

Classifying Depression Among University Students

Valerie De La Fuente (valeriedelafuente), Matthew Arteaga (matthewarteaga), Phuc

2025-06-09

Abstract

Introduction

Data Processing

Exploratory Data Analysis

Modeling Process

Hypothesis 1: Will

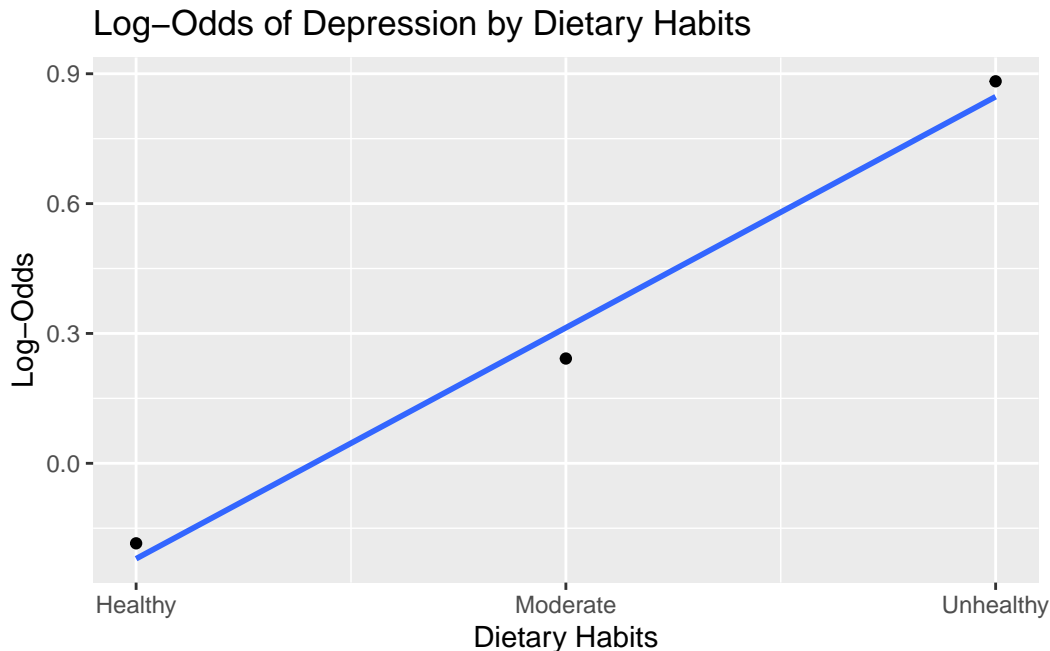
Our first hypothesis we want to test is that students with moderate to healthy dietary habits will have lower rates of depression than students with unhealthy dietary habits. We will fit a basic logistic regression model to predict the binary outcome variable, “depression”, using our categorical variable “dietary_habits” as a predictor.

Before fitting our model, we should first fully understand the predictor we are working with as well as check some assumptions that need to be met for our model to function properly. Our predictor “Dietary Habits” is distributed as follows:

Habits	Count
Healthy	7649
Moderate	9921
Unhealthy	10316
Other	12

We have a slightly skewed distribution of responses between Healthy, Moderate, and Unhealthy dietary habits, as well as 12 observations that responded “Other”. Because these 12 responses are a very small fraction of the overall data, we can remove these to simplify our model and our interpretations of it.

Logistic Regression models have a few assumptions that must be met to perform properly. (Named elsewhere) We already have met, or assume we have met, most of the assumptions besides the one that says the predictor variable should be linear in the log-odds of the outcome variable. We can check this by plotting the log-odds against the levels of the predictor variable to assesst the linearity:



There appears to be a strong linear relationship between the log-odds of depression by each level of Dietary Habits, so we can conclude that our data meets the necessary assumption and move on to fitting our model.

We will fit a logistic regression model with the logit link function that will predict the odds of having depression by each level of Dietary Habits. The results of the model are summarized in the following table:

	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z)
dietary_habits	0.2126795	0.005557574	38.26841	0

We see statistically significant results from our basic logistic regression model with just dietary habits as a predictor. Every level of dietary habits has statistically significant effects on the

presence of depression. Our model predicts that Healthy dietary habits decrease the probability of depression by about 18.5%, while Moderate and Unhealthy dietary habits increase the probability of depression by about 24 and 88 percent respectively. This is a very strong result to start with, but we should check our model results in other ways as well.

