The science behind student success: What research tells us about the role of digital games in education

Lynn E. Fiellin, M.D.

Director, play2PREVENT Lab

Professor of Medicine, Yale Child Study Center,

and Public Health

Founder of a sister organization to my Lab called Playbl, that focuses on the distribution of our videogame interventions.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?





Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Drug and Alcohol Dependence

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/drugalcdep



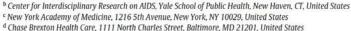


Volume 43, Issue



Supplement_4 December 2006





^a Yale University School of Medicine, PO Box 208025, New Haven, CT 06520, United States

The impact of buprenorphine/naloxone treatment on HIV risk

E. Jennifer Edelman a,b,*, Tongtan Chantaratc, Sarah Caffreya, Amina Chaudhryd,

behaviors among HIV-infected, opioid-dependent patients*

Patrick G. O'Connor^a, Linda Weiss^c, David A. Fiellin^{a,b}, Lynn E. Fiellin^{a,b}



The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse

ISSN: 0095-2990 (Print) 1097-9891 (Online) Journal homepage: https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/iac

RESEARCH REPORT

doi:10.1111/j.1360-0443.2007.02056.x

Combining Rapid HIV Testing and a Brief Alcoho Intervention in Young Unhealthy Drinkers in the **Emergency Department: A Pilot Study**

E. Jennifer Edelman, An Dinh, Radu Radulescu, Bonnie Lurie, Gail D'Onc Jeanette M. Tetrault, David A. Fiellin & Lynn E. Fiellin

Gender and non-medical use of prescription opioids: results from a national US survey*

Jeanette M. Tetrault^{1,2}, Rani A. Desai², William C. Becker², David A. Fiellin², John Concato^{1,2} & Lynn E. Sullivan²

Veterans Affairs Clinical Epidemiology Research Center, West Haven, CT, USA1 and Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, USA2

JOURNAL ARTICLE

A Trial of Integrated Buprenorphine/Naloxone and HIV Clinical Care

Lynn E. Sullivan, Declan Barry, Brent A. Moore, Marek C. Chawarski, Jeanette M. Tetrault, Michael V. Pantalon, Patrick G. O'Connor, Richard S. Schottenfeld, David A. Fiellin

Clinical Infectious Diseases, Volume 43, Issue Supplement 4, December 2006, Pages S184-S190, https://doi.org/10.1086/508182

Published: 15 December 2006

Journal of Adolescent Health 52 (2013) 158-163



ADOLESCEN

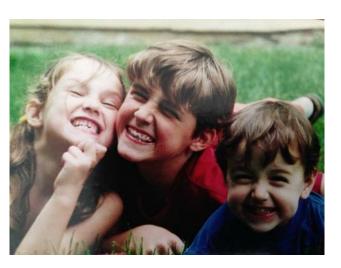
Original article

Previous Use of Alcohol, Cigarettes, and Marijuana and Subsequent Abuse of Prescription Opioids in Young Adults

Lynn E. Fiellin, M.D.^{a,*}, Jeanette M. Tetrault, M.D.^a, William C. Becker, M.D.^a, David A. Fiellin, M.D.^a, and Rani A. Hoff, Ph.D. a,b

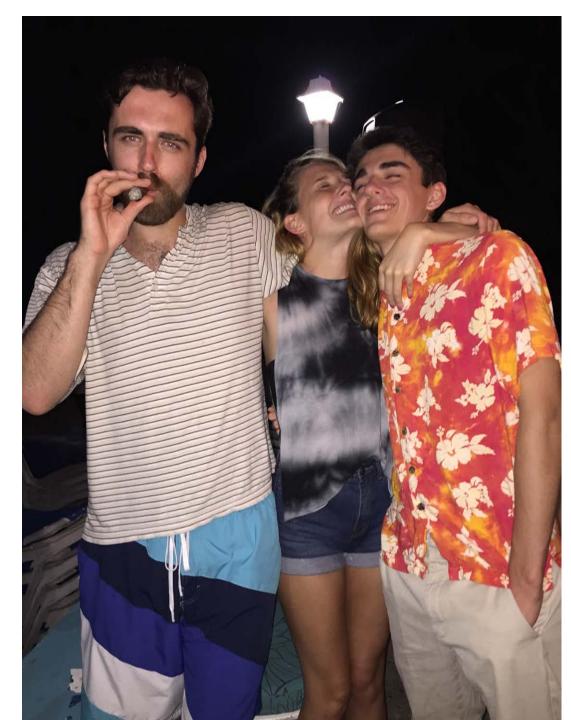
^a Department of Internal Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut

^b VISN1 Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Care Center, VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven, Connecticut



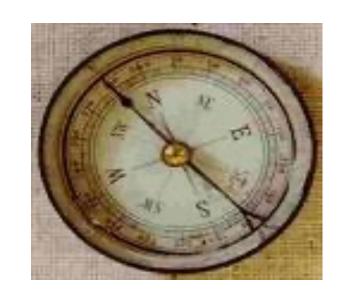






A NEW DIRECTION

- A new method
 - Delivering messages for behavior change attractive to those at highest risk
 - Window of opportunity <u>before</u> risk starts
 - Primary risk reduction and prevention



