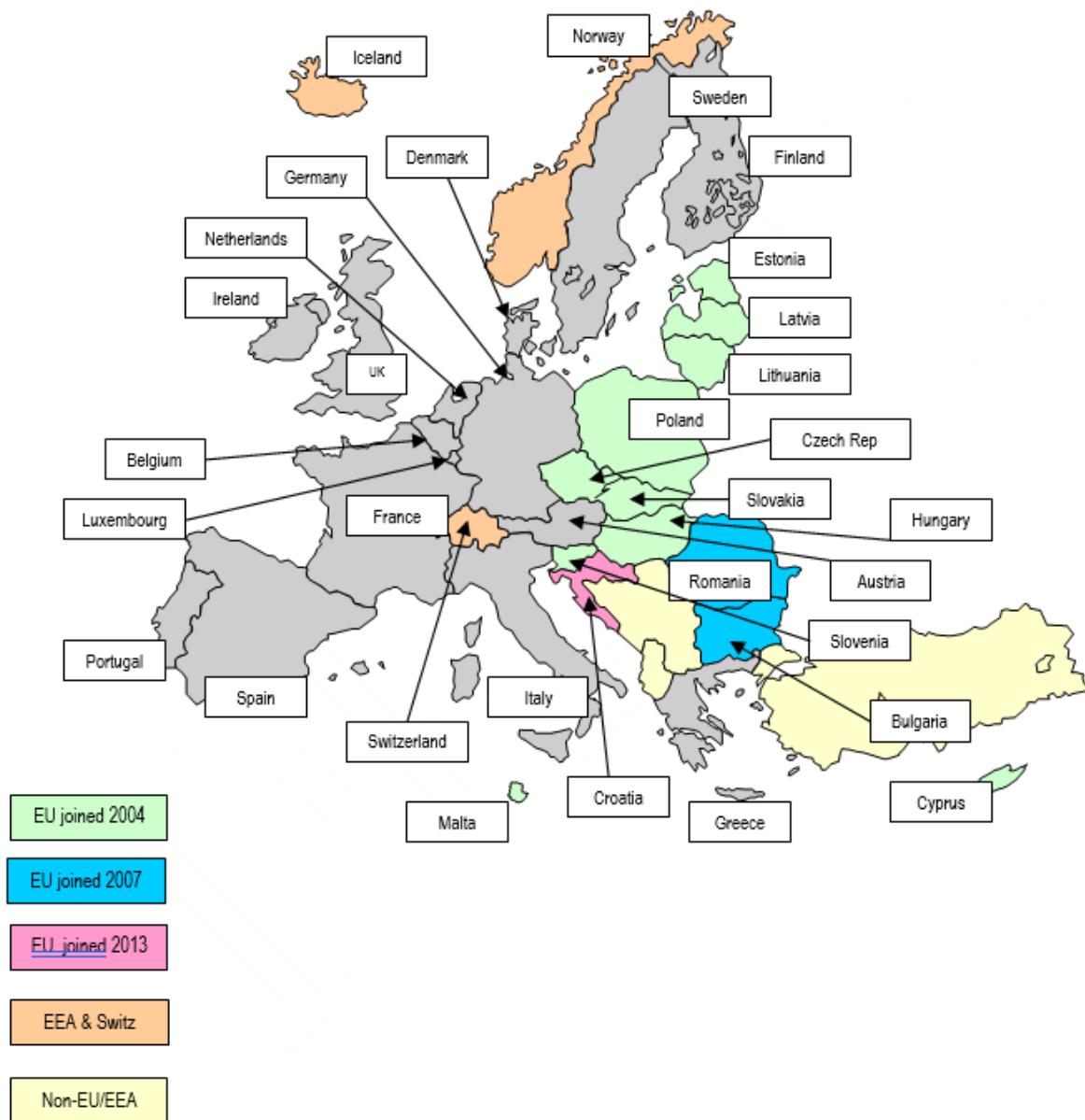


Council of European Dentists

MANUAL OF DENTAL PRACTICE 2026

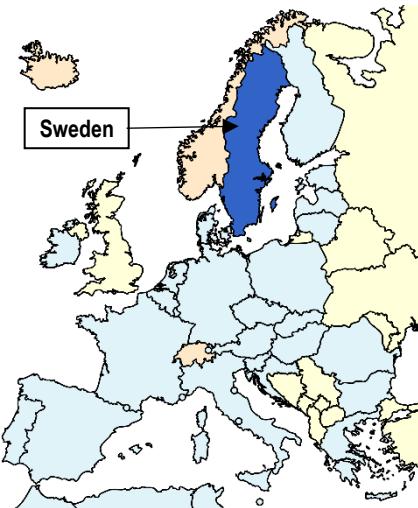
Sweden

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2026





Sweden



Date of last revision: 03 February 2026

In the EU since	1995
Population (June 2025)	10 596 652
GDP per capita (2024)	€48 210
Currency	Swedish Krona (SEK) 11 SEK = €1 (2025)
Official language	Swedish
The Swedish healthcare system is decentralised, with responsibilities for the regulation and provision of healthcare services divided between the government, regions and municipalities. The system is funded through regional taxation and national grants and regional subsidies. Swedish residents have access to subsidised public dental care services, with existing user charges. Young adults and children under 19 are entitled to free dental care.	
Number of dentists (active)	8 066
(Active) dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhab)	76
Members of Dental Association	7 000
Sweden officially recognises 8 specialities, including Orofacial Medicine. CPD is not mandatory. Dental auxiliaries are strongly part of Swedish dental teams.	

Government and healthcare in Sweden

Sweden is a Nordic state with 85% of its inhabitants living in the southern half of the country. It is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system. The King has a ceremonial role and the Swedish Parliament, the Riksdag, is composed of 349 members. Executive power is divided between the central government in Stockholm, 21 counties (*län*) and 290 municipalities (*kommuner*). Sweden is also subdivided into 21 regions (*regioner*). These correspond largely with counties and are responsible for managing healthcare and public transport.

Sweden follows a decentralised healthcare system, with regions bearing responsibility for the organisation and delivery of primary, specialist and medical care, including dental services. Municipalities are responsible for delivering care to older people, people with physical and mental disabilities, rehabilitation services, school health care and home and social care. The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, and the National Board of Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen), are responsible for management of healthcare policies and system oversight.

The regions provide healthcare. It is tax-funded, and patient fees are charged. There is an annual cost cap to prevent high expenses for patients. The Swedish Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan) administers benefits.

