

Caring for and about carers in Sweden

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Agenda

The Swedish context

The Swedish system of service and care

The re- discovery of the family

Carers enter social legislation

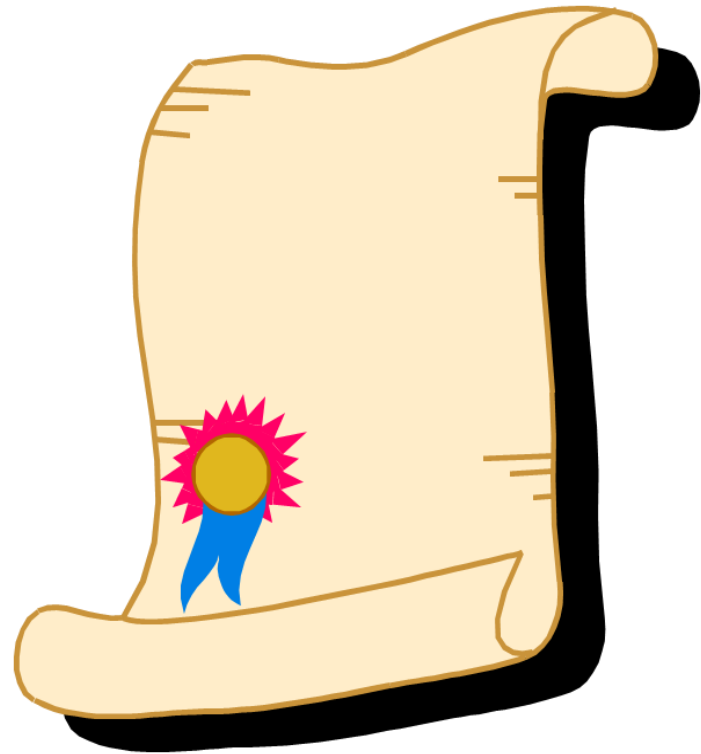
Caregiving in Sweden

Outcomes

Future challenges

The Swedish context

Intergenerational contract Societal contract



The Swedish system of service and care

- A generous system providing accessible, affordable, attractive, high quality services
- Based, driven and financed by the 290 municipalities and the 20 counties and regions.
- Eligibility is needs based, not means-tested. Service levels, eligibility and range of services provided, is decided by local governments

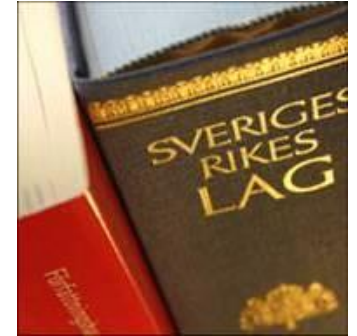


The re-discovery of the family

- Aging in place is dependent on extensive family input
- Cost containment reasons
- Research evidence
- Stronger Caregivers organisations
- Increased media attention
- Work – care issue



Carers and social legislation

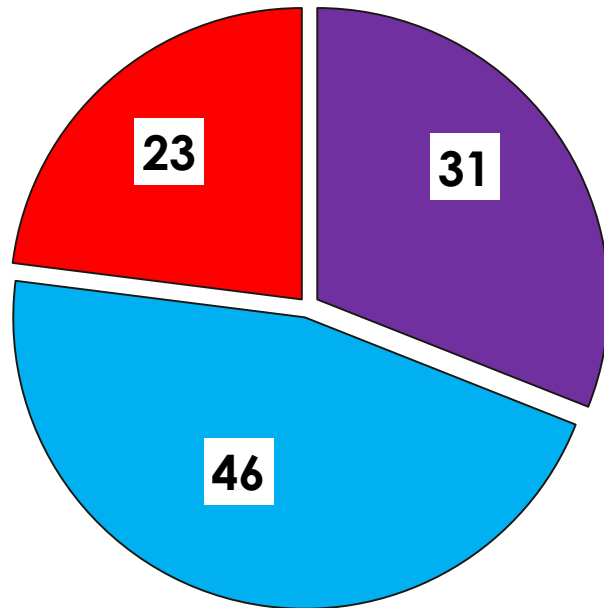


- 1998. “Social services should support and provide relief for families who care for next of kin with chronic illnesses, elderly people or people with disabilities” .
- 2009. “Social services is obliged to provide support to persons who care for next of kin with chronic illnesses, elderly people or people with disabilities”

Caregiving in Sweden in relation to gender and age (2012)

	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)	N
TOTAL	18	82	100	8 202
Gender				
Woman	20	80	100	4 382
Man	16	84	100	3 820
Age				
18–29 yrs	12	88	100	902
30–44 yrs	13	87	100	1 655
45–64 yrs	24	76	100	2 926
65–80 yrs	19	81	100	2 125
81 yrs –	15	85	100	594

