

# Basic *facts*

The Swedish Prison  
and Probation  
Service

2009



Kriminalvården

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## Introduction

The Swedish Prison and Probation Service is part of the judicial system, the mission of which is to implement criminal and social policies, i.e. to reduce criminality and increase social security.

The principal responsibilities of the Swedish Prison and Probation Service include:

- to implement prison and probation sentences (including community service and contract treatment).
- to supervise conditionally released offenders.
- to implement community service orders in connection with conditional sentences and to carry out personal case studies in criminal cases.

The Prison and Probation Service implements these responsibilities by:

- taking action to prevent offenders from reoffending.
- maintaining a humane interest in people, providing good care and actively influence progress while allowing for a high level of security as well as the privacy and legal rights of the individual.

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## Crime

### ***How many crimes are reported each year?***

In 2008, 1,3 million crimes were reported in Sweden, a 5 percent increase compared to 2007.

### ***What type of crimes is reported most?***

In 2008, more than 43 percent of all crimes reported were thefts.

### ***Number of reported crimes***

559,550 thefts and burglaries  
195,000 crimes against property  
98,350 frauds  
84,550 assaults  
79,950 thefts from motor vehicles  
78,200 drug crimes  
66,350 bicycle thefts  
63,750 shoplifts  
50,500 unlawful threats  
43,550 cases of abuse  
27,950 car thefts  
22,450 cases of drink driving  
18,200 house break-ins  
8,900 robberies, including armed robbery  
5,900 cases of violence against officials  
5,450 rapes  
1,300 sexual coercion and exploitation

### ***How many crimes were fatal?***

192 persons were convicted for murder, manslaughter and assault with a fatal outcome in 2008.

### ***How many crimes were solved?***

In 2008, 478,000 crimes (35 percent) were investigated and solved.

Source: BRÅ (Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention)

## Penalties

### ***What penalties are applicable according to the Swedish penal code?***

The penalties applicable by the court are fines, imprisonment, conditional sentence, probational sentence, custodial youth care and committal to specialist treatment.

### ***What penalties are implemented by the Swedish Prison and Probation Service?***

Imprisonment, intensive supervision (tagging), conditional and probational sentences with community service, probational sentence with special treatment plan, i.e. contract treatment, are penalties implemented by the Swedish Prison and Probation Service.

## Prison

Fixed-term prison sentences are seldom longer than ten years and never shorter than two weeks. However, in the event of a reoffence or the sentence referring to more than one crime, a fixed-term sentence may be up to 18 years.

Person sentenced to life imprisonment can be conditionally released subject to the district court in Örebro imposing a time limit on the sentence.

## Intensive supervision

Intensive supervision with electronic monitoring (tagging) is an alternative way of serving a prison sentence. The convicted person is monitored 24 hours a day using a transmitter attached to the ankle. A person sentenced to a maximum of six months in prison can apply for intensive supervision.

## Conditional sentence

A conditional sentence is generally applied when a person has committed a one-off crime. That means a trial period of two years during which the convicted person has to behave and support him/herself to the best of his/her ability. The sentence can be combined with community service.

## **Probation**

Probation is a non-custodial sentence over a trial period of three years where the convicted person is put under supervision during the first year. Can be combined with community service or fines. Misbehaviour can lead to an extended trial period.

## **Community service**

Probation or a conditional sentence is supplemented by an order to carry out unpaid work, for example in a non-profit organisation.

## **Probation with special treatment plan – contract treatment**

Contract treatment is an alternative to imprisonment for a period of up to two years subject to drug abuse (or any other circumstance requiring treatment) playing a significant role in the crime.

### ***Is it true that all prisoners are released after half the sentence is served?***

Prisoners are conditionally released after having served two thirds of the sentence. However, conditional release is not possible until at least one month of the sentence is served. Nor is conditional release possible if the imprisonment is combined with probation.

### ***What penalties apply to young offenders?***

In Sweden, the age of criminal responsibility is 15, which means that children under the age of 15 cannot be imposed a criminal penalty. Young people under the age of 18 are only sentenced to imprisonment in exceptional cases and usually subject to actions in accordance with the Child Welfare Act. Young adults under the age of 21 cannot be sentenced to life imprisonment.

