



Statistics on family law 2021

Statistics on family law for 2021 show, among other things, the following:

- The number of children affected by mediation talks remains unchanged since 2020, but is still lower compared with the years prior
- The number of children included in retrieval of information requests is lower compared with the last three years
- The number of children in investigations involving custody, residence and access remains unchanged
- The number of children affected by implemented decisions of supervised visitation has increased
- The number of home study investigations is slightly higher than in year 2020

Facts

Paternity investigations are assessed by the social welfare board in order to determine paternity for children born to unmarried mothers. Paternity can be established through confirmation, in other words the father confirms his paternal connection to the child, or through a judicial decision.

Mediation talks are talks held by professionals in order to reach consensus in issues concerning custody, residence, access and livelihood.

Retrieval of information refers to collected information, stated in chapter 6, section 20 of the Parental Code, which the court receives from the social welfare board before an interim decision is made concerning custody, residence or access.

Custody, residence and access investigations are reports that provide the court with a basis for decisions concerning custody, residence or access.

Implemented decisions of supervised visitations means that the social welfare board appoints a person to assist with supervised visitations in accordance with a judicial decision.

Home study investigations are investigations according to chapter 6, section 12 of the Social Services Act. Such assessments are conducted for the purpose of giving the social welfare board a basis for decisions on consent for a private home to receive a child from abroad for the purpose of adoption.

Statistics regarding paternity investigations

New regulations on determining paternity and parenthood came into force as of October 2021. The changes include the use of only one type of protocol in investigations, the so-called U-protocol. Earlier protocol standards, the S-protocol, MF-protocol and Ä-protocol were still used up until the 1st October 2021.

When submitting statistics for 2021, municipalities were requested not to include information based on the U-protocol, i.e. results from paternity inquiries that commenced in the period from 1st October until 31st December. The reason being the short amount of time to adjust operating systems for data collection with regard to the U-protocol. **Comparisons with the previous year should therefore be made with caution.**

Statistics for 2021¹ show, for example, that "the number of children for which fatherhood was determined by acknowledgement" (through the use of S-protocol, MF-protocol and Ä-protocol), "number of inquiries that were underway as of 31st December" and "total number of inquiries" are less than the previous year. These results are to be expected as inquiries based on the U-protocol were not included.

The number of children affected by mediation talks remains unchanged since 2020, but is still lower compared with the years prior

In 2021, the number of children aged 0-17 years whose parents participated in mediation talks was 20,931. This corresponds to 95 children per 10,000 in this age group, which is the same as 2020. Statistics for the last five-year period show that the number of children per 10,000 has decreased in the last two years, (Figure 1).

The number of children included in retrieval of information requests is lower compared with the last three years

In 2021 there were requests for retrieval of information for 12,612 children aged 0-17 years, which corresponds with 57 children per 10,000 in this age group. This is a decrease compared with the years 2018-2020.

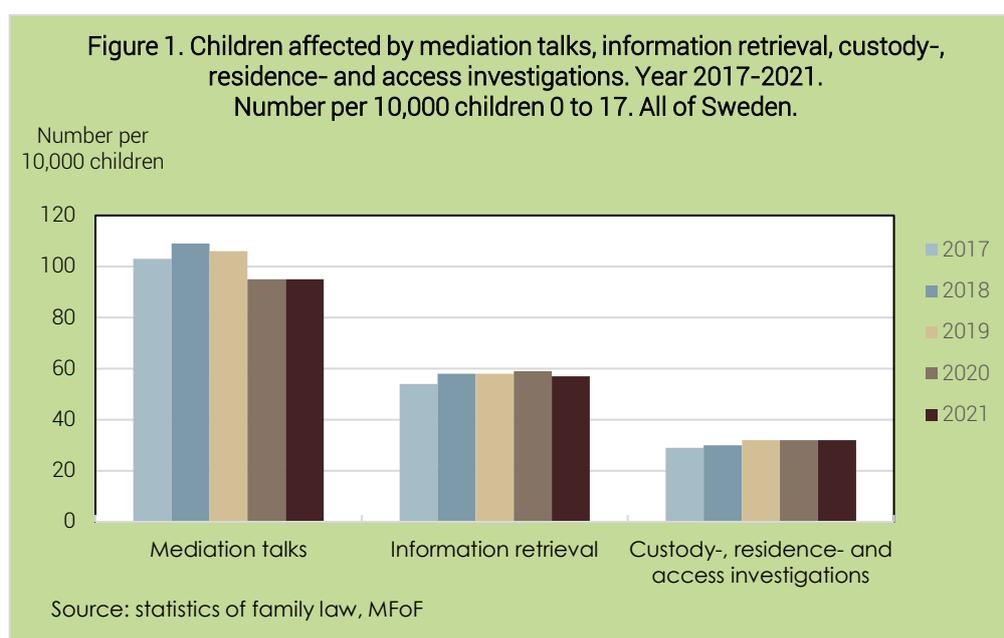
During the last five-year period, the lowest number of children per 10,000 was in 2017, with 54 per 10,000 (Figure 1).

