

# Statistics on licensed health care personnel 2023 and Workforce status 2022

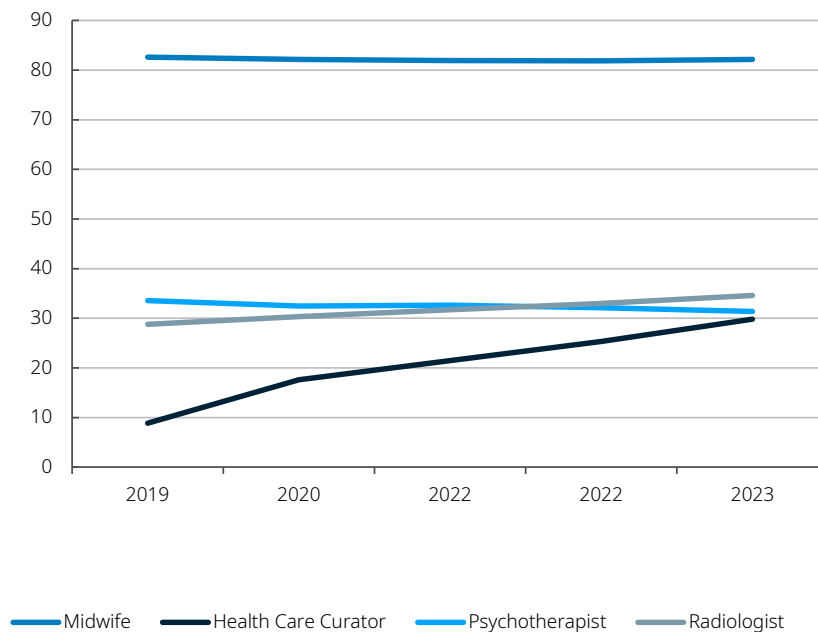
**In most healthcare professions, the total number of licenses issued continued to increase in 2023, with more women than men being licensed. In terms of licenses issued during 2023, the numbers go down for some professions, most notably for psychotherapists, pharmacists and prescriptionists. There are significant regional differences in the employment of licensed professionals, for example more than four times the number of pharmacists in certain counties compared to others.**

## The number of licenses continues to rise

The total number of licenses issued continued to increase for most healthcare professions during 2023. The most notable exception is the number of issued licences to psychotherapists, which decreased per 100 000 inhabitants both compared to 2022 and 2019.

**Figure 1. Number of total granted licenses, under 65 years**

Per 100 000 inhabitants, selected professions



Source: Register of Licensed Health Personnel, National Board of Health and Welfare

Health care curator became a licensed profession in July of 2019 and the number per 100 000 inhabitants has therefore increased by 241%. Other newer qualifications, such as radiographer have few retirements, which explains the rapid growth of these groups. The number of occupational therapists, biomedical scientists, midwives, physiotherapists, opticians and nurses remains basically unchanged in relation to the Swedish population.

The most female-dominated professions based on the total number of licenses issued were midwife, dental hygienist and perscriptionist, where 94 per cent or more of all the licenses issued to women. The healthcare professions with the lowest proportion of women among the total number of licenses issued in 2023 included chiropractor, orthopaedic engineer and medical physicist (figure 2).

## Clear regional differences among employed health care professionals

The number of employed licensed healthcare professionals varies among counties. Table 1 shows the number of professionals working within a selection of licensed professions in relation to the population in the counties. The trend is illustrated with arrows (see table mote for a more detailed description)

**Table1. Regional distribution of employed dentists, doctors, midwives, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists and physiotherapists.**

Per 100 000 inhabitants, 1 november 2022

County	Dentists	Doctors	Midwives	Nurses	Pharmacists	Pscycologists	Physiotherapists
Stockholm	84	444	84	956	57	126 ▲	84
Uppsala	79 ▼	515	90	1116 ▼	53	137 ▲	79 ▼
Södermanland	76	361 ▲	68 ▲	1043 ▲	33 ▲	64 ▲	76
Östergötland	62 ▼	462 ▲	63 ▲	1125	27 ▲	81 ▲	62 ▼
Jönköping	72 ▼	369 ▲	79	1212	29 ▲	52	72 ▼
Kronoberg	77 ▼	332	59	1195	19 ▲	60 ▲	77 ▼
Kalmar	69	368	66	1182	15 ▼	52	69
Gotland	74	468 ▲	95 ▲	1218	15 ▲	75 ▲	74
Blekinge	81	350 ▼	85 ▲	1347	31 ▲	47 ▼	81
Skåne	79	429	65	1052	32 ▲	94 ▲	79
Halland	71	373	86	1073	30	71	71
Västra Götaland	84	425	83	1127	37 ▲	103	84
Värmland	78 ▲	338 ▲	69	1179	20 ▲	64 ▲	78 ▲
Örebro	74	419 ▲	90 ▲	1275	29 ▲	97 ▲	74
Västmanland	70	337	76	1064	26	70 ▲	70
Dalarna	62 ▼	342	74	1190	27 ▲	57 ▼	62 ▼
Gävleborg	63	350	64	1207	17 ▲	47 ▼	63
Västernorrland	62	342 ▲	78 ▲	1175	14 ▲	63 ▼	62
Jämtland	72	432 ▲	90	1335	23 ▲	90 ▲	72
Västerbotten	87	526	74	1433	15 ▲	108	87
Norrbottnen	70 ▼	305 ▲	65 ▼	1178	12 ▲	45 ▲	70 ▼
Riket	78	414	77	1103	36 ▲	93 ▲	78

Source: Licensed Care and Welfare Personnel Workforce Status (LOVA) register, National Board of Health and Welfare. Note: Changes between 2016 and 2020 are indicated in the table, ▲ marks an increase of more than five percent, and ▼ a decrease greater than five percent.

