

HONDURAS

Zona Segura:

A trauma-informed youth-centered innovative solution to teen dating violence prevention

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TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Teen dating violence (TDV) is widely recognized as a form of gender-based violence throughout the world. UNICEF's 2014 report, "A Statistical Snapshot of Violence Against Adolescent Girls" defines TDV as "...a pattern of controlling or violent behaviours by a current or former dating partner...that can, however, escalate into very serious forms of physical, emotional or sexual abuse."

Teen dating violence is a significant issue in Honduras. Almost a third of 15-19 year-olds who have ever been married report having experienced some type of abuse (psychological, physical or sexual) at the hands of their partner in the past year.¹ Whilst laws exist that aim to protect women and girls against intimate partner violence, many women are unaware of their existence. Women also face retaliation, isolation, and stigma if they report violence. If laws are not being appropriately implemented, the attitudes and behaviours of society at large is not destined to change.

ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY

Despite these legal and structural barriers, technology can operate as an important platform for primary prevention of teen dating violence. Honduran youth are voracious consumers of technology. Recent data reports widespread technology use among Honduran teens. It is estimated that nearly 90% of the population has access to at least one mobile phone.² Technology as a platform for primary prevention of teen dating violence. It can educate and empower users about their rights, healthy relationship, gender equality, conflict resolution and ultimately prevent teen dating violence, all while ensuring privacy and confidentiality.

ZONASEGURA

ZonaSegura, is a private and confidential digital platform linking youth to services and gamified educational content, and allowing them the ability to contact trusted friends and family when they need support. Rooted in the social-ecological model, Health Belief Model, and Social Cognitive Theories, ZonaSegura will be designed using youth-centered design, a methodology empowering young people to take active steps in addressing the biggest challenges in their lives.

WORKING WITH YOUTH

YTH (youth + tech + health), with in-country partners at GoJoven Honduras and technical partners at GoJoven International/PHI, will work with youth to design ZonaSegura to increase young women and girls' knowledge of their rights in Honduras relating to teen dating violence, build self-efficacy for teen dating violence prevention, and provide peer support. Our parallel SMS campaign will reach young men and boys with targeted messages on healthy relationships, gender equality and address masculinity stereotypes.

THE RESEARCH

The study will evaluate the effect of ZonaSegura on teens' access and use of information, knowledge, attitudes to teen dating violence and overall self-efficacy in teen dating violence prevention. 300 young women and girls and 400 young men and boys in Tegucigalpa, Honduras between the ages 14 and 19 will be enrolled in the study. At the app download stage participants will complete the baseline questionnaire. They will then be enrolled into the intervention and will receive ZonaSegura content on their mobile phones for three months. At the four-month stage, participants will receive the same initial questionnaire to assess change in all measures. Participants will also be asked questions to assess the acceptability of the mobile intervention, and if they experienced any problems with the system.

WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT?

This project will:

- Increase our understanding on acceptability and effectiveness of mobile phone applications for prevention of teen dating violence.
- Builds knowledge in the field on how to develop and test trauma-informed mobile phone applications for the prevention of teen dating violence using rigorous and ethical approaches.
- Develop and disseminate a promising open source mobile application that has been developed by young people for young people on the prevention of teen dating violence for all young people living in Honduras.
- Increase young people's skills, knowledge on teen dating violence, relationships and available services, so that teen dating violence is reduced, teens experiencing violence access services, relationships among teens are healthier and less violent.

1. Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young Women in Honduras. (2016, July 26). Retrieved October 05, 2017, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/sexual-and-reproductive-health-young-women-honduras>

2. Mobile Money and Honduras' Financial Inclusion Landscape. (2016, February 10). Retrieved October 06, 2017, from <https://cfi-blog.org/2016/02/10/mobile-money-and-honduras-financial-inclusion-landscape/>

