

# Rotterdam's Welfare Fraud Risk Model — a 315-Variable Algorithm Suspended After Audit and Investigative Scrutiny

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Netherlands

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

## Summary

Rotterdam scored ~30,000 welfare recipients for fraud risk with a 315-variable model built with Accenture; journalists found language and gender bias, and the city suspended it in late 2021.

## Key dimensions

| Dimension                                  | Score |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| Evidence of impact / measured public value | 1/3   |
| Transparency, fairness & accountability    | 1/3   |
| Transferability / demonstrated replication | 1/3   |
| Scalability beyond pilot                   | 0/3   |
| Governance, capability & sustainability    | 2/3   |

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

## Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-28

[Municipality of Rotterdam \(Work & Income\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-28

[Follow the Money — How a fraud algorithm learned to suspect vulnerable groups](#) — accessed 2026-09-28

[Lighthouse Reports — Inside a Fraud Prediction Algorithm](#) — accessed 2026-09-28

[Pulitzer Center — Suspicion Machines methodology](#) — accessed 2026-09-28

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