

1 **An eating pattern characterised by skipped or delayed breakfast is associated with**  
2 **mood disorders among an Australian adult cohort.**

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- 29 diet;
- 30 depression;
- 31 mood disorder;
- 32 skipped breakfast;
- 33 meal pattern;
- 34 snacking;
- 35 eating pattern;
- 36 chronobiology;
- 37 young adult;
- 38 mental health

39 **Abstract**

40 Background: Meal timing may influence food choices, neurobiology and psychological  
41 states. Our exploratory study examined if time-of-day eating patterns were associated with  
42 mood disorders among adults.

43 Methods: During 2004-06 (age 26-36 years) and 2009-11 (follow-up, age 31-41 years),  
44 N=1304 participants reported 24-hour food and beverage intake. Time-of-day eating patterns  
45 were derived by principal components analysis. At follow-up, the Composite International  
46 Diagnostic Interview measured lifetime mood disorder. Log binomial and adjacent categories  
47 log-link regression were used to examine bidirectional associations between eating patterns  
48 and mood disorder. Covariates included sex, age, marital status, social support, education,  
49 work schedule, BMI, and smoking.

50 Results: Three patterns were derived at each time-point: Grazing (intake spread across the  
51 day), Traditional (highest intakes reflected breakfast, lunch and dinner), and Late  
52 (skipped/delayed breakfast with higher evening intakes). Compared to those in the lowest  
53 third of the respective pattern at baseline and follow-up, during the 5-year follow-up, those in  
54 the highest third of the Late pattern at both time-points had a higher prevalence of mood  
55 disorder (Prevalence ratio (PR)=2.04 95% Confidence Interval (CI):1.20, 3.48), and those in  
56 the highest third of the Traditional pattern at both time-points had a lower prevalence of first  
57 onset mood disorder (PR=0.31; 95% CI:0.11, 0.87). Participants who experienced a mood  
58 disorder during follow-up had a 1.07 higher relative risk of being in a higher Late pattern  
59 score category at follow-up than those without mood disorder (95% CI:1.00, 1.14).

60 Conclusions: Non-traditional eating patterns, particularly skipped or delayed breakfast, may  
61 be associated with mood disorders.

## 62 **Introduction**

63

64 Mood disorders, primarily depressive disorders, contribute more to worldwide disability than  
65 any other health condition (World Health Organization, 2017). Diet may influence mood  
66 disorders due to the physiological effects of nutrients on biochemical processes involved in  
67 mental health, such as hormones, neurotransmitter activity, and the gut-brain axis (Lang *et*  
68 *al.*, 2015). However, the frequency and timing of meals can also have hormonal,  
69 neurobiological and microbiome effects, thought to be related to circadian rhythms (Tahara  
70 and Shibata, 2013, Asher and Sassone-Corsi, 2015). Physical effects include possible  
71 influence on cardiometabolic conditions such as diabetes and obesity that are often comorbid  
72 with mood disorders (Stunkard *et al.*, 2003, Mattson, 2005, Lowden *et al.*, 2010).

73 Existing research on the relationship between food timing and mood has largely involved à  
74 priori defined dietary behaviours and cross-sectional analyses. For example, skipping  
75 breakfast has been consistently cross-sectionally associated with depressive symptoms and  
76 poorer mental well-being among both youth (Fulkerson *et al.*, 2004, Lien, 2007, O'Sullivan *et*  
77 *al.*, 2009, Lee *et al.*, 2017a), and adults (Smith, 1998, Begdache *et al.*, 2017, Lee *et al.*,  
78 2017b, Kwak and Kim, 2018). These associations are often clinically significant, and robust  
79 to potential confounders including socioeconomic factors (Lee *et al.*, 2017b) and lifestyle  
80 practices such as diet quality, smoking, or alcohol consumption (Smith, 1998, O'Sullivan *et*  
81 *al.*, 2009, Kwak and Kim, 2018). Other eating behaviours are less well studied, but snacking  
82 between meals has been associated with depressive symptoms among adults (Furihata *et al.*,  
83 2018), while snacking and meal skipping has been associated with higher levels of  
84 psychological problems in female adolescents (Farhangi *et al.*, 2018). To our knowledge only  
85 one prospective study has examined multiple eating behaviours. This study reported that

86 having at least two out of three unhealthy eating practices of skipping breakfast, snacking  
87 after dinner, or eating dinner shortly before bed was associated with a higher incidence of  
88 depressive symptoms (Huang *et al.*, 2017).

89 Limitations of previous studies include examining discrete eating behaviours, using non-  
90 clinical measures of depression, or only considering concurrent mood. Cross-sectional  
91 analyses are unable to identify directionality of the relationship. Both high and low emotional  
92 states have been found to influence food consumption (Cardi *et al.*, 2015) meaning  
93 bidirectionality should be considered. Furthermore, despite the popularity of methods such as  
94 principal components analysis (PCA) to examine patterns of nutritional intake, it is rare for  
95 data-driven approaches to be used to determine time-of-day eating patterns. Two time-of-day  
96 eating patterns (a conventional pattern of three main meals, and a snack-dominant pattern),  
97 were derived using PCA in a 2011 cross-sectional study (Kim *et al.*, 2011). However, the  
98 outcome in that study was sleep duration, not mood.

99 There were two important rationales for this study. Firstly, empirical analysis of eating and  
100 drinking occasions would allow us to determine common eating patterns that explain  
101 variation in timing of food intake over the day. The term “eating patterns” refers to patterns  
102 related to the timing and relative size of meals/snacks as a proportion of daily intake, not the  
103 foods, nutrients, or energy consumed. Secondly, examining bidirectional associations  
104 between eating patterns and clinical diagnosis of depressive episodes over time could help us  
105 understand the relationship between eating patterns and mood disorders if one exists. In this  
106 study we aimed to determine if time-of-day eating patterns were longitudinally associated  
107 with mood disorders (dysthymia or depression) among an Australian cohort of young to  
108 middle-aged adults. We examined if eating pattern score predicted subsequent mood  
109 disorders, if tracking of pattern scores were associated with mood disorder over time, and if  
110 mood disorders predicted eating pattern scores.

111

112 **Methods**

113

114 *Participants*

115 In 1985, the Australian Department of Community Services and Health conducted the  
116 Australian Schools Health and Fitness Survey (ASHFS) of schoolchildren aged 7-15 years. A  
117 two-stage probability design derived a nationally representative sample. Of 121 schools  
118 approached, 109 schools participated (90.1% response rate). The student response rate was  
119 67.6% (N=8498).

120 During 2001-02, ASHFS participants were traced and invited to participate in the Childhood  
121 Determinants of Adult Health (CDAH) study, resulting in enrolment of 5170 participants  
122 (61.0%) (Gall *et al.*, 2009). For the first follow-up 2004-06 (CDAH-1), n=2410 participants  
123 (aged 26-36 years) attended study clinics for physical measurements and completed  
124 questionnaires including a food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) and food habits questionnaire  
125 (FHQ). At the second follow-up 2009-11 (CDAH-2), n=1749 participants (aged 31-41 years)  
126 completed a mental health diagnostic interview, questionnaires, and the same FFQ and FHQ  
127 used in CDAH-1.

128

129 *Ethical standards*

130 All procedures contributing to this work comply with the ethical standards of the relevant  
131 national and institutional committees on human experimentation and with the Helsinki  
132 Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2008. The State Directors General of Education approved  
133 the ASHFS, and signed parental consent was required for all participants. The Southern

134 Tasmanian Health and Medical Ethics Committee approved the CDAH study protocol, and  
135 all participants gave informed written consent.

136

## 137 **Measures**

138

### 139 *Eating occasions*

140 At CDAH-1 and CDAH-2, participants were mailed questionnaires that were returned by post  
141 or collected at the CDAH-1 clinics. The FHQ included a meal pattern chart, which collected  
142 information on the types of meals and drinks consumed from 6am the previous day to 6am  
143 that morning (Smith *et al.*, 2010). The 24-hour period was divided into hourly periods (e.g. 6-  
144 7am) from 6am to 11pm, and an overnight period of 11pm-6am. For each time period,  
145 respondents were asked “Did you eat anything?” with responses of “No”, “A snack”, “A  
146 small meal” or “A large meal”, and “Did you drink anything”, with responses of “No”,  
147 “Alcohol”, “Water”, or “Something else”. Examples of meal types were given: snacks: a  
148 biscuit or piece of fruit; small meal: beans on toast, boiled egg and bread, breakfast cereal, a  
149 pie; large meal: meat and three vegetables or a large serving of fish and chips. Participants  
150 were instructed that they could fill in more than one type of drink for each period.

