

The development of “Barnahus” in Sweden

The experiences of Children Houses

Carl Göran Svedin

Professor

Tallin

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Presentation

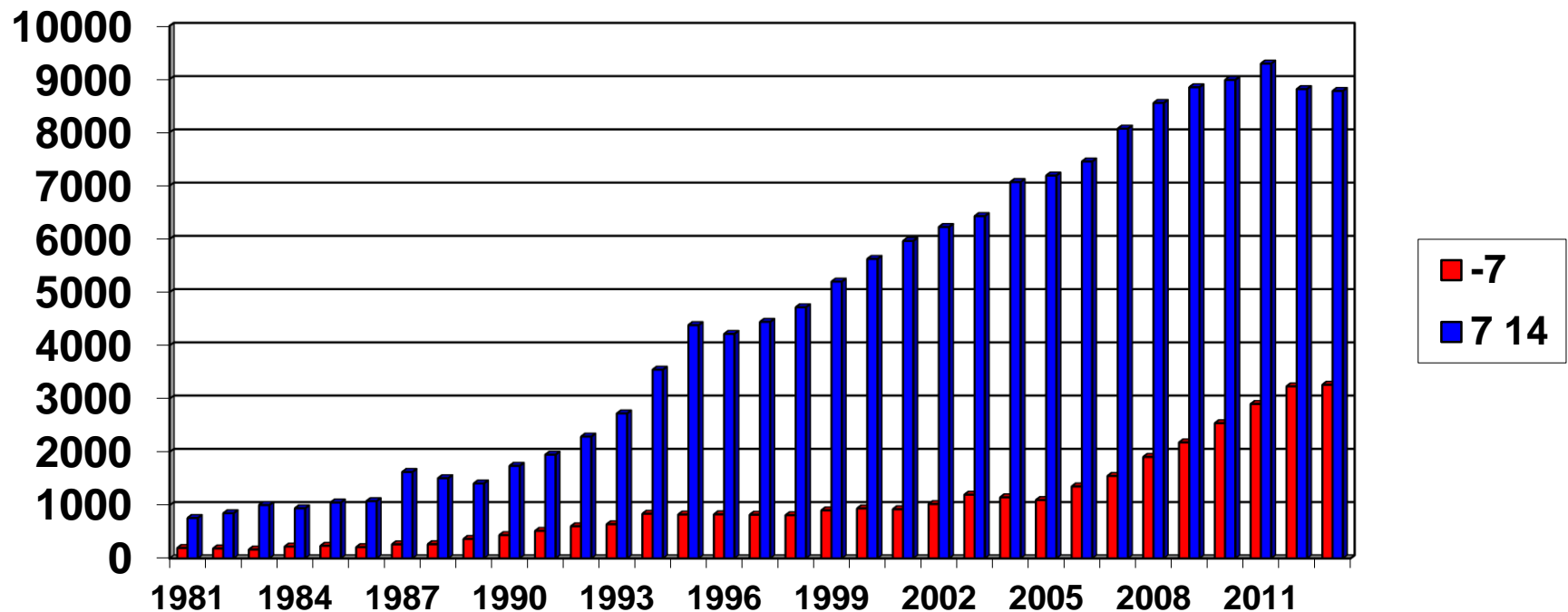
- **Child Abuse and Neglect in Sweden**
- **Barnahus**



