

Victim Support Effectiveness

*A review of qualitative and
quantitative evidence*

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Fireworks disaster Enschede (The Netherlands)

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What did Victim Support Netherlands (VSN) do?

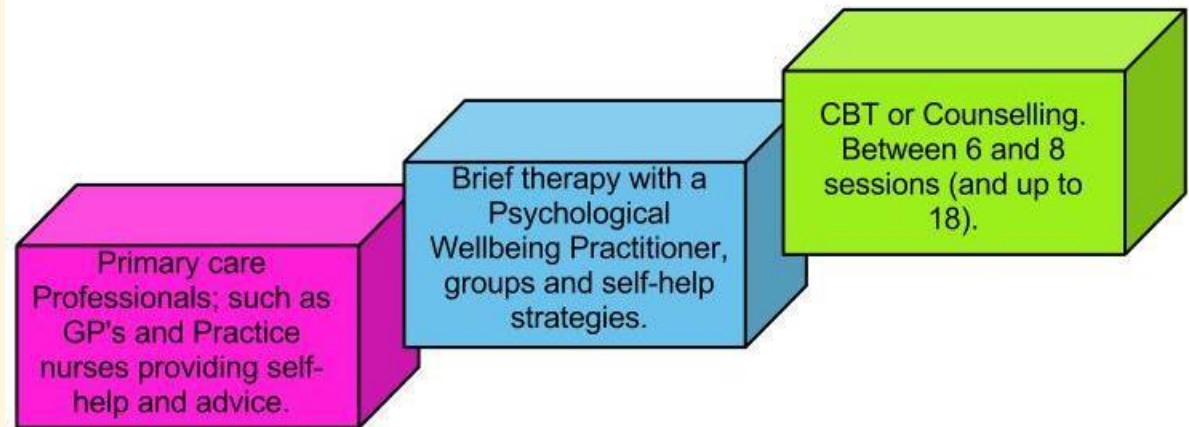
- Providing safety, fulfilling basic needs
- Legal and practical support
- Referral to other organisations



VSN: Basic principles

Support is offered mainly by trained volunteers, following two basic principles:

- Watchful waiting
- Stepped care



VSN: Target groups

- Victims of human-afflicted crime
- Victims of traffic accidents
- Victims of other calamities (airplane disaster Tripoli, train collision Amsterdam, shopping mall shooting Alphen)



VSN: Sources of support

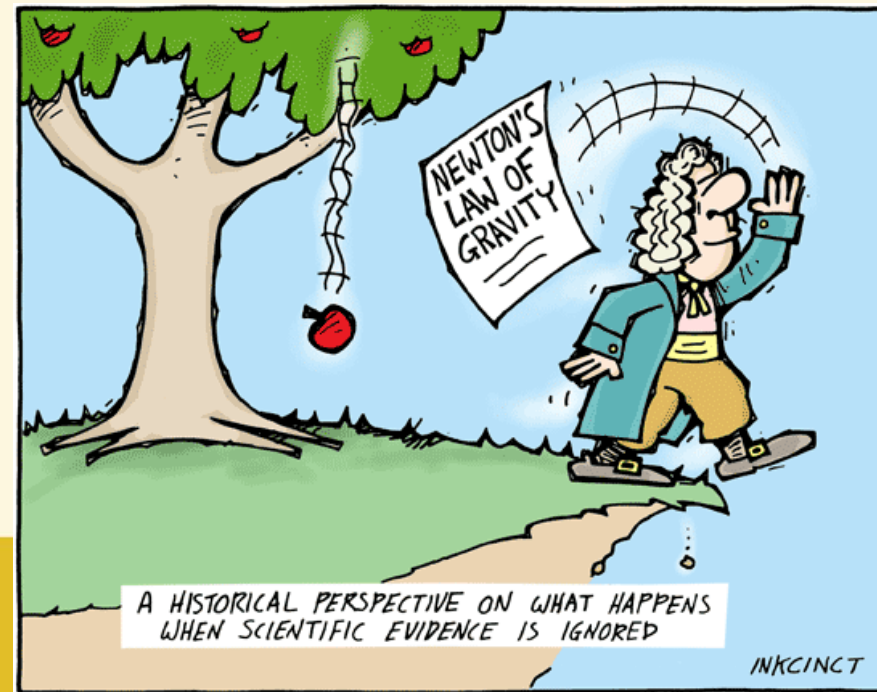
- Practical
 - Contacting family or friends
- Emotional
 - Listening, providing attention
- Legal
 - Accompanying people to court, giving information about the court setting



Systematic scientific evidence

There is a need for systematic evidence supporting the current services of Victim Support Netherlands:

- To detect strong points
- To detect possible niches in current services



Collaboration VSN & Utrecht University

A multidisciplinary team was formed to map the existing qualitative and quantitative evidence:

- Four methodologists of Utrecht University
- One senior policy maker of Victim Support Netherlands
- One full professor in Victimology affiliated with Tilburg University



Project description (1)

- Two systematic reviews
 - A qualitative evidence synthesis

To assess which responses from non-professionals (e.g. the social network, volunteers) are experienced as supportive by victims of human-afflicted crime.