151 Seven time intervals were defined based on commonly-understood Australian meal windows  
152 to aid interpretability of results (Leech *et al.*, 2015): early (6am-9am), late morning (9am-  
153 12pm), midday (12pm-3pm), afternoon (3pm-6pm), evening (6pm-9pm), night (9pm-11pm),  
154 overnight (11pm-6am). To estimate the proportion of daily food intake consumed during each  
155 interval, 1 point was awarded for a snack, 3 points for a small meal, and 5 points for a large  
156 meal. Water was not awarded any points, but drinks of “Alcohol” or “Something else” were  
157 awarded one point, according to accepted methods of including beverages as eating occasions



158 (Kim *et al.*, 2011, Leech *et al.*, 2015). The number of points consumed during each interval  
159 by a participant were divided by their total points consumed that day to calculate the  
160 percentage distribution of daily intake across the seven time intervals. This distribution  
161 therefore reflected temporal distribution of daily intake, not nutritional or energy intake.  
162 Participants reported the day of the week they completed the meal pattern chart for.  
163 Participants were categorised as weekday (Monday to Friday) or weekend (Saturday or  
164 Sunday) reporters.

165

### 166 ***Mood disorder***

167 Mental health was assessed at CDAH-2 using the lifetime version of the Composite  
168 International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI) (World Health Organization, 1997). The  
169 computerised CIDI was administered by trained telephone interviewers to collect data on the  
170 lifetime prevalence of depressive symptoms, age of onset, and age of most recent recurrence.  
171 Symptoms were scored using DSM-IV criteria (American Psychiatric Association, 2000) to  
172 determine depressive episodes, or dysthymia. Participants, including those who had  
173 experienced a mood disorder prior to CDAH-1, were categorised as having a mood disorder  
174 only if they had experienced any episodes (first or recurrent) between CDAH-1 and CDAH-2.  
175 Sensitivity analyses excluded all participants who had their first mood disorder prior to  
176 CDAH-1.

177

### 178 ***Covariates***

179 At CDAH-1 and CDAH-2, questionnaires collected data on age, marital status  
180 (married/living as married, single/separated/divorced), highest education (university,

181 vocational, school), occupational status (professional, non-manual, manual, not in  
182 workforce), and current smoking status (never, ex-smoker, smoker). Total weekly minutes of  
183 leisure-time physical activity were measured using the validated International Physical  
184 Activity Questionnaire long form (Craig *et al.*, 2003), and converted to hours per week for  
185 interpretability. Parenting status (no children, have children) was determined using date of  
186 birth data for biological children reported at CDAH-2. Social support at CDAH-1 and  
187 CDAH-2 was measured using the Henderson Index of Perceived Social Support (potential  
188 range 15-75), with a higher score indicating higher self-perceived social support (Henderson  
189 *et al.*, 1978). At CDAH-2 only, participants reported the hours and minutes of usual sleep  
190 duration and the preferred amount of sleep they need to feel they have rested properly.  
191 Discrepancy of sleep preference was calculated as preferred minus usual sleep duration. At  
192 CDAH-2, participants reported their usual type of work schedule (regular daytime,  
193 evening/night/rotating, irregular (e.g. split shift, on call), not employed).

194 Dietary data were collected using a 127-item FFQ based on a validated FFQ developed for  
195 Australian populations (McLennan and Podger, 1998, Hodge *et al.*, 2000). Diet quality was  
196 calculated using a validated Dietary Guidelines Index (DGI) that reflects the 2013 Australian  
197 Dietary Guidelines (Wilson *et al.*, 2019). A higher score on the scale 0-100 indicated higher  
198 diet quality. At CDAH-2, participants were asked how many days per week they usually ate  
199 breakfast (range 0-7). Participants were categorised as never skip breakfast, sometimes skip  
200 (skip 1-3 days/week), or regularly skip (skip 4-7 days/week).

201 For CDAH-1 clinic participants, weight was measured to the nearest 0.1kg in light clothing  
202 using Heine portable digital scales (Heine, Dover, NH, USA), and height to the nearest 0.1cm  
203 with a Leicester stadiometer (Invicta, Leicester, UK). BMI was calculated as weight in  
204 kilograms divided by squared height in metres ( $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ ). For CDAH-1 participants who did not  
205 attend clinics, and at CDAH-2, BMI was calculated from self-reported height and weight

206 with a correction factor applied. The correction factor was determined based on discrepancies  
207 between the self-reported and measured height and weight of CDAH-1 clinic participants  
208 (Smith *et al.*, 2017).

209 Transition variables reflect change in circumstance between CDAH-1 and CDAH-2:  
210 parenting status (no children, first child born since CDAH-1, additional children born since  
211 CDAH-1, same number of children as CDAH-1); marital status (stayed living as married,  
212 became living as married, stayed living as single, became living as single); smoking (non-  
213 smoker, stopped smoking, started smoking, continued smoking); change in education level  
214 (advanced education, same level of education); and change in employment (remained  
215 employed, became employed, became unemployed, remained unemployed). For continuous  
216 variables (BMI, social support, DGI, and leisure-time physical activity), the transition  
217 variable was calculated by the value at CDAH-2 minus the value at CDAH-1.

218

### 219 *Statistical analyses*

220 All analyses were performed in Stata Version 15 (StataCorp, College Station, Texas, 2017).  
221 Time-of-day eating patterns were determined by PCA of the percentages of daily food intake  
222 consumed during each time interval (6-9am, 9am-12pm, 12-3pm, 3-6pm, 6-9pm, 9-11pm,  
223 11pm-6am). The number of components were selected based on visual examination of the  
224 scree plot, and size of the eigenvalues. Orthogonal varimax rotation was applied to improve  
225 interpretability of the identified components. Bartlett's test of sphericity was used to test  
226 whether the variables were unrelated and therefore unsuitable for PCA. The Kaiser-Mayer-  
227 Olkin statistic for sampling adequacy was not generated due to singular correlation matrices  
228 arising from standardisation of the eating interval variables to sum to one for each participant.

229 Every participant received a score for each pattern and scores were categorised by tertiles into  
230 low, middle and high thirds. A tracking variable for change in pattern scores from CDAH-1  
231 to CDAH-2 was created: consistently low (lowest third of pattern scores at both time-points),  
232 decreased (decrease from high or middle to a lower third), consistently middle (middle third  
233 at both time-points), increased (increase from low or middle to a higher third), or consistently  
234 high (highest third at both time-points). Tracking of pattern scores was determined by  
235 examining percent agreement of the categories and Cohen's Kappa coefficient for inter-rater  
236 reliability (Landis and Koch, 1977). At CDAH-2, percent agreement was also used to assess  
237 concordance of eating pattern score categories with reported frequency of eating breakfast.

238

239 Multiple imputation was performed to complete the 1985 ASHFS data for missing variables  
240 that predicted loss-to-follow-up. Inverse probability weighting on these variables was used in  
241 the regression analyses (motivated by Seaman *et al.*, 2012). Firstly, we examined if eating  
242 patterns at CDAH-1 predicted risk of mood disorder during the follow-up period using log  
243 binomial regression to calculate relative risks (RR). Secondly, we examined if tracking of  
244 eating pattern scores from CDAH-1 to CDAH-2 was associated with prevalence of mood  
245 disorder during the intervening period using binomial logistic regression to calculate  
246 prevalence ratios (PR). Thirdly, to explore bidirectionality, we examined whether  
247 experiencing a mood disorder during follow-up predicted eating pattern category at CDAH-2.  
248 We used adjacent categories ordered log-link regression to calculate the relative risk (RR) for  
249 being in a higher adjacent score category for those who experienced a mood disorder during  
250 the follow-up period compared to those who did not (Blizzard *et al.*, 2013). Males and  
251 females were analysed together as there was no evidence of differences by sex in the  
252 estimates.

