

## Associations Between Physical Activity and Depressive Symptoms by Weight Status Among Adults With Type 2 Diabetes: Results From Diabetes MILES-Australia.

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#### 15 Abstract

16 Background: To examine associations between physical activity (PA) and depressive

17 symptoms among adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus (Type 2 DM), and whether associations

18 varied according to weight status.

19 Methods: Diabetes MILES – Australia is a national survey of adults with diabetes, focused on

20 behavioral and psychosocial issues. Data from 705 respondents with Type 2 DM were

21 analyzed, including: demographic and clinical characteristics, PA (IPAQ-SF), depressive

22 symptoms (PHQ-9), and BMI (self-reported height and weight). Data analysis was performed

23 using ANCOVA.

24 Results: Respondents were aged 59±8 years; 50% women. PA was negatively associated with

depressive symptoms for the overall sample ( $\eta_p^2 = 0.04, p < 0.001$ ) and all weight categories

26 separately: healthy ( $\eta_p^2 0.11$ , *p*=0.041, ), overweight ( $\eta_p^2 = 0.04$ , *p* =0.025) and obese

27  $(\eta_p^2=0.03, p=0.007)$ . For people who were healthy (BMI 18.5-24.9) or overweight (BMI 25-

28 29.9), high amounts of PA were significantly associated with fewer depressive symptoms; for

adults who were obese (BMI  $\geq$  30) however, both moderate and high amounts were

30 associated with fewer depressive symptoms.

31 Conclusions: PA is associated with fewer depressive symptoms among adults with Type

32 2DM, however the amount of PA associated with fewer depressive symptoms varies

33 according to weight status. Lower amounts of PA might be required for people who are obese

34 to achieve meaningful reductions in depressive symptoms compared to those who are healthy

35 weight or overweight. Further research is needed to establish the direction of the relationship

36 between PA and depressive symptoms.

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#### Introduction

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41 The associations between physical activity (PA) and depressive symptoms have been 42 examined extensively in the general population and show that PA is associated with fewer 43 depressive symptoms<sup>1,2</sup>. There is also emerging evidence in the general population that the associations between PA and depressive symptoms vary according to whether the person is of 44 healthy weight, overweight or obese<sup>3</sup>. These associations, however, have not been explored 45 thoroughly among people with Type 2 D  $^{4,5}$ . 46 47 Diabetes is a global epidemic <sup>6</sup>, projected to affect up to 3 million Australians over the age of 48 49 25 years by 2025<sup>7</sup>. Around 85% of diabetes is accounted for by Type 2 diabetes mellitus 50 (Type 2 DM)<sup>7</sup>. People with Type 2 DM are two to three times more likely to experience depressive symptoms compared to the general population <sup>8,9</sup>. In addition to being associated 51 with lower physical and mental functioning <sup>5,10</sup> and lower quality of life <sup>11</sup>, depressive 52 symptoms are also associated with increased/higher risk for suboptimal glycaemic control, 53 54 diabetes-related complications <sup>12</sup>, increased/higher health service use <sup>10</sup>, and higher mortality rates <sup>13</sup>. Examining factors, including PA that might be associated with higher or lower levels 55 56 of depressive symptoms among people with Type 2 DM is vital to inform healthcare practices 57 and the development of tailored interventions.

58

59 PA is a central component of the self-management regimen for people with Type 2 DM, and 60 thus associations with depressive symptoms are likely to be more complex than for other 61 population groups <sup>14</sup>. A small body of research has shown an inverse association between 62 depressive symptoms and participation in PA among people with Type 2 DM <sup>4,15,16</sup>. These 63 associations require further investigation, specifically, including the role of weight status. An

64	examination of the associations between PA, depressive symptoms and weight status among
65	adults with Type 2 DM is needed because people with Type 2 DM have a high incidence of
66	overweight and obesity <sup>17</sup> , and a recent study from the Diabetes MILES-Australia dataset
67	(also used in the current study) showed that higher body mass index (BMI) is associated with
68	greater symptoms of depression among people with Type 2 DM $^{12}$ .
69	
70	The purpose of this study was to provide further understanding of the associations between
71	PA, depressive symptoms and weight status in Type 2 DM. Specifically, the aims of this
72	study were to assess, in a large, population-based sample of adults with Type 2 DM: (1) the
73	associations between PA and depressive symptoms; and (2) whether associations between PA
74	and depressive symptoms varied according to weight status.
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76	Methods
76 77	Methods Study Design
77	Study Design
77 78	Study Design Data was collected in 2011 as part of the Diabetes MILES (Management and Impact for
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87 years, living in Australia, and able to complete the survey in English without assistance. In

total, 3,338 eligible respondents completed the survey. Several survey versions were used in
order to tailor content to diabetes type and treatment, and to reduce respondent burden (not all
scales/items appeared in all versions).

