

Promising Preventive Practices for Youth Criminality in NL



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- Background & definitions in NL
- Trends
- Promising preventive practices (a few examples)



Youth Criminality in NL, a little background

Children younger than 12:

No criminal persecution or punishment possible.

Police can 'act', and can arrest and question them. Under 12 a child who has done something criminal is always reported to Youth Care who will need to do a follow-up.



Children 12-18 years old:

- After a criminal act they can be referred to Bureau Halt. There he/she gets a so-called 'educational punishment' (Halt-afdoening). He/she gets the chance to learn from his/her mistakes and to repair any damage done. This is only for lighter offences and if the young person has not been in contact with police and justice before. Is he/she not a first offender, than the Public Prosecutor can propose a punishment or refer it to the Judge/Court to decide.

Halt.

<http://www.halt.nl/index.cfm/site/Halt%20English/pageid/D9989BCF-E081-2F5B-42151D164C61CC4D/index.cfm>



12-18 years

For this group the Juvenile Criminal Law applies, but a judge can decide to persecute a 16/17 year old according to the adult criminal law. Therefore longer prison sentences are possible. Besides a prison sentence or a monetary punishment, it is also possible that young people in this age group are given a monitoring/support measure through the Youth Parole System or that they get an 'educational punishment'. The so called Board on Child Protection always gives advice to the judge in these cases. Currently the government are working on a new law for 16-23 year olds, called 'adolescent criminal law'.





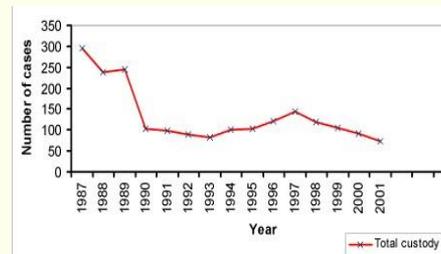
In NL the following groups of youth offenders are recognized (by the police):

- At risk youth: These have not yet offended, but the risk is there that they will do.
- First offenders: young people who have been arrested by the police for the first time for a criminal act.
- Light criminal youth: these have been arrested more than once
- Repeat offenders (“veelplegers”); young people that commit many criminal acts, but of a less serious nature than the ‘hard core’
- Hard core youth: children and young people 12 to 21 of age who have committed serious criminal offences and have been in contact with police and justice before.



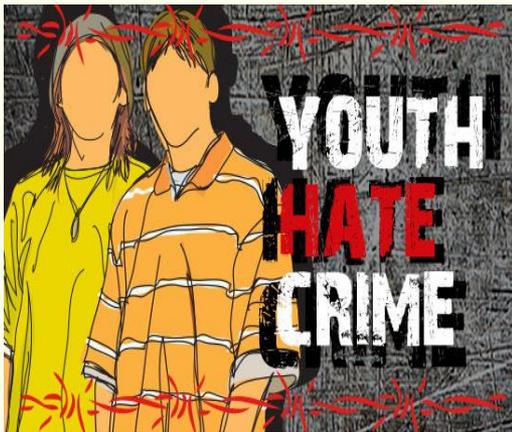
Trends in Youth Criminality in NL

The Dutch government aimed to reduce crime by 25% between 2002 and 2010. For juvenile crime, this meant a reduction by 10%. In The Netherlands, a number of facilities, such as 'Justice to young people' (in Dutch: Jeugd Terecht) and the Halt programme dealt specifically with the implementation of juvenile criminal law, which applies to young people aged 12 to 17 years.



Trends

Juvenile sentencing is historically largely pedagogic and corrective in nature. In the Netherlands, juvenile criminal law can also be applied to 18 to 21 year olds if the Court decides that this is appropriate for the particular offender, or if there were special circumstances relating to the crime. By the same rationale, 16 to 17 year olds may be subjected to adult law.



Trends

Researching juvenile crime shows different trends:

- The report [Youth crime in the period 1996-2010 \(June 2011\)](#) of the Scientific Research and Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Security and Justice and the Central Bureau of Statistics shows a decrease in the number of juvenile delinquents after the number had grown for years. The decrease is especially noticeable in theft and handling stolen goods.



Trends

Another study of the Scientific Research and Documentation Centre 'More juvenile suspects, but why?' (June 2011) sees a growth of the number of juvenile suspects of violent crimes and explains this through less social control on the streets, increase of the number of high school students and selective law enforcement, such as more attention by police and justice for young people and in risk areas.



Promising Preventive Practices in NL

Interventions aimed at the prevention and reduction of delinquent behaviour can be divided in

- (1) interventions for a full population of children or juveniles (i.e., schools or neighbourhoods) (primary prevention);
- (2) interventions for juveniles showing minor antisocial and delinquent behaviour, who are not yet classified as serious delinquents (secondary prevention) and
- (3) interventions for juveniles who can be classified as chronic or persistent delinquents (tertiary prevention).