253 Minimally adjusted models (Model 1) adjusted for sex and age. Purposeful model building  
254 procedures were used to determine the fully adjusted models (Model 2) with adjustment for  
255 variables thought to be causally associated with the outcome and that changed the coefficient  
256 of the principal study factor by at least 10% (Greenland, 1989). Model 2 for the prediction of  
257 mood disorder based on CDAH-1 eating pattern adjusted for sex, age, social support, BMI  
258 and smoking at CDAH-1. Model 2 for the tracking analyses adjusted for sex, CDAH-2 age  
259 and work schedule, and transitions between CDAH-1 and CDAH-2 in social support, marital  
260 status, smoking, and BMI. Model 2, for the analysis of mood disorder predicting eating  
261 pattern at CDAH-2, adjusted for sex and CDAH-2 age, education, BMI, work schedule,  
262 parental status, smoking status and self-perceived social support. Model 3 further adjusted for  
263 eating pattern category at CDAH-1. Statistical significance was deemed if  $p < 0.05$ .

264 Two PCA sensitivity analyses were conducted to check the robustness of the patterns by  
265 stratifying separately by: 1) sex, and 2) weekday/weekend. Two separate log binomial  
266 regression sensitivity analyses were conducted: 1) excluding weekend reporters; 2) excluding  
267 all participants who had experienced a mood disorder prior to CDAH-1.

268

## 269 **Results**

270

271 The meal pattern chart at CDAH-1 was completed by 2853 participants, however 78 were  
272 excluded due to pregnancy. Of the remaining 2775 participants, 1435 completed the meal  
273 pattern chart at CDAH-2, with 39 participants excluded for pregnancy. Of the 1396  
274 participants with meal data at both time points, 1374 also completed the CDAH-2 CIDI. PCA  
275 was performed separately on the CDAH-1 and CDAH-2 time-of-eating data for this group.

276 After exclusion of 70 participants missing covariate data, the final sample for regression  
277 analyses was n=1304 (**Figure 1**). Participant characteristics are shown in **Table 1**.

278

### 279 *Time-of-day eating patterns*

280 Three similar patterns were obtained at both time-points, cumulatively explaining 65%  
281 (CDAH-1) and 64% (CDAH-2) of the variation in timing of daily food intake. Factor  
282 loadings, which indicate the strength of association between the variable and component, and  
283 scree plots are shown in **online supplementary Table S1** and **Figure S1** respectively.

284 Bartlett test of sphericity results for CDAH-1 and CDAH-2 were  $p < 0.001$ . Sensitivity  
285 analyses of PCA on subgroups male, female, weekday, and weekend day produced the same  
286 three dominant patterns, with similar loadings to whole-of-group patterns (data not shown).

287 The mean percentages of daily intake consumed at each of the seven time intervals by those  
288 in the highest third of pattern scores, were examined to further describe and name the patterns  
289 as Grazing, Traditional, and Late (**Figure 2**). Those high on the Grazing pattern had intake  
290 spread across the day from 6am-6pm and consumed the highest average percentage of their  
291 daily food intake during the afternoon 3-6pm. The Traditional pattern was characterised as  
292 three main intakes, with the largest mean percentages reflecting breakfast, lunch and dinner  
293 times. The Late pattern was characterised by low intake during 6-9am, with slightly higher  
294 mean percentages of intake during the night and overnight periods than the other patterns.

295 There was evidence of tracking of participant scores for all patterns from CDAH-1 to CDAH-  
296 2, with participants more likely to be in the same score category at CDAH-2 than the two  
297 other score categories (**online supplementary Table S2**). For example, of the 33.4% of  
298 participants who were in the highest third of the Late pattern at CDAH-1, 16.0% were also in  
299 the highest third at CDAH-2, 8.6% in the middle third, and 8.8% in the lowest third.

300 Only the Late pattern was associated with skipping breakfast. Of the 426 participants in  
301 highest third of the Late pattern who had breakfast frequency data, 239 (56.1%) reported  
302 skipping breakfast at least once per week (**online supplementary Table S3**).

303

#### 304 *Associations between eating patterns and mood disorder*

305 Time-of-day eating patterns at CDAH-1 were not significantly associated with mood disorder  
306 outcomes during the 5-year follow-up (**Table 2**). A borderline significant increased risk for  
307 those in the highest compared to the lowest third of the Late pattern (RR= 1.33; 95% CI:  
308 0.97, 1.83) was attenuated in Model 2 (RR= 1.13; 95% CI: 0.82, 1.55).

309 Associations between pattern score tracking categories from CDAH-1 to CDAH-2 and mood  
310 disorder during follow-up are also shown in **Table 2**. After adjustment, compared to those in  
311 the consistently low category of the Late pattern, there was a higher prevalence of mood  
312 disorder among those in the increased (PR=1.85; 95% CI: 1.11, 3.09) and consistently high  
313 (PR=2.04; 95% CI: 1.20, 3.48) categories. A significant trend for the Late pattern was  
314 observed, with higher pattern category associated with higher prevalence of mood disorder.  
315 Indications of higher prevalence of mood disorder among those in the consistently high  
316 category of the Grazing pattern and lower prevalence among those in the consistently high  
317 category of the Traditional pattern, were not statistically significant.

318 Results for the analysis of mood disorder predicting eating pattern scores are presented in  
319 **Table 3**. After adjustment for covariates, participants who experienced a mood disorder  
320 during the follow-up period had a 7% increased risk (RR=1.07; 95% CI: 1.00, 1.14) of being  
321 in a higher adjacent score category (e.g. high rather than middle, or middle rather than low),  
322 compared to participants who had not experienced a mood disorder during follow-up. Having

323 a mood disorder during follow-up was not associated with the Grazing or Traditional patterns  
324 at CDAH-2.

325 Results of the sensitivity analyses are presented in the online supplementary **Tables S4 and**  
326 **S5**. Among participants who experienced their first mood disorder between CDAH-1 and  
327 CDAH-2, those in the consistently high category of the Late pattern had higher prevalence of  
328 mood disorder compared to those in the consistently low category (PR=2.84; 95% CI: 1.06,  
329 7.58). For the Traditional pattern, compared to those in the lowest category at both time  
330 points, a lower prevalence of mood disorders during the follow-up period was observed  
331 among those in the consistently middle category (PR=0.34; 95% CI: 0.12, 0.99), and the  
332 consistently high category (PR=0.31; 95% CI: 0.11, 0.87). After excluding weekend  
333 reporters, compared to those in the lowest category of the Late pattern at both time-points,  
334 those in the increasing (PR=2.30; 95% CI: 1.01, 5.24) and consistently high categories  
335 (PR=3.46; 95% CI: 1.47, 8.14) had an increased prevalence of mood disorder during follow-  
336 up. Those who increased their Grazing pattern score category between follow-ups also had a  
337 higher prevalence of mood disorders during follow-up (PR=2.67; 95% CI: 1.19, 5.99)  
338 compared to those in the consistently low category.

339

## 340 **Discussion**

341

342 Three distinct time-of-day eating patterns were identified. The Traditional pattern described a  
343 conventional eating schedule of breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and the Grazing pattern had  
344 intake spread more evenly across the daytime hours. The Late pattern was characterised by  
345 low intake in the early morning (6-9am) but higher intakes late morning, indicating skipped  
346 or delayed breakfast, and proportionally more food consumed during the evening and night



347 than the other patterns. High compared to low scores on the Late pattern at both time-points  
348 were associated with a higher likelihood of experiencing a mood disorder, and a nearly three  
349 times higher prevalence of first ever onset of a disorder during the intervening 5-year period.  
350 However, there was also weak evidence of bidirectionality, with mood disorder during  
351 follow-up associated with slightly increased risk of being in a higher Late pattern score  
352 category at CDAH-2. Participants who consistently scored in the middle or highest third of  
353 the Traditional pattern had a lower prevalence of first onset of mood disorder during the  
354 follow-up period. These results suggest that a more traditionally structured pattern of eating  
355 may be associated with better mental health.

