



"Never in my life have I felt so powerless"



Left powerless: A qualitative social media content analysis of the Dutch #breakthesilence campaign on negative and traumatic experiences of labour and birth.

Disrespect and abuse during labour and birth are increasingly reported all over the world. In 2016, a Dutch client organization initiated an online campaign, #genoeggezwegen (#breakthesilence), which encouraged women to share negative and traumatic maternity care experiences.

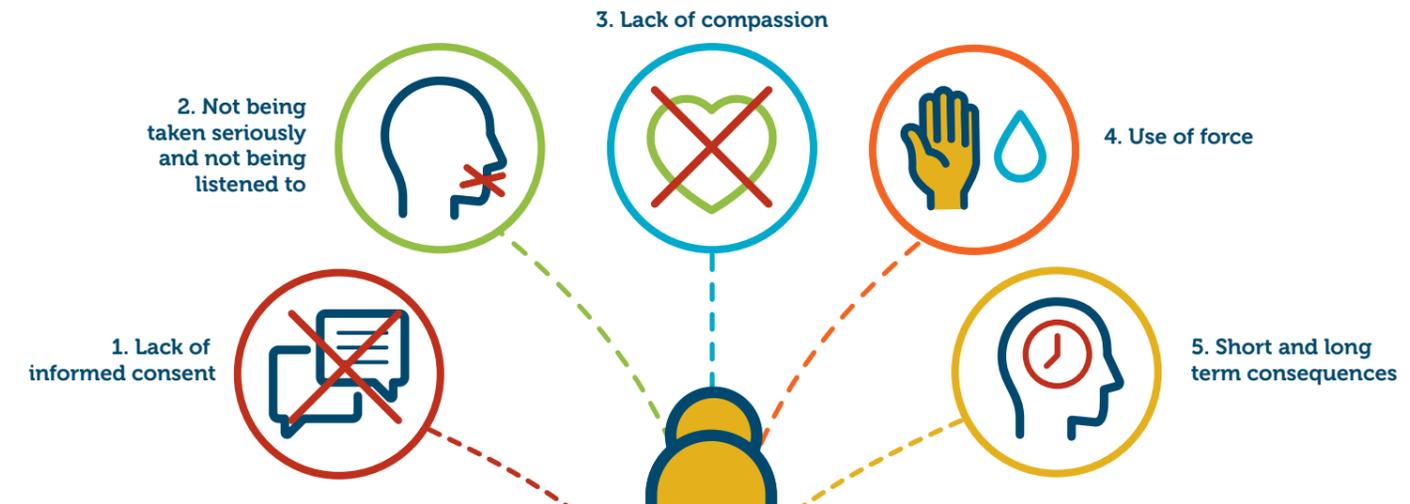
AIM AND APPROACH OF #GENOEGGEZWEGEN



OUR FINDINGS IN TYPOLOGY OF MISTREATMENT

Physical abuse Use of force: 41 Physical restraint: 9	Failure to meet professional standards of care Lack of informed consent and confidentiality: 139 Physical examinations and procedures: 95 Neglect and abandonment: 84
Sexual abuse : 4	Poor rapport between women and providers Ineffective communication: 201 Lack of supportive care: 80 Loss of autonomy: 146
Verbal abuse Harsh language: 41 Threats and blaming: 29	Health system conditions and constraints Lack of resources: 22 Lack of policies: 4 Facility culture: 35
Stigma and discrimination Discrimination based on sociodemographic characteristics: 7 Discrimination based on medical conditions: 0	

FIVE MAJOR THEMES EMERGED FROM THE STORIES



CONCLUSION

The findings of this study may **increase awareness** amongst maternity care providers and the community of the existence of disrespect and abuse in Dutch maternity care, and **encourage joint effort** on improving care both individually and systemically/institutionally.



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