



Aim

- To present the course of a COVID-19 outbreak on the 6 islands under various levels of containment, against the natural course - without containment.
- Simulated with a S-I-R deterministic model:
 - hospital beds
 - IC units
- Scenarios:
 - no control measures
 - 40%, 50%, and 60% reduction in transmission



Background

- Natural history same as in model for NL
- Population size/demography specific for islands
- Contacts between and within age groups derived from study on BES
- Higher hospitalisation rate on Aruba and Curaçao, because of higher comorbidity prevalence (hypertension, obesity, DM)



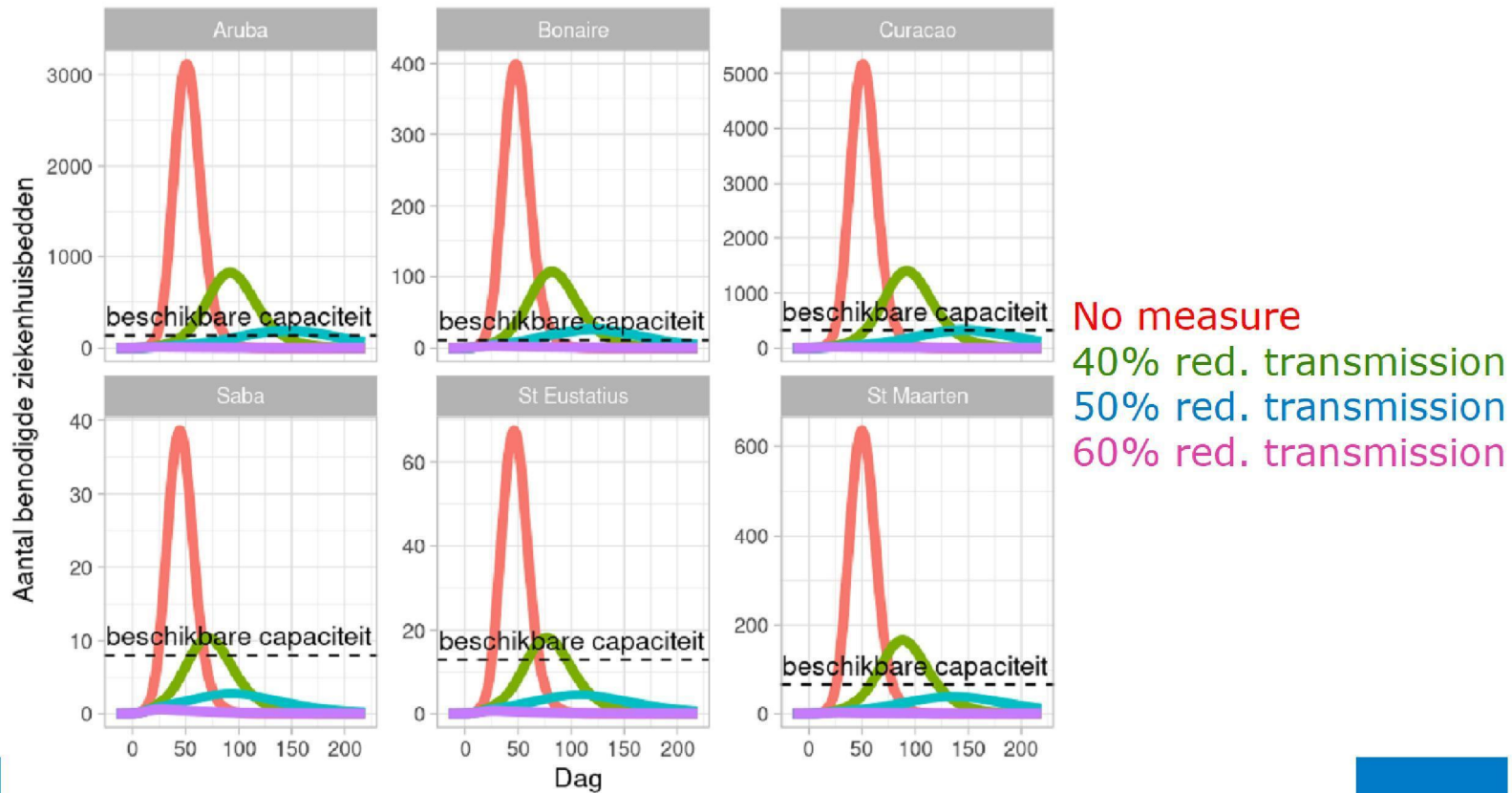
Background II

- Simulation: start control strategy when x cases have symptomatic disease:

