

Depressive symptoms in older male Italian immigrants in Australia: the Concord Health and Ageing in Men Project

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Reference:

Key Words:

depression, characteristics, Italian, men, CHAMPS

Research aim:

To describe the prevalence of depressive symptoms in older male Italian-born Australian immigrants.

Results/Conclusion:

The prevalence of depressive symptoms in Italian-born men was 18%, almost twice the prevalence of 10% in Australian-born men (odds ratio [OR], 1.9; 95% CI, 1.2-3.0). After adjusting for socioeconomic and health factors, the relationship between country of birth and depressive symptoms was attenuated and no longer statistically significant (OR, 1.7; 95% CI, 0.9-3.0). The strongest confounders of the relationship between country of birth and depressive symptoms were source of income and satisfaction with social support.

Implications:

Male Italian-born immigrants aged over 70 years report more depressive symptoms than their Australian-born counterparts. This association appears to be explained by increased reliance on a government pension as the sole source of income and lower satisfaction with social support among Italian-born men. However, these findings need to be confirmed longitudinally.

Cultural Group(s):

Italian

Location of study:

New South Wales (Sydney)

Age group:

70+

Number included in study:

335 Italian-born men, 849 Australia-born men

Type of participants:

Italian born and Australia born men aged 70+ who were a part of the (Concord Health and Ageing in Men Project) CHAMP study in Sydney

Research approach:

Quantitative

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Concord Health and Ageing in Men Project (CHAMP)

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: