



Employment outcomes of people with visual impairments in the Netherlands: using administrative data

dr. Eline Heppe, Katharina Diehl, dr. Ilja Cornelisz & prof. dr. Chris van Klaveren

15th international conference on Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation

Florence, 8 – 12 September 2025

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest

Funding

- The research project *ZG in Beeld* was funded by Bartiméus Fonds, Royal Visio, and Royal Kentalis.
- The research project *Driven* was funded by Kennis over Zien and Bartiméus Fonds.



Bartiméus· fonds
Voor alle mensen die slechtziend of blind zijn



Why this study?

- *“People with disabilities have the right to work on an equal basis with others and in an inclusive environment”* (United Nations, 2006 - CRPD)
- Educational levels are on average lower compared to the general population.
- Previous research in the Netherlands showed varying employment rates: **37–73%**.
- Statics Netherlands provides automatically generated data available for research.

Aim of the study

To gain insight into **labor market outcomes** and **educational participation** of people with a visual impairment in the Netherlands.

Using large- scale, automatically generated **administrative data** (big data), including data from:

insurance companies, pension funds,
the Dutch Tax Authority, Municipalities



Populations

Total: **123.908** people

Group 1: People with VI – VI claimants (**n = 61.954**)

- Identified via claims of sensory disability care (e.g., diagnostic tests, psychological support, and interventions supporting self-reliance)
- Visual acuity of < 0.3 or visual field < 30 degrees in the better-sing

Group 2: Matched Dutch population (**n = 61.954**)

- Matched on age, gender, highest achieved education, migration background

Employment rates

Definition: *There is an employer–employee relationship, and paid work has been performed for at least one hour per week.*

