

ADULT

HEALTH BULLETIN



SEPTEMBER 2023

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THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:

STRETCH YOUR BOUNDARIES — TRY YOGA!



September is National Yoga Month, meant to draw awareness to the many health benefits of doing yoga. If you have not practiced yoga before, there are many different reasons to try this activity.

Yoga is an ancient and complex practice, rooted in Indian philosophy. While it began as a spiritual practice, it has become popular as a way of promoting physical and mental well-being. Although classical yoga also includes other elements, yoga as practiced in the United States typically emphasizes physical postures (asanas), breathing techniques (pranayama), and meditation (dyana).

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Yoga offers physical and mental health benefits for people of all ages. Some of the health benefits of yoga include:

- **Improved strength, balance, and flexibility:** Slow movements and deep breathing increase blood flow and warm up muscles, while holding a pose can build strength.
- **Back pain relief:** Yoga is as good as basic stretching for easing pain and improving mobility in people with lower back pain. The American College of Physicians recommends yoga as a first-line treatment for chronic low back pain.
- **Eased arthritis symptoms:** Gentle stretches and poses can ease joint discomfort for people with arthritis, according to a Johns Hopkins review of 11 recent studies.
- **Heart health benefits:** Regular yoga practice reduces levels of stress and body-wide inflammation, contributing to healthier hearts. Yoga can also address several of the factors contributing to heart disease, including high blood pressure and excess weight.
- **Improved sleep:** Research shows that a consistent bedtime yoga routine can help you get in the right mindset and prepare your body to fall asleep and stay asleep.

- **Better mood:** Practicing yoga helps increase mental and physical energy, gives a boost in alertness and enthusiasm, and decreases negative feelings.
- **Stress management:** Incorporating yoga into daily routines can help reduce feelings of anxiety, jitters, restlessness, and can help promote clear thinking.
- **Communal support:** Participating in yoga classes can ease loneliness and provide an environment for group healing and support.

There are many ways to try yoga. Take a class at a local fitness center or gym, grab a friend and watch a video tutorial online together, or spend time alone practicing a few poses in solitude.

REFERENCES:

- <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/wellness-and-prevention/9-benefits-of-yoga>
- <https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/yoga-what-you-need-to-know>

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