

- **Try to be active every day—especially if you don't feel like it!** Physical activity is very good for mental health problems like depression because it can boost your mood and help you cope with worry or stress. Even small changes, like going for a short walk every day, can make a big difference.
- **Try to eat well.** When you don't feel well or don't have a lot of energy, it's easy to reach for options that aren't very healthy. Aim for good nutrition to keep you fueled throughout the day, and talk to your doctor or mental health care team if you have a hard time building a healthy relationship with food.
- **Try to find healthy ways to relax.** You can try listening to music, watching a funny video, going for a walk outside, practicing your faith, or whatever helps you. There are even apps and websites to help you try relaxation skills like meditation and mindfulness, such as [www.keltymentalhealth.ca/breathr](http://www.keltymentalhealth.ca/breathr) and [www.headspace.com](http://www.headspace.com). See [www.heretohelp.bc.ca/wellness-modules](http://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/wellness-modules) for tips on mindfulness and stress management.
- **Be mindful of alcohol or other drug use.** Substances like alcohol and other drugs can make depression worse or harder to manage. If you're having a hard time managing your alcohol or drug use, talk with your doctor or other mental health professional. You can find a workbook to help you think about your relationship with substances at [www.heretohelp.bc.ca/factsheet/you-and-substance-use](http://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/factsheet/you-and-substance-use).

## LEARN MORE

**HeretoHelp**—visit [www.heretohelp.bc.ca](http://www.heretohelp.bc.ca) for information, screening self-tests and personal stories about anxiety. You'll also find *Managing a Mental Illness*, a series that guides you from diagnosis to recovery, and *Wellness Modules*, which offer self-care tips and strategies. You'll also learn about a HeretoHelp initiative called *Healthy Minds | Healthy Campuses*, a growing community aimed at improving mental health on BC campuses. See [www.healthycampuses.ca](http://www.healthycampuses.ca).

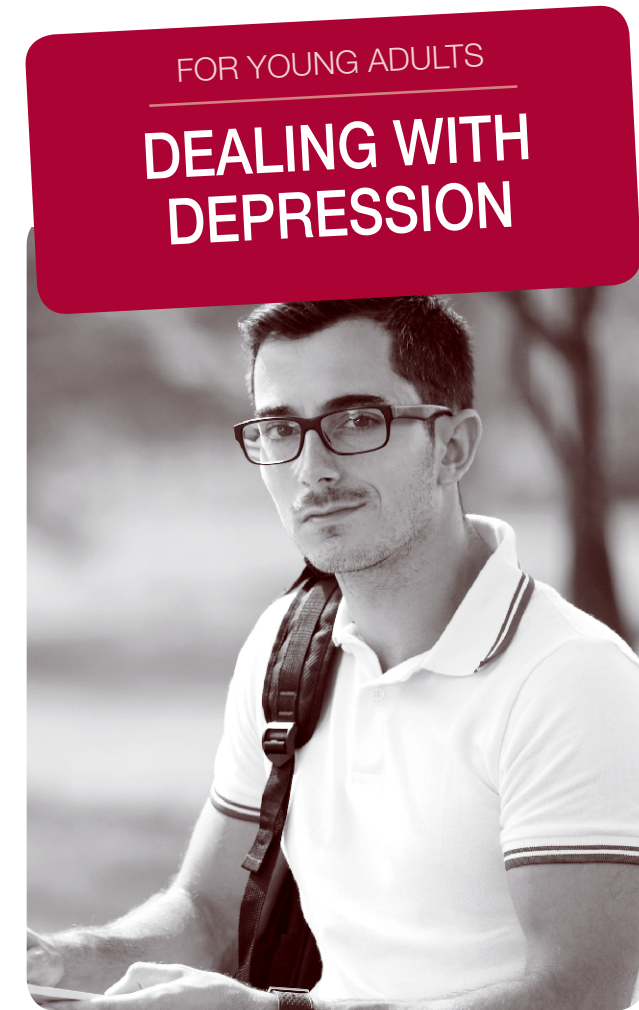
**Mood Disorders Association of BC**—visit [www.mdabc.net](http://www.mdabc.net) or call 604-873-0103 (in the Lower Mainland) or 1-855-282-7979 (in the rest of BC) for resources and information on mood disorders. The Mood Disorders Association of BC offers a psychiatry clinic, therapy programs, support groups, and other wellness workshops and events.

**Mindcheck**—visit [www.mindcheck.ca](http://www.mindcheck.ca) for information about mental health, resources, and support. You can take a quiz to check your mood, and their self-care resources include several apps and websites you can try on your own.