GAMES: A NOVEL APPROACH TO EDUCATION, PREVENTION, AND WELLNESS

- 91% of all people on earth have a mobile phone
- 56% of people own a smart phone
- 80% of time on mobile devices is spent inside games or apps
- 97% of all teens play videogames; >50% play daily
- Serious videogames can impact health behaviors
 - Asthma
 - Diabetes
 - Nutrition/obesity
 - Physical activity
 - Smoking prevention
 - HIV/sexual risk







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Video Game to Help Urban Teens Avoid HIV Infection Focus of Nearly \$4 Million Grant To Yale

Published: September 24, 2009



New Haven, Conn. — Creating a video game to help teens avoid sex, drugs and alcohol use—behaviors that could lead to HIV infection—is the aim of a five-year, \$3.9 million research grant to Yale from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The grant, to be paid out over five years, will fund work by Lynn Fiellin, M.D., assistant professor of medicine at Yale School of Medicine.

Fiellin's study is designed to develop and test an interactive virtual reality-based video game called "Retro-Warriors" that will teach ethnically diverse adolescents how to make healthier choices. The research goes beyond the use of a game for education and proposes to create a world in which the game players can engage in role-playing to learn to avoid risky behaviors that could lead to HIV infection.

The study has far-reaching implications including the potential for this technology to become portable and global.

"The game could travel with the player—it could be used at home, on a console, a cell phone or a personal digital assistant," said Fiellin, who also points to international

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PRESS CONTACT

Karen N. Peart

9 203-432-1326

OTHER ARTICLES

First Group Graduates from 10,000 Women: Yale-Tsinghua Certificate Program in International Healthcare Management

Yale Rudd Center Launches Centralized Database for State and Federal Food Policy and Obesity Legislation

Yale Expert To Help Open First Center in Latin America To Treat Life-Threatening Vascular Condition, HHT

Yale Study Finds More Licensed Characters and Other Packaging Promotions Used to Market Less Nutritious Foods to Kids

RELATED LINKS

Yale Cancer Center



PLAY2PREVENT LAB





Develop, evaluate, & implement videogames that impact health behavior, social intelligence, and education in teens and young adults



PROBLEMS WE ARE SOLVING

EVERY YEAR IN THE US:

2M+ ADOLESCENTS STRUGGLE WITH SUBSTANCE MISUSE

5M YOUTH HAVE AT LEAST 1 MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE

10M ADOLESCENTS CONTRACT AN STI

SCARCITY OF SUPPORT:

1: 491 SCHOOL COUNSELOR TO STUDENT

1:1381 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST TO STUDENT

THE RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT SUCCESS

Mental health and academic success:

Individual-Level Results:

- One meta-analysis reviewed 83 intervention studies and found:
 - Psychosocial interventions resulted in significant, positive academic impact
- Another review of recent research on student mental health and academic outcomes found:
 - 91% of studies demonstrated improved academic outcomes because of psycho-social interventions and positive effects persisted on average 150 weeks.

School-Wide Results:

- At the school level, research supports the integration of positive behavior supports, a
 form of multi-tiered systems support in strengthening school-wide proficiency in math
 and reduced suspensions.
- One meta-analysis reviewed 213 studies and found:
 - Universal social and emotional-based programs had a significant, positive, school-wide impact on standardized tests in reading and math and in overall course grades.











RISK REDUCTION/ HIV PREVENTION

SMOKING & VAPING

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

MENTAL HEALTH AND OPIOID MISUSE

HEALTH ADVOCACY STI/HIV TESTING

BUILDING A PLATFORM



#8 MISS POPULARITY







GAMES FOR HEALTH JOURNAL: Research, Development, and Clinical Applications Volume 1, Number 4, 2012 © Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. DOI: 10.1089/04h.2012.0025



A Qualitative Study to Inform the Development of a Videogame for Adolescent Human Immunodeficiency Virus Prevention



INVOLVE OUR TEEN PARTNERS IN EVERY STEP OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

