

There's an App for That: A Review of Mobile Apps for Violence Prevention & Response

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Background: Smartphones

- 81% of Americans own a smartphone
 - 96% of 18-29 year old Americans own a smartphone
- Global median of smartphone ownership in advanced economies is 76%
 - 45% in emerging economies

Objectives

- Assess the quality of existing violence prevention and response mobile apps.

Search Strategy

Platform:

- Apple App Store
- Google Play

Search terms:

- Violence Prevention
- Sexual Assault
- Domestic Violence
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Sexual Violence
- Forensic Nursing
- Wife Abuse
- Rape

How to search: this is not like the others...

- No Boolean Operators (“AND”, “OR”)
- Reliance on developer entered key words and the app title
- Kind of a “Black Box”
- App **ratings** matter

Sample Search: Google Play



rape



Search

Android Apps ▾

All prices ▾

All ratings ▾

Apps



Can't Say No
NTT Solmare Corp.



FREE



Party in my Dorm
A Thinking Ape Entertai



FREE



Slender Man Origins
BIGZUR



FREE



me Against Rape
Nebula Studios



FREE



TRUMP'S WALL - Bl
The BLU Market



FREE



SimSimi
SimSimi Inc.



FREE



Shall we date?:Blooc
NTT Solmare Corp.



FREE



Talking Angela
Outfit7



FREE

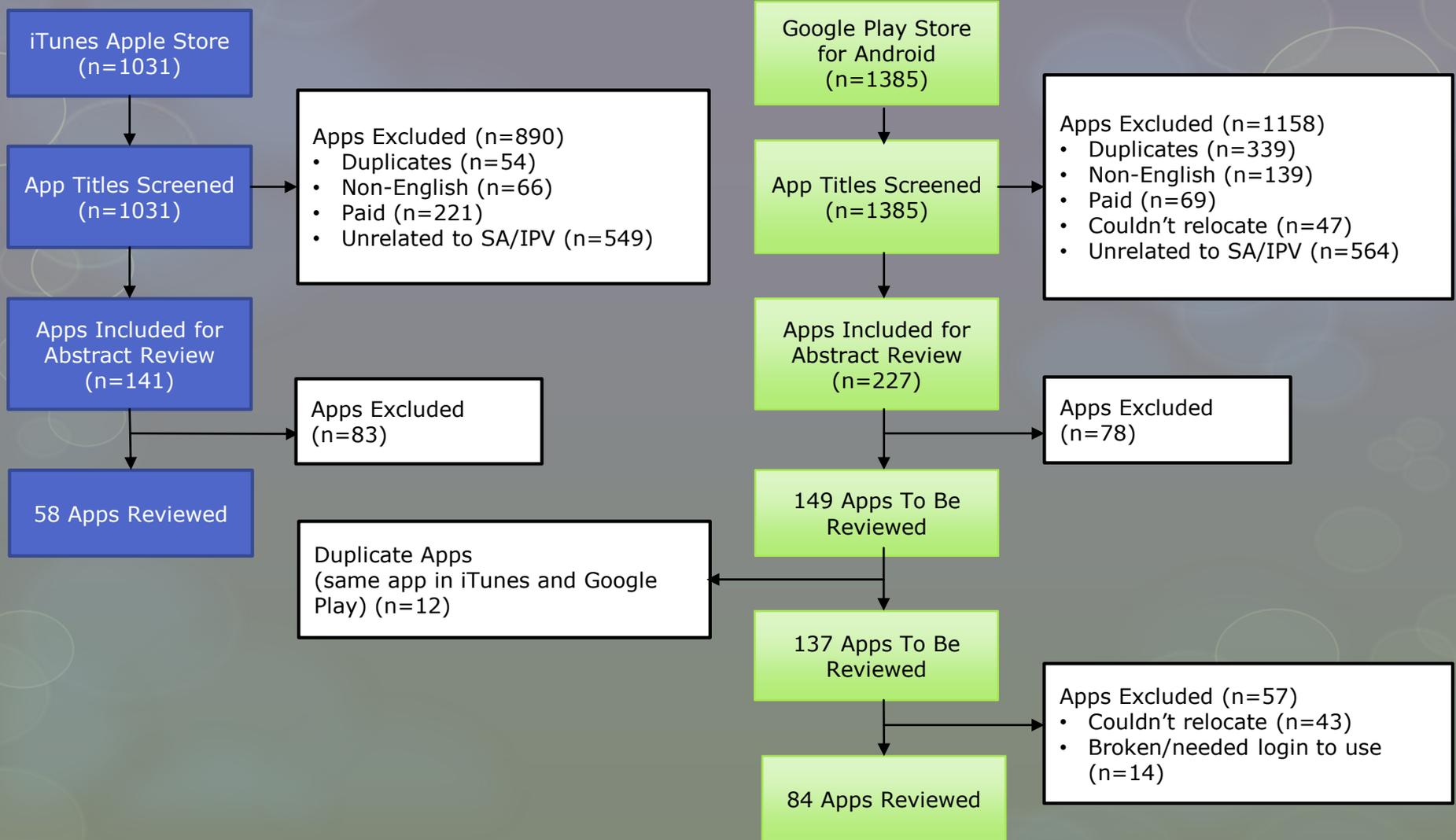
Inclusion Criteria

- English
- Free
- Be directed to:
 - general public at risk for violence
 - patients/victims or
 - advocacy/providers

