

# 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](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org).



**NIH** National Institute of Mental Health

[www.nimh.nih.gov/depression](http://www.nimh.nih.gov/depression)

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