

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Public Health Agency of Sweden
171 82 Solna**Assignment to carry out a population-based national survey study on sexual and reproductive health and rights**

Government decision

The Government has commissioned the Public Health Agency of Sweden to carry out a population-based national survey study on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The purpose of the study is to improve the effectiveness of public health efforts in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The assignment also involves processing, analysing and reporting the findings of the population study. Findings and analyses are to take gender-related differences into consideration. Based on the findings, the Public Health Agency will commission more in-depth studies within the areas or groups that demonstrate particular vulnerability in terms of lifestyle or living conditions related to sexuality and sexual ill health. The Agency will also present proposals on how it can conduct continuous follow-up based on selected indicators within the framework of the population study.

The Public Health Agency is required to submit an interim report no later than 31 May 2018 and its final report is to be presented to the Government Offices (Ministry of Health and Social Affairs) no later than 1 June 2019. The report must quote the reference number given in this decision. In its interim report, the Agency is to present the findings of the national study along with proposals for continuous follow-up. The final report is to present the findings from the in-depth studies commissioned by the Agency.

To carry out this assignment, the Public Health Agency has SEK 300 000 at its disposal in 2016. These costs are to be charged under expenditure area 9 Health care, medical care and social services, appropriation 1:6 Grants to public health and health care, appropriation item 15 Safer and more efficient health and medical care. The funds will be paid as a one-

time payment following the submission of a requisition to Kammarkollegiet (the Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency). The requisition must be received by Kammarkollegiet no later than 1 December 2016. Any unused funds must be repaid to Kammarkollegiet no later than 31 March 2017, at which time a financial statement is also to be submitted to Kammarkollegiet. The requisition, report and repayment must quote the reference number given in this decision.

The Public Health Agency is to consult with the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society, the Commission for Equitable Health (S 2015:02), the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, the Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Rights, the Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research at the University of Gothenburg, the National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women at Uppsala University and other relevant higher education institutions and stakeholders, as well as to have regular meetings with the Government Offices (Ministry of Health and Social Affairs) during the course of its work.

The matter

The area of sexual and reproductive health and rights covers the entire population throughout people's lives. It is an area of great importance for the self-esteem, close relations and well-being of every individual, regardless of age, functional capacity, gender, gender identity or gender expression, and is a determinant of health outcomes.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights efforts aim to improve societal and social conditions to increase the individual's enjoyment of their sexual and reproductive health and rights. One starting point is the overall objective of public health policy, which is to create societal conditions so that the entire population can enjoy good health on equal terms (Govt Bill 2002/03:35 Public health objectives). Other starting points are the equal value of all people and the principle of non-discrimination in relation to sexual and reproductive health. This includes the right to information and access to health and medical care.

In June 2015, the Government set up the Commission for Equitable Health (ToR 2015:60). The Government's objective is to eliminate health inequities within a generation. The Government is also working actively to promote a feminist public health policy in which everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity or gender expression, has the possibility to enjoy good health. The right to physical integrity and sexual self-determination, not least for girls, women and LGBTQ people, is central to a feminist public health policy and fundamental to a gender equal society.

In 1996, the then National Institute of Public Health conducted a national study on people's attitudes towards their sexuality (Sex in

Sweden, on sex life in Sweden 1996). The study resulted in deeper knowledge and better understanding in the area. In line with its instructions, since March 2016 the Public Health Agency has had responsibility for promoting knowledge creation and national coordination in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and for monitoring developments in this area.

The planning and implementation of health promotion activities must be evidence-based. Since 1996 many societal changes have taken place affecting our view of sexuality, sexual health and sexual behaviour, including with the advent of the internet and social media. To strengthen promotion and monitoring of sexual and reproductive health and rights, the Government has commissioned the Public Health Agency to carry out a survey study on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The assignment

The focus of the population study is on sexual and reproductive health and rights as a health determinant from public health, social and gender equality perspectives. Age, impairments and a child rights perspective are also to be taken into account. The population study is also expected to shed light on the incidence of sexual and other violence and its implications for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Studies of certain specific groups have previously been carried out, but there is no comprehensive study of the entire population that takes into account the specific needs of different groups in the same study, for example in relation to discrimination grounds. To enable comparisons over time, survey questions from previously conducted studies in the area are to be used to the extent deemed appropriate. In this context, it should be noted that new technologies, new knowledge and new perspectives have created the need to examine new issues.

The study should also map out fundamental differences and developments in sexual and reproductive health and highlight the areas and groups requiring targeted health promotion activities. This data is essential to remedy the health disparities between different groups.

The findings of the study will be reported at regional and, if possible, municipal level. Obtaining knowledge about the situation at local and regional levels will facilitate efforts to carry out systematic, knowledge-based and effective health promotion.

On behalf of the Government

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Copy to

Commission for Equitable Health (S 2015:20)

Kammarkollegiet

Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society

Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research, University of Gothenburg

National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women,
Uppsala University

National Board of Health and Welfare

Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and
Queer Rights

Swedish Association for Sexuality Education