

**Documentation of statistics for  
Disability services for children and young people 2023**

## 1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistics Disability Measures for Children and Young People is to shed light on the number of disability measures that are granted by Danish municipalities to children and youth with a reduced physical or mental functional capacity.

The statistics are used, among other things, for policy preparation, in public debate, and for research. The statistics were compiled for the first time in 2022 and include measures granted from January 1, 2022, onward in accordance with paragraphs in the Consolidation Act on Social Services (hereinafter referred to as the Social Services Act). The statistics replace the summary information on disability measures provided to children and youth, which were previously reported in connection with the statistics on social resources.

## 2 Statistical presentation

The statistics consist of an annual compilation of the number of disability measures granted, pursuant to relevant sections of the Social Services Act, to children and youth under 18 years of age who have reduced physical or mental functional capacity. The statistics contain information on the number of granted measures and the number of beneficiaries. Data are presented and classified by age, sex, and type of disability measure. Data are also classified by municipalities and provinces. The statistics are published in StatBank Denmark and a NYT article (News from Statistics Denmark).

### 2.1 Data description

The statistics on Disability Measures for Children and Youth are calculated on a yearly basis and contain information on the number of disability services granted to children and youth by Danish municipalities pursuant to selected sections of the Act on Social Services. The statistics include data on both the number of children and the number of granted measures in a given reference year. The statistics were published for the first time in 2023 and are henceforth planned to be published on a yearly basis.

The statistics consist of four statistical tables published in StatBank Denmark, an occurrence register provided to relevant researchers and ministries, and a NYT article in Danish (News from Statistics Denmark) authored by Statistics Denmark.

Statistical tables, HANDBU01-HANDBU04, are based on data on children and youth (0-17 years old) contained in Statistics Denmark's accumulated statistical registry of children and youth who have received one or several disability measures.

The StatBank tables contain information on the number of yearly disability measures initiated during the reference year and the number of measures granted in previous years that continue to be in effect during the reference period. The tables also contain information on the number of children and youth receiving a disability measure for the first time, as well as the number of persons who continue to receive one or several disability services.

Depending on the degree of discretization, the data presented are classified by administrative municipality (i.e., the municipality obliged to provide aid regarding the reported disability), province, type of measure/service, age, and sex. Age is calculated as of December 31 of a given reference year. A child or young person can receive one or several disability measures simultaneously.

## 2.2 Classification system

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

In addition, the data are grouped by type of measure, relevant legal section, sex, and age (at year-end) in the age groups 0-5 years, 6-11 years, and 12-17 years.

## 2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

## 2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

**Disability measure:** A measure consisting of an active effort to aid children and youth who have a physical or mental disability. Measures can also be granted to parents and/or next of kin.

**Administrative municipality:** The municipality obligated to grant measures to children and youth, pursuant to regulations on disability services for children and youth formulated in the Consolidation Act on Social Services.

**Beneficiary :** A person (child or youth) who is the reason that a disability service is being granted to the child, a young person, the parents, or next of kin.

## 2.5 Statistical unit

Disability measures for children and youth (0-17 years) that have been implemented.

## 2.6 Statistical population

The statistics are based on children and youth (0-17 years old), who have or are receiving disability services pursuant to following sections of the Act on Social Services:

- Special day care for children (§ 32)
- Home training of children (§ 32a)
- Special club offers for older children and young people (§ 36)
- Personal help and care (§ 44 cf. § 83)
- Supersede or relief of parents or other close relatives (§ 44, cf. § 84, subsection 1)
- Help to maintain physical or mental skills (§ 44, cf. § 86, subsection 2)
- Accompanying arrangement for children and young people between the ages of 12 and 18 who cannot travel alone (§ 45)

## 2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

## 2.8 Time coverage

Data are updated 2 years back in all StatBank tables with each release.

## **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 persons
- Number of measures

## **2.11 Reference period**

Calendar year

## **2.12 Frequency of dissemination**

Yearly

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

Data is collected on the basis of Section 6 of the Danish Statistics Act. In addition, the municipalities report data pursuant to §§32, 32, 32a, 36, 44 and 45 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](#).

