Associations between measures of social distancing and SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity: a nationwide population-based study in the Netherlands

Supplementary Information

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Contents

1 Introduction

In this supplement we detail our sampling strategy, provide information on nonresponse rates, explain how we have included post-stratification weighting in the analyses, and provide additional information on the laboratory assay [1]. The risk factor analyses in the main text use random-effects logistic regression based on binary classification of the data (seronegative versus seropositive). Here, we also provide an underpinning of this classification using a two-component mixture model. In this model, samples are not rigidly classified as either seronegative or seropositive, but belong to either the negative or positive component with certain probability $[2, 3]$. As the probability of seropositivity may depend on age, we model the mixing parameter (i.e. the probability of seropositivity, or seroprevalence) with an age-dependent penalized spline [4]. We fit the model to antibody concentration measurements from the population sample described in the main text while incorporating information from a test panel of proven negative and positive samples [1]. Subsequently, we derive test characteristics (sensitivity, specificity) for various cut-offs, showing that the binary classification used in the main text performs well. Finally, we present additional weighted seroprevalence estimates by Municipal Health Services (GGD) region, and we show detailed results of our main analyses, i.e. risk factors for seropositivity, as well as of the sensitivity analyses.

2 Sampling

The PIENTER3 serosurvey cohort was established in the Netherlands in 2016/17 (for details see [5]). Primary aim of this seroepidemiological study was to evaluate the National Immunization Program and to monitor (re-)emerging infectious diseases. In respect of the current study, prior randomly-selected participants (from the Dutch population registry) previously enrolled in PIENTER3 and who had provided consent to be approached for potential follow-up, were invited for the first PIENTER-Corona (PICO-)study in April, 2020. In this first PICOserosurvey 2, 634 participants (of initially 4,926 invited) had been included (for details see [6]). Subsequently, these participants were invited to the second PICO-serosurvey in June, 2020, i.e., the current study, in which 2, 317 enrolled.

Correspondingly, anticipating a 10% drop-out rate from the first PICO-serosurvey in April, 2020, and given the low estimated seroprevalence (2.8%), we aimed to increase the overall power of the current study as well as enhance countrywide geographical coverage. Hence, the cohort was supplemented with an additional sample of randomly-selected persons from the Dutch population registry (as of May, 2020). These persons were randomly drawn from five regions with roughly similar population size (North: provinces of Groningen, Friesland, Drenthe and Overijssel; Mid-West: provinces of Flevoland and Noord-Holland; Mid-East: provinces of Gelderland and Utrecht; South-West: provinces of Zuid-Holland and Zeeland; South-East: provinces of Noord-Brabant and Limburg), and from 17 pre-defined age groups (1-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-89 years). A total sample size of 6, 400 participants, i.e. with an average of 380 participants per age group, would enable us to estimate an overall and age-specific seroprevalence with a precision of 1.25% and 5%, respectively. Following previous experience, we anticipated a response rate of at least 15%. Hence, for this additional sample, we randomly selected 27, 200 persons from the population registry, of which 26, 854 remained eligible for participation after an initial screening and these were invited. Of these, 4, 496 participated.

Taken together, the current PICO-survey in June, 2020, consisted of 6, 813 participants (combined response rate 21.4%).

3 Non-response and weighting

Table S1 shows the number of participants and response rates, stratified by sex, age group, region, and ethnic background.