356 Preference for a later-in-the-day style of eating could be a biological or social trait that is  
357 implicated in, or predisposes an individual to, poorer mental health. Chronotype  
358 characteristics relating to difference in preference for morning or evening activity may  
359 contribute to the observed associations. Evening chronotypes are more likely to skip or delay  
360 breakfast, consume higher intakes of food later in the day compared to morning types (Meule  
361 *et al.*, 2012, Roßbach *et al.*, 2018), and have a higher risk of major depressive disorder  
362 (Antypa *et al.*, 2016, Au and Reece, 2017). It is suggested that preference for evening activity  
363 may be a pre-existing trait of the individual rather than symptom of mood disorders (Drennan  
364 *et al.*, 1991, Hidalgo *et al.*, 2009). A later pattern of eating may precede onset of mood  
365 disorders, and contribute to “social jetlag” which has been associated with depressive  
366 symptoms (Levandovski *et al.*, 2011). Social jetlag refers to a discrepancy between biological  
367 and social or work schedules, where evening chronotypes are unable to fulfil their sleep  
368 timing preferences (Wittmann *et al.*, 2006). In our cohort, a larger mean discrepancy between  
369 preferred sleep and actual sleep times at CDAH-2 was reported by participants who  
370 experienced a mood disorder (46 minutes) than those with no mood disorder (33 minutes).  
371 However, the amount of reported usual sleep was very similar at 7 hours 22 minutes for those

372 who had experienced a mood disorder compared to 7 hours 25 minutes for those who had not.  
373 Usual sleep duration and sleep preference were not included in our adjusted models as they  
374 did not have sufficient effect on the prevalence estimates after inclusion of other covariates.  
375 There were indications of bidirectionality, as participants with mood disorders during follow-  
376 up were slightly more likely to be in a higher score category of the Late pattern at CDAH-2  
377 compared to participants who had not experienced a mood disorder. Mood disorders may  
378 influence lifestyle and dietary behaviours, but this does not preclude the influence of  
379 chronobiology. Mood disorders and emotional stress may reduce capacity to adhere to  
380 morning or daytime work/life schedules, or what are considered favourable behaviours such  
381 as making healthy food choices (Lopresti *et al.*, 2013). Therefore, bidirectionality and the  
382 concept of social jetlag and chronobiology should be considered when exploring the nexus  
383 between diet, time-of-day eating patterns, and mood disorders.

384 Our results concerning the Late pattern complement existing literature reporting cross-  
385 sectional associations between skipping breakfast and depressive symptoms (Fulkerson *et al.*,  
386 2004, Lien, 2007, O'Sullivan *et al.*, 2009, Lee *et al.*, 2017a, Lee *et al.*, 2017b, Kwak and  
387 Kim, 2018). However, 'breakfast' has often been poorly defined or not defined at all  
388 (Szajewska and Ruszczyński, 2010) making it difficult to determine whether associations are  
389 due to not eating a morning meal, or delaying first consumption until later in the morning. In  
390 the current study, the Late pattern is likely to reflect both skipped and delayed breakfast.  
391 Participants who scored highly on the Late pattern had greater intake during late morning  
392 (9am-12pm) compared to other patterns, and more than half of these participants reported  
393 they usually skipped breakfast at least once per week. Although this demonstrates the need  
394 for clarification around what constitutes breakfast, previous studies examining various  
395 concepts of 'skipping breakfast' have highlighted the physiological and hormonal  
396 mechanisms that could explain the associations between omitting or delaying breakfast and

397 mood disorders. Skipping breakfast has been shown to be associated with poorer diet quality  
398 and obesity which may affect mood due to long-term nutritional imbalance as well as  
399 metabolic co-morbidities (Smith *et al.*, 2010, Szajewska and Ruszczynski, 2010, Horikawa *et*  
400 *al.*, 2011). Eating breakfast lowers cortisol levels so skipping or delaying this meal may  
401 affect mood due to higher levels of cortisol and immune system dysregulation (Witbracht *et*  
402 *al.*, 2015, Lee *et al.*, 2017b). Lower appetite for breakfast first thing in the morning could also  
403 indicate reduced levels of the appetite regulating hormone ghrelin. Ghrelin has been shown to  
404 have an anti-depressant effect in mice (Lutter *et al.*, 2008) and affect plasma cortisol (Kluge  
405 *et al.*, 2011). Proximity of the last eating occasion can influence the amount of food  
406 consumed at the following eating occasion, so higher intake at night may result in less  
407 subsequent hormonal drive to eat early the next day. People with night eating syndrome  
408 (NES), typified by >50% of daily calorie intake during the evening and waking at night to  
409 eat, have been shown to have lower ghrelin levels than controls during the early morning  
410 period to 9am (Allison *et al.*, 2005). We do not suggest that participants who scored high on  
411 the Late pattern meet criteria for NES, but later eating combined with skipping breakfast  
412 could be eating practices that warrant further attention.

413 Associations between the Grazing pattern and mood disorder only reached statistical  
414 significance in the sensitivity analyses excluding weekend reporters, with those who  
415 increased their score category between CDAH-1 and CDAH-2 having a 2.7 times higher  
416 prevalence of mood disorder during the follow-up period. The Grazing pattern's spread of  
417 food intake across daytime hours, could represent snacking type behaviour and varied eating  
418 schedules. Irregular meal schedules, including skipped meals, snacking, and delayed lunch,  
419 have been associated with unfavourable health outcomes including obesity, depressed mood,  
420 and hypertension (Gill and Panda, 2015, Furihata *et al.*, 2018, Leech *et al.*, 2019).

421 Consistently high scores on the Traditional pattern, characterised by distinct meal times, was  
422 associated with a non-statistically significant lower prevalence of mood disorder during  
423 follow-up. Furthermore, in the sensitivity analyses, high scores on the Traditional pattern at  
424 CDAH-1 was associated with a lower risk of first ever onset of mood disorder during follow-  
425 up. Structured and regular meal times may indicate healthier behaviours. In a previous study,  
426 healthier lifestyle behaviours were protective against mood disorders among the CDAH  
427 cohort (Gall *et al.*, 2016).

428 Limitations of this study include potential bias as the meal pattern chart was reliant on recall  
429 and only covered a single 24-hour period at each time-point which may not reflect usual  
430 eating patterns. However, there was evidence the pattern scores tracked from CDAH-1 to  
431 CDAH-2, indicating possible habituality of time-of-day eating. There was no guidance given  
432 to participants about entering multiple meal types in the same hourly period, or which time-  
433 period they should use when entering food or drink consumed on the hour (e.g. whether a  
434 drink at 7am should be entered as 6-7am or 7-8am). The 11pm-6am period meant there was  
435 no differentiation between overnight eating and an early breakfast. Bias from loss to follow-  
436 up between the nationally representative baseline youth sample and the adult surveys may  
437 limit the generalisability of our results. However, there was wide variation in the  
438 characteristics of participants in the adult sample and loss-to-follow-up was mitigated by  
439 inverse probability weighting. There is also the possibility of bias from misreporting of  
440 covariate measures, such as self-reported weight (mitigated by using a correction factor) and  
441 physical activity; or unmeasured confounding such as lifestyle (e.g. work schedule or sleep  
442 hours at CDAH-1) or psychological factors.

443 Strengths of the study include the use of the CIDI, which is considered the “gold-standard”  
444 measure for retrospective assessment of history of mental disorders in epidemiological  
445 studies (Steel *et al.*, 2014). Participant recollection may have resulted in some misreporting.

446 However, the time-related questions in the CIDI around the first and last occurrence of a  
447 disorder have shown good reliability (Wittchen, 1994). Although misreporting of snack and  
448 beverage intake is common in dietary surveys, primarily as under-reporting (Poslusna *et al.*,  
449 2009), converting each individual's eating occasion to a proportion of their total intake may  
450 have helped address systematic misreporting by individuals, or variation in concepts of snack  
451 or meal sizes between participants. The assessment of BMI, overall diet quality, and physical  
452 activity as covariates in our models considered potential confounding or mediation from  
453 energy and nutritional aspects of diet. Diet quality and physical activity did not change the  
454 coefficients sufficiently to be included in our models, indicating they were not confounding  
455 measures. The sensitivity analyses on the PCA and regression analyses confirmed that the  
456 patterns and associations were robust to influence of factors such as sex, prior mood disorder,  
457 and differences between weekday and weekend eating practices. Another strength is the  
458 novel application of PCA to derive patterns that capture dietary behaviours, and in the case of  
459 the Late pattern, multiple behaviours of skipping breakfast and eating later into the evening.  
460 Furthermore, the longitudinal design builds on existing cross-sectional research.

461 Longitudinal studies that replicate the eating patterns observed in this study, or specifically  
462 examine clustering of several habits, may be useful in determining lifestyle and  
463 chronobiological influences on mood disorders. Repeat measures and more detailed  
464 information about timing and size of meals would help determine the nature of the  
465 relationship between eating patterns and mental health outcomes.

466 In conclusion, delaying or skipping breakfast and eating higher proportions of intake later in  
467 the day may be an unhealthy behaviour associated with higher likelihood of mood disorder  
468 among adults. Whereas more traditional eating patterns of main meals at breakfast, lunch and  
469 dinner may be associated with lower likelihood of mood disorder over time. These

470 relationships may be bidirectional, and a pre-existing preference for certain eating patterns  
471 due to chronobiological traits of the individual should be considered.

