

KEY FINDINGS

# RutiiNiksi

EARLY INTERVENTION IN CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AT MATERNITY AND CHILD HEALTH CARE CLINICS



The Rutiiniksi project (2011–2013) researched and evaluated methods used at maternity and child health care clinics for identifying and intervening in domestic violence cases and guiding victims to further treatment. University of Helsinki's Palmenia Centre for Continuing Education acted as the project coordinator together with the National Institute for Health and Welfare. A total of 187 of the sector's stakeholders from all over Finland participated in project training. 134 of these were nurses and physicians working at maternity and child health care clinics. The multisectoral section of the training attracted professionals of psychosocial services, family work and preschool education, as well as professionals from the Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters and ones working with the police and organisations operating in the area.

In addition to the training course, the project piloted and assessed the routine enquiry into domestic violence form, developed by the National Institute for Health and Welfare, as a tool for maternity and child health care clinics. The project entailed an empirical qualitative study on the assessment of the previously used "broaching the subject" method, and a quantitative study examining the chances of parents of under-18 children who had experienced domestic violence to be provided with health care services in Finland. Moreover, the project evaluated the identification of domestic violence and "broaching the subject" tools as part of the nationwide monitoring of maternity and child health care clinics and school health care.

## **IDENTIFYING AND INTERVENING IN DOMESTIC-VIOLENCE CASES REQUIRES THE SKILL OF BROACHING THE SUBJECT.**

Identifying and intervening in domestic-violence cases requires the courage and professional capacity to encounter a customer who has experienced domestic violence. Being aware of their role as part of the professional assistance chain and of how to act in different situations helps health care professionals in their work. Judicial and child welfare-related factors must be taken into account in cases of domestic violence.

The TE-funded (promotion of health) three-year project (2011–2013) answered the challenge to generate and provide information about identifying and broaching domestic violence at maternity and child health care clinics. This information was used to assess and pilot a practice whose aim was to provide assistance for broaching the subject of domestic violence and intervening in domestic-violence cases on a local basis. The training programme challenged stakeholders from various sectors to build a multisectoral treatment path model for maternity and child health care clinics in cooperation with clinical nurses and physicians.

### **GOALS**

The RutiiNiksi project sought good methods for broaching the subject of close-relationship and domestic violence at maternity and child health care clinics.

#### **The project's goal was approached in a systematic manner**

- by collecting information on the service chains and identification tools for violence used at maternity and child health care clinics on a nationwide basis
- by generating information on the usefulness of violence identification tools as part of interventions
- by creating common practices for preventing domestic violence
- by training staff at maternity and child health care clinics to identify and broach the subject of violence and intervene in such cases
- by supporting work at clinics and the welfare of families with children by means of material and guidelines

## KEY FINDINGS

### The project:

- Produced information on the use of the domestic violence form and broaching the subject of domestic violence at maternity and child health care clinics and school health care services. The study covered 95 per cent of health care centres that used the routine enquiry into domestic violence form. The study examined service use by families with children that used the form and had experienced violence or other stressful factors. Included were families that had experienced violence or other stressful factors. Moreover, the project examined experiences of the "broaching the subject" method from the customers' perspective.
- Piloted the National Institute for Health and Welfare's the routine enquiry into domestic violence form (user experiences).
- Produced electronic support material instructions for the practical implementation of the close-relationship and domestic violence filter and assessment form (<https://blogs.helsinki.fi/rutiiniksi/>).
- Produced a piloted supplementary training programme for identifying and broaching the subject of domestic violence and intervening in such cases at maternity and child health care clinics (2011-2012, 2013).
- Assembled a user list of health care centres at which the method of broaching the subject was used (form) (National Institute for Health and Welfare).
- Participated in the:
  - National Maternity and Child Health Care Day between 2011 and 2013 (poster, brochures; speech, poster in 2013).
  - National Network Forum XIII between 6 and 7 September 2011 (brochures, stand, commenting speech).
  - 12th ISPCAN European Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect between 17 and 21 September 2011 (brochures, research networking).
  - Safety network meeting, Lahti 18 October 2011 (project introduction).
  - Palmenia's autumn day on 9 October 2012 (PechaKucha presentation).
  - MOT television show (S. Perttu interview) on 30 January 2012.
  - Interview in Anna magazine on 11 May 2012.
  - "Yhteistyöstä yhteiseen tekemiseen" – an invitation to a national local safety planning seminar between 26 and 27 November 2013.
  - Health and welfare promotion day. "Yhdessä tehden – terveyden ja hyvinvoinnin edistämisen mahdollisuudet". 29 October 2013 (poster).
- Produced a final assessment report.

## PRODUCED PUBLICATIONS:

- **Sipilä, Marianne, Hakulinen-Viitanen, Tuovi, Koponen, Päivi (2013)** Abstract and poster. Access to Health Care with People Experienced Intimate Partner Violence or Other Challenges in Their Life. Conference of International Council of Nurses. May 18-23, 2013, Melbourne, Australia.
- **Sipilä, Marianne, Hakulinen-Viitanen, Tuovi, Koponen, Päivi (2013)** European Journal of Public Health. Self-assessed experiences of need for public health services -connections to intimate partner violence, substance abuse and mental health problems. Submitted.
- **Savola, Tiina, Hakulinen-Viitanen, Tuovi, Piispa, Minna (2013)** Parisuhdeväkivaltaa kokeneiden asiakkaiden kokemukset väkivallan puheeksi ottamisen tilanteesta äitiys- ja lastenneuvoloissa. Script.
- **Hakulinen-Viitanen, Tuovi, Hietanen –Peltola, Marke, Bloigu, Aini Pelkonen, Marjaana (2014)** Äitiys- ja lastenneuvolatoiminnan sekä kouluterveydenhuollon valtakunnallinen seulonta. 2012, National Institute for Health and Welfare. Report. Script. Names of health care centres that actively filter domestic violence.

## MATERIAL PRODUCED FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD HEALTH CARE CLINICS.

The posters for clinics made on the basis of the research:

- *Because of love...*
- *At the maternity and child health care clinic...*

Routine enquiry into domestic violence form.

[www.kasvunkumppanit.fi](http://www.kasvunkumppanit.fi)

Support material instructions and training programme for the practical implementation of the close-relationship and domestic violence filter and assessment form, and further information on the project's results.

<https://blogs.helsinki.fi/rutiiniksi/>

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTER:

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