



# Why Mental Health Month Matters

by NEWLIFEOUTLOOK TEAM

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## The Importance of Raising Awareness of Mental Illness

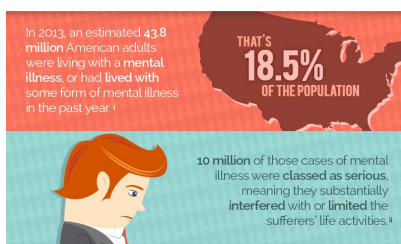
Despite the fact that nearly 44 million American adults live with some form of mental illness, there is still a huge stigma attached to almost all mental health conditions, including depression.

Ending this stigma, which makes so many people afraid to get help, is just one of the reasons it's so important to raise awareness about mental health.

May is Mental Health Month, the perfect opportunity to spread the word that having a mental health condition is nothing to be ashamed of. You can start by sharing this infographic with your friends, family, and anyone else you can think of!



It is not uncommon for a person to experience two or more mental health issues in tandem.



Medications, therapies and lifestyle changes can all help to treat the symptoms of mental illnesses, but there is no one size fits all approach. Each person's experience is different.

## CAN CHILDREN SUFFER FROM MENTAL ILLNESS?

Children can experience mental health problems, too. Around **13%** of children **aged 8 to 15** experience some form of mental disorder.<sup>i</sup>

**What is The Most Common Mental Illness Children?**

The most common mental illness in children is **ADHD**, but mood disorders, major depression, anxiety disorders and even eating disorders can affect children.<sup>ii</sup>

## WHAT CAUSES MENTAL ILLNESS?

There is no one thing that causes mental illness. However, the following are common contributing factors:

- Genetics
- An imbalance of chemicals in the brain
- A brain defect or damage
- Trauma in childhood

In a person who is susceptible to mental health problems, external events like a death or break up can trigger mental illness.

## Mental illness is **NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF!**

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May is Mental Health Month. Share this with your friends and family to help raise awareness and show your support for the millions of Americans living with a mental illness.

**Resources:**

i. <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/nseos/default2.cfm?nid=NSC4H-0820>  
© Recovery Month 2014 NSC4H-0820-RecoveryMonth-2014-0820

ii. <http://www.cdc.gov/healthystats/prevalence/any-dis-order-among-children.shtml>

iv. [http://www.thekidfoundation.org/html/about\\_mental\\_illness.html](http://www.thekidfoundation.org/html/about_mental_illness.html)