91

92 Ethics approval was granted by the Deakin University Human Research Ethics Committee93 (2011-046).

#### 94 Measures

#### 95 Demographic and Clinical Variables

96 Demographic variables included gender, age, relationship status, highest level of education, 97 country of birth, and annual household income. Clinical data extracted for this study were 98 diabetes duration, insulin treatment (yes/no), co-morbidities and height and weight (for 99 calculation of BMI). For the co-morbidities item, respondents were asked if they have a range 100 of health conditions, for example, coeliac disease, fatty liver disease, heart disease / heart 101 attack, high blood pressure (hypertension). The number of comorbidities that respondents 102 reported was summed to represent the total number of comorbidities. All data were collected 103 by self-report.

104

#### 105 Depressive symptoms

106 Depressive symptoms were assessed using the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9),

107 which is the depression module of the self-administered version of the PRIME-MD

108 diagnostic instrument for common mental disorders. Respondents rated their experience of

109 each of the nine DSM-IV criteria (i.e. depressed mood or irritable; decreased interest or

110 pleasure in most activities; significant weight change or change in appetite; change in sleep;

111 change in activity; fatigue or loss of energy; guilt/worthlessness; diminished ability to think

or concentrate; suicidality) as "0" (not at all) to "3" (nearly every day)<sup>19</sup>. Item scores were 112 113 summed to form a total score (range: 0-27), with higher scores indicating higher levels of depressive symptoms. Total scores of  $\geq 10$  indicate moderate-to-severe depressive symptoms 114 115 <sup>19</sup>. The PHO-9 has been validated in a range of population groups  $^{19-21}$ . For example, in a 116 study of 6,000 patients, increased PHQ-9 depression severity was associated with a 117 substantial decrease in functional status on all 6 Short-Form General Health 20 subscales, and 118 increases in symptom-related difficulty, sick days, and health care utilization. In a study of 119 580 patients, where scores on the PHQ-9 were compared with independent structured mental 120 health professional interviews, a PHQ-9 score  $\geq 10$  had a sensitivity of 88% and a specificity of 88% for major depression<sup>19</sup>. Among people with diabetes, , the PHQ-9 was an efficient 121 122 and well-received screening instrument for major depressive disorders in a sample of patients in a specialized outpatient clinic <sup>22</sup>. For the current study, total score for depressive symptoms 123 124 was the outcome variable.

#### 125 Participation in physical activity

126 PA was assessed using the International Physical Activity Questionnaire Short Form (IPAQ-SF)<sup>23</sup>. The IPAO-SF encompasses PA across all domains (including leisure, work and 127 128 household chores) at three intensity levels: 1) vigorous, 2) moderate, and 3) walking. Studies 129 of the measurement properties of the IPAQ across 12-countries demonstrated that the IPAQ instruments have acceptable measurement properties, at least as good as other established 130 131 self-reports. IPAQ-SF had fair to moderate agreement with accelerometer-measured physical activity (pooled r = .30) and repeatability was at an acceptable level, with 75% of the 132 133 correlation coefficients observed above 0.65 and ranging from 0.88 to 0.32<sup>23</sup>. The IPAO-SF has also been used in other studies of adults with Type 2 DM<sup>24</sup>. Data were cleaned according 134 to the data processing rules provided by the IPAQ developers <sup>25</sup>. 135

136

137	Amount of PA was categorised as 'high', 'moderate' and 'low', consistent with the IPAQ-SF
138	guidelines. These categories incorporate total metabolic equivalent (MET)/minutes per week
139	as well as the number of days/sessions of PA. Total MET minutes were calculated by
140	multiplying the minutes per week of walking, moderate-intensity PA and vigorous-intensity
141	PA by 3.3, 4.0 and 8.0, respectively. The criteria for the three levels take into account that the
142	questions in the IPAQ assess PA in all domains of daily life, resulting in higher median
143	MET-minutes estimates than those estimated from leisure-time participation alone. The
144	'high' category represents a minimum of one hour moderate-intensity activity over and above
145	the basal level of activity daily, or at least 30 minutes of vigorous-intensity activity over and
146	above basal levels daily (basal activity was considered to be equivalent to approximately
147	5000 steps per day) This level is equivalent to population targets for health-enhancing PA
148	when multi-domain instruments, such as IPAQ, are used <sup>25</sup> . The 'moderate' category is
149	defined as doing some activity, more than the low active category, and is equivalent to half an
150	hour of at least moderate-intensity PA on most days. The 'low' category is defined as not
151	meeting any of the criteria for either of the previous categories <sup>25</sup> .

