# Neighborhood-level predictors of age-at-first-diagnosis of psychotic disorders: a Swedish register-based cohort study

Spyros Spyridonidis, <sup>1</sup> Jennifer Dykxhoorn, <sup>1,2</sup> Anna-Clara Hollander, <sup>3</sup> Christina Dalman, <sup>3,4</sup> James B. Kirkbride<sup>1</sup>\*

\*Correspondence to: James B. Kirkbride, Division of Psychiatry, University College London, London W1T 7NF, UK; Tel: +44 (0) 20 7679 9297; j.kirkbride@ucl.ac.uk

© The Author(s) 2022. Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the University of Maryland's school of medicine, Maryland Psychiatric Research Center.

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons

Attribution-NonCommercial License (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), which

permits non-commercial re-use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited. For commercial re-use, please contact journals.permissions@oup.com

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>PsyLife Group, Division of Psychiatry, UCL, London, United Kingdom

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Department of Primary Care and Population Health, UCL, London, United Kingdom

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Department of Global Public Health, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Centre for Epidemiology and Community Medicine, Stockholm County Council, Sweden

#### Abstract

The relationship between neighborhood-level factors and the incidence of psychotic disorders is well established. However, it is unclear whether neighborhood characteristics are also associated with ageat-first-diagnosis of these disorders. We used linked Swedish register data to identify a cohort of persons first diagnosed with an ICD-10 non-affective or affective psychotic disorder (F20-33) between 1997 and 2016. Using multilevel mixed-effect linear modelling, we investigated whether neighborhood deprivation and population density at birth were associated with age-at-first diagnosis of a psychotic disorder. Our final cohort included 13,440 individuals, with a median age-at-first-diagnosis of 21.8 years for women (interquartile range [IQR]: 19.0-25.5) and 22.9 years for men (IQR: 20.1-26.1; p<.0001). In an unadjusted model, we found no evidence of an association between neighborhood deprivation and ageat-first-diagnosis of psychotic disorder (p=.07). However, after multivariable adjustment, age-at-firstdiagnosis increased by .13 years (95% CI: .05 to .21; p=.002) for a one standard deviation increase in neighborhood deprivation. This was equivalent to a later diagnosis of 47 days (95% CI: 18 to 77). We found no evidence of a different relationship for non-affective versus affective psychoses (LRT  $\chi^2(1)$  = .14; p=.71). Population density was not associated with age-at-first-diagnosis in unadjusted (p=.81) or adjusted (p=.85) models. Later age-at-first-diagnosis for individuals born in more deprived neighborhoods suggests structural barriers to accessing equitable psychiatric care.

Keywords: epidemiology, longitudinal, age-at-onset, deprivation, population density, schizophrenia

#### Introduction

The incidence of non-affective psychotic disorders varies geographically,<sup>1,2</sup> and is associated with neighborhood characteristics,<sup>3-5</sup> as first observed by Faris and Dunham over 80 years ago.<sup>6</sup> They investigated the distribution of mental disorders in Chicago and identified that rates of schizophrenia were higher in more socially disorganized neighborhoods; in contrast, this variation was not observed for affective psychoses, mirroring patterns replicated elsewhere since, including in nationwide register data in Denmark.<sup>7</sup>

These findings have been observed in numerous studies in high-income countries since, including in the United States and Europe, showing that there is a concentration of non-affective psychotic disorders in neighborhoods characterized by higher urbanicity, deprivation, income inequality, population density, and lower social capital. Moreover, longitudinal studies from Denmark found that there is a dose-response relationship between urbanicity at birth and during upbringing and later risk of schizophrenia. 12-14

While the relationship between neighborhoods and the incidence of psychotic disorders is well established, little research has investigated whether the age-at-onset of psychosis – a key clinical epidemiological variable – also varies across neighborhoods. Age-at-onset typically refers to the age at which positive symptoms of psychosis first emerge, but other definitions have been used in the literature, including age-at-first-presentation or diagnosis. Notwithstanding known variation in the duration of untreated psychosis (DUP), 16,17 most patients first present to services close to the age-of-onset of psychotic symptoms. 16

Age-at-onset of psychosis is a key predictor of disease outcomes.<sup>15</sup> Earlier age-at-onset is associated with poorer prognosis for schizophrenia, such as more negative symptoms, greater symptom severity, more hospitalizations, decreased likelihood of remission, more frequent relapses, and poorer social and

occupational functioning.<sup>15,18</sup> Accordingly, minimizing the delay between age-at-onset of first symptoms and first treatment for psychosis can substantially improve the course and outcomes of the disorder.<sup>19,20</sup>

Factors that influence the age-at-onset of psychosis can also provide valuable insight into the complex etiology and origin of psychotic disorders. <sup>21</sup> To date, several demographic and clinical characteristics have been associated with an earlier age-at-onset, including male sex, <sup>22</sup> single marital status, poor premorbid occupational functioning, <sup>23</sup> cannabis use, obstetric complications, <sup>24</sup> and family history of psychosis. <sup>25</sup> Nevertheless, the influence of neighborhood-level risk factors of psychosis on the age-at-onset is largely unknown. To our knowledge, only two studies have examined this relationship. One study of 555 FEP participants in Ireland reported no urban-rural birth differences in age-at-onset, <sup>24</sup> although a smaller study in the US found that neighborhood residential instability was associated with an earlier age-at-onset in a sample of 143 patients with a first-episode of psychosis. <sup>26</sup>

