

Session/Poster#

Presenter

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**Do We Really Know Our Child?----A Survey on Attitude towards Social Media Use in Children and Their Parents.**

Background: Social media websites and applications are among the most common engagements for children. While they offer a source of entertainment and communication, they are also associated with problems like cyberbullying and exposure to inappropriate material. Hence, it is important that parents become aware of the risks and benefits of social media. A lot was said about the effect of social media use on mental and physical health in adolescents. However, there isn't enough data on the use of social media in younger children in relation to degree and supervision of use. We aimed to study the attitudes of and perceptions towards social media use in children ages 8-12 years and their parents. Objective: To study the attitudes of and perceptions towards social media use in children ages 8-12 years and their parents at a primary care clinic in an urban inner-city hospital. Design/Methods: Questionnaires were administered to children 8-12 years and their parents. Demographic information was collected. Categorical data were analyzed using the Pearson Chi-square test, numerical data using the Mann-Whitney U test. SAS was used for statistical analysis. Results: 102 questionnaires were administered during the study period. 53% children were male, 84% were Black/African American, 96% parents reported their child has a device while 99% children reported having a device. Children were more likely to report unsupervised use  $p < 0.01$ . Children were more likely to report having a social media account  $p < 0.01$ . Children were more likely to report playing online video games  $p < 0.01$ . Children were more likely to report using their device past bedtime  $p < 0.01$ . Hours of use reported by children and parents were significantly different. 55% of parents reported "no effect" of social media on their children. Conclusion(s): Our findings demonstrate a significant difference in parents' perception of social media usage and usage reported by their children in relation to duration and supervision.