

Statistics on Financial Assistance 2023

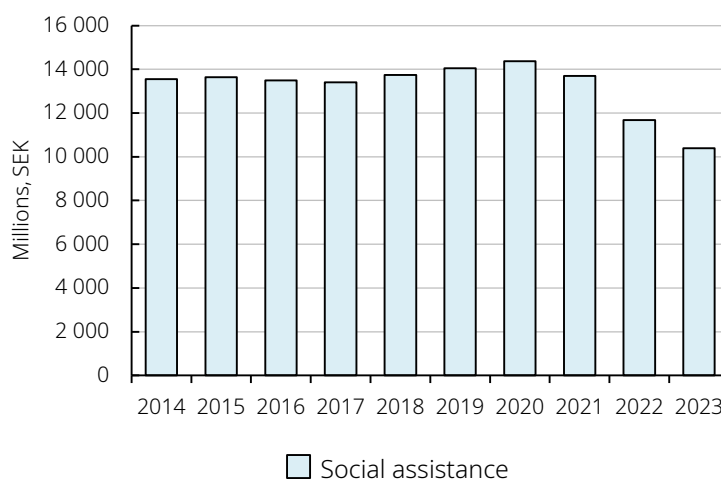
The number of social financial assistance recipients and assistance households decreased in 2023. Around 146.000 households received social assistance in 2023. This corresponds to roughly three percent of households in Sweden. It was the eighth consecutive year the number of social assistance recipients decreased. The decrease of social assistance amounts to almost 3.5 percent, compared to previous year.

Assistance over time

The number of assistance households decreased from almost 161.000 in 2022 to just under 146.000 in 2023. It was the eighth consecutive year the number of assistance households decreased. The number of assistance recipients also decreased. In 2023, close to 262.300 people received financial assistance. Of these, about 86.700 were women, 90.400 were men, and 85.200 children.

In 2023, the municipalities paid about SEK 10.4 billion in financial assistance. The payments decreased by 11 percent in fixed prices compared to 2022 (Figure 1). Also, the amount of payments per household decreased slightly.

Figure 1. Assistance 2014–2023, in million SEK (fixed prices) 2023



Source: Register of Social Assistance National Board of Health and Welfare

Age and municipality matters

The payments of social assistance differ between different age groups. The most common age group in 2023 was 30–39-year-olds. Of all adult recipients in the country, just over a fifth were aged 30–39. Of the total number of adult assistance recipients, about 60 percent were foreign-born.

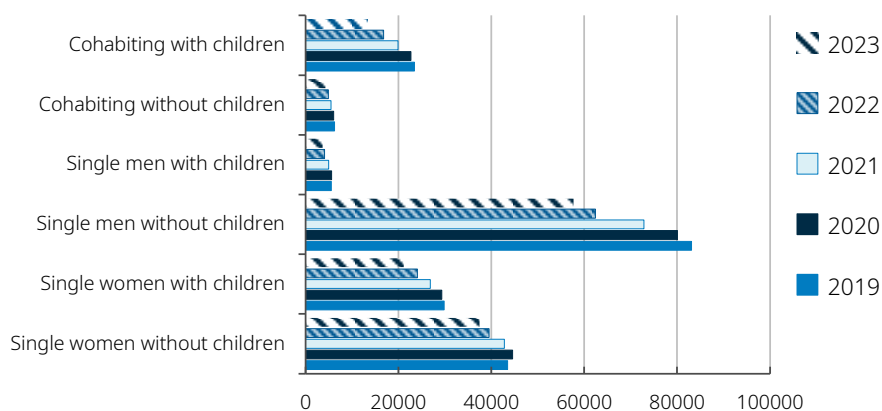
There are many reasons why women and men cannot support themselves and their families, but most often, the need for support was related to unemployment, illness or social barriers of various kinds. Almost half of all adult beneficiaries were unemployed in 2022 [1].

The share of people with assistance varies greatly between different municipalities. For example, the population composition, the local labour market and the education levels of the population are all for social assistance. In Filipstad and Söderhamn between eight and seven percent of the population received social assistance, whereas in Arjeplog, Lidingö, Olofström, Solna, Nacka, Täby, Markaryd and Österåker it was less than one percent. The national average in 2023 was 2.5 percent, which is a decrease compared to previous year.

The most common assistance household

The most common assistance households are single men without children (Figure 2). If, on the other hand, one considers the different types of household in total in the population, then social assistance is most common among women with children. About 11 percent of all single women with children received financial assistance in 2023.

