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**Social determinants of depression in South African women: understanding the role of empowerment and environmental context**

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Background

Depression is one of the leading contributors to the global burden of disease and the leading cause of disability worldwide. While there is a growing body of literature on depression worldwide, there is not much evidence from African countries and specifically evidence on depression in women of reproductive age. In this study, we examine how empowerment indicators and community factors of social capital and economic disadvantage affect depression in South African women in the age-group 15-49 years.

Methods

A multi-level analysis was applied to 5,725 women in the South African National Income Dynamics Study (SA-NIDS) of 2008 linked to the South African Index of Multiple Deprivation (SAMID)-2007.

Results

The multilevel analysis shows that greater neighbourhood social capital was associated with lower depression score -0.06 (p-value