

ASSENT TO TAKE PART IN A RESEARCH STUDY

TITLE OF STUDY: Teen Social Media Experiences Study (TSME)

Principal Investigator: Jessica L. Hamilton, Ph.D.

Who are you and why are you meeting with me?

I am Dr. Jessica Hamilton and I work at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, School of Arts and Sciences in the Department of Psychology. I would like to tell you about a research study that involves people like yourself and see if you would like to take part in it. Please ask me or other study staff to explain any words you don't understand about the study.

What is the study about?

We are conducting this study to learn more about teen experiences on social media using a survey that we have developed. We are recruiting up to 500 adolescents (ages 14-17 years) to help us with this study. Particularly, we are interested in how often teens have positive and negative experiences on social media and how this may affect mental health.

What will happen to me if I take part in the study?

You will be asked to complete a survey that will include some questions about who you are (age, race, gender, etc), questions about your social media use and experiences, social stressors (e.g., bullying, break ups), social supports, thoughts and behaviors about injuring yourself, and other mental health symptoms (depression, anxiety, anger) via an online link. This survey will take about 30-45 minutes to complete and will be completed entirely online.

We will **not** be collecting your full name, date of birth, or address. The only information that will be collected that could identify that you participated in the study will be your phone number, first name, and email address provided by you to send you payment or to contact you about the follow-up survey if you opted in. This contact information form will be sent to you separately so that it does not need to be linked to your survey. We strongly encourage you to NOT use an email address with any identifiable information like your last name or date of birth, so that we can limit any information that can identify who you are. We also will ask for your phone number so that we will be able to get in contact with you if we are concerned for your safety based on your responses in the survey (i.e., if you report thoughts of suicide with a plan or intent in the past month or if you have any suicide attempts in the past month). We will call you to make sure that you are safe and work with you to create a plan to keep you safe. We also ask you to provide the first name and phone number for your parent/legal guardian in case we need to contact them to make sure you are safe. We will only contact your parent/guardian if you tell us that you have current suicidal thoughts or plans, recent suicidal behavior (that your parent/guardian is unaware of), or if you are unwilling or unable to keep yourself safe. Your email, phone, and first name, as well as your parent/guardian's first name and phone number, will be linked to your ID number in a secure location that is password protected. This is the only way in which your survey response will be linked to your information, which is the only

identifying information collected. Again, we strongly encourage you to NOT use an email address with any identifiable information like your last name or date of birth.

If you choose to participate in the follow-up survey, you will be sent another survey 3 months after the first survey through the information provided. This final survey will be similar to the first one and will take about 30-35 minutes to complete. *If you do not want to participate in the follow-up or be contacted again, that's completely fine and up to you to decide.* Your responses will be semi-anonymous if you only participate in the initial survey and do not opt in to be contacted. Please note that we will only contact you if you ask for us to contact you again for the follow-up survey or if we have safety concerns as stated above.

Can something bad happen to me if I take part in the study?

We do not think anything bad can happen to you if you take part in this study. We have designed this study to minimize and avoid risks. However, it is possible that you may feel embarrassed or experience discomfort by completing the survey about mental health symptoms or social media experiences. Answers to all questions on the survey are voluntary. In addition, all data collected in the study has a risk of confidentiality. To minimize this risk, there will not be any identifying information collected and records to your phone and email address will be stored in a secure, password-protected file, accessible only to the research staff members. All materials will be identified only by a research ID number.

Less Likely: Loss of privacy or confidentiality for study participation and study data, which may include informing others (parent/guardian, trusted adults, or emergency services) if you are at recent or immediate risk for harming yourself or others.

Can something good happen to me if I take part in the study?

There are no direct benefits to you for taking part in this study. However, you may enjoy contributing to research aimed at understanding social media and mental health in teens and may take pride in advancing research on this topic.

Will others know what I say and do in the study?

Any information about you from this research will be kept confidential (private). We will only have access to your phone number, first name, and email address provided by you for payment and follow-up survey, if you choose to provide it. Your phone number, first name, and email address will be kept separate from the information you provide on the survey. Only the research team will have access to the secure file containing this information. We will have no other information that can identify you. You will not be identified in any publication of the research results. All data captured for the research will be linked only to an ID number and will not include any information that could identify you. In addition, de-identified information collected for this research may be used by or distributed to investigators for other research without obtaining additional permission from you.

The only time when others might know what you say in this study is if you indicate that you are currently or immediately at risk of harming yourself or others. We will first reach out to you to

make sure that you are safe. If we have reason to believe that you will not be able to keep yourself safe, we want to make sure that you have support, and that means that we work with you to tell your parent/legal guardian about your thoughts of suicide or we may contact your parent/guardian directly or emergency services to ensure you are safe. If you provide a home phone number or a number that multiple people share, it is possible that someone else (e.g., family members) may answer the call.

Will I be given anything to take part in the study?

You will receive a compensation of \$10 for the baseline survey and \$10 for the final assessment survey (up to \$20 total). The payment will be in the form of an Amazon gift card which will be emailed to you. If you complete both surveys, you also will be entered into a lottery to win a \$50 gift card.

What if I do not want to take part in the study?

You do not have to take part in this study if you do not want to. Just tell the researcher no and do not complete the study. No one will get angry or upset if you do not take part. If you do want to take part now, you can always change your mind later and decide to stop taking part in the study.

What if I have questions?

If you have any questions or problems about the study, you can contact The Hamilton Lab email (hamiltonlab@psych.rutgers.edu) or the Principal Investigator: Jessica Hamilton, Department of Psychology at Rutgers, Jessica.hamilton@rutgers.edu. You can also reach out to the study team through letter by reaching out to our office in Tillett Hall Room (53 Avenue E., Piscataway, NJ 08854).

If you have questions, concerns, problems, information or input about the research or would like to know your rights as a research subject, you can contact the Rutgers IRB or the Rutgers Human Subjects Protection Program via phone at (973) 972-3608 or (732) 235-2866 or (732) 235-9806 OR via email irboffice@research.rutgers.edu, or you can write us at 335 George Street, Liberty Plaza Suite 3200, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

If you need emotional or crisis support, text or call the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988.

What are my rights if I decide to take part in this research study?

You may ask questions about any part of the study at any time. Do not complete this form unless you have had a chance to ask questions and have been given answers to all of your questions and you agree to take part in the study.

ASSENT TO TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY

Subject's Agreement:

I have read this form or it has been read to me, and I believe I understand what has been talked about. My questions about this study have been answered. I agree to take part in this study.

Date _____ Yes No

Note: You are encouraged to keep this document for your records.