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The Interrelations between Age, Sense of Belonging and Depressive Symptoms among
Australian Gay Men and Lesbians

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Abstract

Researchers have demonstrated that age is related to depression among gay men and lesbians, with younger adults experiencing more depression than older adults. Other researchers have indicated that a sense of belonging is related to lower levels of depression. This study investigated whether sense of belonging to the gay/lesbian community moderates and/or mediates the relationship between age and depressive symptoms among gay men and lesbians. An Australian sample of self-identified gay men ($n = 346$) and lesbians ($n = 270$) completed the Psychological subscale of the Sense of Belonging Instrument and the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale. Results indicated that age and sense of belonging were directly and independently related to depressive symptoms for gay men and lesbians. In addition, for lesbians only, sense of belonging moderated the age-depressive symptom relation. For lesbians with low levels of sense belonging to the lesbian community, age was not associated with depressive symptoms. In contrast, for lesbians with high levels of sense of belonging to the lesbian community, the association between sense of belonging and depressive symptoms decreased with increasing age. Encouraging gay men and lesbians (especially younger lesbians) to become involved in the gay/lesbian community is likely to be beneficial for their mental health.

KEY WORDS: Depressive Symptoms; Sense of Belonging; Age; Gay Men; Lesbians

Depression has been identified as the key health concern by gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex adults (Rogers, 2007). There appears to be good reasons for this concern, as there is evidence that gay (Cochran, Sullivan, & Mays, 2003; Mills et al., 2004; Wang, Hausermann, Ajdacic-Gross, Aggleton, & Weiss, 2007) and lesbian (Case et al., 2004; Fergusson, Horwood, & Beautrais, 1999; Westefeld, Maples, Buford, & Taylor, 2001) adults experience depression at higher rates than heterosexual adults. For example, according to Cochran, Sullivan, and Mays (2003), gay and bisexual men were 3.0 times more likely to meet the criteria for major depression compared with heterosexual men. Case et al. (2004) reported that lesbians were 40% more likely to report depression and 80% more likely to use anti-depressants than heterosexual women.

One risk factor for depression among gay men and lesbians is age. Researchers have indicated that depression is associated with younger age (Carlson & Steuer, 1985; McNair, Kavanagh, Agius, & Tong, 2005). For example, in a study of Australian lesbians, McNair et al demonstrated that younger exclusively/mainly homosexual women (aged 22-27 years) were more likely to have been diagnosed by a doctor for depression in the preceding four years, to self-report depression in the last year, and to be prescribed anti-depressant medication in the previous four weeks than older (aged 50-55 years) exclusively/mainly homosexual women. Among gay men (Cochran & Mays, 2000) and lesbians (Matthews, Hughes, Johnson, Razzano, & Cassidy, 2002), suicide attempts, which correlate strongly with depression, are highest among those under 30 years of age. Matthews et al. proposed that younger gay men and lesbians are most at risk of depression and suicide due to the developmental tasks of questioning and developing sexual identity, and the subsequent *coming out* process.

Sense of belonging to the gay/lesbian community is one possible factor that may protect gay men and lesbians against the development of depression. Sense of belonging has been defined as the experience of personal involvement and integration within a system or

environment to the extent that a person feels they play a special role in that system or environment (Hagerty, Lynch-Sauer, Patusky, Bouwsema, & Collier, 1992). According to Hagerty et al., sense of belonging refers to feeling valued and important. This definition adopts a somewhat global approach to belonging, thus it is not about involvement with specific people or groups but rather, a sense of fitting in to a larger system. This is consistent with the view of many gay and bisexual men, who regard the gay community as global, and consisting of far more people than an individual could encounter (LeBeau & Jellison, 2009). Similarly, Woolwine (2000) identified an imagined gay community, which also consisted of more people than an individual could interact with. Gay community in this sense is a grouping of gay people and organisations that one may identify with.

