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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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How are infectious diseases related to schizophrenia?

Infectious diseases include the human immunodeficiency virus infection (HIV), and hepatitis viruses, such as hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Schizophrenia is associated with an increased risk of these infectious diseases when compared to the general population.

What is the evidence on infectious diseases in people with schizophrenia?

Moderate to low quality evidence finds medium-sized increased rates of hepatitis B and C in people with schizophrenia compared to people without schizophrenia.

Moderate quality evidence suggests the prevalence rate of HIV in people with any severe mental illness, including schizophrenia, is around 8%. For hepatitis B it is around 16%, and for hepatitis C it is around 7%. HIV prevalence rates are similar between males and females with a severe mental illness, while males with a severe mental illness are more likely to have hepatitis B or C than females with a severe mental illness.

Moderate to low quality evidence shows prevalence rates vary across regions. For HIV, rates are; 1.5% in Asia, 1.9% in Europe, 2.7% in Central and South America, 6% in North America, 19.2% in Africa. For hepatitis B, rates are; 2.2% in North America, 2.6% in Central and South America, 2.7% in Europe, 9.7% in Asia. For hepatitis C, rates are; 3.0% in Central and South America, 3.1% in Oceania, 4.4% in Asia, 4.9% in Europe, 17.4% in North America.

Moderate quality evidence shows rates are higher in people with a severe mental illness than in the general population only in regions with low overall prevalence, such as for HIV in the USA and Europe. Rates are similar between people with a severe mental illness and the general population in regions with high overall prevalence, such as for HIV in Africa, and for hepatitis B in Asia.

For more information see the technical table



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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/schizophrenia.