

**Documentation of statistics for  
Children and young persons with preventive measures 2023**

## **1 Introduction**

The purpose of these statistics is to highlight the number of measures and support (previously called preventive measures) granted by the 98 municipalities in Denmark to children and young people, in accordance with the legislation on special support for this age group. These statistics have existed since April 1976. Since July 1, 1998, the services have been granted pursuant to specific sections of the Consolidation Act on Social Services. Since January 1, 2020, the statistics have also included collected data on services granted pursuant to the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act. In their current form, the statistics are comparable from the year 2007 onwards. As of January 1, 2024, the relevant legislation has changed from the Consolidation Act on Social Services to the Danish Children's Act.

## **2 Statistical presentation**

The statistics on supportive measures for children and youth are published annually and updated every year. They provide information on relief measures granted to children, youth, and families in need of special support, in accordance with specific sections of the Danish Consolidation Act on Social Services and the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act. The statistics include data on the number of measures and the number of recipients, distributed by age, sex, and type of measure. The data are also broken down by provinces and municipalities. The statistics are published in StatBank Denmark and in the publication "Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik".

## 2.1 Data description

The statistics on supportive measures are published annually and present information on relief measures granted by Danish municipalities to children, youth, and families in need of special support. These measures, as presented in the statistics, are granted pursuant to specific sections of the Act on Social Services and the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act. The statistics provide data on the number of measures, the number of recipients, and the number of initiated measures in a given reference year. The data are classified by region, municipality, type of measure, age, and sex.

An occurrence register is also published and is available to scientists and ministries.

The data are distributed and published in four statistical tables, titled ISBU01-ISBU04. These tables present persons (aged 0-22 years) who are included in Statistics Denmark's accumulated registry of children and youth who have received one or several supportive measures.

Additionally, data on measures and support are published in two statistical tables, BU43 and BU04A, which contain data on the placements of children and young people in out-of-home care. Statistical documentation regarding the statistics on placements of children and youth in out-of-home care can be found [here](#).

A child or young person can receive several measures simultaneously and may appear as both receiving one or several preventive measures and being placed in out-of-home care at the same time. However, such cases will be counted as only one case in the summary of total figures of children and young people receiving preventive measures.

Furthermore, the statistical table BU28 is published in connection with these statistics. This table contains data on public net expenditures related to support measures granted to children and young people. The data are derived from the accounts of municipalities and are presented annually according to municipal price and wage development. The expenditures are classified by the following functional levels: 5.25.17 (Special day-care offers and special clubs), 5.28.20 (Places, etc., for children and youth), 5.28.21 (Preventive measures for children and youth), 5.28.22 (Foster care), 5.28.23 (24-hour care centers for children and youth), 5.28.24 (Secured 24-hour care centers for children and youth), 5.28.25 (Special day-care offers and special clubs), and 5.28.26 (Decisions pursuant to the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act).

For more information on the statistics regarding the budgets and accounts of municipalities and regions, see [Statistikdokumentation](#).

It is important to note that in the tables ISBU02, BU43, and BU04A, which present the number of recipients of supportive measures, a child or youth who receives a measure in multiple municipalities will be counted/listed in all of the involved municipalities, while appearing only once in the national total figures.

## 2.2 Classification system

These statistics are grouped geographically by [Regions, Provinces and Municipalities](#).

Additionally, the data are distributed by sex and age groups. In the statistical tables ISBU04 and BU04A, the following age groups are presented: 0-5 years, 6-11 years, 12-17 years, and 18 years or older. In BU43, the age groups are 0-17 years and 18-22 years.

Furthermore, the presented preventive measures are categorized based on specific sections and subsections of the Consolidation Act on Social Services and the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act. These are grouped under the following categories:

*Early preventive measures* (Act on Social Services: § 11, stk. 3, 4, 6-8)

*Preventive measures granted pursuant to the Consolidation Act on Social Services* (Act on Social Services § 52, stk. 3, nr. 1-6, 8-9; §52.a, stk. 1; § 54; § 54a; §55, stk. 2; § 57a - § 57c; § 76, stk. 2, stk. 3, nr. 2-4, stk. 5, stk. 6, stk. 8)

*Preventive measures granted pursuant to the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act* (Act on Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency: § 12; § 13, stk. 1)

## 2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

## 2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Supportive measure: Social support in the child's or youth's own environment, granted as actions or amounts to children, youth, and/or their families. This support is intended, for instance, to prevent a placement in out-of-home care.

Recipient: The person (a child or a young person) who is the focus of the granted measure.

Administrative municipality: The municipality obligated to provide assistance or support, pursuant to regulations on special support for children and youth, as formulated in the Danish Consolidation Act on Social Services or the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act.