**Canadian Mental Health Association**—visit [www.cmha.bc.ca](http://www.cmha.bc.ca) or call 1-800-555-8222 (toll-free in BC) or your local CMHA branch for information and community resources on mental health or any mental illness. A free program called *Bounce Back* helps adults experiencing mild to moderate depression, stress, or anxiety, using self-help materials and coaching. See [www.bouncebackbc.ca](http://www.bouncebackbc.ca).

## WANT MORE INFO ON DEPRESSION?

This brochure is part of a series on young adults and depression. To learn more about depression and what it might look like, see *Learn about Depression: For Young Adults* at [www.heretohelp.bc.ca/for-young-adults](http://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/for-young-adults).



**Canadian Mental Health Association**  
British Columbia  
*Mental health for all*

The Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division is proud to be affiliated with HeretoHelp. HeretoHelp is a project of the BC Partners for Mental Health and Addictions Information, a group of non-profit agencies providing good-quality information to help individuals and families maintain or improve their mental well-being. The BC Partners are funded by BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority.



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**heretohelp**  
Mental health and substance use  
information you can trust

## GET HELP

Asking for help is not always easy, but it's the first step towards feeling better. Remember that you don't have to have all the answers when you ask for help. You just need to know that something doesn't seem right and you want to know what's going on. Here are some important people you can talk to:

### Parents, caregivers, or other people you trust

Talking with family or trusted friends can be very hard! However, other people can be a great source of support, and they may be able to offer help or guidance to reach out to other health professionals. When you're ready to talk, think about what you want to say in advance or even write down a few notes, especially if you feel nervous about the conversation.

### Your doctor

Your doctor is an important part of your recovery. Your doctor may be able to treat you on their own. If not, your doctor will help you see a mental health specialist like a psychiatrist. It's important to see a doctor because some physical health problems may look like mental health problems, and your doctor will look at all possible causes.

A lot of people feel nervous when they talk with their doctor. You can find tips to help you prepare for your appointment and work with your doctor or any other mental health professional at [www.heretohelp.bc.ca/factsheet/working-with-your-doctor-for-depression](http://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/factsheet/working-with-your-doctor-for-depression).

### Your campus

If you're in post-secondary education, many campuses offer counselling services, such as one-on-one sessions with a counsellor, support groups, and other services. If a mental illness like depression affects your ability to do well at school, you may be eligible for extra support.

### Your workplace

If you're working, some workplaces offer a service called an Employee (Family) Assistance Plan (EAP/EFAP). EAPs and EFAPs offer confidential counselling, and they can refer you to other resources in your community. Talk to your human resources contact to see if you have access to an EAP or EFAP, or talk to your parent or guardian to see if you're eligible for counselling services under their workplace benefits.

## IF YOU NEED TO TALK WITH SOMEONE RIGHT AWAY

These organizations can help you out at any time, day or night. They're free, confidential, and anonymous.

- BC Mental Health Support line at 310-6789 (no area code needed)
- Crisis Line at 1-866-661-3311 (toll-free) or 604-872-3311 (in the Lower Mainland)

Young adults under 30 can chat online with Youth in BC at [youthinbc.com](http://youthinbc.com). It's available every day from noon to 1am Pacific Time. You can also chat with someone via text message: see [youthspace.ca](http://youthspace.ca)

## FEEL BETTER

Depression is very treatable, and you should expect to feel better. Your exact treatment will depend on your unique situation and goals. Treatment usually includes some combination of the following:

### Counselling

Counselling or "talk therapy" can help you understand what you are experiencing. Many therapy approaches teach you skills to manage depression and feel well. A type of therapy called cognitive-behavioural therapy or CBT is a common and effective treatment for depression, and it may be just as helpful as medication for mild or moderate depression.

### Medication

Medications, usually a group called antidepressants, may be prescribed if depression is more serious or isn't improving with other treatments. There are many different kinds of antidepressants, and they act in different ways. It's important to talk with your doctor about what to expect and follow their instructions as closely as possible. Be sure to tell your doctor about any herbal or alternative treatments you are using, too.

### Support from others

Depression can make you feel like you're all alone. Support groups are a great way to meet others and see what works for them. Ask your mental health care team if they can recommend a support group, or contact one of the organizations listed in the Learn More section. If you can't find a support group in your community, you can also find support online.

### Self-care at home

Self-care is exactly what it sounds like: little things you can do every day to take care of yourself. Self-care doesn't have to be big or complicated to make a difference. In fact, you'll get the most out of it if you try simple activities that you can do every day. We have some suggestions listed below. You can also talk to your doctor or any other mental health care professional for more ideas.

- **Try to get enough sleep every night.** It's hard to feel good when you're tired! You can find tips to get a good night's sleep at [www.heretohelp.bc.ca/wellness-modules](http://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/wellness-modules). If you often can't sleep well, talk to your doctor or mental health professional.



Self-care doesn't have to be big or complicated to make a difference.