The statistics are not subject to EU regulation.

## **2.14 Cost and burden**

These statistics are based on administrative data. There is thus no direct reporting burden in relation to the compilation of these statistics. Municipalities who 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**

For further information, contact Statistics Denmark, or see the subject page of the statistics [Handicapkompenserende indsatser](#),

### 3 Statistical processing

Data for this statistics are collected continuously from the administrative systems of the 98 municipalities in Denmark, or through input into Statistics Denmark's web reporting solution, IDEP, which is accessible via Virk.dk or Statistics Denmark's information page. Existing information contained in the registries of Statistics Denmark is updated with what is reported throughout the reference year.

Subsequently, the municipalities' reports are linked with interventions already in the registries. For each child and young person, existing cases are updated with what has been reported during the year. Data is gathered in a longitudinal register that includes all individuals who, during their first 17 years of life, have received one or more disability measures according to the Social Services Act.

Data are validated and potentially corrected by the municipalities, and subsequently approved by the municipalities as an accurate reflection of their activity for the respective year. Following this process, the reported information is aggregated and supplemented with data from Statistics Denmark's population register.

#### 3.1 Source data

Data regarding disability services are received from the Danish municipalities by Statistics Denmark, who acts as data processor for the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing, and Senior Citizens. The municipalities report data either by computerized administrative systems, which directly transmit data to Statistics Denmark, or by using a web-based platform, provided by Statistics Denmark. The web-based platform can be accessed through the webpage of the statistics: [webindberetningsløsning](#).

#### 3.2 Frequency of data collection

Data are collected continuously from the 98 municipalities in Denmark. In some few cases, the data are collected on a monthly or yearly basis.

#### 3.3 Data collection

Data are transmitted primarily through the computerized administrative systems of the municipalities, which transmit data directly to Statistics Denmark. As an alternative, the municipalities can use a web-based platform, provided by Statistics Denmark: [webindberetningsløsning](#).

All reported data is collected daily in a web-based database provided by Statistics Denmark, which is also accessible to the municipalities.

### **3.4 Data validation**

The statistical data are validated in cooperation with the municipalities on a yearly basis. Each municipality receives a list containing relevant number of children and youth, classified by the type of received measure, as well as the total amount of disability measures classified by type, found in the registry of Statistics Denmark.

The compilation is sent to each municipality for validation and approval. If there is rejection regarding the accuracy of the lists, Statistics Denmark engages in dialogue with the municipality to address and resolve any discrepancies until both the municipality and Statistics Denmark can approve the data.

As a general rule, non-approved data is included in the publication with a note specifying which municipalities have not approved the data. If discrepancies are substantial, it may be decided to exclude data from the respective municipality in the publication. If a municipality cannot approve the validity of the reported data upon the publication of the statistics, a cooperation effort, involving the relevant municipality and Statistics Denmark, is implemented to ensure that the errors and inconsistencies in data are corrected until the next scheduled publication.

The validation process focuses particularly on ensuring that municipalities have reported all disability measures for children and youth that have been granted by the municipalities.

### **3.5 Data compilation**

The validated data from municipal IT- systems or/and the web-based platform of Statistics Denmark, is integrated. Across these different reporting solutions, the submissions must comply with the requirements of the Executive Order on Data Transmission in the Social Area. The principles, defined in the Executive Order, allow for an effective integration of the collected new data into the base dataset. Base data from the registry are linked into longitudinal records, enriched with information from Statistics Denmark's population register. Errors in personal identification numbers are flagged on an error list, and duplicate entries are checked before the data is prepared for publication.

Municipalities have varying practices with regards to the registration of the measures. For instance, some municipalities may record a single long-term measure while others may record many short, consecutive measures. To standardize municipal reporting, Statistics Denmark conducts overlap processing, which forms the basis for the longitudinal register.

Overlap processing involves:

- 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 initial start date and the last end date of the reported measures are used.

### **3.6 Adjustment**

No corrections are made besides those corrections described in the chapters on data validation and data processing.

