

**Case no:** LED 2021/13

# Submission by the Equality Ombudsman of Sweden to OHCHR’s study on statistics and data (ref. Human Rights Council resolution 43\_L.34)

In accordance with the Human Rights Council resolution 43\_L.34 ([A/HRC/43/l.34](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/43/L.34)) concerning the rights of persons with disabilities, the OHCHR are to prepare a study on statistics and data collection under article 31 of the Convention. Stakeholders are invited to contribute to the report. The Equality Ombudsman of Sweden would like to submit the following information as a contribution to this report.

The Swedish Agency for Participation (MFD) is the expert agency that promotes work with the implementation of disability policy in Sweden. They develop and distribute information and statistics about obstacles to participation. They regularly conduct their own surveys, including on economic inequality and disability. They do not only collect data themselves but also distribute statistics and results from surveys from other agencies and authorities. More information can be found on their webpage: <https://www.mfd.se/other-languages/>

There are no public record or data on persons with disabilities in Sweden. However, a few public authorities register specific administrative data on persons with disabilities in relation to certain support systems such as the Swedish Public Employment Services, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan) and the National Board on Health and Welfare. This data makes it possible to compare persons with disabilities with the rest of the population. Please find more information here: <https://www.scb.se/contentassets/502da44214f140e6bda5fb06ed7bc5c9/le0101_2018a01_br_lebr2002.pdf>

In addition, there are a few relevant national surveys that are not solely focusing on persons with disabilities but includes sections or specific questions on persons with disabilities. A short description of these surveys as follows:

Statistic Sweden (SCB) conduct surveys and present statistics that describe labour market developments for the Swedish population aged 15–74. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) shows the number and percentage of employed and unemployed persons respectively, per month, quarter and year. It is the only source of continuous data on total unemployment and presents the official unemployment rate. This survey also shows the labour market situation for persons with disabilities. The results of the survey are mainly based on persons who have a disability or disabilities that impair their capacity to work, and comparisons are made with the population. The survey includes people aged 16–64 years who are registered in the Swedish population register. Those who has stated that they have a disability are asked whether their disability has led to a reduced ability to work in the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The 2020 Labour Force Survey was carried out using a different approach than in previous years. This means it is not possible to compare results for the group with reduced ability to work for 2020 and previous years. The results for the whole group of persons with disabilities, on the other hand, is comparable over time. The information for the total population presented in the survey differs from the official statistics on the 2020 LFS. This is in part due to a difference in the collection period, and in part because the estimates are only based on the sample for this survey and not on the whole LFS sample. The Statistics Sweden is currently developing the questionnaire concerning questions about employment and disabilities. At this date, we do not know exactly how the questions will be modified and if it effects the possibility to compare data with previous years

Statistics Sweden also conducts the Living Conditions Surveys (ULF/SILC). The statistics describe various aspects of living conditions for different groups of the population aged 16 and older: housing, economy, health, leisure, civic activities, social relationships, employment and working environment, security and safety. The survey is conducted through interviews, and the respondents also answer questions about health and disabilities. More information: <https://www.scb.se/hitta-statistik/statistik-efter-amne/levnadsforhallanden/levnadsforhallanden/undersokningarna-av-levnadsforhallanden-ulf-silc/produktrelaterat/Fordjupad-information/ulfsilc--intervjuformular/>; <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/overview>

The Public Health Agency of Sweden (Folkhälsomyndigheten) has a national responsibility for public health issues and works to ensure good public health. The Public Health Agency of Sweden annually conducts a national public health survey, Health on Equal Terms, including a sample of 20 000 people aged 16-84 years.  Several of the initial questions in the questionnaire Health on Equal Terms are relevant for understanding health and living conditions among disabled persons. See question 1-6. It also contains a section on safety and discrimination which includes a question on discrimination and disability. An English version of the questionnaire can be found here:

<https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/contentassets/840c39c076eb48bc8a1cbfdfdfd01a22/questionnare-survey-public-health-2021.pdf>

Please find the reported results for the years 2011- 2016 here:

<https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/contentassets/a9f9f81fd47c40ecb2241b5d2658bfe2/slutrapport-funktionshindersuppdraget-2011-2016.pdf>