

WHAT HAVE WE FOUND OUT *about the* ELECTRONIC MONITORING (EM) OF CHILDREN

in the Netherlands

Best interests assessment

The assessment of children's needs and interests is part of the regular assessment framework. Youth probation workers consider children's and caregivers' needs while on EM following dedicated policy instructions.

EM is used primarily at the pre-trial stage of the youth justice process.

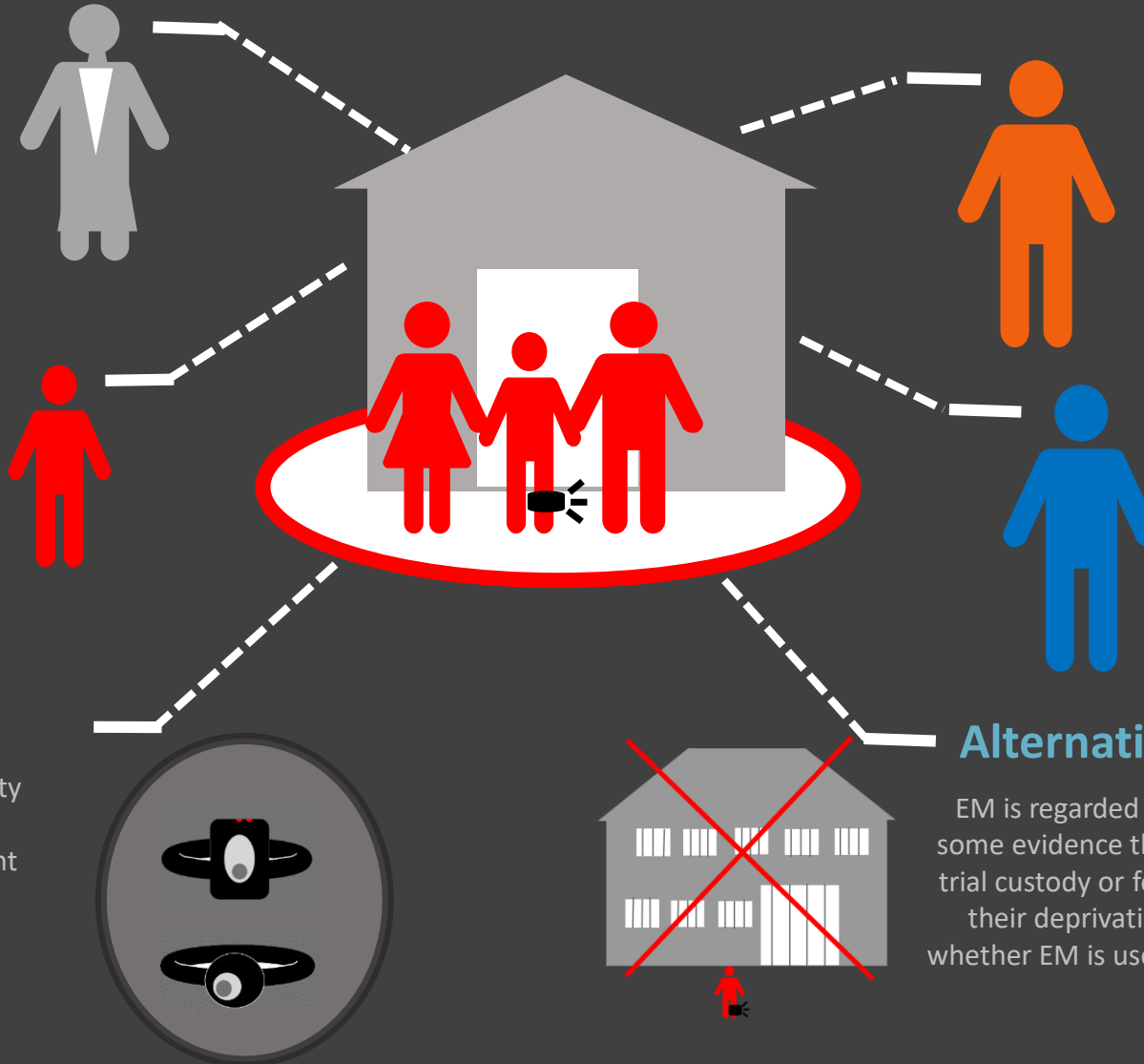
Target group

EM is usually imposed upon serious or repeat offenders older than 15-16 years, who have disorganized lifestyles but stable families.

Parents are expected to go beyond regular parental responsibilities and actively support supervision.

Conditions

EM assists with the monitoring of the weekly activity plans. These may include multiple inclusion and exclusion areas and curfews, which may be different every day depending on the activities.



Specialized support

All children on EM are supervised and supported by specialized youth probation workers. The youth probation workers are the 'case owners' with significant discretion in addressing non-compliance.

Monitoring protocols

A special monitoring protocol has been created for children, which considers age-appropriate needs and allows for flexibility in responding to non-compliance.

Alternative to deprivation of liberty

EM is regarded as an alternative to youth custody. There is some evidence that children typically receive EM once in pre-trial custody or for rehabilitative purposes at the last stage of their deprivation of liberty. There is a lack of evidence of whether EM is used proportionately or potential net-widening.



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