Using this global view of belonging, McLaren, Jude, and McLachlan (2008) demonstrated that belonging to the gay community has direct and indirect benefits for the mental health of gay men, and that belonging to the lesbian community has indirect benefits for the mental health of lesbians (McLaren, 2009). Developing a sense of belonging to the gay/lesbian community is particularly important considering that gay men (McLaren, Jude, & McLachlan, 2007) and lesbians (McLaren, 2006) report a lower sense of belonging to the general (heterosexual) community, and that almost half of Australians believe homosexuality to be wrong (Kelley, 2001).

The process of identity development among gay men and lesbians may mean it is likely that they develop a sense of belonging to the gay/lesbian community over time, and thus as they age. For example, Cass (1978) proposed that gay and lesbian individuals pass through two stages of identity development prior to seeking contact with other gay men or lesbians. As gay men and lesbians begin to accept their identity, gay and lesbian communities take on further significance. It is possible, therefore, that sense of belonging strengthens as a

protective factor against depression as gay men and lesbians age. This proposition has yet to be tested.

The aim of the current study was to investigate the interrelationships between age, sense of belonging to the gay/lesbian community, and depressive symptoms among gay and lesbian adults. According to “resilience models”, there are two possible ways that age and sense of belonging influence depression. First, the compensatory model proposes that risk and protective factors have independent, additive effects on adjustment (Garmezy, Masten, & Tellegen, 1984; Masten, Garmezy, Tellegen, Pellegrini, Larkin, & Larsen, 1988). Second, the risk-protective model proposes risk and protective factors interact to affect adjustment (Hollister-Wagner, Foshee, & Jackson, 2001). According to Hollister-Wagner et al., the moderation model indicates that, relative to low levels of the protective factor, higher levels of the protective factor buffer the relation between the risk factor and adjustment. It is also possible that age is related to sense of belonging, which in turn, is related to depression. This model is consistent with the view that sense of belonging mediates the age-depression relation.

Consistent with the compensatory model, we hypothesised that age and sense of belonging would each contribute negatively to the prediction of depression. We also hypothesised that higher levels of sense of belonging would reduce the effect of age on depression (risk-protective model), and that sense of belonging would mediate the age-depression relation (mediation model).

Method

Participants

The sample consisted of 346 self-identified gay men and 270 self-identified lesbians from Australia. The men ranged in age from 18 to 83 years ($M = 39.28$, $SD = 14.58$). Almost half of the sample was in a committed same-sex relationship (49%), with 46% being single,

3% divorced and 2% widowed. The sample was highly educated, with 53% having at least one university degree. Over half of the sample worked full time (58%), with 17% working part time, 8% being retired, 7% students and 8% being unemployed.

The women ranged in age from 18 to 73 years ($M = 35.71$, $SD = 12.80$). The majority of the sample was in a committed same-sex relationship (63%), with 31% being single, 5% divorced, and 1% widowed. Over half (57%) of the sample had at least one university degree. Over half of the sample worked full time (60%), with 24% working part time, 5% retired, 2% students and 9% being unemployed.

Materials

The demographic section of the questionnaire asked participants to report their age, relationship status, postcode, highest education level achieved, and current employment status. Participants answered the question, “Would you consider yourself to be predominately: heterosexual, gay, lesbian, homosexual, bisexual, transgender or unsure?”. Only men who answered “gay” or “homosexual” and women who answered “lesbian” or “homosexual” were included in the analyses.

A modified version of the 18-item Psychological subscale of the Sense of Belonging Instrument (SOBI) (Hagerty & Patusky, 1995) was used to assess an individual’s experience of feeling valued, needed and accepted and the perception of fit or connectedness within the gay/lesbian community (e.g., “I feel like an outsider in the gay/lesbian community”, “Within the gay/lesbian community, I feel like a piece of a jigsaw puzzle that doesn't fit into the puzzle”). Men were instructed to answer the questions in relation to the gay community and women were instructed to answer the questions in relation to the lesbian community. Respondents gave ratings on a 4-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree; 4 = strongly agree), with higher scores indicating a greater sense of belonging. Previous research has shown the instrument to be a valid and reliable measure. The test-retest reliability coefficient for the

Psychological subscale was $r = .84$ over an eight-week period (Hagerty & Patusky, 1995). Cronbach's alpha for a sample of Australian gay men was .95 (McLaren et al., 2008), and for a sample of Australian lesbians was .97 (McLaren, 2009). In terms of the present research, reliability analysis indicated an alpha of .97 for men and .95 for women.

