Sexual and reproductive health and rights of refugees & undocumented migrants
- from evidence to sharing stories -

Simone Goosen
A safe and healthy future?
Epidemiological studies on the health of asylum seekers and refugees in the Netherlands

Simone Goosen

Research & practice & policy
## Access to sexual and reproductive health care (SRHR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lack of knowledge of health and health system &amp; social network</th>
<th>Financial arrangements</th>
<th>Interpreter use, health professionals commitment &amp; care path</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asylum seekers (Asielzoekers)</td>
<td></td>
<td>COA 23.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refugees w. residence permit (Statushouders)</td>
<td></td>
<td>220.000 (CBS largest non-W. countries only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undocumented migrants (Ongedocumenteerden)</td>
<td></td>
<td>WODC est. 20.000 - 63.000</td>
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General recommendations for health care for refugees

- Help women & families navigate the health system
- Use professional medical interpreters
- Establish (clinical) connections (continuity of care)
- Have clinical suspicion for common chronic & infectious diseases
- Integrate mental health care in primary care
Number of first asylum requests in NL per year (CBS)

- **First asylum requests**
- **Family reunification (2013-2017)**
Number of live births in NL per year by country of origin mother (CBS Statline)

- Syria
- Somalia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Eritrea

Years: 2010 to 2017

- 2010: 300
- 2011: 320
- 2012: 380
- 2013: 510
- 2014: 1,150
- 2015: 1,860
- 2016: 2,170
- 2017: 2,750

Key:
- Green: Syria
- Blue: Somalia
- Yellow: Iran
- Gray: Iraq
- Orange: Eritrea
- Blue: Afghanistan
Number of perinatal deaths ‘other non-western’:

- 2005: 164
- 2010: 119
- 2015: 144
Maternal mortality in NL by origin mother
1996 - 2005
Focus on life course approach

E.g. Kansrijke start - Nu niet Zwanger
Centering pregnancy – Centering parenting
- Wijzer in de liefde - Zanzu.nl -
In all recommendations:

Organise maternal health sessions .... ensuring the engagement of a competent women’s group who can be trained as peer educators

*e.g. M. Abdelwahab, scriptie, 2018*
Theme 2 – prevention of unintended pregnancies

Birth rate per 1,000 women per year

Estimation for COA reception
2013 – 2015

Netherlands 2014 - 2015

Rutgers, GGD GHOR Nederland

CBS
Theme 3 – family attachment

Mental health of pregnant migrants from low & middle income countries

- 31% perinatal depressive disorder
- 17% perinatal major depressive disorder

*Fellmeth, Fazel, Plugge BJOG, 2017*

Importance of family attachment

.... help those families that are not doing well to find a different pathway and deviate from malfunctioning

*Elisa van Ee, thesis, 2013*
Priorities for reproductive health

- Promote building social support & resilience
- Prevention of teenage & unintended pregnancies
- Attachment mother, father, baby & older children

Interpreter costs & use

More evidence: reviews Heslehurst, BMC Medicine, 2018 and Goosen et al., NTVG, 2010
Reflect on your role(s)

Health professional  Researcher
Policy advisor  Activist  Lobbyist
Driver  Guide  Interpreter

.............

Become a trusted advisor
Share stories on the use (+ & -) of professional interpreters in health care

Learn more about interpreter use: www.nspoh/e-learning
Bron: Humans of Heumensoord

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