

Neighborhood socioeconomic conditions and depression: A systematic review and meta-analysis

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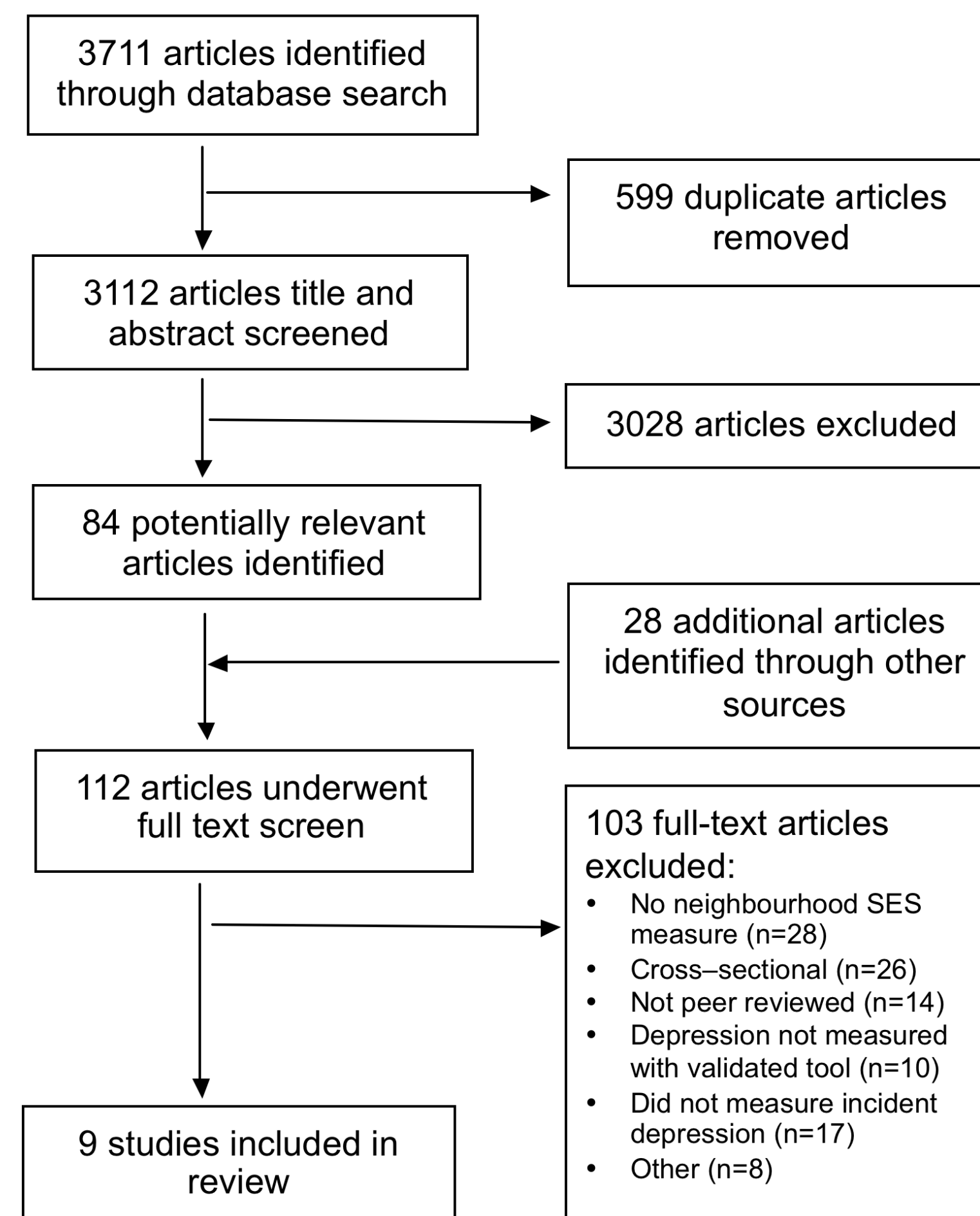
Background

Evidence linking neighborhood socioeconomic conditions (NSEC) and depression is mixed. We performed a systematic review of this literature to assess if methodological or contextual factors explained heterogeneity across studies.