Project description (1)

- Two systematic reviews
 - A qualitative evidence synthesis
 - A meta-analysis

To gain insight in empirical evidence for non-professional interventions aimed at these victims.



Project description (2)

Results of both reviews will be combined to:

- reveal whether the needs of victims are in line with existing interventions.
- trace possible niches in current interventions.

This combination of different reviews as a method is developed at the Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre (EPPI) in London.



Project description (3)

Advantages of combining different types of evidence:

- Integration of different types of findings;
- Comparison of findings with the practices of Victim Support Netherlands



Project description (4)

Possible weakness of the method:

- Findings can be too general for the specific context of Victim Support Netherlands

Therefore, we aim to move from a multi-context review into a context-specific review



Scientific outcomes

- A qualitative evidence synthesis giving an overview of the needs of victims of human-afflicted crime, accidents and other calamities.
- A meta-analysis resulting in measures of effectiveness for different interventions aimed at these groups of victims.
- A context-specific review giving an overview of evidence directly related to the practices of Victim Support Netherlands (e.g. reviewing grey literature, such as policy reports)



Practical outcomes

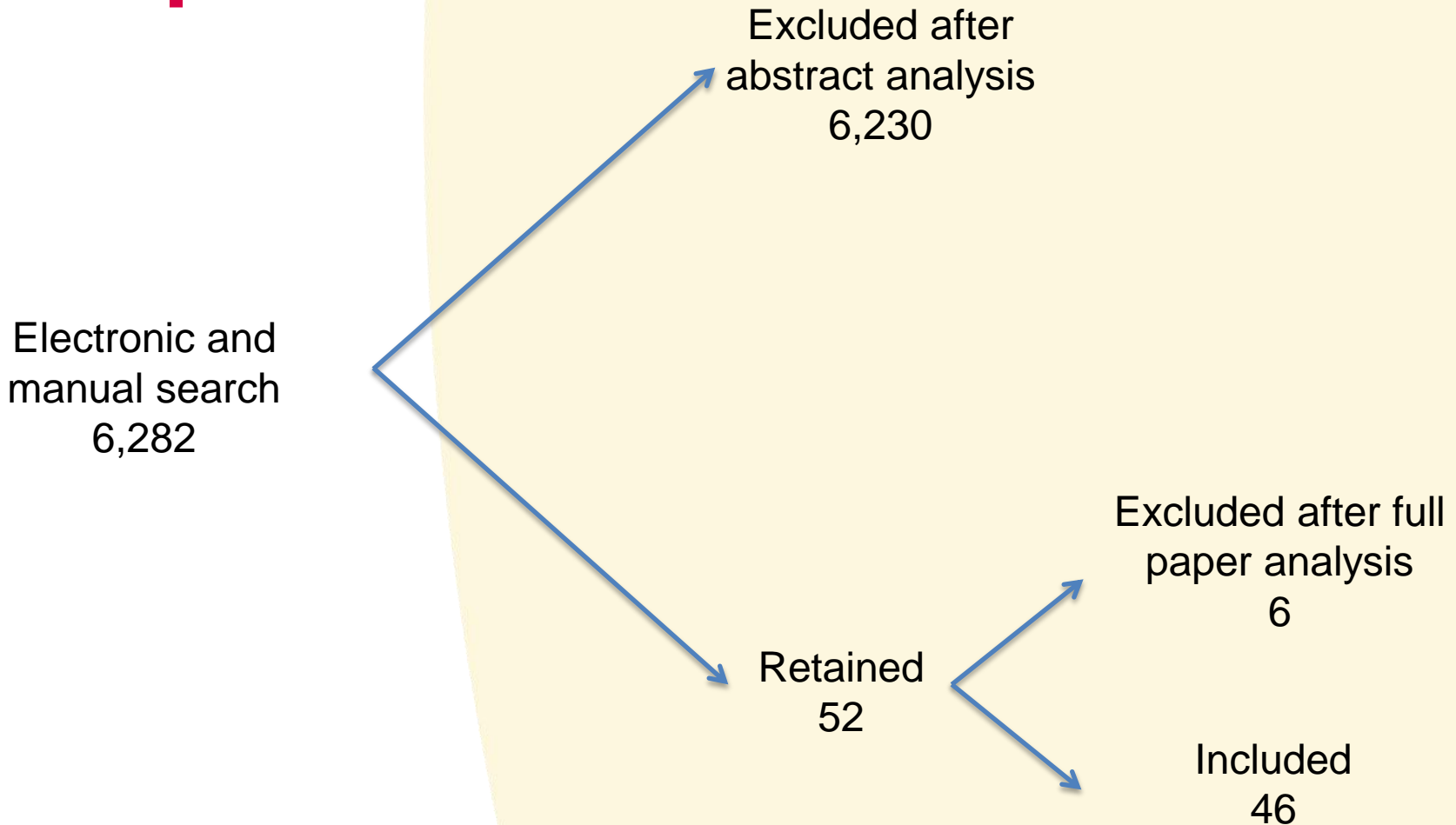
- A toolkit with guidelines which can be implemented in daily practice, to further improve the support services of Victim Support Netherlands.