| | Aruba | Curaçao | St Maarten | Bonaire | St Eustatius | Saba |
|--------------------|---------|---------|------------|---------|--------------|-------|
| Number symptomatic | 10 | 15 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Total population | 105,264 | 161,014 | 41,100 | 20,100 | 3,138 | 1,915 |

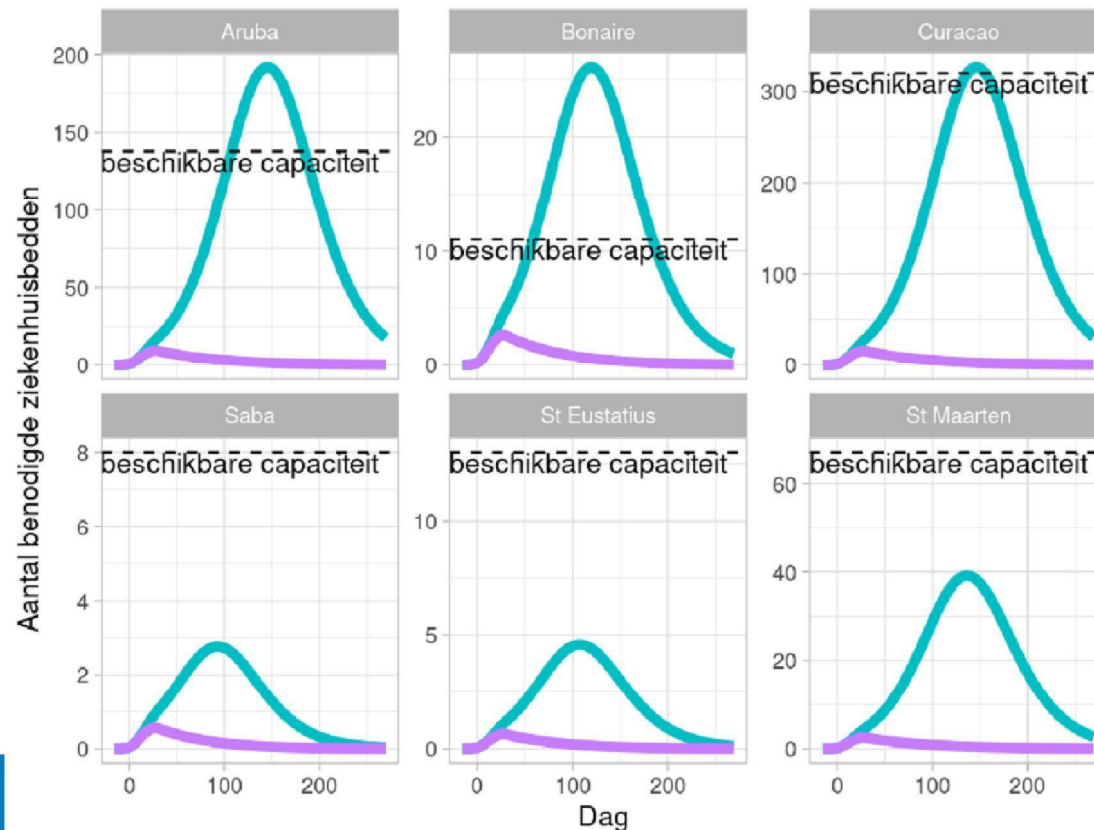


Hospital beds needed on the 6 islands





Hospital beds: 50% reduction transmission some islands mini, Aruba & Bonaire 60%



No measure
40% red. transmission