Understanding whether neighborhood-level factors influence the age-at-onset of psychotic disorders may not only provide evidence about the role of the social environment in the etiology of psychotic disorders but could also have public health implications. For example, such knowledge could inform the timing and resource allocation of early intervention in psychosis (EIP) services by identifying settings where the population may be at-risk of earlier (or later) diagnosis of psychotic disorders; targeting those at-risk before or around the most likely time of disease onset has the potential to improve both the course and outcomes of the disorder.<sup>27,28</sup>

Here, we used prospectively collected register data on a nationwide cohort in Sweden to investigate whether neighborhood deprivation and population density at birth and during upbringing were associated with age-at-first-diagnosis of psychotic disorders after controlling for potential confounders, including sex, parental history of serious mental illness (SMI), obstetric complications, family disposable income at participants' birth, and parental migration status. In this study, we used age-at-first-diagnosis

as a proxy for age-at-onset. We also investigated if there were differences in these associations between affective and non-affective psychoses.

We hypothesized that neighborhood deprivation and population density at birth and during upbringing would be negatively associated with age-at-first-diagnosis of psychotic disorders (i.e., people born in more deprived and densely populated areas will have a younger age-at-first-diagnosis of psychosis), even after adjusting for confounders. We also hypothesized that the association between neighborhood level factors and age-at-first-diagnosis would be stronger for non-affective than for affective psychoses, given previous evidence that non-affective psychoses are more strongly related to the neighborhood characteristics than affective psychoses. <sup>9,10</sup>

## Methods

## Population and study design

We extracted nationwide data from Psychiatry Sweden, a comprehensive and anonymized database of linked Swedish national registers. Using the Register of the Total Population (RTP), we identified a cohort of individuals born in Sweden between January 1, 1982, and December 31, 2001, who were diagnosed with their first ICD-10 psychotic disorder in the National Patient Register (NPR) from their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday (earliest: January 1, 1997) until December 31, 2016. We defined age-at-first-diagnosis from age 15, as this corresponds with the age after which psychotic disorders can be reliably captured in the Swedish healthcare system.<sup>29</sup> We excluded individuals who received a diagnosis of a psychotic disorder before 15 years old, those born outside of Sweden, and those without permanent residency in Sweden.

#### Outcome

Our primary outcome was age-at-first-diagnosis of psychotic disorders, as recorded in the Swedish National Patient Register (NPR) with ICD-10 codes F20-29 (non-affective psychoses) and F30.2, F31.2, F32.3 and F33.3 (affective psychoses). Recording from psychiatric inpatient care across Sweden was 100% complete during the follow-up period, while recording from outpatient settings began in 2001 and has achieved complete national coverage since 2006.<sup>30</sup>

#### **Exposures**

Our exposures were neighborhood deprivation and population density at birth. Following similar studies in Sweden,<sup>31,32</sup> we defined neighborhoods according to the "Small Area for Market Statistics" (SAMS) classification system, which contains annual information on residential area characteristics. There are about 9,200 SAMS areas in Sweden, and their median population size in 2011 was 726 people (interquartile range (IQR), 312–1,378). These administrative units are designed to maximize internal socioeconomic homogeneity, while preserving variance in characteristics of the social environment between SAMS.<sup>31</sup> Our cohort came from 4,896 SAMS areas.

We estimated population density as people per square kilometer in each participant's SAMS in their birth year. Likewise, we estimated neighborhood deprivation for each participant's SAMS in their birth year based on four factors: the proportion of people who: (i) received social benefit; (ii) had a criminal conviction; (iii) had income below the median national income, and; (iv) were unemployed. For deprivation, each item was z-standardized to have a mean of zero and standard deviation of one, which we aggregated into an overall z-score deprivation variable. For both deprivation and population density, we z-standardized these variables to have a mean of zero and standard deviation of one to align them to comparable scales, where greater scores indicated more deprived and densely populated areas. We also

assigned participants to deprivation and population density quintiles at birth relative to all SAMS in Sweden in the participants' birth year for descriptive purposes.

## **Confounders**

We selected the following variables from linked registers as potential *a priori* confounders based on theory and previous evidence: sex,<sup>22</sup> parental history of SMI,<sup>25</sup> obstetric complications,<sup>24</sup> family disposable income at participants' birth,<sup>33</sup> and parental migration status.<sup>34</sup>

We defined parental history of SMI as either biological parent ever having been diagnosed with an ICD-8, -9 or -10 psychotic disorder or bipolar disorder with or without psychotic symptoms between 1973, when the NPR began, until 2016, to gather data regarding psychiatric admissions. We obtained family disposable income at birth from the Population and Housing Census (FOB) in 1980, 1985 and 1990 for participants born between 1982-1989, and from the Longitudinal Integration Database for Health Insurance and Labour Market Studies (LISA) for participants born from 1990 onwards when the LISA superseded the FOB. From each source, we created annual quintiles of family disposable income relative to all adults in Sweden in that year to account for inflation over the birth cohort, and assigned participants their family income quintile in the year of birth, as the highest of either the biological or adopted father's or mother's income quintile. Full methods are provided in the Supplemental Methods and Supplemental Table 1. We used Apgar scores at 5 minutes after birth to define obstetric complications, as recorded in the Maternal Birth Register. Apgar scores are an accepted and convenient method for reporting vital signs in newborn infants and any response to resuscitation that may be required.<sup>35</sup> We categorized this according to the definitions used by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists as "reassuring" (scores of 7-10), "moderately abnormal" (scores of 4-6) and "low" (scores of 0-3). We defined parental migration status as both parents being Swedish-born or

at least one parent being foreign-born, by linking data from the RTP and the Multi-Generational Register.

