Are /v/ and /f/ merging in Dutch?

In previous studies we observed that /v/ is devoicing all over the Dutch language area, showing regional differences in both strength of devoicing and acoustic properties. In order to fully understand the devoicing of /v/ in Dutch we decided to involve its voiceless counterpart /f/ in the study. The central question will be whether /v/ and /f/ are merging in standard Dutch. Data are taken from an experiment in which the word initial fricatives /v/ and /f/ are presented in a carrier sentence, keeping the linguistic environment constant (preceded by an unstressed schwa and followed by a stressed central vowel). This experiment is part of a large sociolinguistic study of standard Dutch pronunciation. The subjects are 160 Dutch language teachers and stratified for community (the Netherlands vs. Flanders), region (4 in each community), age (<35 and >45) and sex. The subjects had to perform the reading task twice. The following acoustic measurements were performed: $f_0$ extent in the fricative (i.e. voicing extent), the intensity of the friction
noise, the duration of the fricative, the duration of the syllable, the duration of the following vowel, the mean $f_0$ at the vowel onset and the $f_0$ slope at the vowel onset.