Methods

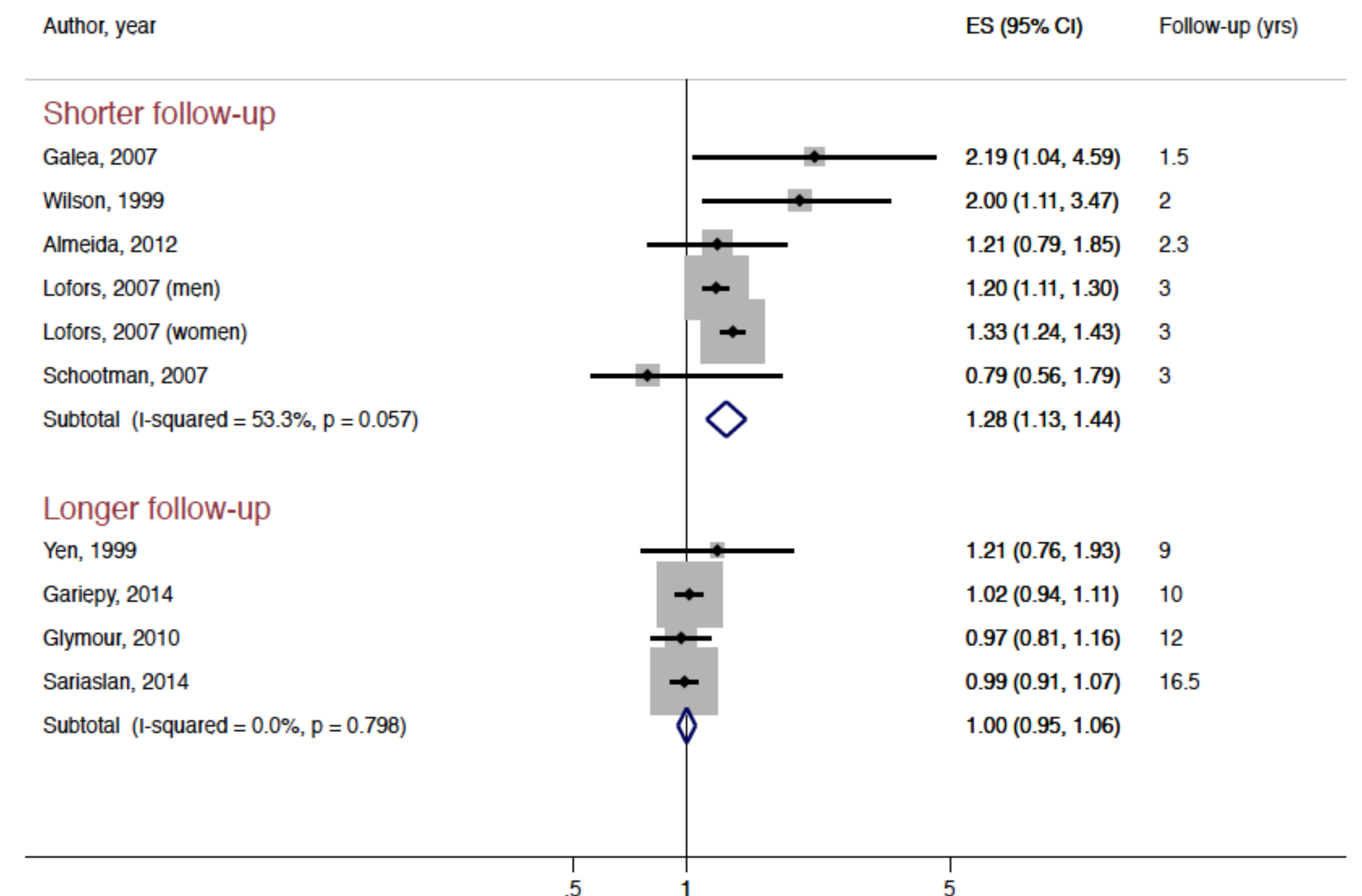
- ❖ Search in 3 databases
 - EMBASE, PsycINFO, Medline
 - 1950-Sept 2014
- ❖ Inclusion criteria:
 - Longitudinal studies of incident depression
 - Use of validated tool or clinician interview to measure depression
 - Adolescents and adults
 - High-income countries
- ❖ 2 independent reviewers screened studies for inclusion and performed data abstraction
- ❖ Formal quality assessment
 - Control for compositional effects
 - Clustering
- ❖ Identified potential sources of heterogeneity *a priori*
 - Study quality
 - Population
 - Depression measure
 - Geographic location
 - Neighborhood socioeconomic condition
- ❖ Estimates pooled with random effects models

Study Selection Process



Results

Poorer Neighborhood Socioeconomic Conditions and Incidence of Depression



- ❖ None of the *a priori* sources of potential heterogeneity explained mixed results, but study heterogeneity partially explained by follow-up time
- ❖ Studies with shorter follow-up had high study heterogeneity and source of heterogeneity could not be identified
- ❖ Studies with longer follow-up were homogeneous and indicated no association between NSEC and depression

Conclusion

We found inconsistent evidence in support of a longitudinal association between NSEC and depression, and heterogeneity according to the length of follow-up time might partly explain the mixed evidence observed in the literature on NSEC and depression.