We will first check to make sure the Dietary Habits categorical predictor is significant in predicting the presence of depression overall rather than just by the level of the variable. We will use the “anova” function to perform a Chi-Squared likelihood ratio test with a null hypothesis that the null model without Dietary Habits is sufficient in predicting depression, and an alternative hypothesis that Dietary Habits is significant to the model in terms of lowering the model’s residual deviance. The results of the anova are the following:

	Df	Deviance	Resid. Df	Resid. Dev	Pr(>Chi)
NULL	NA	NA	27886	38658.20	NA
dietary_habits	1	1523.597	27885	37134.61	0

This table shows us that when added to the null model, the Dietary Habits predictor reduced the model’s residual deviance so greatly that the p-value for our likelihood ratio test is too small for R to display it. The true p-value is less than $2.2 * 10^{-16}$, which is extremely tiny and reasonably rounded to 0. With this similarly significant result to the model results earlier, we can conclude that the Dietary Habits predictor as a whole is significant in predicting the presence of depression.

We can now check how accurate our model is at predicting the presence of depression using a Confusion Matrix. The Confusion Matrix will visualize the accuracy of our model in terms of true positive and negative rates in the diagonal cells, false positive rate in the bottom left cell (row 2, column 1), and false negative rate in the top right cell (row 1, col 2).

	0	1
0	0.000	0.000
1	0.415	0.585

Here we see our model has an accuracy of 0.61 or 61%, a false positive rate of 0.265 or 26.5%, and a false negative rate of 0.125 or 12.5%. This means our model with just Dietary Habits as a predictor is slightly better at predicting the presence of depression than a random guess.

Despite the fact that this model cannot predict the presence of depression with an impressive accuracy, the results of our model fit and surrounding hypothesis tests lead us to fail to reject our hypothesis that students with moderate to healthy dietary habits will have lower rates of depression than students with unhealthy dietary habits.

Hypothesis 2

- **Research Question:** Is there a correlation between the amount of sleep a student gets and the proportion of them that are depressed?
- **Hypothesis:** Students who average more sleep per night will have lower rates of depression compared to students who average less.

1.1 Data Analysis

Based on the research question, hypothesis, and the characteristics of the data set, our analytical approach of choice for investigation is Classification; where we will construct a logistic regression model in an attempt to predict whether or not a student reports experiencing depression based on how many hours of sleep they average per night. This is the best method of choice because our outcome variable, whether or not the student is depressed, is a binary value and our predictor, the amount of sleep averaged per night, is categorical with an ordinal nature. Additionally, the method quantifies associations and predicts probabilities, and can be extended to control for other factors.

Data Processing

- **Data Cleaning:** In order to properly clean our data to test this hypothesis we must check to see if there are any missing values for both the outcome variable (**Depression**) and our chosen predictor variable (**Sleep Duration**):

Table 5: NA Values

Variable	Missing_Count
Depression	0
Sleep Duration	0

- After aggregating the missing values data for both the **Depression** and **Sleep Duration** variables, we found that there are no NA values assigned to any observations for the respective variables. However this does not mean that there are no missing values present in the data. In order to investigate further we need to look at a frequency table of both variables:
- As evident by the frequency tables, there are no missing values for the **Depression** variable in the data set, however there are 18 instances of **Others** being listed as values for the **Sleep Duration** variable, so we will treat those as instances with missing values and remove them from our data set.

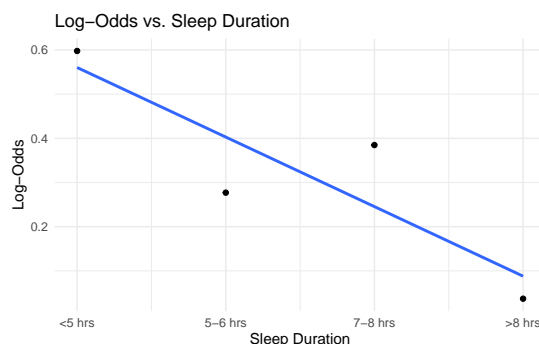
Table 6: Sleep Frequency

Variable	Frequency
'5-6 hours'	6183
'7-8 hours'	7346
'Less than 5 hours'	8310
'More than 8 hours'	6044
Others	18

Table 7: Depression Frequency

Variable	Frequency
0	11565
1	16336

- **Assumptions Required for Logistic Regression:** In order to use logistic regression to investigate our hypothesis, there are a few assumptions of the data that must be met in order for the model to be valid. That is (1), the outcome variable is binary (condition is met), (2), that the observations are independent of one another (condition is assumed based on how data was collected), (3), that the log-odds of the outcome is a linear function of the predictor variable, (4), that there is no multicollinearity (not of concern; only one variable involved in model), and (5), that there at least 10 events per predictor level (condition is met). In our case the only assumption that needs to be checked is the linearity of the log-odds.