		Non-responder		Responder		Total
		$\mathbf N$	$\%$	${\bf N}$	$\%$	31,780
Total		24,967	$78.6\,$	6,813	$21.4\,$	
Sex	${\it Man}$	12,609	$50.5\,$	3,042	44.7	15,561
	Woman	12,358	$\rm 49.5$	3,771	$55.4\,$	16,129
Age	$1-4$	1,740	$7.0\,$	220	$3.2\,$	1,960
	$5-9$	1,637	$6.6\,$	$\bf 285$	$4.2\,$	1,922
	$10 - 14$	1,567	$6.3\,$	319	$4.7\,$	1,886
	$15 - 19$	1,591	3.4	$304\,$	$4.5\,$	1,895
	$20 - 24$	1,542	$6.2\,$	$300\,$	$4.4\,$	1,842
	25-29	1,779	7.1	$398\,$	$5.8\,$	2,177
	$30\hbox{-}34$	1,293	5.2	$369\,$	$5.4\,$	1,662
	$35 - 39$	1,519	$6.1\,$	408	$6.0\,$	1,927
	40-44	1,439	$5.8\,$	448	$6.6\,$	1,887
	45-49	1,423	5.7	457	6.7	1,880
	50-54	1,365	$5.5\,$	548	$8.0\,$	1,913
	55-59	1,323	5.3	544	8.0	1,867
	60-64	1,226	4.9	$591\,$	8.7	1,817
	65-69	1,250	$5.0\,$	626	$\ \, 9.2$	1,876
	$70 - 74$	1,326	$5.3\,$	$501\,$	$7.4\,$	1,827
	$75 - 79$	1,410	$5.7\,$	134	$2.0\,$	1,752
	$80 - 90$	1,537	$6.2\,$	153	$2.3\,$	1,690
Region	North	5,029	$20.1\,$	1,357	19.9	6,386
	$Mid-West$	4,957	$19.9\,$	1,211	17.8	6,168
	$Mid\text{-}East$	4,825	$19.3\,$	1,469	$21.6\,$	6,294
	South-West	5,060	$20.3\,$	1,248	$18.3\,$	6,308
	South-East	5,096	$20.4\,$	1,528	$22.4\,$	6,624
Urbanization	High	6,038	$24.2\,$	1,319	$19.4\,$	7,357
degree	\textbf{Middle}	7,670	30.7	2,101	$30.8\,$	9,771
	$_{\rm Low}$	11,259	45.1	3,393	49.8	14,652
Ethnic	\rm{Dutch}	18,598	$74.5\,$	5,996	88.0	24,594
background*	Non-Dutch Western	2,389	$9.6\,$	512	7.5	2,901
	Non-Western	3,964	$15.9\,$	$305\,$	$4.5\,$	4,269

Table S1. Overview of responders vs. non-responders.

 $^\ast\text{Ethnic background}$ was missing for 16 invited persons

Post-stratification weights were assigned to each participant to standardize seroprevalence estimates, using census data from the Statistics Netherlands of January 1, 2020. Since our cohort consists of two samples, weights were calculated for each sample separately. Per study sample, weights were assigned to each participant based on their membership to specific census strata (in total 112): for Dutch ethnic background, strata are designed for age group (1-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70- 74, 75-90 years), urbanization level (high, middle, low), and sex; and for other ethnicity groups strata were based on age group (1-9, 10-34, 35-59, 60-90 years) and sex.

Subsequently, post-stratification weights were defined as the proportion of each stratum represented in the Dutch population divided by the analogous proportion in the study sample. Specifically, weights w_{ij} for participants in stratum i and study j were calculated as

$$
w_{ij} = \frac{\frac{X_i}{N}}{\frac{x_{ij}}{n_j}}
$$

,

where X_i is the total number of persons in stratum i, N is the total population size (i.e. the Netherlands), x_{ij} is the number of participants in stratum i in study sample j, and n_j is number of participants in sample j.

4 Data and immunoassay

Figure S1 shows the regional distribution of participants in the Netherlands, and Figure S2 depicts the individual antibody concentration by age. Participants' fingerstick blood samples were centrifuged at the RIVM laboratory and serum was stored at -20 degrees Celsius awaiting analyses. Using a validated fluorescent bead-based immune assay $([1],$ which was improved recently $[7]$, concentrations of IgG antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 Spike S1 protein (Wuhan isolate, GenBank YP-009724390.1) were measured. More specifically, serum samples were diluted 1:200 and 1:8,000 and incubated with spike S1-coupled beads in

Figure S1. Regional distribution of participants. Notice that the western part of the Netherlands is the most densely populated area and also has large number of samples, thus attaining good population coverage.