472

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474

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478

### 479 **Conflicts of interest**

480

481 None.

482

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**Table 1. Participant characteristics by experience of mood disorder during follow-up (CDAH-1 to CDAH-2).**

	CDAH-1 (2004-2006)		CDAH-2 (2009-2011)	
	No mood disorder	Mood disorder	No mood disorder	Mood disorder
	% or mean (SD) n	% or mean (SD) n	% or mean (SD) n	% or mean (SD) n
Sex				
Female	58.4 631	70.4 157	--	--
Male	41.6 450	29.6 66	--	--
Age (years)	31.6(2.7) 1081	31.5(2.6) 223	36.6(2.6) 1081	36.5(2.5) 223
Living as married				
No	27.3 295	34.1 76	16.0 173	31.4 70
Yes	72.7 786	65.9 147	84.0 908	68.6 153
Parental status				
No children	51.9 561	54.3 121	27.9 302	39.5 88
≥ 1 child	48.1 520	45.7 102	72.1 779	60.5 135
Smoking status				
Never	60.6 655	50.2 112	62.3 674	52.0 116
Ex-Smoker	20.3 219	20.6 46	24.5 265	28.7 64
Current smoker	19.1 207	29.1 65	13.1 142	19.3 43
Highest education				
University	47.6 515	47.1 105	49.7 537	52.5 117
Vocational	28.0 303	24.2 54	30.3 328	26.9 60
School	24.3 263	28.7 64	20.0 216	20.6 46
Occupation				
Professional	55.9 596	53.4 117	58.6 631	55.7 123
Non-manual	18.1 193	20.5 45	17.7 191	19.0 42
Manual	13.3 142	11.0 24	13.1 141	11.3 25
Not working	12.7 136	15.1 33	10.6 114	14.0 31
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	25.2(4.7) 1081	26.0(5.4) 223	25.7(5.0) 1081	27.0(6.1) 223
Leisure-time physical activity (hrs/wk)	2.8(3.3) 1016	2.4(3.2) 204	2.8(3.1) 1004	2.4(3.1) 208
Social support <sup>a</sup>	62.5(7.1) 1081	59.0(8.2) 223	62.1(7.6) 1081	57.0(9.9) 223
Diet quality <sup>b</sup>	56.0(11.1) 1049	56.7(11.5) 222	56.9(11.2) 1008	57.5(11.2) 211
Usual sleep (hrs:mins)	--	--	7:25(1:00) 1076	7:22(1:06) 221
Sleep discrepancy (hrs:mins) <sup>c</sup>	--	--	0:33 (1:04) 1068	0:46(1:17) 219
Work schedule				
Regular day	--	--	64.1 693	56.4 127
Irregular hours	--	--	21.0 227	22.7 51
Night/Evening/ Rotating	--	--	5.2 56	6.2 14
Not employed	--	--	9.7 105	13.8 31

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CDAH: Childhood Determinants of Adult Health study; SD, Standard deviation; BMI, body mass index

<sup>a</sup>Henderson Index of Perceived Social Support, possible score range 15-75. A higher score indicates higher self-perceived social support.

<sup>b</sup>Dietary Guidelines Index, possible score range 0-100 A higher score indicates greater compliance with the 2013 Australian Dietary Guidelines.

<sup>c</sup>Discrepancy between preferred and usual minutes of sleep per night.

**Table 2. Associations between time-of-day eating pattern category at CDAH-1 or tracking of eating pattern category from CDAH-1 to CDAH-2, with mood disorder during follow-up between CDAH-1 and CDAH-2.**

	Mood events		Model 1 <sup>a,b</sup>		Model 2 <sup>c,d</sup>	
	%	(n/N)	RR/PR	95% CI	RR/PR	95% CI
<b>CDAH-1 patterns predicting mood disorders during follow-up</b>						
Grazing						
Low	16.5	(72/437)	Reference		Reference	
Middle	16.7	(73/437)	0.94	(0.69, 1.29)	0.92	(0.67, 1.24)
High	18.1	(78/430)	1.03	(0.75, 1.40)	0.92	(0.68, 1.25)
Trend				<i>p</i> =0.862		<i>p</i> =0.612
Traditional						
Low	18.7	(83/444)	Reference		Reference	
Middle	17.0	(73/429)	0.89	(0.66, 1.21)	0.98	(0.71, 1.35)
High	15.5	(67/431)	0.84	(0.61, 1.15)	1.01	(0.72, 1.41)
Trend				<i>p</i> =0.262		<i>p</i> =0.969
Late						
Low	15.0	(65/434)	Reference		Reference	
Middle	17.1	(74/434)	1.11	(0.81, 1.54)	1.11	(0.81, 1.53)
High	19.3	(84/436)	1.33	(0.97, 1.83)	1.13	(0.82, 1.55)
Trend				<i>p</i> =0.076		<i>p</i> =0.473
<b>Tracking category CDAH-1 to CDAH-2 and association with mood disorder during follow-up</b>						
Grazing						
Consistently low	15.1	(29/192)	Reference		Reference	
Decreased	18.0	(72/400)	1.12	(0.73, 1.71)	1.22	(0.81, 1.83)
Consistently middle	17.2	(27/157)	1.18	(0.71, 1.99)	1.35	(0.82, 2.23)
Increased	17.5	(67/383)	1.22	(0.79, 1.89)	1.38	(0.92, 2.08)
Consistently high	16.3	(28/172)	1.11	(0.66, 1.86)	1.14	(0.70, 1.86)
Trend				<i>p</i> =0.535		<i>p</i> =0.321
Traditional						
Consistently low	21.1	(37/175)	Reference		Reference	
Decreased	16.1	(63/392)	0.72	(0.49, 1.06)	0.76	(0.52, 1.10)
Consistently middle	16.7	(28/168)	0.77	(0.48, 1.25)	0.95	(0.59, 1.54)
Increased	17.9	(73/407)	0.79	(0.54, 1.15)	0.83	(0.57, 1.19)
Consistently high	13.6	(22/162)	0.61	(0.37, 1.01)	0.64	(0.39, 1.06)
Trend				<i>p</i> =0.209		<i>p</i> =0.284
Late						
Consistently low	10.6	(19/180)	Reference		Reference	
Decreased	15.2	(56/369)	1.51	(0.89, 2.56)	1.28	(0.75, 2.21)
Consistently middle	12.3	(21/171)	1.27	(0.67, 2.38)	1.20	(0.64, 2.24)
Increased	20.0	(75/375)	<b>2.13</b>	<b>(1.28, 3.53)</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>(1.11, 3.09)</b>
Consistently high	24.9	(52/209)	<b>2.69</b>	<b>(1.60, 4.55)</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>(1.20, 3.48)</b>
Trend				<i>p</i> <0.001		<i>p</i> <0.001

CDAH: Childhood Determinants of Adult Health study; RR, relative risk; PR, Prevalence ratio; CI, confidence interval

Statistically significant (*p*<0.05) results are highlighted in bold.

<sup>a</sup>Prediction analysis models adjusted for sex and age at CDAH-1.

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<sup>b</sup>Tracking analysis models adjusted for sex and age at CDAH-2.

<sup>c</sup>Prediction analysis models adjusted for sex and CDAH-1 age, BMI, social support, and smoking status.

<sup>e</sup>Tracking analysis models adjusted for sex, age, and work schedule at CDAH-2, and change from CDAH-1 to CDAH-2 in social support, smoking, marital status, and BMI



**Table 3. Relative risk of being in a higher score category of CDAH-2 eating pattern for participants who experienced a mood disorder during follow-up between CDAH-1 and CDAH-2, compared to participants who did not experience a mood disorder during follow-up.**

CDAH-2 pattern	Model 1 <sup>a</sup>		Model 2 <sup>b</sup>		Model 3 <sup>c</sup>	
	RR	95% CI	RR	95% CI	RR	95% CI
Grazing	1.04	(0.98, 1.12)	1.02	(0.95, 1.10)	1.03	(0.97, 1.10)
Traditional	0.95	(0.88, 1.03)	0.99	(0.91, 1.07)	0.99	(0.92, 1.07)
Late	<b>1.12</b>	<b>(1.06, 1.19)</b>	<b>1.08</b>	<b>(1.01, 1.15)</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>(1.00, 1.14)</b>

CDAH: Childhood Determinants of Adult Health study; RR: relative risk; CI: confidence interval.

