

Reducing sexual health disparities in the Netherlands

Various groups are at risk of poor sexual health. They are also not sufficiently reached by care and support. How can this be improved? This was investigated by Maastricht University, commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport.



Research methods



- Literature research
- Questionnaire for professionals
- Interviews and group discussions with professionals, people from the target groups and policymakers

What can be improved in sexual health care and support?

- Clearer information
- Make it easier to make an appointment
- Locations closer to the target group
- Healthcare providers discuss sexual health more often or refer appropriately
- Healthcare providers take into account the patient's cultural background and values

Target groups

People from these groups are at higher risk of poor sexual health and are not sufficiently reached by care and support:

- Practical education level
- Low income
- Difficulty reading and writing
- Migration background
- Intellectual disability
- Physical disability or chronic condition or illness
- LGBTQI+
- Sex workers
- Young people in youth care and child protection services



Recommendations

- More attention for sexual health in the education of healthcare professionals
- More cooperation between professionals, organizations and institutions
- More cooperation with people from the target group
- A Social Map for care and support for sexual health
- More outreach work: go to the target group more
- Reimbursement for more care and support for sexual health

[Read the full report here](#)