152

### 153 Body Mass Index (BMI)

BMI was calculated using respondents' self-reported weight, in kilograms, divided by the
square of their self-reported height, in metres. BMI was then categorised based on World
Health Organisation recommendations, with a BMI of 18.5-24.9 being considered healthy
weight; 25-29.9 considered overweight; and ≥30 considered obese.

#### 159 Data Analysis

160 The present study used data from a randomly selected sub-sample of participants with Type 2 161 DM who received the MILES-Australia survey version that contained scales/items about PA 162 (n=862). Analyses were performed on cases with valid and complete data and calculated 163 scores for depressive symptoms if respondents had one or fewer missing data points on the 164 PHO-9 (with missing data imputed), otherwise the case was declared as missing. Cases with 165 missing or invalid data for key variables (i.e. PA, BMI and depressive symptoms) were 166 removed from the dataset prior to analysis; resulting in 705 valid cases). Demographic and 167 clinical characteristics of cases included in the analysis were compared with those that were 168 not included (due to missing or invalid data). There were no significant differences in any 169 demographic or clinical characteristics examined except level of education (p = 0.045), with 170 those who had a university degree more likely to have valid answers for all items. For all 171 other variables included in the analyses, missing data were minimal (0-1.0%), except annual 172 household income and level of education, which had 5.2% and 5.7% of missing data, 173 respectively.

174

175Univariate analyses (Pearson correlation coefficients and t-tests) were performed to examine176associations between demographics, clinical characteristics and depressive symptoms. The177following variables were dichotomised: relationship status (partner versus no partner), level178of education (less than university degree versus university degree and above), country of birth179(Australian born versus born overseas), annual household income ( $\leq$ \$60,000 versus180 $\geq$ \$60,001). We included variables significant at 0.05 level in subsequent analyses.181

182 For the main analysis, a series of ANCOVA analyses were conducted. First, an analysis of

183 the associations between PA and depressive symptoms, unadjusted for covariates was

184	conducted. Following this, the overall association between amount of PA (low, moderate and
185	high) and depressive symptoms, after controlling for covariates (i.e., co-morbidities, BMI,
186	age [negative], income [negative], education level [negative], being single, and using insulin),
187	were examined. A subsequent analyses according to weight status was conducted to
188	determine whether being of healthy weight, overweight and obese had a modifying effect
189	(BMI was not controlled for in these analyses and people who were underweight $(n = 3)$ were
190	not included in this analysis <sup>26</sup> ). We used post hoc Bonferroni pairwise comparisons to
191	examine significant differences between PA categories for analyses where a main effect of
192	PA was significant. Mean differences reported are the adjusted mean differences after
193	controlling for covariates in the models. Differences were considered statistically significant
194	at <i>p</i> <0.05.
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196	Results
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197 198	Sample characteristics
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197 198 199 200	Sample characteristics Respondents' age ranged from 23 to 70 years, with a mean of $59\pm8$ years, and 50% of respondents were women ( <i>n</i> =351). Most respondents were born in Australia ( <i>n</i> =516, 73%),
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<ol> <li>197</li> <li>198</li> <li>199</li> <li>200</li> <li>201</li> <li>202</li> <li>203</li> </ol>	Sample characteristics Respondents' age ranged from 23 to 70 years, with a mean of 59±8 years, and 50% of respondents were women ( <i>n</i> =351). Most respondents were born in Australia ( <i>n</i> =516, 73%), and were either married or in a de facto relationship (i.e., living with another person as a couple; <i>n</i> =510, 73%); 25% ( <i>n</i> =166) reported a diploma/certificate as their highest level of education, and a further 19% ( <i>n</i> =123) had completed secondary school; almost half reported
197 198 199 200 201 202 203 203 204	Sample characteristics Respondents' age ranged from 23 to 70 years, with a mean of $59\pm8$ years, and 50% of respondents were women ( $n=351$ ). Most respondents were born in Australia ( $n=516$ , 73%), and were either married or in a de facto relationship (i.e., living with another person as a couple; $n=510$ , 73%); 25% ( $n=166$ ) reported a diploma/certificate as their highest level of education, and a further 19% ( $n=123$ ) had completed secondary school; almost half reported an annual household income $\leq$ \$40,000 (\$20,001-\$40,000: $n=163$ , 24%; $\leq$ \$20,000: $n=147$ ,
<ol> <li>197</li> <li>198</li> <li>199</li> <li>200</li> <li>201</li> <li>202</li> <li>203</li> <li>204</li> <li>205</li> </ol>	Sample characteristics Respondents' age ranged from 23 to 70 years, with a mean of $59\pm8$ years, and 50% of respondents were women ( $n=351$ ). Most respondents were born in Australia ( $n=516$ , 73%), and were either married or in a de facto relationship (i.e., living with another person as a couple; $n=510$ , 73%); 25% ( $n=166$ ) reported a diploma/certificate as their highest level of education, and a further 19% ( $n=123$ ) had completed secondary school; almost half reported an annual household income $\leq$ \$40,000 (\$20,001-\$40,000: $n=163$ , 24%; $\leq$ \$20,000: $n=147$ , 22%). Respondents had been living with Type 2 DM for $8.5\pm6.7$ years; $32\%$ ( $n=227$ ) were