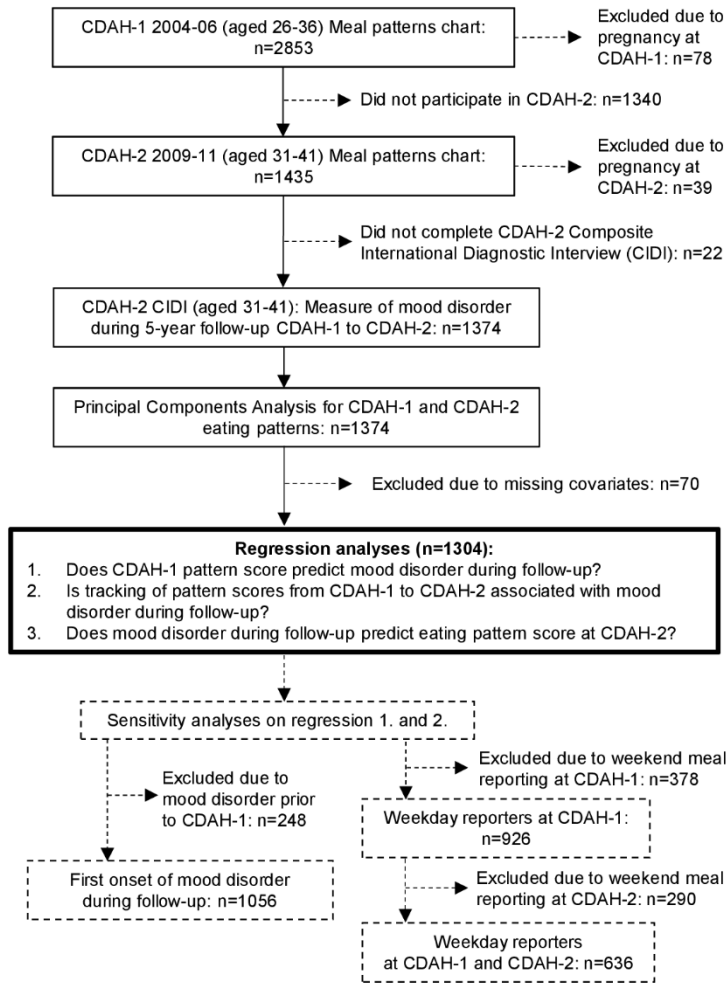
Statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) results are highlighted in bold.

<sup>a</sup>Model 1: Adjusted for sex and CDAH-2 age.

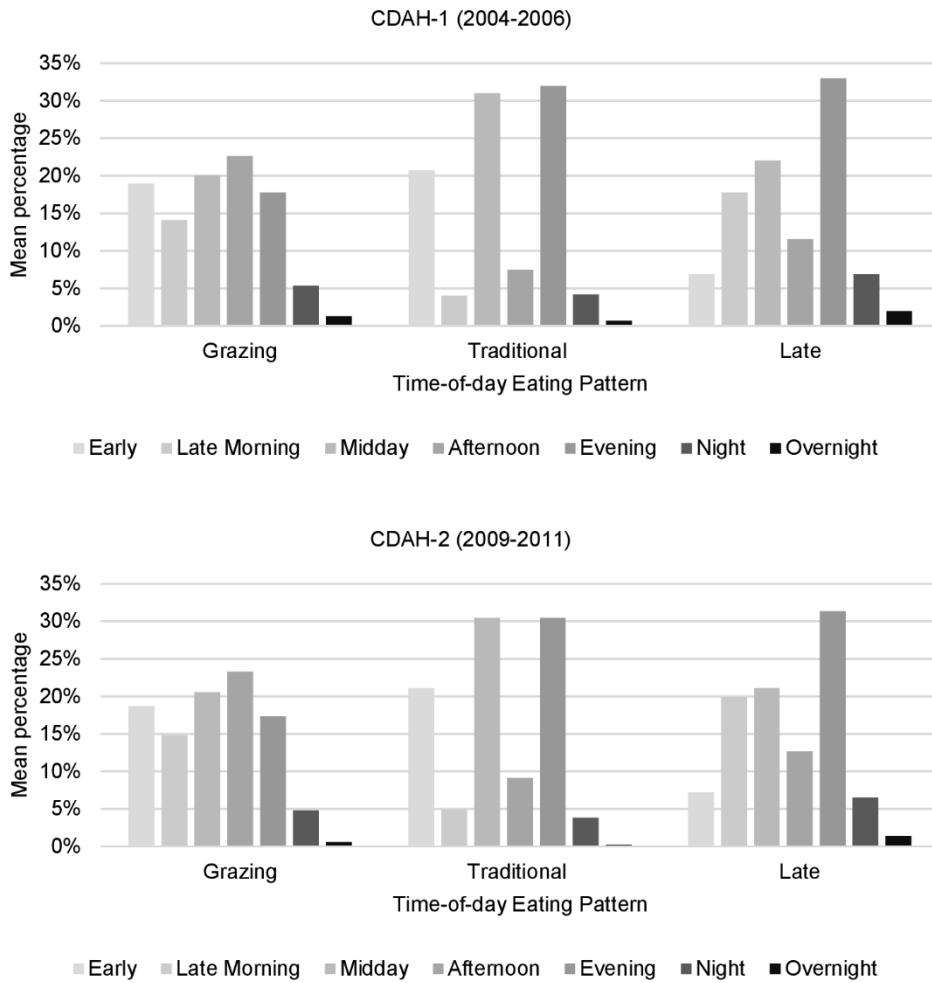
<sup>b</sup>Model 2: Adjusted for sex and CDAH-2 age, BMI, education level, work schedule, parenting status, smoking status, and social support.

<sup>c</sup>Model 3: Model 2 plus additional adjustment for eating pattern category at CDAH-1.

**Figure 1. Childhood Determinants of Adult Health (CDAH) study participant flow chart and related analyses.**



**Figure 2. Mean percentage of daily intake by eating interval\* among participants scoring in highest third of each time-of-day eating pattern at CDAH-1 and CDAH-2.**



\* Early (6am-9am), late morning (9am-12pm), midday (12pm-3pm), afternoon (3pm-6pm), evening (6pm-9pm), night (9pm-11pm), overnight (11pm-6am).

## Online Supplementary Material for:

### **An eating pattern characterised by skipped or delayed breakfast is associated with mood disorders among an Australian adult cohort**

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**Supplementary Table S1. Time-of-day eating pattern factor loadings generated by principal components analyses of percentage of daily food consumed during each interval at CDAH-1 and CDAH-2 (n=1374)**

