



Unaccompanied and Separated Refugee Minors in Sweden

Tallinn, March 31, 2016



Eskil Wadensjö
Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI)
Stockholm University

Outline

1. Unaccompanied minors
2. Data
3. Who are coming and how are they doing?
4. Labour market outcomes (employment, wage income)
5. Some conclusions

Unaccompanied children seeking asylum

- Extensive in Sweden compared to other European countries, both in relation to population size and in absolute terms.
- In 2014, the total number of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in the EU28 countries was 23,075, according to Eurostat. Sweden received the largest group: 7,050 children. Germany (4,400), Italy (2,505), and Austria (1,975) came next.

Unaccompanied children seeking asylum II

- Looking at the development between 2008 and 2013, the total number of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in EU countries is about the same from year to year, but the distribution between destination countries has changed during this period. But large increases in 2014 and 2015
- The number of asylum claims by unaccompanied minors in especially Sweden and Germany has increased significantly

The process

- Not more than 3 months according to law
- On average 4 months (for many longer time)
- Missing documents is one explanation
- Age? (below 18?); tests
- From which country? And which part of the country? Testing language spoken
- 2013: 1,955 yes; 435 rejected; 166 rejected according to the Dublin convention; 386 withdrawn applications

Our data (for 2003-2012)

- Statistics Sweden (STATIV data base)
- The Migration Authority
- The National Board of Health and Welfare

Unaccompanied children; comparing with children coming from the same countries and children born in Sweden with Swedish-born children

Composition

- Mainly boys (75 per cent 2003-2012 now even more boys)
- A few countries of origin dominate (Iraq (early years), Afghanistan, Somali, Eritrea, Syria)

Age composition

- Most of them are 16-17 years
- Those aged 18 or 19 years arrived at an age below 18 but were included in the population register in the year they became 18 or 19
- Boys are on average older than the girls at arrival
- The very young children?

Table. Age distribution among unaccompanied minors who were registered in 2011 and 2012 – number of children

Age	Girls		Boys	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
0	0	9	0	19
1	0	11	0	11
2	0	15	0	11
3	1	21	0	14
4	1	21	1	28
5	2	27	3	29
6	4	40	1	28
7	6	48	6	40
8	0	48	7	43
9	5	46	7	64
10	2	67	7	70
11	8	62	9	60
12	6	64	15	77
13	11	77	37	108
14	12	68	93	177
15	32	91	233	305
16	53	142	513	588
17	80	148	572	558
18	36	86	165	210
19	2	1	1	1

Taking part in education in Sweden

- -15 compulsory school
- 16 compulsory school, secondary school
- 17-21 secondary school, municipal school for adults (komvux)
- 22- komvux, folk high school, higher education, other forms of education

Table. Proportion (%) of those aged 16-27 undergoing education at different ages

Age	Women	Men
16	68	70
17	74	82
18	84	92
19	77	88
20	62	67
21	56	50
22	43	35
23	38	29
24	40	26
25	36	24
26	22	26
27	23	15

Employment

- Low employment rates among teenagers; higher for those in their twenties
- Higher employment rates among men than among women (larger differences than among Swedish born)
- Concentrated to some mainly unqualified occupations (different for men and women)
- Wage income increasing by age
- NEET rates are high among women

Table. Proportion (%) of unaccompanied minors aged 16–27 employed

Age	Women	Men
16	0	0
17	0	1
18	2	5
19	9	12
20	11	19
21	22	33
22	29	45
23	40	53
24	46	60
25	51	62
26	47	65
27	42	65

Note: Proportion with employment during a reference week in November each year, according to register-based employment statistics from Statistics Sweden.

Table. The average income for those with a salary in 2012 (in SEK thousand), divided by age

Age	Men			Women		
	All	Those who combine work with studies	Those who do not combine work with studies	All	Those who combine work with studies	Those who do not combine work with studies
18	61.7	52.7	108.2	43.2	43.3	42.5
19	81.6	70.3	112.6	73.2	70.5	79.7
20	128.5	114.3	141.6	112.6	99.3	134.6
21	152.6	129.6	164.6	125.8	115.2	139.9
22	174.7	144.0	186.3	133.1	118.8	140.4
23	181.7	141.7	194.7	136.5	127.7	141.5
24	198.8	161.2	209.8	156.7	131.5	171.9
25	234.0	221.0	237.3	172.5	185.3	166.3
26	234.1	190.1	246.5	168.7	*	166.2
27	243.4	*	249.3	206.4	*	198.2

* Too few observations

Table. Proportion (%) of those aged 16–27 who are not in employment or education (NEET)

Age	Women	Men
16	30	28
17	25	16
18	14	5
19	19	6
20	28	13
21	29	18
22	31	17
23	30	19
24	28	14
25	22	16
26	33	17
27	39	18

Factors influencing employment I

Estimations with only unaccompanied children
(probit); all, men, women

- Gender, age, education, taking part in education, civil status
- Days registered in Sweden (+)
- Parents joining (-)
- Region in Sweden (Stockholm +)
- Country of origin (Afghanistan +)

Factors influencing employment II

Estimations with unaccompanied children and comparison group; (probit); all, men, women

- Unaccompanied child (+ for men)
- Gender, age, education, taking part in education, civil status
- Days registered in Sweden (+)
- Region in Sweden (Stockholm +)
- Country of origin (Afghanistan + compared to all groups except Europe)

Wage income equations (log wage)

Estimations with only unaccompanied children
(OLS); all, men, women

- Gender, age, education, taking part in education, civil status
- Days registered in Sweden (+)
- Parents joining (-)
- Region in Sweden (Stockholm +)
- Country of origin (Afghanistan +)

Wage income equations (log wage)

Estimations with unaccompanied children and comparison group (OLS); all, men, women

- Unaccompanied children (+ for men)
- Gender, age, education, taking part in education, civil status
- Days registered in Sweden (+)
- Region in Sweden (Stockholm +)
- Country of origin (Afghanistan + for all except Europe)

Some conclusions

- An increasing number of children is coming
- Enter to education
- Later to employment

- Coming alone or with parents; what explains the difference?

- Stockholm's labour market; why such a large effect?

