



## SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

August 2020

### What is prevalence?

Prevalence measures the proportion of individuals who have a disorder at a particular point in time (point prevalence) or during a specified period (annual prevalence, lifetime prevalence) and this may vary across regions. It is distinct from incidence, which refers to how many new cases there are per population in a specified time period. Lifetime prevalence is the number of individuals in a population that at some point in their life have experienced schizophrenia compared to the total number of individuals.

### Does the prevalence of schizophrenia vary spatially?

High quality evidence indicates there is worldwide spatial variation in the prevalence of schizophrenia and schizophrenia-related disorders. There is increased prevalence of schizophrenia with higher latitudes and colder climates. At the same latitude, prevalence is higher for people with dark skin colour (African American, sub-Saharan Africa and southern Indian regions). Moderate quality evidence suggests there is less prevalence in least developed countries compared to developed countries. High quality evidence suggests no differences in the prevalence of schizophrenia in urban versus rural or mixed urban/rural areas. The age-standardised 2016 prevalence rate was 0.28%, with variance from 0.19% in Africa, to 0.42% in East Asia.

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/schizophrenia](http://neura.edu.au/donate/schizophrenia).