SM01 buffer (Surmodics, USA) supplemented with 2% FCS while shaking (600 rpm) at room temperature for 45 minutes. Hereafter, plates were washed three times (with PBS), incubated with PE-conjugated anti-human IgG (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories) and incubated for an additional 30 minutes. After final washing steps, samples were acquired on a LX200 or FlexMap3D (using Luminex technology). Concentrations were interpolated from an in-house reference consisting of pooled sera using a 5-parameter logistic fit.

For the mixture modelling analyses below, we included a validation panel that has been used for validation of the assay [1]. Specifically, a set of 384 pre-

Figure S2. Overview of the data. Shown are (log-transformed) antibody concentrations of all 6,813 samples in the national sample as function of age. Here, samples are classified as seronegative below the cut-off of 0.04 (log(Arbitrary Units $\frac{1}{mL}$ (blue) and as seropositive above the cut-off (red).

pandemic samples comprising participants from the PIENTER2 (2006/2007) and PIENTER3 (2016/2017) cohorts (representative of the Dutch population) as well as a panel of cases with influenza-like illness, and a set of 115 proven SARS-CoV-2 infections covering asymptomatic and mild to severe cases [1]. Mean and standard deviation of the (log-transformed) measurements were $\mu_{\rm uninfected}$ = -2.3 (Arbitrary Units (AU)) and $\sigma_{\text{uninfected}} = 1.0$ for the uninfected group, and $\mu_{\text{infected}} = 3.0$ and $\sigma_{\text{infected}} = 2.1$ for the infected group.

5 Mixture model

Survey participants are assumed to be either seropositive or seronegative. These two classes were characterized by distributions for antibody measurements, denoted by f_{neg} and f_{pos} and specified by parameters θ_{neg} and θ_{pos} . The mixing parameter (probability of seropositivity) depends on age and is denoted by $p(a)$. For $n = 6,813$ participants, the set of participant ages and observed measurements were given by $\mathbf{a} = (a_k)$ and $\mathbf{x} = (x_k)$ $(k = 1, \ldots, n)$, respectively. Throughout we used normal distributions for the components of the mixture of the log-transformed data, so that $\theta_{\text{neg}} = (\mu_{\text{neg}}, \sigma_{\text{neg}})$ and $\theta_{\text{pos}} = (\mu_{\text{pos}}, \sigma_{\text{pos}})$, while the mixing parameter was modelled with a Bayesian penalized-spline using cubic basis functions and first order penalization [8, 9]. Throughout, we considered the age range [0, 100] years, placing knots at 10-year intervals (11 knots in total), so that the total number of basis functions was 13 [8, 9].

6 Estimation

Parameters were estimated in a Bayesian framework using Hamiltonian Monte Carlo, implemented in Stan [10]. To improve performance at low prevalence, we employed a logistic transformation for the age-specific prevalence.

Prior distributions for the means and standard deviations of the seronegative and seropositive components were based on the uninfected and infected samples from the validation set as described before. As the uninfected set is obtained from random samples from the Dutch population in 2006/2007 and 2016/2017 as well as a panel comprising cases with influenza-like illness, and the seropositive set contained mostly cases with symptoms and may be less representative of cases in the population, we took informative prior distributions for the parameters of the seronegative component, a weakly informative prior distribution for the mean of the seropositive component, and provided no explicit prior distribution for the standard deviation of the seropositive component. Specifically, we took

$$
\mu_{\text{neg}} \sim \mathcal{N} (\mu_{\text{uninfected}}, 0.01)
$$

$$
\sigma_{\text{neg}} \sim \mathcal{N} (\sigma_{\text{uninfected}}, 0.1)
$$

$$
\mu_{\text{pos}} \sim \mathcal{N} (\mu_{\text{infected}}, 0.5) .
$$

For the spline smoothing parameter (RWvar) we took an inverse gamma distribution [9],

$$
RWvar \sim inverse gamma (1, 0.0005) ,
$$

and for the weights of the spline base functions w_i $(i = 1 \dots 13)$, we took

$$
w_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 4) ,
$$

where it should be noted that the prior weights were defined on the logistic scale.