209 210	Table 1 here
211	Depressive symptoms, weight status and physical activity
212 213	Respondents' depressive symptom scores ranged from 0-27, with a mean of 6.6±6.0; 28%
214	(n=195) of the sample had moderate-to-severe depressive symptoms. Respondents' BMI
215	ranged from 14.6 to 94.3, with a mean of 32.6 $\pm$ 7.8; 30% ( <i>n</i> =214) of the sample were
216	overweight and 59% (n=418) were obese. In terms of volume of PA, 29% (n=203) reported
217	low levels of PA, 34% ( $n=237$ ) reported moderate levels and 38% ( $n=265$ ) reported high
218	levels. See Table 2.
219	
220	Table 2 here
221	
222	Associations with depressive symptoms: univariate analyses
223 224	Depressive symptoms were associated positively with the number of co-morbidities (r =
225	0.382, $p < 0.001$ ) and BMI (r = 0.14, $p < 0.001$ ) and negatively with age (r = -0.13, $p = 0.003$ ).
226	T-test showed that higher depressive symptoms were associated with having a lower income
227	(t= 2.441, $p$ =0.015), a lower education level (t = 2.78, $p$ =0.006), being single (t = 3.045, $p$
228	=0.002), and using insulin (t = -3.27, $p = 0.001$ ). Each of these factors were included as
229	covariates in subsequent ANCOVA.
230	
231	Association between PA and depressive symptoms
232	The unadjusted analyses are shown in Table 3. The following results refer to the analyses that
233	were adjusted for covariates. First, the overall association between PA and depressive

234 symptoms were examined (see Table 4). The ANCOVA model was significant and explained

235	22% of the variance in depressive symptoms. PA was significant and had a medium effect
236	size, controlling for other covariates in the model. There was a significant difference in
237	depressive symptoms between low and moderate amounts of PA (mean diff = $1.87$ , $p=0.002$ ,
231	depressive symptoms between low and moderate amounts of $1.11$ (mean and $-1.07$ , $p=0.002$ ,
238	95% CI = 0.585 to 3.153) and low and high amounts of PA (mean diff = 2.55, $p = <0.001$ ,
239	95% CI = 1.268 to 3.824), however the difference between moderate and high amounts of PA
240	was not significant ( $p = 0.531$ ; 95% CI =525 to 1.878). These analyses show that moderate
241	and high amounts of PA, compared to low amounts, were associated with fewer depressive
242	symptoms.
243	Table 3 here
244	
245	Table 4 here
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248	For people of healthy weight, the ANCOVA model was significant and explained 29% of the
249	variance in depressive symptoms. PA was significant after controlling for covariates and had
250	a moderate effect size. There were significant differences in depressive symptoms between
251	
	low and high PA (mean diff = 3.99, $p$ =0.036, 95% CI = 0.199 to 7.773) but no significant
252	low and high PA (mean diff = 3.99, $p$ =0.036, 95% CI = 0.199 to 7.773) but no significant difference between low and moderate amounts of PA ( $p$ =0.270, 95% CI = -1.261 to 7.102) or
252 253	
	difference between low and moderate amounts of PA ( $p=0.270$ , 95% CI = -1.261 to 7.102) or
253	difference between low and moderate amounts of PA ( $p$ =0.270, 95% CI = -1.261 to 7.102) or moderate and high amounts of PA ( $p$ =1.0, 95% CI = -2.500 to 4.631). These results suggest
253 254 255	difference between low and moderate amounts of PA ( $p=0.270$ , 95% CI = -1.261 to 7.102) or moderate and high amounts of PA ( $p=1.0$ , 95% CI = -2.500 to 4.631). These results suggest that high volumes of PA are associated with fewer depressive symptoms for people of healthy
253 254	difference between low and moderate amounts of PA ( $p$ =0.270, 95% CI = -1.261 to 7.102) or moderate and high amounts of PA ( $p$ =1.0, 95% CI = -2.500 to 4.631). These results suggest that high volumes of PA are associated with fewer depressive symptoms for people of healthy

