

of total DALYs. The indicator for monitoring mental health is the suicide rate, but surveys such as the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) of 2015 have identified several predictors of depression. We aim to assess trends in factors associated to depression in Italy, from 2013 to 2017.

Methods:

Data from the Aspects of Daily Living survey (AVQ) carried out by the Italian Statistics Institute, from years 2013 to 2017, were used in this analysis. Investigated factors were those identified as predictors of depression in Italy according to the EHIS 2015: (1) education until middle high school and (2) high school, (3) poor social support (single-person households without friends, neighbours, or relatives to count on), (4) unemployment, (5) chronic disease, (6) moderate limitations of daily activity due to poor health, and (7) severe limitations. We calculated the prevalence of these factors, and 95% Confidence Intervals (CI), by sex and year.

Results:

The prevalence of poor social support rose, differing significantly in men between 1.5% (95% CI 1.3% - 1.8%) in 2013 and 2.1% (95% CI 1.9% - 2.3%) in 2017. Unemployment decreased in men, from 12.7% (95% CI 12.0% - 13.4%) to 10.4% (95% CI 10.0% - 10.8%), whereas chronic diseases and moderate limitations grew significantly in both sexes, at respectively 24.6% (95% CI 24.0% - 25.2%) and 16.1% (95% CI 15.6% - 16.6%) for men, and 29.0% (95% CI 28.4% - 29.6%) and 19.4% (95% CI 18.9% - 19.9%) for women in 2017.

Conclusions:

The growing proportions, in Italy, of people with poor social support, chronic diseases, and moderate limitations of daily activities, suggest that health care programming at the national level should prepare for a rising burden of mental disease in these groups, and take into account measures to promote well-being.

Key messages:

- Among factors associated with depression, poor social support, chronic diseases, and moderate physical limitations due to disease showed a growing trend in Italy from 2013 to 2017.
- The Italian yearly AVQ survey investigates predictors of mental disease, particularly depression, and could provide early data for effective health care programming and mental health promotion.

Trends in selected socio-economic determinants of depression in Italy, 2013 through 2017

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Background:

In Italy, in 2015 suicide rate was 6.5/100,000 inhabitants, while in 2017 depressive disorders were estimated to represent 2.3%