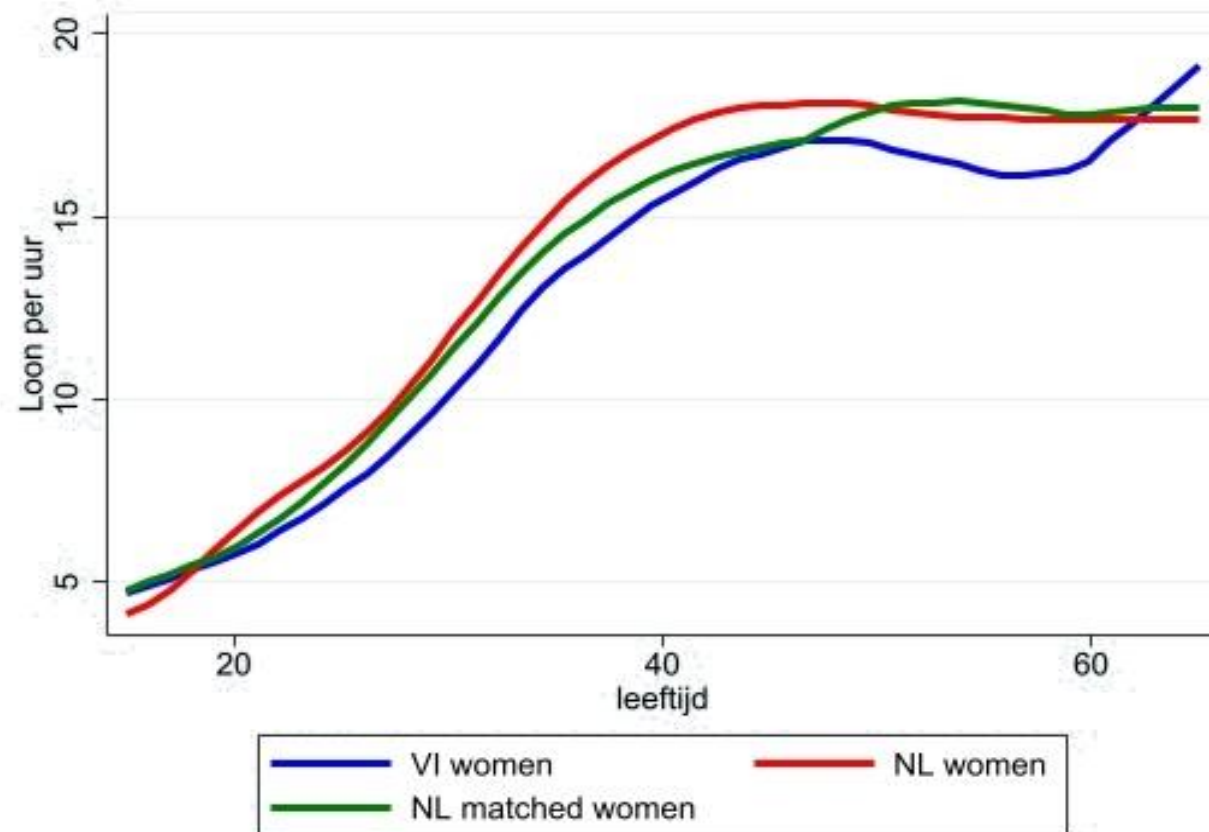
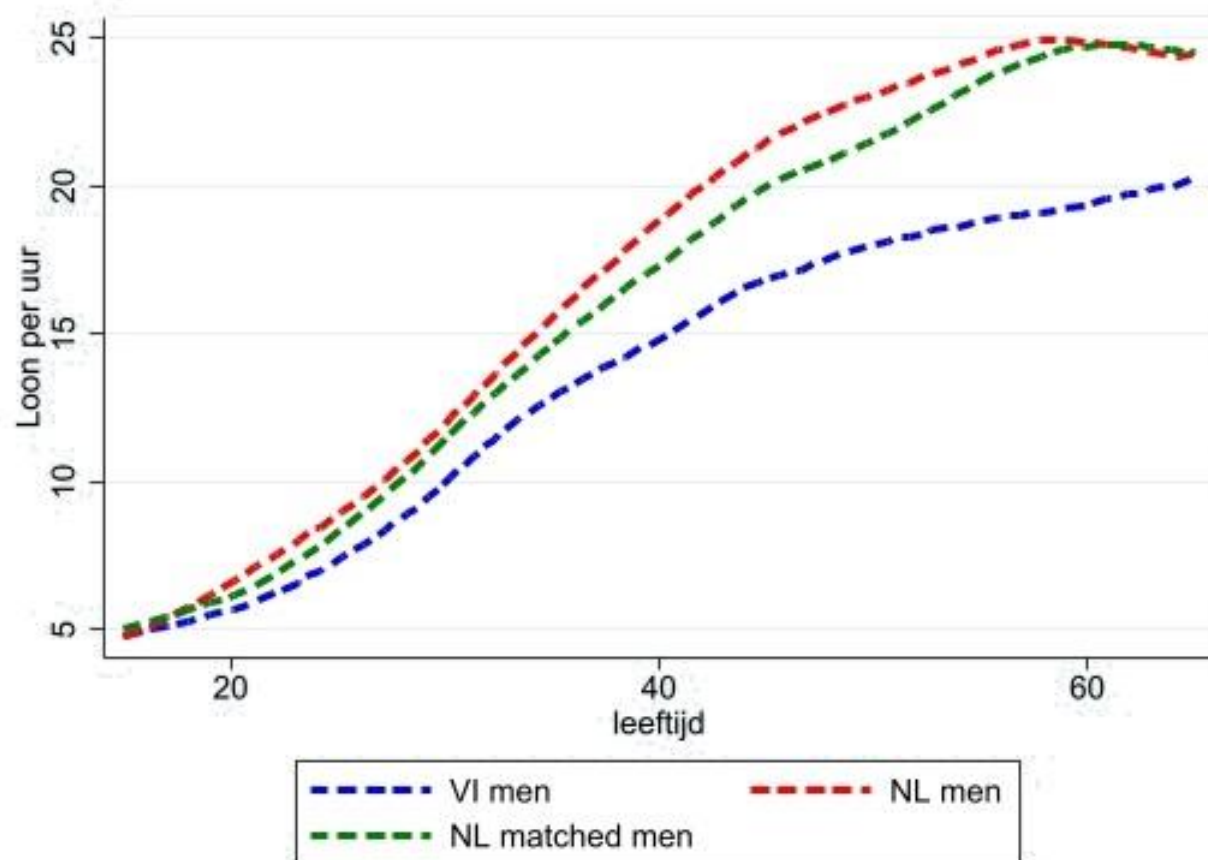
- **VI claimants (15 and 65 years)** = **36%**
- **Matched Dutch population (15 and 65 years)** = **76%**

