

**Table 2-3. The Benefits of Physical Activity for Brain Health**

Outcome	Population	Benefit	Acute	Habitual
Cognition	Children ages 6 to 13 years	Improved cognition (performance on academic achievement tests, executive function, processing speed, memory)	●	●
	Adults	Reduced risk of dementia (including Alzheimer's disease)		●
	Adults older than age 50 years	Improved cognition (executive function, attention, memory, crystallized intelligence,* processing speed)		●
Quality of life	Adults	Improved quality of life		●
Depressed mood and depression	Children ages 6 to 17 years and adults	Reduced risk of depression Reduced depressed mood		●
Anxiety	Adults	Reduced short-term feelings of anxiety (state anxiety)	●	
	Adults	Reduced long-term feelings and signs of anxiety (trait anxiety) for people with and without anxiety disorders		●
Sleep	Adults	Improved sleep outcomes (increased sleep efficiency, sleep quality, deep sleep; reduced daytime sleepiness, frequency of use of medication to aid sleep)		●
	Adults	Improved sleep outcomes that increase with duration of acute episode	●	

**Note:** The Advisory Committee rated the evidence of health benefits of physical activity as strong, moderate, limited, or grade not assignable. Only outcomes with strong or moderate evidence of effect are included in this table.

\*Crystallized intelligence is the ability to retrieve and use information that has been acquired over time. It is different from fluid intelligence, which is the ability to store and manipulate new information.