Countries with an anti-spanking legislation



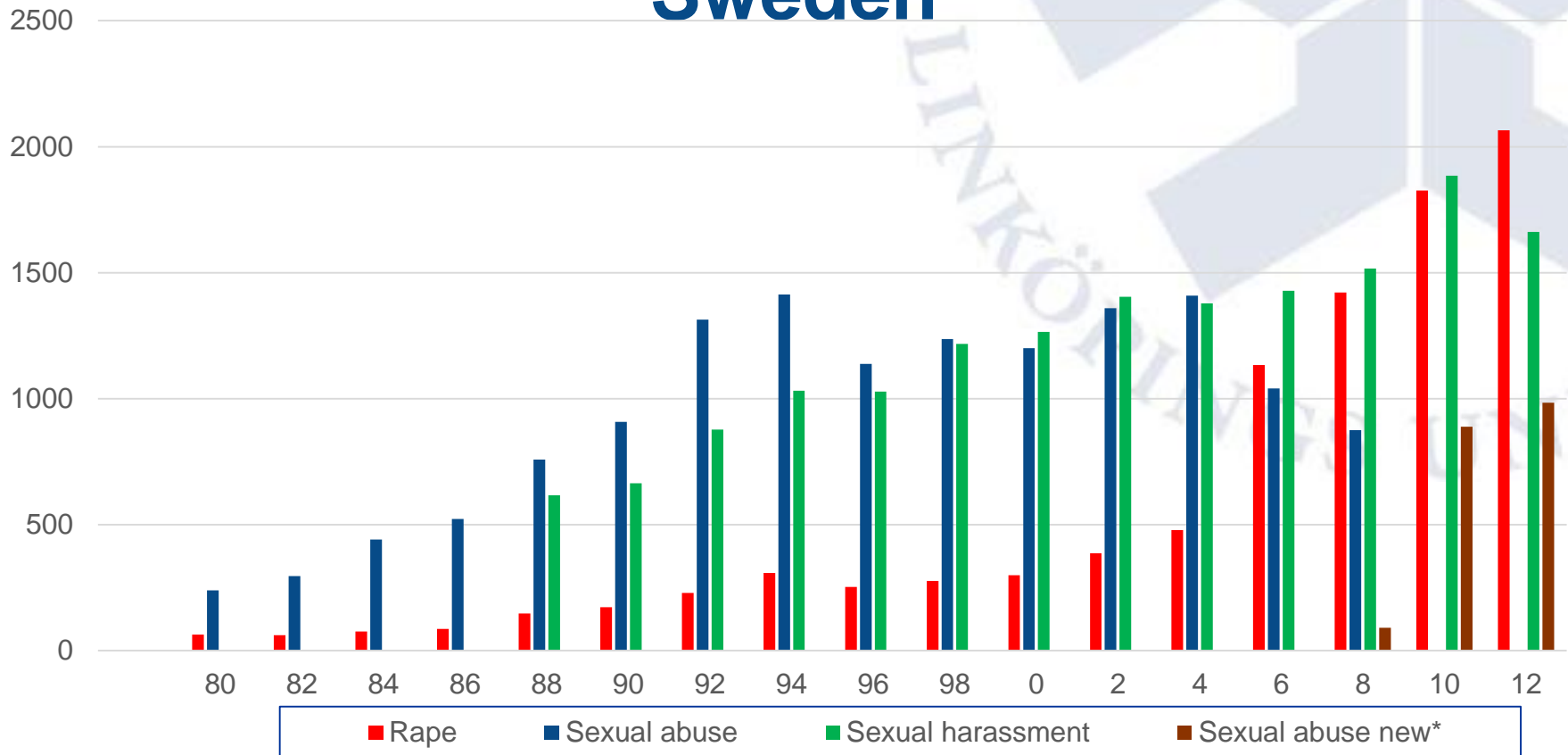
Reported suspected cases of child abuse in Sweden, 0-14 years of age



Together 2013: 12 041 (3 261/8 780)



Police reported suspected sexual abuse crimes against children 0-15 years of age, Sweden



Total 2013: 4959



Child's best interests come first??

- Child friendly investigations **NO**
- Priority, urgency **NO**
- Professionalism **NO**
- Cooperation **NO**
- Coordination **NO**
- Rehabilitation/treatment **NO**



The primary guideline for Barnahus

➤ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 3.1:

"In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the child shall be a primary consideration. "



Save the Children 22/10 2003
in a meeting with the minister of justice

Concerning the child's status in the legal process: "collaboration between relevant agencies must be better. Experiences from the Children's House in Iceland are interesting "



Establishment of barnahus

NATIONAL GUIDELINES

Based on a governmental commission 2006-07

PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES 2009

- Target group:
 - All children under 18 who are victims of crime
 - child abuse, sexual abuse
 - Witnesses of domestic violence



Establishment of barnahus

NATIONAL GUIDELINES

2009

- Consulting meeting: spec. prosecutors, spec. policemen, social workers, somatic medicine (paediatrics/gynecology), child psychiatry
- Child protection services participate in the child interview
 - Asses the child need of protection/support
- Offered crisis support of skilled and experienced staff.



