## **Mental Health**

- Definition: A person's condition with regard to their psychological and emotional well-being
- As of 2020: ~21% of all US Adults experience mental illness
  - This number higher for women, people from historically excluded groups, and people with disabilities.
  - Graduate students are 6x more likely to experience depression or anxiety







## Warning Signs and Mental Hygiene



- Be mindful of yourself and others;
  kindness goes a long way!
- Though mental hygiene cannot resolve societal/cultural factors that contribute to mental illness, they can still be beneficial





- There is a culture of "this is supposed to be hard" in STEM
  - There is a <u>HUGE</u> difference between being challenged and suffering

Pester CW, Noh G, Fu A. On the Importance of Mental Health in STEM. ACS Polym Au. 2023 Jun 21;3(4):295-306. doi: 10.1021/acspolymersau.2c00062. PMID: 37576711; PMCID: PMC10416320.