

# SUMMARY

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*Voor schatten geschikt. Vooronderzoek databronnen en methoden omvangschatting huiselijk geweld en kindermishandeling*

The Research and Documentation Centre (WODC) of the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice wants to set up a research program on domestic violence and child abuse which consists of multiple sub studies. An estimation study based on data sources is one of the sub studies. This preliminary study by INTRAVAL Bureau for research and consultancy provides an overview of methods and data sources that are suitable for an estimation of the number of victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and child abuse. The previous prevalence study of domestic violence dates back to 2010 (Van der Veen and Bogaerts 2010). In that study an estimation study based on data sources was also one of the sub studies.

## **Definition of problem**

First, this study answers the question of whether the estimation study, as conducted in 2009, can be reproduced and improved using capture-recapture. We have also identified and evaluated other methods and data sources for an estimation study of domestic violence. Furthermore, we have investigated whether an estimation study of child abuse is possible through capture-recapture or other methods, and to what extent the concurrence of domestic violence and child abuse in households can be determined.

## **Study design**

For the preliminary research, we first conducted a literature study on methods for estimation studies. For each estimation method, it has been assessed which assumptions must be met to apply the method and which requirements the method has for the data sources.

In addition, we have made an inventory of potentially available data sources in the field of domestic violence, child abuse and the concurrence of them. First, we judged the usefulness of these sources based on their availability and suitability conducting interviews by telephone with employees of organizations involved.

Of the data sources that have been identified as available and possibly suitable, we further examined the quality by testing them on three criteria: completeness, validity and continuity. Here too, we have made extensive use of (telephone) interviews with employees of the organizations involved. In addition, in a number of cases, a visit to the organization took place in order to personally check the data source or a data printout was requested to further study the source.

## **Findings**

The information on estimation methods and available data sources results in a phased step-by-step plan. In this plan, we indicate which methods and data sources offer the best opportunities in the short term, medium term and long term for an estimation study of perpetrators and victims of domestic violence and child abuse and the concurrence of domestic violence and child abuse.

### *Short term*

In the short term, the 2009 estimation study of perpetrators and victims of domestic violence can be repeated. This involves an estimate using capture-recapture based on police records. Moreover, the estimate of the number of victims can be improved by enriching the police records with other data

sources in the judicial system and linking data of the victims in the Veiligheidsmonitor (Security Monitor).

In the short term, child abuse can be estimated by linking data from the judicial system with data from the Council for Child Protection. A limitation is that these sources contain no information on child abuse outside the domestic sphere.

To determine concurrence, all the available information from the judicial chain and the Council for Child Protection should be linked by address, so that household data are obtained. From a sample of households, it can then be determined whether there is concurrence of domestic violence and child abuse.

#### *Medium term*

Although the records of the Veilig Thuis (Safe at Home) organizations are in the short term of insufficient quality and consistency to be of use for an estimation study, they can be a valuable addition in the medium term. In addition, various records of the healthcare chain offer medium-term opportunities for improving the estimation study.

#### *Long term*

In the long term, it is considered ideal to use at least three data sources for an estimation study of domestic violence and child abuse: records in the judicial chain and in the healthcare chain (assistance and healthcare), supplemented by population surveys. Veilig Thuis is the most appropriate source of data for the healthcare chain. The starting point for this ideal is that all professionals involved in assistance and (mental) healthcare always report domestic violence and child abuse to Veilig Thuis.