

Environmental risk factors linked to increased risk for schizotypy

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Having a larger number of environmental risk factors is associated with

an increased likelihood of schizotypy at age 11 years, according to a study published online Oct. 28 in *Schizophrenia Bulletin*.

Kirstie O'Hare, Ph.D., from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, and colleagues prospectively examined the association between 19 environmental exposures measured from the prenatal period through age 11 years and three profiles of schizotypy in 20,599 children (mean age, 11.9 years). The association between membership in each of three schizotypy profiles (true schizotypy, introverted schizotypy, and affective schizotypy) and exposure to risk factors was examined.

The researchers found that almost all [environmental factors](#) were associated with at least one schizotypy profile. The strongest association for the cumulative environmental risk score was seen for the true schizotypy profile, followed by affective and introverted schizotypy (odds ratios, 1.61, 1.33, and 1.32, respectively).

"In conclusion, having a larger number of environmental [risk factors](#) was associated with an increased likelihood of schizotypy in middle childhood, in a manner consistent with a cumulative risk hypothesis," the authors write. "These findings emphasize the need to investigate whether interventions to mitigate the effects of adverse [environmental exposures](#) in early/[middle childhood](#) could be effective in preventing or delaying the onset of schizophrenia spectrum disorders."

More information: Kirstie O'Hare et al, Cumulative Environmental Risk in Early Life: Associations With Schizotypy in Childhood, *Schizophrenia Bulletin* (2022). [DOI: 10.1093/schbul/sbac160](https://doi.org/10.1093/schbul/sbac160)

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