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A meta-analysis showed that secondary prevention programmes are more effective if the following components are part of the intervention

- (1) positive role models;
- (2) behavioural contracting;
- (3) parenting skills training and;
- (4) stimulating positive use of leisure time in a group setting.

Next to this, more effective interventions

- (5) target the family system, including siblings.



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Peer Mediation

Peer mediation (by Halt Noord Nederland) is a form of conflict mediation in which pupils learn to find a solution under the supervision of one or two other students.

Schools cannot avoid conflicts but they can keep them under control and resolve them. Peer mediation can make a positive difference in this respect.

Practice has shown that pupils are more inclined to listen to their peers. Children of the same age group find it easier to communicate with one another as they do not have to adapt their language and can just be who they are.



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Go4it

The Go4it project (by Halt Hollands Midden Haaglanden) offers useful leisure time activities to juveniles in their neighbourhood as an alternative to loitering, nuisance and vandalism.

Go4it contributes to an improved quality of life in local neighbourhoods, by involving young people and making them jointly responsible for the public space and by making their efforts visible to local residents.

Go4it focuses on the neighbourhood and always works with the local residents and links up with activities initiated by other organisations and assistance institutions.

Young people undertake activities for the project on a voluntary basis and they receive pocket money for making a positive contribution to the neighbourhood.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxdOZ>

[XkW2TA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxdOZXkW2TA)



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OvTJ - Parents of unruly youth

A parenting support programme consisting of interventions and support materials for parents of young offenders or those at risk of offending, and professionally trained workers.

The aim of the programme is to make the preventive approach of juvenile crime more effective and consequently reduce the number of first time offenders and to curb re-offending.

Target Group

Parents of juveniles at an increased risk of offending are the target group. These are parents either of children who have not or not yet come into contact with the police, but who, due to a chain of risk factors, are more likely to commit crimes or parents of actual young offenders.

Discussions with the parents focus on the kind of support they want and what the professional worker deems suitable.

The programme consists of **five** parenting support interventions that differ in intensity, objectives, target groups and methods.

Parents are supposed to improve their parenting skills as a result of which their children will no longer commit offences.



Nieuwe Perspectieven (New Perspectives)

The main goal of New Perspectives is the prevention of criminal/risky behaviour, as well as the prevention of repeat criminal behaviour. This is achieved by giving the young people “new perspectives” in different areas of life in which they have problems, such as for example housing, health, family life and friends, or budget control. Solving problems in the different areas are subgoals. Per living area subgoals are formulated, depending on the problems.

New Perspectives is aimed at different groups of young people (boys and girls) aged 12 to 23 years old who, from a society perspective, are showing risk or delinquent behaviour, and that have problems in different areas of life, such as within the family, at school or in their free time. Youth who are considered ‘hard core’ criminals are not a target group!





New Perspectives

The approach has 3 phases:

1. Meeting, enlisting and intake, resulting in a 'social environment' analysis and a plan of action for different areas of life, in which the young person and intervention worker commit.
2. In the second phase work is being done on solutions. The young person is intensively, individually supported in realizing the different subgoals. At the same time a social network is being built from which the young people can profit after the intervention. NP also has a bridging function towards follow-up trajectories, that are provided by regular services, such as for example work, education, training and care.
3. The third phase is one of after care. In a period of 3 months there are still contacts between the young person, the intervention worker and the social network. If necessary support is given.



Met

Wil je het roer omgooien? Wil je vanuit je sterke kanten werken aan je eigen toekomst? Heb je een positieve houding? Dan kan jij terecht bij Nieuwe Perspectieven Rotterdam.

Nieuwe

Perspectieven

Ben jij tussen de 12 en 24 jaar, loop je vast op school, op het werk, op straat of thuis... of ben je in aanraking gekomen met de politie... Nieuwe Perspectieven kan je helpen!

Rotterdam

In korte tijd, maximaal veertien weken, krijg je intensieve hulp waarbij jij centraal staat. Het gaat om jouw toekomst, jouw wensen en jouw kansen. Je leert hoe je je eigen situatie kunt verbeteren en hoe je problemen zelf oplost.

werk je

aan jouw

toekomst

Om je goed te kunnen helpen, verwachten we dat jij je aangemaakte afspraken houdt. Nieuwe Perspectieven biedt jou een medewerker die steeds voor je klaar staat en veel tijd voor je heeft, iemand die naar jou toekomt, iemand die je in je eigen omgeving opzoekt.

Bij Nieuwe Perspectieven ben jij het middelpunt. Daar beginnen we: bij wat jij wilt en waar jij goed in bent.



I'm here for putting
too much jam on my scone -
what about you?



Merci! Dankje!
Thanks!

www.icdi.nl