CREATIVE METHODS

Interviews/Focus Group Discussions

Artwork: "Party Scene" Picture

"My Life" Timeline

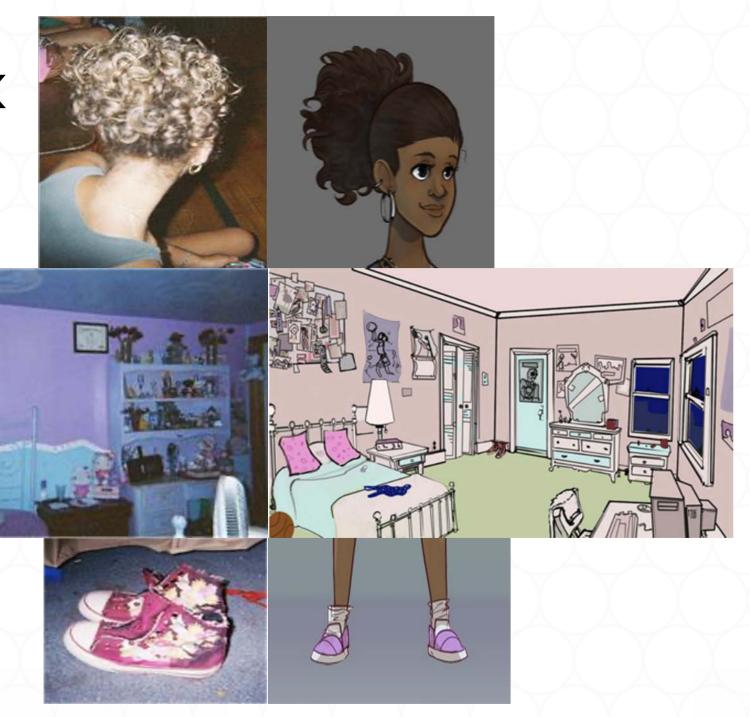
Poster Project: Message Framing

Photo Feedback Project





PHOTO FEEDBACK PROJECT



DESIGN INPUT





TOO KID LIKE

CLOTHES

NO TO THE BAGGY PANTS



FAVORITE

Scene - School - Classroom

This scene blocking explores a english class location for the school environment.

Pass 04





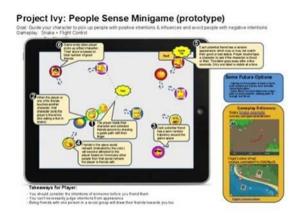
TOO OLD

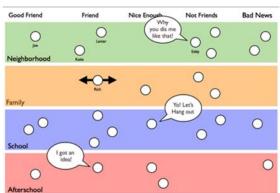
Pass 01
Pass 01
Pass 01
Pass 01

Addressed in Pass 01:
- See more of foreground students in view - Portraits of William Shake speare, Edgar Allen Poe, Maya Angelou and Jane Austen hanging over the blackboard

