

Association of Adolescent Depression with Earnings from Early to Middle Adulthood

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Conclusion

Earnings in adulthood seem to be negatively affected by adolescent depression with long duration, which underscores the importance of timely and effective interventions to avoid loss of human capital.

Background

Adolescent depression is a heterogenic condition linked to a wide range of adverse adult outcomes.

Aim

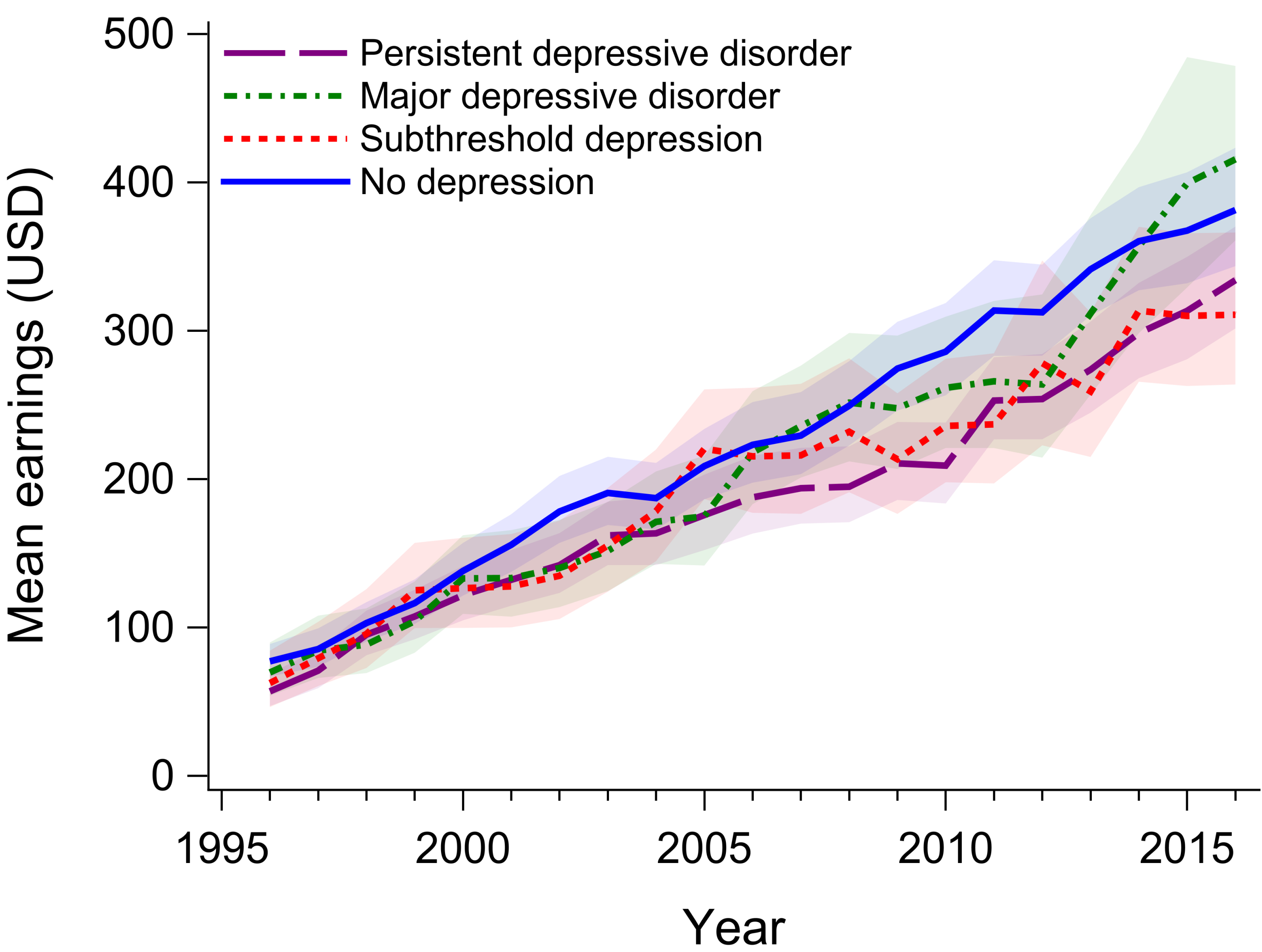
To investigate adult earnings of males and females with and without a history of depressive disorder in adolescence, with specific focuses on (1) future earnings in clinical subtypes of adolescent depression; (2) the development over time and distribution of earnings within these subgroups; and (3) the mediating role of subsequent depressive episodes occurring in early adulthood.

