

Negative social media behaviors may be associated with depression in millennials

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Certain social media factors were linked with major depressive disorder (MDD) in a *Journal of Applied Biobehavioural Research* study of Millennials.

In the study of 504 Millennials who actively use Facebook, Twitter,

Instagram, and/or Snapchat, individuals who met the criteria for MDD scored higher on the Social Media Addiction scale, were more likely to compare themselves to others better off than they were, and indicated that they would be more bothered by being tagged in unflattering pictures. Regarding social interactions, those with MDD were less likely to post pictures of themselves along with other people and reported fewer followers.

"While this study highlights social media behaviors that are associated with [major depression](#), it is important to recognize that social media use can offer many positive benefits, including fostering social support," said co-author Dr. Krista Howard, of Texas State University.

"The key is for individuals to develop an awareness of how they currently use social media and to determine what changes could be made in their social media use to reduce the behaviors associated with psychological distress. Some changes could include reducing the time spent on [social media](#), unfollowing individuals or groups that cause distress, or limiting online social comparisons."

More information: *Journal of Applied Biobehavioural Research*, [DOI: 10.1111/jabr.12158](#)

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