Establishment of barnahus





- The guidelines = a recommendation
 - The local authorities take independent decisions
 - Budget & agreements
- No new legislation (no new from the justice department)
- No budget

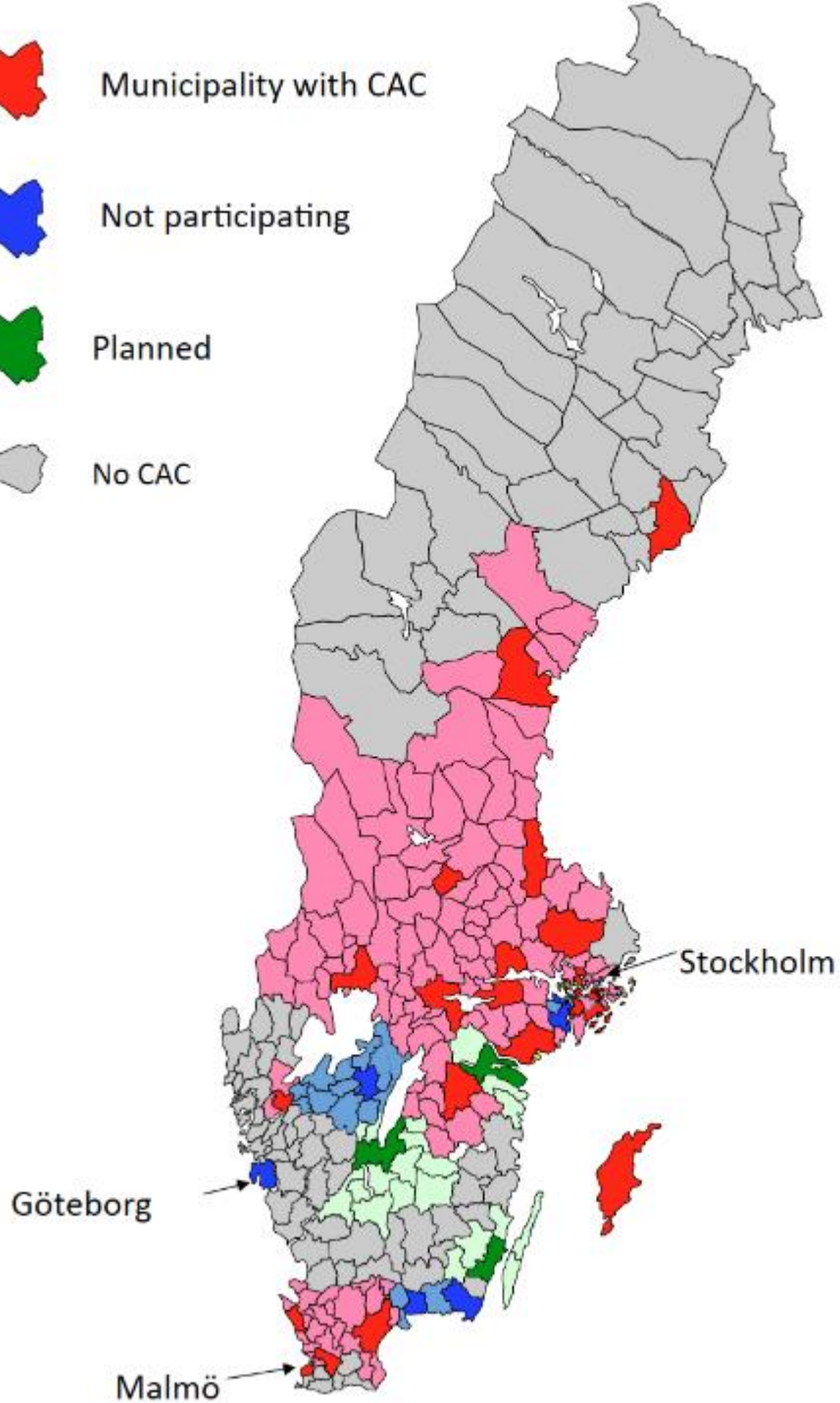


Barnahus in Sweden today

- 2004 – 2014 **0** → **31** Barnahus
 - depends of what we call Barnahus
- No national demands/criteria' s
- The variations are still large
 - which authorities are represented in Barnahus
 - which authorities are represented in the consulting meetings (samråd) differs



