

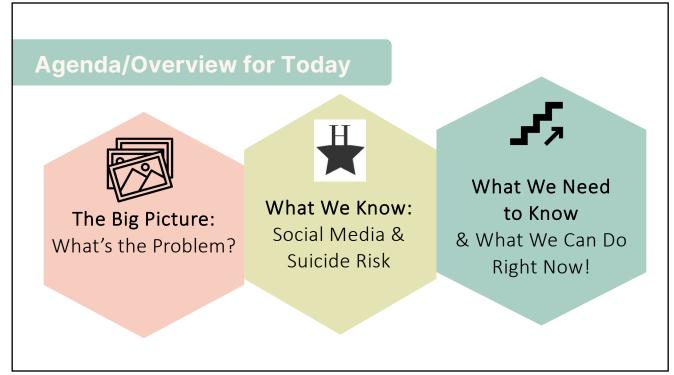
The Clock is TikToking: The Urgent Need to Understand Social Media and Teen Suicide Risk

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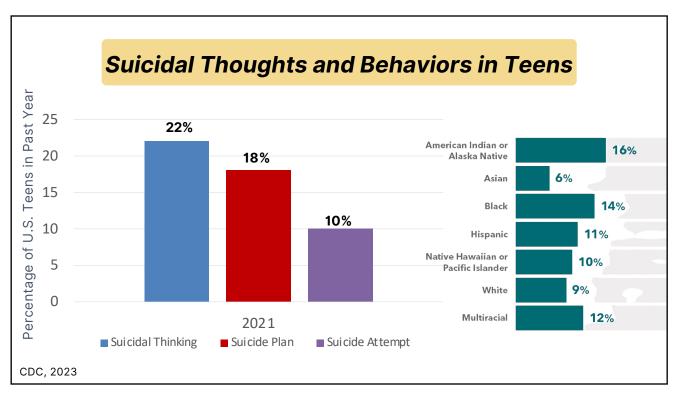


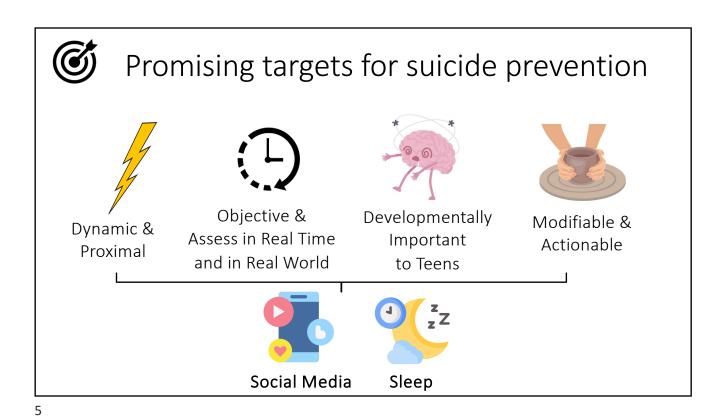
Public Health Problem

SUICIDE IS A LEADING <u>CAUSE OF</u> <u>DEATH</u> AMONG adolescents and young adults, with rates continuing to increase in recent years.



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Social Media and Adolescent Development Social Connection & Feedback Identity Development Features of Social Media - Quantifiable - Visual - Public



We have it all figured out... Social Media

New Study Suggests Excessive Social Media Use Is Comparable To Drug

Addiction N.J. teen's suicide hi

N.J. teen's suicide highlights dangers of social media bullying U.S. News & World Report

As Social Media Time Rises, So Does Teen Girls' Suicide Risk

"We found that girls who started using social media at two to three hours a day or more at age 13, and then increased [that use] over time, had the \dots

Meta Accused by States of Using Features to Lure Children to Instagram and Facebook

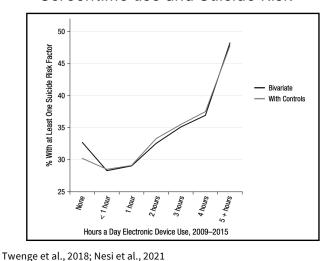
By Cecilia Kang and Natasha Singer
Cecilia Kang covers technology policy from Washington.
Natasha Singer covers children's online privacy and tech regulation
Oct. 24. 2023

Utah bans under-18s from using social media unless parents consent

Governor signs law putting restrictions on TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and other platforms, including requiring them not to get minors addicted

Does Social Media Use Increase the Risk for Suicide?