259 had a moderate effect size. There were significant differences in depressive symptoms

between low and high PA (mean difference = 2.79, p=0.024, 95% CI = 0.282 to 5.297) but no significant differences between low and moderate amounts PA (p=0.469, 95% CI = -1.029 to 3.979) or moderate to high amounts of PA (p=0.338, 95% CI = -0.677 to 3.305). Similar to people of healthy weight, these results suggest that, for people who are overweight, high amounts of PA, are associated with fewer depressive symptoms.

265

266 For people who are obese, the ANCOVA model was significant and explained 21% of the 267 variance in depressive symptoms. PA was significant after controlling for covariates and had 268 a medium effect size. There was a significant difference in depressive symptoms between low 269 and moderate amounts of PA (mean diff = 1.786, p=0.034, 95% CI = 0.101 to 3.471) and low 270 and high amounts of PA (mean diff = 2.055, p=0.012, 95% CI = 0.345 to 3.765) but not 271 between moderate and high amounts of PA (p=1.0, 95% CI = -1.422 to 1.960). These results 272 suggest that for people who are obese, moderate and high amounts of PAare associated with 273 fewer depressive symptoms.

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Figure 1 shows the associations between amount of PA and depressive symptoms for each
weight classification (i.e., healthy weight, overweight and obese).

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278 Figure 1 here
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#### Discussion

This study examined associations between PA and depressive symptoms, controlling for a
range of potential covariates, among a large, population-based, sample of adults with Type 2
DM. The findings suggest that associations between PA and depressive symptoms are

283 complex; although PA was associated with fewer depressive symptoms, the amount of PA

that was associated with fewer depressive symptoms differed according to weight status.

285 These findings present a range of avenues for future research in this area and have

286 implications for the design of interventions that seek to reduce the burden of depressive

symptoms and increase PA for people with Type 2 DM.

288

289 The present findings support previous research indicating that PA is associated with fewer depressive symptoms among adults with Type 2 DM<sup>15,16</sup>. The findings suggest that the 290 amount of PA that is associated with lower depressive symptoms is equivalent to thirty 291 292 minutes of moderate-intensity PA across all domains (e.g., active transport, household chores 293 and leisure-time) on most days. Higher amounts of PA were not associated with additional 294 declines in depressive symptoms above this level of participation. For the overall sample, 295 after controlling for BMI, these findings suggested that PA, even at lower volumes than the 296 recommended level for a physical health benefit <sup>25</sup>, appears to be associated with fewer 297 depressive symptoms. Other population-based research has shown that mental health benefits are associated with lower levels of PA than required for physical health <sup>3,27</sup>. Given that most 298 299 adults with Type 2 DM find it challenging to meet PA guidelines, a lower level of participation is likely to be more achievable for the majority of the population, <sup>28</sup>, which is 300 301 an encouraging finding.

