



The Orange House – Not secret, yet safe

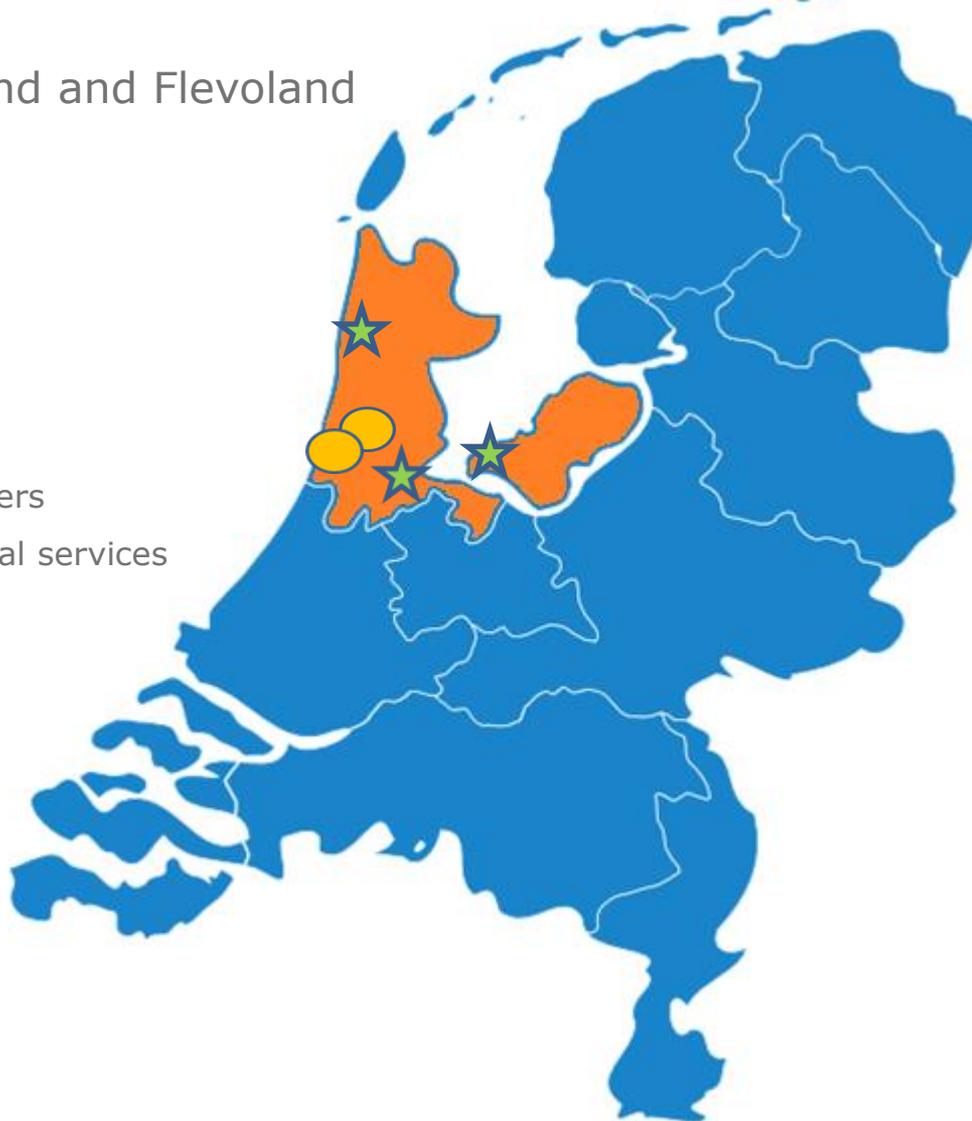
Blijf[®] groep
Thuis in
huiselijk
geweld

ORANJEHUIS

Working area Blijf groep

North Holland and Flevoland

- ★ Orange Houses
- Long-stay shelters
+ non-residential services





Alkmaar



Amsterdam

Almere



Facts & Figures 2018

*633 Kids in the shelters

*3.836 Clients

*592 Residential clients

*299 Employees (residential/non-residential)





From secret to safe: Creation of the Orange House method

+/-15 years ago: we have to change!