The 20-item Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (Radloff, 1977) was used to assess depression over the preceding seven days (e.g., "I thought my life had been a failure", "I felt lonely"). Participants rated each item on a four point scale, rating the number of days the participant experienced given emotions or thoughts (0 = less than one day; 1 = 1-2 days; 2 = 3-4 days; 3 = 5-7 days). Higher scores indicated greater depressive symptomatology, and total scores of 16 or above indicate the presence of clinically significant depression (Radloff & Teri, 1986). The Scale has previously shown strong internal consistency for a range of populations ($\alpha = .83-.92$; Carpenter et al., 1998). The current study displayed an acceptable level of internal consistency, with an alpha of .93 for men and .94 for women.

Procedure

Participants were recruited through a variety of methods over a 4 month period. Initially, men and women were approached via friendship groups of the researchers. Participants were also recruited at key national gay and lesbian social events. Prominent organizations also assisted with promoting the research to the gay and lesbian communities. Interested participants were provided with additional questionnaires so that these could be passed on to other gay men and lesbians that were not as involved in social events. Participation was voluntary and this was explained to potential participants in the plain language statement and during the course of speaking to them.

The questionnaire was also available on the Internet. The Internet was used in an attempt to gain access to gay men and lesbians who were not part of the gay/lesbian community. Advertisements in magazines and on websites of organizations aimed at gay men

and lesbians gave readers a web address, as well as a log in name and password. When a participant logged onto the website, there was an information page that explained the research with contact phone numbers (if necessary), and a link to the current study. Participants were able to complete the questionnaire online and send it anonymously via e-mail to the principal researcher. One-third of the men and women participated in this manner.

Data Analysis

The compensatory and risk-protective models were examined using hierarchical regression analysis (Garmezy et al., 1984; Hollister-Wagner et al., 2001). Age and sense of belonging were entered at Step 1. At Step 2, the interaction term was entered (age x sense of belonging). Significant prediction by age and sense of belonging at Step 1 would indicate support for the compensatory model. A significant change in R^2 from Step 1 to Step 2 would indicate support for the risk-protective model.

Prior to calculating interaction terms for the hierarchical regressions, the age and sense of belonging variables were centred using the mean-deviation method (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1996). These new centred scores were then multiplied together to create the new interaction term, being age x sense of belonging. This interaction term has several advantages; Jaccard, Turrise, and Wan (1990) argued that normal multiplicative interaction terms in regression analyses inflate standard errors of the regression coefficients, and Cronbach (1987) suggested that centering the predictor variables prior to forming a multiplicative term addresses the issue of multicollinearity.

Each mediating effect was examined using the regression analyses approach proposed by Baron and Kenny (1986). For each relation, the criterion (depression) was initially regressed on the predictor (age). A second regression analysis was conducted in which the mediator (sense of belonging) was regressed on the predictor (age). This was followed by a third regression analysis in which criterion (depression) was regressed on the predictor (age)

and the mediator (sense of belonging) simultaneously. As recommended by Baron and Kenny (1986), mediation was inferred if the predictor had an effect on the criterion (equation 1) and the mediator (equation 2), and if equation 3 indicated that first, the mediator had an effect on the criterion, and second, the effect of the predictor on criterion was either significant but less than that found for this relation in equation 1 (partial mediation), or less and not significant (full mediation). The Sobel Test (Sobel, 1982) was used to determine whether the indirect effect of the predictor on the dependent variable via the mediator is significantly different from zero.

Results

Initial inspection of the data indicated that depression scores were substantially skewed for gay men (skew = 0.81, SE Skew = .13, $z = 6.23$) and lesbians (skew = 0.74, SE Skew = .15, $z = 4.93$). A square root transformation reduced the skew to acceptable levels for men (skew = -0.01, SE Skew = .13, $z = 0.08$) and women (skew = -.08, SE Skew = .15, $z = 0.53$). This transformed variable was used in subsequent analyses.

Method of Participation

Table 1 shows the mean responses to each measure, according to method of participation in the study. It is evident that men and women who completed the questionnaire online reported significantly lower levels of belonging to the gay/lesbian community compared with men and women who completed the paper version of the questionnaire.

Gay Men

Almost half (48%, $n = 167$) of the men scored at 16 or above on the measure of depression (CES-D cut-off score for “probable depression”). This depression rate appears consistent with Chae and Yoshikawa’s (2008) sample of self identified gay men (44.2%, $N =$

192), and somewhat higher than Perdue, Hagan, Thiede, and Valleroy's (2003) sample of men who have sex with men (22.8%, $N = 429$).

From Table 2, it can be seen that younger age and lower levels of sense of belonging were associated with higher levels of depressive symptoms. Age was not significantly correlated with sense of belonging, and mediation analyses could not be performed.

Results from the regression analysis can be seen in Table 3. At Step 1, age and sense of belonging accounted for 21% of the variance in depression scores. Results supported the compensatory model, with both age and sense of belonging significantly predicting depressive symptoms. The addition of the interaction term at Step 2 did not explain further variance in depression scores. The risk-protective model was therefore not supported.

Lesbians

Over half (59%, $n = 160$) of the women scored at 16 or above on the measure of depression. There appears to be little published information focused specifically on CES-D derived depression scores for lesbian samples. Oetjen and Rothblum (2000) reported a mean CES-D score of 14.49 in their sample of 167 lesbians which is lower than the mean of our sample ($M = 17.45$).

From Table 4, it can be seen that younger age and lower levels of sense of belonging were associated with higher levels of depression. Age was not significantly correlated with sense of belonging, and mediation analyses could not be performed.

Results from the regression analysis can be seen in Table 5. At Step 1, age and sense of belonging accounted for 28% of the variance in depression scores. Results supported the compensatory model, with both age and sense of belonging significantly predicting depressive symptoms. The addition of the interaction term at Step 2 explained a further 1% of

variance in depression scores. The significant change in R^2 provided support for the risk-protective model.

Figure 1 shows the age x sense of belonging interaction. The figure shows that relative to high sense of belonging, low level of sense of belonging was generally associated with higher levels of depressive symptoms. The beta value for high levels of sense of belonging was significant, $b = 0.05$, $t(266) = 4.83$, $p < .001$, $R^2 = .11$, Cohen's $f^2 = .12$. The beta value for low levels of sense of belonging was not significant $b = 0.02$, $t(266) = 1.84$, $p > .05$, $R^2 = .02$. There was a significant difference between the beta values for high and low sense of belonging, $t(266) = 2.14$, $p < .025$. These results indicate that age was associated with depressive symptoms for lesbians with high level of sense of belonging, but not for those with low level of sense of belonging. For those with high level of sense of belonging, the association between sense of belonging and depressive symptoms decreased with increasing age.

Discussion

The aim of the present study was to investigate the relationships between age, sense of belonging to the gay/lesbian community and depression for an Australian sample of gay men and lesbians. The results supported the compensatory model for gay men and lesbians, with age and sense of belonging being independently related to depression. In addition, for lesbians only, the risk-protective model was supported. There was no support for a mediation model for lesbians or gay men.

For men and women, younger age was associated with increasing levels of depression. These results confirm that age is a risk factor for depression among gay men and lesbians, and is consistent with previous research on depression (McNair et al., 2005) and the related variable of suicide attempts among gay men (Cochran & Mays, 2000) and lesbians (Matthews

et al., 2002). Results also confirm that sense of belonging to the gay/lesbian community is a protective factor, and is related to lower levels of depression among gay men and lesbians. These results are consistent with an emerging body of research also demonstrating the protective nature of belonging to the gay (McLaren et al., 2008) and lesbian (McLaren, 2009) communities. In addition, for lesbians only, age and sense of belonging interacted, supporting the moderation effect proposed by the risk-protective model. Results supported the protective role of sense of belonging to the lesbian community, with low levels of sense of belonging being associated with higher levels of depressive symptoms. Further, whereas age was independent of depression at low levels of sense of belonging, age was associated with depressive symptoms for lesbians with high levels of sense of belonging. For lesbians with high levels of sense of belonging, the association between sense of belonging and depressive symptoms decreased with increasing age. We believe that these results are an indication that sense of belonging to the lesbian community is protective for lesbians, and particularly protective for younger lesbians.

Results did not support the mediation model. Indeed, due to the lack of a significant relationship between age and sense of belonging to the gay/lesbian community, these analyses could not be conducted. Thus, the proposition that age was associated with sense of belonging, which in turn was associated with depressive symptoms, was not supported for gay men or lesbians.

Taken together, our supposition that belonging to the gay community is directly and independently related to depressive symptoms among gay men was supported by the results. For lesbians, it also appears that belonging to the lesbian community is directly related to depressive symptoms, and also interacts with age to influence depressive symptoms. Thus, for gay men and lesbian, belonging to the gay/lesbian community is related to depressive

symptoms, but in different ways. Clearly, developing a sense of belonging to their respective community is related to fewer depressive symptoms among gay men and lesbians.

The results highlight the importance of belonging to the global or imagined gay/lesbian community for the mental health of gay men and lesbians. In response to the high levels of sexual prejudice prevalent in Australia and other countries (Kelley, 2001), gay men (Frable, Wortman, & Joseph, 1997; Hart & Fitzpatrick, 1990) and lesbians (Bradford et al., 1997; D'Augelli et al., 1987) have turned to each other for support. It appears that feeling important and valued within a global (DeBeau & Jellison, 2009) or imagined (Woolwine, 2000) community is beneficial for the mental health of gay men and lesbians. Whether the same results are found when other definitions or aspects of belonging are utilised is yet to be tested. For example, Woolwine noted that gay community can also be conceptualised as local organizations or as friends. We are currently investigating whether each of Woolwine's three conceptualizations of gay community (i.e., imagined, organizations, friends) are protective, and the ways in which they might alleviate depressive symptoms among gay men and lesbians.

The results of this study imply that there are benefits to be gained by having gay men and lesbians feel as though they are important and valued in their respective community, and to develop a sense of belonging. It appears that this may be particularly beneficial for younger lesbians, given the stronger relationship between sense of belonging and depressive symptoms for this group. Given that sense of belonging did not moderate the age-depressive symptoms relation for gay men, future research needs to continue to investigate the role that other possible protective factors might play. The search for other protective factors for lesbians must also continue. Self-esteem, social support and acceptance of gay/lesbian identity are possible protective factors for gay men and lesbians. The high rates of depression

among gay men and lesbians, particularly young gay men and lesbians, are key reasons for this research to be pursued.

