

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Statistics on day-care centres

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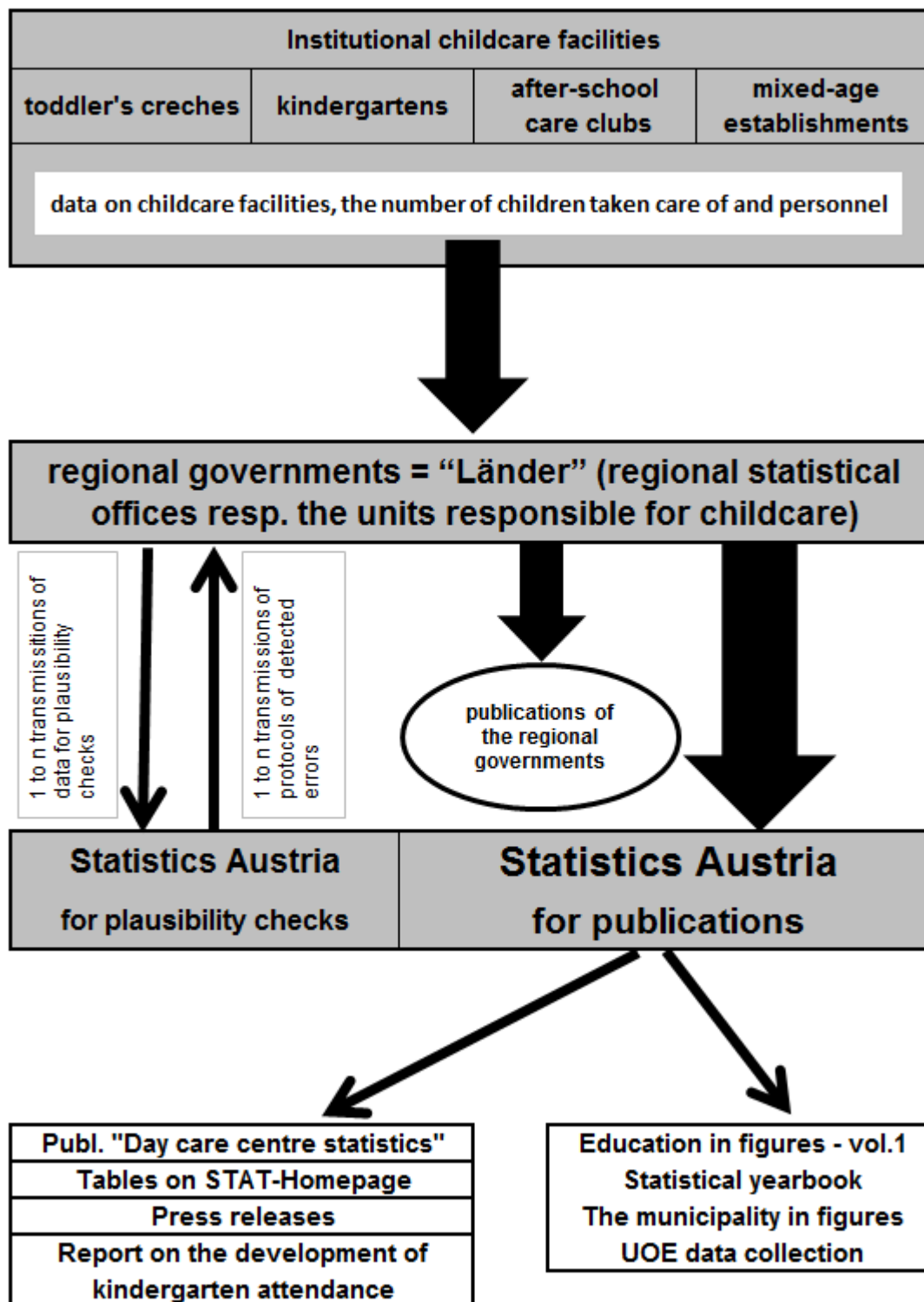
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Executive Summary

The statistics on day-care centres includes public and private toddlers' crèches, kindergartens, after-school care clubs and mixed-age establishments. Data, which are collected from institutional child care facilities by the regional statistical offices resp. the units responsible for childcare within the different regional governments ("Länder") with reference date 15 October – representative for a kindergarten year from September to August – are analysed and published.



