



NeuRA

Discover. Conquer. Cure.

SCHIZOPHRENIA LIBRARY

SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

August 2020

How are environmental toxins related to risk for schizophrenia?

Exposure to environmental toxins can cause problems to both physical and mental health. Pollutants of main public health interest involve organic and elemental carbons, metals such as lead, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, and perchloroethylene commonly used in dry cleaning. Being born or raised in an urban environment has been related to a higher incidence of schizophrenia, and air pollution could be one of the explanatory factors.

What is the evidence for environmental toxins as a risk factor for schizophrenia?

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests exposure to high levels of air pollution may be associated with increased risk for schizophrenia. Prenatal and early childhood exposure to perchloroethylene may also be associated with increased risk of schizophrenia.

For more information see the technical table



NeuRA

Discover. Conquer. Cure.

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.