Swedish Family Policy

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Sweden

- A population of 9.6 million people
- 2 million of them are children
- Brief info about Sweden..
Family policy in Sweden consists of:

- Financial family policy; i.e. child- and family benefits, parental insurance and more

- Child care services, high quality day care system

- Public services such as care for expectant mothers, childcare, healthcare, dental care, medicine, education
Government aim regarding financial family policy

- The aim of financial family policy

- contribute to improved economic living conditions

- increase freedom of choice for parents

- strengthen influence and power over their lives
Parental benefit in connection with childbirth or adoption

- Parental benefit can be received for a period of 480 days per child and is divided equally between parents with joint custody.

- Parents can give days to each other, except 60 days each that constitute the so called mum’s and dad’s months.

- Flexible: Can be used until the child is twelve years old, compensation can be given for parts of a day.

- 30 days can be used by the mother and father at the same time during the child’s first year.
Fertility rates in Sweden
Swedens inhabitants today
## Working parents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of the youngest child</th>
<th>Married/cohabiting</th>
<th>Single</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fathers</td>
<td>Mothers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-6</td>
<td>92,0</td>
<td>80,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-18</td>
<td>92,8</td>
<td>89,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>82,2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td></td>
<td>77,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-64 years</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Reconciliation

- Generous and flexible support for families through social security and high quality and affordable pre-school/day-care
- Focus on gender equality — in the labour market as well as shared parenting responsibilities
- After school services, free school meals
- Positive approach from employers
- High female employment rates as well as high fertility rates
Child care

- Childcare facilities are well integrated into the Swedish welfare state
distinguished by high standards of quality and by the principle of universal availability and affordability.
- It gives parents a chance to reconcile employment with family life.
- The fees are subsidized by the government and related to income, a maximum fee has been introduced.
- In 2010, about 98% of all 4-5 year olds were enrolled in pre-school
Different kinds of family benefits

- **General:** Child allowance, Adoption allowance
- **Insurances:** Parental benefit, Temporary parental benefit, Pregnancy benefit, Pension rights for child care years and more...
- **Need-tested:** Housing allowance, maintenance support and more...
- **Other benefits:** Gender equality bonus and child raising allowance
Expenditure, total of SEK 78 billion in 2013 (8,3 billion EUR)
Financial family policy and at risk of poverty

- Risk of poverty (rop)
- rop without family policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Type</th>
<th>Risk of Poverty (rop)</th>
<th>rop without Family Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Households</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single 1 Child</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>65.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single 2+ Children</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohabiting 1 Child</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohabiting 2 Children</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohabiting 3+Children</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>34.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Different family types with children

All children

Children living apart from at least one of their parents

- with both parents: 75
- living apart from at least one of their parents: 25

- shared residence: 35
- mostly with mother: 23
- only with mother: 5
- mostly with father: 4
- only with father: 4
- other: 4
Recent reforms 2013/2014

• Raise in parental benefit for parents who do not have a wage-related benefit

• New rules regarding use of parental benefit, the main part must be used before the child turns 4, the rest can be used until the child turns 12

• Raise in housing allowance in 2012 and 2014 of totally 1.7 billion SEK, 48%, (192 million EUR)

• Child allowance will be split between parents as a main rule