Non-Swedish and non-EU/EEA residents must therefore obtain a residence permit from the Swedish Migration Agency to be eligible under the public healthcare system. Small user fees exist for most healthcare services. Swedish residents are also entitled to public dental care (*Folktandvården*), provided by each of the 21 regions. The healthcare system also follows a mixed funding model, with 70% provided by the regions and 30% by the state. EU/EEA citizens are entitled to healthcare through the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

The Swedish Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan) administers national health insurance, which covers some private care, travel for treatment, and prescription medication costs. Beneficiaries receive subsidies and reimbursement through a Swedish electronic identification card (e-ID). Dental services are included under public health insurance, with subsidised rates for some dental services. Previously, children

		Year	Source
% GDP spent on all healthcare	11.3%	2023	OECD
% of this spent by government	86%	2023	OECD
% of public spending on total dental care expenditure	42%	2024	OECD

up until the age of 24 years old were entitled free dental care. However, following a reform from 1 January 2024, this age limit has been lowered, with children and young adults only until the age of 19 receiving free dental care, and adults over the age of 19 no longer entitled to dental care, free of charge.

All other residents over 20 years old are entitled to dental care subsidies (or vouchers). This scheme is comprised of general and special dental care allowance, as well as for emergency high-cost dental treatments (all details available [here](#)).

Annual dental allowance is accessible from 1 July, with respectively 600 SEK (€56) per year for 20-23 years old, 300 SEK (€28) from 24 to 64, and 600 SEK (€56) for over 65.

State programmes also provide additional dental subsidies for persons with long-term illnesses and disabilities. Following a recent reform, starting from 1 January 2026, people over 67 years of age will see their subsidies increase and only pay 10% of total cost. Dental examinations and preventive care are excluded from the reform.

Around half of Swedish adults receive dental care every two years. The public sector accounts for a very high share of services for children and youth (approximately 86%), while the private sector dominates adult services (approximately 72%). The Public Dental Service (*Folktandvården*) provides a significant share of dental care, operating roughly 840 clinics across the country and accounting for about one-third of all adult dental treatments. Most dental care in Sweden is privately delivered but publicly subsidized through the national dental care support system. Private health insurance plays a limited role in the Swedish healthcare system, mainly used to access private providers more quickly or reduce waiting times.

Small service fees apply for most healthcare and dental services, with a capped yearly amount.