## **4 Relevance**

The statistics are relevant for researchers, journalists, social authorities (including the ministries and municipalities) and other interested in disability services granted to children and youth.

### **4.1 User Needs**

The statistics are primarily used by researchers, journalists, and social authorities. (including relevant ministries, provinces and municipalities). The statistics are used for policy planning, administration, academic research, science, public debate and education.

### **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**

Disability services for children and youth may be granted by various departments within municipalities. Due to the use of different digital systems for data reporting and transmission by municipalities, the data are not systematically and uniformly registered. Municipalities administer cases and provide services differently, which can result in the same case or measure being registered under different sections and subsections of the legislation. The full extent of this practice is not known.

### **5.1 Overall accuracy**

Statistics Denmark provides guidance to municipalities on correct practices for data reporting. However, they do not possess the necessary knowledge to assess the variations in municipal procedures concerning disability services provided to children and youth. Due to municipalities using different digital systems for data reporting and transmission, the data are not consistently and uniformly registered.

For example, one municipality may categorize a specific measure under a legislative section included in the statistics, whereas another municipality may categorize the same measure under a different section not included in the statistics.

To ensure uniformity in data transmission and reporting, municipalities are obligated to implement and adhere to the regulations outlined in the [Databekendtgørelsen](#) (i.e. The Executive Order on Data Transmission in the Social Policy Area).

The statistics include data from 98 municipalities, and the number of granted disability services reported and approved by these municipalities is considered complete.

## **5.2 Sampling error**

Not relevant for these statistics since the statistic's method is complete enumeration.

## **5.3 Non-sampling error**

The statistics encompass data from all 98 municipalities in Denmark, summarizing the data approved by these municipalities.

There may be measurement errors regarding the period variable for certain measures. Some municipalities tend to designate the start date of a measure as the date it is granted, whereas others correctly specify it as the date the measure takes effect.

Municipalities vary in their practices for assessing and providing internal housing offers. If a municipality cannot accommodate support and special care for children and youth with reduced physical or mental capacities in relevant daycare, school, or club institutions, they provide an offer based on regulations outlined in the Act on Social Services. What one municipality registers under a specific legislative section included in the statistics may be recorded under a different section in another municipality, not included in the statistics.

Administration and assessment of disability services may involve multiple departments within a municipality, which poses a risk of underreporting cases. However, rigorous validation processes conducted in collaboration with municipalities aim to minimize such risks.

While municipalities are required to report all disability measures granted to disadvantaged children and young people, it is acknowledged that some cases may be missing. The validation processes and annual meetings with municipalities are designed to mitigate these errors.

## **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 published annually, no later than 6 months after the end of the reference period. This ensures that users have current and relevant knowledge of disability measures granted by the municipalities.

The 4 statistical tables presented in Statbank Denmark (HANDBU01, HANDBU02, HANDBU03, and HANDBU04) enable users to address relevant questions regarding disability measures provided to children and youth.

Accompanied by a publication of a NYT-article and detailed documentation, these statistical tables ensure accessibility for users. The registry also offers researchers and ministries the opportunity to explore complex aspects and questions related to specific measures and their interconnections.

The statistics are considered accurate and reliable due to their complete enumeration methodology. Overall statistical uncertainty is assessed as low. Quality assurance is maintained through an annual process of data validation in collaboration with municipalities. Each municipality receives a validation list derived from Statistics Denmark's database, enabling them to assess data quality, make necessary corrections, and ultimately approve reported data.

The statistics encompass data from all 98 municipalities in Denmark, covering the period from January 1, 2022, and onwards. Significant variations in the number of specific measures can occur when comparing municipalities, even when accounting for differences in population size. These variations may stem from disparities in housing offers and assessment practices among municipalities.

## 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 statistical register, which serves as the foundation for these statistics, is a longitudinal register updated annually. Revisions of previous years are carried out upon the release of new reference periods.

Because the register contains longitudinal data, revisions extending several years back can occur. Data contributors have the ability to make daily corrections to previously reported data or add new information. These changes and additions are incorporated into subsequent publications for the relevant reference year. It is anticipated that relatively few revisions will pertain to periods extending more than a few years back.

