Poor or Fair Health and Depression Among Black Women

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Results

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics

Variable Description	Mean (SD)
feelingbadmostdays13 (DV)	.25
poorhealth13	.06
fairhealth13	.18
age13	46.59 (14.234)
gupoor13	.37
parentdropout	.26
depressiontotal09a	.08 (.899)
pov13	.26
pov15013	.39
pov213	.52

Descriptive statistics for this analysis were obtained using SPSS software and can be found in Table 1. The sample consists of a subsample drawn from the PSID and includes 2,095 Black women. Twenty five percent of sample members reported feeling bad, specifically sad, nervous, restless, hopeless, worthless, or "that everything is an effort," most days. Mean age was 46.59 with a standard deviation of 14.234, and mean for childhood years with depression was .08 with a standard deviation of .899. Six percent of the sample reported poor health, and 18 percent reported fair health. Thirty-seven percent of the sample grew up poor, and 26 percent reported neither parent graduated from high school. Twenty-six percent of the sample was in poverty, 39

percent was below 150 percent of the poverty line, and 52 percent was below 200 percent of the

poverty line.

Table 2: Logistic Regression Results for "Feeling Bad Most Days"

Variable	B (SE)	Odds Ratio or Exp (B)
poorhealth13	1.131 (.217)	3.098***
fairhealth13	.605 (.134)	1.831***
age13	-.030 (.004)	.970***
gupoor13	.008 (.116)	1.008
parentdropout	.034 (.132)	1.034
depressiontotal09a	.030 (.053)	1.030
pov13	.190 (.161)	1.209
pov15013	.355 (.199)	1.427
pov213	.387 (.172)	1.472*
Intercept (Constant)	-.385 (.199)	.680
R-square, Cox & Snell=.078		
R-square, Nagelkerke=.116		
N=2095		

Note: *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001.

Logistic regression results are displayed in Table 2. According to Cox & Snell R-Square,

7.8 percent of the variation in feeling bad most days is explained by the model, while the

Nagelkerke R-Square indicates that 11.6 percent of the variation is explained by the model. The

model is significant at all levels.

This model predicts an individual in poor health is 209.8 percent more likely to feel bad

most days compared to those who are in good, very good, or excellent health, controlling for all

other variables in the model. This is significant at all levels. The model predicts an individual in

fair health is 83.1 percent more likely to feel bad most days compared to those who are in good,

very good, or excellent health, controlling for all other variables in the model. This is significant

at all levels. The model also predicts an individual below 200 percent of the poverty line is 47.2

percent more likely to feel bad most days compared to those who are above 200 percent of the

poverty line, controlling for all other variables in the model. This is significant at the 0.05 level.

No statistically significant relationship was identified between the following independent

variables and feeling bad most days: having grown up poor compared to those who did not grow

up poor, being in poverty compared to those not in poverty, and having income below 150

percent of the poverty line compared to those who have income above 150 percent of the poverty

line. These variables do not increase the likelihood of feeling bad most days.