

# Association of atopic multimorbidity with childhood cat exposure, farm living, and rural residence: results of the Lifelines Cohort Study

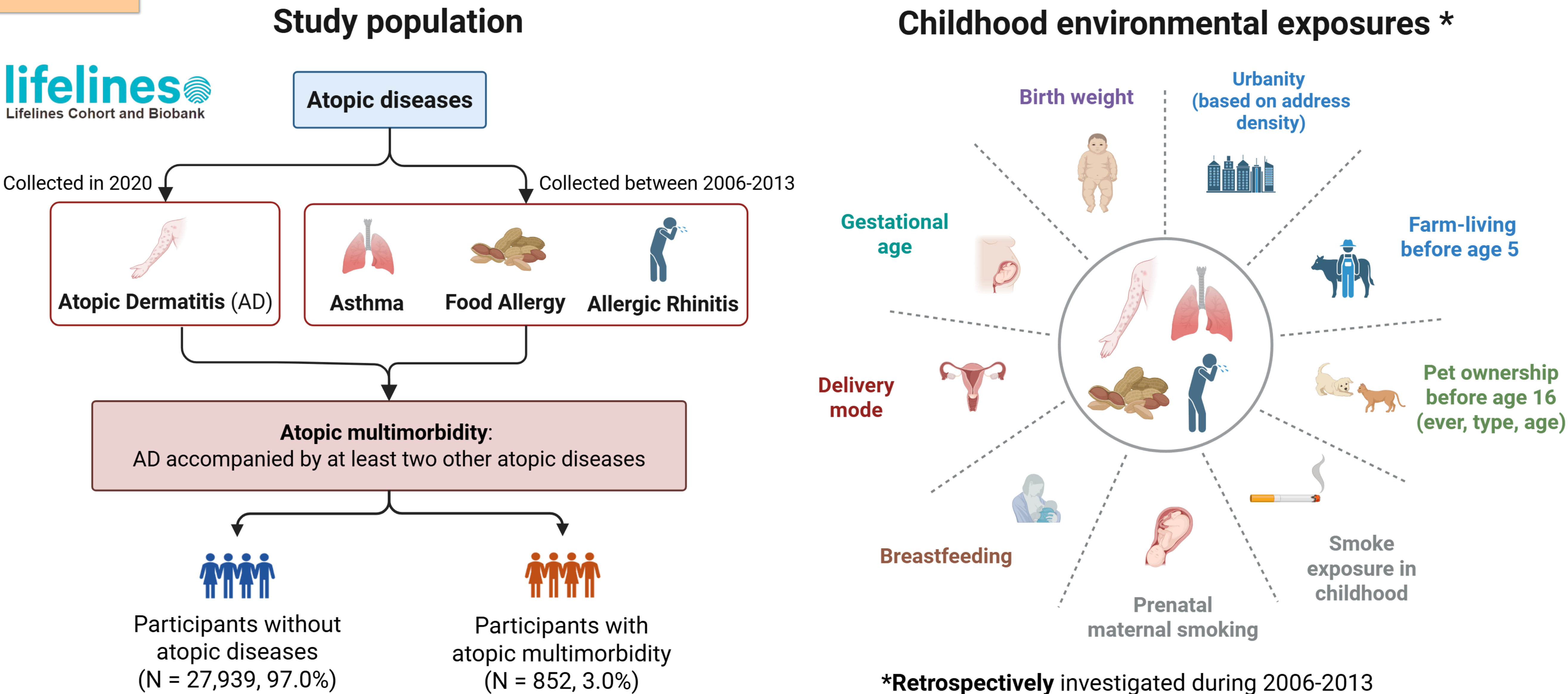
Rui Chen<sup>1</sup>, Laura Loman<sup>1</sup>, Douwe Postmus<sup>2</sup>, Marie L.A. Schuttelaar<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Dermatology, University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands. <sup>2</sup> Department of Epidemiology, University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands.