Education, Training and Registration

Undergraduate Education and Training

To enter a dental school, a student must have graduated from secondary school, with mandatory subjects in natural science, including the Swedish upper secondary school courses in Biology 2, Physics 2, Chemistry 2, and Mathematics 4. Proficiency in both Swedish and English is also required. The selection process is based on both upper secondary school grades and results from the Swedish Scholastic Aptitude Test (*Högskoleprovet*), organised twice a year.

Some schools may also, or in lieu of the national examination, require additional interviews for applying students. This is the case of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm offering an alternative selection to the dentistry programme (*TAPIL*), requiring applicants to take written assignments as well as carry out a selection interview.

In the case of the Karolinska Institute for the academic year 2025-2026, 32% of admissions were based on *TAPIL*, 34% on upper secondary school grades and 34% on results from the university entrance examination. There is no examination fee associated with this admissions test.

The dental schools of Malmö University and the University of Gothenburg organise their admission process with all students assessed through 66% of upper secondary school grades and 34% on the Swedish Scholastic Aptitude Test.

Year of data	2025
Number of schools	4
Student intake	425
Number of graduates a year	267
Gender balance (% of female students)	68
Duration of studies	5

Undergraduate dental programmes are available in four universities. All dental schools are state owned and financed. Undergraduate programmes are entirely taught in Swedish, with no courses available in the English language.

There are no student fees for Swedish and EU/EEA citizens. These are however applicable for non-EU/EEA students and amount to approximately SEK 1,900,000 for 5 years (€172 135). Quality assurance for the dental schools is provided by the Swedish Higher Education Authority.

Registration

Cost of registration	870 SEK
Annual membership fee*	5760 SEK
<i>*Swedish Dental Association membership fee</i>	

In order to practise as a dentist in Sweden, a qualified dentist must have a licence awarded by the National Board of Health and Welfare unit for Qualification and Education (*Socialstyrelsen*). This body keeps a register of dentists.

Membership in the Swedish Dental Association is voluntary. The stated fee applies only to members.

Dentists are also required to participate in quality assurance programmes (as a general requirement for all healthcare professionals). Numerous private clinics operate their own quality management systems, which are tailored to dental care and aligned with the regulatory requirements of the Swedish

National Board of Health and Welfare. Several providers have developed comprehensive, internally implemented quality frameworks. An illustrative example concerns caries-prevention programmes: public dental services in various regions administer structured interventions targeting children and adolescents, with additional measures directed at individuals identified as being at increased risk of caries.

The Swedish Social Insurance Agency (*Försäkringskassan*) also keeps a register of practitioners who are affiliated to the national social insurance scheme, and dentists must be on this register before they can claim social insurance subsidies. Registering for affiliation with the national social insurance scheme only requires the production of a recognised degree certificate or diploma.

Vocational Training (VT)

There is no mandatory post-qualification vocational training.

Language requirements

Dental graduates from a country outside Sweden must provide a proof of proficiency of minimum C1 level in Swedish before registering as a dentist.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Continuing professional development is voluntary in Sweden. The Swedish Dental Association offers some CPD courses. The Public Dental Service (PDS) as well as private dental companies, the dental industry and private initiatives may also offer CPD activities and courses.

The National Board of Health and Welfare produces national guidelines and knowledge for the development of CPD activities. Although formal CPD is not mandatory, the Health and Social Care Inspectorate (IVO) supervises the knowledge and skills of dentists and makes sure that dentists and the dental team stays up to date with new knowledge and treatments.

Specialist Training Requirements

Graduate dentists must have at least 2 years of clinical practice as a general dentist before starting specialist training. Courses in dental specialities last three years and take place in university clinics or recognised postgraduate institutions approved by the Swedish Board of National Health and Welfare.

There is training in 8 recognized specialties:

- Orthodontics - 3 years
- Endodontology – 3 years
- Paediatric Dentistry – 3 years
- Periodontology – 3 years
- Prosthodontics – 3 years
- Oral Medicine – 3 years
- Oral and maxillofacial radiology – 3 years
- Orofacial medicine* – 3 years (recognised since 2018)

Limited positions are available for specialist training. The remuneration system varies.

*Orofacial medicine is a broad dental speciality recognised since June 2018 in Sweden. It combines oral medicine, hospital and special needs dentistry for adults.

Training lasts 3 years and includes clinical training and theoretical interdisciplinary courses in internal medicine, haematology, oncology, infectious diseases, ear-, nose- and throat diseases, rheumatology, neurology, pharmacology, anaesthesia and sedation, geriatrics, psychology and psychiatry, cognitive disorders, laboratory medicine, oral mucosal diseases, oral radiology, oral motor dysfunctions, community dentistry, ethics, and research methodology.