Statistics include facilities which fulfil the following requirements: continuous and all-year child care, carried out with public funding, done by skilled personnel without regular presence of parents, at least 30 weeks per year, at least 4 days a week and at least 15 hours per week. Not part of the population are childminders, boarding schools, pupil homes, full-day schools and schools which offer afternoon care or any other day care offered by schools. Institutional childcare thus can be comprehensively reported for 0 to 6 year-old children, but only restricted with respect to 6 to 15 year-old, namely only about the relative restricted area of after-school care clubs. In the medium term it is planned to collect regularly data on the overall situation of day care of pupils.

Statistics on day-care centres aims at presenting the situation of institutional childcare in Austria, also with respect to the potential reconciling of family life and work, broken down by region, and is therefore an important decision guidance for family and social policies. Since the year 2007/08 data of statistics on day-care centre is used for calculating subsidies of the federal government to the regional governments for the development of institutional childcare, taking into account the opening hours and the days closed, and are used as a database for the evaluation of these support measures.

As the legislation, administration and execution of laws for day-care falls under the responsibility of the regional governments, Statistics Austria is dependent on the willingness of those to support the collection of the necessary statistical data. The work on the statistics on day-care centres was therefore between 1972/73 and 2002/03 carried out by the federal state (statistical office) based on an agreement of the regional governors' conference. In 2003, regional governments agreed on collecting statistical data by themselves and made them available to Statistics Austria for free for national analyses. The data collection of the responsible units in the regional governments in their childcare institutions is therefore done based on regional legislation; data transmission from the regional governments to Statistics Austria is based on a gentlemen's agreement.

The list of questions is based on an agreement with the regional governments (regional statistical offices resp. units responsible for childcare); the questionnaire was changed from the year 2003/04 onwards towards collecting individual data about the children and the staff employed (previously only aggregated data) and to more detailed questions on opening hours. This list of questions, which could not be covered by Styria for the years 2003/04 partly to 2009/10, comprises the following characteristics:

Information on the institution: sustaining organisation, type of day-care centre, exact opening hours per weekday, closure during noon, provision of meals, number of closing days, specific medical and social care offered.

Information on the children care of: Age, gender, nationality, native language, duration of presence, meals taken in the facility, disability according to the law, extended need of coaching (from 2010/11), occupation of mother/father, education by a single parent.

Information on personnel employed: Gender, age, employment type, extent of occupation in weekly hours, education.

Since 2014/15 data collection is conducted electronically in all regions. Data are collected electronically from the regional government, checked and transmitted to Statistics Austria for final checks. During this process of plausibility checking at Statistics Austria, the completeness of the reporting units and formal accuracy of the reported characteristics and combination of characteristics is – according to a predefined set of potential errors – controlled. Additionally, a table is produced which allows the detection of recording errors regarding the age of the children, the type of institution or the number of children by type of childcare compared to the previous years, already before the first tabulations are done. The protocol on the edits and the documents on the age tables are then made available to the regional governments so they can correct errors in their databases; this requires a close harmonisation process between the regional governments and Statistics Austria.

The final data made available by the regional governments, are analysed by Statistics Austria in a harmonised way, mandated by the Federal Ministry for Families and Youth, and annual statistics on the childcare facilities, opening times and closed days, the number of children taken care of and personnel. Additionally, data on kindergartens and mixed-age establishments are integrated into the common data collection and publication of UNESCO, OECD and Eurostat – as part of preschool education - and are also used for calculations for National Accounts.

Statistics on day-care centres – Main features	
Subject Matter	Comprises the area of institutional childcare in Austria; Annual compilation of statistics on childcare facilities, opening times, days closed, number of children taken care of, and staff employed
Population	Approx. 330,000 children taken care of and 53,000 people as staff in around 8,500 institutional childcare facilities (toddlers' creches, kindergartens, after-school care clubs, mixed-age establishments)
Type of statistics	Primary statistics (Survey is carried out by regional governments and not by Statistics Austria)
Data sources/Survey techniques	Surveys of the regional governments (by the responsible unit for childcare in the regional government resp. by the regional statistical office) Census survey
Reference period or due day	15 October (representative for a kindergarten year from September to August)
Periodicity	annual
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	-
Main legal acts	For the data collection from the childcare institutions by the regional governments there are separate regional standards; contract between Statistics Austria and the Federal Ministry for Families and Youth about the maintenance of a federal statistics on day-care centres
Most detailed regional breakdown	Community (Gemeinde)
Availability of results	Final data: t + 8m
Other	-