## **The Child Welfare Act**

The purpose of the Child Welfare Act is to keep the youngest offenders out of the prison and probation system. Instead, young offenders are sentenced to closed juvenile detention centres.

Most young people committing a serious crime or reoffending at the age of 15 – 17 are not sentenced to imprisonment so as to protect the young person from the potentially harmful effects of imprisonment.

### ***Who decides whether a young offender should be sentenced to closed juvenile detention?***

Closed juvenile detention is another fixed-term penalty ordered by the court and based on the seriousness of the crime.

### ***Who is responsible for the closed juvenile detention?***

The National Board for Institutional Care is responsible for the closed juvenile detention.

## **Custody/detention**

The three most important coercive measures in the Swedish judicial system are apprehension, arrest and remand. An average of 1,800 people are held on remand every day, in one of the 33 remand prisons located throughout Sweden.

### ***During what circumstances does an apprehension take place?***

Apprehension usually takes place in connection with a person being arrested. However, in urgent cases, an apprehension may take place 'on site' and immediately reported to the prosecutor who will then decide whether the person in question should be arrested or released.

### ***When does an arrest take place?***

The prosecutor decides whether to make an arrest or not. An arrest is a provisional deprivation of liberty that often occurs

prior to remand.

**Who is responsible for issuing the remand order?**

The court issues the remand order upon the recommendations of the prosecutor.

**When is a remand order issued?**

A remand order is issued when a person is suspected of a crime which carries a minimum prison sentence of one year. One of the following three conditions must apply:

- risk of escaping
- risk of hindering the investigation
- risk of continued criminal activity.

A remand order can be issued irrespective of the nature of the crime if the suspect:

- is unknown and refuses to provide a name and address
- is not a resident of the country.

**What are the circumstances for a remand order?**

When the minimum sentence for a crime exceeds two years and there is no obvious reason for a remand order not to be issued.

**What are the alternatives to remand?**

Alternatives to remand are supervision, travel ban and report order.

**Does the same apply to juveniles?**

Any juvenile 15 years of age or older can be served with a remand order though juveniles between the ages of 15 - 18 can only be held on remand on specific grounds. The alternative is committal to a special youth detention centre.

**Does the remand prison take in any other persons except for those held on remand?**

Yes, other persons can also be placed in a remand prison for a couple of days, i.e. individuals on remand in accordance with the Social Service Act, Child Welfare Act and Misusers Act as well as asylum seekers awaiting deportation.

***What is the maximum period of remand?***

The law does not stipulate a maximum period of remand. However, a new remand hearing is required every 14 days if legal action is not taken.

## Transport Service

***What is the role of the Transport Service?***

The Prison and Probation regularly requires secure and efficient transport of its clients. The Transport Service is responsible for planning and carrying out these transports.

The Transport Service provides overseas and national transports, primarily between prisons and detention centres. Other transports, e.g. to and from court or hospital visits are part of the standard service offered by prisons and detention centres.

***How is the Transport Service organised?***

The Transport Service administration is located at the Prison and Probations Service head office in Norrköping. The Transport planning is located in Arvidsjaur.

Actual transports are carried out by staff in 23 local offices around the country. The Transport Service employs approx. 400 people.

***How many clients are transported each year?***

Around 43,000 clients are transported nationwide and 2,900 overseas each year. Approx. 2,000 transports are on account of the Swedish Migration Board.

## Non-custodial care

### ***What is the basic concept of non-custodial care?***

The basic concept of non-custodial care is to focus on the supervision of persons on conditional release or probation with or without contract treatment/community service, intensive supervision with electronic monitoring, work at remand centres and to prepare pre-sentence report investigation.

### ***What is a personal case study?***

The purpose of a personal case study is to clarify the suspects background, what circumstances led to the committed crime and the risk of relapse. An investigator interviews the suspect and gathers information from social services and registers.

