

In English – the Swedish Medical Birth Register

The Swedish Medical Birth Register was founded in 1973 and includes data on practically all deliveries in Sweden. It is compulsory for every health care provider to report to the register and the information available is collected from medical records from the prenatal, delivery and neonatal care.

The number of infants born each year has varied between 86 000 and 120 000. Records for a small percentage of all infants – 0.5-3.0 per cent – are missing completely, for others the information is incomplete due for example to missing data from antenatal-care clinics and paediatric wards. Even though the basic structure of the register has remained unchanged during the years, there have been major modifications to content and methods of data collection. More detailed information on the quality of the register was published in 2003 (The Swedish Medical Birth Register - A Summary of Content and Quality).

By linkage to registers provided by Statistics Sweden information on personal identification number for the infant, the parents' nationality and the mother's country of birth are added to the register.

The Medical Birth Register includes, for example:

Information from the prenatal care:

- data on the mother (e.g. personal identification number, age)
- smoking and snuffing habits (three month before conception, at gestational week 10-12 and in week 30-32)
- cohabitation status (if the woman is living with the infants father or not)
- information on previous pregnancies
- maternal medical drug use during pregnancy
- diagnoses before and during pregnancy

Information from the delivery care:

- maternal diagnosis
- mode of delivery
- foetal presentation
- analgesia and anaesthesia
- hospital code

Information from the neonatal care:

- the infants birth weight, body length and head circumference
- single or multiple birth
- duration of pregnancy
- apgar score
- infant diagnoses
- live birth and/or stillbirth