

Do People with Schizophrenia Experience More Negative Emotion and Less Positive Emotion in Their Daily Lives? A Meta-analysis of Experience Sampling Studies

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In the laboratory, people with schizophrenia do not differ in their experience of positive and negative responses to valenced stimuli, relative to healthy controls (e.g., Cohen & Minor, 2010). While this is a consistent finding in the literature, it is less clear if people with schizophrenia report experiencing the same amount of positive and negative emotion in their daily lives.

The recent increase in Experience Sampling Method (ESM) or Ecological Momentary Assessment studies in schizophrenia allow for a clear test of whether the response to standardized stimuli is the same for people with schizophrenia as their daily life experience. ESM/EMA assesses environment-experience interactions, and avoids confounds with retrospective bias by asking participants about their experience in the moment. Several recent studies appear to indicate some differences with laboratory versus ESM/EMA studies of emotion, specifically indicating that people with schizophrenia experience *more* negative and *less* positive emotion than healthy control participants.

Therefore, we conducted a meta-analysis to examine if people with schizophrenia experienced differences in emotion relative to healthy control participants. Specifically, we included all ESM/EMA studies that assessed unipolar positive or negative emotion, with schizophrenia and healthy comparison groups.