Method

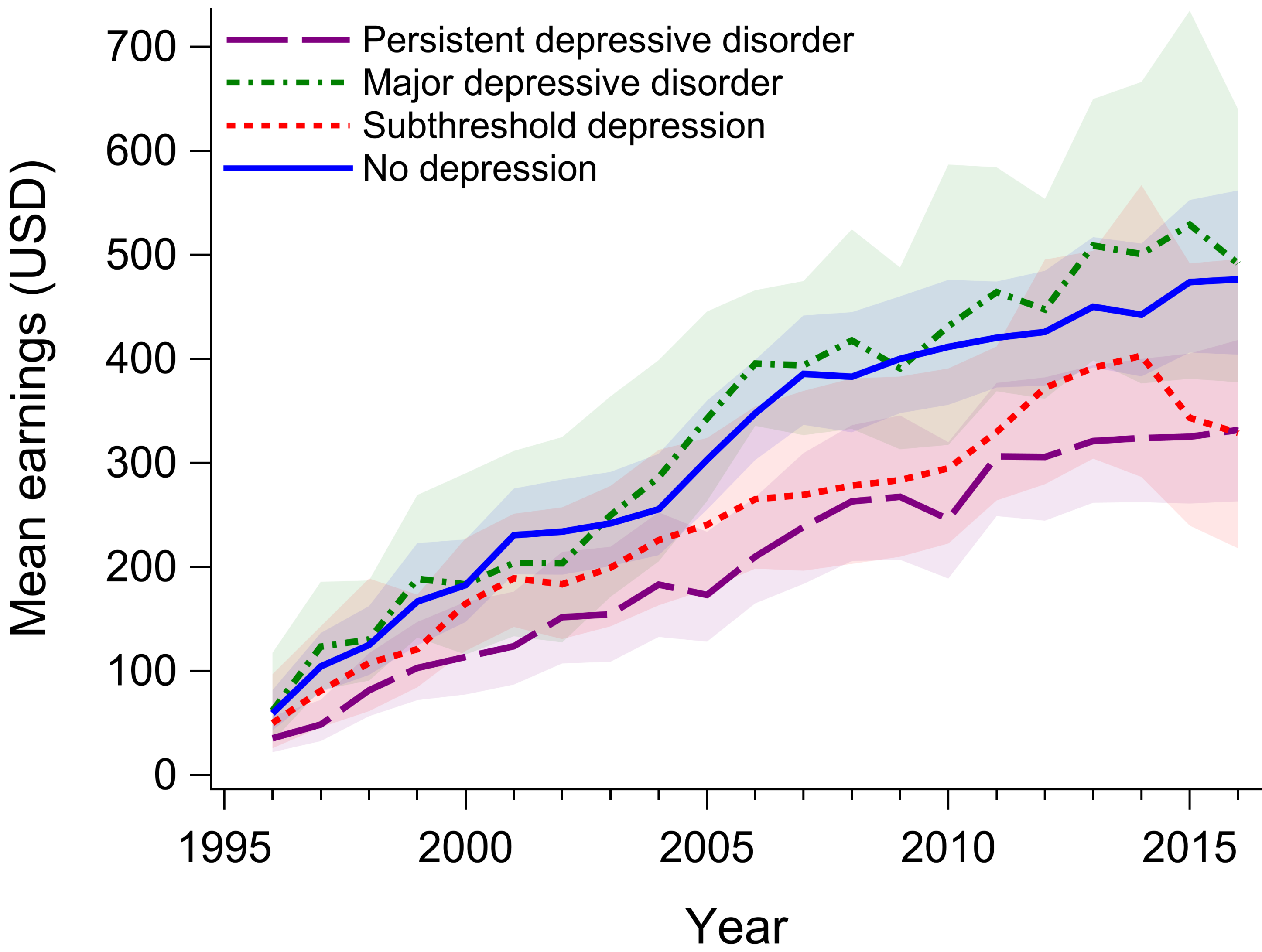
This study was based on Uppsala Longitudinal Adolescent Depression study (ULADS). The data, from comprehensive diagnostic interviews conducted in adolescence, was combined with yearly register-based data of earnings retrieved from Statistics Sweden. We compared the ratio of mean earnings between persistent depressive disorder, episodic major depressive disorder, subthreshold depression and no depression for the years 1996-2016. Adjustments were made for psychiatric comorbidity and parental socioeconomic status. GEE and log-linear models were used for analysis.

Results

539 individuals (78.8% females) were included in the analyses. Earnings were lower for participants with a history of a persistent depressive disorder in adolescence than for their non-depressed peers, with an adjusted ratio of mean earnings of 0.85 (0.77-0.95) for females and 0.76 (0.60-0.95) for males. A consistent difference over time was seen, and the differences were more pronounced in the lower percentiles of the earnings distributions. The association was partially mediated by recurrent depression in early adulthood in both females (61%) and males (29%). We found no reduction in earnings among those with episodic major depressive disorder in adolescence.



Mean Earnings (95% CI) of Females With or Without a History of Depressive Disorders in Adolescence, Year 1996 to 2016



Mean Earnings (95% CI) of Males With or Without a History of Depressive Disorders in Adolescence, Year 1996 to 2016