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# Child and youth welfare 2023: More minors supported

**Expenditure on educational support increased by 13.5% to 906.9 million euros**

Vienna, 2024-08-12 – In 2023, 43 731 minors received support in their families through child and youth welfare services, 13 073 were cared for as part of full education outside the family, as Statistics Austria reports. In addition, 2 122 young adults received care in socio-educational institutions and 1 424 received care within the family. At 906.9 million euros, expenditure on educational support increased by 108.0 million euros (+13.5%) compared to 2022.

In 2023, 43 731 children and young people received **parenting support** in their families, which was 758 (+1.8%) 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 2023, 13 073 minors were cared for as part of **full education**, 185 (+1.4%) more than in the previous year. 61.4% of these children and young people lived in institutions, 38.6% with caregivers.

**Table 1: Number of children and adolescents<sup>1</sup> supported by child and youth welfare in 2022 and 2023**

Region	Total <sup>2</sup>		Change 2022–2023		Care rate <sup>3</sup>	
	2022	2023	absolute	in %	2022	2023
<b>Support for education<sup>4</sup></b>						
Burgenland	1 556	1 342	-214	-13,8	32,4	27,9
Carinthia	3 674	3 795	121	3,3	40,3	41,6
Lower Austria	11 155	11 160	5	0,0	37,1	37,0
Upper Austria	4 642	4 478	-164	-3,5	16,8	16,2
Salzburg	2 618	2 710	92	3,5	26,3	27,2
Styria	6 805	7 567	762	11,2	33,3	36,8
Tyrol	3 634	3 650	16	0,4	27,1	27,2
Vorarlberg	1 990	2 013	23	1,2	25,7	25,9
Vienna	6 899	7 016	117	1,7	20,3	20,4
<b>Overall</b>	<b>42 973</b>	<b>43 731</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>1,8</b>	<b>27,4</b>	<b>27,7</b>
<b>Full Education<sup>5</sup></b>						
Burgenland	451	417	-34	-7,5	9,4	8,7
Carinthia	1 015	1 013	-2	-0,2	11,1	11,1
Lower Austria	2 136	2 198	62	2,9	7,1	7,3
Upper Austria	1 573	1 545	-28	-1,8	5,7	5,6

Region	Total <sup>2</sup>		Change 2022–2023		Care rate <sup>3</sup>	
	2022	2023	absolute	in %	2022	2023
Salzburg	676	700	24	3,6	6,8	7,0
Styria	1 629	1 686	57	3,5	8,0	8,2
Tyrol	857	884	27	3,2	6,4	6,6
Vorarlberg	444	485	41	9,2	5,7	6,2
Vienna	4 107	4 145	38	0,9	12,1	12,1
<b>Austria</b>	<b>12 888</b>	<b>13 073</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>1,4</b>	<b>8,2</b>	<b>8,3</b>

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 (53.6%) and in full education (53.2%). Broken down by **age group**, more than half (51.1%) of the children and young people cared for were aged 6 to under 14 years (14 to under 18 years: 26.9%, under 6 years: 22.0%). In full education, the 6 to under 14 year olds (43.0%) and the 14 to under 18 year olds (42.7%) accounted for almost the same proportion, while the youngest made up only 14.4%.

## 2 122 young adults were supported outside, 1 424 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 2023, 2 122 young adults (aged 18 to under 21 years) were cared for in **socio-educational institutions** or by **carers** (inpatient) and 1 424 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 decreased by 138 or 6.1% compared to the previous year, while in the outpatient help the number of young adults increased by 74 or 5.5%. In contrast to the minors, the proportion of women receiving inpatient support was almost the same (49.7%) and for outpatient support even higher (55.1%) than that of men among young adults.