Table S2. Parameter estimates (selected posterior quantiles) with selected convergence diagnostics.

Parameter	\widehat{R}	n_{eff}	2.5%	50%	97.5%
μ_{neg}	0.997	1071	-2.311	-2.297	-2.284
σ_{neg}	0.997	964	0.742	0.756	0.770
μ_{pos}	0.996	1066	1.967	2.168	2.336
σ_{pos}	1.003	1126	1.216	1.339	1.501
RWyar	1.000	1030	0.008	0.042	0.169

Estimates for the parameters defining the mixing distribution and the spline smoothing parameter are given in Table S2, together with convergence diagnostics \widehat{R} and n_{eff} [10]. In a sensitivity analysis we have re-run the fitting procedure with uninformative prior distributions (only assuming that $\mu_{\text{pos}} > \mu_{\text{neg}}$). These analyses yield virtually identical results (not shown).

Figure S3 gives a visualisation of the data (gray histograms) and model fit (colored lines), suggesting good agreement between the two. Notice also that overlap between the negative and positive component is small which bodes well for efforts to distinguish seronegative from seropositive samples. To further investigate the implications of the analyses, Figure S4 shows the estimated probability of infection as function of antibody concentration. Here, the probability of infection calculated as the estimated positive density (at a certain concentration)

Figure S3. Data and model fit. Shown are the data (gray histograms) and fit of the mixture model (blue: seronegative component; red: seropositive component). The age-specific prevalence was modelled with a penalized spline, and the mixing distributions were weighted with the overall posterior probability of infection. Shown are 1, 000 samples from the posterior distribution.

divided by the sum of the positive and negative densities (at that concentration) [2]. The figure shows that, in the absence of information on age-specific prevalence, the estimated probability of infection is close to 0 for concentrations of −1 $(\log(AU)/mL)$ and lower, and close to 1 at concentrations of 0 $(\log(AU)/mL)$ and higher.

In a next step we estimated the probability of seropositivity for each of the $n = 6,813$ samples. Here we weighted the posterior seropositive density by the posterior prevalence, and the posterior seronegative density by 1 minus the posterior prevalence, and applied the same procedure as in Figure S4. The figure shows that for the majority of samples $(6, 722)$, the posterior median for the probability of infection is either low $($0.05, 6, 437$ samples) or high$

Figure S4. Estimated probability of seropositivity. Shown are estimated probabilities of seropositivity as function of the (log-transformed) antibody concentration. No weighting for prevalence was applied. Shown are 1, 000 samples from the posterior distribution.

 $(> 0.95, 285$ samples), indicating that only for a small minority of samples $(100) classification would not be straightforward. This is a robust result that$ also holds when using less informative priors or when including a random effect at the municipality level (not shown). It is due to the clear separation of the negative and positive components in the analyses (Figure S3).

7 Binary classification

The above results show that for the majority of samples there is limited uncertainty as to whether they should be classified as seronegative or seropositive. Therefore, we feel confident that reliable binary classification of the samples is feasible. Here, we investigated the optimal cut-off value for such binary classi-

Figure S5. Estimated probability of seropositivity. Shown are estimated probabilities of seropositivity for each of the 6, 813 samples as function of age. Estimates were weighted with age-specific prevalence. Dots and whiskers represent posterior medians and 95% credible intervals, respectively. Notice that the posterior probability of seropositivity (i.e. posterior median) is either very low $(0.05) or very high (0.95) for the majority of samples (98%).$

fication, and associated test characteristics (sensitivity and specificity).