#### Statistical analysis

We conducted a complete-case analysis since the proportion of missing data was low (6.9%), and was not expected to produce biased results. <sup>36</sup> We used multilevel linear regression with random intercepts at the neighborhood (SAMS) level to take into account the hierarchical structure of the data and to quantify variation in age-at-first-diagnosis attributable to neighborhood-level effects in null and fully-adjusted models. Modelling proceeded as follows. First, we ran null models to quantify this variation. Second, we ran unadjusted analyses to determine univariable associations between neighborhood-level deprivation and population density at-birth and age-at-first-diagnosis of psychotic disorder. Third, we adjusted for all *a priori* confounders in a multivariable model. Fourth, we tested whether the effect of deprivation or population density at-birth on age-at-first-diagnosis differed for non-affective and affective psychoses by testing for multiplicative interaction between these variables and performing a likelihood ratio test (LRT) against a model without the interaction term. Finally, we performed secondary analyses to investigate whether cumulative exposure to deprivation or population density during childhood (from birth to age 14) was associated with age-at-first-diagnosis of psychosis. For all models, we reported the change in age-at-first-diagnosis for a one standard deviation increase in deprivation or population density. Modelling was conducted in Stata, version 15.

# Ethical Approval

This study was approved by the Stockholm Regional Ethical Review Board (2010/1185-31/5) and the UCL Research Ethics Committee (21019/001).

## **Results**

#### Sample characteristics

Our cohort included 14,438 individuals born in Sweden between 1982 and 2001, and diagnosed with a psychotic disorder after their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday, of whom 998 (6.9% of cohort) were missing data (**Table 1**). Compared with the complete case sample, participants with missing data were more likely to be older (median age-at-first-diagnosis: 23.7 years vs. 22.5 years; p<.0001), children of migrants (40.3% vs. 25.9%: p<.0001), from either the lowest or highest income quintile at birth (p<.0001), from more densely populated (p=.01) and deprived neighborhoods (p=.02) at birth, and to have a parental history of SMI (p=.02) and a personal history of non-affective (vs. affective) psychotic disorder (p=.01). There were no differences between the complete case sample and those with missing data by sex or 5-minute Apgar score.

Our complete case sample included 13,440 individuals (93.1% of cohort) nested within 4,896 SAMS neighborhoods at birth. The sample was predominantly male (57.9%), Swedish-born to two Swedish-born parents (74.1%) and diagnosed with a non-affective psychosis (74.8%). Median age-at-first-diagnosis was 22.5 years (IQR, 19.6 - 25.9), although this was younger for women (21.8; IQR, 19.0 - 25.5) than men (22.9; IQR, 20.1 - 26.1; Mann–Whitney U = 12.4; p<.0001). Participants were over-represented in the most deprived (27.8%) and densely populated (39.9%) quintiles at birth. Twelve percent of participants had at least one biological parent diagnosed with SMI.

[Insert Table 1]

#### Multilevel modelling

A null multilevel linear model showed that only 0.01% (95% CI: 0.00 to 0.03; p=.07; **Supplemental Table 2**) of variance in age-at-first-diagnosis of psychotic disorders could be attributed to the neighborhood level; this remained unaltered in the fully adjusted model (0.01%; 95% CI: 0.00 to 0.03; p= .04).

In unadjusted analyses, we found no evidence of an association between neighborhood deprivation (-.07; 95% CI: -.14 to .00; p=.07; **Table 2**) or population density (-.01; 95% CI: -.08 to .07; p=.81) at birth and age-at-first-diagnosis of psychosis. However, after multivariable control for *a priori* covariates (see **Supplemental Table 3** for full results), we observed that a one standard deviation increase in neighborhood deprivation became associated with an increase in age-at-first-diagnosis of .13 years (95% CI: .05 to .21; p=.002). This was equivalent to a later diagnosis of 47 days (95% CI: 18 to 77); population density remained unassociated with age-at-first-diagnosis (.01; 95% CI: -.07 to .08; p=.85).

[Insert Table 2]

We found no evidence that the association between neighborhood deprivation and the age-at-first-diagnosis differed for people diagnosed with either non-affective or affective psychosis (LRT for interaction:  $\chi^2(1)$ = .14; p=.71; **Table 3**). Likewise, we did not observe any effect modification between population density and age-at-first-diagnosis by diagnosis (LRT:  $\chi^2(1)$ = 1.61; p=.21).

[Insert Table 3]

## Secondary analyses

We repeated our modelling for cases on whom continuous SAMS data from birth to 14 years old was available (N=13,089; 97.4% of the complete case sample). Our findings showed similar trends: in an unadjusted model, cumulative exposure to neighborhood deprivation in childhood was not associated with age-at-first-diagnosis of psychosis (-.05; 95% CI: -.13 to .02; p=.15) (**Table 4**). However, after

multivariable adjustment, a one standard deviation increase in cumulative exposure to neighborhood deprivation was associated with an increased age-at-first-diagnosis of .15 years (95% CI: .08 to .23; p<.0001), equivalent to 55 days (95% CI: 29 to 84). We found no evidence that cumulative exposure to population density was associated with age-at-first-diagnosis of psychosis in unadjusted (-.06; 95% CI: -.13 to .02; p= .14) or adjusted analyses (.00; 95% CI: -.07 to .08; p= .99).