"Screentime use and Suicide Risk"



Clinical Psychology Review
Volume 87, July 2021, 102038

Review

Social media use and self-injurious thoughts and behaviors: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Jacqueline Nesi ab A M. Taylor A. Burke b, Alexandra H. Bettis c, Anastacio Y. Kudinova d, Elizabeth C. Thompson b, Heather A. MacPherson d, Kara A. Fox b, Hannah R. Lawrence fg, Sarah A. Thomas d, Jennifer C. Wolff b, Melanie K. Altemus b, Sheiry Soriano d, Richard T. Liu gh

Key takeaways:

Not enough studies on social media use quantity or screentime.

Cyberbullying and suicide-related content is a major risk factor for suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

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Social media use and suicidal ideation among high-risk adolescents

Social media use and prospective suicidal thoughts and behaviors among adolescents at high risk for suicide

Jessica L. Hamilton PhD¹ ○ | Candice Biernesser PhD² | Megan A. Moreno MD, MS, Ed, MPH³ | Giovanna Porta MS² | Edward Hamilton² | Kelsey Johnson LPC² | Kimberly D. Poling LCSW² | Dara Sakolsky MD, PhD² | David A. Brent MD² | Tina G. Goldstein PhD²

¹Department of Psychology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA

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Correspondence

Abstract

Objective: To examine the relationship between social media use and suicidal thoughts and behaviors among adolescents in the first 30 days of an intensive outpatient program (IOP) for depression and suicidality.

Method: Participants included 100 adolescents who enrolled in an IOP for depression and suicidality and completed baseline measures of social media and weekly measures of depression and suicidal thoughts and behaviors at clinical visits over the next month.

N = 105 STAR adolescents

(intensive outpatient program for depression and suicide risk)

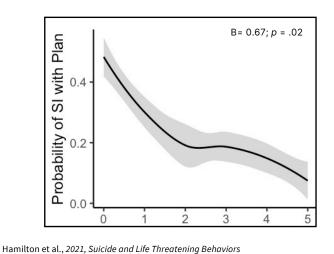
Study measures:

- Baseline social media use "Hours on a typical day"
- Weekly suicidal ideation (active with/without plan)



Social media use and suicidal ideation among high-risk (clinical) adolescents

N = 105 adolescents in STAR IOP (intensive outpatient program)



Key Takeaways

- Social media is complex and nuanced.
- It has both risks and benefits.
- Experiences and content may matter more.

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Negative and Positive Social Media Experiences

In-depth interviews were conducted with adolescents (n = 30) who were hospitalized in a psychiatric unit for suicide risk.



Weinstein et al. (2021)

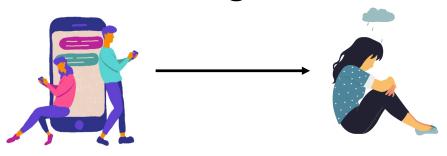
Negative Impacts

- Engagement with triggering content
- Cyberbullying, hostility, and direct exclusion
- Self denigrating social comparison
- Burdens related to friendship expectations

Positive Impacts

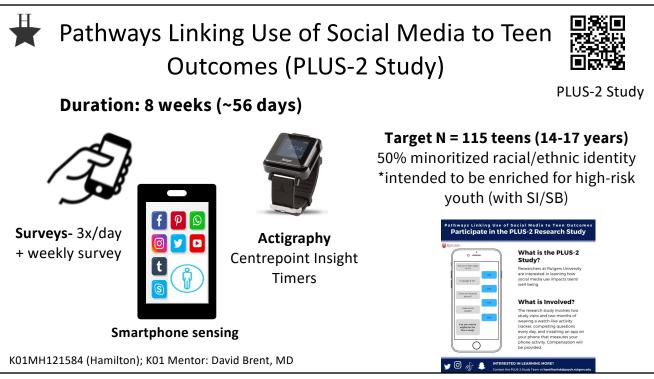
- Social connection
- Positive connection
- Accessing social support
- Resources for mental health and coping
- Shared interests

What is the relationship between social media experiences and daily suicidal thoughts?



