

Publication

Adolescent Self-Rated Depressive Symptoms in a Swiss Epidemiological Study

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 3990110

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Year 2000

Title Adolescent Self-Rated Depressive Symptoms in a Swiss Epidemiological Study

Journal Journal of Youth and Adolescence

Volume 29

Number 4

Pages / Article-Number 427-440

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.

Publisher Springer

ISSN/ISBN 0047-2891; 1573-6601 edoc-URL https://edoc.unibas.ch/63369/

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1023/A:1005106409022

ISI-Number WOS:000088818600002

Document type (ISI) Article