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More minors supported by child and youth welfare in 2021

Expenditure for educational assistance increased to 759.0 million euros in 2021

Vienna, 2022-07-28 – In 2021, 41 726 minors received support in their families through child and youth welfare services, 12 871 were cared for as part of full education outside the family. Based on 1 000 minors, in 2021 there were 27.0 children and young people in the area of parenting support and 8.3 in full parenting.

In 2021, 41 726 children and young people received **parenting support** in their families, which, according to Statistics Austria, was 3 237 (+8.4%) more than in the previous year (see Table 1). If the well-being of a child or young person in the family is endangered, various forms of child and youth welfare (e.g. intensive family care, socio-educational family help, parent training, individual care) are used to strengthen and support the family that accommodation outside the family can be prevented. If it is no longer possible to remain in the family, the child and youth welfare service must order full education in the form of foster families or residential care. In 2021, 12 871 minors were cared for as part of **full education**, 193 (+1.5%) more than in the previous year. 61.3 % of these children and young people lived in institutions, 38.7 % with caregivers.

Table 1: Number of children and adolescents¹ supported by child and youth welfare in 2020 and 2021

Region	Total ²		Change 2020–2021		Care rate ³	
	2020	2021	absolute	in %	2020	2021
Support for education⁴						
Burgenland	1 381	1 455	74	5.4	29.4	30.8
Carinthia	3 185	3 407	222	7.0	35.2	37.6
Lower Austria	8 495	10 446	1 951	23.0	28.8	35.3
Upper Austria	4 752	4 707	-45	-0.9	17.5	17.3
Salzburg	2 341	2 557	216	9.2	23.8	25.9
Styria	6 704	6 965	261	3.9	33.3	34.5
Tyrol	3 537	3 523	-14	-0.4	26.7	26.6
Vorarlberg	1 847	1 902	55	3.0	24.2	24.8
Vienna	6 247	6 764	517	8.3	18.9	20.4
Overall	38 489	41 726	3 237	8.4	25.0	27.0
Full Education						
Burgenland	370	402	32	8.6	7.9	8.5
Carinthia	1 036	1 068	32	3.1	11.4	11.8
Lower Austria	2 029	2 117	88	4.3	6.9	7.2
Upper Austria	1 590	1 582	-8	-0.5	5.9	5.8
Salzburg	685	689	4	0.6	7.0	7.0
Styria	1 576	1 650	74	4.7	7.8	8.2

Region	Total ²		Change 2020–2021		Care rate ³	
	2020	2021	absolute	in %	2020	2021
Tyrol	799	816	17	2.1	6.0	6.2
Vorarlberg	524	488	-36	-6.9	6.9	6.4
Vienna	4 069	4 059	-10	-0.2	12.3	12.3
Austria	12 678	12 871	193	1.5	8.2	8.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Child and youth welfare statistics. – 1) Under 18 years. – 2) Annual totals. – 3) Annual average number of children and young people per 1 000 under 18 years. – 4) Care in the family (intensive family care, socio-educational family support, mobile work with families, parent training, individual care, etc.). – 5) Care provided by foster families and residential care.

The proportion of **boys** was higher than that of **girls** both in support of education (54.2 %) and in full education (53.3 %). Broken down by **age group**, more than half (51.4 %) of the children and young people cared for were aged 6 to under 14 years (14 to under 18 years: 25.1 %, under 6 years: 23.5 %). In full education, the 6 to under 14 year olds (44.3 %) and the 14 to under 18 year olds (40.6 %) accounted for almost the same proportion, while the youngest made up only 15.0 %.

2 121 young adults were supported outside, 1 350 within the family

Young people who are already supported by the child and youth welfare service can continue to receive help if they need it after they have reached the legal age. In 2021, 2 121 young adults (aged 18 to under 21 years) were cared for in **socio-educational institutions** or by **carers** (inpatient) and 1 350 of the same age group were supported in the **family** (outpatient) (see Table 2). With this form of extended assistance, to which there is no legal entitlement, the number of young adults received inpatient help fell by 67 or 3.1 % compared to the previous year, while in the outpatient help increased by 35 or 2.7 %. In contrast to the minors, the proportion of women receiving support was higher than that of men among young adults (outpatient: 53.3 %, inpatient: 50.2 %).

Table 2: Number of young adults¹ supported by child and youth welfare in 2020 and 2021

Region	Total ²		Change 2020–2021		Care rate ³	
	2020	2021	absolute	in %	2020	2021
Inpatient help⁴						
Burgenland	43	38	-5	-11.6	5.3	4.7
Carinthia	204	166	-38	-18.6	12.7	10.5
Lower Austria	307	322	15	4.9	6.1	6.4
Upper Austria	257	235	-22	-8.6	5.5	5.1
Salzburg	185	165	-20	-10.8	10.6	9.6
Styria	418	357	-61	-14.6	11.7	10.1
Tyrol	266	246	-20	-7.5	11.6	10.8
Vorarlberg	92	95	3	3.3	7.1	7.4
Vienna	416	497	81	19.5	6.9	8.2
Overall	2 188	2 121	-67	-3.1	8.1	7.9
Outpatient help⁵						
Burgenland	18	23	5	27.8	2.2	2.9
Carinthia	128	176	48	37.5	8.0	11.1
Lower Austria	33	36	3	9.1	0.7	0.7
Upper Austria	121	130	9	7.4	2.6	2.8
Salzburg	76	100	24	31.6	4.3	5.8
Styria	439	390	-49	-11.2	12.2	11.0
Tyrol	326	332	6	1.8	14.2	14.6

Region	Total ²		Change 2020–2021		Care rate ³	
	2020	2021	absolute	in %	2020	2021
Vorarlberg	108	97	-11	-10.2	8.3	7.6
Vienna	66	66	0	0.0	1.1	1.1
Austria	1 315	1 350	35	2.7	4.9	5.0

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Child and youth welfare statistics. – 1) 18 to under 21 year olds. – 2) Annual totals. – 3) Annual average number of young adults per 1 000 18 to under 21 year olds. – 4) Care outside of the family in residential care. – 5) Family care.