Hamilton et al., in press, Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry

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Our PLUS-2 Participants



Current N = 60 adolescents

Mean age = 16.04 years
49% Girls; 15% boys
62% LGBTQ+
59% Black, Latine, Asian, & Biracial

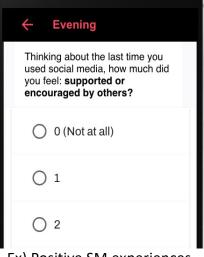
SES (MacArthur): 5.25 (SD = 1.78) 1 = lowest; 10 = highest

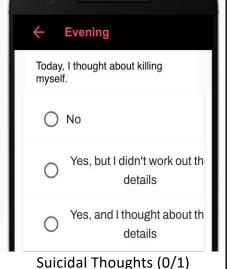
Suicide Risk

60% lifetime SI
25% 6-month SI
33% suicide attempt
47% active SI in EMA period

Daily prompts (3x/day) for Social Media Experiences and Suicidal Thoughts

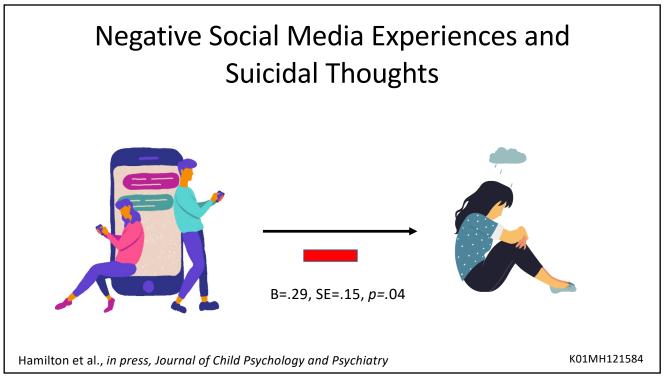


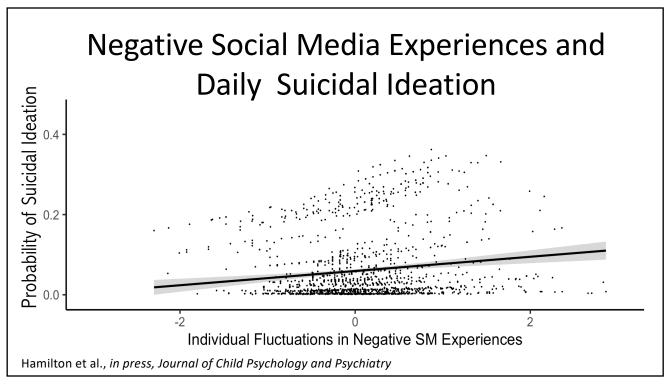


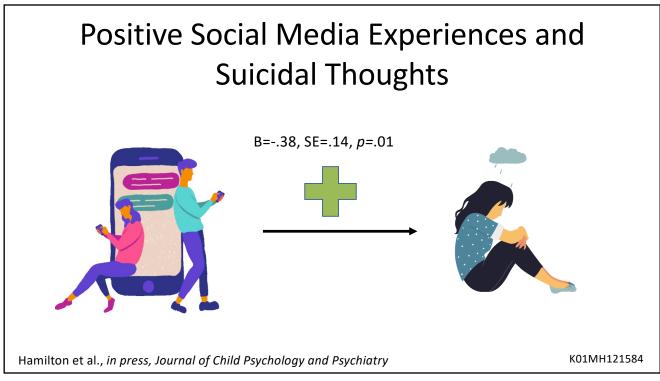


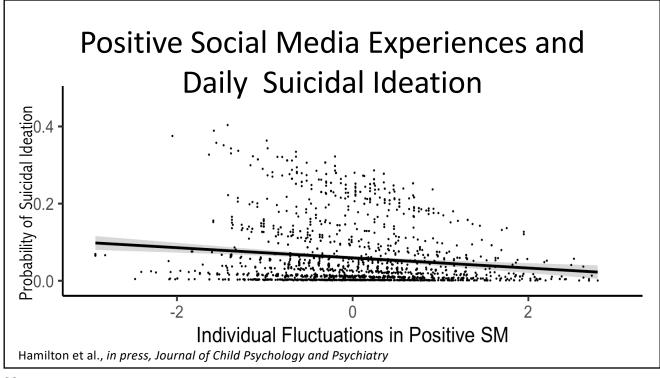
Ex) Positive SM experiences

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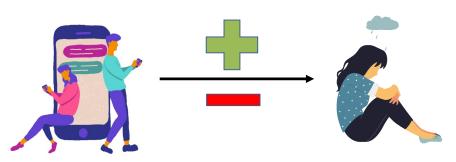








What is the relationship between social media experiences and daily suicidal thoughts?