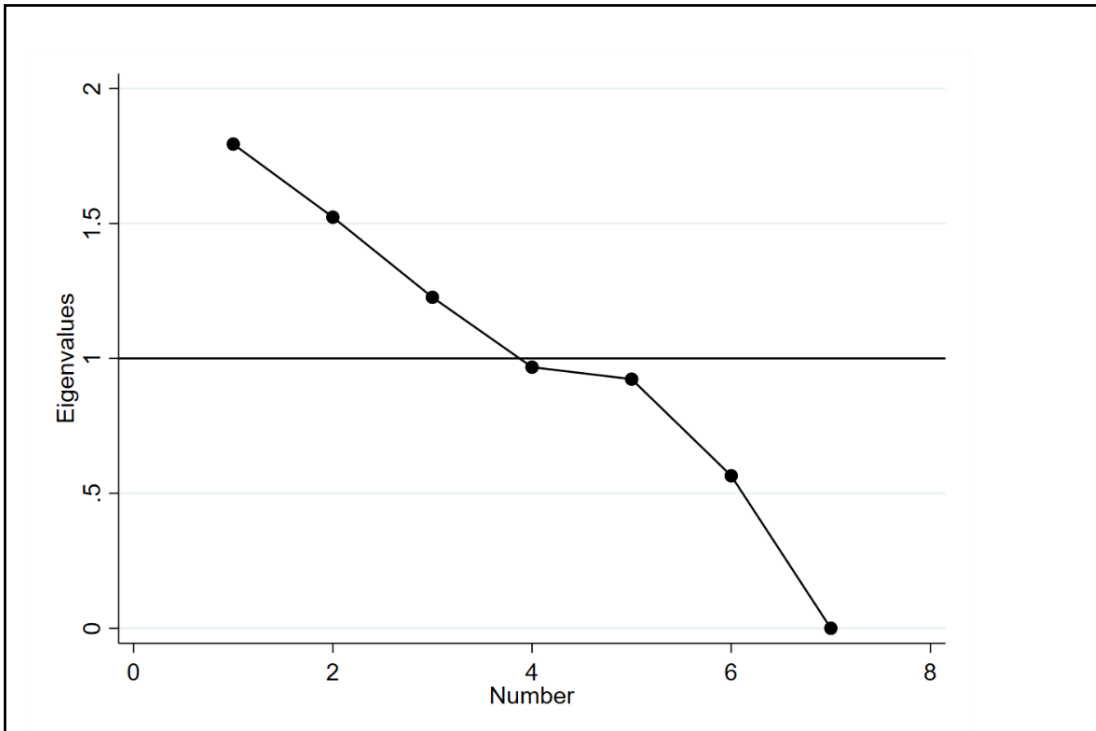
Eating interval	CDAH-1*			CDAH-2*		
	Grazing	Traditional	Late	Grazing	Traditional	Late
Early 6-9am	–	–	-0.69	–	–	-0.74
Late morning 9am-12pm	–	-0.67	–	–	-0.61	–
Midday 12-3pm	–	0.69	–	–	0.75	–
Afternoon 3-6pm	0.65	–	–	0.67	–	–
Evening 6-9pm	-0.73	–	–	-0.72	–	–
Night 9-11pm	–	–	0.49	–	–	0.51
Overnight 11pm-6am	–	–	0.47	–	–	0.32
Eigenvalue	1.68	1.53	1.33	1.68	1.46	1.37
Variance explained <sup>†</sup>	0.24	0.22	0.19	0.24	0.21	0.20

CDAH: Childhood Determinants of Adult Health study.

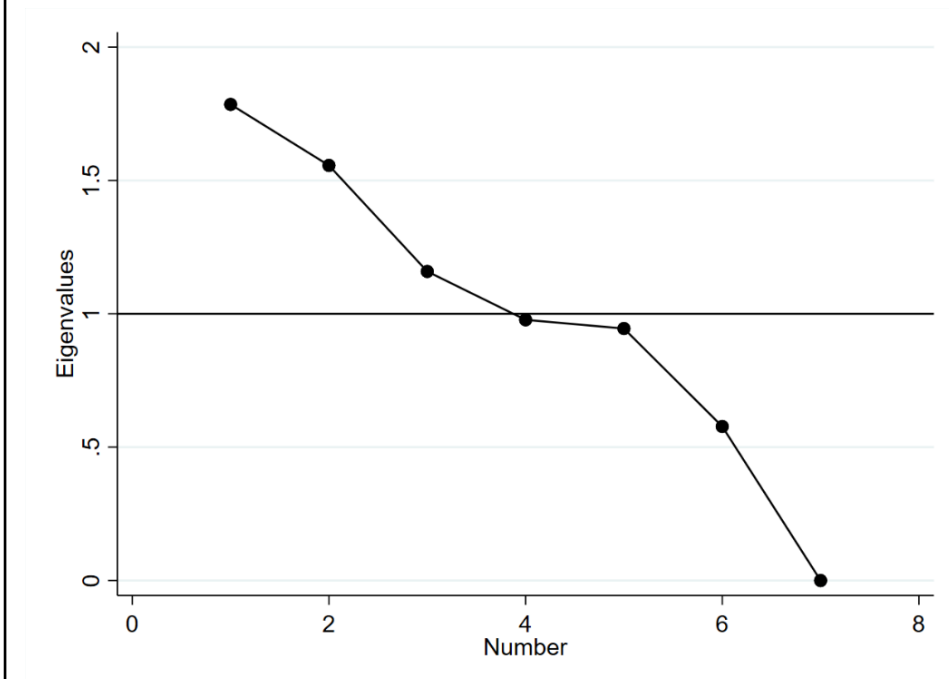
\*Only factor loadings  $>|0.3|$  are shown for clarity. Loadings are for varimax rotated components

<sup>†</sup>Proportion of common variance (total of 1.00), explained by component.

**Supplementary Figure S1. Principal components analysis (PCA) scree plots for time-of-day eating patterns for n= 1374 participants at CDAH-1 (2004-06) and CDAH-2 (2009-11)**



**S1a. Scree plot of eigenvalues after PCA on eating-time intervals at CDAH-1**



**S1b. Scree plot of eigenvalues after PCA on eating-time intervals at CDAH-2**

CDAH: Childhood Determinants of Adult Health study

**Supplementary Table S2. Percent agreement of low, middle and high score categories of time-of-day eating patterns at CDAH-1 (2004-2006) and CDAH-2 (2009-2011).**

Pattern and score category at CDAH-1	Score category at CDAH-2			Cohen's Kappa <sup>a</sup>
	Lowest % (n)	Middle % n	Highest % n	
Grazing <sup>b</sup>				0.099
Lowest	14.7 (192)	9.9 (129)	8.9 (116)	
Middle	10.9 (142)	12.0 (157)	10.6 (138)	
Highest	8.2 (107)	11.6 (151)	13.2 (172)	
Traditional <sup>c</sup>				0.081
Lowest	13.4 (175)	10.1 (131)	10.6 (138)	
Middle	9.4 (123)	12.9 (168)	10.6 (138)	
Highest	10.1 (132)	10.5 (137)	12.4 (162)	
Late <sup>d</sup>				0.144
Lowest	13.8 (180)	11.6 (151)	7.9 (103)	
Middle	10.9 (142)	13.1 (171)	9.3 (121)	
Highest	8.8 (115)	8.6 (112)	16.0 (209)	

CDAH: Childhood Determinants of Adult Health study.

<sup>a</sup>Possible range -1 to +1. < 0: no agreement; 0–0.20: slight; 0.21–0.40: fair; 0.41–0.60: moderate; 0.61–0.80: substantial; 0.81–1: almost perfect agreement.

<sup>b</sup>Grazing pattern: intake spread across the day, highest in the afternoon.

<sup>c</sup>Traditional pattern: highest proportions of intake reflect breakfast, lunch and dinner times.

<sup>d</sup>Late pattern: skipped/delayed breakfast and higher intakes during the evening.

**Supplementary Table S3. Percent agreement of low, middle and high score categories of time-of-day eating patterns and weekly frequency of skipping breakfast at CDAH-2 (2009-2011) among n=1284 participants.**

Score category at CDAH-2	Usual breakfast skipping frequency per week at CDAH-2			Cohen's Kappa <sup>a</sup>
	Never (n=875) % (n)	1-3 days (n=235) % (n)	4-7 days (n=174) % (n)	
Grazing <sup>b</sup>				-0.110
Lowest	21.9 (281)	5.8 (74)	5.8 (75)	
Middle	24.2 (311)	6.4 (82)	3.3 (42)	
Highest	22.0 (283)	6.2 (79)	4.4 (57)	
Traditional <sup>c</sup>				-0.032
Lowest	20.6 (265)	6.1 (78)	6.1 (78)	
Middle	24.8 (319)	5.8 (74)	3.0 (38)	
Highest	22.7 (291)	6.5 (83)	4.5 (58)	
Late <sup>d</sup>				0.144
Lowest	27.7 (356)	5.1 (65)	0.8 (10)	
Middle	25.9 (332)	5.0 (64)	2.4 (31)	
Highest	14.6 (187)	8.3 (106)	10.4 (133)	

CDAH: Childhood Determinants of Adult Health study.

<sup>a</sup>Possible range -1 to +1. < 0: no agreement; 0–0.20: slight; 0.21–0.40: fair; 0.41–0.60: moderate; 0.61–0.80: substantial; 0.81–1: almost perfect agreement.

<sup>b</sup>Grazing pattern: intake spread across the day, highest in the afternoon.

<sup>c</sup>Traditional pattern: highest proportions of intake reflect breakfast, lunch and dinner times.

<sup>d</sup>Late pattern: skipped/delayed breakfast and higher intakes during the evening.



