

# Current Issues II in Adolescence

## Overview

Adolescence, with minor upheavals, is a relatively peaceful transition from childhood to adulthood for most individuals. However, some are faced with many serious issues. Depression, suicide, violence, dropping out of school, running away from home and sexual harassment are among the issues encountered by these adolescents.

Depression and suicide are not common during the teenage years. Parents and teachers need to be educated about the symptoms of these mental issues.

Adolescents are increasingly exposed to violence and are becoming more violent in their relationships with society. In addition, delinquency, dropping out of school, and running away from home interfere with the adolescent's ability to grow into a productive member of society.

Recognized authorities in various aspects of adolescent development present thoughtful, constructive ways of resolving issues in adolescence.

## Questions To Consider

1. What are signs of adolescent depression?
2. Which adolescent is most likely to commit suicide?
3. What help is available for depression and suicidal adolescents?
4. What is the underlying cause of violence in adolescence?
5. What can be done to reduce the number of school dropouts?
6. What can be done to help runaways?

## Vocabulary

Read these terms with their definitions before viewing the program.

**Delinquency** Antisocial acts committed by juveniles.  
**Depression** An emotional disorder characterized by prolonged periods of sadness and sorrow.

**Mentoring programs** Adults sharing their special skills and experiences with adolescents.

**Onus** Burden or responsibility

**Social mobility** The ability to move from one social class to another.

## Instructional Objectives

When you have successfully completed this module, you will be able to:

1. List the signs of depression in adolescence.
2. Describe the suicidal adolescent.
3. Name the treatments used to treat depression and the suicidal intent in adolescents.
4. Describe the delinquent personality.
5. Discuss the underlying causes of violence in adolescence.
6. Describe the programs which have been suggested to reduce violence among adolescents.
7. Recognize the reason adolescents drop out of school and/or run away from home.

## Self-Test

After studying the objectives and watching the video, take the self-test to check your progress.

Select the phrase that best completes each statement.

1. List four signs of depression.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe adolescents who are most likely to attempt suicide.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name three treatments for adolescents who are depressed or contemplate suicide.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

Next to each statement write the letter of the phrase that best completes the statement.

4. \_\_\_\_ The adolescent with a delinquent personality

- a. has high self-esteem
- b. vents anger and frustration appropriately.
- c. values his or her own life.
- d. lacks impulse control

5. \_\_\_\_ Acts of delinquency such as disorderly conduct, speeding and underage drinking are

- a. committed by 80% of all adolescents.
- b. always end up by an arrest.
- c. committed only by youths living in low income communities.
- d. less likely to be committed by males than females.

6. \_\_\_\_ Violent acts committed by teens

- a. originate in feelings that what happens in their lives is of consequence.
- b. are related to the violence they have experienced while growing up.
- c. are more prevalent in suburban middle class communities
- d. lessen when the teen identifies with abuser.

7. \_\_\_\_ The high rate of school dropouts is caused by the feeling among adolescents that

- a. school has higher priority than work
- b. schools are irrelevant to real life
- c. affluent parents are not interested in teen's success
- d. all the above

8. \_\_\_\_ Teenagers who run away from home

- a. do so because they are rejected by their parents
- b. turn to prostitution and drug dealing
- c. do so to escape abuse
- d. all of the above

9. \_\_\_\_ List two programs which have been suggested by:

a. law enforcement officials

a) law enforcement officials; and  
b) social service professionals

b. social service professionals

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_