As this is the initial publication of these statistics, no revisions have been made for the current release.

## 6 Timeliness and punctuality

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

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

The statistics are published approximately 6 months after the end of the reference period and are released without delay according to the scheduled publication date. Preliminary numbers are not published.

## **6.2 Punctuality**

The statistics are published without delay according to the scheduled publish date.

## **7 Comparability**

The statistics on disability services are most comparable with data previously collected and published in the statistics on social resources. Direct international comparisons cannot be made due to differences in data collection methods and reporting practices.

### **7.1 Comparability - geographical**

The statistics on disability measures are not governed by any EU regulation or compiled according to other international guidelines. The data included in these statistics are defined based on Danish legislation, making direct international comparisons unfeasible. Similar statistics are compiled in many other countries.

### **7.2 Comparability over time**

The statistics on disability services have been compiled since 2022 and are best compared to previously published data on the subject - for instance in the statistical tables [RESHJMTR](#) and [RESLED](#).

These tables are based on summary information, which the municipalities have reported yearly to Statistics Denmark. It is worth noting that there are instances where data cannot directly be linked with regards to some time periods.

For instance, data contained in the statistics on social resources and data published in the current statistics on disability measures can be difficult to link due to differences in methods of calculation. The most significant difference is that the data in current statistic on disability measures is calculated on the basis of CPR-numbers (social security numbers). Another difference is that disability measures, published in current statistics, are reported by the administrative municipality, whereas in the statistic on social resources, the services were reported by the municipalities which actually financed the measures. This can contribute to differences in number of measures for specific municipalities.

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

The statistics on disability services for children and youth can be linked to statistics on disabled and disadvantaged adults. This connection arises because children and youth with chronic or long-term physical or mental disabilities may transition into adulthood and be eligible for selected services typically provided to disabled or disadvantaged adults. This continuity in services underscores the relevance of connecting these statistical datasets to understand the broader support framework across different age groups.

## **7.4 Coherence - internal**

Data reported from various sources typically adhere to standardized reporting forms. However, when changes are made to these forms, discrepancies can arise because IT suppliers may not implement the changes simultaneously. During transitional periods, responses from the old reporting forms are often "mapped" to correspond with new categories. This mapping process helps maintain consistency and continuity in the reported data despite changes in reporting formats.

## **8 Accessibility and clarity**

The statistics are published in [Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik](#), a Danish-language press release by Statistics Denmark.

Data are also accessible in Statbank Denmark, under the disability section:: [Handicapområdet](#). For additional details, refer to the [subject page](#) of the statistics.

### **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**

The statistics are presented in a press release authored in Danish by Statistics Denmark, titled [Handicapindsatser til børn og unge](#).

### **8.5 Publications**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## 8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in StatBank Denmark in following tables:

- [HANDBU01](#): Disability measures for children between 0-17 years by municipality, measure and sex
- [HANDBU02](#): Disability measures for children between 0-17 years by municipality, measure and age
- [HANDBU03](#): Disability measures for children between 0-17 years by province and measure
- [HANDBU04](#): Disability measures for children between 0-17 years by measure, age and sex

## 8.7 Micro-data access

Researchers and analysts from authorized research institutions can request access to the underlying micro-data by contacting [Research Services](#).

## 8.8 Other

The underlying anonymized micro-data from these statistics are available for specific service tasks upon payment. You can learn more about these [Customized Solutions](#) or obtain further information by contacting [DST Consulting](#).

## 8.9 Confidentiality - policy

[Data Confidentiality Policy](#) for Statistics Denmark.

## 8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

To ensure confidentiality, individuals are grouped into age categories. Additionally, specific tables in the StatBank are published at the provincial level rather than the municipal level. For more details on classifications, including regions, provinces, and municipalities, you can visit the classification page [Regions, Provinces and Municipalities](#).

## 8.11 Documentation on methodology

There are no separate documentation on methodology 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 Personal Finances and Welfare. The contact person is Jane Christensen, tel.: + 45 2058 4240, and e-mail: [JNC@dst.dk](mailto:JNC@dst.dk).