50% red. transmission
60% red. transmission



Interpretation hospital beds results

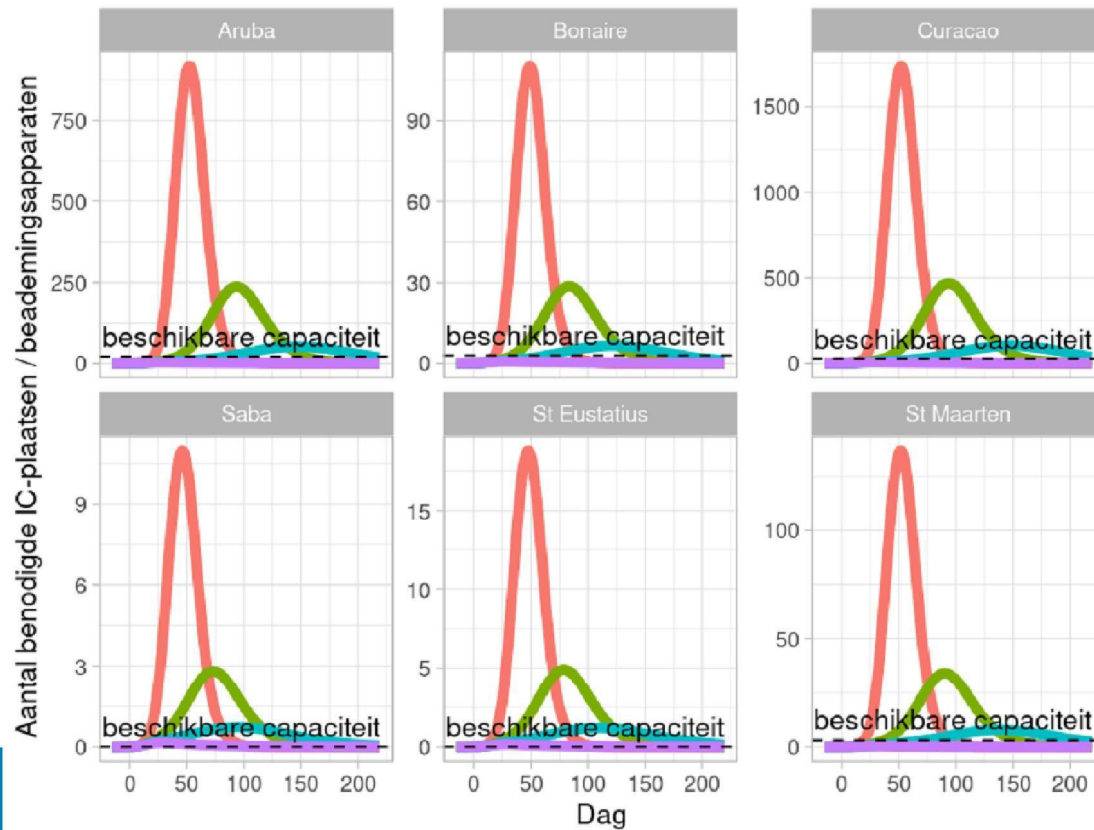
- Hospital beds needed without any measures peak around day 50 after epidemic onset
- Reducing transmission will:
 - reduce (peak) demand
 - delay peak
 - spread demand over longer time period

Suggestions early modelling:

- Containing transmission by 50%:
Enough capacity on Curaçao, Saba, St Maarten, St Eustatius, but not Aruba and Bonaire, where 60% reduction needed.



