

Teen Depression: More than just moodiness



Being a teenager can be tough, but it shouldn't feel hopeless. If you have been feeling sad most of the time for a few weeks or longer and you're not able to concentrate or do the things you used to enjoy, talk to a trusted adult about depression.

Do I have depression?



■ Do you often feel sad, anxious, worthless, or even “empty”?



■ Have you lost interest in activities you used to enjoy?



■ Do you get easily frustrated, irritable, or angry?

■ Do you find yourself withdrawing from friends and family?



■ Are your grades dropping?

■ Have your eating or sleeping habits changed?



■ Have you experienced any fatigue or memory loss?



■ Have you thought about suicide or harming yourself?

Depression looks different for everyone. You might have many of the symptoms listed above or just a few.

How do I get help for depression?

You're not alone, and help is available. You can feel better. To get help:



■ **Talk to a trusted adult** (such as your parent or guardian, teacher, or school counselor) about how you've been feeling.



■ **Ask your doctor** about options for professional help. Depression can be treated with psychotherapy (also called “talk therapy”), medication, or a combination of medication and talk therapy.



■ **Try to spend time with friends or family**, even if you don't feel like you want to.



■ **Stay active and exercise**, even if it's just going for a walk. Physical activity releases chemicals, such as endorphins, in your brain that can help you feel better.



■ **Try to keep a regular sleep schedule.**



■ **Eat healthy foods.**

For immediate help, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or visit www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

