

# Child maltreatment reports to Dutch child protection agencies with the maltreated child as an active informant: insights in the mental health and quality of life of the maltreated child and care consumption: a prospective study and an RCT

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<b>Ethical review</b>	Not approved
<b>Status</b>	Will not start
<b>Health condition type</b>	Personality disorders and disturbances in behaviour
<b>Study type</b>	Observational non invasive

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON33736

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

Children as active informants after reports to Dutch CPA's

### Condition

- Personality disorders and disturbances in behaviour
- Family issues

### Synonym

child abuse and neglect, child maltreatment

## **Research involving**

Human

## **Sponsors and support**

**Primary sponsor:** Trimbos-instituut

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

## **Intervention**

**Keyword:** (cost)efficacy, Child maltreatment reports, Child Protective Agency, Children as informants

## **Outcome measures**

### **Primary outcome**

Primary study parameters are:

- For children:

mental health, measured using the Child Behaviour Checklist (CBCL parent version, YSR child selfreport and TRF, teacher report) and quality of life using the Child Health Questionnaire (CHQ)

- For adults:

quality of life, measured using the Rand-36

### **Secondary outcome**

Some major independent variables will also be taken into account:

- stress, measured by the NOSI-K for parents and the MUSIC for children
- social support, measured by the SSL for parents and an adjusted SSL version for children
- coping, measured by the CISS for parents and the Kids Cope for children
- self esteem will only be measured for children, using the CBSK/CBSA

Parents will, in addition to the questionnaires mentioned above, be asked to fill out:

- the VMG (Vragenlijst Meegemaakte Gebeurtenissen) to get an overview of recent life events
- the Neighborhood Disorder Scale
- the FGRS/MGRS about gender specific stress experiences
- the AUDIT to measure alcohol use

Background variables such as gender, age, ethnical background, education level, living situation and social demographical characteristics will also be taken into account

## Study description

### Background summary

Evidence is accumulating on the relation between child abuse and the (future) presence of mental health problems. Recently two Dutch studies have been published, in which it was estimated that in the Netherlands between 107.000 and 160.000 children are abused in one way or another on a yearly basis. Like most other western countries, the Netherlands has developed a system through which suspected cases of child abuse can be reported with an agency, both by professionals and by non-professionals. Such a report can be crucially important for a child when investigation of the agency shows that the child has indeed been abused and the subsequent interventions lead to the end of the abuse situation and care for child and family. Although these Advies- and Meldpunten Kindermishandeling (AMK, or CPA\*s in English) have been in place for over 30 years, the results and effects of their work have not been determined in an evidence-based manner. Given the seriousness of the extent and the consequences of child abuse, the success of the current approach to limit this problem in the Netherlands must be made clear.

### Study objective

The general objective of this study is to contribute to the knowledge on the approach of the Dutch CPA\*s.

More specific objectives of this research are:

1. To determine the course of the mental health and quality of life of abused children from 5 to 16 years old in the two years after they have been reported at a CPA.
2. To determine the effects of a new procedure in which abused children from 8 to 16 years old participate as active informants in the CPA investigation
3. To map the costs and benefits of this new procedure by means of an economic evaluation

## **Study design**

To answer the first research question, a prospective study will be used in which 278 parent-child dyads will be studied shortly after the initial report at the CPA, and subsequently four times over the course of the two following years.

To answer the second research question, a randomized controlled trial will be used, in which 164 parent-child dyads will be divided randomly between a control and experimental condition. Follow-up will be six months. The control condition consists of the care as usual, the standard investigation method of the CPA's after a child abuse report. Adults, such as the parents, general practitioner and teachers are the informants for the CPA investigation. In the experimental condition this procedure will be used as well, but it will be complemented with the abused children as active informants.

For the third question the additional cost and benefits of the experimental condition will be compared to the costs and benefits of the control condition.

## **Intervention**

For researchquestion 2 and 3 an intervention will be used: Talking with Children

Experimental condition: The new innovative CPA approach in which maltreated children of 8 years and older are included as active informants in the CPA investigation process, by interviewing them to supplement the CPA investigation process.

There is research evidence showing that maltreated children can provide highly reliable and accurate information on their situations.

Control condition: Care as usual: CPA investigation process with standard informants; the parents, general practitioner, teachers and other grown ups that are connected to the child.

## **Study burden and risks**

The participants in the prospective research will complete questionnaires on 5 different occasions, once directly after the child has been reported at the CPA, and subsequently four more times in the two years following the initial report. Participants in the RCT will complete questionnaires on 3 occasions, once directly after the child has been reported at the CPA, and subsequently 3 and 6 months later. All assessment moments will take about 1 hour.

Participants are not expected to be at any risk. Participation is entirely voluntarily and all participants are allowed to end their participation at any time, without any explanation. The questionnaires will be filled out together with a researcher.

## Contacts

### **Public**

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Nederland

### **Scientific**

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## Trial sites

### Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### **Age**

Adolescents (12-15 years)

Adolescents (16-17 years)

Adults (18-64 years)

Children (2-11 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

## Inclusion criteria

Age of the child is 5 years or older;

Expected time of residence in the Netherlands is at least a year, and there are no plans to leave the country;

Meeting the \*classical\* definition of child maltreatment including child physical or emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical or emotional neglect;

Sufficient verbal and cognitive capacities to participate in a study which requires an oral interview;

A higher likelihood than average of child maltreatment as estimated by the CPA investigator at the initial stage of CPA investigation

## Exclusion criteria

Participants not meeting the aforementioned criteria;

Participants who can be considered as \*additional\* children in the reports, comprising siblings of the maltreated child considered as being of less concern, as estimated by the CPA investigator;

Participants of whom the maltreatment is too questionable at the stage of inclusion

## Study design

### Design

Study type:	Observational non invasive
Intervention model:	Parallel
Allocation:	Randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Prevention

### Recruitment

NL	
Recruitment status:	Will not start
Enrollment:	442
Type:	Anticipated

## Ethics review

Not approved

Date: 04-11-2009

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	NL23743.097.09