

**Background : Impaired prevalence, symptomatology and risk factors for depression
among higschool students in Saudi Arabia**

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The present large scale epidemiological study was designed to assess the prevalence and pattern of depression in a secondary school sample of Saudi Arabia adolescents. Secondary school students (n = 490) were surveyed using the Arabic Beck's Depression Inventory (BDI) by a team consisting of a psychiatrist and psychologist.

The study findings provided gender differences in the prevalence and presentation of depressive symptoms. The experience of stressful life events increases the risk of depression. An assessment using screening is recommended. The increased risk for the onset of depression in adolescents reinforces the importance of early recognition and intervention.