Key takeaway

Less focus on reducing screentime and more on reducing negative experiences (e.g., social comparison) and amplifying positive experiences (e.g., social support)

Hamilton et al., in press, Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry

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What experiences and content matter most?



Self-harm content



Cyberbullying



Violence Exposure



Mental Health Promoting

Self-injury Activities on Social Media



Adolescents (n = 589) hospitalized in a psychiatric unit for suicide risk

- •43.3% engaged in online **self-injury activities**, which was more common among sexual and gender minority youth.
- •Adolescents who talked about self-injury with friends met online were more likely to report a history of suicide attempt(s).

Nesi et al., 2022

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Self-harm Content on Social Media and Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors



N= 297 teens (14-17)

Exposure:

- —33% of teens reported exposure in the past month to images or videos that showed self-harm
- −26% seeing posts about suicidal thoughts from people they know.
- <u>Engagement</u>: About 1 in 3 teens reported in the past month posting or messaging about their own SI (33%), engaging in self-harm (27%), or engaging with sites that promoted self-harm or suicide (31%).
- Adolescents more likely to have active SI and attempt in the past month.

Untawale et al., in prep; Preliminary data based on our Teen Social Media Experiences Study

Self-harm exposure on social media and self-injury



SI: B=-.80, p =.17

NSSI Urges: B=.81, *p*=.01 NSSI: B=2.15, *p* =.03

Weekly
Suicidal Ideation
NSSI urges and behaviors

Key takeaway:

Exposure to self-harm content is proximally linked to NSSI urgers and behaviors.

Hamilton et al., under review; data from PLUS-2 Study

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AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Health Advisory on Social Media Use in Adolescence

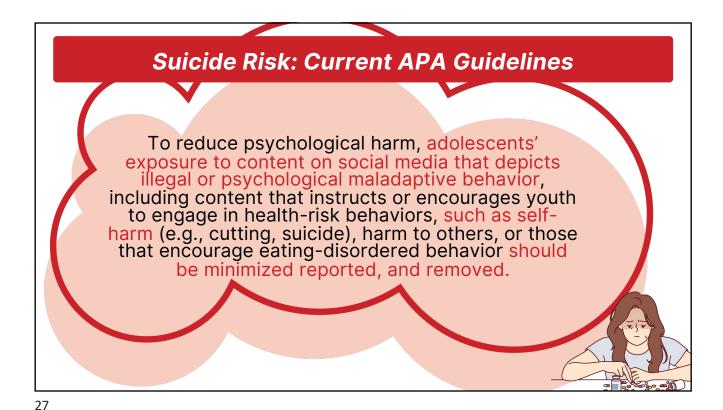


Recommendations

1. Youth using social media should be encouraged to use functions that create opportunities for social support, online companionship, and emotional intimacy that can promote healthy socialization

Data suggest that youths' psychological development may benefit from this type of online social interaction, particularly during periods of social isolation, when experiencing stress, when seeking connection to peers with similar developmental and/or health conditions, and perhaps especially for youth who experience adversity or isolation in offline environments.^{12, 13,14,15}

https://www.apa.org/topics/social-media-internet/health-advisory-adolescent-social-media-use.pdf



#chatsafe: A young person's guide to communicating safely online about self-harm and suicide Edition two

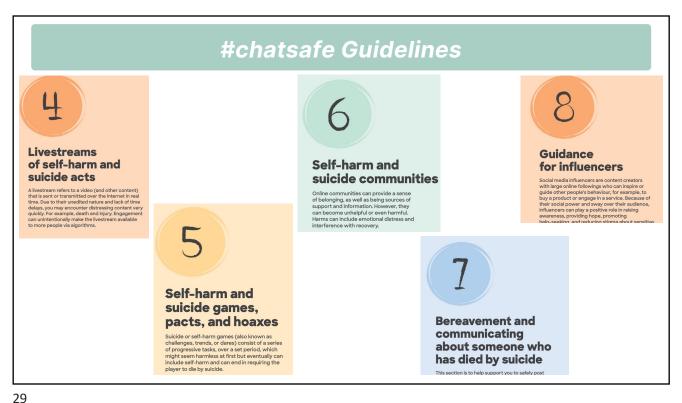
Creating self-harm and suicide

Creating self-harm and suicide content

The way that you communicate about self-harm and suicide content

The way that you communicate about self-harm and suicide content

The way that you communicate about self-harm or acide can have positive or require or feel to be the creation of the content and content and



What experiences and

content matter most?









