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Barriers by professionals in primary care in discussing children of substance abusing parents

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Background:

Children of substance abusing parents are more at risk to develop addiction or psychiatric problems than children of healthy parents. It is therefore important to detect in an early stage, which consequences the problems of the parents might have on the child. Previous research shows that within addiction care children of substance abusing parents are not always in the picture. However for early detection it is at least as important to discuss the influence of parental substance abuse on the children in primary care: early detection of problems in children contributes in starting prevention or treatment programs in a timely manner, so that the chance that a child grows up safely will increase.

Aim:

To gain insight in the barriers of professionals working in primary care and public health in bringing up the topic of children in a conversation with substance abusing parents.

Methods:

A qualitative design was used. 15 interviews have been conducted with participants consisting of primary care and public health professionals in the Netherlands. By discussing several themes, information on the barriers experienced by the professionals were obtained, written down and analyzed.

Results:

The results are being analyzed at this moment, but will be ready to present at the congress in November. The interviews will show which barriers are experienced by the participants. Based on literature the expectation is that the barriers can be divided in three categories: barriers on the content of care, moral dilemma's and organizational barriers.

Conclusions:

The results of this study will provide insight in the barriers of professionals in primary and public health on discussing the circumstances of children of substance abusing parents. Knowing these barriers might serve as input for interventions to remove these barriers and for recommendations to improve so that children of substance abusing parents receive (preventive) care earlier.

Key messages:

- Gain insight in barriers of professionals in primary care and public health on discussing circumstances of children of substance abusing parents.
- input for interventions so that children of substance abusing parents receive care earlier.