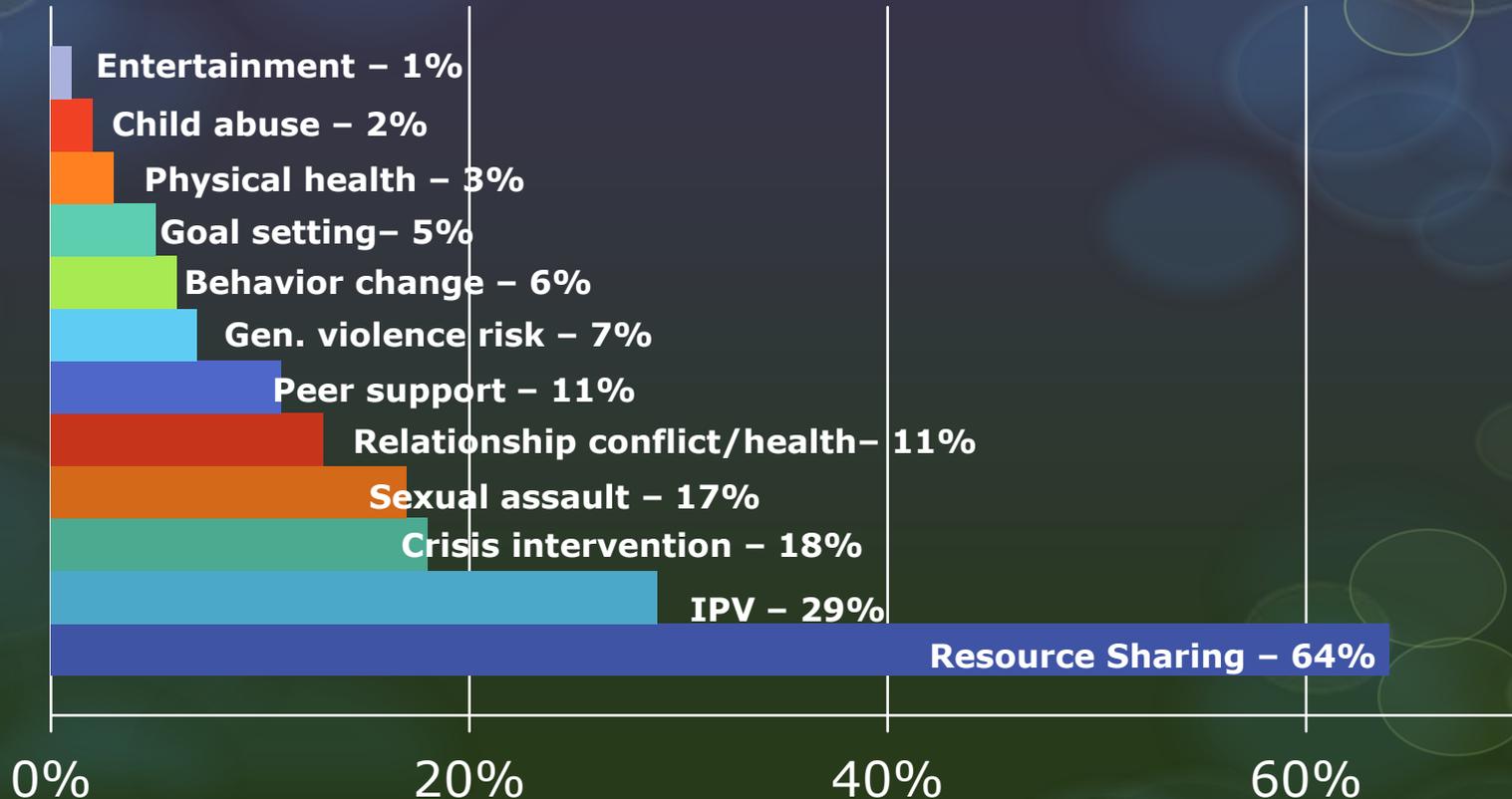
Mobile App Rating Scale

- App Classification
- App **Quality**
 - Engagement
 - Functionality
 - Aesthetics
 - Information
- **Subjective** Quality
- App-specific: **impact** on knowledge, attitudes, intention to change, actual change in health problem

