



SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

June 2020

What are autism spectrum disorders?

Autism spectrum disorders are neurodevelopmental conditions characterised by problems in social interaction and communication, and restricted, repetitive behaviours. Symptoms usually appear before three years of age, but can appear later. Autism spectrum disorders are often associated intellectual disability, however average-IQ is frequent.

What is the evidence for comorbid autism spectrum disorders?

Moderate to high quality evidence finds a large effect of more autistic symptoms in people with schizophrenia compared to controls, and a large effect of fewer autistic symptoms in people with schizophrenia compared to people with an autistic spectrum disorder.

The prevalence of schizophrenia spectrum disorders in people with an autism spectrum disorder is around 9.5%. In people with autism and an IQ over 70, the prevalence rate is lower, around 6.4%. The rate of schizophrenia in people with autism is significantly higher than in people without autism.

For more information see the technical table

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

We are able to make significant advances due to the generosity of countless people. Your donation allows us to continue to work towards transforming lives. For information on how you can support our research, phone **1300 888 019** or make a secure donation at neura.edu.au/donate/schizophrenia.



NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) is one of the largest independent medical and clinical research institutes in Australia and an international leader in neurological research.

Diseases of the brain and nervous system pose the greatest health, economic and social burden of any disease group because they are chronic, debilitating and have no known cures.

Medical research is the cornerstone of efforts to advance the health and wellbeing of families and the community. Our dedicated scientists are focussed on transforming their research into significant and practical benefits for all patients.

While we hope you find this information useful, it is always important to discuss any questions about schizophrenia or its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.