Violence Exposure

Mental Health Promoting

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Cyberbullying

- Cyberbullying is linked to suicide.
- Cyberbullying can take on many forms:
 - o Overt: name-calling, insults, threats
 - <u>Covert</u>: rejection, exclusion, gossip, spreading rumors, or threatening to end a friendship
 - <u>Identity-based</u>: based on salient aspects of self (race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, etc)



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John et al., 2018; Nesi et al., 2021

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Rates Among Girls and LGBTQ+ Youth

LGBTQ+

- Rates of cyberbullying are estimated to be 3x higher among LGBTQ+ vs. to non-LGBTQ+ youth
- Almost half of LGBTQ+ youth report cybervictimization with highest among those who are younger, trans, indigenous, and multiracial

Trevor Project, 2021



Racial/Ethnic Identity

- Online racial discrimination for teens identifying as Black, Hispanic/ Latine, Indigenous, or Asian:
 - 79% Direct discrimination
 - 94% Vicarious discrimination

Del Toro & Wang, 2023; Tao & Fisher, 2022



Exposure to Racism on Social Media and Suicide Risk



PhD- GSAPP



N= 35 youth of color

B =1.81, SE=.61 p=.003**



Weekly Passive Death Wish Weekly Suicidal Ideation

Key takeaway:

Exposure to identity-based cyberbullying is related to suicidal thoughts, even if it's not directed at you!

Oshin, Boyd, Jorgensen, Kleiman, & Hamilton, JAACAP, In Press

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Identity-Based Cyberbullying and Suicidal Ideation

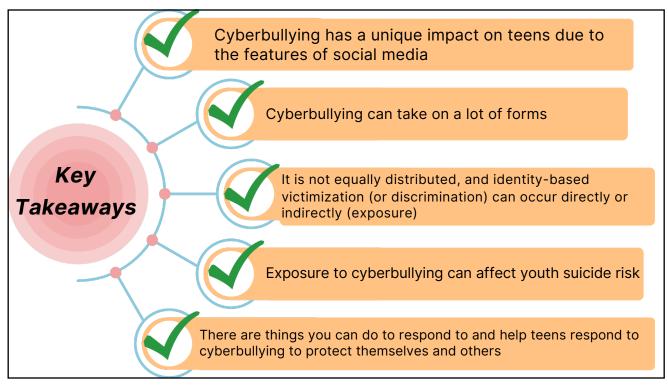
Exposure on social media in the past month:

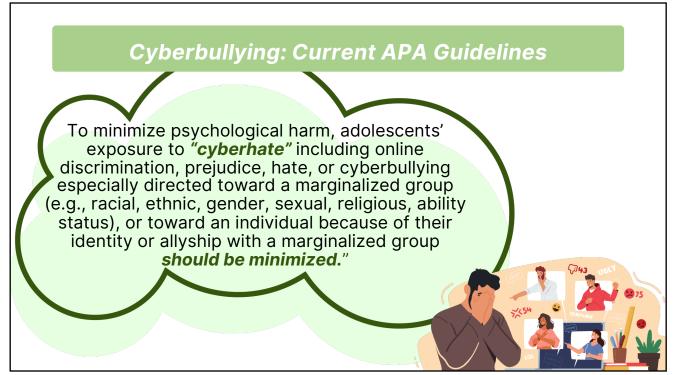
- -47% saw others being teased, bullied, or called nasty names because of their identity
- **−52%** saw sad or upsetting news about people who share my identity
- -45% saw images or videos of violence against people who share my identity

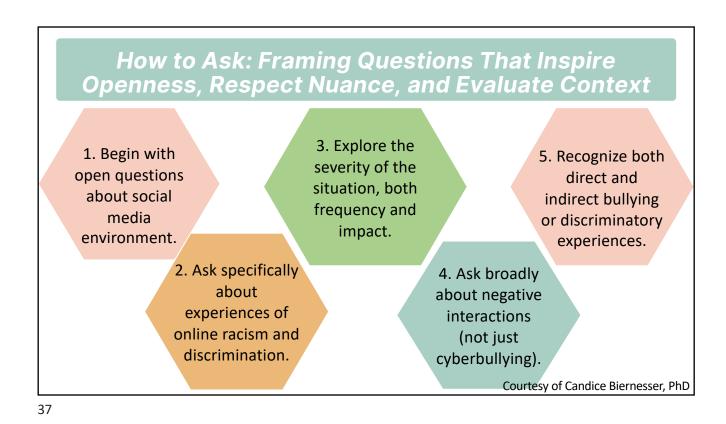
Higher overall levels of exposure to identity-based cyberbullying was linked to higher past-month suicidal thoughts (B = 0.13, p < .05).