Results

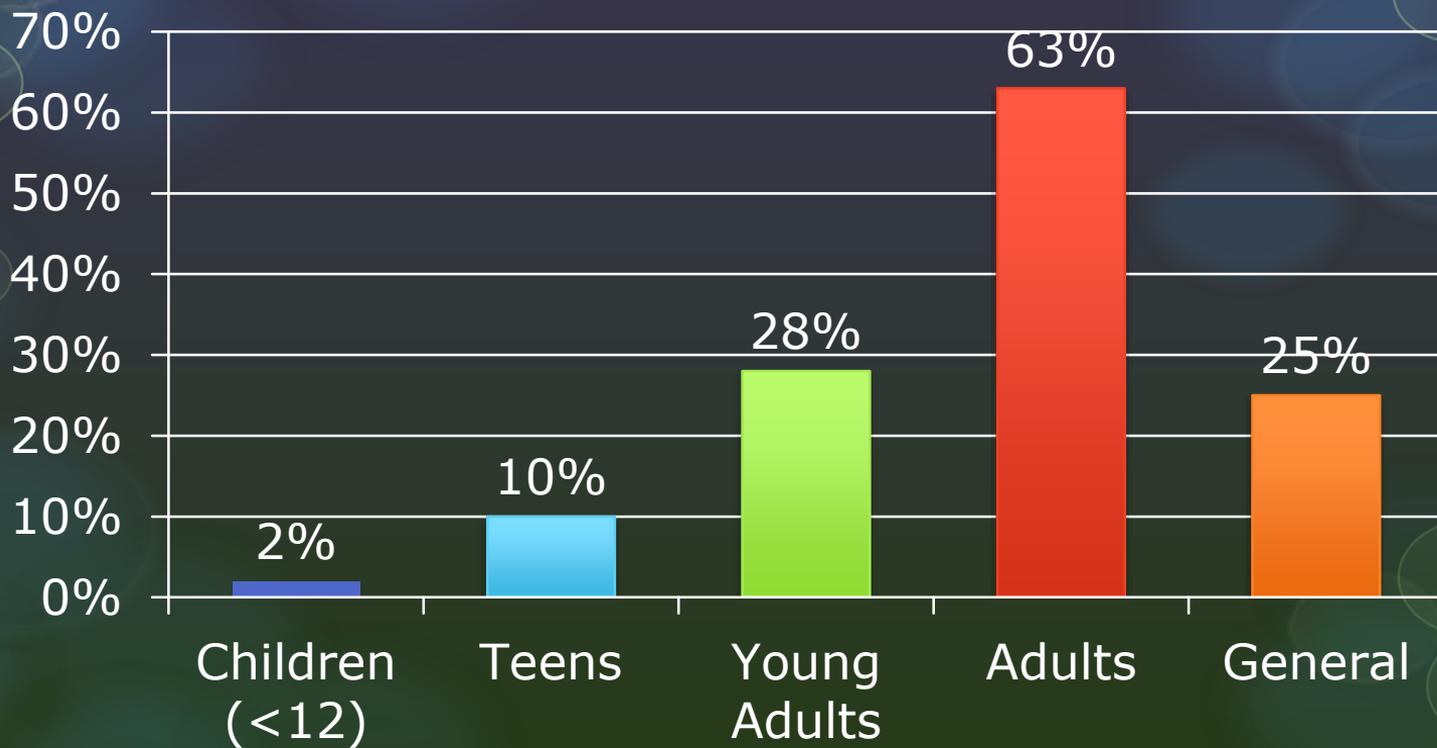


App Classification: Focus