[Insert Table 4]

#### Discussion

## **Main findings**

In this large, population-based study of people diagnosed with a psychotic disorder throughout Sweden aged up to 34 years old, neighborhood deprivation at birth and during upbringing were longitudinally associated with older age-at-first-diagnosis of psychosis after multivariable adjustment, in contrast to our hypothesis. This pattern did not differ by diagnosis. We found no evidence that population density-at-birth or during upbringing was associated with age-at-first-diagnosis of psychotic disorder, despite being associated with the incidence of psychotic disorders in the general population. <sup>12,32</sup>

# Strengths and limitations

Strengths of our study included a large sample followed for up to 20 years with only a small amount of missing data. Swedish register data are also reliable for research purposes,<sup>37</sup> and diagnoses of psychotic disorders in the NPR have good validity.<sup>29,30</sup> The longitudinal design (exposure measured at birth) excludes the possibility that individual social drift could have accounted for our findings. We could not exclude the possibility that other forms of reverse causation accounted for our findings, including intergenerational social drift or selection of families at genetically higher risk of psychosis moving into more deprived areas before participant birth. People at genetically high risk of psychosis have been shown to

be born in more deprived areas,<sup>38</sup> and family history of psychosis has also been linked to earlier age-at-onset.<sup>25</sup> Nonetheless, in our study, parental history of SMI was not associated with age-at-first-diagnosis (**Supplemental Table 2**), and deprivation at-birth was independently associated with a later age-at-first-diagnosis in our study after controlling for parental history of SMI. These findings suggest genetic selection is an unlikely explanation of our findings as they pertain to age-at-first-diagnosis. We controlled for several potential confounders in our analyses, informed by *a priori* knowledge, though we recognize that unobserved or residual confounding remain possible; unobserved confounding may include familial genetic risk not captured via our parental history of SMI variable. We did not control for cannabis use, previously found to be associated with age-at-onset of psychosis,<sup>24</sup> since this was on the causal pathway between our exposures (measured at birth) and outcome.

Our findings should be interpreted in the context of several limitations. First, previous research has defined age-at-onset of psychosis in numerous ways, including age at first positive psychotic symptoms, age at first admission, or age at first diagnosis by healthcare professionals.<sup>15</sup> Although the onset of positive symptoms lies closest to the true endophenotype we are seeking to study, this information can only be subjectively obtained by the patient or close relatives, and is usually retrospectively ascertained and subject to recall. Our definition was based on the availability of register data, and we used age-at-first-diagnosis as a proxy for age-at-onset. Prior to conducting this study, we assumed this to be a reasonable assumption, given evidence that age-at-onset of positive symptoms and age-at-first-diagnosis are highly correlated, typically occurring within 6-18 months of each other;<sup>15</sup> we explore the validity of this assumption in more detail below in interpreting our findings.

Second, our results may not generalize to people with psychosis older than 34 years old, the maximum observed age at the end of follow-up in our cohort. The median age-at-first diagnosis in our sample of people aged up to 34 years old was 22.5 years (IQR, 19.6 - 25.9), but this figure should not be compared with summary estimates based on samples which cover the typical adult-onset age range up to 64 years

old, where median ages are likely to be older.<sup>27</sup> Our median estimate compares with evidence from samples based on similar age ranges, such as data from the Social Epidemiology of Psychoses in East Anglia [SEPEA] first onset study in people aged 16-35 years old, which reported an almost identical median age-at-first diagnosis.<sup>39</sup> Our results may also not generalize to other countries with different levels of deprivation and population density. Future research could also investigate if there are different patterns in countries where access to healthcare is not universal, or where the effects of income inequalities on health may be more pronounced, such as in the United States.<sup>40</sup>

Third, the Swedish registers had complete coverage of psychiatric contacts from in-patient settings for the whole duration of the study, but out-patient coverage began in 2001 and was complete from 2006 onwards.<sup>29</sup> We might have missed some participants as outpatients from 1997 to 2005, though this effect on our results is likely to have been small, unless the rollout of outpatient coverage in Sweden was differential by population density and deprivation; data were unavailable to investigate this possibility.

## Meaning of findings

Greater deprivation at birth and during upbringing were associated with older age-first-diagnosis, corresponding to point estimates of 47 and 55 days (or 6.7 and 7.9 weeks), for a one standard deviation increase in deprivation at-birth and cumulative deprivation during upbringing, respectively.

Contrary to our hypothesis, we observed a delay in the first diagnosis of psychotic disorder of around 47-55 days (6.7-7.9 weeks) for a one standard deviation increase in deprivation at-birth and during upbringing respectively. We originally hypothesized that greater deprivation (and population density) would hasten the onset of psychotic disorders because enduring exposure to systemic disadvantage would accelerate disruption to stress mechanisms implicated in increasing psychosis risk,<sup>41</sup> consistent with etiological theory.<sup>42</sup> By contrast, our results suggest either (i) that exposure to wider social

adversities increases psychosis *risk* in a manner that is unrelated to age at first *onset* of symptoms; (ii) that the social environment is not causally related to age at psychosis *onset* or *risk* of psychosis, or; (iii) that age-at-first-diagnosis was a poor proxy for age-at-first-onset in our dataset, and may, in fact, be related to duration of untreated psychosis (DUP).

