

Barrentine, K. J. & Aiken-Morgan, A. T. Relationships between Socioeconomic Status, Education, and Depression in African American Adults.

Introduction: Historically, African Americans are more likely to be of lower socioeconomic status (SES) due to racial disparities in educational and economic opportunities. Increasingly, research has acknowledged these social determinants of health, as there are many poor health outcomes associated with lower SES, including depression. The goal of the present study was to examine the relationships between SES variables, education, and depression symptoms in African-American adults. **Method:** Secondary data analysis of the Baltimore Study of Black Aging- Patterns of Cognitive Aging (BSBA-PCA) was used. The BSBA-PCA collected a sample ($n = 450$) of community-dwelling, middle-aged and older African Americans and measured cognition, health, and psychosocial function at baseline and follow-up 33 months later. The current study ($n = 413$) examined baseline family income, employment (higher scores = better status), education, and depression variables. **Results:** Bivariate correlations suggested a positive relationship between depression and employment ($r = .212, p < .05$), and negative relationships between depression and family income ($r = -.166, p < .01$) and depression and education ($r = -.181, p < .01$). Linear regression analysis showed education negatively predicted depression ($\beta = -.119, SE = .175, p < .05$), while employment status was a positive predictor of depression ($\beta = .164, SE = .251, p < .01$). **Conclusion:** These findings demonstrate the contribution of SES and education to depression symptoms among African American adults. Implementing programs in marginalized African American communities aimed at reducing or eliminating social inequalities would serve to improve SES, educational, and mental health outcomes.