Yao et al., in prep; Preliminary data based on our Teen Social Media Experiences Study











What experiences and content matter most?









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INVEST: Investigating Negative Violence Exposure on Social Media in Teens











Funded by NJ GVRC & Rutgers Office of Chancellor Provost

How often are teens exposed to gun violence on social media?

- 73% of teens reported gun violence exposure on SM within 3 months, with most teens reporting weekly exposure
- More frequent exposure (in past three months) is associated with a greater likelihood of suicidal thoughts in past month (B = .43, p = .01), and suicidal behavior in past month (B = .85, p < .001)

Shipp et al., in prep; Preliminary data based on our Teen Social Media Experiences Study

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Quotes from Teen Focus Groups (N=35)

Unprompted: "Sadly, I see it pretty much every day... so many people post it every day ... and ... you can't follow anyone and not see it."

Mental health: "There are a lot of people who feel genuinely scared ... And a lot of people are also kind of desensitized ... because it is something that comes up a lot."

Not discussed: "I'd say that like sharing it... you kinda think a lot more about like how ... it's been so normalized because it happens so often. The more you talk about it, the less normalized it gets."

Key initial takeaway:
ASK ABOUT & TALK TO TEENS ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

What experiences and content matter most?









Self-harm content

Cyberbullying

Violence Exposure

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Peer Support & Connection

Social media can offer space to strengthen existing friendships and form new friendships ones, which reduces isolation and loneliness, and improves mental health.









Over 70 studies have shown an inverse relationship between supportive online interactions and both depression and anxiety (Seabrook et al, 2016).

Types of Social Support



Emotional

- Reassurance
- Feeling loved or cared for
- Feeling valued
- Belongingness



Informational

- Information
- How to access resources
- How to navigate situations



Tangible

- Material support
- Access to goods & services
- •Financial assistance

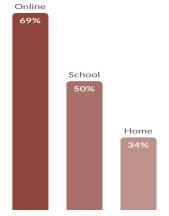
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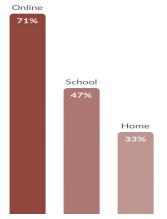
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Social Media as a Protective Factor for Youth with Minoritized Identities

Where LGBTQ youth access LGBTQ-affirming spaces:

Where transgender & nonbinary youth access gender-affirming spaces:





National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health 2021; https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2021/

Identity-Based Supportive Social Media Experiences

- Identity-based support/acceptance exposure in the PAST WEEK:
 - -62% saw posts that highlight or celebrate people, communities, or events related to my identity
 - -60% saw advocacy or uplifting news that supports people who share my identity
- Identity-based support/acceptance engagement in the PAST WEEK:
 - -50% posted about positive experiences that I have had related to my identity (e.g., connection, pride, cultural celebration).
 - -65% had a meaningful conversation about my identity with someone I care about (e.g., friend, family member
 - -47% posted to get support from a community (people I don't know) who share my identity.



Yao et al., in prep; Preliminary data based on our Teen Social Media Experiences Study

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24/7 Accessibility Can Also Help!

- Social media as distraction and support
- Access to mental health information and resources
- •For teens at high risk for suicide, social media can be *life saving*.

THE HAMILTON LAB

SUICIDE
PREVENTION
HOTLINES

View insights

Resources AMARENESS MONTH

View insights

Resources Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more September 8. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more September 8. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more September 8. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more September 9. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more September 9. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more September 9. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more September 9. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more September 9. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more September 9. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more September 9. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more September 9. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more September 9. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more September 9. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more September 9. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more September 9. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Our team at the SPARC-Life Center is devoted to doing our part... more SPARC-Life Center is devo

Vidal, 2020; focus groups





Final Reminders and Takeaways:



Social Media and Suicide Risk

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Key Takeaways of Social Media-Suicide Research



Move away from the focus on "screentime:

We do not have enough studies to indicate social media causes death by suicide in teens (or even thoughts or behaviors).



