

# Swingers World Attitude and Practices (SWAP-study)

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The main objective is to map sexual and other sexually transmitted Infections (STI)-related risk behaviour, prevalence and incidence of STI in swingers and identify determinants for STI spread. Secondary objectives are: A. Describe the (sexual)...

|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Ethical review</b>        | Approved WMO               |
| <b>Status</b>                | Recruiting                 |
| <b>Health condition type</b> | Other condition            |
| <b>Study type</b>            | Observational non invasive |

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON33734

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

SWAP study

### Condition

- Other condition
- Chlamydial infectious disorders

### Synonym

sexually transmitted infections, venereal diseases

### Health condition

seksueel overdraagbare aandoeningen (soa)

### Research involving

Human

## Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** GGD Zuid Limburg / azM

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

## Intervention

**Keyword:** sexual networks, sexual risk behaviour, sexually transmitted infections (sti), swingers

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

1. STI incidence and prevalence in swingers
2. Prevalence of risk behaviour, for example sexual behaviour and use of drugs
3. Correlation between risk factors, sexual behaviour and the incidence of STI\*s
4. Explanatory models (knowledge, attitude and perception) regarding risk

factors, sexual behaviour and STI\*s

### Secondary outcome

not applicable

## Study description

### Background summary

At our STI clinic we see an increasing number of heterosexual couples whose sexual life poses a risk for STI\*s. These couples call themselves swingers, i.e. people who are practicing mate swapping, groupsex, visit sex clubs for couples. The swingers attending our clinic are frequently diagnosed with STI and are frequently reinfected with STI\*s. In a small pilot among swingers in 2007, we found a high prevalence of Chlamydia (CT): 12.3% and of Gonorrhoea (GO): 5.4%. So swingers seem to be an important risk group for STI\*s. But in the scientific literature hardly any research about this subgroup can be found, also in the medical literature about STI\*s no attention is given to swingers. While there does exist a lot of literature about preventive interventions regarding STI\*s for the known risk groups like MSM and prostitutes, this is not the case for swingers. In this study we want to investigate this new risk

group, their risk behaviour and the prevalence of STI. This information is necessary to develop preventive interventions for swingers in the future.

## **Study objective**

The main objective is to map sexual and other sexually transmitted Infections (STI)-related risk behaviour, prevalence and incidence of STI in swingers and identify determinants for STI spread.

Secondary objectives are:

- A. Describe the (sexual) subculture(s) of swingers and its characteristics?
- B. Map the spread of STI within sexual networks of swingers and the factors that influence this spread?

## **Study design**

The observational study will be a combination of:

- 1. Prospective cohort study
- 2. Descriptive ethnographic study

## **Study burden and risks**

Swingers who will participate in the study will be tested for STI\*s conform routine procedures of the STI clinic every 6 months. Before testing they will be asked to fill in standardized questionnaires. Some swingers will be asked for an interview.

Adverse events are not expected, because it is an observational study with minimally invasive measurements.

When a STI is diagnosed, the participant will be treated or referred, conform the routine protocols of the STI-clinic. Venapunction will be done conform regular procedures of the sti-clinic by experienced nurses.

## **Contacts**

### **Public**

GGD Zuid Limburg / azM

Postbus 2022  
6160 HA Geleen  
NL

### **Scientific**

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Postbus 2022  
6160 HA Geleen

## Trial sites

### Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

Those individuals who meet the definition of swingers:

1. Individuals who are part of a heterosexual couple and as a couple had sex with other couples and/or singles the past year
2. The couples and singles who did have sex with (these) heterosexual couples the past year

### Exclusion criteria

Individuals who do not meet the definition of swingers as given at D4a,  
People under the age of 18 will be excluded.

## Study design

### Design

**Study type:** Observational non invasive

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Prevention

## Recruitment

NL  
Recruitment status: Recruiting  
Start date (anticipated): 11-02-2009  
Enrollment: 1000  
Type: Actual

## Ethics review

Approved WMO  
Date: 23-01-2009  
Application type: First submission  
Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Approved WMO  
Date: 25-08-2010  
Application type: Amendment  
Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

## 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     | NL23703.068.08 |