We suggest our results are most parsimoniously explained by the latter explanation, with age-at-firstdiagnosis influenced by help-seeking behavior in different environments, and perhaps more weakly correlated to age-at-first-onset in our dataset than assumed a priori. Although Sweden has a universal healthcare system which should reduce the DUP between age at symptom onset and first diagnosis, we do not know whether this acted differentially by exposure status (i.e. deprivation or population density). Previous cross-sectional studies have found no association between deprivation and DUP, 16,17,43,44 but evidence from longitudinal studies or register-based data on this issue are missing. Ongoing, chronic exposure to more social disadvantage may lead to longer delays in seeking help for psychosis, given enduring barriers to accessing care including consistent under-investment in appropriately-resourced mental health services in deprived communities, reductions in education and public awareness of the initial signs and symptoms of psychosis, less familiarity with the availability of mental health services, fewer personal, social or community resources to help signpost or support people in the initial phases of psychosis, reduced forms of other measures of informal social control (such as greater tolerance of unusual behaviors in more deprived neighborhoods), a greater likelihood of competing priorities for individuals in resource-poor environments from seeking access to care (such as maintaining a job or caring for family), greater mistrust of institutions (particularly those concerned with mental health care). 45-49 All such factors could explain the association between deprivation and age-at-first-diagnosis observed in our study.

There is only limited direct evidence on the relationship between psychosis age-at-onset and the wider social environment. For example, a small study (N=143) in the United States observed that earlier age-

at-onset of psychotic symptoms was associated with residential instability, even when controlling for known predictors of an early age-at-onset, but not with socioeconomic status, employability, or household value. The authors suggested that more residentially unstable neighborhoods may be less socially integrated, making it difficult to maintain social contacts with others, leading those predisposed to psychosis to manifest symptoms earlier. Nonetheless, a larger study in Ireland found no urban-rural birth differences in age-at-onset. Further longitudinal research which directly measures age-at-onset in relation to the wider social environment could further elucidate these findings.

#### **Implications**

Knowledge that neighborhood-level factors – here, specifically deprivation – could influence the age-at-first-diagnosis of psychosis could help inform the allocation of resources to support timely access to early intervention programs for people in their first episode of psychosis. Given our research has also shown that a disproportionate burden of new cases will present in more deprived areas, <sup>32,50</sup> mental health policymakers should prioritize resourcing appropriate psychosis services in these areas. Our data suggest this should include provision of early detection and outreach strategies in more deprived communities to minimize delays to care, and maximize positive functional, symptomatic, and social outcomes for people in their first episode of psychosis.

# **Funding**

SS, JD and JBK were supported by the National Institute for Health Research University College London Hospital Biomedical Research Centre. A-CH was funded by Forte (grant number: 2016-00870). CD is supported by the Swedish Research Council (grant number 523-2010-1052).

# **Acknowledgements**

None.

# **Conflicts of interest**

JBK reports consultancy fees from Roche and the Health Services Executive, Ireland. All authors declare they have no other conflicts of interest to report.

#### References

- 1. Jongsma HE, Gayer-Anderson C, Lasalvia A, et al. Treated Incidence of Psychotic Disorders in the Multinational EU-GEI Study. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2018;75(1):36-46. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2017.3554
- 2. Vassos E, Pedersen CB, Murray RM, Collier DA, Lewis CM. Meta-analysis of the association of urbanicity with schizophrenia. *Schizophr Bull*. 2012;38(6):1118-23. doi:10.1093/schbul/sbs096
- 3. March D, Hatch SL, Morgan C, et al. Psychosis and place. *Epidemiol Rev.* 2008;30:84-100. doi:10.1093/epirev/mxn006
- 4. Richardson L, Hameed Y, Perez J, Jones PB, Kirkbride JB. Association of Environment With the Risk of Developing Psychotic Disorders in Rural Populations: Findings from the Social Epidemiology of Psychoses in East Anglia Study. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2018;75(1):75-83. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2017.3582
- 5. Pedersen CB, Antonsen S, Timmermann A, et al. Urban-Rural Differences in Schizophrenia Risk: Multilevel Survival Analyses of Individual- and Neighborhood-Level Indicators, Urbanicity and Population Density in a Danish National Cohort Study. *Schizophrenia Bulletin Open*. 2021;3(1)doi:10.1093/schizbullopen/sgab056
- 6. Faris REL, Dunham HW. *Mental disorders in urban areas: an ecological study of schizophrenia and other psychoses*. Univ. Chicago Press; 1939.
- 7. Pedersen CB, Mortensen PB. Urbanicity during upbringing and bipolar affective disorders in Denmark. *Bipolar Disord*. 2006;8(3):242-7. doi:10.1111/j.1399-5618.2006.00307.x
- 8. Kelly BD, O'Callaghan E, Waddington JL, et al. Schizophrenia and the city: A review of literature and prospective study of psychosis and urbanicity in Ireland. *Schizophr Res.* 2010;116(1):75-89. doi:10.1016/j.schres.2009.10.015
- 9. Kirkbride JB, Fearon P, Morgan C, et al. Neighbourhood variation in the incidence of psychotic disorders in Southeast London. *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol*. 2007;42(6):438-45. doi:10.1007/s00127-007-0193-0
- 10. Kirkbride JB, Jones PB, Ullrich S, Coid JW. Social deprivation, inequality, and the neighborhood-level incidence of psychotic syndromes in East London. *Schizophr Bull*. 2014;40(1):169-80. doi:10.1093/schbul/sbs151
- 11. Kirkbride JB, Boydell J, Ploubidis GB, et al. Testing the association between the incidence of schizophrenia and social capital in an urban area. *Psychol Med.* 2008;38(8):1083-94. doi:10.1017/s0033291707002085
- 12. Mortensen PB, Pedersen CB, Westergaard T, et al. Effects of family history and place and season of birth on the risk of schizophrenia. *N Engl J Med*. 1999;340(8):603-8. doi:10.1056/nejm199902253400803
- 13. Pedersen CB, Mortensen PB. Evidence of a dose-response relationship between urbanicity during upbringing and schizophrenia risk. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 2001;58(11):1039-46. doi:10.1001/archpsyc.58.11.1039