From a secret location → to an open setting

Focus on the victim → to a systemic
approach



Characteristics

- *Open setting

- >social problem
- >no longer a taboo

- *Safety & risk assesment

- >constantly adressing the dynamics of safety
- >collaboration with the stakeholders

- *Focus on all family members = Systemic approach

- >collaboration with the system
- >focus on consequences of DV for the children

- *Empowerment and autonomy

- *All services under one roof: shelter and non-residential services

What does this mean for the women in the shelter?

- Apartments are not shared
- Ex-partners and others from social network are being involved
- Child support program
- Multiple disciplinary approach





First process evaluation 2010

- Women felt respected in their needs
- Women felt safe in the open setting

Both women and professionals:

- Talking to the children and addressing their specific needs are very much appreciated and should get even more attention

Thanks for your attention!

Blijf[®]groep Thuis in
huiselijk
geweld

&

*Verwey-
Jonker*
Instituut

Blijf[®]groep Thuis in
huiselijk
geweld
O R A N J E H U I S

Orange House: Research Results

November 6, 2019

**Katinka Lünemann
Milou Lünemann
Mathilde Compagner**

Presentation set-up

- Research background
- Quantitative results
- Results of interviews
- Conclusion



Questionnaire survey set-up

Research period: 2017-2020

- Orange House Methodology: 100 families
 - Mothers, children between the ages of 8 and 18
 - With permission, (ex)husbands as well
- 3 measurements
 - Questionnaires (duration: approximately 1-2 hours)
 - T0, T1 (1 year), T2 (1,5 years)
 - The survey is anonymous, only researcher is present
- Target group
 - Anyone who masters the basics of Dutch

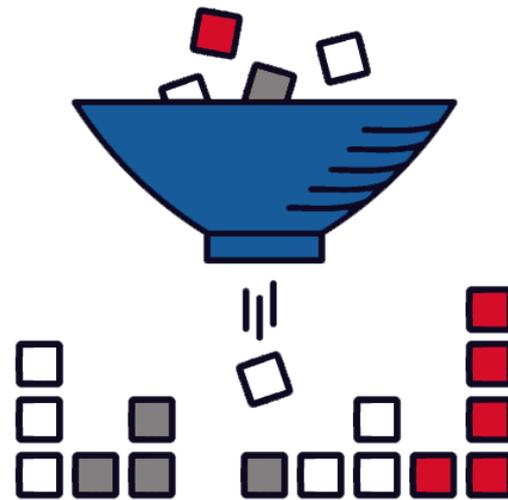


Interview set-up

- Casestudy **Dutch speaking** clients
 - Additional interviews with clients and children
 - Interviews social workers
- Further study **non-Dutch speaking** clients
 - Interviews (with interpreter) clients (children and partners)
 - Focus group social workers
 - Second round of interviews
 - Second focus group social workers



Quantitative Results



Number of participants

- Impact study
 - Baseline measurement: 98 women
(49 with children aged 3-18)
 - Second measurement: 45 women
(30 with children aged 3-18)
 - Of which 8 children (of 8 women) were added



Background clients

- Age: 25-34 (46%) 35-44 (25%)
- Ethnicity: Dutch (31%); first generation immigrant (41%); second generation immigrant (28%)
- Education: senior general education (50%), primary and secondary lower education (40%), higher education (10%)
- Paid work: around 20%
- Income: Nearly everybody income low (95%)



Trauma clients in childhood

| | |
|---|-----|
| Psychological abuse | 49% |
| Physical abuse | 51% |
| Sexual abuse | 37% |
| Mentally neglected | 49% |
| Physically neglected | 12% |
| Divorced parents | 53% |
| Abuse of mother (witness IPV) | 33% |
| Problem drinker, alcoholic or drug user at home | 32% |
| Depressed family member (attempted suicide) | 30% |
| Family member in prison | 25% |