Preliminary Results

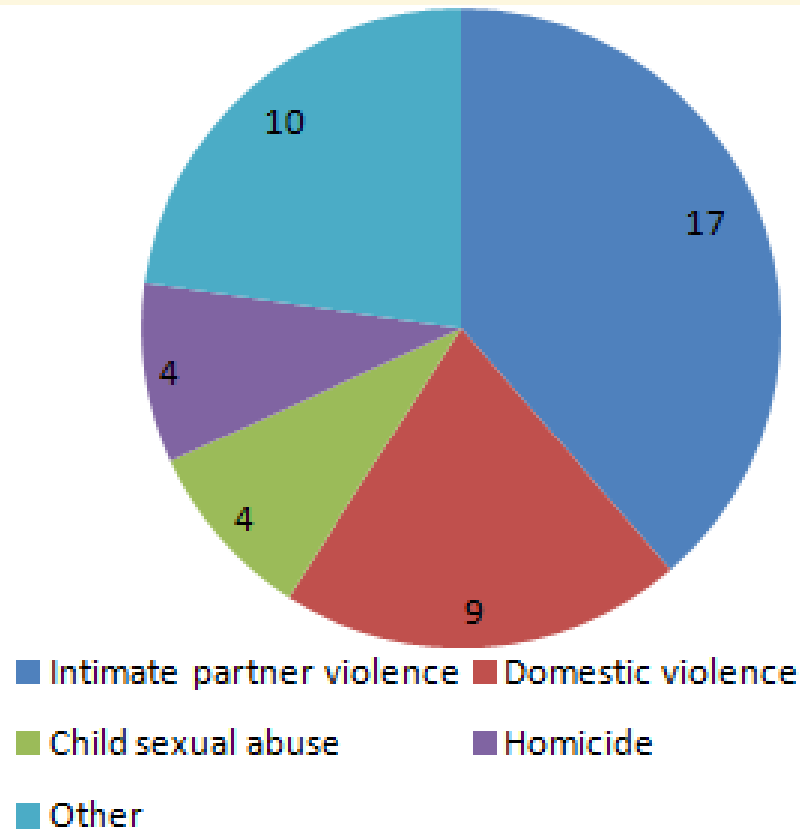


Paper search



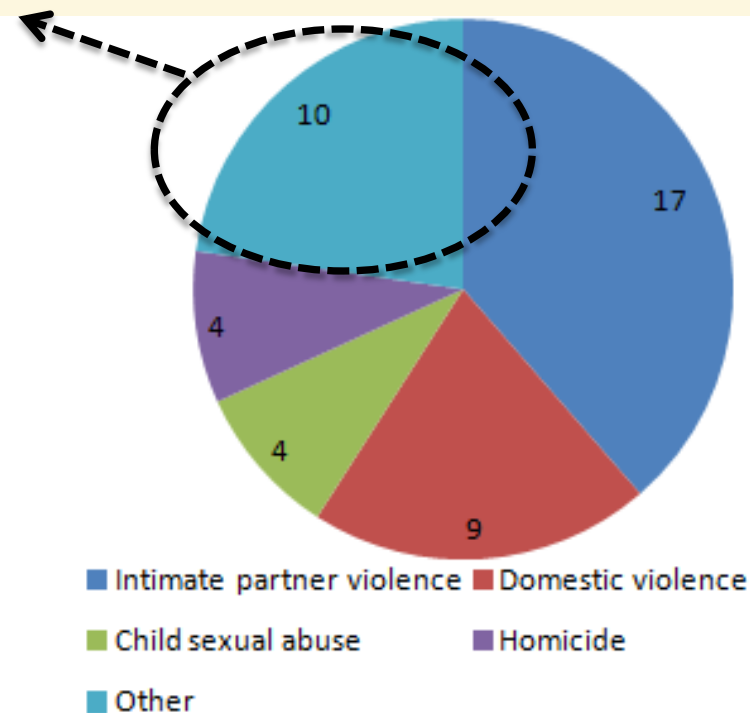
Incidents in identified studies

- Intimate partner violence
- Domestic violence
- Child sexual abuse
- Homicide
- Other



'Other' Incidents in studies

- Rape (3)
- Sexual assault (2)
- Sexual harassment (2)
- Dating violence (1)
- Traffic accident (1)
- Fire (1)





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QUESTIONS?



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