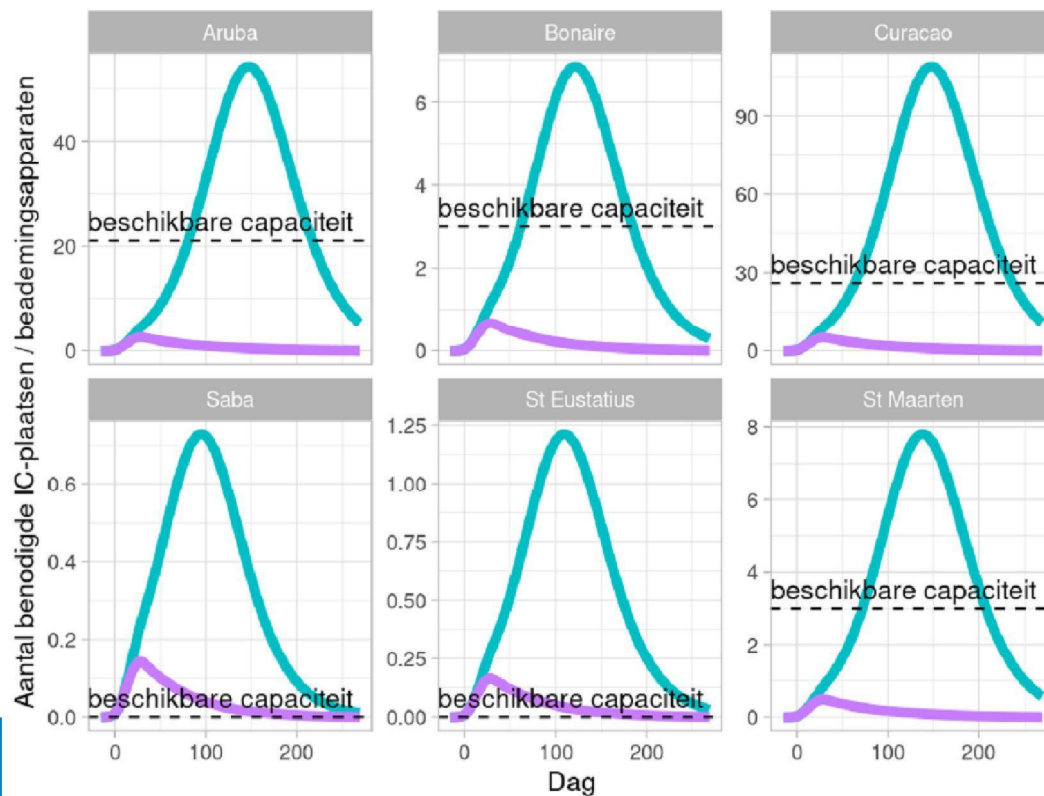
IC units needed in the 6 islands



No measure
 40% red. transmission
 50% red. transmission
 60% red. transmission



IC capacity: 60% transmission reduction mini. required



No measure
 40% red. transmission
 50% red. transmission
 60% red. transmission



Interpretation IC results

- Compared with hospital beds, IC capacity is more of a bottleneck
- Very low numbers Saba & St Eustatius with 60% containment, difficult to interpret
 - On average, 1 IC unit missing when 50% reduction of transmission, but could be 2 or 3 due to random effects
- Larger islands: peak demand on Curaçao would be ~100, but 26 IC units available, Bonaire ~7 needed, 3 available, Aruba almost 50 but 21 available.
- With 60% reduction you would stay under capacity limit



Take-home message

- Timely response with 60% reduction of transmission is needed to stay within capacity limits



Discussion I

- Deterministic model:

What happens at day t determines what happens at day $t+1$

Broadly applicable to well-mixing, large populations, but great uncertainty for low numbers –as used here for start control measures

➔ Caution with interpretation of low numbers for small islands

- Comorbidities might be higher in BES islands than currently implemented
- Risk of rebound of epidemic once the measures are lifted, as herd immunity is not achieved



Discussion II

- To what levels of reduction of transmission do measures correspond?

