

# Standard documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

## Child support survey 2021

This documentation is valid from/for the reference period/due day:  
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## Executive Summary

The Child support survey was instructed by the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) and conducted by Statistics Austria in 2021. It was the first survey of this kind in Austria.

The results of the Child support survey give a detailed view on the lives of single mothers. They are of much importance because there is no register data on child support payments in Austria.

Data collection was done on the mother's perspective as well as on the perspective of the child. The women invited to take part in the survey were asked to answer questions regarding their minor children. Those child questionnaires were followed by another one for the single mother herself. Main topics for the children were for example school attendance, maintenance situation, child support payments and others. The single mothers were asked on topics as education, employment and the dwelling they live in with their children.

In February 2021 3 000 single mothers living with their minor children were contacted via postal mail and invited to take part in the Child support survey. As a whole 1 137 of the notified women answered the questionnaire either online or in paper version, which results in a response rate of about 38.6 %. Those 1 137 women are equivalent to 108 000 single mothers with 161 000 children under the age of 18 years extrapolated. 2 euros cash were sent to the women as a pre-incentive, 8 euros as post-incentive after completing the questionnaire.

The main part of the data collection was done in CAWI mode (Computer assisted web interviewing). 1 029 single mothers chose to fill out the questionnaire online. The software used was STATsurv which was developed by Statistics Austria. It is optimized for mobile devices, people can take part with their smartphone, tablet or computer.

In addition to the online version a paper questionnaire containing a reply envelope was sent to those single mothers who had not taken part in the survey yet. This option was used by 108 respondents.

Main results of the Child support survey were published on October 10th 2021. A detailed [report in German language](#) is available on the website of Statistics Austria.

## Child support survey – Main Key Points

<b>Subject matter</b>	Collecting empirical data on child support payments for the first time in Austria
<b>Population</b>	Single mothers with minor children living in private households in Austria
<b>Type of statistics</b>	Primary statistical survey
<b>Data sources/Survey techniques</b>	Sample survey
<b>Reference period or due day</b>	2020 and the time when the survey was conducted in 2021
<b>Periodicity</b>	Once
<b>Survey participation (in case of a survey)</b>	Voluntary
<b>Main legal acts</b>	Commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK)
<b>Most detailed regional breakdown</b>	Austria - restricted to provinces (NUTS 2)
<b>Availability of results</b>	Published on October 1st 2021
<b>Other</b>	Data on child support was collected for the first time in Austria by conducting this survey. It is of the highest importance because there is no register data to use for analysis.