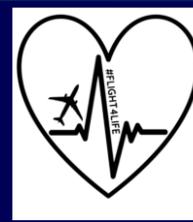# Invent2Prevent: Flight For Life

Countering domestic violent extremism through a whole-of-society approach

Homeland Security 110 Class Project

❖ RESEARCH QUESTION

Is it possible to create an attitude shift and reduce violent tendencies through outdoor group activity?

❖ ABSTRACT

Countering domestic violent extremism through a whole-of-society approach, a case study of first- and second-year college students and renewed inclusivity. Domestic terrorists represent a growing share of the threat Americans face today. Domestic terrorists include racially- and ethnically motivated violent extremism, antigovernment and anti-authority violent extremism, and other violent extremist ideologies. The situation surrounding COVID-19 has also created an environment that could accelerate some individuals' mobilization to targeted violence or terrorist activities. This project takes a whole-of-society approach to identify and prevent targeted violence anywhere and in any form. Using funding from a government agency, the HS-110 class at Daytona Beach was challenged to consider not only how they might counter targeted violence and terrorism but also how to empower positive initiatives that advocate for community connectedness and inclusivity. The research encompassed in this study targets college students in their first and second years, who may be spending more time indoors due to COVID restrictions, and therefore are statistically more likely to be influenced and/or targeted by nefarious online groups. The researchers also identified a benchmark of existing audience sentiment, determined their attitudes, and the behavior change they desired. Through a strategic outreach program, the research team challenged students to spend time doing an activity away from their computers, and incentivized that activity through branding, competition, and an award structure. They then used a combination of tools to periodically examine progress and examine whether or not there had been an attitudinal shift, behavior change, and/or conversion to action within the defined target audience.

❖ INTRODUCTION

2020 was a year that we will all remember. Prolonged isolation and hundreds of thousands of deaths as a result of the COVID-19 have left many feeling in despair and without any form of hope. When you constantly see what the "high school experience" should be like, only to have a worldwide pandemic uproot what we all once knew, it can be hard to find the motivation necessary to persevere. Flight for Life is here to tell you that you are NOT alone, and that you CAN follow your dreams. Through the Flight for Life program, you can soar above the clouds and into your future. Whether or not you have ever considered a career in aviation, Flight for Life will give YOU the chance to fly like an Eagle and see your true potential!
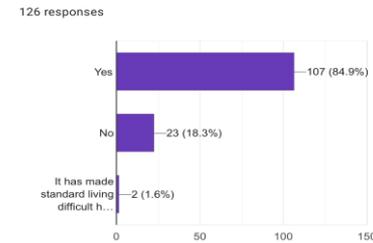
Everything You Need To Know

About COVID-19's Impacts On Our Youth Worldwide

School Closures
More than 1.5 billion children and young people have been affected by school closures worldwide, forced to learn through a screen at home.

Increased Time Online
When the pandemic began in March 2020, children in the U.S. spent an average of 97 minutes a day on YouTube alone, which is nearly double the amount of use from the year prior.

Suicidal Thoughts
In September 2020, over half of 11-17-year-olds reported having thoughts of suicide or self-harm more than half or nearly every day of the previous two weeks.

Emotional Changes
Children in Spain and Italy reported affects of quarantine being difficulty concentrating (76.6%), boredom (52%), irritability (39%), restlessness (38.8%), nervousness (38%), loneliness (31.3%), uneasiness (30.4%), and worries (30.1%).

Worsening Mental Health
9.7% of youth in the U.S. have severe major depression, compared to 9.2% in last year's dataset.

Depression and Anxiety
8079 high school students completed assessments about depressive and anxiety symptoms during the COVID-19 epidemic period. The prevalence of depressive symptoms was 43.7%, anxiety symptoms 37.4%, and both depressive and anxiety 31.3%.

Source

❖ EVENT

We are hosting a spikeball tournament for the students of Embry-Riddle on **April 16th**. The event will give anyone in the community a chance to get involved and will spur connections among students through potential prizes like gift cards and of course our main focus: **a flight lesson.**
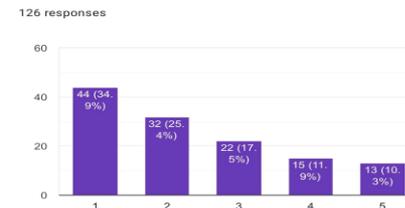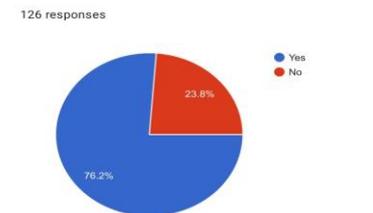
Spikeball Net

Has COVID impacted you in a negative way?
126 responses

- Yes — 107 (84.9%)
- No — 23 (18.3%)
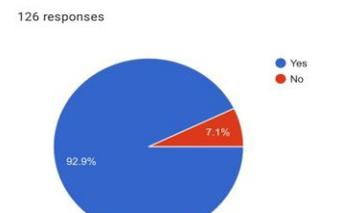- It has made standard living difficult h… — 2 (1.6%)

How likely, IN YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, are you to come across hate groups/ extremist groups, hateful ideologies, etc. throughout your daily/ weekly usage of the internet?
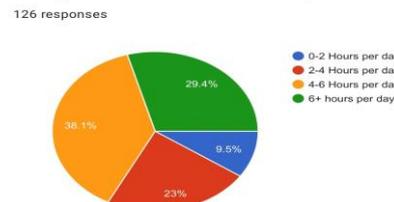126 responses

- 1 — 44 (34.9%)
- 2 — 32 (25.4%)
- 3 — 22 (17.5%)
- 4 — 15 (11.9%)
- 5 — 13 (10.3%)

Do you spend more time indoors as a result of COVID?
126 responses

- Yes — 76.2%
- No — 23.8%

Do you spend more time online as a result of COVID?
126 responses

- Yes — 92.9%
- No — 7.1%

On average, how long are on social media/ electronics per day? (If using iPhone: settings>screen time>see all activity)
126 responses

- 0-2 Hours per day — 9.5%
- 2-4 Hours per day — 23%
- 4-6 Hours per day — 38.1%
- 6+ hours per day — 29.4%

❖ DESIRED OUTCOME

The winners of our Flight For Life Spikeball tournament will be awarded the opportunity to take a discovery flight at Daytona Beach International Airport. Exposing at-risk individuals to the unique opportunities that come with aviation will enable them to SOAR!

❖ SOURCES

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