High Density Living – Urbanicity & Schizophrenia

This graph shows data from Pedersen & Mortensen (2001) on the relative risk of schizophrenia in different types of environment. The baseline measure is the risk of schizophrenia in a rural environment, which is given the value 1. For other environments, values greater than 1 indicate that the risk is higher and values less than one indicate that the risk is lower.

What you need to do is translate what the graph shows to a sentence or two you might write in an exam. The aim is to give a clear and accurate description of Pedersen & Mortensen’s findings.

Pedersen & Mortensen found that…………………………………………………………………………………
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These data are **correlational**. If you can, outline the problem that psychologists have with interpreting correlational data.
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Graph 1 shows Pedersen & Mortensen’s data on the effect that a change in location has on a person’s risk of schizophrenia. Again, the baseline risk is given the value 1. After five years, a figure higher than 1 represents increased risk, a figure lower than 1 represents decreased risk.

Graph 2 shows their data on how different lengths of exposure to different types of environment during childhood relate to risk of schizophrenia in adulthood. Risk is compared to that in a rural environment, which is given a value of 1.

Note down the main points of what Pedersen & Mortensen found.

These data can help us unravel the cause-effect problem in the earlier data. Try to identify the conclusions that can be drawn from the data, then write an exam sentence or two using the format “This shows that…because….”

This is an AO1 bit...

This is an AO2 bit...