

Leist, A. K., & Nosthoff-Horstmann, L. (2013). Depressive symptoms of childless older men and women in Europe. *Psychology & Health, 28*(SI 1), 119-119.

AUTHOR PREPRINT

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08870446.2013.810851#_UjXwoj_EdAh

DOI: 10.1080/08870446.2013.810851

Oral presentation at the 27th Conference of the European Health Psychology Society, July 2013, Bordeaux, France.

Abstract

Background. Individual and country-level differences in depression of childless older men and women in Europe were examined.

Method. Depressive symptoms (EURO-D index) were assessed of 24,511 respondents to the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (age 50+) in 13 European countries participating in waves 1 (2004) or 2 (2006/7) and wave 3 (2008/9), of which 2,935 respondents (51.3 % female) reported never having had children. Logistic regressions were applied.

Results. Country-specific prevalence of depression in childless respondents ranged from 16 % (Denmark) to 52 % (Poland). Childlessness predicted decreased risk of several depressive symptoms, although gender, marital status and health were more important predictors. Childless respondents in Southern Europe and living alone had increased risk for depression at older ages, compared with younger ages.

Discussion. Cultural factors in the association between childlessness and depression are important to understand risk of depression in childless older men and women.