Trauma

Trauma clients

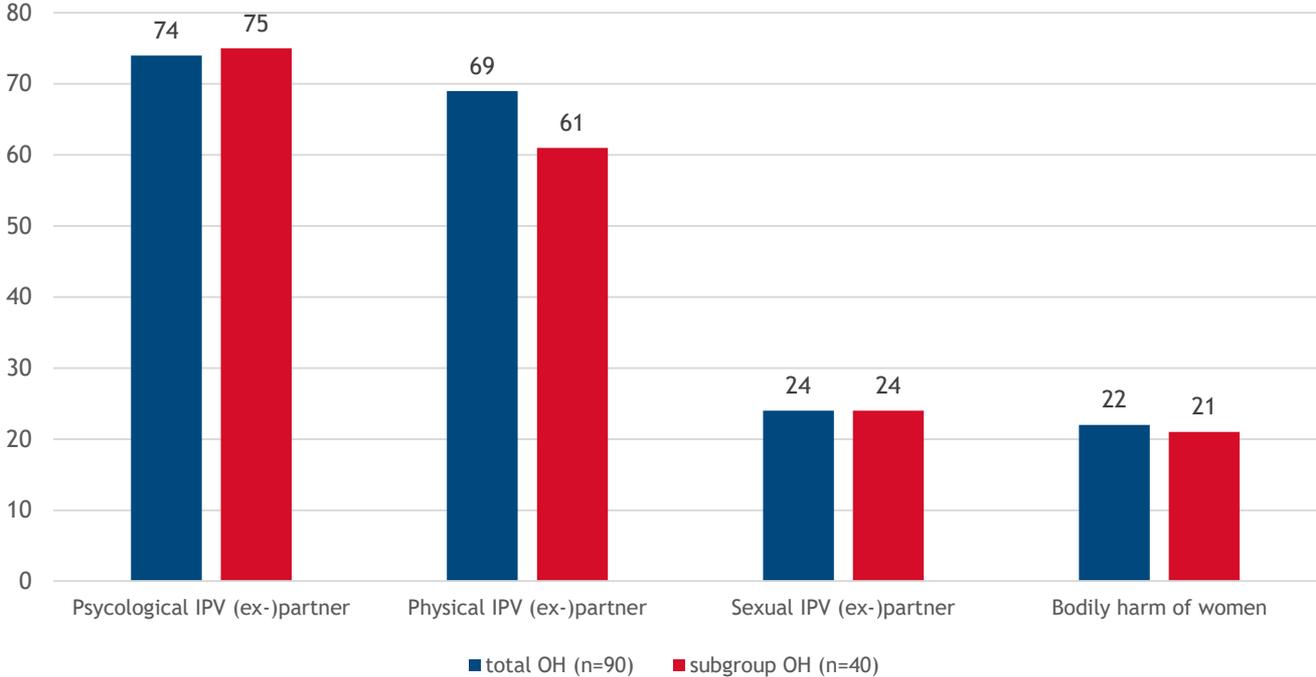
- 40 % clinical trauma
- Trauma average of 3
 - Depression, fear, anger, PTSD (backlashes, avoidance of situations)

Trauma children

- 35 % clinical trauma
- 15 % subclinical trauma
 - Trauma average of 3
 - Anxiety, symptoms of despression, PTSD



Violence past year (baseline measurement)



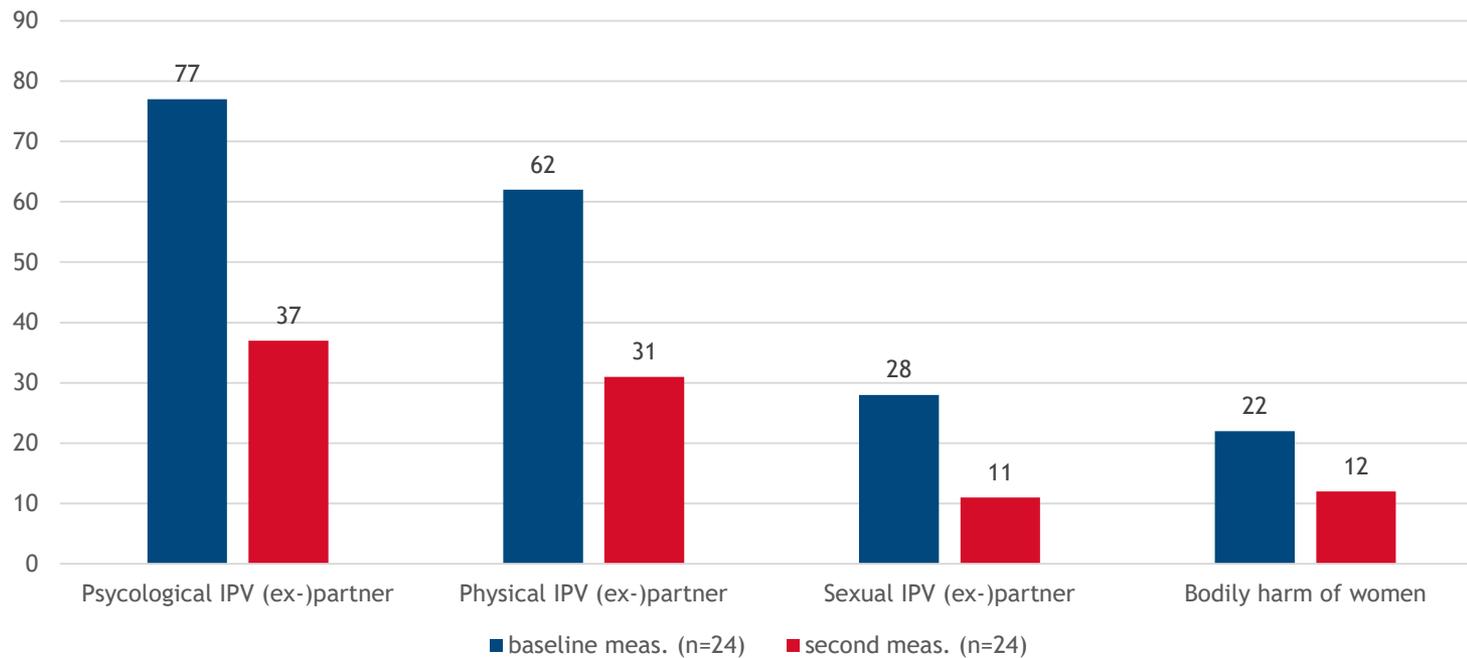
Violence in the past year (second measurement)

