



# The heel prick test in the Netherlands

27 disorders



## Why a heel prick test?

The heel prick test detects serious, rare disorders using 6 drops of blood from the child's heel, 27 disorders since October 2023. Most of these disorders cannot be cured, but they can be treated. It is important to detect these diseases quickly so that treatment can start early. This prevents serious harm to the child's development.



## Who gets the heel prick test?

All newborn babies in the Netherlands (around 170,000 per year) are offered the screening.

About **99%** participates (98.9% in 2022).

Almost all newborn babies in the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba) also take part (around 300 per year). The heel prick test was introduced in the European Netherlands in 1974 and in the Caribbean Netherlands in 2016.

## When?

72 to 168 hours after birth.

## Where?

At the parents' home, or at the hospital if the child has been admitted.

## How many children with a disease are detected per year?

Around 225 children per year.\* This provides health benefits for the rest of their lives.

72-168 hours

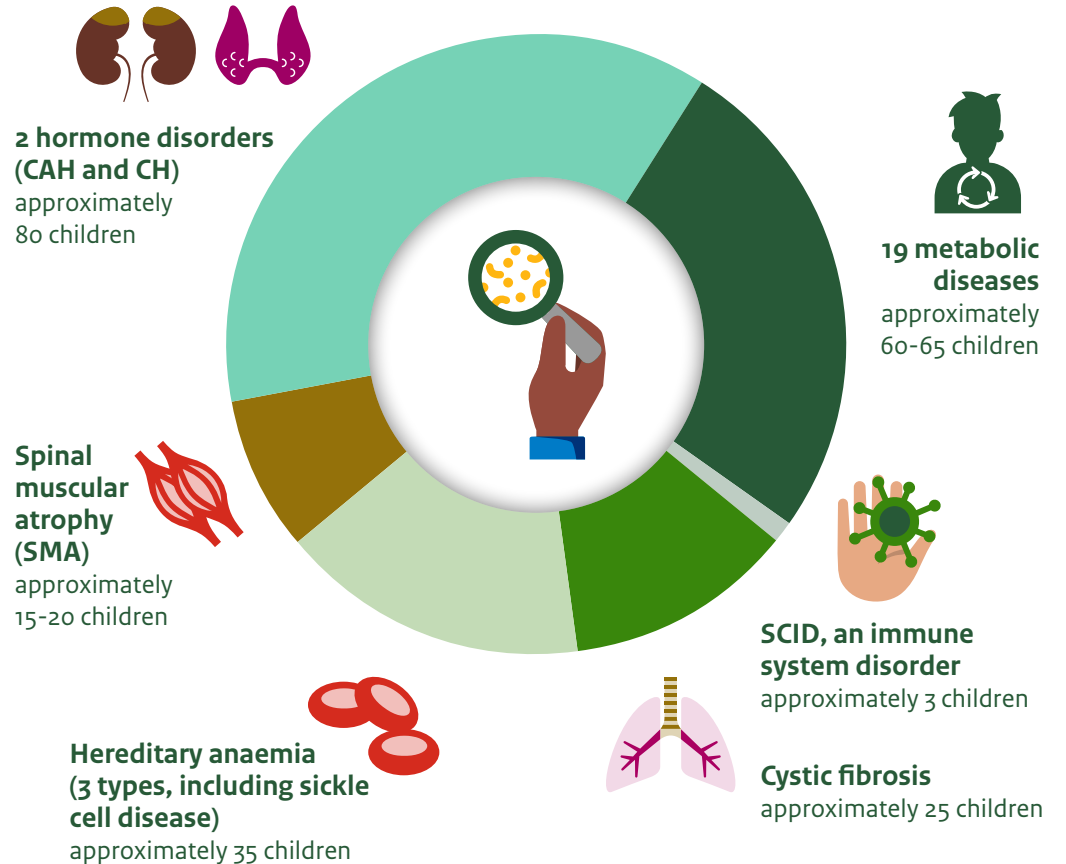


225 children



## Which disorders are tested for?

Number of children in whom the disease is detected, yearly average



\*2022 Monitor: 482 children referred for further tests, 233 of whom have one of the target diseases

Based on the information available in 2024