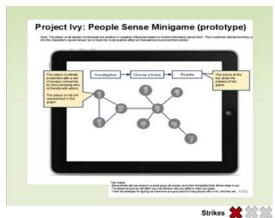


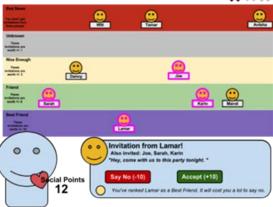
ITERATION, ITERATION, ITERATION



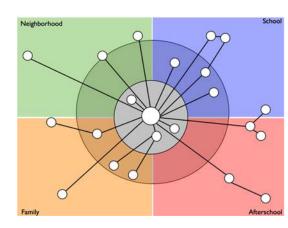












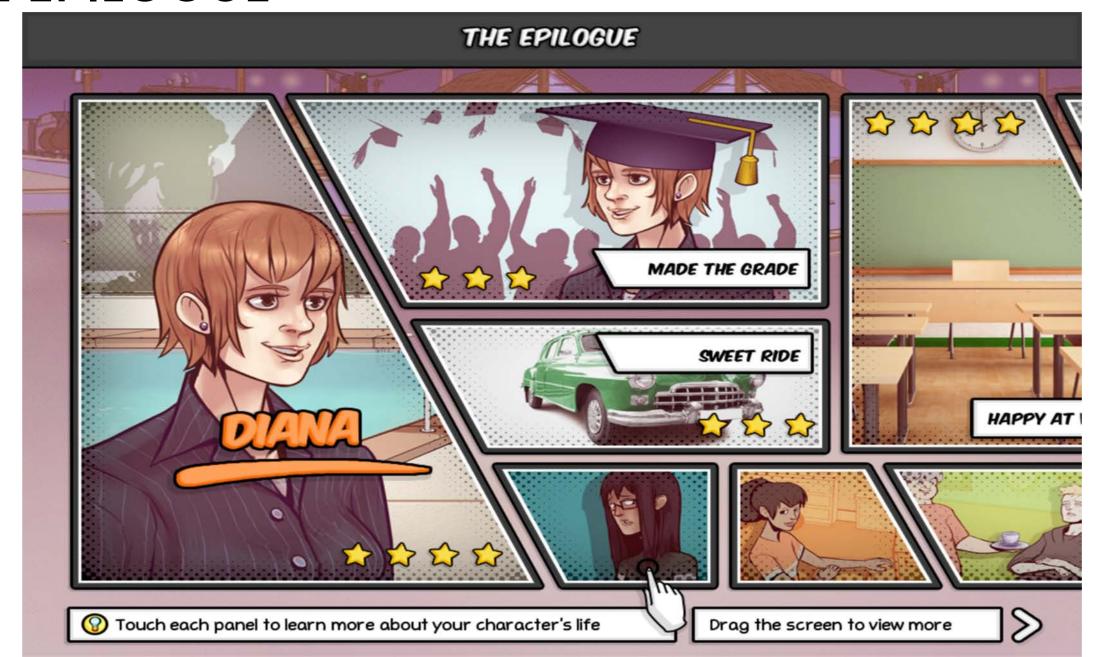




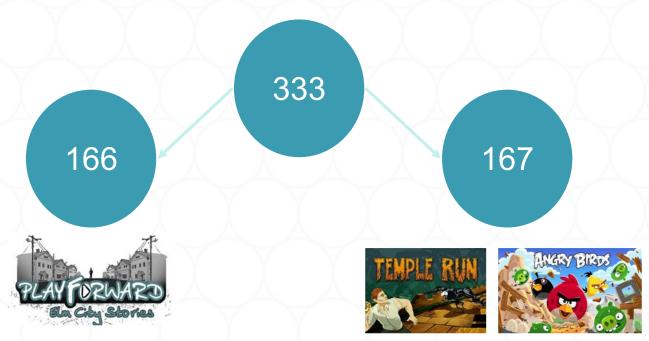




GAME EPILOGUE



RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL

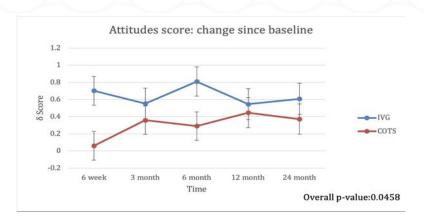


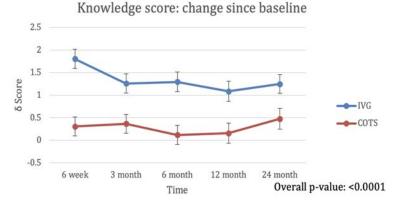
11-14 YEAR OLD BOYS & GIRLS
12 AFTER-SCHOOL, SCHOOL, SUMMER PROGRAMS
12 SESSIONS: 2 TIMES/ WEEK FOR 6 WEEKS

STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS: BASELINE, 6 WEEKS, 3, 6, 12, 24 MONTHS

FOCUS ON 12-MONTH OUTCOMES AROUND SEXUAL HEALTH

TIME-STAMPED DATA COLLECTED THROUGH GAME SOFTWARE KNOWN AS "EVENT LOG FILES"







Video Game Intervention for Sexual Risk Reduction in Minority Adolescents: Randomized Controlled Trial

Lynn E Fiellin^{1,2,3,4}, MD; Kimberly D Hieftje^{1,3,4}, PhD; Tyra M Pendergrass^{1,3,4}, MEM; Tassos C Kyriakides⁵, PhD; Lindsay R Duncan^{1,6}, PhD; James D Dziura⁵, PhD; Benjamin G Sawyer^{1,7}; Linda Mayes^{2,4}, MD; Cindy A Crusto^{3,4,8}, PhD; Brian WC Forsyth^{3,4}, MBChB, FRCPC; David A Fiellin^{1,3,4,5}, MD



PLAYTESTI

IMPACT OVER 6 MONTHS

(N=296) (NICHD) (ALL P-VALUES < 0.05)

T.P. Boomer et al. / Journal of Adolescent Health xxx (2023) 1-8

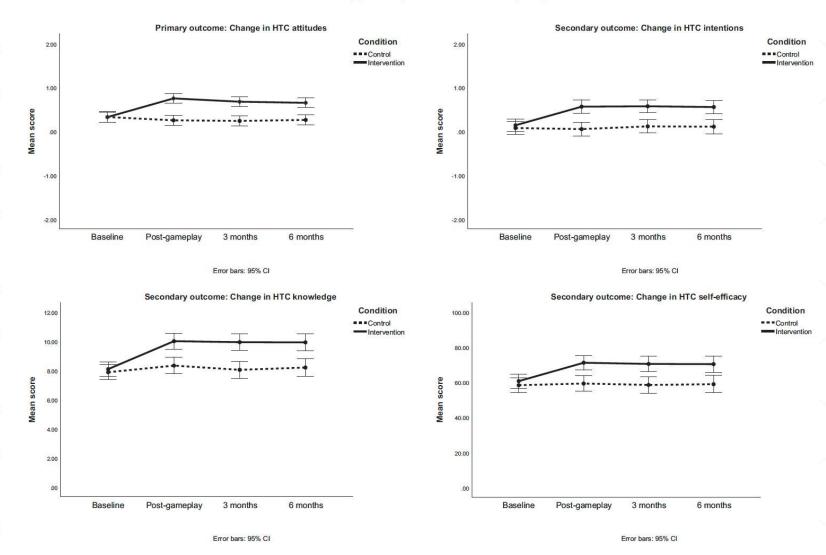


Figure 2. Changes in attitudes, intentions, knowledge, and self-efficacy by study condition.