The specialty focuses on oral mucosal and salivary gland diseases, orofacial pain, and oral manifestations of systemic conditions, as well as the integrated dental care of medically compromised, geriatric, and cognitively or psychiatrically affected patients.

Workforce

Dentists

The Swedish Dental Association reports multifaceted challenges, with a persistent shortage of dental professionals as well as barriers for incoming foreign-trained dentists and important geographical disparities in care availability and accessibility.

There has been an observed decline in the number of dentists and dental hygienists per capita in Sweden in recent years. The Swedish Dental Association also indicates current strong geographical disparities in the number of practising dentists between the main urban areas and the rest of the country.

The average monthly salary of public or private contracted dentists is SEK 51 800 (or € 4 817).

Year of data	2025
Total Registered	18 082
In active practice	8 066
Dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhab) *	76
Percentage female	59%
Foreign-trained dentists	NA
<i>*Active dentists only</i>	

The Health and Social Care Inspectorate (*Inspektionen för vård och omsorg, IVO*) is the authority responsible for the monitoring of healthcare and dental care in Sweden and for handling patient complaints and professional's reporting.

Movement of dentists across borders

65% of practising dentists were educated in Sweden in 2020.

Specialists

Patients are referred by a general dentist to the specialist. The current share of dental specialists is about 10–12% as of 2024. Most specialists work in the Public Dental Service (957 in 2024) or in universities although the number of specialists working in private practice (341 in 2024) is increasing. There are many specialist associations and societies - a list of these is available from the Swedish Dental Association.

Year of data	2025
Oral Surgeons/OMFS	169
Orthodontists	312
Endodontists	103
Paediatric Dentists	138
Periodontists	142
Prosthodontists	186
Oral Medicine specialists	40
Orofacial Medicine specialists	95
Oral and maxillofacial radiologists	79
Orofacial pain and jaw function specialist	74

Auxiliaries

The system of use of dental auxiliaries is well developed in Sweden and much oral health care is carried out by them. Apart from (chairside) dental nurses, there are three types of dental auxiliaries:

- Dental hygienists
- Dental technicians
- Orthodontic Auxiliaries

Dental technicians and dental nurses are not required to register under the Försäkringskassan.

Year of data	2022
Technicians	1 600
Chairside assistants/nurses	NA
Hygienists	4 311

Dental Technicians

Dental technician train three years in university dental schools. After qualification technicians are registered by the National Board of Health and Welfare but do not need a formal license to practice. Their duties include the production of fixed and removable prosthetic and orthodontic appliances. They may not deal directly with the public. Dental laboratories must be registered as manufacturers of specially adapted medical technology products with the Medical Products Agency. Just less than 20% are employed by the Counties and 80% work in private practice.

Dental Hygienists

Dental hygienists train for 3 years in undergraduate academic education, in oral health science, at one of several University Colleges in Sweden.

After qualification all hygienists must register and receive a license from the National Board of Health and Welfare. They have to have a registerable qualification and may work independently. Their duties may include diagnosis of caries and periodontal disease, and they may provide temporary fillings and local anaesthesia (mandibular and infiltration).

Most dental hygienists work alongside dentists, with roughly half employed in private practice and the other half in the public dental health sector. They are required to obtain professional indemnity insurance. They take legal responsibility for their work and charge fees to patients.

Orthodontic Auxiliaries

Orthodontic operating auxiliaries' training lasts one year and takes place where orthodontists are trained. This enables them to carry out specified procedures, but they must work under the direction of an orthodontist.

There are no official figures of the number of orthodontic auxiliaries, but the above figures are an estimate by the Dental Association.

Dental Nurses/Chairside Assistants

There is no common national education for dental nurses.