Caregiving intensity



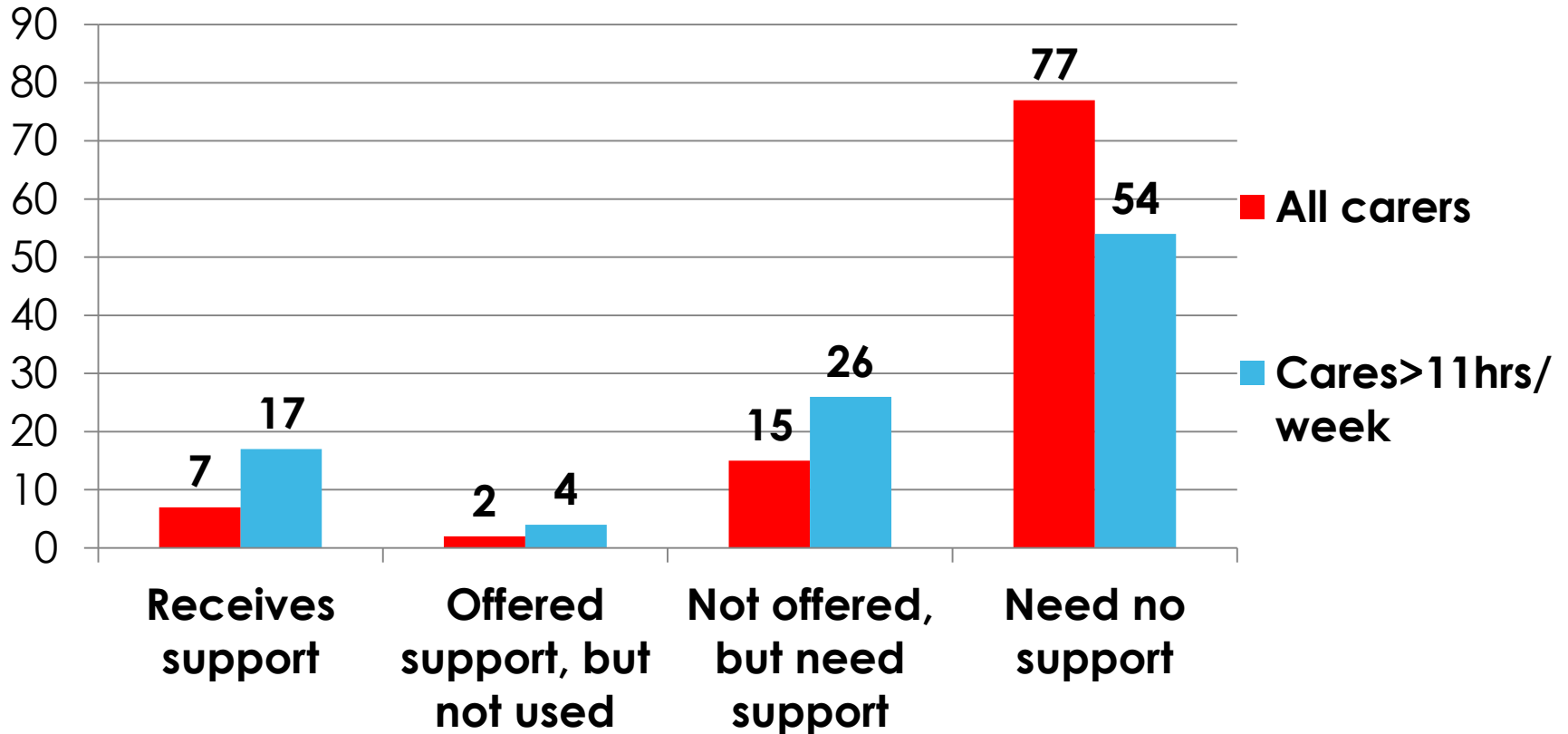
How often do you care?

■ *Daily* - 31% = 400 000

■ *Every week* - 46% = 600 000

■ *Every month* - 23% = 300 000

” Have you been offered support”?



Outcomes – a paradox?

- A “pro - carers legislation” obligating municipalities to provide support
- Municipalities cut down on services and care - shifting caring responsibilities to the families
- Net effect?



Outcomes - Choice of perspectives!

- **Macro/ system perspective**
- **Meso/Carers organisation perspective**
- **Micro/Carers perspective**



Outcomes – raised awareness?

Increased insights about the diversity of carers

Increased awareness of the consequences of “sickness in the family”

Increased knowledge that recognition and support for carers must include not only social services, but also health care, schools, work places etc..



Carers' counsellor

- Carers of older people,
- Carers of people with dementia
- Carers of people with disabilities and impairments
- Families with members with psychiatric conditions
- Families with members with addiction problems



A caring hospital



Web based carers support



Challenges

- Identification of carers
- Data on informal caregiving/support
- A coherent family policy



Thank you for your attention!

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