JOURNAL OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH

A Serious Video Game Targeting HIV Testing and Counseling: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Tyra Pendergrass Boomer, M.E.M. 4., Kaitlyn Larkin 4, Lindsay R. Duncan, Ph.D. b, Claudia-Santi F. Fernandes, Ed.D., L.P.C. a, and Lynn E. Fiellin, M.D. a, C, d

*Opportunest of Internal Medicine, PhysPRENIN Lab at the base of Central February Counting Cames, bits School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut *Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada *Vale Child Study Center, New Horen, Connecticut *Pale School of Public Health New Horen, Connecticut *Phile School of Public Healt

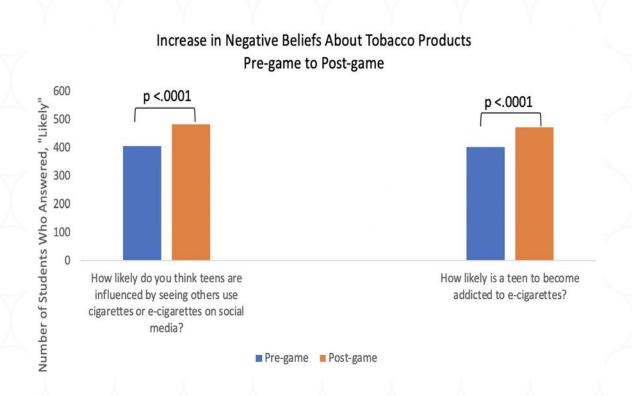
Article history: Received January 20, 2023; Accepted August 15, 2023

Keywords: Adolescents; Technology intervention; HIV testing and counseling; Serious video game; Randomized controlled trial;

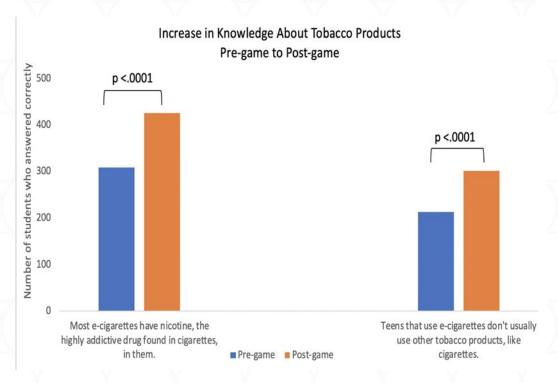




SMOKESCREEN FIELD STUDY (N=560) (CVS HEALTH)

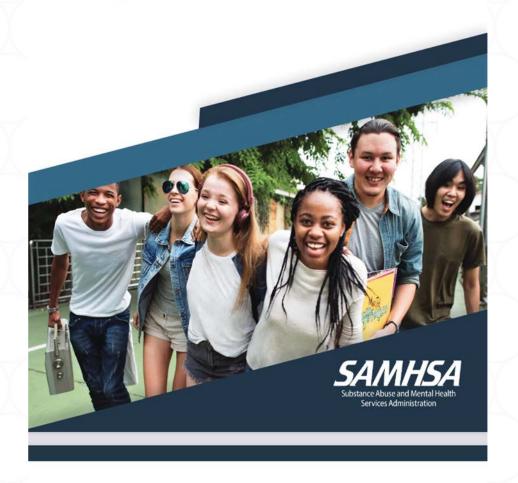






OUR IMPACT

Reducing Vaping Among Youth and Young Adults

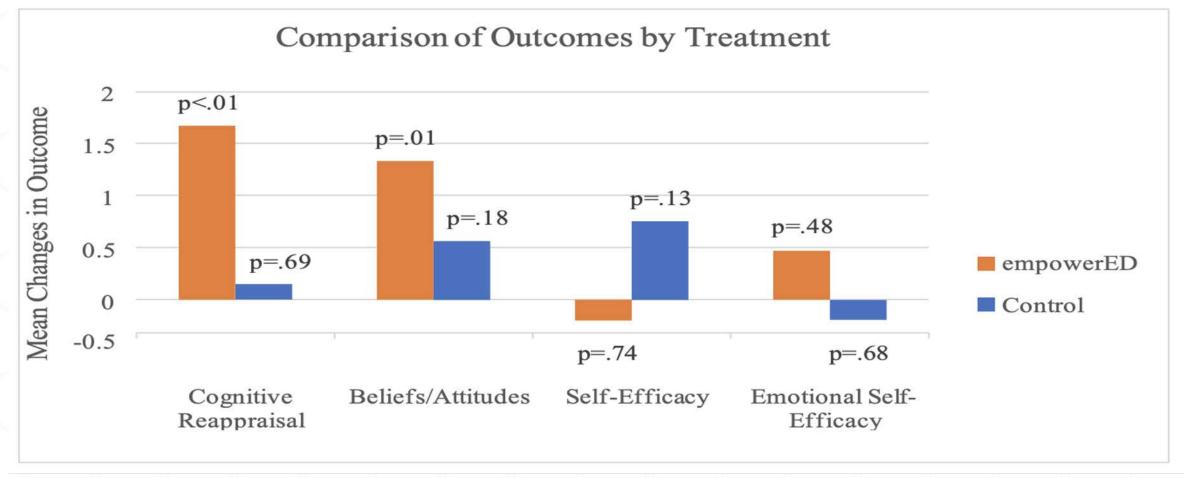


Reducing Vaping Among Youth and Young Adults



EMPOWERED PILOT STUDY

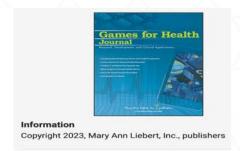
(N=100) (CZI)



