

M. Sprenger¹, M.A. Crone¹, J.C. Kiefe-de Jong¹

¹ Health Campus The Hague / Dept. of Public Health and Primary Care, Leiden University Medical Center

Background

The Hague is a city with one of the highest rates of perinatal mortality and morbidity as well as teenage pregnancies in the Netherlands. And in some neighbourhoods of the city, midwives estimate 50% of pregnancies to be unintended. However, it is not known how high the prevalence of unintended pregnancies (UPs) really is. Although UPs have a higher risk of adverse health outcomes, not all are vulnerable. Therefore, it is important to assess what combinations of risk factors make a UP vulnerable, and what resilience factors may help prevent this.

Study design

Aim

Improve prevention, recognition, and support of unintended pregnancies in The Hague, specifically those in vulnerable situations.

Objectives

- 1) Assess the prevalence of (un)intended and ambivalent pregnancies in The Hague.
- 2) Identify combinations of factors and processes over the life course that lead to an increased risk for a (vulnerable) UP.
- 3) Study health outcomes associated with a UP.
- 4) Uncover needs for care and support for people who experience a UP.

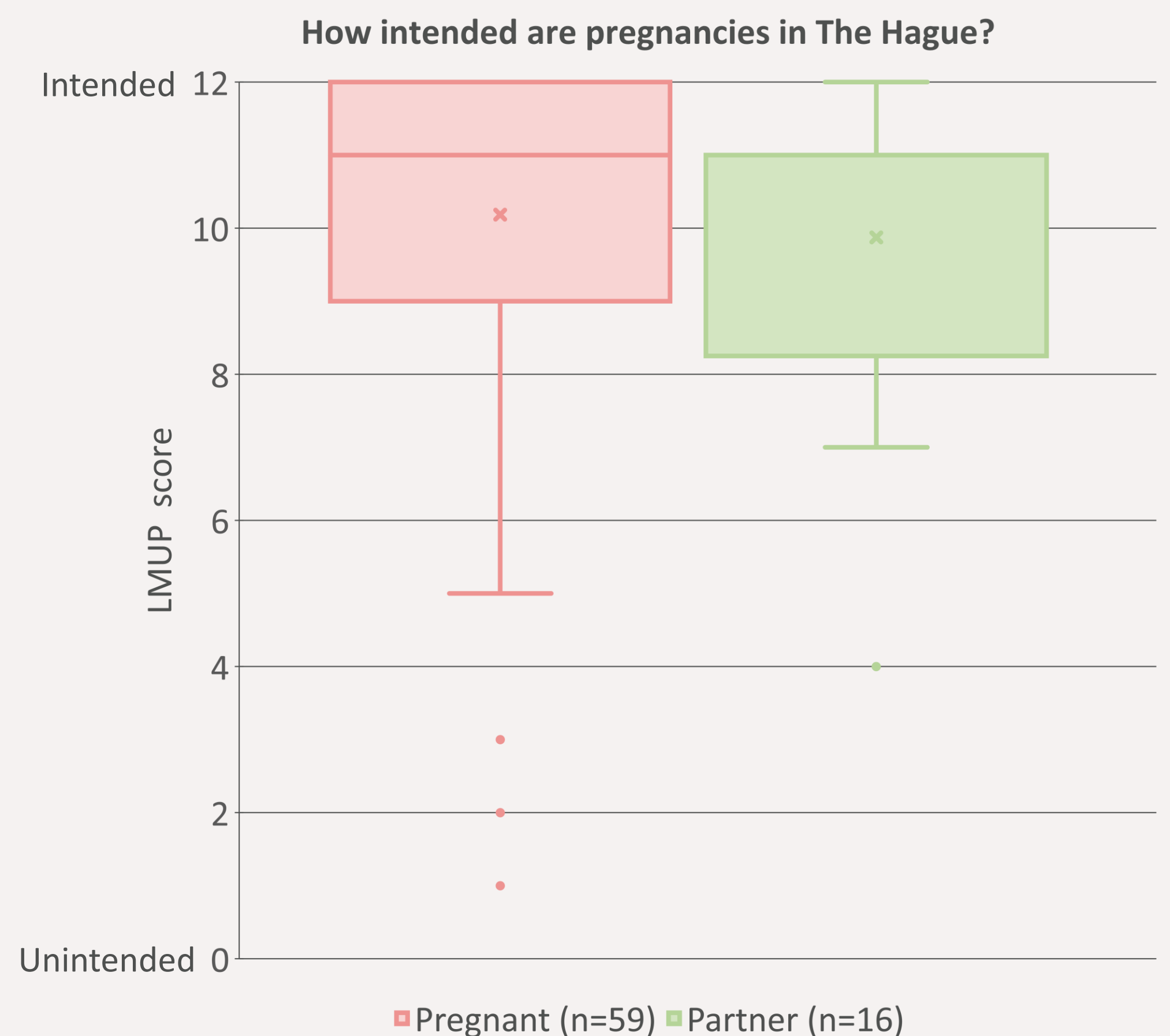
Prospective population-based cohort study

- **Population:** people living in The Hague who are ≤ 28 weeks pregnant or terminated a pregnancy in the past 3 months, and their (ex-)partners.
- **Quantitative methods:** quantitative surveys linked to personal and routine health care data from midwives, GPs, hospitals, and mental health care. The London Measure of Unplanned Pregnancy (LMUP) is used to measure how intended pregnancies are.
- **Qualitative methods:** life course interviews among those experiencing a UP, examining patterns on the pathway to a UP and their needs for care and support.



Preliminary survey results

Sociodemographic characteristics	Pregnant (% , n = 66)	Partner (% , n = 21)
Gender (woman)	100.0	9.5
Age		
≤ 19	1.3	
20-29	23.4	21.7
30-39	59.7	60.9
≥ 40	15.6	17.4
Relationship status		
Married or cohabiting	98.5	100.0
In relationship	1.5	
Country of birth		
The Netherlands	82.0	85.7
Other western	9.7	
Non-western	8.3	14.3
Perceived income	(n = 54)	(n = 16)
Living comfortably	79.7	68.8
Coping	15.3	31.3
Difficult	5.1	



Preliminary findings

- Pregnancies in our current sample are more often intended than unintended, with a mean LMUP score of 10.2 for pregnant people and 9.9 for their partners.
- Note: at the time of filling out our survey, all participants were pregnant, or their partner was.

Further plans

Survey data collection will continue until April, 2023. We will make an effort to include more people who have difficulty on their current income and people who terminated a pregnancy, for our sample to be more representative of the population in The Hague. Life course interviews are planned to start in the autumn of 2022.

References

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