**Supplementary Table S4. Sensitivity analyses: Associations between time-of-day eating pattern category at CDAH-1 or tracking of eating pattern category from CDAH-1 to CDAH-2, with first onset of mood disorder during follow-up between CDAH-1 and CDAH-2 (n=1056).**

		Mood events		Model 1 <sup>a,b</sup>		Model 2 <sup>c,d</sup>	
		%	(n/N)	RR/PR	95% CI	RR/PR	95% CI
<b>CDAH-1 patterns predicting mood disorders during follow-up</b>							
Grazing							
	Low	7.4	(26/353)	Reference		Reference	
	Middle	6.6	(24/362)	0.73	(0.42, 1.26)	0.74	(0.43, 1.27)
	High	7.0	(24/341)	0.89	(0.50, 1.56)	0.86	(0.49, 1.52)
	Trend			<i>p</i> =0.683		<i>p</i> =0.615	
Traditional							
	Low	8.5	(30/353)	Reference		Reference	
	Middle	6.5	(22/340)	0.76	(0.44, 1.33)	0.81	(0.46, 1.43)
	High	6.1	(22/363)	0.79	(0.45, 1.38)	0.90	(0.50, 1.62)
	Trend			<i>p</i> =0.398		<i>p</i> =0.698	
Late							
	Low	7.0	(26/372)	Reference		Reference	
	Middle	6.7	(23/344)	1.00	(0.56, 1.77)	1.01	(0.57, 1.78)
	High	7.4	(25/340)	1.21	(0.69, 2.13)	1.06	(0.61, 1.85)
	Trend			<i>p</i> =0.523		<i>p</i> =0.845	
<b>Tracking categories CDAH-1 to CDAH-2 and association with mood disorder onset during follow-up</b>							
Grazing							
	Consistently low	6.3	(10/159)	Reference		Reference	
	Decreased	8.0	(26/325)	1.14	(0.55, 2.37)	1.15	(0.55, 2.40)
	Consistently middle	6.2	(8/130)	0.80	(0.31, 2.05)	0.78	(0.30, 2.04)
	Increased	8.1	(25/307)	1.16	(0.55, 2.44)	1.19	(0.56, 2.53)
	Consistently high	3.7	(5/135)	0.55	(0.18, 1.73)	0.54	(0.18, 1.60)
	Trend			<i>p</i> =0.457		<i>p</i> =0.451	
Traditional							
	Consistently low	11.6	(16/138)	Reference		Reference	
	Decreased	6.8	(22/323)	0.58	(0.31, 1.11)	0.62	(0.32, 1.23)
	Consistently middle	3.8	(5/131)	<b>0.28</b>	<b>(0.10, 0.83)</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>(0.12, 0.99)</b>
	Increased	8.0	(26/326)	0.62	(0.33, 1.17)	0.63	(0.34, 1.16)
	Consistently high	3.6	(5/138)	<b>0.30</b>	<b>(0.11, 0.83)</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>(0.11, 0.87)</b>
	Trend			<i>p</i> =0.068		<i>p</i> =0.054	
Late							
	Consistently low	3.8	(6/159)	Reference		Reference	
	Decreased	6.6	(20/304)	1.80	(0.66, 4.86)	1.60	(0.59, 4.32)
	Consistently middle	3.6	(5/138)	1.23	(0.35, 4.26)	1.15	(0.33, 3.98)
	Increased	8.6	(26/301)	<b>2.61</b>	<b>(1.00, 6.82)</b>	2.32	(0.89, 6.07)
	Consistently high	11.0	(17/154)	<b>3.73</b>	<b>(1.37, 10.15)</b>	<b>2.84</b>	<b>(1.06, 7.58)</b>
	Trend			<i>p</i> =0.002		<i>p</i> =0.011	

CDAH: Childhood Determinants of Adult Health study; RR, relative risk; PR, prevalence ratio; CI, confidence interval. Statistically significant (*p*<0.05) results are highlighted in bold.

<sup>a</sup>Prediction analysis models adjusted for sex and age at CDAH-1.

<sup>b</sup>Tracking analysis models adjusted for sex and age at CDAH-2.

<sup>c</sup>Prediction analysis models adjusted for sex and CDAH-1 age, BMI, social support, and smoking status.

<sup>d</sup>Tracking analysis models adjusted for sex, age, and work schedule at CDAH-2, and change from CDAH-1 to CDAH-2 in social support, smoking, marital status, and BMI.

**Supplementary Table S5. Sensitivity analyses: associations between time-of-day eating pattern category for weekday reporters only at CDAH-1 or tracking of pattern categories from CDAH-1 to CDAH-2, and mood disorder during follow-up between CDAH-1 and CDAH-2.**

	Mood events		Model 1 <sup>a,b</sup>		Model 2 <sup>c,d</sup>	
	%	(n/N)	RR/PR	95% CI	RR/PR	95% CI
<b>CDAH-1 patterns predicting mood disorders during follow-up (n=926)</b>						
Grazing						
Low	17.1	(55/321)	Reference		Reference	
Middle	17.5	(58/331)	0.93	(0.65, 1.33)	0.88	(0.62, 1.25)
High	16.4	(45/274)	0.89	(0.61, 1.30)	0.78	(0.53, 1.15)
	Trend			<i>p</i> =0.545		<i>p</i> =0.206
Traditional						
Low	20.2	(58/287)	Reference		Reference	
Middle	15.0	(51/341)	0.71	(0.49, 1.03)	0.77	(0.52, 1.14)
High	16.4	(49/298)	0.82	(0.57, 1.19)	0.97	(0.66, 1.43)
	Trend			<i>p</i> =0.292		<i>p</i> =0.798
Late						
Low	15.3	(50/327)	Reference		Reference	
Middle	16.9	(54/320)	1.03	(0.71, 1.51)	1.01	(0.70, 1.46)
High	19.4	(54/279)	1.25	(0.85, 1.84)	1.06	(0.72, 1.56)
	Trend			<i>p</i> =0.256		<i>p</i> =0.764
<b>Tracking categories CDAH-1 to CDAH-2 and association with mood disorder during follow-up (n=636)</b>						
Grazing						
Consistently low	7.7	(8/104)	Reference		Reference	
Decreased	14.4	(25/174)	1.81	(0.80, 4.09)	1.86	(0.82, 4.23)
Consistently middle	13.8	(13/94)	1.92	(0.78, 4.71)	2.21	(0.88, 5.53)
Increased	17.5	(33/189)	<b>2.65</b>	<b>(1.18, 5.96)</b>	<b>2.67</b>	<b>(1.19, 5.99)</b>
Consistently high	10.7	(8/75)	1.45	(0.52, 4.04)	1.42	(0.51, 3.92)
	Trend			<i>p</i> =0.096		<i>p</i> =0.083
Traditional						
Consistently low	12.5	(10/80)	Reference		Reference	
Decreased	15.1	(28/186)	1.23	(0.60, 2.52)	1.24	(0.60, 2.55)
Consistently middle	11.9	(12/101)	1.05	(0.44, 2.52)	1.19	(0.49, 2.91)
Increased	14.0	(26/186)	1.27	(0.61, 2.64)	1.13	(0.51, 2.52)
Consistently high	13.3	(11/83)	1.20	(0.53, 2.75)	1.23	(0.54, 2.79)
	Trend			<i>p</i> =0.682		<i>p</i> =0.888
Late						
Consistently low	8.3	(8/96)	Reference		Reference	
Decreased	13.7	(24/175)	2.14	(0.95, 4.84)	1.86	(0.81, 4.31)
Consistently middle	8.6	(8/93)	1.15	(0.41, 3.19)	1.09	(0.39, 3.05)
Increased	14.2	(26/183)	<b>2.53</b>	<b>(1.12, 5.67)</b>	<b>2.30</b>	<b>(1.01, 5.24)</b>
Consistently high	23.6	(21/89)	<b>4.34</b>	<b>(1.94, 9.72)</b>	<b>3.46</b>	<b>(1.47, 8.14)</b>
	Trend			<i>p</i> = <b>0.001</b>		<i>p</i> = <b>0.002</b>

CDAH: Childhood Determinants of Adult Health study; RR, relative risk; PR, prevalence ratio; CI, confidence interval. Statistically significant (*p*<0.05) results are highlighted in bold.

<sup>a</sup>Prediction analysis models adjusted for sex and age at CDAH-1.

<sup>b</sup>Tracking analysis models adjusted for sex and age at CDAH-2.

<sup>c</sup>Prediction analysis models adjusted for sex and CDAH-1 age, BMI, social support, and smoking status.

<sup>d</sup>Tracking analysis models adjusted for sex, age, and work schedule at CDAH-2, and change from CDAH-1 to CDAH-2 in social support, smoking, marital status, and BMI.