A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial to Evaluate a Cognitive Behavioral Videogame Intervention: empowerED

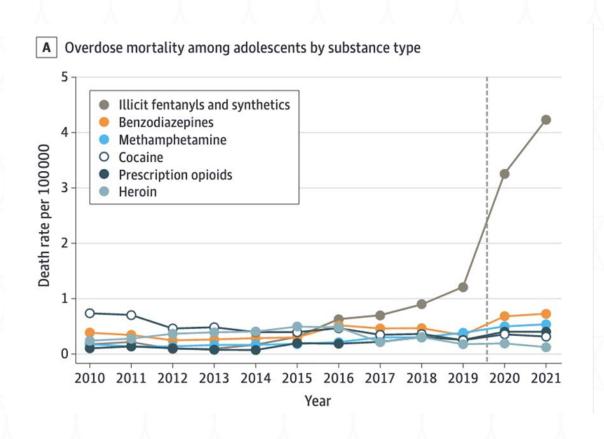
Claudia-Santi F. Fernandes 👝 🖂, Yanhong Deng, Alvin H. Tran, Kimberly D. Hieftje, Tyra M. Pendergrass Boomer, Carolyn K. Taylor, and Lynn E. Fiellin

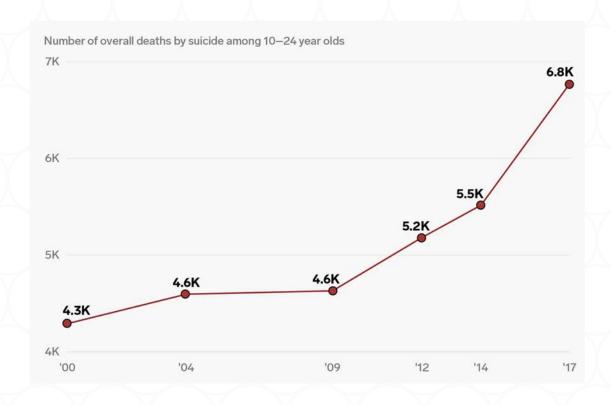
Published Online: 8 Nov 2022 | https://doi.org/10.1089/g4h.2021.0118





CRITICAL HEALTH CRISES IN TEENS: SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH







PLAYSMART DESIGN



Formative Work: Feb-Jun 2020

We conducted:

- 7 focus groups with opioid-naive adolescents (n=37)
- 6 interviews with treatment providers of individuals with opioid use disorder (n=6)
- 1 focus group with prevention specialists (n=6)
- 5 focus groups with implementation partners, School-Based Health Alliance (SBHA) adult affiliates (n=26)
- 3 focus groups with SBHA youth (n=15)

Salient themes identified:

- 1. Opioid Identification
- 2. Perceived Risk of Harm
- 3. Prescription Opioids
- 4. Mode of Learning
- 5. Opioid Accessibility
- 6. Reasons to Misuse Opioids
- 7. Mental Health
- 8. Support Systems
- 9. Videogame Application

PLAYSMART DEVELOPMENT

Storylines (Content):

Trading Wisdom

A Friend in Need

Lean on Me

Grandma's Pills

Tough Love

A New Direction

Mini-games (Skill Development):

Risk Sense

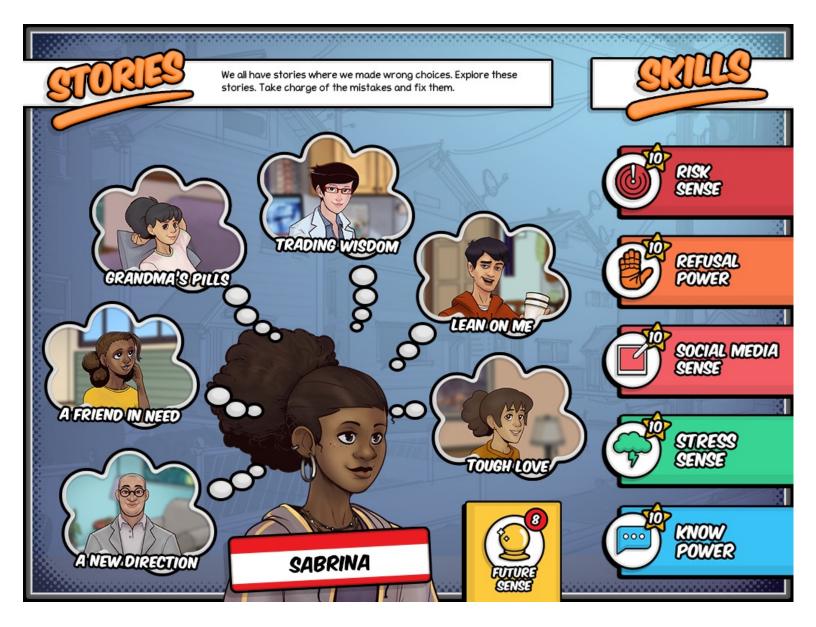
Know Power

Social Media

Future Sense

Refusal Power

Stress Sense



PLAYSMART EFFICACY STUDY

- Setting: 10+ CT schools
- **Population:** 532 adolescents ages 16-19 who are at higher risk
- Intervention: PlaySmart
- Videogame aims to prevent opioid initiation and promote mental health in older adolescents
- Adolescents at higher risk for opioid use will be assigned to either the PlaySmart game or attention/time control games
- Assessment measures collected at baseline, 6 weeks, 3, 6, 12 months; primary outcome = perception of risk of harm of opioid misuse at 3 months



