

## Statistics on child well-being in Sweden

Statistics Sweden's statistics on child well-being are based on both the Swedish Total Population Register and survey data. This makes it possible to show children's living conditions both in an objective way through administrative registers and through children's own subjective experience.

Every year since 1998, Statistics Sweden has produced comprehensive statistics about children's living conditions. The statistics cover aspects such as children's families, children with foreign backgrounds, parents' employment and, where appropriate, parents' separation. The statistics published are available in Statistics Sweden's statistical database<sup>1</sup>. Special reports with in-depth information in different fields are published on an irregular basis. These are largely based on the *Living Conditions Survey of Children* in which 10-18-year olds are interviewed.

Since 2001, the *Living Conditions Survey of Children* has been based on the annual *Survey of Living Conditions* in Sweden. Using this survey, it is possible to identify the additional members of the sample person's household. By using data on age and sex of household members, it is possible to study children of households as separate units. The children are interviewed and asked questions that they themselves are best placed to answer. These questions include their situation at school, what they do in their spare time and relationships with friends, their own parents and other adults.

### Indicators of children's well-being in Sweden

Indicators that measure children's well-being originate from the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* which forms the basis of Swedish child policy. The Swedish Government began developing indicators as part of its implementation of the Convention in 2003. In 2010, Statistics Sweden was commissioned to create annual routines for calculating approximately 45 indicators and to devise historical time-series for these. The indicators represent six target areas that are set down in the Convention. The target areas describe the development of boys' and girls' living conditions, concerning e.g. their health, living standard or education. The work with the indicators is performed in collaboration with the Ombudsman for Children in Sweden and will be published on their website in early 2012.

Since many of the issues that effect children's living conditions are dealt with on the regional and local level, a number of indicators will be shown by county and municipality. Each indicator will also be presented in terms of a number of different background variables, including age, family composition, Swedish/foreign background and parents' level of education.

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<sup>1</sup> Available on the Statistics Sweden website at [www.scb.se](http://www.scb.se)

The indicators are based both on data collected from different statistical agencies and on Statistics Sweden's own registers and surveys.

The developed indicators enable a more systematic and quantitative follow-up of children's living conditions and will be easily accessible to everyone whose activities concern children.