- Violence has stopped (n=10)
 - 9 ex-partner
 - 1 current partner (new)
- Violence still present in the past year (n=24)
 - 19 ex-partner
 - 5 current partner (2 new partners)
- Violence unknown (n=11)

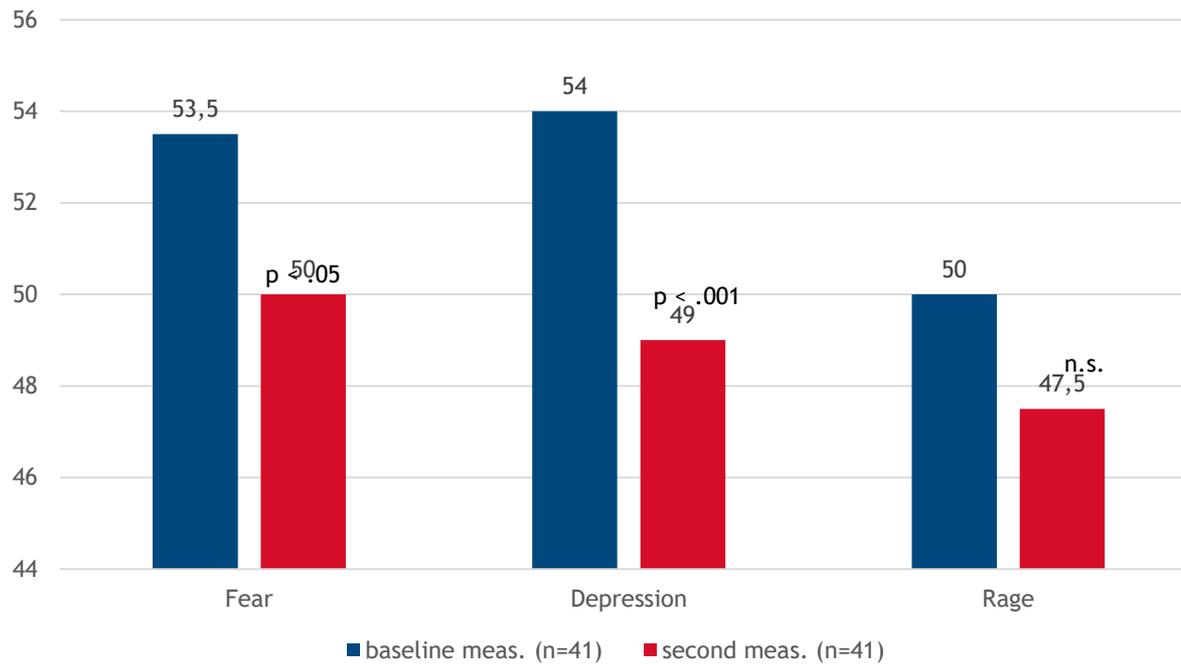


Violence past year (baseline/second measurement)