### ***When is a personal case study carried out?***

The prosecutor makes a plaint to the district court, stating what the suspected crime is. If the court believes the penalty may be harsher than a conditional sentence, a pre-sentence report investigation is usually recommended. In the case study, the non-custodial officer will recommend a penalty.

### ***What is the purpose of non-custodial care in the remand prisons?***

The principal purpose of non-custodial care is; to carry out pre-sentence report investigations, contact potential clients and provide curative resources.

### ***What is the purpose of non-custodial care in the prisons?***

In Sweden, prisoners are conditionally released after having served two thirds of their sentence subsequent to which the released prisoner is monitored. In order to provide stability throughout the treatment period, the non-custodial care officer keeps in constant contact with potential clients.

***Are there different types of probation?***

Yes, apart from the basic probation, there is contract treatment and community service.

***Number of non-custodial care clients per sentence***

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Probational sentence                               | 6,494 |
| - of which contract treatment                      | 1,233 |
| - of which community service                       | 1,142 |
| Conditional release                                | 5,427 |
| Intensive supervision                              | 3,038 |
| Intensive supervision with<br>social integration   | 471   |
| Half-way houses                                    | 58    |
| Plus conditional release with<br>community service | 4,150 |

There are on average 14,000 clients in the non-custodial care system every year.

***How many people are sentenced to probation each year?***

Every year an average of 12,000 clients are sentenced to probation. About half are sentenced to basic probation and the other half are conditionally released.

***Who is responsible for executing a probation sentence?***

Around 50 percent of the clients are assigned a supervising probation officer in the capacity of a layman. The rest is handled by non-custodial care officers.

***What a is a layman probation officer?***

A volunteering member of society whose task it is to support, guide and encourage the clients efforts to not relapse into crime or drug abuse. No special pre-conditions are necessary, but an interest for people and social issues, good mental health and - if possible - a connection to the clients environment and interests are required.

***How many of those on probation are drug or alcohol abusers?***

An average of 70 percent abuse drugs, alcohol or both.

## **Intensive supervision**

***What is intensive supervision?***

Intensive supervision means that a person sentenced to a maximum imprisonment of 6 months can serve his or her sentence at home using an electronic monitoring device around the ankle. It is the responsibility of the offender to apply for intensive supervision.

Some form of occupation is a requirement in order to get intensive supervision. That could be work, education or treatment. The prisoner can leave his home according to a schedule approved by the non-custodial care.

While serving the sentence the prisoner can not use any addictive substances (alcohol, narcotics). The non-custodial care can at any time make home visits in order take urine or breathing samples to control that regulations are followed.

**What type of crime was primarily committed by persons sentenced to intensive supervision?**

| <i>Crime</i>  | <i>Men</i> | <i>Women</i> |
|---|------------|--------------|
| Drunk driving, including serious                          | 1,218      | 185          |
| Violent crime   | 500        | 13           |
| Drugs/goods trafficking                                   | 278        | 44           |
| Crime against the public and state                        | 192        | 32           |
| Motoring offence  | 148        | 18           |
| Theft   | 93         | 34           |
| Fraud, embezzlement, credit deception                     | 75         | 8            |
| Sexual crime  | 54         | 3            |
| Crime against Military Service /Non-combatant Service Act | 8          | -            |
| Armed robbery, including serious                          | 7          | -            |
| Other   | 164        | 13           |
| Total   | 2,737      | 350          |

**Contract treatment**

**What is contract treatment?**

Contract treatment is primarily intended for recurrent drug addicts where there is a clear link between the crime and the addiction. Instead of serving a prison sentence of up to two years, the convicted person signs a contract with the court to undergo a treatment programme at an institution or at home and/or to partake in non-custodial care. An average number of 1,500 persons are sentenced to contract treatment each year.

If the client discontinues the treatment or chooses not to comply in any other way, the contract treatment is changed to a prison sentence.

## Community service

### ***What is community service?***

Community service is an order issued by the court in connection with probation or a conditional sentence. Community service is an alternative to a person being sentenced to a period of imprisonment of maximum one or two months.

### ***What is the extent of the 'sentence'?***

Between 40 and 240 working hours.