The Graph of Log-Odds vs. Sleep Duration shows us a somewhat clear linear relationship between Sleep Duration and the Log-Odds. To investigate further, we will use a Box-Tidwell Test and look at the p-value corresponding to `sleep_log` (the log of the `Sleep Duration` variable)

Table 8: GLM Coefficient Estimates

	z value	$\Pr(> z)$
(Intercept)	6.051	0.000
Sleep Duration	-1.437	0.151

	z value	Pr(> z)
sleep_log	-0.065	0.948

Based on the p-value of 0.948 corresponding to the `sleep_log` variable, at significance level $\alpha = 0.05$, we fail to reject the null hypothesis that the log odds is a linear function of the `Sleep Duration` predictor variable, thus the (3) assumption is met and we can proceed to constructing our model.

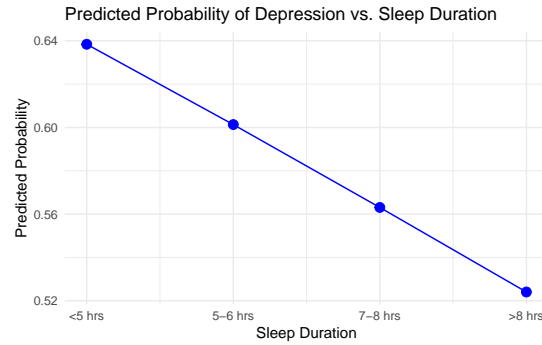
2.1 The Model

- **Results:** We use the `glm` function to generate the following logistic regression model for predicting the proportion of students reporting depression at the varying sleep ranges (and how that may be extrapolated to see how depression rates scale with sleep duration):

$$\hat{DepressionProportion} = 0.72583 - 0.15739SleepDuration$$

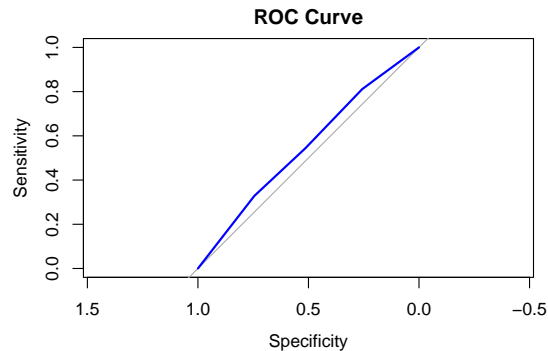
Table 9: Logistic Model Table

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value
(Intercept)	0.726	0.029	24.969	1.32e-137
<code>Sleep Duration</code>	-0.157	0.011	-14.510	1.04e-47



- **Interpretation:** The model has an intercept coefficient of 0.72583, representing the average depression rate for students falling under the 0 Sleep Range (irrelevant as 1 is the reference group; representing less than 5 hours of sleep), and a `Sleep Duration` coefficient of -0.15739, representing the average change in depression probability when going from one sleep range to the next (in order). The p-values for both coefficients are <0.05 , indicating statistical significance of the model.

- **Analyzing Performance: ROC curve and AUC:** To analyze the performance of the model we will investigate the ROC curve and area under the curve generated by the model:

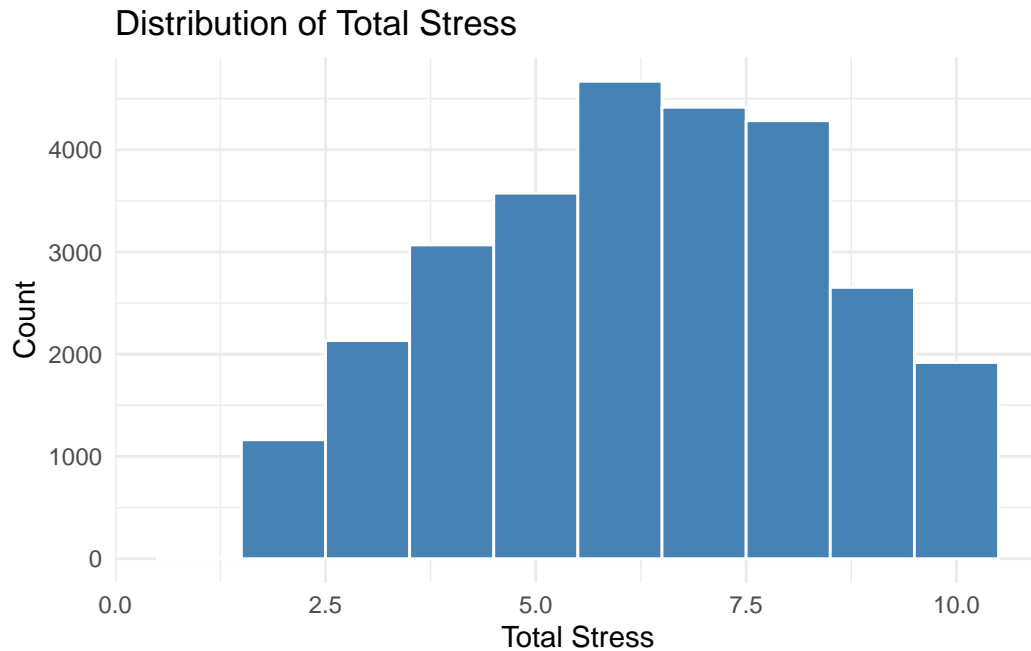


The ROC curve generated by the model is slightly above the diagonal (increasing and concave down), but not by much. Additionally, the AUC generated from the graph is 0.5494. This means that the prediction made by the model is relatively random, skewing slightly towards being a good model (correctly predicting the depression proportion based on Sleep Duration).

Hypothesis 3: Hayden

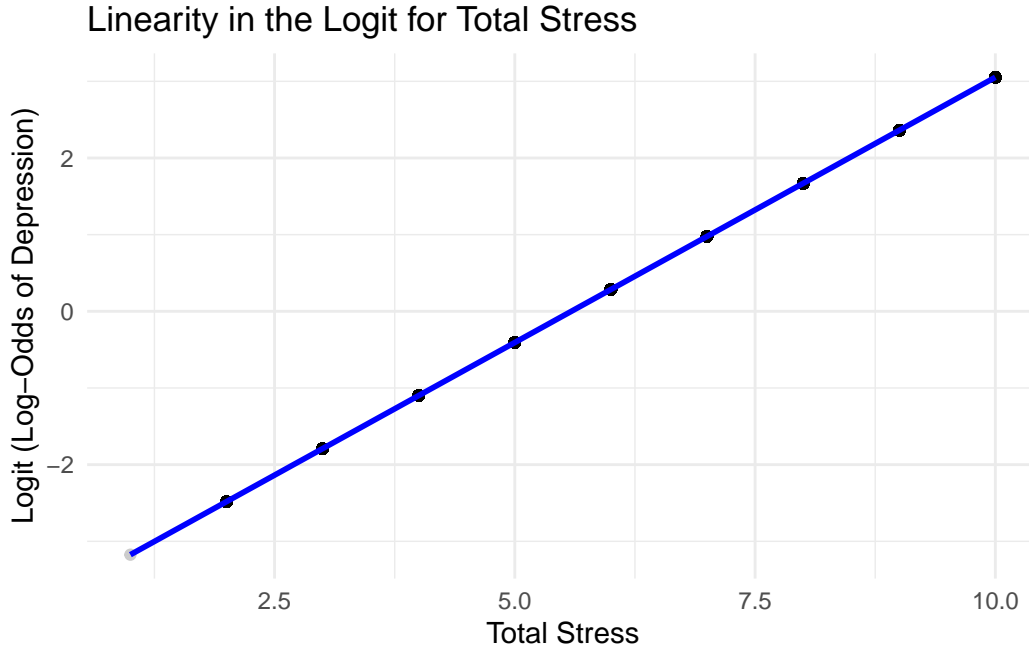
Our final hypothesis we want to test is that students with multiple combined stressors will have a higher overall rate of depression than students without these stressors. We will fit a logistic regression model to predict the binary outcome variable, “depression”, using the numeric variable Total Stressors (combination of Academic Pressure + Work Pressure + Financial Stress) as a predictor.