## 2.5 Statistical unit

Active supportive measures and initiated supportive measures for persons (0-22 years) in a given reference year.

Active supportive measures as of December 31st of the reference year.

Recipients of supportive measures.

## 2.6 Statistical population

Children and youth aged 0-22 years who are recipients of supportive measures granted pursuant to the Consolidation Act on Social Services or the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act.

## **2.7 Reference area**

Denmark

## **2.8 Time coverage**

Upon every publication, the tables are updated for the last 5 years.

## **2.9 Base period**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **2.10 Unit of measure**

Multiple measurement units are used in the compilation of the indicators, including:

- Number of recipients
- Number of measures
- Percentage
- Share in percent.
- Expenditures calculated in DKK million

## **2.11 Reference period**

Calendar year and the 31th of December of the reference year.

## **2.12 Frequency of dissemination**

Yearly.

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

Section 6 of the Act on Statistics Denmark. In addition, specific announcements relating to the individual registers used for the formation of the indicators. The statistics are not subject to EU regulation. 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 primarily rely on administrative data derived from the IT systems of the municipalities. As a result, there is no direct reporting burden for municipalities that use systems capable of automatically transmitting data to Statistics Denmark. However, for municipalities that supplement their records with manual reports, there is an estimated reporting burden. Data are reported by providers such as KOMBIT, CGI, and KMD.

All municipalities experience a level of workload associated with the annual process of data validation.

## **2.15 Comment**

For more information, see the webpage of the statistics, [Disadvantaged children and young people](#), or by contacting Statistics Denmark directly.

## **3 Statistical processing**

Data for these statistics are collected from the 98 municipalities in Denmark. The data is gathered from municipal IT systems or via a web-based register system provided by Statistics Denmark.

Subsequently, the data collected from the municipalities are linked with active measures already present in the register of Statistics Denmark. Each child or young person in the registry is updated with data reported during the relevant year. All data are then compiled in a register containing all individuals who, at some point during their first 23 years of life, have received support pursuant to the Consolidation Act on Social Services or the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act. The reported data undergo validation in close collaboration with the municipalities and are subsequently aggregated and supplemented with data from Statistics Denmark's population registry.

### **3.1 Source data**

Data is reported by the 98 municipalities in Denmark. Regarding supportive measures for children and youth, municipalities have the option to utilize a computerized system that directly transmits data to Statistics Denmark, which processes the data on behalf of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing, and Senior Citizens. Alternatively, municipalities can choose to report data using a web-based platform provided by Statistics Denmark, accessible through [virk.dk](#) or the information webpage of the statistics.

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

Reports on supportive measures, granted to children and youth, are gathered on a daily basis from most the municipalities. In some few cases, the data are collected on a monthly or yearly basis.

### **3.3 Data collection**

Data are transmitted via different system-to-system solutions and/or by using a web-based platform, provided by Statistics Denmark.

### 3.4 Data validation

The statistical data are validated annually in cooperation with the municipalities. Each municipality receives a list containing relevant numbers of children and youth, classified by the type of received measure, as well as the total amount of measures classified by each type found in the registry of Statistics Denmark. The compilation is sent to each municipality for validation and approval.

As a general rule, non-approved data may be included in the publication of the statistics. In such cases, a note will be issued in Statbank Denmark along with relevant documentation describing the scope and nature of the irregularity. If the irregularities are significant, Statistics Denmark may choose to omit the data of the municipality in question upon publication of the statistics. If a municipality cannot approve the reported data, a process is initiated whereby Statistics Denmark and relevant ministries work with the municipality to correct the underlying issues before the next year's publication of the statistics.

### 3.5 Data compilation

The validated data, originating from municipal IT systems and the web-based platform of Statistics Denmark, are integrated. All collected data must comply with the regulations stated in the Executive Order on Data Transmission in the Social Policy Area. The principles defined in the Executive Order facilitate effective integration of newly collected data into the base dataset.

Data from the base registry is linked together to form longitudinal data and enriched with information from Statistics Denmark's population registry. Errors in social security numbers are compiled in a list, and tests for duplicate records are performed before the data is published.

Municipalities have varying practices regarding the administration and registration of supportive measures. For example, some municipalities may register measures as one or several continuous measures, while others may choose to register many short, sequential measures. To standardize the reported data, Statistics Denmark conducts overlap treatment of the received data.

The process includes the following steps:

- Measures are linked or processed together if they are identical, overlap in time, and are granted by the same municipality to the same child or young person.
- Identical measures granted to a child or young person by the same municipality are linked or processed together if there is a timespan of 14 days or less between the measures granted.

In such cases, the start date and end date of the reported measures are determined.

