

Schizophrenia – Onset Pattern

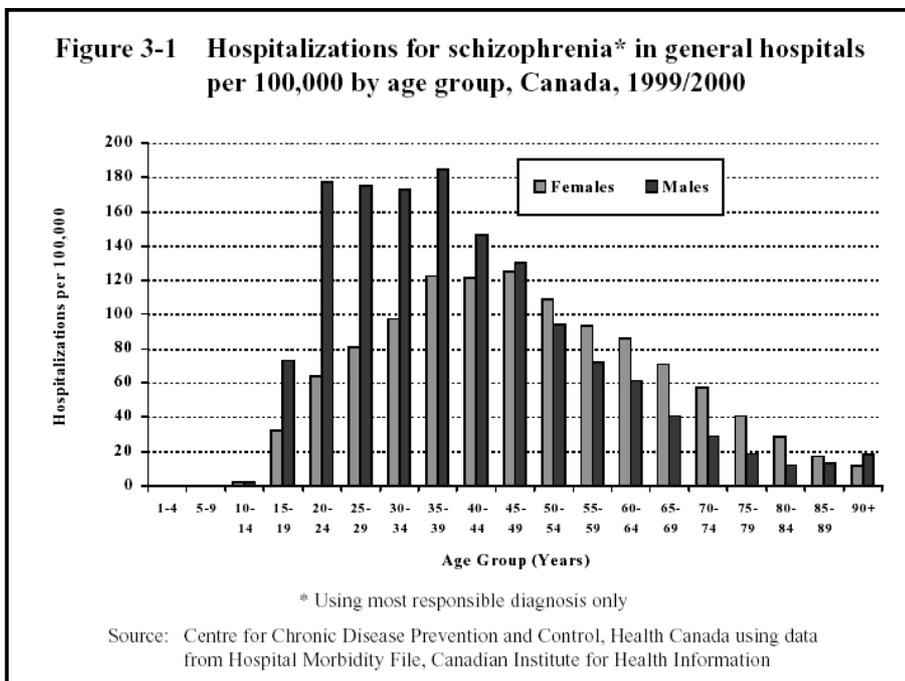


This activity will help you to:

- Describe variations in the onset pattern of schizophrenia
- Interpret data from large-scale clinical studies

The graph below shows data on hospitalisations for schizophrenia in a large population. The data were derived from the medical records for the population of Canada, but studies of other countries produce very similar results.

Since hospitalisation for schizophrenia usually follows closely on the first appearance of symptoms, we can use this data as a guide to the onset pattern of schizophrenia in women and men over the lifespan. Study the graph, and then answer the questions that follow.



What pattern is discernable in the onset of schizophrenia at different ages, and comparing men and women?

What, if anything, might this pattern suggest about the possible causes of schizophrenia?