Employment status

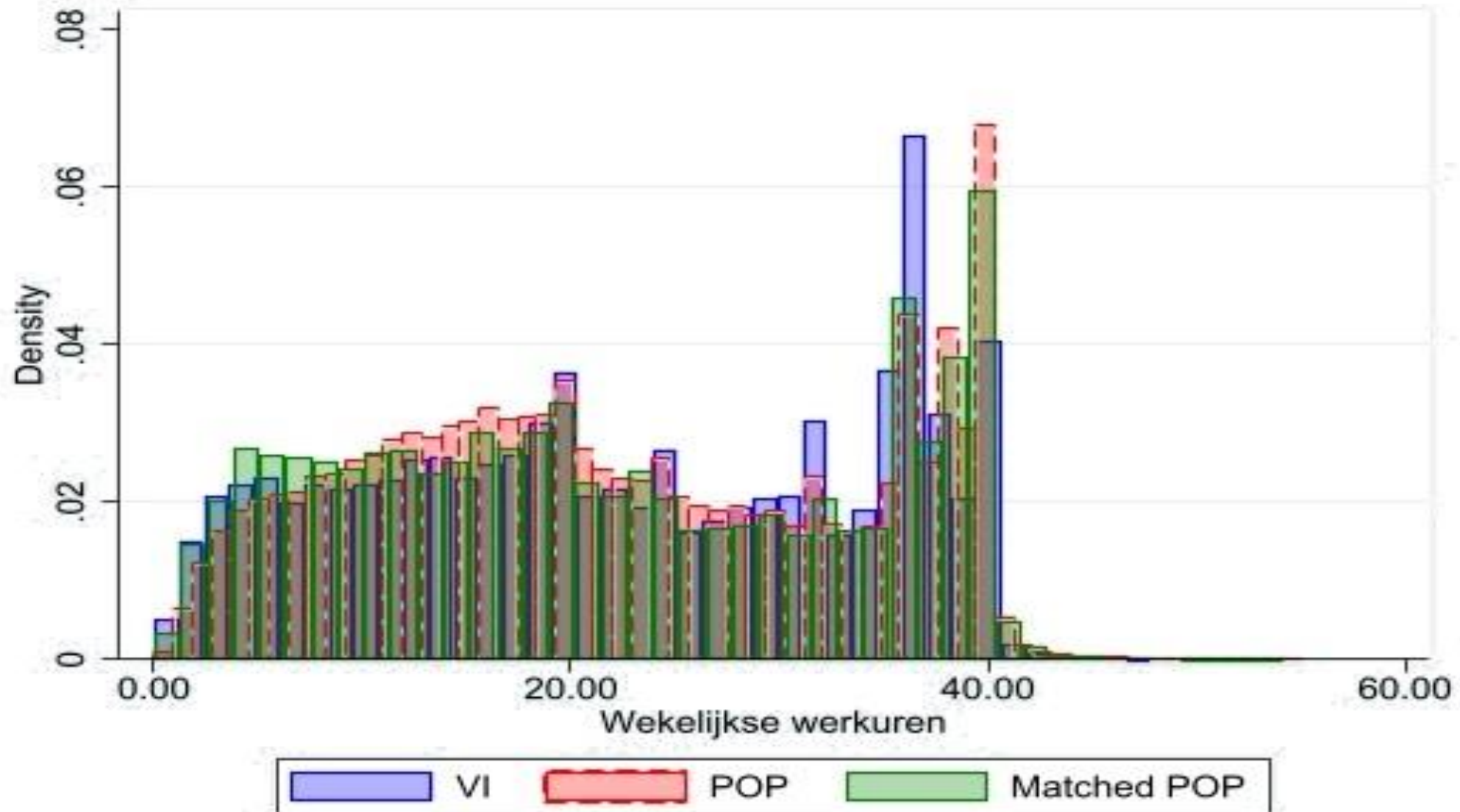
	VI claimants	Matched Dutch Population
Employee	43%	84%
Director/Major shareholder	1%	4%
Self-employed	13%	29%
Social benefits	67%	23%
Sick leave	76%	26%
Retired	24%	19%
Contributing family member	30%	46%

**Percentages exceed 100% because individuals can belong to multiple socioeconomic categories during the recorded period.*

Wage



Weekly working hours



Questions?

Eline Heppe

e.heppe@kentalis.nl

