between 0-18 years with notifications of concern by municipality groups

## 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

Contact the Research Office in Statistics Denmark.

## 8.9 Confidentiality - policy

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

## 8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

The statistics are published on an aggregated level. Nondisclosure is therefore not a critical step. A simple confidentiality measure is currently implemented, wherein combinations of categories such as municipality, age, etc., that have an aggregated total of less than three notifications, are made confidential categorically.

There is no need for additional steps for nondisclosure beyond house policies on micro-level data, as no personal information is included in the micro-level statistics.

## 8.11 Documentation on methodology

There are no separate method descriptions 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, Social Statistics. The person responsible is Vincent Holler Gadegaard, phone +45 39 17 39 74 , e-mail: vhg@dst.dk

### **9.1 Contact organisation**

Statistics Denmark

### **9.2 Contact organisation unit**

Welfare and Health, Social Statistics

### **9.3 Contact name**

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### **9.4 Contact person function**

Responsible for the statistics

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