

**Why do foster care placements break down? A study into the factors influencing foster care placement breakdown in Flanders.**

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Foster care placements frequently break down. Breakdown is associated with several undesirable outcomes for the foster child, the foster parents and the child welfare system. Little is known about breakdown in Flanders. This article presents the results of a study into the prevalence of breakdown and related factors. Data on 100 foster care case files from all over Flanders were analysed. Over a period of 6 to 7 years 57% of the foster placements broke down. Older children with behavioural problems were more at risk for breakdown.