**Basic Description**

*Author(s):* Beck, A.T., Steer, R.A., & Brown, G.

*Author Contact:*

Aaron T. Beck  
Psychopathology Research Unit  
3535 Market Street, Room 2032  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
Fax: (215) 573-3717  
Contact first author via e-mail.

*Author Email:* abeck@mail.med.upenn.edu


*To Obtain:* Harcourt Assessment, Inc.  
19500 Bulverde Road  
San Antonio, Texas 78259  
Phone: 1-800-211-8378  
Fax: 1-800-232-1223

*E-mail:* customer_service@harcourt.com

*Website:* www.harcourtassessment.com

*Cost per copy (in US $):* $1.50

*Copyright:* Yes

*Description:* The BDI-II is a widely used 21-item self-report inventory measuring the severity of depression in adolescents and adults. The BDI-II was revised in 1996 to be more consistent with DSM-IV criteria for depression. For example, individuals are asked to respond to each question based on a two-week time period rather than the one-week timeframe on the BDI.

The BDI-II is widely used as an indicator of the severity of depression, but not as a diagnostic tool, and numerous studies provide evidence for its reliability and validity across different populations and cultural groups. It has also been used in numerous treatment outcome studies and in numerous studies with trauma-exposed individuals.

*Theoretical Orientation Summary:* The items on the BDI-II were developed to assess an individual's depressive symptoms based on the criteria found in the DSM-IV for depressive disorders.

**Domains Assessed:**

1. Depression (cgiver)
2. Depression (child)
3.
4.
5.
6.

**Languages Available:** Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, English, Farsi, Finnish, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish,
### Swedish, Turkish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range:</th>
<th>13.0 - 80.0</th>
<th>Measure Type:</th>
<th>General assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Items:</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Measure Format:</td>
<td>Questionnaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to Complete (min):</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Reporter:</td>
<td>Self</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to Score (min):</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Education Level:</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodicity:</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Format:</td>
<td>Rated on a 4-point Likert-type scale ranging from 0 to 3, based on severity of each item.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Materials Needed:
(choose all that apply)
- Yes  Paper and pencil  No  Testing stimuli
- No  Computer  No  Physiological equipment
- No  Video equipment  No  Other

#### Material Notes:
Items can be read aloud if necessary.

Standardized scoring forms must be ordered through the Psychological Corporation. Spanish Record Forms are also available. Computerized scoring is also available.

Materials (as of 6/05) available include:

1. BDI-II manual: $40

2. Record Forms (pkg/100): $150 (Pricing is based on purchase of this package.)

3. Spanish Record Forms (pkg/100): $150

4. Scannable Record Forms (pkg/100): $150

#### Sample Items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domains</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Sample Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td></td>
<td>not available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Notes (additional scales and domains):

Beck Depression Inventory-Second Edition
NCTSN Measure Review Database
[www.NCTSN.org](http://www.NCTSN.org)
### Information Provided: (check all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Provided</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
<th>Standard Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic information DSM-III</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Standard Scores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic information DSM-IV</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Standard Scores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengths</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Standard Scores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Areas of concerns/risks</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Standard Scores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program evaluation information</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Standard Scores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous assessment</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Standard Scores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raw Scores</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Standard Scores</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Training

#### Training to Administer:
- None
- Via manual/video
- Must be a psychologist
- Prior experience psych testing & interpretation
- Training by experienced clinician (<4 hours)
- Training by experienced clinician (≥4 hours)

#### Training to Interpret:
- None
- Via manual/video
- Training by experienced clinician (<4 hours)
- Training by experienced clinician (≥4 hours)
- Prior experience psych testing & interpretation
- Training by experienced clinician (≥4 hours)

#### Training Notes:
Can be administered by paraprofessionals. Only mental health professionals with appropriate clinical training and experience should interpret the scores.

### Parallel or Alternate Forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parallel Forms?</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alternate Forms</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forms for Different Ages</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### If so, are forms comparable:
Yes

#### Any Altered Versions of Measure:
Yes

Describe:
The BDI-II is based on the amended Beck Depression Inventory (BDI-A). Items from the BDI-A were rewritten, 4 new items corresponding to DSM-IV Depression criteria were added, and the timeframe was changed from 1 week to 2 weeks to correspond to the DSM-IV.

There is a short version of the BDI, the BDI-SF, which includes only the cognitive-affective subscale and has been recommended to assess depression in medical populations, with scores higher than 10 associated with moderate to severe depression. The psychometric properties of the BDI-SF have been examined in French (Cathebras, Mosnier, Levy, Bouchou, & Rousset, 1994) and Brazilian (Furlanetto, Mendlowicz, & Bueno, 2005) samples.

The Beck Depression Inventory for Youth is for use with children aged 7-14 and has demonstrated good...
convergent validity with the Children's Depression Inventory (Simith, Schwartz, George, & Panke, 2004).

Population Used to Develop Measure
The authors revised the BDI to be more consistent with the criteria for depression found in the DSM-IV. The BDI-II was piloted on 193 psychiatric outpatients diagnosed with various disorders by a psychologist or psychiatrist using the DSM-III or DSM-IV.

Psychometrics
Global Rating (scale based on Hudall Stamm, 1996):
Considered a gold standard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Norms:</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For separate age groups:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For clinical populations:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separate for men and women:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For other demographic groups:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: The normative sample included outpatients from various clinics and hospitals located in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky who were used as part of the measure development for the BDI-II. This population consisted of 317 females and 183 males; 91% Caucasian, 4% African American, 4% Asian American, and 1% Latino. The mean age was 37.20 (SD=15.91).

Clinical Cutoffs: Yes
Specify Cutoffs: Raw scores of 0 to 13 indicates minimal depression, 14 to 19 indicates mild depression, 20 to 28 indicates moderate depression, and 29 to 63 indicates severe depression.

Used in Major Studies: Yes
Specify Studies: