

Table 8.1: Depressive Symptomatology: Geriatric Depression Scale Scores^{1,2,3}

Geriatric Depression Scale	Total (N=1002)	Age Group			Disability Level		
		65-74 (N=388)	75-84 (N=311)	85+ (N=303)	Moderate ⁴ (N=343)	ADL Difficulty	
						Receives No Help (N=478)	Receives Help (N=181)
Mean	8.0	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.1	8.0	9.9
Mild to high level of depressive symptomatology (≥10) (%)	31.8	34.7	29.5	29.4	27.2	29.8	46.8
Moderate to high level of depressive symptomatology (≥14) (%)	17.4	18.6	17.3	14.3	13.1	16.4	29.3

(Women's Health and Aging Study, baseline interview, 1992-1995)

¹ All variables have less than 1% missing data. Results are based on non-missing data.

² Percents and means are based on weighted data.

³ The Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS) consists of 30 items with a yes/no response format. Scores can range from 0 to 30, with high scores indicative of more depressive symptomatology. Yesavage JA, Brink TL, Rose TL, et al. (1983). Development and validation of a geriatric depression screening scale: A preliminary report. J Psychiatr Res 17:37-49.

⁴ No ADL difficulty; disabled in two or more domains (see Chapter 1).