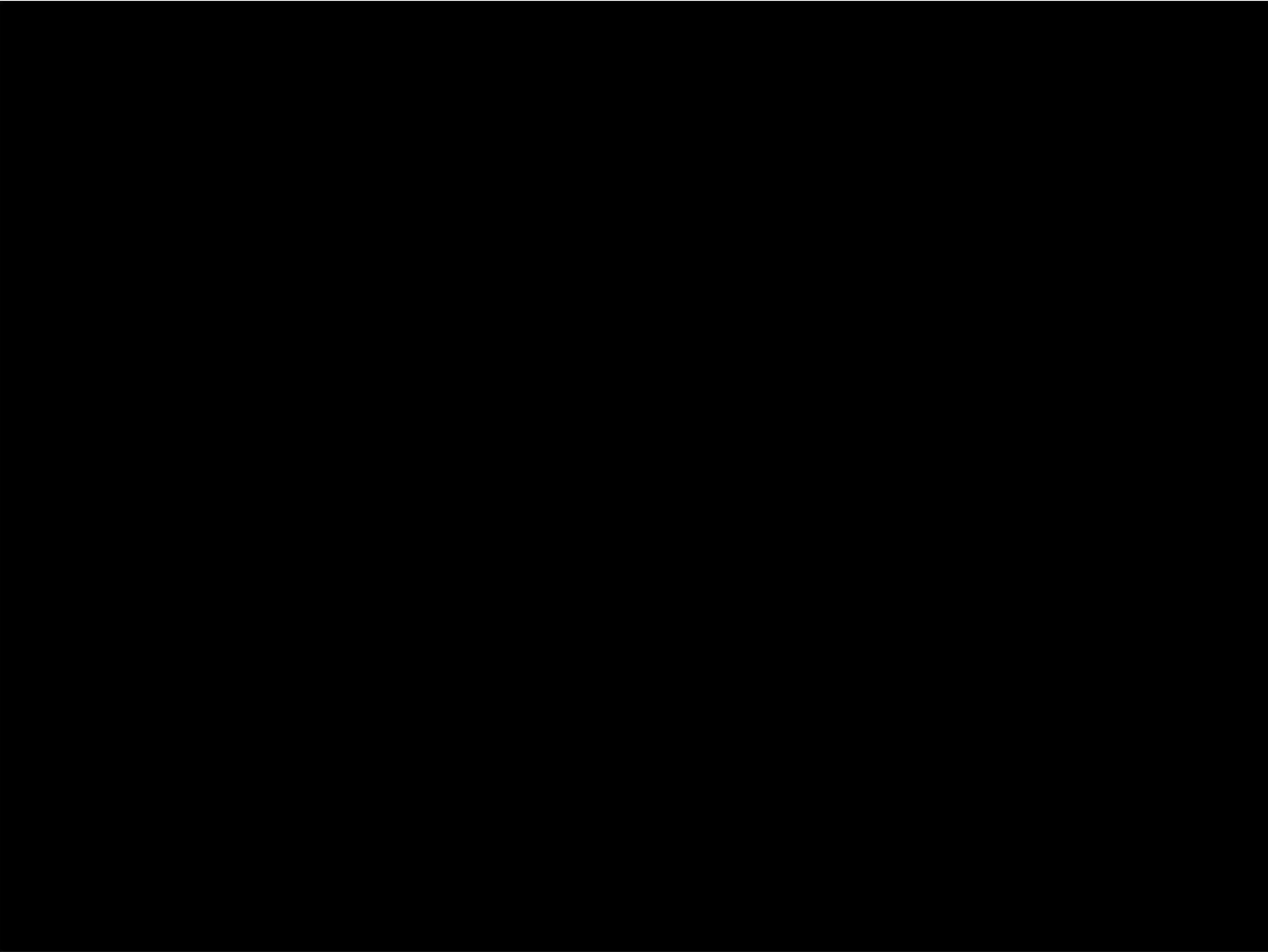
Difficult to compare to Netherlands, given different culture, contact patterns, climate etc.

In NL: the current combination of measures corresponds to 50-60% reduction in transmission.



Many thanks

- [5.1.2e], [5.1.2e], [5.1.2e] :
Modelling infectious Disease unit, EPI, RIVM
- [5.1.2e], Surveillance team, EPI, RIVM
- [5.1.2e], [5.1.2e], LCI, RIVM





Assumptions I

- Basic reproduction number –the average number of secondary cases per infectious individual:

$$R_0=2.2$$

- Serial interval 5 days
- Average duration in hospital / IC unit = 23 days (data NL)
- Contact rates between and within age categories inferred from PIENTER 3 study in BES islands
- Island-specific age distribution
- Children: as infectious as adults; data still uncertain