### ***What work tasks are generally given?***

The tasks generally involve unpaid work for non-profit organisations, religious organisations or other voluntary organisations. The tasks may also entail being part of a working party or carrying out various types of public services.

### ***What type of crime was primarily committed by persons sentenced to community service?***

| <i>Crime</i>                             | <i>Män</i> | <i>Women</i> |
|--|------------|--------------|
| Violent crime                            | 1,785      | 113          |
| Drunk driving, including serious         | 919        | 123          |
| Crime against the public and state       | 326        | 55           |
| Drugs/goods trafficking                  | 252        | 28           |
| Fraud, embezzlement,<br>credit deception | 139        | 30           |
| Theft                                    | 75         | 12           |
| Sexual crime                             | 34         | -            |
| Armed robbery, including serious         | 10         | 1            |
| Motoring offence, not drunk driving      | 3          | -            |
| Other                                    | 310        | 35           |
| Total                                    | 3,870      | 398          |

## Prison/Institution

### ***What is the role of the prison/institution?***

The role of the prison/institution is to prepare the prisoners for their return into the society and to counteract any adverse effects of the imprisonment. The imprisonment should from the outset prepare the prisoners for their release.

The Prison and Probation Service has 54 prisons located around Sweden.

### ***Is a convicted person subject to punishment in the prison?***

No. The imprisonment is in itself a punishment.

### ***How many clients are imprisoned each year?***

Around 10,000 are sentenced to prison each year. The average number of prisoners per day is 4,700.

### ***How many prisoners are serving life?***

In September 2009, 154 prisoners are currently serving life, 5 of whom are women. The oldest life prisoner is 81 years old and the youngest 22 years old. They are all serving a sentence for murder (including aiding and abetting, attempted and solicitation).

### ***What type of crimes was primarily committed by persons sentenced to prison?***

| <i>Crime</i>                        | <i>%</i> |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Drugs/goods trafficking             | 23       |
| Violent crime                       | 19       |
| Theft                               | 14       |
| Drunk driving, including serious    | 12       |
| Crime against the public and state  | 8        |
| Motoring offence, not drunk driving | 6        |
| Fraud, embezzlement                 | 5        |

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Armed robbery, including serious   | 4 |
| Sexual crime                       | 4 |
| Crime against Military Service Act | 0 |
| Other crimes                       | 6 |

***What is the age distribution among the prisoners?***

The prisoners are aged 15 and older. 88 percent are between the age of 21 and 54. The average age is 35 years and the largest group of prisoners, i.e. 24 percent, are aged between 35 and 44.

***How many prisoners are under the age of 18?***

1 juvenile was taken into prison in 2008.

***How many of the prisoners are foreign nationals?***

28 percent of all prisoners are foreign nationals, representing some 160 countries. There are no statistics relating to immigrant prisoners holding a Swedish residency.

***How many of the prisoners are women?***

An average of 7 percent of prisoners are women. 70 percent have some kind of addiction.

***How many children accompanied their mother in prison?***

In 2008, 4 children, all under the age of two years. The average time a child spent with their mother in prison was 4 months.

***What crimes had the women committed?***

207 for drugs crime/trafficking, 149 were sentenced for theft, 77 for violent crime, 76 for drunk driving, 64 for motoring offence though not drunk driving, 64 for crimes against the public and state, 40 for fraud and embezzlement, 9 for robbery and 5 for sexual crime.

***What is contact supervision?***

Contact supervision means that all prison officers are given the responsibility of supervising a handful of prisoners. These responsibilities involve planning for education and treatment together with the prisoners and providing assistance on a daily basis.

## Escapes

### ***How many prisoners escape from Swedish prisons?***

402 prisoners escaped in 2008. 69 directly from prison, 61 of whom escaped from open prisons with no tangible escape security and 8 from high security prisons. 333 prisoners escaped in connection with visits outside the prison.

## Special actions before release

The aim of the special actions taken before release is to reduce the risk of the inmate reoffending and facilitate the reintegration into society. The following four special release actions have been in effect since 1 January 2007.

**Conditional release** – allows for the prisoner to spend time outside the prison during the day and to work, partake in educational or vocational programmes or organised activities.

