## How Misunderstood Epidemic Is Destroying Our Children

In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the dangers of childhood obesity. However, there is another epidemic that is just as serious, but much less well-understood: the epidemic of childhood mental illness.





Mental illness is a serious issue that affects millions of children in the United States. It can lead to a variety of problems, including academic difficulties, social isolation, and even suicide. Unfortunately, many children with mental illness do not receive the help they need because their symptoms are often misunderstood or ignored.

One of the most common misunderstood symptoms of childhood mental illness is irritability. Many children who are struggling with mental health issues may be irritable or even aggressive. This can lead to problems at school and at home. However, it is important to remember that irritability is not simply a behavior problem. It is often a sign of an underlying mental health issue that needs to be addressed.

Another common misunderstood symptom of childhood mental illness is withdrawal. Children who are struggling with mental health issues may withdraw from social activities and isolate themselves from their friends and family. This can lead to feelings of loneliness and isolation, which can make it even more difficult for children to get the help they need.

If you are concerned that your child may be struggling with mental illness, it is important to seek professional help. A mental health professional can evaluate your child and recommend the best course of treatment.

There are a number of things that parents can do to help their children who are struggling with mental illness. First, it is important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of mental illness. If you see any changes in your child's behavior or mood, it is important to talk to them about what is going on. Second, it is important to provide your child with support and understanding. Let them know that you are there for them and that you love them. Third, it is important to encourage your child to seek professional help. A mental health professional can help your child get the treatment they need to recover from mental illness.

Mental illness is a serious issue, but it is one that can be overcome. With the right help, children who are struggling with mental health issues can recover and go on to live happy, healthy lives.

#### The Dangers of Misunderstanding Childhood Mental Illness

Misunderstanding childhood mental illness can have serious consequences. Children who are not diagnosed and treated for mental health issues are more likely to experience academic difficulties, social problems, and even suicide. In addition, misunderstood mental illness can lead to stigma and discrimination, which can make it even more difficult for children to get the help they need.

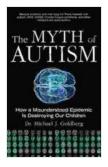
It is important to remember that mental illness is not a sign of weakness or failure. It is simply a medical condition that requires treatment. With the right help, children who are struggling with mental health issues can recover and go on to live happy, healthy lives.

#### What Parents Can Do

If you are concerned that your child may be struggling with mental illness, there are a number of things you can do to help. First, it is important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of mental illness. If you see any changes in your child's behavior or mood, it is important to talk to them about what is going on. Second, it is important to provide your child with support and understanding. Let them know that you are there for them and that you love them. Third, it is important to encourage your child to seek professional help. A mental health professional can help your child get the treatment they need to recover from mental illness.

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> The Myth of Autism: How a Misunderstood Epidemic Is Destroying Our Children by Dr. Michael J. Goldberg



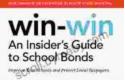
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