302

Interestingly, the findings of the current study indicate that the amount of PA associated with fewer depressive symptoms varied by weight status. For people in the healthy weight or overweight classification, a high amount of PA (equivalent to at least an hour or more of moderate-intensity activity, or thirty minutes of vigorous-intensity activity, on most days), was associated with fewer depressive symptoms. In contrast, for people in the obese classification, moderate amounts of PA were associated with fewer depressive symptoms and

309 there was no difference in depressive symptoms between moderate and high amounts of PA. 310 These findings may, in part, be explained by the higher baseline depressive symptoms of 311 people who are obese (mean depressive symptoms score for healthy, overweight and obese 312 respondents was 5.5, 5.4, and 7.4, respectively) and a preference for lower intensity PA. Previously published findings from the Diabetes MILES – Australia study <sup>12</sup> showed that 313 314 people with Type 2 DM who were severely obese were more likely to report moderate-severe depressive symptoms than matched controls (37% versus 27%). A systematic review of the 315 316 effects of PA on depressive symptoms for people with chronic illness showed that PA had larger effects on depressive symptoms when baseline depressive symptoms were higher <sup>29</sup>. 317 318 Also, people who are obese experience stigma due to their weight and this is related to PA avoidance <sup>30</sup>. Such stigma and feelings of self-consciousness are likely to be magnified when 319 performing vigorous physical activities such as running and aerobics<sup>31,32</sup>, and thus it is 320 321 possible that more moderate levels of PA may be preferred by this group.

322

323 The cross-sectional nature of this study precludes assessment of the directionality of the association between PA and depressive symptoms. It is likely that the association between 324 PA and depressive symptoms is bi-directional <sup>33</sup>; as well as the possibility of higher levels of 325 326 PA reducing depressive symptoms, more depressive symptoms may lead to lower levels of PA. People with Type 2 DM and depressive symptoms are often physically inactive <sup>5</sup>. 327 Symptoms of depression include a lack of motivation and energy and increased apathy <sup>34</sup> and 328 329 may thus act as a barrier to participation in PA among people with Type 2 DM. A recent 330 study of healthy older adults, however, found that those with depressive symptoms responded 331 well to an exercise intervention that incorporated 14 face-to-face counselling sessions over 4 332 years designed to increase aerobic exercise.; half of those with depressive symptoms in the intervention group were able to maintain increased aerobic exercise during the four years of 333

follow-up<sup>35</sup>. Thus, interventions that reduce depressive symptoms might lead to increased PA
in this group. Furthermore, the association between depression and increased risk of mortality
among people with Type 2 DM <sup>13</sup> might be partly explained by low levels of participation in
PA among people who are depressed.

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339 As well as BMI, a range of other socio-demographic and clinical factors were associated with 340 depressive symptoms in our sample. Socio-demographic factors including being single, being 341 younger, having a lower income, lower education level and clinical factors including the 342 number of comorbidities and being treated with insulin, were associated significantly with 343 depressive symptoms. These associations have been identified in other studies of people with diabetes<sup>36,37</sup>,<sup>38</sup>, suggesting that it is important that they are considered in future studies that 344 345 aim to examine the independent association between behavioural or psycho-social factors and depressive symptoms among adults with Type 2 DM. These findings also suggest that some 346 347 population groups, such as those with lower socio-economic status, are more likely to 348 experience depressive symptoms, and should be a focus of interventions that aim to reduce 349 depressive symptoms.

350

351 Key strengths of this study are the large, population-based sample of adults with Type 2 DM 352 and novel in-depth examination of the associations between PA, weight and depressive 353 symptoms. The limitations of this study include the cross-sectional nature of the data, which 354 means that causality cannot be implied by the findings. Self-report data were used to measure 355 participation in PA as well as height and weight, which may result in social desirability bias. 356 For large population-based studies, however, direct observation is not feasible and it is 357 necessary to rely on self-report. Furthermore, the associations examined were less impacted 358 by any self-report bias than would be the case if examining the effect of an intervention, the

measure of PA used in this study has adequate reliability and validity <sup>23</sup>, and self-report height and weight has been shown to accurately identify weight categories<sup>39</sup>. We categorized PA according to the IPAQ-SF guidelines, however, a limitation of this approach is that these categories do not allow independent examination of the frequency or intensity of PA and future research should examine the impact of these on depressive symptoms among people with Type 2 DM. Limitations of the broader MILES study are also applicable to the current study and have been described in detail previously <sup>18</sup>.

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In conclusion, this study advances current knowledge on associations between PA, weight 367 368 status and depressive symptoms among people with Type 2 DM. The findings suggest that 369 even moderate amounts of PA are associated with fewer depressive symptoms. Therefore, 370 improving participation in PA may lead to decline in depressive symptoms, or a reduction in 371 depressive symptoms may help to improve participation in PA. The role of weight status 372 needs further examination in future studies to test the robustness of these findings concerning 373 the levels of PA that are associated with fewer depressive symptoms among people in 374 different weight categories.

