



## SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

April 2022

### How is ethnicity related to risk for schizophrenia?

Some ethnic groups may show more or less risk for schizophrenia than other ethnic groups. Incidence refers to how many new cases there are per population in a specified time period, while prevalence refers to how many existing cases there are at a particular point in time. Differences in the incidence and prevalence across various ethnic groups can provide clues to possible causes of schizophrenia.

### What is the evidence for ethnicity as a risk factor for schizophrenia?

Moderate to high quality evidence suggests the incidence of any psychotic disorder is greater in ethnic minority groups living in the UK or the Netherlands than in the majority population in those areas. The incidence of psychotic disorders in ethnic minority groups is highest in areas with low own-group ethnic density than in areas with high own-group ethnic density. There was also a small increase in the prevalence and incidence of subclinical psychotic symptoms in people from ethnic minority groups. Small effects showed increased rates of psychotic symptoms and experiences in people with high perceived ethnic discrimination.

For schizophrenia in particular, there is a large increased risk in black Caribbean and black African migrants living in the UK, and also in their descendants and a medium-sized increased risk for Asian migrants compared to the white British population. In the USA, moderate quality evidence found a medium-sized increased risk of schizophrenia in Black people compared to White people. This effect was largest in studies with more males, more White participants, more young participants, in studies conducted in hospital and military settings, and in studies conducted in the Midwest, Southeast or national/multistate USA settings.

For more information see the technical table



*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.*

## 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](https://neura.edu.au/donate).