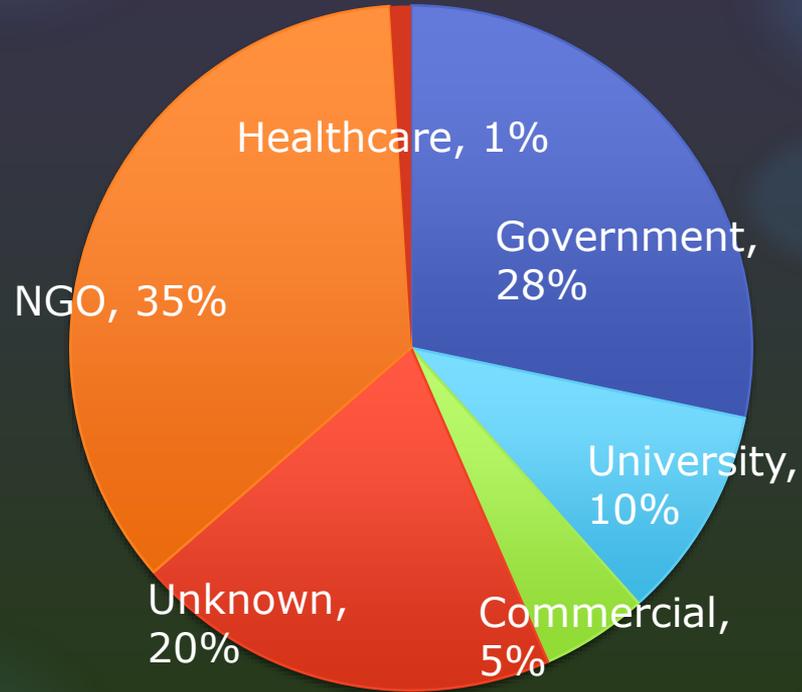


Target Age Group(s)