Social media experiences and content:

Social media is associated with increased risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors for teens who experience cyberbullying or those who engage (or are exposed to) more suicide and self-injury content.



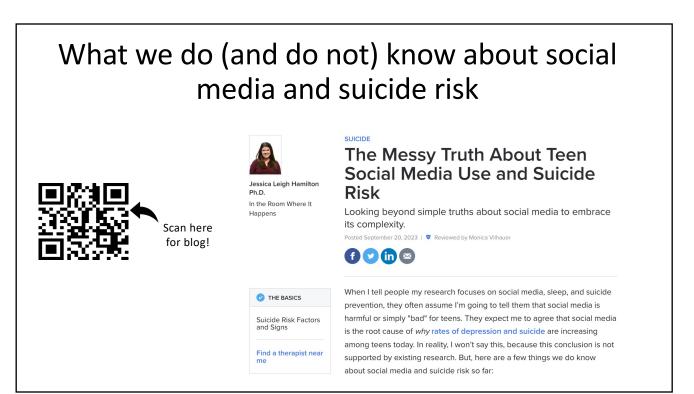
Social media also has benefits:

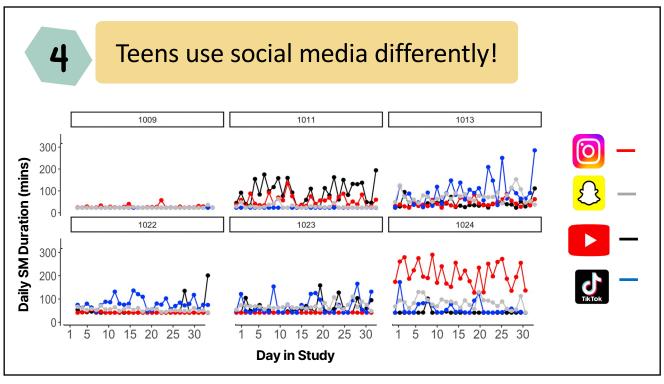
It may have benefits for adolescents, particularly those who are high-risk for suicide (or not using it may actually indicate social withdrawal), so *not* using it is not necessarily a good thing!

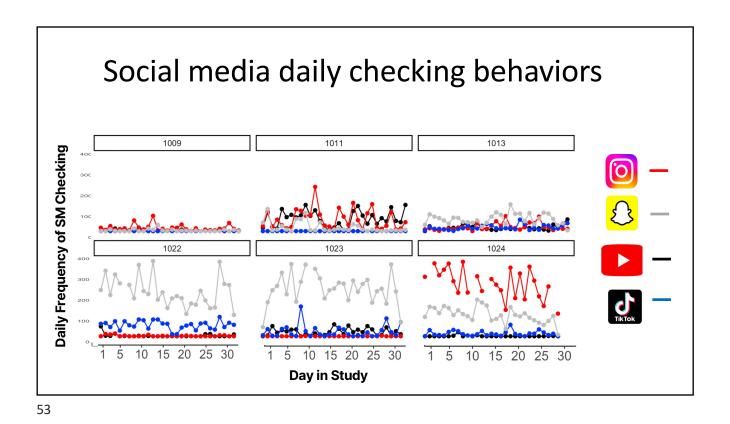


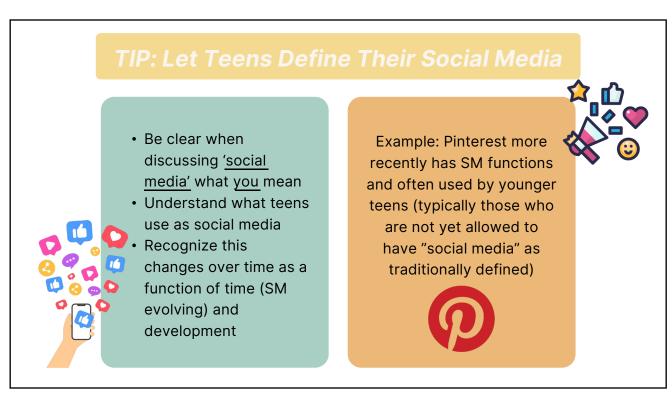














How social media affects teens is different!