For a given cut-off, the proportion of the negative distribution with concentrations higher than the cut-off defines specificity of the test (high proportion implies low specificity), while the proportion of the positive distribution with concentrations lower than the cut-off defines sensitivity of the test. Technically, both sensitivity and specificity are calculated using cumulative density functions of the negative (specificity) and positive distributions (sensitivity) [2]. Figure S6 shows the test characteristics and the Youden index $(Se + Sp - 1)$ as function of the cut-off. For low values of the cut-off, sensitivity of the test is high, at the price of a low specificity. Conversely, at high values of the cut-off, speci-

Figure S6. Sensitivity, specificity, and Youden index. Shown are the estimated sensitivity (red), specificity (blue), and Youden index (gray, superposed on top of sensitivity and specificity) as function of the cut-off concentration for seropositivity. Shown are 1, 000 samples from the posterior distribution.

ficity of the test is high, at the price of low sensitivity. At intermediate values both sensitivity and specificity are reasonably high, and the Youden index is maximal.

Table S3. Test characteristics for cut-off that maximizes the Youden index or that selects for high test specificity $(Sp = 0.999)$. Shown are posterior medians with 95% credible intervals.

	Scenario cut-off $(95\% \text{CrI})$	$Se~(95\%CrI)$	$Sp(95\%CrI)$	Youden $(95\%CrI)$
		Youden -0.56 $(-0.67, -0.44)$ 0.979 $(0.965, 0.987)$ 0.989 $(0.985, 0.993)$ 0.97 $(0.95, 0.98)$		
-Sp	0.04 $(0.0, 0.08)$	$0.943(0.910, 0.966)$ 0.999		0.94(0.91, 0.97)

In Table S3 we show test characteristics for two specific scenarios. The first takes cut-offs that maximize the Youden index. Here, the estimated optimal cut-off was -0.56 (95%CrI: -0.67- -0.44) and the estimated maximal Youden index was 0.97 (94%CrI: 0.95-0.98). This cut-off, however, is not useful in practice as expected seroprevalence is low $(< 10\%)$, and control of the false positive rate is more important than control of the false negative rate. Therefore, in a second scenario we aimed at a specificity of 0.999. Such specificity can be reached with the test, at a cut-off of 0.04 and a sensitivity of 0.943. In the following and in the main text we have opted for a cut-off of 0.04.

Figure S7 presents the results of a Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) diagram (blue lines), together with true and false positive rates at the cut-off of 0.04 (red dots). Variation in the false positive rate was minimal $(Sp = 0.9990,$ 95%CrI: 0.9987-0.9992), while estimated sensitivity was still high $(\widehat{Sp} = 0.944,$ 95%CrI: 0.910-0.967). Estimated Youden index is 0.94 (95%CrI: 0.91-0.97).

Figure S7. Receiver Operator Characteristic (ROC) diagram. Shown are the false positive rates $(1 - Sp)$ and true positive rates (Se) for 1,000 samples from the posterior distribution (blue). Also shown are the false and true positive rates for cut-off of 0.04 $(\log(AU)/mL)$ (1.04 AU/mL)(red).

Finally, Figure S8 shows the posterior distribution of test sensitivity at a cutoff of 0.04 ($log(AU)/mL$). Mean and standard deviation of the distribution are 0.942 and 0.0151, respectively. These values can be incorporated in Rogan-Gladen-type corrections for estimating true prevalence from observed apparent prevalence in binary classification [11, 12].

Figure S8. Posterior distribution of the true positive rate (sensitivity) when the cut-off is set at 0.04 (log(AU)/mL) (1.04 AU/mL). Shown is a histogram of 1, 000 samples from the posterior distribution. Mean and standard deviation of the distribution are 0.942 and 0.0151, respectively.