Figure 2. Number of recipient households, by type of household 2019–2023

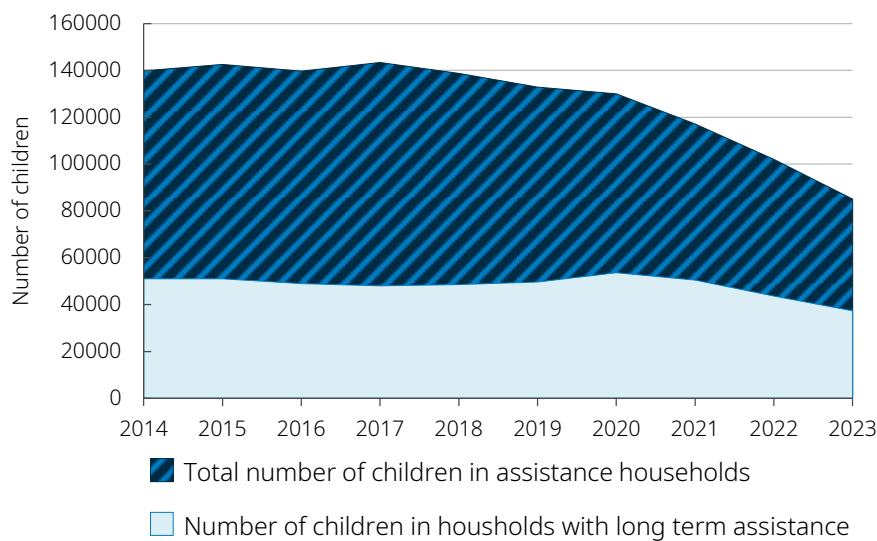


Source: Register of Social Assistance National Board of Health and Welfare

Children in assistance households

In 2023, the number of children in assistance households amounted to almost 85.200, which is a decrease by almost 17 percent compared to previous year. The number of children in households with long-term assistance in 2023 decreased by almost 6.200 to just over 37.300. The number of children in households with long-term assistance has been relatively constant for a number of years, however there was a decline in 2020 and a continued decline in 2023 (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Number of children in assistance households, in total and in households with long-term assistance 2014–2023



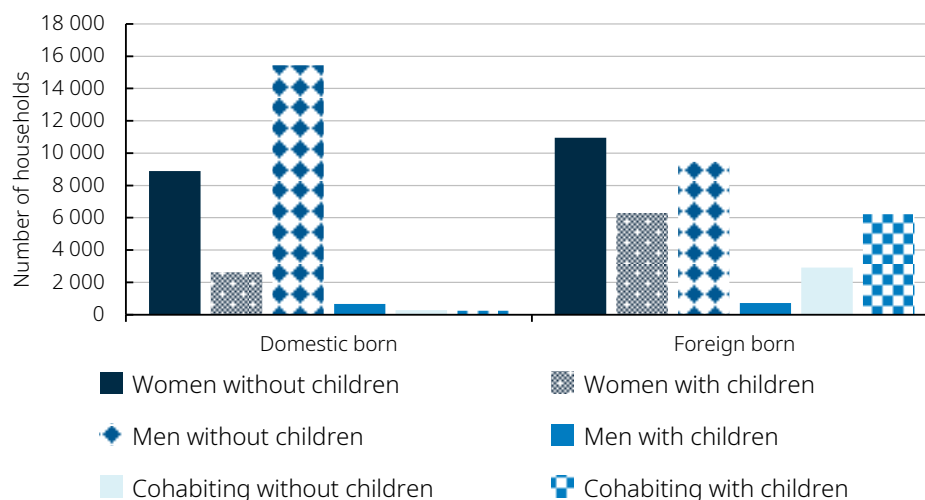
Source: Register of Social Assistance National Board of Health and Welfare

Long-term assistance

In 2023, the number of adult assistance recipients with long-term financial assistance, i.e. assistance for 10 months or more, has decreased by 8 percent, from 92.510 people in 2022 to 85.477 people. The largest decrease compared to 2022 can be found among men 20-24 years of age, with a decrease of 20 percent. On the other hand, the proportion of long-term persons in the age group 65 years and older has increased, among women the proportion has almost tripled and for men it has increased by a fifth, which can partly be explained by an increased retirement age which increased from 65 to 66 years old. About 44 percent of the adult assistance households did receive long-term assistance. Approximately 57 percent of these households consisted of households where one of the applicants or co-applicants were foreign-born. The most common household with long-term assistance was single men without children, both among domestic and foreign-born. Long-term assistance among married couples/cohabiting

households is in more than nine out of ten cases, directed to foreign-born recipients (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Households with long-term assistance by household type and birthplace 2023



Source: Register of Social Assistance National Board of Health and Welfare

Social financial assistance

Social financial assistance is composed of two parts: direct assistance and general assistance. Direct assistance is supposed to help cover daily living expenses such as groceries, clothing, rent, utility bills (electricity, telephone, gas etc.), travel expenses (for work), home insurance and union membership costs. General assistance covers other necessary expenses for childcare, health related, medicine and dental care. For more information (in Swedish): www.socialstyrelsen.se/ekonomisktband

References

1. <https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/globalassets/sharepoint-dokument/artikelkatalog/ovrigt/2023-10-8773.pdf>

More information

You can find more tables, graphs and information in Swedish, but with English list of terms (select *Tillhörande dokument och bilagor*):

<https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/en/statistics-and-data/statistics/>

If you want to use our statistical database (in Swedish):

https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if_ekb/val.aspx

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