-  Municipality with CAC
-  Not participating
-  Planned
-  No CAC



Development

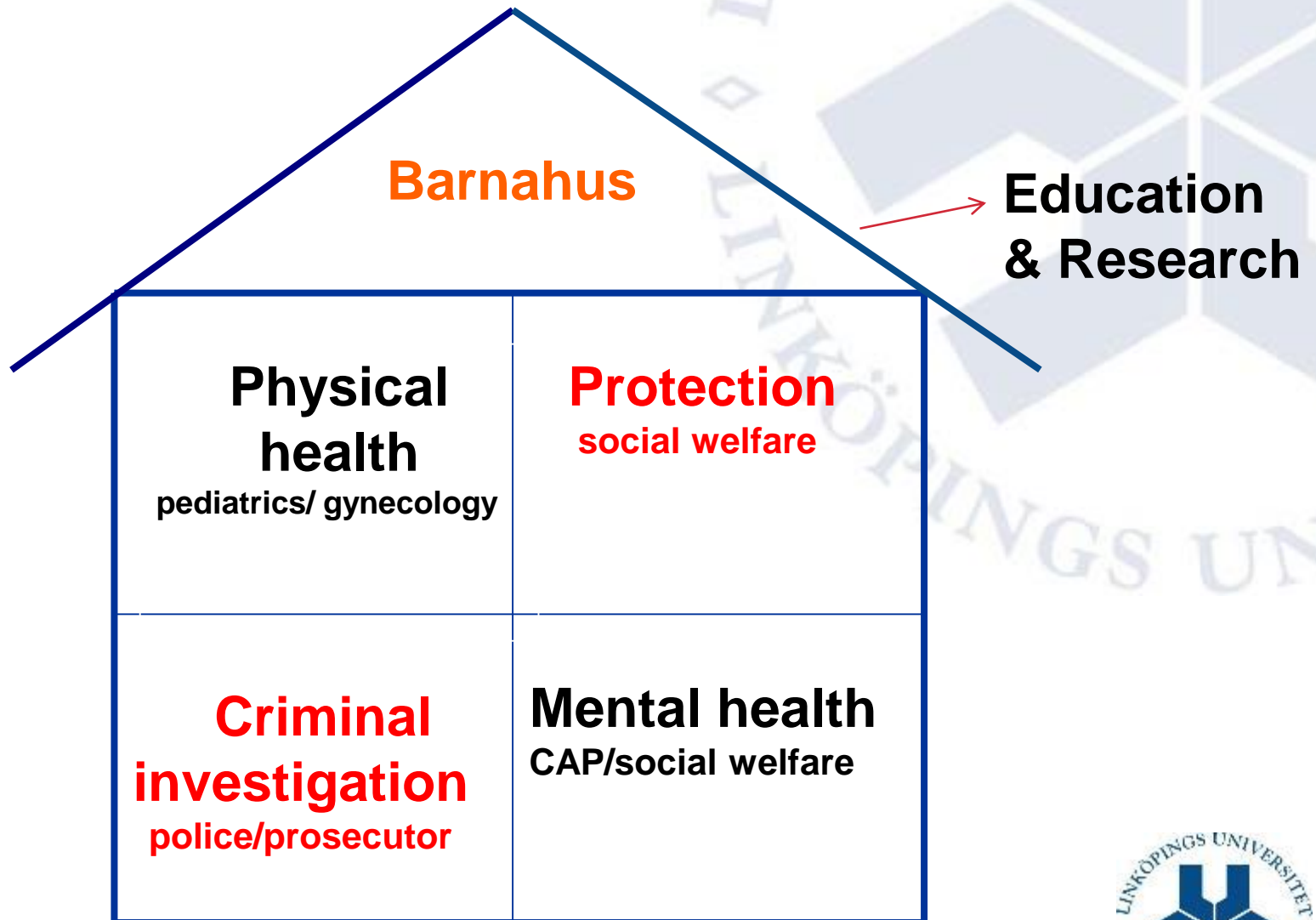
2012



Organizational structure

- 30 are run by the site municipality sometimes in close cooperation with the police authorities (5)
- 1 is run by the County Council (Linköping)
- Today **31** CAC covering 187 of 290 communities (64%, or 80% of the child population)





1: Child-Appropriate/Child-Friendly Facility

A Barnahus provides a comfortable, private, child-friendly setting that is both physically and psychologically safe for diverse populations of children and their families.