Some measures may be granted to the parents of the child or young person. In such cases, the measure is typically registered with the child's or young person's CPR number (social security number), even if the measure was granted to the parent. If a municipality cannot register such a case with a child's or young person's CPR number, the measure is registered with the CPR number of the parent. This practice may occur, for instance, if a pregnant parent has received a preventive measure or if a parent resides in a different municipality than the child. Such instances are usually associated with cases granted under Section 54 of the Act on Social Services. Cases registered with the parent's CPR number are not presented in the StatBank tables but are included in the registry itself. Therefore, data on Section 54 of the Social Services Act presented in StatBank Denmark are slightly underestimated compared to the data contained in the registry.

### **3.6 Adjustment**

No corrections are made besides those corrections, described in the chapters dealing with data validation and data processing.

## **4 Relevance**

The statistics are utilized by citizens, researchers, municipalities, government authorities, and organizations for various purposes such as analysis, research, public debate, and more.

### **4.1 User Needs**

The statistics are utilized by citizens, researchers, municipalities, government authorities, and organizations for various purposes such as analysis, research, public debate, and more.

### **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 with 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**

As municipalities utilize various digital systems for data reporting and transmission, the registration of data regarding preventive measures lacks systematic and uniform consistency. Municipalities may register the same case or measure under different sections and subsections of legislation. The extent of such practices is not fully known.

Data concerning §54 of the Consolidation Act on Social Services, as presented in StatBank Denmark, are slightly underestimated compared to the data contained in the registry. This discrepancy arises from issues described in section 3.5.



## 5.1 Overall accuracy

Statistics Denmark provides guidance and advice to municipalities on correct data reporting practices. However, Statistics Denmark lacks the necessary knowledge to assess differences in municipal procedures regarding measures and support granted to children and youth. To ensure uniformity in data transmission and reporting, municipalities are required to implement and adhere to the criteria outlined in the [Databekendtgørelsen](#) (i.e. The Executive Order on Data Transmission in the Field of Social Policy).

The statistics comprise data from all 98 municipalities in Denmark, with approved data being summarized. Municipalities employ different systems for registering cases and measures, resulting in non-uniform registration procedures. For example, one municipality may categorize a given measure under a section included in the registry of disadvantaged children and young people, while another may categorize the same measure under a different section not included in the registry. Data regarding paragraphs 57a, 57b, and 57c of the Consolidation Act on Social Services are underestimated, as they are not directly reported in all digital systems used by municipalities.

Data pertaining to §54 of the Consolidation Act on Social Services are also underestimated (see section 3.5).

Data for the municipality of Odense regarding youth aged 15 years or above are underestimated for the year 2023, due to complications arising from the change in the municipality's digital administrative system, which will be corrected by the municipality as soon as possible.

## 5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

## 5.3 Non-sampling error

Differences in the digital systems used by municipalities for reporting can lead to cases not being uniformly registered. What is categorized under a section of legislation included in the register of granted measures and support to children and youth in one municipality may be registered under a different section of legislation not reported to Statistics Denmark in another municipality.

Municipalities are expected to report all measures granted to disadvantaged children and young people, but it is presumed that some cases may be missing. The validation process and yearly meetings with municipalities help minimize such errors.

There may be some measurement errors in the period variable for the given measures. Some municipalities tend to register the start date of a measure as the time when it is granted, while others correctly specify the start date as the time when the measure actually takes effect.

Individual municipalities are unable to specify the exact duration of measures granted pursuant to §11 of the Consolidation Act on Social Services. This is because the exact end dates of granted measures are unknown in cases where the measures are outsourced to non-municipal organizations, which municipalities are not obliged to monitor. In such cases, municipalities report the same start and end dates for the measures.

## **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**

Data is generally regarded as reliable, although the quality of data on specific sections may be less accurate.

The statistics are published annually, typically within 6 months after the end of the reference period. This ensures that users have up-to-date knowledge of municipal preventive measures and provides an overview of the scope and nature of support received by at-risk children and youth. The number of measures showcased and the count of children who receive one or more measures are considered more accurate than the quality of specific legislative sections. This discrepancy arises from differing procedures among municipalities in registering measures pursuant to specific sections of legislation. While the yearly validation process ensures precise data, minor fluctuations may occur due to occasional corrections to data from previous years. However, these fluctuations are generally considered minor, and thus the statistics are deemed reliable.

Data for the municipality of Odense concerning youth aged 15 years or above is underestimated for the year 2023, due to complications arising from changes in the municipality's digital administrative system. The issues are expected to be corrected as soon as possible by the municipality.

## **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 register is a progress register, which is updated yearly. Generally, the statistics contain updated data for the last 5-year period.