Other Useful Information

Main national associations

National dental associations and information centres	
Swedish Dental Association <i>Sveriges Tandläkarförbund</i> P.O. Box 1217, SE 111 82 Stockholm Sweden Tel: +46 8 666 15 00 Email: kansli@tandlakarforbundet.se Website: www.tandlakarforbundet.se	The Swedish Association for Dentists in Private Practice TEV – Tandläkare egen verksamhet TEV c/o Swedish Dental Association Box 1217 111 82 Stockholm Sweden Tel: +46 8121 513 34 E-mail: Diana.von.Martens@tandlakarforbundet.se Website: https://tandlakarforbundet.se/tev/
The Swedish Association of Public Dental Officers TT – Tjänstetandläkarna Tjänstetandläkarna, Box 1217, 11182 Stockholm Visiting address: Österlånggatan 43 Tel: +46 8 545 159 80 E-mail: kansliet@tjanstetandlakarna.se Website: https://tjanstetandlakarna.se/	The Swedish Association of Dental Students STUD – Studerandeföreningen (linked to the Swedish Dental Association) E-mail (Central Chair, Tova Lindqvist): ordforande@stud.tandlakarforbundet.se Email (linked to the Swedish Dental Association): kansli@tandlakarforbundet.se Website: https://tandlakarforbundet.se/bli-medlem/studerandeforeningen/
The Association for Private Dental Care Providers in Sweden Privattandläkarna Hantverkargatan 78, 3 tr 112 38 Stockholm Sweden Tel: +46 8-555 44 600 E-mail: info@ptl.se Website: www.ptl.se	The Swedish Association of Dental Teachers SOL – Sveriges Odontologiska Lärare Susanna Magnusson E-mail: susanna@tjanstetandlakarna.se

Competent authorities

The National Board of Health and Welfare Socialstyrelsen Rålambsvägen 3 SE – 106 30 Stockholm Tel: +46 75 247 30 00 Email: socialstyrelsen@socialstyrelsen.se Website: www.socialstyrelsen.se	The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions Sveriges Kommuner och Regioner Tel: +46 8 452 70 00 E-mail: info@skr.se Website: https://skr.se/
Health and Social Care Inspectorate Inspektionen för vård och omsorg, IVO Inspektionen för vård och omsorg Box 45184 104 30 Stockholm	The Social Insurance Agency Försäkringskassan Försäkringskassans inläsningscentral SE-839 88 Östersund Sweden Phone (Customer Service): +46 771-524 524

Phone : +46 10 788 50 00
 Email: registrator@ivo.se
 Website: <https://www.ivo.se/other-languages/about-ivo/>

For all contact details:
<https://www.forsakringskassan.se/english/contact/contact-us>

Website: <https://www.forsakringskassan.se/english>

Main Professional Journal

Journal of the Swedish Dental Association
Tandläkartidningen

Visiting address: Österlånggatan 43, Stockholm
Postal address: Box 1217, 111 82 Stockholm

Phone: +41 8 666 15 00
 Phone (Customer service): +46 8 12 10 62 26
 E-mail: redaktionen@tandlakartidningen.se
 Website: <https://www.tandlakartidningen.se/>

Dental Schools:

Public Universities	
<p>Karolinska Institute - Huddinge, Stockholm Department of Dental Medicine (Institutionen för Odontologi)</p> <p>Postal address: Box 4064 141 04 Huddinge Sweden</p> <p>Visiting address: Alfred Nobels Allé 8, Huddinge Sweden</p> <p>Phone: +46-8-524 800 00 Email (Undergraduate): undergrad@dentmed.ki.se Email (Postgraduate): postgrad@dentmed.ki.se Web: https://ki.se/en/dentmed</p> <p>Number of undergraduate students (2025-2026): 500 Number of doctoral students (2025-2026): 40</p>	<p>University of Gothenburg – Gothenburg Department of Dentistry (Institutionen för Odontologi)</p> <p>Göteborg University Institutionen för Odontologi Box 450 405 30 Göteborg Sweden</p> <p>Tel: +46 31 786 00 00 Email: info@odontologi.gu.se</p> <p>Website: www.odontology.gu.se</p>
<p>Malmö University – Malmö Faculty of Odontology (Odontologiska fakulteten)</p> <p>Tandvårdshögskolan Carl Gustafs väg 34, Malmö</p> <p>Tel (General): +46 40 665 70 00 Email (General): info@mah.se</p> <p>Head of administration: Email: solveig-karin.erdal@mau.se Phone: +46 40 665 72 58</p> <p>Dean: Dean: per.alstergren@mau.se Phone: +46 40 665 70 00</p> <p>Website: https://mau.se/en/about-us/faculties-and-departments/faculty-of-odontology/</p>	<p>Umeå University – Umeå Department of Odontology</p> <p>Umeå Universitet Institutionen för odontologi, SE – 901 85 Umeå</p> <p>Tel: +46 90 785 60 00 Email: info@odont.umu.se</p> <p>Head of department: Email: pernilla.lif@umu.se Phone: +46 90 785 62 11</p> <p>Website: https://www.umu.se/en/department-of-odontology/</p>