PLOS ONE

STUDY PROTOCO

A digital health game to prevent opioid misuse and promote mental health in adolescents in school-based health settings: Protocol for the *PlaySmart* game randomized controlled trial

SO WHAT SETS US APART? WHAT MAKES OUR GAMES DIFFERENT?

USER-CENTRIC APPROACH AT EVERY STEP













EVIDENCE FOR THE IMPACT OF OUR GAMES

Attitudes score: change since baseline

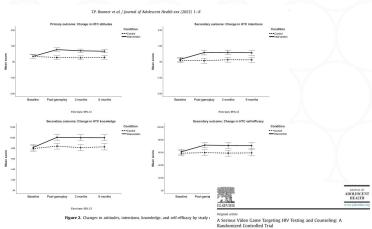


Overall: P = .04



Video Game Intervention for Sexual Risk Reduction in Minority Adolescents: Randomized Controlled Trial

Lynn E Fiellin^{1,2,3,4}, MD; Kimberly D Hieftjie^{1,3,4}, PhD; Tyrn M Pendergrass^{1,3,4}, MEM; Tassos C Kyriakides³, PhD; Lindsay R Duncan^{1,5}, PhD; James D Dziura², PhD; Benjamin G Savyer^{1,7}; Linda Mayes^{1,5}, MD; Cindy A Crusto^{3,4,6}, PhD; Brian WC Forsyth^{3,4}, MBChB, FRCPC; David A Fiellin^{1,2,4,5}, MD



Substance use knowledge	В	SE	β	t 102	P
3 Month				-	
Number of levels beaten	31	0.06	.49	5.12	.001
Number of hours playing game	07	0.07	09	-1.00	.32
Baseline knowledge	35	0.10	.28	3.47	.001
Age	38	0.18	.16	1.85	.07
Month					
Number of levels beaten	.11	0.05	.18	2.19	.03
Number of hours playing game	02	0.05	03	-0.35	.71
3-month knowledge	.72	0.07	.74	10.23	.001
Age	13	0.13	06	-0.98	.33



Using Videogame Apps to Assess Gains in Adolescents' Substance Use Knowledge: New Opportunities for Evaluating Intervention Exposure and Content Mastery

Erika Montanaro¹⁷, PhD (HK), M Paed De; Lynn E Fiellin²⁷, MD; Tamer Fakhouri²⁷, MD; Tassos C Kyriakides⁴⁷ PhD (HK), M Paed De; Lindsay R Duncan⁴⁷, PhD (HK), M Paed De

Table 2 Evaluation of assessment validity

	Scores baseline, mean (SD)	Scores (post-gameplay, 3 weeks), mean (SD)	Scores (follow-up, 6 weeks), mean (SD)	Number of participants tested for HIV (baseline)	Number of participants tested for HIV (post-gameplay, 3 weeks)	Number of participants tested for HIV (follow-up, 6 weeks)	P value
Intentions	2.81 (0.89)	3.28 (0.92)	3.15 (0.81)	-	-	=	0.037
Knowledge	17.44 (4.30)	21.13 (3.83)	21.13(2.85)		-	-	0.025
Perceived Susceptibility	0.06 (0.24)	0.22 (0.55)	0.11 (0.32)	-		-	0.390
Attitudes	2.18 (0.77)	2.30 (0 .60)	2.19 (0.58)	17			0.323
Behavior	-	-	-	0	0	2	0.135

Increase in Negative Beliefs About Tobacco Products

Pre-game to Post-game

p <.0001

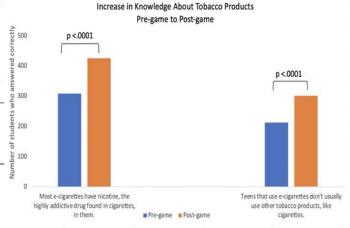
p <.0001

How likely do you think teens are influenced by seeing others use cigarettes or e-cigarettes on social media?

