

Safeguarding Children in Sport: from research to action

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#wewinnenveelmetsport



Rabobank



From Research to action

Incidents reported in 1996 (three elite athletes announced that their coach had sexually abused them) led the Dutch sports world to call for a preventive policy on sexual harassment and abuse. The NOC*NSF commissioned *a study into the risk factors* for sexual intimidation in sport (Cense, 1997). The researchers identified clusters of risk factors associated with 1) the coach, 2) the sport context, and 3) the athlete. The findings of this study were used to underpin the new policy. A lot of instruments were developed since then. It remained unclear how big the problem of SHAB was.

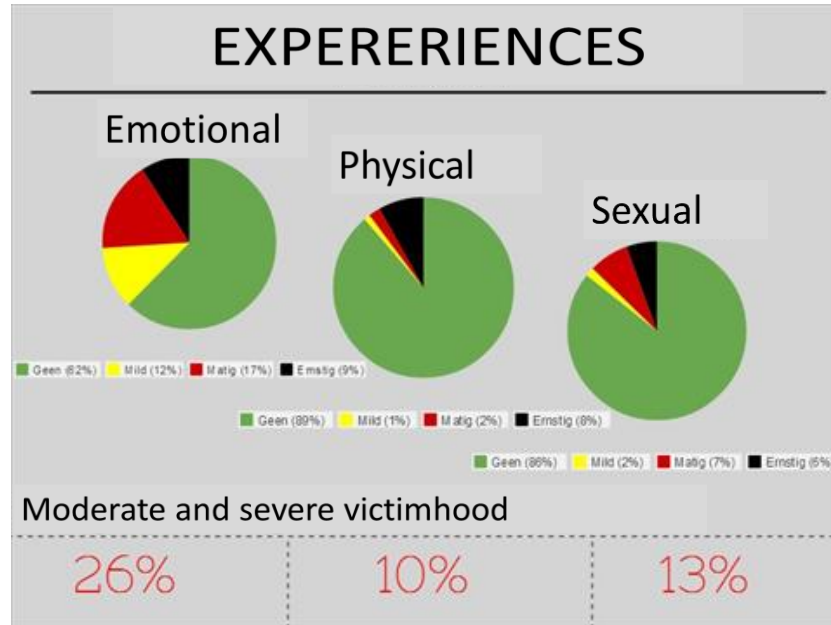
Research on the *prevalence* of sexual intimidation (2005; 2014; 2019) and research *into the use of* sexual intimidation policy instruments in sport (2011) emerged years later.

Also, the NOC*NSF database with over ten years of reports of incidents (The Hotline, 2000-2010) were analyzed (2011).

All studies (which revealed high incidence levels) lead to sustained increased attention for SHAB. Leading towards an intensive study in 2017 (#MeToo in NL).

Transgressive behavior in Dutch Sports – 2014/2015

commissioned by
NOC * NSF
and the Ministry of Sport
Flanders (BE)



Transgressive behavior in Dutch Sports – Prevalence Research: Questionnaire

Every form of transgressive behavior consists of a number of specific events or behaviors.
Questionnaire Vertommen et.al. (2015)

Emotional:	15 events such as: to be humiliated; being bullied; damaging things.
Physical:	11 events such as: being pushed; be beaten; being caught by the throat.
Sexual:	21 events such as: being spied on; seeing pornographic images; being touched with a sexual connotation

Per event it was possible to indicate whether this never, once or regularly happened. Severe score is a combination of frequency and severity of the event (by experts).

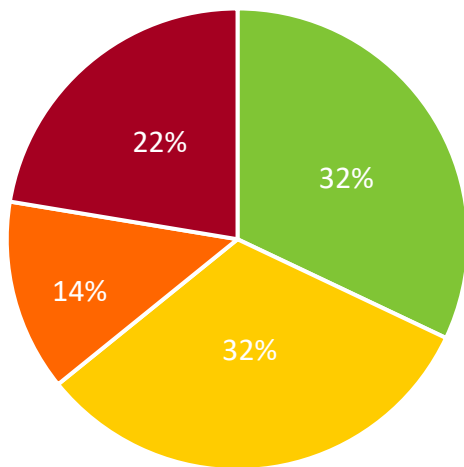
New in 2020 was an extra question (Mulder et.al., 2020):

For each of the events that occurred once or regularly, it was asked *whether or not the event in question made an impression*. Severity score is a combination of frequency, severity of the event (by experts) and impression.

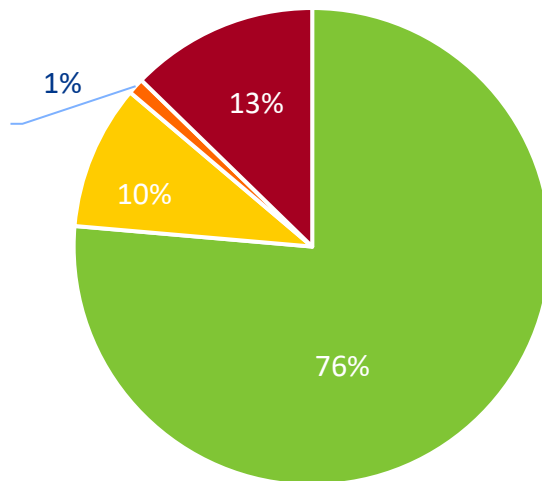
Transgressive behavior in Dutch Sports – 2019/2020

commissioned by
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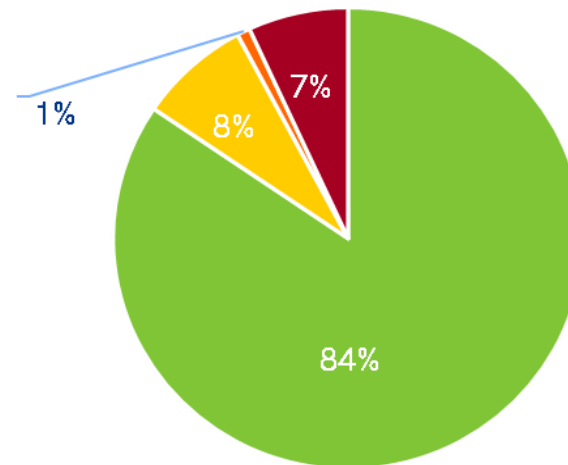
Emotional



Physical



Sexual



Bron: Mulder, Cuelenaere, Elshout, Farzan & Zandvliet, 2020

■ Geen ■ Mild ■ Matig ■ Ernstig
None – Mild – Moderate – Severe



Safe sport climate is more than SHAB

Dutch policies with regard to sexuality and gender in sport contexts are aimed at preventing sexual and gender-based violence and formulating adequate responses in case of incidents.

For a healthy development of youngsters in sport, we need more. Therefore, in Dutch sport context there is also focus on personal integrity and positive ethics.

In the National Treaty (2018) a positive sport climate is one out of six ambitions.

The NL Sports Council recognizes the great value that sport and exercise can have in the development and education of children (NLsportraad, Onderwijsraad & RVS, 2018). In addition, the Council sees a positive effect of introducing a pedagogical climate on the prevention of undesirable behavior.



Safe sport climate included in a pedagogical sport climate

We now work on a specific strategy for youth sport.



A Pedagogical Sport Climate = a positive safe learning climate in which we help young people develop in and through sport, which can theoretically be divided into four pillars: development oriented-, motivational-, caring- and a social safe climate.

[The Pedagogical Sport Compass \(English subtitles\) - YouTube](#)



Thank you for your attention.



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