

Table 3 Comparison between food security groups regarding mental health status of the studied mothers, rural Minia

Maternal mental health status	Total (n = 497) Median (IQR)	Food secure (n = 151) Median (IQR)	Food insecure (n = 346) Median (IQR)	Test statistic	P
HSCL total score	1.76 (1.44–2.12)	1.40 (1.24–1.68)	1.92 (1.59–2.28)	U 10381	< 0.001 ^a
HSCL anxiety score	1.70 (1.40–2.20)	1.40 (1.20–1.80)	1.90 (1.60–2.40)	U 12354.5	< 0.001 ^a
HSCL depression score	1.73 (1.40–2.13)	1.40 (1.20–1.73)	1.93 (1.60–2.27)	U 10898.5	< 0.001 ^a
Probable anxiety (HSCL, anxiety > 1.75)					
Yes	248 (49.9%)	38 (25.2%)	210 (60.7%)	χ^2 53.076	< 0.001
No	249 (50.1%)	113 (74.8%)	136 (39.3%)		
Probable depression (HSCL, depression > 1.75)					
Yes	244 (49.1%)	31 (20.5%)	213 (61.6%)	χ^2 70.814	< 0.001
No	253 (50.9%)	120 (79.5%)	133 (38.4%)		
Symptomatic HSCL-25 (HSCL, total > 1.75)					
Yes	252 (50.7%)	34 (22.5%)	218 (63%)	χ^2 68.948	< 0.001
No	245 (49.3%)	117 (77.5%)	128 (37%)		
Mental distress^b					
Low	183 (36.8%)	97 (64.2%)	86 (24.9%)	χ^2 85.506	< 0.001
Middle	157 (31.6%)	43 (28.5%)	114 (32.9%)		
High	157 (31.6%)	11 (7.3%)	146 (42.2%)		

^aMann-Whitney test.^bMental distress was classified to low (score ≤ 1.56), middle (score 1.57–2) and high (score > 2) based on tertiles of the HSCL-25.

HSCL = Hopkins Symptom Check List; IQR = interquartile range.