The results also indicated that those men and women who participated in the research online reported significantly lower levels of belonging to the gay/lesbian community than their peers who completed the paper questionnaire at an event or as a result of snowball sampling. We specifically used the Internet to gain participants who were not engaged in the gay or lesbian communities, or who were engaged to a lesser extent. Our results are an indication that this was successful. It could be that gay and lesbian adults who use the Internet do not engage in or feel they belong to the gay/lesbian community because they are depressed. If this was the case, we would expect the depression scores to also differ between participants who used the Internet versus those who completed a paper copy at a gay/lesbian event. This was not the case. Based on the results, we have some concern regarding gay men and lesbians who may rely on the Internet to gain a sense of belonging among their peers. Of course, this concern is raised with reservations, as we did not determine whether the online participants used the Internet specifically to develop a sense of belonging to the gay/lesbian community. According to Nip (2004), there is evidence that the Internet can foster and strengthen a sense of belonging among specific user groups, including lesbians. Further research should examine the role of the Internet in fostering sense of belonging and decreasing depressive symptoms among gay men and lesbians, especially those who are geographically and/or socially isolated to the extent that attending social events is impractical or impossible.

The results and implications of this study need to be considered in light of several limitations. The sole use of self-report measures and the non-random selection of participants are methodological limitations. The cross sectional design of the study limits the conclusions that can be drawn from the results and further research is required to determine causality. The use of a longitudinal design to reduce the problem of common method variance arising from

the completion of the predictor and dependent measures at the same point in time is needed (Podsakoff, MacKenzie, Lee, & Podsakoff, 2003). A further limitation is that we do not know how the participants defined “gay community” when responding to the sense of belonging questionnaire. It is possible that participants used different aspects of Woolvine’s (2000) conceptualization of gay community (i.e., organizations, friendship groups) to what was intended to be the focus of the study (the broad, imaginary community). In addition, if different aspects of gay community were used as reference points for the sense of belonging questionnaire, it is unknown at this point whether the mental health benefits of belonging to each aspect of gay community are the same.

A further limitation is our sample, as it is impossible to know how those who chose to participate differ on the variables of interest from those who chose not to participate. We also do not know from this research why individuals chose not to participate in the gay or lesbian community. For example, it is possible that gay men and lesbians who feel valued and important through other systems or environments (e.g., the general community) do not feel a need to belong to the gay/lesbian community. Such people may fare well in terms of their mental health, as their belonging needs are being met. Indeed, previous research has shown that belonging to the lesbian community affords no more protection than belonging to the general community (McLaren, 2009). The gay community does offer additional protection over and above that afforded by the general community (McLaren et al., 2008), thus it could be argued that gay men do gain some extra protection from belonging to the gay community. According to existing evidence, better mental health may be gained by lesbians who only belong to the general community, and by gay men who belong to the general community and gay community. In contrast, if gay men and lesbians do not belong to the gay/lesbian community *and* do not gain a sense of being valued and important through other systems or environments, they are likely to experience poor mental health.

In summary, age and sense of belonging to the gay community were directly and independently associated with depressive symptoms among gay men. For lesbians, the direct relationships also existed, and age and sense of belonging interacted to influence depressive symptoms. Whereas sense of belonging was protective for gay men and lesbians irrespective of age, it appeared to be particularly important for younger lesbians. Interventions should focus on enhancing sense of belonging to gay/lesbian community among gay men and lesbians, with research evaluating the efficacy of such interventions.

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Table 1

Descriptive Statistics for Key Variables According to Method of Participation

Variable	Paper Questionnaire		Online Questionnaire		<i>t</i>
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	
<i>Men</i>					
Sense of Belonging	49.32	16.40	43.94	14.75	2.97**
Depression	17.92	14.70	16.49	13.58	0.88
Depression (transformed)	3.77	1.94	3.64	1.80	0.56
<i>Women</i>					
Sense of Belonging	53.42	13.44	43.68	15.82	5.21***
Depression	17.17	14.49	20.17	15.12	1.55
Depression (transformed)	3.69	1.90	4.08	1.89	1.57

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Table 2

Relationships between Age, Sense of Belonging and Depression, and Mean Scores and Standard Deviations, for Gay Men (N = 346)

Variable	1	2	3	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
1. Age	-	.10	-.24**	39.28	14.58
2. Sense of Belonging		-	-.42**	47.53	15.50
3. Depression			-	17.45	14.33

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Table 3

Summary of Hierarchical Regression Analysis for Age, Sense of Belonging and the Interaction between Age and Sense of Belonging Predicting Depression among Gay Men (N = 346)