## Rationale and objective

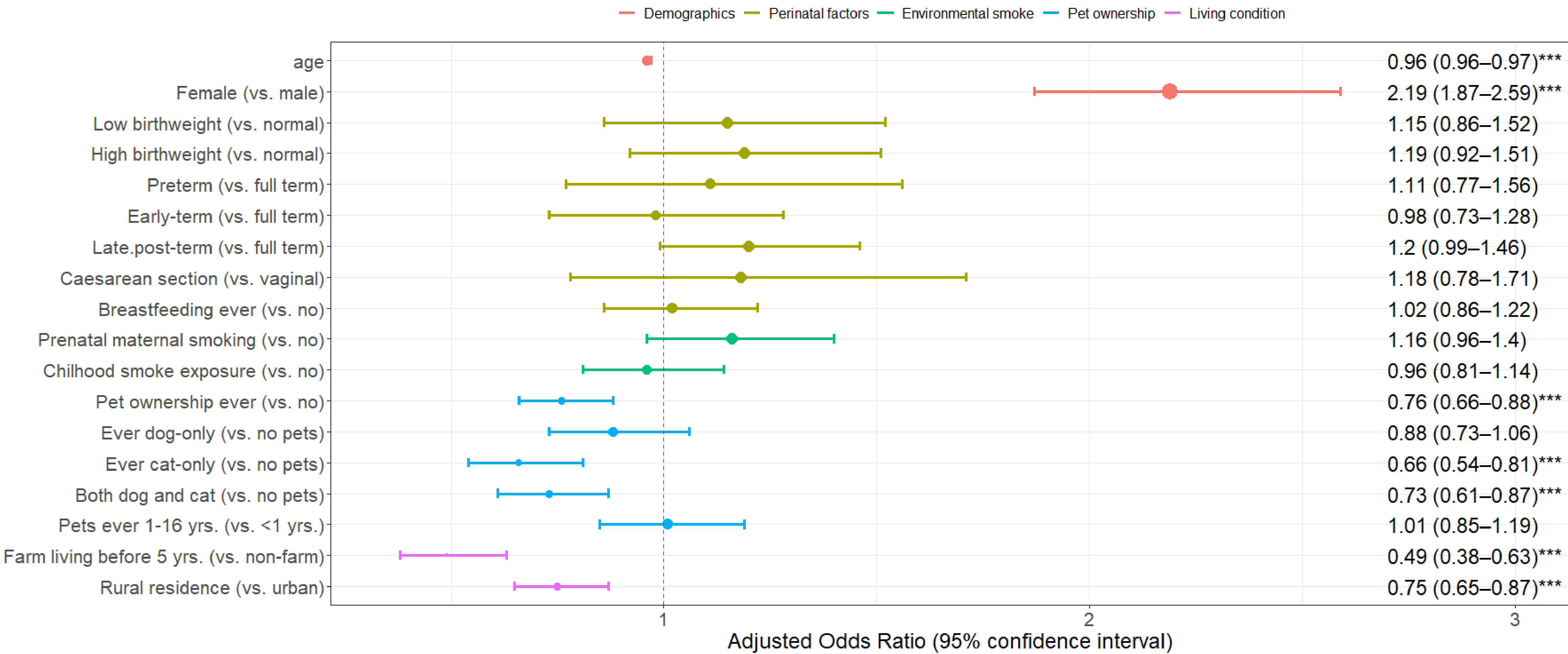
- Atopic multimorbidity is often seen in patients with atopic diseases.
- Hygiene hypothesis suggests that exposure to various environmental agents during early childhood may protect against atopic disease development.
- Research on childhood environmental exposure and atopic multimorbidity shows limited and inconsistent findings.
- To investigate the association between multiple childhood environmental exposures and atopic multimorbidity.

## Methods



## Results

- **Approximately 3.0% of individuals reported atopic multimorbidity in lifetime.**
- Childhood **pet ownership**, especially owning a **cat only**, and **farm or rural residence**, were negatively associated with atopic multimorbidity.
- **Females** were more likely to develop atopic multimorbidity than males.



## Conclusion

- This study found a 3% lifetime prevalence of atopic multimorbidity in the Dutch general population.
- Childhood exposure to specific environmental factors, such as cat ownership, farm living, and rural residence, may protect against atopic multimorbidity and guide the prevention of atopic diseases.