8th Milestones meeting:
Cyber violence roundtable
Ottawa, Canada 19 October 2017

Michele Ybarra MPH PhD
Center for Innovative Public Health Research

*Thank you for your interest in this presentation. Please note that analyses included herein are preliminary. More recent, finalized analyses may be available by contacting CiPHR for further information.

CiPHR Center for Innovative Public Health Research
Decoding how technology influences and can improve public health

---

The scope of digital violence

Image from: https://media2.s-nbcnews.com/j/msnbc/components/video/__new/n_qc_30stkdomestic_140915.nbcnews-ux-1080-600.jpg

---

A concrete example: Myanmar

According to a Human Rights Council Report[1]:

"Social media platforms have also been used to disseminate **hate speech** content against groups, which has fuelled intercommunal tensions and led, in some cases, to **violent clashes among communities**.

Following a country visit in July 2014, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar expressed her concern over the spread of **misinformation**, hate speech and **incitement to violence, discrimination and hostility in the media and Internet**, particularly targeted against **Muslim communities**."

[1] http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session28/Documents/A_HRC_28_64_ENG.doc, pg. 9

Another example: Worldwide

Image from: https://ichef-1.bbci.co.uk/news/660/media/images/79076000/jpg/_79076746_manwithflag.jpg
Citation: Http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session28/Documents/A_HRC_28_64_ENG.doc

The scope: Worldwide

Across the world, youth report rates of violence online as well as offline.[1] For example:

- One-third of Serbian youth have been 'treated in a hurtful way' by their peers
- Less than one in twenty youth in South Africa and the Philippines say they've been targeted by an unwanted sexual experiences online
- Most youth see the Internet as beneficial even if they have experienced something upsetting online.

[1] http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/gko/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Synthesis-report_07-Nov-2016.pdf

The scope: The United States

Among people 15 years of age and older who use the Internet:

- 47% have experienced online harassment or abuse[1]
  - 30% have had their privacy invaded online
  - 17% have been the victim of a denial of access attack
- 12% of people who have been in a romantic relationship have experienced intimate partner digital abuse[2]
  - Men and women are equally likely to be victims
  - People who are LGB and younger in age are more likely to be victims than their peers

[1]https://innovativepublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2_Online-Harassment-Report_Final.pdf
[2]https://dev.innovativepublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/4_Intimate-Partner-Digital-Abuse-Report_FINAL.pdf

Current efforts to reduce digital violence: Panzagar Movement

https://www.facebook.com/panzagar/

Current efforts to reduce digital violence: WePROTECT

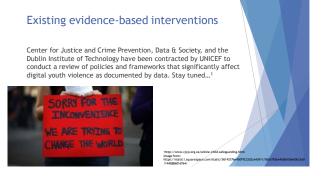[1]http://www.weprotect.org/the-model-national-response/

Current efforts to reduce digital violence[1]

▶ Started in 2012, the Umati Project was created to monitor online hate speech in Kenya and report them to the appropriate authorities. According to Human Rights Watch, they identified over 7,000 incidents of digital hate speech in English and local languages over a 12 month period. Similar efforts have been / are being piloted in Ethiopia and Nigeria.[2]

▶ The International Network Against CyberHate (INACH) partnered with Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Microsoft to implement a Code of Conduct aimed at reducing digital hate speech. The amount of offensive content removed doubled.[4]

[1]http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session28/Documents/A_HRC_28_64_EN G.docx
[2]https://dangerousspeech.org/kenya; https://yourstory.com/2014/09/umati-hate-speech/
[4]http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-1471_en.htm

Existing evidence-based interventions

Center for Justice and Crime Prevention, Data & Society, and the Dublin Institute of Technology have been contracted by UNICEF to conduct a review of policies and frameworks that significantly affect digital youth violence as documented by data. Stay tuned...[1]

[1]http://www.cjcp.org.za/online-child-safeguarding.html
Image from:
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5614337be4b0f9222d2c64d9/t/562e783ee4b0de5de65bc5a0/1446886016764/

How can we use technology to promote healthy behavior and reduce violence?

Images from: https://www.textedly.com/template/default/images/icon_mass_text.png; http://d.ibtimes.co.uk/en/full/1355464/facebook-being-sued-allegedly-monitoring-selling-information-private-messages-advertisers.jpg
https://www.pgeveryday.com/Assets/Modules/Editorial/Article/Images/Dinner-Conversation-Starters-5-Ways-to-Start-the-Chatter-6-size-3.jpg
http://www.napractice.org/portals/0/Public%20Policy.png

The gaps in the digital violence literature

▶ Methodological strategies that can well measure the impact of large scale approaches (e.g., public policies that are implemented, ISP-based approaches)

▶ While there is an understandable focus on victims, we know much less about perpetrators, and therefore the dynamics and overlaps between victimization and perpetration

▶ There needs to be a greater focus on how digital violence fits within the larger rubric of violence – what happens online also happens offline; what is the overlap and what does it mean for prevention efforts?

Discussion

1. How do the opportunities that I raised reflect what you are seeing in your country?

2. What should we be prioritizing for the next 2-3 years in terms of advocacy, research, interventions, and policies?

Round up of suggestions to reduce cyberviolence

Within the understanding that cyberviolence spans a "wide" spectrum of experiences, from cyber-harassment and bullying to human trafficking and child pornography, here are our thoughts for the priorities towards digital harm reduction in the next 2-3 years:

1. Policy
   1. Encourage platforms to develop and implement (and monitor) child and adult protection prolicies
2. Legislation
   1. Ensure that laws are keeping up with technology (e.g., a law against 'revenge porn')
3. Research
   1. Research / interventions for youth - and adults - about how to healthyfully navigate technology (e.g., digital literacy, self-esteem promotion, social emotional learning programs)
   2. Identify existing evidenced-based prevention programs (e.g., Greendot) that might be expanded to include a cyber-component; or might be used as a blueprint for what we can design for digital interventions
   3. Giving parents the tools to talk to their children about and set boundaries to promote healthy digital use
   4. Understanding the phenomena and their impacts (and we need to be sure that we're not projecting our sensibilities on to children)
4. Advocacy
   1. Understand the rights and responsibilities of the sharing of children's photos and other personal information
   2. Help people understand what the laws actually are (what "is" a criminal offence)

For more information, please contact:

Michele Ybarra, MPH PhD
Center for Innovative Public Health Research
P: 1-877-302-6858 ext. 801
F: 1-877-302-6858
michele@innovativepublichealth.org