- 14. Pedersen CB, Mortensen PB. Family history, place and season of birth as risk factors for schizophrenia in Denmark: a replication and reanalysis. *Br J Psychiatry*. 2001;179:46-52. doi:10.1192/bjp.179.1.46
- 15. Immonen J, Jääskeläinen E, Korpela H, Miettunen J. Age at onset and the outcomes of schizophrenia: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Early Interv Psychiatry*. 2017;11(6):453-460. doi:10.1111/eip.12412
- 16. Morgan C, Fearon P, Hutchinson G, et al. Duration of untreated psychosis and ethnicity in the AESOP first-onset psychosis study. *Psychol Med*. 2006;36(2):239-47. doi:10.1017/s0033291705006604
- 17. Norman RM, Malla AK. Duration of untreated psychosis: a critical examination of the concept and its importance. *Psychol Med.* 2001;31(3):381-400. doi:10.1017/s0033291701003488
- 18. Reichert A, Kreiker S, Mehler-Wex C, Warnke A. The psychopathological and psychosocial outcome of early-onset schizophrenia: preliminary data of a 13-year follow-up. *Child Adolesc Psychiatry Ment Health*. 2008;2(1):6. doi:10.1186/1753-2000-2-6
- 19. Correll CU, Galling B, Pawar A, et al. Comparison of Early Intervention Services vs Treatment as Usual for Early-Phase Psychosis: A Systematic Review, Meta-analysis, and Meta-regression. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2018;75(6):555-565. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2018.0623
- 20. Fusar-Poli P, McGorry PD, Kane JM. Improving outcomes of first-episode psychosis: an overview. *World Psychiatry*. 2017;16(3):251-265. doi:10.1002/wps.20446
- 21. DeLisi LE. The significance of age of onset for schizophrenia. *Schizophr Bull.* 1992;18(2):209-15. doi:10.1093/schbul/18.2.209
- 22. Eranti SV, MacCabe JH, Bundy H, Murray RM. Gender difference in age at onset of schizophrenia: a meta-analysis. *Psychol Med*. 2013;43(1):155-67. doi:10.1017/s003329171200089x
- 23. Castle D, Sham P, Murray R. Differences in distribution of ages of onset in males and females with schizophrenia. *Schizophr Res.* 1998;33(3):179-83. doi:10.1016/s0920-9964(98)00070-x
- 24. O'Donoghue B, Lyne J, Madigan K, et al. Environmental factors and the age at onset in first episode psychosis. *Schizophr Res.* 2015;168(1-2):106-12. doi:10.1016/j.schres.2015.07.004
- 25. Esterberg ML, Trotman HD, Holtzman C, Compton MT, Walker EF. The impact of a family history of psychosis on age-at-onset and positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia: a meta-analysis. *Schizophr Res.* 2010;120(1-3):121-30. doi:10.1016/j.schres.2010.01.011
- 26. Ku BS, Pauselli L, Manseau M, Compton MT. Neighborhood-level predictors of age at onset and duration of untreated psychosis in first-episode psychotic disorders. *Schizophr Res*. 2020;218:247-254. doi:10.1016/j.schres.2019.12.036
- 27. Solmi M, Radua J, Olivola M, et al. Age at onset of mental disorders worldwide: large-scale meta-analysis of 192 epidemiological studies. *Mol Psychiatry*. 2021;doi:10.1038/s41380-021-01161-7
- 28. Kessler RC, Amminger GP, Aguilar-Gaxiola S, Alonso J, Lee S, Ustün TB. Age of onset of mental disorders: a review of recent literature. *Curr Opin Psychiatry*. 2007;20(4):359-64. doi:10.1097/YCO.0b013e32816ebc8c

- 29. Dalman C, Broms J, Cullberg J, Allebeck P. Young cases of schizophrenia identified in a national inpatient register--are the diagnoses valid? *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol*. 2002;37(11):527-31. doi:10.1007/s00127-002-0582-3
- 30. Ludvigsson JF, Andersson E, Ekbom A, et al. External review and validation of the Swedish national inpatient register. *BMC Public Health*. 2011;11:450. doi:10.1186/1471-2458-11-450
- 31. Sariaslan A, Larsson H, D'Onofrio B, Långström N, Fazel S, Lichtenstein P. Does population density and neighborhood deprivation predict schizophrenia? A nationwide Swedish family-based study of 2.4 million individuals. *Schizophr Bull*. 2015;41(2):494-502. doi:10.1093/schbul/sbu105
- 32. Lewis G, Dykxhoorn J, Karlsson H, et al. Assessment of the Role of IQ in Associations Between Population Density and Deprivation and Nonaffective Psychosis. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2020;77(7):729-736. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2020.0103
- 33. Byrne M, Agerbo E, Eaton WW, Mortensen PB. Parental socio-economic status and risk of first admission with schizophrenia- a Danish national register based study. *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol*. 2004;39(2):87-96. doi:10.1007/s00127-004-0715-y
- 34. Cantor-Graae E, Pedersen CB. Full spectrum of psychiatric disorders related to foreign migration: a Danish population-based cohort study. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2013;70(4):427-35. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2013.441
- 35. Executive summary: Neonatal encephalopathy and neurologic outcome, second edition. Report of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' Task Force on Neonatal Encephalopathy. *Obstet Gynecol*. Apr 2014;123(4):896-901. doi:10.1097/01.AOG.0000445580.65983.d2
- 36. Dong Y, Peng CY. Principled missing data methods for researchers. *Springerplus*. 2013;2(1):222. doi:10.1186/2193-1801-2-222
- 37. Hollander AC, Dal H, Lewis G, Magnusson C, Kirkbride JB, Dalman C. Refugee migration and risk of schizophrenia and other non-affective psychoses: cohort study of 1.3 million people in Sweden. Bmj. 2016;352:i1030. doi:10.1136/bmj.i1030
- 38. Solmi F, Lewis G, Zammit S, Kirkbride JB. Neighborhood Characteristics at Birth and Positive and Negative Psychotic Symptoms in Adolescence: Findings From the ALSPAC Birth Cohort. *Schizophr Bull.* 2020;46(3):581-591. doi:10.1093/schbul/sbz049
- 39. Kirkbride JB, Hameed Y, Ankireddypalli G, et al. The Epidemiology of First-Episode Psychosis in Early Intervention in Psychosis Services: Findings From the Social Epidemiology of Psychoses in East Anglia [SEPEA] Study. *Am J Psychiatry*. 2017;174(2):143-153. doi:10.1176/appi.ajp.2016.16010103
- 40. Lochner K, Pamuk E, Makuc D, Kennedy BP, Kawachi I. State-level income inequality and individual mortality risk: a prospective, multilevel study. *Am J Public Health*. 2001;91(3):385-91. doi:10.2105/ajph.91.3.385
- 41. Lederbogen F, Kirsch P, Haddad L, et al. City living and urban upbringing affect neural social stress processing in humans. *Nature*. 2011;474(7352):498-501. doi:10.1038/nature10190