¹ Official Statistics for Sweden, Family Law 2021, published June 2022. Excel file, tabs: 1-Faderskap. Riket, 2-Faderskap. Län, 3-Gem.vård. Kommun. Available on MFoF's website.

The number of children in investigations involving custody, residence and access remains unchanged

Over the last three years, the number of investigations involving custody, residence and access has remained unchanged.

In 2021, in total 6,973 children aged 0–17 years were subject to investigations of custody, residence or access. This corresponds to 32 children per 10,000 in this age group, which is the same as the two previous years. However, in 2017–2018, the corresponding numbers were lower, with 29 respectively 30 per 10,000 children (Figure 1).

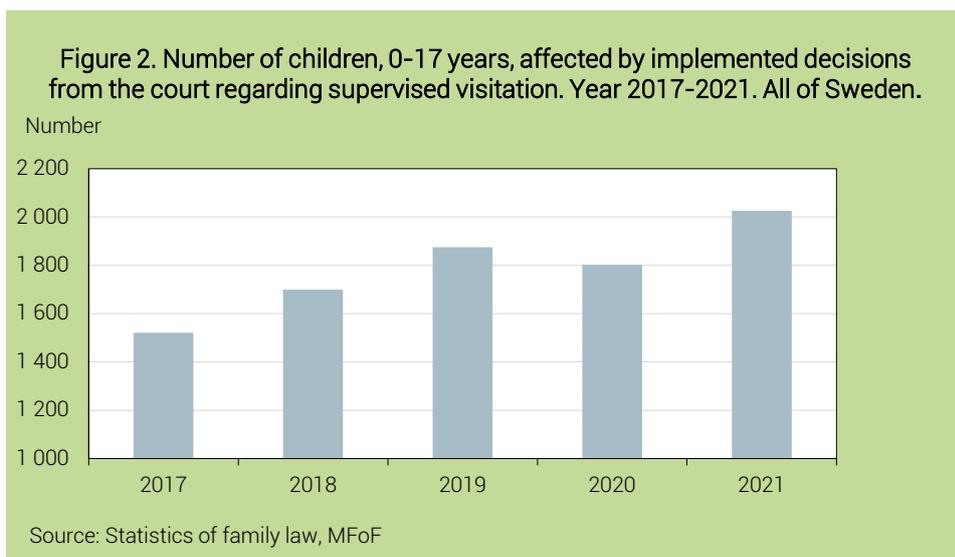


The number of children affected by implemented decisions of supervised visitations has increased

In 2021 there were 2,025 children aged 0–17 years, affected by implemented decisions from the courts regarding supervised visitations. This is the highest number in the last five years (Figure 2).

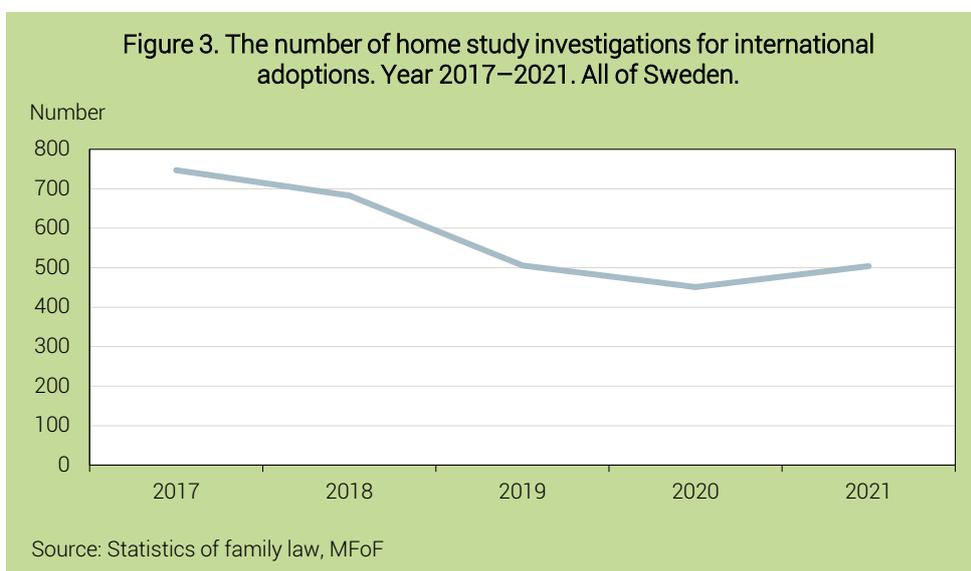
The number in 2021 was 9.2 children per 10,000, aged 0–17 years². In comparison with 7.2 in 2017, 7.9 in 2018, 8.6 in 2019 and 8.2 in 2020.

² Calculated using data on children 0–17 years in the population. Source: The Statistics Sweden (SCB), Statistical database, Population. Available via www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se



The number of home study investigations is slightly higher than in 2020

Between 2017–2020, the number of home study investigations decreased from 747 to 451, which is a reduction of 40 %. However, in 2021 the number of home study investigations increased slightly compared with 2020, from 451 to 504 (Figure 3).



More information

You will find more charts, diagrams and other information in the Excel file at: www.mfof.se/statistik_familjeratt

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