Role of social media:

How do you use social media in your life? At different times?



Emotional state:

How do you feel during and right after using social media? Notice when this shifts, or isn't helpful



Challenges:

What challenges do you experience? Do you feel like you can't stop at times? What negative experiences or interactions do you have?



Knowledge:

How do you monitor your usage or make changes based on how you feel? How can you be intentional with it?



Support:

How and when does social media support you? When is it useful and make you feel good? How are you using it?

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Think about your own perceptions about social media and work with teens







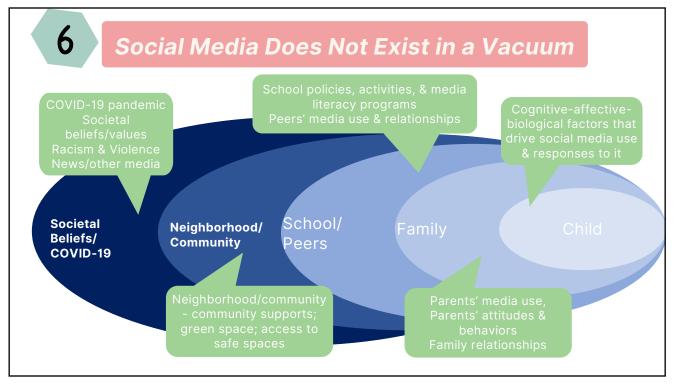




"I'm so glad that I didn't grow up with all this social media."

"I had social media, but it's so much worse now."





Social Media for Generation COVID



ScienceDirect

Psychology

Social media as a bridge and a window: The changing relationship of adolescents with social media and digital platforms

Jessica L. Hamilton, Melissa J. Dreier and Simone I. Boyd

Assulted: Social media use became central to adolescents' lives and development during the COVID-19 pandemic, with some ad-olescents first initiating social media use in this period. The unique circumstances of the pandemic contributed to changing patterns of social media use among teens and popularity of features. The pandemic also facilitated use and engagemen features. The pandemic also facilitated use and engagement with social media to strengthen social connection, emerging identities, and access to information and resources. It also impacted teens' online experiences and exposure to broader societal problems on SM. Rocent research, with a bcus in the United States, is presented on how the pandemic has shaped adolescents' experiences with social media in meaningful ways across development. We argue that research on adolescents call media use needs to consider how the COVID-19 pandemic has shaped the use and influence of social media in adolescents tooking and interescent of the coverience of the control of the control of the coverience of the coverience of the control of the coverience of the cial media in adolescents today.

adolescents could interact with their peers, explore and express their emerging identities, and stay abreast of pandemic news and world events [3]. SM became a space where normative activities and milestones occurred, amplifying its role during a period of rapid neurobiological and social-emotional development [4,5]. Some adolescents are not only "digital natives," but also "Generation COVID of SM." Their first interactions and experiences with SM were during the COVID-19 pandemic, fundamentally shaping their perceptions of, interactions with, and responses to SM. In this article, we review research on adolescents' parterns with SM were during the COVID-19 on the coving search of the coving se

Reexamining Social Media and Socioemotional Well-Being Among Adolescents Through the Lens of the **COVID-19 Pandemic: A Theoretical Review** and Directions for Future Research

Jessica L. Hamilton¹, Jacqueline Nesi²,³७, and

Sophia Choukas-Bradley Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Brown University, Padel Pstabor Research Center, Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, Rhode Island; and Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Delaware



Key Takeaway: Take a step back and consider/ask about COVID impacts and media use.

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Teens are central in research & conversations about social media!

Inform

Inform our research to make it more applicable (and better!)

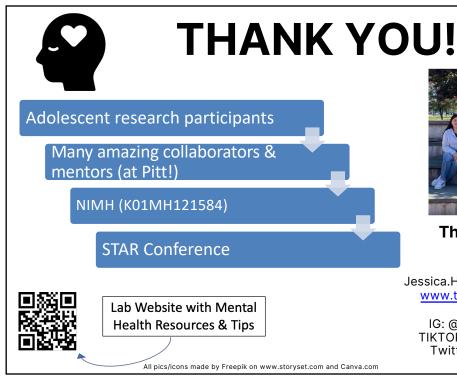
Support teens in improving mental Support health in schools and communities through teen-led initiatives

Build

Build teens' academic and professional growth/development!









The Hamilton Lab Team!!

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