

Appendix 2. GRADE ratings and detailed data

Outcome	Study	Characteristics	Results	GRADE-rating	Final GRADE
Learning delay	Maldonado & De Witte, 2020	Standardized tests in children in the last grade primary school. Comparing cohort 2020 to previous cohorts 2015 to 2019	<u>Learning loss in 2020</u> Social science: 0.33 SD French: 0.3 SD Dutch 0.29 SD Math: 0.19 SD - results were robust across different models - inequality within and between schools rose	Observational research No serious limitations No serious indirectness No serious inconsistency No serious imprecision Large effect (+0.5) Residual confounding (+0.5)	Moderate certainty
Child abuse (different sources 2020 vs 2019)	1. Child Focus	Number of reports on images of sexual abuse	During lockdown 679 reports vs 256 during same months in 2019 (+165%)	Observational research No serious limitations No serious indirectness ¹ No serious inconsistency No serious imprecision	Low certainty
	2. CLBch@t	Number of chats on abuse at helpline for students	During lockdown 79 reports vs 61 during same months in 2019 (+30%)		
	3. helpline 1712	Number of persons contacting this helpline on abuse	During lockdown +44% reports compared to same months in 2019		
Child abuse (Sept 2020 vs May 2020)	4. helpline (sexual) abuse of children	Number of persons contacting this helpline (nupraatikerover.be)	In May 2020 100 reports vs 65 in September 2020 (+54%)		
COVID infections	National surveillance data; CLB for teachers	Number of persons with a positive test	reported in paper	Observational research No serious limitations Serious indirectness ² No serious inconsistency	Very low certainty

				No serious imprecision	
Mental health children	'Grote Corona Studie'	Survey among children	reported in paper	Observational research No serious limitations Serious indirectness ²	Very low certainty
	CLBch@t	Number of chats (May vs September 2020) (Lockdown 2020 vs same months 2019)	<u>Per 14 days (May vs September):</u> depression: 16 vs 5 anxiety: 16 vs 9 suicidal thoughts: 18 vs 15 <u>Per 6 months (2020 vs 2019)</u> depression: 169 vs 82 anxiety: 139 vs 35 suicidal thoughts: 190 vs 137	No serious inconsistency Serious imprecision ³	
Child neglect	CLB reports	Interventions because of physical or mental neglect	In 2020, +32%	Observational research No serious limitations Serious indirectness ² No serious inconsistency No serious imprecision	Very low certainty

1: Data from Sept 2020 vs May 2020 yield very similar results compared to data from 2020 vs 2019

2: In May 2020 multiple corona measures were in place; with this data we cannot disentangle the effect of closing schools only on these outcomes

3: Data May vs September 2020 is based on low numbers