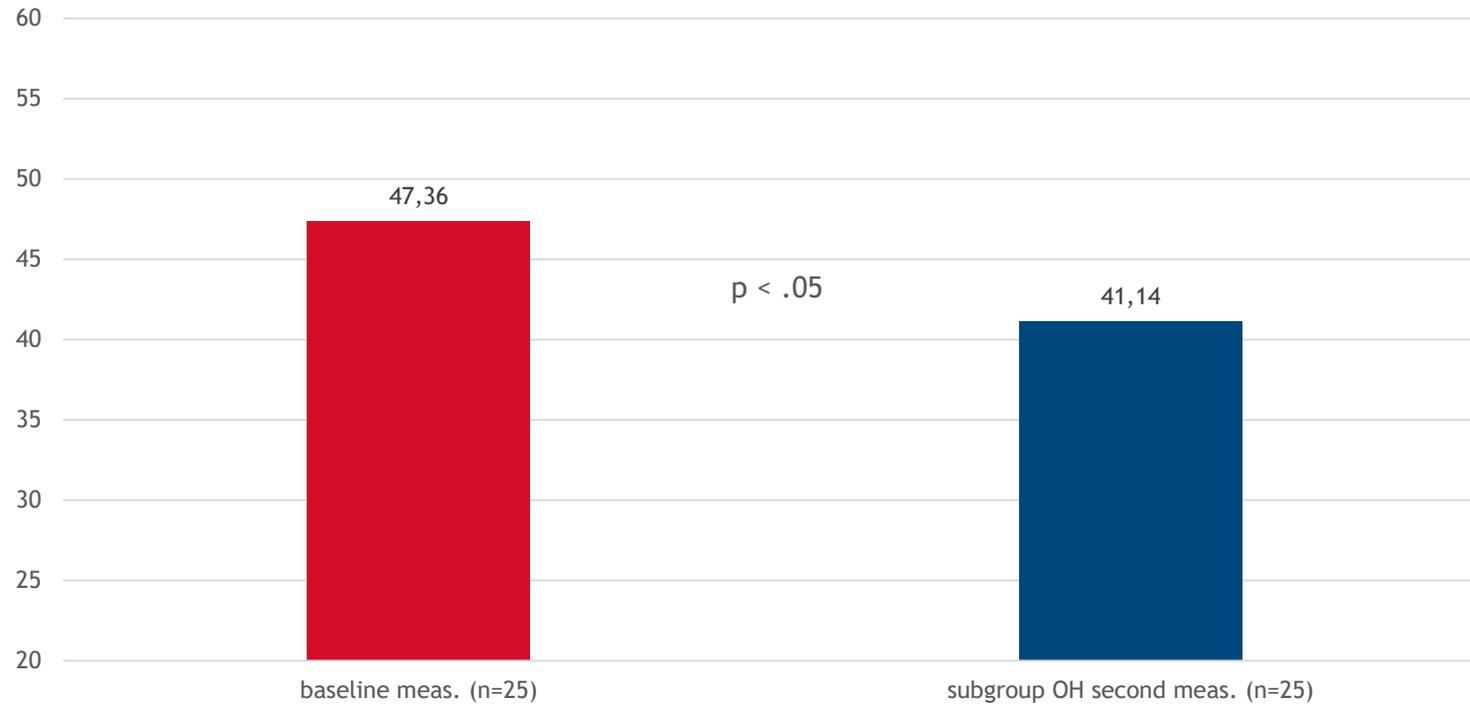
group ongoing violence (n=24)



Trauma (baseline/second measurement)

