

Publication

Adolescent Self-Rated Depressive Symptoms in a Swiss Epidemiological Study

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Author(s) Steinhausen, H.-C.; Winkler-Metzke, C.

Author(s) at UniBasel [Steinhausen, Hans-Christoph](#) ;

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The correlates of self-rated depressive symptoms were examined in an epidemiological sample of Swiss adolescents. Subjects, aged 12 to 17 years, were assessed using the Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale, a Life Event Scale, scales measuring self-related cognitions, coping capacities, perceived parental behavior, school environment, and social network. Based on the distribution of the depression scores, 3 subsamples of nondepressed, moderately depressed, and severely depressed subjects were formed. The severely depressed group was clearly differentiated from the other two groups by almost all scales, with a special relevance of negative self-esteem and the impact of life events. The results of this epidemiological study indicate that various factors reflecting personality, life-events, and the psychosocial environment relate to adolescent depression.

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