In light of the adverse consequences of divorce for children, the Dutch government stimulates shared parenting after divorce or separation. In 1998 joint legal authority became obligatory and a new 2009 law stipulates that children have the right to equal care of both parents. Shared residence, also called co-parenting, is the prime example of equal care, and this type of living arrangement has been on the rise since the late 1990s. Although it is implicitly assumed that co-parenting is good for children, the effects in part depend upon who opts for co-parenting. Not every divorced or separated couple wants or is able to equally share childcare tasks, so the group of co-parents may be a selective group. So far, little is known about who opts for co-parenting, in part because the number of co-parents in most existing surveys is usually very low.

In this paper, Dr Poortman investigates the determinants of children's living arrangements after divorce or separation - with a focus on opting for co-parenting vis-à-vis sole-custody arrangements..

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