8 Regional seroprevalence and risk factor analysis

Figure S9 shows the regional weighted seroprevalence estimates, i.e., by Municipal Health Service (GGD) region. Further, the manuscript provides main results and interpretation of the analyses with random-effects logistic regression using the binary classification described in the above. Table S4 provides detailed results of the main risk factor analysis $(N=6, 331, 61)$, these results were similar after applying both backward and forward selection), including age-specific estimates of the unadjusted odds ratios for seropositivity derived from the univariable model (Figure S10). Finally, Table S5 shows the results of the multivariable models derived from the sensitivity analyses as described in the manuscript: Model 1 - without the variable 'being religious', N=6, 487; Model 2 - without the variable 'educational level', N=6, 339; and Model 3 - without contact data (i.e. nature of close contacts as well as total number), N=6, 338.

Figure S9. Weighted seroprevalence by Municipal Health Service (GGD) region.

Risk factor		Univariable model		Multivariable model		
	OR	95% CI	P-value	aOR	95% CI	P-value
Nature of close contact, yesterday			0.0053			0.0752
No close contact	Ref.			Ref.		
$< 50\%$ with persons $< 10y$	1.38	$[1.07 - 1.79]$		1.36	$[1.04 - 1.78]$	
$50-100\%$ with persons < 10y	0.72	$[0.43 - 1.23]$		$1.35\,$	$[0.78 - 2.35]$	
Attended indoor meeting(s) with > 20 persons			0.0008			0.0047
N _o	Ref.			Ref.		
Yes	1.54	$[1.20 - 1.98]$		1.46	$[1.12 - 1.89]$	
Visited a nursing home			< 0.0001			0.0009
N _o	Ref.			Ref.		
Yes, $1-5$ times	1.35	$[0.85 - 2.15]$		$1.09\,$	$[0.68 - 1.75]$	
Yes, $>= 6$ times	2.14	$[1.09-4.19]$		1.72	$[0.86 - 3.44]$	
Nursing home worker	4.44	$[2.31 - 8.53]$		3.72	$[1.90 - 7.27]$	
Household size			0.0697			0.0667
Single-person	Ref.			Ref.		
Two-person	1.64	$[1.03 - 2.61]$		1.64	$[1.02 - 2.63]$	
Three or more persons	$1.35\,$	$[0.85 - 2.15]$		1.79	$[1.09 - 2.95]$	
Age (spline)			0.0002			0.0002
Region			< 0.0001			$<0.0001\,$
North	Ref.			Ref.		
Mid-West	1.75	$[1.01 - 3.04]$		$2.01\,$	$[1.18 - 3.42]$	
Mid-East	2.03	$[1.23 - 3.37]$		2.18	$[1.35 - 3.53]$	
South-West	1.35	$[0.77 - 2.35]$		1.51	$[0.88 - 2.61]$	
South-East	4.21	$[2.63 - 6.74]$		4.28	$[2.73 - 6.72]$	
Urbanization degree			0.0013			0.0197
High (large cities)	1.07	$[0.63 - 1.81]$		1.23	$[0.77 - 1.96]$	
Middle (moderate cities)	Ref.			Ref.		
Low (village to countryside)	1.81	$[1.27 - 2.58]$		1.59	$[1.14 - 2.20]$	
Educational level			0.0048			0.0216
High	Ref.			Ref.		
Middle	1.56	$[1.19-2.03]$		1.45	$[1.11 - 1.91]$	
Low	$1.21\,$	$[0.87 - 1.68]$		1.09	$[0.77 - 1.54]$	

Table S4. Main risk factor analysis (N=6,331).

Figure S10. Estimates of the unadjusted odd ratios for seropositivity as function of age (see main text for adjusted odds ratios). The estimate is based on random-effects univariable logistic regression. Also shown is the 95% confidence envelope. Reference age is 12 years (odds ratio = 1).

Table S5. Sensitivity analyses.

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