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Presentation title: Consequences of the New Consent Law in Sweden

After many years of discussion, the legislation concerning rape in Sweden was changed on 1 July 2018, meaning that the law is now based upon the absence of consent instead of the occurrence of violence, threats or a particularly vulnerable situation. The new law was welcomed by many as constituting an important societal signal, but there were also concerns (particularly from judges, for instance in the so called Lagrådet, and from lawyers) that it would be difficult to apply.

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) was commissioned to review the application of the new legal rules. We looked at all 362 court judgements from 2019 that involved the consummated rape of a woman, as well as 37 judgements from courts of appeal, and one judgement from the Supreme Court. We also studied crime statistics and have obtained opinions about how well the new rules have been applied from representatives of the legal system and from voluntary organisations. The study was published in June of 2020 (Link to Brå report 2020:6 [here](#)).