It can be noted that the regional differences of the number of employed per 100,000 inhabitants was the greatest for pharmacists followed by psychologists, while the regional differences were smaller for midwives, physiotherapists as well as doctors, and smallest for nurses and dentists.

## Gender distribution among employed

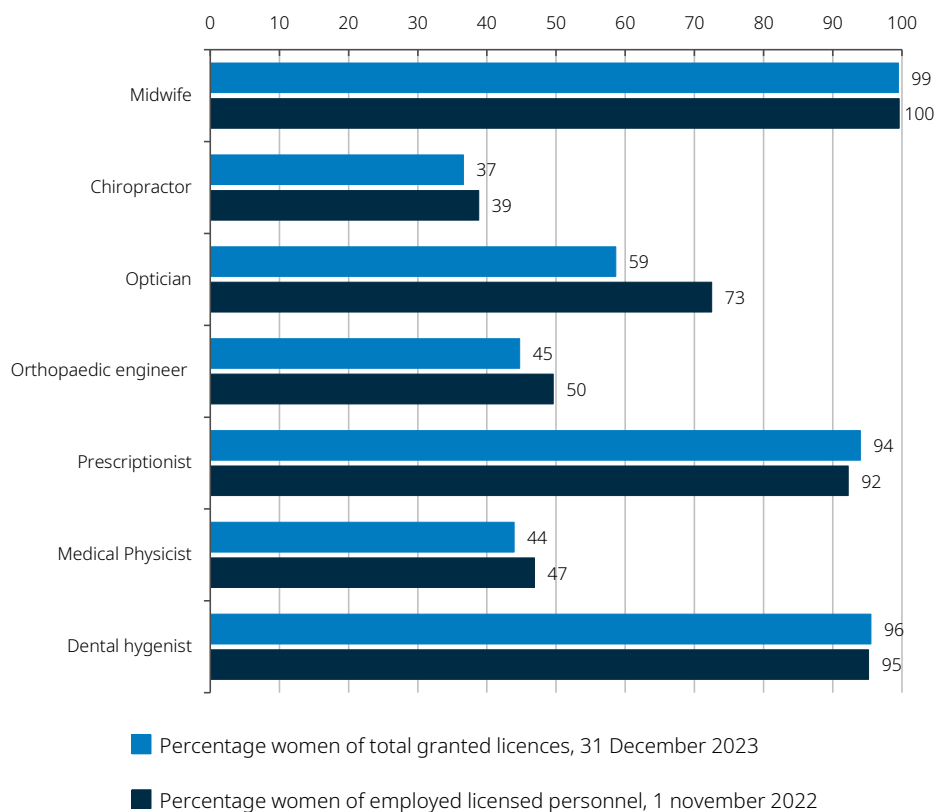
For most professions, there is high degree of similarity in the gender distribution between those who have been granted a license to practice and those who are employed. For a couple professions, however, the proportion of women differs in terms of the licenses issued and employed. For opticians the proportion of women is 14 percentage points higher for employed than for granted licenses and for dentists the corresponding difference is 7 percentage points. The difference is probably due to the fact that a larger number of men within these professions have reached retirement age and have left the labour market. At the same time, more women than men are now qualified as opticians and dentists, which leads to an increase in the proportion of women in these professions (Figure 2).

For the largest profession, nurses, women accounted for 87 percent and men for 13 percent of the employed personnel in 2022.

Among doctors, the gender distribution was even, with 51 percent of employed being women. Dentists also had a quite even gender distribution in terms of employment, with 60 percent women and 40 percent men. Chiropractors, orthopaedic engineers, hospital physicists and naprapaths are professions that men accounted for at least 55 percent of the employed personnel in 2022. In the same year, the newest licensed profession, health care curator, was dominated by women with 91 percent of the employed personnel.

**Figure 2. Proportion women among total granted licenses and among employed health care professionals**

Per cent, selected professions



Source: Licensed Care and Welfare Personnel Workforce Status (LOVA) register and Register of Licensed Health Personnel, National Board of Health and Welfare

### More information

You can find more tables, graphs and information here (select Tillhörande dokument och bilagor):

<https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/alla-statistikamnen/halso-och-sjukvardspersonal/> (in Swedish, but with English list of terms).

If you want to use our statistical databases:

[https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if\\_per/val\\_eng.aspx](https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if_per/val_eng.aspx) (Employed personnel)

[https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if\\_utfleg/](https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if_utfleg/) (granted licenses, in Swedish)

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