**Care service** – allows for the prisoner to spend time at a family care home or care and treatment centre for the purpose of participating in various treatments.

**Half-way house** – allows for the prisoner to interact with an environment that is more exposed than an open prison at the same time as benefiting from the support and assistance provided by the Prison and Probation Service and other authorities.

**Extended conditional release** – allows for the prisoner to serve his/her sentence at home under controlled circumstances (intensive supervision with tagging). The prisoner shall work, attend educational or vocational programmes, receive treatment or participate in organised activities.

## Checks/security

### ***What measures are taken to improve on prison security?***

The past years the Prison and Probation Service has endeavoured to develop a strategic security policy covering all aspects of security.

A revised structure of security in the form of a security group has gradually been introduced at central level and a restructure implemented at regional and local levels.

A prison security classification with the closed prisons being classified from A - E while the open prisons make up class F. Class A prisons are subject to the highest level of security.

The overall purpose of a more transparent security classification is to ensure that the prisoners are admitted to the most appropriate institution. The classification is based on the prisoner risk assessment carried out by the Prison and Probation Service.

Class A prisons are equipped to deal with the most precarious prisoners while preventing other prisoners from being subjected to an excessive level of security. The classification of a prison is based on the following:

- ability to prevent escapes
- ability to prevent attempted escapes
- ability to handle demanding prisoners

## **New security units**

New security units are currently being built at Kumla, Hall and Saltvik prisons for completion in 2009/2010. The units are purpose-built for a small group of prisoners (less than 1 percent) whose refusal to work, tendency to cause trouble and attempts to commit serious crimes during their time in prison undermine the rehabilitation of other prisoners.

The units will offer the highest level of security ever available within the Swedish prison system. The prisoners will undergo an extensive programme of activities and treatments. The personnel working with this highly demanding group of prisoners will also undergo an exclusive selection procedure.

### ***What security procedures exist in the prisons?***

All prisoners are subjected to a number of daily checks and security measures.

Body searches can be carried out several times a day, the most regular body search being the so-called superficial body search, i.e. on top of the prisoner's clothes. Regular body searches are also carried out in connection with internal and external transfers. In addition, the prisoners are body searched before and after visits from family and friends.

Prisons are entitled to check incoming post and to retain post the content of which is deemed to pose a risk to the life or health of another person or the order and safety at the prison.

A violent prisoner may be placed in solitary confinement (locked in a cell 24 hours a day except for during the daily exercise).

Prisoners may be hand-cuffed when visiting a hospital or in connection with a supervised visit or release or when the personnel is monitoring and listening in on a telephone call.

Prisoners are also required to provide urine samples for testing for alcohol or narcotics. Blood and breath tests are also carried out following a parole.

## Drug addiction

The following information indicates the number of prisoners believed to be drug addicts prior to imprisonment.

### ***How many of the prisoners are sentenced for drug crimes?***

Around 23 percent of prisoners were primarily sentenced for drug crimes/goods trafficking.

### ***How many of the prisoners are drug addicts?***

9,000 - 10,000 clients (remand prison, prison and non-custodial care included) have more or less serious drug addiction.

### ***What is done to prevent the use of drugs in prison?***

Checking the prison cells and the public areas of the prison is one way of preventing the drugs from being used in prison. Regular urine and sweat tests are also performed.

### ***Does the Prison and Probation Service use sniffer dogs to detect drugs in prison?***

Yes, the Prison and Probation Service uses sniffer dogs to detect drugs. End-2009, 21 drug sniffer dogs were in service.

### ***Are certain prison places allocated to drug addicts?***

Högsbo, Gävle, Österåker, Sagsjön and Färingsö are special drug rehabilitation prisons.

### ***Is it possible for the Prison and Probation Service to keep the prisons completely free of drugs?***

The development of methods used for detecting and reducing the use of drugs is incessant and constitutes a fine balance between the prisoner's integrity and contact with the surrounding world and the application of rigorous restrictions.