Variable	<i>B</i>	<i>SE B</i>	β	<i>t</i>
Step 1 [$R^2 = .22$, adjusted $R^2 = .21$, $F(2, 343) = 48.09$, $p < .001$]				
Age	-0.05	0.01	-.40	-8.41***
Sense of Belonging	-0.03	0.01	-.20	-4.18***
Step 2 [$\Delta R^2 = .00$, adjusted $R^2 = .21$, $F(1, 342) = 0.04$, $p > .05$]				
Age	-0.05	0.01	-.40	-8.37***
Sense of Belonging	-0.03	0.01	-.20	-3.97***
Age x Sense of Belonging	0.00	0.00	-.01	-0.21

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Table 4

Relationships between Age, Sense of Belonging and Depression, and Mean Scores and Standard Deviations, for Lesbians (N = 270)

Variable	1	2	3	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
1. Age	-	.09	-.29**	35.71	12.80
2. Sense of Belonging		-	-.48**	50.39	14.90
3. Depression			-	18.10	14.73

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Table 5

Summary of Hierarchical Regression Analysis for Age, Sense of Belonging and the Interaction between Age and Sense of Belonging Predicting Depression among Lesbians (N = 270)

Variable	<i>B</i>	<i>SE B</i>	β	<i>t</i>
Step 1 [$R^2 = .29$, adjusted $R^2 = .28$, $F(2, 267) = 54.28$, $p < .001$]				
Age	-0.06	0.01	-.45	-8.75***
Sense of Belonging	-0.04	0.01	-.25	-4.87***
Step 2 [$\Delta R^2 = .01$, adjusted $R^2 = .29$, $F(1, 266) = 3.97$, $p < .05$]				
Age	-0.06	0.01	-.45	-8.67***
Sense of Belonging	-0.04	0.01	-.24	-4.71***
Age x Sense of Belonging	-0.00	0.00	-.10	-1.99 *

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

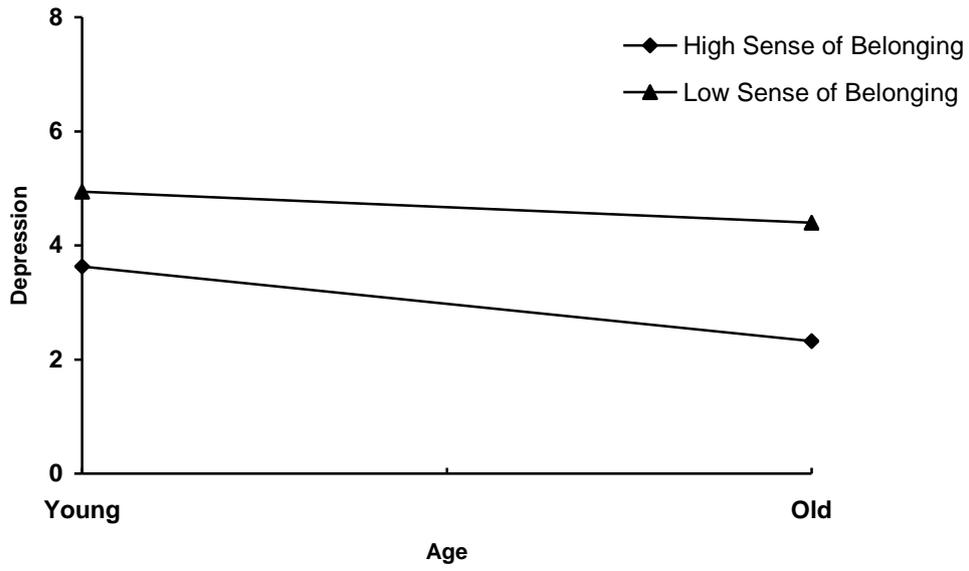


Figure 1. Depression as a function of age and high and low levels of sense of belonging.