- 42. Akdeniz C, Tost H, Meyer-Lindenberg A. The neurobiology of social environmental risk for schizophrenia: an evolving research field. *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol*. 2014;49(4):507-17. doi:10.1007/s00127-014-0858-4
- 43. O'Donoghue B, Lyne JP, Renwick L, et al. Neighbourhood characteristics and the incidence of first-episode psychosis and duration of untreated psychosis. *Psychol Med*. 2016;46(7):1367-78. doi:10.1017/s003329171500286x
- 44. Kirkbride JB, Lunn DJ, Morgan C, et al. Examining evidence for neighbourhood variation in the duration of untreated psychosis. *Health Place*. 2010;16(2):219-25. doi:10.1016/j.healthplace.2009.09.013
- 45. Hines-Martin V, Malone M, Kim S, Brown-Piper A. Barriers to mental health care access in an African American population. *Issues Ment Health Nurs*. 2003;24(3):237-56. doi:10.1080/01612840305281
- 46. Santiago CD, Kaltman S, Miranda J. Poverty and mental health: how do low-income adults and children fare in psychotherapy? *J Clin Psychol*. 2013;69(2):115-26. doi:10.1002/jclp.21951
- 47. Davis RG, Ressler KJ, Schwartz AC, Stephens KJ, Bradley RG. Treatment barriers for low-income, urban African Americans with undiagnosed posttraumatic stress disorder. *J Trauma Stress*. 2008;21(2):218-22. doi:10.1002/jts.20313
- 48. McDaid S, Kousoulis A. Tackling social inequalities to reduce mental health problems: how everyone can flourish equally. *London: Mental Health Foundation*. 2020;
- 49. Loignon C, Hudon C, Goulet É, et al. Perceived barriers to healthcare for persons living in poverty in Quebec, Canada: the EQUIhealThY project. *International Journal for Equity in Health*. 2015/01/17 2015;14(1):4. doi:10.1186/s12939-015-0135-5
- 50. McDonald K, Ding T, Ker H, et al. Using epidemiological evidence to forecast population need for early treatment programmes in mental health: a generalisable Bayesian prediction methodology applied to and validated for first-episode psychosis in England. *Br J Psychiatry*. 2021;219(1):383-391. doi:10.1192/bjp.2021.18

Downloaded from https://academic.oup.com/schizbullopen/advance-article/doi/10.1093/schizbullopen/sgac045/6640228 by UCL Library Services user on 12 July 2022

 Table 1. Baseline characteristics of sample with complete and missing data

Characteristic	Complete data <sup>a</sup>	Missing data <sup>b</sup>	χ²-test (df);
	(N= 13,440;	(N= 998; 6.9%)	<i>p</i> value <sup>c</sup>
	93.1%)		
	n (%)	n (%)	
Sex			0.8 (1); .38
Male	7,785 (57.9)	564 (56.5)	
Female	5,655 (42.1)	434 (43.5)	
Age-at-first-diagnosis (median and IQR)	22.5 (19.6 – 25.9)	23.7 (20.3 – 27.2)	47.2 (14,434);
Missing	-	2 (0.01%)	<.0001
Migrant status			98.3 (1); <.0001
Children of migrants	3,476 (25.9)	402 (40.3)	
Swedish-born	9,964 (74.1)	596 (59.7)	
Parental region-of-origin			134.3 (6); <.0001
Swedish	9,964 (74.1)	594 (59.6)	
Other Europe	1,417 (10.5)	159 (16.0)	
Asia	71 (0.5)	8 (0.8)	
North Africa & Middle East	395 (2.9)	63 (6.3)	
Sub-Saharan Africa	145 (1.1)	23 (2.3)	
Mixed	1,378 (10.3)	130 (14.0)	
Other	70 (0.5)	19 (1.9)	
Missing	-	2 (0.01%)	
Population density quintiles (at birth) <sup>d</sup>			12.5 (4); .01
Quintile 1 (lowest)	1,033 (7.7)	57 (6.5)	
Quintile 2	1,500 (11.2)	79 (9.0)	
Quintile 3	2,186 (16.3)	123 (14)	
Quintile 4	3,355 (25.0)	230 (26.1)	
Quintile 5 (highest)	5,366 (39.9)	391 (44.4)	
Missing	-	118 (0.8%)	
Neighborhood deprivation quintiles (at birth) <sup>d</sup>			11.4 (4); .02
Quintile 1 (lowest)	1,921 (14.3)	144 (16.4)	
Quintile 2	2,341 (17.4)	143 (16.3)	
Quintile 3	2,646 (19.7)	154 (17.5)	
Quintile 4	2,797 (20.8)	162 (18.4)	
Quintile 5 (highest)	3,735 (27.8)	277 (31.5)	
Missing	-	118 (0.8%)	