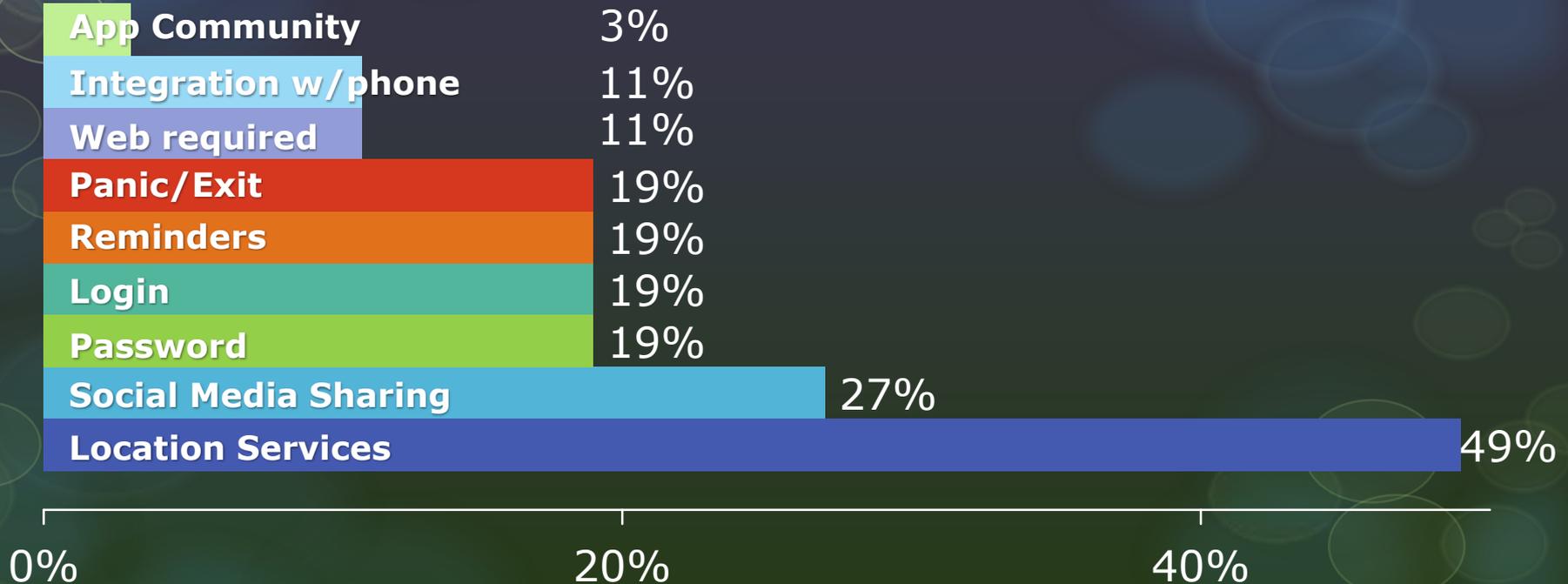
(not mutually exclusive)



App Affiliations



App Features



App Classification: Overview

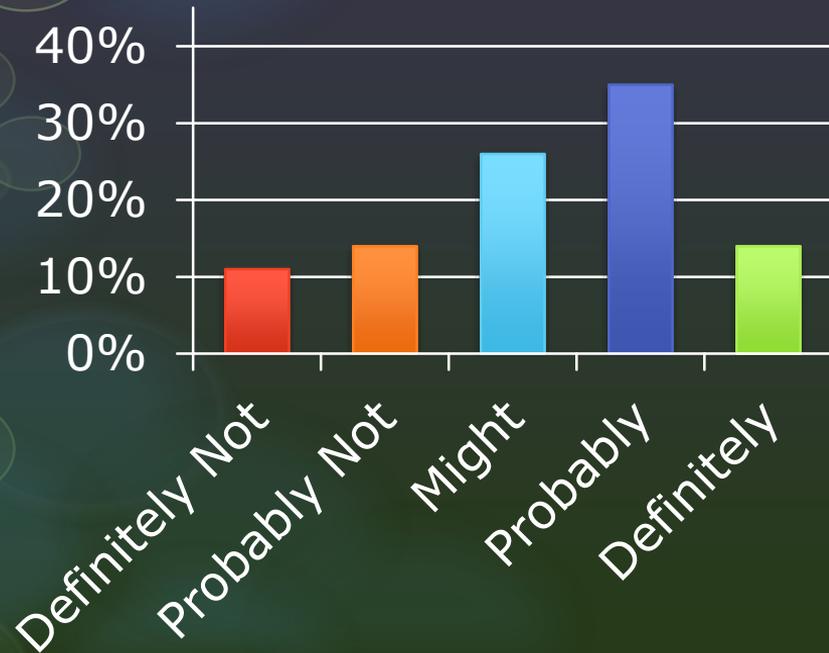
- >55% passive information/education
- <15% training, skills, safety planning
- <10% location tracking
- <5% assessment, decision making

