

Social Deprivation, Ethnicity and Incidence of Schizophrenia in Nottingham 1997-1999

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Introduction

African-Caribbean people in the United Kingdom have more schizophrenia and other psychoses than the white population. Social deprivation has been associated with an increased risk for psychosis. Can this association with social deprivation explain some or all of the increased risk in this ethnic minority group?

Methods

A large population-based case-control study (ÆSOP, Aetiology and Ethnicity in Schizophrenia and Other Psychoses) has collected incidence cases 16 to 64 years of age with any psychotic disorder from Bristol, London and Nottingham over a two-year period. The sample used here includes all psychotic incidence cases in Nottingham Health Authority Area 1.8.1997 - 31.7.1999. Case ascertainment included all service contacts, in addition to first hospital admissions.

The population data of electoral wards by ethnicity was collected from the 1991 UK census. The Multiple Deprivation Index for year 2000 (MDI) was used as a measurement of deprivation. MDI measures six domains: Income, employment, health, education, housing and geographical access to services. Two different definitions for quartiles of MDI were used, based on total population at risk and when studying ethnicity based on African-Caribbean population at risk.

Results

Geographical distribution of all psychotic cases with known address (N=202) is presented by MDI quartiles in figure 1. Age and sex adjusted annual incidence rates of broad schizophrenia and of other psychoses per 100,000 by MDI quartiles (I = high deprivation, ..., IV = low deprivation) for white (N=156) and African-Caribbean (N=26) are presented in figure 2.

Conclusions

The incidences of psychotic disorders are approximately twice as common in the most deprived areas than elsewhere. There seems to be no association between social deprivation and incidence of psychoses in the African-Caribbean population. One possible reason is social support which is probably higher in areas with more African-Caribbeans, i.e. in socially deprived areas.

FIGURE 1. Geographical distribution of psychotic incidence cases in Nottingham 1997-99 by Multiple Deprivation Index (MDI) quartiles (I = high deprivation, ..., IV = low deprivation).

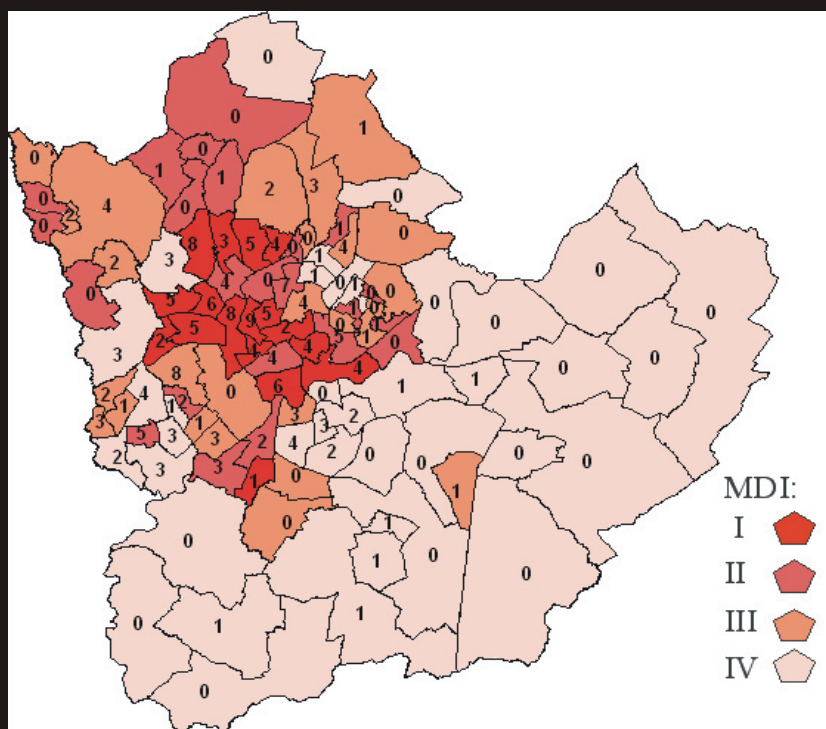
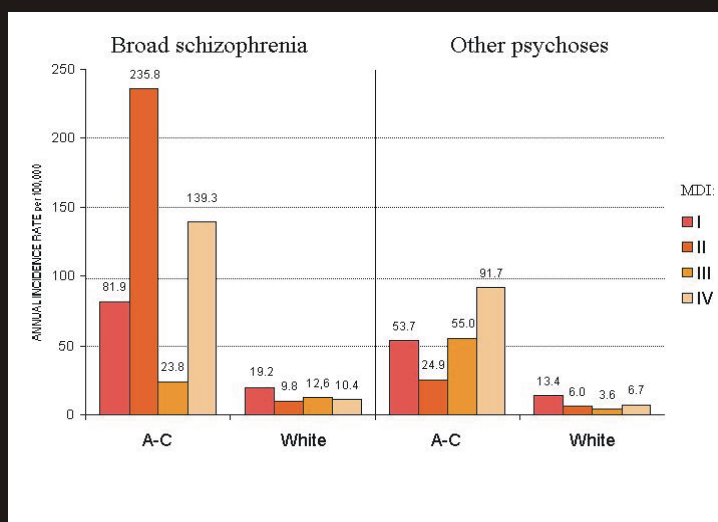


FIGURE 2. Age and sex adjusted annual incidence rates per 100,000 for psychotic disorders in Nottingham 1997-99 by MDI quartiles (I = high deprivation, ..., IV = low deprivation) for white and African-Caribbeans (A-C).



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