## Prison activities

### ***What is the purpose of prison activities?***

In the Swedish prison system, it is the actual deprivation of liberty and not the prison operations that make up the punishment. Instead, the time in prison should be used to reduce the risk of reoffending by creating opportunities for the prisoner to abstain from a criminal life once out of prison.

### ***Are all prisoners offered the same opportunities?***

Taking into account the length of the sentence and circumstances of the prisoner, the prisoner's need for education, vocational training or medical, psychological or any other treatment may, if required, replace the more traditional tasks.

## Crime and drug rehabilitation programmes

### ***Many crimes are committed as a result of addiction or lack of understanding. What preventative measures are taken by the Prison and Probation Service?***

The Prison and Probation Service are investing heavily into breaking criminal behaviour and increasing knowledge and understanding. In addition to traditional methods, e.g. education and social rehabilitation, a large range of national treatment programmes are offered.

### ***What is the purpose of these programmes?***

The programmes are based on the crime or addiction of the prisoner. The purpose of the programmes is to reduce the risk of the prisoner reoffending and to give the prisoner an insight into the cause of addiction and criminality and the consequences of such addiction and criminality for the prisoner and the surrounding world, e.g. crime victims.

## Work

### ***What work is available?***

The manufacturing of The Prison and Probation Service is purely market-oriented. The objective of the manufacturing is for the prisoner to carry out work that is as similar as possible to work available outside the prison walls.

Industrial, agricultural and forestry work is carried out as well as service related/office work and craftsmanship. Some of the products are made at the prison and sold via wholesalers and retailers. These products are sold under the brandname of KrimProd.

### ***Do prisoners get paid for their work?***

The pay is approximately SEK 10/hour. Prisoners also get paid for studying or partaking in other activities.

## Education

### ***What educational opportunities are available?***

The education available, usually on a part-time basis, is either theoretical or practical. Educational programmes include basic adult education, vocational training, post-secondary education, labour market training, parental guidance, etc.

### ***How is the education organised?***

The Prison and Probation Service is responsible for the education offered to prisoners under the supervision of the Swedish National Board for Education. Around hundred secondary school teachers covering various subjects are employed by the Prison and Probation Service.

### ***What is basic adult education?***

Basic adult education is equivalent to primary and secondary school education.

### ***What is vocational training?***

For various reasons, such as the length of sentence, most prisoners do not complete their vocational training while in prison. However, it is possible for a prisoner to commence a

qualifying training programme in prison and then complete the training once outside prison.

Around twenty prisons in liaison with the National Labour Market Board offer labour market-oriented training. The advantage with this liaison is that if a prisoner is unable to complete his/her training while in prison, he/she can resume the training following release.

#### ***Other educational activities***

Educational associations around the country usually help organising studies and meaningful leisure activities primarily in the form of cultural programmes and study circles. Musical programmes, lectures and courses relating to creativity, nature and environment are examples of other contributions made by the educational associations.

#### **Other structured activities**

##### ***What other structured activities are available?***

Social skills training is an example of a structured activity that teaches the prisoner to deal with everyday tasks such as cleaning, doing laundry and cooking as well as managing his/her finances.

Another example of a structured activity is yoga classes, which are available in some prisons.



## Personnel

### ***How many people are employed by the Prison and Probation Service?***

The Prison and Probations Service employs around 9,500 people. 46 percent are women, 54 percent are men. 11 percent of employees have an immigrant background.

### ***What is the average age of the employees?***

The average age is 45.

### ***Are there different professional categories?***

There are managers, prison inspectors, non-custodial care inspectors, prison and personnel administrators, prison officers, manufacturing managers, programme supervisors, medical staff, property caretakers and warehouse staff, kitchen staff, cleaners, inspectors, administrative officials and assistants.

### ***Which is the largest professional group?***

Prison officers make up the largest professional group with just over 5,600 employees.

## Costs

### ***What is the annual cost of the Prison and Probation Service?***

The cost of the Prison and Probation Service is slightly more than SEK 6,5 billion per annum.

A prisoner costs on average SEK 2,000 per day. A non-custodial client costs on average SEK 200 per day. A client in custody costs on average SEK 2,300 per day.

## Organisation The Prison and Probation Service