MARS: App Quality Scores

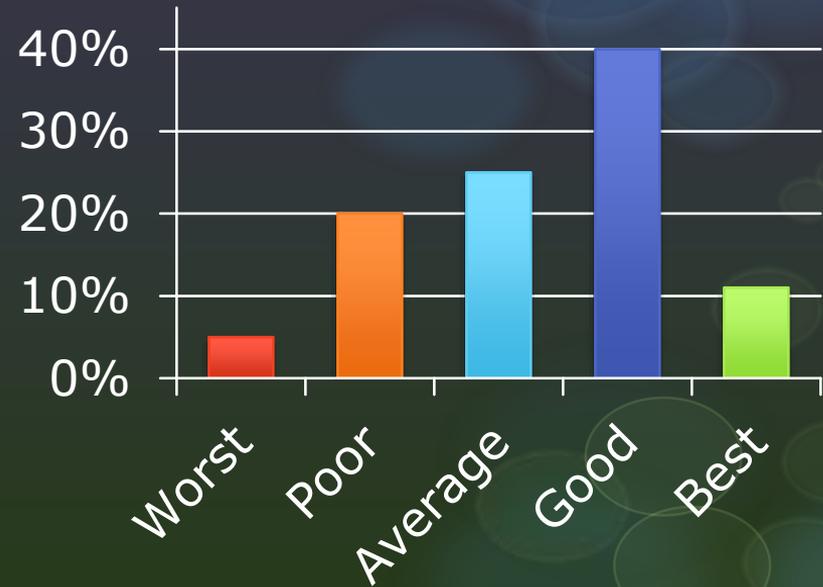
Section	Mean (St. Dev)	Range
Engagement	2.21 (0.50)	1.40-3.40
Functionality	3.88 (0.80)	1.25-5.00
Aesthetics	3.51 (0.99)	1.33-5.00
Information	1.85 (0.73)	1.00-3.43
Overall Quality	2.82 (0.61)	1.00-3.84

MARS: Subjective Quality

Recommend?



Rating?



App Quality

- 78 apps scored 3.00 or above
 - 51% of apps

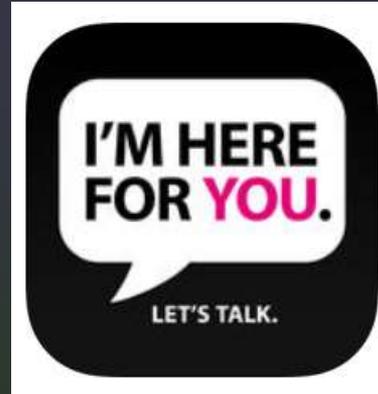
Government: DoD Safe Helpline

- Quality 3.84
- Subjective 4.33
- Impact 4.17



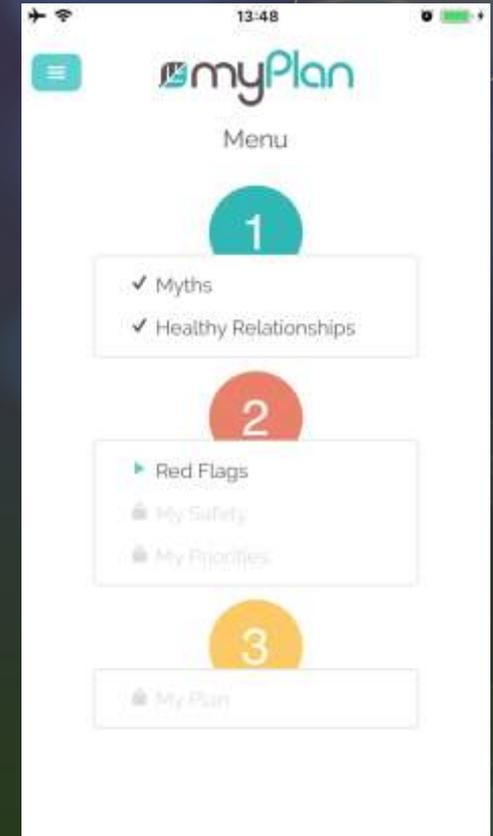
Academic: Here for You

- Quality 3.68
- Subjective 4.00
- Impact 3.17



Advocacy: MyPlan

- Quality: 3.11
- Subjective: 3.50
- Impact: 2.50



Implications for practice

- Treat this resource like any other resource you share with a patient
- Don't send patients on an app store wild goose chase
 - Link them directly to your app of choice
- All apps are not created equal
 - Vet any apps you recommend on an annual basis
- Need more research!

Questions?

- Thank you

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