Linköping Barnahus



2. Multidisciplinary Team

- Standard: A multidisciplinary team for response to child abuse allegations includes representation from the following:
 - **Child Protective Services** – is the child safe? Are other children at risk?
 - **Medical** – is there evidence of abuse? Does the child need treatment?
 - **Mental Health** – does the child/family need mental health services? What type of service would help the most?
 - **Law Enforcement** – has a crime been committed?
 - **Prosecution** – can I prove the case in court?



3. Forensic Interviews

Standard: The Barnahus promotes forensic interviews which are legally sound, are of a neutral, fact-finding nature, and are coordinated to avoid duplicative interviewing.

Interview Room



Observation Room



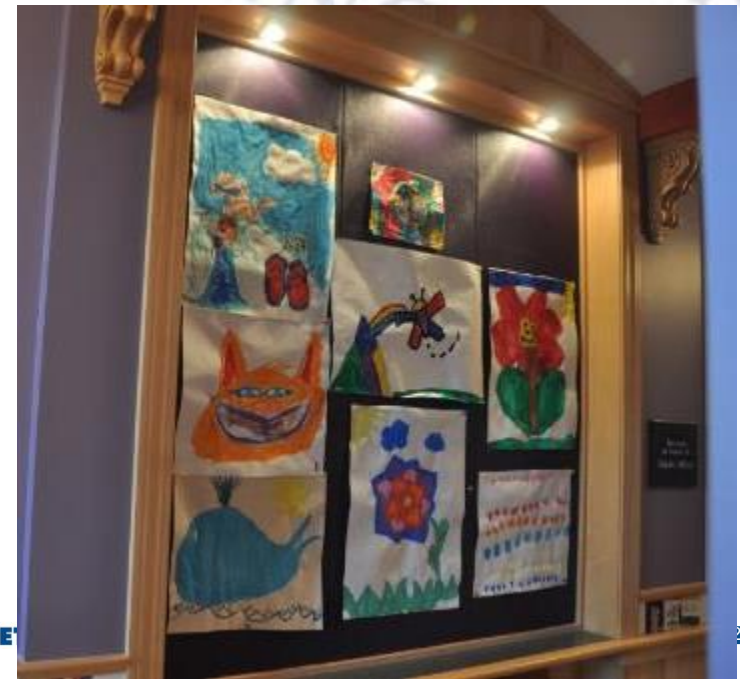
4. Medical Evaluation

- Standard: Specialized medical evaluation and treatment services are available to all Barnahus clients and coordinated with the multidisciplinary team response to provide follow-up referrals and/or treatment as necessary.



5. Mental Health

- Standard: Specialized trauma-focused mental health services, designed to meet the unique needs of the children and non-offending family members, are routinely made available as part of the MDT response.
 - Evidence-based practice – Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy



INUTI ETT **BARNAHUS**

EN KVALITETSGRANSKNING AV 23 SVENSKA VERKSAMHETER



A quality review of
Swedish Barnahus -
2012.
Strengths and
weaknesses



Linköpings universitet
HÄLSÖUNIVERSITETET



Rädda Barnen

Barnahus

N=23

**Physical
health**

**Protection
Social welfare**

**Criminal
investigation
Police**

**Mental
health
CAP/social welfare**

Barnahus 2012

Type C: Activity in two
of the rooms = 3

Type B: Activity in
three rooms = 16

Type A: Activity in all
four rooms, or all
necessary components
= 4



Recommendation

- Barnahus is a great model!
- Develop all Barnahus to achieve type-A level
- Expand the target group!
- Barnahus for all children!
- Establish Lex Barnahus!



Thank you!

carl.goran.svedin@liu.se