Pre-game

Pre-game

Post-game



Effectiveness of a web-based tobacco product use prevention videogame intervention on young adolescents' beliefs and knowledge

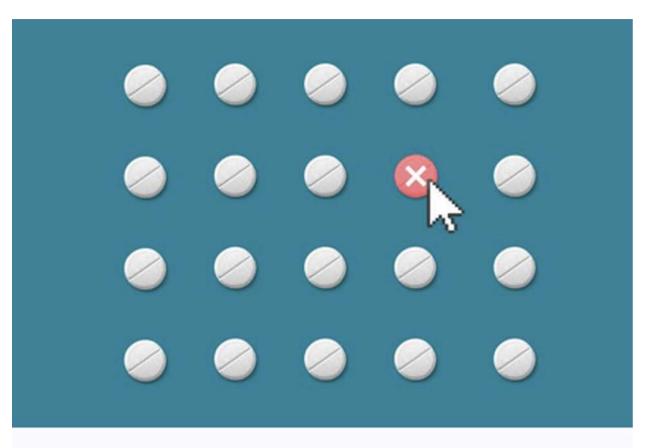
Kimberly D. Hieftje, Claudia-Santi F. Fernandes, I-Hsin Lin & Lynn E. Fiellin

Videogame intervention to encourage HIV testing and counseling among adolescents

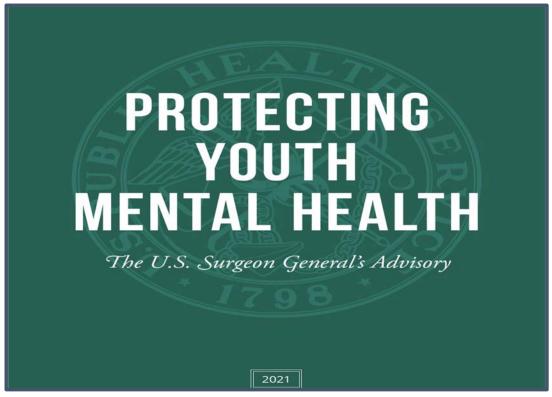
Tyra Pendergrass¹, Kimberly Hieftje², Lindsay Duncan¹, Lynn Fiellin¹

1Yale Center for Health and Learning Games, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, USA; Department of Kinesiology and Physical

OUR IMPACT



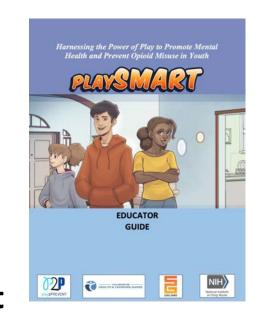
A Yale doctor is using a video game to fight the opioid crisis Washington Post

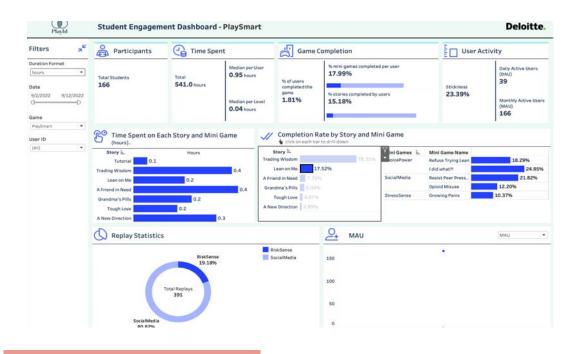


- Designed to meet the National Health Education Standards
- Map to the Healthy and Balanced Living Curriculum Framework Standards

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT RESOURCES

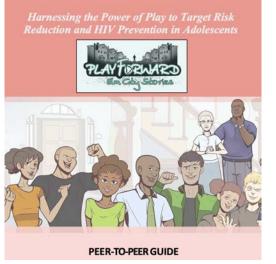
- Guides:
 - Educator
 - Peer-to-Peer
 - Parent
 - Healthcare Provider
- Pre-post surveys
- User Engagement Data Dashboard
- Professional Development













EDUCATOR GUIDE







WHAT WE ARE HEARING

"By using PlaySmart interactive games as part of our curriculum with my high school health students, I have been able to find better ways to present opioid and drug related topics and dangers to my students that are more relatable to their experiences. The games have sparked deeper conversations and an interest in students wanting to learn more."

High School Educator - Illinois

"The character I chose with the little sister and having friends who don't make the greatest decisions, I put myself in the character's shoes. It helped me figure out things about myself. It sounds very deep, and it was a little revelation."

High School Student, Connecticut

"As a school social worker we're always looking for resources to help hone in on the skills that we're trying to teach just kind of making it real for them because we talk about it in an office, but they don't have any opportunity to practice that or see where that decision would take them."

School Social Worker, New Haven, CT

"My middle school classes had the opportunity to play smokeSCREEN while simultaneously learning about the adolescent brain and substance use, abuse, and addiction. Several students even asked if they could continue playing outside of school! As a health teacher, I am always looking for opportunities to influence behaviors that promote health and wellbeing. This game did just that! In addition to providing information for students to gain knowledge, smokeSCREEN guided students to think more critically about the real-life decisions they are already faced with or will be in the future."

Director, Health & Wellness, Chattanooga, TN



























































THANK YOU!



"We do not stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing!"

Benjamin Franklin

For information on our research:

https://www.play2prevent.org/

For more information on accessing our games:

https://playbl.com/ hello@playbl.com



www.playbl.com

HARNESSING THE POWER OF PLAY FOR ADOLESCENTS TO LIVE HAPPIER & HEALTHIER LIVES



THANK YOU!



"We do not stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing!"

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