Large federal province differences in childcare rates

While Lower Austria had the highest proportion of children and young people looked after in the area of support for education with 25.0 %, Vienna was clearly ahead of the other federal states in the area of full education with 31.5 %. If the number of under-18-year-olds being cared for is compared to the resident population of the same age, there is a wide range in the care rates (see Table 1): In Carinthia in 2021, there were 37.6 for every 1 000 minors **receiving support**, while in Upper Austria there were only 17.3 children and young people in care (average of the federal provinces: 27.0). In **full education**, this value ranged from 12.3 in Vienna to 5.8 in Upper Austria (average: 8.3).

There were also clear differences between the federal provinces when it comes to the allocation of **support for young adults** in 2021: While in Tyrol 14.6 out of 1 000 18- to under 21-year-olds continued to receive professional support while living with their family of origin, such support was practically non-existent in Lower Austria and Vienna. In the area of care outside the family, the quota was between 10.8 (Tyrol) and 4.7 (Burgenland) young adults.

759.0 million euros spent for child and youth welfare in 2021

Total expenses on educational assistance (support for bringing up children, full education, assistance for young adults) were 759.0 million euros in 2021 (+56.7 million euros or +8.1 % compared to the previous year). Taking into account the income from reimbursement of costs by those responsible for maintenance (44.8 million euros), the federal provinces and municipalities were left with **net expenditure** of 714.2 million euros (see Table 3). Vienna accounted for the largest share (24.5 %), followed by Styria (15.8 %) and Lower Austria (15.3 %). Three-fourths of total spending went on full education, and one-fourth was spent on educational support (both including young adult support).

Table 3: Expenses (in 1 000 Euro) for child and youth welfare¹⁾ in 2020 and 2021

Region	2020		2021		Change 2020–2021	
	Total expenses ²	Net expenses ³	Total expenses ²	Net expenses ³	Total expenses	Net expenses
Burgenland ⁴	24 436	23 863	24 620	23 971	184	107
Carinthia	57 815	56 199	60 666	58 909	2 851	2 711
Lower Austria	102 972	100 221	112 305	109 334	9 333	9 113
Upper Austria ⁵	120 437	99 827	124 213	102 658	3 776	2 831
Salzburg ⁴	44 746	42 875	44 523	42 496	-223	-379
Styria ⁴	114 465	108 747	118 201	112 953	3 736	4 206
Tyrol ⁴	54 555	53 316	56 765	55 392	2 209	2 076
Vorarlberg	32 660	31 333	34 554	33 187	1 893	1 854
Vienna	150 209	144 437	183 165	175 291	32 957	30 854
Austria	702 296	660 818	759 011	714 191	56 715	53 373

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Child and youth welfare statistics. – 1) Educational support, full Education and assistance to young adults. – 2) Without personnel costs of child and youth welfare agencies. – 3) Total expenses less cost reimbursements from maintenance debtors and any other third-party debtors. – 4) Provisional accounts dates. – 5) Data from the provisional accounts of the regional payers (social welfare associations, towns with their own statutes). Expenditure in total, including onward settlements between the institutions.

For detailed results and further information please refer to [website](#).

Information on methodology, definitions: The central objective and task of child and youth welfare (KJH) is to ensure the well-being of children and young people. The child and youth welfare statistics are based on the annual tabular reports from the federal states. The primary basis for the annual collection and publication of statistical data on KJH is the **Federal Child and Youth Welfare Act 2013** (Bundes-Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz [B-KJHG 2013], repealed on December 31, 2019). The **KJH statistics working group** set up by the Ministry (currently: Bundeskanzleramt), to which the federal states and Statistics Austria also belong, is responsible for the concrete determination and definition of the service areas and survey characteristics to be recorded. The statistical mandate of the federal law (§ 15) refers to the following areas of activity and performance of the KJH: **social services, support for education, full education, risk assessments, help for young adults, domestic and cross-border adoptions and legal representation**; it is stipulated that the numerical utilization of these services (partly as the number of recipients, broken down by age and gender, partly as the number of services) and the financial expenditure for the public KJH (expenditure and income) are to be recorded. The child and youth welfare statistics (KJH statistics) replaced the child and youth welfare report (Jugendwohlfahrts- bzw. Kinder- und Jugendhilfebericht) prepared by the Ministry for Family Affairs up until the 2014 reporting year. 2021 is the seventh reporting year for child and youth welfare statistics.

The **detailed specifications** for the content of the KJH statistics 2021 and **selected data** since 2015 can be found in the **handbook** created for this purpose and in **KJH statistics report 2021**, which is available on our website, www.statistics.at > Statistics > Population and society > Social benefits > Children and youth welfare.

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