Understanding Depression

MENTAL ILLNESS IS ONE OF MODERN **SOCIETY'S BIGGEST PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEMS¹**

Depression is the main contributor to mental health problems in Europe²



PEOPLE WORLDWIDE ARE LIVING WITH DEPRESSION - EQUIVALENT TO TWO THIRDS OF THE POPULATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION³



WHO DOES DEPRESSION AFFECT?

Depression is more common among women than men within the general population³



DEPRESSION IS MORE THAN JUST FEELING SAD OR BLUE.

It is a common but serious mood disorder

and not something you can 'snap out of'.

There are many different types of depression, each with a different level of severity⁴

MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDER OR MDD IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DISABILITY WORLDWIDE⁵



people in Europe are estimated to be living with a MDD – a value equivalent to the national population of Spain⁶



mood

Loss of interest or pleasure in all/almost all activities

Fatique and sleep disruption

Difficulties with thinking, concentrating and making decisions

The symptoms of MDD are defined as lasting at least two weeks but usually they go on for much longer.⁹

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On average, a depressive episode lasts **6 months** and



1 in 5^{it can las} 2 years.⁹ it can last longer than

MDD HAS A DEVASTATING EFFECT **ON PEOPLE'S LIVES**^{7,8}



The symptoms can cause a ripple effect across every aspect of their lives:

Health Relationships



and education

Overall quality of life

people have taken time off work for depression, missing an average of 36 work days per depressive episode.¹⁰

The economic costs of depression alone amounted to



in the European Economic Area (EEA) in 2007 – that's equivalent to an approximate cost of **€265** for every single person living in the EEA today.¹⁰





Chronic medical conditions – people with long-term or disabling conditions are more likely to experience depression⁸



Age – first symptoms usually occur in the 20s, with people aged between 55 and 74 most affected³



Family history – parents, siblings and children of people with MDD are 2-4 times more likely to develop the condition⁸



Major life changes, trauma or stress⁸

It is thought that problems with regulating mood and developing new connections within the brain may contribute to MDD^{arphi}



TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP BREAK MISEDUCATION AND MISCONCEPTIONS, BREAK STIGMA AND ULTIMATELY BREAK DEPRESSION

Breaking Depression is a pan-European awareness campaign with a mission of enabling people to better understand, support and help those living with depression

Inspired by the ancient Japanese art of kintsugi, where broken objects are repaired with gold lacquer, it is designed to help raise awareness of the challenges of living with different types of depression, including MDD



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

If you're worried about your own mental health, or someone else's please visit GAMIAN-Europe's website for advice:

www.gamian.eu/wp-content/uploads/GAMIAN-Europe-Mental-Health-Support.pdf



In an emergency situation, get help immediately by calling the emergency services or your local mental health helpline.

WITH A GREATER UNDERSTANDING, WE WILL ALL BE ABLE TO BETTER CARE FOR OUR LOVED ONES AND OURSELVES.



GAMIAN-Europe www.gamian.eu

The Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks-Europe (GAMIAN-Europe) is a patient-driven pan-European organisation that represents the interests of persons affected by mental illness and advocates for their rights

Janssen Neuroscience EMEA

Neuroscience

janssen

www.janssen.com/emea/therapeutic-areas/neuroscience

Janssen's mission is to reduce the burden, disability and devastation caused by mental health disorders and transform the lives of people living with these conditions. Janssen is a pharmaceutical company that is part of the Johnson & Johnson family of companies

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BREAKING DEPRESSION