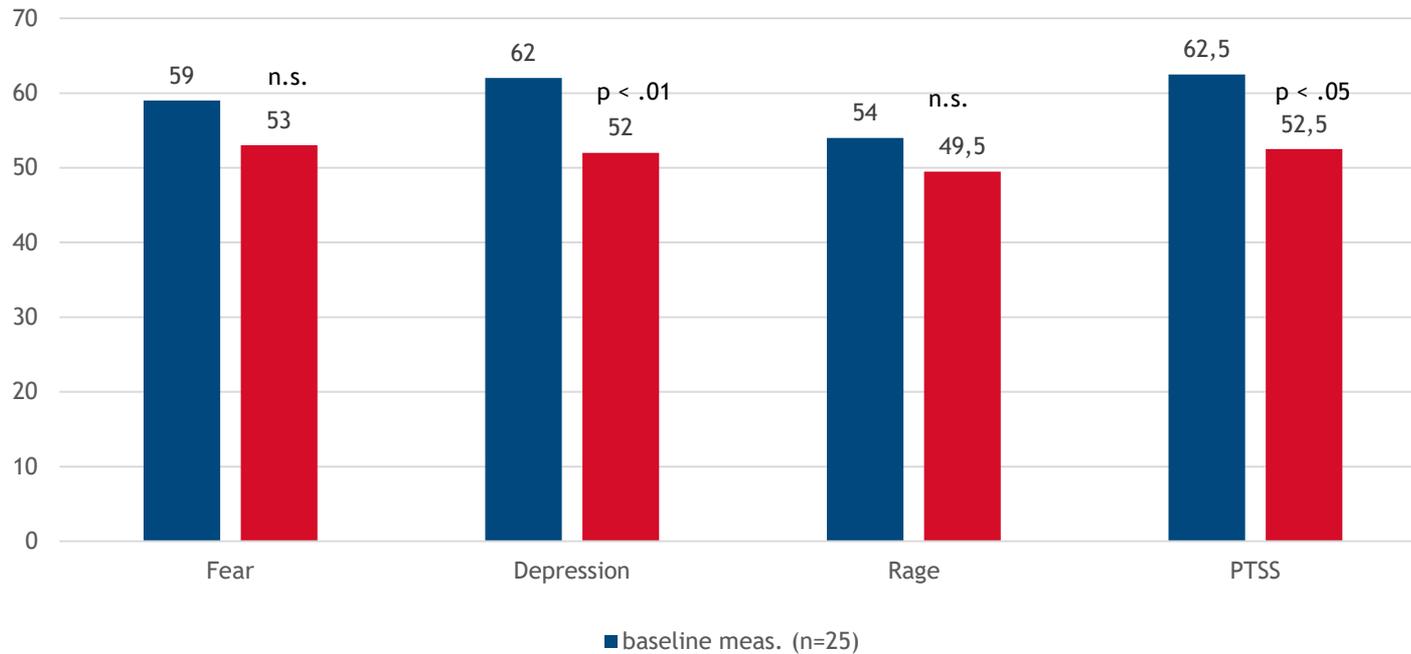


Decreasing parental stress

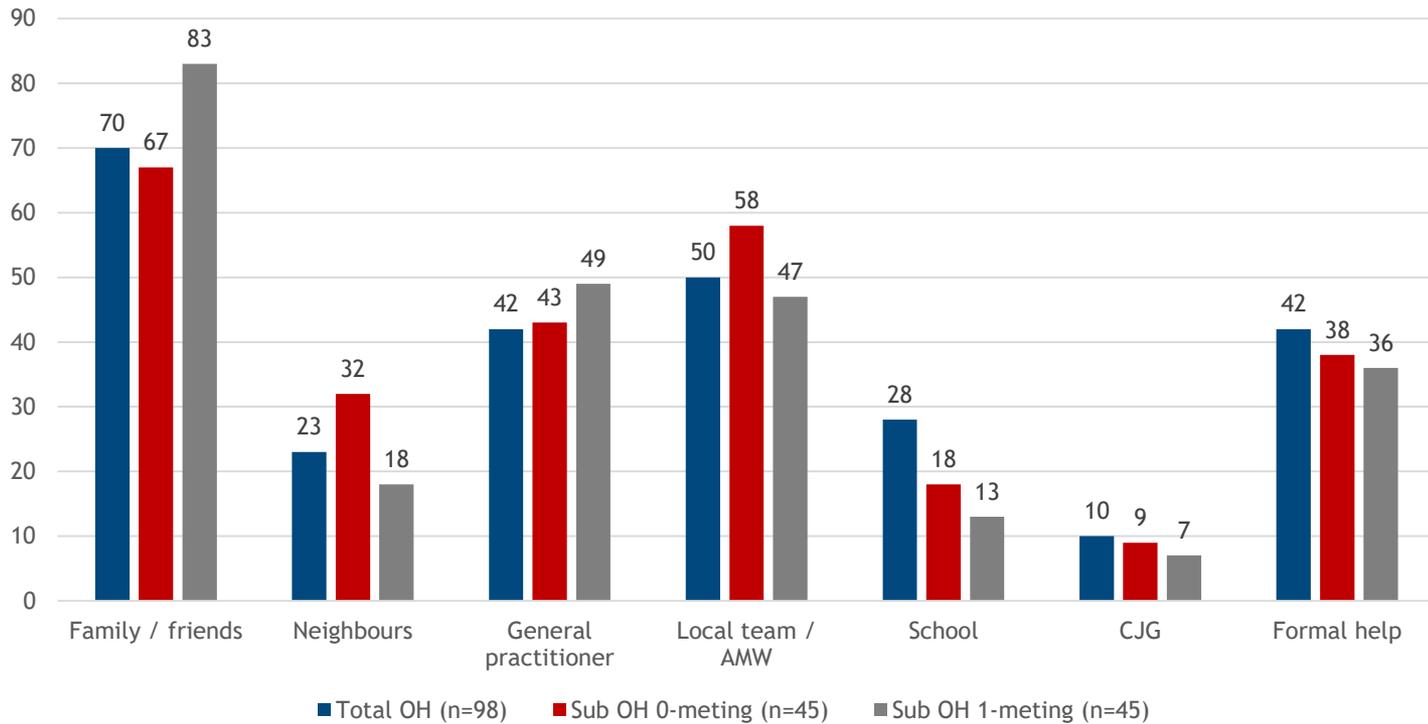


Trauma children (baseline/second measurement)

Trauma scores of children baseline meas. vs. second meas.



Help and support



To conclude: effects after a year

- Violence stops at a minimum of 20%
- Violence reduces (halves)
- Decreasing trauma and parenting stress of mother
- Decreasing trauma child
- Growing social network and contact family doctor
- Decreasing professional help (social work / mental health care)



Interview Results



Number of participants

- Interviews **Dutch speaking** clients
 - After second measurement
 - 9 women and 2 children
- Interviews **non-Dutch speaking** clients
 - Two interview rounds
 - 14 women (2 conversations with 7 of them)



Variation clients

- **Dutch speaking** clients
 - With or without children, age
 - Mild intellectual disability, child protection, addiction, intergenerational
 - Independent versus vulnerable
- **Non-Dutch speaking** clients
 - Variety in ethnic background, relatively high education, 2 or more children
 - Extreme severe abuse
 - Forced marriage (over a quarter)



Positive experiences

Non-Dutch speaking women

- Reflect with positivity on Orange House
- Great appreciation for social worker
- Increasing personal growth towards independence
- Language no big deal but time is problem (cultural differences)

Dutch speaking women

- Happy with accommodation
- Awareness impact of violence on children
- Support of social worker in relation to child protection



Orange House characteristics: Safety and independence

- Open setting, but safe
- Sense of safety inside the building