Before fitting our model, we should first fully understand the predictor we are working with as well as check some assumptions that need to be met for our model to function properly. Our predictor “Total Stressor” is distributed as follows:



Looking at our data we can tell that it has a bell curve distribution and overall has a good representation of many different Total Stressor values. As a result the data does not need any cleaning and is ready to be used in our logistic regression model.

As mentioned in the previous hypothesis, Logistic Regression models have a few assumptions that we assume to have already met. The only one that we need to verify is the one that says the predictor variable should be linear in the log-odds of the outcome variable. We can check this by plotting the log-odds against the different amounts of Total Stressors:



There appears to be a strong linear relationship between the log-odds of depression by Total Stressors, so we can conclude that our data meets the necessary assumption and move on to fitting our model.

We will fit a logistic regression model that will predict the odds of having depression by each level of Total Stressor. The results of the model are summarized in the following table:

Table 10: Logistic Regression: Predicting Depression from Total Stress

	Term	Estimate	Std..Error	z.value	Pr...z..	Odds.Ratio
(Intercept)	(Intercept)	-3.866	0.054	-71.64	0.00e+00	0.021
total_stress	total_stress	0.692	0.009	79.50	0.00e+00	1.997

We see statistically significant results from our basic logistic regression model using Total Stressors as a predictor. Our model predicts that for every one point increase in the presence of Total Stressors will double the likelihood of depression. This is a very strong result to start with, but we should check our model results in other ways as well.

We will first check to make sure the Total Stressors numeric predictor is significant in predicting the presence of depression overall. We will use the “anova” function to perform a Chi-Squared likelihood ratio test with a null hypothesis that the null model without Total Stressors is sufficient in predicting depression, and an alternative hypothesis that Total Stressors is significant to the model in terms of lowering the model’s residual deviance. The results of the anova are the following:

Table 11: Chi-Squared Likelihood Ratio Test: Comparing Null vs. Total Stressors Model

Model	Df	Deviance	Residual_Df	Residual_Dev	P_value
1	NA	NA	2.7885e+04	3.783894e+04	NA
2	1e+00	9.61814e+03	2.7884e+04	2.822080e+04	0e+00

This table shows us that when added to the null model, the Total Stressors predictor reduced the model's residual deviance so greatly that the p-value for our likelihood ratio test is too small for R to display it. The true p-value is less than $2.2\text{e-}16$, which is extremely tiny and reasonably rounded to 0. With this similarly significant result to the model results earlier, we can conclude that the Total Stressors predictor as a whole is significant in predicting the presence of depression. Thus we reject the null hypothesis that the simpler model without Total Stressors is sufficient in predicting depression. The extremely low p-value indicates that the model including Total Stressors provides a significantly better fit to the data. Thus, we conclude that Total Stressors is a significant predictor of depression.

Lastly we will check how accurate our model is at predicting the presence of depression using a Confusion Matrix. The Confusion Matrix will visualize the accuracy of our model in terms of true positive and negative rates in the diagonal cells, false positive rate in the bottom left cell (row 2, column 1), and false negative rate in the top right cell (row 1, col 2).

Table 12: Confusion Matrix (Predicted vs Actual)

Prediction	Actual: No	Actual: Yes
No	7356	2587
Yes	4203	13740

Table 13: Model Performance Metrics from Confusion Matrix

Metric	Value
Accuracy	0.7565
95% CI	(0.7514, 0.7615)
No Information Rate	0.5855
P-Value [Acc > NIR]	< 0.001
Kappa	0.4879
McNemar's Test P-Value	< 0.001

Here we see our model has an accuracy of 0.7565 or 75.65%. This means our model with Total Stressors as a predictor is significantly better at predicting the presence of depression than a random guess.

Seeing that This model can predict the presence of depression with an impressive accuracy, the results of our model fit and surrounding hypothesis tests lead us to reject the null hypothesis that the simpler model without Total Stressors is sufficient in predicting depression. Thus concluding that the Total Stressors is a significant predictor of depression.

Results

Interpretation

Visualization and Communication

Conclusion and Recommendations