



Access to sexual and
reproductive health
care among young
migrants in Sweden

INTRODUCTION

Migrants has generally lower access to health care in Sweden. Lower access to sexual and reproductive health care is also reported among young migrants.

The aim of this study is to evaluate young migrants' access to sexual and reproductive health care in Sweden.

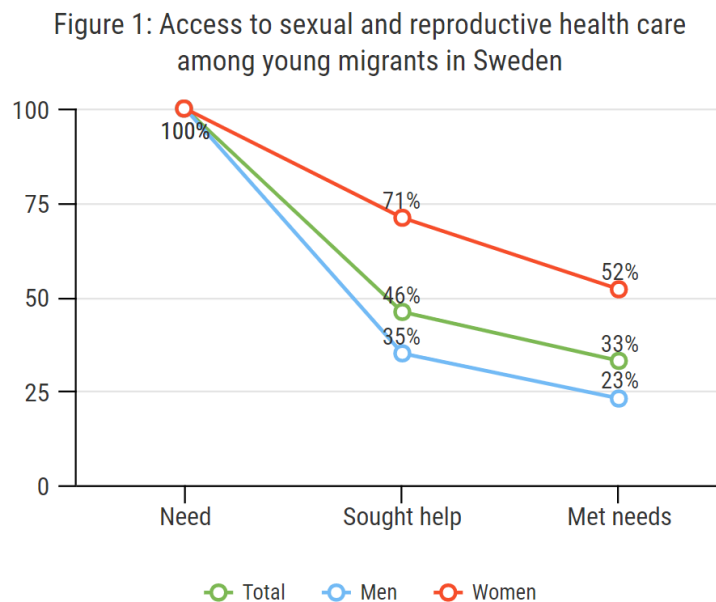
The results are based on 1739 answers from young migrants aged between 16 and 29 years. We collected the data under 2018 through sending mails to home, through social media and through visiting schools and other places. The young migrants are those who came to Sweden from outside the European Union, North America or Australia regardless of their length of stay and reasons for migration.

RESULTS

There is a great need for sexual and reproductive health care among young migrants.

About 30% of respondents need sexual and reproductive health care. Men and women have almost equal needs for services.

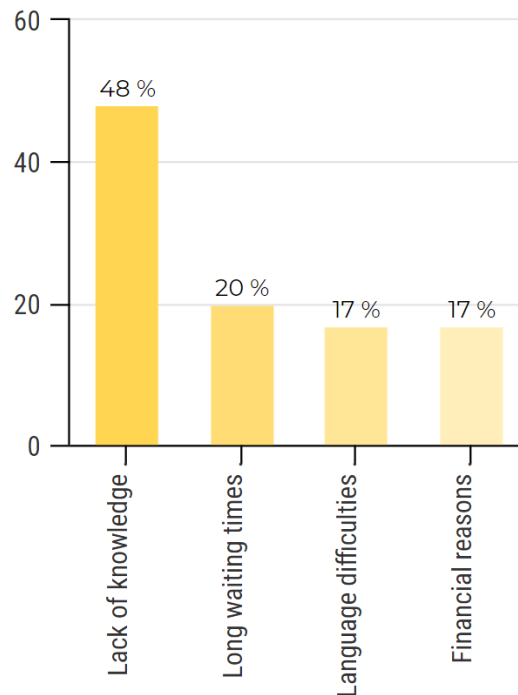
Young migrants face major challenges. Of all those who felt that they needed help, only 46% sought health care, of which the majority, but not all felt that they received the help they needed (Fig. 1).



Some groups face greater challenges than others. These groups are: men, non-binary, born in South Asia, those waiting for residence permits, and those with low economic conditions. On average, 33% of the respondents who have a need for sexual and reproductive health care could meet their needs. However, 23% of men met their needs compared to 52% of women. The percentages of people who met their sexual and reproductive health needs for the other groups are: 24% for non-binary, 24% for those born in South Asia, 17% for those who do not have a residence permit in Sweden, and 28% for those with low economic status.

There are challenges in accessing services. The identified reasons for not seeking health care among young migrants are: lack of knowledge about the Swedish health system and the available services, long waiting times, language barriers and financial difficulties.

Figure 2: The reasons behind not seeking health care



To improve young migrants' access to sexual and reproductive health care in Sweden, various measures can be taken:

1. Increase the knowledge about the rights and the available services among young migrants, for example through the initial health examination for new arrivals and through schools.
2. Improve the cultural responsiveness within available services, such as youth clinics.
3. Improve the quality of interpreting services.

*This facts sheet is based on this article: " Access of migrant youths in Sweden to sexual and reproductive healthcare: A cross-sectional survey" by Baroudi, M. Nkulu-Kalengayi, F. Goicolea, I. Jonzon, R. San Sebastian, M. Hurtig, A. K.