Diagnosis			6.4 (1); .01
Non-affective psychosis	10,047 (74.8)	782 (78.4)	
Schizophrenia or Schizoaffective (F20, F25)	3,033 (25.6)	287 (28.8)	
Other non-affective psychosis	7,014 (52.2)	495 (49.6)	
Affective psychosis	3,393 (25.2)	216 (21.6)	
Bipolar psychosis	1,166 (8.7)	89 (8.9)	
Depressive psychosis	2,227 (16.6)	127 (12.7)	
Parental history of SMI			5.2 (1); .02
No	11,830 (88.0)	854 (85.6)	
Yes	1,610 (12.0)	144 (14.4)	
Obstetric complications (5-minute Apgar score)			1.1 (2); 0.58
Reassuring (7-10)	13,272 (98.8)	290 (99.3)	
Moderately abnormal (4-6)	128 (0.9)	2 (0.7)	
Low (0-3)	40 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	
Missing	-	658 (4.6%)	
Family disposable income (at birth) <sup>d</sup>			56.4 (4); <.0001
Quintile 1 (lowest)	530 (3.9)	57 (7.7)	
Quintile 2	1,610 (12.0)	119 (16.1)	
Quintile 3	3,274 (24.4)	136 (18.4)	
Quintile 4	4,248 (31.6)	189 (25.6)	
Quintile 5 (highest)	3,778 (28.1)	238 (32.2)	
Missing	3	218 (1.5)	

Note: IQR= Interquartile range, df= degrees of freedom

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Sample used for the analyses and containing complete data on all variables.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Excluded from analysis because of missing data on parental income (1.51%), neighborhood exposures at birth (0.82%), age-at-first-diagnosis (0.01%), region (0.01%), and obstetric complications (4.56%)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> P-values compare those with missing data and those without; chi-square tests for categorical characteristics and linear regression for continuous characteristics

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup> Measured at each participant's birth year

**Table 2.** Unadjusted and adjusted analyses for the association of neighborhood deprivation and population density with the age-at-first-diagnosis of psychosis

Exposure	Age-at-first-diagnosis of psychosis (N= 13,440)			
	Unadjusted		Adjusted <sup>b</sup>	
	Effect estimate (95% CI)	P value	Effect estimate (95% CI)	P value
Neighborhood deprivation <sup>a</sup>	07 (14 to .00)	.07	.13 (.05 to .21)	.002
Population density <sup>a</sup>	01 (08 to .07)	.81	.01 (07 to .08)	.85

Note: CI= Confidence intervals

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Scores were z-standardized

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Adjusted for family disposable income at birth, sex, obstetric complications, parental history of SMI, and parental migration status

**Table 3.** Interaction term for diagnosis (non-affective/ affective psychosis)

Neighborhood Deprivation on age-at-first-diagnosis, by psychotic disorder <sup>a</sup>	Adjusted effect size <sup>b</sup> (95% CI)
Affective psychosis	.10 (06 to .25)
Non-affective psychosis	.13 (.04 to .22)
	•.()
Population density on age-at-first-diagnosis, by psychotic disorder <sup>c</sup>	Adjusted effect size <sup>d</sup> (95% CI)
Affective psychosis	07 (21 to .07)
Non-affective psychosis	.04 (05 to .12)

Note: CI= Confidence intervals

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Likelihood ratio test of interaction between deprivation and psychotic disorder category on 1 degree of freedom:  $\chi^2 = .14$ ; p= .71

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Change in age-at-first-diagnosis of 1-SD change in deprivation (z-standardized). Adjusted for family disposable income at birth, sex, obstetric complications, and parental migration status

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> Likelihood ratio test of interaction between population density and psychotic disorder category on 1 degree of freedom:  $\chi^2 = 1.61$ ; p= .21

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup> Change in age-at-first-diagnosis of 1-SD change in population density (z-standardized). Adjusted for family disposable income at birth, sex, obstetric complications, and parental migration status

**Table 4.** Subgroup analysis for the association of cumulative neighborhood deprivation and population density (0-14 years) with the age-at-first-diagnosis

Exposure	Age-at-first-diagnosis of psychosis (N= 13,089)			
	Unadjusted		Adjusted <sup>b</sup>	
	Effect estimate (95% CI)	P value	Effect estimate (95% CI)	value
Cumulative neighborhood deprivation (0-14 years) <sup>a</sup>	05 (13 to .02)	.15	.15 (.08 to .23) <.0	0001
Cumulative population density (0-14 years) <sup>a</sup>	06 (13 to .02)	.14	.00 (07 to .08)	)

Note: CI= Confidence intervals

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Scores were z-standardized

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Adjusted for family disposable income at birth, sex, obstetric complications, parental history of SMI, and parental migration status