375

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- 389
- 390

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491

	N	Mean / n	SD / %
Gender	700		
Women		351	50.
Age	703	58.9	8.
Relationship status	700		
Single		71	10.
In steady relationship		7	1.
Married/defacto		510	72.
Separated		25	3.
Divorced		64	9.
Widowed		23	3.
Education (highest level)	665		
No formal qualifications		67	10
School/intermediate certificate		96	14.
High school/leaving certificate		123	18.
Trade/apprenticeship		68	10
Certificate/diploma		166	25.
University degree		95	14
Higher university degree		50	7.
Household Income (annual)	668		
Up to \$20,000		147	22.
\$20,001-40,000		163	24.
\$40,001-60,000		142	21.
\$60,001-100,000		128	19.

## **Table 1: Demographic and clinical characteristics of sample**

\$100,101-150,000		55	8.2
\$150,001 or more		33	4.9
Country of birth	705		
Australia		516	73.2
Other		189	26.8
Diabetes duration - years since diagnosis	698	8.5	6.7
Diabetes management	700		
Diet / lifestyle only		124	17.7
Oral medication		338	48.3
Insulin		227	32.2
Non-insulin injectables		11	1.6
Co-morbidities	705	2.6	2.2

	N	Mean / n	SD / %
Depressive symptoms			
PHQ-9 total	705	6.6	6.0
Moderate-to-severe depressive symptoms			
(PHQ-9 total $\geq 10$ )		195	28
Body mass index	705	32.6	7.8
Weight Status	705		
Underweight		3	0.4
Healthy weight		70	9.9
Overweight		214	30.4
Obese		418	59.3
Physical Activity	705		
Low		203	28.8
Medium		237	33.0
High		265	37.6

### **Table 2 Main Study Variables Descriptive Statistics**

#### SS $\eta_{p}{}^{2}$ df MS F P Whole Sample Volume of Physical < 0.001 Activity 1577.60 2 788.80 23.66 0.06 Error 23403.63 702 33.34 Total 55546.00 705 $R^2 = .06$ (Adjusted $R^2 = .06$ ) Healthy Weight Volume of Physical Activity 229.77 114.89 3.76 0.028 0.10 2 Error 2047.72 67 30.56 Total 4384.00 70 $R^2$ = .101 (Adjusted R Squared = .074) **Overweight** Volume of Physical Activity 309.10 2 154.55 5.49 0.005 0.05 5941.71 211 Error 28.16 Total 12463.00 214 $R^2 = .05$ (Adjusted $R^2 = .04$ ) **Obese** Volume of Physical < 0.001 Activity 863.96 2 431.98 12.06 .06 Error 14867.30 415 35.83

## Table 3 Depressive Symptoms by Volume of Physical Activity (Unadjusted ANCOVA) 502

Total 38426.00 418

 $R^2 = .06$  (Adjusted  $R^2 = .05$ )

MS = Mean Square; SS = Sum of squares

	SS	df	MS	F	Р	${\eta_p}^2$
Whole Sample						
Volume of Physical						
Activity	650.78	2	325.39	11.81	<0.001	0.04
Error	16910.76	614	27.54			
Total	48577.00	624				
$R^2 = .23$ (Adjusted $R^2 =$	= .22)					
Healthy Weight						
Volume of Physical						
Activity	157.56	2	77.78	3.40	0.041	0.1
Error	1250.96	54	23.17			
Total	3943.00	63				
$R^2$ = .38 (Adjusted $R^2$ =	.29)					
Overweight						
Volume of Physical						
Activity	188.77	2	94.37	3.78	0.025	0.04
Error	4525.66	181	25.00			
Total	11217.00	190				
$R^2$ = .19 (Adjusted $R^2$ =	.16)					
Obese						
Volume of Physical						
Activity	295.52	2	147.76	4.98	0.007	0.02
Error	10659.54	250	29.69			

# Table 4 Depressive Symptoms by Volume of Physical Activity (ANCOVA adjusted for covariates)

Total 33144.00 368

 $R^2$ = .23 (Adjusted  $R^2$ = .21)

## MS = Mean Square; SS = Sum of squares

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