

# The Dutch Families First Effectiveness Study

Published: 30-08-2006

Last updated: 20-05-2024

The study addresses the following research questions: 1. Do children who receive Families First have fewer days in out-of-home placement than children who receive residential and foster care services? 2. Do children who receive Families First call...

<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Recruitment stopped
<b>Health condition type</b>	Personality disorders and disturbances in behaviour
<b>Study type</b>	Interventional

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON29767

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

DFFS

### Condition

- Personality disorders and disturbances in behaviour
- Family issues

### Synonym

Behavior problems in youth and parental stress

### Research involving

Human

### Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** De Waarden

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** ZONMW

## Intervention

**Keyword:** Crisis intervention, Effectiveness study, Families First, Youth care

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

The primary outcome variables are: (1) number of days of out-of-home placement in the year after treatment, (2) number of times children and their parents call upon youth care services in the year after treatment.

### Secondary outcome

The secondary outcome variables pertain to (1) decrease of parental stress, (2) increase of feelings of parental competence, (3) decrease of child behavior problems, and (4) satisfaction with the treatment

## Study description

### Background summary

In this study the hypothesis is being tested that in case of a family crisis that heightens the risk of an out-of-home placement of one or more children a short-term intensive family treatment (Families First) will be more effective than an out-of-home placement in residential or foster care.

### Study objective

The study addresses the following research questions:

1. Do children who receive Families First have fewer days in out-of-home placement than children who receive residential and foster care services?
2. Do children who receive Families First call upon fewer youth care services than children who receive residential and foster care services?
3. Do children and their families who receive Families First fare better on indicators of child well-being and family functioning, as compared to children who receive residential or foster care services?

In addition the following research questions are answered:

1. Do children who receive Families First with strong adherence to the

treatment model have fewer days in out-of-home placement.

2. Do children who receive Families First with strong adherence to the treatment model call upon fewer youth care services?

3. Do children who receive Families First with strong adherence to the treatment model fare better on indicators of child well-being and family functioning?

4. Do children who fare better on indicators of child well-being and family functioning have fewer days in out-of-home placement than children who receive residential and foster care services?

## **Study design**

A random assignment procedure is used to assign children to one of the following conditions: (1) in-home intervention (Families First), (2) out-of-home placement (residential treatment or foster care). The out-of-home placement is of the same length (4 weeks) as the in-home intervention. Data will be gathered up to one year after treatment.

## **Intervention**

Families First is a family preservation program for families in crisis in which children run the risk to be placed out-of-home. By means of a fast, short and intensive treatment delivered at home it is attempted to decrease the risk of placement and to increase child and family competencies. Although this program is already being carried for several years in Dutch youth care, to date no controlled effect study have been done.

## **Study burden and risks**

The burden and risk are low because (1) the study examines treatments which are already offered for several years, (2) safety of the child is an explicit exclusion criterion, (3) questionnaires filled out by parents will not cost much time, and (4) questionnaires filled out by parents are for the greater part already used in the practice of Dutch youth care.

## **Contacts**

### **Public**

De Waarden

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### **Scientific**

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## Trial sites

### Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

Risk of out-of-home placement of children from a family

### Exclusion criteria

Safety of the child can not be guaranteed

## Study design

### Design

Study type:	Interventional
Intervention model:	Parallel
Allocation:	Randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active

Primary purpose: Treatment

## Recruitment

NL  
Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped  
Start date (anticipated): 01-09-2006  
Enrollment: 128  
Type: Actual

## Medical products/devices used

Registration: No

## Ethics review

Approved WMO  
Date: 30-08-2006  
Application type: First submission  
Review commission: METIGG: Medisch Ethische Toetsingscommissie Instellingen Geestelijke Gezondheidszorg (Utrecht)

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

### Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

## In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL13229.097.06