

Information for parents about the BarnSäkert project

BarnSäkert is a research project at the child health centre (BVC). The aim is to develop and test a method for detecting risks in young children's home environment (e.g. stress, financial problems, alcohol abuse and violence) and to provide support to families who want or need help.

How is the study conducted?

When visiting the child health centre, you answer a short questionnaire when your child is 6-8 weeks, 8-10 months, 18 months, 2 1/2 years and 4 years old. The questions are about things that can affect many families, such as stress, financial problems, alcohol abuse and violence.

Voluntary

Filling in the form is optional. Whether you decide to fill it in or not will not affect the care the child receives from the child health centre or from any other healthcare provider.

Risks

Answering questions about problems at home can cause parents to feel sad, worried or upset. Your safety is important. If you think you would feel bad or be subjected to risks from someone as a result of answering questions about stress, depression, financial problems, alcohol use or violence, you can decide not to participate in the study. If you have questions about your safety, please contact the lead researcher Steven Lucas or the study coordinator in Dalarna, see the contact details below.

Obligation to report

All healthcare professionals have a legal obligation to report to the social services if they suspect that a child is being maltreated. If the nurse suspects that a child is being maltreated as a result of the answers to the questionnaire or the discussion during the visit to the child health centre, this may result in a report to the social services.

Handling of data and confidentiality

The answers to the questionnaire will be saved anonymously, and will only contain information about the child's gender and age and the gender of the parent who answered the questions. After visiting the child health centre, the nurse will add information about what the discussions resulted in, for example, a referral or counselling, and all responses are then sent to the research database. Data will also be used for health economic calculations.

The results of the survey will be published in medical and scientific journals, and it will not be possible to identify any of the participants individually in the articles.

Responsible person

The lead researcher for the study is Steven Lucas, director of the child health services in Uppsala County and Associate Professor at the Department of Women and Children's Health, Uppsala University. Kristin Lindblom, director of the child health services in Dalarna County, is also responsible for the study. The Central Child Health Office in Dalarna County is also involved. More information can be obtained from coordinator Inga-Lill Hellsing (see below for email address and phone).

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