## **6 Timeliness and punctuality**

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

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

The statistics are published 6 month after the end of the reference period. Preliminary numbers are not published.

### **6.2 Punctuality**

The statistics are published without delay according to the scheduled release date. In recent years, the statistics were published with some delays, partly because of reorganization or replacement of the administrative systems in the majority of municipalities.

## **7 Comparability**

These statistics have been compiled since 1977, but due to legislative changes in 1985 and 1993, they are not strictly comparable over the years.

### **7.1 Comparability - geographical**

The statistics cannot be compared directly internationally.

### **7.2 Comparability over time**

These statistics have been compiled since 1977. However, due to legislative changes in 1985 and 1993, the data is not strictly comparable over the years.

Since January 1993, changes in legislation have resulted in certain measures previously classified as placements in out-of-home care being transferred to the preventive measures policy area. Additionally, a number of new preventive measures were introduced during this period.

Multiple legislative changes in 2006 led to a significant data breach and contributed to a reduction in the quality of reporting. Consequently, data from 2006 is not comparable in several areas with previous years, and the data from 2007 is not unconditionally comparable due to the same reasons.

Since January 2020, data on services granted pursuant to the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act (LBU) has been collected. The addition of LBU data has no influence on other legislative sections presented in the statistics. Furthermore, since July 1, 2020, the statistics also include data on services granted pursuant to §11 of the Danish Act on Social Services. This addition has led to a significant increase in the statistics due to the inclusion of §11 data.

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

The statistics are interconnected with the data on children and young persons placed in out-of-home care. This connection stems from the municipality's obligation to provide supportive measures to a child, young person, or family before a decision is made to place them in out-of-home care. Additionally, certain supportive measures can only be granted in conjunction with a placement in out-of-home care or after such a placement has been implemented.

The micro-data of the statistics include social security numbers, enabling the data to be linked with other statistical information.

### **7.4 Coherence - internal**

Data reported from various sources typically adhere to the same reporting forms. However, if changes are made to the reporting forms, discrepancies may arise as IT suppliers cannot always implement the changes simultaneously. During these transitional periods, the response categories from the old reporting forms are "mapped" to the new categories.

## **8 Accessibility and clarity**

These statistics are published yearly in a press release on support to the children and young at risk: [Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik](#) om *Støtte til udsatte børn og unge*. At the same time the statistical tables are updated in StatBank Denmark: [Children and youth at risk](#). For further information, see [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 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

Statistics are published in the StatBank Denmark in the section [Udsatte børn og unge](#) (Children and youth at risk) in the following tables (Please note that the terms effort and measure are identical in the following description):

**Measures and support to children and youth (preventive measures)** - [ISBU01](#): Total number of active measures in a given reference year, classified by municipality and type of measure. Period 2015-2023. - [ISBU02](#): Children and young people, who have received one or several measures, during a given reference year, classified by municipality and type of measure. Period 2015-2023. Each child or young person is counted as only one case in the summary of total national figures, regardless of whether they receive one or several preventive measures during the year. Additionally, a person may appear in multiple municipalities and have multiple measures simultaneously. However, such cases are represented as only one case per municipality and per type of measure. - [ISBU03](#): Initiated measures, during a given reference year, classified by province and group of measure. Period 2015-2023. - [ISBU04](#): Active measures per 31st of December of a reference year, classified by province, group of measure, age and sex. Period 2015-2023.

Preventive measures have previously been published in the statistical table BUFF01, which has been discontinued. The new table, ISBU04, is most similar to the discontinued BUFF01 table.

### Supportive measures and placements in out-of-home care

- [BU04A](#): Support to children and young people per 31st December (net statement) by region, measure, age and sex. Period 2011-2023.
- [BU43](#): Children and young people who receive support per 31st December (share of 0-22-year-olds) by region, measure, age and sex. Period 2015-2023. Each child or young person is recorded as a single case in the total category (total number of disadvantaged children and young people). Additionally, the same criteria as described for ISBU02 have been applied in the calculation of this statistical table concerning the number of persons/cases with preventive measures.

### Public expenditures related to preventive measures for children and youth

The indicator is published in StatBank [Udsatte børn og unge](#) in the table - [BU28](#): Public net expenditures for exposed children and young people by measure. Period 2002-2023.

## 8.7 Micro-data access

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

## 8.8 Other

These statistics underlying anonymized Micro-data are made available for service tasks against payment. Read more about [Customized 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

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

Not relevant for these statistics. [Støtte til udsatte børn og unge](#) is documented in [Højkvalitetsvariable](#).

## 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. The contact person is Anne Morsing, tel.: + 45 2182 1760, and e-mail: [AEM@dst.dk](mailto:AEM@dst.dk).