- Safety improved, safetyplan,
- Increasing own safety
 - Talking with social worker
 - Resilience training
- AWARE after shelter is offered when needed

- Independence
 - Self confidence
 - Empowering
 - Client-centered



Orange House characteristics: system-based approach

- Concerning children
 - “It’s Tony turtle time” for child (and mother)
 - Special child support and activities, parenting support
 - Pets are welcome
- Concerning (ex)partner
 - Reporting /by telephone/appointment
 - Occasionally conversations regarding the relationship
- Social support
 - Engaging social network
 - Less contact with family (taboo on divorce) **non-Dutch speaking**



Orange House characteristics: coherence of help

- System-based help by social workers
 - Patterns in youth
 - Patterns and dynamic in relationship
- Specialised external help within Orange House (psychologist)
- Collaboration with other organizations (voluntary organisations; Youth Care; International Fund of Animal Welfare)



Critical notes

- **Non-Dutch speaking** clients
 - First round: very grateful and hardly critical notes
 - Second round: transition to independent living, aftercare
- **Dutch speaking** clients
 - Loneliness on arrival (weekend)
 - Dealing with blowing/alcohol
 - Aftercare



Conclusion

- Women and children are doing better after a year
- Violence decreased or stopped
- Trauma women and children decreased
- Quality of life women improved
- **Non-Dutch speaking** clients big step towards independence
- Important role of social workers
- More attention children than 10 years ago
- More attention to partners and aftercare is needed



Questions?

Katinka Lünemann
klunemann@verwey-jonker.nl