**Table 2: Number of young adults<sup>1</sup> supported by child and youth welfare in 2022 and 2023**

Region	Total <sup>2</sup>		Change 2022–2023		Care rate <sup>3</sup>	
	2022	2023	absolute	in %	2022	2023
<b>Inpatient help<sup>4</sup></b>						
Burgenland	41	38	-3	-7,3	5,0	4,6
Carinthia	218	200	-18	-8,3	13,5	12,2
Lower Austria	394	403	9	2,3	7,7	7,8
Upper Austria	250	248	-2	-0,8	5,3	5,2
Salzburg	181	178	-3	-1,7	10,5	10,1
Styria	358	300	-58	-16,2	9,9	8,2
Tyrol	228	214	-14	-6,1	10,0	9,1
Vorarlberg	100	77	-23	-23,0	7,7	5,8
Vienna	490	464	-26	-5,3	7,8	7,2
<b>Overall</b>	<b>2 260</b>	<b>2 122</b>	<b>-138</b>	<b>-6,1</b>	<b>8,3</b>	<b>7,6</b>
<b>Outpatient help<sup>5</sup></b>						
Burgenland	25	35	10	40,0	3,0	4,2
Carinthia	156	191	35	22,4	9,7	11,7
Lower Austria	59	65	6	10,2	1,2	1,3
Upper Austria	144	159	15	10,4	3,1	3,3
Salzburg	105	105	0	0,0	6,1	6,0

Region	Total <sup>2</sup>		Change 2022–2023		Care rate <sup>3</sup>	
	2022	2023	absolute	in %	2022	2023
Styria	399	403	4	1,0	11,1	11,0
Tyrol	274	234	-40	-14,6	12,0	10,0
Vorarlberg	100	125	25	25,0	7,7	9,4
Vienna	88	107	19	21,6	1,4	1,7
<b>Austria</b>	<b>1 350</b>	<b>1 424</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>5,5</b>	<b>4,9</b>	<b>5,1</b>

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 differences between federal provinces in childcare rates

While Lower Austria had the highest proportion of all children and young people looked after in the area of support for education with 25.5%, Vienna was clearly ahead of the other federal provinces in the area of full education with 31.7%. 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 care rates (see table 1): In Carinthia, there were 41.6 for every 1 000 minors **receiving support** in 2023, while in Upper Austria there were only 16.2 children and young people in care (average of the federal provinces: 27.7). In **full education**, this value ranged from 12.1 in Vienna to 5.6 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 2023: While in Carinthia 11.7 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 12.2 (Carinthia) and 4.6 (Burgenland).

### 906.9 million euros spent for child and youth welfare in 2023, an increase by 108 million euro

**Total expenses** on educational assistance (support for bringing up children, full education, assistance for young adults) were 906.9 million euros in 2023 (+108.0 million euros or +13.5% compared to the previous year). Taking into account the income from reimbursement of costs by those responsible for maintenance (50.3 million euros), the federal provinces and municipalities were left with **net expenditure** of 856.6 million euros (see table 3). Vienna accounted for the largest share (23.7%), followed by Lower Austria (16.1%) and Styria (15.8%). 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 euros) for child and youth welfare<sup>1</sup> in 2022 and 2023**

Region	2022		2023		Change 2022–2023	
	Total expenses <sup>2</sup>	Net expenses <sup>3</sup>	Total expenses <sup>2</sup>	Net expenses <sup>3</sup>	Total expenses	Net expenses
Burgenland <sup>4</sup>	26 830	26 268	33 006	32 466	6 176	6 197
Carinthia	62 263	60 330	77 091	75 378	14 828	15 048
Lower Austria	116 084	112 847	141 117	137 612	25 033	24 765
Upper Austria <sup>5</sup>	128 672	106 819	142 140	118 377	13 468	11 558
Salzburg <sup>4</sup>	45 594	43 572	54 466	52 527	8 872	8 955
Styria <sup>4</sup>	124 511	118 371	141 501	134 944	16 990	16 572
Tyrol <sup>4</sup>	56 378	54 893	65 646	64 190	9 269	9 297
Vorarlberg	36 206	34 951	39 441	38 048	3 235	3 097
Vienna	202 384	194 694	212 480	203 038	10 096	8 344
<b>Austria</b>	<b>798 921</b>	<b>752 746</b>	<b>906 887</b>	<b>856 580</b>	<b>107 967</b>	<b>103 833</b>

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Child and youth welfare statistics. – 1) Educational support, full education and assistance to young adults. – 2) Without personal 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 our [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 provinces. 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 31 December 2019). The **KJH statistics working group** set up by the Ministry (currently: Bundeskanzleramt), to which the federal provinces 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 utilisation 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. 2023 is the ninth reporting year for child and youth welfare statistics.

The **detailed specifications** for the content of the KJH statistics 2023 and **selected data** since 2015 can be found in the **handbook** created for this purpose and in **KJH statistics report 2023**, which is available on our website, [www.statistics.at](http://www.statistics.at) > Statistics > Population and society > Social benefits > Children and youth welfare.

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